Humans are one small part of the beauty and mystery of nature. Woodland, field and wetland habitats hold wonderful secrets about our world. Visit the Storer Conservation Lands often throughout the seasons. Use your senses and get to know the creatures and wildlife that share our community.

Try taking a path less travelled, sit still and listen closely to the sounds of nature or look for evidence of people who lived here long ago.

Please stay on the trails to preserve the wilderness and for your own safety.

Follow a Quest

Questing is a fun way to learn about the special places that surround us. This national treasure-hunting game celebrates community, natural, historical, cultural sites, stories and special places.

Try our new quests at Stonehurst!

Follow the clues to the treasure box. Inside the treasure box, you will discover a rubber stamp, stamp pad, a sign-in field journal and a pencil. Sign in the book and collect an impression of the stamp as a memento of your journey. Then, carefully re-hide the box exactly where you found it.

For more quests, visit www.letterboxing.org.

Answers

1. read, imagine, talk, play
2. the old stone walls from this site.
3. the square, wooden house with clapboards painted brown
4. 6 women: a waitress, seamstress, laundress, chambermaid, cook, and kitchenmaid.
5. The tree is much older. It was mature even in the 1890s when this photo was taken.
6. materials: stone, unpainted wood and ivy; shapes: a low, wide rectangle and curves; colors: dark shadows, brown and green
7. The glaciers scraped across the rock, leaving its smooth, curved shape and grooved surface.
8. Iron poles mark the edges of the old tennis court.
9. Do you feel cool and protected, as if you were in a cave?
10. The sundial only works when the sun is shining. The poem encourages people to count only the “bright” or “happy” hours in their lives.
1 Terrace
The Paine family used the terrace and porch as an outdoor play space. Imagine a time with no electricity, no telephones, no television and no computers. What would you do for fun?

2 Stone walls of terrace
Where do you suppose Mr. Paine found the stone for his house and terrace?

3 1866 House
George Paine remembered when this summer house was “raised up on railroad ties and slowly, very slowly, pulled up the slope to where it now stands with the fine stone addition by Henry Hobson Richardson.” Can you find this house in its new spot?

4 Service ell
This ell had a kitchen, laundry and servants’ hall for the young women who lived and worked here. How many servants do you think lived in Stonehurst?

5 White pine tree
Architect H.H. Richardson built the stone house in 1886. Do you think this tree is older or younger than the house?

6 Natural building materials
In designing Stonehurst, Richardson and Olmsted chose materials, shapes and colors that would blend with the New England landscape. Can you name some?

7 Glacier Rock
Mr. Paine admired this rock because it was shaped by the great glaciers (masses of ice) that once covered New England. Do you see evidence of the glaciers?

8 Tennis court
Find ruins of the lawn tennis court, “which required constant moving and whitewashing of lines. Here the young folk...played most every sunny day.” This is one of the earliest tennis courts in the county.

9 Arch
Sit inside the arch. How does this space make you feel?

10 Sundial
Sundials keep time by the sun. The Latin phrase translates to “I do not count the hours unless they are bright.” What does this mean? Can you think of another meaning?