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Massachusetts Trail Map

MAP 1 | Northern Berkshires

MAP 2 | Southwestern
Massachusetts

MAP 3 | Wachusett Mountain
State Reservation



20 19 18 17 16 1 2 3 4 5 6



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Appalachian Mountain Club Books : AMC Massachusetts Trail Maps 1-3: Northern Berkshires, Southwestern Massachusetts, and Wachusett Mountain State Reservation (Appalachian Mountain Club Trail Map) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised AMC Massachusetts Trail Maps 1-3: Northern Berkshires, Southwestern Massachusetts, and Wachusett Mountain State Reservation (Appalachian Mountain Club Trail Map):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good map with very viable competitors
By KiteIn reviewing this, I will focus on Wachusett and draw comparisons to the free map provided by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) (online, at the visitor center, and throughout the trails). This is due to my being particularly familiar with the Wachusett area, hiking there several times a week. Most of the comments that appear here apply to the two other maps included, as well as the maps in the associated book.
Trails: both the DCR and AMC map highlight all the trails in the area. An advantage of the AMC map is that it extends further south to include trails in Wachusett Meadow (a Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary, and it extends further north to show the Midstate Trail passing Wachusett Lake and entering Leominster State Forest. The AMC map also shows one spur, an overlook off of the Harrington Trail, not shown on the DCR map (on the other had this trail is almost invisible as it nearly overlaps a contour line). Both maps highlight the Midstate trail as it cuts through the area, with the DCR map using different trail symbols and the AMC map using a slightly thicker line - this makes it much easier to identify the Midstate trail on the DCR map. The AMC map shows most distances for trail segments, while the DCR map only shows a select few complete trails (and roads).
Features: the DCR map shows more features than the AMC map, including some major features such as the windmill farm and the ski areas to the north of the summit - this is important for winter travel as one trail and two roads cross ski paths.
Roads: Both the DCR and AMC maps differentiate unpaved roads and paved roads. Both maps are potentially confusing regarding the access road to the ski area, though the DCR map will at least steer you in the right direction (the AMC map misses an entire segment of road leading to the largest parking lot in the area). The DCR shows one parking area where I don't think you can actually park (tight space, not identified as a parking area). Neither map differentiates the free and paid parking areas, which might not be a significant issue since there is really only one paid parking area and it is clearly marked. Overall roads are more difficult to see on the AMC map, perhaps due to the sizing and coloration - while I wouldn't mind this on a map of a more remote region, the Wachusett area is covered in roads that can be quite busy during warm and clear weather.
The same strengths and weaknesses appear to apply to the Greylock area - the DCR provides free maps, along with some additional items such as a list of suggested day hikes. The DCR also provides a separate list of trail mileage, and some estimations of trail difficulty. The advantage of the AMC map is more extensive coverage, and more detail in some areas.
Conclusions: If you are looking to do a quick hike at Wachusett or another area covered, you will do fine with a free DCR map, found either online or at each area's visitor center. If you are overly familiar with these areas and are curious about the surrounding trails and features, you might find value in the AMC map. While I don't regret the purchase (it adds to the information I have and supports an organization that does a lot for the trails in the area), I can't give a strong recommendation for this map given the reasonable alternative found in the DCR maps.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. tyvek, nice map
By Johntyvek, nice map

This high-quality, GPS-rendered Tyvek map features comprehensive coverage of the trails of the Northern Berkshires, Southwestern Massachusetts, and Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. Scale 1:38,600 Contour intervals every 100 ft. Detail inserted map Scale 1:20,000 Contour lines every 100 ft.