



March 19, 2024

With the ground thawing, the sun lingering, and the buds emerging from tree branches, spring has started early in Boston this year. (Dangerous words, of course.) It's an ideal time for exploring the rustling ecosphere of Boston's parks, community gardens, and urban wilds—before the summer swelter makes being outdoors tougher. And thanks to the **Walking City Trail**, you can hop onto a bus or train, disembark at the stop of your choosing, and hike to more than 30 city green spaces across 17 Boston communities.

Launched in 2022 and inspired by America's ongoing Renaissance of hiking—a sport that's mostly been relegated to the backcountry until lately—the Walking City Trail is a connective artery of leaves, rocks, and waters, bringing people and places together and spotlighting Boston green spaces that are routinely overlooked. Running 27 miles from the Neponset River in Mattapan to Charlestown's Bunker Hill Monument, the "WCT," as some call it, is an urban adventure that can be tackled at any scale; thanks to its regular connections with public transit and the numerous restaurants and watering holes along the route. You can hike the trail in small segments over time, savoring the raw beauty of each oasis, or you can attempt to traverse the entire thing in one long, exhilarating day.

To explore the Walking City Trail, simply head to BostonTrails.org and download free maps and written directions, which will lead you to curious destinations such as these:

- **Turtle Pond.** The crown jewel of Stony Brook Reservation woods and the source of Stony Brook itself—Boston's long underground river, which connects to the Charles.
- **The Wilderness of Franklin Park.** Frederick Law Olmsted's shaggy masterpiece, with winding stairs, chuckling streams, abandoned bear dens, and long corridors of flora.
- **Nira Rock.** A mansion-sized puddingstone formation inexplicably tucked in the dense residential enclaves of Jamaica Plain and Mission Hill, with its own miniature orchard.

- **Charter Street Park:** One of the loveliest pocket parks in the labyrinthine center of the North End, with cobblestones, old shade trees, and a winding exit to Commercial Street.

For interviews, further insight and media assets such as trail images, please contact Miles Howard by responding to this email or by calling 1-781-572-2576. Thank you!

Website: www.bostontrails.org

Instagram: [@WalkingCityTrail](https://www.instagram.com/WalkingCityTrail)

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