

Welcome to the Environmental Discovery Center (EDC)!

We have created this Social Story as a preview guide for individuals with Sensory Processing and Autism Spectrum differences and their parents and caregivers to assist in preparation for their visit to the center.

Please feel free to bring what you need for making the visit a success, including:

- Wagons or strollers
- Communication boards or devices
- Sensory and adaptive accessories and equipment
- Snacks/drinks (but please consume these outdoors or in our lobby area, not in the display area or Pond Level)
- If it is more comfortable for you and your child, you may use the staff restroom located near the restrooms on the lobby level.
- Check with staff for suggestions on lower noise areas that may be suitable for breaks.

Please be mindful that:

- We understand when it comes to your child, you are the expert and best know how to address their needs. We expect that a parent or caregiver will accompany their loved one through the visit.
- Since you are the expert, we would greatly appreciate your feedback. Please complete an evaluation located at the front desk so we can learn what worked and how we can continue improving.
- The main area of the center has high ceilings which can make noises echo and seem loud. The Pond Dome creates unique acoustics which bounce sound and echo loudly.
- The south side of the EDC and Lower Pond area have close edges and boardwalks to pond water. Out on the Woodland trail, there are many elevated boardwalks and several bridges over the Huron Swamp wetlands and Huron River headwaters.
- Visitors must always stay on the nature trail pathways.

We look forward to seeing you and your family during your visit to Indian Springs Metropark.

*Some of the exhibits may be off display due to current restrictions.

**My visit to
Indian Springs Metropark
Environmental
Discovery Center**



Park Entrance



To enter Indian Springs Metropark, we will first stop at the toll booth. Here we will buy our park pass or have our car sticker scanned. Then we can continue driving into the park.

Outside Building, Parking Lot/Entrance



When we arrive, I will first see the entrance sign to the Environmental Discovery Center.

Outside Building, Parking Lot/Entrance



The parking lot and walkway to the front of the building has a lot of grasses. I will make sure to keep my feet on the pavement. The walkway will take me into the building.

Lobby



As I enter the building, I will start my visit in the lobby. There are bathrooms and a drinking fountain near the front door.

Lobby



I can see a large map of the park and look down at the big cattail, insects and frog sculpture.

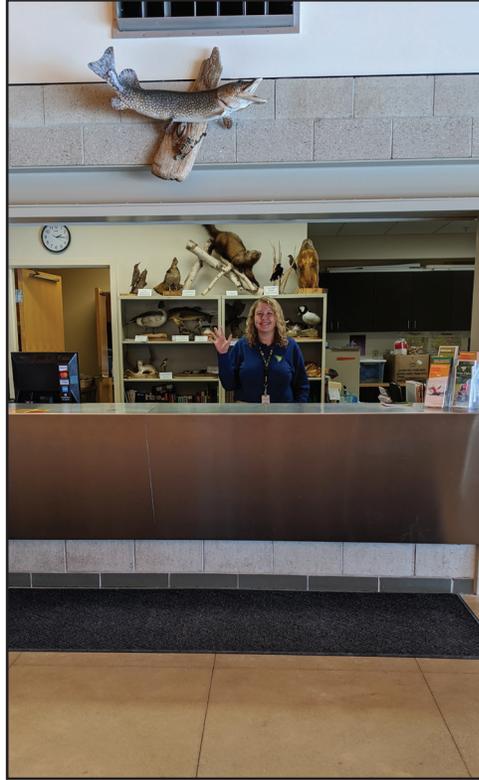


There is a wolf mount I can see up close. It is not alive, but looks just like they do in the wild.

Lobby



I can feel the nature items on the touch tables.



I can stop by the Front Desk to say hi to friendly staff if I would like. Here is where we can ask any questions about the park. I also may be able to check out a backpack if they are available during my visit.



Upstairs Hallway



Past the front desk and down the hallway, there are windows to look out at the Discovery Pond, or peek into the Lab classroom. On sunny days, this area is very bright.

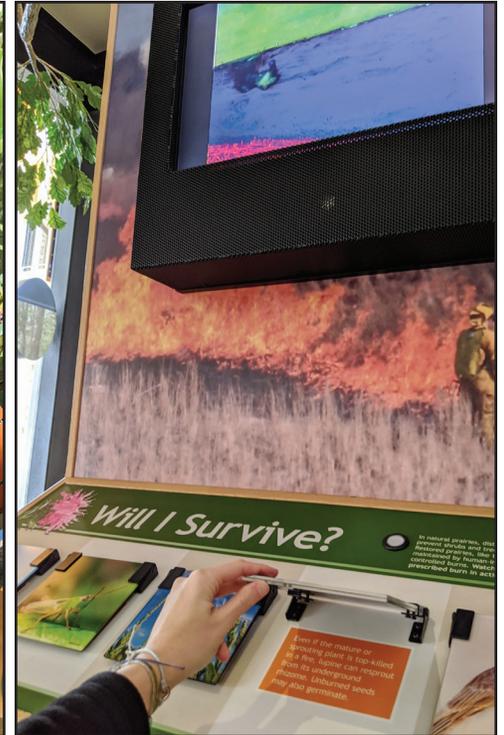
Display Level



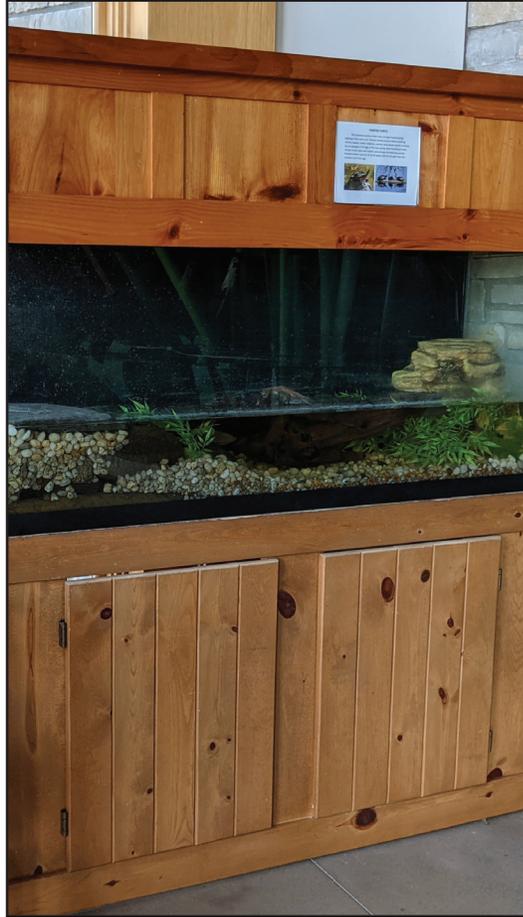
Using the stairs or elevator, we can go down to the lower level to explore the displays. There are more bathrooms and a drinking fountain on this level.



I can play with the displays by lifting, moving, watching, listening and touching. Some of the displays play sounds or videos, and others can sound loud when the pieces move.



Display Level



I can sit at the reading table and look at books, sit and play with fish on the carpet space, build with wooden blocks at the table, or watch Picasso the painted turtle.

I should always...

- use walking feet to explore indoors.
- be able to see my adult.
- be gentle and careful around the sculpture and glass.

Sometimes it is quiet on the display level. Other times it can be busy and loud.

Pond Level



Down the stairs or elevator, I can go to the Pond Level.

It is a little darker on this level. Normal voices can seem loud on this level. It might be helpful to use a whisper voice down here.

Pond Level



Along the hallway, I can look through windows out into the Discovery Pond.

Pond Level



In the Pond Dome, I can search for fish swimming around while I rest. When it is sunny outside, the light shines brightly through the water into the Dome.

*Inside the Dome, sounds and voices will echo depending where you stand.

Pond Deck & Discovery Trails



The doors on the Display Level open to Pond Deck and Discovery trails. Many animals make their home in the park, so it is important that everyone always keep their feet on the trails, away from boardwalk edges, and stay out of the water.

Throughout the year sometimes the trails are wet and muddy, sometimes the trails are dry and dusty, and sometimes the trails are snowy and icy. The trails are made of mixed gravel, sometimes they are hilly and sometimes they are flat. It is important to wear the appropriate gear when visiting to ensure I have fun while hiking and exploring the park on the nature trails!

My favorite thing today at Indian Springs Environmental Discovery Center was
