Sue Reichert Discovery Trail
Nature Exploration Guide

Use these prompts to guide your own exciting nature adventure!

1. Black Cherry Tree
   - Act it Out!
   - Look for creatures around Willow Pond, then transform yourself into one! Make the same motions and sounds as the animal you choose. Use the area around the tree to act it out!

2. Story Circle
   - Life of a Tree: Tree rings can tell a story. Thick rings mean the tree got lots of sun and water that year, and thin rings could mean the tree went through a dry season. Draw or write here what you imagine happened to this tree during its lifetime!

3. Bug Meadow
   - Bug Investigator

4. Sycamore Grove
   - Nature Art

Stop #   Activity
1. Black Cherry Tree...............Act it Out!
2. Story Circle.......................Life of a Tree
3. Bug Meadow........................Bug Investigator
4. Sycamore Grove....................Nature Art
Bug Meadow
Bug Investigator: Get close to the ground and look into the tall grass. Use your eyes and ears to find bugs and insects like bees, flies, grasshoppers, butterflies, and moths. Sketch the bugs you discover here:

Sycamore Grove
Nature Art: Place this sheet against a tree, and use a crayon or pencil to rub over it. Do rubbings of leaves you find on the ground too. If you overlap them, you can make a piece of art! Start your rubbings below:

Nature Activities at Home!
Make a Snack for Bugs!
Combine sugar and water to make an insect treat. Drop a little on a stump, rock, or fence outside, then check it when it starts getting dark out. See what hungry visitors you have drawn in!

Nature Collage!
With permission, pick flowers from your yard. Place them on a piece of parchment paper, fold it over, then place in a heavy book. In five days you’ll have pressed flowers. If you do a leaf or bark rubbing with crayons and paste pressed plants on the same page, you can make a nature collage!

Blindfolded Nature Walk!
Have an adult guide you through a safe area, and experience the sounds and feeling of nature without using your eyes. Listen, feel, and smell your surroundings to figure out where you ended up!

Sue Reichert Discovery Trail Nature Exploration Guide Survey
Help us make Matthaei Botanical Gardens better by filling out this survey. Show this completed sheet to front desk staff for a FREE sticker!

1. The main reason(s) I visited the Sue Reichert Discovery Trail (SRDT) today is/are:
   - I wanted to use this nature exploration guide
   - The child I am with expressed interest in the trail
   - I heard about the trail
   - I often visit the trail when I come to Matthaei Botanical Gardens

2. The stop I spent the most time at on the SRDT today is:
   - ___ Black cherry tree
   - ___ Story circle
   - ___ Bug meadow
   - ___ Sycamore Grove
   - ___ Other: ____________________

3. Based on what I did today, I plan on doing the following thing(s) with the child/children I brought today:
   - Set up a nature play area
   - Explore a nearby natural area with my child
   - Do the at-home activities suggested in this guide
   - Encourage my child to spend time playing outdoors
   - Look into more resources about doing nature play at home

4. I have visited the Gaffield Children’s Garden for nature play before:
   - ___ Yes
   - ___ No

Please tear off this completed sheet and put it in the Survey Collection Box near the front desk.
Thank you for your feedback!