

## WINTER 2024 PROGRAMS

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Free public programs from January through March. **All programs meet inside the Notch Visitor Center**, unless otherwise noted. Parking is free. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Program times and dates are subject to change. Inclement weather or extreme cold may cancel programs, call ahead. Trails may be snow-covered, icy, or muddy. For more information call the park at (413) 253-2883.

**OPEN  
TUESDAY  
THROUGH  
SATURDAY**

**NOTCH VISITOR CENTER, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**  
Open December through mid-March. The Visitor Center features park orientation information, exhibits, restrooms, and drinking water. Take a walk or hike in the park. Accessible by [PVTa public transit](#) (Amherst R38). Wheelchair accessible. Located at 1500 West Street in Amherst.

**TUESDAYS  
THROUGH  
SATURDAYS**

**RANGE REVEALS, 9:00 a.m.—noon**  
For ages 7 and up. Three self-guided exploration stations reveal wonders of the Range. Staff available to help uncover the story.

- **Mountain Building.** A better understanding of how the Range was made.
- **Dinosaur Tracks.** Dinosaurs were once here! Let's look closer at fossilized tracks.
- **Animal Tracking**—If you look carefully you can see what animal has been here.

**WEDNESDAYS  
&  
SATURDAYS**

**WINTER WONDERLAND CHALLENGE, 1:00—3:00 p.m.**  
For ages 10-Adult. Ask the park staff for the “trail of the day” and try one of these self guided exploration challenges as you hike along. Come back and share your findings with park staff:

- **Animal Tracking Excursion**—who's been here?
- **Tree Bark Challenge**— how many trees can you ID?

**WEDNESDAYS  
&  
SATURDAYS**

**WINTER HIKING TIPS, 9:00—9:30 a.m.**  
For ages 7 and up. Before you head out on the trail take in this short hiking safety demonstration. Familiarize yourself with the Range's trails. Park staff offer great trail suggestions.

**WEDNESDAYS**

**HAIKU CLUB, 10:00—11:00 a.m.**  
Gather to share Range-based Haiku & Senryu poetry. How does the Range inspire you? New to haiku? - come join in and learn!  
**Jan. 10, 24; Feb. 7, 21; Mar. 6**

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# Mount Holyoke Range State Park

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

## WINTER 2024 PROGRAMS

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#### THURSDAYS NICE & EASY HIKE, 1:00—3:00 p.m.

See the forest differently through the eyes of winter. Easy-paced, guided hikes geared toward active seniors, but open to all ages. Modest slope, 2 to 3-miles. Dress appropriately for winter weather; hiking poles and traction devices for boots (or snowshoes) recommended. Note hike meeting location changes.

- **North Side Ramble: Jan. 4, 18; Feb. 1, 15, 29.**  
Meet at Notch Visitor Center in Amherst.
- **South Side Ramble: Jan. 11, 25; Feb. 8, 22; Mar. 7.**  
Meet at 79 Batchelor Street Parking Lot in Granby.

#### FRIDAYS KIDLEIDOSCOPE, 10:00—11:00 a.m.

For ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult. Program is a story, activity, and a craft. Discover the local wildlife who make the park their home. Siblings and friends welcome. Meet in the Notch Visitor Center. All materials are provided.

- **The Mitten: Jan 5, Feb 2.**
- **Whose Tracks are These?: Jan. 26, Feb. 16.**
- **Chipmunk Song: Jan. 12, Feb. 23.**
- **White Owl, Barn Owl: Jan. 19, Feb. 9.**
- **My Dad is a Tree: Mar 1.**
- **The Salamander Room: Mar 8.**

#### FRIDAYS OFF THE BEATEN PATH HIKES, 1:00—2:30 p.m.

Geared for adults but for all ages. Guided 1 to 2-mile hikes for discovery or destressing. Dress for winter weather. Hiking poles and traction devices for boots, or snowshoes, recommended.

- **Forest Bathing: Jan 19; Feb. 2; Mar. 1.** Can the forest help us feel more at peace? Yes! A Forest Bathing walk is a great way to destress and find inner peace. Meet at Notch Visitor Center.
- **Tale of Two Trails: Jan. 12, 26; Feb. 9, 23.** Two trails tell two very different stories, and over two very different times. Come explore and discover. Meet at Notch Visitor Center.
- **Exposed Rock - Erratics and Layers: Jan. 5; Feb 16; Mar. 8.** Explore the Range geology in winter. Meet at Skinner State Park, Mountainside Trailhead, Route 47, Hadley.

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SATURDAYS

WINTER EXPLORATIONS,

10:00—11:00 a.m. & 1:00—2:00 p.m.

For families, age 9 & up. Park staff-guided discovery. Held inside Visitor Center.

- **Animal Tracking: Jan. 6; Feb. 3.**  
Winter is a great time to see what animals wander in the park. See how to identify park wildlife by the tracks they leave behind and see what they've been up to!
- **Tree Bark ID: Jan 27; Feb. 10.**  
No leaves? - no problem! There is a year-round way to identify trees—bark! Learn some basics, and try out a new skill.
- **How was the Range Formed?: Jan. 20.**  
The Holyoke Range is a unique geologic formation. Dig a little deeper into this fascinating timeline.
- **Winter Birding: Jan. 13; Feb. 24.** Which birds are around in winter? How do we find them? What do they sound like? Join a guest MassAudubon guide for this birding primer. **10:00 a.m. only**—field walk, talk and inside if rain.
- **Emergent Spring: Mar. 2, 9.** Spring is just around the corner. Discover early signs of spring.

FEBRUARY

17—25

**STORYWALK: *Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring* by Kenard Pak.**

All ages. Self-guided. Join a boy and his dog as they explore nature and take a stroll through the countryside, greeting all the signs of the coming season. In a series of conversations with everything from the melting brook to chirping birds, they say goodbye to winter and welcome the lushness of spring.

**The StoryWalk® Project** was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Story Walk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. This StoryWalk® is provided by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Services.

SPECIAL  
PROGRAM

SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 17

**HOLEY BASALT! THE AMAZING GEOLOGY OF THE HOLYOKE RANGE, 1:30—2:30 p.m.**

Ages 8 and up. Free presentation by professor and geologist Richard Little. The Holyoke Range looms over many Connecticut River towns and cities. How did this happen, and why? Come discover the mystery. Sponsored by the Friends of Mount Holyoke Range State Park. Meet at Notch Visitor Center.