



fullerCRAFT

museum™

Let the art touch you

Letterboxing

Letterboxing at Fuller Craft

One of Fuller Craft Museum's most cherished assets is its natural landscape. Located on 22 wooded acres, the Museum has stunning views of Porter's Pond and the Frederick Law Olmstead-designed D.W. Field Park. Hidden throughout this beautiful campus are six letter-boxes for you to discover. This series of letterboxes takes you down Fuller Craft's nature trail-Caroline's Pathway- and along the Fuller Craft grounds. Use the clues on the next page to find them. This series is fairly easy for first timers and kids.

Beginning your search

Park in the lot nearest to the Education Entrance on the lower level of the Museum. To the left of the building you will see a path into the woods labeled Caroline's Pathway. The path is approximately 1/4 mile long and has some uneven, rocky terrain. Three letterboxes are located on or near the path. Be careful of poison ivy which is prevalent in the woods off the path. Begin your journey there.

Nature trail guide

A guide to the flora of Caroline's Pathway is available inside the Education Entrance. This guide can be helpful in your search, but the descriptions listed below should aid you well enough to find that which you seek. If you borrow a nature trail guide, please be sure to return it.

Basic rules of letterboxing

- Look carefully before sticking your hands into a hole. Animals and insects might be living there.
- Dress appropriately with proper footwear and long pants/shirts during tick season.
- Go with a friend if you are in a remote place like the woods. Children should always be accompanied by an adult.
- Always tightly close and re-hide the boxes thoroughly so they are not accidentally discovered by animals, people or ruined by the weather.

Directions to Fuller Craft Museum

Take Rt. 24 to exit 18B. Turn right onto Rt. 27 North (Pearl Street). At the second light, turn right onto Oak Street. Fuller Craft is located approximately 1 mile on the left past a large church.

Museum Hours

Tues—Sun 10am-5pm
Wednesdays 10am-9pm (free 5 pm-9pm)
Closed Mondays

Fuller Craft Letterboxes

box #1 The Sneaky Snake

There are almost no poisonous snakes in Massachusetts, so rest assured that our "sneaky snake" will not harm you. There are several varieties of snakes that live around ponds and wetlands, including the garter snake, eastern ribbon snake and water snake. Our snake has colors like no other and likes to hide.

Enter Caroline's Pathway. You will pass some sweet pepper bushes on your right and walk to the first set of stone benches. Look for a less traveled path behind the bench on the left and follow it into the woods. Find the rock with the mysterious carvings. Is there a snake here? What other carvings can you find? Who do you think made these? Now turn around to face the path. Walk four paces to a thin oak tree on your left (1 pace = 1 full step with both feet). The Sneaky Snake is hiding somewhere here.

box #4 The Jumpy Frog

Not all types of frogs protect themselves in the same way. Some species of frogs have poison glands in their skin which secrete the liquid and covers their body with the poison. Other frogs use their colors to protect themselves, warning their enemies that they will either taste bad or they may be poisonous.

Turn around and return to the parking lot where you first entered Caroline's Pathway. Look for the set of stairs. Climb the stairs and at the top turn right. Walk to the start of a row of large boulders. Count to the sixth boulder. Look around here for the Jumpy Frog.

box #2 The Sassy Tree

The sassafras tree can grow as tall as 40 feet, but many in our forest are only 4-5 feet high. It is easily distinguished by its leaves that grow in three different shapes: the leaf, the "ghost" and the "mitten". It can have a lemony odor and its root oil is used as a flavoring to make a root beer-like tonic.

From the Sneaky Snake, continue back to the main path. Walk further down the main path for a few minutes and look for the painted tree on the right side of the trail. Just past this tree will be another large rock formation to the right of the trail. Walk up to the rock and look up. You should be looking at the three different leaf formations of the sassafras tree (if it is winter, use your imagination). Look at the base of this tree for your treasure.

box #5 The Blue Heron

A blue heron has resided on Porters Pond for a number of years. You can often see him fishing near the Museum on summer mornings. He will be standing as still as a statue until a fish swims a little too close by.

From the Jumpy Frog, turn back the way you came and continue to follow the driveway (parking lot) around the side of the Museum. You will come to a circular drive and the entry bridge to Fuller Craft's main entrance. Facing the bridge, look to your right for a set of stone stairs. Follow them to seek a rock that says "sanctuary" When you have found "sanctuary", head towards the other rock formation. Walk towards to the back of a grouping of rocks. You will find the Blue Heron waiting patiently here.

box #3 The Romping Rabbit

Cottontail rabbits are active all year long foraging mainly at night. In the daytime they stay hidden in dense brush. To protect themselves from both predators and bad weather conditions. Rabbits will use an old abandoned woodchuck burrow to do this.

From The Sassy Tree, return to the main path. Take a right and continue walking down the path for approximately 26 paces to a five foot high boulder that juts out into the trail. Across the trail from the boulder will be a big oak tree. The Romping Rabbit likes to hang out near this tree.

box #6 The Snappy Turtle

On warm days in the spring and summer, you can watch a variety of turtles sunning themselves on the rocks in Porter's Pond. Common among them is the snapping turtle. We have seen snapping turtles in this pond nearly as big as a car tire.

From The Lonely Heron, return to the entrance bridge to the Museum. Look for a gravel path on the left of the bridge. Follow it down and then walk eight paces under the bridge to a large scarred tree. The Snapping Turtle is waiting here for you.

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU DID IT!

NOTE: Snapping turtles are dangerous: their jaws are strong enough to bite off fingers and toes. Never try to pet, touch or move a snapping turtle with your hands. However, they are an important part of Porter Pond's ecosystem and pose no threat to humans if not disturbed or threatened.