

# WALKING CITY TRAIL

## The Walking City Trail: Section 2

### Adams Park to Jamaica Pond boat house

Hiking distance: 5.7 miles

Elevation gain: 279 feet

Section 2 of the Walking City Trail starts at **Adams Park**, located in **Roslindale Village**. If you'd prefer to split Section 2 into two shorter hikes, **Section 2A** runs from Adams Park to **Forest Hills Station** (2 miles). **Section 1B** runs from Forest Hills to **Jamaica Pond boat house** (3.7 miles).

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

- From the entry pillars of Adams Park on Washington Street, walk across the park to the exit at the corner of South Street and Poplar Streets. Cross both streets and walk northwest along South Street.
- As South Street curves away to the left, stick to the sidewalk and keep walking straight toward the commuter rail tracks ahead ahead. You'll pass a kiosk on your right.
- Turn right and walk through an underpass beneath the tracks. Continue up a ramp on the other side, follow this path to its terminus, and then make a right onto Conway Street.
- Continue up Conway Street, which becomes Arborough Road. Follow it to a 3-foot stone wall at the end of the road. Here you'll find an entrance into the south half of **Arnold Arboretum**.
- Pass through the arboretum entryway and then turn left. Follow a woodchip path up the southern slope of Peters Hill.

- Once you reach some Revolutionary War-era tombstones (on your left), make a right turn and walk toward a green sign ahead that says “Peters Hill.” Here you’ll see a path entering some trees. Follow it to the exposed summit of Peters Hill, where you’ll find a stunning Boston vista.
- 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.
- Once you reach the bottom of the hill, turn right onto a paved path and then make a left as the path descends to a gate on Bussey Street.
- Cross Bussey Street and continue straight through another set of gates into the northern half of the arboretum. Make an immediate left onto a gravel road and then turn right to cross Bussey Brook on a wooden footbridge.
- On the other side of the bridge, turn right and follow a dirt path that runs parallel to the brook, which will be on your right side. Keep right as another path merges inward from the left.
- Cross another wooden footbridge over a marshy area to reach a junction where several paths merge. Look to the right for a green sign that says “Rhododendron Path.” Walk toward this sign, pick up the dirt trail next to it, and follow it into the trees alongside Bussey Brook again.
- Turn right and cross a wooden bridge over Bussey Brook. On the other side, take a left and continue on a dirt path that runs alongside the brook and the steep slopes of Hemlock Hill.
- As the path ends in a grove of hemlocks, take a left and cross Bussey Brook on stepping stones. Then make a right turn onto the paved path on the other side.
- Pass through the South Street arboretum gates, cross South Street and continue through the gates of **Bussey Brook Meadow**. You’ll see a sign here that says “Blackwell Footpath.”
- Follow the Blackwell Footpath through the Bussey Brook Meadow woods 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. **This is the end of Section 2A and the start of Section 2B, roughly one third of the way**

**through Section 2. Buses and trains are available in Forest Hills Station, and restaurants are located next door along Hyde Park Avenue.**

- Walk north alongside Forest Hills station. Cross Arborway and then turn right onto a multi-use paved path. Walk along this path, watching out for passing cyclists, and as you arrive at a rotary, turn left to walk around the rotary and enter **Southwest Corridor Park**.
- Continue along the 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 whichever path you'd prefer. Both of them will lead you to the same place.
- Turn right onto McBride Street and exit the Southwest Corridor. You'll cross a bridge over subway tracks and pass mural by local artist Sharif Muhammad on a building to your right.
- Cross Washington Street, continue straight onto Rossmore Road, and then turn left onto Stedman Street.
- Make a right turn onto Williams Street. Continue straight across Forest Hills Street and enter **Franklin Park** through an entry gate.
- Enter the park on a paved path that passes a stream on the right. As a stone archway looms ahead, turn left and ascend 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.
- Take a left turn onto a dirt trail that branches off into the woods. Keep right as the trail splits, and then climbs a small rise to passes through an incredibly thick corridor of leafy plants.
- Turn left at two successive junctions and pass through a sunnier corridor of woods.
- As the trail hits a jumble of junctions, look ahead through the trees for a paved road ahead. Walk toward the road, cross it, and continue up a rugged dirt trail to reach a grassy clearing.
- Turn right and walk toward the stony ruins of the Franklin Park overlook shelter. Enter the shelter ruins on a paved walkway flanked with short stone walls.

- In ruins' central vegetation, look for a thin dirt trail that continues through greenery. Follow this path through a short tunnel and then turn left as you reach a junction on the other side.
- As you arrive at White Stadium, **you have reached Mile 3.8 and completed roughly 2/3 of Section 2.**
- Walk alongside the stadium (which should be on your right.) Keep an eye out for a chain-link stadium gate on the right. Once you reach it, make a left turn and walk across the lawn toward Playstead Road. On the other side, you'll see a wide opening in the trees where another paved path enters the woods.
- Cross Playstead Road and follow this path to the abandoned bear cages and dens of Franklin Park: a rusted relic from Franklin Park Zoo's darker days. Veer left as the path splits here.
- Keep left as you reach another junction, not long after leaving the cages behind. Continue onto a series of closely-linked gravel and dirt paths, descending through trees to Walnut Street.
- Cross Walnut Street and continue straight down School Street into the heart of Jamaica Plain.
- Turn left onto Granada Park. Then turn right to pass through the flowers of Chilcott & Granada Community Garden. Continue straight down Chilcott Street, which becomes Boylston Street.
- After crossing Amory Street, keep straight as you pass a small picnic area on your left. Then turn left and climbs a small flight of stairs to re-enter the Southwest Corridor greenway.
- Continue straight across the Greenway, past some benches and a small garden on the left. As you reach the edge of a playground, turn left and then make a right down a short paved path that connects 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 forks and 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 boat house 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 2/2A trailhead): [14](#), [30](#), [34](#), [35](#), [36](#), [37](#), [40](#), [51](#) buses. Commuter rail at Roslindale Village Station ([Needham train](#)).
- [Forest Hills Station](#) (Section 2B trailhead): [16](#), [21](#), [30](#), [31](#), [32](#), [33](#), [34](#), [35](#), [36](#), [37](#), [38](#), [39](#), [40](#), [42](#), [50](#), [51](#) buses. Orange Line subway. Commuter rail ([Needham](#) line).
- Jamaica Pond boat house (Section 3 trailhead): [39](#), [41](#) buses. 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 some places, your best bet is going to be bathrooms in businesses. You also may see porta-potties on Section 2.*

- Roslindale branch of Boston Public Library, Roslindale BCYF Community Center, and nearby businesses
- Forest Hills Station
- Jamaica Plain branch of Boston Public Library and nearby businesses \*\*\*
- Jamaica Pond boat house

*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, as does the second crossing at Centre Street.