

Clues Continued...

You are still walking in the Harriet Keeler Memorial Woods, Dreaming of the moment when you'll find the questing goods.

Continue ahead until you reach an opening with a large shelter. It's a picnic pavilion to keep you from rain and summer's swelter.

By flagpole, read how this is Metroparks' oldest—none compete. Although the front was built in 1928, the sight remains a treat!

Face the drinking fountain. Carefully cross the road once again. Is your car in the parking lot? We're almost done, so grin!

Turn left, heading east, through the rows of cars proceed. Watch for vehicles that are backing up and gaining speed.

At lot's end, creep stealthily toward the lonely grill like a snail. Just beyond it, in the woods near the road, is an unmarked trail.

Do you see a bird nesting box that may seem out of place? You've found our treasure! Paint a cheery smile on your face.

While no one is looking, open and discover what is inside. Sign the logbook, stamp your brochure or journal, and re-hide.

This journey celebrated Ohio's native plants and one who cared. Be like Harriet: passion and knowledge should be liberally shared.



The quest was created by Volunteer Karen Patterson and Arrye Rosser of Cuyahoga Valley National Park with help from Sharon Hosko of Cleveland Metroparks. Volunteer Hedy Jones drew the illustrations. Volunteer Robert Nicholas created the map. Volunteer Amanda Rosen refined the graphic design.

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How to Quest

Quest clues and maps—created by teachers, volunteers, and/or park staff—will help you discover the natural and cultural gems of the Ohio & Erie Canalway. At the end of each quest is a hidden treasure box. Sign your name in the logbook, stamp this page, and return the box to its hiding place.

STAMP HERE

The questing season runs from April 15 through November 15.

Notice a problem or have suggestions for improving this quest? Contact the nature center at 440-526-1012 or brecksvillenc@clevelandmetroparks.com.

About This Program

I'm Arrye Rosser, interpretive and education specialist at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I'd like to thank everyone who helped fulfill my dream of bringing questing to Ohio. This project was made possible by the generous support of a 2010 Parks as Classrooms grant from the National Park Service and is a partnership between many organizations.

So far, more than 100 teachers, volunteers, and park staff have been involved in writing and field testing Canalway Quests. Our plan is to create many more in the years ahead. If you would like to volunteer, contact me at 440-546-5992 or arrye_rosser@nps.gov.

Special thanks to Emily Bryant and Steven Glazer.

The Ohio & Erie Canalway celebrates the rails, trails, landscapes, towns, and sites that grew up along the first 110 miles of the canal that helped Ohio and our nation grow.

For more information and to get copies of other quests, visit ohioanderiecanalway.com and search under Activities for Questing.



CUYAHOGA COUNTY SECTION
BRECKSVILLE RESERVATION
BRECKSVILLE NATURE CENTER



Tallgrass prairie.
NPS/JERRY JELINEK

Canalway Quest

Questing into the Grass

If you build a tallgrass prairie, questers will come (on this easy trek).



Planning Ahead

This treasure hunt takes about 45 minutes. Most surfaces are flat and paved, but there is a place where you cross grass with exposed tree roots. Questers using sturdy strollers or wheelchairs can enjoy this adventure when conditions are relatively dry. You will need a pen or pencil to sign the logbook. Some people prefer using their own signature stamp and inkpad or marker.

We suggest allowing extra time to picnic and explore the Brecksville Nature Center. The nature center is open daily, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. This quest is entirely outside.

Getting There

Start at the Brecksville Nature Center in the Brecksville Reservation (Cleveland Metroparks), 9000 Chippewa Creek Drive, Brecksville, Ohio 44141. The quest begins outside the front door.

Clues

Listen, my exploring questers, and you shall hear
The story of this park history, so unique and dear.

We'll take you through nature and history too.
You will gain knowledge known to only a few.

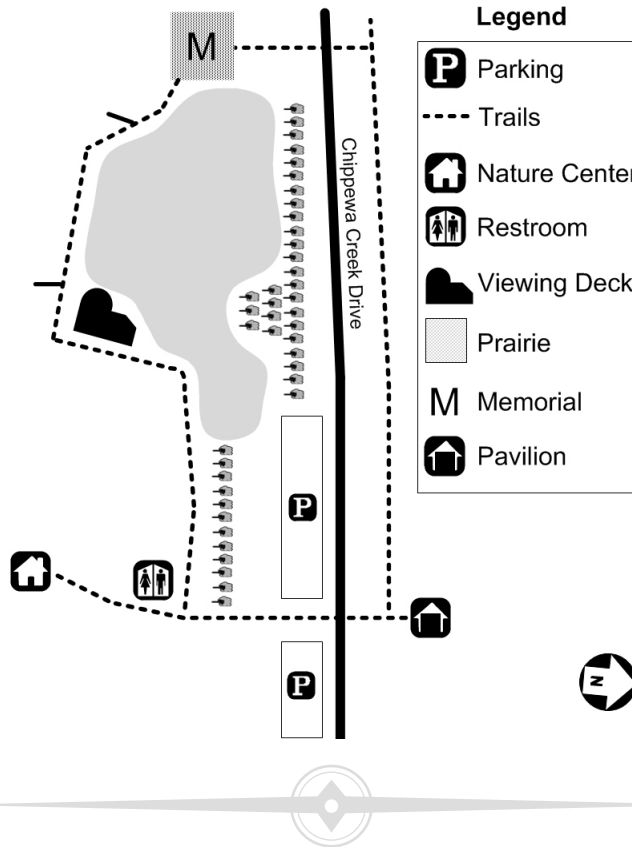
Start by facing the nature center to see its dark wood.
The American "wormy" chestnut tree nearby stood.

The WPA* used that and Berea Sandstone too. Hark!
This center's the oldest remaining in a Cleveland Metropark.

**To put men and women to work during the Great Depression, the federal government created the Works Progress Administration. In 1939 the WPA completed the nature center.*

Now turn around, facing the Chippewa Road parking lot.
Walk to the junction. At restrooms, go left to the grassy plot.

On your right, near the second light, look for a slight hill.
This was once the edge of an ice skating rink. What a thrill!



Examine the four acres more closely. Choose a "weed" to explore.
Some have traditional uses as medicine, livestock feed, and more.

Tallgrass prairie attracts many birds, insects, and people like you.
Take in the whole nature scene. Can you spot at least one or two?



Walk along the asphalt path to the raised observation deck.
The signs show you flowers and other native plants to check.

Depending on the season, how many kinds can you see?
If you spot more than four, give a hearty shout of glee!

From up high, notice the poles that mark off each prairie section.
Staff carefully burn portions in spring to aid habitat resurrection.

Off and facing the deck, make a choice before exiting this land.
Mowed path on right, or paved one left by labeled trees so grand?



Either route leads to the exhibit, Monarch Waystation.
These butterflies, drawn to milkweed, aid pollination.

Farther, the Harriet Keeler Memorial sits in shade.
Read about the vital roles this plant advocate played.

As an author, she described—in lovely detail—Ohio's native flora.
As a favorite local teacher and administrator, pupils did adore her!

You'll see from the sign that her passion was

Which she wrote about in her book *Our Native*



Head to the road and pause to see a boulder on your right.
If you look carefully, Harriet's name is revealed by the light.

This was the original stone memorial, cast off and buried long ago.
Had workers not found it accidentally, this would've been a blow.

Look and cross. Turn right onto the path paralleling the road.
Keep following our clues, pondering seeds of learning sowed.

Upon Harriet's death, Metroparks bought forest and maybe farm,
Saving this beautiful part of Brecksville from development's harm.

Onward. Pause at the tallgrass prairie's edge. The land on your right
Sported a ballpark in 1990, but now is a different sight.

America's middle was once covered by miles of towering grass.
Now tallgrass habitat is so rare, remnants need protection to last.

Lost under civilization's plow and covered in hard concrete,
Memories of these grasses were almost trampled under our feet.

This Prairie Restoration Project is a source of hope, not doom,
Where visitors can see firsthand about 50 types of plants in bloom.

Native seeds from Northern Ohio were collected and sown.
Ahead in the raised garden, different plant examples are shown.

We encourage you to plant natives around home, work, or school.
Just don't collect seeds from here. The sign says it's not cool!

