

**Portland Audubon Sanctuary Quest \*DRAFT\***  
**Theme: Natural History/aquatics**

**DISTANCE & TERRAIN:** *About 1.25 miles loop trail*

**TAKE ALONG:** *A pencil or crayon to make a rubbing at the end of the Quest.*

**DIRECTIONS:** *Travel up NW Cornell Rd to Audubon Sanctuary parking lot. The trail is in the Pittock Sanctuary, which is located on the north side of NW Cornell Road. The Pittock trailhead is found around the right side of the visitor center. Free maps may be available from the Audubon Nature Store, open from 10 to 6 Monday through Saturday, and 10 to 5 on Sundays.*

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** *Please note that no dogs are allowed in the Portland Audubon Sanctuary. Also, please stay on existing trails and do your best to minimize impact on this important nature preserve.*

**CAUTIONS:** *This trail can be quite muddy and somewhat treacherous in winter months. If you are seeking a lesser adventure, it may be best to walk this quest in the drier months of summer.*

**HOW TO QUEST:** *Follow the clues and enjoy a walk in the woods. At the end, find the medallion and make a rubbing. Please stay on the designated trails, as all sights and sounds can be*

*Starting off on your hike, it is down you will go  
To the shores of Balch Creek, in the canyon below  
When you come to the bridge, look around if you please  
Note the swift-flowing creek and the second growth trees*

*Take a right on the Creek Trail & then have a peek  
As a closer view of the stream you may seek  
Aquatic life teems, though not easy to spy  
Have you seen the larvae of a caddisfly?  
The nymphs of the mayfly and stonefly, as well  
In the stream, under rocks, is where they do dwell  
There is one other species, of which I will speak  
Native cutthroat trout still survive in Balch Creek*

*Now start up a hill, but soon, a reward!  
Note the old-growth trees you are climbing toward  
What is this mystery you are bound to uncover?  
A grove of ancient Douglas-firs to discover!  
Their unique cones can be seen on the ground  
Which tree is the biggest? Will your arms fit around?*

*Now back on the trail, for a hike or a jog  
You will notice the steps in a nearby nurse log  
As the wood decomposes, it serves many needs  
With nutrients and moisture, it is ideal for seeds  
On these logs, many lichens and moss will soon show  
Before long, many saplings and ferns start to grow*

*Where the trail flattens out, ground cover abounds  
Oregon grape, sword ferns and salal can be found  
You will soon start downhill, with the creek to your right  
In a short while, a sizable pond is in sight*

*Western painted turtles, salamanders and frogs  
All live in the pond and surrounding bogs  
Rough-skinned newts can be seen in the spring  
And with any luck, hear the varied thrush sing*

*From the nearby shelters, sit and take in the view  
Each time you return you will see something new  
This Audubon sanctuary is a natural treasure  
To wander its trails is always a pleasure*

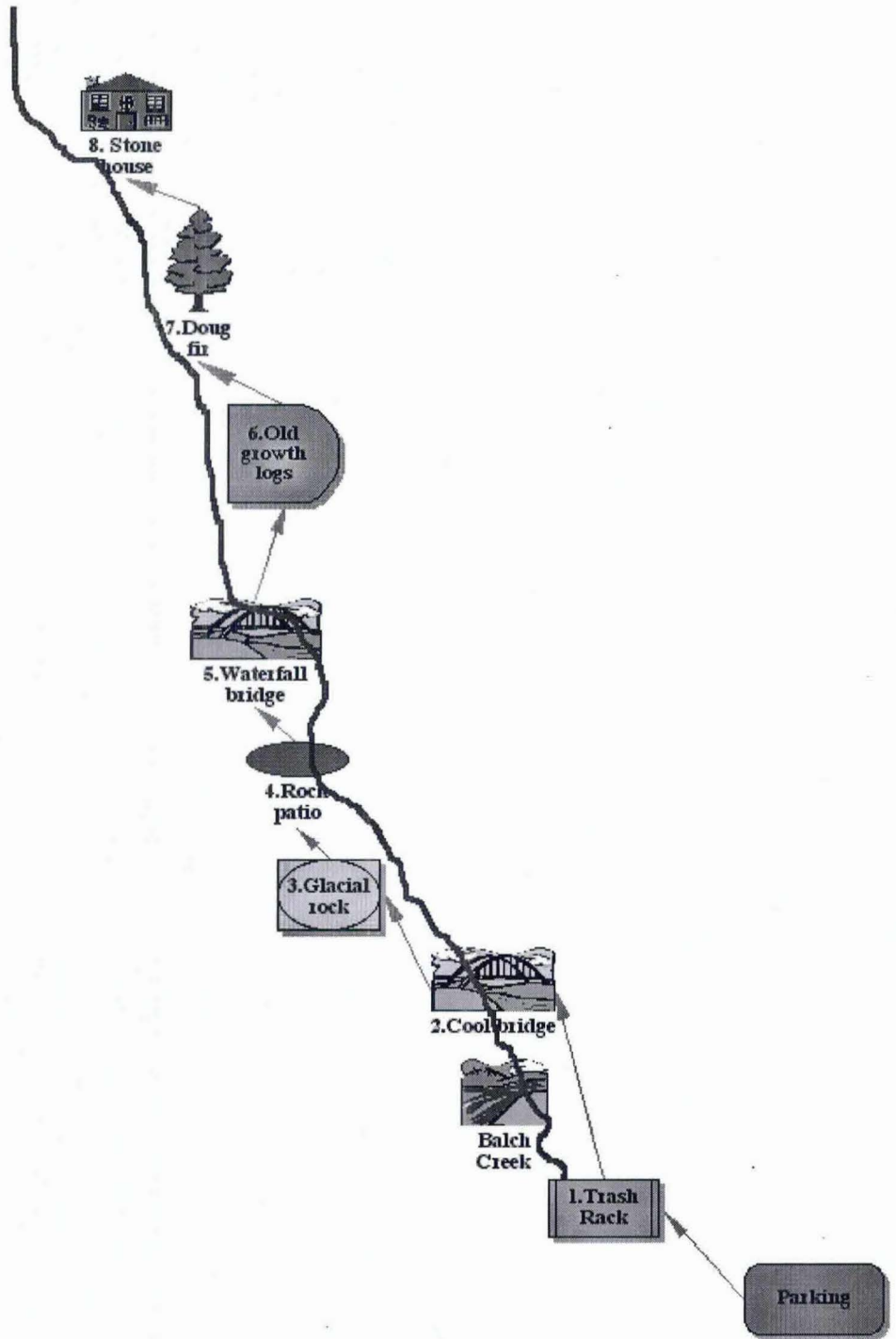
*(If a medallion is placed in the sanctuary, there will be a brief entry hinting at its location)*

***Congratulations. You have completed the Portland Audubon Quest!***

**BALCH CREEK QUEST**

BALC...

**THEME**  
Creek and canyon history and dynamics





## *BALCH CREEK QUEST (Lower Macleay Park) \*DRAFT\**

Theme: Creek and canyon history and dynamics

*DISTANCE & TERRAIN: About 8/10 of a mile one-way. You can walk back the same way, or look at the trail map at the entrance to find a loop trail for your return.*

*TAKE ALONG: A pencil or crayon to make a rubbing at the end of the Quest.*

*DIRECTIONS: Begin in Lower Macleay Park, at the end of NW Upshur St (# 15 bus stops at 29<sup>th</sup> & Thurman).*

*HOW TO QUEST: Follow the dues and enjoy the sights and sounds. At the end, find the medallion and make a rubbing. Help protect the forest by staying on the trail. All sights and dues are visible from there.*

As you first spot the creek, note the large wooden rack  
Designed to hold all the large debris back  
Though the creek fades from view, this isn't the end  
It flows through a tunnel, around the next bend  
To the Willamette, the Columbia, and then the Pacific  
This small city creek has a route so specific

Carry on up the trail, city noises will fade  
And soon you'll be pleased with the progress you've made  
Balch Creek is a wonder with seasonal flow  
In spring it runs high and in summer quite low

As you come to the bridge, stop and take off your hat  
You have entered prime cutthroat trout habitat  
These natives survive in the pools of Balch Creek  
Have a look down below – go on, take a peek!

In May or in June, you could be in luck  
“Why is that?” did you ask? Salmonberries to pluck!  
Like pithy raspberries, and not quite as sweet  
But persevere and you might be in for a treat

They grow where the soil is frequently moist  
Many hikers report that their taste is quite choice

On a gray winter's day, you would still be quite chipper  
If you were to spot an American Dipper  
These diminutive birds love the rapids and falls  
Their songs echo off of the steep canyon walls

In 1897, a gesture so grand  
Donald Macleay deeded this land  
To the city of Portland, a forested park  
Keep the forest intact, some wise souls suggested  
You can now plainly see that the trees are majestic.

On your left by the creek is a fine sight to see  
Indeed, it's the world's tallest city tree!  
A Douglas-fir giant, 243 feet high  
Its crown reaches up well into the sky

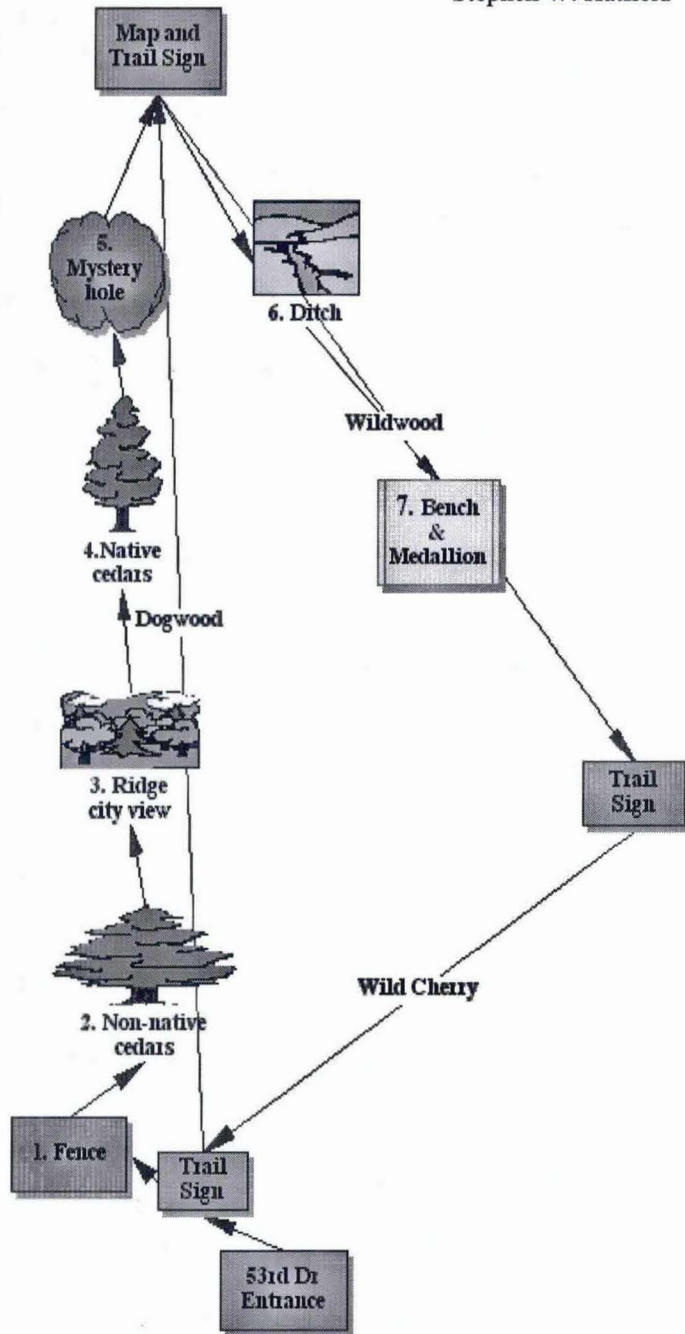
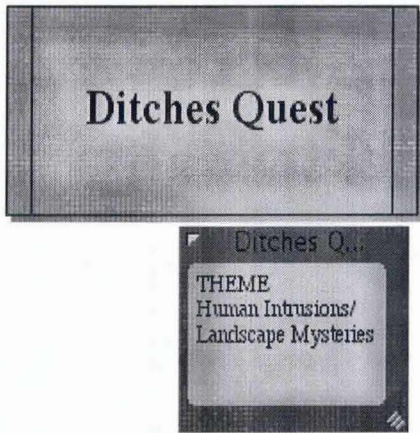
A fading stone house at the top of a rise  
May come to you as a total surprise  
Built by the Works Progress Administration  
It once served as a rather simple way station  
The work of craftsman, it once was so fine  
Now in disrepair, at the end of its line

You have nearly completed the Balch Creek Quest,  
Now find the medallion and then take your rest.  
Sit yourself down on nearby step  
Then look ..... [this final clue will be developed after we decide where to put the medallion]

*Congratulations. You have completed the Balch Creek Quest!*

*To make your rubbing: Place paper over the medallion and rub a pencil or crayon over the raised image.*

*To return: Walk back the way you came or check the nearby trail map for loop hikes.*





## **DITCHES QUEST \*DRAFT\***

### **Theme: Landscape Mysteries**

***DISTANCE & TERRAIN:** 1.5 mile loop; downhill, then up on the way back; often wet*

***TAKE ALONG:** A pencil or crayon to make a rubbing at the end of the Quest.*

***DIRECTIONS:** Travel north on Cornell Rd. to 53<sup>rd</sup> Drive. Turn right. Pass the first two turnout parking areas on your left. Park at the next turnout, on your right. You'll see a hiker trail sign.*

*Walk down the trail a few steps to the trail sign junction. Turn left onto the Dogwood Trail and walk uphill.*

***HOW TO QUEST:** Follow the clues and enjoy the sights. At the end, look for the rubbing medallion to make a souvenir of your Quest. Help protect the forest by staying on the trail. All sights and clues are visible from there.*

Start up the hill, a short climb for thee  
Are you thrilled by the promise of what you will see?  
At the top of the rise, turn to your right  
As an unmarked trail is now within sight

Ahead on the left, look for conifers, two  
Stately and round, they make a nice view  
Are these trees native to the Northwest landscape?  
Or an introduced species, here by mistake?

Carry on down the ridge and look to both sides  
A view to the east, where the city resides  
Where there once was a sizable lake to behold  
Industrial land has now taken hold

As the ridge flattens out, have a good look around  
And note that western red-cedars abound  
Second growth forest is what you will see  
As logging removed the original trees  
Portland was growing, with wood in demand  
Can you imagine the value of a forested land?

At a curve in the trail, to your left is a hole  
And perhaps you are wondering: "what made this bowl?"  
"And what are the forces that made it so deep?"

---



This forest has so many secrets to keep

*At the trail map sign, take a right onto the Wildwood Trail.*

As you travel along, note a ditch to your side.

An appropriate time to ask for a guide!

As you might surely guess, this ditch has a history

Turn the page upside down to unravel the mystery

Large cottonwoods grow from the depths of this swale

In the autumn their golden leaves cover the trail

Look for cotton-like seeds that fall from these trees

Their leaves will shake with the slightest of breeze

Ahead lies a bench, a place for a rest

You're nearing the end, just one final test

It is here you will find a medallion to rub

Why not opt to join the Ditches Quest Club?

Though the questing is through, there are bridges to cross

Are they covered in a slippery layer of moss?

As you hike up Wild Cherry, a bench with a view

A last glimpse of Portland, and now bid adieu

***Congratulations. You have completed the Ditches Quest!***

***To make your rubbing:*** Place paper over the medallion and rub a pencil or crayon over the raised image.

***To return:*** Continue ahead to the Wild Cherry Trail. Take a right and walk back uphill about ¼ mile to where you began.

Upside down text: In 1905, a land speculator from Denver named Lafe Pence wanted to fill in Guild's Lake, which was located where Northwest Portland's industrial district now lies (a view you saw on this hike). He thought he could wash soil down from the hillsides in what is now Forest Park to fill the lake, using techniques he learned while gold mining. So he dug this ditch, which runs for ¾ mile along Wildwood Trail, and built a wooden flume inside it. He also tunneled through the ridge from the end of his ditch to direct the flow to Balch Creek. (See the Balch Creek Quest for a tour of that location.) Pence's idea was that seasonal flooding would wash tons of soil down in this manner through the ditch to Balch Creek, which would then fill the lake. But his plan never really "held any water" and he abandoned his flume. Guild's Lake was later filled in a much more logical manner: by dredging the nearby Willamette River.

---

## **NEWTON QUEST \*DRAFT\***

**Theme: Natural/cultural history**

***DISTANCE & TERRAIN:*** About 1 mile loop trail with minimal elevation gain

***TAKE ALONG:*** A pencil or crayon to make a rubbing at the end of the Quest. [assumes there will be a space on instruction sheets to make the medallion rubbing]

***DIRECTIONS:*** Travel along Skyline Drive to Newton Road (about ½ miles NW of junction of Skyline & Germantown). Turn onto Newton Road, continue down the steep grade and park in the obvious lot.

***HOW TO QUEST:*** Follow the clues and enjoy the sights and sounds. At the end, find the medallion and make a rubbing. Help protect the forest by staying on the trail. All sights and clues are visible from there.

Start on down the road and look to your right

A steep canyon of ferns is a wonderful sight

Further on to your left are some old wooden beams

Preventing access to an old road it seems

At a nearby trail junction, what do you see?

It's a multi-stemmed Bigleaf Maple tree.

Once logged, their stumps send out many a sprout

At incredible rates new growth will pop out

As the hike carries on, observe and you'll see

There are countless examples of this type of tree

On a misty gray day, perhaps in late fall

Are you able to hear the winter wren call?

The notes that it sings are varied and long

With trills and odd chatters, a beautiful song.

A diminutive bird, often close to the ground

Winter wrens live in these woods all the year round

Look for standing dead trees as you wander along.

"Snags" they are called, and yes, they belong.

Though the trees are long dead, they still have a role

Many species survive in their cavities and holes

Insects and birds are all part of this dance

Pileated woodpeckers feed on carpenter ants

At the second of bridges, look up and you'll see  
A very large stump marked by human history  
Near the top of the trunk is an obvious slot  
To insert a springboard, this is the spot!  
This trick helped the loggers to climb up the side  
And cut where these huge trees were not quite as wide



Large Douglas-fir trees can still be seen standing  
Though a series of fires have left quite a branding  
Look for black scars where the trunk meet the ground  
Thanks to very thick bark, these trees are still around

In 1940, the Bonnyslope fire  
Burned 1000 acres, many trees did expire  
In 1951, a larger fire burned  
Scorching 1200 acres, or so we have learned  
Although this may seem like a most tragic fate  
The forest needs periodic fire to regenerate

You have nearly completed the Newton Quest,  
Just find the medallion and then take your rest.  
Then look ..... [this final clue will be developed after we decide where to put the medallion]

***Congratulations. You have completed the Newton Quest!***

***For the rubbing: Place paper over the medallion and rub a pencil or crayon over the raised image***