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.

**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** (‘ˌpētrō-ˌgīlf) 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.

**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!

**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).

**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

**MK Nature Center**

600 S. Walnut Street
P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

208-334-2225

**Want to support MKNC? Drop a donation in a donation box or...**

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

**Kiosk Display/Shed**

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!

**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.

**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.

**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 Chinko Salmon spawning there in the fall!

Visit our website: [http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/mknc](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/mknc)
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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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