

Big Creek Park Quest

Established: 2006 by Cait Goodwin

Box Monitor: Newport Parks and Recreation Department

Big Creek Park is located in Newport. From Highway 101, turn east on NE 32nd street. Turn right at the first stop sign. At the T, turn right onto Big Creek Road. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn left into the parking lot of Big Creek Park. The Quest travels over mostly level grassy ground and will take about 30 minutes to complete. This park can get wet and muddy during some months of the year, so boots are recommended.

Let's begin!

This Quest will lead you
On a tour of three creeks.
It will take half an hour
Not months, days, or weeks.

Begin your journey
Near the park's entrance sign.
Under a large spruce
Two rivers you'll find.

Big Creek is to your right;
On the left is Jeffries Creek.
They flow under a bridge
Toward the ocean they seek.

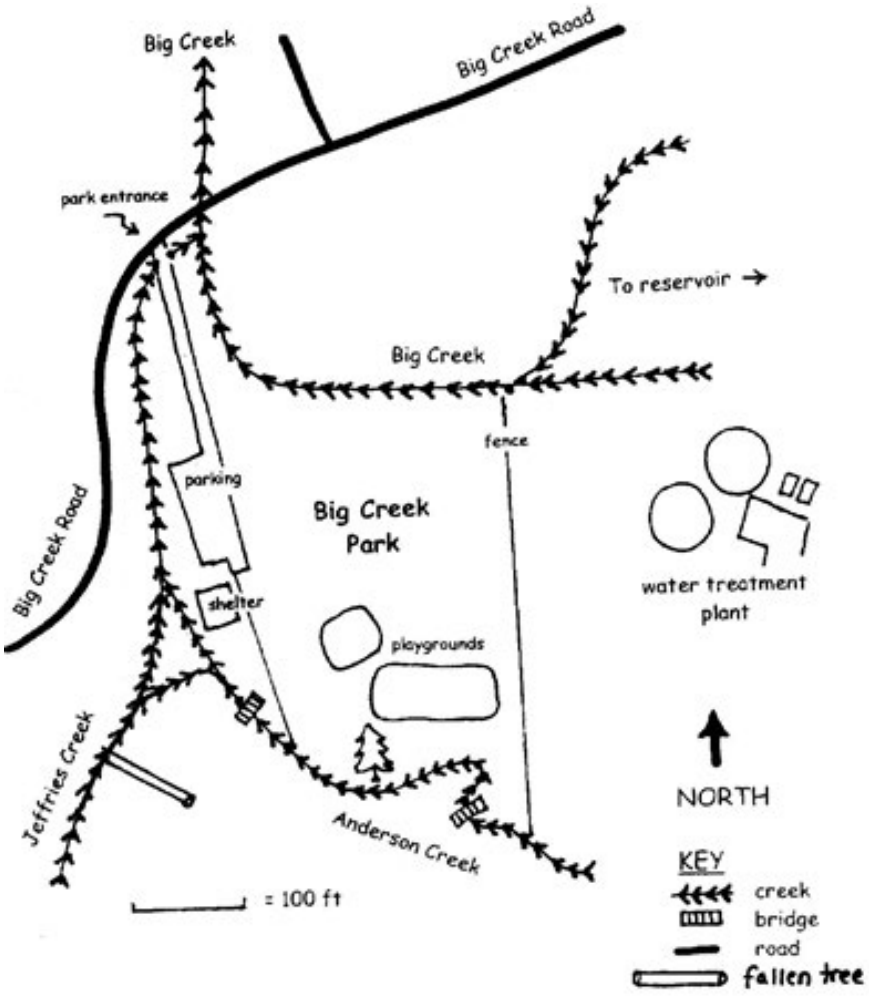
QUESTION for the Curious

Where along the coast do these waters meet the ocean?

The answer to this question and the others in this Quest are found in the Quest Box at the end of your journey!

Big Creek seems quite modest,
Yet this park bears its name!
Let's find out why it's special
As we continue our game.

Use this map to help you solve the Quest. Follow the directions and collect the letter clues to fill the numbered squares on the last page of this Quest. The message you complete will help you find the hidden Quest box.



Quest Partner
Newport Parks and Recreation Department

Look back past the sign.
See a place for horseshoes.
On the north-facing bench
Find the first of your clues.



Search the bench carefully
For a mark painted there.
Write the letter you find
In the number 1 square.

Now follow Big Creek
In an upstream direction.
Near the fence you will see
The creek comes from two sections.

But NOTICE the sign
That halts our travels.
We can't see from here
How the story unravels.

The sign itself, though,
Is helpful to you.
The first letter on it
Is clue number 2.

And I'll tell you what
Lies upstream on this course.
It's a dam, and a reservoir.
Newport's water source!

QUESTION for the Curious

*How much water goes
through this water
treatment plant every day?*

For Big Creek supplies us
With water to drink.
Think of that the next time
You turn the tap at your sink.

Leave Big Creek behind
And walk by the fence.
See the water treatment plant
Which provides a good defense...



...from microorganisms,
Silt and chemicals, too.
The cleaner the water going in,
The easier its job is to do.



Keep following the fence
Until you find another creek.
A bridge will help you across;
It has the 3rd clue you seek.

This is Anderson Creek.
It also leads to the sea.
Follow it downstream,
Across to a big tree.

At an uncontrolled fire,
Find what could be of use.
Put its base color's fifth letter
In square 4 of your clues.

The big playground has
A clue for you to find.
Clue 5 is where adults
Rest their weary behinds.

Three blue bumps point you
Away from playground fun
And toward another crossing
Of the creek Anderson.

As you cross, do so
At a leisurely pace.
The last letter of Paul's last name
Goes in the number 6 space.

Anderson Creek is joined
By Jeffries Creek here.
Which way is the water flowing?
Drop a leaf if it's not clear.

Stand on the creek bank.
Look across it and see
Roots towering in the air.
It's a blown-over tree.





Cross back to a place
Where large picnics stay dry.
On one of the upright posts,
A clue you will spy.

The letter you find
Goes in two clue spaces.
It's clue 7 and clue 8,
So write it in both places.

Nearby a plaque tells you
Who donated this place.
The first letter on the sign
Goes in the number 9 space.

And the creek, it rolls on
(Just call it Jeffries here);
With care, follow it past
The cars parked quite near.

The creek crosses the drive
Via culvert; it surges.
So too should you cross
To find where it emerges.

You're back where you started
Under the tree,
Watching the water
Head out toward the sea.

With success, the three creeks
Made it through this nice park,
And maybe their waters
Will reach ocean by dark.

Your journey, too,
Is nearing its end.
The sign's last letter
Is your final clue 10.

The message you've spelled
Will show you the way
To the nearby Quest Box;
You've found it! Hooray!

Fill in the boxes with the answers to the clues to solve the Quest.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	2	5

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	7

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
8	1	10	9	3

When you've found the Quest Box, sign your name and stamp the back of your book to mark your accomplishment. Don't forget to seal the box tightly and return it to its hiding place for the next person to find!