

BLUE HILLS RESERVATION



Scale: 1:16,800
 1 INCH = 1,400 FEET
 PROJECTION: MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE NAD83 METERS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Park open dawn to dusk.

For the protection and enjoyment of the Blue Hills, the following are prohibited:

- Littering
- Open fires
- Metal detectors
- Alcoholic beverages
- Pets, except on a leash
- Hunting or trapping
- Posting or distributing leaflets
- Camping, except at AMC Camp with permit
- Motorized vehicles, except on public roads
- Disruptive conduct, including public nudity
- Group use of 25 or more, except with a DCR permit
- Destruction or removal of vegetation, animals, structures, artifacts, or other State property

In addition, the following activities are allowed in designated areas only:

- Parking
- Sporting activities
- Mountain bicycling
- Charcoal grills or fuel stoves
- Non-motorized boating at Ponkapoag Pond
- Swimming at Houghton's Pond with lifeguard supervision

All visitors must follow directions of park personnel or police. Any violations of these regulations may result in arrest and/or fine per order of 302 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations 12.00.

LEGEND

Blue Hills Reservation has over 120 miles of trails, including 40+ miles of recommended color-coded routes for easier navigation. These trails are blazed with painted markings that correspond to the map symbols listed to the right.

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Reservation Headquarters | | Stream |
| | Restroom (year-round, seasonal) | | Intermittent Stream |
| | Parking Area (large, small) | | Pond |
| | Swimming (seasonal) | | Wetland |
| | Snack Bar, Picnic Area | | Elevation Contours (20 foot interval) |
| | Playground | | Hilltop (with elevation) |
| | Skating Rink | | Town Boundary |
| | Canoe Launch | | Blue Hills Reservation |
| | Tennis, Basketball | | Other State Parkland |
| | Athletic Field/Court | | |
| | Building Footprint (within reservation) | | |
| | State Police | | |
| | Train Station | | |
| | MBTA Bus Stop | | |

RESERVATION ROADS AND TRAILS

- | | | | |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|
| | Narrow Trail | | Paved Path |
| | Wide Trail | | Bicycle Path |
| | Unpaved Road | | Boardwalk |
| | Paved Road | | Bridge |

INTERSECTION NUMBERS

The four-digit numbers seen on the map indicate trail intersections. Look for the small white signs with black numbers on trees or posts along trails. Find the corresponding number on the map to determine your location.

SKYLINE

The Skyline Trail crosses the length of the reservation and is marked with blue rectangular blazes. The trail climbs many of the peaks of the Blue Hills range, offering spectacular views over steep and rugged terrain.

There are two ways to explore the Skyline Trail:

Skyline Traverse travels an east-west route across the Blue Hills range. This is the longest and most challenging hike in the park, with steep and rocky terrain. This is not a loop trail so plan your transportation back to your starting point.
 7.5 miles - 4 to 7 hours - difficult

Skyline Loop Trail is a popular sampling of the Skyline Trail. It links the north and south branches of the Skyline Trail between the Reservation Headquarters and Elliot Observation Tower atop Great Blue Hill. This challenging route summits five hillsops over steep, rocky terrain. Follow the blue blazes from the headquarters, heading west toward Great Blue Hill.
 2.6 miles - 2 to 2.5 hours - difficult

LOOP TRAILS

Loop trails are marked with dots. They begin and end at the same point, at designated parking areas as marked on the map.

Yellow Dot Loops
 0.6-1 mile - 1 hour - easy
 Yellow dots mark short loops which enable you to enjoy parts of the reservation in a small amount of time.

Green Dot Loops
 2.7-4.25 miles - 2-2.25 hours - moderate
 Green dots mark several woodland loops which allow you to enjoy the natural beauty of the reservation.

Red Dot Loops
 1.3-3.8 miles - 1-2.25 hours - challenging
 Red dots mark rugged, rocky loops over hilly terrain providing a more challenging hike.

DIRECTIONAL LOOPS

Directional loop trails are marked with triangles, and both loops begin and end at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot. These are designed as rolling routes for a fun mountain bike ride or long woodland hike. The trails are marked in one direction only and are to be followed counterclockwise.

Forest Path Loop
 6 miles - moderate
 White triangles mark this rambling loop in the Houghton's Pond section. It offers a long woodland hike or novice-to-intermediate mountain bike ride.

Breakneck Ledge Loop
 4.5 miles - challenging
 Yellow triangles mark this hilly loop in the Great Blue Hill section. It provides a rocky, rugged experience for the advanced mountain biker or avid hiker.

NOTE: MAP INK COLORS MAY FADE WHEN EXPOSED TO SUNLIGHT. PRINTED WITH SOY INK ON RECYCLED PAPER.

STAY ON DCR-DESIGNATED TRAILS FOR SAFETY AND RESOURCE PROTECTION.

