

7 Lava Rock/Petroglyph

Continue on the path up the hill and across the bridge. To your left will be examples of **lava rocks**. This volcanic basalt has been shaped and smoothed by flowing water and sand particles. The

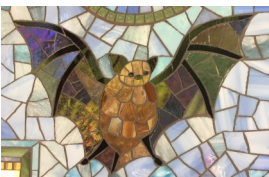


petroglyphs (“petro-”=stone, “-glyph”=writing) you see on the rocks here are replicas of those made by Native Americans many thousands of years ago and clearly depict hunting, a tradition we still enjoy today.

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 occasionally flying over the Nature Center!

9 Mosaic Artwork (fish viewing window)



The next stop along the path is the second viewing window. Look for small trout facing upstream in the riffles as they look for food. The vibrant artwork installed here

represents the plants and animals that live in the riparian area along streams and rivers. Mosaic by local artist, Anna Webb.

10 Crayfish Window (fish viewing window)

The next viewing window is 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!



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or...

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



Visitor Center Hours

10 am to 3 pm

Tuesday-Sunday

Grounds open every day dawn to dusk

Holidays may cause additional closures
Check our website
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/mknc>

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

208-334-2225



Founded in 1990 to provide wildlife habitat, wildlife viewing opportunities, and conservation education on 4.5 acres of Idaho Fish and Game property.

1 Bird Viewing Blind

Sit quietly here to see all kinds of birds feeding at the bird feeding station. Notice that birds also have water nearby as well as places to hide if danger arrives.

2 Kiosk Display/Shed

3 Scat and Tracks

Starting here and all along the path, look for signs of animals (chewed trees, woodpecker holes) Since the animals here are wild they often come out at night. We don’t see them, but they leave their mark!



4 Move Like an Animal

Enjoy these stepping stones and stumps. 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 site.

5 Wetland Bridge

On both sides of the first bridge, 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 natural water filters, removing sediment and toxins that would otherwise wash into streams and rivers.

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



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

This is the source of all the water at the Nature Center. The water here leaves this lake and flows down the stream to the sturgeon pond. It is then discharged to the Boise River.

13 Sturgeon Bench

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 that's 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 easily see them, 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. Stop and spend some time here; it's the best wildlife watching spot onsite. Fish species you may see here include trout, suckers, and sturgeon. In addition, this pond attracts various bird species, mink, beaver, 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 part of the dam.

15 Bat Box

It's not a bird house, it's a bat box! MKNC has 5 species of bats, but you probably won't see them. They come out at night and gobble up the mosquitoes. Thank you, bats!

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. Use the exit at the other end of the garden to access Kristin Armstrong Municipal Park, a perfect place for a picnic lunch.



17 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 the natural rotting process of **decomposition**. Recycling leaves and other organic matter provides nutrient-rich soil to be used in spring plantings.

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