



## Trees of Dartmouth Quest

### **Hanover, New Hampshire**

Physical Difficulty: Moderate

Special Features: Natural

Walking Conditions: Pavement, Trail

Duration: 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.*

### **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 3 large trees behind, you may now observe and greet  
Please take some time to explore all three  
For their unique features provide much to see

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

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 honey locust 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. Source: unh.edu

**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](http://vitalcommunities.org).

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