



Farmington Hills Nature Center
Taking learning outside!
Self-Guided



FPS 3rd Grade Science Unit – No Place Like Home

Parents/Guardians:

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. Encourage your child to be a detective and think about what they're investigating in their science unit, *No Place Like Home*: **Why do plants of the same type look like each other, but are not exactly the same?** Variations in characteristics among individual plants of the same type may provide advantages in surviving! Consider having your student take photos to **record their observations and discoveries**.

Take a nature walk using the provided map. **Stop often to find a patch of plants to investigate**. Notice that they all have similar characteristics, but if you look closely, they don't all look exactly the same. At each patch, choose **ONE** individual plant to describe or draw. Observe as many details as possible.

Find as many different types of plants to investigate as you can!

Start at the **red star** on the map in front of the Nature Center. Find patches of plants to investigate.

Next take the Nature Discovery Trail to the next **red star** at "Monarch Meadows" (our native plant habitat loop), finding more plants to observe (like a scientist!). Then use the map to pick a trail of your choice to walk and discover!

Heritage Park is a sanctuary for native plants. Although their colorful flowers are gone, plant seed pods and stalks are beautiful throughout the winter.

These are some of the many wildflower plants you might see:



Goldenrod



Milk Weed



Cattail

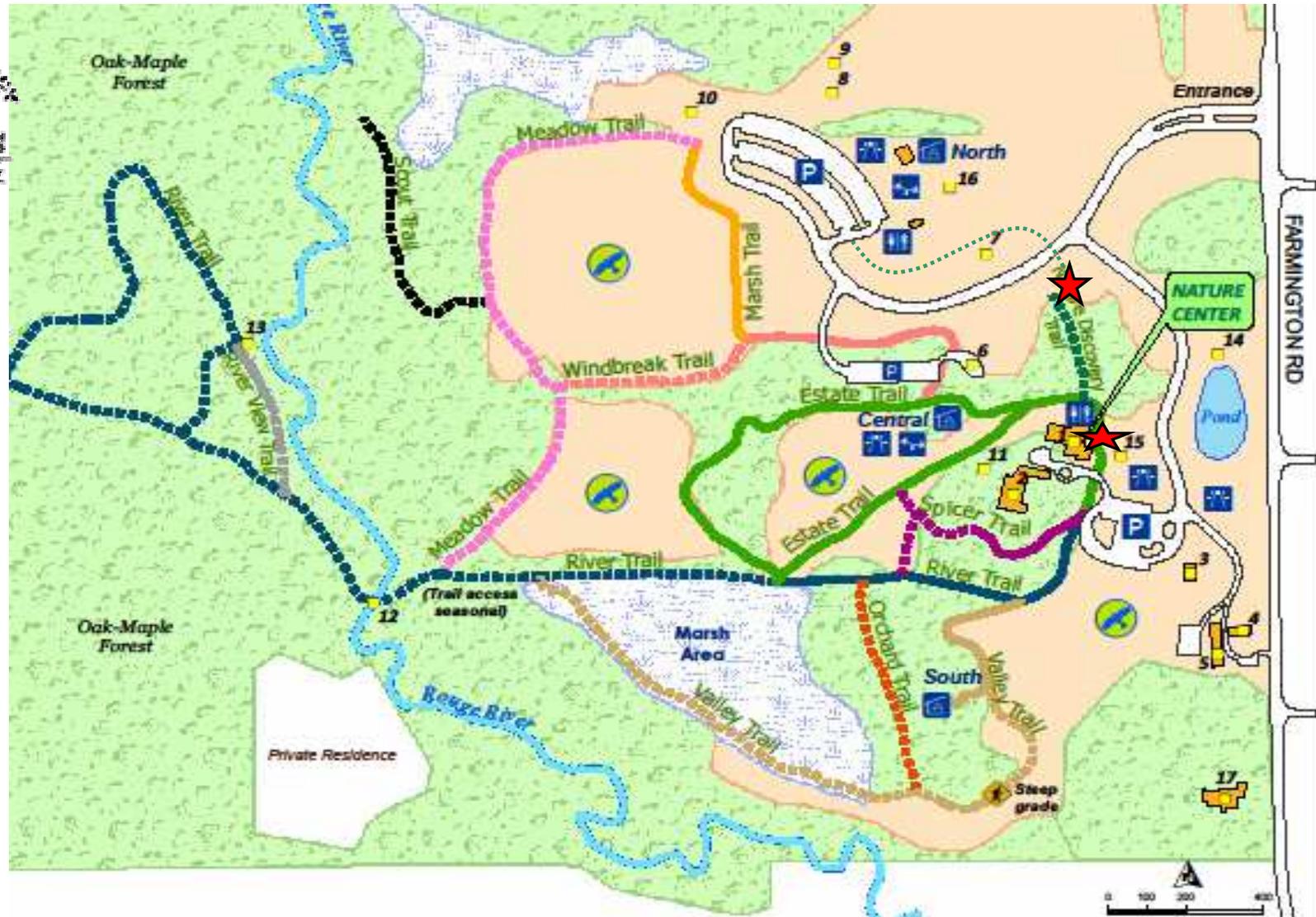
After, consider stopping by the Nature Center (during open hours) to see our live animals and exhibits.

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



FPS 3rd grade
Heritage Park
Self-guided
Education
Nature Walk

★
Observation
Spots for
Science
Unit:
*Shifting
Sands*



Trail Legend (Solid lines=Paved, Dashed lines=Mulched)		Points of Interest
Flooded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estate Trail - 0.5 mi Marsh Trail - 0.1 mi Meadow Trail - 0.3 mi Nature Discovery Trail - 0.06 mi Orchard Trail - 0.1 mi River Trail - 1 mi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nature Center & Day Camp 2. Vagnucci Center 3. Barn 4. Heritage & History Center 5. Stables Studio 6. Amphitheater 7. In-line Rink 8. Volleyball 9. Horseshoes
Meadow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River View Trail - 0.08 mi Scout Trail - 0.1 mi Spicer Trail - 0.05 mi Valley Trail - 0.5 mi Windbreak Trail - 0.3 mi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Sled Hill 11. Serenity Garden 12. Ruge River Bridge 13. Ruge River Overlook 14. Windmill 15. Campfire Ring 16. Splashpad & Concessions 17. The Longacre House
Wetlands		