



# Walking in Massachusetts

## Charles W. Ward Reservation in Andover

**Special tips for this location:** Open daily 8am to sunset with a \$6.00/car charge or free for Trustees members. This reservation allows leashed dogs, but no motorized vehicles. Please note that from the first Monday in October through December each year, hunting is permitted from ½ hour before sunrise all day until ½ hour after sunset, Monday through Saturday. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays.

**Highlights of this space include:** 15 miles of trails, views of Boston from Shrub, Boston and Holt Hills, the solstice stones on top of Holt Hill (the highest point in Essex County) and the boardwalk to the beaver wetland viewing area.

**Hike idea:** Have a print out of the trail map and have your app ready before heading out even though there are clear blazes and signs throughout. The suggested hike is mainly a big perimeter loop. Start from the parking lot up Holt Hill to the solstice stones. From there take the blue trail to the right (called Vetter Trail) to Elephant Rock and atop of Boston Hill. Keep on the blue trail until you reach the red trail (Old Chestnut street) and take a right. Follow this straight trail to the gate and take a harsh left to follow the red trail (now called Ward Trail). Take Ward Trail back to your car or take the Bay Circuit trail to the beaver wetland viewing area for one last out and back and then back to your car!

Dogs are allowed when they are leashed! Lace up your sneakers, hiking boots, (microspikes if icy) grab mosquito and tick spray, sunscreen if needed, dress in layers, bring a copy of the map, have your trail app ready, bring a snack and LOTS of water- ENJOY!

For more detailed information, [click here](#). For a trail map, [click here](#).

**“And she stopped and she heard what the trees said to her, and she sat there for hours not wanting to leave, For the forest said nothing, it just let her breathe.”**

– Becky Hemsley