

JAMES & ANNE
Robinson
NATURE CENTER



**Howard
County**

RECREATION & PARKS



**FACILITIES &
FEATURES**



FAMILY PICNIC



6692 Cedar Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
410-313-0400

Hours

Wednesday-Saturday: 9 AM-5 PM
Sunday: Noon-5 PM
Closed on Mondays & Tuesdays

Daily Admission

Adults: \$5
Children (3-17 yrs): \$3
Under 3: FREE

Annual Passes

Annual pass holders are entitled to complimentary general admission to Robinson, use of its trails, a 10% markdown in the gift shop and discounted admission to certain programs. Annual passes expire 1 year from date of purchase.
(NR) = Non-Resident of Howard County.

Senior (50 years +)	\$20 / \$40 (NR)
Student (with school ID)	\$20 / \$40 (NR)
Individual	\$25 / \$50 (NR)
Family (household)	\$50 / \$100 (NR)

Add an additional \$50 to any annual pass level to enjoy Friends of Robinson Nature Center benefit.

Friends of Robinson Nature Center Membership Levels

Friends of Robinson Nature Center memberships include an annual pass to the nature center, as well as friends-only benefits. For details, please call 410-313-0400

Patron	\$175	Sustainer	\$500
Supporter	\$250	Lifetime	\$1,000



facebook.com/RobinsonNatureCenter



ABOUT THE ROBINSON NATURE CENTER

The Robinson Nature Center, opened in September 2011, is a unique, multi-award-winning nature education facility situated on 18 acres of land adjacent to the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Development of the facility and grounds was made possible through the foresight and generosity of James and Anne Robinson and the James & Anne Robinson Foundation, along with the Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks.

The mission of the Robinson Nature Center is to facilitate the enjoyment and understanding of our natural resources and to bridge the gap between people and nature. By inspiring sound environmental awareness, we promote responsible stewardship of all of our natural resources and strive to connect people of all ages with nature through experience-based education.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

The building and grounds of the Robinson Nature Center were designed to meet the highest sustainable building standard of the United States Green Building Council. We received the Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) designation in 2012. Our LEED features and practices include:

- Green roof, pervious concrete parking lot, and multiple rain gardens to address stormwater.
- Building materials sourced from within 100 miles of the center.
- Geothermal heating and cooling, as well as solar panels on our roof.
- Water and energy saving technology throughout the building.
- Oyster shell recycling collection site and compost demonstration area.
- Conservation stewardship projects including invasive plant removal, native plantings and trash clean-ups.



OUTDOOR TRAILS & FEATURES

Within the 18 acres of land preserved for the Robinson Nature Center, we encourage visitors to enjoy and explore the outdoors in multiple ways.

- Walk just over one mile of unpaved trails through the woods.
- Find arboretum signs along trails for self-guided interpretive hikes.
- Enjoy outdoor seating available on two patios – one, adjacent to our building’s lower level and a second along the center’s green roof.
- Meander on our sidewalks past native plantings, a water feature and rain gardens.
- Explore compatible herb, flower, and vegetable plantings in our Children’s Garden.

NATURE PLACE DISCOVERY ZONE

Intentionally designed to provide an early connection to nature for children, the Nature Place offers opportunities for imaginative play and exploration.

- Test out the underground slide.
- Build or weave your own creations using natural blocks and native grasses.
- Crawl through and explore the inside of large, hollow Sycamore logs.
- Make your own music on our natural xylophones.

SIMPSONVILLE MILL RUINS

The Simpsonville Mill Archaeological and Historic District is one of the few professionally-studied mill sites in Maryland. Built in the middle of the 19th century, this mill operated as a saw mill and grist mill. Visit the first-story ruins of the mill, which are located under the Cedar Lane road bridge.

- Learn how industry connected to the land in past centuries, relying upon water power from the Middle Patuxent River.
- Follow the trail to discover the remains of the mill race, built to send water through the mill.
- Connect these sites with our exhibits on the history of the mill and local land use.



EXHIBITS

Our indoor permanent exhibits provide locally-relevant information and interactive interpretation.

Experience the Chesapeake Bay Watershed exhibit:

- Navigate a hand-painted floor map of the Bay.
- “Fly” through the Chesapeake watershed on a digital, tilting table display.

Discover the “Changing Lives, Changing Landscapes” exhibit:

- View artifacts and a historical timeline of local land use.
- Turn the wheel of our model grist mill and watch it transform grain into flour.

Wind your way through the “Life of the Forest” exhibit:

- Delight in the sights and sounds of life through the seasons in an Eastern North American deciduous forest.
- See what’s “out-of-sight” in logs and seasonal vernal pools on the forest floor.
- Experience the mystery and darkness of the nighttime forest.

Travel to outer space and back:

- The audio-visual alcove hosts ViewSpace, streaming a live feed of video and text from NASA’s Space Science Telescope Institute.
- The Backyard Habitat exhibit features a demonstration honey bee hive and bird feeders.

In addition to our permanent exhibits, the Center displays rotating exhibits by local artists and regional partners.

DISCOVERY ROOM

- Try out scientific skills at our monthly-rotating field station, or open a themed Discovery Bin to investigate local plants, animals and ecology.
- Release your inner-artist and create a masterpiece on the chalk board within the hand-painted seasonal wall mural.
- Read to your little one from our large, rotating collection of children’s nature books while overlooking the forest below.
- Get an up-close view of some wonders of the aquatic world in our saltwater Discovery Tank and live reptiles and amphibians in our animal exhibit wall.



NATURESPHERE

The NatureSphere is a digital, full-dome theater and planetarium that seats up to 50 people. The NatureSphere hosts regularly scheduled programs, including planetarium presentations and full-dome movies. The space is available for private programs or presentations.



PROGRAMS & CAMPS

In addition to visiting the facilities and grounds, you can visit the nature center for public or private programs. We offer field trips for all ages, LEED tours that highlight the sustainable technologies of the center, birthday party packages, summer camps, planetarium presentations, nature walks, campfires, special events, scout programs and much more. For information on any of these programs:

- Call 410-313-0400.
- Visit our website, www.howardcountymd.gov/RobinsonNatureCenter.
- Check us out on Facebook, www.facebook.com/RobinsonNatureCenter.

RENTALS

Robinson Nature Center has areas available for rent year-round.

We offer themed birthday party program packages on weekends that can accommodate up to 20 children and 40 total guests. Weddings and larger events can be accommodated during evening hours only. For details, pricing, and availability please contact our rental coordinator by calling 410-313-0400.



Classroom 1 & 2

Each room is 800 square feet, with capacity of 40 people each. LCD monitor with computer hookup; two white boards; computer hookup for alternative projection; wireless internet access; sink; tables and chairs set to your specifications; and access to kitchenette with microwave and fridge.



Auditorium

This 1,540-square-foot room accommodates up to 120, dependent upon setup. It is ideal for a variety of events. It comes with audio-visual resources, including a projector and screen; professional surround-sound system; podium and handheld or wireless microphone; wireless internet access; tables and chairs and access to kitchenette with microwave and fridge.



Mezzanine Patio

This 2,200-square-foot outdoor space provides beautiful views of the Center's wooded property. Use of patio tables and chairs is permitted for rentals, but banquet tables and chairs are not provided. Capacity is dependent upon setup and is only available for rent in conjunction with the auditorium. Tenting the Mezzanine Patio space is allowed, but tents are not provided by the Center.

gift shop

AT ROBINSON NATURE CENTER

- rocks & gems
- science & space gifts
- handmade ceramics
- life-like puppets
- pocket field guides
- nature games & crafts

Open during normal operating hours and does not require an admission fee. Items include sustainable and local products, science-based gifts and activities for kids. Special discounts available for annual passholders during select times of the year.



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