

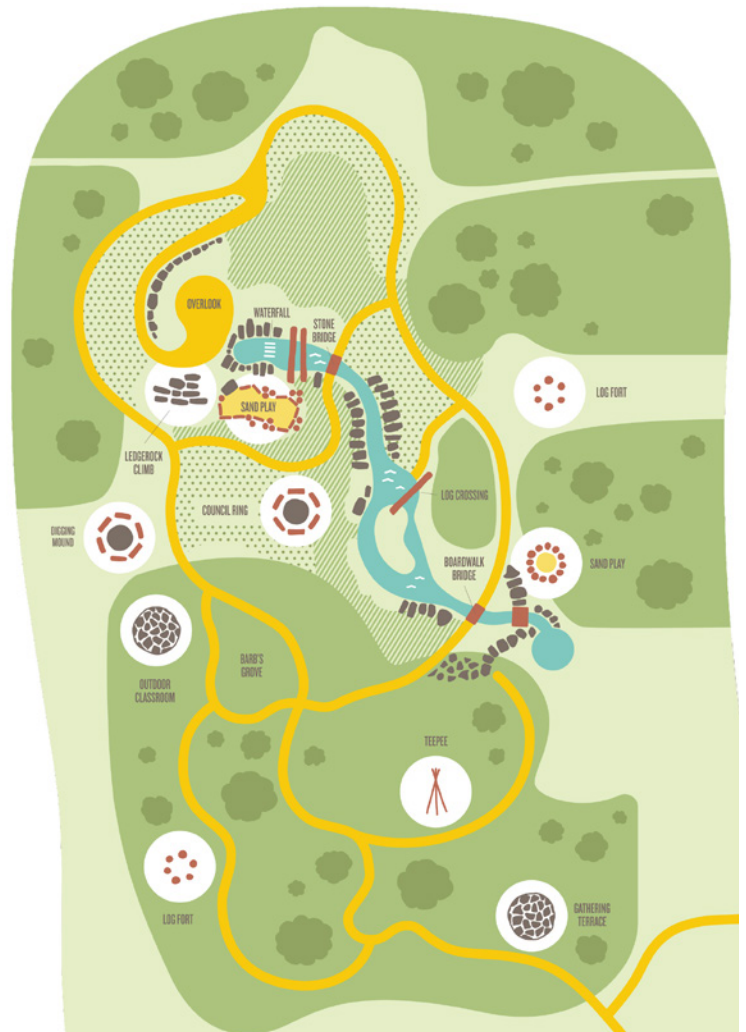


# NATURE PLAYSCAPE



## ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- Smell the various tree leaves (sassafras, pawpaw, spicebush) and flowers.
- Touch bark, feel sand and soil.
- Listen for birds.
- Taste some of the wild plants (with permission). We have mint, honey suckle, spicebush.
- Search for decomposers by flipping over logs or digging in the soil (worms, slugs, snails, roly-polys, beetles, mushrooms)
- Go off the normal trails in the Nature Playscape.
- Climb the vines.
- Search for the different pollinators that the wildflowers bring in (bees, wasps, butterflies).
- Play with bedstraw.
- Climb a tree.
- Go on an insect hunt (find grubs, dragonflies, praying mantis, beetles, and more).
- Make a secret fort.
- Create nature mandalas.
- Go bird watching (bring your binoculars and a field guide for the ultimate experience).
- Start a nature journal and write about or draw out your observations.
- Practice your balancing skills (try balancing on logs, rocks, or on stacked rocks/sticks).



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# NATURE PLAYSCAPE



## ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- Make nature potions.
- Build a faerie/gnome home.
- "Bake" mud pies.
- Make your own nest out of natural items (mud, sticks, grass, twigs, and leaves).
- Make natural instruments and start a band.
- Flip logs to find insects, frogs, and salamanders.
- Make your own sensory basket (collect different leaves, nuts, seeds, etc. to compare the different textures).
- Be an animal/nature detective! Search for clues of wildlife like footprints or scat.
- Make flower crowns/chains.
- Go on a scavenger hunt using our field guides from the front desk... or create a scavenger hunt of your own!
- Delve into nature photography.
- Have a picnic with your family.
- Build things out of loose parts (use rocks, wood, sticks) to build a tiny house or tiny town.
- Do nature rubbings of leaves or other natural materials.
- Play nature tic-tac-toe with sticks and rocks.
- Design an obstacle course.
- Climb all the rocks you see.

## WHAT IF IT'S RAINING?

- Become a puddle scientist!**  
How deep is the puddle? How wide?  
What shape did it form?
- Dig for worms.**
- Jump and splash in puddles.**
- Look in the creek and see what the rain brings in.**
- Play in the mud and sand.**  
Make mud pies, craft potions, or try sculpting the mud into a critter. Use the sand and explore the textures or different ways to sculpt