Today’s Presenter

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Explore and Discover: Nature-Based Spaces and Activities at your Library
How the Nature Explorium began...
Why at a Library?
Partners and Design Team

- Concept Art - USDA Forest Service
- Landscape Design - The RBA Group
- Entrance Way Design - Interior Design Firm

Design Team

Library Staff

- Director
- YS Coordinator and Librarians
- Building Manager and Maintenance Staff

Advisory Committee

- Local School District
- Coalition for Smart Growth
- Garden writer
- Nature Collaborative
CREATE IT
Natural materials inspire exploration and creative play.

Read It
Relax, enjoy and share your favorite books, and develop a love of literature in an outdoor setting.

Splash It
Sink and float; pump and dam. Learning about water through play is what it's all about.

Play It
A stage where kids can let their imaginations take over and where dramatic play and creative music resonate.

Build It
For the future architects of the world, Build It offers children an opportunity to construct whatever they envision with blocks and woodcuttings.

Grow It
From seed to harvest, children can nurture plants and watch things grow.

Climb It
Embrace movement. Stretch your body and imagination while climbing and crawling.

explor-i-um (eks-plore-e-uhm), noun.
- A place for children where creativity knows no limits, where imaginations soar to the sky and beyond. A place where nature and play collide and where children are firsthand witnesses to the beauty of the outdoors.
- A hands-on center where kids investigate the world around them through the sights and sounds of nature. Here, children enjoy the quiet tranquility of the Mulberry Hideaway, stroll through the Willow Tunnel, and experience the soothing quality of water.
- A word invented by the Middle Country Public Library to describe an outdoor space that links nature and literacy: Walk the Book Path. Hop the ABC Trail. Read a book.
Create It!
Splash It!
Play It!
Build It!
Grow It!
Climb It!
Read It!
Outdoor Programming

American Girl

There's a Llama in the Library

Pet Parade

Sidewalk Art
Go Outside!

- For families (children ages 4 through 3rd grade)
- Encourages exploration of nature stations
- Themes include:
  - Art and Color; Rocks and Dirt; Exploring Water; Seashore
Many activities and programs may be developed with a garden.

Skill Development
- Science; Language and Literacy; Social; Math; Music and Movement; and Art

Sense It!
- Learn about 5 senses with a sensory garden

Let’s Salsa
- Make salsa and learn about vegetables and herbs, then get instruction of how to Salsa dance

Pizza Harvest
- Share a story about pizza and have families make their own pizzas to be brought home to bake and share.

Nature Prints
- Printmaking from nature
Special Events

Spring Jubilee

Apple Festival
Outdoor Learning
Middle Country Public Library is proud to be the first library in the nation to offer the Nature Explorium, an outdoor learning space for children and families. Developed in collaboration with the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation and Long Island Nature Collaborative for Kids (LINCK), the Nature Explorium contains a variety of areas, all geared toward connecting children to a different aspect of nature. Whether they’re reflecting on a poem under a willow tree, climbing on a tree stump, or expressing artistic talent through song and dance on the Play It stage, children will discover the gift of nature.

When children have regular contact with nature, they learn and grow better. Dedicated to exploration and discovery, the Nature Explorium provides children with the opportunity to learn and reinforce valuable life experiences, including the development of observation skills, visual-spatial skills, and social skills. By providing this outdoor area for the community, the Library offers a unique way to connect literacy, learning and an appreciation for nature as a regular part of the library visit.

Welcome to the Nature Explorium....Discover It!

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