

### **The Properties**

The country home of social reformer and affordable housing advocate Robert Treat Paine, Stonehurst is an American masterpiece crowning the career-long collaboration between architect Henry Hobson Richardson and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, leading designers who deeply influenced the way Americans live and relate to their environment.

Stonehurst is the most intact example of Richardson's approach to country house design and the only one that is open to the public. The convention-breaking house crowns a spectacular rise selected by Olmsted, founder of the parks movement nationwide.

The National Historic Landmark house and 109-acre Storer Conservation Lands were donated to the City of Waltham in 1974 by Theodore Storer, a grandson of Robert Treat Paine. The non-profit Friends of Stonehurst was founded in 1991. In 2001, the City of Waltham acquired the adjoining 25.5-acre Chester Brook Woods.



The **Waltham Land Trust** invites you to join in helping preserve, protect and maintain Waltham's open spaces.

> Waltham Land Trust, Inc. PO Box 541120 Waltham MA 02454-1120 Phone: (781) 893-3355 www.walthamlandtrust.org info@walthamlandtrust.org

# Site Facts

**Owner:** City of Waltham

**Acreage:** Stonehurst 109 acres; Chesterbrook Woods 25.5.

Length of proposed trail: Unknown?

**Terrain:** Hilly and occasionally steep woodlands.

**Trail rating and elevation gain:** Easy and moderate. Elevation gain 60-70 feet.

**Highlights:** Well-groomed network of hiking trails • Robert Treat Paine Estate, an icon of American design created by Henry Hobson Richardson and Frederick Law Olmsted. • Ruins of structures and an old cart road • the Western Greenway • guides, quests, etc. are available at the house.

**Hazards:** Some poison ivy on steep slopes of the south side.

**Special rules:** Strict dog leash rule in effect. Professional dog walking prohibited. Bikes are only allowed on the Bull Run Trail.

**Access & Parking:** (a) Park at Stonehurst Parking lot, or (b) Park at High School.

**Handicapped accessibility:** Bull Run trail is wheelchair accessible. Most trails are leveled and well-groomed.

#### **Public transportation:**

- Bus #554 (Roberts Downtown Boston) Beaver St. & Forest St. (Walk west on Beaver Street a short distance to Robert Treat Paine Drive. Stonehurst is a short walk uphill.)
- 20 minute walk from downtown Waltham (a central connection for most busses and a commuter rail).

**Contact:** Waltham Conservation Commission • 781-314-3846 • www.city.waltham.ma.us/Conservation/ or Stonehurst, the Robert Treat Paine Estate • 781-

314-3290 • www.stonehurstwaltham.org



Waltham Land Trust Guide to Open Spaces

# Storer Conservation Land Trails

## **Overview**

The Storer Conservation Lands and the Chester Brook Woods are owned and operated by the City of Waltham, Massachusetts. The properties cover 134.5 acres, and contain wide and wellgroomed walking trails.

The trails pass through woodlands that contain a variety of forest flora including white pines, red oak, maple, beeches, and mature hemlocks, vernal pools and other wetland areas. In the woods, meadows, and estate grounds, there are wild flowers in season, a variety of native shrubs and plants, and estate plantings such as mountain laurel, azalea, rhododendrons, and wisteria. The Western Greenway Trail traverses the property.

The Chester Brook Woods contain important wetlands that drain into Chester Brook, a perennial stream flowing from Hardy Pond and continuing south to the Charles River.

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