



SUMMER 2026 PROGRAMS

Programs are **free and open to the public!** Regular parking fees apply. All ages are welcome and no experience is necessary. *All program participants under 13 years old must be accompanied by an adult.* Water, sunscreen, and insect repellent are recommended for all programs. Pouring rain or extreme heat are cause for event cancellation. For location or cancellation updates, check the signage near the Campground Office.

For more information, visit the Campground Office at 133 Jenkins Road in Andover, or call 978-475-7972.



ADA/Reasonable Accommodation
617-645-0358 | Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov

Wednesdays

10:00–12:00pm
Through
October 7

We Walk the Woods

Location varies, visit <https://www.friendsofharoldparker.org/wednesdaywalks> for updated information. Join the Friends of Harold Parker State Forest on a 2-4 mile walk in the park. We walk a different trail each week for a new adventure in the woods. Trails can be narrow with uneven terrain at times; sturdy footwear is recommended. For all ages and experience levels.

Wednesdays

1:00–3:00pm
Through
October 7

Gone Fishing

Meet at Frye Pond Bridge, inside Lorraine Park Campground. Join us for drop-in fishing – learn to fish or practice your skills! Bait and rods are provided, but feel free to bring your own gear. No fishing license required for children under 17. For all ages and experience levels, intended for families with children.

Thursdays

11:00am–
12:30pm
Through
October 1
Except
Aug. 13 & 27

Nature Nerds

Meet at the Activities Field Campfire Ring, inside Lorraine Park Campground. Join us for hands-on educational programs on a variety of topics that explore the nature and history of Harold Parker State Forest. For all ages and experience levels, intended for families with children.



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Coming events

Thursdays

2:00pm–

4:00pm

Through

October 1

Except Aug. 13

Tree Walk

Meet at the Park Headquarters Parking Area. Learn about and identify some of the common trees in Harold Parker State Forest on this 1-2 mile walk. Guide books and equipment are available to share, and participants are welcome to bring their own. Trails can be narrow with uneven terrain at times; sturdy footwear is recommended. For all ages and experience levels.

Fridays

9:30am–

11:30am

Through

October 2

Nature Center Open

Inside Lorraine Park Campground across from site 81, near the Activities Field.

Nature Journaling, 10am - 11:30am

Meet at the Nature Center (across from site 81), inside Lorraine Park Campground. Practice the peaceful art of observing and recording nature in your very own nature journal! Participants will decorate a journal and draw things from nature on the pages inside. Journal and coloring materials provided. For all ages and experience levels.

Fridays

1:00–3:00pm

Through

October 2

Critter Crawl

Meet at Field Pond Trailhead (next to site 20), inside Lorraine Park Campground. Harold Parker is home to many animals, including little guys we might not even notice! Join us for a ¾ mile walk and hands-on educational experience, while we search for and learn about insects, macroinvertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, and other creepy-crawlies on land and in the water. For all ages and experience levels, intended for families with children.

Saturdays

1:00–3:00pm

Through

October 3

Exploration Station

Find us alternately located at Collins Pond Parking Area and Jenkins Parking Area, please check signage near Campground Office for updated information. Ask questions, investigate our hands-on materials, meet the Park Interpreter, and learn more about the natural features of Harold Parker State Forest at our information table. For all ages and experience levels.



SUMMER 2026 PROGRAMS

Sundays
8:00–9:30am
Through
October 4

Birding Walk
Meet at dirt parking lot across from 33 Salem Street in North Reading. Observe and learn more about the many feathered friends in Harold Parker State Forest on this 1-2 mile walk. Binoculars and guide books are available to share, and participants are welcome to bring their own. Trails can be narrow with uneven terrain at times; sturdy footwear is recommended. For all ages and experience levels.

Sundays
1:00–3:00pm
Through
October 4

Discover Harold Parker Guided Hike
Location varies, please check signage near Campground Office for updated information. Take a guided 2–3-mile hike with the Park Interpreter, and dive deeper into the natural features and history of Harold Parker and the specific trail. Trails can be narrow with uneven terrain at times; sturdy footwear is recommended. For all ages and experience levels.

SPECIAL EVENT

Saturday
5:00pm
August 8
September 5

Smokey Bear Visit
Meet at the Nature Center, across from site 81, near the Activities Field, inside Lorraine Park Campground. Smokey Bear is coming to Harold Parker State Forest! Take photos with Smokey, see the DCR fire equipment used to fight forest fires, and join Smokey and his friends from the District 5 Fire Crew for a story about how Smokey Bear became the ambassador for wildfire prevention. For all ages and experience levels, intended for families with children.

Thursday
7:30–9:30 pm
August 27

Partial Lunar Eclipse Viewing
Meet at Collins Pond Parking Area. Join the Park Interpreter to observe the deep partial lunar eclipse during the Sturgeon full moon! This even will start with a brief, ¾ mile hike around Collins Pond, and by 9pm we will set up a spotting scope between Collins and Field Ponds to watch the Earth’s shadow eclipse 96% of the moon. Please bring flashlights/headlamps and binoculars if you have them; some will be provided to share. No special protective eyewear is necessary. For all ages and experience levels.