

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Are dogs required to be on leash on the Stratham Hill Park trail network?**

Currently, dogs are required to be on leash on all private parcels (see map on back), in the fields and in the open area around the fire tower based on the interpretation of the ***Town of Stratham Ordinance 1-12-04 Running at Large Permitted: It shall not be unlawful for the owner of a dog to permit the dog to run at large within the wooded areas of the park or on the trails and trail system located within the wooded areas of the Park, provided that the dog shall be accompanied by the owner and be under the command and/or control of the owner.***

## **How is this being enforced?**

The Town of Stratham has an animal control officer that patrols trails and parking areas to ensure the rules are being followed and enforced. Additionally, Parks and Rec are working on putting together a volunteer Trail Patrol to help inform park users of the leash laws at the park.

## **Why are you suddenly changing the rules at the Park?**

No rules have been changed. Since COVID, all outdoor recreation areas have seen a big increase in use, Stratham Hill Park included. This has created a need to better clarify and enforce what the rules are related to the trail network as a result.

## **Who has the right of way on the trails?**

Cyclists yield to hikers, but hikers must let cyclists pass. On hills, cyclists yield to uphill riders. Cyclists must make their presence known to trail users by considerately alerting other trail users of their presence.

## **Why did Jack Rabbit parking get restricted to residents only?**

In response to the increase in use and the increase in off-leash dog walking on the trails at SHP, Parks and Rec (in conjunction with the Select Board and TMAC) agreed that keeping the Jack Rabbit lot a resident-only lot would reduce congestion in that area and encourage users to funnel through the front Portsmouth Ave parking area with their dogs on leash, per the Town Ordinance *Chapter 1-14, Regulation of Dogs*.

## **Are dog walkers being singled out?**

No. TMAC spent a year gathering information related to the trails of the Stratham Hill Park area and released a report detailing our recommendations for the management of the area. In all of our public forums and information sessions, dog walking at the park rose to the top in terms of immediate issues to address, along with trail maintenance and signage. Trail maintenance and signage are less sensitive subjects and typically happen without too much contention.








## **Can I get involved or help out?**

There are many ways you can get involved! You can join the TMAC – we meet monthly to discuss the trail network and management of the trails. You can come to a volunteer trail day – those happen a couple times a year! You can join our soon to be trail patrol to help inform trail users of the rules related to the trail network.

# Stratham Hill Park & Surrounding Areas Trails & Ownership

Stratham, NH

## Landowner & Type of Protection

-  Park- Town Owned
-  Town Owned Land
-  Private Land: Dogs Must be Leashed
-  School District: Dogs Must be Leashed
-  Parking
-  Pump Track
-  Fire Tower
-  Rescue Point

