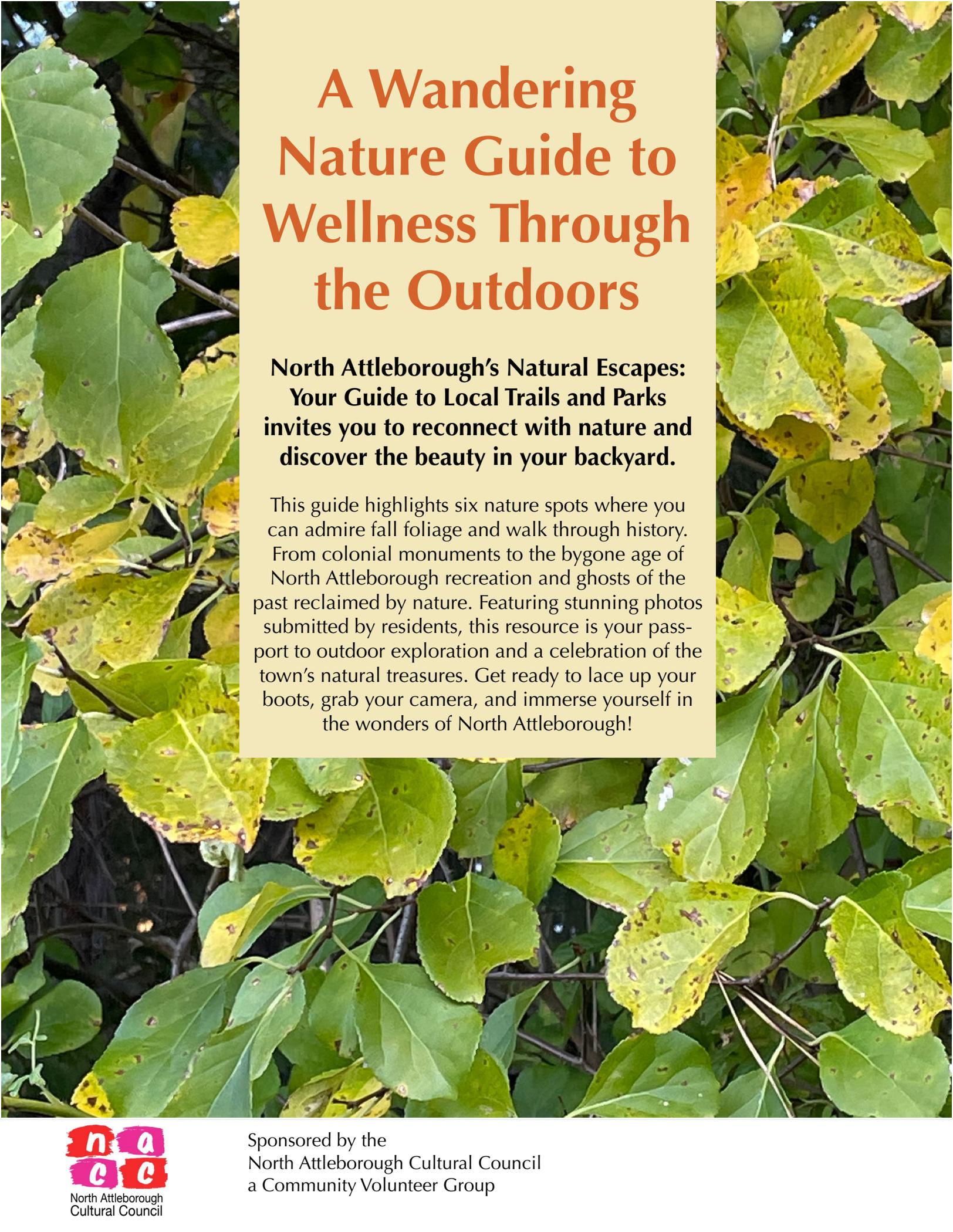
A scenic view of a rocky trail with autumn foliage and a cloudy sky. The foreground shows a gravel path leading through various plants, including tall grasses and shrubs with yellowing leaves. In the background, a vast landscape of rolling hills is visible under a sky filled with soft, grey clouds. A large evergreen tree is partially visible on the left side of the frame.

# North Attleborough's Natural Escapes

**Your Fall Guide to Local Trails and Parks**



North Attleborough  
Cultural Council



# A Wandering Nature Guide to Wellness Through the Outdoors

**North Attleborough's Natural Escapes:  
Your Guide to Local Trails and Parks  
invites you to reconnect with nature and  
discover the beauty in your backyard.**

This guide highlights six nature spots where you can admire fall foliage and walk through history. From colonial monuments to the bygone age of North Attleborough recreation and ghosts of the past reclaimed by nature. Featuring stunning photos submitted by residents, this resource is your passport to outdoor exploration and a celebration of the town's natural treasures. Get ready to lace up your boots, grab your camera, and immerse yourself in the wonders of North Attleborough!

# Ruth Rhind Recreation Area (Camp Shady Pines)



**Trail Type** - Walking

**Difficulty Level** - Easy to moderate

**Length of Trail** - Approximately 0.7 miles

**Location** - 550 Huntsbridge Road  
North Attleborough, MA 02760



## Did You Know?

This peaceful parcel of land is approximately 3-1/2 acres, and has well-marked trails, a baseball field, and a playground. It was dedicated to the memory of Harry W. Fisher, who, along with his wife Beatrice Fisher, donated the site to the North Attleboro Girl Scouts on August 17, 1948, to be used for "better camping for all Girl Scouts". The area, noted for its majestic pines, was named "Shady Pines" by a young camper. The location is named after Ruth Rhind, Camp Director from 1952 to 1965.



## Why is This Worth the Visit?

Ideal for a leisurely walk, the area has a small loop trail that wanders through tall pines and offers views of Abbott Run, a small stream that runs through the edge of the campsite and continues to Robin Hollow Pond.



## Mass Audubon Bird Fact

The Downy Woodpecker is the smallest and most common woodpecker in the Commonwealth. They can be identified by their zebra-stripe pattern, with males showcasing a bright red dot on the back of their heads. Woodpeckers feet are zygodactyls: two toes forward, two behind, rather than the usual three forward, one behind arrangement of other birds.



## Points of Interest

The entrance gates were salvaged from the ruins of the Chateau Dreyfus restaurant after it burned down, having originally adorned the entrance to the Elm Theatre, located on the east side of North Washington Street between Elm Street and Orne Street.

*Photo credit: Kristin Blye*



North Attleborough  
Cultural Council

# Angle Tree Stone



**Trail Type** - Walking

**Difficulty Level** - Easy

**Length of Trail** - 1/4 of a mile

**Location** - 659 High Street  
North Attleborough, MA 02760



## Did You Know?

The original Angle Tree was a White Oak Tree. The monument itself is a nine-foot slate monument created in 1790 by a father-and-son team (Captain Samuel Fisher and his son, Samuel Fisher Jr.) that manufactured grave-stone markers. The marker once stood in an open field, then was enclosed by an iron fence. It is said that as trees began to grow around the stone, its whereabouts were lost, and hunters would use it as target practice. A brick shelter was erected in 1981 to protect the stone from vandalism. Further maintenance was completed in the early 2000s. The stone marks the border between North Attleboro and Plainville, as well as the boundary between Bristol and Norfolk counties.



## Why is This Worth the Visit?

You'll find a quiet, humble country setting, perfect for admiring the fresh fall foliage. Keep an eye out for horseback riders sharing the peaceful path.



## Mass Audubon Bird Fact

Crows are among the most intelligent birds. Non-breeding young from the previous year, and possibly the year before, stay with the parents to become nest helpers, building nests and feeding the incubating female. Crows are omnivores and cache food, meaning they hide food away to provide themselves with a ready food supply during food shortages.



## Points of Interest

The Angle Tree Stone is over 230 years old and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

*Photo credit: Kristin Blye*



North Attleborough  
Cultural Council

# Walk Through History Sunrise Ski Area WW I Park



**Trail Type** - Walking and hiking

**Difficulty Level** - Easy to moderate

**Length of Trail** - Over 3 miles

**Location** - 365 Elmwood Street  
North Attleborough, MA 02760



## Mass Audubon Bird Fact

[Turkey Vultures](#) are large birds with nearly 6-foot wingspans. In flight, they look very dark and hold their wings above their bodies in a shallow “V”. They generally nest on the ground in sheltered areas like hollow logs or caves, lay two eggs per season, and both parents take turns incubating them. Turkey Vultures provide a valuable cleanup service, eating dead animals. These birds are protected by federal laws under the Migratory Bird Act of 1918, as well as by Massachusetts state laws.



## Walk Through History

The Sunrise Ski Area was officially dedicated on November 8, 1970, in memory of Pvt. Edward P. Nolan, whose “untiring efforts were instrumental in the establishment of World War I Memorial Park.” Short but steep, Sunrise served as a great introductory run for beginners and hobbyists. The ski slope continued operations, weather permitting, until the early 2000s. By the end of its lifetime, Sunrise relied on sufficient snowfall to operate and cover the stream that runs across the flat part of the trail at the bottom.

At 390 feet above sea level, Sunrise Hill is the highest point in Bristol County and offers uninterrupted views of the fall foliage. According to the New England Lost Ski Areas Project, Massachusetts has 172 lost ski areas, including Sunrise.

## Historical Credit

[New England Lost Ski Area Project](#)

*Photo credit: Ralph DiMarco*



North Attleborough  
Cultural Council

[View the trail map](#)

# Walk Through History Poor Farm at the Burns Arboretum



**Trail Type** - Walking

**Difficulty Level** - Moderate

**Length of Trail** - Over one mile that connects to the World War I Park

**Location** - 1025 Mount Hope Street  
North Attleborough, MA 02760



## Walk Through History

The North Attleborough Poor Farm - also known as the Almshouse or Town Farm - was a publicly funded institution that operated as a self-sustaining community to house and care for the town's impoverished residents.

Established in the 1860's, the farm was known for its extensive gardens, which produced enough fruits and vegetables to feed the residents, with surplus often sold to townspeople. The property also included supporting structures such as an infirmary, barn, smokehouse/woodshed, hen house, and greenhouse.

Due to high renovation costs and declining need, the Town Farm closed in 1950, when the property was sold to the town. Today, the land is preserved as the Harold Burns Memorial Wildlife Arboretum, which connects to the World War I Park area. Visitors can still see remnants of a paved road and a decommissioned fire hydrant at the entrance to the west loop trail (yellow trail).



## Mass Audubon Bird Fact

Mourning Doves were named for the mournful sound of their owl-like cooing, and are seen in gardens year-round. During take-off and landing, listen for the characteristic whistling sound generated by their wing feathers. While they typically make their nests in bushes and trees, Mourning Doves have been known to take advantage of any horizontal surface—such as the back of a wicker patio couch or the upturned head of a push broom left outside.

*Photo credit: Kristin Blye*



North Attleborough  
Cultural Council

[View the trail map](#)

# Walk Through History Columbia Field Woodcock Burial Grounds



## Columbia Field

**Location** - Behind the Department of Public Works building at 49 Whiting Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760 (Use the driveway to the left of the building to access the field and parking lot).

This historic field hosted the opening game of the legendary “Little World Series” on September 27, 1919. Fueled by the fierce rivalry between wealthy jewelry manufacturers in Attleboro and North Attleborough, the series brought an unprecedented gathering of baseball talent to the area, including Babe Ruth. The game featured an incredible line-up of professional talent, including three future Baseball Hall of Famers who made their lone appearance in the series on Columbia field: Walter Johnson (Washington Senators), Pie Traynor (Pittsburgh Pirates), and Zack Wheat (Brooklyn Robins). The field was also graced by Jim Thorpe (Boston Braves), who is widely considered the Greatest Athlete of the first half of the 20th Century. The 1919 series was won

by Attleboro, and North Attleboro took the 1920 rematch. As you walk the grounds, you are on the same storied soil that hosted an unprecedented gathering of athletic legends.

## Woodcock Burial Ground

**Location** - 358 North Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760 (street parking on Park Street).

Known by many names since 1676 including Old North Burying Ground and Hatch’s Burying Ground, this site is one of the oldest and most significant historical spots in North Attleborough. Legend holds that the first burial was John Woodcock’s son, Nathaniel, who was killed during King Philip’s War and buried where he fell. Today, the burial ground contains about 112 stones dated between 1723 and 1825. Walking here offers a unique, serene moment of contemplation and a direct link to the earliest days of the town’s history.

*Photo credit: Kristin Blye*



North Attleborough  
Cultural Council

# New England Stone Walls

Chances are you've noticed a random stone wall peeking out from the brush while driving down a highway, along a rural road, or on an afternoon walk through the woods.

These regional landmarks began appearing in the mid-1800s, built primarily as a means of disposal. Farmers needed to clear stones from their fields - rocks left behind by receding glaciers - and piling them along the edges not only solved the problem but also helped define property lines. At their peak, experts estimate New England had 240,000 to 250,000 miles of stone walls.



*Photo credit: Kristin Blye*



*Photo credit: Ralph DiMarco*

Farmers often joked that their fields grew two crops: one of grain, and one of stone. Each spring, new rocks surfaced thanks to "frost heave," a natural process where stones rise to the surface as soils freeze and thaw. Some even believed the devil himself was putting them there because they "just kept coming."

By the late 19th century, thousands of farms were abandoned as industrialization spread and agriculture consolidated, leaving the stone walls behind to slowly be swallowed by reforesting land. Today, they serve as vital habitats for plants and animals, and as quiet reminders of early New England life.

## **Historical Credit**

[Northern Woodlands](#)

[Appalachian Mountain Club](#)

[Atras Obscura](#)



North Attleborough  
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# Appendix

## This guide was created in collaboration with:

[Town of North Attleborough](#)

[North Attleborough Cultural Council](#)

[North Attleborough Parks and Recreation](#)

[North Attleborough Conservation Commission](#)

[North Attleborough Parks and Recreation Commission](#)

## Special thanks to:

[Mass Audubon](#)

[Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife](#)

[North Attleborough Historical Society](#)

[North Attleborough Historical Commission](#)

And community members like you

## Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Open Space and Recreation Plan is to reaffirm the commitment of the Town of North Attleborough to protect and enhance the community's natural and cultural resources and improve access to open spaces and recreational facilities. [Access the full plan \(PDF\)](#).

## Apply for a Mass Cultural Council Grant

The North Attleborough Cultural Council (NACC) awards yearly grants to support local programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences—helping enrich the community, grow the economy, increase accessibility, and foster creativity within our town. Part of the Local Cultural Council (LCC) Program, the largest national grassroots cultural funding network, NACC helps distribute a portion of \$7.5 million in annual funding to support projects like field trips, festivals, and performances. Residents with ideas for events or initiatives that benefit the community are encouraged to apply. [Massachusetts Cultural Council funds and grants information and applications](#).

## Special Note

The North Attleborough Cultural Council is made up of volunteers—local residents like you—who donate their time and skills because they believe in the power of culture and want to drive change to better our town. You can make a difference too! Join a town board or committee, or simply attend a public meeting to listen, learn, ask questions, and get involved.

[Complete list of North Attleborough boards and committees](#)

[North Attleborough public meetings and community events calendar](#)