



## TRAIL MAP &amp; GUIDE

WELCOME TO THE  
SOUTHEASTERN  
MASSACHUSETTS  
BIORESERVE TRAILS

FALL RIVER, FREETOWN, &amp; DARTMOUTH

The 16,000-acre Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve was the state's first bioreserve, formed in 2000 by a unique agreement between public and private partners. These lands are permanently protected and managed cooperatively in a manner to preserve the functionality of this large-scale ecosystem and promote biodiversity, conservation, water supply protection, and scientific, educational, and recreational opportunities.

## EXPLORING THE TRAILS

From Profile Rock to Miller Lane, and from Mowry Path to Boiling Spring, the Bioreserve woods roads and hiking trails provide almost 50 miles of exploration and adventure. Whether you are an advanced hiker/mountain biker or a beginner, you are sure to find trails to suit your interests. The Bioreserve is a big area. The key to enjoying your experience here is to make a plan and be prepared.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Be sure to bring food, water, a map, and a compass
- Wear sturdy footwear and adequate clothing
- Wear blaze orange during the hunting season
- Use insect repellent

## ON THE TRAILS

Most Bioreserve trail intersections are numbered and marked. Frequently check your location on the map and take note of landmarks to help you find your way. If you become lost, don't panic. Sit down, remain calm, and try to retrace your steps with the help of the map. A few moments of thought will most likely help you regain your route. Take care when walking across public roads and utility easements.

## RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY

On occasion, a trail may lead to a private residence or may cross private property. Please respect the rights of the property owners. Avoid approaching houses. Stay on trails when crossing private tracts.



Hikers enjoy the Big Walk, the Bioreserve's signature event held each May.

(Photo credit: The Trustees of Reservations)

Funding was provided in part by a grant from the Recreation Trails Program, which is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In Massachusetts, funds are administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), in partnership with the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board. Special thanks go to The Trustees of Reservations GIS and Communications & Marketing departments for their generous in-kind match to this project.

## WHAT IS A BIORESERVE?

A bioreserve is a large land area permanently protected from development and managed to ensure the long-term health of its natural resources. The Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve is the first of several strategically located bioreerves in the Commonwealth dedicated to preserving biodiversity in several of the state's major ecoregions.

## VISITOR GUIDANCE

## GENERAL RULES

No camping, fires, or alcoholic beverages are allowed and there are no areas for swimming or boating in the Bioreserve.

WATUPPA RESERVATION  
HEADQUARTERS

2929 Blossom Road, Fall River  
508.324.2749

The former Barnabas Blossom Farm is the operations center for water department activities in the southern portion of the Bioreserve. The maintenance yard is not open to the public.

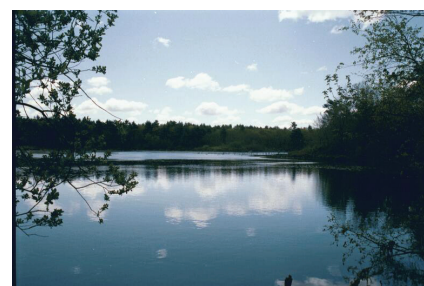
## DCR FOREST

## HEADQUARTERS &amp; DAY USE

110 Slab Bridge Road, Assonet  
508.644.5522

## FACILITIES

- Splash/wading pool with spray features open late June to Labor Day. Facility is zero-entry, handicapped accessible (3200 sq. ft. – depth 1.5 ft.). Staff and lifeguard on duty as available.
- Public restrooms, handicapped accessible
- Open-air pavilion (20'x60') available in day-use area
- Picnic tables and fireplaces
- Special-use permits available
- Self-guided trail, downloadable trail map available



Copicut Reservoir.  
(Photo credit: The Trustees of Reservations)

## PARKING AND ACCESS

Fourteen designated parking areas are available throughout the Bioreserve.

## FISHING IN COPICUT RESERVOIR

Shoreline fishing only. No wading or watercraft allowed. No fishing in North Watuppa Pond. People age 15 years and older must have a valid MA Fishing/Sporting License. Access permitted during daylight hours only. Use of lead sinkers prohibited. No swimming, wading and watercraft of any kind allowed in reservoir. No disposal of any materials or acts that pollute the water supply. No ice fishing allowed. Fishing is allowed in Rattlesnake Brook and Assonet Ledge Pond. For more information visit [www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/](http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/)

## HUNTING

No waterfowl hunting is allowed in Copicut Reservoir. Upland game hunting allowed on all Bioreserve properties with the exception of Copicut Woods (The Trustees) east of Yellow Hill Road and adjacent Miller Brook Conservation Area. In Fall River, local ordinance prohibits firearm discharge within 825 feet of a dwelling.

## DOG WALKING

Dogs are welcome in the Freetown-Fall River State Forest and Copicut Woods. Dogs are not allowed on Water Department properties.

## HORSE RIDING

Equestrian trails in Freetown-Fall River State Forest only. Horse trailer parking at State Forest Headquarters on Slab Bridge Road.

## AUTOMOBILES

Cars and trucks may drive on Payne, Makepeace, and Cedar Swamp Roads and on Ledge, Upper Ledge, and Lower Ledge Roads in the Freetown-Fall River State Forest. These appear in yellow on the map.

## MOTORCYCLES

Dirt bikes allowed in Freetown-Fall River State Forest on designated trails from May to November. Motorcycle trailer parking is allowed on Bell Rock Road only. These appear in purple on the map.

## OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

All vehicles prohibited from all other Bioreserve and watershed lands. All vehicles prohibited from all electric and gas-line easements. ATVs not allowed in Bioreserve. Violators subject to prosecution. Fines of \$500 imposed.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Trustees of Reservations and the Friends of the Watuppa Woods host monthly guided walks throughout the bioreserve and region. Call 508.636.4693 for a seasonal events calendar.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**Bristol County Chamber of Commerce**

508.676.8226

[www.bristolcounty-chamber.org](http://www.bristolcounty-chamber.org)

## MASSWILDLIFE

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Field Headquarters  
1 Rabbit Hill Road  
Westborough, MA 01581  
508.792.7270  
[www.masswildlife.org](http://www.masswildlife.org)



The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) is responsible for the conservation, including protection, restoration and management, of Massachusetts's native flora and fauna for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. Specifically, the agency's charge is the stewardship of all wild amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, and freshwater and diadromous fishes, as well as endangered, threatened, and special concern species, including native wild plants and invertebrates. In order to protect and perpetuate ecosystems that contain significant fish and wildlife resources, conserve biological diversity, and provide adequate routes for public access to lands and waters, one of the agency's highest priorities is habitat acquisition.

MassWildlife has conserved and manages more than 200,000 acres of habitat statewide including wildlife management areas, public access points to the coastal and inland waters, wildlife sanctuaries and conservation restrictions on both public and private lands. These areas are extremely valuable to the long-term conservation of fish and wildlife resources and they provide exceptional opportunities for the public to enjoy passive wildlife-dependent outdoor recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, wildlife viewing, and photography. To learn more about the Division's programs and recreational opportunities on our lands please visit [www.masswildlife.org](http://www.masswildlife.org) or contact [mass.wildlife@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.wildlife@state.ma.us).

MA DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSERVATION &  
RECREATION

251 Causeway Street  
Suite 600  
Boston, MA 02114-2104  
617.626.1250  
[www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)



The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, manages approximately 485,000 acres of forests, parks, greenways, trails, historic sites and landscapes, seashores, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and watersheds. From Mount Greylock in the Berkshires to the Blue Hills south of Boston to the sandy shores of Cape Cod, this diverse system of public conservation and recreation properties includes unfragmented forest land, critical habitat, lakes, ponds and beaches, bike trails, scenic areas, picnic grounds, and camping areas.

The agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the well-being of all; and to cooperate and partner with those who share this common purpose. To learn about DCR and discover more about the parks, programs, and recreational opportunities within the Massachusetts state parks, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr) or contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).

*State lands may be owned solely by DCR, MassWildlife, or jointly held. Specific ownership details not shown on this map.*

THE TRUSTEES OF  
RESERVATIONS

200 High Street  
Boston, MA 02110  
617.542.7696  
[www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org)



The Trustees are more than 100,000 people like you from every corner of Massachusetts. We love the outdoors. We love the distinctive charms of New England. And we believe in celebrating and protecting them – for ourselves, for our children, and for generations to come. We own and care for more than 100 special places across the state, all of which are open for the public to enjoy.

A Trustees membership will open a world of new experiences, give you access to your favorite activities, and provide rewarding opportunities for you to get involved. To join, please call 978.921.1944 or email us at [membership@thetrustees.org](mailto:membership@thetrustees.org). Learn more at [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org).

## CITY OF FALL RIVER

Water Department  
One Government Center  
Fall River, MA 02720  
508.324.2330  
[www.fallriverma.org](http://www.fallriverma.org)



The City of Fall River Water Department protects and manages over 7,800 acres of land and water resources in Fall River and surrounding towns. The department supplies water to more than 100,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in the Greater Fall River area. Fundamental to that operation is the care and control of the extensive watershed forests that surround its two drinking water supply reservoirs – the North Watuppa Pond and Copicut Reservoir. Both water bodies reside within the boundaries of the city. Together, they have a safe daily yield of over 16 million gallons.



The Trustees' Youth Corps monitors water quality in the Bioreserve. (Photo credit: The Trustees of Reservations)

## COOPERATORS

Cooperators protect land in or adjacent to the Bioreserve, have compatible land-use policies, and generally support the goals of the Bioreserve Partners.

DARTMOUTH NATURAL  
RESOURCES TRUST

318 Chase Road  
Dartmouth, MA 02747

Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) is a nonprofit, membership-supported land trust, formed in 1971 by community members concerned about the future of Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Over the years, DNRT has helped permanently protect over 5,000 acres of wetlands, wildlife habitat, farmland, forests, and scenic landscapes in Dartmouth. DNRT currently owns more than 1,700 acres of conservation land on over 50 Reserves, and maintains more than 30 miles of trails open to the public. For trail maps and more information, visit [www.dnrt.org](http://www.dnrt.org) or call 508.991.2289.

## ALLIES

Allies regularly support the Bioreserve Partners through advocacy, education and programming, science, land conservation, and local action.

FRIENDS OF THE FREETOWN-FALL  
RIVER STATE FOREST

PO Box 171  
Assonet, MA 02702

## GREEN FUTURES

[www.greenfutures.org](http://www.greenfutures.org)

## BUZZARDS BAY COALITION

[www.savebuzzardsbay.org](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org)

WESTPORT LAND  
CONSERVATION TRUST

[www.westportlandtrust.org](http://www.westportlandtrust.org)

WESTPORT RIVER  
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

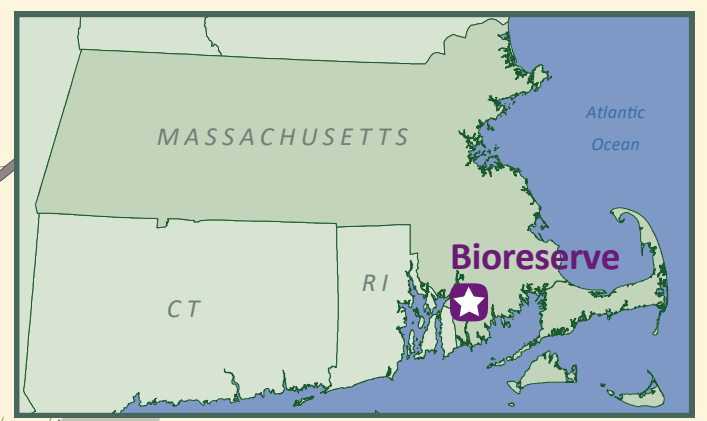
[www.westportwatershed.org](http://www.westportwatershed.org)

TAUNTON RIVER  
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

[www.savethetaunton.org](http://www.savethetaunton.org)



# southeastern massachusetts BIORESERVE



Map update June 2019.

Abbreviations:  
 DCR - Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
 MassWildlife - Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
 WMA - Wildlife Management Area  
 DNRT - Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust  
 BBC - Buzzards Bay Coalition



**NO TRAILS OPEN TO MOTORCYCLES SOUTH OF THIS POINT**

**NO TRAILS OPEN TO MOTORCYCLES SOUTH OF THIS POINT**

## LEGEND

- |   |              |                            |
|---|--------------|----------------------------|
| Dept of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) | Wetlands     | Self-guided Trails         |
| MassWildlife                              | Public Roads | Graded Dirt Roads          |
| Joint DCR and MassWildlife Land           | Rough Roads  | Trails Open to Motorcycles |
| Municipal Land                            | Woods Roads  | Streams                    |
| Nonprofit Conservation Land               | Foot Trails  | Elevation Contour (10ft)   |
| Restricted Access                         |              |                            |

- |              |                              |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Headquarters | Feature                      |
| Parking      | 1. Profile Rock              |
| Gate         | 2. Assonet Ledge             |
| Intersection | 3. Bell Rock                 |
|              | 4. Hog's Rock                |
|              | 5. Doctor Durfee's Mill Pond |
|              | 6. Esker Trail               |
|              | 7. Mowry Path                |
|              | 8. Corduroy Path             |
|              | 9. King Philip's Spring      |
|              | 10. Copicut Hill Fire Tower  |
|              | 11. Miller Lane              |
|              | 12. Boiling Spring           |

0 0.25 1 mi