

Houghton's Pond Recreation Area

The Department of Conservation and Recreation invites you to spend the day and enjoy the calm, clear waters of Houghton's Pond in the scenic Blue Hills Reservation. Twenty-four acres in size and up to 42 feet in depth, Houghton's Pond is a spring-fed kettle hole pond formed by receding glaciers approximately 10,000 years ago. The Massachuseck Indians fished the pond and hunted the surrounding lands. From the colonial period through the late 1800's, several generations of the Houghton family farmed the area.

Today, the Houghton's Pond Recreation Area offers a variety of recreational activities including a supervised swimming beach, stocked fishing, 3 reservable picnic sites, 3 ball fields. The bathhouse, comfort station and concession pavilion are open seasonally. The Visitor Center is open year round.



The bathhouse includes 20 restrooms, 2 family changing rooms, terraced overlook, outdoor showers, outdoor changing rooms first aid and lifeguard office. The comfort station includes 8 restrooms. A universally accessible interpretive boardwalk and path leads from the parking area to the beach, with views overlooking Marigold Marsh.

SWIMMING AREA INFORMATION

The swimming area is supervised by DCR lifeguards in July and August, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, 7 days a week. All park visitors must follow the directions of the lifeguard and park staff at all times.

PICNIC SITE INFORMATION

- **Groups less than 25**
Picnic sites 1 and 2 are available for families and small groups of less than 25 persons only. The sites are available on a first come, first served basis. There is a limit of two DCR picnic tables per family or small group. Note: On weekdays Picnic Site 1 is reserved for Summer Camp use.
- **Groups of 25 or more**
Picnic Sites 3, 4 and 5 require reservations in advance and can accommodate larger groups. Please allow 2 weeks to process requests. The permit fee is \$50.00.

To reserve a picnic site, please send a letter with: name, address, cell #, contact person, date of event, arrival and departure times, number of adults and children. The request can be mailed to: Theresa Whitten, DCR, 695 Hillside St., Milton, MA 02186 or emailed to: Theresa.Whitten@state.ma.us or call 617-698-1802 x210.

BALL FIELD INFORMATION

To reserve a ball field, 617-727-5290 x509 or on the web at:
www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/recreational-activities/athletic-fields-and-facilities.html

HOLIDAY USE POLICY

For the week of July Fourth or Labor Day weekend, **all sites are first come, first served** for families and small groups only. Limit of two picnic tables per family.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

For your safety, please be aware of the following regulations:

- ◆ The parking lots close at 8 p.m. unless otherwise posted.
- ◆ No alcoholic beverages.
- ◆ Swimming is allowed only at the supervised beach at Houghton's Pond. No swimming beyond or hanging on the lines.
- ◆ No grills or open fires on the beach.
- ◆ Ground fires and wood fires are prohibited. Cooking fires of charcoal or propane are allowed in designated areas only.
- ◆ Pets must be leashed at all times and their waste removed.
- ◆ No horses or pets allowed on the beach or in the water at any time.
- ◆ No floatation devices.
- ◆ No masks or snorkels.
- ◆ No boats allowed on Houghton's Pond.
- ◆ No balls or frisbees on the beach.
- ◆ No fishing from the beach.
- ◆ No littering.
- ◆ No amplified sound.
- ◆ No metal detectors.
- ◆ Disruptive conduct including public nudity is forbidden.
- ◆ Destruction, injury or removal of animals, vegetation, artifacts or other state property is forbidden.

All visitors must follow the direction of park personnel or police. Any violation of these regulations may result in arrest and/or fine per order of 302 CMR 12.00.

DIRECTIONS

By car:

Take exit 3 (Houghton's Pond, Ponkapoag Trail exit) from Rte. 93. Follow the signs to Houghton's Pond.

By public transportation:

MBTA: Red Line (Ashmont Line) to Ashmont Station. Connect with Mattapan High Speed Line to Mattapan Square. Take the Mattapan to Canton Center bus route #716. (JBL Busline 781-843-4505)

For Houghton's Pond, follow the directions above, but stay on the bus past the Trailside Museum. Exit the bus at Blue Hill River Road in front of the Dunkin Donuts. Cross at the light and walk 1 mile to the left (east) on Blue Hill River Road to Houghton's Pond.

Bus runs Monday - Friday every hour, Saturday every 2 hours until 12pm only, No service on Sundays or Holidays. Call MBTA for details.

In an emergency, please call **911**.

For other issues, please call the Blue Hills Reservation at (617) 698-1802 or the 24-hour radio dispatch at (508) 820-1428.

MISSING PERSONS:

In the event that a member of your party becomes lost, please contact a lifeguard or any park staff immediately. All swimmers will be instructed to leave the water and remain on the beach while the lifeguards conduct a water search.

HOUGHTON'S POND RECREATION AREA

Blue Hills Reservation
Milton, Massachusetts
840 Hillside Street

