

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

Wells State Park

159 Walker Pond Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566, (508) 457-0495

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

Signature Hike

Healthy Heart-Mill Pond Trail

Trailhead: Parking area **Lat/Long:** 42.14647, -72.06184

Distance: 1 **Difficulty:** Easy

Brief Description: Begin this short hike at the parking area, walk past the nature center to the Mill Pond Trail.

Signature Hike

North-South Trails loop

Trailhead: Parking area **Lat/Long:** 42.14647, -72.06184

Distance: 3.75 mi **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: From the parking area, head northwest along the park road to the North Trail trailhead, its upslope from here to a nice vista. Continue on to the junction with a trail that leads to a view from Carpenter's Rocks, you can side trip to this view, then return and continue on the South Trail, round to the park road. Follow the road back to the parking area.

Signature Hike

Mountain Rd Trail

Trailhead: Parking area **Lat/Long:** 42.14647, -72.06184

Distance: 2.75 **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: Head south along the park road to the Mountain Rd Trail trailhead. This is an old historic road, dating to the 1700s, further on it loops around the base of Walker Mountain. Walk along the lake, see steep ledges, on your return to connect with the park road back to the parking area.

Signature Paddle Walker Pond

Trailhead: boat launch **Lat/Long:** 42.14647, -72.06184

Distance: 2 mi **Difficulty:** Easy

Brief Description: Venture out on Walker Pond. From the boat launch it is about a mile to the far end. See what wildlife you might encounter at the southern end. Or try some fishing, the pond has a good variety of fish species.

Signature Bike Ride Walker Pond Rd/North-South Trails Ride

Trailhead: Parking area **Lat/Long:** 42.14647, -72.06184

Distance: 4.0 mi **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: This short ride begins at the parking area, heads back towards the entrance and up the Walker Pond Rd trail. Turn left a short distance north of the power lines and run along this trail to the Mill Pond Trail. Go straight to the park road and turn onto the North Trail and ride on up. Follow this to the South Trail and return on the park road.

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.*