

Front Yard

Draw your child's attention to the sculptures of *Food, Water, Shelter and Space* that show the four essential components of a healthy habitat.

Point out the recycled rubber play surface you are standing on. It was made using old car tires!

Check out the Native Ohio butterfly garden beside the porch. Can you think of ways to attract butterflies to your yard?

Look for items made out of recycled plastic. Find the rain barrel. Not only is it made from recycled plastic, it helps to conserve water! The Adirondack chairs and the flower pots beside the trellis are also made from recycled plastic!

Landscaping and Gardening Shed

Explore the native prairie and wetland that surrounds *My House*. You will see many beautiful plants that are native to Ohio. Using native plants in your landscape requires less maintenance and is more beneficial to native wildlife. Can you and your child find any local wildlife hopping, running or flying around?

Native Plant Signage: Want to learn more about Ohio's native plants? Follow the trail of native plant signs from the prairie, through the wetland and up to the barn. There are many plants to learn about.

Have a seat on the recycled plastic picnic table. Read the message displayed on our clothes line, talk to your child about what types of things in your house use energy and where it comes from.

Look for the small green compost bin. This low maintenance compost bin is made from recycled plastic.

Check out the gardening shed. There are many things to discover like animal tracks, bird eggs, the bird houses, bird feeders, bat houses and even a brush pile. Do you see a bird? Write it down on our birdwatchers list.

Thank you for coming to My House at Habitat Hollow!

If you have any questions about My House at Habitat Hollow, be sure to talk to one of the staff. They are here to help.

Learn more about My House on the Columbus Zoo website:

[www.columbuszoo.org/
education/myhouse/
house.html](http://www.columbuszoo.org/education/myhouse/house.html)



www.swaco.org
614-871-5100

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PARENT'S GUIDE TO MY HOUSE AT HABITAT HOLLOW

Welcome to My House at Habitat Hollow!

Habitat Hollow is an interactive exhibit where families and young Children learn conservation messages through a "storybook" world where habitats come alive. My House invites children to experience wildlife in three habitats; wetland, forest and prairie.

In My House families and young children can enhance their appreciation for habitats and wildlife, learn about mankind's impact on the environment and commit to conservation practices in the home and community.

Getting the Most out of Your Visit to My House

Invite your child to pay close attention to the pictures on the walls, the patterns on the floor, the Storybooks and the interactive displays with cranks, buttons, textures and crawl spaces.

Enjoy the Storybooks with riddles that lead children through the exhibit, looking for clues. The clues are located on disks highlighted with the image of a ladybug. These riddles and clues provide interesting facts about the animals, habitats and conservation.

Pick up some Game Cards located in the Foyer to learn all kinds of fascinating facts as you explore My House.

The Foyer

Ask your children to look around and name all the animals they see on the wall (ladybugs, opossum, frog, deer, hawk, skunk, salamander, etc.) and those peeking out from the coats on the coat rack (raccoon, mice, birds).

Read the first Storybook which introduces the riddles and gives clues about how to find the answers!

Take a game card or two, follow the clues and learn new facts about wildlife, habitats and conservation as you explore the rest of the exhibit. Be sure to drop the game cards in the drop box in the Kitchen when you're done.

Wetland

The *wetland animal greeter* is the leopard frog. Have your child stop and listen to his rhyme.

Read the three Storybooks about *Hidden Treasure* (camouflage), *Who's Heading Home* (animal tracks) and *Leave It to Beaver* (habitats.) Look for clues on disks.

How many different animals can you and your child find on the wall and in the Marshes? Check out the turtle going in and out of the water. What other surprises do you find?

Explore the Wetlands just like the animals who live there. Begin by encouraging your child to crawl through the underwater tunnel. What's that like? What animals do they see under there?

Guide your child under the pond and into the beaver's lodge. Adults fit, too. Is the beaver home? Keep on going, the tree turns into a slide.

Listen for frog calls by pushing buttons (and even a frog) to hear three frog calls native to Ohio. They can be found around the pond and beaver's lodge. Invite your child to listen to all the other wetland sounds. Can your child name the animals that make those sounds?

Forest

The *forest animal greeter* is the opossum. Can you see him hiding in the tree?

Stop and ask your child to name the animals painted on the wall. Wolf, cardinal, fox, hummingbird, butterfly, etc. Are the animals in the forest different from those in the prairie?

Read the two Storybooks called *Don't Stomp on Me* (small animals on the

forest floor) and *What's for Lunch?* (animal diets).

Forest Continued...

Encourage your child to crawl through the fox den and play in the leaf bin. What tiny forest animals live in there?

Explore the giant sycamore tree. How many animals can you find?

Check out the hollow log. Move the panels to discover nature's decomposers.

Discover the five layers of a forest. From the tallest tree to the tiniest moss, can you figure out what the five layers are?

Prairie

The *prairie animal greeter* is the meadowlark. Look for her perched on a branch.

Read the two Storybooks titled *Recipe for a Prairie* (the food web) and *Spaced Out* (the amount of space different animals need).

Notice the coyote hiding in the grass. Check out the den on the mound. Use this opportunity to explore the food web with your child. Who eats animals? Who eats plants? What do plants need to survive?

Check out the garter snake under the rock. Talk about how different creatures hide.

Bedroom (Portrays human impact on the environment)

Read the Storybook on *Trashing the Planet* (human's impact on the environment). Look at the windows and discuss what's happening in each of the habitats.

Encourage your child to play the four computer games about Ohio Native Species and Rethinking, Reducing, Recycling and Reusing.

Kitchen (Highlights conservation practices for all ages)

Guide your child to the Recycling Conveyor belt to sort the recyclables in the bin into their correct cut-outs and move the recycling conveyor belt.

Open the refrigerator and examine examples of environmentally-friendly choices that any family can make at the grocery store or at home.

Examine examples of recycled building materials displayed on the counter that went into building My House. Watch "The House that Trash Built" video and discuss it.

Play the Recycling Puzzle beside the refrigerator to discover what trash can become.