



Flowing to the River Quest

Norwich, Vermont

Moderate

Natural

Trail

1 hour one way or 2 hours round trip

To get there: Take exit 13 on I-91 into Norwich for .5 mile. Take a left onto Beaver Meadow Road and follow for 1 mile. Take a left onto an unmarked road right before Brigham Hill Rd, and park in the parking lot at end. If you wish to park a second car at the end of the trail, continue on Beaver Meadow Rd. for 1.4 miles; there is a small pull off on the left, and trail signs for the Bill Ballard Trail system.

Clues:

Start by walking up past the pool
 Where the water is fresh and cool
 A pleasant place for a picnic and BBQ
 And a place to sit and enjoy the flowing view

See the breached dam off to the right
 Hurricane Irene cam with all her might
 A pool was once here for you to swim
 But water has a mind of its own and normally wins

Into the trees, a while you will walk
 Along the Charles Brown Brook that falls over the rocks
 The road on the other side will remain in view
 While hemlocks dominate and ferns blanket the ground, too

You will reach an area with many fallen trees
 The trees are dead and produce no leaves,
 But their spirit lives on as they decay
 They help build the soil by recycling their nutrients for the trees today

Above the stream, be careful of the ledge and lose dirt

Knocking soil down harms plant life and aquatic species get hurt

Soon a clearing over-head appears
Transporting power to the houses that are near
Look at the pile of trees and debris across the stream
Another trace of that Hurricane Irene

A blanket of ferns covers the next clearing
Shaded by a thick canopy of conifers and deciduous, the treasure you
are nearing
Look at the succession of the forest while you walk
Conifers become less abundant, such as our fellow hemlock
Deciduous trees such as the oak and maple
Start dominating the trail because they are able
From grass to bush
To conifers to deciduous
This tells us about the distribution history
Of the stands which we walk through so they aren't a complete mystery

Ahead, up and down to the right is a waterfall created by man
You can see what was once part of a dam
Now look up stream at the grasslands growing
The regeneration of a once flood area is worth noting

Rock stairs lead you up and away from the stream
As it falls away from sight another brook teams
One of the many tributaries that into the Connecticut River does it flow
To the Atlantic Ocean, is where that water goes
*(Think of all the brooks, leading to all the streams, leading to all the
rivers, leading to all of the oceans all over the world, and you will
understand why even a little bit of pollution can cause a big mess if
each brook was contaminated just slightly.)*

Follow the trail as it twists through the trees and snares
Cross five bridges, and up the wooden stairs
While you go, look for the stone walls a total of three
A result of farmers clearing land and felling trees

The trail straightens for a bit
And a vernal pool is off to the left in a pit
Many brooks comes into view
But you want to find where one joins the two

A trail intersection will be just across this brook
Straight through are three benches, a good spot to rest and look
The treasure is near so catch your breath
You are on the last stretch

Beaver Meadow Rd. is the direction you want to go
At the bridge, look down the brook that you know
Two brooks converge into one, making it hard to measure
Down off to the left, under the rocks you might find treasure!

