

Prospect Hill Park Trails



Legend

- Gate
- Bus Stop
- Restrooms
- Handicap parking
- Picnic shelter
- Scenic View
- Water Tank
- Vernal Pool
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- 10 foot contours
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- Pond



MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY - NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT

This map is provided free to the public solely for recreational use. Trails depicted are accessed at the user's own risk. The Waltham Land Trust is not responsible for damages or liability that may arise from the use of this map for any purpose. Consult the City of Waltham for official maps and data on properties in Waltham. Information for this map was obtained from Mass GIS. Created 2021-12-27 www.walthamlandtrust.org

0 410 820 1230 1640 2050 Feet

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

the entrance. The slope was closed because conditions had become unreliable.

Little Prospect

In addition to providing a stunning vista, the area around the summit is home to unusual plants supported by an uncommon rock type.

Water towers

Two large water towers near the summit of Big Prospect hold eight million gallons of water accessed by fire hydrants installed with the towers in 1974.

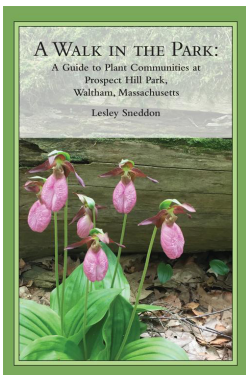
Radar Station

The white tower near the picnic area of Big Prospect is a former radar station, built in 1952. Ravens have been seen nesting on the platform.

Animals and Plants

Prospect Hill Park is home to red foxes, coyotes, white-tailed deer, barred and great horned owls, pileated woodpeckers, ravens, hawks, many songbirds, and small mammals, as well as salamanders and frogs that breed in small vernal pools. Much of the park is oak or pine forest, where sweet birch and pig-nut hickory are common. These forests contain pink lady-slippers, blueberries, huckleberries, and Canada mayflowers. White wood asters can be seen in flower in the fall.

A nature guide to the park, *A Walk in the Park: A Guide to Plant Communities at Prospect Hill Park, Waltham, Massachusetts*, was published in 2021 and can be purchased at shop.walthamlandtrust.org. All proceeds benefit the Waltham Land Trust.



Site Facts

Terrain: Hilly, dense woodland with rocky outcroppings and some cliffs

Trail rating and elevation gain: Moderate to steep. Elevation gain 354 feet

Hazards: Traffic on roadway. Steep cliffs and some steep rocky stairs. Poison ivy along roadside and trails.

Special rules: Dogs must be on leashes.

Access and parking: Park road is paved and open to cars in summer. Parking at Totten Pond Road entrance and small parking area at Little Prospect

Public transportation:

- Bus #61 Multiple stops on Totten Pond Road from Carter Street opposite Commuter Rail stop
- Bus #556 Dale Street, Bacon Street stop. Walk north on Bacon to left on Summit Street to end, left on Prospect Hill Road
- Fitchburg Commuter Rail, Waltham stop. Contact: MA DCR, (617) 626-1250; mass.parks@mass.gov

Website: city.waltham.ma.us/recreation-department

Owned and maintained by: City of Waltham

Acreage: 252 acres

**Please help us
keep the park clean!**

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

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Waltham Land Trust Guide to Open Spaces

Prospect Hill Park

Park Overview

Prospect Hill Park is located on the west side of Waltham, close to Route I-95, and is accessible by public transportation.

The 252-acre wooded park has protected vernal pools and dramatic topography with two main summits. At 485 feet, Big Prospect is the second highest point in the Boston vicinity. Little Prospect, at 435 feet, provides an excellent view of the Boston basin.

The main (northern) entrance and parking area is at 314 Totten Pond Road. From here, one can see the attractive improvements made to the park in 2021, including the parking area, children's spray pool and rides, a rain garden, and a pavilion beyond the administrative offices. The southern entrance is located off Prospect Hill Road and is for foot traffic only. The main park road is paved and is open to vehicles in summer. It leads to the summit of Little Prospect Hill with a small parking area.

History and Points of Interest

Many of the stone walls that crisscross the park mark boundary lines from the 1600s.

Ski slope

Until 1989, Big Prospect's steep slope provided an uncommon opportunity for skiing in this urban area. Remnant trails are still visible on the open grassy slope beyond the pavilion near

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