WOOD DUCK WANDER
OBJECTIVES

- Create an easy-to-follow, self-guided tour for elementary-school-age children and their families.
- Develop seven hands-on activities that will teach plant science and engage children ages 5-10 in environmental education concepts.
- Relate each activity to a specific area found along the Wood Duck Trail in a brochure.
WOOD DUCK TRAIL

- New trail developed in the past several seasons.
- Behind the Learning Center and the Maple Sugar House around Wood Duck Pond.
- 1.7 kilometers or 1.05 miles
- Great for winter snowshoeing, but is beautiful in every season.
Arboretum
Snowshoe Map

Learning Center
Loop 2.0 K

Wood Duck Pond 1.7 K

1.5 K

Wildflower Area

Prairie Loop 0.9 K

Ravine Trail

0.5 K

Arboretum Loop

Two Way Trails 6.7 Kilometers

Trail

Please do not snowshoe on ski trails
ACTIVITY 1: SUGAR MAPLE TREES

- Why the blue tubes? These trees are tapped every March to collect sweet sap for maple syrup.
- Each year the trees seal off their tap holes, leaving behind a ‘bellybutton’.

Try it!
Look for a big maple tree and check for a ‘bellybutton’. How many can you find?
ACTIVITY 2: COLOR COUNT

- Tune into the colors of the season.
- Nature has its own collection of ‘paint chips’ with more colors than you could count!

Try it!
Choose a spot with a beautiful view. Did you find a surprising color that you didn’t expect to find in nature?
ACTIVITY 3: DEAD TREE HOTEL

- This area of the trail has many dead trees.
- Many animals have made homes in these trees now that they are not alive.

Try it!
Can you find evidence of animals inhabiting these dead trees? Where do these animals get the food they need?
Each different kind of plant is called a species and has its own name and shape.
Leaves can be long, skinny, round, have points, and many other shapes.

Try it!
Find as many different leaf shapes as you can.
ACTIVITY 5: NATURAL BEAUTY IN ANY TIME OR SEASON

- Nature sure is stunning!
- The Wood Duck Trail is beautiful at sunrise, sunset, during a full moon or new moon, and in every season.

Try It!
Choose a beautiful spot and stand still for one minute. Can you imagine how this place would look at a different time of day or season?
The Learning Center is a hands-on place to learn about plants and other aspects of nature.

Try it!
Visit the greenhouse, play under the giant oak tree, (the oldest tree at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum!) and see the exhibits.
Rain runs off hard surfaces like roofs and roads, carrying pollutants into our waters.

The picnic shelters show three ways people can help rain water soak into the Earth instead.

Try it!
Can you find all three ways to prevent rain water runoff that are shown?
1. Rain barrel
2. Green roof
3. Rain garden