



TRAIL GUIDE

GET
OUTSIDE!

Listen to our
hiking playlist
here:



ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

PROHIBITED Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at avisandover.org for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.

For further information, look online at avisandover.org

About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that AVIS reservations are located on the ancestral land of the Pennacook, Pawtucket, and other Indigenous people, which was their home for more than 10,000 years. We honor the land we manage and all the Indigenous people who were here before, are here now, and will be here in the future. We recognize that we are all guests on this land and are mindful of our impact. With this acknowledgement, we commit to continuously care for this land, using sustainable practices to protect the environment and provide stewardship for the ecology and habitat of AVIS reservations.

Contact :

The Andover Village Improvement Society

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

members@avisandover.org

avisandover.org





Nat Smith Reservation

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

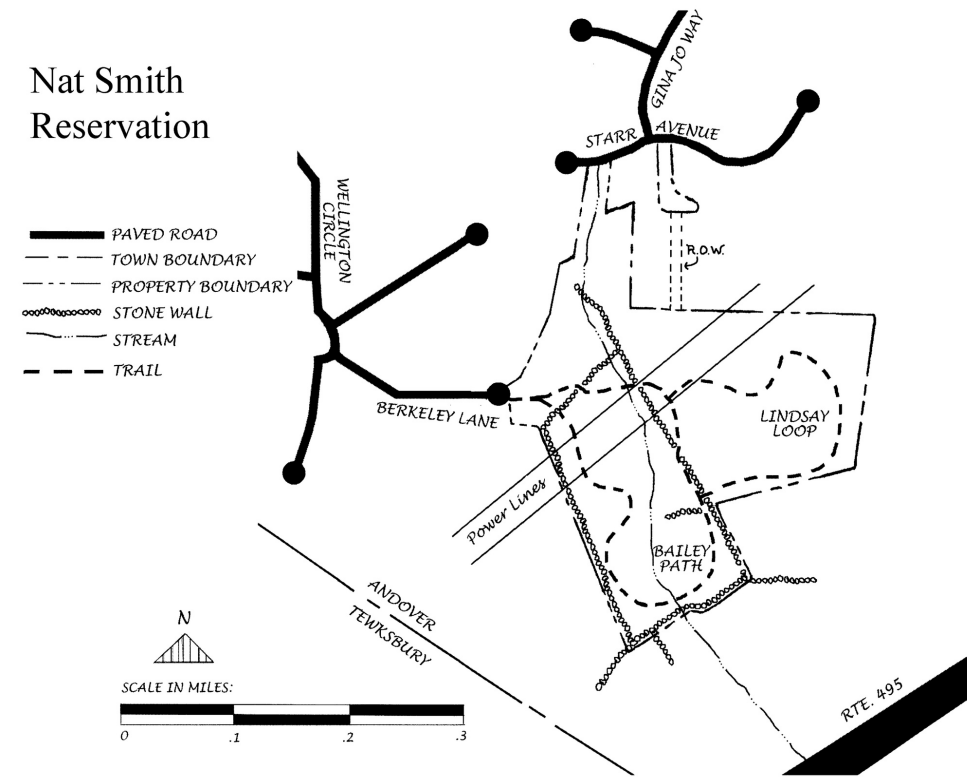
"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

NAT SMITH RESERVATION MAP



Features:

The trails through the Nat Smith Reservation wind their way across several peaks and boulders. Sightings of wildlife, including deer, moose and fish, have been reported. The power line right-of-way is a nice place to observe wildlife, including eastern towhee, common yellowthroat and red-tailed hawks. A main stream flows through the reservation, becoming indistinct and marshy in a couple of spots, but with a noticeable flow most of the year. In late May, the mountain laurel is in full bloom along the paths.

History:

In the 1800s, the area of land now known as the Nat Smith Reservation was called "Pitts Wood Lot" by its owners, the Bailey family. Originally known as the AVIS Bailey Reservation, it became an AVIS property in 1963 when the three heirs to the estate of Henry Bailey, each with a one third interest in a number of separate parcels, all agreed to sell their interests to AVIS, provided AVIS purchase all of the parcels. Richard Lindsay purchased an additional parcel of the original "Pitts Wood Lot" from William Bailey. AVIS' Bailey Reservation expanded when Richard Lindsay sold his parcel to AVIS in 1982. AVIS has since acquired additional parcels of land, designated open space from residential cluster developments. This reservation was renamed to the Nat Smith Reservation in 2005 in honor of Nat, an AVIS president for 35 years.