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Transportation Column 5: Walking, Jogging, and Biking in Wellesley

By Allison Burson, Natural Resources Commission and Mobility Committee and Steve Park, Trails Committee

*This is the final in a series of guest columns about transportation actions in Wellesley that will support the town's [Sustainability Mobility Plan](#) and [Climate Action Plan](#) currently in development. Previous columns have addressed public transportation with **MBTA train and T services**, the **MWRTA "Catch Connect" micro transit** and **enhanced bus service**, and personal transportation actions we can use for **daily trips to school** that improve traffic congestion, help combat climate change and provide lifelong health benefits.*

One of the many benefits of living in Wellesley is being able to step outside and enjoy a walk on some of our lovely town trails. As members of the Trails Committee, we have been thrilled to see so many residents of all ages out walking, jogging and enjoying our trails, walking in their neighborhoods, kids walking and biking to school, and people cycling and walking for errands, exercise and leisure.

Wellesley is so human scale that in a short time, it's not difficult to find your way to destinations on foot and bike after quick glances at a map. And Wellesley is so scenic, the best part of this traveling this way is discovering a new garden, hidden street, or picturesque hideaway you may not have known about before.

Try Our Trails

In our community, we're lucky to have 28 miles of marked trails and 18 more miles of unmarked trails. The Crosstown Trail, Sudbury Path, and Fuller Brook Park follow a generally east-west route across town. Along the route are two business districts, two libraries, and multiple train stations. Do you and your family have quiet options to walk to school, a library, the drug store, or a doctor? Fall is a great time to consider changing usual transportation behavior and taking steps, literally, to link sidewalks and trails to get to your destination.

What trails are closest to your neighborhood? The [Wellesley Trails Committee](#) has maps, guides and descriptions about Wellesley's extensive interconnected network – from long trails that connect open spaces across different parts of town to shorter woodland trails that explore Wellesley's conservation lands. You can use the [MapWellesley Trails Viewer](#) to help you navigate, or search [Google maps](#) "Walking and Biking" directions for the fastest and most recommended routes.

If you'd prefer to pedal, bicycles have the right to ride on the roads, on our trails, and on sidewalks except in our business districts. Most destinations in Town – the Library, schools, Green's Hardware, Whole Foods – have bike racks for you to securely lock your bike when you arrive. With support from local environmental group Sustainable Wellesley, the Wellesley Police Department even has a bike repair station and pump if you get a flat tire or need to make other repairs! (And our friendly WPD officers are happy to help you.)

Complete Streets Program

Wellesley participates in the [Complete Streets program](#) and in 2019 approved a Complete Streets policy as a guideline for future town street improvements and projects. As the town works to increase bike lanes along busier streets, these can be joined with the town's multi-use trails network as a complement to walking.

Now that the sugar maples, red maples, and other fall foliage is turning, we're planning our walks to get to our errands and appointments, to exercise, and to enjoy the day without the stress of getting stuck in traffic. We hope you will too – see you on the sidewalks, paths, and trails!

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