



Opening our Reservoir Walk to the People of Braintree & Randolph

Proposed to Sustainable Braintree and the Braintree City Council,
by Randolph Emerald Necklace, c/o Town Councilor Jesse Gordon, jgordon@randolph-ma.gov, July 2, 2021

Slide 1



This spot is easily accessible by foot from a large parking area at the Sons of Italy hall (see jessegordon.com/IMG_4131.MOV for video), which could make this spot an excellent “trailhead.”

But many signs say things like, “Posted: No Trespassing:
Public Water Supply: Trespassers Arrested On Site”

Most of those signs have been removed from the Randolph side, creating an ambiguous legal situation for people “trespassing” from Randolph.

This is the main east entrance to the Braintree water treatment plant on King Hill Road.

It has the intimidating barrier shown, plus numerous warning signs.

It is open and legal to get here from the Randolph side’s “Reservoir Walk.”

How about we open up from the Braintree side?



This is the reservoir's main north entrance on West St. Braintree (Pond St. Randolph).

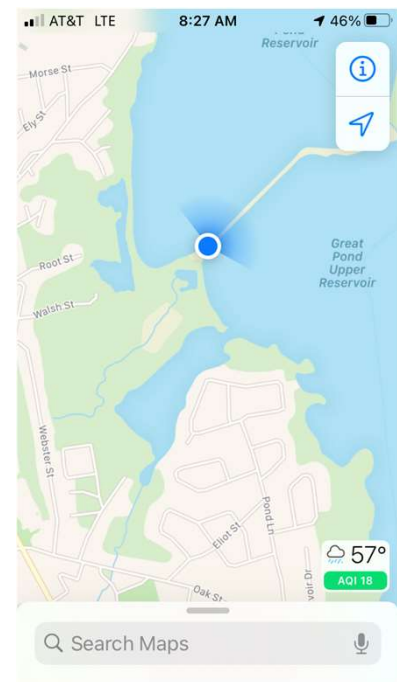
The barrier and signs on the left are intended to stop people from entering the area shown on the right.

The goal of this project is to remove the signs, and let people enjoy the reservoir, and to walk or bicycle around its entire perimeter (in other words, make the "Reservoir Walk" circumnavigate the reservoir)

These signs read:

"Danger: No Trespassing: Positively No Admittance"

"Town of Braintree Water Supply: All Persons Are Warned That Bathing * Boating * Fishing * Hunting * Skating * Camping Are Strictly Prohibited; Trespassers Will be Prosecuted"



Western end
(Randolph side)
of the dam
separating the
Great Pond from
the Upper
Reservoir. There's
an open car
barrier but no
other negative
signage on the
Randolph side.

Braintree-side pictures will contrast that the Braintree side of this dam DOES have negative signage! Pedestrians from Randolph can get to Braintree without crossing any “No Trespassing” signs, but only from the Randolph side!



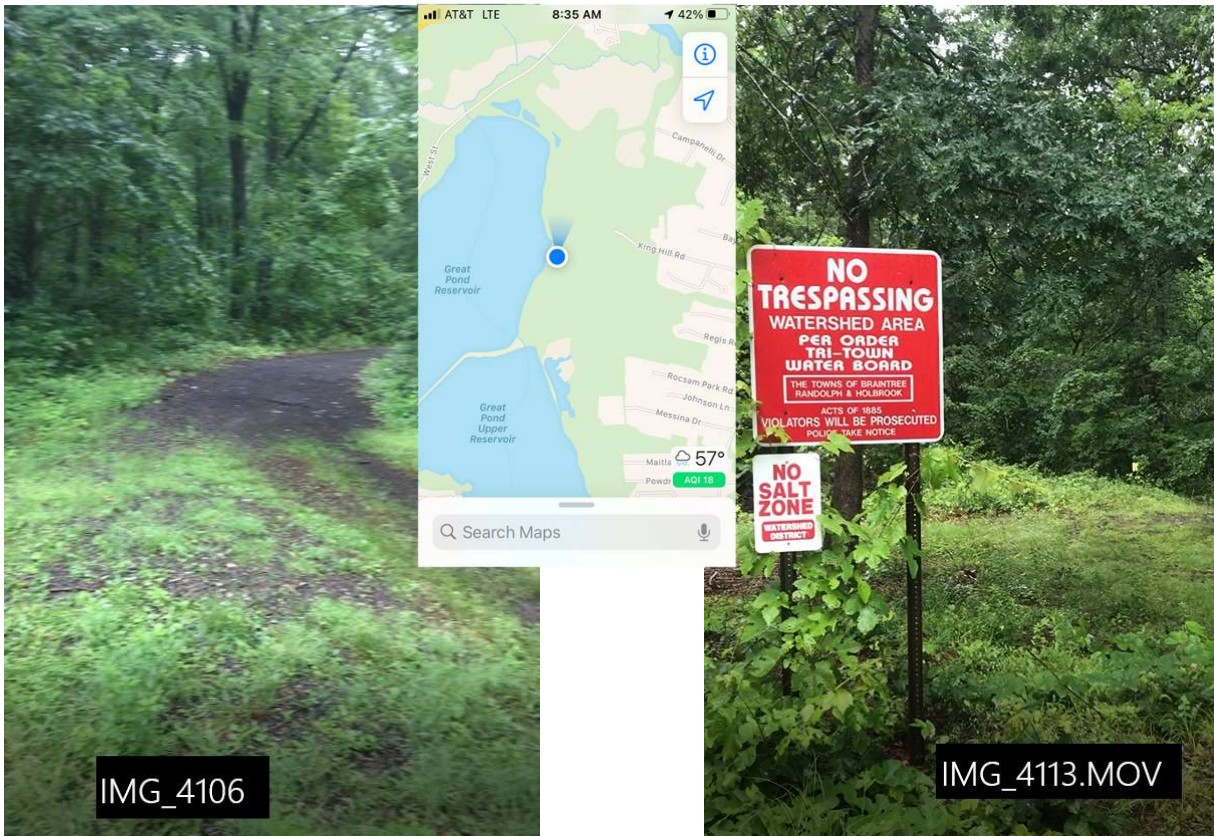
The gate is open but can evidently be closed.

The underwater feature here presumably controls water flow between the Great Pond (to the right here) and the Upper Reservoir (to the left here).

Working feature of the dam on the Braintree side.

This is one of the features protected by the “No Trespassing” signs in Braintree.

Pedestrians from the Reservoir Walk in Randolph can freely walk here without encountering any “No Trespassing” signs.

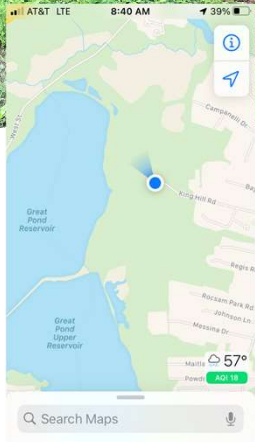


On Braintree side of dam and northward (you can get to this location “legally” from Randolph side, but not from Braintree side).

The red warning sign is repeated in multiple locations.

See jessegordon.com/IMG_4106.MOV for video showing “semi-paved” road – old pavement broken up – for entire length on Braintree side of Great Pond.

See jessegordon.com/IMG_4113.MOV for entrance to Braintree water treatment plant (well-marked with “No Trespassing”) and path to bypass the water treatment plant (next map)



Warning signs proliferate on the Braintree side of Great Pond. These say “Warning: No Swimming; No Fishing; No Ice Skating” and “Danger: No Trespassing; Positively No Admittance”.

The goal is to remove the “No Admittance” signs and encourage trespassing!

This is around where the “Attack Dog” sign was located, at the end of King Hill Road. That sign was removed sometime after October 2019, when I took the photo on the opening page. The new signs express the same sentiment with less ridiculous wording. Note location on map – that is a “bypass trail” through the woods to go around the actual Braintree water treatment plant – at spot shown on map, with the two photos showing the two ends of the “bypass”. See jessegordon.com/IMG_4114.MOV video of bypass trail.



Examples of the “proliferation” of negative signage.

What is the “Danger” indicated on these signs? (“Attack dogs”?)

What are we protecting here? (the dam?)

And from whom? (from ourselves?)

The common messages on these signs are:

“Warning: No Swimming; No Fishing; No Ice Skating”

“Danger: No Trespassing; Positively No Admittance”

“Notice: No Trespassing”

“Watershed Area: Per Order Tri-Town Water Board; Acts of 1885; Violators Will Be Prosecuted; Police Take Notice”

“Public Water Supply: Trespassers Arrested On Site”



On the day I took these photos, it was raining, but I encountered several anglers both on the Randolph side (where one angler said “I’m fishing for bass”) and on the Braintree side.

To get to this location, where I greeted an angler, one must pass several “No Fishing” and “No Trespassing” signs.

There’s no enforcement – and people know that – so why do we need the signs?



This dam is just south of Pond Street, where the Farm River/Blue Hill River flows in.

This is the feature “protected” by the numerous warnings and barriers on Pond Street.

Those same barriers prevent our neighbors from experiencing mist rising from the water, which I saw all day this day.

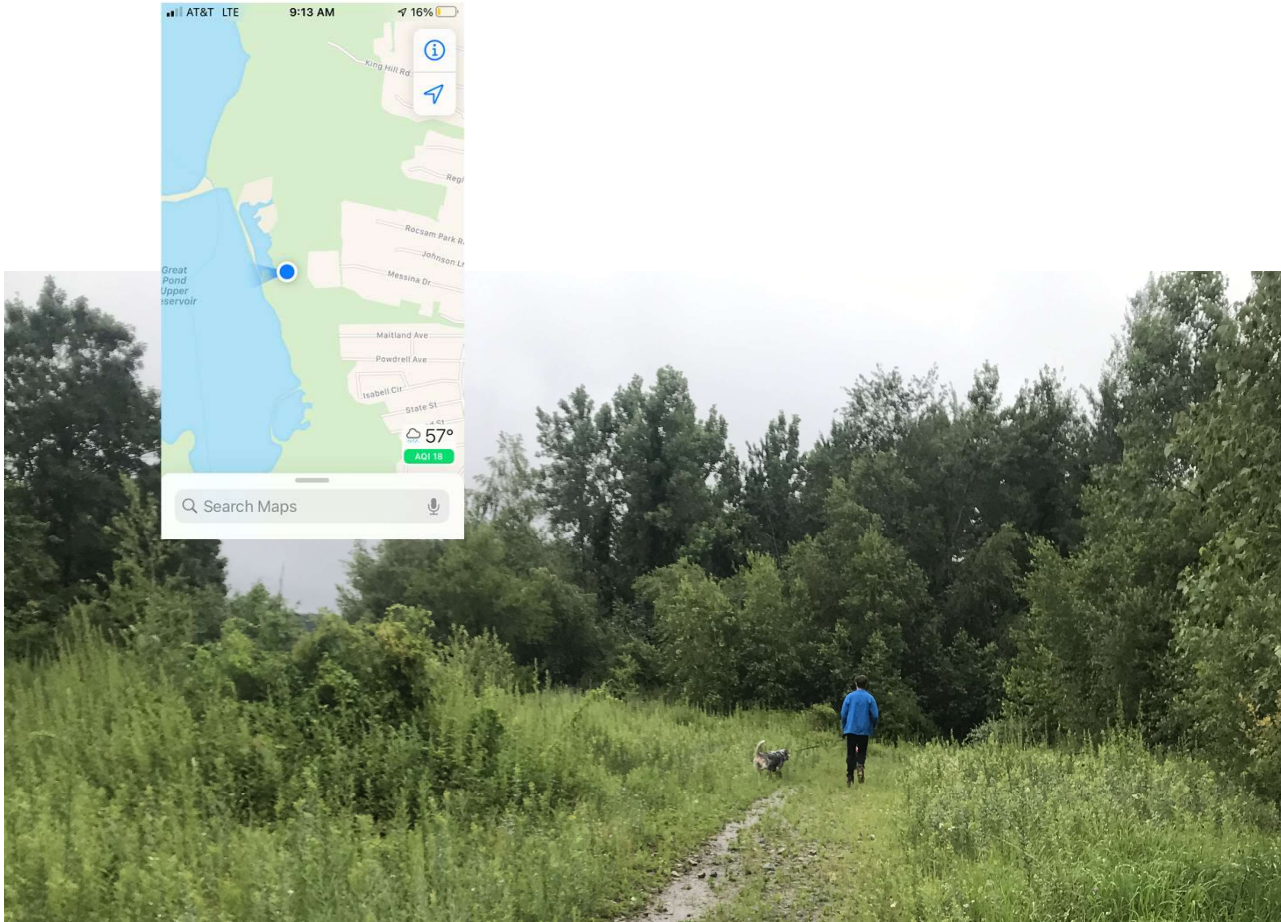
The main entrance from Pond Street is shown on slide 3 (with elaborate signage).

Here are three other “entrances” from Pond Street, with more litter than signage.

All three could be trailheads with a couple of parking spots each.



The log “barrier” at lower left is actually maintained by Braintree; I show my bike on the other side to demonstrate that there really is a walkable trail there.



Objective is to remove all signs that say
“No Dogs”, “No Fishing”, and “No Trespassing.”

Those activities don't harm water quality, and hence should be allowed.

East side of
Reservoir Walk
connects from
Randolph's Oak
Street to Braintree
side of dam – with
exits to Braintree on
next slide.

Ideal for dog-
walking, except
signs say “No Dogs”



Back at the east side
of the dam – this is
the route to
Braintree's Pond
Street via
Messina Drive

(yes, you can get
through here! It's
rough and needs
trail maintenance,
but it's passable!)

See videos for this route:

jessegordon.com/IMG_4136.MOV for east side of dam

jessegordon.com/IMG_4140.MOV for west end of Messina Drive

Sorry, I say "Washington Street" for Braintree's Pond Street;

but that is unconnected to Randolph's Pond Street!

Also, Messina Drive ends north of Randolph's Fin/Fur/Feather
Conversation Area – in a VERY hard-to-traverse area!



Another entrance from Messina Drive industrial complex – this one has a picnic table (next to bike) if one can look past the Jersey barriers.

This could be a nice trailhead – near Fin/Fur/Feather Conservation Area and through to dams to west and north.

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People of Braintree and Randolph

c/o Randolph's Emerald Necklace

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