



# Blue Hills Reservation

Blue Hills Reservation is the largest, and one of the oldest, parks in metropolitan Boston. For over a century, it has provided visitors the opportunity to get back to nature in the shadow of downtown Boston. Visitors come to enjoy the more than 100 miles of forested trails, beat the summer heat with a day at Houghton's Pond, learn about native wildlife at the Trailside Museum, enjoy a picnic while taking in a view of the Boston skyline, play youth league sports on one of the many ball fields, or learn to ski or ice skate.

## Top Attractions

- Blue Hill Observatory
- Blue Hills Trailside Museum
- Houghton's Pond Recreation Area
- Ponkapoag Bog boardwalk
- Ricciuti Drive athletic fields
- Shea and Ulin Rinks
- Trails network
- William F. Rogers Ski Area

## Friends Group

- Friends of the Blue Hills  
<http://www.friendsofthebluehills.org>

## Partners & Permittees

- Appalachian Mountain Club
- Blue Hill Observatory & Science Center
- Brookwood Community Farm
- Massachusetts Audubon Society
- YMCA of Greater Boston

## Conservation Opportunities

- Balance recreation with natural resources conservation, especially the protection of rare species.
- Enhance conservation of the reservation's numerous historic buildings and structures.
- Preserve the visitor experience at Houghton's Pond Recreation Area in light of the facility's increasing popularity.
- Reduce the volume and speed of vehicle traffic on park roads for the benefit of pedestrians, bicyclists, and state-listed species.

## Park Inventory

**Date Established:** 1893

**Landscape Designation**  
Parkland

### Current Staffing

Year-round: 10  
Seasonal: 36

### Park Size (acres)

Total Area: 5,782.2  
Wetlands: 717.9  
Lakes and Ponds: 275.8

### Rare Species

State-listed: 19

### Cultural Resources

Documented: 58  
National Register: 15  
National Historic Landmark: 1

### Miles of Roads

Paved: 14.7  
Unpaved: 1.6

### Miles of Trails

Official: 103.9

### DCR Recreation Facilities

Ball Fields: 11  
Basketball Courts: 2  
Beach (Guarded): 1  
Boat Launch: 1  
Concessions: 2  
Picnic Areas: 8  
Playgrounds: 2  
Ski Areas: 1  
Volleyball Courts: 1

Contact Info:

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[www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-south/blue-hills-reservation.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-south/blue-hills-reservation.html)

