

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

Savoy Mountain State Forest

260 Central Shaft Road, Florida, MA 01247, (413) 663-8469

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Savoy 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/savoy-mountain-state-forest-trail-map/download>

Introductory Hike Haskins Trail to Bog Pond

Trailhead: Begin from the Campground or Haskins Trailhead on Florida Road.

Lat/Long: 42.644914, -73.044451

Distance: 1.5 miles round-trip **Difficulty:** Easy

Brief Description: Visit the beautiful and unusual Bog Pond. From the campground trailhead hike out the Haskins Trail. Take a right on Bog Pond Trail and you soon approach the pond. Bog Pond was once a floating mat of vegetation called a "bog." Since it was dammed up, raising the water level, the bog was displaced. Carnivorous plants, pitcher plant, sundew and horned bladderwort may be found in this low pH wetland. You can return via a loop if you head north on New State Road then turn left onto Haskins Trail and return to campground. A self-guided brochure is available with more content: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/savoy-mountain-state-forest-haskins-trail-to-bog-pond/download>

Introductory Hike Tannery & Parker Brook Falls

Trailhead: Begin at the trailhead parking area on Tannery Road, 0.75 miles from Black Brook Road, or 1.8 miles from New State Road, in Savoy. This trailhead is not accessible in winter, roads are not plowed. **Lat/Long:** 42.622089, -73.005137

Distance: 0.5 miles round-trip **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: From the left rear of the dirt parking lot take the blue-blazed trail. Follow Ross Brook as it flows through a narrow gorge. The brook then drops over the ledge forming Tannery Falls, which you'll also hear by now. A set of wooden steps takes you from the top down to the base of the falls. Stay on the trail here, bushwhacking off-trail is dangerous and not permitted. Below the falls, Ross and Parker Brooks converge in a sort of arena of waterfalls. Nearby Parker Brook Falls, impressive in its own right, pours through a slot in the angled bedrock. If you stand in the right spot you can see two separate waterfalls, simultaneously! To return, cross over Parker Brook and follow the blue-blazed trail up beside Parker Brook, past the impressive foundations of an 1800s tannery, and on to Tannery Road. Turn right and a short walk along Tannery Road returns you to the parking lot.

Signature Hike

Mahican-Mohawk Trail to Spruce Hill

Trailhead: Park at the North Pond day-use area parking lot. Trailhead at the entrance to the North Pond boat launch road. **Lat/Long:** 42.654257, -73.053129

Distance: 7.2 miles round trip **Difficulty:** Difficult

Brief Description: Make sure you have a map. Take the North Pond Loop trail to the second intersection with the Blackburnian Loop. Head north to the Lost Pond Trail. You are now in one of the most remote regions of the state. Follow to the Busby Trail and up to the Spruce Hill summit with spectacular views of the Hoosic River valley, Mount Greylock and the Berkshire Highlands.

Signature Hike

Busby Trail to Spruce Hill

Trailhead: Parking for the trail is a dirt pull-off at the junction of Central Shaft Road and Old Florida Road. **Lat/Long:** 42.658149, -73.055493

Distance: 3 miles round-trip **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: This out and back hike features a scenic view of the Hoosic River valley and Mount Greylock from atop Spruce Hill. Great for birding, nature study, viewing wildlife and fall colors. The trail starts behind the trailhead kiosk and ascends moderately in and out of the woods. The trail ascends a rocky area then intersects with Lost Pond Trail (along stone wall to the left). Busby Trail continues to ascend up minor switchbacks connecting with the Hoosac Range Trail (on the right), then soon after the trail arrives atop scenic Spruce Hill. Return by the same route. Interpretive stops along the way correspond to a self-guided trail brochure.

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.*