



membership application

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corporate levels [benefits on back]

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- strider \$2500
- stroller \$1000
- ambler \$300

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- supporter \$100—\$499
- friend \$65
- dual/family \$50
- individual \$30

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day phone _____

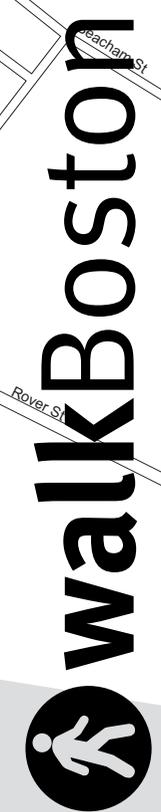
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Riverpaths of Everett, Somerville and Medford

Incomplete Riverpaths

The walk begins at the Orange Line ① Wellington Station. The route is roughly 4 miles and ends at the Orange Line ① Sullivan Square Station.

① **The Mystic River** gets its name from the Indian word Misi-Tuk for Great Tidal River. In colonial times the settlers saw that the Mystic was deeper than the Charles and water-dependent industry sprang up on its banks. With Boston's 9 foot tidal range, the tide would run all the way up to the Mystic Lakes. For over 200 years, residents relied on the tide to wash wastes out to sea. The river's industries left a legacy of a stew of chemicals that settled to the bottom. The original riverbeds were diverted over the centuries for industry, homes and highways. What you see today, both the good and the bad, are the starting points for reclaiming our rivers.

② **Amelia Earhart Dam** is named after the famous missing aviatrix who had family ties in Medford. The dam was built in 1966 for flood control purposes and created the non-tidal Mystic Basin. The Basin covered odoriferous mudflats previously exposed during low tides. At the same time, the river was straightened and mudflat material was removed to create footings for construction of Interstate 93 and to build the park for recreation on the Medford side of the river. The dam was not built with pedestrian access even though early promotional brochures depicted people strolling on it. The lack of pedestrian access was largely a result of the dam's neighbors. On the Everett side was the Monsanto Chemical Company, producing sulphuric acid with the odor of rotten eggs. In Somerville, Ford and First National Stores had factories and warehouses near the river. The uninviting riverbanks were not used for relaxation or recreation. Today, the Earhart Dam exists in a different setting, requiring new thinking about access issues. Although the distance to the Somerville side is just 900 feet, it requires a walk of almost 4 miles to get to the other side. In the future the dam will be a major pedestrian connection between Mystic River paths, the Bike to the Sea Trail, and the East Coast Greenway.

③ **Cape Cod Berm Park** adjacent to the dam was also built in the 1960s as part of the plan to provide public access. Since it was located on a dead end road next to a chemical plant, people rarely visited even if they knew about it. The park overlooks the confluence of the Mystic and Malden Rivers. The railroad bridge to the west is the Orange Line ① Tracks and the Mystic River flows beneath it. The Malden River flows from the north and is ultimately fed from Spot Pond.

④ **Gateway Mall** is at a higher elevation than the dam. The site, the former production area of the Monsanto Chemical Company, was capped with 10 feet of capping material to make it safe for the public. The capping material was Boston blue clay excavated for the Deer Island Outfall pipe that extends into Massachusetts Bay.

⑤ **Gateway Mall Park** was built along with the mall on a site where no chemical production occurred. The land still belongs to Monsanto with the state having a permanent easement for the park. It is the site of the annual Everett Take Me to the River Festival where last year over 7,000 people came down to enjoy the river.

⑥ **Parcel Z**, land with the phragmites (tall reed like plants), is original wetlands and is part of the largest wetlands on the Malden River (almost 25 acres) that extends beneath the roadway and across Route 16. As part of the mitigation for adjacent development, this area must remain a wetlands and wildlife habitat. A boardwalk through it is planned to connect beneath the Route 16 Bridge to the riverfront paths and the Bike to the Sea Trail.

⑦ **Santilli Circle**, with busy roadways, includes a pedestrian crossing where crossing is precarious. A safer means of crossing Route 16 is needed, as this is the only means to connect the Bike to the Sea Trail to the Dam.

⑧ **Malden River Bridge** for Route 16 is a "bascul" type bridge, which raises its "leaves" for boat traffic. This bridge was vital for the water dependent industries on the Malden River and now that the industry is gone (leaving brownfields) the bridge is not only unused, it's nonfunctional. Plans are underway to make this a lower span fixed bridge.

⑨ **Wellington Greenway**, a path behind the Wellington ① Station, is a missing pathway link earmarked as a pedestrian/bikepath by both state and local governments. Negotiations are underway to open this up on a permanent basis.

⑩ **The Mystic Wellington area** is just past the Orange Line Rail Bridge. In front of the Mystic Wellington Yacht Club is the main public boat ramp for all of the River below the Mystic Lakes Dam. The area beyond the yacht club is the future home of a office/retail development that will include restaurants.

⑪ **The Route 28 - Mystic River Bridge** carries another busy roadway and another broken link. Paths continue upriver on both sides but you must brave the traffic to get to them. Various plans have been proposed for this crossing including a pathway under the bridge or a pedestrian bridge over Route 28. This is the closest point to the Dam that you can cross the river by foot or bike.

⑫ **Mystic River Shorefront Park** was built in accordance with the 1973 MDC Mystic River Master Plan and leads through to Draw 7 Park, where it currently dead-ends.

⑬ **Assembly Square** is 145 acres of Somerville land bordered by the river. The former site of Ford's Edsel assembly plant, built in 1926, gave the name "Assembly Square" to the area. The original water tower still stands. This area, now in transition, offers a great deal of potential for Somerville and is often called the city's "final frontier." Current long-term visions include a new Main Street with mixed-use development, a revitalized waterfront park, and an Orange Line ① Station.

⑭ **Winter Hill Yacht Club**, initiated in the early 1900s as the Winter Hill Canoe Club, was originally located upriver with a boat for a club house, but was relocated by eminent domain when Route 93 was developed in the early 1970s.

⑮ **Amelia Earhart Dam**—900 feet long—now requires a walk of almost 4 miles to get from one end to the other. You can get here from there but not without some effort. Now we ask you for a little more effort. Call or

write your local State Senators and Representatives, the DCR Commissioner Kathy Abbott and even the Governor and ask them to help make the Mystic Crossing over the dam a reality.

⑯ **Draw 7 Park**, built by MDC in the early 1990s to create more accessible recreation along the Mystic waterfront, is named for the old railroad drawbridge located at this site. Although the soccer field has not been well cared for, it has often been well used by local residents because of the increased interest in soccer over the past decade. This area is also very popular with local fisherman who have become de-facto stewards of the park, in addition to trying their luck at the local striper population that follow the herring run into the Mystic.

⑰ **MBTA Riverpath Link**, just beyond the Draw 7 Park, will be a walk along the riverside of the MBTA bus repair facility in Charlestown. There is now an agreement in place to allow an easement along the water for a pedestrian/bike path that will connect the river pathways to Charlestown, Boston and beyond.

For more Info:

<http://www.walkboston.org/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MysticCrossing>

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Text: Mystic Crossing

Design: Nina Garfinkle