Ponkapoag Bog
A Quaking Experience

Ponkapoag Bog is a unique and mysterious world. Neither solid land nor water, the bog is a mosaic of marsh, sedge meadow, and fen. The wetland consists of upland meadow and wetland plant communities. The bog allows to enjoy the natural beauty and peaceful environment.

The Meadow
A Pioneer

Imagine the Blue Hills Reservation claimed for fields and pastures and the occasional woodland still dotted here and there. Today, the meadow is a tribute to the first people of this land.

The Faces and Places

Early European settlers encountered Native Americans living off the rich resources of the Blue Hills. The natives referred to themselves as Massachuets, or “people living near the great hills.” Close proximity to the Neponset River, the seacoast and Boston, high vantage points and an abundance of quarry minerals have made the reservation land a strategic attraction throughout history. Today, the reservation is rich in both archaeological and historical resources. Interspersed structures and other traces of our past include observation towers built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, old homesteads and legacies of the granite industry in the Quincy quarries. Entrenching the reservation are the rocky, granite outcrops, 17 historic structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and a National Historic Landmark—Blue Hills Meteorological Observatory.

Native Americans
The People of the Great Hills

The Blue Hills Reservation is a fragile ecosystem under heavy use. Visit the Blue Hills Trailside Museum or study the winds and clouds high above the summits. Enjoy a panoramic view of the Boston skyline from the Eliot Tower atop Great Blue Hill. The reservation is home to one of the founding fathers of the Metropolitan System.

The Conservation Civic Corps

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The Blue Hills Trailside Museum

• Carry us all much
• Stay on marked trails to prevent erosion.
• Leave plants and animals undisturbed.
• Keep pets on a leash at all times.
• Comply with all visitor regulations listed on the reservation side of this brochure.

A Precious Resource...

The Blue Hills Reservation is a fragile ecosystem under heavy use. We ask you to reveal special respect to the parks, please:

• Enjoying the Reserve...

The Blue Hills Reservation encompasses over 7000 acres, providing the largest open space within 35 miles of Boston. More than 125 miles of trails weave through the natural fiber of forest and ponds, hills and wetlands. Hikers can count 22 hills in the Blue Hills chain with Mount Blue Hill noted as the highest landmark at 635 feet above sea level.

The trails of the Blue Hills lead to the park’s most beautiful areas, inviting you to explore the subtlety and richness of the woodlands. Park visitors may enjoy numerous outdoor activities including hiking, horseback riding, skiing and savaging nature. We share a fragile green oasis amid the bustle of the city. It is a legacy we can hand to our children—if we care for it today.

A World of Nature

The reservation hosts a rich variety of plants and animals, including several rare and endangered species, such as the Timber rattlesnake and Eastern box turtle. In addition, the Blue Hills Trailside Museum offers a display of live wildlife of the Blue Hills. The Trailside Museum is located in Milton and is open from April 1 to November 1. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM and admission is free.

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