

Today's Presenter



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Services, Middle Country
Public Library (NY), and
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Mover & Shaker



Explore and Discover: Nature-Based Spaces and Activities at your Library

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How the Nature Explorium began...





Why at a Library?





Partners and Design Team

Design Team

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

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

Visits



Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden at NYBG



Long Island Children's Museum



Five Towns Child Care Center



Everett Children's Garden at NYBG



Bailey Arboretum Children's Habitat



Long Island Children's Museum

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.

ex·plor-i-um (eks-plore-ee-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.

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

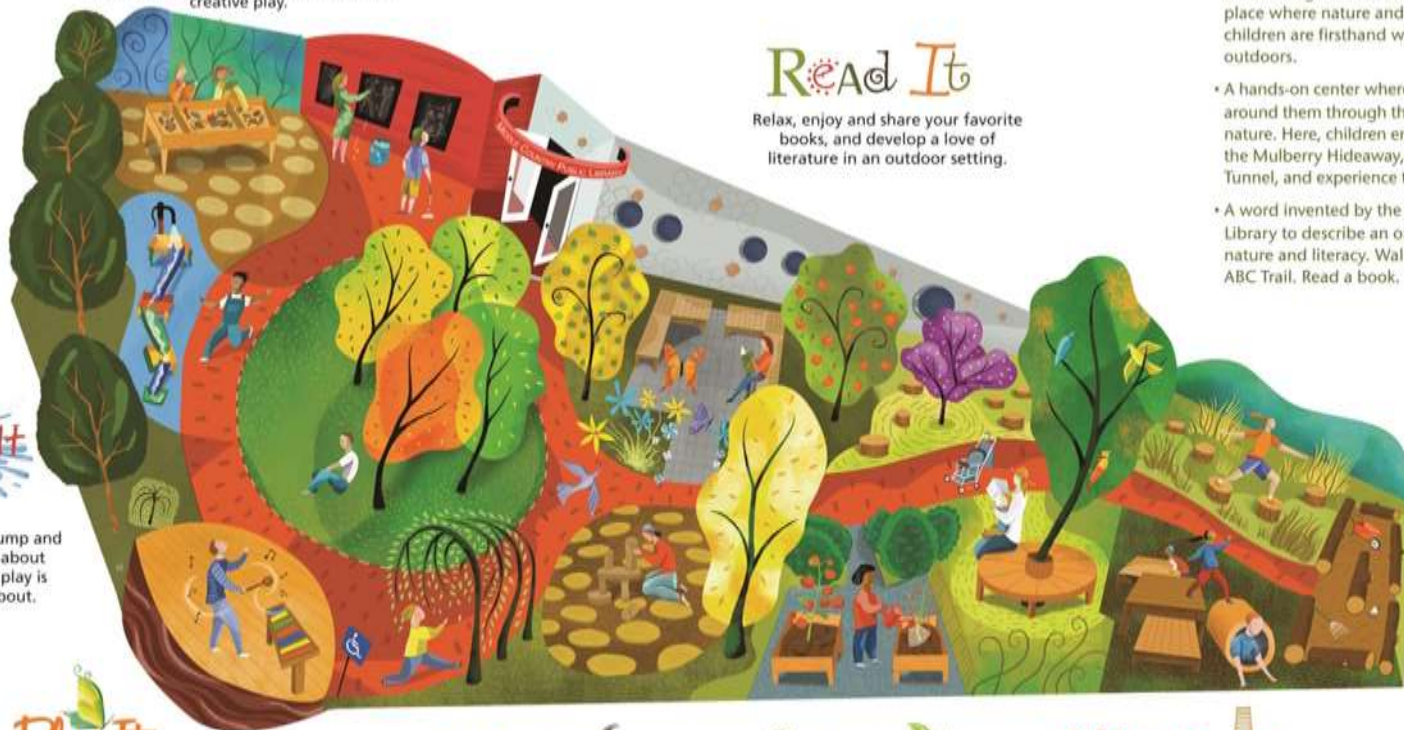
From seed to harvest, children can nurture plants and watch things grow.

Climb it

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

Dig It

An area where getting dirty and making a mess is just another kind of fun.



Create It!





Splash It!



Play It!





Build It!



Grow It!



Climb It!





Dig It!





Read It!



Outdoor Programming



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

Grow It!



- ◉ 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.



[@NatureExplorium](https://twitter.com/NatureExplorium)

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

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