



# DCR 2026 Park Passport Challenge

## ~Frequently Asked Questions~

### General Information

#### What is the Park Passport Challenge and how does it work?

The Park Passport Challenge is an exciting program designed to encourage visitors to explore a variety of parks by completing fun tasks and collecting stamps. Participants will receive a Park Passport Challenge brochure that includes **12 featured DCR locations**. At each park, participants will have the opportunity to complete optional engaging activities and collect a unique stamp to mark their visit. The goal is to inspire adventure, learning, and exploration of our beautiful natural landscapes.

#### How do I participate?

1. Pick up your Park Passport Brochure from a participating locations visitor center or print out our one-page passport at home.
2. Visit participating parks and find the stamp box and stamp your passport to mark your adventure!
3. Gather as many stamps as you can to complete the Park Passport Challenge and redeem your prize! Complete the Park Passport Challenge and submit the redemption form by **November 1, 2026**, to receive your water bottle stickers and to be entered into the raffle for the grand prize.

#### Is the program free?

Yes, participation in the Park Passport Challenge is **free**. There is no cost to receive a passport, visit the stamp boxes, or to complete the activities. However, some parks may have parking fees or additional costs for other amenities, so it is a good idea to check the specific park's webpage before visiting.

#### Helpful Links:

DCR website: [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)

DCR Advisories: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/dcr-press-advisories>

DCR Find a Park: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-park>

DCR Programs & Events: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-state-parks-programs-and-events>

DCR Parking Information: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/parking-at-massachusetts-state-parks>

## Who can participate?

The program is open to everyone! It's designed to be as accessible as possible and is made to be engaging for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

## Is there an end date to the Park Passport Challenge?

**November 1, 2026** is the deadline to complete the Park Passport Challenge and submit your redemption form for your Park Passport Challenge. For every stamp you collect, you will receive a water bottle sticker version of that stamp. For those who collect all 12, you will be entered in a raffle for a grand prize. Water bottle stickers will be mailed out in November 2026. The lucky grand prize winner will be selected and notified through a drawing in December 2026.

## What should I bring to prepare for my visit?

Being prepared will help you make the most out of your visit! Consider bringing the following items:

- Your Park Passport Brochure to collect stamps
- Comfortable walking or hiking shoes
- Water and snacks to stay hydrated and energized
- Sun protection, including sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses
- Bug spray to fend off the mosquitos and other insects
- A camera or binoculars to view the wildlife
- A map of the park to help you find your way

## How to Participate and Track your Progress

### Where can I get a Park Passport Challenge Brochure?

You can pick up a Park Passport Challenge Brochure at any participating park's visitor center. To find out which parks offer the brochure, visit our webpage at [www.mass.gov/info-details/dcr-park-passport-challenge](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/dcr-park-passport-challenge). You can also print a one-page passport sheet (8.5x11) at home or at a local library to take along on your adventure.

### How do I collect stamps?

Once you arrive at a park, locate the stamp box, which is usually near the visitor center or other accessible areas. Use the secret code corresponding to the park's region in your Park Passport to unlock the box, then stamp your Park Passport Challenge Brochure in the space provided for that park.

### **What if I can't find the stamp box?**

If you are having trouble finding a stamp box, check the park map and search near the entrance of the park, its visitor center, a kiosk, or along an accessible trail. If you are still unsure, ask a DCR staff member for assistance.

### **Do I have to visit all the parks?**

No! You're welcome to visit as many or as few parks as you like. The program is designed to be flexible so that you can explore at your own pace. Whether you're focused on collecting stamps, completing suggested activities, it's all up to you! For those who visit and collect all 12 stamps, in addition to receiving a water bottle sticker per park, you will also be entered to our grand prize drawing.

## **Rewards**

### **Is there a prize for completing the challenge?**

Yes! When you are finished collecting stamps, whether you collect 1 stamp or all 12 in your passport, you are eligible for a prize! Please complete the prize redemption form once you have finished collecting stamps. Limit one submission per person. For every stamp you collect, you will receive a water bottle sticker of that stamp. Participants who collect all 12 stamps will be entered into the grand prize drawing. All prize redemption forms must be submitted by **November 1, 2026**.

### **How do I redeem my prize?**

Once you are done collecting stamps, whether you collected 1 or all 12, visit our DCR Park Passport Challenge webpage: [www.mass.gov/info-details/dcr-park-passport-challenge](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/dcr-park-passport-challenge) and click the "Prize Redemption" link.

You will receive a water bottle sticker, a sticker version of the passport stamp, of the stamps you collected. Water bottle stickers and all other prizes will be mailed out in November 2026. To be entered into a raffle for a chance to win another prize, submit your on-line prize redemption form by **November 1, 2026**.

Questions? Please email us at [DCRpassport@mass.gov](mailto:DCRpassport@mass.gov)

## **Accessibility and Inclusion**

### **Are the parks accessible for individuals with disabilities?**

Yes, the Park Passport Challenge is designed to be inclusive and accessible for people of all abilities. Stamp boxes are placed in easily accessible areas, and the locks are designed for easy use by individuals with different physical abilities.

### **Are service animals allowed at the parks?**

Yes, service animals are welcome at all participating parks. Please be sure to follow park-specific guidelines regarding other pets.

**Note: Dogs are NOT allowed at Wachusett Reservoir at any time, other than service animals.**

### **What languages is the program available in?**

The program is available in **6 languages** including English to make the program as inclusive as possible. Translated versions of the Park Passport Challenge brochure and other essential materials are available in:

- English
- Spanish
- Brazilian Portuguese
- Traditional Chinese
- Haitian Creole
- Vietnamese

### **Where can I get translated versions of the Park Passport Challenge brochure and other essential materials?**

All 12 participating parks will have physical copies of the Park Passport Challenge brochure and other essential materials available in **6 languages** including English. We recommend calling ahead to ensure that the park has the materials in stock OR you can email, [DCRPassport@mass.gov](mailto:DCRPassport@mass.gov) and we would be happy to mail you a brochure in any of the 6 languages.

## **Technical Issues**

### **What if I lose my Park Passport Challenge Brochure?**

Don't worry! You can pick up a new Park Passport Challenge brochure at any participating park with a Visitor Center. If you lost your stamps, you may still redeem your prize by visiting our webpage and filling out the prize redemption form.

### **How do I report an issue with stamp box materials?**

If you encounter any issues with a stamp box, let a park staff know, or by emailing **DCRPassport@mass.gov**. Please include the name of the park and describe the issue, and we'll work to resolve it promptly.

### **Who do I contact with further questions?**

If you have questions, feel free to ask park staff for assistance. If they're unable to answer your question, you can submit your question or concern by emailing **DCRPassport@mass.gov**. We aim to respond to all inquiries in a timely manner.

