



Experience nature in an urban setting...

Birding In the Mystic River Watershed

For an urban watershed, there are many great sites for birding. Here is just a sampling.

Meadow Brook Park, Mount Pleasant Cemetery (Arlington Center)

Take Mystic Street out of Arlington Center north, toward Winchester. Directly across from the Police Station look for a small road on the right, Sachem Ave. Take a right on Sachem Ave., directly into Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Take the first left in the cemetery. Continue to the public area until you reach a marshy area and Mill Brook.

Menotomy Rocks Park (Arlington)

The entrance to the park is off of Jason Street in Arlington Center, closer to Route 2.

Arlington Reservoir (Arlington Heights / East Lexington)

On the Arlington / Lexington town line just north of Massachusetts Avenue. From Massachusetts Ave, take a right on Park Avenue extension. Take your first left on Lowell Street. Drive past the reservoir and park by the woods on the left just beyond the reservoir.

Spy Pond (Arlington)

There is a public parking area at the end of Pond Lane (off Massachusetts Ave, between East Arlington and Arlington Center).

Alewife Reservation (on the border of Arlington / Belmont / Cambridge)

The Alewife Reservation is 115 acres of woods, wet meadows, and marshes. Little Pond, Blair Pond, Yates Pond, and Alewife Brook are some of its major waterbodies. One major access to the Reservation is behind the Alewife T station.

Great Meadows (East Lexington)

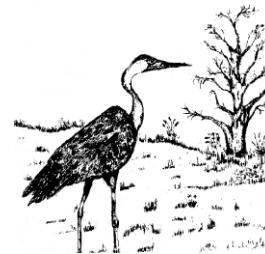
Follow directions above for Arlington Reservoir, but continue past. Take your first left on Lillian Road, then first right on Sheila Road. Take the public path at the end of Sheila Road. Access to Great Meadows is also available from several locations off Massachusetts Avenue, near the Waldorf School in East Lexington. The Town of Arlington owns Great Meadows.

Brooks Estate (Medford)

The public area is located in back of Oak Grove Cemetery in Medford. From Arlington, take Route 60 into Medford. Take an immediate left on Playstead Road. The cemetery is at the end of Playstead on the left side. To find the Brooks Estate, look for the pond, then leave it to your right, and follow it around until it exits the cemetery area into the estate.

Middlesex Fells (Malden / Melrose / Medford / Stoneham / Winchester)

Numerous access points in each town. Check out the Friends of Middlesex Fells website at www.fells.org



Mystic Lakes (Arlington Center / West Medford / Winchester)

Numerous access points are on the Medford side along Mystic Valley Parkway, between High Street in West Medford and Bacon St. in Winchester.

Locke Farm/Whipple Hill (Winchester/ Lexington)

There is an entrance to the Whipple Hill section from a pull-off parking area on Johnson Road in Winchester opposite Berkshire Drive. Take Johnson Road off Route 3 in Winchester, pass Ridge Street on the left, and take your next left on Cox Road. Park in front of the marsh and walk down the dirt road beside the marsh (High Street). Look for the path into the field.

Wildwood Cemetery (Winchester)

Take Route 3 from Arlington into Winchester, and turn right at the light at Church Street. Turn left at the light at Fletcher Street, and then proceed through the 4-way stop sign at Wildwood Street. The entrance is immediately after this intersection, on the left.

Brooks-Parkhurst Town Forest (Winchester)

Winchester’s Town Forest is accessible through the Brooks Estate property. It is near Main and Grove Streets, on the Medford / Winchester border.

Horn Pond Brook Bikeway (Winchester)

Follow instructions to Wildwood Cemetery, but continue straight past the cemetery. Turn left after the cemetery onto Middlesex Street, then right on Fairfield Place. At the end, there is a parking lot for the DPW. Park there and walk in the cemetery. At the back follow a small path down to the bikeway and turn left.

Horn Pond (Woburn)

Take Route 3 (Mystic Street) into Winchester (where it becomes Cambridge Street), and turn right on Pond Street. Take your first left on Arlington Road, then your first left on Sturgis Street.

Belle Isle Marsh (Chelsea / Winthrop) Access is from Route 1A north, take the second exit for Winthrop / Chelsea onto Bennington Street. Continue approximately 1.5 miles to the main entrance.

Austin Prep High School (Reading)

Drive to the back above the football field and walk out to the back athletic fields. They border the railroad tracks. See a map of the Thelin Bird Sanctuary here.

MacDonald Park/Mystic River Reservation (Medford)

This DCR owned park is accessible from Rt. 16/Mystic Valley Parkway. There are many trails in the park.

Assembly Square Riverfront (Somerville)

There is access to the Mystic River from the Assembly Sq. mall parking lot, which is off of Route 28. Head towards the yacht club (down stream).

Gateway Park (Everett)

Take Route 16 to Everett. Park in the Costco parking lot at the Gateway Mall.

Draw 7 Park (Somerville)

This Park is operated by the DCR and lies along the Mystic River past the Mystic River Parklands. It is accessible via Foley Street behind Assembly Square.

Mary O'Malley Park (Chelsea)

This Park is operated by the DCR and is along the Island End and Mystic Rivers. Take Commandants Way in Chelsea to access the park. See the map here.



If you have any corrections or other suggestions please let us know.

Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), 781.316.3438 or contact@mysticriver.org.

Thanks to birders in the watershed, on the Arlington Bird Listserve, and Mass Bird Listserve for the suggested birding spots listed here.