

GA / GAMBOLLERS ANONYMOUS

The Gamboller's Field Guide

*Identification and management of dangerously
picturesque environments*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION / SERIES 02

FIELD GUIDE

There is no shame in walking normally.

FIRST PUBLIC EDITION • 2026
GAMBOLLERSANONYMOUS.COM

PUBLICATION NOTICE

This is a work of fictional institutional comedy. Gambollers Anonymous is not a real support organization and this document is not medical, psychological, or safety advice. Actual gambling and frolicking are generally harmless. Please exercise ordinary judgment around roads, water, heights, and private property.

CONTENTS

Instructions for the Surveyor

01 | The Sunlit Meadow

02 | The Shaded Dell

03 | The Babbling Brook

04 | The Village Green

05 | The Orchard in Blossom

06 | The Hilltop at Golden Hour

07 | The Botanical Garden

08 | The Public Park After Rain

09 | The Seashore

10 | The Woodland Footbridge

11 | The Autumn Leaf Drift

12 | The Supermarket Flower Display

13 | Equipment for the Responsible Surveyor

14 | Recording an Encounter

15 | Closing Field Memorandum

Gambollers Anonymous / The Department of Publications

Instructions for the Surveyor

READ BEFORE ENTERING ANY UNUSUALLY ATTRACTIVE LANDSCAPE

This field guide identifies environments with a documented capacity to interfere with the normal walking habits of otherwise respectable citizens. Its classifications are administrative, not scientific. The Department has never funded a controlled trial of springtime exuberance and does not intend to start unless a very generous donor insists.

The surveyor is asked to observe from a safe location, preferably near a bench, paved path, or public notice board. Avoid bringing a picnic blanket to a high-risk site unless the blanket has a legitimate purpose independent of the meadow's personal appeal.

A location's rating indicates only how likely its features are to inspire unnecessarily playful movement in the fictional world of Gambollers Anonymous. No actual hazard, medical condition, or behavioral diagnosis is implied. This publication is a comedy field manual, not a serious safety advisory.

The Department's five-point temptation index

LEVEL 1 — DULL BUT SERVICEABLE. A place where one may walk without incident.

LEVEL 2 — MILDLY INVITING. An attractive feature, but no clear reason to caper.

LEVEL 3 — NOTICEABLY JAUNTY. A little bounce might enter the stride.

LEVEL 4 — FROLICKING CONDITIONS PRESENT. Multiple invitations to behave theatrically.

LEVEL 5 — EXEMPLARY ROMPING TERRAIN. Consultation with a map is advised.

FIELD NOTE: A five-point rating indicates temptation to the imaginary gamboller, not danger to the actual reader.

01 | The Sunlit Meadow

TEMPTATION INDEX: 5 / 5 — PRINCIPAL CONCERN

IDENTIFICATION. A broad expanse of grass, usually accommodating wildflowers, gentle contours, and a suspicious abundance of space. The meadow's greatest advantage is its apparent lack of boundaries. It offers a hundred different directions and not one of them seems especially urgent.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. First the walker slows to admire the scene. Next comes an appreciative exhalation. Soon the arms begin swinging beyond their operational range, and the body attempts to interpret the horizon as a personal invitation. The observer may hear the words 'Just look at it' immediately before an unnecessary burst of speed.

COMMON MISCLASSIFICATION. A meadow should not be confused with a football pitch. Both contain grass, but a football pitch generally provides an excuse for running. The meadow provides only an atmosphere of blameless possibility, which is more difficult to challenge.

APPROVED RESPONSE. Use the edge path, maintain an actual destination, and decline any impulse to demonstrate how the terrain might be crossed by a particularly happy gazelle. If no edge path exists, walk directly through while refraining from describing the experience as 'magical.'

OFFICER'S COMMENT: The grass does not know your name, regardless of how personally it seems to address you.

02 | The Shaded Dell

TEMPTATION INDEX: 4 / 5 — DECEPTIVELY TRANQUIL

IDENTIFICATION. A small wooded valley, often containing moss, modest watercourses, and a degree of shelter that suggests the outside world has forgotten to send in its paperwork. The dell appears private even when it is not.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. The susceptible person develops an unusual desire to move between trees in a free-form pattern. Speech may become reverential. A previously practical adult may announce a wish to 'dance with the ferns,' an undertaking for which neither the ferns nor the Department has granted permission.

APPROVED RESPONSE. Remember that a dell is simply a topographical feature. It does not require a woodland procession. Avoid improvised crowns of leaves and resist attempts to name nearby rocks as members of an informal court.

SPECIAL CAUTION: Dells may contain actual trip hazards. Watch where you walk, regardless of how poetic the lighting becomes.

03 | The Babbling Brook

TEMPTATION INDEX: 5 / 5 — ACOUSTIC PROVOCATION

IDENTIFICATION. Small moving water that has taken it upon itself to produce a continuous, cheerful sound. A brook differs from a drain primarily in the quality of stories people tell about it.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. Humming may begin within minutes. The subject crouches to inspect pebbles, speaks of 'following the water,' and expresses an impulse to leap from stone to stone although a dry footbridge is readily available.

APPROVED RESPONSE. Appreciate the water from a stable surface. If a crossing is required, use the bridge. The existence of stones in a stream is not evidence that they have been arranged into a recreational obstacle course.

SAFETY OVERRIDE: Real water hazards take precedence over fictional frolicking protocols. Do not jump on slippery stones.

04 | The Village Green

TEMPTATION INDEX: 4 / 5 — COMMUNAL MERRIMENT ZONE

IDENTIFICATION. Grassy civic space surrounded by reassuring buildings, possibly with a bandstand, ornamental clock, or notice board advertising a fête. The green's official function is community enjoyment, a position the Department treats with understandable caution.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. The walker begins to believe that a circular route around the green could be improved through skipping. An accordion, if present, elevates the rating automatically. Unexpected bunting has a similar effect.

APPROVED RESPONSE. Consult the notice board for practical information, then continue to the intended destination. Participation in organized community events is entirely permitted; spontaneous maypole behavior in the absence of a maypole should be recorded separately.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Bell-ringing, brass bands, and cake stalls may intensify cheerful associations. No action required beyond ordinary awareness.

05 | The Orchard in Blossom

TEMPTATION INDEX: 4 / 5 — SEASONAL SURGE

IDENTIFICATION. Rows of fruit trees, often flowering, with a suggestive aisle-like structure that encourages the unsuspecting visitor to proceed as though entering an exceptionally rustic ceremony.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. Subjects may extend their arms to brush blossoms, begin speaking in the future tense about possibility, and experience a strong urge to spin. Spinning is made more likely by the presence of a companion willing to watch.

APPROVED RESPONSE. Stay on permitted paths and respect working farmland. Fruit growing is agriculture, not scenery placed for your private reenactment of a spring festival. Photograph the blossoms if permitted; neither waltz nor pirouette is necessary.

AGRICULTURAL MEMO: Do not climb trees or enter private property for the sake of a particularly picturesque frolic.

06 | The Hilltop at Golden Hour

TEMPTATION INDEX: 5 / 5 — PANORAMIC EXPOSURE

IDENTIFICATION. An elevated location reached as daylight softens. The horizon becomes theatrically persuasive and produces a sensation that someone should be running toward it with outstretched arms.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. The individual pauses, inhales deeply, and may whisper, 'I'm alive.' This is a factual statement but often precedes an unnecessary gallop. In severe fictional cases, a person may attempt to revolve slowly while surveying the countryside.

APPROVED RESPONSE. Stand still, enjoy the view, and recognize that the hilltop has already fulfilled its function. No additional choreography is expected. Descend using the marked trail before twilight compromises actual footing.

TERRAIN CAUTION: Avoid running near cliff edges and steep descents. Real gravity remains in force.

07 | The Botanical Garden

TEMPTATION INDEX: 4 / 5 — CURATED FLORAL PRESSURE

IDENTIFICATION. A formally managed collection of plants, frequently accompanied by labels, attractive pathways, and signage requesting calm behavior. These very signs often provoke an unhelpful desire to move with exaggerated delicacy.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. The individual speaks in an elevated whisper, attempts to invent a dance inspired by orchids, or announces that a particular greenhouse is 'positively enchanted.'

APPROVED RESPONSE. Read the labels. Admire the horticulture. Observe rules forbidding entry to beds and lawns. Remember that the garden was assembled through substantial labor, none of which requires your participation by way of improvised ballet.

FIELD EXCEPTION: Attending a scheduled dance performance at the garden does not constitute unauthorized frolicking.

08 | The Public Park After Rain

TEMPTATION INDEX: 3 / 5 — PUDDLE-RELATED COMPLICATIONS

IDENTIFICATION. A standard park containing paths, benches, trees, and freshly formed puddles capable of reflecting an astonishing amount of sky.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. Some individuals develop the conviction that splashing would be 'good for the soul.' Others seek to jump over puddles that can easily be walked around. A new pair of waterproof boots is frequently cited as justification.

APPROVED RESPONSE. Choose footwear appropriate to the weather, walk around puddles when safe, and permit children and consenting adults to enjoy the rain without bureaucratic harassment. The Department's authority is strictly imaginary.

SPECIAL NOTE: An umbrella should be used as weather protection, not waved overhead as part of a musical number.

09 | The Seashore

TEMPTATION INDEX: 4 / 5 — RHYTHMIC INFLUENCE

IDENTIFICATION. A stretch of sand beside moving water. The repetitive sound of waves, the wide horizon, and absence of painted pavement combine to create a space suspiciously conducive to bounding.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. The walker speeds up, slows down, turns in a circle, and eventually removes shoes with an expression of liberation that the Department is unable to quantify. Attempts to race the advancing foam are common.

APPROVED RESPONSE. Walk at an ordinary pace along safe, permitted areas. Nothing prevents enjoyment of the beach; one simply need not treat every wave as the starting signal for a personal festival of locomotion.

COASTAL SAFETY: Observe tides, currents, and lifeguard instructions. These are real concerns and outrank all fictional classifications.

10 | The Woodland Footbridge

TEMPTATION INDEX: 3 / 5 — CROSSING-INDUCED UPLIFT

IDENTIFICATION. A modest bridge whose railings and surrounding leaves give even a short crossing a sense of adventure. The bridge's primary purpose is to convey people across an obstacle. Its secondary talent is to suggest a memorable entrance.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. The individual pauses in the middle, extends the arms, and looks down into the stream as though awaiting a cue from an orchestra. The urge to hop off one end of the bridge may follow.

APPROVED RESPONSE. Cross at a normal pace. Stop to enjoy the view only where it is safe and permitted. Do not bounce on the decking, regardless of the satisfying noise it might make.

STRUCTURAL REMINDER: Footbridges are infrastructure, not percussion instruments.

11 | The Autumn Leaf Drift

TEMPTATION INDEX: 4 / 5 — TACTILE INVITATION

IDENTIFICATION. A footpath blanketed in crisp leaves. In suitable weather, the ground produces a sound that encourages prolonged dragging of shoes and, subsequently, enthusiastic kicking motions.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. The individual walks through a leaf pile, returns to walk through it again, and describes the second pass as 'necessary to hear the crunch properly.' A spinning motion may be added without warning.

APPROVED RESPONSE. Enjoy the seasonal change while keeping public paths passable. A gentle scuff is not a civic emergency. Avoid leaping blindly into leaf piles, which may conceal hard or sharp objects.

SEASONAL BULLETIN: The Department has not yet reached consensus on leaf angels.

12 | The Supermarket Flower Display

TEMPTATION INDEX: 2 / 5 — URBAN INFILTRATION

IDENTIFICATION. A large floral arrangement at the entrance to a grocery store, commonly positioned adjacent to automatic doors. The display represents the meadow's most successful attempt to penetrate a highly practical environment.

BEHAVIORAL SIGNATURE. The shopper pauses, smiles at the flowers, and briefly forgets the original purchase. At elevated risk, the subject might perform a small skip toward the bakery section.

APPROVED RESPONSE. Consult the shopping list. Purchase the required items. Anyone wishing to buy flowers may do so; romance and horticulture are not violations. However, the dairy aisle is not an appropriate place for a spontaneous springtime procession.

PROCUREMENT NOTE: The Department itself periodically purchases flowers. Staff insist this is purely administrative.

13 | Equipment for the Responsible Surveyor

A COMPACT KIT FOR EXCURSIONS OF UNCERTAIN WHIMSY

The field surveyor requires less equipment than a mountaineer and rather more resolve than someone visiting the shops. A notebook is more useful than a ceremonial walking stick. Comfortable shoes are recommended; bells attached to the ankles are not.

- Route card: a written destination and a plausible time of arrival.
- Small notebook: for recording incidents without embellishment.
- Water bottle: particularly useful on hills and long walks.
- Weather protection: a coat, hat, or umbrella used in the traditional manner.
- A patient companion: preferably one who does not describe every hill as 'calling to us.'

Items expressly unnecessary

No participant needs a ceremonial sash, portable whistle, velvet ribbon, meadow-detection device, or laminated warrant authorizing the bearer to demand calmer walking. The Department cannot promise that such objects would improve composure; indeed, the sash might attract a parade.

EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE: Never forfeit comfort or safety for the sake of a fictional program's appearance of rigor.

14 | Recording an Encounter

INCIDENT CARD AND EXAMPLE ENTRIES

Field observation card

DATE / TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

TERRAIN TYPE: _____

TEMPTATION INDEX (1–5): _____

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES: _____

WITNESSED MOVEMENT: _____

SENSIBLE ROUTE AVAILABLE? YES / NO / UNCLEAR

RESOLUTION: _____

Example of a compliant record

LOCATION: Municipal park, north path. CONDITIONS: Sunny with breeze, low-level accordion music from an unrelated event. MOVEMENT: One involuntary toe tap; no detectable elevation of both feet. RESPONSE: Continued to post office. CONCLUSION: No further action.

Example requiring committee attention

LOCATION: Meadowside footpath. CONDITIONS: Buttercups and a gentle slope. MOVEMENT: Four consecutive skips followed by an arm flourish. RESPONSE: Subject said, 'Well, it was there.' CONCLUSION: Route planning recommended before future errands.

Records should be accurate but not judgmental. The Department has long observed that the individual inclined to describe a leap as a 'slightly elevated stride' is often the same individual who would prefer the form contained no space for witnesses.

15 | Closing Field Memorandum

WHAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED ABOUT THE WORLD

After inspecting meadows, dells, orchards, beaches, and the produce entrance at the supermarket, the careful reader may notice a troubling pattern: nearly everywhere is capable of being beautiful. The Department cannot change this. Nor, truthfully, would it wish to.

Its purpose is to provide a respectable vocabulary for an entirely frivolous problem. A person can enjoy the sunlight without conducting a personal ceremony in it. A person can also, if they so choose, hop once across the grass and continue on their way. The documents you hold are not binding. They are artifacts from a fictional world in which ordinary pleasures require a great deal of paperwork.

Keep this guide close for those days when the route home passes something dangerously picturesque. It will not prevent a skip. It may, however, provide an excellent reason to laugh about it.

Observe the meadow. Respect the meadow. Do not permit the meadow to chair the meeting.

GAMBOLLERS ANONYMOUS — DEPARTMENT OF FIELD CONDITIONS