



Howard County  
RECREATION & PARKS



# My Trip to

# Robinson

JAMES & ANNE

# NATURE CENTER





**I'm going on a trip to the Robinson Nature Center!**



**Before I go inside, I see a place for people to play! It is called the “Nature Place.”**



**Sometimes, it is crowded here.**



**Sometimes, there is no one here.**



**People build things here. I can too.**



**People make music here. I can too.**



**People swing here. I can too.**



**People slide here. I can too.**



**People climb and jump here.**



**People step on the tree stumps.**



**I can climb here too. I will be very careful if I climb, and I will only climb if my family says I can.**





**When I am done playing, I want to go inside, but I see something else.**



**It's a fountain and a pond!**



**I like the water, but the rocks are slippery. I could slip if I get on the rocks. I will stay on the path to look all around the pond.**



**Now I am ready to go inside. I open the doors, and I stop at the restroom to the left of the doors.**



**When I walk in the restroom, it might be dark. If I keep walking, the light turns on by itself. When I leave, the light turns off by itself. This is to help save energy.**



**Now I go through another set of doors.  
Wow! The Nature Center is very big.**



**I see a big desk with lots of colorful things behind it. I can say “hello” to the people at the desk and they can answer any questions I have about my visit. At the desk, they can lend me a backpack for my visit if I would like.**



**The backpack has a map of the building, my own nature explorer badge, headphones and fidget toys. I can use any of these items during my visit and then return them when I leave.**



**Past the desk, there is a door to a staircase. I can use this staircase to get to different floors of the building. There are lots of echoes in the staircase!**





**There is also an elevator. I can use this elevator to get to different floors of the building.**



**The elevator has lots of buttons inside it. I only press a button if I need to get to another floor.**



**When I pass the staircase and the elevator, I will find a room with lots of things to play with.**



**There are blocks, chalk and a place to draw, books, costumes, puppets, things to touch and even animals to look at!**



**This is a great room, but there are a few rules in the room since lots of people like to play in here.**



**One rule is that I am gentle and quiet when I am near where the animals are. If I bang on the wall, it will scare the animals.**



**Another rule is that I ask nicely if I see a toy I want to use and someone else is already using it. I will wait for my turn.**



**When I am done playing, I will put away the toys I used so someone else can find them. If I leave them out, someone could trip and get hurt.**





**Now, I want to go see more. Look at that table. It moves around! I can move the table and watch and hear the helicopter fly.**



**If I keep looking, I see a big wheel.  
When I turn it, it makes noise and  
things in the wall start to move!**



**I keep hearing lots of noise. It sounds like birds, wind and outside sounds. If I don't like the noises, I can use my headphones.**



**This part of the Nature Center looks and sounds like a noisy forest. I can touch things if I want. I ask to use the stairs or elevator if I don't want to walk through the forest.**



**If I walk through the forest, there is a lift to get me downstairs if I need it. There are stairs too.**



**When I get downstairs, there are animals on the forest floor and more sounds. I can reach my hand out and touch the leaves on the ground!**



**It's so neat that I can touch everything here as long as I am gentle. I will be gentle so that I am allowed to touch.**



**Now I am getting to a place where it looks like it is going to be dark. There are lots of nighttime noises.**





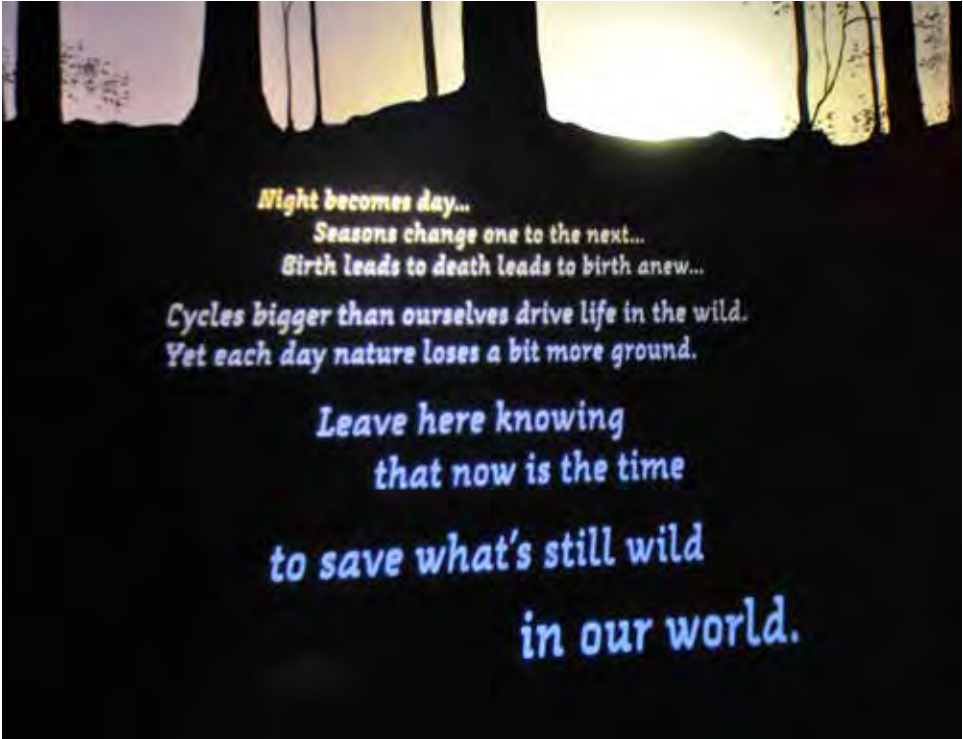
**I don't have to go into the dark if I don't want to. I can walk back through the forest to the staircase or lift.**



**I want to go into the dark. There are lots of nighttime sounds.**



**When I go around the corner, I see different color lights.**



**If I keep going, I hear a car door shut and the sound of an engine. I can exit through the open door.**



**Now it is light again. I see machines with buttons I can press to listen to sounds and with levers I can move.**



**If I need a quiet place, there is a dark, quiet room with a screen that shows pictures from space.**



**There is another quiet room that looks out onto a garden with bird feeders. I can sit here for as long as I want.**



**There are classrooms that aren't open or may have lots of people in them. I am going to walk past the classrooms, not into them. I still have something really cool to see...**



**If I look out the window, I see a sign near the woods.**



**That's a trail!**





**Trails go through the woods. There are lots of trees and plants. The ground can be muddy, rough or squishy.**




**I might see a squirrel or hear a bird calling. The wind might make noises too.**



**Trails are people paths. I stay on the trail because I am a person. Even if I see something neat like an animal or something shiny off the path, I stay on the path. It is my people path.**



**I've had a really great visit today. I can't wait to come back!**



**Robinson Nature Center**  
**6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044**  
**410-313-0400**  
**[www.howardcountymd.gov/Robinson](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Robinson)**