

A hidden gem in Arlington: Mount Gilboa

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Name Mount Gilboa

Location North of Mass. Ave., Arlington Heights

How to get there Turn right off of Lowell Street onto Westmoreland Avenue, then right onto Crescent Hill Avenue; park on the street

Size 10 acres

Owned by Conservation Commission, rented by the town

Best for Views of Arlington Reservoir and Boston

3 things to know

1

The tree-covered mixed oak forest sits smack in the middle of a residential neighborhood, just east of the Arlington Reservoir.

2

Some old timers report that one can see the ocean from Mount Gilboa (maybe with binoculars!) and that during World War II, the area was cordoned off to serve as an interceptor of communications delivered from German submarines to sympathizers on shore.

3

The entrance to Mount Gilboa is off Park Place, at the end of Crescent Hill Avenue. There's a helpful map at the trailhead. Dirt trails through the wooded space are great for walking and bird watching.

Why it's a hidden gem At the start of the trails is a chalkboard for visitors to share and read haikus inspired by the area. There's also a big, beautiful house at the top of the hill — hit the trails before the trees fill in to get a glimpse. Our suggestion? Hike all the way up Westmoreland Avenue from Lowell Street — a steep climb! — and enjoy the view from Mount Gilboa, then treat yourself to a dip Reservoir Beach when you climb back down (the beach opens in June).

Share your photos Did you visit one of Arlington's lesser known open spaces? Send a photo (or a suggestion for a space to be featured) to aolson@wickedlocal.com.

Cori Beckwith, Arlington Conservation Commission administrator, contributed to this feature.

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