

WALKING CITY TRAIL

The Walking City Trail: Section 2

Adams Park to Jamaica Pond boathouse

Hiking distance: 5.8 miles

Elevation gain: 361 feet

- Section 2 of the Walking City Trail starts at **Adams Park**, located in the center of Roslindale Village and accessible via several bus routes. You can also walk to the park in just 0.1 mile from the **Roslindale Village commuter rail station**, which is serviced by the Needham train.
- From the entry pillars of Adams Park on Washington Street, walk across the park green to the entrance/exit at the corner of South Street and Poplar Street.
- Cross both of these streets and then walk northwest along South Street.
- As South Street curves left and becomes Belgrade Avenue, keep walking straight ahead along the pavement as you pass a Citizens Bank kiosk on your right.
- Shortly after the pavement swings to the left, paralleling the Roslindale Village commuter rail station, turn right and walk through an underpass beneath the tracks. Continue up a ramp on the other side and follow this path to its terminus at Conway Street.
- Turn right onto Conway Street and follow it uphill. Continue straight onto Arborough Road and head toward the 3-foot stone wall at the end of the road. Here you'll find an entryway to **Arnold Arboretum**. Pick up a dirt-and-woodchip path to enter the arboretum.
- Make a left turn as the path reaches a four-way intersection and climb the southern slope of Peters Hill along the shaded path. Keep straight as the path hits another four-way intersection

and continue up the hill past some old tombstones marking the graves of Revolutionary War-era soldiers! (This hidden place is known as the Walter Street Burying Ground.)

- Once the trail hits another four-way intersection, turn right and then make another right onto a paved path. Look for a green sign on your left that says “Peters Hill.” Here you’ll see a dirt path entering some trees. Take a left onto this path and follow it to the exposed summit of Peters Hill, where you’ll be rewarded with a sweeping overlook of downtown Boston, now a little bit closer.
- From the summit, look slightly to the left of the downtown Boston skyline and you’ll see a dirt path descending the grassy north face of Peters Hill. Follow this path to the bottom of the hill and watch your footing as the path becomes steep in a few places.
- As the dirt path levels out at the bottom of the hill and reaches another paved path, turn right onto the paved path and then make a left as the path reaches a four-way intersection. Follow the path downhill to a set of arboretum gates, cross Bussey Street, and enter another set of gates on the other side of the road to continue into the northern half of Arnold Arboretum.
- Follow a paved path through a clearing. You’ll see a stream and several towering evergreens on a hillside to your left.
- After passing a bench made of bright finished wood on your right, look for an opening in the trees where a gravel side path enters the forest. Turn right onto this gravel path and continue up the wooded slopes of Hemlock Hill. Keep straight as thin side paths merge from both sides.
- After transitioning to dirt and becoming narrower and stonier, the path reaches the summit of Hemlock Hill. (Watch out for broken glass on the rocks up here.)
- Continue straight over some ragged rock surfaces into the woods on the east side of the hilltop and begin your descent on a rougher dirt path that becomes rooty and steep in places. **This is the most rugged patch of terrain on the Walking City Trail.** So...take your time. If you’d prefer to avoid this steep descent, skip to the next page for a less gnarly bypass option.
- As the path smoothens and levels out near the bottom of the hill, turn left at a T-intersection and continue across Bussey Brook on stones. After crossing the waterway, turn right onto a

paved path and pass through another set of arboretum gates to arrive at South Street.

- **BYPASS OPTION:** If you'd like to avoid the steep and rugged descent down Hemlock Hill, simply backtrack down the gentler path that you used to ascend the hill, turn right onto the paved path, and follow it to the arboretum gates at South Street.
- Cross South Street and continue through the gates of **Bussey Brook Meadow**, a lesser known fragment of the arboretum that connects the sanctuary to the nearby transit hub at Forest Hills.
- Follow the Blackwell Footpath through Bussey Brook Meadow to its terminus at Washington Street. As you exit the meadow, turn left onto Washington Street and then turn right to cross the busy street and arrive at the upper bus bay of Forest Hills MBTA station.
- Turn left and walk north alongside Forest Hills station, which will be on your right. Continue across Arborway and then turn right onto a multi-use pedestrian and bike path.
- Walk along this path, watching out for passing cyclists, and as you approach a rotary, turn left onto a circular piece of sidewalk and follow it into the **Southwest Corridor greenway**. Back in the 1960s, a huge highway was slated to run along this corridor, but thanks to activists from surrounding neighborhoods, the state was persuaded to scrap the highway project and create a greenway for pedestrians and cyclists instead. (It extends all the way to Back Bay station!)
- Continue along the paved pedestrian greenway path. You'll notice another paved path on your right, which runs parallel to the path you're on. This additional path is technically designated for cyclists, but you can walk alongside it too. Both paths ultimately lead to the same place.
- As the pedestrian path approaches Boynton Street, turn right onto a very short dirt path and then make another right onto the next segment of paved pedestrian pathway.
- Cross McBride Street and continue onto the next length of pedestrian path, which will now be the path on the right. (A small pillar between the two paths denotes this with a sign.)
- Turn right as the path hits a T-intersection and walk around a large grassy clearing where tiny flowers bloom throughout the year. Keep left at the next two junctions.

- Make a right turn at one last junction and follow the paved path to Williams Street. Turn right and continue on Williams Street through a residential area until you reach Forest Hills Street.
- Cross Forest Hills Street and enter **Franklin Park** through an entry gate. Continue into the park on a paved path that passes a bubbling stream on your right. As a stone archway looms ahead, make a left turn and climb a set of stone stairs to enter “The Wilderness” of the park’s west side. Keep right as the stairs fork and climb a few more sets of stairs to reach a paved pathway.
- As you walk the paved path, keep an eye peeled for an unmarked dirt trail branching off to your left. Take a left turn onto this dirt trail, keep right as the trail splits, and then continue straight through a four way intersection.
- The trail climbs a small rise and passes through an incredibly thick corridor of leafy plants before hitting a T-intersection. Turn left here, onto a paved path, and then make a second left onto another dirt path shortly after.
- After passing through a sunnier stretch of woods and curving southeast, the trail hits a jumble of intersections. First, turn left at a T-intersection. Next, continue straight through a four-way intersection. Finally, turn left at one more T-intersection and walk towards a paved road.
- Cross the paved road and continue up a rugged trail on the other side to reach a grassy clearing. Turn right and you’ll see two parallel paved paths in front of you, with the stony ruins of the Franklin Park overlook shelter beckoning on the other side.
- Continue across both of the paved paths and enter the shelter ruins on a paved walkway flanked with short stone walls.
- As you reach the center of the ruins, turn right as the paved path splits and then turn left onto a thin dirt trail that continues through bushes amid the ruins. Enter a short tunnel, walk through the tunnel to exit the ruins, and then turn left onto another paved path.
- Follow the paved path past White Stadium on your right. Then turn right as the path splits. Briefly walk toward the stadium and turn left onto another section of path that encircles the

north end of the stadium complex. Keep right as three other paths enter from the left and follow the path toward the east side of the stadium.

- As you approach a chain-link stadium gate on your right, look left across the lawn and nearby Playstead Road to the trees on the other side. You're looking for a wide opening in the trees where another paved path enters the woods. Turn left, walk across the lawn, cross Playstead Road, and enter the northernmost woods of Franklin Park on this paved path.
- Continue along the paved path as it delivers you to the abandoned bear cages and dens of Franklin Park: a rusted relic from Franklin Park Zoo's darker days.
- Turn left as the path splits in front of the bear cages and keep left as you reach another junction shortly after leaving the cages behind. Continue onto a gravel path and descend through the woods toward Walnut Street.
- Keep left as the gravel path forks and then make an immediate right onto a skinnier dirt path to exit Franklin Park.
- Continue across Walnut Street and follow School Street as it descends into Jamaica Plain.
- Turn left onto Granada Park and then turn right to pass through the flowers of the Chilcott & Granada Community Garden. Continue onto Chilcott Street upon exiting the garden.
- Cross Washington Street and continue straight onto Boylston Street.
- After crossing Amory Street, keep straight as you pass a small picnic area on your left. Then turn left onto a paved path that climbs some stairs to re-enter the Southwest Corridor greenway.
- Continue straight through a four-way intersection on a paved path that goes past some benches and a small garden on the left.
- Upon reaching two parallel paved paths, cross the first path (the cyclist path) and turn left onto the second path (the pedestrian path). Pass a playground on your right and then turn right onto another paved path that makes a brief descent to Lamartine Street.

- Cross Lamartine Street, continue onto Hubbard Street, and turn left onto Chestnut Avenue.
- Make a right turn onto Spring Park Avenue and then turn left to climb Rockview Street.
- At the top of Rockview, turn right onto Robinwood Avenue. Keep left as Robinwood splits to form a roundabout. Then make a left turn onto Locksley Street, a much rougher road that descends into the hidden woods of the **Parley Vale** residential area.
- At the bottom of Locksley Street, turn right onto the Parley Vale, a dirt road, and keep right as another section of dirt road merges from the left. Ascend a small hill to exit the woods and descend to Centre Street.
- Make a left turn onto Centre Street and then turn right onto Pond Street.
- Follow Pond Street to the busy Jamaicaway roadway and cross the Jamaicaway to arrive at the eastern shore of **Jamaica Pond**. Walk straight ahead on a paved path lined with benches toward the pond boathouse and docks in front of you and *BOOM goes the dynamite!* **You just completed Section 2 of the Walking City Trail.** Now....backtrack to Centre Street, grab a drink at the nearest watering hole, and prepare for the more urbanized second half of the trail.

TRANSIT, TOILETS, AND TREATS

MBTA PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE SERVICE POINTS

Bus and train service is available at many points on Section 2 but these points offer the most options.

- Adams Park (Section 2 trailhead): Bus lines [14](#), [30](#), [34](#), [35](#), [36](#), [37](#), [40](#), [51](#). Commuter rail at Roslindale Village station ([Needham train](#)).
- Forest Hills train/bus station: Bus lines [16](#), [21](#), [30](#), [31](#), [32](#), [33](#), [34](#), [35](#), [36](#), [37](#), [38](#), [39](#), [40](#), [42](#), [50](#), [51](#). Orange Line subway at [Forest Hills Station](#). Commuter rail ([Needham](#) line).
- Jamaica Pond boathouse (Section 3 trailhead): Bus lines [39](#), [41](#). Orange Line subway at [Green Street station](#).

SUGGESTED BATHROOM STOPS

Section 2 of the trail has slightly better public bathroom access than Section 1, but in several places, your best bet is still going to be bathrooms in businesses, which might just let you use them without buying something. Also, note that any porta-potty locations listed here are liable to change.

- Roslindale branch of Boston Public Library and nearby businesses
- Forest Hills commuter rail station
- Porta-potty off Williams Street by English High athletic field
- Porta-potty by White Stadium in Franklin Park ***
- Jamaica Plain branch of Boston Public Library and nearby businesses ***
- Porta-potty by Jamaica Pond boathouse

*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 STOP FOR PROVISIONS

Adams Park offers immediate access to Roslindale Village restaurants and watering holes. When you reach Forest Hills Station, you'll find a few eateries and bars on the east side of the station along Hyde Park Avenue. Washington Street, which you'll cross twice while hiking Section 2 of the Walking City Trail, has a smattering of restaurants and markets (the second crossing will be more bountiful.) But the motherlode of food, drink, and shopping options along this trail section is found on Centre Street.