



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Governor Deval L. Patrick
Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray
EEA Secretary Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.
DCR Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr.

Press Release Contact: S.J. Port — (617) 626-1453 or sj.port@state.ma.us

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DCR's First Day Hikes Goes National While Staying Local On New Year's Day 2012

WHAT: On Sunday, January 1, 2012, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will ring in the New Year with its annual First Day Hikes. This annual tradition started more than 20 years ago at DCR's Blue Hills Reservation, quickly spreading to other DCR parks, as well as parks across the country. This year for the first time, all 50 states will be participating in First Day Hikes as part of a national "get outdoors" initiative. Before the annual hike at the Blue Hills Reservation in Milton, DCR will announce a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) on a new health initiative kicking off in 2012.

Please check [DCR's website](#) for updates on programs and parks across Massachusetts.

WHEN: Sunday, January 1, 2012 (Times vary depending on park location.)

WHERE:

GREATER BOSTON

Breakheart Reservation, Saugus, 12:00 p.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center. Enjoy free clam chowder, coffee and hot cocoa.

Blue Hills State Reservation, Milton, 1:00 p.m.

Meet in the Houghton's Pond Parking Lot at 840 Hillside St. and First Day follow signs. Arrive by 12:30 p.m. to allow sufficient time for parking. Free soup will be served at Noon.

CENTRAL

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation, Sutton, 11:00 a.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

NORTHEAST

Bradley Palmer State Park, Topsfield, 10:00 a.m.

Meet at Headquarters.

Walden Pond State Reservation, Concord, 1:00 p.m.

Meet at the Thoreau House Replica. Living History at the Replica starts at noon.

SOUTHEAST

Waquoit Bay Estuarine Research Reserve, Falmouth, 1:00 p.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center, 149 Waquoit Highway (Rt. 28)

Borderland State Park, Easton, 1:00 p.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center.

WEST

Mount Greylock State Reservation, Lanesboro, 1:00 p.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center, 30 Rockwell Road.

DAR State Forest, Goshen, 10:30 a.m.

Meet at the Day-use Parking Lot at the Warming Hut

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Edward M. Lambert Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114 — (617) 626-1250 office / (617) 626-1351 (fax)