

# Opening our Reservoir Walk to the People of Randolph



Proposed to the Randolph Community Preservation Commission,  
by Randolph Emerald Necklace, c/o Town Councilor Jesse Gordon, [jgordon@randolph-ma.gov](mailto:jgordon@randolph-ma.gov), July 2, 2021

Slide 1



Randolph has a beautiful Reservoir Walk near this spot

– but we block our Reservoir Walk from the public, like with the signs on the right.

Let's fix that!

On the left is Randolph's Great Pond Reservoir, on Pond Street near the Braintree border. By Common Law and Randolph ordinance, the public should have access to Great Pond. The building on the right is the old Randolph-Holbrook Water Treatment Plant. The sign says: "No Trespassing – Keep Out – Public Water Supply – Trespassers Arrested On Site." This building will be gone with the new water treatment plant – what do we do with the land?



This is the main northern entrance to our Reservoir Walk, on Pond Street. There's parking for a few cars then a blocked entrance. There is no sign indicating that the public is allowed, nor that this is the Reservoir Walk.

The blocked entrance is intended to keep out cars – that's reasonable. But most people never realize that the footpath is open to the public and intended for public use. What's needed is a sign saying "Welcome to the Reservoir Walk", with a friendly logo that's repeated on other trail markers along the way, and a map of where the Reservoir Walk goes.



This is how people actually enter the main northern entrance to our Reservoir Walk – they’ve made a footpath around the fence and around the car blockage.

You can see the yellow car blockage device to the right. A fence extends up the hill – with no purpose, since cars can’t get up that hill, and people just walk around it. It looks like one is trespassing when one walks on this footpath – but it is legal and we should welcome it! Let’s remove that fence, and post some welcoming signs!



This is a “workout area” on Oak Street, and the southern entrance to our Reservoir Walk’s west footpath.

It is unkempt (July 2021) and has no signs indicating that our Reservoir Walk is accessed from here!

There is no parking here on Oak Street, so people drive past and wonder what this is – one can see that it has gym equipment when driving past. But there are no signs indicating that it’s part of the larger Reservoir Walk! Signs are needed on Oak Street so people feel invited!



This is the north end of the “workout area” and the actual southern entrance to our Reservoir Walk’s west footpath.

There is a car barrier that people are supposed to know that it’s ok to hop the barrier and proceed on foot?!

You can see the pattern of thinking about reservoir access – everything is set up to keep people out – that is the old way of thinking. The Reservoir Walk is the NEW way of thinking – let people enjoy the beauty and serenity of the water and the woods. But the physical infrastructure is all set up the OLD way and needs to be updated to the NEW way!



This is on Oak Street to the east of the reservoir. This path leads to the Fin-Fur-Feather Conservation Area – a sign should say that! The sign on the left says “No Fishing” – but two boys were fishing that morning – I waved “hello” because they SHOULD be fishing there, and that sign SHOULD be removed! (and see legal fishing area on slide 9!). Some people agree with that sentiment, and added a “W” to the sign so it reads “Now Fishing”

This is the main south entrance to our Reservoir Walk’s eastern path – many signs saying “no this” and “no that”.

How about a sign saying “yes, it’s ok to hop the barrier and proceed on foot” – that IS the intent!



Same spot, showing the “No Trespassing” sign.

I think that sign means “Don’t go in the water but it’s ok to walk along the edge of the water.” So it should say that!

The sign reads “No Trespassing – Watershed Area – Per Order Tri-Town Water Board – the Towns of Braintree, Randolph, and Holbrook – Acts of 1885 – Violators Will Be Prosecuted” . This land is owned by the Town of Randolph and we have changed that rule – you CAN trespass in the watershed area, on the Reservoir Walk – but the signs were never corrected!





This is the end of Clark Street, which is the official entrance to the “Stetson Brook Path”. That brook is the natural outlet of our Great Pond reservoir, and has a footpath – but there’s no way in!

The car barrier at the end of Clark Street has only a reflective sign to warn cars at night. While there are no signs saying “No Trespassing”, the footpath to the left of the car barrier (which is the actual “Stetson Brook Path”) is littered with bags of leaves and has no obvious walking route. And yet, it is an official footpath featured in [NaturalAtlas.com](#), [MapCarta.com](#), and [HookAndBullet.com](#). That last website indicates that the best times for fishing today (July 1, 2021) in Stetson Brook are 4 AM to 6 AM and then 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Did you know there was a fishing spot in Randolph? Did those two boys on slide 7, who were fishing just past the “No Fishing” sign, know that there was an official fishing spot just across Oak Street from where they were?



An example of “welcoming access” maintained by the Lyons School, versus non-welcoming access maintained for the Stetson Brook Path.

Amidst the unkempt foliage on the left of this picture, one can see discarded leaf bags – they populate the entire entrance to what COULD be a lovely footpath along the Stetson Brook to the Reservoir!

End of Clark Street  
looking south to the  
Lyons School.

To the left is the town-  
owned Stetson Brook  
Path. Straight ahead is  
the well-kept Lyons  
School lawn. To the  
right is someone’s  
backyard.

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