

Know Before You Go! Spring Edition 2021

How to Visit State Parks during COVID-19 Safely & Responsibly



Whether you are a regular park user or new to Massachusetts state parks and water supply areas, you know open space is more valuable than ever! Please help DCR keep our parks safe, welcoming and more climate resilient by practicing DCR's Core Four Principles of State Park Stewardship:

- Respect the rules,
- Be alert and practice safe trail and shoreline etiquette,
- Clean up and carry out dog waste, and
- Leave no trace.©

Know Before You Go

- *Before you leave home visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-state-parks-covid-19-update> for current information and advisories—some trails offer limited cell phone service.*
- Before you leave home, print or download a trail map. Paper maps are no longer available at stateparks due to COVID-19. GPS signals may not be available on smartphones in thickly-settled trails.
- For a list of DCR trail maps visit: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/dcr-trail-maps>.
- Check the weather and dress for it. Wear layers and sturdy footwear.
- Know the trail conditions. Keep it short and safe.
- Be flexible—if the park is busy, please come back later in the week.
- Know which parks are pet friendly:
- Dogs are not permitted in DCR Water Supply Protection areas and several state parks.
- Always keep your dog leashed. Always clean up and carry out your dog waste. For complete guidelines visit: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/dogs-in-dcr-parks>.
- Visitor centers and rest rooms may be closed, so plan your hike accordingly.
- Follow @MassDCR on Twitter and MassDCR on Instagram for the latest park news and information.

Continued

Upon Arriving at the Park

- Be flexible and courteous.
- Park only in designated areas:
 - Please do not park on the road or in fields not designated for parking
 - Do not park on neighbors' properties.
- If the parking lot is full, please come back another time.
- Upon arrival, read entry signs and trail head guidelines.

Be COVID-19 Safe to Protect Yourself, Other Visitors and Park Staff

- Stay home if you are not feeling well.
- Wear a mask or facial covering at all times, covering both your nose and mouth—they are required at all state parks.
- Practice social distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Gather and hike with the members of your household only.
- Share the trails: Announce your presence as you approach, step aside to allow space for others to safely pass on the trail.
- Carry and use hand sanitizer before and after touching shared surfaces.
- Carry out all trash and belongings you carry in—including pet waste.

Things to Bring

- Face mask
- Hand sanitizer
- Drinking water
- Trash bag
- Download or print a map
- Notify someone of your plans
- Cell phone for emergencies. Dial 911.
- Dress for the weather and in layers
- Wear sturdy footwear
- [Leave No Trace](#)®

If you are visiting Quabbin Reservoir or Wachusett Reservoir, remember these are where thousands of Massachusetts residents get their drinking water. They are not state parks. These reservoirs are managed to protect and store our water supply. Be courteous and please follow all posted guidelines.

For more information visit [DCR Office of Watershed Management](#)

**Thank you for caring for our common wealth of open space. Your cooperation will keep Massachusetts state parks and water supply areas open and safe for all.
Enjoy your visit!**