



DEER RUN TRAIL SCAVENGER HUNT

For our tour today, we are going to explore Deer Run Trail around the Kensington Nature Center and the Boardwalk on Wildwing Lake. Through the Scavenger Hunt students will observe how plants and animals survive in their environments, and how they interact with each other. This is a great time for students to take a field trip with their families. It is also a valuable add-on or introduction to our virtual school programming.

Please keep in mind that we do not allow dogs on the trails, and if you bring bird seed, only feed it to the small birds that can land in your hand. Turkeys, Sandhill Cranes, and mammals such as squirrels and chipmunks should never be given food. A Metropark's Vehicle pass is all that is needed to participate.

The trails described here are crushed limestone, or boardwalk. Portions of Deer Run Trail can be muddy, icy, or snow covered depending on seasonal conditions. Boardwalks and wooden bridges can be slippery when wet. Not all boardwalks and bridges have edge protection 3" high. There are a few short but steep inclines on Deer Run Trail.

Kingfisher Lagoon & Kensington Nature Center

A *What Happened Here?*

Why is Kingfisher Lagoon getting smaller?

Who Lives Here? Look at the animals on the sign. Which do you see? Hear?

B *The Wonder of Wildflowers*

There is usually something blooming around the Nature Center May-September, even into October. What pollinators can you find? Can you find something that might eat a pollinator? What are some of the things animals use plants for besides food?

C *Meet Ranger, the Red-tailed Hawk*

Why does Ranger stay with us at Kensington Nature Center? What do you think he eats?

D *Making use of Marshes*

What are some uses of sedges? What animals do you think you might find hidden in the sedges? Which ones did you see?

E *Sign post 16, head towards 15*

The birds are tame along this section. Did any examine you up close? What did it look like? What did it say?

F *Sign post 15, head towards 14*

G *Toppled Trees*

Look at the trees on your left that seem to be standing in the water. Why do they fall over so

easily? What color are they? Do they still have their needles?

H *A pyramid built on Water*

Try to spot a plant or animal, then figure out where it would be on the pyramid. Where are you on the food pyramid?

I *Sign post 14, head towards 12*

Notice how the trees got bigger here. Look for some signs of animals that live here: Woodpecker holes, places where turkeys have scratched the leaves aside, acorn and hickory seed hulls left behind by chipmunks.

J *Sign post 12, head towards 11*

Sit quietly in the shelter. Can you hear anything? This is a good spot to listen for woodpeckers. Can you hear the heavy thump of the pileated woodpecker?

K *Sign post 11, head towards 10*

A lot of trees have fallen here. Can you see the smaller trees taking the place of those that fell? Do the new trees look like the same species as those that fell?

L *Persistence pays off*

What is the first flower to bloom in Kensington? Why might hungry deer avoid eating this plant?

M *Sign post 10 head towards 9; from sign post 9, head towards 7*

Did you find the small fenced in area on the left?

What is it used for? Can you see a difference in the plants inside the fence compared to outside the fence? (Any difference is most obvious during May)

N *Signpost 7, head towards 8; from sign post 8, head towards 1*

O *Unstable Ground*

What is hidden under the trees, moss and other plants?

P *Boardwalk on Wildwing Lake*

Q *Seasonal Extremes of a Shallow Lake*

Why and when might you find dead fish on Wildwing Lake? Did you see any fish (live or dead!) on your visit?

R *A Nest Neighborhood*

Can you find the Great Blue Heron nests? Carefully look through the cattails. Can you see or hear any birds? Muskrats? Frogs? Turtles?

We hope that your students all get the chance to participate in the scavenger hunt. To bring more Metroparks fun into your classroom, check out our virtual programming at metroparks.com/virtual

