

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

Mohawk Trail State Forest

Cold River Road, Charlemont, MA 01339, (413) 339-5504

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Mohawk Trail 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/mohawk-trail-state-forest-trail-map/download>

Introductory Hike

Nature Trail Loop at the Upper Meadow

Trailhead: Park at the headquarters parking area. **Lat/Long:** 42.638105, -72.936562

Distance: 3.4 miles round-trip **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: From the park headquarters hike up the paved campground road. Continue uphill following signs to the Group Camp Site past the last cabin the road turns to dirt. Continue along the dirt road past the group camp site and through the gate. As you continue down the dirt road, look up. These are some of the tallest recorded white pine trees in New England! Near the bottom of the slope, turn left onto the Nature Trail, it overlaps with the Mahican-Mohawk Trail here. Follow this trail through woods to and through the Upper Meadow. In the meadow the Nature Trail soon splits, turns right and re-enters the woods going downhill. Continue to the Lower Meadow, re-enter the woods, turn right and return up the dirt road, over the ridge, and back through the campground to the park headquarters.

Signature Hike

Indian Trail to Mahican-Mohawk Trail

Trailhead: Park at the headquarters hiking trail parking area **Lat/Long:**

Distance: 4.1 mile loop **Difficulty:** Difficult

Brief Description: Ascend out of the Deerfield River Valley as the First People did centuries ago. From the park headquarters hike up the road and through the campground. Continue straight to the very end of the road (0.7 miles), where you take a

right onto the Indian Trail, and start to climb. This route is one of several identified footpath routes used traditionally by First Peoples over centuries ago. It was used for trade, diplomacy, and conflict. It socially connected tribes between the Connecticut and Hudson Rivers to other tribes and routes further east, or west. You are walking in their footsteps! This trail climbs steeply up Todd Mountain Ridge (0.4 miles). At the top meet the Mahican-Mohawk Trail,. If you are adventurous, consider taking a diversion by hiking the Todd Mountain Trail to the 1,687 ft. summit and a scenic view (add on 0.7 miles). Otherwise, bear right onto the Mahican Mohawk Trail and down the backside of the ridge, through the Upper Meadow and back through woodlands to the park headquarters (3 miles).

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.*