

HANDY HOUSE HERITAGE TRAIL

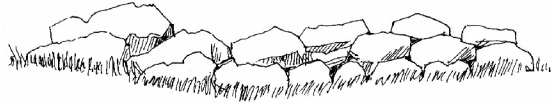
ARCHAEOLOGY SCAVENGER HUNT

The trail begins at the visitor parking area, 202 Hix Bridge Road, Westport.

Archaeologists look for clues on the surface to help them find sites and artifacts that are buried underground, and to understand what people did in the past. Be an archaeologist for a day and help figure out what happened along the Handy House Trail!

Stone Walls: Find a stone wall on your walk.

- Why do you think there's a wall in the middle of the woods?
- Who do you think could have built it?
- Where do you think the stone came from?
- When do you think it was built?



Water Hole: See if you can find a large rounded hole in the ground near the edge of the trail. Archaeologists think this may have been dug out and used to hold drinking water for animals.

- How could this empty hole have filled up with water?
- Do you see any signs that this hole may have once been lined with stones?
- What kinds of animals might have used this water hole?

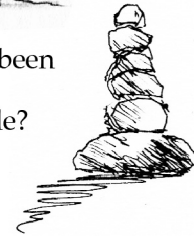
Campsite: Look for a spot on your walk that might make a good campsite. You might have picked the same spot where Westport indigenous people, the Wampanoag, would have camped 300+ year ago!

- Why did you pick this spot?
- Is your spot: nice and dry; smooth without a lot of stones on the ground; a high spot where it isn't usually muddy?
- Is there a spot nearby where you could find water?



Stone Piles: Look for a group of different rocks that seem like they've been piled or gathered together.

- Why would someone want to collect stones and leave them in a pile?
- Could the stones mean something or mark something?
- What could they mark?



Rocks: Stones that were left behind on the ground by glaciers 10,000 years ago were used by the Wampanoag to make stone tools, and by farmers to make walls and buildings. Look around you at all the different shapes, sizes, and colors of rocks along the trail.

- Find a rock that's all the same color and another one with light or dark speckles in it.
- Find a round and smooth rock and another one that's got rough or uneven edges.
- Find a rock that's got different layers or stripes.



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ACTIVITIES

1. MAPPING:

Create a collage that maps out what you have discovered on the trail.

- a. Make a “key” with symbols that describe different elements, such as stone piles, stone walls, etc.
- b. How will you mark changes in the landscape such as hills? Consider different ways to manipulate the paper, such as folding, rolling, or layering to add depth and dimension.

2. SEEING:

Locate an interesting element or object along the trail, such as a rock or a tree.

- a. Take a close-up image of that element or object with your camera. What do you see?
- b. Now, take a few steps back and take another photo of that element or object. What do you see?
- c. After taking a few steps even further back, take a third photo. Can you see the original element or object?
 - i. What are its surroundings like?
 - ii. What time period could this be if not today?
 - iii. Who might have seen this same image before you?
- d. Now, turn around 180 degrees behind you and take a photo. What do you see?
 - i. How does this image compare/contrast with your first three photos?
- e. Look at all four photos.
 - i. What might a bird or animal see from high in a tree? Would they see the details shown in your close-up image?
 - ii. What might this look like at night? What about in winter?
 - iii. What might this have looked like twenty years ago when Mrs. Tripp lived in Handy House? *Or*, in 1820 when the Handy family lived here? *Or*, in 1720 when the White family lived here? *Or*, when the Wampanoag traveled freely on the land?
 - iv. What might this look like twenty years from now?

Thanks for walking the Heritage Trail!
Please remember to post your images and experiences
to social media using: #wpthistory

Animals and Other Creatures: deer rabbits birds frogs squirrels raccoons chipmunks fox woodchucks spiders turkeys snakes salamanders ducks geese owls bobcats fisher cats skunk beaver

Plants: oak maple fir pine berries dogwood magnolia conifers forsythia pussy-willow ferns skunk cabbage holly bayberry mushrooms cattails witch hazel daisies mountain laurel milkweed