

Mass Audubon Quests

Arcadia

Easthampton

Welcome to the Arcadia tree and habitat Quest.
When you are through,
you will see that the trees are the best!

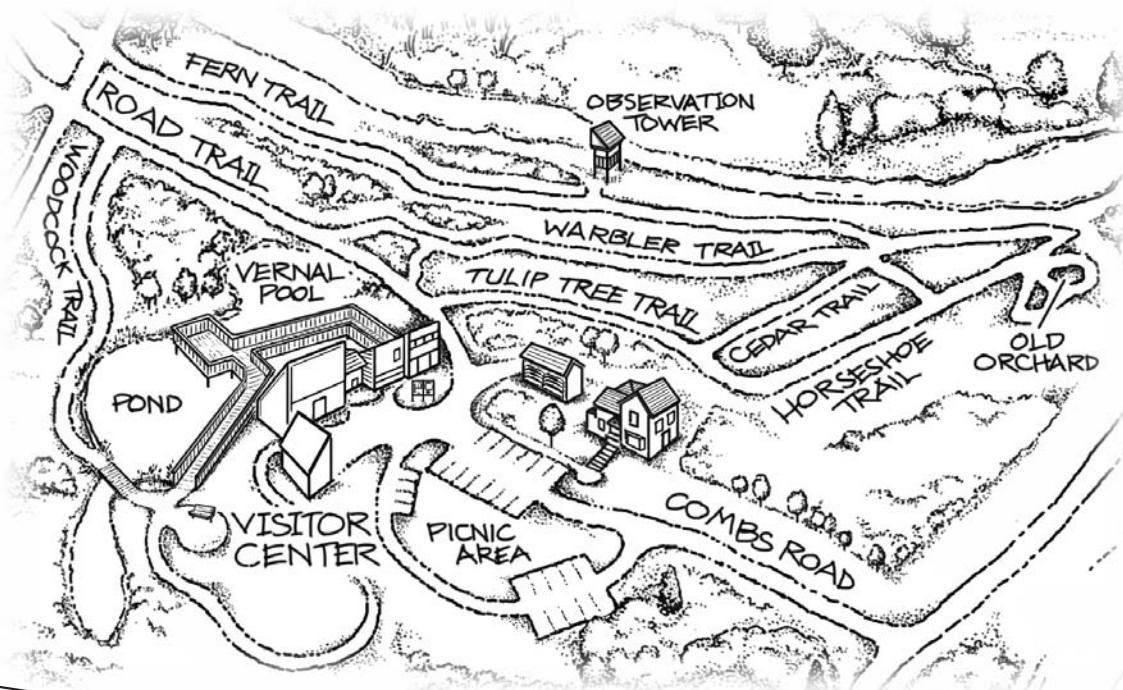
In case you are wondering what this is about,
A quest is a search, you're soon to find out.
It's an outdoor treasure hunt where clues are in verse.
To locate each stop, the hints are quite terse.
But if you can find each stop from our comments,
You'll soon learn new things about Arcadia's environments.

At the end of each quest there's always a box,
These boxes are hidden, but never have locks.
This quest at Arcadia has a box, too.
Your job is to find it—these clues will help you.



Arcadia Quest Stamp

Date _____



Before you leave on this curious search
Take heed of this plant-we did research:
Leaflets of three...let them be!
If you don't want to itch and go home to ail;
follow this advice: please stay on the trail!

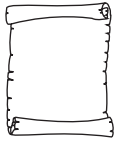


Use the clues and map to find the hidden treasure. You'll have fun and learn about some of the habitats that make this sanctuary special.

#1 Black Birch

Go out the back door, on a boardwalk you'll be.
In 25 paces you'll come to a tree.
This black birch leans toward the rail on your right.
On the bark horizontal lines are quite in your sight!
These are lenticels and exchange gases for the tree,
For trees need to breathe, just like you and me!
On this Black Birch feel the scar in the bark.
What might have caused this special mark?
One neat thing to notice on your Quest today:
Each tree grows its bark in its own special way.
If you look just behind the Black Birch tree, you'll see
The dark, scaly bark of the Black Cherry tree.

Question: *Can you find another Black Birch along the boardwalk?*

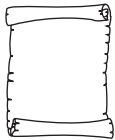


If yes, write **T**
If no, write **S**

#2 Boardwalk

Stroll along the walk to the POND sign where,
As you look at the pond, what see you there?
Are there wiggles and squiggles and things with tails?
Tadpoles, frogs, turtles... maybe tiny snails?
This pool is special; its name, vernal, means spring.
When it fills with water that rain and snowmelt bring,
It becomes a habitat for each little critter.
Sunken leaves provide food and homes with their litter.
Here in summer you might not see water at all
As there's no stream to bring it if rain doesn't fall.

Question: *You are most likely to find tadpoles in the vernal pool in:*



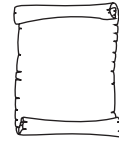
If spring, write **A**
If fall write **B**
If spring and fall, write **C**
If all year long, write **D**

To continue along on this nature trek,
Go to the tree growing up through the deck.
Look out o'er the railing and you will see here
A permanent pond filled with water all year.
Long ago, when farmers lived right here,
They needed a source of water near.
So they dug down to make a pond out of the mire
To provide them with water in case of a fire.

#3 White Pines

To Find the end of the boardwalk. Turn right. Cross the bridge.
Bear right onto Woodcock, then hike up the ridge.
Be careful going up - the leaves 'neath your feet
Are surprisingly slipp'ry when they're wet or deep!
Soon you'll see scattered small evergreen trees.
Five needles per cluster show that White Pine are these.
In the sunlight not shaded by much taller trees,
These White Pines grew from pinecone-borne seeds.
How long ago, you may ask, did these seeds start to sprout?
How old are these trees? Here's how to find out:
Count each circle of branches from bottom to top
And lastly the leader which stands up, not drops.
This will tell you the age of each little White Pine.
If it's close to your age, that will be just fine.

Question: *If most of these White Pines are aged:*

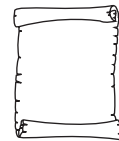


1-3 years, write **A**
6-12 years, write **B**
14-20 years, write **C**

#4 Wolf Tree

Now move along slowly and look about.
When you spot a huge tree, let out a shout!
This tree, named for the wolf who stands alone,
Is remarkably different from others in this zone.
Large branches, low, spreading way out,
Tell a story of open lands and much sun to sprout.
What land use allowed this wolf tree to grow?
Record your answer, then you're free to go.

Question: *If this land was a forest when the Wolf Tree first grew:*



If a tree farm, write **M**
If a pasture, write **T**

#5 Music Tree

What do you know? Can it be?
Right down this path another wolf tree?
Grab a stick from the ground, and to the tree run.
Strike the dead limbs gently, one by one.
Rewarded you'll be with notes so fine
As this wolf tree is musically inclined!

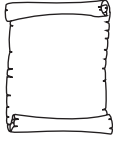
#6 Pine Monoculture

Proceed to a bench, and then turn right
Then pass two blue circles that come into sight.
Now stop, look around, and what do you see?
A forest made mostly of tall White Pine trees.
Few other trees live here, as most cannot stand
To grow in this soil that's mostly sand.
This sand bed, it's thought, with no mistake,
Was formed by an ancient river or lake.
Walking forward, another trail you'll approach.
Turn left and now you're on Old Coach.

#7 Microburst

Down the hill, take a left, and find chaos or worse -
The scene of a 1997 *microburst*!
A mini-tornado caused trees to fall.
Ripped their shallow roots up, leaving pits flanked by walls.
They were easy to topple in such a strong gale.
Are there signs of recovery in this woodland swale?

Question: *What kinds of recovery do you see?*



If mostly young 6-9 year old White Pines, write **E**
If mostly other types of young trees and shrubs, write **I**
If you see no signs of recovery, write **O**

To continue your Quest you must reverse direction:
Go back straight across Old Coach's intersection.
Down this trail to the river's edge, look to left and to right,
As signs of people and animals may come into sight.

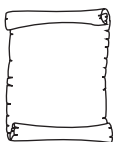
#8 Trolley

The ridge to your left was once open and bright
With fields and pavilions in the sunlight.
Marshall's Grove was its name, and folks came for the day.
Before many had cars, trolleys brought them to play. In 1916
the park burned, was no more; The trees all returned, the trolley
is lore! Are there any reminders of those days near our trail? Can
you find bridge supports that held trolley rails?

#9 Beaver

As you stand by the river, look to your right
For stumps that are pointed or trunks with a bite.
Were they cut by the butcher with a huge cleaver?
No, by gosh, it's the friendly beaver!
Beaver enjoy eating twigs, leaves, and bark,
And their huge orange teeth always leave a mark.

Question: *What have been the causes, past and present, of the habitat changes here?*



If people caused changes, write **C**
If beavers caused changes, write **G**
If both people and beavers were involved, write **S**
If neither people and beavers were involved, write **W**

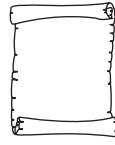
#10 Fern Trail

Reverse, turn left, look toward the river's flow.
Where did all the White Pines go?
Note many different kinds of trees.
Living in a flood plain, these trees exist in very rich soil
Brought to their roots when floods do roil.
Their roots are often submerged in spring,
Covered with water the floods do bring.

(Fern Trail Cont.)

White Pines live where the land is dry.
If covered with water, they'd surely die.

Question: *Think back: are there more ferns here than in the White Pine forest?*



If yes, write **H**
If no, write **P**

#11 Bench

Keep walking and soon a bench you will find.
Beyond, to the left, up a tree a vine twines.
Poison Ivy it is that can grow up a tree.
Three leaves to a bunch, or fuzzy rootlets you'll see.
Don't touch, or certainly you will itch.
But don't kill it, as it is a rich
Source of food for many a woodland creature,
Providing berries and leaves, a redeeming feature.
Poison Ivy also grows on the ground.
Look here by the trail and you'll find it around.
Now rest, close your eyes, and use each ear
To listen to sounds in the woods. You can hear
Perhaps a bird song, or a woodpecker's pick
Or the sound of the wind, or a chipmunk's "chick".
Count the sounds that are coming to each ear,
And realize that what you can't see, you might hear!

#12 Shagbark Hickory

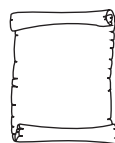
Keep walking, and, eventually,
To the left a boardwalk you will see.
Take a few steps, look carefully
At the Shagbark Hickory.
This tree looks like one with a "bad hair" day,
But this Shagbark Hickory grows purposely this way.
Shaggy layers of bark do insulate
And protect this tree from a fiery fate.
Beneath the layers insects rest
And the Brown Creeper builds its nest.

Look also at signs next to the tower
Indications of the river's power.

#13 Log

Turn away from the tower; continue on your way.
Ahead on the trail is a sign of decay.
It's a large log without any bark,
But signature beetles have made quite a mark.
Cross over, kneel down, look at tracks in the wood;
As the bark beetles crawled through,
they ate what they could. As they ate and grew,
they got bigger and bigger.
YOU can see that their tracks got thicker and thicker.

Question: *What happened to the bark on this log?*



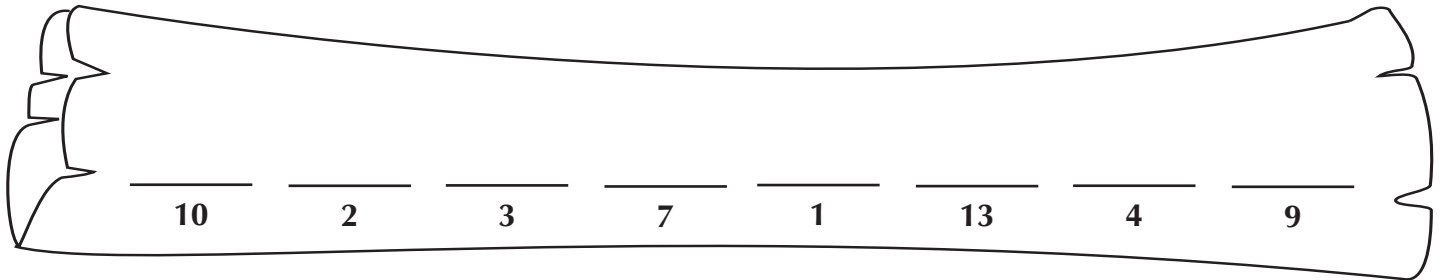
If the bark was eaten by beavers, write **E**
If it is decomposing, write **A**

#14 Finale

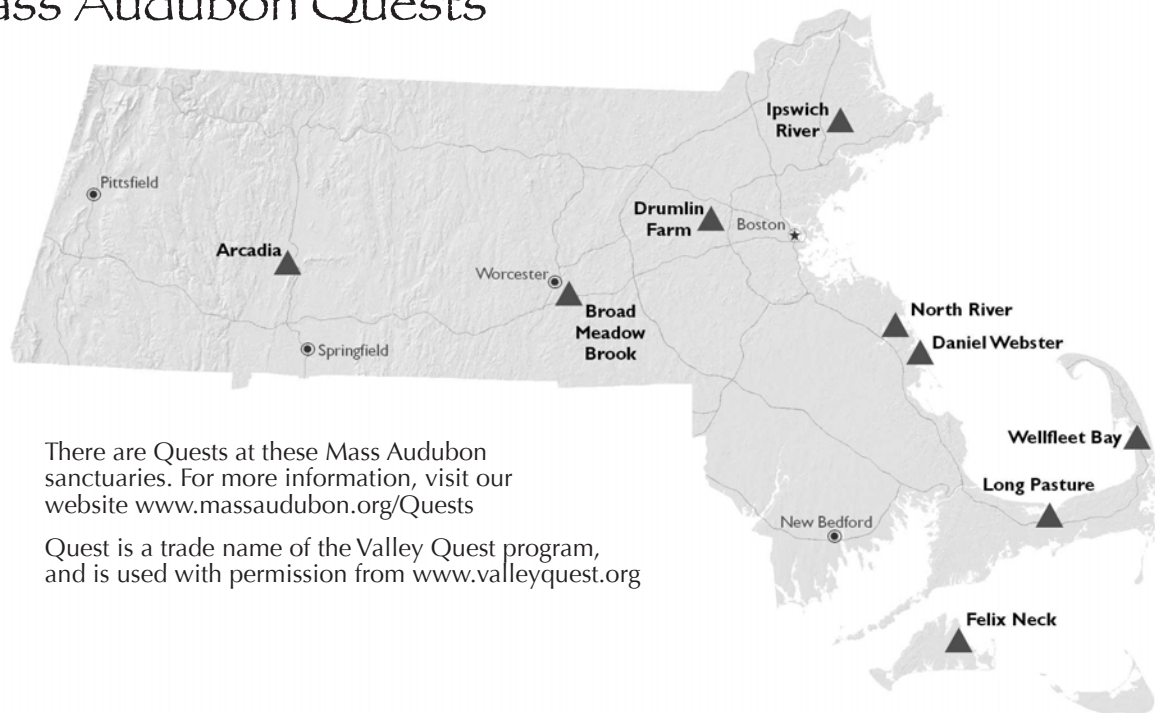
Continue up the hill and ahead you will see
An ancient spreading apple tree –
A sign of the farm from long ago
When this apple tree grew in an orchard row.
Walk beyond the apple tree
And a bluebird box you'll see.
Open the box inside that's at rest
And follow directions to complete your quest.
Your quest is over, you are done.

We certainly hope that you had fun.
If your goal is the Nature Center without delay,
Follow the sign that points that way.
When you come to a fork, please turn to the right,
And the Nature Center will soon come into sight.

Above the number of each station with a question, write in
the letter of the correct answer. This should give you a word
describing the special places where plants and animals live.



Mass Audubon Quests



There are Quests at these Mass Audubon sanctuaries. For more information, visit our website www.massaudubon.org/Quests

Quest is a trade name of the Valley Quest program, and is used with permission from www.valleyquest.org

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

127 Combs Road
Easthampton, MA 01027
email: arcadia@massaudubon.org

www.massaudubon.org

Nature Center Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - noon
Saturday, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, Sunday noon - 3:30 pm
Trails open every day, dawn to dusk

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 33,000 acres of conservation land, provide educational programs for 200,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at the local, state, and federal levels. Mass Audubon's mission and actions have expanded since our beginning in 1896 when our founders set out to stop the slaughter of birds for use on women's fashions. Today we are the largest conservation organization in New England. Our statewide network of 48 wildlife sanctuaries welcomes visitors of all ages and serves as the base for our conservation, education, and advocacy work. To support these important efforts, call 800-AUDUBON (283-8266) or visit www.massaudubon.org.

