



SCENIC HUDSON PARK QUEST

POETS' WALK PARK, RED HOOK

QUESTING:

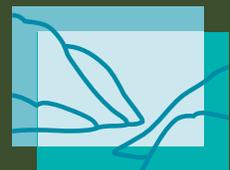
Use these verses and map to learn about the history and wildlife at Scenic Hudson's Poets' Walk Park. At the end of your Quest, you'll find a quest treasure chest. Inside there's a register for you to sign, a special stamp to mark your booklet with, and samples of a few things you might have come across while exploring. Don't forget to put the box back where you found it so other people can discover it too. The adventure takes about 45 minutes. Have fun!

DIRECTIONS:

From Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge: First left (River Road). Park entrance is 0.6 mile on left.

OPERATING HOURS:

Open year-round: gate is open from 9 a.m. to dusk.



**SCENIC
HUDSON**

To Begin

Once you've left your parking spot,
 Be prepared to see a lot –
 Historic things, wild ones too,
 In all colors: red, green, brown and blue.

The First Arbor

Just past the arbor made of sticks,
 Are your eyes playing tricks?
 There are fields of many sizes,
 Each of which holds surprises.

Some fields gently rise and fall,
 Others are bordered by a stone wall.
 Trees or hills separate each one –
 Which makes the walk a lot more fun.

This is called a Romantic place.
 Hans Jacob Ehlers designed this space.
 In 1849 his goal was to create "outdoor rooms,"
 Some filled with sunlight, others with gloom.

Ehlers hoped as you walk through,
 Different feelings would come over you:
 Happy, sad, joyful, filled with dread...
 Keep on moving – there's an exciting view ahead.

The First Bench

At the next bench, sit a spell,
 It faces something really swell.
 Notice the box atop the pole?
 What's that peeking out its hole?



If you're lucky, it's a bluebird – our state bird.
 Once common, now its song's less frequently heard.
 Why? Because the meadows where bluebirds
 like to be
 Are turning into driveways and houses for people
 like you and me.

At Poets' Walk, bluebirds and other creatures roam
 And don't have to worry about losing their home.
 Also watch for squirrels, chipmunks, snakes
 and deer –
 Spotting wildlife is why many people come here.

Memorial Bench

Joy beholds the eye that seeks
 The splendor of those far-off peaks.
 They're called the Catskills – aren't they grand?
 Someday atop them you could stand!

Remember their names if you are able.
 There's Plateau, Hunter, Slide and Table,
 Wittenberg, Cornell and Twin...
 Forget it – there's too many – just admire 'em.





And thank your lucky stars they're green:
 In the 1800s it was quite a different scene.
 Leather-makers needed bark for cowhide to soften,
 Meaning Catskill lumbermen yelled "Timber!" often.

As the mountaintops became a barren mess,
 People finally began to stress.
 The Catskills, they said, belong to every man, woman and child –
 So in 1894 they voted to make these mountains "forever wild."

Which is why they look so cool today
 And so many people upon them play:
 Fishing, tubing, hunting, biking,
 And best of all – going hiking.

Pavilion

In the shady pavilion on the park's highest knoll,
 Close your eyes and let the sounds roll.
 From nature, hear crows cawing, the buzzing of bees
 And woodpeckers hammering on nearby trees.

Humans also add to the clatter:
 In addition to visitors' usual chatter,
 Planes soar overhead, motorboats roar past,
 Cars cross the distant bridge, trains let out a blast.

Despite all these noises, the pavilion is swell.
 It casts quite a magical spell –
 300 years of history resound,
 Of farmers, rich and poor, who tilled this ground.

Fine carriages once passed where you're reading this rhyme.
 Big yachts docked by the shore at the same time.
 Famous writers and poets strolled here too.
 Now the land's open to all – me as well as you.

Pentagon Bench

Walk along the ridge of a grass-covered hill,
 Where cows and sheep used to munch their fill.
 Enjoy the sweet smell that nature poses.
 It comes from multiflora roses.

If we let them, they'd fill these fields,
 Providing quite enormous yields
 Of pretty white flowers – but don't let your fingers pick them
 The roses' sharp thorns are bound to prick 'em.

In fact, multiflora roses are a real pest.
 They're native to Asia; here they crowd out the rest
 Of plants that belong here, and they can grow 15 feet tall,
 Which is why we cut most bushes down –
 so they don't take over all.

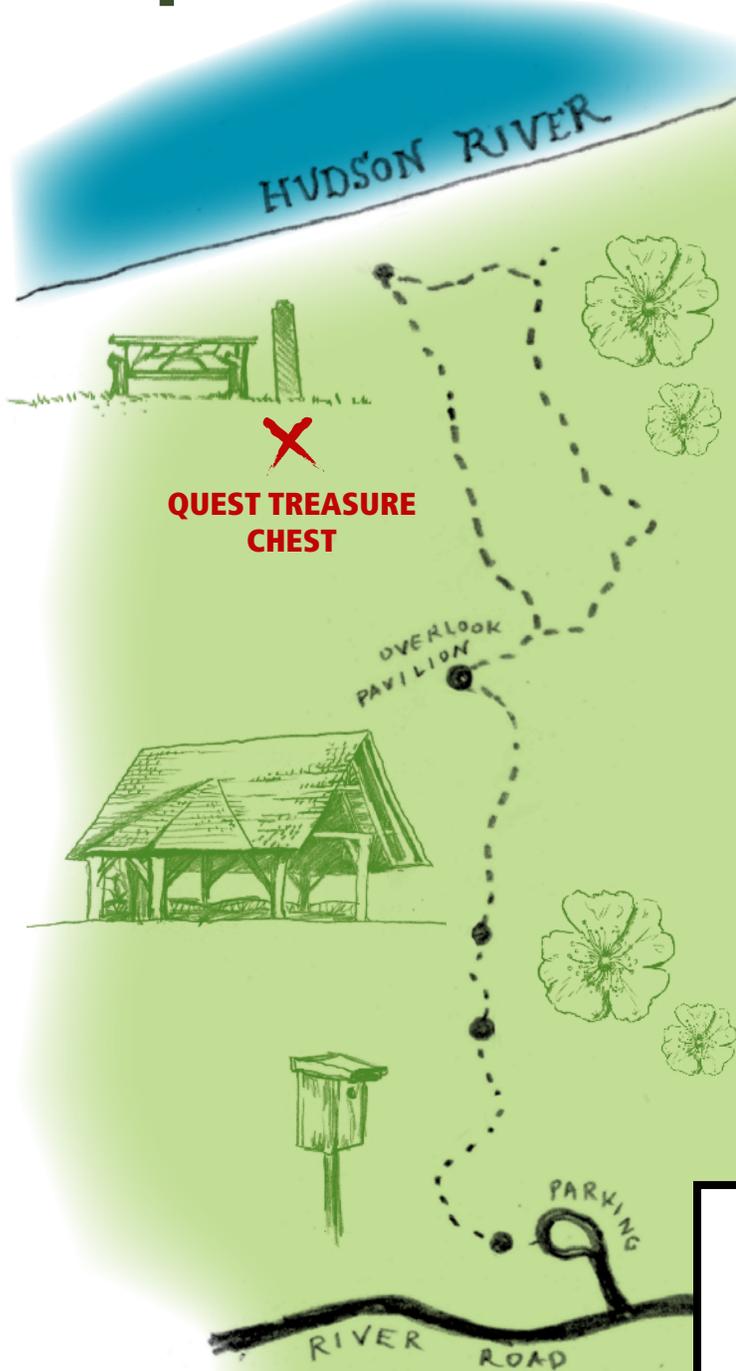
Flagpole Lot

This place is known as the Flagpole Lot –
 Perhaps the park's finest viewing spot.
 The Catskill Mountains loom, the Hudson River gleams,
 The Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge shows off its silver beams

You've reached the end of your first Quest.
 Be sure to find the **treasure chest** 
 Pull out the stamp and mark your paper
 To call a halt to this nature caper.



Map of Scenic Hudson's Poets' Walk Park



Who's Scenic Hudson?

We're a group of dedicated people who care about the area we live in—the Hudson River Valley. Forty-five years ago, our founders fought to protect a mountain from being made into a power plant. Since then, we've continued to work together with local communities to protect special places. We've created or enhanced 40 parks and preserves for you to enjoy.

For more information about our parks, visit www.scenichudson.org/parks.

Why we protected this place...

Scenic Hudson purchased 120 acres of Poets' Walk Park to protect it from development, so its meadows, woodlands and streams will always provide habitat for wildlife, its historic landscapes will never be destroyed and its magnificent views can be enjoyed by all – now and in future generations.

PLACE QUEST STAMP HERE



Become part of our online community at
www.scenichudson.org

ParkQuest created by Reed Sparling, Susan Hereth and Jessica Schlanger. Illustrations by Seth Martel. Let us know what you think of this Quest. E-mail your comments to shereth@scenichudson.org.