



Chiesa Farm

The Rick Abrams
Memorial Trail Network



ACROSS
LEXINGTON

About ACROSS Lexington

ACROSS LEXINGTON (Accessing Conservation land, Recreation areas, Open space, Schools, and Streets) is a project of the Greenways Corridor Committee, appointed by the Lexington Board of Selectmen to develop a 40-mile network of marked routes throughout the town for the use of walkers, runners, and trail bikers. Four routes totaling over 17 miles have been completed to date.

One of the single best things you can do for your health is to get moving. According to numerous studies, walking, running, or biking 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week, significantly reduces problems associated with diabetes and blood pressure, builds muscle tone, and helps fight depression.

This brochure includes a wealth of information to start you exploring the natural wonders and historic pathways of Lexington. So get on your feet, enjoy the outdoors, and start living better!



In Memoriam: Rick Abrams (1956-2014) was a founding member of the Greenways Corridor Committee, and an enthusiastic and dedicated advocate of ACROSS Lexington and the health benefits of walking.

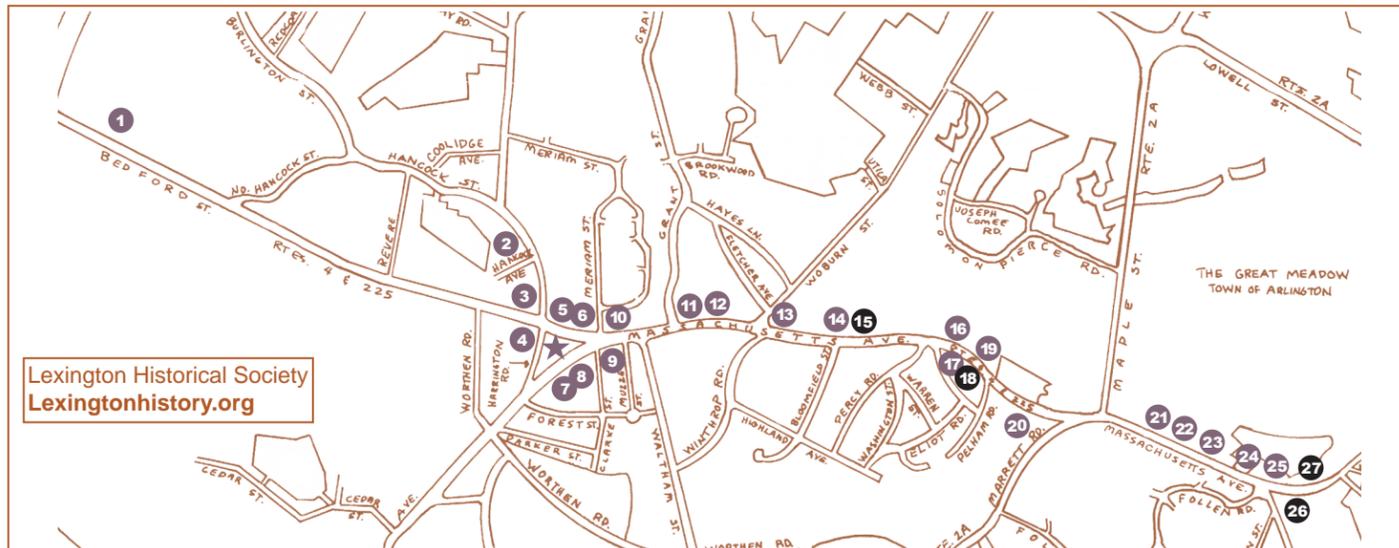
Donations to support ACROSS Lexington are welcome and may be sent to

ACROSS Lexington Trust Fund
Town of Lexington
1625 Massachusetts Ave.
Lexington, MA 02420

*Please make checks out to **Town of Lexington**, and write **Rick Abrams ACROSS Lexington Trust Fund** on the memo line.*

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Walking Historic Lexington



Historic Points of Interest

★ **Battle Green** In the first skirmish of the Revolutionary War, 80 colonists faced 800 British regulars here on April 19, 1775.

1 Simonds Tavern (1802–1828) (311 Bedford St.; private) One of 12 taverns that served drovers bringing cattle and goods from Vermont and New Hampshire.

2 Hancock-Clarke House (36 Hancock St.) Paul Revere stopped here on April 18, 1775, to warn Adams and Hancock.

3 First Normal School (1 Hancock St.) First Normal School in the US (1839); now the Masonic Temple.

4 Jonathan Harrington House (1 Harrington Rd.; private) Harrington, wounded on the Green, died near his doorstep.

5 Buckman Tavern (1 Bedford St.) Lexington's oldest tavern (1710); the Lexington militia gathered here on April 19, 1775.

6 Visitor Center (1875 Mass. Ave.) Serves over 100,000 visitors annually; displays a diorama of the Battle of Lexington, and the U.S.S Lexington memorial.

7 Marrett & Nathan Munroe House (1906 Mass. Ave.; private) Nathan Munroe answered the call to arms on April 19, 1775.

8 The Old Belfry (Mass. Ave. & Clarke St.) Stood on the Green from 1767 to 1797. Its bell sounded the alarm on April 19, 1775.

9 Cary Memorial Library (1874 Mass. Ave.) The library houses over 250,000 volumes, materials on the area and the Revolution, and many works of art.

10 Lexington Depot (1846) (13 Depot Square) One of the last surviving train shed depots in New England.

11 Post Office Mural (1661 Mass. Ave.) In 1939 Lexington resident A. L. Ripley painted this scene of April 19, 1775.

12 Cary Memorial Building (1605 Mass. Ave.) Colonial Revival building; gift of Susanna Cary and Elizabeth Cary Farnham in memory of their father, Isaac Harris Cary (1803–1881).

13 Mead House (1505 Mass. Ave.; private) Home of Matthew Mead in 1775; became a hotel, the Russell House, in 1882.

Resources

The information from these organizations' websites will enhance your outdoor experience in Lexington!

acrosslexington.org – ACROSS Lexington is a network of pedestrian and bicycle routes through open space and town streets that link many parts of the town.

landlockedforest.com – Burlington Landlocked Forest is a 250-acre parcel of forest land in Burlington that borders Lexington. It offers 13 miles of trails.

lexingtonma.gov/conservation/conland.cfm – Lexington has 1300+ acres of conservation land. This link will take you to maps of the 26 conservation parcels.

folb.net – The Friends of Lexington Bikeways (FoLB) promotes and supports bicycling and the shared use of bicycle routes, including the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway, in and around Lexington.

arlington2020.org/reservoir/ – The Reservoir Committee of Arlington's Vision 2020 Environmental Task Group is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Arlington Reservoir.

14 John Mulliken House (1377 Mass. Ave.; private) Built in 1776 on the foundation of the Raymond Tavern; contains some of the tavern's original timbers.

16 Mason House (1303 Mass. Ave.; private) The tanner John Mason was one of the 11 original buyers of the Green in 1711 from Benjamin Muzzey.

17 Munroe Tavern (1332 Mass. Ave.) Occupied by British Gen. Percy and his reinforcements on the afternoon of April 19, 1775.

19 Robbins House (1716) (1295 Mass. Ave.; private) Said to have been part of the Underground Railroad during anti-slavery days and the Civil War.

20 Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library (Rte. 2A at Marrett Rd.) Built in 1975, the museum houses exhibits on America's Masonic history and culture.

21 Jonathan Harrington House (955 Mass. Ave.; private) Harrington, a fifer in Capt. Parker's Minute Men, was the last survivor of the Battle of Lexington.

Ticks and mosquitos in the Lexington area may carry harmful diseases. Know your risk and stay informed! Visit www.lexingtonma.gov/health.cfm (click on Lexington's Public Health Division) or www.mass.gov/MosquitosAndTicks.

tourlexington.us – Events, dining, lodging, and getting around in Lexington.

everybodywalk.org – This site is loaded with helpful information about the health and other benefits of walking and being active.

massbike.org – This is the leading bicycle advocacy organization in Massachusetts and is an excellent bike safety resource.

foagm.org – The Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows is dedicated to the protection and stewardship of the 183-acre Arlington's Great Meadows, located in the Town of Lexington.

lexfarm.org – Lexington Community Farm is a community-based farm located on the Town of Lexington's Busa Farm property. The farm offers CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) memberships, hands-on education, food donation programs, and volunteer opportunities to the community.

22 Bowman Tavern (837 Mass. Ave.; private) Run as a tavern (1820–1840), serving teamsters and farmers driving sheep, turkeys, and cattle to the slaughterhouses in Brighton.

23 Follen Church (1839) (755 Mass. Ave.) Designed by its then minister, Charles Follen, a German immigrant said to have brought the Christmas tree tradition to New England.

24 The Stone Building (735 Mass. Ave.) Built as a lyceum (1833); hosted debates by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker, Charles Sumner, Wendell Phillips, Josiah Quincy, Jr., John C. Park, and possibly Henry David Thoreau.

25 The Brick Store (703 Mass. Ave.; private) One of Lexington's first brick structures (1828); served as a general store, post office, lecture hall, and branch library.

● **Four points of interest shown in black are not listed here. For the complete document go to acrosslexington.org/historic.**



ACROSS Lexington Routes



Search for the free App
ACROSS LEXINGTON



LEGEND

- ACROSS Lexington
- Minuteman Commuter Bikeway
- Trail on Conservation Land
- Trail on Other Land
- Street
- Restrooms
- Visitors Center
- Cary Library
- Center Playground
- Lincoln Park
- DPW
- Historic Center
- Points of Interest

Open Space

- Agricultural
- Other Municipality
- Lexington Conservation
- Lexington Other
- Lexington Recreation / School
- Private

Points of Interest

Route A (5.4 mi)

- A1** **Visitors Center** offers information and hospitality between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., 362 days a year.
- A2** The **Minuteman Bikeway** is one of the most popular rail-trails in the U.S. and is in the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame.
- A3** **Vine Brook** provided waterpower for the town in the 17th and 18th centuries. It flows from the Old Reservoir, runs under Lexington Center, and eventually empties into the Shawsheen River.
- A4** **Lower Vine Brook** conservation area covers 108 forested acres and includes 2.1 miles of trails. Route A follows a paved path running along Vine Brook itself, but other trails lead to old sand and gravel pits, now ponds.
- A5** **Lexington Tree Farm** began in 2007 and is a joint venture of the Conservation Department, the DPW, and the Lexington Tree Committee. It can hold 500 trees.
- A6** Today's **North Street** conservation area was an operating sand pit as recently as the 1950s, when it supplied sand for the construction of parts of Route 128. Now a large pond inhabits the 26-acre forest and wildlife habitat.
- A7** **Willard's Woods** conservation area comprises 107 acres of fields, meadow, pine groves, and wetlands. Geologically, much of Willard's Woods is a kettle hole, a depression formed about 10,000 years ago by the melting of a mass of glacial ice. There is a picnic area.
- A8** **Chiesa Farm** conservation area has 18 acres of pasture along Adams Street. Traces of a ring tramped by the farm's horses are visible near where the trail enters Adams Street.
- A9** **Parker Meadow** conservation area, comprising 17 acres of fields, forest, and wetlands, was farmed early in

the 17th century. It is named for a later owner, Jonas Parker, who was killed on Lexington Common on April 19, 1775. In the early 1980s the Lexington Conservation Commission built a pond around a spring there as a habitat for wildlife and to protect the watershed. There is a picnic area.

Route B (4.5 mi)

- B1** **Upper Vine Brook-Cotton Farm** conservation area comprises 52 mostly wetland acres. A trail on its eastern edge passes an active apple orchard and a picnic area.
- B2** **Three Watersheds** originate in Lexington at about this junction: the watersheds of the Charles River, the Shawsheen River, and the Mystic River. The streams move and clean water, provide wildlife habitats, create wetlands, and offer aesthetic pleasure to visitors.
- B3** **Dunback Meadow**, Lexington's largest conservation area, was once used for harvesting peat and pasturing cows. Today it's known as an excellent birding site.
- B4** **Old Reservoir**, known today by locals as "The Res," once provided drinking water to Lexington and the surrounding areas. Now it's a popular recreational site for swimming and skating.
- B5** **Lincoln Park** was a town dump until the 1980s, when it was transformed into a 60-acre recreational area featuring trails, a pond, and playfields.
- B6** **Belfry Hill Park** contains a replica of the bell tower that once sat on Lexington Green. On April 19, 1775, the bell sounded the alarm that the Regulars were coming.
- B7** The **Battle Green** saw the first battle of the American Revolution. On April 19, 1775, 80 Lexington Minutemen faced 800 British Regulars. A statue of John Parker, leader of the militia, memorializes those who fought.

Route C (2.6 mi)

- C1** The **Cataldo Reservation** links the Minuteman Bikeway to the Arlington Reservoir.
- C2** The **Arlington Reservoir**, built in 1873, originally supplied water to Arlington. The Town of Arlington maintains a swimming beach along Lowell Street.
- C3** **Infinity Pond** is a certified vernal pool—full in the spring but dry in the summer. Aquatic animals such as fairy shrimp, spotted salamanders, and wood frogs thrive there: the pool has no fish that would attack their eggs and young.
- C4** Arlington's **Great Meadows**, a 183-acre parcel of land owned by Arlington but located in Lexington, is the largest piece of undeveloped land in the two towns. Arlington purchased the land in 1871 as a supplementary water-storage area but used it for that purpose only briefly. The Meadows remains a valuable buffer against flooding in the downstream area.

Route D (3.4 mi)

- D1** **Whipple Hill** conservation area is named for Joseph Reed Whipple, who owned a produce and dairy farm in the late 1800s. Glaciers dragged huge boulders here, leaving deep scratches still evident. Whipple Hill's 374-foot summit is the highest point in Lexington. On a clear day you can see mountains to the north and west.
- D2** The area known as **Sun Valley**—along Whipple Hill, Locke Lane, and Fairlawn Lane—was developed in the 1950s. Many of its original ranch-style homes had unheated sunrooms.
- D3** **Lexington Community Farm (LexFarm)**, a nonprofit community-based farm, sells its produce through shares and a farm stand. It offers hands-on education and volunteer programs and donates to food pantries.



www.acrosslexington.org
Please contact us with your feedback.