

# WELLESLEY TRAILS

## Favorite Trail Walks

### Town Forest

1.2 miles, 1 hour

**Take a pleasant walk on the woodland trails in our Town Forest. The forest is the largest reservation in Town and supports a wide variety of wildlife and birds in a natural environment. Walk along the Longfellow Pond shoreline and climb to the top of a spectacular high esker deposited by glaciers.**



#### Location and Parking

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

#### Directions

From the traffic light at Rt. 9 and Oakland St, follow Oakland St. south for 0.9 miles, and the parking lot is on your left.

#### Walk Description

Begin the walk on the trail leaving the far-right corner of the parking lot, between the bench and the large gate. Turn right at the first sign post to follow the red arrows up a stony path, and the bear left up the incline.

Look for purple and yellow arrows marking a sharp right turn to ascend the esker. An esker is long narrow hill formed by gravel deposits from a stream that flowed under a glacier. Follow the purple and yellow trail downhill and around to the far side of the Town Forest, and turn left at the T intersection.

On the long straight section of trail you will see a few green manholes that mark the town sewer. You may begin to hear car traffic through the woods as trail nears route 9. Turn sharply left at the purple arrow.

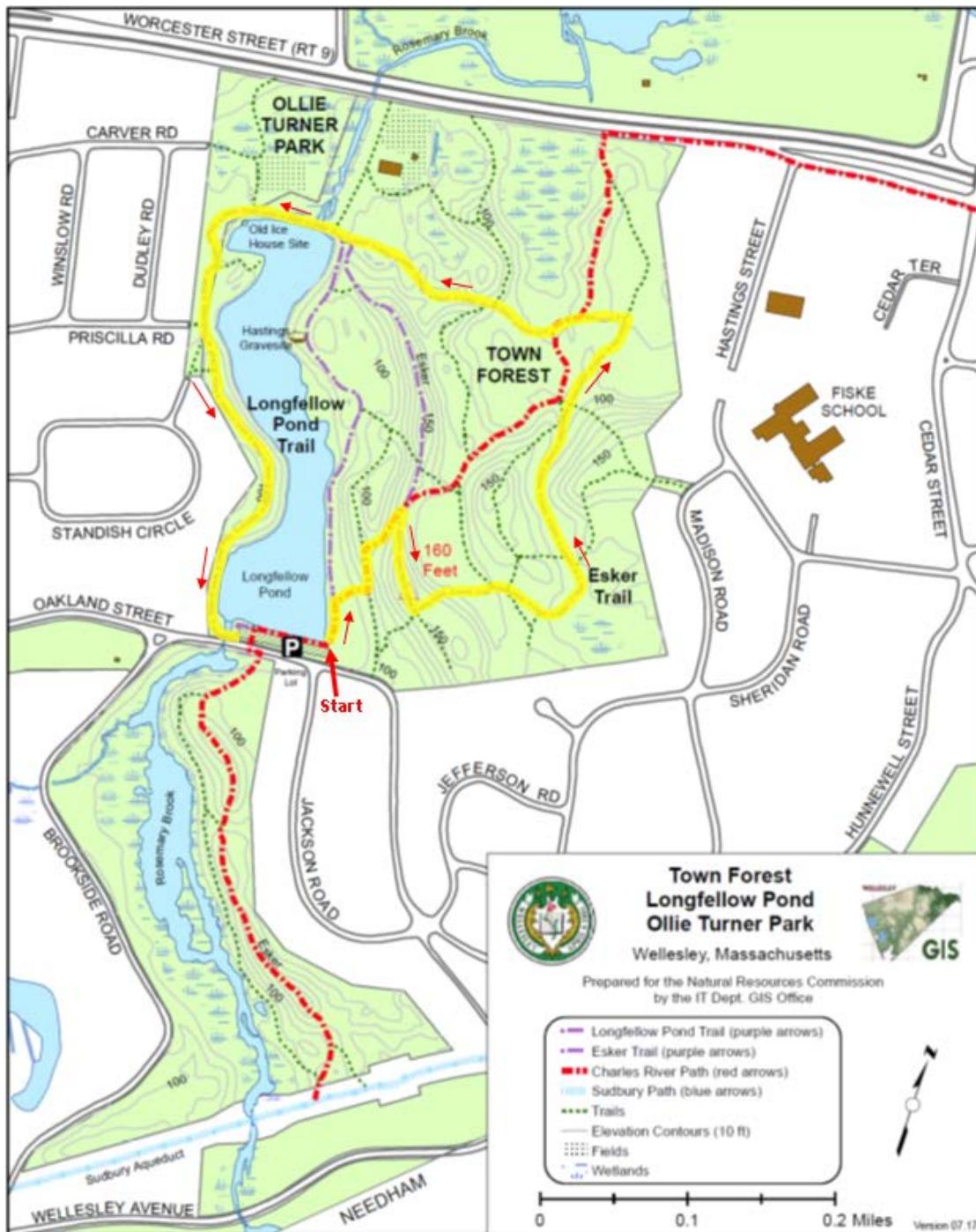
At the crest of hill, look downhill to the right to the vernal pool. It is completely dried up in late summer and fall, but this area will fill with water in late winter and spring to provide an important habitat for fairy shrimp and wood frogs. Elsewhere in the Town Forest you may see other wildlife such as deer, coyote, skunk, river otters, fox, raccoon, muskrat, vole, and more.

The trail passes through old stone walls that delineated property boundaries of early settlers. Throughout this section of the trail you may notice some areas of the forest that have been cut back as a part of the Wellesley Town Forest Stewardship Plan that seeks to remove invasive species and enhance the forest ecosystem.

Follow the yellow trail straight ahead as the trail emerges from the woods. Do not follow the purple arrow pointing left and uphill. Longfellow Pond will be directly ahead. This area was the summer residence of Chief Maugus and his Algonquin tribe. When you reach the pond, go straight ahead and pass over a small dam at Rosemary Brook.

Before the left turn at the far side of the pond, notice 4 large cubes of granite in the water just to the left. These were part of foundation for the storage house of the Metropolitan Ice Company.

Follow the purple trail that borders the pond and return to the parking lot.



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)

September 2020