



THE JACK SAVELL MEMORIAL NATURE RESERVE

Kinderplatz has seven classrooms. Normally five of them rotate between different classrooms. We strategically placed seven areas within the reserve and each area has the ability to accommodate twenty children and their teachers. Up to seven groups could visit the reserve at one time rotating through each area. The fewer groups, the longer students can stay within each station. The reserve is an outdoor Kinderplatz.

There will be a map to orient visitors with a suggested route beginning with YOU ARE HERE. Visitors will follow the numbered areas on the map.

1. **Story Telling Area** - A story will be used to set the mood and inspire the children and teachers for their visit before they rotate to other areas. This area is a place to share the map and the guidelines and uses of each area, and where teachers lay out their plan for the visit.



2. **Fairy House & Fort Building Area** - Students may create any kind of structures they can imagine from small fairy houses to large forts using sticks, twine, wire, boulders, logs and fabric. Students will have room to work alone or collaboratively.



3. **Dirt Digging Area** - Students can dig to China, excavate, add water, create canals, map out a miniature city, make mud pies and more.



4. **Covered Picnic Pavilion Area** - Students will have the opportunity to stop, reflect, and have thought provoking conversations sparked by our Heroes & Heroine poster series while they enjoy a snack, use the restroom and wash hands.



5. **Nature Art Pavilion Area** - Students will use this area to create their own nature art with all kinds of seeds, pods, sticks, leaves, blooms, grasses, shells, and pebbles. They can work alone or collaboratively. Creations can be photographed before clearing the area for the next group.



6. **Amphitheatre Area** - Students will have the opportunity to act out plays, sing, dance or watch a visiting performance, musician or artist—KFA’s own Shakespeare in the park.



7. **Labyrinth Maze & Remembrance Pathway Area** - Students will walk down the remembrance path seeing the names of those who made the reserve possible. They will end their visit with a time to cool down and reflect as they silently wind through the labyrinth and leave the reserve.



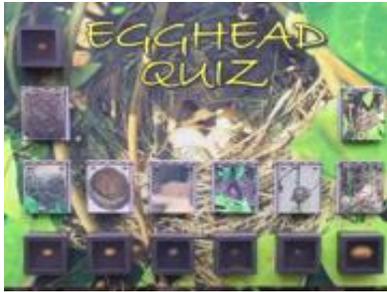
In between these rich, magical learning areas there will be Discovery Pathways with more opportunities to learn, grow and think.

Bird Blind & Discovery Pathways - Students will use these pathways to transition between groups that may end earlier than other groups. While awaiting their turn for each area students can explore the pathways containing discovery boards and educational boards to stop, learn and discuss along the way.



Six Interactive Discovery Boards

Here are three examples:



1. **Tree Identification Board** - 8 hinged flaps with leaves on the outside revealing a tree underneath. These trees are in the reserve to find, all carefully chosen for interest. (All are native to the Trinity River area.)
2. **Guess Whose Nest** - 8 hinged flaps with nests on the outside birds on the underside. (All are native to the Trinity River area.)
3. **Name That Tune** - 8 hinged flaps with buttons that play a bird's call. The image under the flap reveals the bird that makes the sound. (All are native.)
4. **What Hatches from an Egg** - 8 hinged flaps with egg pictures on the outside and students lift the flap to reveal what hatches from that egg. (All are native.)
5. **Butterflies & Moths Guess Who** - 8 hinged flaps with caterpillars on the outside and the butterfly or moth revealed as the flap is raised. (All are native.)
6. **Guess Whose Tracks** - 8 hinged flaps with tracks on the outside revealing the mammal when the flap is raised. (All are native.)

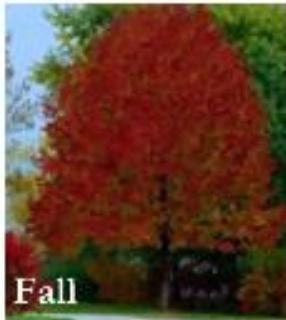
In addition to the six Discovery Boards, there will be six interchangeable Educational Boards. These boards will showcase some of over 300 posters that will be changed out weekly to inspire new learning adventures for every visit.

Six Interchangeable Educational Boards

1. **Flora Interchangeable Education Posters** - From these posters visitors will learn about the plants and flowers found within the reserve and around the river. Posters will depict seasonal changes, seed identification, bark identification, leaf and bloom identification, and will include fun facts. Visitors will enjoy scavenger hunts to search for the flora depicted in the posters within the reserve, wildflower meadow and Trinity River Trails. Here is a sample of one of over fifty flora posters:

Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa



Bur Oak Fun Facts:

They grow 70-80 ft. tall and their spread is 80 ft. wide.
Lifespan 1000 years.

They produce acorns at age 35 that fall Sept.-Oct.

Raw acorns are considered unsafe due to their tannins, which are toxic if consumed in high amounts. However, you can remove the tannins by boiling or soaking.

Properly prepared acorns are perfectly edible and full of

nutrients like iron and manganese. Delicious roasted, they can also be ground into flour. Wood is used for cabinetry, barrels, hardwood flooring and fence posts. Native Americans used bur oak to treat heart ailments, diarrhea, broken bones, and as an astringent (to close bleeding wounds).

2. **Health Benefits Interchangeable Education Posters** - From these posters visitors will learn what professionals say about the mental and physical benefits of spending time outdoors. Here is a sample of one of many health benefits interchangeable posters:

BENEFITS OF NATURE

MIND, BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT



Education Board with Nature Deficit Disorder facts:

The average American child is said to spend 4-7 minutes a day in unstructured play outdoors and over 7 hours of screen time.

Danielle Cohen, Child Mind Institute-Why Kids Need to Spend Time in Nature, Richard Louv, author of the book Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder



More benefits of Vitamin N:

- Activates all five senses
- Great exercise
- Better focus
- Unique sense of wonder
- Stress and fatigue reducing



LISTEN!

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3. **Nature Explore Educational Learning Posters** - From these posters visitors will learn an activity to do such as looking for designs in nature, clouds, colors, shapes, sounds, weather, smells and changes so that every visit will have ideas for a different activity. Here is a sample of one of many:

ADVENTURE ACTIVITY #1



GET TO KNOW A TREE

Choose a tree in the area that you think is interesting. Use your senses to get to know your tree! Here are some ideas.




LOOK CLOSELY...
do you see any shapes?

■ ◆ ★ ●




TOUCH YOUR TREE...
how does it feel?




LISTEN...
does your tree or anything in it make sounds?




SMELL...
does it make you think of anything that you have smelled before?

If you pay close attention, you might find some **“TREASURES OF NATURE”** in your tree. Place a cloth or towel under the tree. What do you predict might fall on the cloth?

You might find...



BUGS?



PODS?



NUTS?

Have an adult shake a branch of your tree and see what falls out. Were your predictions correct?

natureexplore.org

4. **Fauna Interchangeable Education Posters** - From these posters visitors will learn about fauna native to North Central Texas, their ecosystem role, their predators and fun facts. Fauna posters include beneficial insects, arachnids, garden pests, reptiles, wild birds, wild animals, and more. Here is a sample of one of over 300 fauna posters.

Nine Banded Armadillo

(Family *Dasypodidae*)



Ecosystem role:

Armadillos feed on unwanted insects and their larvae, but they also eat earthworms, scorpions, spiders, snails, cockroaches, ants, fire ants, wasps and grasshoppers. The scarab beetle, their favorite food is responsible for heavy crop damage. Armadillos actually help farmers in keeping crops healthy!

Predators:

Armadillos have few wild predators, but coyotes, dogs, black bears, bobcats, cougars, foxes and raccoons are reported to catch and kill armadillos in places where these predators occur. Hawks, owls and feral pigs may prey on armadillo young.

Armadillo Fun Facts:

Nine-banded armadillos nearly always give birth to four young who are all identical, having developed from the same egg.

Contrary to popular belief, the nine-banded armadillo **cannot** roll itself into a ball to escape predators!!

Only one of the twenty-odd varieties of armadillos — the three-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) — is able to roll up.

Armadillos are not blind but they do have poor eyesight! They like to swim and are quite good at it! They can hold their breath for 6 minutes and can even walk on the bottom of a river.



5. **What Lives in the Trinity River Interchangeable Education Posters** - From these posters visitors will learn about fauna that live within the banks of the river, their ecosystem role, their predators and fun facts. Here is a sample of one of many:

American Coot

(Fulica Americana)



Ecosystem role:

They influence populations of aquatic invertebrates plants and serve as a prey base for predators in their habitats.

Predators:

They are preyed upon by osprey and bald eagles. Eggs are preyed upon by raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, snapping turtles.

American Coot Fun Facts:

They swim like a duck but do not have webbed feet.

To take flight, the birds run across the surface of the water.

They are nicknamed "marsh hen" or "mud hen" because of the way their heads bob when they walk or swim.

Females lay 8 to 10 pink eggs with brown spots.

American coots are monogamous and pairs stay together for life.

They are kleptoparasitic, meaning that sometimes they do not hunt for their own food, but steal it from other birds.

A group of coots is called by many names, including a "codgery", "commotion", "shoal", "swarm" and "fleet" of coots.



6. **Stewards of the Earth Interchangeable Education Posters** - These posters will provoke visitors to think about the impact they can have on the protection and preservation of our environment. Here is a sample of one of many stewardship posters:

WE ARE STEWARDS OF THE EARTH

Did you know?

Plastic is forever. It doesn't bio-grade and go back to nature. It photo-degrades into smaller pieces, continually polluting the environment through its life cycle.

The world uses 160,000 plastic bags every second. Plastic bags are banned from supermarkets in most developing countries.

The U.S. throws away enough plastic bottles in a week to encircle the Earth five times.

1% of U.S. landfill is full of disposable diapers which will take 500 years to decompose.



25,000,000 plastic bottles that could be recycled are thrown away every hour in the U.S.A.

As visitors stop under the covered pavilion they can relax, refresh, and enjoy a snack with teachers and friends. One of the featured stories from our Hero & Heroine series will be posted in this area. These true stories are sure to spark thought provoking conversations to inspire and empower visitors to think about what one person can do to make a difference in our world.

Character Traits and Virtues of Heroes & Heroines - These posters will be used under the picnic pavilion to inspire conversations and discussions. Each poster depicts a hero or heroine from history or everyday people, including children who have done something to make a difference in our world. There is an activity on the back side of the posters to inspire visitors to think about what they might do to make the world a better place. It is also available in a take home piece. Here are some samples:



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Inspiring Heroes & Heroines

Hero or heroine definition- a real person or fictional character who, in the face of danger, combats adversity through feats of ingenuity, courage or strength. Hero is masculine and heroine is feminine.

Jack Savell was born with a neurological disorder called



Epilepsy which can cause sensory disturbances, loss of consciousness or convulsions but you would never know it. In spite of these challenges, Jack was kind, caring, sweet, sympathetic and friendly to everyone. When people entered a room he would stop what he was doing and welcome them and when they left he never forgot to tell them goodbye. He was a joy to know and will

always be remembered for his zest for life his courage and his unstoppable spirit in the face of odds.

Character Virtue: Resilience

Think, Reflect & Share

Character Virtue: Resilience

Resilience- the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress.

If you, like Jack, had been born with a neurological disorder called Epilepsy which can cause sensory disturbances, loss of consciousness or convulsions, how would you feel?

What would you decide to do that demonstrates resilience?





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Katie Stagliano

The idea for Katie's Krops began with a 9-year-old girl and a 40 pound cabbage. In 2008 she brought home a tiny cabbage



seedling from school as part of the Bonnie Plants Third Grade Cabbage Program. She tended to her cabbage and cared for it until it grew to an amazing 40 pounds. That single crop fed 275 people at her local soup kitchen. It also inspired her non-profit, Katie's Krops, which builds vegetable gardens for the sole purpose of donating the food to the homeless. Now, there are more than 100 gardens in over 30 states being operated by young

people like Katie. Katie's Krops mission is simple, we all can help because...|

It only takes a seedling!

Character Virtue: Compassion

Think, Reflect & Share

Character Virtue: Compassion

Compassion- sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.

How did Katie's actions demonstrate compassion?

What could you decide to do that demonstrates compassion?





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Cassandra Lin, inspired to act after she discovered that people in her own town in Rhode Island could not afford to heat their homes. New England winters are extremely harsh, and she



couldn't even imagine all of the families who were struggling to heat their homes. Her plan to save the world took shape when she was in fifth grade after learning that cooking oil could be turned into biofuel. She started small by convincing local restaurants in her community to donate their cooking oil waste to be recycled. As she expanded

the program to other areas near her home, her Project TGIF (Turn Grease Into Fuel) was officially off the ground. Her work has earned her several environmental awards.

Character Virtue: Courage

Think, Reflect & Share

Character Virtue: Courage

Courage- the ability to do something that frightens one.
"she called on all her courage to face the ordeal"
strength in the face of pain or grief.

Would you, like Cassandra, believe you could do something that could save our world?

What would you decide to believe or do in her situation?



The Jack Savell Memorial Nature Reserve



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Samantha Smith proved that the words of a child can make a huge impact. She was only 10 when she eased Cold War tensions between the United States and Russia with a single letter. She wrote a note to CPSU General Secretary Yuri Andropov suggesting that both countries could co-exist peacefully, which ended up getting published in a Soviet newspaper. Andropov responded with an invitation for Smith and her family to visit his country. This experience earned her the role of "America's Youngest Ambassador," and she later brought her message of peace to Japan.



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Think, Reflect & Share

Character Virtue: Courage

Courage- the ability to do something that frightens one.
"she called on all her courage to face the ordeal"
strength in the face of pain or grief.

If you like, Samantha, were 10 years old, would you have the courage to believe that writing a letter to government officials would make a difference?

What are some ideas you have that might make our world a better place to live?

What could you do to share your ideas?





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Outdoor Classroom and Picnic Pavilion



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Aerial Map



If you would like to be part of making this vision a reality, you can go to www.kinderplatz.org and visit the nature reserve project. You will find a complete list of donors and opportunities to support the program.