



# DCR South Region Hikes & Happenings Winter 2011 – 2012

- Blue Hills Reservation
- Blue Hills Trailside Museum
- Brook Farm Historic Site
- Chestnut Hill Reservation
- Cutler Park Reservation
- Elm Bank Reservation
- Hammond Pond Reservation
- Hancock Woods Reservation
- Hemlock Gorge Reservation
- Upper Neponset River Greenway
- Lost Pond Reservation
- Quincy Quarries Historic Site
- Stony Brook Reservation
- Upper Charles River Reservation
- Wilson Mountain Reservation

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**Sunday, December 4**                      **10 am – 1 pm**

## **Holiday Toy Drive & Mountain Bike Ride or Hike**

**Toy Drop-off & refreshments**      **10 am – 1 pm**

**Mountain Bike Ride**                      **10 am**

**Houghton's Pond Hike**                      **1 pm**

*Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.*

Join the DCR Park Rangers and volunteers from Blue Hills Trailwatch and New England Mountain Bike Association for our annual holiday toy drive collection. Bring a new unwrapped toy, then go on a guided or self-guided ride or hike. All toys will be donated to Interfaith Social Services which help deserving families during the holidays. Gifts for children ages 11-16 are most needed and appreciated. Call 617-698-1802 x 213 for more info

## **Blue Hills 2012 First Day Hikes**

**Sunday, January 1**

**Free hot & hearty soup at noon**

**All hikes begin at 1:00 pm**

*Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.  
Please arrive by 12:30 pm to allow sufficient time to access the event. Parking is limited.*

Celebrate the New Year in the Blue Hills. As the Grand Daddy of First Day Hikes, this is the twenty-first year of our annual New Year's tradition! Enjoy the winter woods. Warm up with a free cup of hearty soup, then stretch your legs on a variety of guided hikes suitable for all ages and abilities.

A perfect way to jump start the new year!

**For more information, call 617-698-1802.**

**Saturday, January 7** 9 am - 2 pm

## **Winter Trails Day**

*Meet at the Weston Ski Track at Leo J. Martin Golf Course at 200 Park Road in Weston. Call 781-891-6575 for more info.*  
New to snow sports? Try snowshoeing and cross country skiing at Weston Ski Track and discover the great fitness and social benefits with these easy-to-learn winter sports. Free demos, additional rentals for a fee. Visit [www.skiboston.com](http://www.skiboston.com) or call the number above for more information. See you on the trails!

**Saturday, January 14** 1 pm

## **Bare Trees Winter Walk**

*Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.*  
Venture with us on a brisk walk through bare tree silhouettes and stands of pine and hemlock, as we look at the trees and shrubs that weather winter. 1.5 hours

**Sunday, January 22** 1 pm

## **Hammond Pond Winter Ramble**

*Call 617-333-7404, x101 for registration and meeting place.*  
Join a DCR ranger on a winter stroll through the wooded trails and Roxbury Puddingstone outcroppings of Hammond Pond Reservation. We will also explore nearby Houghton Garden's historic trails in Newton. 1.5 hours

**Saturday, January 28** 1 pm

## **St. Moritz Winter Wonderland**

*Meet at the Shea Rink parking lot at 651 Willard Street in Quincy.*  
The St. Moritz area of Quincy was once the home to a huge winter carnival where elite athletes would perform, and locals could recreate. Join us as we discover the interesting history of this winter wonderland and explore its remnants, including where a 60-foot long 100-foot high ski jump once stood, on an easy hike. 2 hours.

**Tuesday, February 7** 6 pm

## **Hike Beneath the Hunger Moon**

*Email [Raymond.f.mckinnon@state.ma.us](mailto:Raymond.f.mckinnon@state.ma.us) for registration and meeting place.*  
Experience the Blue Hills in a whole new light. Everything changes after dark – the trails, the trees, and the hills. Join a DCR Ranger on a moon lit hike under the Hunger Moon as we wander the trails of the Blue Hills. 2 hours

**Saturday, February 11** 1 pm

## **Winter Family Fun Safari**

*Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.*  
Get the kids and grab your coats and hats as we explore what's happening in winter on a discovery hike around Houghton's Pond. 1.5 hours

**Sunday, February 19** 1 pm

## **Elm Bank Sledding Party**

*Meet at parking lot A in Elm Bank Reservation at 900 Washington Street in Wellesley.*  
Grab your sled and join a DCR Ranger for an old fashioned sledding party as we hit the slopes of Elm Bank Reservation. Bring your favorite sledding toy and we will provide the hot chocolate to keep you toasty. 1.5 hours

**Sunday, February 26** 2 pm - 4 pm

## **Frozen Fun**

### **at Reilly Memorial Skating Rink Chestnut Hill Reservation**

*Meet at the Reilly Memorial Skating Rink at 355 Chestnut Hill Ave, Cleveland Circle in Brighton*  
Join the DCR Rangers at Chestnut Hill Reservation for some winter fun. Enjoy some frozen fun on the ice at Reilly Rink or take an outdoor stroll with a ranger to look for signs of winter wildlife.  
Call 617-333-7404 x 101 for more info.

**Free Ranger – led  
Family winter hike  
from 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm**

**Free Public Ice Skating  
2:00 pm - 3:50 pm  
Skate rentals available for a fee**

**DCR Park Discovery  
from 2 pm – 4 pm**



# Blue Hills Adult Walking Club

## Blue Hills Reservation & South Region Sites

### Winter 2011- 2012

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## Welcome

The Blue Hills Adult Walking Club is a group of adults that meets on a weekly basis for recreational walks. The purpose of these walks is social exercise. There is no fee to join and everyone 16 or older is welcome. Walks are normally 2 to 5 miles.

The terrain can vary:

- ▲ EASY (mostly level terrain)
- ▲▲ MODERATE (hilly terrain)
- ▲▲▲ DIFFICULT (strenuous & steep)

Walks will be lead by a park ranger or a Walking Club volunteer leader. Occasionally, the Walking Club meets at other DCR sites or car pools to sites within the Blue Hills Reservation. The rangers recommend wearing hiking boots and bringing drinking water on all hikes.

**Enjoy the programs and keep walking!**

## December

**Sunday, December 4**

**Holiday Toy Drive & Hike**

**10 am – 1 pm Toy Drop**

**1 pm Easy Woodland Walk**

Join Santa and friends for refreshments in the Houghton's Pond Visitor Center beginning at 10:00 am. Join an easy stroll at 1 pm. Please bring a new unwrapped children's gift as a contribution to Interfaith Social Services which helps families in need during the holidays. Gifts for children ages 11 – 16 are most needed and appreciated.

▲ **Easy walk, 2 miles at 1pm**

Loop around Houghton's Pond and old Rte. 128

Meet at Houghton's Pond Visitor Center at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

**Saturday, December 10**

**Blue Hills Walking Club Holiday Gathering**

**1 – 3 pm**

*Meet at Brookwood Farm Conference Center at 11 Blue Hill River Road in Canton.*

Join us as we celebrate the holiday season at scenic Brookwood Farm. Hot beverages will be provided. Please bring a holiday treat to share. Stroll through the fields and woodlands with friends or share some holiday cheer by the warmth of the fire.

**Saturday, December 17**                      **1 pm**

▲▲  
Moderate walk, some hills, 4 miles. Old Rte. 128 to Beech Hollow and Doe Hollow. Return via the green dot trail. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot on 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

## January

### First Day Hikes 2012

**Sunday, January 1**

**Free hot & hearty soup at noon**

**All hikes begin at 1:00 pm**

*Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.*

Celebrate the New Year in the Blue Hills. This is the twentieth year of our New Year's tradition! Join the fun. Warm up with a free cup of hearty soup, then stretch your legs on a variety of guided hikes suitable for all ages and abilities. A great way to jump start the new year! For more information, call 617-698-1802.

**Sunday, January 8**                              **1 pm**

▲▲  
Easy/moderate walk, 3 miles. A figure eight around Houghton's Pond and Tucker Hill. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

**Sunday, January 15**                              **1 pm**

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Moderate walk, some hill, 3 + miles. Walk through Stony Brook Reservation in Hyde Park. Meet at the Bajko Rink parking lot at 75 Turtle Pond Parkway in Hyde Park.

**Saturday, January 21**                              **1 pm**

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Moderate walk, some hilly terrain, 3.5 miles. Meadow Road to Three Pines Trail to No Name Trail. Meet at the Donovan School at 123 Reed St. in Randolph.

**Sunday, January 29**                              **1 pm**

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Moderate walk, hilly terrain, 3.5 miles. Walk the St. Moritz green dot loop. Meet at the Shea Rink parking lot at 651 Willard Street in Quincy.

## February

**Saturday, February 4**                              **1 pm**

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Moderate walk, hilly terrain, 3.5 miles. Walk the green dot loop in the Great Blue Hill section via Wolcott Path. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

**Sunday, February 12**                              **1 pm**

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Moderate walk, some hilly terrain, 4 miles. Loop around Ponkapoag Pond. Meet at the Ponkapoag Golf Course parking lot at 2173 Washington Street in Canton.

**Saturday, February 18**                              **1 pm**

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Moderate walk, hilly terrain, 3 miles. Headquarters Path to Doe Hollow Path and return via Bugbee Path. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

**Saturday, February 25**

**1 pm**

▲▲  
Moderate walk, rolling terrain, 2+ miles. Loop through Little Blue Hill section. Meet at Little Blue Hill Park and Ride lot on Route 138 in Canton.

**Things to know before you go**

- Wear sturdy footgear and dress in layers
- Carry drinking water on all hikes
- Hiking poles may be helpful
- We will hike unless the weather creates unsafe conditions
- If weather conditions are questionable, please call the reservation headquarters at 617.698.1802, extension 3

**All programs are free !**