



Southworth Park Quest

West Fairlee, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Moderate

Special Features: Historical, Natural

Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 1:00

Bring: Binoculars, Field Guide, picnic

To Get There: Take Route 113 into West Fairlee. Take your second right after the school onto Mill Road which turns into Robinson Hill Road. There is a plaque on a rock on the side of the road indicating the park.

Clues:

Welcome to the Cross-Rivendell Trail in West Fairlee

Past and present you will see

Hiking merrily

Come with me.

Park your car by a stone you will see

Southworth Park is the place to be

Walk to the picnic area

Have lunch if you wish

Or just look around

You may find the top of a milk can or an old dish.

Look to your left

The apple trees and bushes are growing

Signs of an old orchard are showing

How has this land and its use changed from long ago?

Apple trees, stone foundation, old farming tools and so

Put together the story of this place and go.

Walk back to your car and up the road to the right

The Cross Rivendell Trail sign will be in your sight

In the open field milkweed you will see,

Insects, butterflies and bumblebees.
Imagine the field filled with monarch butterflies flying around,
Or if you are lucky they might abound!

Cross the log bridges in sets of two,
Junipers with berries are your next clue.
Notice the two old maple trees standing guard,
Young plants growing in their yard.
Changing landscape growing fast,
Keep looking for signs of the past.

Walk 20 paces on the trail until you see ferns growing below
It is wetland, how do we know?
Because if you venture to explore
Salamanders and frogs you may score.

See the blue marks on the trees?
If you do then this hike is a breeze.

More ferns growing below,
The same wetland, observe and walk slow
If you wander down into the wetland and want to explore
Water, shelter, food galore!
A special yard is this animal's place
What animals have left a trace?

Back on the trail looking for clues of the history
A deciduous tree on the left with barbwire growing through it
Can you solve the mystery?

Walk 22 paces and find a tree, not so round
Its red roots stretch across the ground.
A Balsam Fir tree we are looking for
Are there any **cone bracts** on the floor?
If there are the chipmunks and squirrels were having a feast
I hope there are a few at least.

Continue on and stop and listen
Do you hear the water running?
Cross the stream with the rocks that glisten.

Walk on down some stone steps

And a stream you will cross
Now walk on for a ways, you can't get lost.

Keep on the trail and things you will see
Keep going and going up and up
On your left will be rock ledges and trees.

At last the stone steps
You can make it to the top
A fallen tree is there to sit on when you stop.

While taking your rest look for a clue
Twin trees behind you
Have three faded marks of blue.

Up a steep hill to the rise
A huge Tip-up with 4 trees is a surprise.
Continue on the trail
Downhill to the stream you will sail!

Cross the streambed. It can be wet or dry.
See the tree with the square CRT sign with a blue rectangle, on your left.
Stand with your back to the sign.
Look up the trail and at 10 o'clock
You will see a huge tree with three trunks on top!

Look around the right side of that tree,
A huge rock wall with a treasure box you will see!

If you wish to keep hiking a logging road is close
With trees man has decided to dispose.

The trail continues to Middlebrook Road if you want more
Another mile east we're sure.

We hope you have enjoyed our West Fairlee Quest
Head back to your car and the picnic area for a well-deserved rest.

Created by Principal Gail Keiling and the Samuel Morey Elementary School 2006
summer school program. Revised by Linda & Tom Kahl in 2021.