

# Suggested MassParks Hikes!

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## Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

To help you plan your visit to Wachusett Mountain, we offer the following suggested hikes that we think visitors might enjoy. **Introductory hikes** are relatively short and appropriate for most users, including families with children. **Signature hikes** are recommended trail experiences that may be longer or more difficult, but that highlights some of the best features of this State Park.

### Introductory Hike

#### Echo Lake

**Trailhead:** Park at Echo Lake Road off Mountain Road.

**Distance:** 1.5 miles Round Trip, **Difficulty:** Easy

**Brief Description:** *Follow the fire road to Echo Lake, stay left to continue to Administration Road. Head southward on the gravel road to Machias Pond where it joins with Echo Lake Trail to return to vehicle parking area. Possibly jogger-stroller friendly.*

### Signature Hike

#### Old Indian/Semuhenna Old Growth

**Trailhead:** Park in the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area parking lot off Bolton Road, between parking aisles 5 and 6. Follow signs for the Balance Rock Trail and Mid-State trails.

**Distance:** 3.8 miles Round Trip, **Difficulty:** Moderate

**Brief Description:** *Proceed a short distance (about .5 mile) to Balance Rock Road. Bear right on Balance Rock Road to Old Indian Trail. Continue on Old Indian when it merges with the Semuhenna Trail. Follow the trail as it crosses several ski slopes and climbs to the auto road. Cross the paved road and continue to climb approximately .5 mile to the summit. From the summit, follow the Harrington Trail in a southwest direction, and stay right to join Semuhenna Trail back down to the vehicle at the Balance Rock Trailhead/Ski Area Parking Lot.*



## Signature Hike

### Pine Hill Trail to the Summit.

**Trailhead:** Park at the Visitor Center off Mountain Road.

**Distance:** 1.0 miles, **Difficulty:** Moderate / Difficult

**Brief Description:** One of the most popular hikes in the Park, *take the Bicentennial Trail to Pine Hill Trail up to the Summit and return via the same route.*

### Things to Remember:

- **Time, distance, difficulty:** average hiker pace is estimated at 1.5 miles per hour. Most distances are round-trip. Plan conservatively, start early. Be aware of weather and sunset. Trail difficulty ratings based on ruggedness and gradient are *easy, moderate, or difficult*.
- **Wear weather appropriate clothing**, layer for temperature changes. Appropriate footwear is a must. Trails can be wet.
- **Parking at trailheads:** Parking fees may apply. Space may be limited. Be courteous to avoid blocking in others. Do not leave valuables in your car.
- **Bring a map, and share your plans with someone.**
- **Drinking water** is usually not available. Bring plenty! Trailside sources should be treated.
- **Stay on designated trails:** Follow painted blazes and signs if available. Double blazes indicate an intersection or direction change.
- **Pace & group size:** keep your group together; hike only as fast as your group's slowest hiker or rider. Limit group size to 12 people or fewer to lessen impacts.
- **Carry-in, carry-out all trash:** Leave No Trace outdoor ethics are strongly encouraged. For more information visit <http://www.lnt.org/programs/principles.php>
- **Pets are generally permitted** on 10-foot maximum leash and under at all times. Please clean up after your pet and dispose of all waste outside of park. Be aware of local park rules and that not all users appreciate encountering pets, even when friendly.
- **Be aware that some trails are not well marked.**
- **Be aware of hunting seasons** and wear blaze orange when appropriate. For season info visit: [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/regulations/abstracts/hunting\\_dates.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/regulations/abstracts/hunting_dates.pdf)

