

Suggested MassParks Hikes and Rides!

Harold Parker State Forest

305 Middleton Road
N. Andover Ma. 01845

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

Recommended Mountain Bike

Explore the single track from Harold Parker Road

Trailhead: Park at the small parking area between A21 and A22, at about 25 Harold Parker Road.,

Lat/Long: 42.611216, -71.112688

Distance: Various, **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: *Explore the trails and forest roads that loop around Collins, Brackett, Delano and Bear Ponds. If you come to a paved road, turn around and explore some more. If you have time, explore the trails south of Harold Parker Road that loop around the north of Field Pond. Maps available*

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-north/harold-parker-state-forest.html>

Signature Hike

Yellow Diamond Trail

Trailhead: Park at the intersection of Jenkins and Harold Parker Road, Andover, and head out Berry Pond Road to the Yellow Diamonds., **Lat/Long:** 42.612955, -71.091237

Distance: 6.3 miles, **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: *This lollipop route provides a nice loop through mixed woodlands. It encircles Salem Pond offering scenic water views.*



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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

