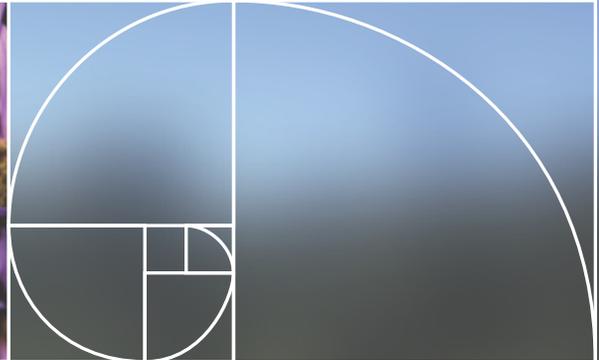
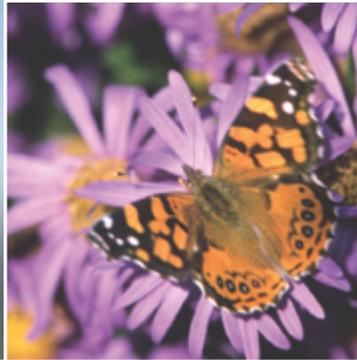


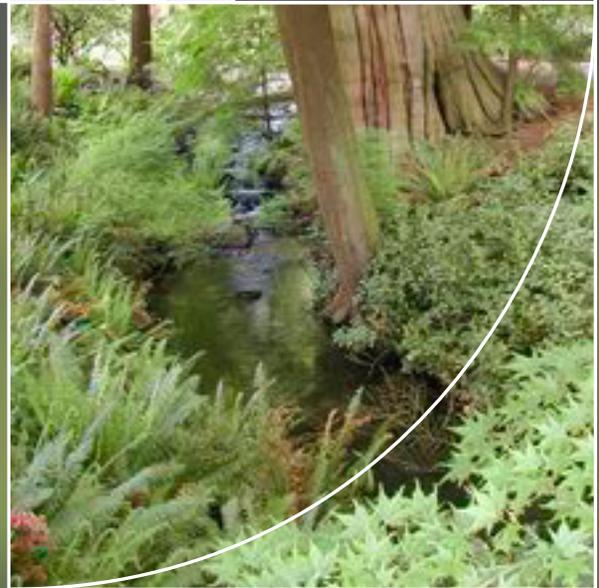
STANLEY PARK
ECOLOGY SOCIETY

Nature Interpretive Centre

Preliminary Vision



April 2005



ALDRICHPEARS ASSOCIATES
Bufo Inc.

We envision... an indoor/outdoor all-season Nature Interpretive Centre suitable for an urban wilderness as magnificent as Stanley Park where children and adults, the community and visitors can explore nature in unique and engaging ways, and be moved to personal stewardship.

This is a “flow-through” facility that introduces diverse audiences to “secret sides of Stanley Park” – the hard-to-see heritage and issues that, once revealed, enrich an individual’s awareness, understanding and celebration of complex natural history.





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ALDRICHPEARS ASSOCIATES

100-1455 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6G 2T3

Tel: 604-669-7044

Fax: 604-669-7644

Web: www.aldrichpears.com





The Stanley Park Ecology Society promotes stewardship of our natural world through public experiences that build emotional, intellectual and action-based awareness of the ecological challenges that Stanley Park faces.

2

mission statement

The new Interpretive Centre will:

- 1 Provide fun, engaging and entertaining educational nature experiences for a wide range of residents and tourists, including families, young children, teens, adults and seniors.
- 2 Raise visitor awareness and appreciation of nature through a focus on:
 - Stanley Park as a key example of beauty and sanctuary in an urban area
 - intimate connections with live flora and fauna
 - urban – nature connections
- 3 Motivate visitors to:
 - visit other areas of the park in a responsible way
 - make excursions into nature a more regular part of their lives
 - take steps to bring nature and the conservation ethic into their own lives
- 4 Advise on the management of Stanley Park to establish a balance between recreational use and biological integrity.
- 5 Establish itself as a key resource for information and advice on conservation, stewardship and the application of these principles in our everyday lives.
- 6 Provide within its structure and programs examples of sustainability.
- 7 Partner with academic institutions in supporting research and student projects on biological integrity.
- 8 Serve:
 - the local community
 - touring visitors
 - repeat visitors
 - diverse cultures
- 9 Work towards becoming a self-sustaining institution with strong support from, and partnerships with, community groups, commercial interests, learning institutions and government.

visitor experience & desired outcomes



This bubble diagram identifies the five principle concepts for visitors' experience. Each is designed to evoke a sense of heightened awareness in the visitor through a process of **appreciation**, **discovery** and **action**, both on site and at home.

Meeting the needs of:

- schools
- educators
- children
- tourists
- seniors
- youth groups
- families
- adults



Stanley Park is an urban sanctuary that annually attracts millions of residents and tourists, each of whose actions impact wildlife and wild places both in the Park and at home.

4

thematic approach

Themes

Gateway to the Rainforest

Vancouver's abundant rainfall creates a lush and biodiverse ecosystem that occupies only a narrow strip along very few of the world's coastlines.

Secret Sides of Stanley Park

Some living wonders of Stanley Park are not easy to discover as they are under water, high in the forest canopy, deep in the soil, emerge after dark, or are too tiny to see at first glance.

Celebrating Nature

Experiences in Stanley Park are enriched when we understand nature's complexity, beauty, sensory richness, sensitivity, and priceless inherent value.

Becoming a Nature Steward

The Interpretive Centre empowers everyday people to make a positive difference in protecting the ecological integrity and biodiversity of Stanley Park and beyond.

Keeping a Balance

The fragile balance between ecological integrity and the recreation needs of urban populations must be creatively and carefully managed.

5 functional relationships

Each bubble identifies a specific visitor space. The relationship between them is designed to maximize learning opportunities using a variety of effective principles and opportunities listed below.

Exploration Gardens

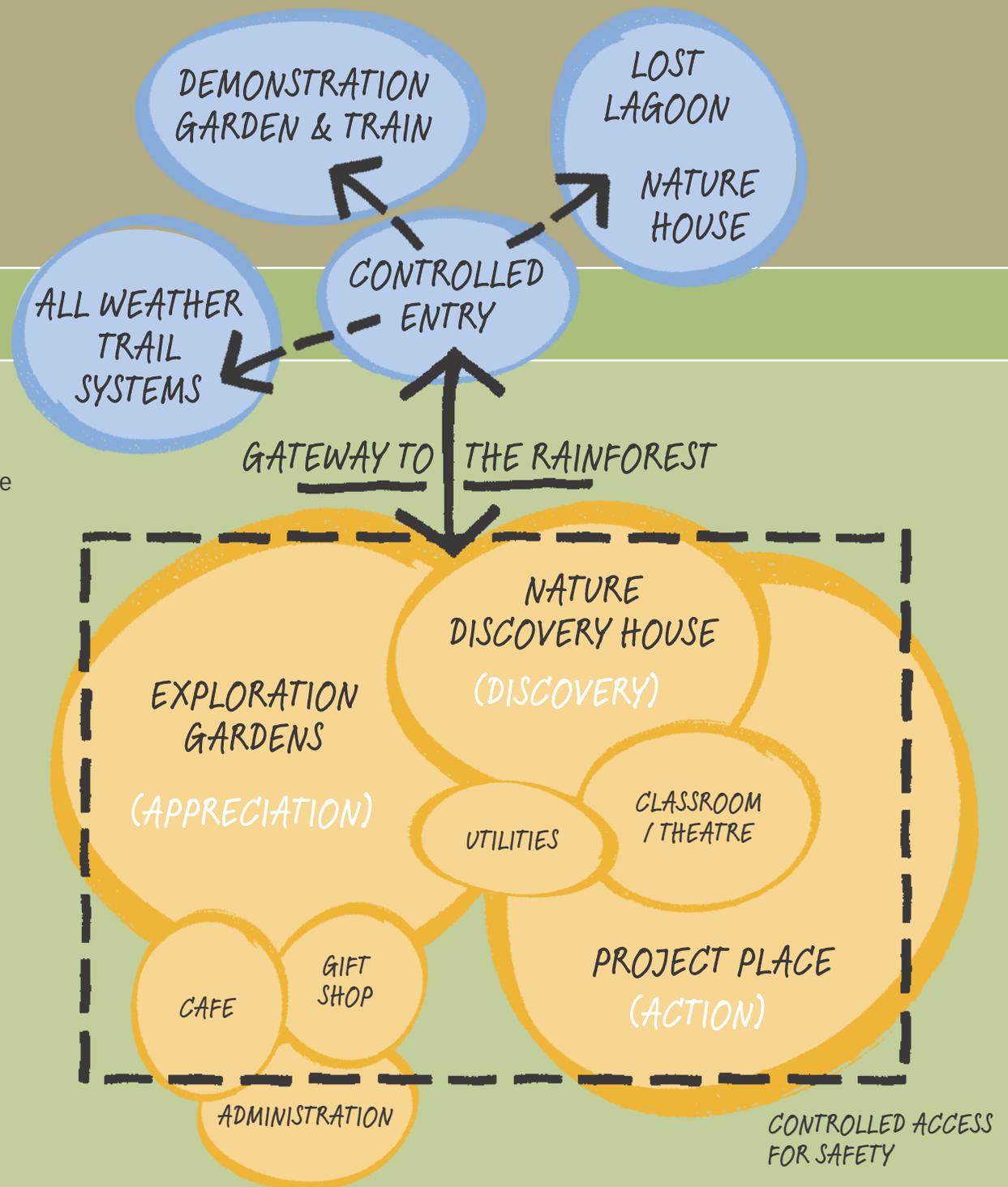
- whole-body play
- nature appreciation

Nature Discovery House

- looking in new ways
- revealing what is hidden

Project Place

- research projects
- environmental stewardship initiatives





6

programmes and resources

The Nature Interpretive Centre will be a focus for programmes throughout the park;

- diverse self-directed exploration through static and technological displays and activities
- docent and staff led interpretation
- nature and historical walks and cycle tours
- school field classes
- community exhibits - art, photography, science, even technology
- visitor services brochures, maps and resource kits for Park trail systems
- overnight programs / camp outs
- lectures, film, video
- live theatre, puppetry and drama
- bird watching and bird counts
- wildlife monitoring, invasive species removal and habitat enhancement
- scientific exploration and projects
- university research projects:
 - nature arts and crafting
 - birdhouse and terrarium workshops
- art, literature and photography workshops
- ethnobotany and First Nations programming
- catered, after hours events, and special themed birthdays
- youth nature club
- resources library ; nature story telling
- games – physical and board games
- sustainable building demonstrations
- travel programs to partner parks, protected areas or other
- gardening workshops and clubs
- Tai Chi and yoga in the gardens
- special events:
 - raptor demonstrations
 - Chinese New Year
 - musical ensembles in the gardens



discover life in the trees



get a close-up perspective

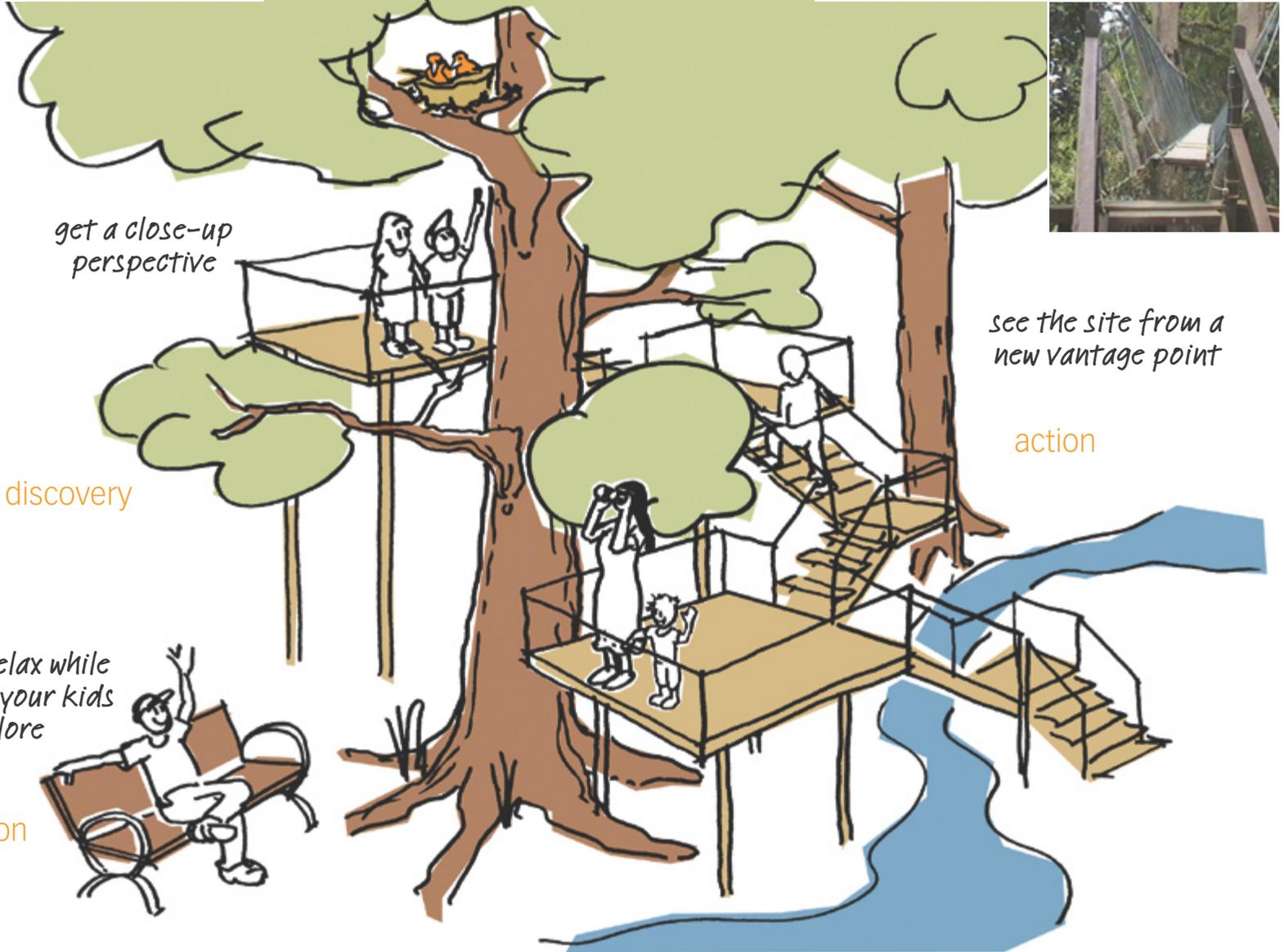
see the site from a new vantage point

action

discovery

sit and relax while watching your kids explore

appreciation





discover a bird's nest



climb inside the huge tree

appreciation

listen to the storytellers

dive down a vole hole to explore their home

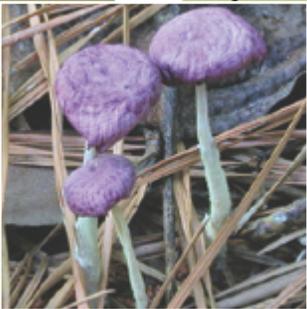


discovery



action

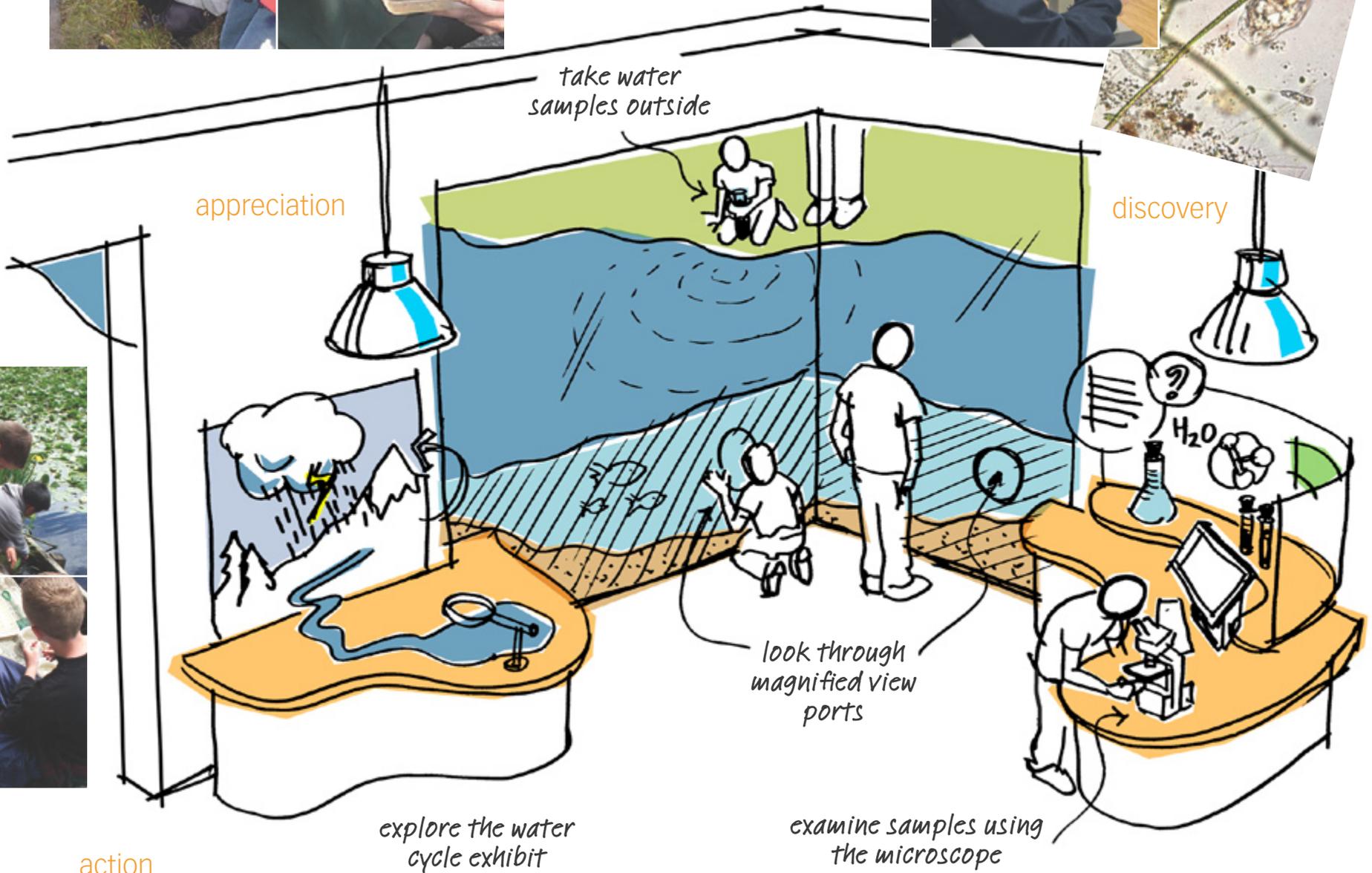
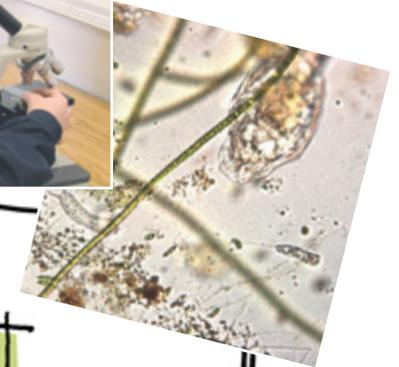
examine the cross-section of a huge tree and its root system



crawl through the roots

dress up as a worm!





action



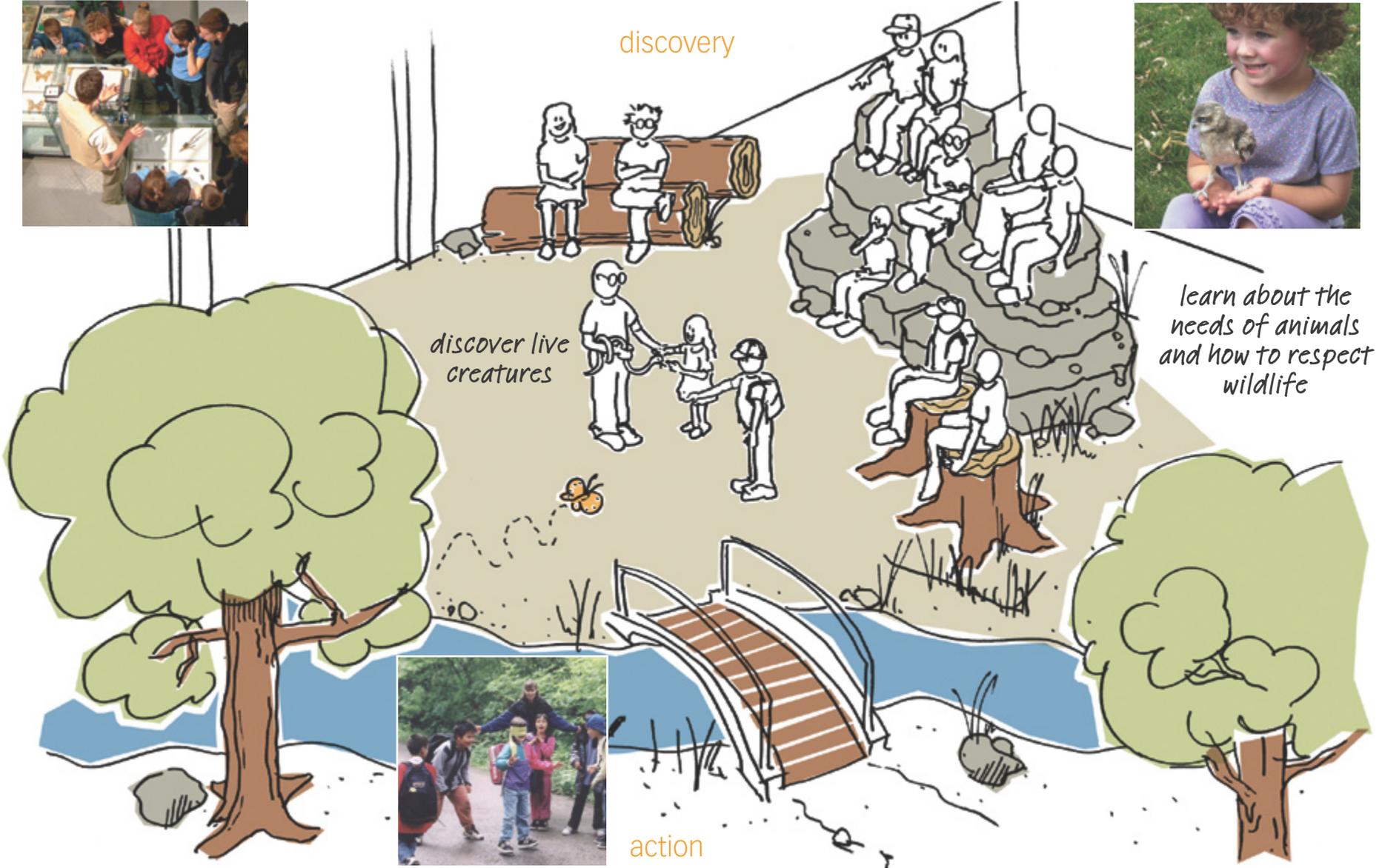
appreciation



discovery

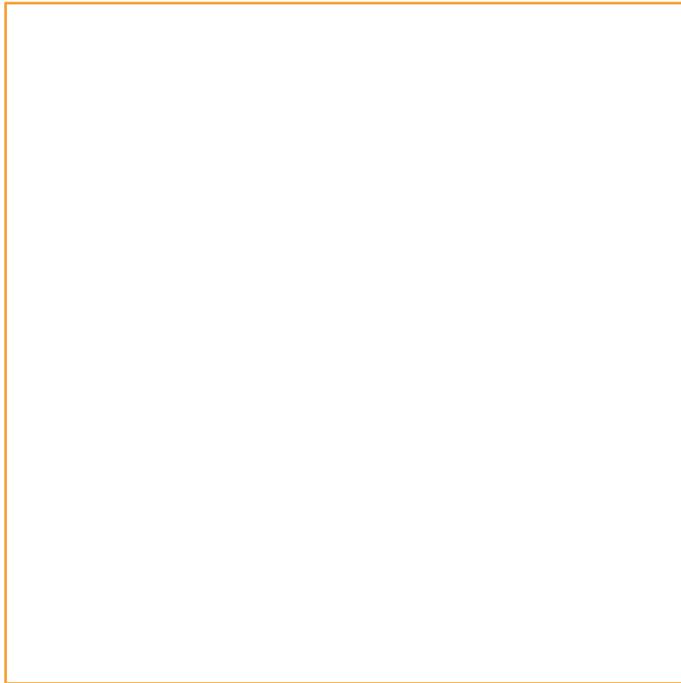
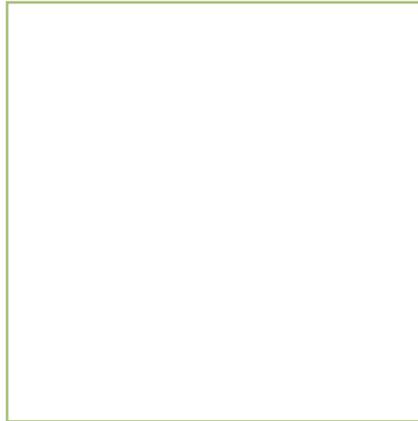


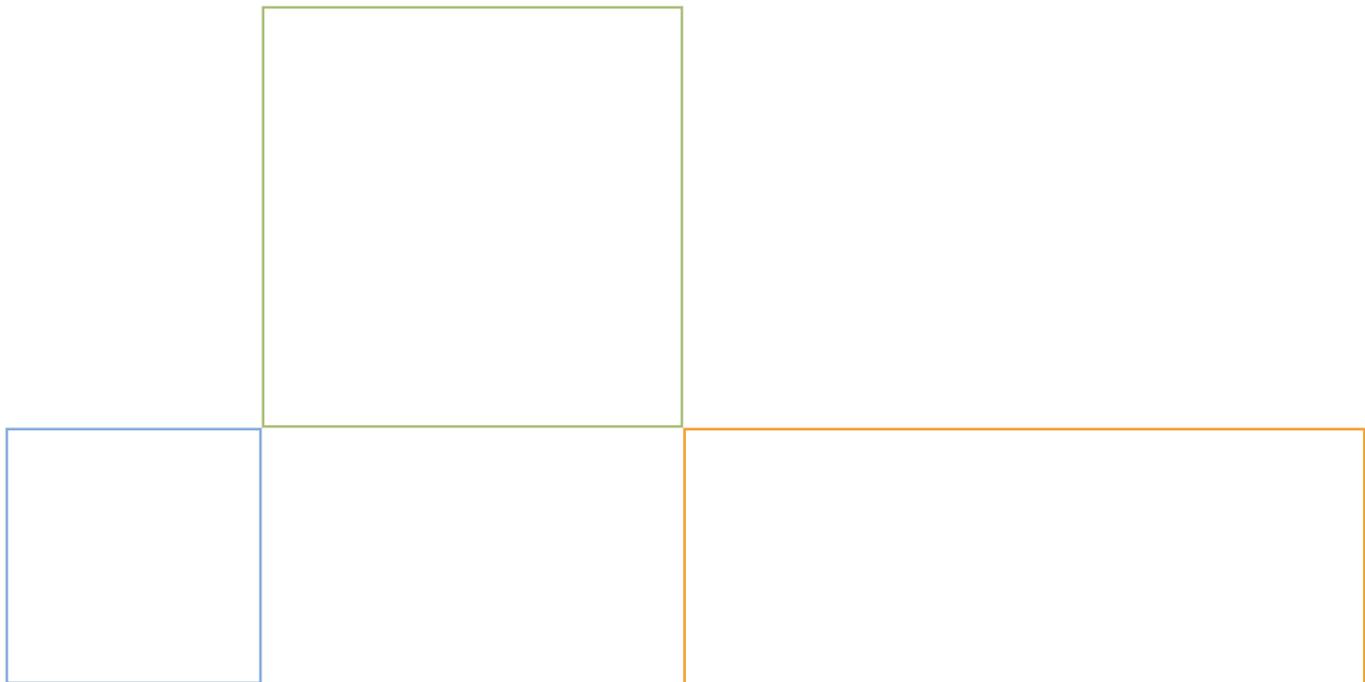
learn about the needs of animals and how to respect wildlife



Nature will bear the closest inspection.
She invites us to lay our eye level with
her smallest leaf, and take an
insect view of its plain.

Henry David Thoreau





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