



Trees of Dartmouth Quest

Hanover, New Hampshire

Moderate

Natural

Pavement, Trail

1:00

Bring: Binoculars, Compass, Field Guide

To get there: Get off I-91 at Exit 13, Hanover/Norwich. Travel east into Hanover. Once downtown find a parking spot at a meter or in the parking garage on E. South Street. Start on east side of College Street next to the green. This is north of the Hanover Inn and the Hopkins Center. Begin Quest at the fourth street light from Wheelock Street, facing the white buildings.



Super Quest 2019: Gateway to Summer Fun

This quest is one of 25 featured in this year's Super Quest challenge to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Vital Communities. For the rest of your adventure: vitalcommunities.org/superquest

Now that you're here...

If you're looking to cool off with a swim, head to Storrs Pond for a dip! If it's more trails you seek, head to the Velvet Rocks trailhead behind the Hanover Co-op.

Clues:

Dartmouth College has many stories to tell
Take a walk to hear one that began when trees fell
The trees of this land have changed over time
You'll see the progression if you follow this rhyme

Face the large white building on the right
The oldest building of Dartmouth is now in sight
Built here in the timely colonial style
The only building on campus for quite a while

Find your way to the Dartmouth green center
From here the tree story you will enter
This field was once a great forest of pine
Until Wheelock founded the school in 1769

Only one pine was saved and survived quite near
A symbol of the school's might it would appear
The lone pine image can still be seen
On top the library, north of the green

Now walk southwest, a large elm you will find
Passing more of the green where students unwind
To the left trees of maple stand in a line
Note the name of Dartmouth's founder on this street's sign

Return your gaze to the green once again
Once the pines were cleared, pasture animals brought in
Eventually students protested this action and won
The green was then left for leisure and fun

The senior fence was built and a piece remains here
A gift from classes past to honor the senior year (see the plaque for more info)
Now walk north along the other fence section
But cross Main at a crosswalk for your protection

This time approach the Parkhurst elm tree
Believed to have been planted around 1870
These trees once lined every street with ease
But few of the old remain after Dutch Elm disease

Once the canopy of elms died and were gone
A variety of trees were planted on the school's lawns
The students of years past have donated trees

So the beauty of this tree campus we'll continue to see

Now be prepared as you continue your quest
Much variety to see since the pines and elms left
Continue north past several young elm trees in view
Which must be looked after with much care by few

Before reaching Tuck Drive, go left toward a seat
The 4 large trees behind, you may now observe and greet
Please take some time to explore all four
For their unique features and much more

These special trees show the diversity now here
The Kentucky coffee tree the first to appear
Known for leaflets which are 36 inches long
So different it looks, like it doesn't belong

Next is the Red Oak a true sight to see
The bark so thick, how old could it be?
The third a gingko but do not delay
These fan shaped leaves tend to fall in one day
The fourth is the giant silver maple tree
One of the largest trees around you will see
Now cross Tuck Drive and toward the east somewhat
There you will find the amazing black walnut

This tree provides many gifts though its name means dark
From food in nuts to health remedies in bark
Continue toward the library then turn to the right
Passing crab apples to your left for a fruitful sight

At the buildings edge you must now rotate
Walk straight east and pass the building of 1928
Before crossing the street, to the far left peer
One of the few replanted white pines stands here

Continue east across College street once more
Touch the scaly needles of the arborvitae and explore
This tree lives up to its particular name
Providing gifts to animals and human, so true to its claim

Walk south toward where the quest began
Stop soon near the honeylocust if you can
You are given 5 options in the sidewalk
Go straight east past the chapel that is made of rock

Pause at an interesting compound leaf tree
A small Japanese zelkova this could be
Now walk a straight line to the observatory
To greet the first tree of this particular story

Briefly pause to see the oldest science building here
Then continue on gravel to a tower quite near
Here stands a tower to remember the lone pine
At the exact height it was built by many as a sign

Make sure to explore the plaque and stone
Then look for the stump of the pine that was blown
To the right the stump of the lone pine does remain
You can read about its demise as well as its reign

Now to find the final stop of your hunt
Pass a spruce and go over the rocks in front
Just when you think you may be lost
Look for a statue of Robert Frost

The tower was built while at Dartmouth he learned
Through his poetry much acclaim he earned
A poet of much international fame
To depict rural life was his particular aim

A gift from the class of 1961
This statue was placed among such inspiration
Several poems of trees he did purposely write
To read one now would be fitting and right

To locate the poem you must find the quest box
Hidden next to Robert under the big rock
Don't forget to leave us your name and salutation
Or maybe write a poem about trees of this location

Now you have seen how Dartmouth began
And how many trees have come and gone in this span
Please place the box where it was found unseen
Then retrace your tracks back toward the green



Did you know?

The Dutch Elm Disease that killed many trees along Hanover came accidentally to the US through contaminated logs from Europe. Leaves of infected trees will appear to wilt, and it can take over branches and entire trees quite quickly. Read more:

extension.unh.edu/resource/dutch-elm-disease-fact-sheet

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.