

THE MYSTIC RIVER IS AN URBAN, INDUSTRIALIZED RIVER WITH A LONG HISTORY OF SHIPBUILDING AND MANUFACTURING. Although it has been neglected for a long time, many residents and organizations in the watershed are joining forces to improve water quality and recreational opportunities along the river. Somerville has been in the forefront of this effort and received a grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust to make improvements to the boathouse and the docks and to connect this waterfront park with Foss Park via the Blueback Herring River Route. This 0.61 mile walking route is marked by large signs with the Blueback Herring River Route logo The Blueback Herring is a silver colored fish that annually returns to the Mystic in the spring to lay its eggs. The route connects points of interest such as parks, historical markers and housing developments.

Please note: This route uses local streets and sidewalks. Portions of the sidewalks are rough and uneven and may be difficult to navigate in a wheelchair or for people with other mobility difficulties. Please be careful when walking and remember to cross the streets using the crosswalks.

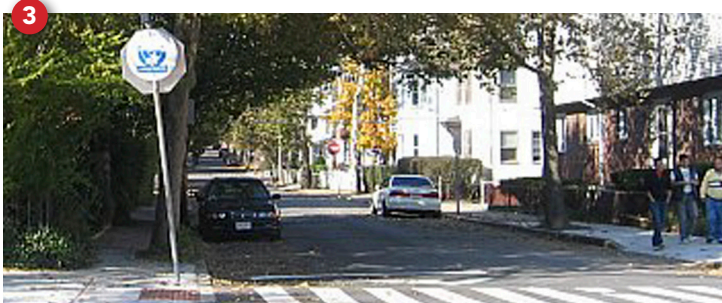
We hope that you will enjoy exploring the riverfront and the surrounding neighborhoods.



1. Foss Park – This 15 acre park, owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, is the largest park in Somerville. It features a playground, soccer fields, baseball fields, tennis and basketball as well as a swimming pool and spray park. It was named after Saxton Conant Foss, a Somerville resident and Army Private who died during WW I. There is on-street parking and the park is accessible by bus. Take Bus 101 or Bus 89 and get off at Broadway and the Fellsway.



2. Middlesex Canal Historic Markers - Within Foss Park there are two historic stone markers showing the location of the Middlesex Canal through Somerville.



3. Beginning of the Blueback Herring River Route – The Blueback Herring River Route begins at the intersection of Jaques Street and Fellsway West. Jaques Street is named after Colonel Samuel Jaques, a well known horticulturalist and live-stock breeder who bought land in the area in 1832.



4. Corbett Apartments - The James J. Corbett Apartments at 32 Jaques Street is a state senior/young disabled housing development. The development features one-bedroom apartments, a large community room and off-street parking as well as an active resident association.



5. Middlesex Canal Marker - This marker on Temple Street gives a brief history of the Middlesex Canal.



6. Tot lot – This tot lot is provided by the Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) for use by its youngest residents.



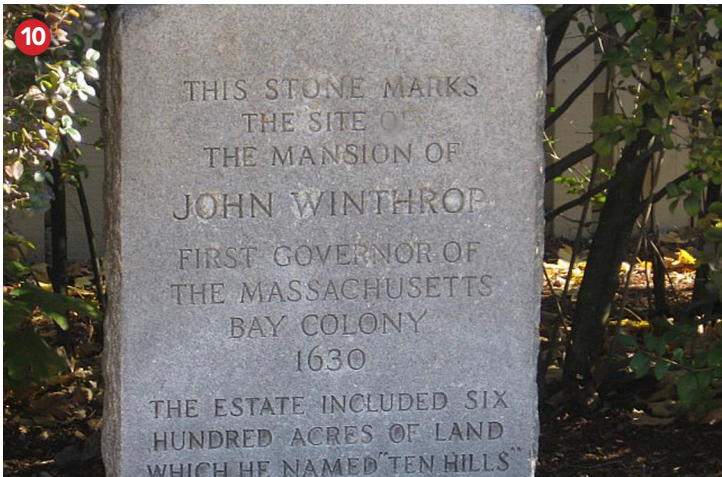
7. Mystic Activity Center - The mission of the Mystic Activity Center is to provide a place for residents of all ages and the staff of the Somerville Housing Authority to come together for enrichment opportunities. The diverse community within the Mystic Activity Center (MAC) works to help members of the SHA and greater Somerville communities build and celebrate achievement. The MAC is home to the SHA Tenant Selection Department, the Mystic Learning Center, the Welcome Project, and the Mystic Tenants Association. The state-of-the art SHA Computer Education Center (CEC) and the Community Activity Room are also housed at the Mystic Activity Center. Finally, the MAC is also home to the Bunker Hill Community College Somerville Satellite campus.



8. The Mystic Mural: The Mystic Mural is a project of the Somerville Arts Council. The program is a summer employment program for teens that combines hands-on environmental education with art. Every year professional muralist David Fichter and his assistants invite educators, amateur naturalists or historians from the surrounding community to help develop a curriculum centered on adventurous exploration of the Mystic River Watershed. Working with the youth, they help to develop a theme for the new panels. The project brings together an international community of youth living in Somerville. In 1997, the Mural project received a national award for excellence.



9. Grimmons Park - This small neighborhood park has a water spray area, playground, swings, a climbing wall, basketball court and a tennis backboard. The park incorporates the historic archway of the old Grimmons School and there is a timeline telling the site's history. The park was the recipient of a 2011 Boston Society of Landscape Architects Merit Award.



10. Governor Winthrop Historic Marker – The Ten Hills neighborhood is named after Ten Hills Farm, the 600 acre estate owned by Massachusetts' first governor, John Winthrop. This stone marks the site of the mansion.



11. Blessing of the Bay Boathouse — The boathouse is named after the ship commissioned in 1631 by Massachusetts' first Governor, John Winthrop. It is located where the first seafaring ship was built in Massachusetts and is the site of the annual Mystic River Herring Run and Paddle sponsored by the Mystic River Watershed Association. This event celebrates the return of the herring to the Mystic River, where they swim upstream to spawn.



Raised bed gardens at the Boathouse

There is parking available at the boathouse which is handicapped accessible. There is a picnic area, several raised bed gardens, boat launching facilities and access to a biking and walking path that goes along the river. A map of all trails along the Mystic River is available from the Mystic River Watershed Association at <http://mysticriver.org/urban-trail-map>. The closest bus is the Route 95 bus.