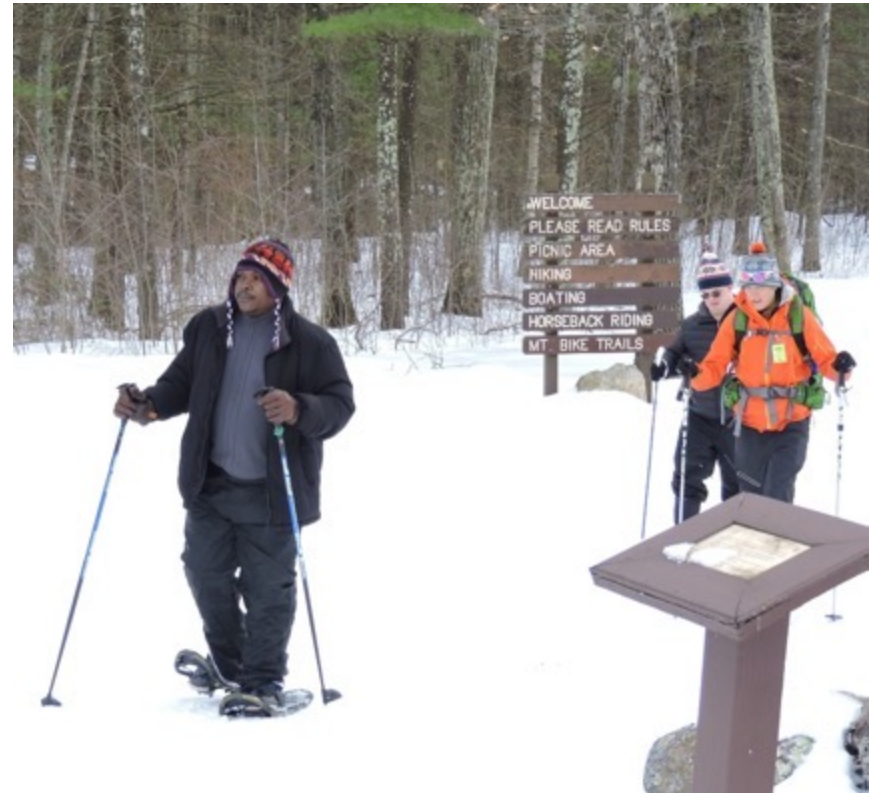


# DCR's Universal Access Program

---



# Agenda



Welcome



About Us



Adaptive Programs



Accessible Recreation Opportunities

# About Us

- The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) manages state parks and oversees more than 450,000 acres throughout Massachusetts. It protects, promotes, and enhances the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
- DCR's **Universal Access Program** (UAP) provides outdoor recreation opportunities in Massachusetts state parks, forests, pools and rinks for visitors of all abilities.

dcr

*Massachusetts*





## About Us

Tom McCarthy – Director

Marcy Marchello – Recreation Manager

Rachael Lee – Site Accessibility Specialist

Matthew Mitchell – Equipment Specialist

Mariah Fontaine – Recreation Specialist

Kristen Rhodes – Outreach Coordinator







# Universal Access Program

- Accessible recreation programs
- Specialized adaptive recreation equipment
- Site improvements
- Supporting the agency in Universal Access

# Our Partners

- Funded Programs
  - We contract several recreation organizations to run the programs for us
- Supported Programs
  - Universal Access also supports partners in providing non-DCR funded programs at DCR locations - often by helping with arrangements, providing adaptive equipment and accessible portable toilets.



SPAULDING™  
REHABILITATION NETWORK



Holyoke Rows



**All Out Adventures**  
outdoor recreation for people of all abilities



**easterseals**  
Massachusetts

WAYPOINT



ADVENTURE



# Happening Now! Winter Programs

- [Ice Skating](#)
- [Outdoor Skating](#)
- [Cross-Country Skiing](#)
- [Sit-Skiing](#)
- [Snowshoeing](#)
- [Kick Sledding](#)



## Adaptive Ice Skating

- Includes conventional ice skates, ice sleds, ice grippers, skate walkers, or slide around ice on your manual or power chair.
- Admission and equipment provided **free of cost**.
- Offered at:
  - Fitzpatrick Skating Rink in Holyoke
  - Buffone Skating Rink in Worcester
  - Porrazzo Skating Rink in East Boston
- To register: [Kristen.Rhodes@mass.gov](mailto:Kristen.Rhodes@mass.gov)





## Outdoor Recreation Opportunities With Waypoint Adventure

- Leo J. Martin Ski Track, Weston
- Mt. Tom State Reservation, Holyoke
- Register:
  - [waypointadventure.org](http://waypointadventure.org)
  - click on “REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM”
  - find program in list and click “express register”



## Outdoor Recreation Opportunities With All Out Adventures

- Wendell State Forest, Wendell
- Dunn State Park, Gardner
- Register:
  - [alloutadventures.org](http://alloutadventures.org)
  - click on “View Program Calendar”
  - mouse over program and chose “Register online” or call (413) 584-2052



## Supported Programs

- Sled Hockey with Spaulding Adaptive Sports at Allied Veterans Rink in Everett
- Downhill skiing at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation in Princeton with Spaulding Adaptive Sports and Wachusett Mountain Ski Area
- Register at [sasc.spauldingrehab.org](http://sasc.spauldingrehab.org)
- For more information, call (877) 976-7272 or email [SpauldingAdaptiveSports@partners.org](mailto:SpauldingAdaptiveSports@partners.org)



## Universal Access Outdoor Connections

Please join us on Zoom at Universal Access Outdoor Connections! A time to find out about and share your experience with accessible and adaptive programs in DCR Parks.

Date and Time	Topic
January 20, 10am	Winter Recreation- DCR Programs, Parks and Trails
February 17, 10am	Partnering with DCR Parks for Programs and Groups
March 17, 10am	Accessible Hiking in DCR Parks
April 21, 10am	Birding in DCR Parks
May 19, 10am	Summer Programs and Opportunities



[Zoom Link](#)





## Adaptive Equipment

- Available at select locations for independent use: beach wheelchairs, pool lifts, ice sleds
- Limited to program use: trails chairs, adaptive bikes, kayaks



# Spring/Summer Programs



- Hiking
- Cycling
- Rowing
- Kayaking
- Golf
- Swimming



# Summer Recreation Opportunities With Waypoint Adventure

- Hiking
  - Across the state
- Kayaking/Paddling
  - Walden Pond
  - Charles River
- Register:
  - [waypointadventure.org](http://waypointadventure.org)
  - click on “[REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM](#)”
  - find program in list and click “express register”







# Summer Recreation Opportunities With All Out Adventures

- Kayaking/Paddling
  - D.A.R. State Forest, Goshen
  - Cochituate State Park, Natick
  - Quinsigamond State Park, Worcester
- Cycling
  - Norwottuck Rail Trail, Hadley
- Register:
  - [alloutadventures.org](http://alloutadventures.org)
  - click on “[View Program Calendar](#)”
  - mouse over program and chose “Register online” or call (413) 584-2052



# Swimming Program with Easterseals MA

- Bennett Field Pool, Worcester
- Free
- Fun safety activities and water games
- 6 week recreational program (NOT swim lessons)
- Open to individuals with disabilities of all ages and their families





# Golf with MPGA

- Massachusetts ParaGolfer Association (MPGA )
  - Adaptive golf lessons
  - Recreational programs
  - Competitive events
- For more information, register for lessons, or to schedule a round of golf, please Email: [MPGA](#) or Call (508) 889-7581.



# Adaptive Golf Equipment

SoloRider

Paragolfer





# Rowing With Holyoke Rows

Jones Ferry, Holyoke







# DCR Programs, Parks, and Trails

- How to find interpretive programs and request accommodations
- How to find accessible parks and trails



## DCR Park Interpretive Programs & Calendars

- Free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children.
- Reasonable accommodations available upon request.
- In case of inclement weather, confirm by calling the park.
- [Parking fees may apply.](#)
- Please follow all current COVID guidelines. Visit [mass.gov/COVID](https://mass.gov/COVID).
- Go to [mass.gov/dcr](https://mass.gov/dcr) → [DCR Programs and Events](#) → [Interpretive Programs](#)





# Accessible Parks

- [mass.gov/dcr](https://mass.gov/dcr) → “Find a park”
- Type in address and select from list
- Scroll through, click on “Get directions and more information”
- Look for ACCESSIBLE icon and Accessibility link in menu
- If you can’t use the park finder, contact UAP



## Requesting Accommodations

Call

Call the park where you would like to visit or attend the program

- Find the number on the DCR website
- Or reach out to Universal Access and we can help you find the number

Share

Share when you will be going

Request

Request specialized accommodations



## DCR Accessible Trails

- Find a trail:  
[mass.gov/dcr/access](https://mass.gov/dcr/access)  
→ [Accessible hiking trails](#)
- Call the park and ask about current conditions and access



# DCR Accessible Beaches and Pools

- Find Accessible Swimming:  
[mass.gov/dcr/access](https://mass.gov/dcr/access) → [Accessible swimming](#)
  - [Find Accessible Beach](#)
  - [Find Accessible Pool](#)
  - [Find Locations with Beach Wheelchairs](#)
  - [Beach Water Quality](#)
  - [Parking](#)





# Beach Adaptive Equipment

## Beach Wheelchairs

- 2 Styles
- 75 Beach Wheelchairs in 32 Statewide Locations
- 32 Beach Wheelchairs in 16 Boston Locations

## Beach Mat

- 15 locations
- Over 2200 feet





## DCR Accessible Camping

- Find a campsite: Reserve a campsite | Mass.gov
- You can reserve a site any time between one day and 4 months before your arrival date.
- There is a 2-day minimum stay at most campsites.
- You can stay for a total of 14 days at each campground between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
- Accessible camping is offered at selected campgrounds.







# Thank you and keep in touch!

- [Mass.gov/dcr/access](https://www.mass.gov/dcr/access)
- [Kristen.Rhodes@mass.gov](mailto:Kristen.Rhodes@mass.gov)
- (857) 319-2168