

# BELFAST IN-TOWN NATURE TRAIL



Ruby-throated hummingbird.

*Come experience the nature of Belfast by walking tree-lined streets, city parks, birding hot spots and postage stamp habitats for wildlife, urban gardens, some private land, public shoreline access, and the Harbor Walk.*

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**SEGMENT 1: ARMISTICE BRIDGE TO THE BOATHOUSE**

0.7 mile. Boats, shorebirds, ducks.

The Armistice Bridge (the old U.S. Rt. 1) offers excellent birding for loons, gulls, ducks, cormorants, ospreys, peregrine falcons, and eagles, as well as fishing in season. Across the river, the eastern end of the bridge spans a tidal flat, where various species of shorebirds feed in the mud at low tide. From the west end of the bridge, follow the wooden dock and concrete Harbor Walk through the middle of Front Street Shipyard's bustle of business and diversity of boats to the Public Landing: flower gardens courtesy of Belfast Garden Club.

Side trip 1: The Belfast Rail Trail runs north from the Footbridge parking, 2.2 miles to the old Belfast & Moosehead Railroad Train Station.

Side trip 2: Cross Front Street and walk uphill to The Park on Main, where there's excellent birding above the wastewater treatment plant, especially during spring migration.

Continue on the Harbor Walk through Heritage Park, which has picnic tables, a grassy lawn, and a beach at low tide, through Steamboat Landing to the Belfast Boathouse. The shorefront access there is another vantage point for watching seabirds.

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**SEGMENT 2: BOATHOUSE TO CITY PARK**

1 mile. Trees, gardens, shore access.

From the Boathouse, turn up Commercial Street, take your first left onto Bayview Street and stroll past cozy cottages and gardens to Allyn Street. Turn left on Allyn and walk down to the Allyn Street Rangeway to the shore. Waterfall Arts has placed a "feathered stone" installation to mark this access point. Low tide exposes glacially sculpted and polished bedrock, varieties of seaweed, birds, and a place to swim,

wade, or watch the water. After viewing the bay, walk up lovely Allyn Street to Northport Avenue.

On Northport Avenue, turn right and go half a block to see the State Champion Copper Beech tree standing majestically in the yard of the "White House" across the street. Then turn around and walk back south on the Northport Avenue sidewalk. Across Northport Avenue from Allyn Street, the State Champion Black Locust stands in the yard of another white house, with a rope swing hanging from a high branch. The yard has several other huge locusts as well, and pin oaks along Northport Avenue. These trees are at private residences and should be admired from the street. The whole avenue is lined with regal trees.

Continue south on the Northport Avenue sidewalk to City Park. Along the way, you pass under grand linden (basswood) trees and horse chestnut trees. Across the street stand some large old northern red oaks.

Belfast City Park has mature native and exotic trees, birds, a brook, swimming pool, tennis courts, playground, picnic shelter with grill, restrooms, parking, and shore access. There's a concession stand in summer. There are no chickadee signs in the park. Walk the park loop trail under large horse chestnut, basswood, maple, red oak, white ash, and various conifers. The park has been revived as an Arboretum, for which it was planted in the early twentieth century. Just north of the entrance gate is a Kentucky Yellowwood, uncommon in New England. Other more southern trees have been added as a hedge against climate change.

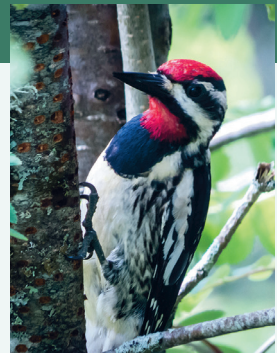
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**SEGMENT 3: CITY PARK TO KIRBY LAKE, "THE MUCK"**

1.5 miles. Trees, gardens, songbirds.

From City Park, retrace your steps on Northport Avenue toward town, and turn left at the State Champion Black Locust onto Salmond Street. On the right, between the second and third houses facing Salmond, a public pathway to the right takes you through "Birdland", a public way and birding spot with tall trees. The path connects to Court Street and past St. Margaret's Church. Across Court St. from the church, a Northern Catalpa tree is growing from the stump of its parent.

Turn left onto Elm Street, left on Cedar, right on Bradbury. The homes you pass have interesting trees, shrubs, and flowers, including a huge burly silver maple in the sidewalk. Turn right onto Charles Street, a narrow, shaded street with little traffic.

When you get to Miller Street, cross and turn left, walk uphill to Kirby Lake, locally known as, "The Muck." On your right, a trail takes you around the pond through woods and across bridges to the Lincolville Avenue side of the pond. This is a good place to watch and listen to frogs, spring migrant and nesting birds, and wading birds.



Yellow-bellied sapsucker.

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**SEGMENT 4: KIRBY LAKE TO THE ARMISTICE BRIDGE**

1.5 miles. Trees, songbirds, cemetery stones.

From Kirby Lake ("The Muck"), cross Lincolville Avenue and follow the trail over private property which looks like a park with tall trees and low forest ground cover. The trail curves through this peaceful place, crosses a brook, a stone wall, through a narrow strip of woods and through the parking lot behind Quirk Ford/Chrysler to Main Street.

Cross Main Street into Grove Cemetery (no dogs). Walk the perimeter loop around the cemetery, returning to your entry point. Among the beautiful old trees, birding is good, especially around the cemetery edges. Many of the monuments are carved from local granite, and graceful sculptures are the legacy of gifted sculptors. A peaceful walk around the cemetery returns you to Main Street, where you turn left and walk uphill to Wales Park across the street.

Walk the paved path through Wales Park, past the community garden and pollinator garden, to Congress Street, turn left and cross Main Street, and bear left on Anderson. Go one block downhill to Waldo Avenue, and look to your left. In the yard of the brick house across the street, stands a Northern Catalpa tree.

Walk one more block downhill on Anderson, cross Church Street, and enter Eleanor Crawford Park, a tiny park in the triangle between Church and High Streets, with concrete stair steps. This little gem is Belfast's smallest park, with a World War II memorial, flagpole, and bench. It makes a good rest stop. The Belfast Garden Club tends a flower garden, "Margaret's Point," at the end of this park. Cross High Street onto Bridge Street, go two blocks and turn right onto Pierce Street to the Armistice Footbridge.

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!



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[www.belfastbaywatershed.org](http://www.belfastbaywatershed.org)



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Visit the  
Belfast Bay Watershed Coalitions'  
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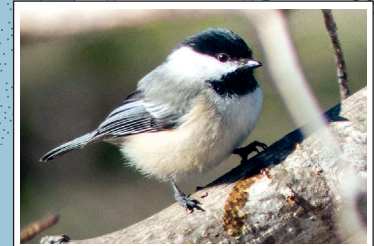
All photos by Dan Avener



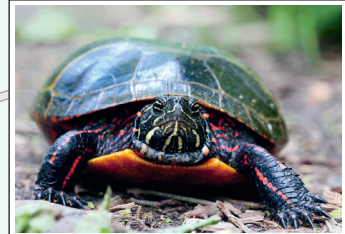
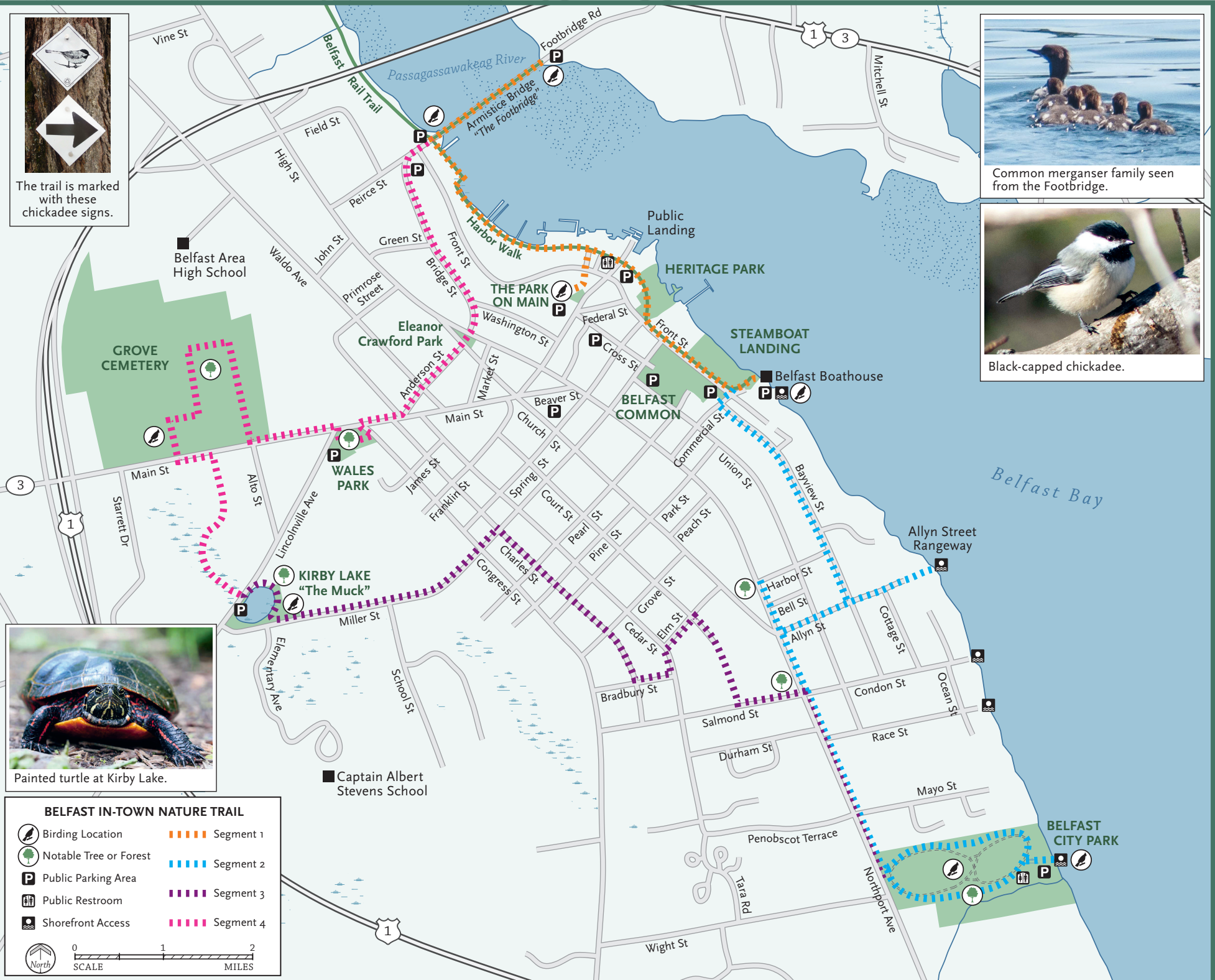
The trail is marked with these chickadee signs.



Common merganser family seen from the Footbridge.



Black-capped chickadee.



Painted turtle at Kirby Lake.

GROVE CEMETERY

Belfast Area High School

Eleanor Crawford Park

THE PARK ON MAIN

HERITAGE PARK

STEAMBOAT LANDING

BELFAST COMMON

WALES PARK

KIRBY LAKE "The Muck"

Captain Albert Stevens School

BELFAST CITY PARK

Passagassawakeag River

Belfast Bay

Vine St

Field St

High St

Peirce St

John St

Waldo Ave

Primrose Street

Green St

Front St

Bridge St

Anderson St

Market St

Main St

James St

Franklin St

Lincolnville Ave

Alton St

Miller St

Elemeritary Ave

School St

Bradbury St

Salmond St

Durham St

Wight St

Penobscot Terrace

Mayo St

Northport Ave

Tara Rd

Wight St

Wight St

Wight St

Wight St

Wight St

Wight St

Wight St

Footbridge Rd

Armistice Bridge "The Footbridge"

Harbor Walk

Public Landing

Washington St

Federal St

Cross St

Beaver St

Church St

Spring St

Court St

Pearl St

Pine St

Grove St

Elm St

Cedar St

Harbor St

Bell St

Allyn St

Bayview St

Union St

Commercial St

Harbor St

Cottage St

Condon St

Race St

Ocean St

Allyn Street Rangeway

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