

Nature Discovery Area

Nescopeck State Park

Importance of Nature Play



Growing research is confirming what many of us have known all along - **playing outside is good for you!**

Ongoing research by the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation and its partners shows that regular opportunities to learn with nature can help children:

- build visual-spatial skills
- strengthen powers of observation and creativity
- improve ability to concentrate, even among children with behavioral challenges
- enhance motor skills such as coordination, balance, and agility
- develop imagination and a sense of wonder...motivating factors for life-long learning.

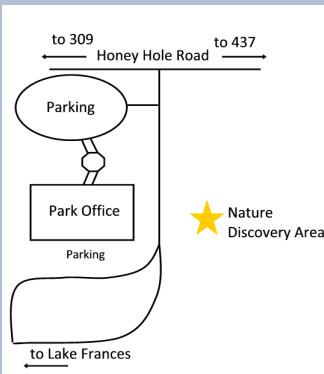
Learn more at:

<http://dimensionsfoundation.org/research.html>

Where Can I Find It?

The Nature Discovery Area is located by the park office.

Limited parking is available behind the park office. A larger parking lot is available in the front visitor parking lot.



Come Explore

Open during park hours; sunrise to sunset, daily.



Each area is unique and encourages spontaneous play, the use of imagination, and creativity.

While most features of the Discovery Area are always ready and waiting to be explored, some items, such as the handheld musical instruments and digging tools, are stored in an on-site shed and available on a self-serve basis.

Visitors are welcome to take out what they need to play and must return it to the shed when they're finished.



Help yourself!

Note that some equipment is seasonally stored indoors and is unavailable during the cold winter months.

Gathering Area



Even though we strongly encourage you to play and explore as a family, the gathering area is a place where folks can rest while the kids explore.

From this vantage point, you can see the entire discovery area. Additional benches can also be found near each play area.

Mud Kitchen



The “fully stocked” mud kitchen is a favorite of all ages, so come prepared to get dirty!

A rain barrel collects a non-potable water supply for mixing up your creations and hand-washing.

Dirt Digging



Who doesn't love to dig in the dirt?!

You can even bring your own construction toys. Let the demolition begin!

Messy Materials Area



A giant pile of sticks await busy little fort designers!

For an added challenge, see how many ways you can use the colorful gaskets (called 'stick-lets') to hold sticks together.



Climbing Area



Swarm the hive, scale the platforms, perch on a giant rock, “walk the plank”... and let your imagination take over!

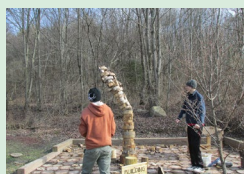
A pirate ship, a fort...what will you imagine it to be?

Music & Movement



Make some noise, dress up like a butterfly and dance!

Building Area



Explore your inner architect with giant tree cookies and unique blocks.

How high will your tower be?

Nature Art



Sketch on a giant chalkboard or get an up close look at unique natural items.

Get inspired!



The Concept of Outdoor Classrooms

The Nature Discovery Area at Nescopeck State Park was designed by Nature Explore, a collaborative project of the Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation.

If you're interested in designing your own outdoor classroom – even one on a smaller, simpler scale – this is a great place to start. The education staff at the park is also more than happy to discuss any questions you may have.

<http://www.natureexplore.org/>

Nature classrooms come in all shapes and sizes – if you're up for a road trip, here are a few other places with designated nature play areas:

- Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/sateparks/findapark/noldeforest/index.htm>
- Delaware Canal State Park
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/sateparks/findapark/delawarecanal/index.htm>
- Nay Aug Avenue Nature Play Area
1735 Nay Aug Avenue
Scranton, PA 18509

More Information

For more information contact:

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