

WELLESLEY TRAILS

Favorite Trail Walks

Geologic Features

Look for geological features noted in many of our Favorite Trail Walks. Featured here is an esker in the Town Forest (pictured), a large rock polished by the glacier at Devil's Slide, and a kettle hole and glacial erratic at Kelly Memorial Park.



A. Esker in Town Forest

0.7 miles, 45 minutes

Location and Parking

Park at the [Longfellow Pond parking lot](#) at 220 Oakland Street.

Directions

From Route 9 in Wellesley Hills follow Oakland Street south for 0.9 miles, and the parking lot is on your left.

Walk Description

Start your walk from the Longfellow Pond parking lot on Oakland Street. Cross Oakland Street and follow the red arrow trail markers for the Charles River Path. The trail will take you up to the top of the esker, then down into a dip, and again up the esker and down. Watch your step going down - it is rather steep with loose rocks.

Eskers were created during the last ice age, about 15,000 years ago when a mile thick glacier covered Wellesley. When the glacier started melting and receding, streams of water developed under the ice field. The streams carried sand, gravel and stones. When all the ice melted, it left long ridges that formed the esker you are walking along.

Before you come to the end of the red arrow trail at the Sudbury Aqueduct, you have the option of retracing your steps up and down the esker, or taking a side trail to your right that takes you along Rosemary Brook. Look for ducks and geese, and if you are lucky, a great blue heron. Also see a beaver dam just before the brook flows under Oakland Street into Longfellow Pond.

Town Forest Esker Trail Map



B. Devil's Slide

0.15 miles, 15 minutes

Location and Parking

Park along the road at the [Devil's Slide trailhead](#) across the road from 9 Greenwood Road.

Directions

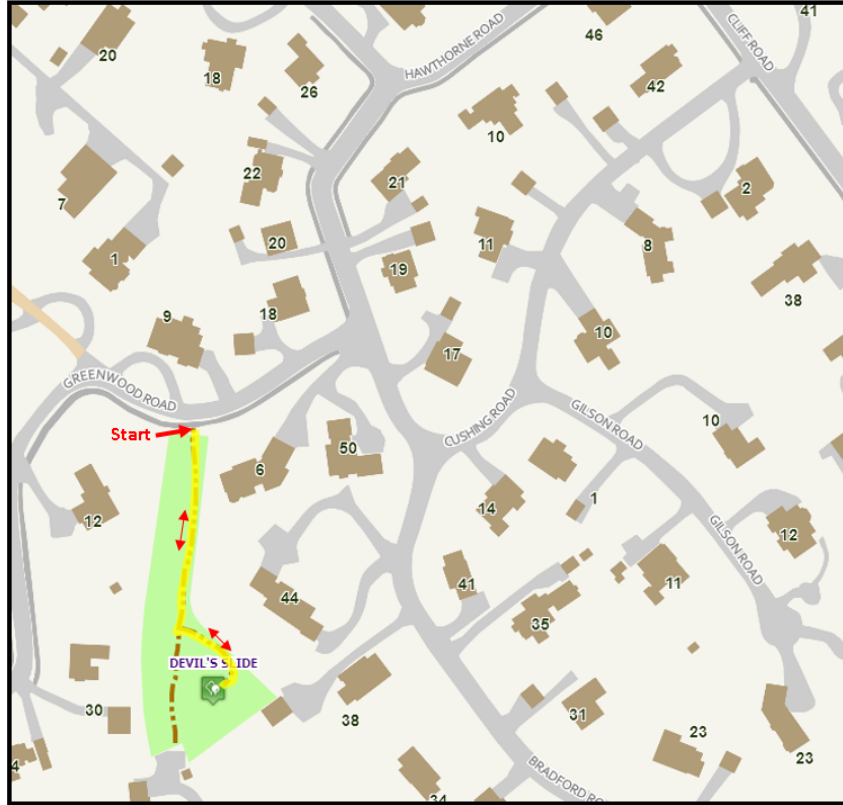
From the Hills Post Office on Washington Street, turn onto Cliff Road and follow for 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Cushing Road and follow as it winds around for 0.15 mile. Turn left onto Greenwood Road, and immediately on your left is the trailhead in patch of woods.

Walk Description

Follow the path for about 100 yards to a large rock called the Devil's Slide. Take the path to the left and climb around the back of the rock to get to the top of the slide. Children like to try out the slide, which is well worn with use, but only if it is dry and not wet or icy!

Devil's Slide is one of the oldest rocks in Wellesley, more than 600,000,000 years old and is a diorite intrusion into granite rock. A glacier passed over the diorite smoothing and polishing it. Once it was over the knob, it picked up speed, breaking off pieces. This is called plucking. This rock was part of the African continent when it was formed!

Devil's Slide Trail Map



C. Kettle Hole and Glacial Erratic at Kelly Field

0.25 miles, 20 minutes

Location and Parking

Park at the [Kelly Memorial Park parking lot](#) at 62 Elmwood Road.

Directions

From Route 9 head north on Weston Road toward Weston and follow for 0.3 miles. Turn right onto Elmwood Road and follow for 0.3 miles. After going past the Milestone Church, turn left into the Kelly Memorial Park parking lot.

Walk Description

Take the trail at the far right-hand corner of the parking lot, and immediately look toward the left. The depression in the land is the Kettle Hole.

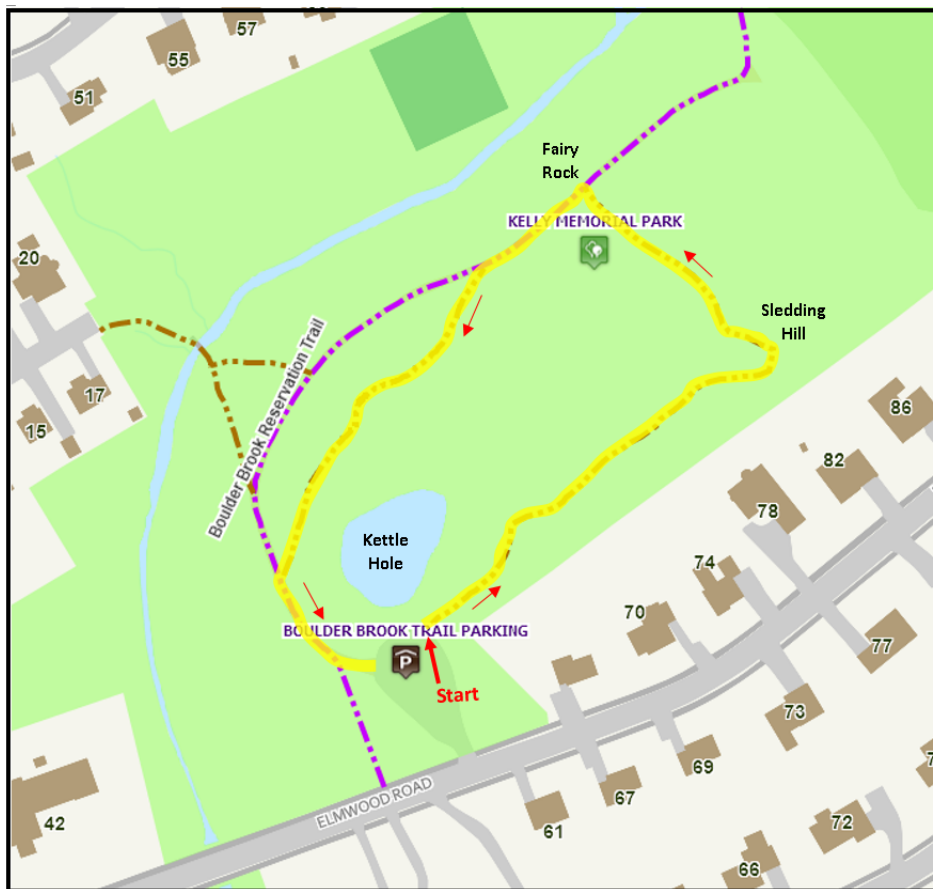
As the glacier melted, great chunks of ice broke off. The melting streams flowed around the ice chunk depositing sand and rock. When the ice chunk melted, it left a kettle shaped hole surrounded by the sand and rocks. During the winter when the ground freezes, it fills with water and ices over, but in the summer water drains into the ground and it is usually dry.

Continue on the trail and climb to the top of the sledding hill overlooking the playing fields. At the top, take the trail to the left and descend to the main trail. At the trail junction is a large glacial erratic called Fairy Rock that kids like to climb on.

Glacial erratics are rocks that are carried by the glacier, and as the glacier recedes, are deposited on the ground. Some of the glacial erratics can be carried great distances by the ice sheet, and others short distances after being broken off surrounding cliffs. Many glacial erratics are found in Wellesley, mainly north of Route 9, and Fairy rock is one of the largest.

Turn left and follow the main trail for a short distance (150- feet), and take the trail to the left. As you walk along this trail, look left to for another view of the kettle hole. When you exit the trail at the grassed area, turn left and follow the worn trail back to the parking lot.

Kelley Memorial Park Trail Map



For more on geology in Wellesley, the Wellesley Public Library has a great book **“The Geological Story of Wellesley”** by Katharine Fowler-Billings and published by the Wellesley Conservation Land Trust.

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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