

Helping Young Children Learn to Love Nature at Ivy Creek: *A Guide to Some Fun & Promising Experiences*

Ivy Creek's *Little Naturalists program* for families with children under school age is suspended at the current time, but its guides have prepared this *short list of some natural attractions for young children that can be found at Ivy Creek:*

1. Pollinator Garden;
2. Bird feeding area;
3. Gazebo;
4. Ivy Creek's trails themselves.
5. Martin's Branch Creek, *which runs into*
6. Rivanna Reservoir;
7. School Trail

1. The Pollinator Garden:

On the East side of the barn is an outstanding pollinator garden with a large variety of plants that attract butterflies, bees, praying mantis and all kinds of interesting insects. For some fun facts about pollinators, visit the [Capturing Kids' Attention in the Pollinator Garden](#) page on our website.



2. The Bird-Feeding Area:

Between the Education Building and the bathroom building is a bird-feeding area, often busy with birds feeding from a well-stocked supply of seeds.



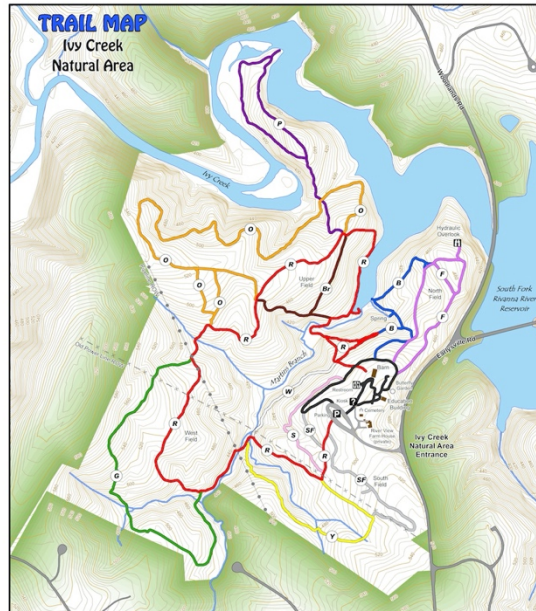
3. The Gazebo:

Between the Education Building and the Pollinator Garden is a comfortable, covered area where you can sit and children can play under cover.



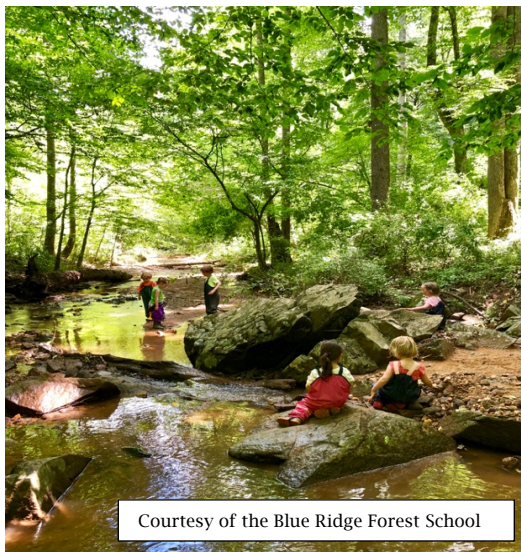
4. Ivy Creek's Trails:

With miles of trails in all kinds of natural settings, Ivy Creek is great for explorations of interesting, new sights for children and adults. Benches are strategically placed for you to stop and observe.



5. Martin's Branch Creek:

If you follow the red trail from the barn you will come to Martin's Branch. Children love to walk on the large boulders and listen to the sound of the water rushing over the rocks. They can sit on the small bridge and look for organisms that live in the stream. (Please try not to disturb rocks in the water which are the homes for some of these critters.)



6. The Rivanna Reservoir:

Hike a little further on the red trail to where Martin's Branch flows into the Rivanna Reservoir. Here you will find a boardwalk that offers a nice view of the inlet. Follow the red trail along the inlet and you will have a good opportunity to view waterfowl and turtles sunning themselves on trees that have fallen in the water.



7. The School Trail:

The school trail is a choice for young arborists. There is a nice variety of trees on this short trail and many of them are labeled with their Latin and common names. This trail is a short distance from the south side of the parking lot via the red trail. You can sometimes see wildlife along this trail.

