

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller
National Historical Park
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Woodstock, VT 05091
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www.nps.gov/mabi

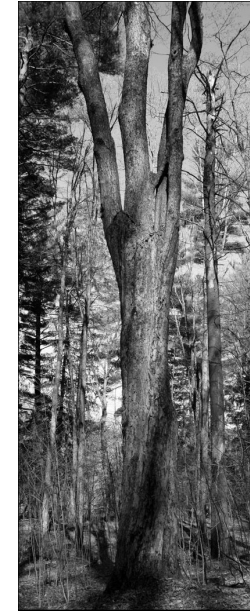


EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Continue down road and stop at the next intersection you come to.

8.

Well what have we here? What do you see?
A tree with not one trunk, or two, but three!
Do you know what kind it is, Do you need a clue?
(I think I've got a good one for you)
This tree makes a real pancake topping staple.
Guessed yet? Yup, it's a Sugar Maple!
The Abenaki Indians were the first to insert a tap
And knew to get one gallon of syrup, required boiling 40 gallons of sap!
Sugar maples display colorful foliage in the Autumn season
And that is the reason millions come to view
our amazing trees, against the October sky of deep blue.
Just one more stop, soon you're journey will be ending
It is at a really neat place, a special kind of building.



Continue straight along path until you come out in the clearing with the wood shed. Stop when you have a good view of the forest center.

9.

Our travels end at the Park's Forest Center
A fine example of efficient 'green' design architecture.
The wood used to build it and heat it is from this Park
All of it stamped with the Forest Stewardship Council mark.
Solar panels provide the electricity it may need
The Green Building Council has certified it Gold LEED*
If all new buildings were built with such simplicity
It would greatly reduce the need to make electricity
from fossil fuels such as oil and coal
Helping us reach our climate change goals.
Caring for our planet's future is what we all must do
So that your kids, and their kids, and their kids too
Can visit healthy National Parks, and other beautiful places
Experiences that are sure to put smiles on their faces.
Here is a quote that will require some thought
It relates to air pollution, global warming, acid rain and other
environmental problems we've got.
It dates from the ancient Romans, its meaning I think you'll see:
"What is bad for the beehive, cannot be good for the bee."
Our journey is over, we are at the end
Come back soon, and bring a friend!

*LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

National Park Service
US Dept. of the Interior



Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP

North Woods Walk

A 45 minute, mile long adventure into Vermont's only National Park

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

1.

Welcome to Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.
 The place where conservation founders and followers left their mark.
 If you'd like to learn about these families and more,
 please sign up for a mansion tour!
 Today we'll be learning about Vermont's forests - both present and departed
 Come on! Let's go! Let's get started!
 Step out of the door, and into the sun
 (or into the rain - either way will be fun!)

Head straight out of Visitor Center towards the mansion. Turn right, up the road past garage, keeping to right trail that leads up the hill past the Belvedere. Stop when you see the small tree planting sign on the left.

2.

Stop here and read the sign with the explanation
 All about the park's newest plantation
 In keeping with the tradition of the oldest managed forest in the nation
 Norway Spruce were planted here, as part of the 2006 Forest Festival celebration
 In the 1800's, when the Billing's began planting this way
 Vermont looked much different, not at all like today.
 At our next stop, your imagination you'll need to employ
 To envision how Vermont once looked, from Brattleboro to North Troy.

Continue straight up the road until you see the horse shed and the pasture. Turn right onto road that runs through the middle of the pasture and stop when you are standing in pasture's center.

3.

Our journey now leads us through this lovely pasture,
 A scene similar to the Vermont of yesteryear
 By the mid-1800's Vermont was like a great big field,
 80% cleared of forest, filled with 1.7million sheep that would yield
 millions of pounds of wool. Now it is plain to see
 that the sheep farming industry is largely in the past
 For now Vermont's forests are once again healthy and vast
 Let us step from this pasture and off into the wood,
 (Please keep your eyes and ears open if you could)
 We are going to learn about forest ecology and lore
 So that the next forest you explore
 you'll see with new eyes (but the same heart)
 As George Perkins Marsh said: "Sight is a faculty, seeing is an art".

Proceed straight through the pasture towards the tall pines on left at the end of the road.



4.

Here we see some White Pine trees, a wide and sappy conifer.
 Tall and straight, and green year round,
 They look so tall from here on the ground.
 What do you suppose a squirrel would see,
 as it scampers and bounds up tall trees?
 Let's find out, and take a look
 (this is better than learning from a book!)
 Approach a pine tree, looking at the ground
 (as if you were looking for a bug).
 Get close as you can and spread your arms around it,
 (as if giving the tree a hug).
 Close your eyes, and tilt back your head,
 and think like a squirrel (either grey or red).
 Now open your eyes wide, and look straight up towards the sky.
 Wow! This tree looks like it's a mile high!
 Now you know what a squirrel sees,
 as it dashes and darts up tall trees.

Turn left at road and bear right onto main carriage road. Go approx. 250 yards and turn right down road.

5.

Continue straight up the road, and approach the Diamond of Black
 No stand so that the diamond is to your back
 Look to your right, see the big tree that has cracked
 about thirty feet high? Now look a bit lower on this half-a-tree
 and you'll spy a chiseled out channel.
 What do you suppose could have dug such a tunnel?
 Was it a vegetable, mineral, or an animal?
 If you guessed animal, you are right
 a special animal, with the power of flight
 It was a woodpecker, called a Pileated (*pill - ee - ate - ed*),
 With its long sharp bill, this tunnel it excavated
 It was searching for ants, in this rotting tree
 And with its long tongue it lapped them up, turning them into
 energy.
 A "snag" is what we call standing dead trees. They
 provide food and shelter for many kinds of plant,
 animal, and insect families.
 Here is a fact you may have a hard time believing:
 A snag has more life in it than a tree that's still living!

Continue right down Mountain Road about 200 feet. Stop at the tree (yellow birch) on right side of road with large gash at its base.

6.

This yellow birch was injured by an event long ago
 From exactly what we may never know.
 But we do know about the tree on the opposite side of the road
 Its story, to you, will now be told.
 What do you suppose could be causing such blistering and cracking
 On the bark of this beech tree, the usual smoothness lacking?
 It is being caused by a disease accidentally brought from oversea
 (A situation that has happened many times through history.)
 Dutch Elm's disease, beech bark necrotia (*neck-tree-ah*), chestnut blight
 Names that give our native trees a fright.
 People unintentionally change the planet in many different ways.
 This is most clearly demonstrated these days
 With the problem of global warming
 bringing increased temperatures and storming.
 With six billion people on the planet and growing
 It is more important than ever that our impacts start slowing.
 The consumption of our daily lives needs moderation
 So that families of future generations
 May enjoy a planet that is healthy and diverse
 The only one of its kind in the universe.

Continue down Mountain Road and take next left down road with rock retaining wall. Follow until wall ends. Approach moss covered cement block about 200 feet ahead on right (it may be obscured by ferns!).

Near this old cement block you can see
 many different species of tree.

Using the block as your mark
 Lets identify a couple, using their bark
 With your back to the block, across the trail you must look
 To see a tree you've probably read about in books.
 It began life as a tiny acorn (and that's no joke)
 See it? The tree with reddish streaks of bark? A Northern Red Oak!
 Over this one tree's life, millions of acorns it will drop
 For squirrels, bear, birds, mice, and many others—a favorite crop!
 Now turn around and look for the bark like a melon
 Really, this is still no joke that I'm tellin'!
 They are ash trees, and produce a fine wood, (a hard one at that)
 Which is why they are chosen to make baseball bats!
 That's it for this stop, but at the next one you'll see
 A species well loved in Vermont - it's our state tree!



Ash



Northern Red Oak