

NATURE WALK: DOCENT LED

HIDDEN HOMES TRAIL WALK (RIVER CENTER) RECOMMENDED

LOST LAKE PARK TRAIL (LOST LAKE PARK)

EXPLORE NATURE WITH ONE OF OUR KNOWLEDGABLE NATURE DOCENTS AS YOU LEARN ABOUT THE PLANTS, ANIMALS AND BIRDS THAT CALL OUR AREA HOME

First Grade NGSS DCI Addressed:

[LS1.A](#) Structure and Function

- [1-LS1-1](#)

[LS1.B](#) Growth & Development of Organisms

- [1-LS1-2](#)

[LS1.D](#) Information Processing

- [1-LS1-1](#)

Pre-Trip Information

- [Something's Fishy at the River Video](#)
- [Respecting Nature Video](#)

Objectives:

- Learn to use their five senses while observing their surroundings
- Become more aware about the importance of open space in urban areas; and
- Learn about some of the flora, fauna and relationships that exist between them along the nature trail.
- Identify and discuss habitats of animals that live along the trail or on the ponds & rivers
- Observe animal behavior and discuss how this helps them survive
- Discuss some of the ways humans impact our river and surrounding lands both in negative and positive ways

Set Up: *None*

Introduction:

- What should one be looking for when on a nature hike?
- What is the purpose of a nature hike? (*They allow students to become explorers and discoverers, and give students a chance to see first-hand what they might have been studying in the classroom. They also allow students to see for themselves the beauty and importance of open space in urban areas.*)

Activity:

- 1) Tell the students they are going to go on an adventure.
 - a. Ask them if they have ever been on a nature hike before.
 - b. Ask them what kinds of rules they have to remember while on this hike.

SUGGESTIONS: Stay together, stay quiet so that they can hear nature's sounds; walk, don't run; stay on the trail.
 - c. Introduce some the species they might be encountering on their nature hike.
- 2) Ask the students if trash is a natural part of nature.
 - a. Do they like seeing trash in nature?
 - b. Designate someone to carry a trash bag for the first part of the trip; switch off every few minutes to give others the opportunity to carry the bag. Tell them they will be on a quest to find "unnatural" items on their nature hike.
- 3) Go for it!

*Refer to the "Lost Lake Park Audubon Nature Trail Guide" as a reference for field trips at Lost Lake Park.

Discussion:

What did students learn on their nature trail?

Did they enjoy seeing trash on the nature trail?

What kinds of animals did they see/hear on the nature trail?

What are some things they saw the animals doing?

Post-Trip Activity

- Have students write and draw something they SAW, HEARD, SMELLED and FELT from their nature walk (W.1.3).
- Have students brainstorm ideas on why nature trails are important and how we can keep them beautiful and healthy
- Give students opportunities to make nature better by picking up trash or planting something