

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

Kenneth Dubuque Memorial State Forest

MA-8A, Hawley, MA 01339, (413) 339-5504

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Kenneth Dubuque Memorial 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/kenneth-dubuque-memorial-state-forest-trail-map/download>

Introductory Hike

Hallockville Pond Loop Trail

Trailhead: Park at the SCA - Mass Parks Headquarters off Route 8A/West Hawley Road. Trailhead is to the right as you approach the pond.

Lat/Long: 42.551563, -72.941168

Distance: 1.1 miles **Difficulty:** Easy

Brief Description: A scenic pond loop trail with remnants of a former mill complex. Start at the Student Conservation Association (SCA) camp. Facing the pond head to the right and follow trail signs. The route goes counter-clockwise along the pond shore. An older dam and mill site is at the head of the pond. On the return, pass by an immense glacial erratic! Cross over the old mill dam to complete the hike. Following your hike also take a moment and head down the Mill Site Trail. A short distance brings you to impressive stone ruins of a sawmill, tannery and dam.

Signature Cross-Country Ski

Snowshoe and Notch Trails

Trailhead: Park in the lot beside the Hawley Fire Station, off Plainfield Road. Kiln Road heads straight into the woods. In winter with enough snowcover, this lot is likely plowed, and the start of the route packed by snowmobile tracks.

Lat/Long: 42.561232, -72.877546

Distance: 4.1 mile total loop **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: This beautiful woodland loop winds through mixed hardwood forest over rugged terrain. Head out Kiln Road for about 0.8 miles. Along the way look for the historic beehive-shaped fieldstone charcoal kiln. At the top of the hill turn left onto the narrow Showshoe Trail. Eventually it comes to Penobscot Road. Cross the road to connect eventually to the Notch Trail. Turn right onto Notch Trail. Follow this beside wetlands, about 0.9 miles, to Penobscot Road again. Cross the road and pick up the Snowshoe Trail. Over 1.2 miles it climbs over several switchbacks, hits a highpoint then gradually descends back to Kiln Road. Turn left onto Kiln road and return 0.8 miles to your starting point.

Signature Bike Ride Dubuque Single-Track Ride

Trailhead: Park at the gravel lot next to Hawley Fire Station on Plainfield Road

Lat/Long: 42.561167, -72.877699

Distance: Various **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: Over 15 miles of single-track mountain bike trails, often connected by forest roads. Head out the Kiln Road. After passing the first wetland, look for single track trails on the left and right. Then explore! Download the park trail map for reference.

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.**
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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.*