



Department of Conservation and Recreation

**Middlesex Fells Reservation
Resource Management Plan
Draft Management Principle and Goals**

Management Principle:

Through the creative use of state management resources, partnerships and volunteer stewardship, achieve a sustainable balance between the conservation of the cultural and ecological resources at the Middlesex Fells Reservation and the provision of quality recreational opportunities.

Management Goals

- ***Protect the quality of water resources***
Wetlands and water resources at the Middlesex Fells Reservation provide clean drinking water, aquatic habitats and water-based recreation. Manage the reservation to ensure that water quality of wetlands, streams, vernal pools, ponds and reservoirs is protected.
- ***Protect and enhance habitats for rare species, natural communities, native plants and wildlife***
Manage the natural vegetation communities of the Fells, including vernal pools and ridge top communities, to enhance the quality of these communities and protect habitats for native plants and animals. Monitor and protect the habitats for the state-listed rare plants and animals in the Fells.

- ***Provide for and enhance diverse recreational opportunities***
Provide the public with diverse and quality recreational opportunities in a natural setting including hiking / walking, mountain biking, recreating with a dog, running, skiing and others. Provide the public with sustainable opportunities to experience and interact with the beauty and wonder of nature at the Fells. Manage these diverse recreational uses to provide quality user experiences, reduce conflicts and encourage mutual respect.
- ***Preserve the distinct historic and scenic qualities of the reservation***
The reservation's historic structures, archaeological resources and scenic landscapes represent important connections to both our past and future. Manage these resources to stabilize and protect them from damage or degradation.
- ***Enhance compliance with regulations through management presence, education, etiquette and enforcement?***
Land ownership patterns, diverse uses and resource protection necessitate a variety of rules and regulations at the Fells. Develop and enforce rules that contribute to resource protection and minimize user conflict while enhancing recreational experiences. Work with partners and stakeholders to educate users and encourage self-compliance.
- ***Work with diverse partners and volunteers to achieve these management goals***
Diverse partner organizations and individual volunteers represent a wealth of experience, knowledge and energy. With DCR standards and oversight, continue to partner with organizations and individuals to utilize these resources for the long-term stewardship of the Middlesex Fells.