

WELLESLEY TRAILS

Self-Guided Walk

The Wellesley Trails Committee's guided walks scheduled for spring 2021 are canceled due to Covid-19 restrictions. But... we encourage you to take a self-guided walk in the woods without us! (Masked and socially distanced from others outside your group, of course☺)

Lower Falls

2.3 miles, 1.5 hours

Take a walk through an historic part of Wellesley and enjoy scenic views along the Charles River. See the Waterway at Indian Springs Park, the Cochituate Aqueduct, and the Mary Hunnewell Fyffe Footbridge at the Cordingly Dam (pictured).



Location and Parking

Park at the [River Street parking lot](#) at 25 River Street behind Papa Razzi. There is metered parking on weekdays, but is free on weekends.

Directions

From Washington Street in Lower Falls, right turn onto River Street. Look for the parking lot on your right in 200 feet.

Walk Description

From the parking lot, cross over River Street to the park along the Charles River. See the Finley Dam and the fish ladder. Notice the commemorative rock where in 1789 George Washington stepped foot in Wellesley. Take a left on Washington Street and cross at the lighted crosswalk. Walk past the map house to the DCR Heron Trail granite posts beside CVS. Take a right on the Heron Trail heading towards the Charles River.

Before following the red arrow to the left at the river's edge, take in the view out on the wooden trestle bridge connecting Wellesley to Newton. Return to the stone and dirt path and follow it on the Wellesley side of the river. It will eventually parallel Boulevard Road. Leo J. Martin public golf course is the far side of the river. The trail exits onto the corner of Boulevard and Riverdale roads.

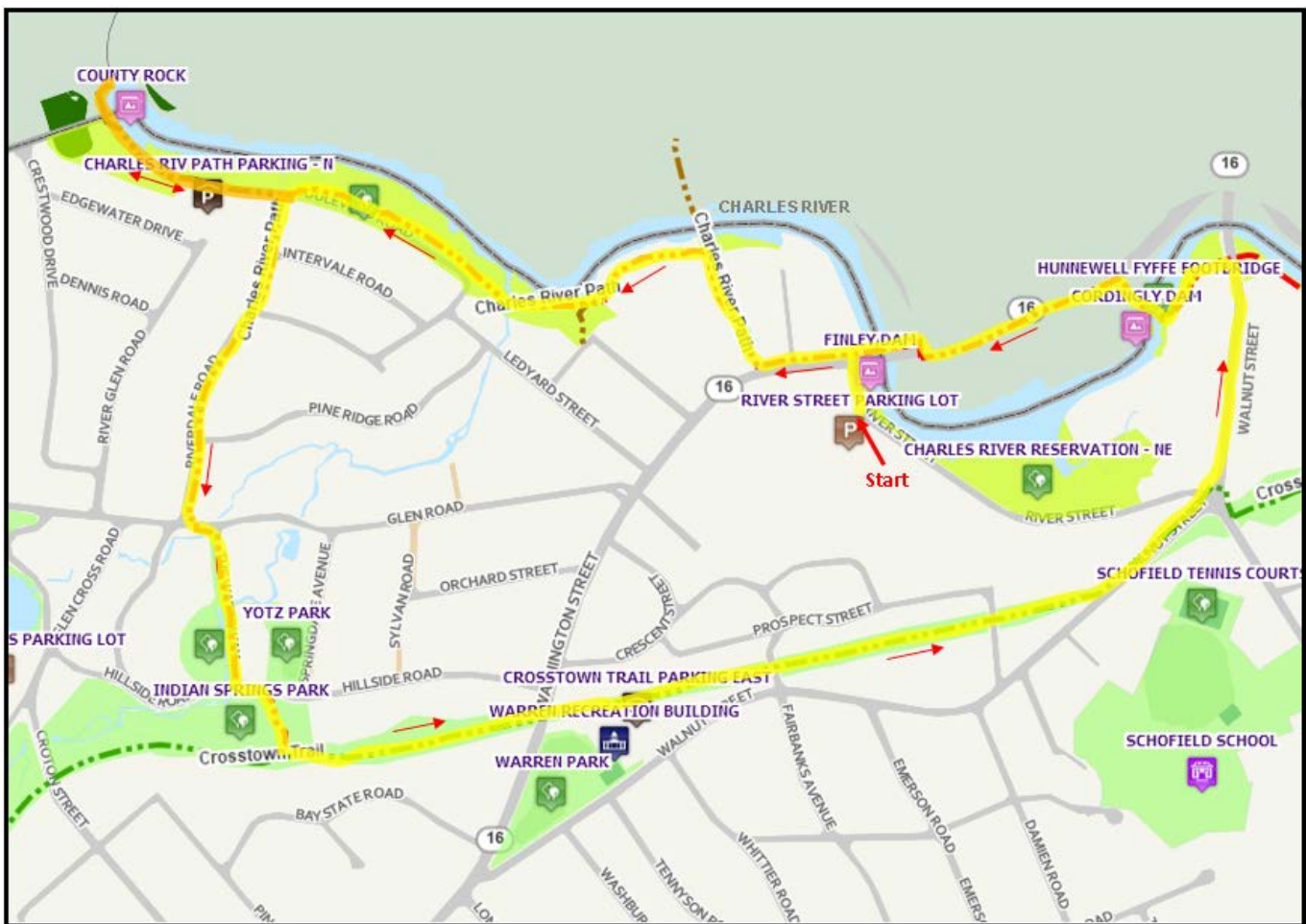
Optional side trail to County Rock (+0.3 miles roundtrip, orange trail on map): At the corner, follow the lane right past the "No Outlet" sign, towards the Wellesley substation. Follow the dirt path to the right and behind the station. Just before the golf course footbridge, see County Rock in the middle of the river. This rock marks an original boundary point between the towns of Weston, Wellesley, and Newton. You can walk out on the footbridge for a nice look at the Charles. Return to Riverdale Road.

Walk to the top of Riverdale Road, then turn left and then immediately right across the crosswalk to The Waterway. This scenic dirt road runs along a deteriorated brick canal which was originally part of the 1894 development of Indian Springs. The development went bankrupt. The land was then purchased and preserved by the town. Turn left on Hillside Road following the red arrow.

Before ascending the steep uphill on your right marked with a red arrow, take a look at the small park area on the left. This is Yotz Field. In the 1600's, this area was home to a Native American village by the name of Coowate. The field is where several relics were discovered.

Follow the path uphill. This connects with the Crosstown Trail on the Cochituate Aqueduct marked with a post having green arrows. Beside this path is a popular sledding site known for steep, fast rides. Follow the green arrow left along the Crosstown trail. The trail will cross Washington Street at Warren Park, Fairbanks Street and Prospect Street before ending at Walnut Street.

Take a left onto Walnut Street. Follow the sidewalk to the stoplight at River Street and Cedar Street. Continue straight on Walnut Street along the business area that once used the Charles River to run mills and industry. Before coming to the Walnut Street Bridge, take a left into the parking lot between buildings #25 and #35. Find the Cordingly Dam beneath the Mary Hunnewell Fyffe Footbridge that connects Wellesley and Newton. There are great views from the path below and from on top of the bridge. Here again is another ladder for anadromous fish. Cross the bridge. Take a left on Washington Street, following the red arrow, and return to the Lower Falls parking area at River Street.



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

Take a Hike!

Wellesley Trails Committee

wellesleytrails.org

April 2021