

DCR Blue Hills Family Trip Tic

Explore Great Blue Hill & Trailside Museum



SELF-GUIDED PARK EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN

Adventure awaits! Great Blue Hill is the most popular year round destination in the park. This area boasts a variety of trails and a number of exciting educational facilities. You can pick and chose from the options below to design the perfect park experience for your Great Blue Hill discovery.

The Blue Hills Reservation, is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Stretching from Dedham to Quincy, Milton to Randolph, the Blue Hills Reservation encompasses over 7000 acres, providing the largest open space within 35 miles of Boston. More than 125 miles of trails weave through the natural fabric of forest and ponds, hilltops and wetlands. Hikers can count 22 hills in the Blue Hills chain with Great Blue Hill noted as the highest landmark at 635 feet above sea level. The trails of the Blue Hills lead to the park's most beautiful areas, inviting you to explore the subtlety and richness of the woodlands. Park visitors may enjoy numerous outdoor activities including hiking, biking, skiing and savoring nature.

Large 19X26" color trail maps are on sale
at the DCR Blue Hills Headquarter or Trailside Museum.

- DCR Reservation Headquarters
695 Hillside Street, Milton, MA 02186
phone 617-698-1802.
- Blue Hills Trailside Museum
1904 Canton Ave. (Rt. 138) Milton Ma. 02186
phone 617- 333-0690

You can also download and print a trail map at
www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/blue.htm.

Trailside Museum Wildlife Sanctuary

Indoor/Outdoor Exhibits: 1 hour

Trailside Museum is a DCR facility, managed by the Mass Audubon Society. Explore the museum's cultural and natural history exhibits and displays of live wildlife of the Blue Hills including hawks, owls, deer, otters, snakes, and much more. Teacher naturalists are available to provide information on site. Trailside also offers a gift shop including refreshments for sale. Don't forget to bring your DCR Park Passport! A Blue Hills passport box is located outside Trailside entrance. A DCR passport can be downloaded at www.mass.gov/dcr/passport/passportdownload.html. Trailside Museum is located at 1904 Canton Avenue (Route 138), 1/2 mile north of route 93 (Exit 2B) in Milton. An admission fee is charged. Open Thursday through Sunday. For more information and operating hours, call (617) 333-0690 or visit www.massaudubon.org.



Great Blue Hill Red Dot Loop 1.5 mile (1 to 1.5 hrs.) *moderate/difficult*

Thousands of hikers ascend Great Blue Hill each year to enjoy the fantastic view. On a clear day, Mt. Wachusett, 44 miles to the west and Mt. Monadnock, 67 miles to the north are visible. At 635 feet above sea level, Great Blue Hill is the highest hill in the park. A popular destination on this trail is the Eliot Observation Tower on the summit. Begin your hike at the map board in the south parking lot of the Trailside Museum near the animal enclosures, follow the red dots up this moderately steep, rocky trail. The trail crosses the paved summit road and continues to the Eliot Tower, where it loops to the left of the map board and down to Coon Hollow Path. Red dots will lead you back to the animal enclosures and parking lot. Warning: At intersection 1082, look carefully to stay on the red dot trail.

A self guided Great Blue Hill brochure describes highlights along this route and is available at the Trailside Museum and www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/bluehills_self_guided_trail.pdf

Great Blue Hill Summit Road

2 miles round trip (1 to 1.5 hrs.) *moderate*

The paved summit road is the easiest route up and down the hill. Begin your hike at the map board in the north parking lot of the Trilside Museum near the restrooms to access the summit road, follow the green dots to the paved road then take a right to follow the paved road up the hill.

Wolcott Path Green Dot Loop

2.5 miles (1.5 to 2 hrs.) *easy*

This relatively level trail winds its way around Wolcott Hill through the moist forests of pine, hemlock, and oak. With no vistas or high points, this woodland loop is an alternative to the steeper Great Blue Hill hike. Begin your hike at the bulletin board in the north parking lot of the Trilside Museum near the restrooms. There you will find the beginning of the green dots. Follow the green dots for your entire hike. The green dot trail begins and ends at the bulletin board.

Things to know before you go...

- Wear rugged footgear and carrying a trail map
- Carry drinking water on all hikes
- For emergencies call 911
- For park information or assistance contact call the Park Headquarters (617) 698 - 1802 or DCR Rangers 24 Hour Radio dispatch (617) 722 - 1188



The Blue Hill Weather Observatory

Another summit highlight, the Blue Hill Weather Observatory has maintained continuous uninterrupted weather record of over 100 years. In 1885, meteorologist Abbott Lawrence Rotch established one of the first weather observatories in the country atop Great Blue Hill. Rotch used kites and balloons, strung with piano wire, to study the winds and clouds high above Great Blue. For more information visit www.bluehill.org



