

Elmore Watershed Quest

Directions to the Elmore Watershed Quest: This quest is in Elmore State Park in Elmore, Vermont. You will park at the trailhead lot and start up the trail. The clues will lead you to the Ridge Trail/ Fire Tower Trail split where you will then turn around and begin back down the mountain on the same main trail you just walked up from the parking lot. Enjoy!

Welcome to the Elmore Watershed Quest,
We hope you have fun and do your best.
Think like a water drop that from the lake is evaporating
Start hiking up the hill & get your body transportating!

So, what IS a watershed? You may wonder as you walk.
Kind of like a big bathtub, where waters collect, don't balk.
From high in the mountain to the big lake below,
The waters trickle together and get bigger as they flow.

You'll learn today where the Elmore waters move,
So up to the Ridge Trail sign you should groove.

Headquarters on the mountain, not made by man. A
It runs down the mountain like it has a plan.
The water is slow but it will prevail,
While running along the Ridge Trail.

Where does it come from? Where does it go?
Precipitation, groundwater, and springs make it flow.

If you were a water drop,
Where would you flow?
Down the road to the weeping rocks,
Where moss does grow.

Look right for the rocks that seem to weep, B
But really its just waters that seep,
Groundwater coming up from secret spaces,
Can you see on the rocks how it comes out in places?

So now be like the water and trickle down,
To something man-made under the ground.

To the right, low to the ground, C
A mossy man-made structure can be found.
Close to big rocks covered with moss,
It prevents soil from being lost.

On the other side, a twin structure,
Preventing the road from rupture.

These culverts help to prevent erosion,
Saving the road from, in floods, having an explosion!
The last one before the gate is called the big mama,
Be like fast water and go thru it, if you can handle the drama!

D

Now you also see the first chimney,
Go down further and a second chimney you'll see.
Keep your eyes peeled for another trailhead,
Onto the Mountain Brook Nature Trail you will be led.

E

Go down this trail and you will prevail!

Left at the fork, up the steep hill,
To a square structure where water used to spill.
Built by a group who wanted the best,
Pumping water was the purpose of THEIR quest.

F

As the trail continues, water is heard.
What is the sound, does it make a word?
Do you see the pipe that brought the water,
To the pump house? You sure oughtta'!

Faster, faster, the water flows down.
What is the source of this beautiful sound?
See a small waterfall? You are on the right path.
If you're hot and sweaty, go take a bath!

G

Keep moving down the trail and cross the small bridge
Continue this way and move along the trail's ridge.
Flowing fast, water carves out stone,
The channel was cut by this water alone.

H

These waters are shedding from the mountains on high,
Watershed, get it? Another piece of this Elmore lake pie.
Fingers of water, joined now as one.
Racing together through trees toward the sun.

Flying and gurgling, growing in size,
Moving down the mountain to the spot where it eventually lies.

Follow the trail back to the three thick posts,
And flow down the road, listen for the water hosts.
As you get far down, on the left you will soon see,
Swiftly running water, a tributary, oh gee!

I

Does all of that water from the mountain keep going or not?
Walk on the road to the right of the pay booth and into the lot.
Stop before crossing the road to the shores of Lake Elmore,

For a secret box you will now explore.

J

The end of this quest is very near,
In a collection of millions of raindrop tears.
Does the water now stay in this big collecting pool?
Of course not, silly, or you'd be in water now and very cool!

Some will evaporate into the sky
Some will go out via trickling by
You can see on a map, a stream called Elmore Pond Brook
The water from there goes to the Lamoille River, now for the final clue do look.

And now dear questers, for the final key
To the end of this amazing watershed journey!

Before crossing the road from the lot to the lake,
Stop at the small bridge and a closer look do take,
In some bushes and rocks you'll see on your right,
The quest treasure box should be in sight.

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