## About ACROSS Lexington

**ACROSS Lexington** (**A**ccessing **C**onservation land, **R**ecreation areas, **O**pen space, **S**chools, and **S**treets) is a project of the Greenways Corridor Committee, appointed by the Lexington Select Board in 2011 to develop a network of marked routes connecting open space throughout the town for walkers, runners, and off-road bicyclists. Twelve routes totaling approximately 40 miles have been completed to date.

To find out more about future ACROSS Lexington plans, visit the Greenways Committee web page at ***https://www.lexingtonma.gov/greenways-corridor-committee.***

## 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

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.

## Walk ACROSS Lexington Challenge

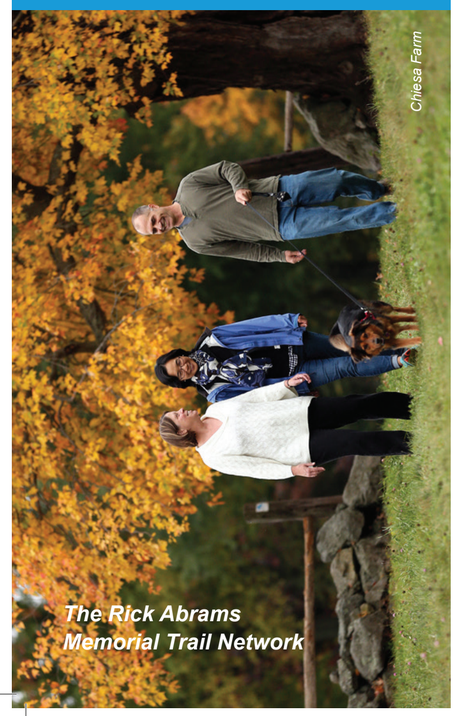
The Greenways Corridor Committee challenges one and all to walk the entire ACROSS Lexington system. Complete the Challenge and you will receive a certificate of accomplishment. To find out more, visit the Greenways Committee's website (***https://www.lexingtonma.gov/across-lexington***) and click on the ACROSS Lexington Challenge button.

## Points of Interest

1. The **Visitors Center** is an accessible facility open between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. 362 days a year. It provides information about the town, its history, and the surrounding area. Also there are public restrooms and a small shop with books, gifts, and souvenirs. A memorial to the 5 ships named USS Lexington and to those who served on them is located outside the Visitors Center.
2. **Buckman Tavern** (1 Bedford St.), built in 1710, is Lexington's oldest tavern. The Lexington militia gathered here on April 19, 1775.
3. The **Battle Green** saw the first battle of the American Revolution. On April 19, 1775, 77 Lexington militiamen faced a column of British Regulars. A statue of John Parker, leader of the militia, memorializes those who fought.
4. The **First Normal School** (1 Hancock St.), or teachers' college, established in 1839, was the first such college in the US. Now a Masonic Temple, it was built for the Lexington Academy in 1822.
5. The **Jonathan Harrington House** (1 Harrington Rd.; private residence) dates from about 1739. Harrington was wounded in the battle on the Green on April 19, 1775, and died near his doorstep.
6. Built in 1729 by Marrett Munroe, a local selectman, the **Marrett & Nathan Munroe House** (1906 Mass.Ave.; private residence) witnessed the Battle of Lexington, fought here on April 19, 1775. Munroe's son Nathan, a member of Capt. John Parker's company, saw action during the skirmish.
7. **Belfry Hill Park** contains a replica of the bell tower that stood on the Green from 1767 to 1797. On April 19, 1775, the bell sounded the alarm that the Regulars were coming.
8. **Cary Memorial Library** (1874 Mass. Ave.), established in 1868, now houses over 250,000 volumes, materials on the Lexington area and the Revolutionary period, and many works of art.
9. The **Lexington Depot** (13 Depot Square), built in 1846, is one of the last surviving train-shed depots in New England.
10. The **Minuteman Commuter Bikeway** is a popular multi-use, paved rail trail extending from the old Lexington & West Cambridge railroad depot in Bedford to the Alewife "T" station in Cambridge. Inducted into the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame in 2008, the 10-mile trail traverses the historic area where the American Revolution began in April 1775.
11. A detailed map of **Historic Lexington** with points of interest is available online at ***lexingtonma.gov/across-lexington*** (click on "Historic Lexington Map" in the left margin).
12. **Vine Brook** provided water power 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.
13. The **Post Office Mural** (1661 Mass. Ave.) was painted in 1939 by Lexington resident Aidan Lassell Ripley. The scene depicts the alert to citizens on April 19, 1775, that the Regulars were on their way.
14. The **Cary Memorial Building** (1605 Mass. Ave.), a Colonial Revival building constructed in 1928, was the gift of Susanna Cary and Elizabeth Cary Farnham in memory of their father, Isaac Harris Cary (1803–1881). The Colonial styled building, with its grand auditorium, offers the community a year-round site for town-related meetings, musical programming, and popular events.
15. **Fletcher Park** (Mass. Ave. & Woburn St.), an open area with picnic tables, is the site, in season, of a weekly farmers' market, a food-truck festival, ice skating, and other activities.
16. **Mead House** (1505 Mass. Ave.; private residence) was the home of Matthew Mead in 1775, but it became the Russell House in 1882, when James Russell opened it as a hotel.
17. **Hayden Recreation Center** is a privately owned sports center that houses both a pool and an ice rink.
18. **Hastings Park** is a picnic area that includes a gazebo where summer music concerts are held.
19. **Hancock-Clarke House**, home of Reverend Jonas Clarke, is where Paul Revere and William Dawes stopped during their midnight ride on April 18, 1775, to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams that the Regulars were coming. Designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1971, the house contains many original furnishings and portraits.
20. **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 who was killed on Lexington Green on April 19, 1775. In the 1980s the Conservation Department refurbished a farm pond to protect the watershed and as a habitat for wildlife. A granite bench overlooks the pond.
21. During World War II, "victory gardens" were set up as a way to expand the public food supply. The **Victory Garden Site** at the former Lexington Gardens was the focus of a PBS TV show that began in the 1970s. The garden was maintained until the property was sold.
22. **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 the street.
23. **Willard's Woods** conservation area comprises 107 acres of fields, meadows, pine groves, wetlands, and a picnic area. Much of Willard's Woods is a kettle hole, a geological depression formed about 10,000 years ago by the melting of a mass of glacial ice. A Conservation Department reclamation project in 2018 daylighted (brought above ground again) a section of Willard Brook and restored its banks with native plantings.
24. 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.
25. **Lower Vine Brook** conservation area covers 108 forested acres and includes 2.1 miles of trails. Portions of ACROSS Lexington Routes A and G follow a paved path running along Vine Brook itself, with other trails leading to old sand and gravel pits, now ponds.
26. **Meagherville** conservation area was originally purchased by Mark Meagher in the 1890s for house lots.The houses were never built, however, because he was unwilling to bring water and gas to the area. Meagherville contains the largest stand of American beech remaining in Lexington.
27. **Pine Meadows Golf Club** is a nine-hole public golf course owned by the Town of Lexington and is run under the aegis of the Recreation and Community Programs Department.
28. **Poor Farm** conservation area was the site of Lexington's poorhouse, which included a farm, from 1845 until it closed in 1925. The property provided food and housing for struggling Lexingtonians.
29. **Minuteman National Historic Park** brings to life the battles of April 19, 1775, in Lexington and Concord through the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of significant sites and events of the day when Colonists took up arms in defense of liberty and touched off the American Revolution. The five-mile Battle Road Trail between Lexington and Concord winds through fields and forests and is accessible from several parking areas.
30. On the summit of **Fiske Hill**, British Colonel Smith tried to rally his troops as they retreated from the battle in Concord. Instead of standing to fight the Provincials, his soldiers fled and he was wounded.
31. **Lincoln Park**, reclaimed in the 1980s from the old town dump and landfill, is now a universally accessible open space with walking paths. The Granite Forest, a unique landscape sculpture incorporating split granite foundation stones from the 1850s Isaac Mulliken house in Lexington, is being created in the park. The Teresa and Roberta Lee Fitness Path, with 16 self-directed fitness stations, winds through the park. The Lincoln Street recreation area includes sports fields, a playground, and a restroom.
32. **The Old Reservoir**, known locally today as "The Res," once provided drinking water to Lexington and the surrounding areas. Now it's a popular site for swimming and skating.
33. **Idylwilde** conservation area has served as farmland since at least the early 1700s. It became a community garden after the Town bought the land in 1976; it now provides 110 garden plots to residents.
34. **Shade Street Conservation Restriction** preserves a linear strip of land running along the rear side of a pharmaceutical complex and paralleling Shade Street. It is incorporated into ACROSS Lexington Route H.
35. **Old Shade Street**, first laid out by Lexington settlers in the 1660s, was part of the colonial route from Salem to Boston used by farmers and dairymen to bring their goods to market. A sign marking the route is posted along ACROSS Lexington Route H in Hayden Woods.
36. **Hayden Woods** conservation area is a 79-acre forested area comprising an oak-hickory-pine forest and red maple swamps. Over 2 miles of trails wind past old field cedars, an abandoned rifle range, and many stone boundary walls.
37. **Dunback Meadow** conservation area, comprising 161 acres, is the largest conservation property in Lexington. It includes an extensive wet meadow, a pine grove, a red maple swamp, and a portion of Clematis Brook. It is a regionally popular birding location noted for nesting owls in late winter, American woodcock mating displays in early spring, and songbirds throughout the year. An 0.8-mile trail runs between Bowman Elementary School and Clarke Middle School.
38. The **Rick Abrams Memorial Benches** were purchased and installed in memory of Rick Abrams by his family and friends. Rick was particularly fond of the view of Dunback Meadow, which all can now enjoy from the benches.
39. **Upper Vine Brook—Cotton Farm** conservation area comprises 52 acres of wetlands, upland forest and meadow. A trail on its eastern edge passes an active apple orchard and a picnic area. A portion of the trail system accessing the orchard, picnic area, and an overlook over a small pond was upgraded to universal accessibility standards in 2019.
40. **Three Watersheds** originate in Lexington at about this junction: those 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.
41. **Lexington Community Center**, a division of the Recreation and Community Programs Department, is a multigenerational and multicultural space where residents can participate in a variety of passive and active recreation, wellness, and leisure activities.

# ACROSS Lexington 2020

***4 new trails!***




***The Rick Abrams Memorial Trail Network***

42. The **John Mason House** (1303 Massachusetts Ave.; private residence) is an historic first-period house built in the early 1700s. John Mason, its builder, a prominent local citizen, was one of 11 original purchasers of the Green in 1711 from Benjamin Muzzey. His grandsons, Joseph and Daniel, fought in Captain Parker's company of Minute Men in 1775. The noted astronomer James Winthrop raised mulberry trees for his silk worms here until his death in 1821. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.
43. **Munroe Tavern**, built in 1735, was headquarters and field hospital for the British on April 19, 1775, under the command of General Percy. President George Washington dined here in 1789 when he came to inspect the battlefield. It is now preserved and operated as a museum by the Lexington Historical Society, with exhibits highlighting the role and perspective of the British soldiers during the outbreak of the war.
44. **Sanderson House** (1314 Massachusetts Ave.; private residence), built c. 1730, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. During the British retreat on April 19, 1775, a wounded soldier was left at the house—not because coffins were manufactured in the building's cellar; the man lived. In later years, the Downing family owned the house and manufactured wagon wheels there. One of their sons moved to Concord, NH, and founded the company that designed and built the stagecoach known as the Concord Coach.
45. Built in East Lexington in 1716 and moved to its present site in 1946, the **Robbins House** (1295 Massachusetts Ave.; private residence) is rumored to have been a station on the Underground Railroad during anti-slavery days and the Civil War. Stephen Robbins, the original owner, was largely responsible for developing Lexington's East Village into what was the economic and industrial center of town for many years.
46. The **Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library** was a gift of the Freemasons to the nation for the Bicentennial. It contains one of the finest Masonic collections in the United States and frequently hosts touring exhibitions related to American history. The Museum was constructed on land originally belonging to Col. William A. Tower, a flour and grain merchant turned banker and railroad executive, who later represented Lexington in the Massachusetts legislature. His son Richard Tower built the 1906 brick Colonial Revival mansion on the knoll overlooking the museum that is now the Lexington Community Center.
47. **Tower Park** is a 16-acre property along Massachusetts Ave. In 1927 Ellen Tower donated this park, part of her family's estate that extended along both sides of Massachusetts Ave., to Lexington. Antony Park, located at the east end of Tower Park, was designed as a formal garden and planned as a public meeting place and a venue for concerts and other activities. It was built as a tribute to Antony, Lexington's sister city in France.
48. The **Jonathan Harrington House** (955 Massachusetts Ave.; private residence) was built around 1788. Jonathan Harrington was a fifer in Capt. John Parker's company of Minute Men and was the last survivor of the Battle of Lexington. He was a chair maker and furniture repairer; he died in 1854 at age 96.
49. William Diamond, drummer for the Minute Men, lived at the **Bowman Tavern** (837 Massachusetts Ave.; private residence), built around 1760, when he was apprenticed as a wheelwright to Thomas Fessenden, the original owner. Francis Bowman Jr. ran the tavern from 1820 to 1840, catering to teamsters and farmers driving sheep, turkeys, and cattle to the slaughterhouses in Brighton.
50. **Daisy Wilson Meadow** conservation area, an 8-acre parcel, includes a small forest and a meadow that is home to a variety of wildlife. The birdhouse in the meadow provides a breeding home for bluebirds in the spring.
51. The historic Greek revival-style **Stone Building** was erected in 1833 by Eli Robbins as a meeting hall for East Lexington, which had its own civic identity and its own church. The building was offered to the trustees of the Cary Memorial Library for $2,000 in 1891 by Ellen Stone, Robbins's granddaughter, and it was named for her. The East Lexington branch library, established in 1883, occupied it until the building was closed in August 2007 when it suffered damage from burst pipes. In February 2009 the Cary Memorial Library Board of Trustees announced their decision to use the Stone Building as a Lexington Heritage Center.
52. **The Brick Store** (703 Massachusetts Ave.; private residence), built in 1828 by Eli Robbins, was one of the first brick structures in Lexington. As a general store, post office, lecture hall, and branch library, it provided East Lexington with an important gathering place.
53. The **Francis Brown House** (618–620 Massachusetts Ave.; private residence), known as Brown's Tavern, was built before 1775. A Minute Man was wounded here on April 19, 1775, during the British retreat.
54. In the early spring **Peepers Pond** is filled with a deafening chorus of spring peepers. There is a large seasonal population of birds including mute swans, green herons, barn swallows, and chimney swifts. Green frogs, bullfrogs, and painted turtles can be found late in the spring.
55. **Robbins Cemetery**: Originally part of the Samuel Winship farm, this land was deeded by Winship's son in 1784 as a cemetery for several Lexington families. The cemetery, home to about three dozen small headstones, is the smallest of the four cemeteries maintained by the Town.
56. **West Farm** conservation area's 12-acre parcel has 0.8 miles of trails that cross an open meadow and follow part of an historic cart path overlooking Wilson Farm, one of the few working farms remaining in Lexington.
57. **Sutherland Woods** conservation area is a 24-acre parcel featuring a playground and baseball field at its north end, an oak-hickory forest, and two old farm ponds that provide breeding habitat for amphibians.
58. **Liberty Heights** conservation area, a small 6-acre parcel in a densely developed section of East Lexington, provides a small forested area that includes mature red and white oak, ash, hickory, and cherry trees. The trail through the area connects Bowker St. and Hillside Ave.
59. **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.
60. **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.
61. The nonprofit **Lexington Community Farm** (LexFarm) sells its produce through shares and a farm stand. It offers hands-on education and volunteer programs and donates to food pantries.
62. The **Arlington Reservoir**, built in 1873, originally supplied water to Arlington. The Town of Arlington maintains a swimming beach along Lowell Street.
63. **Cataldo Reservation** conservation area links the Minuteman Bikeway to the Arlington Reservoir.
64. **Whipple Hill** conservation area, comprising 120 acres, 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 that are 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.
65. 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.
66. **Shaker Glen** conservation area draws its name from Shaker founder Anne Lee, who settled temporarily nearby in the 1780s. In the past the property held fruit trees; some were part of an old farm orchard, some part of a 1980s experiment to preserve rare apple tree varieties. A few aging specimens remain, now overgrown with bittersweet.

## Resources

These websites can help enhance your outdoor experience.

***lexingtonma.gov/across-lexington*** – This website is the official source of ACROSS Lexington information.

***lexingtonma.gov/trails*** – Lexington has nearly 1400 acres of conservation land. This link will take you to maps of the 26 parcels.

***clclex.org*** – Citizens for Lexington Conservation promotes the enjoyment, appreciation, and protection of our natural environment through education and advocacy.

***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.

***minutemanbikeway.org*** – This site provides a history of the bikeway, guidelines, a map, and links to other trails in the area.

***tourlexington.us*** – Find events, dining, lodging, and directions here.

***lexfarm.org*** – Lexfarm is a community farm on the Town's Busa Farm property, offering a farm stand, education, CSA shares, food donation programs, memberships, and volunteer opportunities.

***arlingtonreservoir.org/resources/*** – The Arlington, MA Reservoir Committee is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Arlington Reservoir.

***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.

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

***walkboston.org*** – WalkBoston's mission is to make walking safer and easier in Massachusetts and to encourage better health, a cleaner environment, and more vibrant communities.

***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.

***nemba.org*** – The New England Mountain Biking Association promotes responsible mountain biking and advocates for protection and preservation of trails and open space.

## Thanks to

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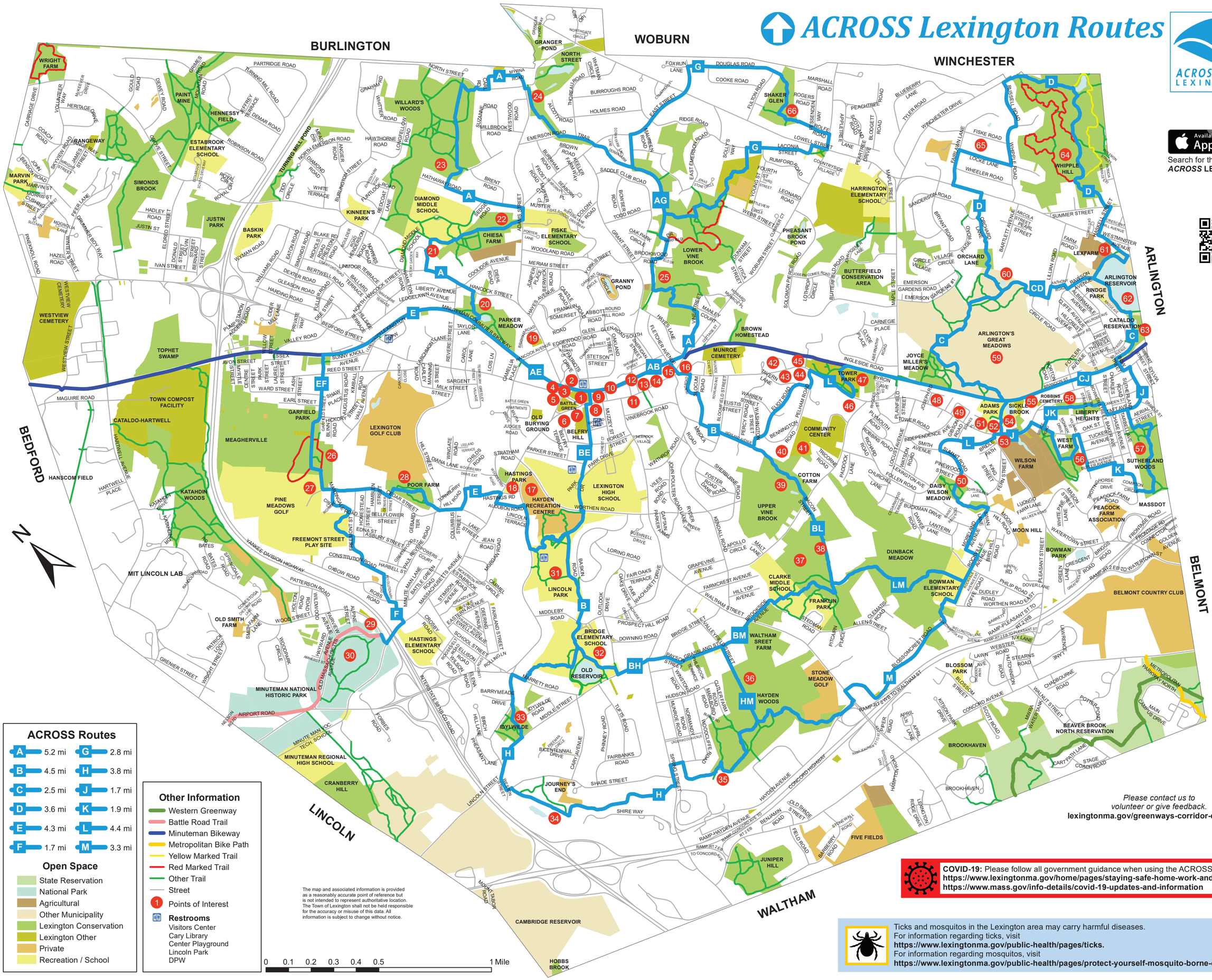
# ACROSS Lexington Routes

ACROSS LEXINGTON

Available on the App Store
Search for the free App
*ACROSS* LEXINGTON




## ACROSS Routes

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | 5.2 mi | G | 2.8 mi |
| B | 4.5 mi | H | 3.8 mi |
| C | 2.5 mi | J | 1.7 mi |
| D | 3.6 mi | K | 1.9 mi |
| E | 4.3 mi | L | 4.4 mi |
| F | 1.7 mi | M | 3.3 mi |

## Open Space

- State Reservation
- National Park
- Agricultural
- Other Municipality
- Lexington Conservation
- Lexington Other
- Private
- Recreation / School

## Other Information

- Western Greenway
- Battle Road Trail
- Minuteman Bikeway
- Metropolitan Bike Path
- Yellow Marked Trail
- Red Marked Trail
- Other Trail
- Street
- Points of Interest
- **Restrooms**
  - Visitors Center
  - Cary Library
  - Center Playground
  - Lincoln Park
  - DPW

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 1 Mile

The map and associated information is provided as a reasonably accurate point of reference but is not intended to represent authoritative location. The Town of Lexington shall not be held responsible for the accuracy or misuse of this data. All information is subject to change without notice.

*Please contact us to volunteer or give feedback.*
**lexingtonma.gov/greenways-corridor-committee**

**COVID-19:** Please follow all government guidance when using the ACROSS network.
**https://www.lexingtonma.gov/home/pages/staying-safe-home-work-and-public**
**https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information**

Ticks and mosquitos in the Lexington area may carry harmful diseases.
For information regarding ticks, visit
**https://www.lexingtonma.gov/public-health/pages/ticks.**
For information regarding mosquitos, visit
**https://www.lexingtonma.gov/public-health/pages/protect-yourself-mosquito-borne-diseases.**