



# WELLESLEY TRAILS

## Favorite Trail Walks

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### Charles River Trail

0.9 miles, 30 minutes

Take this scenic, easy, short walk along the Charles River at the Wellesley Office Park. The trail is ADA-accessible and has multiple stops along the paved pathway with views of the river.



#### Location and Parking

Park at the [Wellesley Office Park parking lot](#) behind the 45 William Street building.

#### Directions

Take Route 9 east toward Newton, exit at the first ramp after the I-95 interchange (to Chestnut Street), and at end of ramp turn left onto Quinobequin Road in Newton. After passing under the Route 9 bridge, take an immediate left for the Route 9 westbound ramp. Before merging with Route 9, take the first right onto William Street. In 0.2 miles turn right at 45 William Street driveway, go under the building, head toward the river, and bear right for public parking signs at the trailhead.

#### Walk Description

Behind the Wellesley Office Park, there is a hidden gem of the Wellesley trails network. This DCR path is fully ADA-accessible and provides wonderful views along the Charles River. Of course, there is Charles River access at the other end of town at Elm Bank, but it has been quite busy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In contrast, it is likely that you will be able to enjoy the Wellesley Office Park trails in quiet solitude!

Starting behind 45 William Street, the trailhead is marked by granite columns. The trail surface is a porous, rubberized asphalt designed to minimize erosion and runoff along the riverbank while providing a smooth, accessible path. The path opened in 2016, funded through a public-private partnership led by John Hancock Financial and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

Follow the path north and west (downriver). Notice the labeled riverbank trees – species like swamp white oak, northern red oak, and hickory.

Along the path, there are two platforms that jut out into the Charles River with outstanding views along the river. They also provide canoe and kayak launch sites. Across the river, you will see houses along Quinobequin Road. The name “Quinobequin” is Native American name for the river, meaning “meandering river” or “river that turns back on itself.” Along the shoreline side of Quinobequin Road is another trail. Unlike the path you are on now, the trail on the other side is a more rugged footpath, lovingly maintained by the Friends of the Quinobequin.

On your left-hand side, through the woods, you can see fine examples of 1990s-era suburban office park architecture. Now, you probably want to turn your attention back to the river... along the waterway, there is a chance you may see great blue heron, beaver, raccoon, muskrat, and turtles.

At the far western end of the route, the path makes a small loop and there is a bench by the river.

This is an out-and-back walk, so head back the way you came, back to the start of the path.



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