

Disclaimer:

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This trail guide covers walking trails in Centennial Reservation, MassBay Community College, and Maugus Hill. Combined they provide 87 acres of open space with rolling meadows and woodlands on the slopes and summit of Maugus Hill, the second highest point in Wellesley.

Centennial Reservation is conservation land purchased by the town in 1980 from the Sisters of Charity to commemorate Wellesley's centennial anniversary. MassBay is a two-year state college, and their open space land is west of Oakland St.

There is a total of 3.3 miles of woodland trails, and the main trail is the Centennial Reservation Trail. A self-guided nature trail is near Bezanson Pond.

Location

Located in Wellesley Hills, these open space lands are just south of the intersection of Rt. 9 and Rt. 16. From the light at Rt. 9 and Oakland St, follow Oakland St. south for 0.5 miles. Turn right at the sign for Centennial Reservation and follow a paved road to the parking lot.

Centennial Reservation Trail

Distance: 1.7 miles, roundtrip
Elevation gain: 200 feet
Marking: Purple arrows
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: 1 hour

Start at the Centennial Reservation parking lot off Oakland St. Turn left at the first trail post, which marks the beginning of the loop trail. Follow the trail across the meadow and enter the woods by the golf course. Continue across another meadow with bluebird boxes, and enter the woods. Cross over a footbridge, and start your ascent up Maugus Hill.

Follow the trail uphill through the meadow, and enter the woods at the northwest corner of the meadow. Just before you pass a trail on your right, you have entered MassBay land. Ascend through a pine grove, note a short trail to the left that goes to Maugus Ave, and continue to the top of Maugus Hill (335 ft). You can see the Boston skyline when the leaves are down by walking to the right and to the rear of the mounds.

The trail turns right just before the top of the hill and descends toward Wareland Rd. and the MassBay Community College parking lot. Before reaching the parking lot, the trail turns right, and ascends gradually to the top of the upper meadow. From the meadow, there is a view of the Town of Needham. The Great Blue Hill (635 ft.) in Canton, the highest natural point in metropolitan Boston, is also visible by walking to the right edge of the meadow by the Trails Committee bench.

Leave your thoughts in the journal on the bench, continue downhill, and reenter Centennial Reservation. Take the trail to the left before the chute at the end of the meadow. Go downhill through the lower meadow and past Benzanson Pond to the beginning of the loop at the parking lot.

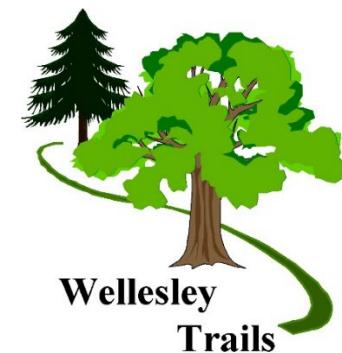
Trail Use Guidelines

- All motorized use prohibited.
- No littering or dumping.
- No fires or smoking.
- No camping.
- No alcoholic beverages.
- Fields are full of poison ivy, so stay on mowed trails.
- Do not feed, approach or touch wildlife, including waterfowl.
- Take personal protection measures to reduce your exposure to ticks and mosquito bites.
- Abide by town's restriction of no more than 2 dogs per person or 3 dogs with a permit.
- Please pick up after your dog and properly dispose of the waste. Thanks!

More Information

Find trail guides and maps at wellesleytrails.org. Pick up brochures at Town Hall in the west lobby. See the book *Walks in Wellesley* published by the Wellesley Conservation Council. Follow and like us on [Facebook](#). Contact us at trails@wellesleyma.gov for questions or to report trail problems, or call 781-431-1019, extension 2294.

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Centennial Reservation

MassBay Community College

Maugus Hill



Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

Wellesley Trails Committee
wellesleytrails.org