

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

Skinner State Park

10 Skinner State Park Road, Hadley, MA 01035, (413) 586-0350

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Skinner 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/skinner-state-park-trail-map/download>

Signature Hike

NET/M-M Ridge-Summit-Dry Brook

Trailhead: Old Mountain Road pull-off. Beware, this is a one-way stretch of road. Enter from the Hadley-South Hadley town line on Route 47. **Lat/Long:** 42.29041, -72.60038

Distance: 3.5 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: From the M-M/NET trailhead on Lower Mountain Road, a one-way up road, park along/off the road then head up the M-M to the summit. The ridge offers many great views. From the summit continue east on the M-M/NET to the summit road, cross and head down the Dry Brook trail, the return to the trailhead is quite pleasant.

Signature Hike

Two Forest Trail to Summit

Trailhead: Parking lot at entrance gate **Lat/Long:** 42.29531, -72.59741

Distance: 2 miles **Difficulty:** Easy

Brief Description: Starting at the park entrance, proceed up the Two Forest trail, along the way see a large glacial erratic –“The Devils Football.” At the halfway area, go up to the summit via the Halfway House, HH, trail to the M-M/NET and Summit. Enjoy the great views of the valley. Return on the same trails.



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Signature Hike

Taylor Notch-Summit-Conglomerate Rock hike

Trailhead: Route 47 parking lot in Hadley **Lat/Long:** 42.30989, -72.58449

Distance: 2.75 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: Park at the lot on Rt 47, Hockanum Rd, head up the Taylor Notch trail, TN, to the summit road, then the M-M/NET to the summit. Enjoy the summit views. Head down the opposite side of the Summit House, down the M-M to the Halfway House trail. At the halfway area, head up the road to the Conglomerate Rock trail and head down. See the oblong conglomerate erratic in the trail! Return to parking area.

Signature Hike

Taylor Notch-NET-Black Rock-Dry Brook

Trailhead: Route 47 parking lot in Hadley **Lat/Long:** 42.30989, -72.58449

Distance: 3.5 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: This hike offers a look into how the forests differ on each side of the range. Head up the TN from Rt 47. Note the typical northern forest. At the summit road, turn left, east, up the M-M/NET to the Black Rock trail #103. Heading down, notice the change? The upper Black Rock trail is a fine example of a glade forest. Enjoy the BR overlook. Head down the BR to a short section of the LS, head up Dry Brook to the summit road, then return on the TN.

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!



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- **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.*



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