

Accessible Adventure Outdoor Discovery Center

A program designed for individuals with special needs, along with their families, friends, and companions.

This social story will help me know what to expect during my visit to the Outdoor Discovery Center. I will learn about what I may see, hear, and experience.

Things to know before my visit:

- I will stay on the nature trail during my visit.
- I may see animals and hear unexpected sounds.
- The weather may change during my visit.
- If I need someone for comfort during my visit or activity, I'll bring them with me.



**We look forward to welcoming you to
the Outdoor Discovery Center!**



Preparing for My Visit



I will be outside during my visit, so I can wear comfortable clothes and shoes. I can bring a jacket or layers for the weather. I may see grass, trees, dirt, bugs, and other natural things.

Preparing for My Visit



I can bring anything else that helps me feel comfortable and ready to explore!

- Water and a snack
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- A wagon, stroller, or mobility equipment
- A communication board or device
- Sensory or adaptive equipment, such as headphones or a fidget

Main Parking Lot Entrance:

4214 56th Street, Holland, MI 49423



As I enter the parking lot, I may see some green welcome signs. The signs let me know I have arrived at the Outdoor Discovery Center.

Staying Safe in the Parking Lot



I may see and hear buses in the parking lot.

I also see tall solar lights

I will stay with my companion in the parking lot and watch for moving vehicles. I will use designated walking areas when available and follow directions. I will stop and look before crossing the parking lot.

Things I May See Along the Way



As I walk near the buildings, I may notice animal tracks and a compass rose in the concrete. I can look at these features as I walk by. I may also notice different smells from nearby farms.

It Could Be Busy



Sometimes, there are a lot of people around, and it can feel busy and loud. If I feel overwhelmed, I can take a break in a quiet space.
I can ask staff for help finding one, use my calming tools, and take deep breaths.

When I See Wildlife



I may see wild animals on the trails. If I spot something interesting, I can share it with a friend. I'll observe from a safe distance and stay quiet. Sometimes, with staff guidance, I can see and gently touch animals up close if I choose.

Exploring the Trails



Accessible Adventure may have other people visiting the stations. I may see staff, volunteers, families, and other participants. When I explore, I will stay on the trail and follow the trail markers. I can stop to take a break, drink water, and enjoy nature. I will watch where I step and respect plants, animals, and other people.

My Accessible Adventure

CHECK OUT THE MAP!

- All 6 stations are marked on the map
- You'll also see maps at each station



Restrooms



Quiet Spaces



Trail Blazes



There is no wrong way to experience Accessible Adventure. I can choose which stations I want to visit and take breaks when I need them. I can visit the stations in any order and stay as long as I want. If a station is busy, I can wait, visit another station, or come back later.

If I need help, I can look for a staff member or volunteer wearing a radio. They are here to help me.

Herb Eldean Education Center

Station 1: Check-in & Quiet Space



Herb Eldean
Education Center



I will start at the Herb Quiet Space. I can check in and learn about the activities available today. I can ask questions or look at the information before deciding where I want to go. The Herb Quiet Space is also a place where I can take a break or use the multi-stall restroom if I need to.

DeVisser Discovery Pavilion

Station 2: Live Animal Encounter Bunny



I can visit a live bunny with help from a staff member. Under staff guidance, I may be able to choose to gently touch the bunny. I can also choose to watch the bunny without touching it. I may sit while I visit with the animal. I will use gentle hands and a quiet voice around the bunny.

DeVisser Discovery Pavilion

Station 2: Quiet Room



There is also a family restroom and quiet room nearby, if I need them.

Sensory Trail Station 3: Smells



I can visit the sensory trail bench and explore different smells.

I may smell jars containing different scents. I can also look at large pictures of the items.

I can choose which scents I want to smell. I do not have to smell any of the jars, or I can choose to smell only some of them.

Sensory Trail

Station 4: Listening



I can PRESS the button once to hear the sound.

At the sensory pond, I can listen to a variety of sounds.

I can push a button to listen to the sounds. I can look at large pictures while I listen.
I can ask for help if the sounds are too loud. I can choose which sounds I want to hear.
I can choose to look without listening to any sounds.

Doug and Kori Eldean Rentz Art Trail

Station 5: Looking for Birds



At the tree stump, I can explore nature using my eyes and ears.
I can use binoculars or a scope to look for birds. A scope will be mounted on tripods to make it easier to use. I can also listen to bird calls by pressing a button and look at pictures of birds.
I can sit while I explore.

Doug and Kori Eldean Rentz Art Trail

Station 6: Build-a-Nest Activity



At the Art Trail table, I can build a nest using various natural materials.
I can choose different sizes and explore them with my hands, thinking about
how animals make their homes.
There's no right or wrong way to create my nest.

When I Am Finished



When I am finished exploring the stations, I will stay with my companion.
If I want to, I can ask my companion about visiting the play park.

When I Am Finished



When I am finished exploring the stations, I will stay with my companion.

If I want to, I can ask my companion about visiting the play park.

When we are ready to leave, I will stay with my companion in the parking lot. I will watch for moving vehicles and stop and look before crossing. We will leave the ODC together.