

That was Then and This is Now!

120 Years of the MIT Geodetic Observatory in the Middlesex Fells and Malden.



Save the date! June 2, 2019, 9:00 AM to noon for a hike back in time to the 1899 MIT Geodetic Observatory. This year, Observatory Day celebrates 120 years of science and history.

On 6/2/19, meet at the parking lot of Flynn Rink, 300 Elm Street Medford, MA at 9:00 AM. Then join in a guided historic hike to the MIT Geodetic Observatory and nearby Boojum Rock (both in Middlesex Fells, Malden). Paint, clean up, replace aging plexiglass, add historic documents and help revitalize the Observatory's interpretive kiosk.

This involves outdoor activity and moderate climbing, but is appropriate for a wide range of ages and abilities. It is open to everyone, and no RSVP is required.

Local residents organized this historical, recreational, clean-up event in Malden's corner of the Fells. The project is supported by DCR, MRA, MIT, MNN, Friends of Fells and the City of Malden. To volunteer, send email to maldenhistory@gmail.com. Event details (with maps, photographs and the some of the scientific history) are at <http://www.maldenhistory.org/MIT/>

You can find some historical perspectives at [The MIT Geodetic Observatory - An Overview](#)

The guided hike to the Observatory begins at 9:00 AM on 6/2/19, departing from the Flynn Rink Parking Lot. All participants are invited to hike to the Observatory (duration: about 45 minutes) and then help with site refurbishment and clean-up activities. DCR is providing the paint and tools for volunteers to help freshen up three locations: the Boojum Rock sign at Gate 55, the Boojum Rock site and the MIT Geodetic Observatory signage.

The Observatory and Boojum Rock are located within 76 acres of open space situated in Malden's borders of the Middlesex Fells. The area is natural, well managed, hikable, beautiful land.

At 10:00 AM we plan to meet at the Observatory for a commemorative conversation on the site (lightly scientific and historical). We will revitalize the interpretive sign, painting the frame, replacing the aging and broken plexiglass, and renewing the documents which describe the historic and scientific heritage of this site.

The following four locations will be included in the event activities of 6/2/19.

1) Flynn Rink Parking - <https://goo.gl/maps/wosWr6FtcjDZtva68>

Activity: Parking, Start of guided tour.

2) MIT Geodetic Observatory - <https://goo.gl/maps/CohYQ7W2Rr32ZHD06>

220 E Border Rd, Malden, MA 02148, Map coordinates - 42.441660, -71.085221

Activity: Short history and science speed talks, with commemorative group photo by the Observatory at 10:00 AM

3) Boojum Rock Entrance Sign (good path for residents of Malden who walk to the event)

Gate 55 - See 2nd page of <https://bit.ly/2WAG49b>

Activity: Painting and lettering entrance sign

4) Boojum Rock Cleanup site - <https://goo.gl/maps/GhEgg5AUXuyA1WrA7>

Activity: Shards of broken glass removal, using tape bags and gloves, all provided

References:

A "Save the Date" posting is at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/MaldenNewsNetwork/posts/2261595660745760>

"Uncovering the MIT Geodetic Observatory in the Middlesex Fells", Friends of the Fells:

<http://www.friendsofthefells.org/uncovering-the-mit-geodetic-observatory-in-the-middlesex-fells/>

"MIT's Mysterious Observatory Rediscovered", which you can find here:

<https://alum.mit.edu/slice/mits-mysterious-observatory-rediscovered>

A 60+ page pamphlet on the Observatory site and its surroundings is free & available online:

<http://www.maldenhistory.org/MIT/TheMITGeodeticObservatory.pdf>

General information about this can be found at:

<http://www.maldenhistory.org/MIT/>