

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

Nickerson State Park

Rte. 6A, 3488 Main Street, Brewster, MA 02631, (508) 896-3491

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Nickerson State Park, 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/nickerson-state-park-trail-map/download>

Introductory Hike Little Cliff Pond

Trailhead: Park at the end of Flat Pond Road **Lat/Long:** 41.758778, -70.017282

Distance: 1.7 mile loop **Difficulty:** Easy

Brief Description: Enjoy the loop around this long and narrow 33 acre natural kettlehole pond. The shoreline is largely wooded with pitch pines and scrub oaks with occasional sandy beaches.

Signature Hike Cliff Pond Loop

Trailhead: Look for signed trailheads at Campgrounds 4 and 6, at the end of Flax Pond Road, and at Fisherman's Landing **Lat/Long:** 41.762539, -70.031517

Distance: 3.2 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: Cliff Pond is 204 acre kettlehole pond, the largest in Nickerson State Park. This trail circles the pond passing sandy beaches, pitch pine and dry oak woodlands and offering lovely water views. Connecting trails lead to both Campgrounds 4 and 6. Mountain biking is not allowed on this trail.

Signature Bike Ride Deer Park - Ober Trail Loop

Trailhead: Park in Area 1 parking lot that is 1/2 mile up main Rd on your right. **Lat/Long:** 41.775171, -70.031797

Distance: 2.5 miles **Difficulty:** Easy

Brief Description: The trail is the bike path that follows Deer Park Rd heading south then continues in a loop that runs back north around on Ober Trail. Interests include: two historic cemeteries and an original CCC chimney with kiosk sign

Signature Bike Ride Cliff Pond Trail

Trailhead: Park at the trailhead at the end of Flax Pond Rd which is the first left off of the main Rd after entering the Park. **Lat/Long:** 41.775171, -70.031797

Distance: 3.5 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: This is our most favorite hiking trail, circumventing a beautiful kettle pond. See winter ducks, red tail hawks, and bald eagles.

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.**
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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.*