

Northeast Wilderness Trust (NEWT) Preserves & Sanctuaries are open to the public for quiet exploration and enjoyment. We welcome you to visit and experience wild Nature. Permitted activities are limited to those that are compatible with our mission to conserve forever-wild landscapes for nature and people. Please respect these guidelines when visiting a Northeast Wilderness Trust Preserve or Sanctuary by showing consideration to the wildlife and plants who live there as well as other visitors and neighbors.

Welcomed Activities

Some exceptions apply—please refer to specific Preserve and Sanctuary guidelines at www.newildernesstrust.org/places

Walking, Snowshoeing & Cross-Country Skiing

Quiet, muscle-powered exploration slows our enjoyment of wilderness to Nature's pace. This kind of recreation helps preserve landscapes in a relatively untrammelled state—where wildlife and the land is *not deprived of freedom of action or expression*. It is consistent with the ethic of protecting Nature for Nature's sake. Please stay on trails where feasible. When exploring off-trail, take care to minimize your impact.

Wildlife Observation & Nature Study

Forever-wild places are those where we can witness Nature unfolding on her own terms. Quiet and reverent wildlife observation, birding, tracking, plant and mushroom identification, and other naturalist activities that leave the land as you found it are welcomed on NEWT Preserves.

Meditation, Writing, Photography, Contemplative Practice, Cultural or Religious Practice

Forever-wild lands are well-suited for creative modalities that do not harm the creatures or land. Writing, nature journaling, sketching, photographing, meditating, or simply sitting to listen to the music of a waterfall or the wind in the trees are all welcomed on NEWT Preserves. Northeast Wilderness Trust welcomes cultural practices and religious ceremonies on our lands which are consistent with the other guidelines herein.

Swimming, Paddling & Non-Motorized Boating

Several water bodies are accessible from Preserves, though NEWT does not maintain access.

Dogs

At this time, dogs are generally allowed on NEWT lands but must be under voice or leash control at all times. Please pick up after your dog. Trained, certified service animals are always allowed.

Leave No Trace

For all welcomed activities on NEWT lands, please follow Leave No Trace principles, including Leave What You Find, Respect Wildlife, Travel on Durable Surfaces, and Be Considerate of Others (both human and non-human!).

Prohibited Activities

Some exceptions apply—please refer to specific Preserve and Sanctuary guidelines at www.newildernesstrust.org/places

Motorized Vehicles

All motorized vehicles including ATVs, dirt bikes, 4x4s, and snowmobiles are prohibited. Exceptions include the use of motorized vehicles in emergencies and on specific trails on certain Preserves.

Bicycles & Wheeled or Mechanized Vehicles

All bicycles, including e-bikes, and any other types of wheeled or mechanized vehicles are prohibited. Trails on NEWT lands are not designed or maintained for bicycles and wheeled vehicles, which can negatively impact soils and the important hidden mycelial networks and critters underground.

Trapping, Predator Hunting & Hounding

Trapping, predator hunting, and hounding are prohibited. Several NEWT Preserves allow hunting of prey species with a free permit; learn more at www.newildernesstrust.org/hunting.

Horses & Pack Animals

Horses and pack animals are prohibited at all NEWT Preserves.

Camping & Fires

All NEWT lands are day-use only. Camping, fires, and fireworks are prohibited. Please pack out all trash. Loud music and radios are also prohibited.

Rock Climbing

Rock, ice climbing, and bouldering are prohibited.

Cutting or Damaging Vegetation

Cutting or damaging plants or trees is prohibited, as is any unauthorized trail maintenance, including glading, or new trails.

Drones & similar machines

Launching or landing unmanned aerial vehicles, drones, radio-controlled model airplanes or any equipment of this type is prohibited on NEWT Preserves. NEWT may approve applications for the operation of unmanned aerial systems for purposes such as scientific research, mapping, or authorized photo/film shoots. Applications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with written permission, if approved. Contact Hannah Epstein, Stewardship Director, at hannah@newildernesstrust.org with inquiries.



Activities by Permission

Hunting & Fishing

Hunting of abundant prey species is allowed on certain Preserves with an annual free permit. Large predators are missing from the ecosystem in the Northeast, and without them populations of prey animals can grow unchecked. Over-browsing by excessive herbivore population can be especially detrimental to plant communities, the soil, and thus natural processes. In wilderness, human hunters can fill the role of the predator in the ecosystem by hunting prey species that are abundant (or over-abundant) in the region. Commercial hunting and guiding is not permitted. Hunting is not permitted on Sanctuaries. For more information, visit newildernesstrust.org/hunting.

Research & Scientific Study

Science is at the heart of Northeast Wilderness Trust. Several NEWT Preserves host ongoing research projects. This work helps to inform future conservation decisions. If you are interested in conducting research on NEWT lands or collecting plant or mineral material for scientific study, contact Shelby Perry, Wildlands Ecologist, at shelby@newildernesstrust.org.

Educational Programming and Field Trips

Group outings to Northeast Wilderness Trust lands for educational purposes are allowed by permission. Please contact Hannah Epstein, Stewardship Director, at hannah@newildernesstrust.org with inquiries.

Uses that may be allowed on case-by-case basis

Motorized Recreation

On select NEWT Preserves, existing motorized trails predated our conservation. While NEWT generally closes and rewilds motorized trails, some have local importance and are key connectors that help sustain rural businesses and traditions. On a case-by-case basis, NEWT will work with local clubs to allow such trails to be maintained by the club.

Enjoy your time on the land! If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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