

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

October Mountain State Forest

317 Woodland Road, Lee, MA 01238, (413) 243-1778

To help you plan your visit to DCR's October Mountain 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/october-mountain-state-forest-trail-map/download>

Introductory Hike

Washington Mountain Marsh Trail

Trailhead: Begin at the parking area at the intersection of West Branch and Schoolhouse No 2 roads. **Lat/Long:** 42.352631, -73.187908

Distance: 2.7 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: This secluded trail loops around lovely Washington Mountain Marsh over boardwalks and through woodland. The beginning portion was designed as wheelchair accessible--to a turn-around point. Excellent for birding and wildlife viewing. Self-guided trail brochure available at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/october-mountain-washington-mountain-marsh-interpretive-trail/download>.

Signature Hike

Gorge Trail to Felton Pond

Trailhead: Park at the pull-off on west side of Roaring Brook Road (dirt), near the bridge. Trailhead is on east side of Roaring Brook Road. **Lat/Long:** 42.357250, -73.236861

Distance: 1.7 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: Explore a tumbling brook with waterfalls, mills sites, remains of CCC-built recreation area, and Felton Pond. This circuit route climbs steadily, and steep in some spots, up Schermerhorn Brook gorge to Felton Pond, then back down the opposite side. Consider hiking clockwise from Woodland Road. From Woodland Road start uphill the steep slope on the Gorge Trail (blue blazed). Gorge Trail levels off as you

approach Felton Pond and the gravel road (0.8 mile). At the road bear left then right to reach Felton Pond. Return to the road, keep left, cross the bridge and on the opposite side pick up the Gorge Trail on the right. Follow Gorge Trail downhill and downstream to Woodland Road. Turn right and return to your starting point.

Signature Hike

AT, County Road to Becket Road

Trailhead: Park at the AT crossing on County Road in Washington. **Lat/Long:** 42.333230, -73.162788

Distance: 4.4 miles one-way **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: Enjoy a section of Appalachian Trail (AT) through Berkshire woodlands. Spot a return vehicle at the AT crossing on Yokum Pond Road in Becket for a one-way trip. The trail starts out flat and wet as it follows the outskirts of a swamp. Then rolling terrain until you reach Schoolhouse Trail (1.3 miles). The terrain becomes more rugged as you approach and pass around Finerty Pond. Intersect with Finerty Trail (1.1 miles). Climb up and over Walling Mountain (2,200 feet) your highpoint but no scenic views, along a ridge to the summit of Becket Mountain. After that it's all downhill to Yokum Pond Road.

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.*