



 playtrails®

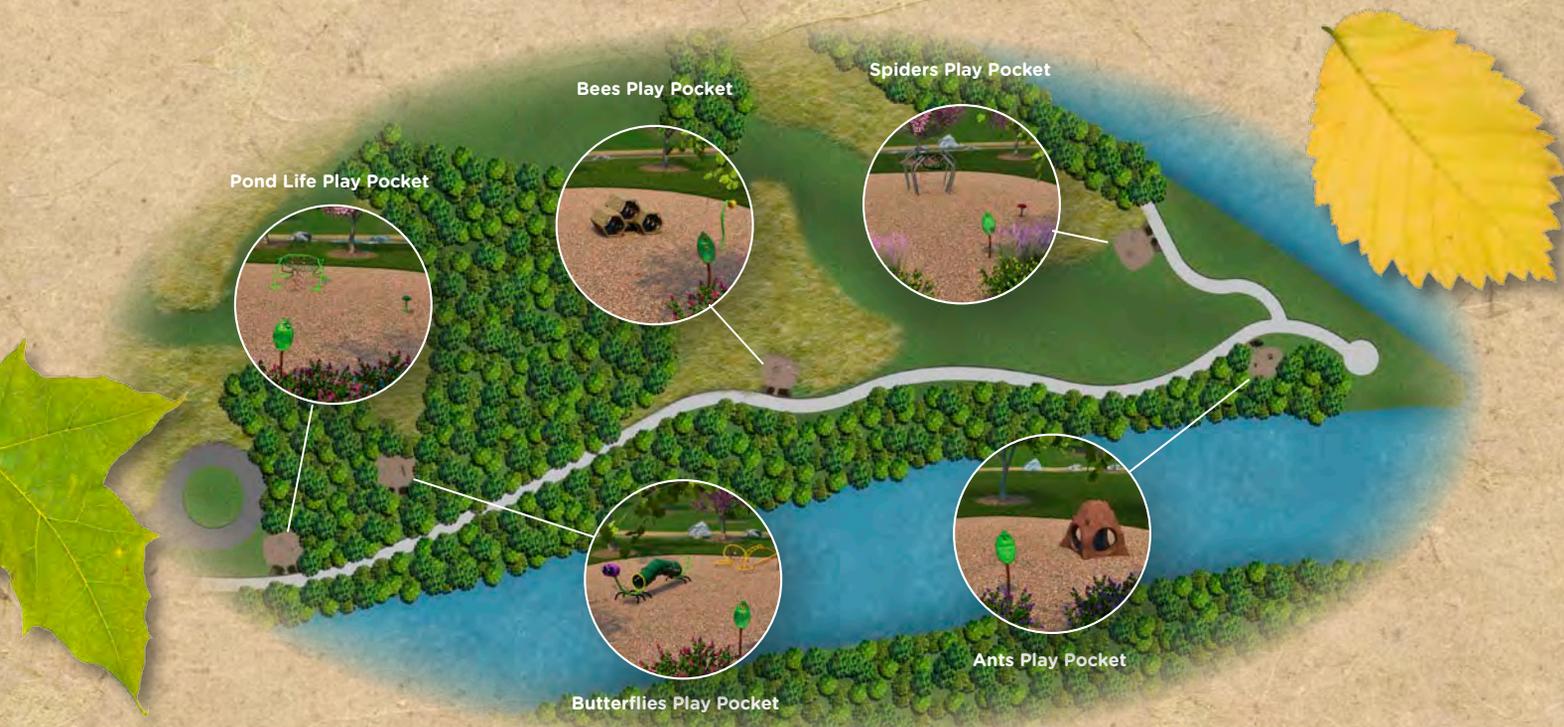


GameTime®

A PLAYCORE Company

A revolutionary way to play!

Play Trails get the entire family engaged in the outdoors



Reconnecting families & trails

Today, although trails exist in city, suburb, and open country, it appears that only a small minority of children and families are actually using them. While trails are a popular spot for health conscious adults, families with young children often do not find them engaging. In order to find a solution to this problem, GameTime collaborated with a network of experts from the American Trails group. The answer? Play Trails! Play Trails is a revolutionary phenomena that links pockets of play elements in a linear pattern along or within a trail system. Each Play Pocket is themed with either flora inspired elements like leaves, trees, and mushrooms or fauna inspired elements like dragonflies, turtles, spiders, bees and ants. Play Trails activities are grouped in Play Pockets along the trail and each Play Pocket features a sign that teaches fun facts about the subject's contributions to nature and fun activities for the family. (Did you know that an ant can carry 20 times its own body weight or that a hummingbird is the only bird capable of flying backwards and sideways?) This breakthrough in play environments creates parent/child interaction in the play pockets and along the trail between one



pocket and the next. "With new ways to attract children to trails, we can grow new generations of children who value public spaces. This is an effective way to create fun while teaching environmental values. Where play and fun objects are involved, each trip to the trail can be more fun and self-renewing," explains Pam Gluck, Executive Director of American Trails.

GameTime is revolutionizing family fun by creating family events that encourage physical activity, further develop the parent-child bond, and inspire environmental stewardship in the children of tomorrow.

Best Practices

Developed in partnership with PlayCore and the Natural Learning Initiative, College of Design NC State University, Pathways For Play is a resource for infusing play into pathway networks. It illustrates how to locate and lay out a path, as well as how to infuse it with fun, meaningful learning opportunities along the way.

Learn more at www.pathwaysforplay.org



The solution is Play Trails

Play Trails get families active and out on the trail by creating playful pockets that promote fun along the way, while encouraging the family to enjoy the walk between the play pockets. Both children and adults are immersed in nature, and since each play pocket also features opportunities to learn through educational signage, they also discover the wonder of the world around them. Play Trails can help encourage families to respect, enjoy and strive to protect our natural spaces through interaction, family togetherness, and fun.



A Collaborative Partnership

After discussions with American Trails leadership, it was found we shared their desire to get more families and children out using trails, not only for the health benefits, but also to foster an appreciation of nature. Experts in the trail industry and board members of American Trails were chosen to serve on an Advisory Committee, which had a critical role in the development of Pathways for Play program, as well as the Play Trails product line.





Bees Play Pocket

- #38007 Honeycomb (3 cell)
- #38008 Honeycomb (6 cell)
- #38106 Bee on Flower
- #38018 Flower Talk Tube (2)
- #38023 Bee Fun Facts Sign
- Other configurations available.

Children will love to pretend they are a bee gathering pollen as they learn how bees use pollen to feed their young and pollinate plants.

Bees
FANTASTIC FARMERS

Bees gather nectar to make honey using their long, straw-like proboscis. They also gather pollen to feed their young and pollinate plants. About a third of the human food supply depends on pollination, which bees accomplish while moving among flowering plants.

FUN FACTS

- Honeybees use dances to tell other bees where nectar is located. The "round" dance tells them that it is close by. When it's farther away, the bee does a "waggle" dance in the direction of the nectar.
- A bee uses its second stomach to carry honey like a nectar backpack. To fill the honey stomach can take up to 1,500 flower visits.
- Worker bees spread honey throughout the honeycomb cells and seal them with wax for storage until they are ready to eat it.

JUST FOR KIDS!
Pretend you are a busy bee finding nectar and pollen.
How will you dance, fill your stomach, and spread honey?

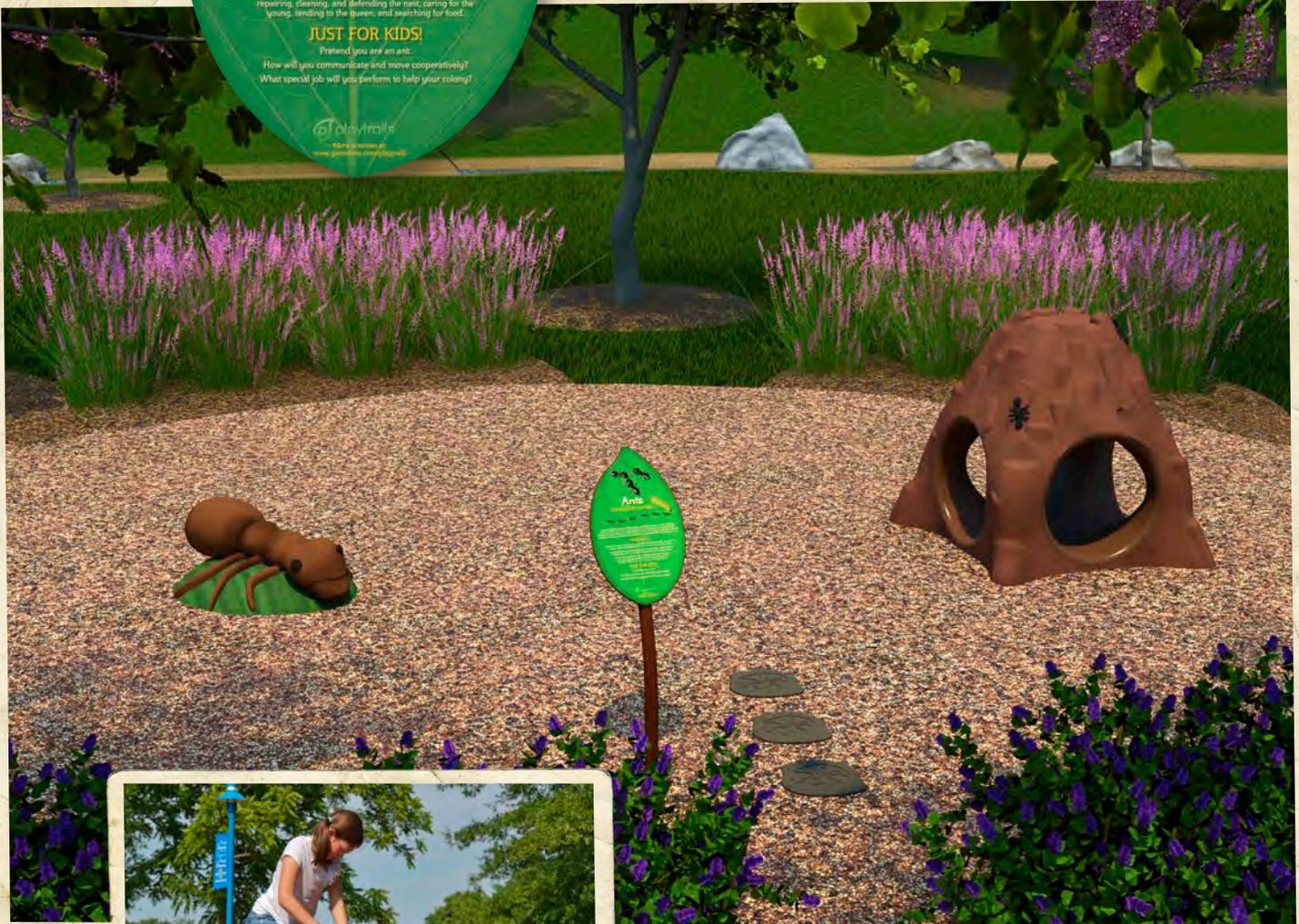
playtropolis
More inspiration at
www.playtropolis.com/playpockets

Ants

Play Pocket

- #38100 Ant Hill
- #38101 Ant on Leaf
- #38022 Ant Fun Facts Sign
- Other configurations available.

Children will learn how ants work together in cooperative groups called colonies as they climb on and around the larger than life Ant and Ant hill.



Butterflies

Play Pocket

- #38003 Butterfly Net
- #38044 Caterpillar
- #38045 Chrysalis Spinner
- #38021 Butterfly Fun Facts Sign
- Other configurations available.

Children can learn about the magic of metamorphosis as they spin in the Chrysalis or climb on the butterfly wings.



We can also create custom nature play sculptures to match the unique historical or natural features of your specific community!

⚠ WARNING: Installation over a hard surface such as concrete, asphalt, or packed earth may result in serious injury from falls.



Spiders
SILK SPINNERS

Web-building spiders use silk, a liquid protein that is squeezed from the spinneret, to build webs for catching prey, weaving shelters, and escaping predators. Spiders are important predators that protect plants and keep the insect population under control.

FUN FACTS

- Baby spiderlings travel through the air by ballooning or letting out long threads of silk into the wind. The breeze sends the spiderling sailing through the air.
- Web-weaving spiders recycle their webs by eating them to save energy.
- When sensing danger, some spiders use a thread of silk from their abdomens to create a "dragline." They can quickly drop and hang on until the danger disappears.

JUST FOR KIDS!
Up, Up, and Away!

If you were a spiderling, how would you "balloon," recycle your web, catch prey, and escape from danger?

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Spiders Play Pocket

- #38001 Inclined Web Crawler
- #38002 The Spider
- #38030 Spider Spinner
- #38026 Spider Fun Facts Sign
- Other configurations available.

Spiders are important insects that protect plants and help keep the insect population under control. Older children will love the climbing options offered in this pocket.



Birds Play Pocket

- #7038 Telescope
- #38204 Bird's Nest
- #38020 Rockin' Robin
- #38059 Bird Fun Facts Sign
- Other configurations available.

Children can learn to identify birds in their area as they use the working telescope to spot birds nearby. Pretend you're a bird in the larger than life nest!

Birds
ENGINEERS BY INSTINCT

Nests help protect eggs and baby birds from predators and are used to keep them warm. In most cases the male bird chooses the location, and the female is responsible for building it, often making hundreds of trips to collect materials. Birds play an important role in nature by helping control insect populations, disperse seeds, and pollinate plants.

FUN FACTS

- Birds prefer natural materials such as grass, moss, lichen, twigs, feathers, rocks, and shells for nest building.
- Hummingbirds have the world's smallest egg, and are the only bird that can fly backwards and sideways!
- Birds have wingbeats that can beat 800 times per minute yet rest and up to 1000 per minute during flight.
- Some migrating birds fly in V shape formations to create an extra supporting wind that increases lift, saving energy while in flight.

JUST FOR KIDS!

Listen to the songs and look for birds around you. "Fly" around to identify a good place for a nest or gather building materials that could be used for nest building.

playvitals
More information at www.playvitals.com

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Trees Play Pocket

- #38019 Small Tree (5)
- #38031 Large Tree (4)
- #38049 Tree Fun Facts Sign
- Other configurations available.

Children love the climbing options of the Tree Pocket. Educational signage teaches them how trees act as Nature's air filter.

Trees
NATURE'S AIR FILTER

Carbon Dioxide + Water + Sunlight → Glucose + Oxygen

Trees are the longest living organisms on earth. They use sunlight to convert carbon dioxide and water into food during the process of photosynthesis, releasing oxygen into the air and storing carbon in their leaves, branches, and roots. Trees also prevent erosion, provide food and shelter for a variety of wildlife, and are the largest single source of breathable oxygen in the atmosphere.

FUN FACTS

- It is estimated that one acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen enough to meet the annual needs of about 18 people.
- Trees help cool down the atmosphere, reducing air conditioning costs up to an estimated 20 percent.
- Trees take up and use nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, which would otherwise become pollution in streams and rivers.

JUST FOR KIDS!

Get a bird's eye view of the world! If you climbed a tree, what body parts and techniques help you climb? What can you do to help protect trees?

Playtrolls
More adventures at
www.playtrolls.com



Leaves Play Pocket

- #38009 Spinning Seat (straight)
- #38010 Vine Climber Low (3)
- #38011 Vine Climber High (2)
- #38043 Nature Bench
- #38055 Spinning Leaf Seat (tilted)
- #38050 Leaves Fun Facts Sign
- Other configurations available.

Children will enjoy the different leaf themed activities as they learn interesting facts like why leaves change colors.



Leaves
NATURE'S PAINTBOX

As days shorten and leaves absorb less light, the production of chlorophyll in leaves drops off, causing them to change color, die, and fall to the ground.

FUN FACTS

- Why do leaves turn color? Orange & yellow are always present but can't be seen until chlorophyll disappears and green fades. Cooler nights result in trapped glucose, creating vibrant red and purple. Brown is produced by the waste material left in the leaves.
- Color intensity is affected by weather. Summer droughts can result in less vibrant color. The best colors are a result of warm, sunny days and cool nights.
- Every year, leaves make up as much as 25% of total residential garbage disposal. A preferred alternative is to convert leaves into compost to improve overall soil structure.

JUST FOR KIDS!
Leaves can sway, spin, and sail through the air. Pretend you are a leaf. How would you move and change throughout the year?

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More & more at
www.playtrails.com/leaves



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Pond Life
A BUSY ECOSYSTEM

Ponds provide an ideal habitat for insects, water dwelling invertebrates, and ecological events. Aquatic ecosystems perform many important environmental functions like recycling nutrients, purifying water, attenuating floods, recharging ground water, and providing habitats for wildlife.

FUN FACTS

- Adult dragonflies can catch and feast on other insects while they are flying through the air at speeds between 30-60 miles an hour.
- Turtles living in cold climates hibernate, or "bruminate," in ponds, getting oxygen from the water by breathing through their tails!
- Frogs don't drink water, they absorb it through their skin! Frog bones form a ring when the frog is hibernating, just like trees do. Scientists can use those rings to figure out the age of a frog.
- Some fish secrete a slimy mucus from their skin which can be used to protect them against parasites and infections, help them move faster through the water, ward off enemy attacks, or lead their young!

JUST FOR KIDS!
Movement is a way of life down at the pond!
Move like a pond creature and see if your friends or family can guess what you are!

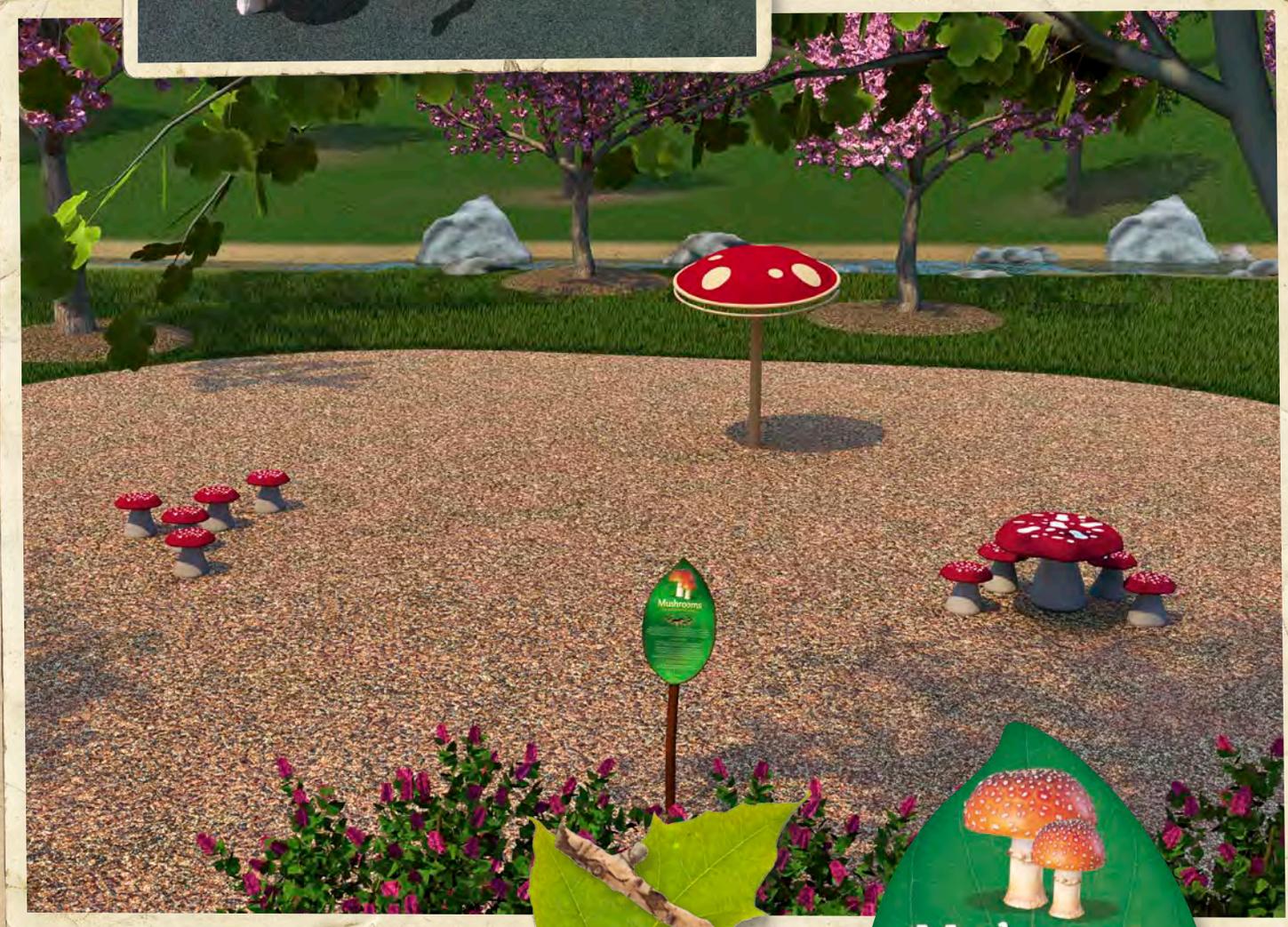
Playtrails
More activities at www.gametime.com/playtrails

Pond Life

Play Pocket

- #38000 The Dragonfly
- #38004 Frog Climber
- #38029 Turtle Spinner
- #38024 Pond Fun Facts Sign
- Other configurations available.

Learn about life in, on and around the pond! Add a dragonfly themed see-saw with a Frog Climber or Fish Climber for a fun moving event.



Mushrooms

Play Pocket

- #38012 Spinning Mushroom (red)
- #38109 Large Mushroom
- #38110 Small Mushroom (9)
- #38051 Mushroom Fun Facts Sign
- Other configurations available.

Children will enjoy learning fun facts about mushrooms as they spin on our giant Spinning Mushroom or sit together to take a break at the accessible mushroom shaped table and seats.

Mushrooms
THE KINGDOM OF FUNGI

The part of the fungus that we see is only the "fruit" of the organism. The living body of the fungus is a mycelium usually hidden in the soil, in wood, or another food source. Mushrooms don't make their food like green plants do; they get it from dead leaves and logs, breaking down organic matter and turning it into usable topsoil. Since many mushrooms are poisonous, you should never eat mushrooms that have not been identified by an expert or purchased in a food store.

FUN FACTS

- Mushrooms grow from tiny spores, not seeds, and a single mature mushroom will drop as many as 16 billion spores.
- Some mushrooms grow in a circle, also known as a "fairy ring" which comes from an old belief that mushrooms growing in a circle followed the path made by fairies dancing in a ring.
- There are about 40 types of mushrooms that glow in the dark and can actually be used to help navigate your way when the sun goes down.

JUST FOR KIDS!
Pretend you are exploring through the woods. How will you use the fruit of fungi to navigate your way?

playtrails
More information at
www.playtrails.com/mushrooms

Animal Habitats Play Pocket

- #38001 Inclined Web Crawler
- #38008 Honeycomb (6 cell)
- #38018 Flower Talk Tube (2)
- #38019 Small Tree (6)
- #38031 Large Tree (7)
- #38029 Turtle Spinner
- #38100 Ant Hill
- #38112 Log Crawl Thru
- #38060 Habitats Fun Facts Sign

• Other configurations available.

Children learn about the many different habitats animals call home as they climb on or around Ant Hills, Honeycombs and a Log Crawl Thru.

Animal Habitats

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

All species of animals have a unique place where they live called their habitat. Habitats consist of all the elements animals need to survive such as food, water, shelter, and places to raise their young. Ecosystems need protection and a variety of elements to support healthy, stable habitats.

FUN FACTS

- Some animals use caves, trees, and shells for their homes. Others such as bees, ants, spiders, and birds build their homes to provide shelter.
- Habitats come in all shapes and sizes! Habitats can be as small as an ant's inside a tree for an insect to 8 acres for foraging squirrels, to 40,000 acres of land for a black bear.
- Some animals can adapt to their habitat for survival, like aquatic insects who survive extreme cold by freezing, then thawing when weather warms up!

JUST FOR KIDS!

What habitats can you locate around you?
Ask a friend or parent to role play being different types of animals and how they would survive.

 Playtrails
More activities at
www.gametime.com/playtrails

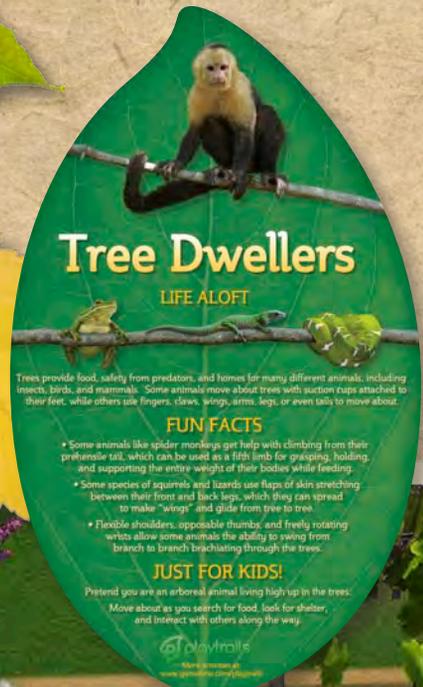


Tree Dwellers

Play Pocket

- #38019 Small Tree (5)
- #38031 Large Tree (4)
- #38111 Tree Stump (3)
- #38112 Log Crawl Thru
- #38113 Talking Stump (2)
- #38025 Tree Dwellers Sign
- Other configurations available.

As children play on our many different tree themed events, they can learn how animals that live in trees search for food or look for shelter.



Tree Dwellers

LIFE ALOFT

Trees provide food, safety from predators, and homes for many different animals, including insects, birds, and mammals. Some animals move about trees with suction cups attached to their feet, while others use fingers, claws, wings, arms, legs, or even tails to move about.

FUN FACTS

- Some animals like spider monkeys get help with climbing from their prehensile tail, which can be used as a fifth limb for grasping, holding, and supporting the entire weight of their bodies while feeding.
- Some species of squirrels and lizards use flaps of skin stretching between their front and back legs, which they can spread to make "wings" and glide from tree to tree.
- Flexible shoulder-oppoasible thumbs, and freely rotating wrists allow some animals the ability to swing from branch to branch brachiating through the trees.

JUST FOR KIDS!

Pretend you are an arboreal animal living high up in the trees. Move about as you search for food, look for shelter, and interact with others along the way.

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www.playtrails.com



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Interactive Signs

Hear the sounds of nature!

Our interactive sign panels are fun and educational for the whole family. Each sign features a sensory switch, which is activated on contact, and provides a short narrative

about the item selected, as well as a sound clip of the object. Choose from the River Animal Trackers panel, the Forest Animal Trackers panel or Sounds of Water panel.



#38052 Animal Tracker: River



#38053 Animal Tracker: Forest



#38066 Sounds of Water

Informational Signs

Play Trail Welcome Sign

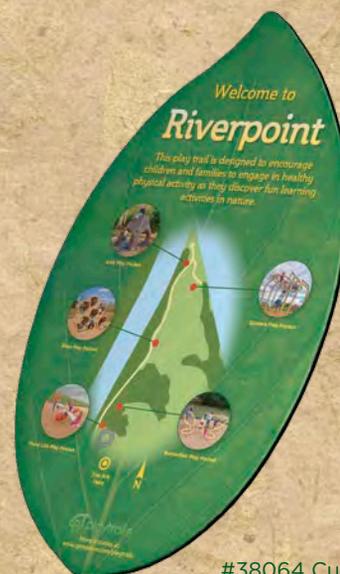
Make a statement about your trail designed for children and families!



#38027 Welcome Sign

Custom Map Sign

Create the perfect entrance to your Play Trail with a custom trail map sign! This large sign is made of the same high quality recycled laminate used for the Fun Facts signs and retains the leaf shape that has become a symbol of the play trail. You provide the name of your trail, a map showing your play pockets and their location along the trail and we will create a personalized sign showcasing your community's Play Trail.



#38064 Custom Trail Map Sign

Accessories

Enhance your Play Trail

Nature themed amenities like our benches, trash receptacles, and bike racks add to the comfort and practicality of the trail, while adding an attractive finishing touch. GT Impax Safety Surfacing is available in a variety of types including engineered wood fiber and poured in place rubber to suit any budget or site.



Bug Trash Receptacle



Pond Bench



Nature Bench



GT Impax Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing



GT Impax Poured Rubber Safety Surfacing



Way Find Sign

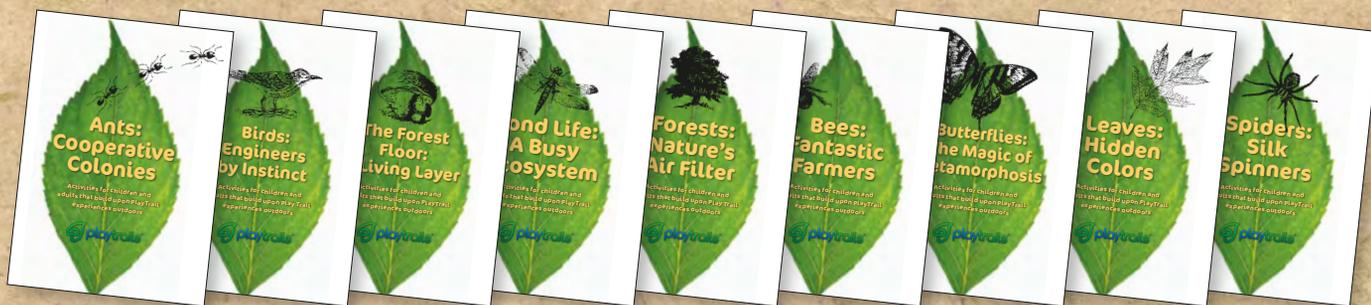


Nature Curbs



Nature Bike Rack

Activity Guides



Playful learning

Download our educational activity guides at www.gametime.com/playtrails. Print one or all of them and take them with you to the trail. Each one contains tips for parents or teachers, stories, informative facts, activities and crafts for children

to make the trail experience a family friendly learning event. Using these guides as a tool, you can teach children an appreciation of Nature they will carry with them long after they leave the trail.



A PLAYCORE Company

www.gametime.com/playtrails
1.800.235.2440