



Mink Brook Quest

Hanover, New Hampshire

Physical Difficulty: Moderate

Special Features: Natural

Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 0:45

Please bring: water shoes, compass, field guide (and binoculars rec.)

To get there: Take exit 13 of I-91 to Hanover. Travel east into Hanover and turn right on to Main Street. After 0.6 miles turn left onto Brook Road. Continue straight for 0.2 miles. The parking will be on your right by the wooden gate.

Overview:

The Hanover Conservancy is a private, non-profit organization incorporated in 1963. The mission of the Conservancy is to promote the appreciation and conservation of land and natural habitat in Hanover. Their mission is achieved with programs in land conservation, environmental education and support for conservation oriented public policies. Currently, over 450 households pay dues to the Council in support of its activities. One of the Council's holdings is the 113-acre Mink Brook Nature Preserve.

Clues:

Open the gate and follow the trail,
Where a mink might roam, waving its tail.
If you happen to see one, don't get too close,
Or of a foul stench you may get a dose.

As you pass the Kiosk, stop for a look.
You'll find information and facts about the brook.
This land has a fascinating history to tell.
Abenaki natives, early settlers, and cows as well.



While enjoying this trail you are likely to meet
Runners and other walkers, some with dogs at their feet.
Now on the left, a large house is in sight,
Continue a little further and take a small path to the right.

Gaze at the pool, ducks love this spot,
Jump in and swim if it's really hot.
Now return to the trail and continue your walk,
Look up at the sky where some geese may flock.

Bear left at the crab apple tree, the walkin' is easy,
There's grass and trees and the brook air is breezy.
This part of the trail is mowed for a reason,
The sewer beneath keeps the Mink Brook clean for all seasons.

Up ahead a blue blaze marks a trail to the right,
Take this path to the brook and you'll see a great sight.
This bridge was made with muscle and sweat,
So you could get to the other side without getting wet.

Now cross the bridge, take your time as you go.
Look down to see if any trout swim below.
After a hard rain the brook can be quite high,
Along the banks you can see where water rushed by.

Listen for a Kingfisher, it makes a rattling sound.
Blue Jays and Chickadees are usually around.
Raccoon and Red Fox are known to live here,
White-tail Deer and Black Bear may also be near.

After crossing the bridge, to the left you should stay.
Blue blazes continue to show you the way.
You will notice many large boulders as you go,
They were moved by glaciers a long time ago.

As you continue to look for your next Quest clue,
Take note of the forest that surrounds you.
The very tall trees are mostly hemlocks,
And how do those ferns grow out of the rocks?

Further down the path is an old rock wall,
With a tree growing on top, why does it not fall?
Up ahead is a rock sitting big, square and tall.
It seems to be the biggest rock of them all.

At the boulder's base, where it touches two others,
The treasure lies hidden under rock cover.
Congrats to you on completing this test,
Enjoy the walk back along this lovely Quest.

Updated by Gail McPeck, October 2013.

Please be a good steward of the land: leave it better than you found it and pack out any trash you find.



Valley Quest is a collection of 100+ treasure hunts that share and teach the natural gems and cultural heritage of the Upper Valley with children, families, adults, and visitors. It is a program of Vital Communities, a regional nonprofit working to engage citizens, organizations, and communities in creating solutions to our region's challenges. Learn more at vitalcommunities.org.

Have a suggestion, question, comment, or idea for us? We'd love to hear from you. Reach us at valleyquest@vitalcommunities.org or 802-291-9100.