

Winter in Massachusetts is a magical time to enjoy the outdoors and discover our state's natural resources in a whole new way. The Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) invites you and your family to make the most of the season. From snowy forests and frosty views to festive events, our winter programs offer something for everyone. Enjoy guided hikes, wildlife walks, and nature-based interpretive programs. Or embrace the season with family-friendly activities and winter wellness programs.

Don't forget to check out the [DCR Ice Skating Rink Schedule](#). Public skating runs through April 12, 2026. Ice skating is a great winter activity for people of all ages and abilities. Many ice skating rinks have skate rentals (\$) and snack concessions. Call your local rink for availability.

Bundle up in your warm layers, grab your hat, mittens, and your curiosity, and scroll down for a select menu of program details. Visit the DCR [website](#) to see the full list of winter programming!

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## Winter Program Highlights by Date

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### December Events

#### December 7, 2025

- [Old Stone Church History Walk](#)

**Wachusett Reservoir Watershed**, meet at the Old Stone Church, 130 Beaman Street, West Boylston.

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

This popular landmark endured fire, flood, and collapse and has become a symbol of resilience through a changing landscape. Join us for a walking tour highlighting the history and recent site improvements of shoreline stabilization, walkway, and planting upgrades. Program is free and open to the public. Please note that dogs are not allowed on water supply protection lands. In the case of inclement weather, to check on event status please call 617-352-4044 or email [Kathryn.Parent@mass.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Parent@mass.gov).

#### December 14, 2025

- [Guided Museum Tour](#)

**Lawrence Heritage State Park**, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Join us for a 45-minute guided tour of our permanent museum exhibits, *Lawrence: A Planned Industrial City, City of Workers, and The People and Places That Shaped Lawrence*, and discover the important role Lawrence and its immigrant population played in the Industrial Revolution and Labor Movement. Best for ages 10 years and up. All programs are free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Accessible by MVRTA bus

routes 1, 3, 4, 9, and 12. Limited free parking available next to the Visitor Center on Mill Street. For more information and to confirm, please call (978) 794-1655.

### **December 21, 2025**

- [\*\*Uxbridge Greenway Hike\*\*](#)

**Blackston River Greenway**, Meet at the Adams Street parking area  
[bit.ly/adamsgw](https://bit.ly/adamsgw).

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Join DCR staff for a guided ~4-mile winter hike over a paved surface with mild inclines. Bathrooms are not available at this site; plan accordingly. Bring drinking water, a snack, and dress for the weather. Hike is free and open to the public.

Registration is not required. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Inclement weather will cancel. For more information and to confirm, please call (508) 278-7604.

### **December 29, 2025**

- [\*\*Ames Mansion Tour: Portrait of an Artist\*\*](#)

**Borderland State Park**, 259 Massapoag Avenue in North Easton

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Who was Blanche Ames? On this tour, we will learn about her artistic work, her passion, and her legacy. Explore the historic Ames Mansion on this free guided tour. Space is limited. All tours meet at the Ames Mansion, a short walk from the Visitor Center and parking lot. REGISTER at <https://tinyurl.com/Bordtour>. For more information and to confirm, please call (508) 238-6566.

## **January Events**

### **January 1, 2026**

- [\*\*First Day Hikes\*\*](#)

**Various locations across the state.**

Massachusetts is known for starting revolutions, so on January 1, 1992, when 380 people gathered for the premier First Day Hike at the Blue Hills Reservation it is no surprise that this Massachusetts outdoor initiative swept the nation. DCR celebrates over 30 years of this tradition in Massachusetts. And this year, all 50 states are offering First Day Hikes in state parks across the country! The 2026 DCR First Day Hike locations and schedule coming soon! Check the link for a guided First Day Hike at a DCR facility near you!

### **January 11, 2026**

- [\*\*Hike with the DCR Southeastern MA Adult Walking Club\*\*](#)

**Ellisville Harbor State Park**, 1861 State Road (Route 3A), Plymouth

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Join us for an easy, 2.5-mile walk to winter water views. We may see seals if it's sunny. Meet at dirt parking lot off Route 3A in South Plymouth. Approx. address: 1861 State Rd, Plymouth. The DCR Southeastern MA Adult Walking Club meets most weekends for social recreational walks. This club is open to people 16

years of age and older and there is no fee to join. New walkers are always welcome. Bring drinking water, a snack, and dress for the weather. Inclement weather will cancel. For more information and to confirm, please call (508) 272-9376.

### **January 18, 2026**

- **Winter Birding**

**Halibut Point State Park**, 4 Gott Avenue, Rockport

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Winter brings birds and ducks from frozen ponds up north to our seashore. See Harlequin Ducks and Common Loons among the winter visitors at this rocky coastal water's edge. Bundle up and join us for a short, leisurely walk while learning about bird sounds, habits, and flight patterns. Wear sturdy, warm footwear/boots/ice creepers, clothing layers, and wear sunscreen or a scarf to protect your face from coastal winds. Bring your binoculars. For all ages. No dogs, please. Inclement weather will cancel. For more information and to confirm, please call (978) 546-2997.

## **February Events**

### **February 8, 2026**

- **WWII Tower Tour: Watching the Coastal Edge**

**Halibut Point State Park**, 4 Gott Avenue, Rockport

After the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, U.S. enhanced defenses with coastal patrols and built a network of watch towers at ocean edges. One tower, completed in 1944, now serves as Halibut Point State Park's newly renovated Visitor Center. We'll provide a "tower tour/talk" about Halibut's military history and the cutting-edge technology for the time. Includes an opportunity to climb the five-story tower! For adults. For more information and to confirm, please call (978) 546-2997.

### **February 14 – 22, 2026**

- **February School Vacation Week Programming**

As part of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) commitment to providing safe and fun recreational opportunities for young people across the state, DCR is planning its lineup of February school vacation week programming. DCR will be offering families free, engaging and educational programs at state parks and watersheds ranging from guided hikes to animal tracking, craft making, and maple sugaring. Programs will run from Saturday, February 14, through Sunday, February 22, with the goal of inspiring kids to get outdoors and experience the beauty of the Massachusetts State Parks system. Check out our website closer to the date to see the final listing of programs. [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)