

Mass Audubon Quests

Arcadia

Easthampton

Welcome to Arcadia's Tree and Habitat Quest.
When you are through, you'll see 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 'bout Arcadia's environments.

At the end of each quest there's always a box,

These boxes are hidden, but never have locks.

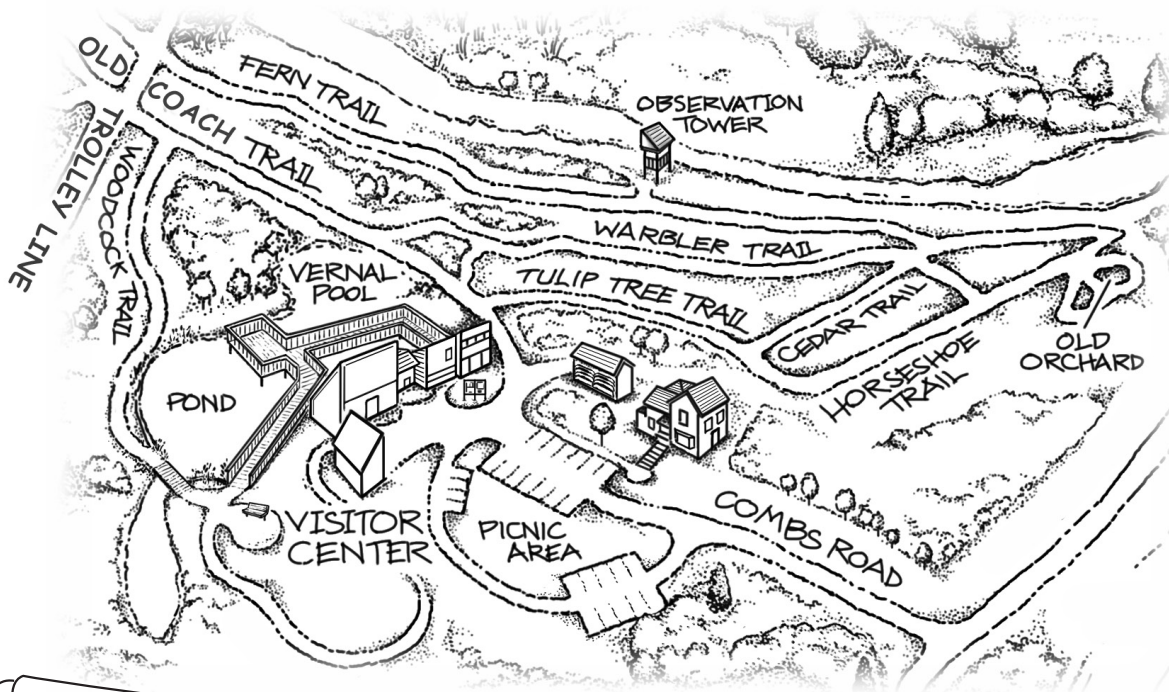
This quest at Arcadia has a box too.

Your job is to find it—these clues will help you.



Arcadia Quest Stamp

Date _____



Mass Audubon
Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts

*This Quest is best done in spring, summer, or fall.
This Quest was created by Arcadia's volunteer field walk leaders.*

Before you leave on this curious search
 Take heed of this plant—we did the research:
 Leaflets of three ... let it be!
 If you don't want to itch and go home to ail,
 Follow this advice: Please stay on the trail!

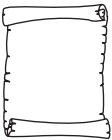


Use the clues and map to find the hidden
 Treasure. You'll have fun and learn about some
 Of the habitats that make this sanctuary special.

#1 Black Birch

Go out the back door, on a boardwalk you'll be.
 Turn left and then walk to the stump of a tree.
 This black birch stump leans, toward the rail on your right.
 Horizontal lines on the bark are still in your sight!
 These are lenticels and exchange gases for the tree,
 For trees need to breath, 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?

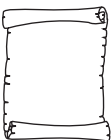


If yes, write **T**
 If no, write **S**

#2 Boardwalk

Stroll along, look left; a sign for Eastern Hemlock you'll see.
 Two white lines 'neath each needle identify this evergreen tree,
 Across in the water, are there wiggles, and squiggles, and things
 with tails?
 Tadpoles, frogs, turtles, maybe tiny snails?
 This pool is special, it has a 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 does not 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 ahead 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 deep pond in the mire
 To provide them with water in case of a fire.

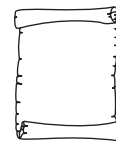
#3 White Pines

Find the end of the boardwalk. Turn right. Cross the bridge.
 Bear right onto Woodcock, then hike up the ridge.

Now leave the boardwalk to go over the bridge,
 And proceed on Woodcock trail up the ridge.
 Be careful going up - the leaves 'neath your feet
 Are surprisingly slipp'ry when they're wet or deep!
 On the right, you'll come to a grove of small evergreen trees.
 Five needles per cluster show that White Pine are these.
 In the sunlight, less shaded by much taller trees,
 These trees started growing 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:

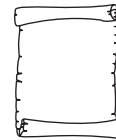


1-5 years, write **A**
 6-20 years, write **B**
 30-50 years, write **C**

#4 Wolf Tree

Now, move along slowly and look about.
 When you spot a huge tree, give a shout!
 This tree, named for the wolf who stands alone,
 Is remarkably different from others in this zone.
 Large branches, low, spreading a little further out;
 Tells 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 small 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
Past the 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.

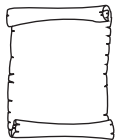
Walking forward, another trail you'll approach,
Turn left and now you're on Old Coach.



#7 Microburst

Down the hill, take a left, and find chaos or worse-
The scene of the 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?

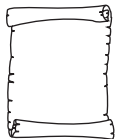


If mostly young 6-9 year old White Pines, write **E**
If mostly other types of young trees and shrubs, write **I**
If you see no signs of recovery, write **O**

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?

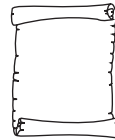


If you can, write **S**.
If you cannot, write **C**.

#9 Fern Trail

Reverse, turn left, look toward the river's flow.
Where did all the white pines go?
Note many different kinds of trees,
Live in floodplains such as 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.
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**

#10 Forest Sounds

Continue your trek and a bench you'll soon meet.
Look around at the beauty, then have a seat.
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!

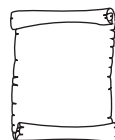
#11 Shagbark Hickory

Keep walking, and eventually,
To the left a boardwalk you'll 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.

#12 Walking along the Fern Trail

This river we've been following, now what could it be?
Its banks and its flow provide so much to see.
Mill River it is, and it often will flood,
Bringing nourishment to all, though it may look like mud.
Wildflowers and ferns, common here, grow well,
As they appreciate the nutrients from the rivers swell.

Question: Why are floods important?



To keep people off the trail write **E**
To nourish the land, write **A**

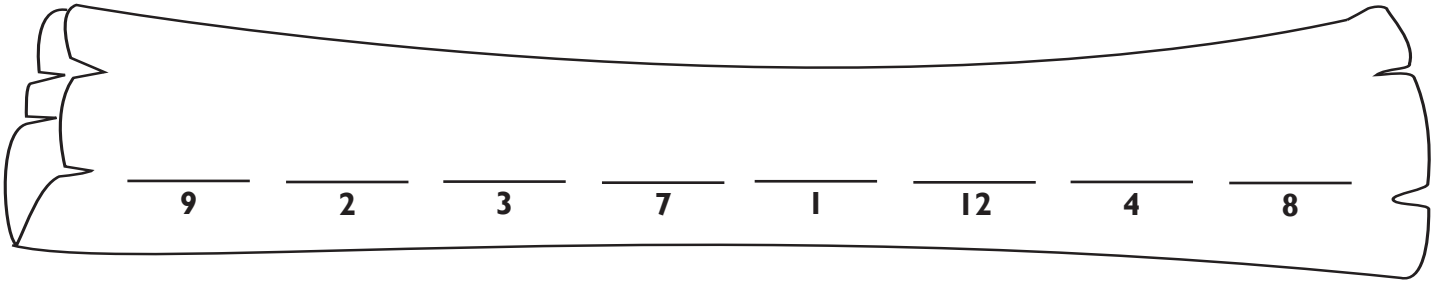
#13 Finale

As the Fern Trail ends, climb the hill and you'll see,
Ahead on your left, an ancient spreading apple tree-
A sign of the farm from long ago
When this apple tree grew in an orchard row.

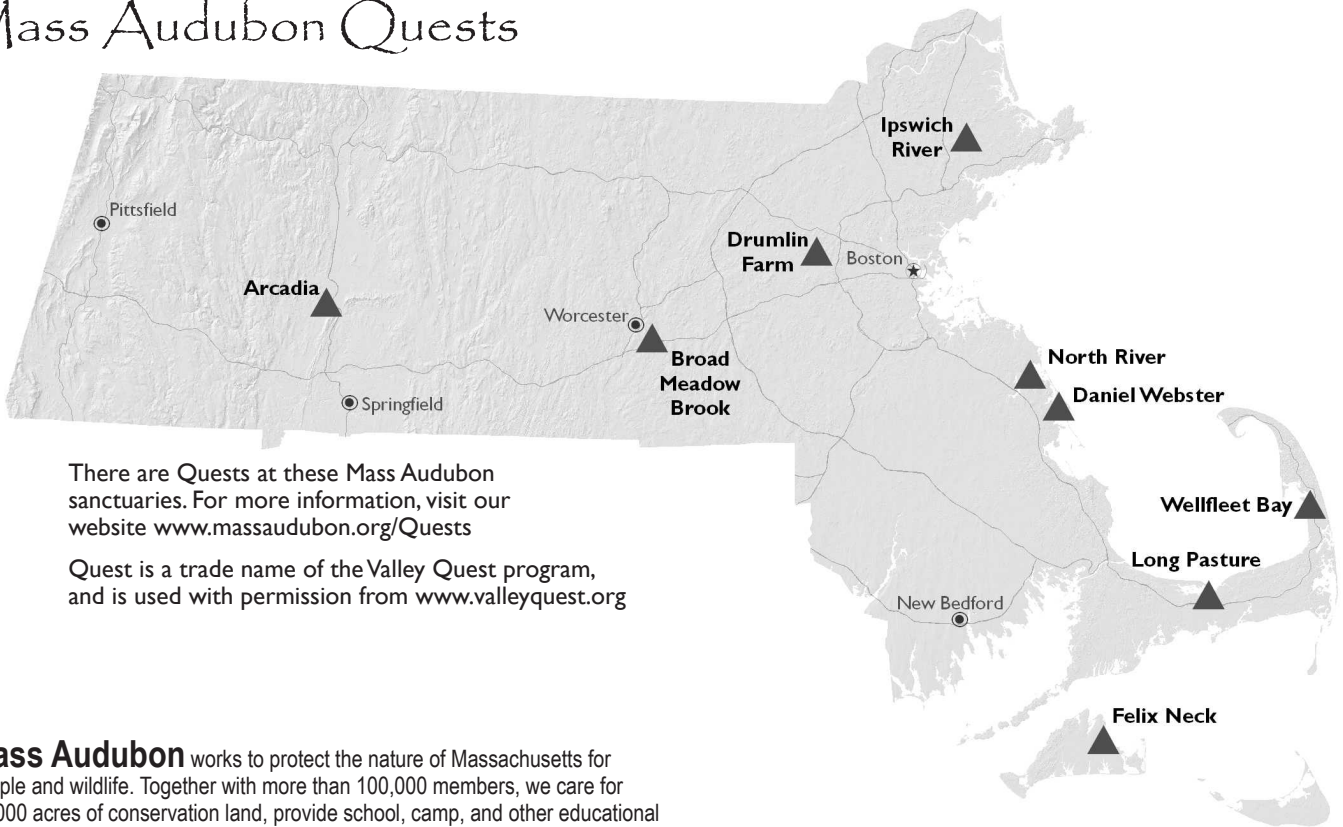
Walk beyond the apple tree
And a bluebird box you'll see.
Open the box that's inside at rest,
And follow directions to complete your quest.

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

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 35,000 acres of conservation land, provide school, camp, and other educational programs for 225,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Founded in 1896 by two inspirational women who were committed to the protection of birds, Mass Audubon is now one of the largest and most prominent conservation organizations in New England. Today we are respected for our sound science, successful advocacy, and innovative approaches to connecting people and nature. Each year, our statewide network of wildlife sanctuaries welcomes nearly half a million visitors of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds and serves as the base for our work. To support these important efforts, call 800-AUDUBON (800-283-8266) or visit www.massaudubon.org.



Arcadia

Wildlife Sanctuary

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

www.massaudubon.org

Trails & Restrooms: daily, dawn to dusk

Visitor Center

Mon-Thurs, 9 am - noon • Fri, 9 am - 3:30 pm
Sat, 9 am - noon • Closed Sundays