

Welcome to Winnekenni Park

Conservation Area



History

Winnekenni is Algonquian Language for “Very Beautiful” ...

Dr. James R. Nichols, a local physician and inventor, built the Castle during 1873-1875 from 35,000 cubic feet of glacial boulders found on the property. He also used the ancient rocks in his work, researching their composition and using extracted chemicals or ground matter in various formulations. Dr Nichols’s inspiration for the castle’s architecture came from the castles of England. His summer home covers about 3500 sq. ft. and rises approximately 250 feet above lake level. In Dr. Nichols’s day, the uppermost level of the Castle boasted a view of 17 towns, 3 counties, three states and three lakes.

Knowledgeable and somewhat passionate about glacial boulders, Dr. Nichols lectured and wrote about the topic, publishing in 1876 “Boulder Rocks: Their Probable Origin and History and their use in the Construction of Dwellings”. He was able to trace his property’s granitic boulders to the Franconia Mountains in New Hampshire, the start of their journey during the completion of the ice age. Dr. Nichols was said to regret that New England farmhouses were not constructed of stone and called his “experiment” satisfying in regards to both elegance and the cost of structure. Glacial boulders were taken from Winnekenni to Linwood Cemetery to use as headstones for Dr. Nichols and his family.

The Castle was sold to the city in 1895, at which time it became Haverhill’s first public park. Winnekenni Castle is surrounded by more than 200 acres of conservation land and nine miles of foot-trails. In 1967, after a devastating fire destroyed the aging building, a group of citizens formed the Winnekenni Foundation, which refurbished the interior of the building and made its surrounding grounds available to the public for cultural and educational events.

Allowed Activities **There Are NO Allowable Activities In Kenoza Lake Itself**

Hiking		X-C Skiing		Snow-Shoeing		Mountain Biking		Swimming	
Leashed Dogs		Horseback Riding		Picnicking		Tennis		Boating (self-propelled or electric motors only)	
Sledding		Photography		Fishing		Skating			

	Trail		Marsh		Carleton Fountain		Castle Trail (.8 miles)
	Road		Route		Ralph G. Potter Jr. Memorial		Dudley Porter Trail (2.5 miles)
	Conservation Land		Water		Tyler Shelter Site		Merrill Trail (.5 miles)
	Private Land		River		Barn		Shore Trail (.8 miles)
	Contour Lines (20' interval)		Winnekenni Castle		Parking		
	Field		Water Treatment Plant				

