The DCR Middlesex Fells Reservation:

The Middlesex Fells Reservation is a 3,579-acre preserve, offering a wide range of trails and activities. Visitors can enjoy interpretive information, maps, and nature walks. The DCR Middlesex Fells Reservation became one of the first preserved public parks and a prototype for urban park systems across the country.

Trail Descriptions:

Skyline Trail: White blaze. 2.8 miles. Average hiking time: 2 hours. This trail follows the outer perimeter of the western Fells, offering spectacular views of Boston and the surrounding area. Caution, this trail is steep with many rock outcrops and is open to pedestrians only. A difficult hike.

Reservoir Trail: Orange blazes. 6.3 miles. Average hiking time: 3.5 hours. This multi-use trail encircles the north, middle, and south reservoirs and the open water can be seen from many sites (the reservoirs are for drinking water, so access to them is prohibited). A moderate to difficult hike. A difficult mountain bike ride.

Reservoir Trail: Blue blazes. 5.9 miles. Average hiking time: 2.5 hours. This loop within the western Fells is mostly on fire roads with some short sections of single-track trail. It provides a scenic ride around the Winchester reservoirs, traversing pine and mixed hardwood forests. Caution, this trail is used by a variety of users and shares segments with other blazed trails. Bikers should yield to other users. A moderate mountain bike ride.

Connecting West and East:

Cross Fells Trail: Blue blazes. 2.7 miles. Average hiking time: 1.5 hours. Beginning in the western Fells near the Medford High School, this trail features a good sampling of the features of the park from woodlands at Whitney Brook, to open water at Quarter Mile Pond in the eastern Fells, to a peaceful view of Hemlock Pool. Use caution crossing South Border Road, Route 68, Woodland Road, and Fowley East. A difficult hike.

Rock Circuit Connector: Orange blazes. 0.6 miles. Allows hikers to cut the Rock Circuit Trail in half. It runs between gate #51 on Fellsway East and Rock Circuit Trail north of Boojum Rock. A moderate hike.

Special features at the Fells include the Sheepfold meadow, Bellerose Pond, Wright's Tower, Virginia Wood, Lawrence Woods, Spot Pond, and over 100 miles of trails.

The Sheepfold is a 5-acre open field used by dog walkers and as one of the primary entryways to the trails located in the western half of the Fells.

Bellerose Pond is a seasonal pond surrounded by trails and wide fire roads, including those leading up to Wright's Tower, which looks out over the Boston Basin.

Virginia Wood, the site of a vanished mill village called "Haywardville," is now a hemlock enclave featuring a self-guided interpretive history trail.

Lawrence Woods is an area of the Fells southeast of South Border Road with many wide "fire roads," views, and vernal pools.

Long Pond parking area offers access from Winchester to a nature trail and scenic areas.

WHERE TO VISIT:

• The Sheepfold
• Bellerose Pond
• Wright's Tower
• Virginia Wood
• Lawrence Woods
• Spot Pond
• Long Pond parking area
• Bellerose Pond parking area

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The following rules and regulations were established in the interest of public safety, protection of natural and cultural resources, and to ensure an enjoyable experience for all visitors:

• The DCR Middlesex Reservation is open only from dawn to dusk.
• Dogs must be on leach (except inside the designated off-leash area at the Sheepfold field).
• Dogs at the Sheepfold must be under voice control of their handler.
• There is a limit of four dogs per handler in the reservation.
• All dogs must be properly picked up and disposed of.
• No day or off-trail use, including nature study and geocaching, is permitted without a permit.
• No trespassing on posted Winchester Reservoir property.
• No littering is allowed on designated trails only, and in Virginia Wood or the Long Pond area.
• Avoid trails after heavy rain, and in the snow.
• The area was first explored by Governor Winthrop (quote from Gov. Winthrop’s private papers). All rights reserved. Middlesex Fells Reservation.

The Botume House Visitor Center
4 Woodland Road, Stoneham, MA 02180
Community Relations: (617) 626-4973

(All calls in case of emergency)