

Pine Park Haiku Quest
Hanover, New Hampshire

This Quest was made for the Upper Valley Trails Alliance as part of the “Winter Trails for Fun & Health” project, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Active Living by Design program and the Byrne Foundation.

How to get there: From the Hanover Inn in downtown Hanover, walk north on North Main Street toward Baker Library. At the first stop sign, one block past Baker Library, turn left onto Clement Road. This road runs along the southern end of the pond and is the beginning of a fine one-mile loop around the pond. The Dartmouth Outing Club is located on Occum Pond.

Difficulty: easy

Walking Conditions: streets and paths

Type of Quest: natural, winter

INTRODUCTION

- **PINE PARK** - *just north of Occum Pond in Hanover, is a fine place for a walk.*
- **HAIKU** - *is a Japanese poetic form composed of three lines. The first line has five syllables; the second line has seven syllables; and the last line five syllables.*
- **QUEST** – *a treasure hunt that leads to a special place in the Upper Valley. This Quest ends at a hidden, carved, rubber block. There, you can take a rubbing to prove that you’ve solved the riddle, taken a walk, and found this lovely place.*

***So...follow the clues, look around, and the Pine Park treasure will soon be found!
This Quest begins on the front porch of the Dartmouth Outing Club.***

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| 1. Stone building behind.
Big sledding hill up ahead.
Towards there you should head! | Where Pine Park awaits. |
| 2. “Hanover Sewer?”
When you find it, then turn left
To the metal grate. | 6. Now count 30 steps.
The trees with flat green needles?
Are these our pine trees? |
| 3. Look both ways and cross.
Turn left. “No parking”3 times.
Right at “Occum Ridge.” | 7. Oh no! They are not!
These trees are Eastern Hemlocks.
They like shade a lot. |
| 4. Now, up the pavement.
Then, tread down on the gravel
Past hole number three. | 8. Keep on ‘til you see
The big brown “ball” seven feet
Up the four-trunk tree. |
| 5. Down, ‘round: Hear the drain?
Then up to green metal gate... | 9. A ball? Nah, a brain!
But was a burl just the same.
Thirty more steps down... |

- Listen: Breeze? Birds? Cars?
10. Look: what have you found?
Are there some tall swaying trees?
And what trees are these?
 11. Snoop down on the floor.
Can long brown needles be found?
Any pine cones around?
 12. Welcome to Pine Park!
See the Eastern white pine trees?
Oh, how I love these!
 13. Continuing down?
Yup, that would be fine.
A log cabin find.
 14. River flows below;
While branches sway high above.
 15. With back at brown doors,
Turn right, and take 16 steps.
Left. Follow that log!
 16. Soon, right side: giant stumps?
Then left: a “nursery” log?
You’re so close, my friend!
 17. Home to moss, lichen,
fungus, ferns and baby trees.
At the other end?
 18. Ends this mystery!
Rub the block. Show you were here.
Come year after year!

Some interesting White Pine facts:

- **Its name**
White Pine, or *Pinus Strobus*. “Pinus” from the Greek, meaning pine or fir tree. “Strobus” from Latin, meaning “smelly gum.”
- **Its needles**
Soft, flexible, 2” – 5” long; three-sided; in bundles of five.
- **Its cones**
Slender, thornless, 3” – 10” long.
- **Its height**
The largest of eastern conifers, White Pines can grow up to 150 feet tall—or more! The “National register of Big Trees” records a White Pine in Michigan over 158 feet tall.
- **Its waist**
The same registry records a tree in Maine with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 68 inches.
- **Its reproduction**
White Pine is monoecious—which means that it possesses both male and female cones. Flowering occurs in May and June. Keep your eyes open for the yellow pollen on your driveway, house, cars!
- **Its importance to animals**

Squirrels, chipmunks and mice feed on the seeds and the soft needles. The bark of the tree is the preferred winter food of the porcupine. Crossbills and Pine Siskins eat the seeds. Deer and rabbits browse the foliage.

- Its importance to people
So: Why are White Pine trees important to you?

For more info visit: <http://www.rock.org/earl/bwca/nature/trees/pinusstrob.html>