

Northern Berkshire Playground & Park Guide



Created by
The Family Resource Center of
Northern Berkshire County



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Compiled by The Family Resource Center

This guide is a list of playgrounds and other outdoor attractions for families in Northern Berkshire and the surrounding areas. Each playground or park listed includes a description, a picture and directions to the location. We hope that you and your family enjoy the beautiful outdoor playgrounds and parks in Northern Berkshire.

The Family Resource Center compiled and created this guide for families with young children. We are a program of Child Care of the Berkshires, Inc. funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and the Massachusetts Children's Trust. **The Family Resource Center** provides the following services for Northern Berkshire families with young children ages birth -8 years.

- Free Parent and Child Play and Learn Groups for Northern Berkshire families with children ages birth -8 years.
- Free Parent Education on a variety of parenting topics, with free on-site child care provided.
- Family Fun Events and Field Trips
- Monthly newsletter for families with playgroup schedules, activities and family events.
- Family Support
- Free Clothing Exchange, for children sizes birth -10. Gently used children's clothes and children's books located at Child Care of the Berkshires, Haskin's Community Center, 210 State Street, North Adams, MA 01247.
- Parent Child Home Program: Home visiting with free books and toys for families.

For a schedule of playgroups in your community, or for more information on the **The Family Resource Center**, please call us at **413-664-4821**, ask to join our **Face book group** or visit our agency's website at <http://ccberkshire.org/2013/08/family-resource-center/>



Northern Berkshire Playgrounds

North Adams

Houghton Street Playground

Description: Two playground areas. One for 2-5 yrs and one for 5-12 years. Playground features a track, grassy field and plastic climbing wall, structures, swings and slides. Wood mulch surfaces. Fenced in. Trash cans. No dogs allowed.

Directions: Located on the corners of River and Houghton Streets.

Parking: Parking is off of River Street near The Porches.

Handicap Access.



Alligator Playground- behind the tennis courts

Description: Alligator slide/ rock climber and swinging bridge, slides. Grassy areas, sunny.

Directions: State Street (Route 8), playground, near track and basketball/tennis courts.

Parking: Park in the lot in front of the track.



Greylock School Playground

Description: Featuring toddler area with slide, tunnel and car climber, Alligator slide/ climber and swinging bridge. Fenced in with shady areas, picnic tables and trash receptacles.

Note: This playground is part of a school; other children are not allowed to play there when school is in session.

Directions: Route 2 west. Take a left at the signal light at Phelps Ave. Greylock School is on the left.

Parking: Parking lot at the school.



Kemp Park -near Sullivan School

Description: Wood structures with climbers, slides and swings. Wood mulch surfaces. Baseball field and basketball court.

Note: This playground is part of a school; other children are not allowed to play there when school is in session.

Directions: Right on to Gallup Street off of Union Street (Rt.2). Take a right and then a left on to Kemp Ave.

Parking: Area to the left on the driveway to Sullivan School.



Brayton School- behind YMCA

Description: Toddler size playground. Right size for young children, features play truck and house structure, slides, climbers, wood mulch surfaces. Benches. Fenced in.

Note: This playground is part of a school; other children are not allowed to play there when school is in session.

Directions: Route 2 west, take left at Barbour Street intersection; take first left up to school.

Parking: Park behind the YMCA.



Adams

Russell Field

Description: Shady and grassy areas. Swings, slides, climbing structures. Tennis courts and baseball field.

Directions: Route 8 past McDonald's, right on to Prospect Street. Take a right after the bike trail signs.

Parking: In front of the tennis courts and playground.



Reid Field

Description: Climbing structure, slides and swings, mulch surfaces.

Directions: North Summer Street Adams on to Sparrow Street, near the DPW.

Parking: On side of the street.



Renfrew Park

Description: Plastic climbers, swings, some small structures, some swings. Mulch on surfaces. Skate park, basketball court and soccer field next to playground. Picnic tables and trash can.

Directions: Route 8, before town center; take a right at Friend Street. Playground is on the left.

Parking: Area in front of the playground.



Adams Youth Center

Description: Climbers slides, school age size. Surface areas have mulch. Pavilion, benches, picnic tables,

Directions: Route 8, left on East Street. Left at the stone pillars. Community Center at end of the road.

Parking: At the Youth Center.



Cheshire

Cheshire Elementary School Playground

Description: School Age and Toddler Playground. Featuring swings, slides and climbing structure. Shady, grassy areas and a basketball court.

Note: This playground is part of a school; other children are not allowed to play there when school is in session.

Directions: Cheshire Center, take left at signal light to Church Street and take left to School Street.

Parking: Park at the school.



Williamstown

Williamstown Elementary School Playground

Description: Two playgrounds. Age specific- The 2-5 year old playground is located beside the school and is fenced in. It features small ride on equipment, slides, climbers and child-sized tables. The playground for 5-12 year olds is in the field behind the school and features larger climbing structures, bridges, rollers, and swings.

Soccer field and basketball court.

Note: This playground is part of a school; other children are not allowed to play there when school is in session.

Directions: Take Church Street off of Cole Ave.

Parking: Park in the school parking lot.



Broad Brook Playground

Description: Large grassy, shady area. Playground with swings, toddler areas with climbers and riders. Mulch under surfaces, fenced in. Basketball court, picnic table.

Directions: North Hoosac Road to White Oaks, take a left on to Harrison Street. The playground is on the left.

Parking: Parking on left in front of the playground.



Linear Park

Description: Playground with swings, climbers, play truck, swing bench. Grassy, shady areas to play and below is a picnic area with benches, grill and access to the river. Fencing, trash cans, mulch surfaces under equipment.

Directions: Route 43 in Williamstown; take a left over the bridge after the Fire Station. **Parking:** Parking area at the playground.



Clarksburg

Clarksburg Elementary School

Description: Toddler and Preschool Area. Wood Structures, slides, swings, bucket swings, wood mulch surfaces. Basketball court. Picnic table.

Note: This playground is part of a school; other children are not allowed to play there when school is in session

Directions: Cross Road in Clarksburg. (Houghton Street, North from North Adams)

Parking: Park behind the school.



Lanesboro

Lanesboro Elementary School Playground

Description: Separate playgrounds for preschool (2-5 yrs.) and school age (5-12 yrs.). Swings, climbers and slides. Mulch on surfaces. Picnic tables, basketball court, baseball field. Preschool area is fenced in and sized for that age group. Features climbers, slides and sand box.

Note: This playground is part of a school; other children are not allowed to play there when school is in session.

Directions: Lanesboro, Route 7 south, take a left on to Summer St. School is on the right near the top of the hill.

Parking: At the school parking lot.



Hancock

Hancock Elementary School

Description: Grassy fields with swings, slide and climbers. Soccer field. Metal and wood structures.

Note: This playground is part of a school; other children are not allowed to play there when school is in session.

Directions: Route 43 to Hancock. Hancock School is on the left.

Parking: Park at the school.



Savoy

Emma L Miller Memorial Elementary School

Description: Grassy fields with swings, slide and climbers.

Note: This playground is part of a school; other children are not allowed to play there when school is in session.

Directions: 26 Chapel Road, Savoy. From Route 116 take a left onto Loop Rd, then take a left onto Chapel Road.

Parking: Park at the school.



Florida

Gabriel Abbott School

Description: Slides and climbers, blacktop area.

Note: This playground is part of a school; other children are not allowed to play there when school is in session.

Directions:

56 County Rd, off of Route 2 (east), Mohawk Trail. The playground is on the front, left side of the school

Parking: Park at the school.



Ashuwillticook Rail Trail



Lanesborough, Cheshire, Adams, MA
413 442-8928

The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail is a former railroad corridor converted into a 10-foot wide paved universally accessible path. The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail runs parallel to Route 8 through the towns of Cheshire, Lanesborough and Adams, Massachusetts. The southern end of the Trail begins at the entrance to the Berkshire Mall off Rte. 8 in Lanesborough and travels 11 miles north to the center of Adams. Parking lots and restrooms are available along the way. Bring your bike, kids 12 years or younger must wear a helmet. For information on handcycle availability, call DCR's Universal Access Program at 413-545-5353. Universally accessible comfort stations are located at the trail parking areas off Berkshire Mall Road and Farnams Road. Comfort stations are open during daylight hours from mid-May to mid-September.

Park Directions Take Route 2 to Route 8 south, look for signs for Ashuwillticook parking along route 8.

Parking areas are located just off Route 8 at the trailhead on Berkshire Mall Road in Lanesborough, on Farnams Road and Church Street in Cheshire, Russell Field in Adams and the Adams town parking lot off Hoosac Street.



Clarksburg State Park

1199 Middle Road
Clarksburg, MA 01247

413 664-8345 or 413-663-8464 off-season

The abundant, unspoiled forestland offers breathtaking views of both the Berkshire Hills and Green Mountains. At the state park, scenic Mauserts Pond is a landscaped day use area offering picnicking, fishing, and a pavilion area. 50 well-spaced [campsites](#) are located near the lake. The state forest is a 2,933-acre tract of undisturbed land popular with hunters. The [Appalachian Trail](#) passes through the forest, which was once home to the Mohawk Indians. Campground Office Hours are 8am–6pm on weekdays, and 8am-midnight on weekends. The regular camping season is from early May to mid-October. Universally accessible sites and a reservable day-use pavilion are available. Please call for information.

Park Directions.

Follow Rte. 2 east through North Adams and the intersection with Rte. 8 north. Follow Rte. 8 north to Middle Rd. on the left. Turn left onto Middle Rd. The park is on the right.

Mohawk Trail State Forest



Rte. 2, Charlemont
413 339-5504

A clear, cold river cascades through Mohawk Trail State Forest along a pebbled streambed. In this rustic and natural setting, Mohawk Trail offers visitors a taste of real wilderness. In addition to its 56 [campsites](#), the forest has six overnight log cabins that are reservable year-round. Mohawk Trail has over 18 miles of rivers and streams for excellent trout fishing, a swimming area, and a day use picnic area. Many of the original Indian trails, including the Mohawk Trail, are open for hiking. About 6,000 acres of mountain ridges, deep gorges and many pines over 100 feet tall are home to forest flowers, deer and birds.

- Campground Office Hours: 8am–10pm
- Camping Season: Mid-April through Mid-October
- Motorized off-road vehicle use is prohibited.
- Don't forget you are in bear country. Take appropriate precautions with food so as not to attract bears.

Park Directions

Rte. 2 east to Charlemont. The park will be on the left at the bottom of a steep grade.

Mount Greylock State Reservation

Rockwell Rd., Lanesborough

413-499-4262

or 413-499-4263



At 3,491 feet, Mount Greylock is the highest peak in Massachusetts.

Arriving at the summit by foot-trail or [auto road](#) you may see a panorama of five states, visit the Veterans War Memorial Tower, or relax in rustic Bascom Lodge which also offers overnight [accommodations](#) and meals. The reservation has over 70 miles of trails, including a section of the [Appalachian National Scenic Trail](#). The campground on Sperry Road offers 35 [campsites](#) and 5 group campsites; [reservations](#) are suggested in season. Also available are 5 remote trailside backpacker shelters, picnic sites and a pavilion. The park is open from sunrise until dusk, year-round. Access is free, however a \$2 parking fee is charged for the summit lot only. **Auto roads** **Visitors Center** is open from 9am to 4pm daily, year-round. [Bascom Lodge](#) is open from mid-May to mid-October. **Campground** on Sperry Road season runs from mid-May to mid-October,

Park Directions:

From Route 2 in North Adams, just west of the downtown, look for the brown Mt. Greylock Reservation sign on the left, heading west; or on the right, heading east. Turn onto Notch Road and follow 2.5 miles to reservation entrance. From Rte. 2 the summit is 8.5 miles and Campground on Sperry Road is 9.7 miles.

Natural Bridge State Park

Rte. 8, N. Adams

(413) 663-6392

(413) 663-8469 Off-season

Natural Bridge State Park offers visitors the opportunity to tour the abandoned quarry and see the only marble dam in North America. You can also examine the natural marble arch for which the park is named and learn the wonders of geological history from the fascinating rock formations throughout the park.

Park Directions

Take Rte. 2 to Rte. 8 north, follow signs.

Savoy Mountain State Forest

Central Shaft Rd., Savoy (Rte. 116)

413 663-8469

Savoy Mountain State Forest makes it easy to leave the everyday world behind. Scenic North and South ponds offer tranquil places to fish, picnic and swim. 45 [campsites](#) are located in an old apple orchard. Spectacular natural features include Bog Pond, and Tannery Falls, which cascades through a deep chasm. The campground office hours are 9am–9pm. The regular camping season is from mid-May to mid-October. Don't forget you are in bear country and will need to follow posted rules.



Park Directions

Follow Rte. 2 east to the town of Florida. Turn right onto Central Shaft Rd. Follow the signs to the park entrance on the right.

Other Outdoor Places for Families in Northern Berkshire



Windsor Lake

Description: Located in North Adams. This lake offers picnicking, swimming and camping. There is a swimming and picnic area with a lifeguard (in season) and a playground with swings and riding toys.

Directions: Church Street, North Adams just past MCLA campus, take a left on to Bradley Street. Windsor Lake is on the right at the top of the hill.

Margaret Lindley Park

Description: Located in Williamstown. This small spring fed pond and dam features swimming at the small sandy beach. Lifeguard on duty during the season.



Directions: Route 7 south; take a quick right past Taconic Restaurant, sign at the entrance.

Field Farm

Description: Located in south Williamstown. This nature preserve is part of the *Trustees of the Reservation* which preserves natural lands throughout the state. It features several hiking trails as well as the small pond and picnic area. There is a beaver dam, geese and many varieties of birds and other wildlife. For families who enjoy fishing the pond is “catch and release”. There is a small nature visitor’s center with displays. A lodge house for paid registered guests is also located on the property.



Directions: Route 7 South in Williamstown. Past Mt. Greylock High School, take a right at the 5 way intersection. Take an immediate right on to Sloan Road. Field Farm is near the top of the road on the right. Pull in at sign and take first right to park at the pond.

Greylock Glen

Description: This is a great spot for scenic views of Mt. Greylock, hiking, fishing, berry picking and picnicking. It is a natural area with small pond and pavilion. There is no swimming allowed. Peck’s Falls is nearby on Gould Road.



Directions- Route 8 South in Adams take a right at Friend Street and continue to go up and bear left. This road becomes West Street. Greylock Glen is on Gould Rd. There is a Greylock Glen sign and Jaesche’s Apple orchard is at the bottom of the road.

Parking: Look for signs. Park on side of the road.

Places to visit in surrounding areas

Look Park

Look Park is located on Rt. 9 in Northampton.

The Park is open daily until Labor Day 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. Some of the different attractions at the park are pedal boats, train ride, miniature golf, bumper boats, tennis, playgrounds, and a water spray park. For more information visit their website www.lookpark.org

Willow Park Playground

Located in Bennington, VT.

Description: Preschool playground area. There is also a paved walking trail, a nature trail, and a Frisbee golf course, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, a skateboard park, a stage, and a BMX bike track. There are bathrooms, picnic tables, trash receptacles.

Directions: Take Route 7, North through the center of Bennington. Take a right on to Kocher Drive at the signal light (near shopping center). Go past the shopping center and then take a left immediately after the car dealership. Go straight up the hill and park. There is a map of the park that is worth looking at so that you don't miss anything.

The Deer Park

Located in Bennington, VT.

Route 7 North. On the right before the Veterans Home.

This park features a small pond and bridge, large spaces to run and play, shady areas and several picnic sites. There is a dairy bar, across the street, open in the summer months.

Fenced in area with deer.



Public Playground Safety Checklist

1. Make sure surfaces around playground equipment have wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or have mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.
2. Check that protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
3. Make sure play structures more than 30 inches high are spaced at least 9 feet apart.
4. Check for dangerous hardware, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.
5. Make sure spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
6. Check for sharp points or edges in equipment.
7. Look out for tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
8. Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls.
9. Check playgrounds regularly to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition. Check surrounding areas where your children may play for litter such as broken glass, cans and other potentially unsafe items.
10. Carefully supervise children at all times on playgrounds to make sure they're safe.



There is a **No Smoking** ordinance for all North Adams playgrounds and public spaces. **No Smoking** policies at places where young children gather are intended to keep children healthy and safe and to model healthy behaviors in our communities.

Have fun, be safe and enjoy playing outdoors!