

3 Skiing from Trailside Museum North Parking Lot

Located north of Trailside Museum on Route 138 in Milton

Rotch Path Loop **1.5 miles (1 hours) Easiest**

Named for the founder of the Blue Hill Weather Observatory, Abbott L. Rotch, this short route through stands of pine and hemlock has only one quick downhill slope. A great loop for beginners and families. Start at the bulletin board and follow the green dots uphill onto Wolcott Path. (Watch out for park vehicles as you cross the paved summit road!) Take a left at **1100** onto Border Path, a right at **1114** onto Rotch Path and the next right onto Wolcott Path. Wolcott Path will intersect the green dot trail at **1100**. Follow green dots straight ahead, back to the bulletin board.

Wolcott Hill Loop **2.5 miles (2 hours) More Difficult**

This popular green dot hiking trail winds its way around the base of Wolcott Hill. Glide over level and rolling terrain and down the challenging Border Path slope. View the impressive northeast slope of Great Blue Hill as you ski through Wildcat Notch. Start at the bulletin board and follow the green dots uphill onto Wolcott Path (Watch out for park vehicles as you cross the paved summit road!) At **1085** continue straight on the green dot trail. Green dots will lead you around the loop and back to **1085**. Return via Wolcott Path to the bulletin board.

Hemenway Hill Loop **3 miles (2.5 hours) Most Difficult**

This long, challenging loop around Hemenway Hill takes you by streams and through beautiful stands of pines and hemlocks. Highlights of this loop include long level stretches, the exciting Border Path slope and the steep, difficult slope down from Breakneck Ledge Path (be extra cautious here). Skill, strength and endurance are required. Start at the bulletin board and follow the green dots uphill onto Wolcott Path. (Watch out for park vehicles as you cross the paved summit road!). Take a left at **1100** onto Border Path a right at **1175** onto Chestnut Run Path, a right at **1203**, continue straight through

1204 and straight through **1180** onto Breakneck Ledge Path. Take a right at **1160** onto Wolcott Path. Continue straight through **1100** onto the green dot trail, which leads back to the bulletin board.

4 Skiing from Braintree Pass Path Parking Lot

Located at the intersection of Route 28 and Chickatawbut Road in Milton

Great Cedar Swamp Loop **3.5 miles (2.5 hours) More Difficult**

Ski into the remote eastern section of the park on this route to the north end of Great Cedar Swamp. This long loop includes a couple of intermediate downslopes. Ski past frozen wetlands and along the base of Chickatawbut Hill, the second highest in the Blue Hills chain. Start near the bulletin board at the back of the parking lot and follow the red dot trail, continuing straight at **3073**. At **3130** continue straight, off the red dot trail, bear left at **3152**, continue straight through **3160**, bear left at **3157**, bear left at **3153**, continue straight through **3143**. At **3135** continue straight onto the red dot trail (Curve Path) and follow the red dots back to the bulletin board.

Option: As an added treat and for a better look at the swamp, head south onto Laurel Path at **3130**. See the evergreen mountain laurels, the hemlock stands and the white cedar of the swamp. Return via the same route. This option adds up to 1 mile (45 minutes).

Pipeline Loop **1.5 miles (1 hour) Easiest**

Good for beginners, this loop includes level stretches, gradual inclines and three enjoyable downslopes. Ski past swamps and along open areas - and over the underground natural gas pipeline which gives the loop its name. Start near the bulletin board at the back of the parking lot. Follow red dots to the first wide trail (Pipeline Trail) on the left. Continue straight ahead, uphill along the pipeline trail. Take a left at **3011** onto Bouncing Brook Path, bear right at the next split, take a left at the next intersection and continue straight ahead onto the red dot trail (Braintree Pass Path). Follow the red dots back to the parking lot.

5 Skiing from Fowl Meadow Parking Lot

Located at the intersection of Neponset Valley Parkway and Brush Hill Road in Milton

Burma Road **4 miles (2.5 hours) Easiest**

This long, level course through the wetlands of the Neponset River is nearly a straight line, terminating at Interstate Highway 95. Easy terrain but a lengthy route. Great for endurance-building and diagonal stride practice. Start behind the bulletin board and follow the trail to the beginning of Burma Road. Ski to the end, at Interstate 95, and return.

6 Skiing from Shea Skating Rink Parking Lot

Located on Willard Street in Quincy

St. Moritz Loop **1.5 miles (1 hours) More Difficult**

This short loop with varied terrain takes the skier on a tour of the historic 1930's St. Moritz Winter Carnival area. Note the man-made ponds created for skating and the remains of the ski jump at **4205** - remnants of a bygone era. Be extra cautious on the first challenging downhill slope! Three additional slopes and level stretches make this an enjoyable loop. Start by following the green dot trail at the bulletin board. Instead of going over the wooden bridge, continue straight, getting off the green dot trail. Ski along the shore of the pond, take a left and go between the ponds, and again start following green dots. Take a left at **4220**, off the green dot trail and onto Murphy Path. Take a left at **4202** and follow the green dots back to the bulletin board.

Option: For an extra hour of skiing, continue straight at **4220** and follow the green dot trail into the northeastern section of the park. This green dot trail is a loop which crosses a busy paved road twice (use caution!) and brings you back to your starting point at the bulletin board. This option adds 2 miles (1 hour).

For more information, call DCR Blue Hills Reservation Headquarters at (617) 698-1802 or DCR Park Ranger Dispatch at (617) 722-1188

dcr
Massachusetts



Ranger Tim's Cross-Country Ski Routes

Blue Hills Reservation

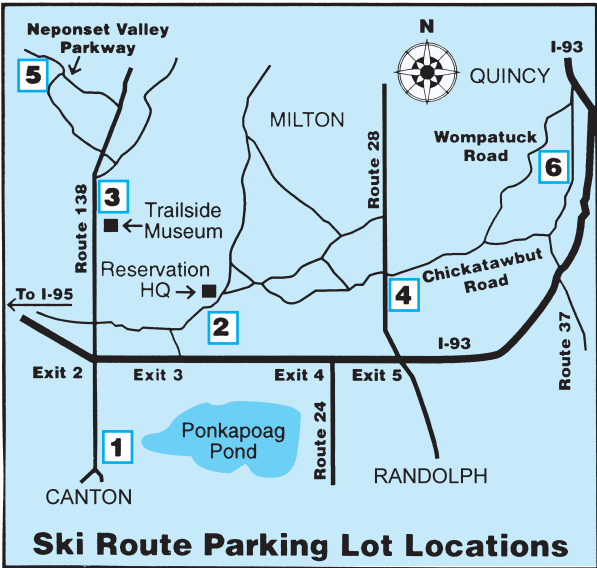




Welcome to winter in the Blue Hills

With its varied terrain, scenic views and over 100 miles of trails, Blue Hills Reservation is a great place for cross-country skiing. Skiing is allowed on all trails in the reservation, snow cover permitting. Listed in this brochure are Ranger Tim’s favorite ski routes. A variety of routes starting from several locations in the park are described. Remember, the trails in the park are not groomed, marked or maintained for cross-country skiing. There is no snow making, but there is also no fee to ski! In new snow, skiers must create their own tracks, and on packed snow previously-laid tracks may be followed. The trails in the park are generally rocky, thus several inches of snow cover are usually necessary for smooth skiing. The park is open every day of the year from sunrise to sunset. Skiers will enjoy the peaceful trails in the park, communing with nature while improving fitness and having fun.

Happy Skiing!



For more information on skiing at this and other DCR sites, call Blue Hills Reservation at (617) 698-1802.

Skier Responsibilities

- Use proper equipment and clothing.
- Bring water and/or snacks on long trips.
- Assess snow conditions and choose trails which suit your skiing ability.
- **KNOW YOUR LIMITS.** Know sunset times.
- Use extreme caution on slopes lined with trees and rocks.

Tips for using this brochure:

- Mark your route on the DCR Blue Hills trail map (available at Reservation Headquarters) before you start skiing and use the map while on the trails.
- To determine your location while on a trail, find a small white wooden intersection marker on a tree at a trail intersection. The four digit intersection number on the marker (example: 1100) corresponds to an intersection number on the DCR Blue Hills trail map.
- In the text below, all four digit numbers in bold print refer to intersection marker numbers.
- The levels of difficulty of the ski routes below are defined as follows:

Easiest: little or no steep terrain
More Difficult: some steep terrain
Most Difficult: much steep terrain

1 Skiing from Ponkapoag Golf Course Parking Lot

Located on Route 138 in Canton

Ponkapoag Golf Course Easiest and More Difficult Areas

When snow covers the ground, golfers make way for cross-country skiers at this DCR golf course. Since there are no particular trails to follow, skiers may take their time enjoying the rolling hills and open expanses while passing evergreen stands and frozen ponds. Easy and intermediate hills abound. Excellent for families, beginners and advanced skiers alike. Because it is grassy with few rocks, this is a great place to ski when there is little snow cover. Start at the bulletin board at the back of the parking lot, near the clubhouse. Ski throughout the golf course on either side of the paved road.

Option: For those interested in a woodland setting and diverse terrain, at **5175** or **5174** continue past the

gate and onto the green dot trail. Explore the trails in the Ponkapoag Pond section of the park. You may also start your route at the parking area at Exit 3 off Rte. 93. This option adds up to 4 miles (3 hours).

2 Skiing from Houghtons Pond Main Parking Lot

Located on Hillside Street in Milton

Houghtons Pond Loop 1 mile (45 minutes) Easiest

This short loop offers diverse terrain, including easy downslopes, level stretches, and small inclines. Beginners and families will enjoy the pine woods and the views across the pond. Start at the bulletin board. Ski counter-clockwise around Houghtons Pond, following the yellow dot trail. Yellow dots will lead you back to the bulletin board.

Option: If you’re interested in a long, straight, level course, ski past the gate at the southeast end of Houghtons Pond and continue down old Route 128 and come back - good for practicing long distance diagonal stride. This option adds 2 miles (1 hour).

Tucker Hill Loop

2 miles (2 hours) More Difficult

Ski through spruce and beech stands on this route around the base of Tucker Hill. Long, gradual slopes and two technically difficult downslopes will be found on this loop. It is recommended that skiers walk or side step down the steep wooded slope at the north end of this loop, near Chickatawbut Road. Start at the bulletin board. Keeping the pond on your right, take the first left just past the bathhouse. At the next ‘T’ intersection, take a right onto Bugbee Path and continue up the hill. Take a left onto the green dot trail (Tucker Hill Path) and follow the green dots around Tucker Hill, clockwise, back to the intersection of Bugbee Path and Tucker Hill Path (be sure to take a right at **2096!**) Return via Bugbee Path, past the bathhouse and back to the bulletin board.

Option: If you’re up for some adventure, try out the Buck Hill area. Get off the green dot trail, either by taking a left at **2112** or continuing straight at **2096** onto Bugbee Path eastbound. Ski along wide, gently sloping trails, up and down challenging slopes and along straight-aways. This option adds up to 4 miles (3 hours).