

# Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

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## Borderland State Park

259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton, MA 02356, (508) 238-6566

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Borderland State Park, 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/borderland-state-park-trail-map/download>

## Introductory Hike Pond Walk

**Trailhead:** Begin at the Visitor's Center **Lat/Long:** 42.062441, -71.166414

**Distance:** 3.0 miles **Difficulty:** Easy

**Brief Description:** Follow the old carriage road leading around Lower Leach Pond. This beautiful trail is mostly wooded. You will pass the picturesque stone lodge, dam and bridge, open fields, the 1910 Ames Mansion and the picnic grounds. A self-guided brochure is available here:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/parks/borderland/selfguided-family-hikes.pdf>

## Introductory Hike Shady Way to Lily Bay

**Trailhead:** Starting at the Visitor Center **Lat/Long:** 42.062441, -71.166414

**Distance:** 1.5 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

**Brief Description:** Lily Bay is a shallow inlet teeming with water lilies, painted turtles and birds (seasonally). From the Visitor Center, turn left down the hill towards Leach Pond. Keep right to continue on the Pond Edge Trail, keeping Lower Leach Pond on your left. The Pond Edge Trail ends at Pond Walk carriage road at the edge of Lily Bay. Enjoy the view from the bench on the left. After enjoying the view, loop back on the Pond Walk carriage road towards the Ames Mansion (if you pass a farm house, you are going the wrong way). Once you see the Ames Mansion, turn right towards the main parking lot/visitor center.

## Signature Bike Ride NEMBA Trail

**Trailhead:** Visitor Center **Lat/Long:** 42.062441, -71.166413

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

**Brief Description:** Starting at the visitor center begin on the West Side trail. Halfway through the West Side trail, bear left onto the French trail. At the end of the French trail, turn left onto the Northwest Trail and follow the trail until you see the NEMBA Trail head. Turn right onto the NEMBA trail. At the end of the NEMBA trail, turn right onto Ridge trail than a quick left back onto the Northwest trail. Follow the Northwest trail to the end. At the end of the trail, bear right onto the Pond Walk trail which will lead you back to the visitor center. Roundtrip, this intermediate to advance bike ride is approximately 3.5 miles long through rocky and hilly terrain.

## Signature Bike Ride Bob's Trail

**Trailhead:** Begin at the Visitor's Center **Lat/Long:** 42.062441, -71.166414

**Distance:** 4 miles **Difficulty:** Easy

**Brief Description:** Great for beginner mountain bikers, start at the visitor center and follow the pond walk towards the Ames Mansion. Continue to follow the Pond Walk as you pass the Smith Farmhouse, stay straight onto Bay Road Path until you get to a set of metal gates. At the metal gates, turn left onto Bob's Trail. Follow the signs for Bobs Tail until you reach a large field and Pud's Pond. Keep Puds Pond on your right hand side and continue straight down a small hill, you are back on the Pond Walk Trail. Go over a wooden bridge and bear left. Continue to follow Pond walk until you reach the visitor center. Round trip, this easy to moderate bike ride is approximately 4 miles along mostly flat and at times rocky terrain.

## 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.*