A World of Nature

The beauty before you is the product of a variety of forces. Geology, climate, fire, fog, logging, and farming all have shaped the distinct habitats and features today. Trails traverse many habitats: rocky summits, upland and forested ridges, meadows, woodlands, ponds, and vernal pools. And the sounds are a symphony of native plants and animals, including deer, birds, bees, butterflies, and native plants and wildflowers.

Rocks and Rivers

The Blue Hills Reservation is steeped in the history of rocks. The formation of the Blue Hills is the result of a geological event that occurred over two billion years ago. During this time, millions of tons of sediments were deposited in the ocean. As the sediments were compressed, they eventually became the sedimentary rocks that we see today. The Blue Hills are composed of these sedimentary rocks, which are rich in minerals and nutrients that support the diverse plant and animal life found in the Reservation.

The Blue Hills Reservation is also shaped by rivers. The Reservation is located in the headwaters of several major rivers, including the Neponset River and the Mattapan River. The rivers flow through the Reservation, carving out canyons and creating a network of wetlands and vernal pools. These habitats provide important ecological services, including flood control, water purification, and habitat for a variety of native plants and animals.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of threatened and endangered species. The Gypsy Moth and the Northern Rattlesnake are examples of species that are particularly vulnerable to habitat loss and fragmentation. Conservation efforts, such as habitat restoration and monitoring, are ongoing to help protect these species and their habitats.

Enjoying the Reservation

BLUE HILLS RESERVATION HEADQUARTERS is located in a beautiful Hillside of the Reservation and serves as a information center and visitor center. The Headquarters is open year-round and offers a variety of programs and events. The Headquarters is also home to the Nature Store, which offers a wide variety of nature-related items. The Headquarters is a great place to learn more about the Reservation and its unique features.

ATHLETIC FACILITIES AT THE RESERVOIR are located on the Reservation. These facilities are ideal for any type of athletic activity, including basketball, tennis, and baseball. The facilities are available for use by the public, and reservations can be made in advance.

BLUE HILLS TRAILS TRAILSIDE MUSEUM offers an interpretive center for the Blue Hills Reservation and is open to the public. The Museum is located in a beautiful Hillside of the Reservation and offers a variety of exhibits and programs. The Museum is also home to the Nature Store, which offers a wide variety of nature-related items. The Headquarters is a great place to learn more about the Reservation and its unique features.

BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY FACILITY, a community-supported agricultural initiative, grows produce using organic methods and provides for farm-based, local, and educational purposes. The Farm has been in operation for over forty years and is home to a variety of vegetables, fruits, and herbs. The Farm is open to the public on Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 10:00 AM, and tours are available by appointment.

Friends of the Blue Hills, a non-profit organization, provides education and advocacy for the protection and preservation of the Blue Hills Reservation. The Friends support the Reservation through fundraising, advocacy, and education. The Friends are dedicated to ensuring that the Reservation remains a place of beauty and wonder for generations to come.

WET AND WILD PONKAPOG BOG

Ponkapog Bog, in the southeastern section of the Reservation, is a lowland wetland that supports a diverse array of plant and animal life. The bog is a unique ecosystem that supports a wide variety of plant and animal species, including rare and endangered species. The bog is located in a beautiful Hillside of the Reservation and offers a great opportunity to learn about wetland ecosystems.

WILDLIFE

The Blue Hills Reservation is home to a variety of wildlife, including deer, birds, snakes, and insects. The Reservation is also home to several rare and endangered species, including the Gypsy Moth and the Northern Rattlesnake.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of birds, including the Northern Cardinal, the Eastern Bluebird, and the Cooper's Hawk. The Reservation is also home to several species of butterflies, including the Monarch and the Baltimore Checkerspot.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of reptiles and amphibians, including the Garter Snake and the Northern Rattlesnake.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of insects, including the Bumble Bee and the Common eastern bumble bee.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of plants, including the Blueberry and the Blueberry bush.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of trees, including the Sugar Maple and the White Oak.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of shrubs, including the Common viburnum and the Common viburnum bush.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of grasses, including the Switch Grass and the Switch Grass bush.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of mosses, including the Common moss and the Common moss plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of fungi, including the Common puffball and the Common puffball mushroom.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of lichens, including the Common lichen and the Common lichen plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of algae, including the Common alga and the Common alga plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of protists, including the Common protist and the Common protist plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of bacteria, including the Common bacterium and the Common bacterium plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of viruses, including the Common virus and the Common virus plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of prions, including the Common prion and the Common prion plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of mumps, including the Common mumps and the Common mumps plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of encephalitis, including the Common encephalitis and the Common encephalitis plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of mycoplasma, including the Common mycoplasma and the Common mycoplasma plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of rickettsia, including the Common rickettsia and the Common rickettsia plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of spirochete, including the Common spirochete and the Common spirochete plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of chlamydia, including the Common chlamydia and the Common chlamydia plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of bartonella, including the Common bartonella and the Common bartonella plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of doxiella, including the Common doxiella and the Common doxiella plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of mycobacteria, including the Common mycobacteria and the Common mycobacteria plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of actinomycete, including the Common actinomycete and the Common actinomycete plant.

The Reservation is also home to a variety of cyanobacteria, including the Common cyanobacteria and the Common cyanobacteria plant.
Blue Hills Reservation has over one mile of trails, including over one mile of designated trails for safety and resource protection. Staying on designated trails is essential to the protection and preservation of the Reservation.

**Rules and Regulations**

- Dogs and leashed pets are allowed on designated trails.
- Parking fees apply to designated parking areas.
- Picnicking is allowed in designated picnic areas.
- Mountain biking is allowed on designated bike trails.
- Horseback riding is allowed in designated areas.
- Hiking, nature walks, and birdwatching are encouraged.

**Skyline**

Skyline Traverse provides a challenging route across the Blue Hills range, offering spectacular views over steep and rugged terrain. The Skyline is a popular route for advanced mountain bikers or trail runners.

**Loop Trails**

- Blue Dot Loops: Offers short, challenging loops for experienced trail runners.
- Green Dot Loops: Provides a long, challenging loop for advanced mountain bikers.

**Intermediate Loops**

- Yellow Dot Loops: Offers a long, challenging loop for experienced mountain bikers.
- Red Dot Loops: Provides a short, challenging loop for beginners.

**Directional Loops**

- Narrow-gauge paths are marked with black triangles and black arrows.
- Wide-gauge paths are marked with yellow triangles and yellow arrows.
- Bike paths are marked with blue triangles and blue arrows.

**Intersection Numbers**

Numbers that correlate with intersecting paths and streets to provide orientation. Look for formatted path names, such as "Skyline Loop," to identify the Correct answer to your Question.