



~ Discover Massachusetts State Parks ~
**Visitors Guide to
Free Family-Friendly Programs
February Vacation Week
February 18 – 26, 2023**

**Visitors
Guide to
Free
Family-
Friendly
Programs**

**February
Vacation
Week**

2023

Share your adventures!

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#MassDCR @MassDCR

Fresh air and family fun are the perfect combination for your February Vacation Week plans. Come out and play in your Massachusetts State Parks and enjoy a fantastic array of family friendly programs and experiences for all ages. Enjoy guided experiences or create a park adventure on your own. There is so much to enjoy and explore in your state parks. **Come for a visit!**

Following, please find a listing of Guided Programs, Visitor Center Special Exhibits, self guided experiences, and ongoing resources. For more information please visit us online at [Department of Conservation & Recreation | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/department-of-conservation-and-recreation). For DCR's adaptive program schedule please [click here](#) for the complete schedule and programs during February Vacation week are noted with an * below.

Things to know before you go:

- All programs are free unless noted.
- Please be aware parking fees may apply – visit the park web page for applicable [parking fees at Massachusetts State Parks](#) or to [learn how to borrow a ParksPass from a community partner](#).
- Be season-smart and safe. Dress for the weather by wearing sturdy footwear and dressing in layers for maximum comfort.
- Carry drinking water and snacks. Have a map and cell phone.
- Seasonal weather including extreme cold temperatures and storms affect parks and trails. All events, programs and activities are subject to change. Please take a moment to call ahead to confirm.
- February Vacation Programs are listed by geographical region, date and time.

Activities and Programs

Boston Region

Roxbury Heritage State Park, 183 Roxbury St, Boston
Sunday, Feb 19 & Thursday, Feb 23, 10:30- 12:00pm
Our Animal Neighbors

Join us for a Bingo scavenger hunt on the park grounds to learn about Roxbury's furry and feathery residents active in the winter! Also, look and touch at a discovery table. Program appropriate for ages 4 and up. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany all children. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. Program meets at the Dilloway-Thomas House. Pets are not allowed. For more information and to check about weather cancellation, please call 857-399-1224 or 1225.

Roxbury Heritage State Park, 183 Roxbury St, Boston
Thursday, February 23 & Saturday, February 25, 1:30-3:00pm
Colonial Children's Games

What do you get when you mix tic-tac-toe and checkers? Nine-Men's-Morris, a popular board game played during colonial times! Learn how to play this and other fun games from the 1700s. Make your own games to play at home! Suitable for ages 6 and up. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany all children. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. Program meets at the Dilloway-Thomas House. Pets are not allowed. For more information, please call 857-399-1224 or 1225.

Roxbury Heritage State Park, 183 Roxbury St, Boston
Saturday, February 25, 10:30-11:30am
Kidleidoscope

Join Scooter the dog on his adventures with city critters in "Wild Ones", as we learn about city wildlife and create hand puppets of our favorite city-dwelling animals! Program appropriate for ages 3 and up. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany all children. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. Program meets at the Dilloway-Thomas House. Pets are not allowed. For more information, please call 857-399-1224 or 1225.

Central Massachusetts

Wachusett Reservoir, Gate 8, Parking near intersection of Cross Street and Route 70, Boylston

Saturday, February 18, 11:00am-1:00pm

Cabin Fever Snowshoe Hike

Join Watershed Rangers on a family friendly hike. Bring your own snowshoes if there is snow. About 3 miles round trip to the shore of the Wachusett Reservoir and back. If there is little to no snow, it will be a hike instead so wear sturdy boots. Program appropriate for all ages. For more information or to check status during inclement weather, please call 774-261-1809. Dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, 271 Oak St, Uxbridge

Monday, February 20 & Thursday, February 23, 10:30-11:15am

Kidleidoscope

Explore winter wildlife through a birdseye view – we'll learn about why birds migrate, and then participate in an empty nest count and a craft. Meet at the Visitor Center. Program is appropriate for ages 6 and up. For more information, contact (508) 278-7604.

Wachusett Reservoir, 228 Redemption Rock Rd, Sterling

Tuesday, February 21, 11:00-11:45am

Owl Pellets

Discover the characteristics that make Owls successful hunters. Be prepared to take a closer look and dissect an owl pellet. Meet at Stillwater Farm Interpretive Site (228 Redemption Rock Rd, Sterling). Program appropriate for all ages. For more information, please call 774-261-1809. Dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands.

Wachusett Reservoir, 228 Redemption Rock Rd, Sterling

Tuesday, February 21, 12:00-1:00pm

Habitat Hike

Discover the wildlife of the watershed and search for signs of wildlife. Think like an animal as we look for cozy winter resting places. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring trekking poles, ice cleats, or snowshoes depending on trail conditions. About 1 mile moderate walk. All ages welcome on this family-friendly hike. Dogs are not allowed on Water Supply Protection lands. Meet at Stillwater Farm Interpretive Site (228 Redemption Rock Rd, Sterling. For more information, please call 774-261-1809. Dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands.

Quabbin Reservoir, 100 Winsor Dam Rd, Belchertown

Wednesday, February 22, 10:00am-1:00pm

Road to the Past: Dana Common

Registration required:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6741b6657b6948c5b5239c7120a0ea1>

Take a 2 mile (4 mile round trip) walk to the past as we explore the road to Dana Common and look for signs of the past. Dress for the weather and bring water and snacks. Program appropriate for ages 8 and up. Meet at Gate 40, RT 32A in Petersham. For more information, please call 413-323-7221. Dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road, Princeton

Wed, Feb 22, Thurs, Feb 23, & Fri, Feb 24, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Winter Snowshoe Walk at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area

Take a leisurely 1 mile guided round-trip in the winter wonderland at Wachusett Mountain. Enjoy the beauty of winter, meet other interesting people, and learn about the animals leaving tracks in the snow! All ages are welcome. Bring your own snowshoes and/or micro-spikes or borrow a pair from the ski area. If there is no snow, we will have a winter hike to Balance Rock, an amazing geologic formation. Meet at the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area main lodge at 41 Mile Hill Road in Westminster (one mile from Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Visitor Center at 345 Mountain Road in Princeton). This program is a joint effort of DCR and Wachusett Mountain Associates. This program is free and open to the public and there is no parking fee, but pre-registration is required, as there is a 20-person limit. For more information, please call Wachusett Mountain State Reservation at (978) 464-2987.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road, Princeton

Thursday, February 23 & Friday, February 24, 11:00am - 12:00pm
Miraculous Snowflakes

Join us to learn about snowflakes and create some of your own. We will discuss the science behind the mysteries of winter weather, and explain how snowflakes are formed, and why no two snowflakes are alike! We will then show you how to create your own one-of-a-kind paper snowflake, suitable for framing or decorating. We will also have a read-aloud of the book "Snowflake Bentley." This program is suitable for all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult. This program is free and open to the public and there is no parking fee. This is an indoor program taking place at the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Visitor Center, and no hiking is required. For more information, please call Wachusett Mountain State Reservation at (978) 464-2987.

Quabbin Reservoir, 100 Winsor Dam Rd, Belchertown

Thursday, February 23, 10:00-11:00am

Winter Wildlife in New England

Registration required:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/51f4eae045241f781cbe90190601f09>

Mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians have all evolved to develop unique survival adaptations that allow them to withstand the cold and snow of a New England winter. Come learn about these animals through a fun and informative presentation, then go outside with a Ranger to see signs of what the wildlife at Quabbin is doing to survive this time of year. Please dress appropriately for the outdoor portion of the program. Program appropriate for all ages. Meet at the Quabbin Visitor Center. For more information and to check about weather cancellation, please call 413-323-7221. Dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, 271 Oak St, Uxbridge

Friday, February 24, 10:30-11:45am

Kids' Nature Hike

Learn about the habitats of the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park through a short jaunt through our Nature Field and trail. What animals do you think might call these unique ecosystems home? Meet at River Bend Farm. Program is appropriate for ages 8 and up. Dogs are not allowed. For more information, contact (508) 278-7604.

***Wendell State Forest**, 392 Wendell Rd, Millers Falls

Saturday, February 25, 11:00am-3:00pm

Enjoy the winter woods with All Out Adventures! Activities include outdoor ice skating, cross-country skiing, sit-skiing, gentle sled hockey games, kick sledding, snowshoeing, and hiking (as weather conditions permit).

Instruction, adaptive equipment, and assistance provided.

There is a wheelchair-accessible bathroom on site. Meet us at the Wendell State Forest Headquarters when you arrive! Bring a lunch and warm up around the fire before heading out on the trails with a group. Please note that there is no running water and no indoor restroom.

Pre-registration is required. [Register online](#) or call (413) 584-2052 for more details or if you prefer to register via phone.

Suggested donation: \$5/person

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road,
Princeton

Saturday, February 25, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Snow Mysteries

Interpreting snow tracks can be a source of wonder and fun. Join our expert tracker to solve the mysteries of animal life at Wachusett Mountain, home to almost 50 species of mammals! Be sure to dress warmly and wear winter boots, as we will be outside for over an hour. If snow is deep, participants

will need snowshoes. Call the visitor center for an update on snow conditions. Afterwards, we will come inside to warm up by our fireplace and chat about what we have seen. This program is suitable for all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult. We will be walking approximately three-quarters of a mile. This program is free and open to the public and there is no parking fee. For more information, please call Wachusett Mountain State Reservation at (978) 464-2987.

Wachusett Reservoir, 228 Redemption Rock Rd, Sterling

Saturday, February 25, 1:00-2:00pm

Bark and Buds Winter Trees

Can you identify trees in winter? The diverse forest of the watershed protects drinking water quality. Get out to the forest to become a nature detective. About 1/2 mile slow-paced walk. All ages welcome on this family-friendly hike. Meet at Stillwater Farm Interpretive Site (228 Redemption Rock Rd). Program appropriate for all ages. For more information, please call 774-261-1809. Dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands.

Northeastern Massachusetts

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, 1399 Bennington St., East Boston

Saturday, February 18, 7:30am - 8:30am

An Oasis for Birds

Explore DCR's Belle Isle Marsh & vicinity, which are known birding hotspots with a total yearly bird count of about 265 species. We will search for Snowy Owls and other raptors, native sparrows, finches, and waterfowl. Expect to move to different locations by car or on foot. Appropriate for Adults and Teens. Co-sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club and the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. Note that this program meets every month of the year on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month except when occurring on State or National Holidays. Meet at the parking lot at 1399 Bennington St, East Boston. For MBTA: Blue line to Beachmont Station. Free parking available in the paved lot. For more information, contact Matthew Nash at 781-656-1485.

Halibut Point State Park, Gott Avenue at Rte 127, Rockport

Sunday, February 19, 8:00am - 10:00am

Beginning Winter Birding

Winter brings birds and ducks from frozen ponds up north to our seashore. See Harlequin ducks and loons among the winter visitors at this rocky coastal water's edge. Join us for a short, slow walk and learn about bird sounds, habits, and flight patterns. Bundle up! Wear sturdy warm footwear, clothing layers, and bring sunscreen for your face for protection from the windy coast. Bring binoculars if you have them. For all ages. Meet at parking lot. For more information and for weather cancellation, please contact 857-268-6024.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden Street, Concord

Monday, February 20, 11:00am - 12:30pm

“Crystal Products of the Frost King:” Ice Harvesting and the Natural Ice Industry in New England

Join historian and ice harvester Dennis Picard, in the Visitor Center for a program on the New England ice industry. See tools of the trade similar to those used at Walden’s Ice Fort Cove to harvest ice during Thoreau’s stay at Walden. Meet at Visitor Center. Program appropriate for all ages. Please contact 978-369-3254 for more information.

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, 1399 Bennington St., East Boston

Wednesday, February 22 & Saturday, February 25, 9:00- 10:00am
Winter Wildlife Detectives

Can you imagine living outside the entire winter like the coyotes do at Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston? Join a DCR Park Interpreter as we explore the trails of the Marsh searching for signs (tracks, scat and chews) left by the wild creatures that are active during the winter. Appropriate for all ages.

Dress for the weather including possible ice on the ground. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. Meet at the parking lot at 1399 Bennington St, East Boston. Free parking available in paved lot. For MBTA: Blue line to Beachmont Station. For more information, contact Matthew Nash at 781-656-1485.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden Street, Concord

Thursday, February 23, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Winter Tree Identification Woods Walk

Join park staff to learn the three “Bs” of winter tree ID: bark, branching, and buds on this easy walk. Wear warm clothes and sturdy boots for uneven, winter terrain. Meet at Visitor Center. No dogs allowed. Program appropriate for ages 8 and up. For more information and for weather cancellation, contact 978-369-3254.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden Street, Concord

Saturday, February 25, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Beavers are Back Hike

Join park staff on this moderate hike to Heywood’s Meadow to search for signs of “nature’s engineers.” Wear warm clothes & sturdy boots for uneven winter terrain. Meet at the Visitor Center. Appropriate for all ages. Dogs are not allowed. For more information and for weather cancellation, contact 978-369-3254.

Southeastern Massachusetts

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Saturday, February 18, 8:00am - 3:00pm

Self-Guided: Make Your Own Little Green House

Stop inside the visitor center at Borderland State Park to make your own little greenhouse to bring home and watch your seeds turn into flowers. The park staff will have a self-guided station inside the visitor center, follow the instructions and bring home your little green house. All ages welcomed to participate; children must be accompanied by an adult. While supplies last. Rain, snow, or shine. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Blue Hills Reservation, 840 Hillside St., Milton

Saturday, February 18, 10:30-11:30am

Live Story Walk and Craft

Kick off School Vacation week with the perfect blend of nature and story. Join the DCR in partnership with the Milton Early Childhood Alliance for a live Story Walk reading by a park ranger along with crafting and additional story readings at Houghton's Pond. Suitable for children 3 and up accompanied by an adult. Meet at Visitor Center. For more information and for weather cancellation, contact (857) 208-8498.

Fall River Heritage State Park, 200 Davol St, Fall River

Saturday, February 18 & Saturday, February 25, 11:00-11:30am

Water + Granite + Gravity = Fall River

Fall River was once the third largest city in Massachusetts with thriving factories and bustling piers on its waterfront. Without the water of the Taunton and Quequechan Rivers, the granite cliffs and the power of gravity and the waterfalls that they produced, there would be no Fall River. The Park highlights this legacy with seven distinct granite way finders around the Park that commemorate the industry that has been here. This is a 30-minute walk through waterfront history connecting the way finders and can be self-guided or led by a park interpreter. Tours start at the Front Desk.

Fall River Heritage State Park, 200 Davol St, Fall River

Saturday, February 18 & Saturday, February 25, 2:00pm

People, Ambition, and Hard Work

A Portuguese American poet, a beloved local entrepreneur, a decorated military hero, and a visionary state legislator all have their names enshrined in Fall River Heritage Park. Who were these people and how did they inspire others through their vision, ambition, and hard work? This is a short walking tour of the landmarks named for these pioneers and can be self-guided or led by a park interpreter. Tours start at the Front Desk in the Visitor Center.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Sunday, February 19, 1:00-1:30pm

Mansion Tour: Building a Home

Registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mansion-tour-building-a-home-tickets-312857965597>

Take a step back in time while viewing the fully furnished interior of the Ames Mansion, including the ornate two-story library. On this 30-minute tour, explore the history of the family and the house itself. First floor only. For adults and older children. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain, snow, or shine. Registration required. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Sunday, February 19, 2:00-2:30pm

Kids Mansion Tour

Registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kids-mansion-tour-tickets-318989344717>

What would it be like to be a kid living in this mansion? Learn about the Ames family and the four children who grew up in this beautiful mansion. Great for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. 30-minute guided tour. Meet in front of the mansion. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain, snow, or shine. Registration required. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Sunday, February 19, 3:00-3:30pm

Kids Mansion Tour

Registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kids-mansion-tour-tickets-318989344717>

What would it be like to be a kid living in this mansion? Learn about the Ames family and the four children who grew up in this beautiful mansion. Great for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. 30-minute guided tour. Meet in front of the mansion. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain, snow, or shine. Registration required. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Sunday, February 19, 5:00pm

Kids Mansion Tour

Registration required: email Paul at Paul.Clifford@mass.gov

Want to learn about owls of Massachusetts? We will start our owl prowling with a power point presentation inside the visitor center. Following the power point, we will take a 3-mile walk, looking and listening for owls, route and distance may change depending on trail conditions. We will wrap up by dissecting owl pellets back inside the visitor center. Great for adults and older children. Space is very limited for this program, registration is required.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Monday, February 20, 1:00-1:30pm

Mansion Tour: Building a Home

Registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mansion-tour-building-a-home-tickets-312857965597>

Take a step back in time while viewing the fully furnished interior of the Ames Mansion, including the ornate two-story library. On this 30-minute tour, explore the history of the family and the house itself. First floor only. For adults and older children. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain, snow, or shine. Registration required. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Monday, February 20, 2:00-2:30pm

Kids Mansion Tour

Registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kids-mansion-tour-tickets-318989344717>

What would it be like to be a kid living in this mansion? Learn about the Ames family and the four children who grew up in this beautiful mansion. Great for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. 30-minute guided tour. Meet in front of the mansion. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain, snow, or shine. Registration required. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth

Monday, February 20, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Quashnet River Trail Hike with Southeast MA Adult Walking Club

A 2.8 mile, moderately paced hike open to walkers aged 16 or over. Start on a level, wide trail then we'll cross the river and return on a hilly, narrow trail. Meet at the Quashnet River Trail-head parking lot on Martin Road in Falmouth. Wear sturdy foot gear and dress for cold weather and possible snow. Carry drinking water and a snack. Consider bringing a walking stick or Ice stabilizers. We will hike unless the weather makes it unsafe. If weather conditions are questionable, please call 617-259-0209. Described route may change.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Tuesday, February 21, 8:00am - 3:00pm

Self-Guided: Make Your Own Little Green House

Stop inside the visitor center at Borderland State Park to make your own little greenhouse to bring home and watch your seeds turn into flowers. The park staff will have a self-guided station inside the visitor center, follow the instructions and bring home your little green house. All ages welcomed to participate; children must be accompanied by an adult. While supplies last. Rain, snow, or shine. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth

Tuesday, February 21, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Trout Tuesday

Learn about the Quashnet River brook trout, its life cycle, and movements between the river and the bay with a short walk to the shore and a discussion about our brook trout. Play 'The Game of Life' as a trout on a gameboard representing an actual stretch of the river and conclude by making your own paper brook trout while having hot chocolate. Meet in the Visitor Center. Come dressed for cold weather and possible snow. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be indoors. (Ages 5+)

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth

Wednesday, February 22, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Tracking Winter Wildlife

Winter is a great time to look for animal tracks. We will investigate the different ways animals walk and play some tracking games. We will look for tracks and signs of wildlife outside. We will end with making a track to take home and hot chocolate. Meet in the Visitor Center. Come dressed for cold weather and possible snow. In the event of inclement weather, the entire program will be indoors. (Ages 5+)

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Wednesday, February 22, 1:00-1:30pm

Mansion Tour: Building a Home

Registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mansion-tour-building-a-home-tickets-312857965597>

Take a step back in time while viewing the fully furnished interior of the Ames Mansion, including the ornate two-story library. On this 30-minute tour, explore the history of the family and the house itself. First floor only. For adults and older children. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain, snow, or shine. Registration required. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Wednesday, February 22, 2:00-2:30pm

Kids Mansion Tour

Registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kids-mansion-tour-tickets-318989344717>

What would it be like to be a kid living in this mansion? Learn about the Ames family and the four children who grew up in this beautiful mansion. Great for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. 30-minute guided tour. Meet in front of the mansion. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain, snow, or shine. Registration required. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Blue Hills Reservation, 840 Hillside St., Milton

Thursday, February 23, 9:00-11:30am

Charles Eliot's Dream

Charles Eliot was a dreamer. He dreamed what public parks could be and helped to create the Emerald Necklace, the Trustees of the Reservation, and the Metropolitan Parks Commission, the precursor to the DCR, as well as the Blue Hills Reservation itself. Come explore the incredible achievements and brilliant and tragically short life of Charles Eliot, the father of municipal parks and one of the founding fathers of Massachusetts conservation. Please meet at the Visitor Center. This presentation is for ages 12 and up. For more information, please contact (857) 208-8498.

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth

Thursday, February 23, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Staying Warm: Winter Wildlife Homes

What are some of the adaptations that wildlife have to stay warm? How can their winter home help keep them warm? These are some of the questions we will try to answer as we play a game, look for animal homes and make our own cozy animal shelter. We will end the program with hot chocolate. Meet in the Visitor Center. Come dressed for cold weather and possible snow. In the event of inclement weather, the entire program will be indoors. (Ages 5+)

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Thursday, February 23, 1:00pm

Off the Beaten Path Hike

Join the park staff for a 2-4 mile hike along trails less traveled at Borderland State Park. We will keep a moderate pace and take stops along the way. Meet at the visitor center. Great for adults and older children. Inclement weather may cancel the hike. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Friday, February 24, 8:00am - 3:00pm

Self-Guided: Make Your Own Little Green House

Stop inside the visitor center at Borderland State Park to make your own little greenhouse to bring home and watch your seeds turn into flowers. The park staff will have a self-guided station inside the visitor center, follow the instructions and bring home your little green house. All ages welcomed to participate; children must be accompanied by an adult. While supplies last. Rain, snow, or shine. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth

Friday, February 24, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Silent Wings of the Night

Learn about the lives, habits, and habitat of the owls that live in the Reserve. Take a short walk along our nature trail and find out about the kinds of owls

here, their needs, and habitat. Learn what owls eat by dissecting owl pellets and identifying the bones of their prey. Finish by making a paper owl puppet while having hot chocolate. Meet in the Visitor Center. Come dressed for cold weather and possible snow. In the event of inclement weather, the entire program will be indoors. (Ages 5+)

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Saturday, February 25, 8:00am - 3:00pm

Self-Guided: Make Your Own Little Green House

Stop inside the visitor center at Borderland State Park to make your own little greenhouse to bring home and watch your seeds turn into flowers. The park staff will have a self-guided station inside the visitor center, follow the instructions and bring home your little green house. All ages welcomed to participate; children must be accompanied by an adult. While supplies last. Rain, snow, or shine. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Sunday, February 26, 8:00am - 3:00pm

Self-Guided: Make Your Own Little Green House

Stop inside the visitor center at Borderland State Park to make your own little greenhouse to bring home and watch your seeds turn into flowers. The park staff will have a self-guided station inside the visitor center, follow the instructions and bring home your little green house. All ages welcomed to participate; children must be accompanied by an adult. While supplies last. Rain, snow, or shine. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Sunday, February 26, 10:00am

DCR Southeastern Mass Adult Walking Club

Join the park staff for a moderate paced, mostly flat 3.5-mile hike along the Pond Walk Trail and some un-named trails along the way. Meet at the visitor center. For adults only, open to the public. Inclement weather or unsafe trail conditions may cancel or re-route the hike. In case of inclement weather and to ensure hike is happening, please call Borderland at (508) 238-6566. For more information, please contact (508)238-6566

Western Massachusetts

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Friday, February 24, 1:00-2:00pm

Nice and Easy Walk

An easy-paced, 1 to 2-mile guided walk, along the Canalside Rail Trail or downtown Turners Falls, geared for seniors, but open to all ages. Join others seeking fresh air and exercise. A DCR Park Interpreter highlights local history and natural scenes along the way. Be prepared for the weather. Wear

appropriate clothing and sturdy boots. Bring water. FREE. In case of inclement weather, come on inside for the interpretive topic of the day. Meet at the main entrance to the center. Dogs are allowed. For more information, please contact 413-863-3221

**Mount Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough
Saturday, February 18, 9:00am - 12:00pm & 12:30-3:30pm
Winter Wildlife Tracking**

For ages 8 and up. Join Jim Pelletier for a three-hour guided wildlife tracking exploration. Journey less than 2-miles at a leisurely pace with some off-trail, rough terrain, and stream crossings. **Space is limited, pre-registration required: 9:00 am hike: https://9am-FEB18-Wildlife_Tracking.eventbrite.com 12:30 p.m. hike: https://1230pm-FEB18-Wildlife_Tracking.eventbrite.com** Dress appropriately for winter weather; hiking poles, traction devices for boots (or snowshoes) are recommended. Bring water and a snack. Inclement weather cancels. For additional information and weather updates, call the Visitor Center at (413) 499-4262.

**Mount Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough
Sunday, February 19, 1:00-2:30pm
Cabin Fever Story Time!**

For all ages. Join Park Interpreter Mike Whalen by the cozy hearth fire for an entertaining hour filled with tall tales and remarkable legends of Mount Greylock from the past as we gather to beat the winter blues. Meet the spirit of colorful characters like Dave Lilly, the counterfeiter of Money Brook Falls and “The Boys of Bob’s Hill” _as they spring to life with their humorous and poignant stories. Stop by, sit awhile and enjoy some good old-time local lore! Complementary hot cocoa will be provided. For additional information and weather updates, call the Visitor Center at (413) 499-4262.

**Mount Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough
Thursday, February 23, 11:00am-12:30pm
Winter Tree Identification Hike**

For ages 8 and older. Calling all nature detectives! Learn how to identify trees during their winter slumber with DCR Management Forester, Kevin Podkowka. An easy walk for families. Be prepared for the weather by wearing appropriate clothing and sturdy snow boots (traction devices, trekking poles and snowshoes may also be advisable). Inclement weather cancels. For additional information and weather updates, call the Visitor Center at (413) 499-4262.

**Mount Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough
Saturday, February 25, 1:00pm**

Family Friendly Outdoor Adventures

For all ages. Come out and join us for an afternoon of winter activities, including **snow tubing** for the little ones (bring your soft-sided sleds if you have them), a **SNOWSHOE DEMO** by NeviTREK Handmade Snowshoes, and a **guided Geocaching Adventure** along the Bradley Farm Trail! Please be prepared for the weather, dress in layers and wear sturdy snow boots. Traction devices, trekking poles or your own snowshoes are advisable. Snowshoes will be available to try out during the **Snowshoe Demo for ages 8 and up. Program duration 90 - 120 minutes.** Inclement weather cancels. For additional information and weather updates, call the Visitor Center at (413) 499-4262.

**Mount Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough
Saturday, February 25, 1:00-2:30pm**

Geocaching 101

For all ages. Looking for a fun way to engage your tech-savvy kids with the natural world? This outdoor activity combines hiking with a tech-aided treasure hunt. Join Kathy Gwozdz and members of Berkshire Geobash to learn the basics, then head out on the trail to test out new skills. Can you find the hidden treasure? Beginners welcome! No experience or digital device necessary. To participate fully you may **download the free geocaching.com app** and bring your digital device. Dress appropriately for winter weather; hiking poles and traction devices for boots (or snowshoes) recommended. Trails may be snow-covered, icy, or muddy. Bring drinking water and a snack. Inclement weather cancels. For additional information and weather updates, call the Visitor Center at (413) 499-4262.

**Mount Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough
Sunday, February 26, 1:00-3:00pm**

Winter Wonderland Activity Day!

Join us for a fun-packed time of winter activities for all ages. This event offers winter crafts, scavenger hunts, board games, and sledding if weather permits. Designed as self-guided activities but may be led by a Park Interpreter. Bring your own sled if you have one. FREE. Please call the Visitor Center for weather updates. Inclement weather cancels outdoor activities. **Please dress warmly.** Bring water and a snack. No previous experience is necessary. **Program duration 2 hours.** Inclement weather cancels. For additional information and weather updates, call the Visitor Center at (413) 499-4262.

DCR Visitor Centers and Exhibits

Winter should never stop you from enjoying our State Parks! The Massachusetts' State Park system, managed and operated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, provides many year-round opportunities to learn about our rich natural and cultural history, a heritage that tells fascinating stories of the past. Recreational opportunities also abound. Below is a list of our Visitor Centers by region. Please note, some visitor centers are closed for holidays and hours can vary based on staffing and weather emergencies. Please call ahead.

Boston Region

Roxbury Heritage State Park, 183 Roxbury Rd, Boston

Roxbury Heritage Visitor Center

Open Daily, 10:00am-5:00pm

Roxbury Heritage is home to the c1750 Dillaway-Thomas House, one of the oldest structures in Roxbury. This building served as the headquarters of the Continental Army in 1775 during the Siege of Boston. The house is now a museum with exhibits of Roxbury's past and present history. Landscaped grounds also provide visitors with an excellent view of Boston's skyline. For more information, please call 857-399-1225 or email roxbury.heritage@mass.gov.

Northeastern Massachusetts

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden St., Concord

Walden Pond Visitor Center

Open Daily, 10:00am - 3:00pm

Henry David Thoreau's legacy has rippled across the globe and is tastefully presented in exhibits and displays. Get a look at our Gold LEED-Certified, earth-friendly, energy efficient building constructed from sustainable materials. A replica of the cabin he built and lived in from 1845-1847 is located near the visitor center for public viewing. No pets are allowed within the reservation. Daily parking fee: \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$30 per vehicle for out-of-state plates. Accessible. For more information, please call 978-396-3254.

Storywalk (R) at Walden Pond

Daily, 7:00am- 4:00pm

"Of Walden Pond" by Lisa Cline-Ransome and illustrated by Ashley Benham-Yazdani.

Enjoy a story, fresh air and exercise! Step into the excitement of the 1846 Walden Pond ice harvest. Join us on the Woods Path for a self-guided StoryWalks® featuring this children's picture book. Follow the path to book pages posted along the route. A wonderful story awaits! The Woods Path Universally Accessible Thoreau House Site Trail, an easy 1/2-mile,

wheelchair and stroller friendly, crushed stone surface. All ages. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. No dogs or bikes on trails.

Thoreau's Stay at Walden

Daily during February Vacation Week, 11:00am- 12:00pm

Peek inside the Thoreau house replica, by the main parking lot, to learn about the poet/naturalist's life in the woods during this 10-minute chat with a park interpreter. In bad weather relocates to Visitor Center. All ages welcome.

Topics include:

- Thoreau's experiment in simple, deliberate living
- Debunking Thoreau myths
- Former Walden Inhabitants

Halibut Point State Park, 4 Gott Avenue, Rockport

Open Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Quarrying History at Visitor Center

Investigate working on the edge of Halibut Point! We have artifacts, photographs, the "Uncut Block" video, and quarry tools to share the Park's history. Bring your questions and curiosity!

Military History at Halibut Point—Climb WWII Tower!

U.S. Military for coastal defense in 1944 built a watch tower and barracks—now serves as a Visitor Center. Climb the tower ladder!

Central Massachusetts

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 345 Mountain Road, Princeton

John Hitchcock Visitor Center

Open daily 8:00am – 3:30pm (Hours may vary based on winter staffing and weather conditions).

The Visitor Center features exhibits detailing the mountain's unique geologic history, including the effects of the last glacial period. Exhibits also highlight Wachusett Mountain's human history, from the Native Americans living in the area who gave the mountain its name, to the European colonists who

settled the area. The Visitor Center features displays explaining the ancient trees found on the mountain, the only old-growth forest east of the Connecticut River. There is also an antique collection of preserved birds that are found in the area. Hiking trail information is available in the Visitor Center, and park staff can provide advice on routes and trail conditions; winter hikers should be equipped for snowy and icy conditions. The Visitor Center features a magnificent stone fireplace with a crackling fire to warm winter visitors. Restrooms are available in the Visitor Center during open hours. Portable toilets are available in the parking lot if the Visitor Center is closed. Free parking and admission during the winter. Accessible. For more information, please call 978-464-2987.

Quabbin Reservoir, 100 Winsor Dam Rd, Belchertown
Open every day except Wednesdays, 8:30am - 4:30pm
Visitor Center & Exhibits

Quabbin Reservoir is one of the largest unfiltered water supplies in the United States. Along with the Wachusett Reservoir and Ware River, it is the source of high quality water for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority water supply system. The 412 billion gallon reservoir covers 39 square miles with 181 miles of shoreline. Come learn about the history of the Quabbin Valley and how the reservoir was built. Also, learn about wildlife at the Quabbin and some of the research being done there. Visitors may request viewing one of several short videos about the area as well. For more information, please call 413-323-722.

Southeastern Massachusetts

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton
Open Daily, 8:00am - 4:00pm
Visitor Center "Ames Family History Gallery"

Borderland is one of the most historically significant tracts of publicly owned land in the Commonwealth. Created in the early 1900s by artist and suffragist Blanche Ames and her botanist husband Oakes, Borderland offers many of the same pleasures that the Ames family enjoyed. Learn about the family through the park's exhibits. Then enjoy the winter recreational experiences once enjoyed by this famous family at their "Borderland." A variety of self-guided walk brochures are available in the Visitor Center vestibule. Accessible. For more information or directions, please call (508) 238-6566. There is a \$5.00 per vehicle parking fee; \$20.00 for out-of-state vehicles.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton
Daily, 8:00am - 4:00pm
Self-Guided Architectural Tour

Visit the visitor center at Borderland State Park and grab a self-guided Architectural Tour brochure. Follow the brochure and learn the history of

the building of the Borderland Mansion, while walking around the exterior of the mansion.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Daily, 8:00am - 4:00pm

StoryWalk®, “Whose Been Here?” by Fran Hodgkins and illustrated by Karel Hayes

Take a walk-in nature while reading, “*Whose Been Here?*”, by Fran Hodgkins. Start on the Pond Walk Trail, behind the visitor center and head towards the stone lodge. The StoryWalk® is approximately 0.6 miles along a mostly flat trail. At the end of the walk, please scan the QR code to take a brief survey. Self-guided.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Daily, 8:00am - 4:00pm

Winter Trip Tips: Tree Identification Challenge

Before you visit Borderland State Park, visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/dcr-trip-tip-winter-woodland-wanders/download> to download your Winter Trip Tips and learn about different trees and simple tricks to identify trees in the winter. Suggested 3-mile hike that accompanies this Winter Trip Tip. Self-guided.

Fall River Heritage State Park, 200 Davol St., Fall River

Open Daily, 8:30am - 3:30pm

The Visitor Center at Fall River Heritage State Park offers insight into the City’s unique past as a thriving textile center and confluence of cultures. Sit back in the comfort and warmth of the park’s movie theater and watch a marathon of four films about Fall River’s past from its role as the leading textile hub in America, to its critical role in the Underground Railroad leading up to the Civil War. Enjoy the majesty of the luxurious Fall River Line ships that sailed here from New York. Re-live the fun days of locals at play at everyone’s favorite local amusement park. Try your hand at crafts. Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa while you enjoy the beautiful views of Battleship Cove and the waterfront. Linger in the galleries for historic photos and an exhibit on African Americans in the Civil War. There is something for everyone and it’s all free! Parking is free at the adjacent DCR Lot at 5 Water Street. Accessible. For more information or directions please call (508) 675-5759, ext. 0.

Fall River Heritage State Park Exhibit

SING! THE SESAME STREET® WORLD OF COMPOSER

Daily, 8:30am – 3:30pm

Time to celebrate the creative genius of a local hero: Joseph Guilherme Raposo, the son of Azorean immigrants who was born in Fall River, went to Harvard College, studied music, and became one of the creators of Sesame

Street®. Drop in and take a photo with an image of Big Bird, Elmo, Cookie Monster or many of their friends. See our exhibit on the life of Joe Raposo with his friends Frank Sinatra, Lena Horne, President Jimmy Carter, First Lady Nancy Reagan and so many more! The Visitor Center will host sing-along StoryWalks® of his books “Sing” and “Imagination Song.” Fun activities for the whole family.

Fall River Heritage State Park Exhibit
LEWIS HINE’S FALL RIVER: IN LIVING COLOR
Daily, 8:30am – 3:30pm

The photography of Lewis Wickes Hine focused on the harsh labor conditions in the textile industry and the exploitation of child and women workers. When those black and white images are colorized and enhanced, it adds an entire new dimension to these remarkable photos. Experience the world of Lewis Hine’s Fall River with new eyes. This is an exhibit in progress, and we invite you to witness an exhibit as it evolves. Savor the insightful captions from the Library of Congress. Hine created over 200 images of Fall River and we are just getting started!

Fall River Heritage State Park Exhibit
FREEDOM’S AGENDA: AFRICAN AMERICAN PETITIONS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNMENT, 1600–1900
Daily, 8:30am – 3:30pm

The “right of free petition,” where any citizen of Massachusetts can petition the state legislature, is one of our state’s most cherished political traditions. As this exhibit reveals, from abolition to desegregation and voting rights, the Commonwealth has shaped American society. This special exhibit is on loan from the Commonwealth Museum in Boston, courtesy of the Secretary of State

Fall River Heritage State Park Film
BEHIND THE SCENES FEATURETTES: A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN THOMAS J. HUDNER & ENSIGN JESSE L. BROWN
Daily, 10:00-10:40am

Discover the true story behind the theatrical hit film “Devotion” and the amazing friendship of Fall River’s own Captain Thomas J. Hudner and his navy partner Ensign Jesse Brown, the first Black naval pilot. We are honored to offer five featurettes that go behind the scenes and tell their story. Join us in our comfortable theater. For ages 12+ years. Total running time of the films: 40 minutes. Accessible.

Fall River Heritage State Park Film
SAFE HOUSES: FALL RIVER AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
Daily, 11:00-11:20am and 3:00-3:20pm

Discover the hidden history of Fall River and its role in the Underground Railroad. See the houses and streets that welcomed escaped formerly

enslaved people. Learn about the abolitionists of Fall River, especially the women, who opened the gates of freedom and their homes in this 20-minute film. Shown in our warm comfortable theater. For ages 12+ years. Accessible.

Fall River Heritage State Park Film

THE FABRIC OF FALL RIVER

Daily, 11:45am-12:20pm and 1:45-2:20pm

Discover Fall River's rich past through this classic documentary that showcases the history of Fall River from the First People through the cotton mill era, to the needle trades of the 1980s. For ages 8+ years. Run-time: 34 minutes. Accessible.

Fall River Heritage State Park: Activities

Daily, 9:00am – 3:30pm

Get creative! Stop by the Visitor Center, grab one of our unique coloring sheets of moments in Fall River History. Learn about textiles and calico and help us complete our calico stamp wall or even weave a row on our community loom. If you complete an entire row, you too can add your name tag! Origami, anyone? This is a drop-in program. Stay for the duration or drop in for a few moments. For all ages.

Fall River Heritage State Park Exhibit

Faces of Fall River

Daily, 8:30am – 3:30pm

Meet the people of Fall River's past through a gallery of classic black and white photographs from the textile era. Featured are photos by labor activist/sociologist/photographer Lewis Hine of the immigrant women, men and children who worked the mills that made Fall River the premiere textile city in America. These are the photographs that inspired change in American labor laws and helped abolish child labor.

Fall River Heritage State Park Exhibit

Tracing the Threads

Daily, 8:30am – 3:00pm

Explore our comprehensive permanent exhibit which celebrates the cultural, ethnic, and industrial history of Fall River. Learn about the waterfalls that shaped the city, enabled its industries, and even gave it its name. Share the stories of the many ethnic groups from around the world who called this city home.

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Hwy (Rte. 28), E. Falmouth

Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Come in from the cold and explore our exhibits along with a host of self-guided, hands-on activities including animal puppets, leaf rubbings, crafts, animal life cycles and more. To interact with our newest visitor center exhibits, bring your smart phone or tablet to try out the interactive QR codes which let our researchers answer your questions about what we do here. Families with children will be able to explore the headquarters property with a scavenger hunt and will also be able to pick up a “Grab and Go” bag (while supplies last) with a surprise project to do on your own. Can’t make it Tuesday or Wednesday? You’re welcome to come visit the Reserve any day to enjoy the grounds and the view. Accessible. For more information contact Joan Muller, joan.muller@mass.gov.

Western Massachusetts

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Open Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00am – 4:00pm

Explore the natural, cultural and industrial history of the Connecticut River Watershed in our dynamic exhibits. Next to the Canalside Rail Trail, the center includes the Great Hall exhibit gallery, restrooms, and drinking water. Wheelchair accessible. Open Presidents’ Day Monday, February 21.

Great Falls Discovery Center

Turners Falls Canal Investigation Station

Why is there a canal in Turners Falls? Think flatboats, cutlery, and turbines! During our February School Vacation Week open hours, visit with Department of Conservation and Recreation park interpreters to explore the three reasons for the canal, including a few glimpses of life here before the canal was built. Learn how the canal has changed over 200 + years at this interactive display. For ages 6 and up.

Great Falls Discovery Center

Crossroads: Change in Rural America

In 1900, about 40% of Americans lived in rural areas. By 2010, less than 18% of the U.S. population lived in rural areas. Massive economic and social changes led to massive growth of America’s cities. Through a partnership with the world’s largest museum complex, the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center proudly hosts “Crossroads: Changes in Rural America,” a traveling exhibit produced by the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main Street program in partnership with Mass Humanities. The exhibition offers small towns a chance to look at their own paths to highlight the changes that affected their fortunes over the past century. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress. Crossroads will be on display in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center Feb. 5 - March 18, in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the town of Montague’s RiverCulture, the

Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Montague Public Libraries, and New England Public Media. For ages 6 and up

Holyoke Heritage State Park, 221 Appleton Street, Holyoke

Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Explore Holyoke's industrial history. Exhibits celebrate the city's rich blend of cultures and people. Special programs are offered year-round. Also located within the park are The Children's Museum, the restored antique Holyoke Merry-Go-Round and the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Visitor information available. Wheelchair accessible. For more information or directions, please call (413) 534-1723.

Mount Greylock State Reservation Visitor Center, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA

Open daily, 9:00am-4:00pm


The Visitor Center is the primary information and orientation site for visitors to Mount Greylock State Reservation. Located within a mix of open fields and woods and offers a spectacular panoramic view south across the Berkshire Hills and the Taconic Mountains. Dynamic exhibits and an orientation film explore the history and nature of the highest point in the Commonwealth. A recreational opportunity here includes an easy 1.8-mile loop hike along the Bradley Farm Interpretive Trail. Visitor information available. Wheelchair accessible. Call 413-499-4262 for more information.

Ongoing Resources

Public Skating. Ice skating is a great winter activity for people of all ages and abilities. Many ice-skating rinks have skate rentals and snack concessions. During school vacation week February 20- February 24 public skating hours are 10:00am - 2:50pm.

Self-Guided Opportunities. Visit our self-guided opportunities [page](#) to find a list of:

- Self-Guided Hikes
- Recommended Hikes
 - Introductory hikes for families and children and Signature hikes of that highlight the best park features
- Trip-Tips
 - The DCR **Trip-Tip** provides families with information and fun ideas to explore the great outdoors at DCR Massachusetts State Parks and Watersheds. With a little preparation and a sense of adventure, people of all ages can safely enjoy our beautiful outdoor spaces during the coldest months. Whether at one park, two parks or a multi-day adventure, **Trip-Tip** family adventures offer a variety of opportunities and activities to explore wildlife, woodlands, mountainsides, and the shore!
- Fun in Nature Series

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- Downloadable activities to enhance your experience at any DCR park! Fun and engaging activities include seek and find scavenger hunts to awaken all of your senses, a conversation starter set to encourage talks along the trail and creating your own story cube to inspire story- telling!
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