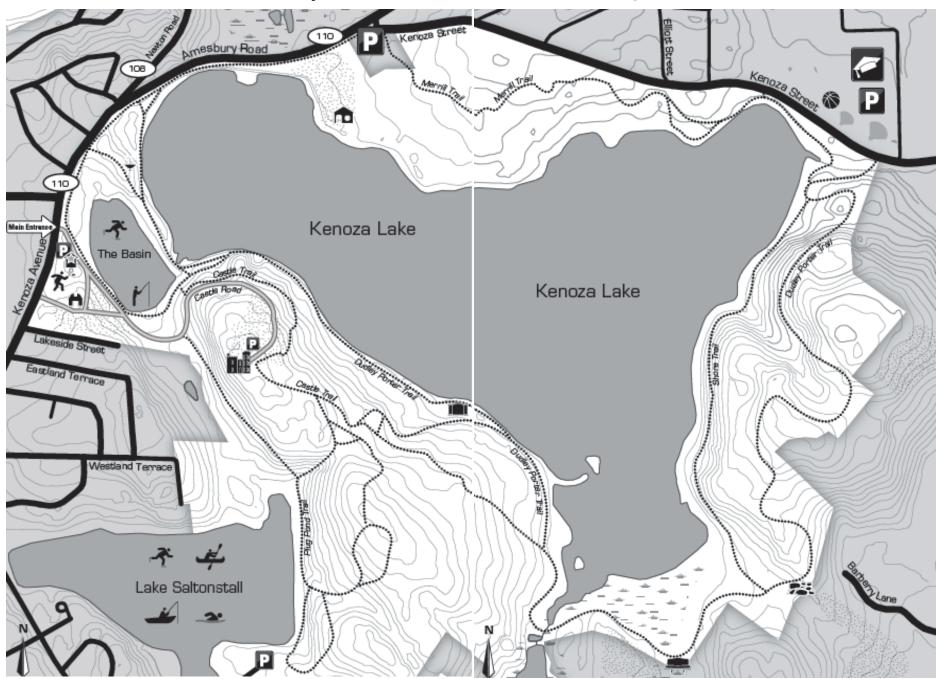


## Winnekenni Park Conservation Area

(From the Haverhill Trails Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)



## **History**

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. The name "Winnekenni" come from the Algonquian language and means "very beautiful".

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. 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.

