

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

345 Mountain Rd, Princeton, MA 01541, (978) 464-2987

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, 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/wachusett-mountain-state-reservation-trail-map/download>

Introductory Hike

Echo Lake

Trailhead: Park at Echo Lake Road off Mountain Road. **Lat/Long:**

Distance: 1.5 miles Round Trip **Difficulty:** Easy

Brief Description: Follow the fire road to Echo Lake, stay left to continue to Administration Road. Head southward on the gravel road to Machias Pond where it joins with Echo Lake Trail to return to vehicle parking area. Possibly jogger-stroller friendly.

Signature Hike

Pine Hill Trail to the Summit.

Trailhead: Park at the Visitor Center off Mountain Road. **Lat/Long:** 42.491631, -71.879723

Distance: 1.0 miles **Difficulty:** Moderately Strenuous

Brief Description: Take the Bicentennial Trail to Pine Hill Trail up to the Summit and return via the same route.

Signature Hike

Old Indian/Semuhenna Old Growth

Trailhead: Park in the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area parking lot off Bolton Road, between parking aisles 5 and 6. Follow signs for the Balance Rock Trail and Mid-State trails. **Lat/Long:** 42.503452, -71.886217

Distance: 3.8 miles Round Trip **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: Proceed a short distance (about .5 mile) to Balance Rock Road. Bear right on Balance Rock Road to Old Indian Trail. Continue on Old Indian when it merges with the Semuhenna Trail. Follow the trail as it crosses several ski slopes and climbs to the auto road. Cross the paved road and continue to climb approximately .5 mile to the summit. From the summit, follow the Harrington Trail in a southwest direction, and stay right to join Semuhenna Trail back down to the vehicle at the Balance Rock Trailhead/Ski Area Parking Lot.

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.*