

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☺)

Waban Arches

1.6 miles, 1 hour

A pleasant walk along the Charles River will take you to these historic arches on the Sudbury Aqueduct. The aqueduct was completed in 1878 and was the second aqueduct constructed to provide fresh water to Boston.



Location and Parking

Park at the [Guernsey Sanctuary parking area](#) at 163 Winding River Rd.

Directions

Take Dover Road from Washington Street and follow for 0.7 miles. Turn right onto Livingston Road, which becomes Winding River Road, and follow for 0.9 miles. Small parking area is on your left at the trail map house.

Walk Description

Your walk will follow the Guernsey Path that is marked with orange arrow trail markers. Start your walk down the grassed access path from the parking area and look right for a black post with bat house mounted on top. This was built by scouts as an Eagle Scout project.

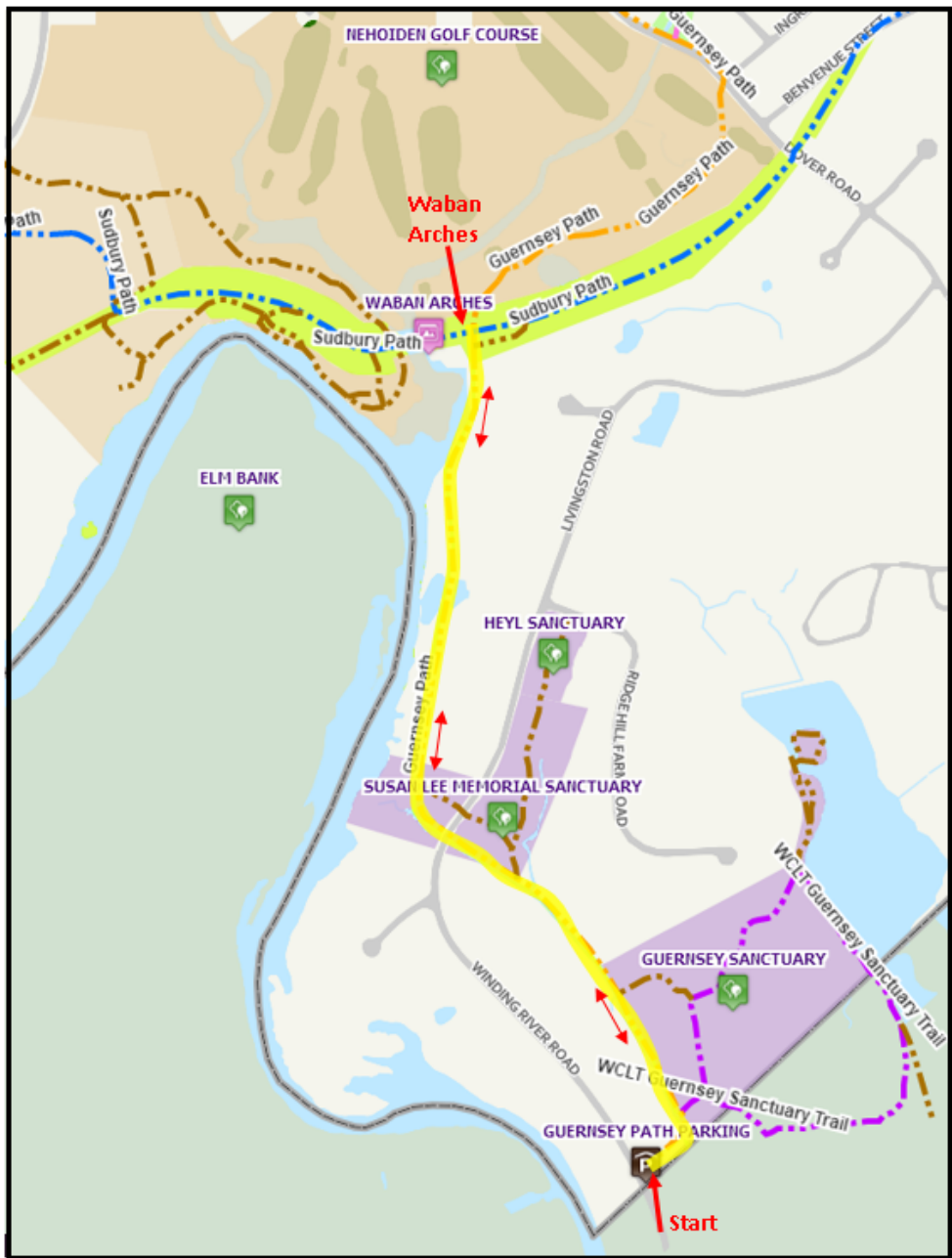
As you round the bend, you will see a trail post at the trail intersection. The trail to the right (purple arrows) leads to the Guernsey Sanctuary, a pleasant walk for another time. Go straight as indicated by the orange arrow, following a sewer easement behind the homes on Winding River Rd. In a quarter mile, you will cross over a footbridge, another Eagle Scout Project. To your right is a path connecting to the Susan Lee and Heyl Sanctuaries. These and the Guernsey Sanctuary are owned by the Wellesley Conservation Land Trust.

Cross Winding River Road, and continue on the sewer easement behind the homes on Livingston Road. At the bend in the trail, look left for an antenna sticking up from the ground. This is a remote measuring device monitoring the Charles River water level. The trail then continues along the Charles River. Please note that the land on either side of the trail is owned by the residents, so please do not trespass on private property. The wishing well seen on the trail was recently rebuilt by the home owners after a tree fell on it. It was originally built by a previous owner as a decorative cover for "an unsightly sewage access point."

Looking across the river is Elm Bank, a popular reservation with playing fields and walking trails owned by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Further down the trail you will have glimpses of a formidable stone structure looming ahead. This is the Waban Arches that is on the National Register of Historic Places. The arches were built in 1876 for the Sudbury Aqueduct to carry water from the Sudbury River in Framingham to Boston. It is built with stone and bricks, and is 500 feet long and 50 feet above Waban Brook that passes under the arches. The aqueduct was decommissioned in 1978, but is still used as an emergency water source

for Boston. You can take a side trail to the right up to the top of the aqueduct for a spectacular view (Try to disregard the disrespectful graffiti!). To the south is the Charles River and Pegan Hill, the highest point in Natick. And to the north is the Nehoiden Golf Course, one of the first 9-hole golf courses in the country that is owned by Wellesley College.

Retrace your steps down off the aqueduct on steps built as another Eagle Scout project to the trail below, and follow the orange arrows back to the parking area.



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

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