

Great Brook Farm State Park

Located in Carlisle, this 1000 acre working Holstein dairy farm provides year round activities for families. This active dairy farm features weekend barn tours Memorial Day through Labor Day and by appointment. During the summer weekends, the farm's ice cream stand is opened.

The property also features 20 miles of trails for hikers, walkers, mountain bikes and cross-country skiers/ snowshoes. The extensive trails take you past agriculture landscapes, woodland ponds, and historic old cellar holes of 17th century settlers.

The property visitor center features a sheltered barn structure with enough picnic tables a family or larger group. Benches along the trail provide an opportunity for viewing the Holsteins, meadow birds and for having a snack break.

Seasons of Activities

Spring: walking, hiking, canoeing, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking

Summer: walking, hiking, canoeing, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, weekend dairy barn tours

Fall: walking, hiking, canoeing, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking

Winter: walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, horseback riding

Meadow Pond features a canoe launch to try your luck at fishing.

Need the challenge of mountain biking? The trails range from gentle flat, to rolling hill to very tight turns on narrow berms. Something for every skill level.

The property also features a cross-country ski center concession open in the winter. Here you can rent skis, sit by the fire, purchase snacks and enjoy your lunch. There are 10 miles of groomed ski trails. On Tuesday and Thursday nights in the winter, Lantern Loop is lit just enough to see the trail while being amazed by the inky black sky glistening with stars! Ungroomed trails are perfect for snow shoeing.

There is something for everyone at Great Brook Farm. The farm is an invitation for multiple visits you won't get tired from visiting.

Trail: Park at the visitor center. There is a \$2.00 parking fee. Walk toward the Hart Barn and Ski Center. This location the starting point for a number of trails. Find the Lantern Loop Trail and follow the trail southeast from the Barn. The trail, running parallel to North Road, skirts open corn fields and meadow. Continuing along the loop will bring you to the farm property where you can view Holsteins and tour the barn in season. During the summer, the farm's ice cream stand is open on the weekends. Continuing the loop around will bring you back to the Visitor Center.

Trail Alternative: You can easily extend the Lantern Loop Trail. Begin the Lantern Loop Trail as above. At the first trail junction (North Road) the trail crosses the road and becomes Maple Ridge Trail. Follow Maple Ridge Trail through wetlands to Meadow Pond. Turn left onto Pine Pond Loop Trail. Pine Pond Loop will follow the shore of the pond and loop back around to Lantern Loop Trail. The trail will cross North Road again and head toward the working farm and the ice cream stand. Follow the remainder of the trip as above.

Directions: From McCarthy main parking lot, turn right onto Flagg Drive. Turn left onto Normandy Rd. Turn left onto Arsenal Rd. Turn right onto Anzio Road. Turn left onto Concord Street (Rt. 126) Follow Rt. 126 to Rt. 30. Turn right on Rt. 30 to MA Turnpike. Take Turnpike to Rt. 128 North. Follow Rt. 128 north to exit 31B (BEDFORD). Merge onto MA 225/MA 4. Turn left onto MA 225. At next roundabout take 1st exit onto Lowell Street. Follow to Great Brook Farm State Park.

