



Look for the following birds and mammals you may encounter while exploring Centennial Reservation:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Owls | Thrushes |
| Blue Jays | Chipmunks |
| Muskrats | Raccoon |
| Red-tailed hawk | Warblers |
| Nuthatches | Meadow mice |
| Crows | Skunks |
| Mallard ducks | Cardinals |
| Woodpeckers | Rabbits |
| Fisher Cats | Weasels |
| Red squirrels | Foxes |
| Starlings | Deer |
| Mockingbirds | Coyote |
| Grey squirrels | Geese |
| Heron | Turkey |
| Woodchucks | Bats |



Centennial Reservation was purchased by the 1980 Town Meeting as the crowning achievement of the Town's Centennial Celebration. The Park was acquired from the Sisters of Charity of Mt. Saint Vincent, with significant contributions from the Wellesley Conservation Council, Inc. and the Friends of Centennial Park.

Under Natural Resources Commission policy, Centennial Reservation is maintained as conservation land. Please keep dogs on leash or under voice command at all times to protect foxes, deer, and other wildlife. Have fun in the park walking, bird watching, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, painting, kite-flying, fishing, and studying and photographing nature!

Hunting, trapping, collecting plants, and using unauthorized motor vehicles are prohibited. Please carry-out everything that you carry in.

This trail was renovated as an Eagle Scout project by Michael Mahr and members of Troops 182 and 185, with help from Wellesley Trails Committee members Denny Nackoney and Joan Gaughan. Photo credits to Michael McManus (Landscape) and Laura Fragasso (Heron).



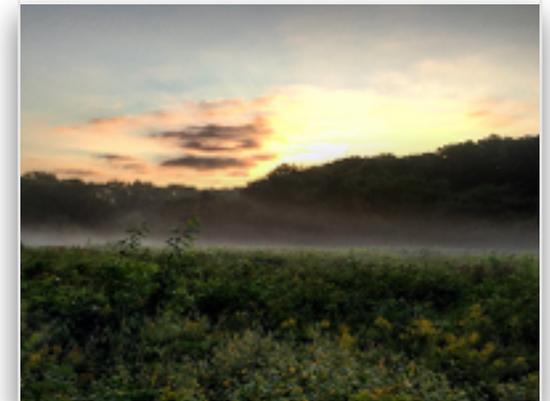
525 Washington St. Wellesley, MA 02482
781.431.1019 x2294
<http://www.wellesleyma.gov/NRC>

For more information about the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission, Wellesley Trails Committee, and Wetlands Protection Committee, visit our website and like us on Facebook.



Centennial Reservation

Wellesley, MA



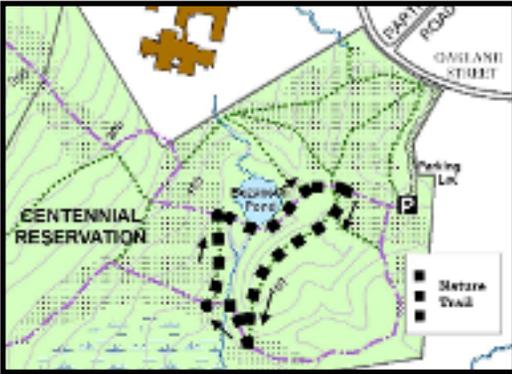
Self-Guided Nature Trail

We want ground to which people may easily go after their day's work is done, and where they may stroll for an hour, seeing, hearing, and feeling nothing of the hustle and jar of the streets, where they shall, in effect, find the city put far away from them...

Frederick Law Olmsted

The Nature Trail is approximately 1/2 mile long and takes about 1/2 hour to walk. The trail is not difficult but is not suitable for wheelchairs. Sturdy and comfortable shoes are highly recommended.

Centennial Reservation Self-Guided Nature Trail



To find the trail, head due west from the Oakland St. parking lot and look for a wooden marker labeled "NT"

STATION 1 - THE EDGE EFFECT Two habitats meet here - open field and forest - creating an unusual biological richness known as "the edge effect." The greater variety of plants growing in this edge area results in a greater number and variety of wildlife. Aspen, birch, cottonwood, and poplar trees all prefer the edge area. As the forest expands, these "pioneer" species will be replaced by "climax" tree species, such as white pine, red oak, red maple, and hickory. Climax tree seedlings can be found growing beneath pioneers.

STATION 2 - HEMLOCK GROVE Eastern hemlocks find an ideal home in the cool, damp micro-climate of this north-facing slope and pond. These are the only hemlocks in Centennial Reservation and are sadly in decline due to an infestation of the woolly adelgid, which feeds by sucking sap from hemlock and spruce trees.

STATION 3 - WILDLIFE The mix of forest, brush piles, dead trees, and a plentiful water supply provides ideal conditions for a variety of birds and animals. Look for their nests, tracks, casts, and droppings.

STATION 4 - GEOLOGY Between 15,000-20,000 years ago, New England was

covered with a huge mass of glacial ice. The melting of the glaciers left behind formations called "eskers" and "drumlins".

At this station, you are standing on an esker — a gravel ridge deposited by water running in channels through glacial ice. Maugus Hill, rising to the north, is a drumlin formation. Drumlins are oval hills, usually less than 250 feet high, which taper in the direction of a one-time glacial flow.

STATION 5 - FOOD SUPPLY The scope and complexity of wildlife populations is determined by the size and diversity of the available food supply. Many plants provide food in the form of seeds, fruit, buds, leaves, bark, or roots. Important food plants include barberries, bittersweet, sumac, pine, blueberries, oaks, cattails, blackberries, and even poison ivy. Can you add others to this list? *Nature Trail turns right.*

STATION 6 - LITTLE LEAF WINTERCREEPER (*EUONYMOUS FORTUNEI*) This unobtrusive evergreen vine creeping along the ground and up the tree in front of you is a cultivated plant that now grows wild. It provides nesting sites for small rodents.

STATION 7 - OPEN FIELD Open fields are essential to many wildlife species. During the 1890s, most of the land in Wellesley was cleared for farming. Today, very little agricultural land remains. Centennial Reservation preserves the mix of field and forest characteristic of earlier days, and wildflowers abound in the open fields.

STATION 8 - FOOD CHAIN Energy from the sun travels through the living world from

plants to animals and back again. Green plants transform sunshine, soil chemicals, and water into food energy.

Animals eat plants and each other, creating a "food chain." When animals die, their bodies feed scavengers and micro-organisms, returning chemicals to the soil to feed the plants. You might trace a simple food chain starting with grass seeds that are eaten by a mouse that is then eaten by a hawk. Can you think of other food chains?

STATION 9 - WATER COURSES This ditch was carved by a small brook that now runs 50 feet south of where you are standing. The brook was rerouted to flow around a swimming pool that existed where the pond is now. When the pond was re-established in 1981, the brook was returned to its original channel. The stream drains from the east slope of Maugus Hill into Academy Brook, Rosemary Brook, and Longfellow Pond.

STATION 10 - BEZANSON POND The pond is named for John Bezanson, a long-time engineer for the Town of Wellesley who fished here as a boy. At one time, the Sisters of Charity filled the pond and replaced it with a concrete swimming pool used by the students at the Academy of the Assumption, now Mass. Bay Community College. The pond was restored when the park became town property. It now supports cattails, wild asters, and various sedges. In summer, duckweed floats on its surface, turning it pea-green. Water-loving shrubs and trees grow on the bank, and frogs, polliwogs, bluegills, and mallard ducks also make the pond their home here.