

The Ledges-Law and Etiquette

- Please support local establishments and create understanding of responsible nude recreation by not being bashful about the reason for your visit to Wilmington. The best way to dispel negative local myths about the Ledges and to create realistic understanding is to make friends of local people.
- Presence of responsible people is a deterrent to land abuse and misconduct. If you are suspicious of misconduct, encourage your group to increase presence in that area by using the shoreline in that area or by increased hiking in those areas.
- Please report suspicious behavior to regular users or email specifics as to who, what, when, where to FriendsOfLedges@hotmail.com. Information will be distributed among regular users so they can best address any pattern of developing problems. Opponents of nude recreation are known to be ruthless and may resort to tactics of planting pornography and condoms or advertising beaches as places for sexual encounters. Please be highly aware and report ANY suspicious activity to a regular user or to FriendsOfLedges@hotmail.com. Regular users can often be identified by the "Friends Of The Ledges" logo.

Carry a cell phone and make it available to others.

Emergencies or clear violations of the law can be reported to:

Vermont State Police, Boating	(802)442-5421
Vermont State Police	(802)875-2112
Wilmington Police	(802)464-8593
Deerfield Valley Rescue	911

Please support the following organizations which have been supportive of The Ledges:

- The Naturist Action Committee
- The Naturist Society
- The American Association of Nude Recreation

For additional information or questions about this brochure please E-mail: FriendsOfLedges@hotmail.com.

Additional information is also available at <http://ledges.dimentech.com/>

The future of the Ledges is in the hands of each user.

"The Ledges", a section of shoreline along the Deerfield River's Harriman Reservoir, is an area that has been used for Vermont skinny dipping and Euro-style sunbathing since the reservoir was built in the 1920's. The property is currently owned by US Generating Systems and is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. As part of the licensing process, and through an agreement with the Vermont Land Trust, the area of shoreline owned by US Genis is mitigated to allow reasonable public use for recreational purposes.

As with many clothing optional recreation areas throughout this country, and due to a variety of reasons, there is increased pressure to eliminate clothing optional use of this area. In November of 2002 the voters of Wilmington, by a narrow margin of 495-478 votes, repealed a short lived local ordinance that would have accomplished this purpose. Pressure to eliminate this area continues and it is the responsibility of all who enjoy the freedom of clothing-free recreation at the Ledges to work to reduce these pressures.

The police and US Gen Security perform uniformed and plainclothes patrol of this area on a random and frequent basis. They have no issue with nude sunbathing and swimming. They will arrest those who violate other laws.

The Law

Vermont has no specific laws regarding nudity at traditional skinny dipping places. According to a directive by the State attorney (1971), those nude in other public areas could receive a summons.

Vermont Law §2601. Lewd and lascivious conduct (felony)

A person guilty of open and gross lewdness and lascivious behavior shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$300.00, or both.

A person could be arrested for participation in any public sexual act including the fondling of the genitals of oneself or of another, activity intended to alarm or affront, exhibitionism, or the watching of such an act.

There is no place within this recreational facility considered private enough for any type of sexual activity.

§3438. Trespass on posted premises

A person who, without permission from such owner, shall willfully enter upon premises so posted as provided in section 3437 of this title shall be imprisoned not more than ten days or fined not more than \$50.00, or both.

Wilmington Animal Control Ordinance

Dogs shall not run at large and must be under direct control of the owner at all times. Defecations shall be removed immediately and disposed of in a sanitary manner.

Sanitation

Porta-potties are provided at the parking area. Please use them. If all else fails, deposit human waste in a hole, six to eight inches deep, at least 200 feet from the water. Use toilet paper sparingly.

Boating

A person shall not operate any vessel within 200 feet of the shoreline, a person in the water, a canoe, rowboat or other vessel, an anchored or moored vessel containing any person, or anchorages or docks, except at a speed of less than five miles per hour which does not create a wake or under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Etiquette, Courtesy, Good Sense

- Respect clothing optional boundaries. In keeping with long-standing tradition, nudity is acceptable only in the area along the shoreline from the southern point of the Ledges cove, throughout the main Ledges area, and to a point about 700 feet to the north. This northern point is designated by a very distinctive 2 foot diameter pinetree. If you can see a small clearing along the distant shoreline, you are too close to the neighbor to the north.
- This is a shared recreation area. Nude boating or sunbathing in any other area without exercising the utmost discretion is not acceptable. Hikers must pass this area to continue along the shoreline. Nude hiking or otherwise being nude in any area other than the shoreline in the traditional area is not acceptable. Those who choose to explore will please wear clothes. Nude boating is unacceptable to the local community.

- This is a public recreation area and "sightseers" can be expected. Although some may be rude, many are local people who are curious to learn about the area. Some are future naturists. Please be polite to all. If being seen nude bothers you, cover up. Nudity is an option, not a mandate.
- Be familiar with the US Gen rule that are posted in the parking areas.
- Park "politely" as to leave room for others because the parking area fill to capacity. Never block emergency access along roadways, to trails, or to private property.
- If changing clothes in the parking area, please use the provided changing facility.
- Cameras and radios are discouraged. Possession of photos of nude strangers can have serious legal consequences, especially if children are involved. Any photography should be by consent of all with ineyeshot and is best done "off hours" or not at all.
- Keep boats and canoes away from the beach and swimming areas.
- This area is surrounded by private property and homes. Even when clothed, please do not venture more than 200 feet from the shoreline and be respectful of any signs.
- Please carry out a bit more than you carry in and help to keep the facility immaculate.
- Glass bottles pose liability issues in all outdoor recreation settings.
- Speak up for standards. US Gen, the police, and people from the community have expressed the need for "self-policing." The most effective means of doing so is in a non-judgmental manner. This brochure is designed to assist this process. Please distribute to all other users. All users are encouraged to promote these standards beyond their immediate surroundings and to put on clothes if patrolling outside of acceptable clothing free areas. **Tolerance of misconduct is encouragement of misconduct. Protecting the longevity of clothing free recreation is the responsibility of every user.**