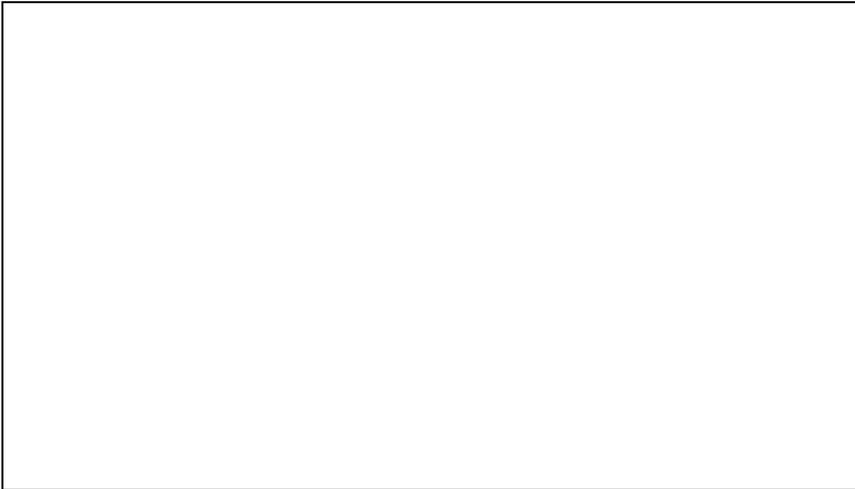


**8.** The rock speaks of times that are long past  
and it is in rocks that the stories will last.  
Clues of dinosaurs roaming these muddy spaces  
walking in soft mud, their feet leaving traces  
The wind blew, leaving ripples that we can still see  
and waterfalls plunged as part of this history.

*At the top of the hill take the path to the right  
Where two large trees reach towards the light  
On one of the oaks is a place where an animal may rest  
Very carefully take a peek inside this "nest."*



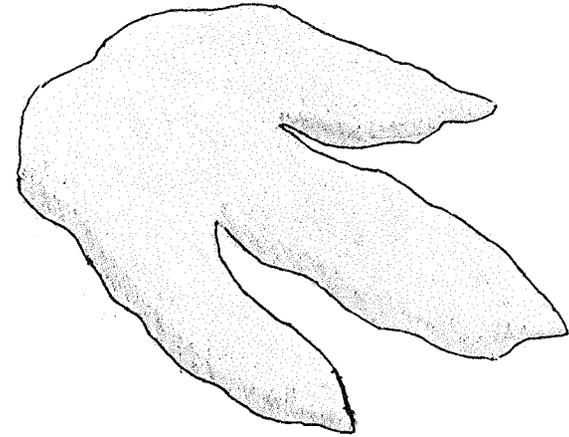
***Stamping & Reflection Spot—What will you remember?***

Northfield Mountain  
Recreation & Environmental Center

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# BARTON COVE QUEST



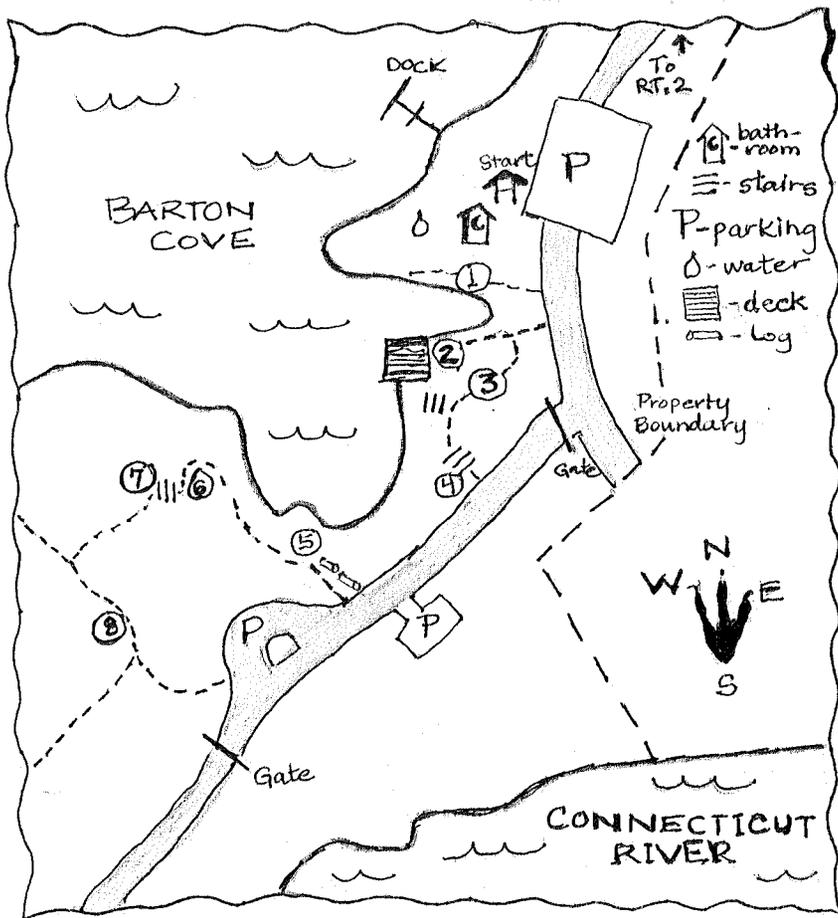
## **TO GET THERE:**

Barton Cove is located on Route 2 in Gill,  
Massachusetts.

From North or South via Route 91: Take exit 27, travel East on  
Route 2 for 3.4 miles. Turn right at the second Barton Cove sign.

From East via Route 2: Cross over the Connecticut River on the  
French King Bridge and go 2.3 miles, turn left at the first Barton  
Cove sign.

The Quest begins in the parking lot at the bulletin board.



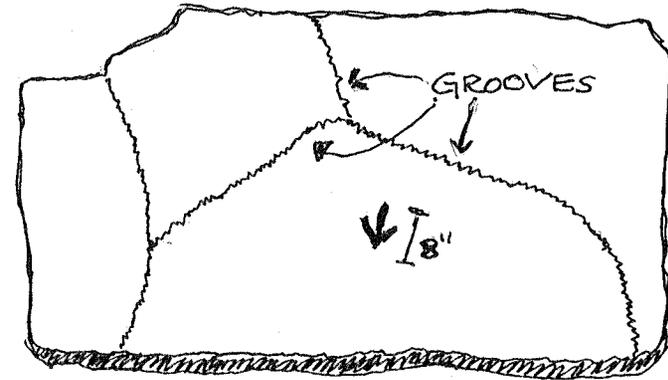
### QUESTING 101:

☼ Questers search for a box that holds cool information and images of the Cove, a handmade stamp, ink and note pad. Many people create (or buy) their own personal stamps and leave their mark and comments behind.

☼ Only a half-mile long, this quest has somewhat challenging terrain. Please be careful on rock ledges and steep slopes. *Directional clues are in italics.*

### SLAB "MAP" -

There are several tracks on rock — most obvious one shown



Dino-names like Coelophysis, (See-low-phy-sis) that you might recognize

Come from fossils of bodies and bones of all size

The Valley is famous for dino-tracks and traces, but very few bones have been found in local places.

So local scientists came up with track-names galore, and this type of track is called "Grallator." (Growl-uh-tor)

Scientists think this beast was a meat eating sort

And for dinosaurs, only seven feet tall was short.

It may have eaten dead things, or hunted wolf-like in packs

So be glad you wont ever meet the thing that made these tracks!

*With the slab at your back, continue up the trail*

*Bearing left at the intersection, you will not fail*

*On the right near the top of the hill, is a rock outcropping*

*This layered rock marks the place you will be stopping.*

**6.** Down in a hole, what do you do?  
How was it made? Can you find a clue?  
Vertical lines up and down the rock face  
Show the Quarryman's work in this once busy place

Starting on top; drilled and dug up the land  
It took many years to get where you stand.  
How much were all of their efforts worth?  
Tracks were sold to museums around the earth!

Farmer, dentist & professor all bent their backs  
to labor and learn from fascinating tracks  
Around the world long debate was heard  
Were they signs of reptiles or the tracks of birds?  
Enter the discussion if you will  
Scientists love to debate it still



*Dilophosaurus by Will Sillin  
www.willsillin.com*

**7.** At the top of the steps, a slab left behind!  
Could it be the dinosaur track-bearing kind?  
Circle 'round the slab and bend down on one knee  
Put nose near stone, what do you see?

Look for three-toed tracks four-to-eight inches long  
The Barton Cove rocks once again sing their song.  
How many you find depends on your eyes  
Were their feet bigger or smaller compared to your size?

❁ Shhh...please leave the box carefully hidden and keep the location secret! This will allow future questers the joy of the search.

❁ Allow plenty of time and keep eyes, ears and heart wide open! Please, take only pictures and memories and be sure to leave rocks and plants in place.

## YOUR QUEST BEGINS...

Welcome to Barton Cove, a special place  
One you'll explore, with many a face.  
Waterfalls, glaciers and fossilized tracks  
There's a story to tell, in time we'll go back.  
Enjoy your walk, through millions of years in time  
Exploring this area, through map, clues and rhyme.

*You start your Quest in the parking lot.  
From here we'll take you to a special spot.  
Head up the road, walking away from Route 2.  
Before the 17th large rock, the trail on the right is for you.  
Where you leave the road there's a pole on your right  
Go up this trail, keeping the fence on your left in sight.  
At the top of the stairs, to your left you will look  
The story of this place, we'll reveal as a book.*

**1.** On your left, was once a great waterfall  
Plunging hundreds of feet, this thunderous, wet wall  
Landing below, its power scouring away  
the rock underneath for many a day.  
14,000 years ago this story took place.  
Leaving the plunge pool below, with its quiet, rocky face.

*Return down the path, turning right on the road,  
Taking a right at the fence as our story unfolds.  
Continue along the trail, the plunge pool on your right,  
Until you arrive at a deck and a water-filled sight.*

**2.** Listening carefully, what can you hear?  
Traffic noises from roads and towns so near.  
Listen again, can you hear quieter sounds?  
Maybe wind in the trees or crows cawing all around?

Now close your eyes and imagine a time  
14,000 years ago there were no trails to climb  
No airplanes to hear, no views of town,  
Instead a giant waterfall is crashing down  
Big as Niagra, can you feel spray on your face?  
The power of falling water carved this beautiful place.

*Go back up the trail, the plunge pool in sight  
Where there are six steps down, take a sharp right  
Below a white diamond on a tall hemlock tree  
Is a large, mossy rock, where might it be?*

**3.** Close your eyes once more, an earlier time we'll mark  
200 million years ago this was a real Jurassic Park.  
Imagine tall, brown mountains, a warm shallow sea at their bases  
Can you see muddy banks recording traces?  
Of waves, of insects and larger things  
Today's Barton Cove bedrock of this history sings

Layers of sand, baked into stone  
on the mudflats here, where dinosaurs roam.  
Ripples in the mud, made by strong winds that did blow  
millions and millions of years ago.  
As you feel the stone and the ripple marks with your hand  
imagine a time when dinosaurs walked in the sand.  
*The first set of stairs on your right, pass on by  
Straight ahead, the second set, walk up toward the sky  
Before the trail joins the road, look to the right.  
Something only 20 inches tall is our next big sight.*

**4.** Summer's growth among rocks, can you find clumps of ferns?  
Please leave them in place for the next Questers turn  
Gently hold onto a frond and give it a flip,  
On the underside – do you see? It's quite a trip!  
Tiny dark spots, how many can you see?  
Made of hundreds of spores – one day new ferns they'll be.

*Turn right on the road, it's time to relax.  
With each step you're making your own set of tracks.  
At the Nature trail sign, follow the trail up the hill.  
Bear right at the fork and climb a bit more still.*



**5.** Now turn your eyes up to the tall trees above.  
Plants with seeds— not spores, give us cool shade we love.  
But back when this was a Jurassic Park.  
Plants with seeds couldn't cast shade this dark.  
They weren't on earth yet – hadn't even come to be,  
But ferns and other plants with spores grew big as the trees!  
Tree ferns still live on the earth today,  
But they're in tropical cloud forests far away.

*Continue down a steep hill, at the bottom turn left.  
You'll find yourself in a rocky cleft.*