



# WELLESLEY TRAILS

## Self-Guided Walk

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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☺)

### Rockridge Pond

0.9 miles, 30 minutes

**Take a short, scenic trail along the shore of this picturesque pond nestled in a wooded area in the Cliff Estates. This is a favorite open space area for winter skating, fishing, picnicking, walking, bird watching and relaxing.**



### Location and Parking

Park at the [Rockridge Pond parking area](#) at 41 Hundreds Circle.

### Directions

From the Hills Post Office on Washington Street, turn onto Cliff Road and follow for 0.2 miles. Turn right onto Garden Road, and follow for 0.45 miles. Turn left onto Hundreds Road, which becomes Hundreds Circle, and in 0.25 miles, the parking area is on your left.

### Walk Description

The 2.1 acre pond and its surrounding woodlands comprise much of this park. This portion was acquired by the town in 1926 as a gift from Louville Niles who owned one hundred acres of land in this area. Thus the name Hundreds Circle. In 2003 Wellesley Town Meeting approved the purchase of an adjacent property at 119 Cliff Rd. from Peggy Clark with the generous donations from neighbors and the town's conservation funds and provides trail access from Cliff Road.

Start your walk from the Hundreds Road parking lot and walk to your left over glacial boulders and bedrock. You will then cross over a new concrete dam built in 2003 to control water flow. This was done after the pond was dredged that same year to prevent eutrophication. Rockridge Pond serves as an important part of Wellesley's drainage system and is the source for Indian Springs Brook.

Follow the trail through a lovely wooded area following the shoreline eventually going left away from the pond to the Rockridge Road entrance. You cannot circumnavigate the pond due to a piece of private property, so reverse direction and head back to the parking area. Take a side trail to your left for a nice view of the pond looking back on the beach at the parking area.

Back at the parking area, head to your right and follow the trail along the shore. You will cross two bog bridges over wetlands that were built by Eagle Scouts under the supervision of the Wellesley Trail Committee.

The trail turns right towards the Cliff Road area. There you will find a cozy table and bench to relax and enjoy nature before you continue on to Cliff Road or start back.

Oak, birch, red maple, white pine, all cloak the pond area along with sweet pepper bush, high bush blueberries, cattails, ferns and speckled alder. Fish include sun fish, bullheads, large mouth and silver bass. Fish kills can be seen in the warm summer months when there is diminished oxygen in the pond due to excessive weed and algae growth. The town routinely harvests the weeds to maintain the health of the pond.



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](http://wellesleytrails.org)

April 2021