



Farmington Hills Nature Center  
Taking learning outside!  
*Self-Guided*



**FPS 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Science Unit – Shifting Sands**

The Farmington Hills Nature Center is excited to offer **self-guided nature walks connected to your child's current science unit!** Programs are designed in partnership with FPS science teachers to support classroom learning outcomes. Enjoy the beauty of nature and enhance your child's learning!

Use the **provided map** to take a nature walk along the Heritage Park trails to the Rouge River. Encourage your child to be a detective and think about what they're investigating in their science unit, *Shifting Sands*: **How can wind and water change the shape of the land?** Bring a pencil so your student can **record their observations and discoveries** (or write the evidence when you get home).

After, consider stopping by the Nature Center (during open hours) to see our live animals and exhibits.

**START** on River Trail and follow the red stars (★) marked on the Map to the bridge over the Rouge River. On the way back take Estate Trail to return to the Nature Center.

***Think like a scientist and an engineer looking for Evidence!***  
**Stop at all the red stars marked on the Map (★).**

**#1: Be a scientist looking for evidence that earth materials like soil, rocks, and leaves, have been changed by water or wind.**

"I think water/wind changed \_\_\_\_\_ because I noticed \_\_\_\_\_."  
(i.e., soil, rocks, leaves) (Evidence)

**#2: Be an engineer looking for engineered solutions used to slow or prevent water from flooding and eroding the Nature Trail (such as native plants, pipes, and signs).**

"I think Heritage Park engineers might use \_\_\_\_\_ to protect the Nature Trails because I noticed \_\_\_\_\_."  
(Evidence)

*At the Bridge over the Rouge River:*

Find evidence that the Rouge River sometimes floods over the bridge, causing harm to the structure.

Throw a leaf or small stick into the Rouge River and notice which way the water flows.

For a longer hike, continue on the River Trail Loop.

**Challenge: Use Google Maps to follow the Rouge River from Heritage Park all the way to the Atlantic Ocean!**

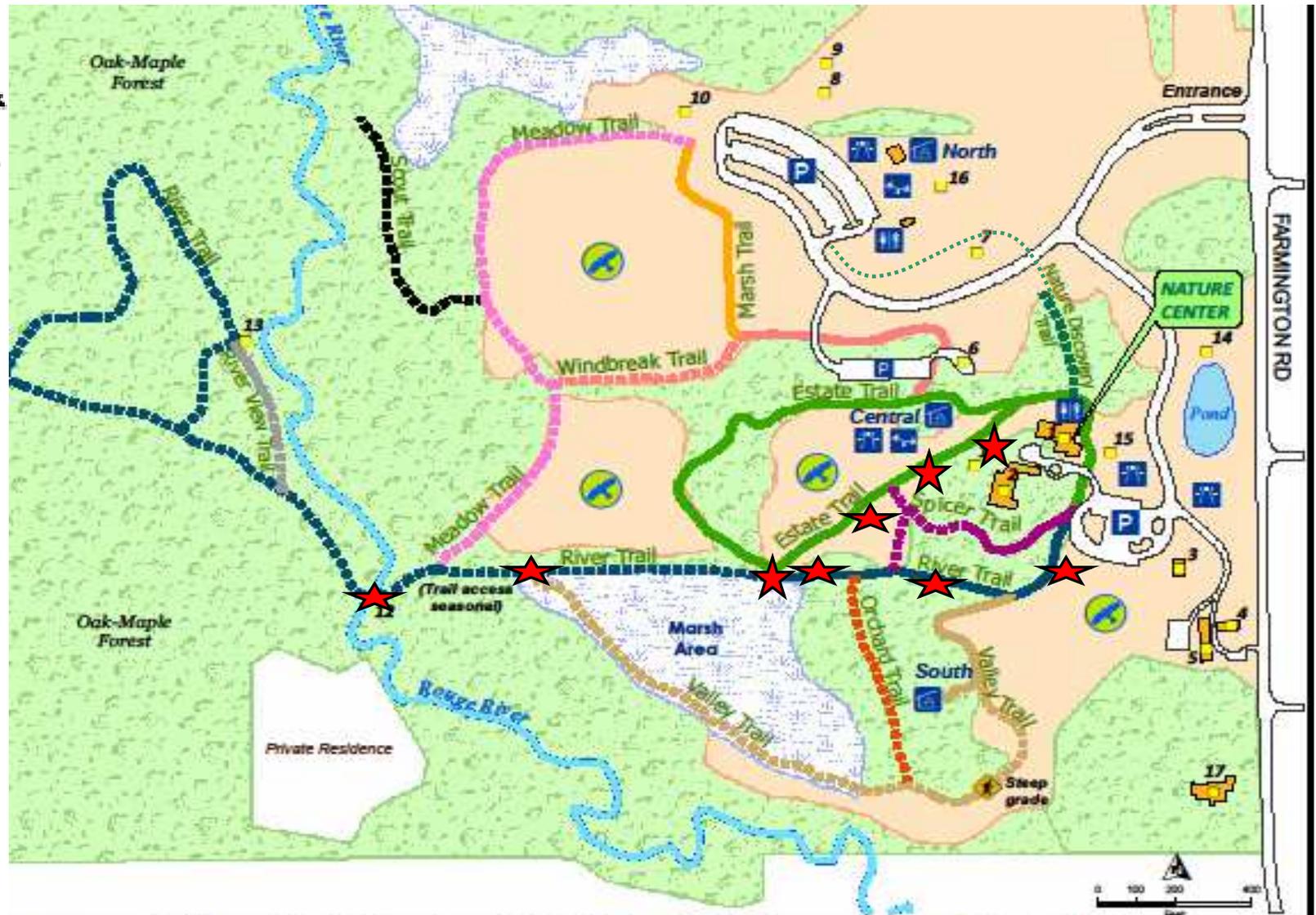
Thanks for visiting the  
Farmington Hills  
Nature Center!  
(248) 477-1135



FPS 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Heritage Park  
Self-guided  
Education  
Nature Walk



Observation  
Spots  
Second Grade  
Science Unit:  
*Shifting  
Sands*



| Trail Legend (Solid lines=Paved, Dashed lines=Mulched) |  | Points of Interest   |
|--|--|--|
| Flooded  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estate Trail - 0.5 mi</li> <li>Marsh Trail - 0.1 mi</li> <li>Meadow Trail - 0.3 mi</li> <li>Nature Discovery Trail - 0.06 mi</li> <li>Orchard Trail - 0.1 mi</li> <li>River Trail - 1 mi</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature Center &amp; Day Camp</li> <li>Vagnucci Center</li> <li>Barn</li> <li>Heritage &amp; History Center</li> <li>Stables Studio</li> <li>Amphitheater</li> <li>In-line Rink</li> <li>Volleyball</li> <li>Homeschool</li> <li>Sled Hill</li> <li>Serenity Garden</li> <li>Rouge River Bridge</li> <li>Rouge River Overlook</li> <li>Windmill</li> <li>Campfire Ring</li> <li>Splashpad &amp; Concessions</li> <li>The Longacre House</li> </ol> |
| Wetlands   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River View Trail - 0.08 mi</li> <li>Scout Trail - 0.1 mi</li> <li>Spicer Trail - 0.05 mi</li> <li>Valley Trail - 0.5 mi</li> <li>Windbreak Trail - 0.3 mi</li> </ul>                                |  |