



Boston Lot Snow Shoe Shuffle

Boston Lot, West Lebanon, New Hampshire

Difficulty: Medium

Walking Conditions: Paths

Type of Quest: Natural

How to get there: Head north on Rt. 10 from West Lebanon, NH towards Hanover. After passing the Wilder Dam, turn right into the Lebanon Picnic Area parking lot. Your Quest begins at the top of the stairs.

Clues:

Walk to the top of the stairs and turn around.

Look for the types of energy that abound.

The dam makes electricity that runs through the wires.

There is even kinetic energy in the passing car tires!

Olcott falls was an obstacle the settlers found

200+ miles north of the Long Island Sound.

The 1st dam here was built for a saw and gristmill.

The Wilder Dam, erected in 1950, stands here still.

Follow the white pines south along a line

As you walk, look for woodpecker holes (there are at least 9).

Now you're looking for a 15' circumference white pine.

Of older growth, this surely must be a sign.

Don't be fooled by my copycat friend,

Head towards the brown gate where my large branch bends.

Towering up to 200' feet tall, pine was the "Monarch of the trees."

With clusters of 5 needles, like solar panels function these.

Step over the non-native rock then head east-uphill-from the gate.

And your next clue? Just keep your eyes open, and wait.

Scan for a tree with an old fence scar.

Opposite can you find the embedded metal bar?

Woodpecker holes and witches broom...

Rusty barbed wire-you should see these all soon.

Then continue: onward, and upwards you go!

Keep your eyes peeled on the left for this clue:

Charcoal, charred tree trunks, hollowed within,
Open undergrowth, ponder, how did this fire begin?
Look for the towering concrete pylon of power
Under the snow lie sleeping wildflowers.

Stop under the power lines if you like,
And eat a snack to power the rest of your hike.
Two kinds of energy are now overhead,
On warm days you'll feel rays. (Do you wish you were still in bed?)

The 2nd kind pulses through power lines, harnessed by man,
And goes to power your toaster, fridge, and your fan!
To the left (under snow?) sits a fire hydrant, red.
Just in front of you a stream from the lake watershed.

See the slender birch trees whose bark you shouldn't peel,
Removed white skin endangers the tree for real.
You now have a choice to venture left or go straight,
Either climb over or go around the large metal gate.

Uphill is your destination; the coniferous trees always stay green,
On both sides of the trail these big pine trees can be seen.
These woods display the trees found in a temperate biome,
Where animals like chipmunks and deer feel safe & at home.

Do you hear to your right far below trees,
A stream; is it frozen...or does it flow free?
Soon to the left, an aspen grove you will sight.
This grove, in the summer, it is a campsite.

You'll need a fire permit if you stay over-night...
But on THIS QUEST we'll follow the beaten path to the right.
Further along, on the left, there's a break in the trees
A path that, snow less, would be covered in leaves.

This Lakeside Trail is where we shall end.
The Green Man, non-mythical, on a tree here does stand.
This hiking fellow makes a distinct impression--
Taking his rubbing is your next direction!

We hope you enjoyed this hike in our town,
But if you want to linger and hang around,
Then by the lake, saunter 'round some more
Under foot, under snow, leaves litter the floor.

Under the bridge, beavers like to dam,

But then that would flood even more of this land!
Gaze across the glistening, nestled-in lake
The peace of it all, surely your breath will take.

We encourage you to quest around some more...
Wonderful trails encircle the entire reservoir!

This Quest was created by Valley Quest for the Trails For Life Passport to
Winter Fun!