

Suggested MassParks Hikes!

Mount Washington State Forest

143 East St, Mt Washington, MA 01258, (413) 528-0330

To help you plan your visit to Mt Washington State Forest, we offer the following suggested hike and ride routes that we think visitors might enjoy. **Introductory hikes** are relatively short and appropriate for most users, including families with children. **Signature hikes** are recommended trail experiences that may be longer or more difficult, but that highlights some of the best features of this State Park.

Introductory Hike

Bash Bish Falls

Trailhead: Begin from the Upper Falls Parking Lot on Falls Road in Mt Washington, MA.

Lat/Long: 42.115025, -73.491629

Distance: 0.7 miles Round Trip, **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: *From the Massachusetts side (Upper Falls Parking Lot), follow the blue blazed trail west down to the base of Bash Bish Falls, the highest in Massachusetts (about 1/3 mile). You can continue down stream on trail to New York and return for a longer hike. Do not attempt to climb the steep slope on the southern side of the stream.*

Signature Hike

Alander Mountain Trail

Trailhead: Begin your hike at the Mount Washington State Forest Headquarters

Lat/Long: 42.085611, -73.461349

Distance: 6 miles round trip, **Difficulty:** Difficult

Brief Description: *The Alander Mountain trail climbs moderately westward for 1.5 miles to intersect with the backcountry campground access trail. As you approach the summit after another 1.5 miles hiking becomes more difficult. Spectacular views await you at the summit where the South Taconic Trail (white blazed) intersects. Return via the same route or head back through the backcountry campground to the Ashley Hill Trail.*

Have a suggested hike or ride? Contact paul.jahnige@state.ma.us



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Last updated December 21, 2016

Signature Hike

Round, Frissell & Brace Mountains

Trailhead: Park near the end of East Street near the Massachusetts border at the designated area

Lat/Long: 42.050070, -73.467018

Distance: 6.5 miles round trip, **Difficulty:** Difficult

Brief Description: *This trail blazed in red starts off moderately flat until climbing steeply up Round Mountain with views to east. Continuing off Round, the trail dips into a saddle before a straight ascent up the side of Mt Frissell with forested summit and eventual views from southern vantage, look for large rock carin. Further along, you'll pass an intersection with Ashley Hill Trail (blue blazed) on your right before intersecting the South Taconic Trail (blazed white). Turn left, pass an old woods road on your left and climb on to Brace Mountain in New York with exceptional views. Return via the same route or, to make a loop and extend distance slightly, from Brace summit retrace your path north on the Taconic Trail, taking unmarked old woods road on right heading southeast to Mount Washington Rd (East Rd) then left (north) along road back to parking area.*

Things to Remember:

- **Time, distance, difficulty:** 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. Appropriate footwear is a must. Trails can be wet.
- **Parking at trailheads:** 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** is usually not available. Bring plenty! Trailside sources should be treated.
- **Stay on designated trails:** Follow painted blazes and signs if available.
- **Pace & group size:** keep your group together; hike only as fast as your group's slowest hiker.
- **Carry-in, carry-out all trash:** Leave No Trace outdoor ethics are strongly encouraged. For more information visit <http://www.lnt.org/programs/principles.php>
- **Pets are generally permitted** on 10-foot maximum leash and under control at all times. Please clean up after your pet and dispose of all waste outside of park. Be aware that not all users appreciate encountering pets, even when friendly.
- **Be aware that some trails are not well marked.**
- **Be aware of hunting seasons** and wear blaze orange when appropriate. For season info visit: http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/regulations/abstracts/hunting_dates.pdf

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