

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **SPRING HAS SPRUNG IN MASSACHUSETTS**

*State Offers Plethora of Places to Get Outside this Spring*

**April 6, 2009 (Massachusetts)** – The ground has thawed, the days are growing longer, and birds are chirping – spring has officially arrived in Massachusetts! So grab your friends and family and hurry outside to enjoy the warmer weather.

From bike paths to golf courses to nature reserves and parks, residents and visitors alike will find a variety of places to get outside and play across the state.

The following is a list of activities and events taking place throughout the state this spring. Please visit [www.massvacation.com](http://www.massvacation.com) for additional information and to learn more about the free Mass Value Pass, which offers discounts of up to 25% at over 400 hotels, restaurants and attractions. The Mass Value Pass promotion runs from April 13 until June 30.

### **Run, Walk, or Bike!**

#### **Ashuwillticook Rail Trail**

Bring your bike, roller blades or walking shoes to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, a former railroad corridor converted into a 10-foot wide paved, universally accessible, passive recreation path. The 11-mile trail passes through the Hoosic River Valley, between the Mount Greylock and the Hoosac Mountain Ranges. Cheshire Reservoir, the Hoosic River, and associated wetlands flank much of the trail offering outstanding views of the scenery and abundant wildlife. Equipment rentals are available at Berkshire Outfitters (413-743-5900). The trail is open year round, dawn to dusk.

**Cost:** Free

Lanesborough, Cheshire, Adams

413-442-8928

[www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/asrt.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/asrt.htm)

#### **Minuteman Bikeway**

The Minuteman Bikeway is an 11-mile bike path that runs through Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge, passing through the historic area where the American Revolution began in April 1775. In June 2008, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy inducted the Minuteman Bikeway into the national Rail-Trail Hall of Fame. The trail is open year round from 5:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, Cambridge

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

#### **Cape Cod Rail Trail**

The Cape Cod Rail Trail follows a former railroad right-of-way for 22 miles through the towns of Dennis, Harwich, Brewster, Orleans, Eastham and Wellfleet. Its paved surface, few hills, and well-marked automobile crossings make it ideal for cyclists. The trail has a wide unpaved shoulder on one side to accommodate horseback riding, walkers, and runners. There are many opportunities to get off the trail and visit a beach, and food, water, public restrooms and bike rental shops are available at many points along the way.

**Cost:** Free

South Dennis

508-896-3491

[www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/ccrt.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/ccrt.htm)

### **Salem Cycle Group Rides**

Pedal off those winter pounds in a fun, friendly and slightly competitive group ride with Salem Cycle. Taking place on Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings, Salem Cycle's group rides are designed for riders of all levels, from beginners learning the basics to intermediate and experienced riders looking for a relaxing social ride.

**Cost:** Call for pricing information.

Salem

978-741-2222

[www.salemcycle.com](http://www.salemcycle.com)

Also, check out <http://www.massbike.org/> for an array of bike tours, trails and trips for all levels of riders.

### **Golf Courses**

#### **Cape Ann Golf Course**

Play a round of golf on this scenic public course set among the marshes in Cape Ann and see a beautiful ocean view from the fourth tee. The course was built on hilly terrain and features well-manicured greens and sand bunkers spread throughout its entire design. The course includes a putting green, pro shop, pull carts and power carts, and food available.

**Cost:** \$22 for 9 holes; \$37 for 18 holes. Senior rate is \$19 for 9 holes; \$32 for 18 holes.

Essex

978-768-7544

[www.capeanngolf.com](http://www.capeanngolf.com)

#### **Cranwell Resort, Spa and Golf Club**

Named one of the "100 Must-Play Courses of New England" by *Golf Styles Boston Magazine*, Cranwell's championship 18-hole golf course combines spectacular views with challenging golf. The course is open to the public or seasonal memberships are available that include advance tee times, unlimited driving range privileges, discounted access to the resort's spa and pool, as well as shopping and dining discounts. The course opens early-to-mid April, weather dependent.

**Cost:** Spring fees are \$39-\$79 per person, depending on day of week and number of holes.

Lenox

800-272-6935

[www.cranwell.com/golf\\_recreations.php](http://www.cranwell.com/golf_recreations.php)

#### **Falmouth Country Club**

Falmouth Country Club is a challenging 27-hole public golf course not far from the Atlantic beaches, cranberry bogs and all that is Cape Cod. Walk or ride the championship 18-hole, par 72 course, or enjoy the 9-hole, par 37 "Talon" course. Take note of a majestic pair of ospreys patrolling the water from their nest on the 10th hole. Falmouth Country Club is open year round.

**Cost:** Rates range from \$20-35, depending on day of week and number of holes.

East Falmouth

508-548-3211

[www.falmouthcountryclub.com](http://www.falmouthcountryclub.com)

### **Cyprian Keyes Golf Club**

Cyprian Keyes Golf Club is a daily-fee golf club offering 27 holes of golf on an 18-hole championship course and a 9-hole par 3. During April vacation, the Club will be offering a Junior Golf School run by PGA professionals. The course is open to the public seven days a week, from mid-March to mid-November, weather permitting.

**Cost:** 9-hole Par 3 fees range from \$9.00-18.00, 18-Hole Championship Course is \$43.00-66.00

Boylston

508-869-9900 ext. 37

[www.cypriankeyes.com](http://www.cypriankeyes.com)

### **Pine Oaks Golf Course**

Pine Oaks is a public golf course designed for players of all skill levels. The 18-hole course offers five different sets of tee markers on every hole, so golfers can choose the best level of play for them. The course also boasts an advanced yardage marker system that makes choosing the right club easier and faster. Grab a bite to eat at the Wood Bar and The Iron Grill after the game.

**Cost:** Rates range from \$13-33, depending on day of week and number of holes.

South Easton

508-238-2320

[www.pineoaks.com](http://www.pineoaks.com)

### **Franklin Park Golf Course**

Also known as the William J. Devine Golf Course, this 18-hole public golf facility is the second oldest public course in America. Considered one of the finest jewels in "Olmstead's Emerald Necklace," this venerable old course offers a pleasant inner-city golfing experience only minutes from downtown Boston. Golf legend Bobby Jones often practiced at Franklin Park Golf Course while attending Harvard, and specifically used the land adjacent to the twelfth hole as a practice area. He went on to win "The Grand Slam" of golf.

**Cost:** Rates range from \$14 to \$34 depending upon residency, day of the week and number of holes

Dorchester

617-265-4084

[www.newtoncommonwealthgolfcourse.com/franklin/index2.htm](http://www.newtoncommonwealthgolfcourse.com/franklin/index2.htm)

## **Outdoor Adventure**

### **Zoar Outdoor**

Take your family, friends, or colleagues whitewater rafting on the Deerfield River's most popular rafting section, Zoar Gap. With a minimum age of seven, these Class II and III whitewater rapids are ideal for beginner and intermediate rafters. Zoar Outdoor also offers canoeing, kayaking, fly fishing, biking and rock climbing. Beginning in June, Zoar will also be conducting zip lining tours through Deerfield Valley Canopy Tours. Tours are conducted April 15-October 11.

**Cost:** Whitewater rafting costs \$65-92 for adults, \$55-73 for kids.

Charlemont

800-532-7483

[www.zoaroutdoor.com](http://www.zoaroutdoor.com)

### **Adventure Glides**

Take a tour on a Segway and enjoy a unique sightseeing adventure that will allow you to "glide" up close to various points of interest. Adventure Glides' Segway guided tours go through cities, parks, beaches, and trails throughout Massachusetts. These one-of-a-kind tours are great for those who cannot access walking/hiking trails, or visitors who simply wish to tour an area in a different way.

**Cost:** Ranges from \$35 to \$115 per person depending on length of tour

Lowell  
978-458-0658  
[www.adventureglides.com](http://www.adventureglides.com)

### **Family Fun**

#### **Kimball Farm**

The entire family can enjoy the warm weather at Kimball Farm, with its 36-hole adventure style miniature golf course, a 9-hole pitch & putt golf course, a driving range, bumper boats and, of course, ice cream. All activities are currently open for the season.

**Cost:** Please visit web site for specific activity costs.

Westford  
978-486-3770  
[www.kimballfarm.com](http://www.kimballfarm.com)

#### **Look Memorial Park**

Look Park is a 157-acre Victorian park with beautifully sculpted landscapes, a 1.2 mile walking/running path and visits by local wildlife. With playground areas, a water spray park, ball fields, picnic facilities, a steamer train, zoo, mini-golf, bumper boats and outdoor summer concerts, the entire family can enjoy an active day at Look Park!

**Cost:** Please visit web site for specific activity costs.

Northampton  
413-584-5457  
[www.lookpark.org](http://www.lookpark.org)

#### **Buttonwood Park Zoo**

The Buttonwood Park Zoo is a 100-acre urban park with 250 animals, musical entertainment, educational programs and pony and train rides. The Zoo is celebrating Spring Fling Week April 20-24 with a different entertainer and craft each day. Buttonwood Park Zoo is open year round, seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$6 adults, \$4.50 seniors and teens, \$3 children ages 3-12, children under 3 are free.

New Bedford  
508-991-6178  
[www.bpzoo.org](http://www.bpzoo.org)

#### **Coonamessett Farm**

Bring the family to the Coonamessett Farm and visit with the alpacas, Nigerian dwarf goats, sheep, miniature donkeys, chickens, ducks, turtles, rabbits and macaws. Before you leave, take a stroll through the 20-acre farm to pick your own vegetables, herbs, berries, flowers and farm fresh eggs.

**Cost:** Free, with goods available for purchase.

East Falmouth  
508-563-2560  
[www.coonamessettfarm.com](http://www.coonamessettfarm.com)

#### **Franklin Park Zoo**

At Franklin Park Zoo, children and adults alike can experience hundreds of exotic animal species from around the world right in the middle of Boston. Come by and stand face-to-face with seven western lowland gorillas in the Tropical Forest, observe African lions in the Kalahari Kingdom and tigers in the Tiger Tales exhibit, and visit the Masai giraffe and Grevy's zebra on the Giraffe Savannah, as well as the many other remarkable species that call the Zoo home.

**Cost:** Admission is free for members, and ranges from free to \$12 for non-members. Receive half off the regular price on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Boston  
617-541-LION

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

### **Flying Horses Carousel**

Built in 1876, the Flying Horses Carousel is the nation's oldest operating platform carousel and a National Historic Landmark. In addition to the carousel, video games are available as well as refreshments, including popcorn, cotton candy, slush, and soft drinks. The carousel is open from Easter Saturday through Columbus Day (schedule varies).

**Cost:** Rides are \$1.50; if you catch the brass ring, you get a free ride!

Oak Bluffs

508-693-9481

[www.mvpreservation.org/carousel.html](http://www.mvpreservation.org/carousel.html)

### **Swan Boats**

As a welcome sign of Spring, the infamous Swan Boats grace the waters of the Boston Public Garden, the first botanical garden in the United States. Famed in the stories "Make Way for Ducklings" and "The Trumpet of the Swan," the Swan Boats are the only boats of their kind in the world. Rides are available daily from April 18 through September 20.

**Cost:** \$2.75 for adults; \$1.50 for children; \$2.00 for seniors

Boston

617-522-1966

[www.swanboats.com](http://www.swanboats.com)

## **Gardens and Sanctuaries**

### **Nantucket Daffodil Festival - April 24-26**

From early-April to mid-May, over three million daffodils of every color, shape and size will bloom on Nantucket Island. Celebrate this blossoming, and the advent of spring itself, at the Island's Annual Daffodil Festival. The Festival includes the Annual Antique Car Parade, featuring over 100 daffodil-bedecked antique cars, the Annual Daffodil Tailgate Picnic, Nantucket Garden Club's Annual Daffodil Show, the Children's Daffodil Parade, Daffy Hat Pageant and Daffodil Dog Parade.

**Cost:** Free

Nantucket

508-228-1700

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

### **Harvard University Arnold Arboretum**

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University is the oldest public arboretum in North America and one of the world's leading centers for the study of plants. A unique blend of public landscape and respected research institution, the Arnold Arboretum provides and supports world-class research, horticulture and education programs that foster the understanding, appreciation and preservation of trees. Open daily, from sunrise to sunset.

**Cost:** No admission charge but donations are welcome.

Jamaica Plain

617-524-1718

[www.arboretum.harvard.edu](http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu)

### **Daffodil Day at Long Hill – April 19, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

Bring the family to Daffodil Day at Long Hill and enjoy more than 20 varieties of daffodils in bloom. Formerly the summer home of Ellery Sedgwick, editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*, and Mabel Cabot Sedgwick, an accomplished horticulturist, Long Hill now consists of five acres of cultivated grounds laid out in a series of separate garden "rooms" surrounding the house. The gardens are flanked on all sides by more than 100-acres of woodland as well as an apple orchard, meadow and agricultural fields.

**Cost:** Members: Child \$4. Nonmembers: Child \$5. Accompanying adults are free.

Beverly  
978-921-1944 x4018  
[www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org)

**Myles Standish State Forest**

Myles Standish State Forest offers five camping areas, tucked into the forest or set along the edges of four of the park's 16 ponds. A day-use area at College Pond offers picnicking, swimming, fishing, canoeing. Fifteen miles of bicycle trails, 35 miles of equestrian trails and 13 miles of hiking trails take visitors deep into the forest, which includes one of the largest contiguous pitch pine/scrub oak communities north of Long Island.

**Cost:** Free

South Carver  
508-866-2526

[www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/mssf.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/mssf.htm)

To get a list of hiking trails across the state visit <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/trails.htm>.

*The Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism (MOTT) is the state agency dedicated to promoting Massachusetts as a leisure-travel destination in order to stimulate the Massachusetts economy by generating state and local tax revenues, creating jobs, and supporting the growth of travel-related businesses. MOTT serves as a leader in the tourism industry, bringing together the public and private sectors to promote Massachusetts as a leisure travel destination. Tourism is an integral part of the state's economy, generating more than \$944 million in state and local taxes and \$15.1 billion in travel related expenditures. The industry supports 127,800 in-state jobs.*

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