

Northfield Conservation Commission

**Current Recreational Use Inventory
Northfield Municipal Lands**

<i>Use</i>	<i>Environmental Impact</i>	<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
<i>Forest and Habitat Management</i>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential forest products revenue • Enhances wildlife diversity • Healthy forest management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some minimal potential impact to other activities in areas where active logging is occurring
<i>Hiking Nature Viewing</i>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most common current use of the Municipal Forest • Promotes health lifestyles • Accessible to all residents • Non-polluting • Educational opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs related to trail maintenance • Responsible organization needed
<i>Hunting and Fishing</i>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular and traditional activity • Seasonal • Good for wildlife management • Promotes healthy lifestyles • Economic benefits • Constitutionally protected activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential safety issues
<i>Snow Shoeing/ Cross-country skiing</i>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes health lifestyles • Minimal trail maintenance needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impact on deer wintering areas • Trail use conflict needs to be addressed
<i>Downhill skiing/ Snowboarding</i>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun/popular activity • Historical precedent/tradition – former Norwich ski area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider trail clearing may degrade forest • Will probably require new trail network • Safety issues
<i>Mountain Biking</i>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes health lifestyles – especially for youth • Draw mountain bikers from around Vermont – promote commerce • Non-polluting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More trail maintenance required • Will probably require new trail network • Safety issues
<i>All Terrain Vehicles/ Dirt bikes</i>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun/Popular activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruptive of other activities • Land/trail erosion • Noisy • Disruptive to wildlife • Costs associate w/ enforcement • Air pollution
<i>Snowmobiling</i>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun/Popular activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruptive of other activities • Land/trail erosion • Noisy • Disruptive to wildlife • Costs associate w/ enforcement • Air pollution
<i>Camping</i>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides primitive camping opportunities for local youth groups and resident (e.g. Boy/Girl Scouts) • Educational opportunities for school groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High impact associated with human waste • Area clearing may damage natural communities • Fire hazards need to be addressed