



## Nature All Around Us – Exhibit Overview

### Where is Nature?

We often think of nature as a place untouched by humans—high on a rugged mountain or deep in a remote canyon. But nature is thriving right under our noses in cities and towns. We share the places we live with an abundance of wild plants and animals. We depend on interconnected natural systems to make our communities livable. Cities aren't separate from nature. Nature is all around us.

Learn where nature is all around you in seven sections found throughout the exhibit, including:

#### 1. **Yards and Gardens** – Meet your wild neighbors

You don't have to leave home to find nature. Wild plants and animals thrive in backyards, planter boxes, and parking strips. If you know how to look, you can discover an astonishing number and variety living nearby. Try getting to know a few of your wild neighbors. With each new connection you make, your neighborhood becomes a little richer.

- Rebecca Ray's Yard Photo Mural
- Amazing Invertebrates
- Bird Biodiversity
- Meet Your Neighbors: Birds
- Wildlife-friendly Garden Mural
- Wild Bees

#### 2. **Urban Forest** – We all need trees

An urban forest includes all the trees in a community—along its streets and in yards and parks. Each tree is an investment in making a community a better place to live. They cool our neighborhoods, increase property values, dampen noise, and reduce energy usage. Urban forests also support tremendous biodiversity above and below the ground.

- Settlers Planted Forests
- Every Tree is a Bustling City
- Fox Squirrel Citizen Science
- Tree Meet Your Neighbors
- Discovery Cubes: Trees
- Trees are Cool



- Trees Reduce Energy Costs Focus

### 3. **Parks and Open Spaces** – Nature nurtures our communities

There is nature in city parks, abandoned lots, and golf courses; wildness in cemeteries, alleys, and gullies. Anyplace we leave unpaved, nature will claim. These open spaces are home to plants and animals from around the globe. They are critical habitat for healthy people and communities, too.

- Open Spaces Montage
- Parks Make Us Healthy
- Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights
- Wendy Wischer Art Area
- Novel Ecosystems
- Protecting Rare Plants
- SLC Neighborhood Naturalists Citizen Science

### 4. **Wildland-Urban Interface** – Welcome to the WUI

You’re in the wildland-urban interface right now—the zone where human development and wilder lands meet and mix. (Pro tip: Use the acronym “WUI” and pronounce it “WOO-ee.”) More than 45 percent of Utahns live in a WUI. It’s no wonder that quick access to recreation in astounding natural landscapes is a defining feature of Utah’s quality of life.

- Diorama Mural
- Animals in the Wildland-Urban Interface
- Meet Your Neighbors: Scat
- Discovery Cubes: Scat
- Wasatch Wildlife Watch Citizen Science
- Urban Deer
- Novel Plant Communities
- Myrtle Spurge Focus

### 5. **Rivers and Streams** – Connections between cities and rivers run deep

Though it may not be obvious, rivers are the historic heart of many Utah cities. In our dry state, rivers provided the water that made building towns possible. They became a vital part of many



communities' infrastructure, but were often neglected, too. Today, Utah cities are reconnecting with the rivers that gave rise to them.

- Jordan River Mural
- A New Vision of Urban Streams
- Fishing in the City
- Biodiversity Hotspots
- Rivers and Streams are Corridors
- Firefly Citizen Science Project
- Aquatic Invertebrates Meet Your Neighbors
- Discover Cubes: Aquatic Invert
- Streams Manage Runoff
- Impervious Surfaces
- Gutter to Stream

#### 6. **Main Street** – City dwellers take many forms

Picture the place in your city or town with the most buildings, pavement, and people. Wild plants and animals find a home here, too. We often dislike these resilient creatures because they seem ordinary or challenge the boundaries of our “human” spaces. We actually have a lot in common. We’re all adaptable generalists sharing the same community.

- Ally Mural
- Graffiti Wall
- Dandelion Café
- Syanthropes
- Weeds
- Same stresses
- Bird Collision Citizen Science Project
- Urban Bird Song Adaptation

#### 7. **Show Us Your Nature** – Photo contest winners share their nearby nature

The Museum challenged photographers of all levels around the state to capture the nature in their communities. They took images of creatures in parking lots, cemeteries, golf courses, and sidewalk cracks. But, by far, most photographers snapped a picture right in their own yard. One young photographer explained: “There really are great scenes of nature all around us; we just need to see them.”