

7. A Clearing in the Woods

The area in front of this discovery stop is quite open in comparison to the rest of the wooded land you've been walking through.

Why do you think this might be? Give up yet? Well, when the state was running this area as a park, they cleared this land to act as a fire break in the event that a wild fire was accidentally started. Since it was cleared back in the 1970s, the fire break is slowly reverting from a mown field, to shrubs, and back to a forest in a process called **succession**. The willow (*Salix spp.*) and birch trees (*Betula spp.*) you see in the old fire break are common early successional species.

► *Continue along the road heading uphill towards the intersection of Levesque Memorial Drive and Brown Road. (It's a long stretch to Stop #8 at 1,214 feet (270 meters).*

