

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

Harold Parker State Forest

305 Middleton Road, North Andover, MA 01845, (978) 686-3391

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Harold Parker 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/harold-parker-state-forest-trail-map/download>

Signature Hike Yellow Diamond Trail

Trailhead: Park at the intersection of Jenkins and Harold Parker Road, Andover, and head out Berry Pond Road to the Yellow Diamond Trail, on your Right. This is not a trail for beginners! **Lat/Long:** 42.612955, -71.091237

Distance: 3 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: This lollipop route provides a nice loop through mixed woodlands. It encircles Salem Pond offering scenic water views.

Signature Bike Ride Explore the Single Track from Harold Parker Road

Trailhead: Park at the small parking area between A21 and A22, at about 25 Harold Parker Road. **Lat/Long:** 42.611216, -71.112688

Distance: Various **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: Explore the trails and forest roads that loop around Collins, Brackett, Delano and Bear Ponds. If you come to a paved road, turn around and explore some more. If you have time, explore the trails south of Harold Parker Road that loop around the north of Field Pond. Maps available

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-north/harold-parker-state-forest.html>.

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.*