



BioQuest Explore the Wild

In 2005, the Museum debuts *Explore the Wild*, a six-acre woodland habitat and wetland site where visitors can walk in the steps of a wildlife biologist. Interactive exhibits, naturalistic animal observation areas and enclosures, field cameras, remote sensing devices, outdoor microscopes, and state-of-the-art computers facilitate your investigation of this dynamic landscape.

Woodland Boardwalk • Embark on your exploration of the wild through the twists and turns of an impressive 900-foot boardwalk. The first major bend gives you an open view of the wetland habitat you are about to experience. Steer an infrared camera to detect the complex differences in thermal environment between sunny and shady areas and learn about how these variances determine the life forms that survive in the wetland. You then descend from the treetops to the water level of the wetland.

Wetland Overlook and Lab • Walk onto the Wetland Exhibit deck and look out over an immense wetland bordered by a rich forest. This high activity area teaches you about the history of the mining activity that created the quarry that is now home to this wetland. It also teaches you about the wildlife and plant life supported by wetland habitats. For example, you can investigate live samples of wetland water to discover the microscopic life teeming in the wetland. Duck feet and tadpole interactives illustrate methods used by life in the wetland for getting around.

Black Bears, Red Wolves and Lemurs Investigative Overlooks • Look out over the preserved natural character and beauty of the abandoned quarry that is home to black bears, red wolves, and lemurs. Waterfalls and streams provide the ambient sound of water as your senses adjust and you start to make out the wildlife. Field cameras bring you up close to these amazing animals. Video image consoles and multi media consoles answer frequently asked questions and provide video clips of the vocalizations and habits of these amazing animals.

EXHIBIT FEATURES:

- Explore the Wild Grand Entry
- Explore the Wild Visitor Center and Comfort Station
- Benches and Other Seating Throughout Exhibit Campus
- Landscaped Areas