



~ Discover Massachusetts State Parks ~  
**Visitors Guide to Free Family-Friendly  
Programs**  
**April School Vacation Week**  
**April 15 – 23, 2023**

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Guide to  
Free  
Family-  
Friendly  
Programs**

**April  
Vacation  
Week  
2023**

Share your adventures  Twitter and  Instagram with the #tag **@MassDCR**

Fresh air and family fun are the perfect combination for your April Vacation Week plans. Come out and play in your Massachusetts State Parks and enjoy a fantastic array of family friendly programs and experiences for all ages. Enjoy guided experiences or create a park adventure on your own. There is so much enjoy and explore in your state parks. **Come for a visit!**

Following, please find a listing of Guided Programs, Visitor Center Special Exhibits, and ongoing Resources. For more information please visit us online at [Department of Conservation & Recreation | Mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). <http://www.mass.gov/dcr>. For DCR's adaptive program schedule please [click here](#) for the complete schedule and programs during February Vacation week are noted with a \* below.

**Things to know before you go:**

- ⚙ All programs are free unless noted.
- ⚙ Please be aware parking fees may apply – visit the park web page for applicable parking fees at Massachusetts State Parks or <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/passes-and-fees/borrow-a-parkspass.html> to learn how to borrow a ParksPass from a community partner.
- ⚙ All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- ⚙ Be season smart and safe. Dress for the weather by wearing sturdy footwear and dressing in layers for maximum comfort.
- ⚙ Carry drinking water and snacks.
- ⚙ Have a map and cell phone.

- ⚙ Seasonal weather such as heavy rains and storms affect parks and trails. All events, programs and activities are subject to change. Please take a moment to call ahead to confirm.

- ⚙ April Vacation Programs are listed by geographical region, date and time.

## Activities and Programs

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### Greater Boston

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**Roxbury Heritage State Park**, 183 Roxbury Street, Roxbury, MA

#### **Archeology Pop-Up Labs**

**Wednesday, April 19 and Thursday, April 20, 10:00am-4:00pm**

Drop by for a hands-on experience in archeology! Help us clean, classify, label and photograph artifacts from DCR sites, guided by one of our state archeologists. Children (ages 7+) and adults may participate. Schools and other groups should call in advance to schedule a more formal visit.

**Roxbury Heritage State Park**, 183 Roxbury Street, Roxbury, MA

#### **Kiddleidoscope**

**Saturday, April 22, 10:30-11:30am**

This program for children, ages 3-5, includes a story, nature exploration, and hands-on activity. In *Jayden's Impossible Garden*, a boy notices nature all around his city and creates a special place. Participants will start a seed garden for their own special place. Program takes place outdoors in the park.

### Central Massachusetts

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**Wachusett Reservoir Watershed**, 130 Beaman St West Boylston MA

#### **Streams, Pools, and Wetlands Walk**

**Saturday, April 15, 10:00-11:30am**

Take a closer look at Seasonal Streams, Vernal Pools, and Wetlands on this slow-paced family-friendly walk through the forest at Stillwater Farm. These water sources attract a variety of wildlife that use these habitats. We'll listen for frog calls and look for other signs of wildlife. 1 mile walk through forest and trails. Please dress for the weather, sturdy shoes and insect repellent is recommended. All ages are welcome. Meet at Stillwater Farm Interpretive Site 228 Redemption Rock Trail (Route 140), Sterling. For additional information please call 774-261-1809.

**Purgatory Chasm State Reservation**, 198 Purgatory Road, Sutton MA  
**Rock Detectives**

**Saturday, April 15 and Saturday, April 22, 10:00-11:00am**

Have you ever wondered where rocks come from? Stop by the **Playground** near the Visitor Center to discover more about the rocks of Purgatory Chasm, where they've been, and where they may be going. Stay for five minutes or an hour at this interactive display. Appropriate for ages 4 and above. This event will be held inside the Visitor Center during inclement weather.

**Purgatory Chasm State Reservation,**

198 Purgatory Road, Sutton MA

**Time Traveler Tour**

**Sats, April 15 + 22 4:00-5:00pm & Fri, April 21, 11:00am-12:00pm**

Take a step back in time! Get an introduction to this unique park as we walk among historic structures and geological features, jumping around the park's history all the while. **Meet at the Visitor Center.** Suitable for ages 8 and above. Approximately one mile over easy terrain.

**Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, 271 Oak St, Uxbridge**

**Monday, April 17, 10:30-11:15am**

**Kidleidoscope**

River Bend Farm has a resident family of otters! We'll read a short story about otters, participate in a scavenger hunt, and make a fun otter craft that celebrates our furry friends. Ages 3 to 6, siblings welcome. For more information, contact (508) 278-7604.

**Wachusett Reservoir Watershed, 130 Beaman St West Boylston MA**  
**One Acre Safari**

**Tuesday, April 18, 10:00am-1:00pm**

Stillwater Farm's one-acre meadow is waiting to be explored! Stop by self-guided outdoor activity stations and read *Trout are Made of Trees StoryWalk®*. Dress to spend time outdoors, insect repellent is recommended. All ages are welcome. Meet at Stillwater Farm Interpretive Site 228 Redemption Rock Trail (Route 140), Sterling. For additional information please call 774-261-1809.

**Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road,**  
Princeton

**Tuesday, April 18, 12:00 - 12:30pm**

**Wild!Life on the Mountain**

Discover the fascinating lives of the "locals" as we talk about wildlife habitats, competition, and survival on Wachusett Mountain. See and touch the skins, skulls, and tracks of some of our native animals, including coyotes, deer, moose, bobcats, bears, and more.

*This program takes place indoors at the Visitor Center.* Appropriate for families with children ages 5 and above.

**Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road,**  
Princeton

**Wednesday, April 19, 1:00 - 1:45pm**

**Old-Growth Forest Talk**

Wachusett Mountain is home to the only old-growth forest east of the Berkshires, with trees that are several hundred years old! This talk will share the history of these rare trees and how they have survived.

*This program takes place indoors at the Visitor Center.* Appropriate for ages 13 and above.

**Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, 271 Oak St, Uxbridge  
Thursday, April 20, 10:45am-12:00pm  
Kids' Nature Hike**

Let's explore nature! We'll be making nature journals and using them to record our observations of the great outdoors during a jaunt through River Bend Farm's Nature Field. Ages 8 to 12, siblings welcome. For more information, contact (508) 278-7604.

**Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road,  
Princeton**

**Thursday, April 20, 1:00 – 3:30pm  
Old-Growth Forest Walk**

We will take you to view some of the oldest trees found here at the mountain, many 300 years old or older. Wachusett Mountain has the only old-growth forest east of the Berkshire Mountains in Massachusetts.

*This walk covers approximately 2 miles over moderate terrain. Meet at the Visitor Center.* Appropriate for ages 13 and above.

**Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road,  
Princeton**

**Friday, April 21, 1:00 – 1:45pm  
Tree ID Walk**

Learn how to use leaves, tree shape, and bark to identify common species of trees. Impress your friends with your new knowledge.

*This easy walk covers less than half a mile. Meet at the Visitor Center.* Appropriate for families with children ages 10 and above.

## **Northeastern Massachusetts**

**Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston, MA  
An Oasis for Birds**

**Saturday, April 15, 7:30-8:30am**

Explore DCR's Belle Isle Marsh and vicinity, known birding hotspots with a total yearly bird count of about 265 species. We will search for raptors and other specialty birds. Expect to move to different locations by car or on foot. Ages: Adults and kids 8+ with an adult chaperone. Dress for the weather including possible ice on the ground. Programs are cancelled during inclement weather. Co-sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club and the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh.

**Meet at** DCR's Belle Isle Marsh Reservation parking lot, 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston.

Note that this program meets every month of the year on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month except when the Saturday is a state or national holiday.

**Halibut Point State Park**, 4 Gott Avenue, Rockport, MA

**Seaside Spring Birding Basics**

**Sunday, April 16, 8-10am**

Stroll our seaside treasure with birding basics. Hear the symphony of spring bird song, watch for them in the woodland's and at water's edges. Learn about bird sounds, habits, and flight patterns. Enjoy extraordinary views. Bring binoculars if you have them. For all ages. Meet at Parking lot.

**Walden Pond State Reservation**, 915 Walden St., Concord, MA

**Flags from Thoreau's Time**

**Sunday, April 16, 10:00am-4:00pm**

In celebration of Patriot's Day, view this special display on the deck of American flags highlighting benchmarks from Thoreau's life. Display is weather dependent.

Get a flag craft on the deck to make at home. For all ages. Meet on Visitor Center Deck.

**Walden Pond State Reservation**, 915 Walden St., Concord, MA

**Concord's Two Revolutions: Rebels, Writers, &**

**Transcendentalists**

**Sunday, April 16, 1:00-2:00pm**

Join historian *Richard Smith* for an educational and entertaining look at Concord's two revolutions: the Revolutionary War and the Revolution of early American writers (the Transcendentalists). Meet in the Walden Pond Visitor Center.

Co-sponsored by the *Friends of Walden Pond*.

**Maudslay State Park**, 74 Curzon Mill Rd. Newburyport, MA

**Evening Stroll**

**Monday, April 17, 6:30-7:30pm**

Join the park interpreter for a moderately paced walk to view different areas of the park and experience the changes at Maudslay over the seasons. For Ages 6 & up. Meet at: Park Headquarters, 74 Curzon Mill Rd. For: Ages 3 to 6

**Revere Beach Reservation**, 1 Eliot Circle, Revere, MA

**Shorebird and Seabird Discovery Station**

**Wednesday, April 19, 9:00-11:30am**

Listen to a short lesson (3-5 min) about the fascinating shorebirds and seabirds that make Revere Beach their home at this station. A spotting scope will be available for viewing birds but bring binoculars if you have them. Drop in anytime. Dress for the weather including possible ice on the ground. Programs are cancelled during inclement weather. Appropriate for Kids 8+ and adults. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. Meet at Revere Beach Reservation under the tree and on the beach across from 21 Revere Beach Blvd., Revere, MA

**Lawrence Heritage State Park**, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA

**Kids! In the Museum**

**Wednesday, April 19 and Friday, April 21, 10:30-11:30am**

Get ready for a special scavenger hunt to find clues about the history, nature, and people of Lawrence. For ages 7-12 and up.

**Walden Pond State Reservation**, 915 Walden St., Concord, MA

**Thoreau House Talks**

**Wednesday, April 19, 1:00-3:00pm**

Learn about Henry David Thoreau's life at Walden of during these ongoing 10-minute chats with a Park Interpreter. Topics include Thoreau the: writer, surveyor, naturalist, and social justice advocate. All ages. Meet at the Thoreau House Replica, by the main parking lot.

**Belle Isle Marsh Reservation**, 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston, MA

**Spring Nature Sensation**

**Thursday, April 20, 9:00-10:00am**

The salt marsh and meadow come to life every spring with new grasses, returning herons, egrets, and swallows. You will learn about the creatures of the marsh and meadow and why these habitats are so important. Ages: Kids 8 + with adult chaperone. Binoculars are recommended. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh.

**Meet at** DCR's Belle Isle Marsh Reservation parking lot, 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston

**Revere Beach Reservation**, 1 Eliot Circle, Revere, MA

**Slow Birding**

**Friday, April 21, 9:00-10:30am**

Discover how you can enliven and enrich your experience of birds through slow & careful birdwatching including observing the fine aesthetic details and behavior of birds. Birds we may observe include piping plover, manx shearwater, gulls and terns. During the last half hour of this program, you will have the option to leave early or to participate in guided mindfulness practices for the benefit of amplifying your peace, creativity and health. Be prepared for sitting, standing and walking short distances. Bring a chair, blanket or pillow to sit on. Binoculars recommended. Ages: Adults and kids 8+ with adult chaperone. Co-sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club and the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh.

**Meet at: Revere Beach Reservation**, on the beach across from 21 Revere Beach Blvd., Revere, MA



**Halibut Point State Park**, 4 Gott Avenue, Rockport, MA

**Talking Trash**

**Friday, April 21, 12:00-1:30pm**

Where does your trash go after leaving your home? What can you do to reduce your trash? Learn a brief history of waste management, about new State regulations, and how to “go green” at home. This presentation will look at today’s waste infrastructure challenges and offer helpful guidance in the development of waste diversion strategies and practices.

Benefits include conservation, pollution prevention, and landfill reduction. Our Speaker:

Gloucester’s **Debra Darby** is a client manager with 15 years of organics experience within the solid waste industry. She leads Tetra Tech’s organics management initiative within Tetra Tech’s Solid Waste East (SWE) region., Ms. Darby is a U.S. Composting Council Certified Composting Professional (CCP) and has 20 years of experience in environmental marketing and has served as a strategic advisor in the public and private sectors.

**Walden Pond State Reservation**, 915 Walden St., Concord, MA

**Rings of Influence**

**Saturday, April 22, 10:00am-4:00pm**

Discover how Thoreau’s influence has grown to inspire generations of conservationists to protect our natural resources. Decorate an Earth Day “tree cookie” (cross-section of a small tree trunk) as a memento of your visit. For all ages. Meet inside Visitor Center.

**Walden Pond State Reservation**, 915 Walden St., Concord, MA

**Signs of Spring Saunter**

**Sunday, April 23, 1:00-2:30pm**

Discover new growth as plants respond to increased daylight. Use your senses, look for signs, and listen to sounds of spring as Walden awakens on this easy one-mile guided stroll in the woods with a Park Interpreter. Meet at Visitor Center. For all ages.

**Halibut Point State Park**, 4 Gott Avenue, Rockport, MA

**Live Animal Presentation: Celebrate Earth Day!**

**Saturday, April 29, 11:00am-12:30pm**

Live animal ambassadors will visit Halibut Point with educator, Richard Wolniewicz. Learn about these animals’ behaviors, habitats, challenges they face, and how we can help them. Co-Sponsored with Friends of Halibut Point State Park. For all ages. Meet at Visitor Center

## Southeastern Massachusetts

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**Blue Hills Reservation**, 840 Hillside St. Milton MA 02186

### **I Spy Fungi!**

**Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am - 11:00am**

Come learn about the mysterious and hidden world of fungi. Ancient in the extreme, fungi are crucial to almost all life on earth. They live in symbiosis with plants, animals, and even people. We will find out how fungi are much more than just mushrooms. Join us for an all-ages, one-mile guided walk.

**Borderland State Park**, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton, MA

### **3- Floor Mansion Tours**

**Sunday, April 16, 12:00-3:00pm**

Tour the stately home of Blanche and Oakes Ames on the Friends of Borderland's 3-floor Mansion tours. Tour begin every 30-minutes, maximum of 15 people per tour. Tickets will go on sale at 11:30am in front of the Ames Mansion. Tickets can not be purchased in advance. The Friends of Borderland Gift Shop will also be open during these tours. Tours last approximately 40-minutes. Tickets are \$10 per person, members of the Friends of Borderland and children are free. Cash and credit accepted. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Borderland, for more information, please visit: [www.friendsofborderland.org](http://www.friendsofborderland.org). Rain or shine. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion.

**Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**, 131 Waquoit, East Falmouth

### **Family Beach Walk and Scavenger Hunt**

**Monday, April 17, 11:00am-12:00pm**

Let's see how many signs of wildlife we can find as we walk along the beach and dune trails. We will also keep our eyes out for our nesting osprey and piping plovers. Meet at the South Cape State Park Beach entrance. There are no bathrooms at this location. Dress for the weather. The walk will be cancelled if heavy rain or strong winds. Registration is preferred at [www.waquoitbayreserve.org](http://www.waquoitbayreserve.org)

**Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**, 131 Waquoit, East Falmouth

### **Falmouth Osprey Project**

**Monday, April 17, 6:30-8:00pm**

Kevin Friel and Barbara Schneider, co-founders of The Falmouth Osprey Project, will speak about their efforts to find safe nesting sites for the Osprey. This program is free and open to the public. Programs are for ages 5+. Meet at Visitor Center. Registration is preferred at [www.waquoitbayreserve.org](http://www.waquoitbayreserve.org)



**Blue Hills Reservation**, 840 Hillside St. Milton MA 02186

**Talking Trees**

**Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am - 11:00am**

The secret story of the forest is told in its trees. Trees are living beings and have strange and fascinating ways to communicate and support one another. Learn what these silent giants can tell us if we know how to listen. Join us for a gentle, 1.1-mile guided walk through the woods. Suitable for all ages.

**Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve,**

131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth, MA (508) 457-0495

**Eagles, Hawks and Falcons**

**Tuesday, April 18, 11:00am-12:00pm**

Osprey are nesting along our coasts and at Waquoit Bay, but did you know there are other birds of prey nearby too? Who are they? What are their special traits? We will find out and take a walk looking for Osprey and other hawks. Play a talon/claw game and make a glider. This program is free and open to the public. Programs are for ages 5+. Meet at Visitor Center. Registration is preferred at [www.waquoitbayreserve.org](http://www.waquoitbayreserve.org)

**Borderland State Park**, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton, MA

**Live Reptiles!**

**Wednesday, April 19, 10:00am-12:00pm**

Reptile Shows of New England will bring some live reptiles. They will present and teach us about different reptiles such as snakes and lizards. The show will start promptly at 10:00am and will last about 1-hour. At approximately 11:00am, they will stick around for an extra hour to answer questions and let us hold some of these critters. This event is free, parking fees apply. Seating is limited, first-come, first seated. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain or shine. For more information, please call Borderland at 508-238-6566. This event is co-sponsored by the Friends of Borderland and DCR. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve,**

131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth, MA (508) 457-0495

**Osprey Extravaganza**

**Wednesday, April 19, 11:00am-12:00pm**

We will celebrate the Osprey! View our nesting Osprey with our scope and Osprey Cam and learn about their adaptations and life cycles with activities, games, and a craft! This program is free and open to the public. Programs are for ages 5+. Meet at Visitor Center. Registration is preferred at

[www.waquoitbayreserve.org](http://www.waquoitbayreserve.org)

**Blue Hills Reservation**, 840 Hillside St. Milton MA 02186

**Volcanic Granite**

**Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am - 10:30am**

Did you know that hundreds of millions of years ago the Blue Hills were a raging volcano? It's true! Come join us for a gentle one-mile, geological walk and learn about the granite the fires left behind and how people have used the marvelous stone ever since. Suitable for all ages.

**Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**,

131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth, MA (508) 457-0495

**Wonderous Wings**

**Thursday, April 20, 11:00am-12:00pm**

We will search Waquoit for wonderous winged creatures from birds to bugs. Learn about flight with a science experiment and make our own wings. How does your "arm span" compare with an osprey's wingspan? This program is free and open to the public. Programs are for ages 5+. Meet at Visitor Center. Registration is preferred at [www.waquoitbayreserve.org](http://www.waquoitbayreserve.org)

**Borderland State Park**, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton, MA

**Off the Beaten Path Hike**

**Thursday, April 20, 1:00-3:00pm**

Join the park staff for a moderate paced 3-4 mile hike on trails less travelled at Borderland State Park. We will stop frequently to enjoy nature. Dress for the weather and bring water and bug spray. Inclement weather may cancel. In case of inclement weather, to ensure hike is happening, please call Borderland at 508-238-6566. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**Borderland State Park**, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton, MA

**Kids Concert!**

**Thursday, April 20, 2:00-3:00pm**

Join popular kids' musician Greg Luzitano and bring the little ones for a set of classic interactive kids songs! Children will be engaged with invitations to sing along, make funny faces, use their imaginations, make noise, and even show off their best dance moves as Greg leads them through an interactive set of fun, energetic kid's songs! Best for ages 2-6, but all ages will have fun and grown-ups are encouraged to join in! All children must be accompanied by an adult. This event is free, parking fees apply. Questions or for reasonable accommodations, please email Borderland or call 508-238-6566. This event is co-sponsored by the Friends of Borderland and DCR. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**Blue Hills Reservation**, 840 Hillside St. Milton MA 02186

**Marsh Madness!**

**Thursday, April 20, 3:00pm -4:00pm**

The lovely Marigold Marsh is a vital wetland habitat and home to many species of birds and reptiles. Hear the lovely trill of red-wing blackbirds and see the serene beauty of basking painted turtles, as they return and emerge from winter. Suitable for all ages.

**Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve,**

131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth, MA (508) 457-0495

**Earth Day Creations**

**Friday, April 21, 12:00pm-3:00pm**

Celebrate Earth Day by making crafts out of recycled materials. It is a drop in program so come anytime! This program is free and open to the public.

Programs are for ages 5+. Meet at Visitor Center. Registration is preferred at

[www.waquoitbayreserve.org](http://www.waquoitbayreserve.org)

**Blue Hills Reservation**, 840 Hillside St. Milton MA 02186

**Earth Day Exploration**

**Saturday, April 22, 10:00am - 11:00am**

Join us for an Earth Day inspired craft and springtime scavenger hunt. It will be fun for the whole family as we celebrate Earth Day, what we can do to help the Earth, and just enjoy the beauty of nature in the Blue Hills. Suitable for families with children 5 and up.

**Borderland State Park**, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton, MA

**Park Serve Day**

**Saturday, April 22, 10:00-11:00am**

Calling all who love Borderland State Park and would like to give back by volunteering! Check in at the visitor center on Saturday, April 22, 2023 for Park Serve Day. We will plant flowers, weed and mulch areas around the mansion and pick up litter on the trails. Bring gloves or borrow some of ours, prepare to get a little dirty. We will have some hand tools for everyone to use. Thank you in advance for helping make Borderland beautiful. Rain or shine, children must be accompanied by an adult. Park Serve Day is co-sponsored by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and the Friends of Borderland. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566. Register [here](#). Check in at the Visitor Center.

**Borderland State Park**, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton, MA

**Southeastern Adult Walking Club**

**Sunday, April 23, 9:00-11:00am**

Join the park staff for a moderate paced 3-mile hike to the Granite Hills Loop via various trails. Slight inclines throughout. Leashed dogs are welcome to join. Dress for the weather. For ages 16+. Meet at visitor center located next to the main parking lot. Parking fees apply. Meet at Visitor Center.

**Borderland State Park**, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton, MA

**Suffrage Event: Deborah Samson**

**Sunday, April 23, 2:00-3:00pm**

Join Steve Connolly as he presents the history of a local hero, Deborah Samson in a 1-hour presentation. She was the first woman to fight in and be honorably discharged from the American Military, fighting in the Revolutionary War. Take a step back in time with us as we learn about the history and legacy of Deborah Samson, who lived in Sharon, Massachusetts.

Tickets at \$10 per person. Purchase your tickets in advance online at [www.friendsofborderland.org](http://www.friendsofborderland.org) OR purchase your tickets the day of if seats are still available. Presentation will take place inside the ornate two-story library of the Ames Mansion. Photography and videography are strictly prohibited.

Doors open at approximately 1:30pm. For this event, please enter at 257 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton, MA and follow the signs to park.

This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Friends of Borderland, a non-profit organization. The Friends of Borderland celebrates women's suffrage through a lecture series, highlighting remarkable women in American history. For more information, please visit [www.friendsofborderland.org](http://www.friendsofborderland.org). Suffrage series is rain or shine, all children must be accompanied by an adult. For reasonable accommodations, please call Borderland at (508) 238-6566. Meet inside Ames Mansion.

## Western Massachusetts

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**Great Falls Discovery Center**, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

**Art Naturally Series**

**Saturday, April 15, 10:30am-12:00pm**

Discover nature through story, poetry, and art in our series of FREE Art Naturally programs. Using words and images, instruction, and techniques you create an art piece inspired by the natural world to take home. For adults, teens, and children ages 6 and up (accompanied by an adult). All materials are free. Meet in the Great Hall.

**Mount Greylock State Reservation**, 30 Rockwell Rd, Lanesborough, MA

**Hopper Discovery Hike**

**Saturday, April 15, 11:00am- 1:30pm**

Appropriate for ages 12 and older. Join an Interpretive Guide for an early spring exploration of the wild and scenic Hopper in Williamstown. Following Money Brook and Hopper Trails, this moderately difficult 3-mile loop hike offers majestic views and cultural sites inside a deep glacial valley. Look for early spring ephemerals and signs of native wildlife. **Meet at the Haley Farm Trailhead at the end of Hopper Road in Williamstown.** Dress for the weather; wear sturdy shoes, bring water, a snack, and trekking poles. Registration is required at **(413) 499-4262**. Inclement weather cancels.

**Mount Greylock State Reservation**, 30 Rockwell Rd, Lanesborough, MA

**Spring Discovery Hike**

**Sunday, April 16, 11:00am- 1:00pm**

Appropriate for ages 8 and older. Enjoy a refreshing hike along the Bradley Farm Trail as we explore the seasonal changes in the New England Forest. Along the way, we'll identify signs of spring such as early ephemeral flora and emerging fauna. This moderately difficult hike offers an ideal way to get outdoors and embrace this vernal time of year. Dress for the weather; wear sturdy shoes, bring water, a snack, and trekking poles. Inclement weather cancels.

**Great Falls Discovery Center**, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

**Let's Have a Ball! Join the 1st Jurassic Mud Ball Festival in 200 Million Years**

**Sunday, April 16, 2:00-4:00pm**

Celebrate mud season with an exploration of rare Jurassic-age rocks found only in Turners Falls- armored mud balls! Family friendly activities for all ages. How were they formed millions of years ago? How were they discovered by geologist Richard Little? Make your own armored mud ball to take home, with help from local geologist Steve Winters and DCR staff. Enjoy a tasty, armored mud ball treat. Meet in the Great Hall. Weather permitting, hunt for Jurassic armored mud balls on an easy walk to nearby Unity Park.

**Mount Greylock State Reservation**, 30 Rockwell Rd, Lanesborough, MA

**Finding Your Way**

**Monday, April 17, 10:00am- 3:00pm**

Recommended for ages 8 and up. Explore ways to navigate the outdoors and have fun. Discover the wonders of map and compass. Learn traditional methods of path finding in the forest or your own back yard. Pick up a few tricks to identify wintertime wildlife and trees by their bark. Activities may include making a map and scavenger hunts. Designed as a self-guided activity, but may also be led by a Park Interpreter.

**Mount Greylock State Reservation**, 30 Rockwell Rd, Lanesborough, MA

**Geocaching 101**

**Tuesday, April 18, 1-2:30pm**

**Free for all ages.** Looking for a fun way to engage your tech-savvy kids with the natural world? This outdoor activity combines hiking with a tech-aided treasure hunt. Join Kathy G. and members of Berkshire Geobash to learn the basics indoors, then head out on the trail to test out new skills. Can you find the hidden treasure? **Beginners welcome! No experience necessary.** To participate fully [download the free geocaching.com app](#) Dress appropriately for variable weather. Trails may be muddy. Bring drinking water and a snack.

**Holyoke Heritage State Park**, 221 Appleton St, Holyoke, MA

**Scat and Skulls**

**Wednesday, April 19, 10:00-11:00am**

Come to an engaging naturalist program for ages 12 and up. What can you tell about an animal by examining its skull? Educator Bob Kidd shares over 40 skulls with you, pointing out features that tell us what its former owner ate, how it saw the world, its size, and other characteristics. Test yourself to identify each skull. Also examine replicas of a tell-tale sign of animal presence: scat (otherwise known as poop, droppings, or by many other names). Hone your naturalist skills in this workshop to become more aware of animal presence during your outdoor jaunts.

Presenter Robert Kidd is a retired biology teacher, having taught 34 years in public schools and 13 years at Westfield State University. He has been active in Boy Scouts for 69 years.

Program is FREE at the Holyoke Heritage State Park Visitor Center.

**Mount Greylock State Reservation**, 30 Rockwell Rd, Lanesborough, MA

**Winter Tree Identification Hike**

**Thursday, April 20, 11:00am-12:30pm**

For ages 8 and up. Calling all nature detectives! Learn how to identify trees as they emerge from their winter slumber. DCR Management Forester, Kevin Podkowka, leads an easy walk for families. Dress for winter weather, clothing and sturdy boots, bring water, a snack. Traction devices, trekking poles and snowshoes may also be recommended. Inclement weather cancels. For additional information, directions or weather updates, call the Visitor Center at (413) 499-4262.

**Great Falls Discovery Center**, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

**Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Beavers**

**Friday, April 21, 10:30-11:30am**

For ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult. Learn more about our wildlife neighbors who share our home. Program includes a story, activities, and a craft. Activities are indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. Siblings and friends welcome. Meet in the Great Hall.

**Great Falls Discovery Center**, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

**Nice and Easy Walks**

**Friday, April 21, 1:00-2:00pm**

An easy-paced, 1 to 2-mile guided walk, along the Canalside Rail Trail or downtown Turners Falls, geared for seniors, but open to all ages. Join others seeking fresh air and exercise. A DCR Park Interpreter highlights natural and local history along the way. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather and sturdy boots. Meet outside the main entrance.



**Mount Greylock State Reservation**, 30 Rockwell Rd, Lanesborough, MA

**Earth Week Event**

**Friday, April 21, 1:00pm-3:00pm**

Free for all ages. Join us for this special Earth Week Salute to our Pollinators! Activities include Crafts, a Scavenger Hunt, and an opportunity to help prepare our Visitor Center Pollinator Gardens to get them ready for Spring flowers!

**Great Falls Discovery Center**, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

**Park Serve Day: Give a Day, Make A Difference**

**Saturday, April 22, 10:00am-12:00pm**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation invites you to Great Falls Discovery Center to lend a hand during this day of volunteer service to our state parks. For any special accommodations or needs you may have for the day, please call (413) 863-3221. Bring your own water and snack. Meet at the main entrance. **Click link for [Registration](#)**

**Mount Greylock State Reservation**, 30 Rockwell Rd, Lanesborough, MA

**Mountain Mindfulness: Family Forest Walk**

**Saturday, April 22, 1:00-3:00pm**

Free for all ages. On this family friendly EARTH DAY MINDFUL WALK, Suzy will guide us on a slow saunter incorporating elements of forest bathing, meditation and mindful breathing. Together, we will find a quiet spot to sit with the trees, inviting present moment awareness, reducing stress and gaining inspiration from the living earth. Through invitations and prompts she will assist you in settling your awareness in nature's forgiving atmosphere. Dress in layers for outdoor hiking in variable weather. Wear sturdy boots. Hiking poles may also be advisable. Bring water and a snack. Click link for more info. Pre-registration required at [https://Mindful\\_Earth\\_Day\\_Walk.eventbrite.com](https://Mindful_Earth_Day_Walk.eventbrite.com)

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## **DCR Visitor Centers and Exhibits**

The Massachusetts' State Park system, managed and operated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation provides many year-round visitation opportunities at which you can learn about our rich natural and cultural history, a heritage that tells fascinating stories of the past. Recreational opportunities also abound. Below is a list of our Visitor Centers by region.

\*Please note, some visitor centers are closed for holidays and hours can vary based on staffing and weather emergencies. Please call ahead.\*

## ***Northeastern Massachusetts***

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**Breakheart Reservation**, 177 Forest St., Saugus  
**Christopher P. Dunne Visitor Center**

**Open Wednesday- Sunday, 8:30am-3:30pm**

This picturesque visitor center was built in the style of Ben Johnson's Lodge. Ben Johnson along with two friends built the lodge that opened in 1891 for their private hunting reserve, the origin of Breakheart Reservation. The Civilian Conservation Corps also built much of the park infrastructure. Enjoy the rustic warmth of the visitor center. The Visitor Center has displays on local animals and indigenous people along with a history with a property. Dogs are allowed within the reservation on a leash. Parking is free, but limited. Parking is also available at the shopping center near the approach. Accessible. For more information, please call (781) 233-0834.

**Halibut Point State Park**, 4 Gott Avenue, Rockport  
**Open Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00am - 3:00pm**  
**Quarrying History at Visitor Center**

Investigate working on the edge of Halibut Point! We have artifacts, photographs, the "Uncut Block" video, and quarry tools to share the Park's history. Bring your questions and curiosity!

**Activities During April Vacation Week**

**Granite Quarrying History Exhibits-**

Investigate working on the edge of Halibut Point! Explore artifacts, photographs, the Uncut Block film, and quarry tools to discover the Park's granite quarrying history. **9am-3pm**

**Military History Exhibits—Climb WWII Tower-**

U.S. Military in 1944 built a watch tower and barracks —now the newly renovated Visitor Center. Climb the tower ladder  
**9am-3pm**

**StoryWalk- *The Nest Robin Built* by Denise Fleming**

Participate in this self-guided StoryWalk®. Enjoy the spring weather walking and reading a story along a lovely park trail. Connect with your surroundings and each other while enjoying the magic of reading together outdoors! Co-Sponsored with Friends of Halibut Point State Park. For pre-K-age 7 with adult. **9am-3pm**

**Walden Pond State Reservation**, 915 Walden St., Concord  
**Walden Pond Visitor Center**

**Open Daily, 10:00am-4:00pm**

Henry David Thoreau's legacy has rippled across the globe and is tastefully presented in exhibits and displays. Get a look at our Gold LEED-Certified, earth-friendly, energy efficient building constructed from sustainable materials. A replica of the cabin he built and lived in from 1845-1847 is located near the visitor center for public viewing. No pets are allowed within the reservation. Daily parking fee: \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$30 per vehicle for out-of-state plates. Accessible. For more information, please call 978-396-3254.

**Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence  
Open Daily, 9:00am-4:00pm**

Come learn about the history and development of Lawrence, Massachusetts, one of the nation's first planned industrial cities. The 22-minute film shows on request. Visit the Gallery for temporary art and historical exhibits. Free parking and admission. Accessible. For more information, please call 978-794-1655.

**Activities During April Vacation Week****StoryWalk: *We Are a Garden: A Story of How Diversity Took Root in America* by Lisa Peters****9:30am-3:30pm**

Take a stroll in our Visitor Center Park to go on a StoryWalk! For ages 3 and up.

## ***Central Massachusetts***

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**Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park**

287 Oak Street, Uxbridge

**River Bend Farm Visitor Center****Daily, 8:00am – 4:00pm**

The *Following the Plough* exhibit explores the story of the Blackstone Valley and its communities from pre-European settlement through European style agricultural development, industrialization, and into today. Guided tours for groups with advance notice. Free admission. No parking fee. Accessible. For more information, call (508) 278-7604.

**Activities During April Vacation Week****StoryWalk: *Water is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle* by Miranda Paul****8:00am- 4:00pm****Dunn State Park, 289 Pearl St, Gardner****Daily, 7:00am- 6:00pm**

## **Activities During April Vacation Week**

**StoryWalk: *Over in the Forest* by Marianne Berkes**  
**7:00am-6:00pm**

**Purgatory Chasm State Reservation**, 198 Purgatory Rd. , Sutton, MA  
**Weekdays, 9:00am- 3:00pm, Weekends, 9:00am- 4:00pm**

Please note that there is construction at Purgatory Chasm from March 20, 2023 until June 30, 2023. The park is open, but there is restricted parking and access to the chasm entrance. For more information, please click [here](#)

## **Activities During April Vacation Week**

**StoryWalk: *Rhoda's Rock Hunt* by Molly Beth Griffin**

**Wachusett Mountain State Reservation**, 345 Mountain Road,  
Princeton

**John Hitchcock Visitor Center**

**Open daily 8:00am – 3:30pm**

The Visitor Center features exhibits detailing the mountain's unique geologic history, including the effects of the last glacial period. Exhibits also highlight Wachusett Mountain's human history, from the Native Americans living in the area who gave the mountain its name, to the European colonists who settled the area. The Visitor Center features displays explaining the ancient trees found on the mountain, the only old-growth forest east of the Connecticut River. There is also an antique collection of preserved birds that are found in the area. Interpretive staff are on site Tuesday through Saturday to answer all questions. Accessible. For more information, please call 978-464-2987.

**Quabbin Reservoir**, 100 Winsor Dam Rd, Belchertown

**Open every day except Wednesdays, 8:30am - 4:30pm**

**Visitor Center & Exhibits**

Quabbin Reservoir is one of the largest unfiltered water supplies in the United States. Along with the Wachusett Reservoir and Ware River, it is the source of high quality water for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority water supply system. The 412 billion gallon reservoir covers 39 square miles with 181 miles of shoreline. Come learn about the history of the Quabbin Valley and how the reservoir was built. Also, learn about wildlife at the Quabbin and some of the research being done there. Visitors may request viewing one of several short videos about the area as well. For more information, please call 413-323-722. Check out self-guided activities [here](#).

## ***Southeastern Massachusetts***

**Blue Hills Reservation**

**Houghton Pond Visitor Center**, 840 Hillside Street, Milton, MA 02186  
**Open Daily, 8:00am - 4:00pm**

**Borderland State Park**, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton  
**Open Daily, 8:00am - 7:00pm**

**Visitor Center "Ames Family History Gallery"**

Borderland is one of the most historically significant tracts of publicly owned land in the Commonwealth. Created in the early 1900s by artist and suffragist Blanche Ames and her botanist husband Oakes, Borderland offers many of the same pleasures that the Ames family enjoyed. Learn about the family through the park's exhibits. Then enjoy the winter recreational experiences once enjoyed by this famous family at their "Borderland." A variety of self-guided walk brochures are available in the Visitor Center vestibule. Accessible. For more information or directions, please call (508) 238-6566. There is a \$5.00 per vehicle parking fee; \$20.00 for out-of-state vehicles.

**Activities During April Vacation Week**

**Self-Guided Architectural Tour**

**8:00am-7:00pm, daily**

Visit the visitor center at Borderland State Park and grab a self-guided Architectural Tour brochure. Follow the brochure and learn the history of the building of the Borderland Mansion, while walking around the exterior of the mansion.

**Ames Family Photo Exhibit**

**8:00am-7:00pm, daily**

Stop by the visitor center at Borderland State Park to learn about the Ames family and the construction of the Borderland estate through a series of photographs. Self-guided.

**Fall River Heritage State Park**, 200 Davol St., Fall River

**Open Daily, 8:00am - 3:30pm**

The Visitor Center at Fall River Heritage State Park offers insight into the City's unique past as a thriving textile center and confluence of cultures. Sit back in the comfort and warmth of the park's movie theater and watch a marathon of four films about Fall River's past from its role as the leading textile hub in America, to its critical role in the Underground Railroad leading up to the Civil War. Enjoy the majesty of the luxurious Fall River Line ships that sailed here from New York. Re-live the fun days of locals at play at everyone's favorite local amusement park. Try your hand at crafts. Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa while you enjoy the beautiful views of Battleship Cove and the waterfront. Linger in the galleries for historic photos and an exhibit on African Americans in the Civil War. There is something for everyone and it's all free! Parking is free at the adjacent DCR Lot at 5 Water Street. Accessible. For more information or directions please call (508) 675-5759, ext. 0.

**Activities During April Vacation Week**

**Water + Granite + Gravity= Fall River-**

Fall River was once the third largest city in Massachusetts with thriving factories and bustling piers on its waterfront. Without the water of the Taunton and Quequechan Rivers, the granite cliffs and the power of gravity and the waterfalls that they produced, there would be no Fall River. The Park highlights this legacy with seven distinct granite wayfinders around the Park that commemorate the industry that has been here. This is a 30-minute walk through waterfront history connecting the wayfinders and can be self-guided or led by a park interpreter. Tours start at the Front Desk. **11am-11:30am**

### **Heritage Quest-**

Get creative! Stop by the Visitor Center, grab one of our unique coloring sheets of moments in Fall River History. Try your hand at origami or even weave a row on our community loom. If you complete an entire row, you too can add your name tag! This is a drop-in program. Stay for the duration or drop in for a few moments. **9am-3pm**

**Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**, 131 Waquoit Hwy (Rte. 28), E. Falmouth

### **School Vacation Week Drop-in Days**

**Monday-Friday, 10:00am - 4:00pm**

Come in and explore our exhibits along with a host of self-guided, hands-on activities including animal puppets, leaf rubbings, crafts, animal life cycles and more. To interact with our newest visitor center exhibits, bring your smart phone or tablet to try out the interactive QR codes which let our researchers answer your questions about what we do here. Families with children will be able to explore the headquarters property with a scavenger hunt and will also be able to pick up a “Grab and Go” bag (while supplies last) with a surprise project to do on your own. Can’t make it Monday-Friday? You’re welcome to come visit the Reserve any day to enjoy the grounds and the view. Accessible. For more information contact Joan Muller, [joan.muller@mass.gov](mailto:joan.muller@mass.gov).

### **Exhibits During April Vacation Week**

### **Osprey Exhibit and Osprey Cam**

**Monday-Friday 10:00am-4:00pm**

## ***Western Massachusetts***

**Great Falls Discovery Center**, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls



### **Wednesdays-Sundays 10am-4pm**

Explore the natural, cultural and industrial history of the Connecticut River Watershed in our dynamic exhibits. Next to the Canalside Rail Trail, the center includes the Great Hall exhibit gallery, restrooms, and drinking water. Wheelchair accessible.

#### **Activities during April Vacation Week**

##### **StoryWalk® Series: We Planted A Tree**

Enjoy a story, fresh air and exercise! Join us on the grounds of the center for a free self-guided StoryWalk® featuring the children's picture book *We Planted a Tree* by Diane Muldrow, for readers ages 3-7 and everyone who celebrates trees. Follow the path to book pages posted along the route. Happy Arbor Day, Friday, April 28th! **10am-4pm**

#### **Earth Week Investigation Station- Trees**

Join us at the welcome desk during school vacation week in activities to inspire taking care of where we live, with a special focus on trees, including scavenger hunts. **10am-4pm**

#### **Great Hall Art Exhibit: Life is \_\_\_\_\_ : An exploration of Being Through the Eyes of Local Young People**

Created and curated by local Brick House youth, this exhibit, through a variety of mediums, explores their perspectives and experiences living in modern-day rural America. In the Great Hall. Inspired by *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, a Smithsonian Museum on Mainstreet exhibit that was here in February and March 2023, from Mass Humanities. **10am-4pm**

### **Holyoke Heritage State Park, 221 Appleton Street, Holyoke Tuesday - Sunday, 12pm - 4pm**

Explore Holyoke's industrial history. Exhibits celebrate the city's rich blend of cultures and people. Special programs are offered year-round. Also located within the park are The Children's Museum, the restored antique Holyoke Merry-Go-Round and the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Visitor information available. Wheelchair accessible. For more information or directions, please call (413) 534-1723.

#### **Exhibits During April Vacation Week**

##### **Ethereal Diversity: The Eloquence of Shared Experience**

In celebration of Holyoke's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, Holyoke Heritage State Park is proud to host the works of someone who has made this city his home. Pieces created by J. Bryant II will showcase in the Exhibition Hall of the park's visitor center from April 1, 2023 until May 31. Through his medium of color pencil & ink as well as illustrative marker & watercolor the artwork of J. Bryant II expresses the beauty of uniqueness and a vivid view of the simplicity of the shared moment.

### **Mount Greylock State Reservation Visitor Center, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA**

### **Open daily, 9:00am-4:00pm**

The Visitor Center is the primary information and orientation site for visitors to Mount Greylock State Reservation. Located within a mix of open fields and woods and offers a spectacular panoramic view south across the Berkshire Hills and the Taconic Mountains. Dynamic exhibits and an orientation film explore the history and nature of the highest point in the Commonwealth. A recreational opportunity here includes an easy 1.8 mile loop hike along the Bradley Farm Interpretive Trail. Visitor information available. Wheelchair accessible. Call 413-499-4262 for more information.

#### **Activities During April Vacation Week**

##### **SENSING SPRING TRIP TIP Self-Guided Adventure-Daily**

**Free for all ages. Self-guided activity** exploring in and around Mount Greylock State Reservation. Springtime is in the air! Warm breezes and sweet scents of spring awaken our senses, enticing us to get out and explore nature's long-awaited revival! Spring is a great time to explore the outdoors at these Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) properties in the northern Berkshires. **Start your adventure by clicking here** -

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/sensing-spring-mt-greylock-trip-tip/download>

##### **Nature Scavenger Hunt- Sundays, 10am-3pm**

Adventurous quests invite you to search for natural treasures along park trails. Several "seek and find" scavenger hunts for different age and skill levels.

**Program is self-guided.**

### **Western Gateway Heritage State Park**

#### **Thursdays through Mondays, 10:00am-4:00pm.**

115 State Street, Building # 4, North Adams, MA 01247

Visitors to this former railroad yard in North Adams, MA may discover about the controversial and dangerous construction of the 4.75-mile Hoosac Tunnel, which spanned 1851-1875. Offered is a short documentary film about the tunnel, still in use today. Visitors can see historical artifacts and exhibits to better understand this historic engineering feat and the cultural-industrial story of this smallest in Massachusetts. Visitor information available.


Wheelchair accessible. Call 413-663-6312 for more information.

## **Ongoing Resources**

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**Self-Guided Opportunities.** Visit our self-guided opportunities [page](#) to find a list of:

- Self-Guided Hikes
- Recommended Hikes
  - Introductory hikes for families and children and Signature hikes of that highlight the best park features
- Trip-Tips

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- The DCR **Trip-Tip** provides families with information and fun ideas to explore the great outdoors at DCR Massachusetts State Parks and Watersheds. With a little preparation and a sense of adventure, people of all ages can safely enjoy our beautiful outdoor spaces during the coldest months. Whether at one park, two parks or a multi-day adventure, **Trip-Tip** family adventures offer a variety of opportunities and activities to explore wildlife, woodlands, mountainsides, and the shore!
  - Fun in Nature Series
    - Downloadable activities to enhance your experience at any DCR park! Fun and engaging activities include seek and find scavenger hunts to awaken all of your senses, a conversation starter set to encourage talks along the trail and creating your own story cube to inspire story- telling!
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