

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

Erving State Forest

200 E Prospect Street, Erving, MA 01344, (978) 544-3939

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Erving State Forest, 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/erving-state-forest-trail-map/download>

Introductory Hike Nature Trail

Trailhead: western end of lake, Camp Rd **Lat/Long:** 42.62181, -72.38258

Distance: 1.5 mile RT **Difficulty:** Easy

Brief Description: Park at Laurel Lake Nature Center and take the Nature Trail.

Signature Hike Chute to Bear Loop

Trailhead: western entrance off Swamp Rd **Lat/Long:** 42.61946, -72.39267

Distance: 2.5 miles **Difficulty:** Easy

Brief Description: Park at western entrance off Swamp Rd at Laurel Lake Rd and take the Chute trail to Bear loop and back.

Signature Hike Laurel Loop

Trailhead: contact station **Lat/Long:** 42.62181, -72.36801

Distance: 1 mi **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: This short loop brings you through a variety of habitats in a matter of an hour. It is named after the mountain laurel, which blooms in June, you see as you

ascend on the path to the summit. From the summit, you can view of Mt. Monadnock to the north. The trail will return just down the road from where you started.

Signature Hike Forest Road Loop

Trailhead: contact station **Lat/Long:** 42.62181, -72.36801

Distance: 4.0 mi **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: From the park contact station head down Camp Rd to Cut Off Rd to Cross Rd to Mountain Rd and up to Camp Rd to start. A nice forested loop on a wide wood road.

Signature Bike Ride Round the Forest

Trailhead: Wendell Rd **Lat/Long:** 42.61978, -72.35444

Distance: 10 mi **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: From the Wendell Rd parking area, head down Foster Rd to Cut off Rd to Moss Brook Rd. Head up Mountain Rd to Pinnacle Rd then onto The Chute trail and enjoy the ride down. Next onto the park road and turn onto North Rd and cross the Woodman's Trail to Quarry Rd. Ride into the eastern park entrance, view Laurel Lake, then hit Camp Rd to Cut Off Rd and back to parking on Foster Rd.

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.**

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.*