



Energy and Environmental Affairs

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State Officials Encourage Residents to Get Outdoors for Free Black Friday Hikes

BOSTON – Wednesday, November 23, 2016 – On Friday, November 25, 2016, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is sponsoring free, guided Black Friday hikes in four state parks as part of the #OptOutside campaign created by Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) and supported by America’s state parks. Across the nation, more than two million people are planning to partake in the campaign by spending Black Friday outside while exercising and enjoying nature with friends and family.

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“During this Thanksgiving season, it is important that we all take time out of our busy days and appreciate the wonders of the natural world that surrounds us,” said **Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton**. “The DCR continues to prioritize a high level of access within our state parks system, and remains dedicated to protecting and enhancing the Commonwealth’s natural resources for the public to truly benefit from.”

DCR staff will lead Black Friday hikes, which average several miles in length depending on the trail, at four state parks located at different regions within the Commonwealth. Details about hike locations, difficulty, length, terrain, and tips regarding proper clothing are listed on DCR’s [website](#). Hikers are encouraged to tweet, post, and tag photos on social media using @MassDCR and #OptOutside.

“The Department of Conservation and Recreation has a long, proud history of offering fun, unique opportunities for children and their families to get out and enjoy nature as part of a healthy lifestyle,” said **DCR Commissioner Leo Roy**. “We are honored to join with REI and state parks across the country in encouraging park visitors to take these special hikes on Friday, which serve as another way to explore the great outdoors.”

The DCR’s Black Friday Hikes will occur at the following locations (in case of inclement weather, please call in advance):

Blue Hills Reservation, Milton, MA

Friday, November 25, 2016 10:00AM – One hike for people 16 years and older will be led by a DCR ranger, while visitors on the self-guided hike will follow the signs of the Yellow dot trail for a flat-one mile hike around Houghton’s Pond. For more information, call 617-698-1802.

- **DCR Ranger-led Hike**
Friday, November 25, 10:00AM
Meet at the Trailside Museum, north parking lot
1904 Canton Avenue, Milton
- **Self-guided Family Hike**
Houghton’s Pond main parking lot, 840 Hillside St, Milton

Borderland State Park, Easton, MA

Friday, November 25, 2016, 11:00AM – Meet at the Visitors Center, located at 259 Massapoag Avenue in North Easton. The hike is suitable for adults who manage moderately challenging trails. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water and a snack. Downpour, snow, or icy trails cancel. For more information, call 508-272-9376.

Greylock State Reservation, Lanesborough, MA

Friday, November 25, 2016 10:00AM – Meet at the Mount Greylock State Reservation Visitors Center, 30 Rockwell Road in Lanesborough, 1.5 miles off US Route 7 from the intersection with North Main Street. For more information, call 413-499-4262.

Harold Parker State Forest, Andover, MA

Friday, November 25, 2016 10:00AM – Suitable for children over 7 and parents carrying infants. Trails not suitable for strollers. Meet at the campground at 133 Jenkins Road in Andover. For more information, call 978-686-3391.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Leo Roy, the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass_parks@state.ma.us.

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