

# Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

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## Blue Hills Reservation

695 Hillside Street, Milton, MA 02186, (617) 698-1802

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Blue Hills Reservation, we offer the following suggested experiences that we think you might enjoy.

- **“Introductory”** are short and appropriate for most users, including families with children.
- **“Signature”** are recommended trail experiences. These may be longer or more difficult but highlight some of the best park features.

For a safe and enjoyable park experience please review the **Things to Know Before You Go** section at the end of this document. Download a map before you go:  
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/blue-hills-trail-map-guide/download>

## Introductory Hike Wolcott Hill Loop

**Trailhead:** Being at the Trailside Museum, north parking lot, 1904 Canton Ave, Milton  
**Lat/Long:** 42.219519, -71.118850

**Distance:** 2.5 mile loop **Difficulty:** Moderate

**Brief Description:** This popular green dot hiking trail winds its way around the base of Wolcott Hill. View the impressive northeast slope of Great Blue Hill as you hike through Wildcat Notch. Start at the bulletin board and follow the green dots uphill onto Wolcott Path. At 1085 continue straight. Green dots will lead you around the loop and back to 1085. Return via Wolcott Path, heading west to the bulletin board.

## Introductory Hike Ponkapoag Pond Loop

**Trailhead:** Park at Ponkapoag Golf Course on Route 138 or Fisherman's Beach off Randolph Street. **Lat/Long:** 42.202349, -71.095514

**Distance:** 3.75 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

**Brief Description:** Follow the Green Dot Trail around the Reservation's largest and most remote body of water. Rangers recommend the optional exploration of the Ponkapoag Boardwalk through the cedar swamp.

## Signature Hike

### Buck Hill Loop

**Trailhead:** Begin at Houghton's Pond 840 Hillside Street **Lat/Long:** 42.209510, -71.096456

**Distance:** 3.5 miles round trip **Difficulty:** Moderately Strenuous

**Brief Description:** The rocky summit of Buck Hill offers a stellar views of the surrounding region and is an invigorating climb. From the Houghton's Pond bulletin board follow red dots past the beach and bathhouse. Continue over Breeze Hill to the intersection of the red dot and green dot trails (2071). Here you have the option of following the red dot loop either direction to Buck Hill. The more gradual ascent is to the left.

## Signature Hike

### Skyline Loop

**Trailhead:** Start behind the Reservation Headquarters, 695 Hillside Street, Milton **Lat/Long:** 42.214092, -71.093264

**Distance:** 3.0 miles **Difficulty:** Moderately Strenuous

**Brief Description:** This popular loop crosses several open summits offering panoramic views. Follow the blue blazes up the woodland trail to Hancock Hill, over Hemenway Hill and on to the Eliot Tower on Great Blue Hill. After exploring, follow the Eliot Circle over the Eliot Bridge and return via the South Skyline by turning turn left at intersection 1066, and follow the blue blazes back to Hillside Street.

## Signature Bike Ride

### Ride the White Triangle Loop

**Trailhead:** Begin at Houghton's Pond 840 Hillside Street **Lat/Long:** 42.209510, -71.096456

**Distance:** 6 mile loop **Difficulty:** Moderate

**Brief Description:** White triangles mark this Forest Path loop in the Houghton's Pond section of the reservation. This rambling 6-mile loop starts along Hillside Street on Headquarters Path and creates a nice woodland mountain bike ride for novice or intermediate bikers. This trail is marked in one direction only and is designed to be followed counter-clockwise.

## Things to Know Before You Go

- **Time, distance, difficulty.** The 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. Bring sunblock. Wear appropriate and sturdy footwear.
- **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** may not be available on site. Bring plenty!
- **Stay on designated trails.** Follow painted blazes and signs if available. Generally, 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 your group size to 12 people or fewer to lessen impacts.
- **Carry-in, carry-out all trash and personal belongings.** Follow the Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. [More information here.](#)
- **Know which parks are pet friendly.** Dogs are not permitted in DCR Water Supply Protection areas (such as Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs) and certain state parks. Always keep your dog leashed, 10-foot maximum. Always pick up after your dog and dispose of waste properly. [Complete guidelines here.](#)
- **Be aware of hunting seasons.** Wear blaze orange when appropriate. [More information here.](#)
- **Wear a bicycle helmet** while biking. Riders age 16 and under must wear a helmet. It is the law. [More information here.](#)
- **Wear your PFD** while boating. A Personal Flotation Device (PFD), or life preserver, must be worn by boaters age 12 and under; and canoeists/kayakers from Sept. 15-May 15. [More information here.](#)
- **Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers.** Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment. It is the law. [More information here.](#)
- **Be aware some trails may not be well marked, and some may not be identified on a trail map.**

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees over 450,000 acres of state parks, forests, beaches, bike trails, parkways, watershed lands, and dams across the Commonwealth. DCR's mission is to: *Protect, promote and*

*enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all.*