



White Mountain National Forest

Deer Hill Collecting Area

Geology: The Deer Hill amethyst locality is a pegmatite of granitic composition. The term pegmatite simply means that the individual mineral grains are relatively large; upwards of 3-5 cm., where as in granite the average individual grain size is much smaller. The Deer Hill location has produced a large amount of amethyst (purple quartz) along with many other minerals, including feldspars of many varieties, beryl, garnet, columbite, pyrite, and muscovite. The collecting area on Deer Hill is located on the southeast side of the hill where you can dig through glacial sediments under the surficial deposits.

Location: Stow, Maine (44° 13' 53.46"N 70° 58' 47.60"W). Follow Rte.113 to Deer Hill Rd. in No. Chatham, NH. Follow Deer Hill Rd. (closed seasonally) 2.2 miles to the Deer Hill Mineral Collecting Area trailhead and self-service permit station. Follow the yellow blazed hiking trail for .1 miles to a fork in the trail. Bear right for .4 miles to permit area 1, left for .4 miles to permit areas 2 and 3. Recreational mineral collecting is only allowed in these designated areas - marked by a blue painted boundary.

Mineral Collecting Tips: For best results, use a shovel and a sifting screen to find amethyst crystals located in the sandy soil. A hand trowel and gloves are also recommended. Bring ziplock baggies or newspaper for specimens collected, and a field guide for rocks and minerals. It can be very hot and sunny on summer days so bring a hat, sunblock and plenty of water. There is no water or bathrooms on site or nearby.

Recreational Rock and Mineral Collecting Conditions:

- All collecting within the blue painted boundary requires a free permit which is available at the trailhead.
- The surrounding area is **closed** by Forest Order to any surface disturbing rock or mineral collecting. Surface disturbance is defined as digging, excavating, prying, destroying, or similar activity that results in the removal, displacement, or destruction of rocks, minerals, soil, or vegetation. All rock and mineral collection activities must follow the Forest Plan standards and guidelines below.

General Standards and Guidelines

- Only small hand tools are permitted. The use of power, mechanized equipment, or explosives is prohibited.
- Maximum excavation at any one site is limited to one cubic yard. Only one site may be disturbed at a time. Excavated holes must not be dug deeper than three feet as measured from the bottom of the hole to a projected horizontal line drawn between the bases of trees or plants adjoining the hole. In areas where the entire site is already disturbed and the original ground level altered, an estimated projection will be made of the earth's surface.
- Prior to leaving the site, restore the disturbed area similar to the condition you found it in.





- In areas otherwise open to recreational mineral collecting no collecting activities are allowed within developed recreation areas, immediately adjacent to roads, trails, other facilities, in stream banks, wetlands, shores, designated rock climbing areas, or cultural or historic features.
- Digging under trees or severing roots greater than ½ inch in diameter is not permitted.
- Surface disturbance that creates or contributes to a safety hazard is not allowed.
- Rock and mineral collecting is not permitted on, in, or adjacent to existing safety hazards, such as overhanging ledges, deep tunnels, and unstable slopes.

