

# PARK RULES

The following rules and regulations are based on City of Auburn municipal ordinances, as adopted by the Auburn City Council.

1. Mount Apatite Park is owned and administered by the City of Auburn.
2. Mount Apatite Park is open to the public from dawn to dusk, year-round.
3. It is unlawful to harm any plants or animals within the park boundaries, or to remove them from the park. This includes the taking of firewood from any area within the park.
4. Within/among the exposed mineral resources in the area known as "the mines," it is permitted to use hand tools to explore for mineral and gem specimens to a depth of two feet.
5. The use of generators, compressors, pumps and/or any other form of mineral exploration mechanism is strictly forbidden.
6. Camping or overnight use of the park is forbidden.
7. The use of motorized vehicles within the park boundaries is limited to Auburn Recreation personnel, Auburn Police, Auburn Fire Department and any other individual with written authorization. Other than snowmobiles, the use of dirt bikes, ATVs and other off-road vehicles by any other party is strictly forbidden.
8. No swimming, diving or wading is allowed in any park waters.
9. No hunting by firearm or bow, trapping or discharging of firearms within the park boundaries is allowed.
10. Building or attempting to build fires is strictly forbidden.
11. No drugs or alcoholic beverages are permitted within park boundaries.
12. Littering or dumping materials, solid waste or other refuse is forbidden.

Violations of these or any other park rules are punishable by up to a \$200.00 fine per offense.

## HISTORY

Mount Apatite Park is a 300-acre park located in the western portion of the city. The park offers a wide variety of recreational pursuits not often found in municipal park settings. The bulk of the property was purchased by the city in the early 1970s.

In the summer of 1994, with assistance from a Land & Water Conservation fund-matching grant, five kilometers (3.1 miles) of multi-purpose trails were constructed within the park. In 1997, we received two grants through the National Recreational Trails Act, which are being used to improve park signage, existing trails and to add trails to the quarry area.

In the winter, the trail is groomed for cross-country skiing and snow shoeing. In spring, summer and fall, the trails are open to mountain bikers, runners, bikers and other non-motorized trail users.

## GEOLOGY

Mount Apatite is named for the mineral "apatite" found in the geologic features. Exploration of Mount Apatite began as early as 1839, when records show that three specimens of tourmaline were added to the collection of the Maine State Geologist. Over the years, remarkable finds have added to the renown of Mt. Apatite as a place to look for semi-precious stones and other minerals.

In the 1880s, some 1,500 tourmaline crystals were removed from an exploratory mine here. They varied in length from ½" to 4", occurring in lovely shades of pastel pink, blue, lilac, yellow and green. The American Museum of Natural History in New York City displays an exquisite green rectangular tourmaline stone weighing 11.87 carats that was cut from Mt. Apatite.

In 1902, the Maine Feldspar Company began mining feldspar at Mt. Apatite. During this early period, a massive crystal of smoky quartz of approximately 19 ½" long and 9 ½" thick was discovered. Large masses of flawless material may be seen in this specimen, which is deep amber in color. This makes up the heart of the museum display at Perham's of West Paris.

# AUBURN'S MOUNT APATITE PARK TRAIL MAP & RULES

**Parking & trail heads located at:  
64 Mount Apatite Road & 2 Small Road**

City of Auburn Recreation Department  
207.333.6611 | [www.auburnmaine.gov](http://www.auburnmaine.gov)

# MT. APATITE TRAILS

