

6 “Shelter” Window (fish viewing window)

At the bottom of the hill you'll find the first of our fish viewing windows, the **shelter window**. This fish-eye view lets you see where fish like to hang out and why. Logs, boulders, and plants give fish a place to hide

from predators while waiting for food items to float into reach. Objects in the stream also create small pockets of slack water where fish can avoid the main current.



7 Lava Rock/Petroglyph

Continue on the path up the hill and across the bridge. To your left will be examples of **lava rocks**. The volcanic basalt has been shaped and smoothed by flowing water and sand particles. The **petroglyphs** (“petro-”=stone, “-glyph”=writing) you see on the rocks here are replicas of those made by Native Americans many thousands of years ago and clearly depict hunting, a tradition we still enjoy today.

8 Bald Eagle Nest

Climb inside a replica of the largest bald eagle nest ever found! Bald eagles can be seen along the Boise River and flying over the Nature Center!



9 Mosaic Artwork (fish viewing window)

The next stop on the path is the second viewing window on our Streamwalk. The vibrant artwork installed here represents the plants and animals that live in the riparian area (along streams and rivers).



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Join the Friends of MK Nature Center. All donations go to improvements, supplies, projects, and education programs at MKNC.  
<https://www.friendsofmknc.org/>



Visitor Center Hours  
April through October  
Tuesday-Friday 9 am –5 pm  
Saturday and Sunday 11 am-5 pm  
Closed Monday  
  
November to mid-January  
Tuesday-Friday 10 am-4 pm  
Saturday and Sunday 12 pm-4 pm  
Closed Mondays  
  
Mid-January to mid-March  
Tuesday-Friday 10 am– 4 pm  
Closed Saturday, Sunday, Monday

Holidays may cause additional closures  
Check our website  
Grounds open every day dawn to dusk

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/mknc>



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Idaho Department of Fish & Game  
Morrison Knudsen  
Nature Center



# TRAIL MAP



1 Kiosk Display/Shed

2 Scat and Tracks

If you keep to your right towards the Streamwalk loop, look for several signs of animals (chewed trees, woodpecker holes, paths). Since the animals here are not in cages, they often come out at night and we don't see them, but they leave their mark!



3 Move Like an Animal (Coming Soon)!

Enjoy these stepping stones and logs, crawl through the log and move like an animal! Hop, leap, slither and pounce around. Enjoy this area, but be sure to stay on the path after you leave this play area.

4 Wetland Bridge

As you continue across the first bridge, on both sides you will see an example of a **wetland environment**. More species of wildlife are found in wetlands than in any other habitat. They also serve as a natural water filter, removing sediment and toxins that would otherwise wash into streams and rivers.



5 Beaver Bridge

While crossing the second bridge, look to your right just off the bridge to see a beaver dam that widened this small stream. Beavers built this in just two nights! On the



other side of the bridge, you will see great fish spawning habitat and might even see Chinook Salmon spawning there in the fall!

**10 Crayfish Window (fish viewing window)**

Up the path is the next viewing window, the **crayfish window**. You may have already seen a crayfish in the previous two windows, but this is a great place to look for them. Crayfish are important in the stream ecosystem because they will eat nearly anything, even dead, rotting plants and animals. Interestingly, crayfish are not fish at all, they are crustaceans!



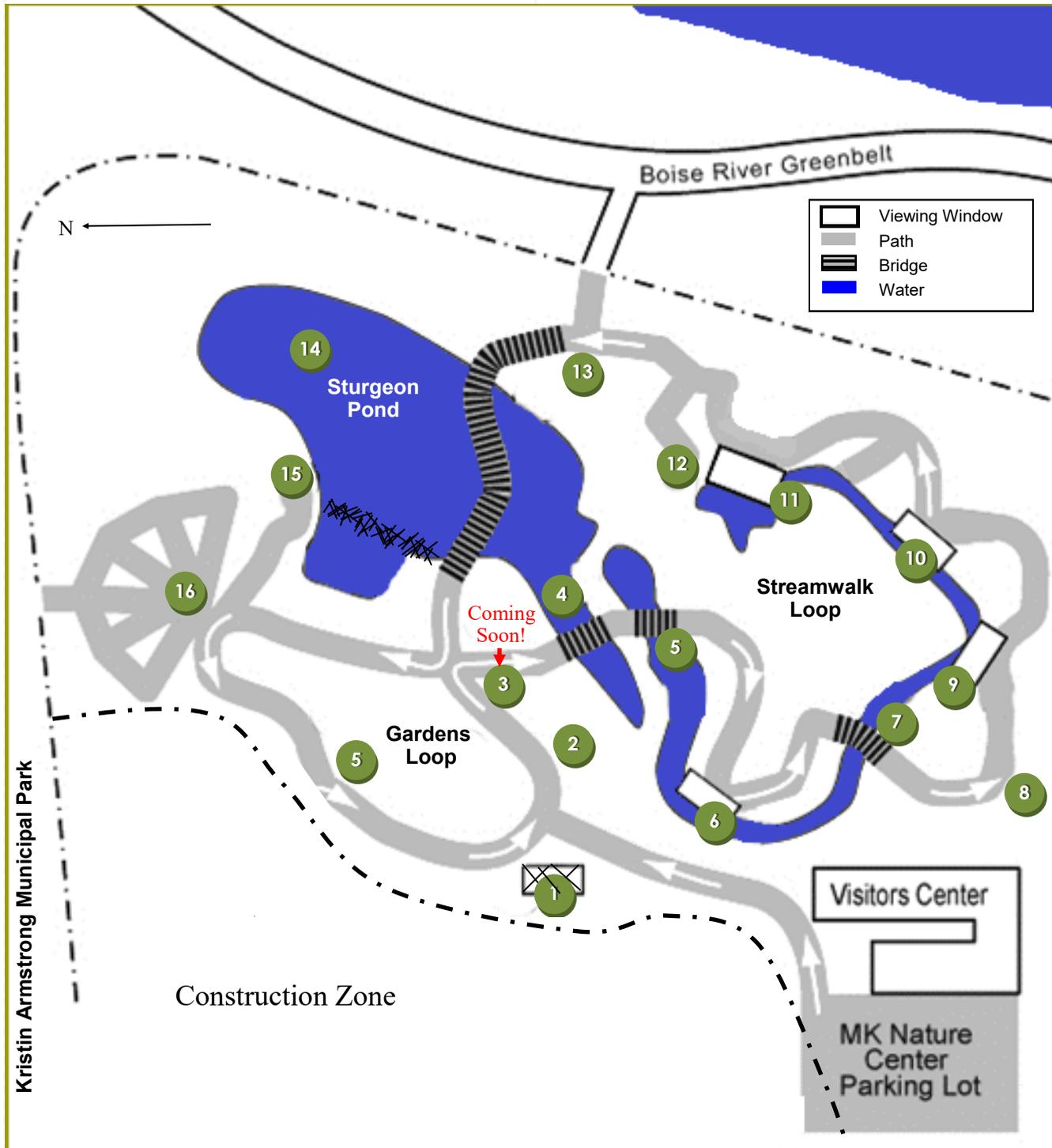
**11 Alpine Lake (fish viewing window)**

A little further down the path and you'll arrive at our largest fish viewing windows. Many of Idaho's streams begin in high mountain lakes. **Alpine lakes** provide a cool, clean, deep-water habitat where a variety of Idaho's fish species may be found. Look for trout, salmon, and sucker fish.



**12 Waterfall Overlook**

**13 Sturgeon Bench** – How do you measure up? You are about to cross over the sturgeon bridge. While there, look down for a fish the size of the one on the bench...and then look for one even bigger. Three sturgeon call MK Nature Center their home. They mostly dwell on the bottom eating dead plant and animal material. If the sun is just right, you can see them vividly slowly swimming under the trout.



**14 Sturgeon Pond and Beaver Dam**

The pond at the Nature Center may be small, but it is home to a surprising variety of wildlife. The footbridge you will come to next will take you across the center of the pond and offers some of the best wildlife watching opportunities on site. Fish species you may see here include trout, suckers, and sturgeon. In addition, our pond attracts various bird species, mink, beavers, snakes, and amphibians. You will also notice the beaver dam. The dam displayed here is a replica, but notice how the left and right halves of the dam look different. During the winter of 2018, beavers did a little remodeling and made a lodge out of the dam.

**15 Viewing Blind**

Stop here for a closer look at wildlife on the pond!

**16 Butterfly Garden**

If you follow the spokes of our butterfly and hummingbird garden during spring and summer, you will be able to see a wide variety of plant and animal species. There is an exit to Kristin Armstrong Municipal Park at the other end of the garden, which is the perfect place for a picnic lunch.



**16 Compost Piles**

If you continue down the path along the garden loop, you will see our compost piles on your left. **Compost** is a rich soil created through a natural rotting process called **decomposition**. Recycling leaves and other organic matter provides nutrient-rich soil to be used in spring plantings.

Please help us conserve resources by recycling this map or returning it to the Visitor's Center to be reused.