

# Suggested MassParks Hikes!

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## Willard Brook State Forest

599 Main St, Townsend, MA 01474, 978 597-8802

To help you plan your visit to Willard Brook, we offer the following suggested hike and ride routes that we think visitors might enjoy. **Introductory hikes** are relatively short and appropriate for most users, including families with children. **Signature hikes** are recommended trail experiences that may be longer or more difficult, but that highlights some of the best features of this State Park.

### Introductory trail

#### Friends' Pearl Hill Loop

**Trailhead:** Begin at the parking lot near Pearl Hill Pond.

**Distance:** 2.5 miles, **Difficulty:** Moderate

**Brief Description:** *Begin on the Friends' Trail (Yellow Blaze) and then connect to the Friends' Pearl Hill State Park loop. This will loop back to the contact station.*

### Signature hike

#### Friends Trail (Orange) Loop

**Trailhead:** Begin at Damon Pond parking area off Route 119

**Distance:** 5.2 miles, **Difficulty:** Moderate

**Brief Description:** *Follow the Friends Trail (Orange-Blazed) to up to Fort Hill, then loop back down to Damon Pond.*



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## Things to Remember:

- **Time, distance, difficulty:** 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. Appropriate footwear is a must. Trails can be wet.
- **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** is usually not available. Bring plenty! Trailside sources should be treated.
- **Stay on designated trails:** Follow painted blazes and signs if available. 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 group size to 12 people or fewer to lessen impacts.
- **Carry-in, carry-out all trash:** Leave No Trace outdoor ethics are strongly encouraged. For more information visit <http://www.lnt.org/programs/principles.php>
- **Pets are generally permitted** on 10-foot maximum leash and under at all times. Please clean up after your pet and dispose of all waste outside of park. Be aware of local park rules and that not all users appreciate encountering pets, even when friendly.
- **Be aware that some trails are not well marked.**
- **Be aware of hunting seasons** and wear blaze orange when appropriate. For season info visit: [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/regulations/abstracts/hunting\\_dates.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/regulations/abstracts/hunting_dates.pdf)

