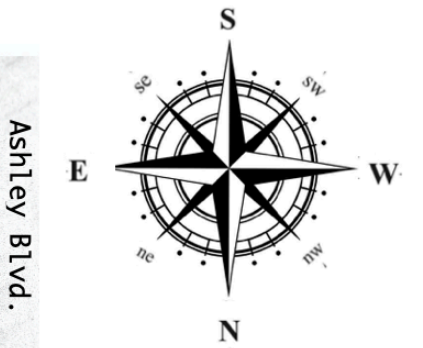
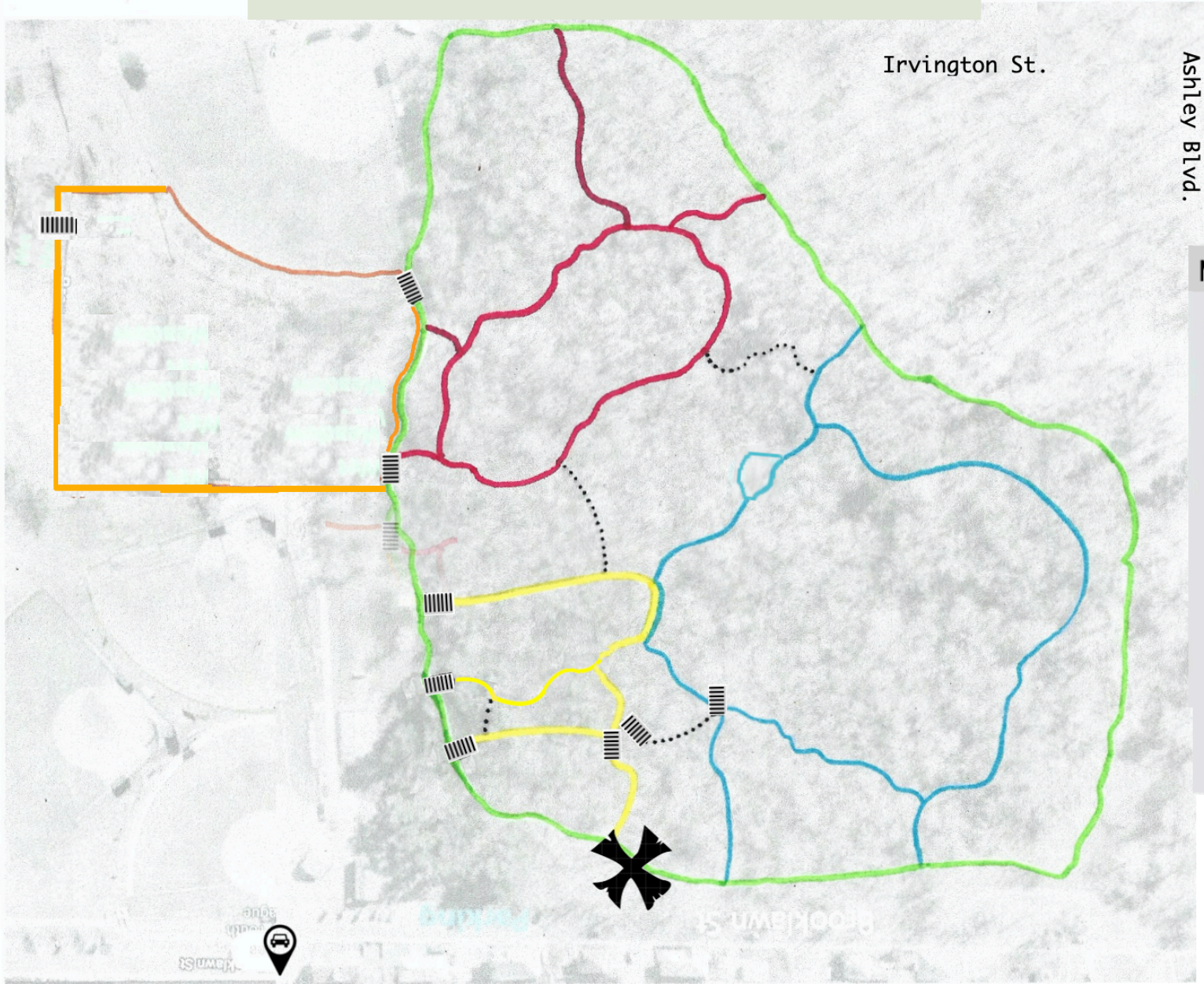


Daniel Ricketson Nature Trail

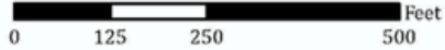


MAP KEY	
	Green Trail
	Yellow Trail
	Blue Trail
	Red Trail
	Orange Trail
	Trail Connections
	Bridges
	Parking along Brooklawn St.
	You Are Here

- Hiking
- Biking
- Snowshoeing
- Dog Walking





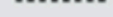


Brooklawn St.



Español

Sandero Natural de Daniel Ricketson








LLAVE DEL MAPA

-  Sendero Verde
-  Sendero Amarillo
-  Sendero Azul
-  Sendero Rojo
-  Sendero Naranja
-  Conexiones de Senderos
-  Puentes
-  Estacionamiento
-  "Estás aquí"

Português

Trilha da Natureza de Daniel Ricketson

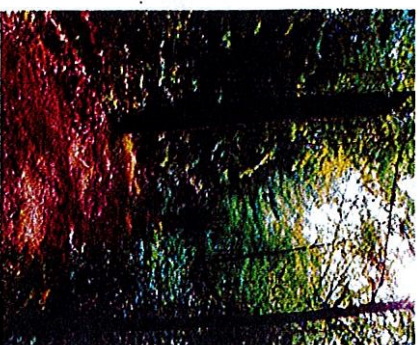
CHAVE DO MAPA

-  Trilha Verde
-  Trilha Amarela
-  Trilha Azul
-  Trilha Vermelho
-  Trilha Laranja
-  Conexões de Trilha
-  Pontes
-  Estacionamento
-  "Você está aqui"



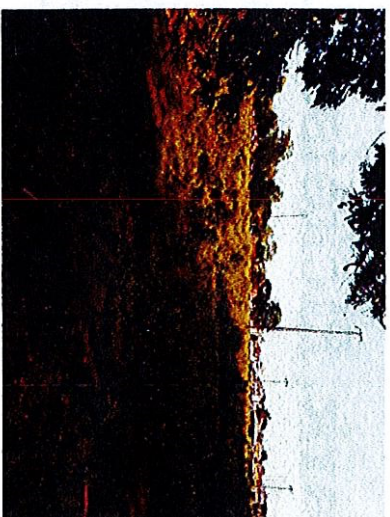
2 Brooklawn Park was named for the many brooks in the forest. They are calm and peaceful streams that flow down through the wet meadow.

The brooks at the park flow east to the Acushnet River, which flows to the ocean. The brooks provide homes for the plants and animals that use water to survive.



3 The Daniel Ricketson Nature Trails cut through the forest at Brooklawn Park. Long ago, these trails were made by people who took shortcuts

through the forest. There are many different tree species to be found, such as pine, oak, and birch, in the forest, which can be identified by bark patterns and color and the shapes of leaves. Quiet trekkers might see rabbits or chipmunks and hear a variety of birds.



4 A wet meadow is a type of wetland that is usually damp and grassy. It is similar to a marsh. The soil is saturated because of poor drainage. Wet meadows can be home to many animals like birds, small mammals, and insects such as butterflies and caterpillars.



5 The rectangular formation of rocks in Brooklawn Park is the foundation of Daniel Ricketson's writing shanty from the 1800s. A shanty is a small, crudely-built shack or hut. Ricketson would invite his friends Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson to come enjoy the simple life from this shanty.



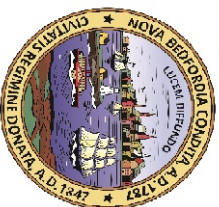
1 The Trailhead is the start of the Daniel Ricketson Nature Trails in Brooklawn Park. The sign was built by Boy Scout Troop 70 of New Bedford, who added bridges across brooks in the park. When you enter, beware of ticks and poison ivy.

ALMA delMAR

Expeditionary Learning Service Project
Created by 6th graders at Alma del Mar

The park is public, meaning it is open to anyone. Think safety: If you come visit the park, always come with a buddy, never alone. Rules are posted at the front gate and on the New Bedford city website.

Leave only footprints, take only photos!










ALMA Brooklawn Park, Ricketson Nature Trails Map

del MAR






515 Belleville Avenue
New Bedford, MA 02746

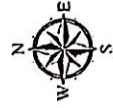
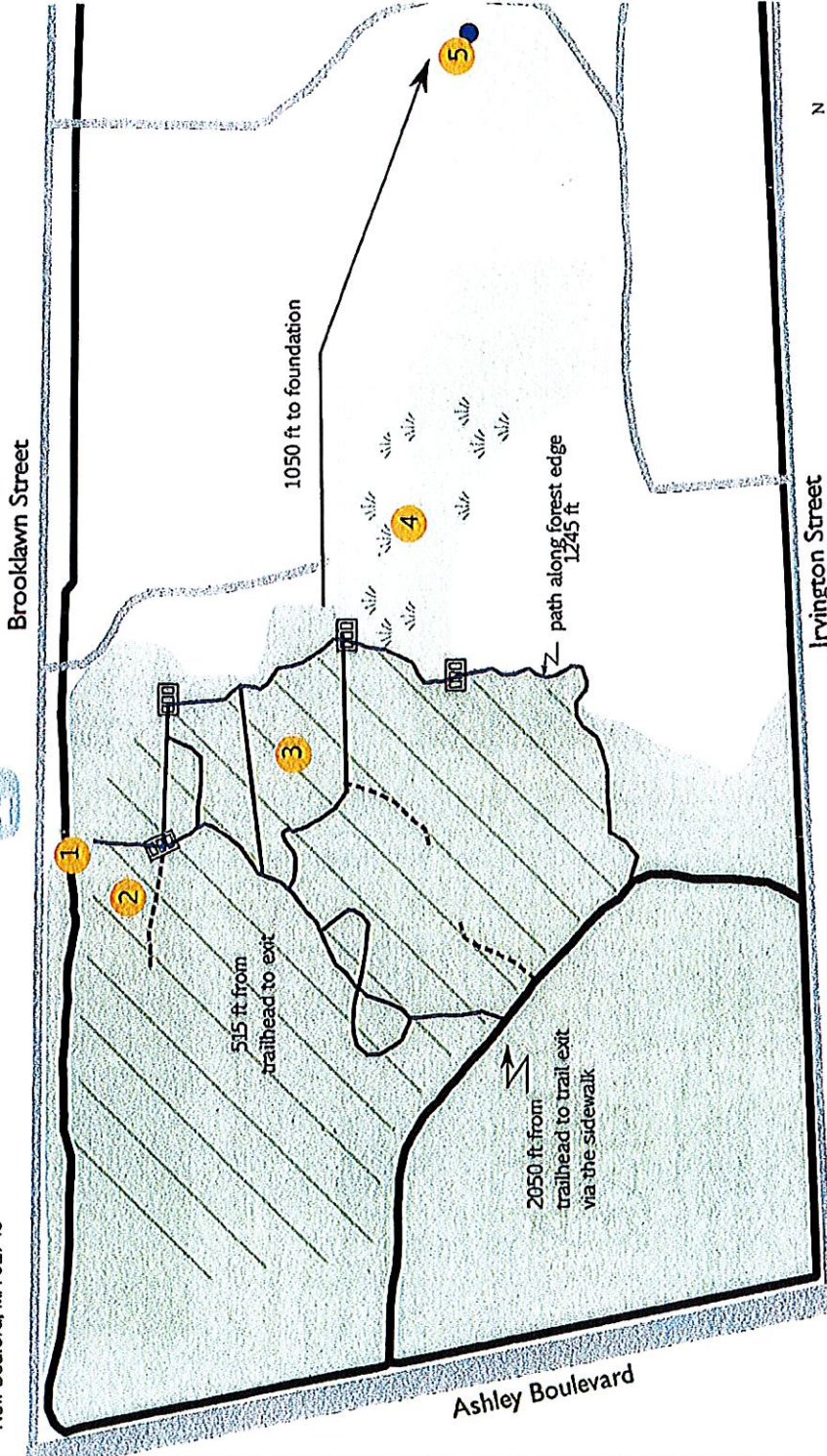
LEGEND

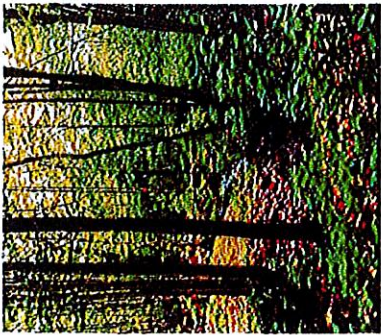
-  Parking
-  Trails
-  Abandoned Trails
-  Meadow
-  Forest
-  Dense Forest
-  Footbridge

POINTS OF INTEREST

see reverse for more detail

-  1 Trailhead
-  2 Brook
-  3 Forest
-  4 Wet Meadow
-  5 Shanty Foundation





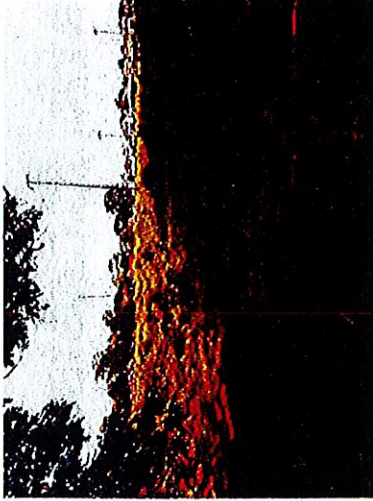
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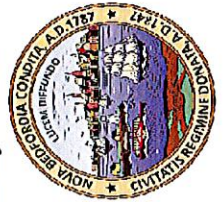
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Ricketson's Nature Trail ~ New Bedford, MA



TRAILHEAD



HISTORY OF BROOKLAWN PARK

Daniel Ricketson and his famous friend, Henry David Thoreau, made many notes in their journals about seasonal changes and the living organisms in these woods. Ricketson owned 53 acres of this land before it became an 85 acre park. He sold his estate to the city of New Bedford in 1892, to create this park which was established to protect and preserve nature.

These trails have an amazing history that dates back way before you were born. These trails have been here since the nineteenth century. A man named Daniel Ricketson played a major part in Brooklawn Park's history and the development of the trails. His son, Arthur, named the area "Brooklawn" for the many brooks flowing across the land towards the Acushnet River. This area used to be farmland. This is a great trail rich in history.

Daniel Ricketson cut some of the trails in these woods in October of 1855. Other parts of the trail were made by people who used to cut through the woods over and over again. Sometimes animals make their own trails. If you bring your dog, make sure it is on a leash. When it rains, the trails get very muddy, so you might need to wear boots. You are about to walk on the same trails that Henry David Thoreau would have walked while visiting Ricketson. Treat the trail as if it were your loved one or your home.

BUGS AND PLANTS IN THE FOREST

This forest is home to many bugs. One arachnid that lives here is ticks. Ticks are tiny bugs that feed off of living organism's blood. Ticks are usually as small as a pencil tip. However, when a tick becomes engorged, or filled with blood, it can be as wide as your pinky nail. To prevent yourself from getting ticks, you can tuck your pants into your socks and wear light colored clothing so you can spot them before they attach to you. Besides this, you can also use oil of lemon eucalyptus or Permethrin sprays to help repel ticks. It's recommended that you stay on the trail, because ticks tend to hide in tall grass and plants near the trail. Before you leave the park, make sure to do a tick check. Ticks are most active through the seasons of spring and fall.



TICK

The way to identify poison ivy is by looking closely at the leaves. If they are reddish green, then it may be poison ivy, because during the spring the leaves start out red and green. In

the summer, they turn all green. They turn yellow, red, and orange in the fall. When the leaves die in the winter, you can still catch poison ivy from the little orange hairs on the poison ivy vines. The vine can grow up to the top of trees. If you see pointy tips at the ends of three rounded leaves in each cluster, you know that it's poison ivy.



POISON IVY LEAVES



POISON IVY VINES

Poison ivy can be very irritating, so it's essential to know how to protect yourself from getting this nasty rash. The first tip is to simply stay on the trail. This keeps the trail active, while it protects you from poison ivy. Another tip is to wear protective gear, such as long pants, long sleeves and gloves to separate the oil that poison ivy produces from your skin. One last thing you can do is to wash your hands, body, belongings, dogs or anything that could have the oils on it, to protect yourself from the rash after spending time in the woods.

Did you know that dandelions are the only flower in the world that represents the three symbols of the sun, moon and stars? Before walking on Ricketson's Nature Trails, take a look at the dandelions, because there are so many of them. In French, it's name means "lion's tooth." If you ever get lost in the woods or the trails, you can eat them and they won't harm you.



LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS, TAKE ONLY PHOTOS

Imagine you are a woodland animal. You see something that is pretty and colorful so you sniff it. It smells like the leaves you eat so you bite it. Now, we know what happens after this. The animals will be harmed because consuming trash is not healthy. Littering has effects on the animals that might digest the trash you leave behind. This natural trail is a public trail. This means it is up to all of us to help take care of it. Please do your best to leave no trace, so generations and generations can come back to experience the trail. Take only photos, leave only footprints.



BROOKS



Water

Brooklawn Park has many brooks that eventually end up flowing into the ocean. A brook is a small stream. There were brooks in Brooklawn Park before it was even considered for a public park. There used to be more of these small streams here. They're still running underground, but are mostly covered by the ballfields. There is a brook that has been here for over two centuries. The most important thing about these little streams is that they provide habitats, foods, and shelter.

Brooks are also important to this area because they help filter the water. The brooks in Brooklawn Park get deeper when it rains. Melting snow and rain make the currents flow faster in the spring. The water in the brooks makes its way to Buzzards Bay through something called a watershed. The water in the brooks is not safe for humans to drink.

A watershed is an area of land that separates water flowing to different rivers. The Acushnet River watershed area counts on the brooks and the forests to protect it. When water soaks into the ground it is filtered, instead of running right into sewers across paved areas. This watershed has 442 square miles of land and flows through 14 towns and communities.

The Acushnet River can be seen behind the old textile factories in New Bedford's North End. Humans have mistreated it. Workers are now dredging the water to clean the PCBs from the sediment, because the Acushnet River has some of the highest levels of pollution around. Tribes of Wampanoag used to drink and fish from this river. One day we hope to be able to eat the local fish and shellfish again.



The Acushnet River and Brook

The Buzzards Bay Coalition team is very active in Brooklawn Park. They pick up litter along these trails so it doesn't hurt the wildlife. They also work to keep trash out of the brook, because this water flows into the Acushnet River, down to the New Bedford Harbor, on into Buzzards Bay and finally out into the Atlantic Ocean. Think about it, every single piece of garbage that gets thrown in the brooks ends up in the ocean, which then affects the big fish, and even the harbor seals. So do not leave your trash in the forest. If you would like to learn more about the Buzzards Bay Coalition team, you can visit their website at www.savebuzzardsbay.org. Enjoy the trail and take care of it as your own!

Plants and Animals

Plants are an important part of life. Not only do plants filter water, but their roots help hold the soil together to reduce erosion. Some plants that live by the brooks are bushes and native flowers. When the white Mayflower is growing and blooming, you know it is spring, because these beautiful plants only arrive around May. The Mayflower is the state flower of Massachusetts. You may also see red cardinal flowers by the brook. Look out for berry bushes and low wild strawberries which feed the forest animals. You may also see algae in the water. Flowers and plants are essential to this ecosystem.

Moss is a plant that grows mostly on the ground and is usually found in dark, shady places like under a rock or tree. Moss also likes to grow in places with plenty of moisture. There are approximately 12,000 different species of moss in the world. Moss generally grows just up to 4 inches tall. The usual color for moss is bright green. Some species of moss are blue green, yellowish green or velvety black green. Moss does not have seeds like other plants. Instead, it releases spores which rely on a moist habitat to grow.



Mayflower

Wild Strawberry

Algae

Moss

Earthworms are very important to our environment. Did you know that you can actually eat earthworms? Earthworms go into hiding for the wintertime, but as soon as spring starts they begin coming out. Earthworms are a pinkish brown color. They can die if their skin is too dry. Their skin must stay moist so they can breathe. Earthworms are good for the environment, so don't kill them. They eat our food waste, and enrich our soil. After an earthworm is done digesting, it casts. It may sound gross, but their casting (waste) helps plants get more nutrients.

Boy Scouts

While you take a stroll on the trail, you will walk across some boardwalk bridges as you admire the beautiful brooks. These bridges were built by local Boy Scouts Troop 70. A few years ago the Boy Scouts created these bridges as part of an Eagle Scout project, so that we could walk above the brooks instead of walking through the natural waters. Enjoy crossing on the dry bridges and appreciate what the Boy Scouts have done for the park.



One of the many bridges made by the Boy Scouts



FOREST



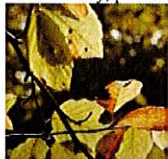
Brooklawn Park has a vast ecosystem, and one of the major components is the forest. Before the forest had all of the beautiful trees it now has, it was part of the country estate of Daniel Ricketson. Many of the trees in this forest are not much older than 100 years old. Enjoy this amazing green world.

PLANTS

Beech trees, also known as *Fagus grandifolia*, are a unique species of tree. For example, they don't drop their leaves until their new leaves are ready to pop out in the spring, which is unlike most other trees. Beeches require a lot of sunlight and prefer wet soil. You can identify Beech trees by their smooth bark and oval shaped leaves. They can grow up to 70' tall and can live up to four hundred years. Beeches have a large canopy of leaves that can block lots of sunlight. They require a large amount of space. Beech trees grow a type of nut called Beechnut that many birds and other small mammals rely on as their food. Early settlers used Beeches as a sign of good soil and looked for them to start their farms.

Pine trees have different types of features to help you identify them. The types of pine trees in these woods are mainly Pitch Pine and White Pine. The Pitch Pine needles are in clumps of three. A good way to memorize this is to think of baseball and "three strikes you're out." In addition, the Pitch Pines have very rough bark and are quite small compared to other trees. The White Pine trees have 5 needles in each bundle. A trick to remember this is to think of the word *white*, which has 5 letters in it. Next time you walk by a pine tree, use these tips to identify it.

As you explore the forest, you will notice many different plants with vibrant colors and unique textures. For example, a type of plant called a Douglas Fir is an evergreen tree that looks like a Christmas tree. Southern Red-backed Voles (a type of rodent) feed on them. Another reminder of Christmas is the holly trees, with their distinct pointy leaves sporting prickly spines. They grow bright red round berries in the fall. Fern plant leaves look like tiny pointed leaves which are put all together making a long wide leaf. Fiddleheads later unfurl into fern plants. They are easy to identify because they are green with tops curled up like the head of a fiddle. Fiddleheads are also sold as vegetables to eat in the spring. If you encounter any, please do not pull or pick them.



Beech Tree Leaves



Pitch Pine Bark



White Pine Needles



Holly Tree



Foxes are occasionally seen in these woods. Foxes can be very aggressive and threatening creatures because they hunt smaller animals like rabbits. They can even hunt insects. You can find foxes in deep holes in the ground or near trees, which are called dens. When a kit of foxes are born, they are very vulnerable and dependent due to the fact that they cannot see or hear. There was a litter of kits that were born right here in Brooklawn Park. Foxes tend to hide when a human is seen in their area. If you approach them, they will become very irritated.

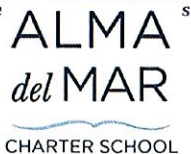
Raccoons are common in North American forests. If you leave trash in the forest, raccoons are guaranteed to scavenge it. Raccoons' unhealthy everyday meals include trash and scraps. However, the healthy part of their meals includes plants. The colors of raccoons fall under black, grey, and brown. They have distinct black masks and striped tails. They can be vicious when approached by humans.

The forest contains birds of all kinds. If you look up, you might see birds like Blue Jays and Sparrows. Blue Jays are little blue birds that live 10-25 feet off of the ground. Sparrows are brownish birds that prefer to live in flocks, or bird colonies. Small birds like Black Capped Chickadees flit around the forest. Woodpeckers are birds that peck at the tree's bark to find food and to make a hole for their homes. There they lay eggs and raise their young. Make sure you aren't only looking up though, because there are wild turkeys roaming around the forest. Turkeys nest on dead leaves near the base of trees. It is important to take care of the forest so the birds and other animals have a place to live.

You might be able to see small mammals on a nice summer day, roaming the side of the trail or peeking through the trees. These mammals include squirrels, chipmunks, and rabbits. Squirrels scamper around the woods, but when they are busy they may pretend to bury a nut to throw off potential thieves. Humans introduced squirrels to most of our major city parks. Chipmunks are very active later in the afternoon. There are over 20 different species of chipmunks. Rabbits appear to get frightened of little noises. Remember, you could possibly find small mammals if you walk quietly through the wooded trails.

The insects on the trail can range from a crawling ant to a flying butterfly. In the woods, a common type of insect is the spider. Spiders crawl on the ground and make webs in trees and the ground covering plants to try to catch their prey, like the fly. Bees and wasps also live here. Look out for cocoons and chrysalises. After metamorphosis, they change into moths and butterflies. Hopefully you won't have to slap at too many mosquitoes which breed in standing water. In the woods, there are many amazing insects.

ANIMALS



Ricketson's Nature Trail ~ New Bedford, MA



WET MEADOW

Saturated and Drying Areas

In the Wet Meadow, the water saturates the ground, but sometimes the ground dries up. When no more water can get into the ground, it is saturated like a sponge soaking up tons of water. Wet meadows may occur due to large amounts of water from rain, melted snow, or poor drainage. The water gets absorbed into the soil and roots. The ground filters the rain water. When the weather is really hot, the water will evaporate out, and the land will become dry until more rain or snow comes in. A wet meadow is like a marsh, but it has fresh water instead of salt water. Be careful of all the muddy areas.

Plants

There are many different plants in the wet meadow. The wet meadow has red reed bushes, red reed grass and sedge. Butterfly weed is also a common plant. If disturbances are light enough, the meadow can host a high number of native plants. The plants are important for feeding small mammals, many birds, and insects. Butterfly weed attracts butterflies with its bright orange color. Red reed bushes, with their feather-like plumes at the top of each blade, attract songbirds. Red reed grass can grow up to 5 feet tall. Look out for thorny vines, which are close to the ground and may stick out of the grasses.



Butterfly Weed



Red Reed Bushes

Animals & Insects

Many birds can be found in the wet meadow, especially during their spring migration. A variety of birds depend on the wet meadow for feeding, shelter, nesting, breeding, refueling, and for resting during migrations. Some of the birds that you may see here are American Black Ducks, Canada Geese, Lincoln's Sparrows, and Le Conte's Sparrows. You may hear a lot of honking because Canada Geese like to honk their way along established paths which includes resting spots like the wet meadow. Canada Geese adapt to many habitats, especially where grasses, grains, and berries are available. Ducks like to eat insects and nest on the ground. A female duck likes to nest in a well-concealed site. Be on the lookout for birds in the wet meadow.

When you walk near the wet meadows, you should watch your step for snakes. The northeastern snakes here are not poisonous. The most common snake is a Garter Snake. It sneaks through the wet meadow's tall grasses. Some snakes hide in wetter places. The Northern Water Snakes and Long Black Snakes move through the puddles. There are not many snake sightings at Brooklawn Park.

Frogs like to be in wetlands. Frogs absorb chemicals from the air and water. There are different types of frogs at the wet meadow, including the Wood Frog, Spring Peeper, and Green Frogs

(*Lithobates Clamitans*). They also need to be able to reproduce in water. The majority of frogs in wetlands are most active in spring and summer and have a preference for wetlands with longer periods of water pooling. Frog eggs are laid in the shallow water. Their eggs are altogether in one pack. Once they hatch, they are then tadpoles, and slowly start changing into frogs. So while you are visiting the wet meadow, see if you can spot some frogs.



Canada Geese



Snake



Frogs

Moths also live in wet meadows. Moths are related to butterflies. Moths often have feather-like antennae with no clubs at the ends. Moths have very long proboscises, which they use to suck fluids. Thousands of tiny scales and hairs cover a moth's wings.

Butterflies and caterpillars live in the Wet Meadow. Butterflies are easy to spot in places with tall grass. They feed on species of native wild grasses and flowers. When it rains heavily in the meadow, it can be dangerous to the butterflies. Heavy rain can cause injuries or death because their wings are fragile and can get destroyed easily. Butterflies are able to complete their whole life cycle in the meadow.

As you are walking beside the Wet Meadow, you might be able to spot some spider webs shimmering in the sun, or a spider walking on the grass and leaves. Please do not kill them. They are helping us by eating other bugs and insects. The numerous spiders that live in the meadow each eat an average of two insects every day. The spiders appear at different times during the 12 months of the year. For example, the Black and Yellow Garden Spiders are very conspicuous during the months of August and September. Another spider that frequents the Wet Meadows is the Crab Spider, which is known for dangling a butterfly in its web. Remember spiders are more afraid of you than you are of them.

Do you hear that? There it is again! It's a slight "Buzz." Have you guessed what was making that sound? If you said a bee, then you are correct! Bees are a very important part of the Wet Meadow. Honey bees and Bumblebees fly throughout the Wet Meadow and collect pollen from wild flowers to create honey and pollinate plants to ensure that we continue to have a great diversity of flowers and fruit. Some of these wild flowers include Water Smartweed and Rhexia. These are herbaceous plants, which means they do not have a woody stem above ground. A Rhexia is a type of flower that is a pretty purple and pink mix that bees collect nectar from. Leave bees alone and they will leave you alone. If you annoy a bee, it may sting you in self defense.





SHANTY



Shanty History

The shanty was not only a cabin, it was a landmark. Here, Daniel Ricketson wrote and met with friends and other writers. Ricketson used the shanty to talk with authors like Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Many like-minded friends would come over, but Ricketson enjoyed being alone with nature more. In the shanty, he hung out in his relaxing place. The shanty was built in 1854 and demolished in the 1980's.

Daniel Ricketson

Daniel Ricketson, a resident of New Bedford, had an interesting life. He was born here in 1813 to his parents Joseph and Anna Ricketson. Even as a kid, Daniel collected stories from older folks in town. He wrote the book, "The History of New Bedford," while he lived here. It was published in 1858. Ricketson lived here from 1854 to 1875.



Shanty Dimensions

Daniel Ricketson's shanty was a 12 by 14 foot wooden building. The shanty was made out of wood and had two windows on the front with a door in between them, a window on each side, and a window on the back. The roof came to a point and had gingerbread style trim work. The shanty was built in 1854. It sat on the stone foundation which you see exposed here.



Shanty Society

Ricketson used his shanty as a place for writing poems and discussing topics like transcendentalism, abolition, and philosophy. Daniel Ricketson's friends would visit his shanty from the mid-1850's to the mid-1870's. People of the Shanty Society included Thoreau, Emerson, A. Bronson Alcott, George William Curtis, William Ellery Channing, Wendell Phillips, and William Lloyd Garrison. They were writers, philosophers and abolitionists (activists working to end slavery). As transcendentalists, they believed in self-reliance, and following their own instincts instead of conforming. They felt that people have knowledge of the world and themselves that "transcends" beyond their senses.

Henry David Thoreau was a famous friend of Daniel Ricketson. Close to this site, you can see the carved granite memorial of Ricketson where Henry David Thoreau's name is listed. Henry David Thoreau

went to college at Harvard. He was a teacher, author and a poet. He wrote the book, *Walden*, about his experiences while he lived near Walden Pond. Thoreau had his own cabin deep in the woods far away from people because he also liked to be alone. He was best known for being a transcendentalist. Henry David Thoreau was born on July 12, 1817 and died on May 6, 1862 of tuberculosis, or infected lungs.

Artifacts

There was an archaeological dig at Ricketson's shanty site in 2015-2016. The artifacts which were dug up are now part of the object collection on the third floor of the downtown New Bedford Public Free Library. The shanty was dug up by archaeologist, Holly Herbster, and historians, Carl Simmons and Bob Maker. They found a door handle, and pieces of tea cups, glass bottles, and clay pipes, as well as hundreds of other objects.

Mansion

Ricketson owned a two and a half story mansion, here at Brooklawn, even though he spent most of his time in his shanty. The opposite side of the nearest parking lot was the location of his impressive home. On the first floor of his mansion, he had a large reception hall, sitting room, library, and dining room. Surrounding the mansion was an apple orchard and garden, as well as cows grazing in the field. When the mansion was decaying, a local group tried to save it, but they failed. The mansion was demolished in 1971.



Shanty

This is the location of Daniel Ricketson's shanty. It is situated in the front of the shanty 100 feet from the middle of Brooklawn Park but just under the foundation.



Location

This was the location of Ricketson's shanty, situated in the yard between the mansion and Brooklawn Park. Today it is in the foundation of the shanty, 1500 feet (just