

Activity Guide 6th-8th
Sense of Place

NATURE
all around us



Nature can be found all around us—in the mountains, our neighborhoods, school yards, and even between the cracks in a concrete sidewalk.

Stories of nature can also be found all throughout human cultures, but they include more than just the plants and animals; the stories include our personal experiences.

What does the word *nature* mean to you?

Before entering the exhibit, use the space below to map out your personal experience with nature. Draw, diagram, write, journal, connect ideas (or not), use all the space (or not). There are no correct answers or methods.

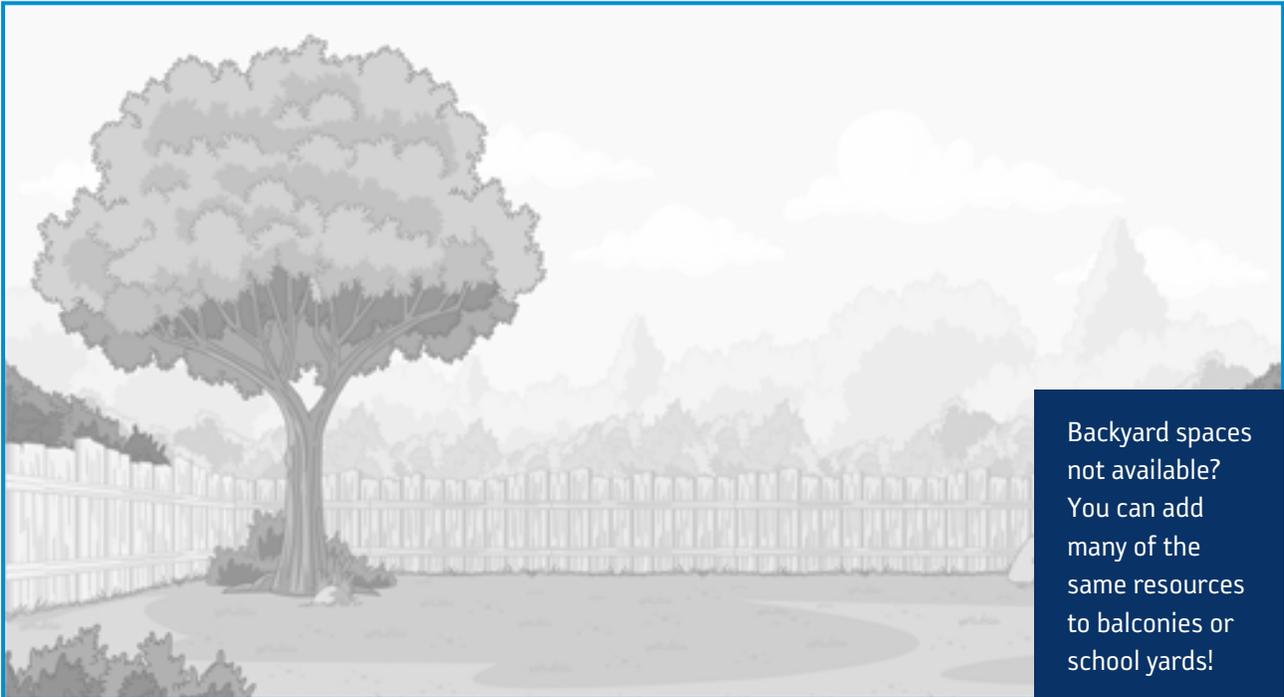


NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM OF UTAH
Rio Tinto Center | University of Utah



Yard and Garden – Wildlife Friendly Garden

Animals, and humans, need four basic resources: water, food, cover, and a place to raise their young. **Explore the Wildlife Friendly Garden section** to learn about resources to attract wildlife to a backyard or open space. **Use the backyard depiction below to add resources to your own backyard.** What animals would you want to attract?



Backyard spaces not available?
You can add many of the same resources to balconies or school yards!

Urban Forest

Urban forests provide many of the basic resources to animals living within cities. These trees also provide some much-needed shade and relief from the heat. Pioneers to Utah planted many trees upon arrival to help remind them of home and provide shelter and food for their communities.

Find a tree on the Discovery Cube Tree ID station. Spend some time with this tree. What resources does this tree provide to communities? What makes it special? What can you learn from this tree? **Using words and drawings, record some observations to the right.** Make sure to thank your tree before moving on to the next activity.

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Parks and Open Spaces

As our global communities become increasingly diverse so do our animal and plant populations. **Explore the New Nature section.** All of these plants and animals are common in Utah today but were *introduced species*, species that were not naturally occurring. Many cities throughout Utah are also novel today; these communities flourish due to diversity. **Choose one animal or plant to focus on. What adaptations does this organism have that helps it thrive in the new ecosystem?**

What skills or adaptations help you flourish in your community?

Rivers and Streams

Rivers and streams are a biodiversity hotspot and have been integral to our communities throughout history. Usage and understandings of the bodies of water have changed over time and differ between cultures. Relationships with water have been important in personal histories, pop culture, and history. What do you think—should we chase waterfalls or stick to the rivers and streams that we are used to?

Use the space below to sketch out a body of water that you have a personal connection to.

What elements are near this space? Who do you visit with?

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River corridors also provide pathways or highways to migrating animals. These spaces provide resources for the animals as they make their way to a new home.

Has your family ever moved? What was your journey like? What are the important parts of your home?

Nature is composed of many things: plants, animals, humans, invertebrates, algae, bacteria, weather, geology, and more.

Continue exploring your relationship with the nature all around you!



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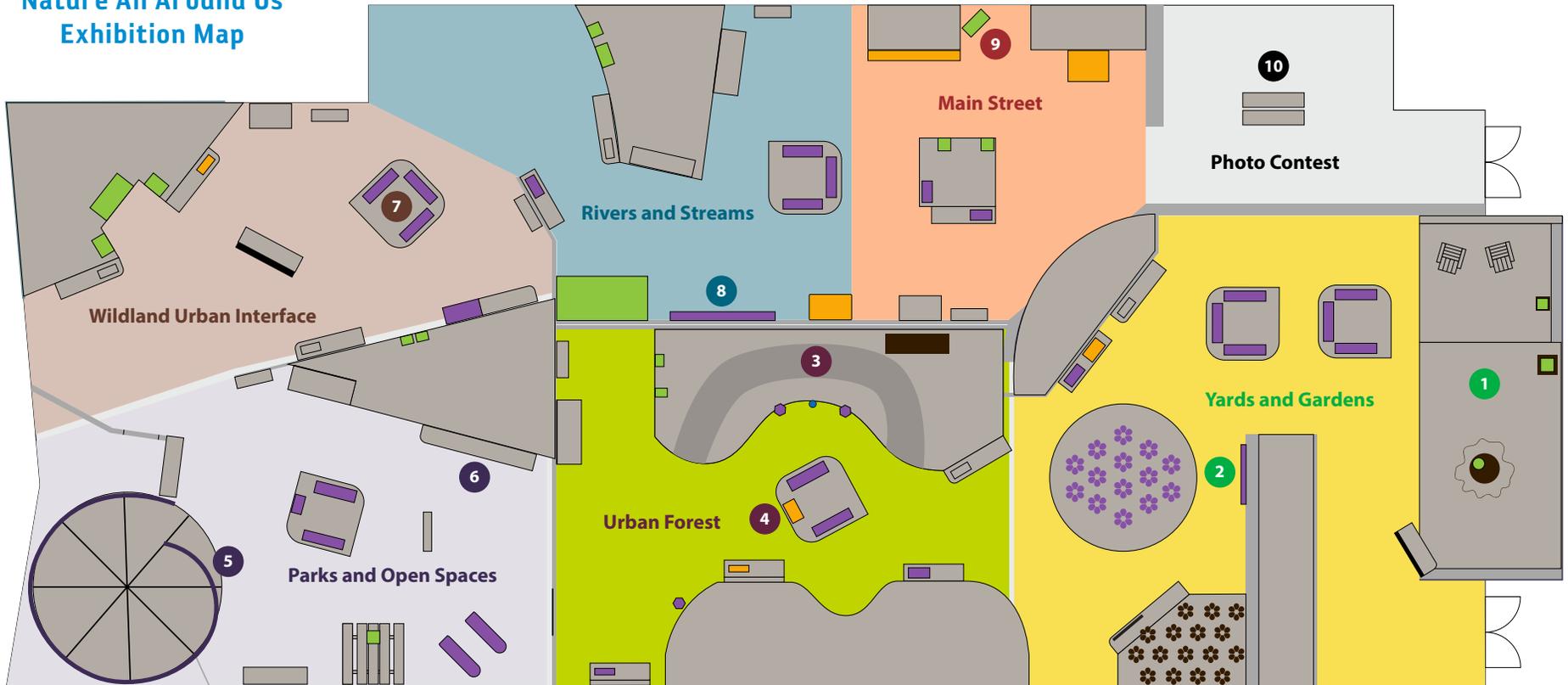
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Nature All Around Us
Exhibition Map



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|--|---|---|--|--|
| ● Yards and Gardens | ● Rivers and Streams | ● 1 Rebecca Ray's Backyard | ● 6 Novel Ecosystems | ● Digital Interactive |
| ● Urban Forest | ● Main Street | ● 2 Pollinator Costumes | ● 7 Scat Discovery Cubes | ● Physical Interactive |
| ● Parks and Open Spaces | ● Photo Contest | ● 3 Crawl Through Tunnel | ● 8 Water Run-off Activity | ● Live Animal |
| ● Wildland Urban Interface | | ● 4 Timber Activity | ● 9 Rats | |
| | | ● 5 Art Installation/Poetry | ● 10 Photography Exhibit | |