

Treasures in the Trees

Middlesex Fells State Reservation



SELF-GUIDED INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

Welcome

Middlesex Fells State Reservation is home to many different types of trees. While we may not at first realize their importance, each is valuable in its own way. They provide food and shelter for all sorts of animals, help clean our air and water, and so much more! Discover what makes them local treasures on this short adventure.

There are 12 labeled trees along this self-guided route. The number on each tree matches one of the clues below. Use the clues and the word bank to see if you can identify all of trees! The **Treasure Map** will help you find their location and the images of their leaves, flowers and fruits will help you to become a budding naturalist.



About the Trail

The **Treasures in the Trees** trailhead is located at 4 Woodland Road, in Stoneham, MA. Beginning and ending at the kiosk in front of the Botume House Visitor Center, the trail is relatively **easy** for hiking (see map). Total length is **0.7 miles, round-trip**. Plan on spending about **60 minutes** if hiking at a moderate pace.

Use the Treasure Map on the next page to help locate the labeled trees.

- **For foot traffic only.**
- Leave only footprints; take only pictures.
- Observe all posted rules and regulations.

Word Bank

American Beech

Pitch Pine

Red Maple

Hemlock

Larch

White Pine

Sugar Maple

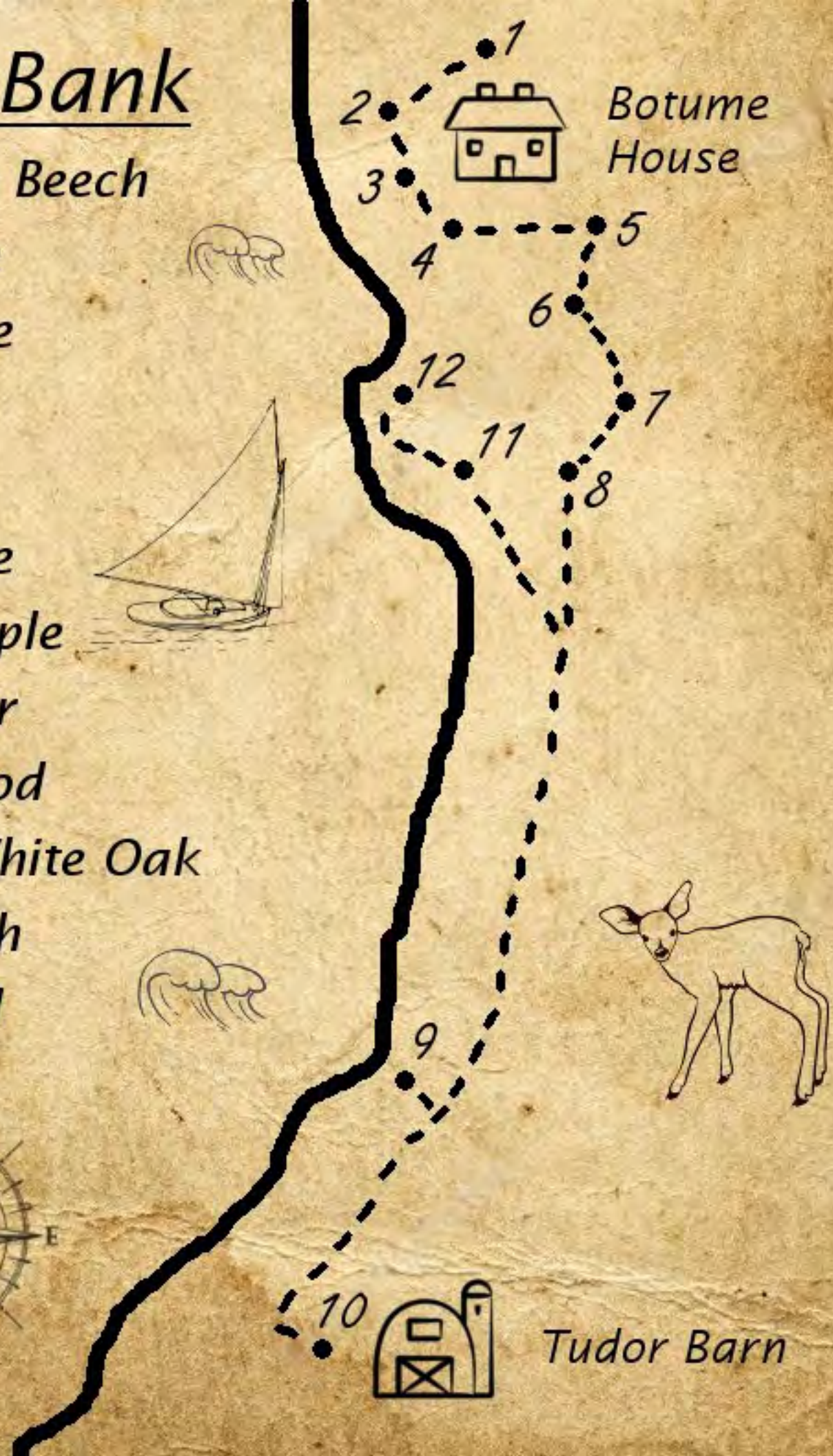
Red Cedar

Cottonwood

Swamp White Oak

Gray Birch

Basswood



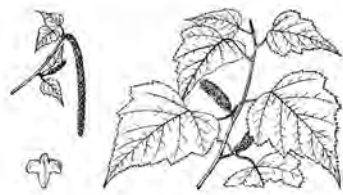
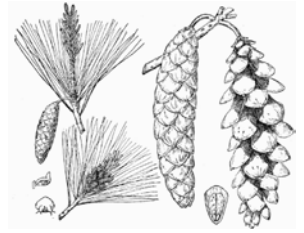
Your Clues

1) Unlike other evergreens, my needles are flat and don't come in bundles. I have an insect called wooly adelgid that steals the food out of them. Ouch! What am I?



2) I have huge heart-shaped leaves and insects love my flowers. Native Americans used my inner bark (bast) for making rope and weaving baskets. Do you know my name?

3) Can you figure me out? I am the largest eastern conifer and my long straight trunks were once used to make ships' masts. My needles come in bundles of 5.



4) Let's test your knowledge! I have multiple trunks and can help improve poor and sandy soil. Unlike certain trees, MY smooth white bark doesn't peel!

5) My wood smells so good that people use it for making closets and trunks—AND, I repel moths that eat holes in sweaters. My bark peels off in long thin strips, and its color is part of my name.



6) I have early red flowers in the spring, and early red leaves in the fall. Even my twigs, buds, and seeds are RED. White-tailed deer love to browse on my saplings! Can you name me?

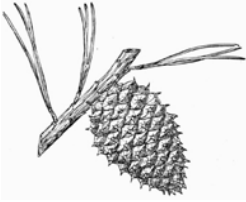


7) I am the only CONIFER that drops its yellow NEEDLES in the fall. First Nation peoples used my bark to create a powerful medicine to treat nerves, cuts, burns and more! What am I?



8) I bet you know my name! People have been using my sap for hundreds of years

to make a sweet syrup that you've poured on pancakes. The animals love to lick it too! In the spring look for my chocolate brown buds.



9) I am one of the only fire-resistant conifers and my needles come in bundles of three. Sometimes they grow right off my trunk! The Colonists used my sap for pitch and tar. Take a guess!

10)) In the summer, my seeds escape on white fluff that falls like snow! Honeybees use my resin to create "bee glue" which helps strengthen their hive. Can you figure me out?



11) What is my name? I have smooth gray bark and make great nuts for birds and mammals. Chipmunks can stuff their cheeks with up to 32 at one time!



12) I grow well in wetlands and along riverbanks. My leaves have rounded lobes and my acorns are sweet!

Native Americans and colonists ate them raw or cooked. What am I?



Good job!

- Now that you know the names of these trees, how do think they got their names? What would you have named them?
- Can you find more of the same kind of trees?
- Are there some in your backyard or neighborhood?

We hope you enjoyed this self-guided tour and discovered the treasures in our trees! If we protect these valuable natural resources we can sustain a healthy environment for generations to come.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees over 450,000 acres of state parks, forests, beaches, bike trails, parkways, watershed lands, and dams across the Commonwealth. DCR's mission is to: *Protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all.*

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