

Mass Audubon Quests

Broadmoor History Quest

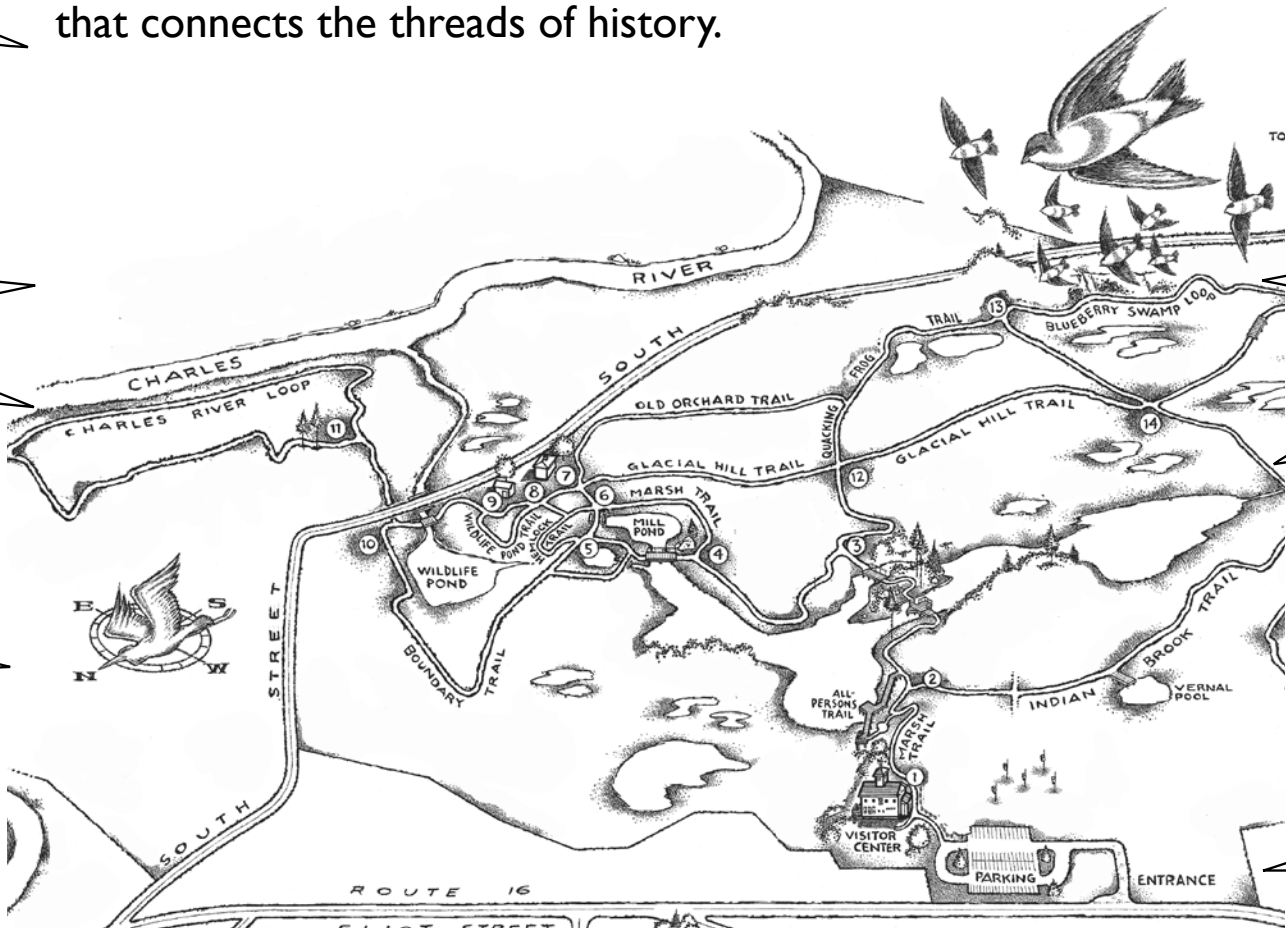
Natick

Welcome friends, be our guest,
seek the point of Broadmoor's Quest.
Along miles of trails and through time,
the truth is found inside this rhyme.

You must discover the secret key
that connects the threads of history.



Date _____



Mass Audubon
Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts

*This Quest is best done in spring, summer, or fall.
This Quest was created by Melissa Hansen.*

2010

Seek the sign post numbered one.
Now your journey has begun.

The nature center is a clue,
what did people here previously to do?



From its past as Red Wing Farm,
from Middlemas brothers to Mass Audubon,
It once housed chickens, pigs, and horse-

It is a big old ☐ of course!

Take a hike along the trail.
Left of post two, without fail,
nestled in the poison ivy
lies rusted old machinery.
Within a low concrete square
the irrigation pump now sits bare,



But in the past it had a house
to keep weather and animals out.
The pipes extend into Indian Brook
and from its depths the water took,
up the hill into the field
to where the crops used to yield.



Take a right and walk up hill,
out of the forest you will spill.
Now count about 25 paces
and picture what once filled these spaces:

Corn, beets, butternut squash too,
wild asparagus still peeks at you!
Now we protect native grasses and flowers,
wooden nest boxes on metal post towers.

Do you know what kind of bird nests here
during the spring?

_____ ☐ _____

When you're ready to depart
head back down the hill and right to start.
The wood is often slippery
so cross the bridge cautiously.
The purpose may not be so clear
because the stream does disappear!
Take a look before moving on-
is water running there or is it gone?

Follow the trail with trees on both sides.
Look for holes where a chipmunk hides.
Pass the boardwalk left of the path
Take a peek for birds taking a bath
Stay on the trail and out of ferns-
poison ivy hides there you will learn!

Before the bridge, take a break,
count to ten and tilt your neck:

Listen for some natural sounds
up in the sky or on the ground.

Name two things you can hear
that you didn't know were there.

Head onto the bridge, using care.
Of the past, please be aware;
you now are crossing Indian Brook.
Take a moment, take a look.

Which way does the brook flow?

The bridge itself will tell you so

The water flows from

☐ _____ to ☐ _____
(insert direction) as you cross.

If you fell in (please not today!)
you might arrive in Boston's bay.
The native people used to canoe
(though today you may not get through)
along this brook to the Charles River,
to trade, to swap, to pick-up and deliver
crafts and skills and food and fur,
which today you'd get at a store!

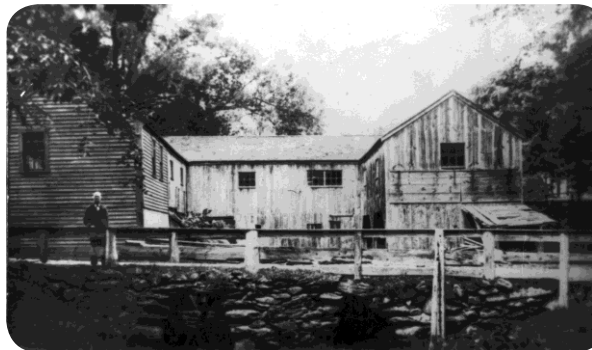
Walk onto an island of rock.
Now you're in for quite a shock:
the stone beneath your feet is old-
made by an ancient volcano!
A smaller bridge lies before thee
and sends you on to sign post three.

Before you stand white pines.
They were planted here in lines.
Now tall, majestic and grand,
they form an even-aged stand.

But back before 1940
Stillman's cows provided dairy.
They grazed among wide open space
filled with grasses, flowers and hays.

**Use your map and head towards four;
on your left you'll have the shore.
Try to find a beaver chew. Tell your friend if you do.
The crooked bridge is really safe-
cross it now. Have some faith!
Here we learn the mill pond's past-
why they were made and why they last.**

Byond the bridge, there was a saw-
it ran after the winter thaw.
Logs were carried by horse and sleigh,
to wait until the ice went away.
A smell of sawdust and a mechanical ring
filled the air at the mills each spring.



**In 1918 it burned down,
no more wood, just rocks and ground.
Stay on the trails and please explore
the foundation of a mill that is no more.**

Head from post five towards post six.
Stop on the bridge made of stone, not sticks.
This Mill Pond is even older;
its icy waters kept things colder.

The ice was cut on a _____'s day
(insert season)

and stored all year in bales of hay.
Folks didn't have refrigerators,
used blocks of ice to keep food for later!

The “Praying Indians” first owned this land until they sold some to the Sawin clan, for Thomas could build his useful mill wherever the waterway could spill.



Through the chute beneath your feet
water gushed, and here's what's neat-
it turned a wheel which turned a stone.
Then all the grains that had been sewn
were ground to meal by water's force
though the flours stayed dry, of course.

This tale of time needs to unlock.
Take the letters in each box,
re-arrange them and write below.
To get your stamp you'll need to show
what wove throughout our tapestry
of this land's place in history.

Be so kind and answer here:

the _____ best not disappear!

Broadmoor

Wildlife Sanctuary

280 Eliot Street

Natick, MA 01760

508-655-2296

broadmoor@massaudubon.org

Nature Center Hours

Open Tuesday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm, Saturday,
Sunday, and Monday holidays, 10 am-5 pm

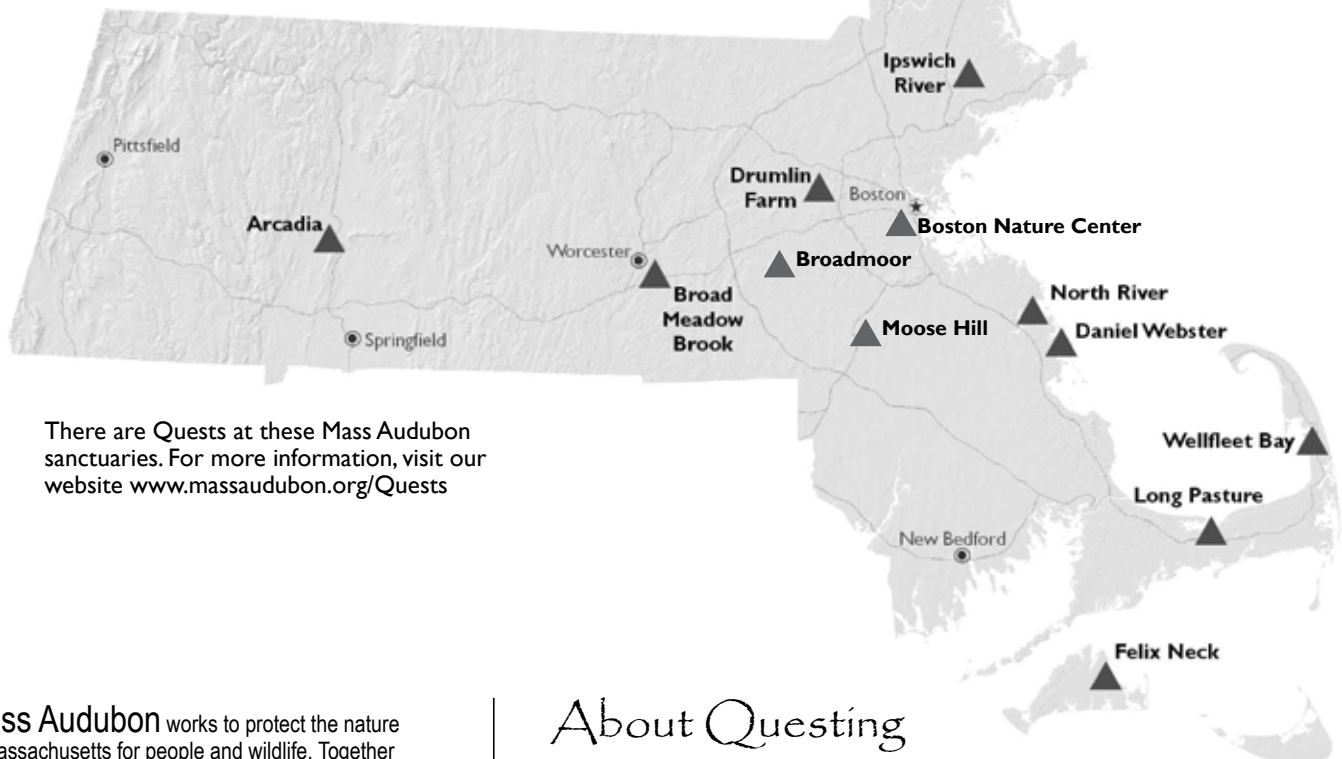
Trails

Open Tuesday-Sunday, and Monday holidays,
dawn to dusk.

Instructions for going on a Quest

1. Read the Quest paragraph by paragraph, slowly.
2. Use the text and the map to guide you on your journey; trail intersections are marked by numbered posts. There is an additional bird guide to help you to the right.
3. Your journey may end out on the trails; feel free to go further or return the way you went.
4. At the end, bring your answer back to the Nature Center.
 - 🐾 Be safe and have fun!
 - 🐾 Stay on the trails and follow all Sanctuary rules.
 - 🐾 Use the poison ivy guide below to help you identify and avoid the plant.
 - 🐾 Remember to check yourself for ticks after your Quest.
 - 🐾 Yellow blazes on trees lead you back to the Nature Center.

Mass Audubon Quests



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

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 34,000 acres of conservation land, provide educational programs for 225,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at 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 wildlife sanctuaries, in 90 Massachusetts communities, welcomes visitors of all ages and serves as the base for our work. To support these important efforts, call 800-AUDUBON (283-8266) or visit www.massaudubon.org.



About Questing

Questing was born out of a 150-year old tradition in the region surrounding Dartmoor National Park in southwest England. "Letterboxing," as this tradition is called, is a popular past time, with thousands of boxes hidden in both natural and cultural locations. Vital Communities, a regional non-profit organization based in Vermont, built on this tradition in the United States by developing the Valley Quest program. In the early 1990s, Vital Communities was concerned about the future of the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont, and was hoping to develop a program that would foster sense of place, strengthen relationships between schools and communities, and build bridges across the generations. The result was Valley Quest, with "Valley" referring to the place and "Quest" referring to a treasure hunt—made by children and adults working together—leading to the community's special places. Over time, the Valley Quest program has grown. More than 2,000 children, adults, families, scouts, students and historical society members have contributed to the creation of the 200+ Quests found in the Valley Quest books; and communities across the country are beginning to replicate Valley Quest's success.

Quest is a trade name of the Valley Quest program, and is used with permission. For more information, visit www.valleyquest.org