



WELLESLEY TRAILS

Self-Guided Walk

Boulder Brook Reservation Trail Walk

1.6 miles, 1 hour

The Wellesley Trails Committee's guided walks scheduled for fall 2020 are canceled due to Covid-19 restrictions. But... we would like you to take a self-guided walk in the woods without us. And don't forget to wear a mask and maintain social distancing, of course ☺!

Location and Parking

From Rt. 9 and Weston Rd, follow Weston Rd. north toward Weston for 0.3 miles. Turn right onto Elmwood Rd. and follow for 0.3 miles to Kelly Memorial Park. Park in the dirt parking lot on the left side of the road.

Walk Description (Trail map below)

Kelly Memorial Park was acquired by the Town in 1942 and named in honor of the Kelly brothers who were killed in World War II. Start your walk at the far left hand corner of the parking lot, and follow the purple arrow trail markers for the duration of your walk.

As you walk along an old woods road, see a large glacial erratic on the left named Fairy Rock that kids like to climb. This glacial erratic was deposited by the 1-mile thick ice sheet that covered Wellesley 15,000 years ago. Continue to the playing fields adjacent to Bates School. The grassed slope to your right is the sledding hill, one of the best in Town! Turn left and go along the edge of the baseball field to the paved bridge crossing Boulder Brook.

After crossing the brook, you enter Boulder Brook Reservation. Once part of Boulder Brook Farm, it was an active dairy farm in the early 1900s and was purchased by the Town from Mrs. Lillie Rich in 1966. Take the paved path to Beverly Road, turn right and enter the meadow. Follow the purple arrow trail markers on posts through the meadow. The field provides excellent habitat for mammals and birds and is mowed in late fall to prevent reforestation. At the opposite corner of the meadow, the trail enters the woods.

On your left is a smaller glacier erratic named Elephant Rock, another favorite climbing rock for kids. After crossing over a footbridge built by an Eagle Scout, the trail enters Rocky Ledges that was preserved by the Town with a land swap in 1970. At the fork, the trail splits for a loop over the ledges. Take the trail to the right and follow it to the base of the steep ledges. Stop and gaze at the surrounding bowl carved by the glaciers before you start your climb up the ledges. Follow the trail along the top of the ledges.

At the rocky outlook (Warning: Be careful with children, steep drop-offs), the view has been closing in because of tree growth, and is best in the late fall when the leaves are down. Look left to see the Wellesley College chime tower. To the right is Pegan Hill, the highest point in Natick, with Lookout Farm visible on the side of the hill. From the outlook, the trail descends steeply along the Weston town line to the bottom of the ledges. Be careful of your footing on the steep descent!

At the bottom of the ledges, turn left and follow the trail back to the fork in the trail. Bear right and you will now be on the same trail that you took going to the ledges. Follow the purple arrow trail markers and cross over the Eagle Scout bridge, go through the meadow, and back along the woods road to the parking lot.

We hope you enjoyed our little walk today. We believe hikes help keep us healthy and happy.

Take a Hike!

