

Some Suggestions for Vacation Week Activities in Our Area

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Vacation week is a great time to spend time playing board games, to read and make-up stories with children, to check out some books at the town library, and to spend time walking and hiking around our beautiful region. In addition, there are a number of interesting places to visit in our area. Some of these are free, and you can also borrow family passes to a number of New Hampshire museums (for free admission) from our local public libraries.

The Harris Center for Conservation Education, in Hancock, has a series of hiking trails.

The trails are **free and open to the public year-round**. A kiosk is located at the trailhead just outside the office.. Hard copies of our trail maps are available in the Harris Center entryway, and electronic versions can be downloaded via the links below. **Dogs are welcome on Harris Center trails, but they must be on-leash at all times.** Safe trekking and enjoy!

To learn more about the trails or to download trail maps:

<http://www.harriscenter.org/trails>

Another local hiking resource (and local gem) is the McCabe Forest, in Antrim:

Driving Directions:

Trailhead and parking area are on Rt. 202 in Antrim, NH. The parking area is 0.9 miles north of where the combined Rt. 31/Rt. 202 splits in the center of Antrim. There are three trailheads with signs for the McCabe Forest. Park at the northernmost and largest parking area, located next to a small garage. For trail directions, refer to the trail map.

About the Hike:

The [Forest Society's](#) McCabe Forest contains about two miles of trails around the Contoocook River. The main trail runs the length of the property to make a pleasant river walk. There are many possibilities to make a loop hike, but all the trails are unnamed and blazed in the same color. The trail network is very confusing. You can take a photo of the kiosk trail map or just do an out-and-back hike along the river.

Here are a couple of worth-while destinations, from an article in *ParentingNH*

[Mariposa Museum](#)

26 Main Street in Peterborough, NH
603-924-4555

Expand your family's worldly knowledge at this world culture center and check out some hands-on artifacts from around the globe. There are three interactive floors to explore and right now, Wedding Costumes from Around the World is on exhibit until March 4, 2018. Visitors will get a look at beautiful Japanese, Indian and South Korean gowns.

[Currier Museum of Art](#)

150 Ash Street in Manchester, NH
603-669-6144

NOTE: You can often borrow a **free** family pass to the Currier from your local public library.

In addition to their wonderful art collection, the museum hosts [Creative Studio Saturday](#), an opportunity for families to take part in hands-on learning about a certain artist or type of art. These programs are included for free with regular museum admission.

The Currier Museum offers free general admission before noon every second Saturday of the month.

For more ideas: <http://www.parentingnh.com/January-2015/Which-NH-museums-to-explore-this-winter/>