

## **Chronology of Major Trail Network Accomplishments**

- 1996: A plan was developed for the Crosstown Trail to provide east-west connectivity and the construction of a demonstration trail along the Cochituate Aqueduct between Woodlawn Avenue and the Schofield School.
- 1997: The demonstration trail was marked in the spring, and by December, volunteers and the DPW completed the difficult task of constructing steps at Woodlawn Avenue down the steep bank to the aqueduct. Successful completion of this trail generated enthusiastic town support to implement a town-wide trails network.
- 1998: The Crosstown Trail was completed, linking together the Cochituate, Fuller Brook and Caroline Paths.
- 1999: A footbridge was constructed near the high school over the Caroline Brook, and the first trail signs were designed and installed. Loop woodland trails were marked at Longfellow Pond and Centennial Park.
- 2000: A color-coded trails network map was completed, and the initial set of map houses was installed to display and dispense maps.
- 2001: The Charles River Path, Boulder Brook Reservation Trail and the initial part of the Guernsey Path were completed.
- 2002: The Morses Pond and Beard Trails were completed, and we began conducting guided walks along our trails.
- 2003: The Carisbrooke Reservation and Rockridge Pond Trails were added as woodland trails and the Guernsey Path was extended to the Waban Arches. The Wellesley Trails website came online.
- 2004: The Wellesley Conservation Council's Guernsey Sanctuary Trail was added as a woodland trail.
- 2005: The Sudbury Path was added as a major interconnecting trail along the southern part of town, the Guernsey Path was extended to connect to the Crosstown Trail, and the Crosstown Trail was realigned to more closely follow the Cochituate Aqueduct. Our first five-year Trails Projects Plan was published for the Town Comprehensive Plan.
- 2006: The Esker Trail in the Town Forest was added to our woodland trails.
- 2007: The Guernsey Path was rerouted through Wellesley College and the Morses Pond Trail became a loop trail which included the Town Beach.
- 2008: In cooperation with the Town NIS GIS analysts, the conversion of all our trail maps to GIS was completed.
- 2009: The Charles River Link was dedicated, a 16-mile, 6-town regional trail connecting Newton through Wellesley to the Bay Circuit Trail in Medfield. The Sudbury Path was

rerouted through the Babson campus, and the Crosstown Trail was rerouted around the duck pond at Town Hall.

- 2010: Since 2002 we have conducted 65 guided trail walks and Kids' Trails Day events to encourage the use and enjoyment of our trails network, and over 1,000 participants have attended these activities. Trail parking and a safe pedestrian crossing were added to the Crosstown Trail at Weston Rd.
- 2011: New Trails Projects Plan for 2012-2017 was published with the status of existing projects in the previous plan and six new proposed projects were added. Wellesley Trails Committee joined Facebook.
- 2012: The Charles River Path was extended in back of Waterstone along the Charles River to Weston, and the Crosstown Trail was extended from Morses Pond to the Natick town line.
- 2013: The Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) issued an 8(m) permit to the Town formalizing the agreement for non-motorized recreational use of the Sudbury Aqueduct trails.
- 2014: Seven trail walks were run at Wellesley College's North 40 in anticipation of the sale of the property, and a total of 240 people attended. The Committee recommended that at least 50% of the property be retained as open space for passive recreational use and a woodland buffer be retained along the Crosstown Trail.
- 2015: Work started on our trail project to improve the Brook Path between the State Street parking lot and Paine Street that had been cut from the Fuller Brook Park Restoration Project budget.
- 2016: A Trails Projects Plan for 2017-2022 was published for the Town Unified Plan. It contains two ongoing projects from the previous plan and nine new projects. Since 2002 when we started free guided trail walks, we have had over 3,000 participants.
- 2017: The new stone dust section of the Brook Path through Hunnewell Fields to Rice St was completed. The Crosstown Trail was reroute in the Hills to eliminate busy Washington St, Charles River Path was extended to connect to the Crosstown Trail at Indian Springs Park, and the Morses Pond Trail was rerouted through the woods on a new trail to the beach parking lot.
- 2018: GIS Department released an interactive trails map for locating and following our trails on smart phones. We supported Needham in developing and opening up the new Sudbury Aqueduct Trail through the Olin and Babson College campuses. Centennial Reservation upper meadow trail was rerouted for an unobstructed view of the Blue Hills, and the Trails Committee added a bench to enjoy the view.
- 2019 Charles River Link Trail 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Total number of hits on Google map page is over 27,000 views.
- 2020 The North Forty Trail was added as a new woodland trail. The Crosstown Trail Route-9 crossing was rerouted from Overbrook Dr to the new pedestrian crossing at the Boston Sports Institute. All of our trail walks were cancelled due to the Covid pandemic.

- 2021 Constructed a new trail in the North Forty that bypasses the landfill mitigation area. Supported IT in transitioning to an improved interactive trails map. Because of the pandemic our regular spring guided walks were cancelled, and instead we developed 10 self-guided walks that were posted on our website. Walks resumed in the fall with poor attendance
- 2022 Our fourth 5-year Trails Project Plan was published for 2022-2026. It contains three ongoing projects and eight new projects. A new trail, The Hundreds Path, was opened that connects the Crosstown Trail at Brown Park through Rockridge Pond and Carisbrooke Reservation to the Weston's trails network.
- 2023 After multiple attempts to correct erosion and muddy trail on Maugus Hill at Centennial Reservation, the S-curve trail was closed and a new trail was constructed through the woods. Completed restoration of 10 of our 20 trail map houses in Town.
- 2024 In memory of John Schuler, the John G. Schuler Path was created along the Charles River marked with a plaque mounted on a stone reading: "In appreciation of John G. Schuler, the visionary behind Wellesley's expansive network of wooded trails. His work began in 1975 and continued for almost a half a century, supporting public access to open space across Town." The Charles River Reservation Trail at the Wellesley Office Park was added to our collection of trails.