



## The Walking City Trail: Section 1 (northbound)

### Harvest River Bridge to Adams Park

Hiking distance: 8.3 miles

Elevation gain: 443 feet

Heading north, **Section 1** of the Walking City Trail begins at the **Harvest River Bridge**, which is reachable from **Capen Street Station** on the MBTA's trolley between Ashmont and Mattapan stations. If you'd prefer to split Section 1 into two shorter hikes, **Section 1A** runs from the Harvest River Bridge to **Hyde Park center** (4.5 miles) and **Section 1B** runs from Hyde Park center to **Adams Park** (3.8 miles).

For public transit options, flip to the last page of these directions.

Note: While the Harvest River Bridge is technically the beginning of the Walking City Trail, a short walk through the woods from Capen Street is required to reach the bridge, as explained below:

- From the Capen Street Station platform, walk northwest along Capen Street. Immediately after the trolley tracks, look for a yellow railroad crossing sign on a telephone pole, and turn right onto a side street here. Walk toward a gray gate with yellow and black stripes at the end of the road and continue past the gate into the Neponset River Reservation woods on a dirt path.
- Follow the dirt path until it emerges from the trees and arrives at the **Harvest River Bridge**, which is part of the Neponset River Greenway. **You've reached the official starting point of**

## the Walking City Trail.

- Cross the Harvest River Bridge (officially crossing from Milton into the City of Boston!) and take a left turn onto the paved greenway path on the other side.
- Keep left as the path splits in three different places. Climb a long, winding bridge that crosses the trolley tracks below. Continue down the other side of the bridge, back into the woods.
- As path ends at Mattapan Station, you'll see a building with two red columns ahead of you. Make a left so that you pass in front of this building. Then turn left onto Blue Hills Avenue.
- Upon reaching a signalized crosswalk, turn right, cross Blue Hills Avenue, and then turn right to walk back into Mattapan. (This detour avoids a nightmarish road crossing by the station.)
- Turn left onto River Street and then veer left onto Edgewater Drive.
- After passing a playground, look for a gorgeous mural depicting city farmers on a building to your right. Once you've reached the mural, stop, and then look to your left. You'll see a small opening in the 4 foot tall stone wall. Walk through this opening. You have now entered the **Edgewater Greenway**, which is slated to be developed into a more official city pathway.
- Follow a thin and lightly-used dirt path through the riverside woodlands. You'll have to make your way over a couple of downed trees in places.
- At the end of the path, you'll reach a 3-4 foot stone wall that has no openings. Here, the soil has been packed into sort of a mound that will help you climb over the stone wall. (Just be careful on the dismount, because there's no mound on the other side.) Climb over the wall to reach the intersection of Edgewater and Monponset Street. **If you would like to avoid the wall climb, you can keep walking along Edgewater Drive after passing the farmer mural, skipping Edgewater Greenway. You can also pop into it and backtrack to the entryway.**
- On the other side of the wall, you'll reach the intersection of Edgewater Drive and Monponset Street. Continue up Monponset Street, cross River Street, and make a right turn.

- Turn left onto Caton Street and then make another right onto Hollingsworth Street.
- At a four-way intersection, make a left turn onto a concrete path that passes beneath a set of railroad tracks via wooden stairs. On the other side, turn left onto Ralston Road.
- Make a right turn onto Ruskindale Road.
- Continue across Wood Avenue, and then turn left onto Farrar Avenue.
- As Farrar Avenue hits at a T-intersection, stop and look to your right. You'll see boulders at the end of Ruskin Road. This is an entrance to **Crane Ledge Woods**, which is unfortunately private property. A path from the boulders to the overlook of Crane Ledge *does* exist. But alas, it's not part of the Walking City Trail, as much as we would have loved it to be. **You have now reached Mile 2.6 and completed roughly 1/3 of Section 1.**
- Turn left at the T-intersection (walking in the opposite direction of Crane Ledge Woods), make a right turn onto Tacoma Street, and then turn right again onto Bradlee Street.
- As you continue along Bradlee Street, look to your right for some views of the cliff faces of Crane Ledge Woods. Turn left onto Collins Street and continue to Hyde Park Avenue.
- Cross Hyde Park Avenue and continue onto Metropolitan Avenue, passing a liquor store and a utility truck depot before reaching a pedestrian bridge that crosses another set of train tracks.
- Use the pedestrian bridge to bypass the tracks and as you reach the bottom of the ramp on the other side, make a turn left onto Dale Street.
- As you approach a playground, find an opening in the wooden fence on your left. (There's a dog leashing sign posted by the opening). Turn left onto a paved path, follow it past picnic tables, and look for a dirt path on the left. This is the entrance to **Sherrin Woods Urban Wild**.
- Follow a rocky path into Sherrin Woods. (Watch out for broken glass in a couple places.) As the trail splits. Keep left as you pass a couple of side paths and head deeper into the woods.

- As you emerge from the woods and approach a sunny clearing, you'll see a fenced-in patch of wetland ahead. Turn right and walk alongside the wetland.
- As the path forks, take a right turn back into the woods and follow a short path out of Sherrin Woods to reach the corner of Austin and Marston Streets.
- Turn left onto Marston Street and then turn right onto Gwinnett Street.
- Cross West Street and continue ahead onto Summer Street.
- Take a left onto Gordon Avenue and walk to River Street, where you'll enter the business center of Hyde Park. **This is the end of Section 1A and the start of Section 1B, roughly halfway through Section 1 (4.5 miles). Restaurants and buses are available on River Street and Hyde Park Avenue. Trains are available at Hyde Park commuter rail station.**
- From Gordon Avenue, turn right onto River Street.
- Make a right turn onto Cleveland Street and continue until you reach the edge of a field with a baseball field and several shade trees.
- Pass through a small opening in the wooden fence at the end of Cleveland Street. Walk down a grassy slope to the baseball diamond's chain-link fence. Keeping the fence on your left, walk northwest across the grassy lawn, following the light posts. At a gap in the trees and bushes ahead, you'll find a dirt path that leads to a closed gate at the edge of the Enneking Parkway.
- Turn left as you reach the gate and walk along Enneking Parkway, on the interior side of the metal road barrier. When you reach a small parking area, walk straight across it and continue through an opening in the wooden fence on the other side of the lot. (There's a boulder here.)
- Walk across a grassy lawn, cross Smithfield Road and follow a faint dirt path to the shoulder of Enneking Parkway. You'll see the vast woods of **Stony Brook Reservation** beckoning ahead.
- Cross the busy parkway to reach a small parking lot on the opposite side. **NOTE: The lack of crosswalk and the traffic here make this road crossing the most dangerous section of the Walking City Trail.** Wait until there's a gap in the traffic and make your crossing quickly.

- Continue past an gray entry gate with “Stony Brook Reservation” emblazoned on it. Enter the woods on a paved path and turn left at a junction. You’ll see the occasional wooden sign nailed to a tree that reads “Stony Brook Path” and alternative metal signs that read “Healthy Trail.”
- As you approach a “Healthy Trail” sign, make a left turn onto a cutoff path that descends to **Turtle Pond**. To ensure you’re making the correct turnoff, you can also look for a small white sign nailed to one of the trees to your right, which simply reads “224.”
- Turn right and walk along the partially-obscured waters of Turtle Pond (on your left.) Keep left at a junction and continue ahead to an opening in the trees on your left. Here you can step onto a wooden dock for a banger view of Turtle Pond! **You have now reached Mile 6 and completed roughly 3/4 of Section 1.**
- Continue past the dock. Turn right at a junction and climb uphill past some rock formations. Then make a left turn left at another junction.
- Upon hitting one more junction, turn left onto the paved Stony Brook Path/Healthy Trail that you were walking on earlier.
- Keep left the path hits one more junction and pass through some buzzing wetlands.
- After reaching another Stony Brook Reservation gate, the path emerges from the woods and ends at Blue Ledge Drive. Cross the road and continue onto a thin dirt path that runs along the edge of the gated community. You’ll quickly reach the Stony Brook Plaza shopping center.
- Walk north across the parking lot past a Dunkin Donuts, and a Burger King to Washington Street and turn to your right for **a lovely view of Downtown Boston**. Turn right and descend toward that Boston vista until you reach the intersection of Washington and Beech Streets.
- Make a right turn onto Beech Street. Then Turn left onto Kitteridge Avenue.
- Turn right onto Metropolitan Avenue and then make a left turn down Augustus Avenue.

- At the end of Augustus Avenue, cross Poplar Street, and continue straight onto a cul-de-sac on the other side. Disregard the “Private Way” sign. This just denotes that the city doesn’t maintain this road. The public can walk through here.
- Follow a path at the end of the cul-de-sac into a grove of trees. On your left, you’ll see the **Sherman Street Green Space Conservancy**, a community garden complete with fairy houses and even a mailbox where you can leave letters for the fairies (and receive replies, if you come back!) By all means, take a moment to explore this neighborhood wonderland.
- Continue past the conservancy onto Sherman Street and turn left onto Hawthorne Street.
- Make a right turn onto Sycamore Street. Then turn left onto Cummins Highway.
- Follow Cummins Highway to its terminus at Washington Street. Cross Washington Street to enter **Adams Park**. Congratulations. **You just completed Section 1 of the Walking City Trail!** The longest and most rustic trail section is now in the bag. Time to eat something big and gooey. After all, you’ve still got the other three trail sections to go...

## TRANSIT, TOILETS, AND TREATS

### MBTA PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE SERVICE POINTS

*Bus service is available at several locations on Section 1 but these points offer the most options.*

- Capen Street Station (Section 1/1A trailhead access pathway): Ashmont-Mattapan [trolley](#).
- Hyde Park center (Section 1B trailhead): [32](#), [33](#), [50](#) buses. Commuter rail at Hyde Park station ([Providence/Stoughton](#) line).
- Adams Park (Section 2 trailhead): [14](#), [30](#), [34](#), [35](#), [36](#), [37](#), [40](#), [51](#) buses. Commuter rail at Roslindale Village station ([Needham](#) line).

### SUGGESTED BATHROOM STOPS

*Free public bathroom access is most limited on Section 1 but you will pass a good deal of businesses that might allow you to use their bathroom without purchasing anything.*

- Mattapan station and nearby businesses
- Hyde Park branch of Boston Public Library, BCYF Hyde Park Community Center and nearby businesses \*\*\*
- Roslindale branch of Boston Public Library, BCYF Roslindale Community Center, and nearby businesses

*Any bathroom affixed with \*\*\* requires an off-trail detour of 0.1-0.5 miles. All of the other suggested bathrooms are located along the trail.*

### WHERE TO BUY PROVISIONS

Given how much of Section 1 is comprised of residential neighborhoods and woodlands, there aren't as many options for provisions as you'll experience on the subsequent Walking City Trail sections. Mattapan station offers easy access to a number of restaurants and markets. From here, your next opportunity will be Hyde Park's business hub, which the trail passes on the way from Sherrin Woods to Stony Brook Reservation. There are a handful of markets and restaurants along Washington Street as you descend toward the end of Section 1 at Adams Park, where you'll have many more options.