

NYSDEC & AMR Pilot Reservation System

DEC and the Adirondack Mountain Reserve (AMR) launched a no-cost pilot reservation system to address public safety at a heavily traveled stretch on Route 73 in the town of Keene in the Adirondack High Peaks.

The Adirondack Mountain Reserve is a privately owned 7,000-acre land parcel located in the town of Keene Valley that allows for limited public access through a conservation easement agreement with DEC.

The pilot reservation system does not apply to other areas in the Adirondack Park. The reservation system, operated by AMR, will facilitate safer public access to trailheads through the AMR gate and for Noonmark and Round mountains and improve visitors' trip planning and preparation by ensuring they have guaranteed parking upon arrival.

In recent years, pedestrian traffic, illegal parking, and roadside stopping along Route 73 have created a dangerous environment for hikers and motorists alike.

These no-cost reservations will be required May 1 through Oct. 31, 2021. Reservations will be required for parking, daily access, and overnight access to these specific trails. Visitors can make reservations beginning April 15 at hikeamr.org. Walk-in users without a reservation will not be permitted.

- There is no cost associated with making a reservation.
- Those arriving to Keene Valley via Greyhound or Trailways bus lines may present a valid bus ticket from within 24 hours of arrival to the AMR parking lot attendant in lieu of a reservation.
- Those being dropped off or arriving by bicycle must check in at the AMR Hiker Parking Lot and produce a valid reservation.
- The AMR parking lot is accessible for entry between the hours of 5 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily. DEC and AMR are in the process of developing after hours protocols for departure and will provide updates once available.
- Walk or bike in users with a reservation who arrive before 5 a.m. will be asked to provide their reservation upon exit of the AMR gate.
- Bike racks and portable restrooms are available at the parking lot.

The pilot reservation system complements the comprehensive state and local efforts underway to reduce dangerous and illegal parking in the vicinity of AMR, including variable electronic message boards and signage, outreach and education, and increased law enforcement presence and parking enforcement.

PLEASE NOTE: Residents of Keene and Keene Valley will retain the same local privileges as in years past. Please contact AMR directly for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

- How do I make a reservation?
 - Reservations for day and overnight use can be made at www.hikeamr.org. You will need to create a user account before making a reservation. For questions regarding the reservation system itself, please use the Contact Us form on the reservation website or email infoandeducation@hikeamr.org.
- Is there a cost associated with making a reservation?
 - No, there is no cost associated with making a reservation. Parking reservations are available free of charge.
- How soon before my trip can I make a reservation?
 - At the initial start of the pilot, reservations will be available from May 1 to May 22. On May 7 and thereafter, reservations can be made up to two weeks in advance of the date of reservation, up to 24 hours before. Day of reservations are not available.
- Is there a wait list for cancellations? What if all the spots don't fill up?
 - Same day reservations are not available and there is no waitlist.
- Why do I need a reservation?
 - In recent years pedestrian traffic, illegal parking, and roadside stopping along Route 73 have created a dangerous environment for hikers and motorists alike. DEC and AMR launched this pilot reservation system to facilitate safer public access to trails through the AMR gate and the Round Mountain and Noonmark Mountain trailheads accessed through AMR lands.
- I am planning on camping. Can I reserve an overnight spot?
 - Overnight spots can be reserved for up to three nights.
- I am getting dropped off – do I need a reservation?
 - Visitors who walk in or are dropped off require a reservation and should be dropped off at the Hiker Parking Lot.
- I planned to bike to the trailhead. Where can I leave my bike?
 - Bike racks will be available at the hiker parking lot. Reservations are still required if you are arriving by bicycle.
- I am bringing a large group. Are vans/buses permitted?
 - Parking is available for vehicles carrying up to 15 people. Parking is not available for buses. Vehicles carrying more than 8 people will require multiple reservations.

- All the spots are reserved. Where else can I park?
 - Roadside parking on Route 73 in the vicinity of AMR is dangerous and illegal. Park only in designated lots and adhere to posted parking restrictions. Illegally parked vehicles will be ticketed and potentially towed at the owner's expense.
 - Parking is limited at other popular trailheads along the Route 73 corridor. Come prepared with back-up plans in case trailhead parking lots are full.

- My group is coming in multiple cars. Can I make a reservation for multiple spots?
 - Only one spot can be reserved per reservation. Each driver will need to reserve a spot for their vehicle individually.

- What if I want to arrive early or leave late?
 - The AMR parking lot is accessible between the hours of 5 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily. DEC and AMR are in the process of developing after-hours protocols for departure and will provide updates once available. Accommodation for vehicle access may be made for overdue hikers or other emergencies.

- Are there bathrooms at the trailhead?
 - Portable toilets will be available for public use at the AMR hiker parking lot.

- I am arriving in Keene by bus. How can I access AMR?
 - If you are arriving to Keene Valley via Greyhound or Trailways bus lines, you may access AMR with a valid bus ticket from within 24 hours of arrival. Check in at the AMR hiker parking lot and present your ticket to the attendant.

- What other regulations apply?
 - All other regulations for the Adirondack Mountain Reserve remain the same:
 - Bicycles are not allowed past the parking area;
 - Hikers must stay on marked hiking trails;
 - Dogs are not allowed on the property;
 - Hunting, trapping, and fishing are prohibited;
 - The public is not allowed to enter on the shores, swim or boat on all lakes, streams, or rivers; or cross the frozen lakes in winter;
 - Entering buildings is prohibited.
 - Visit the Adirondack Mountain Reserve Conservation Easement Tract page on DEC's website for a full list of rules and regulations.
 - In addition to the formal rules and regulations, follow the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and carry out what you carry in, including all gear, garbage, and food scraps. Use designated toilets when available and always dispose of waste properly.

- Can I reserve spots multiple times this summer?
 - Visitors (individuals) can make up to two reservations per week, one per day. Reservations open on a day-to-day basis two weeks in advance.

- To avoid unused reservations, the reservation system provides information about and encourages cancellation of reservations if visitor plans change.
- Is there a limit to how many reserve reservations one person/group can make?
 - No, except for two reservations per week, one per day.
- What if there is bad weather on the day of my hike? Can I postpone my reservation?
 - Rain dates and postponements are not available.
- How will this program be enforced?
 - DEC Forest Rangers and AMR security staff will provide enforcement assistance as needed. Visitors without a reservation will be directed to move on to Marcy Field or, once open, the visitor center at Mt. Van Hoevenberg to find information on alternate destinations. Illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.
- Will someone be staffing the lot from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.?
 - The lot will be staffed from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.; security will be on the grounds until 10:00 p.m.
- Is there a limit on the number of hikers (i.e.: drop-offs)? Does the 70 number only refer to parking?
 - 70 Reservations are available. These can be taken up by vehicles, drop offs, and those arriving by bicycle. Those being dropped off and those arriving by bicycle must check in at the AMR hiker parking lot and produce a valid reservation. Each reservation can accommodate up to 8 people, so larger group sizes will need to make more than one reservation. Parking is not available for buses. Overnight and day use group size limits on forest preserve lands still apply – please see rules and requirements here <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/41282.html> and <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/9164.html>
- What is the cap on the number of individuals per car?
 - Cars or vans carrying up to 15 people are permitted. Each reservation can accommodate up to 8 people; larger groups will need to make additional reservations to account for all members of their group. For example, a single vehicle carrying 15 people would need to make 2 reservations.
- How will this be enforced for hikers who typically arrive at 3 a.m.?
 - The AMR parking lot is accessible for entry between the hours of 5 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily. This applies to overnight parking, as well. Overnight sleeping in a car and/or tent in the parking lot is not allowed. Drop-off and bicycle users with a reservation who arrive before 5 a.m. may access the trails but will be asked to provide their reservation upon exiting the gate. DEC and AMR are developing after-hours protocols for departure and will provide updates once available.
- How will hikers get their cars out of the lot between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. if they return late from a hike?
 - DEC and AMR are developing after-hours protocols for departure and will provide updates once available. Accommodation for vehicle egress can be made until 10 p.m. for overdue hikers.

- I am planning on accessing the AMR property from a different trailhead. Do I need a reservation?
 - No, users accessing the AMR property from other trailheads, such as on the Elk Lake-Marcy Trail or from Johns Brook Valley, do not need a reservation.

- What hikes does this affect?
 - Hikes accessed primarily through the AMR gate include: Dial, Nippletop, Bears Den, Blake, Colvin, Indian Head and Fishhawk Cliffs, Pinnacle, Rainbow Falls, Beaver Meadow Falls, Cathedral Rocks and Bear Run. There are also trails leading from AMR lands to Hedgehog Mountain and the Lower and Upper Great Range, including Lower and Upper Wolfjaw, Armstrong, Sawteeth, Gothics, Saddleback, Basin and Haystack. Many of these mountains can be reached by trails accessed from other trailheads.

- Is this a permit system?
 - This is not a permit system; this is a pilot parking reservation system for a specific location that involves a congested corner and private land. New York State has worked closely with AMR and other partners to improve public safety and protect natural resources at this specific location, including redirecting hikers to lesser used trails, promoting Leave No Trace principles in person and via social media, variable messaging boards, delineating parking spaces, posting no parking signs, writing parking tickets, among other steps with limited success.

 - To address concerns related to public safety at this particularly congested area, DEC and AMR are piloting the reservation system for this specific location, and the pilot includes only this parking area in this congested location. DEC still considers a permit system to be a tool of last resort.

- Will outdoor educational material be provided to those using the reservation system?
 - The reservation system provides information about Leave No Trace principles and other information about back country safety.

- Will the reservation system provide information about alternative trip possibilities if reservations are not available?
 - The webpage includes a link with ideas about alternative trip options throughout the region.