

Snake Hill Quest

Old Ayer Road

Park Here

A loop that takes one to two hours, this quest has a variety of terrain. In the winter, there are views from the top of Snake Hill. The route is rocky and can be wet.

The approximate route is indicated here with some land marks. Note that there are several "wrong" turns, indicated by on this map.

Look for the letterbox (x) in a knot hole about waist-high on the north side of the stream as you reach the east-most point of the loop.

The woods road continues south, look for a sharp turn and a rough path that goes up hill.

This swamp seems to drain in two directions. Beavers are busy blocking both ends.

Wood ducks and spring peepers; frogs and dragonflies; Turtles and swallows; Mink and red-tailed hawks.

The beavers killed scores of trees by flooding this bottom land but have provided a new habitat. With time, this pond will fill in, form a meadow, and revert back to forest.

Time spent observing along the swamp's edge will be rewarded. Bring binoculars, an insect net, and a hand lens.

Several granite slabs and boulders covered in reindeer moss, edible but so fragile. Blueberry-filled bogs.

The scores on the rocks? Motor bikes.

The stone wall at the top of the hill appears to be the line between Ayer and Groton.

Snake Hill. Look for the ant mounds – but please don't disturb them. The thin soil supports only scrubby pines and oaks.

Look for the rock-lined channel – was there a mill at the top of this slope?

If you're going clockwise, take the right fork. 119 lies to the left.

Channels left by the melting glaciers, bounded by hemlocks and beeches.

Paths to the Massachusetts Audubon Land.

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