

LYME CONSERVATION COMMISSION

P.O. Box 126
Lyme, NH 03768



3 July, 2012

Residents of the Town of Lyme are fortunate to have a variety of public and private trails for their use including Town owned areas such as Trout Pond Forest and the Lyme Town Forest. These public spaces, managed by the Lyme Conservation Commission, are there for all to use and enjoy. The Conservation Commission has been busy this spring working on new Management Plans for both Trout Pond and Lyme Town Forests which layout the basic principles that will guide the future of these areas for the next 15 years. The plans include detailed information about wildlife and natural resource values, forest composition, timber harvesting, and recreation opportunities.

In recent years Conservation Commission volunteers and other Lyme residents have noticed that some trails on town-owned land are being misused. Treadway has been altered, new trails have been cut and blazed on both public and private property, and important features such as drainage and waterbars have been removed or modified to make the trails better for mountain biking and other uses for which these trails were not designed. Water is a chief agent in the demise of recreation trails just as it is for gravel roads. It's also plentiful in these parts so a primary maintenance goal is to keep water off the trails as much as possible to prevent pooling and muddy spots. Once a puddle forms on a trail it tends to get worse with use and trails widen as hikers try to avoid wet feet. Existing trails were developed for foot travel only, and the misuse of trails not only reduces the sustainability of these trails (leading to erosion and water quality issues), but also makes them unappealing or inaccessible to other users.

The Lyme Conservation Commission is committed to managing and maintaining public areas to recreate, enjoy the outdoors, birdwatch, etc. If current trails do not meet your needs or you would like to see new trails established, please contact us at conservation@lymenh.gov and we can work together to meet those needs.

Happy Trails!