

Understanding Trail Signs

JOSEPH ALLEN SKINNER & MOUNT HOLYOKE RANGE STATE PARKS



Follow the Signs

If you do not know a park's trail signs it can be easy to get lost in the woods. This guide to the common symbols used at J.A. Skinner and Mount Holyoke Range State Parks. Along with a **park trail map**, this should help you stay on your trail.

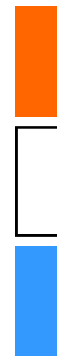
Trail Blazes

Blazes are the most common sign you see. Trail blazes are rectangular dollar bill-sized painted markings. Typically they are on trees on either side of the trail and about eye level. Occasionally, they are painted on rock surfaces on the ground or at eye level.

At this DCR park each trail has its own color. Reference the "Trail Name" key in the lower right hand corner of the park trail map for the color and name of each trail. Following the correct color, you can ensure you are on the right trail. If you see more than one color blaze, that indicates that several trails currently overlap there.



Trail blazes. Here you are currently following three overlapping trails marked in orange, white, and blue.

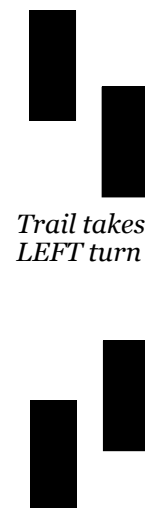


Turn Signals

Turn signals let you know if there is a bend in the path or which direction to turn when you reach an intersection.



Turn ahead. Here a blue-blazed trail takes a left turn.



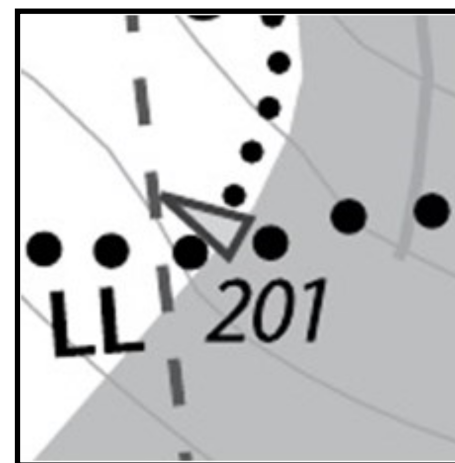
Trail takes **LEFT** turn

Trail takes **RIGHT** turn

Location ID (LID) System

The LID system pinpoints your location on the map and orients you, or to reference when giving directions to your location. Most trail intersections in the park have one of these LID signs, typically mounted on a tree, 8-10 feet above the ground.

Each three-digit numbered LID marker corresponds to a triangle with its number on the park's trail map. The triangle points in the direction you are facing if you are looking at the sign (shown at right).



LID 201 as shown on the trail map. The hiker is facing west-northwest when looking at this **LID sign** (shown at **right**).

The LID system is designed to help reduce lost hikers, and assist in rescue if necessary. If in need of help or directions, reference the last seen LID number.

Stay on Marked Trails

This park's trails are well blazed. However, sometimes a natural feature obscures the blaze, or an out-of-use trail, or path worn by wildlife looks like a trail. **Be alert for regular occurring trail blazes.** If you haven't seen a blaze for awhile, turn

around, retrace your steps until you see a blaze again. Looking around you should find another blaze and the active trail.

Please hike with a DCR trail map at all times.

The Joseph Allen Skinner & Mt. Holyoke Range State Parks trail map is available at the Visitor Center, trailhead kiosks, or scan this link.



Contact

Joseph Allen Skinner State Park
Rt. 47/10 Skinner State Park Road
Hadley, MA 01035
(413) 586-0350

Mount Holyoke Range State Park
Notch Visitor Center
Rt. 116/1500 West Street
Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 253-2883

Emergency, call 911

Non-Emergency, call 1-800-831-0569

