

Policy and Procedure Manual	Section B 16.1
Nature Center "The Backyard" Procedures	Issued: June 14, 2021 Approving Authority: Administration

Nature Center "*The Backyard*" Procedures

The Nature Center, "*The Backyard*," is for the use of all ages and by following the procedures, will ensure a safe and enjoyable time for all.

Patrons are asked to abide by the Nature Center Policy when using this area. A copy of this policy is available at the Preschool Desk. Patrons using the Nature Center will be asked to be cognizant of the Patron Behavior Policy. The inability to follow these policies will result in dismissal of the individual/group from the area and/or library.

"*The Backyard*" Nature Center is open to patrons of all ages. It is required that adults accompanied by children be responsible for their behavior. "The Backyard" Nature Center will be staffed by library personnel when open to the patrons.

The hours of availability of "*The Backyard*" are weather dependent. All weather safety protocols will be followed from The National Weather Service. If inclement weather is imminent, staff will alert the patrons and require them to come inside the building. It is understood that "*The Backyard*" may be accessed through the hallway from the Preschool Area. It is recommended that patrons enter through the building for safety reasons to ensure the occupancy code is followed. The staff will maintain a count of patrons using this area.

If a program is being hosted in *The Backyard*, patrons may be directed to use other areas within the Nature Center. It may be possible the entire area be allotted for a program and will prevent others to use it until the program is concluded.

Due to animal and insect attraction, only covered drinks are allowed in this area. For this reason, food is not allowed.

Patrons may bring library materials into *The Backyard*, but they must be checked out before leaving the building. There is a self-check machine located near *The Backyard* for convenience.

The raised cedar beds will be stocked with vegetables and flowers during the seasons. When vegetables are ripe, patrons may ask a staff member to allow them to harvest a few items from the garden. Flowers are to remain intact and are not for picking.

“*The Backyard*” Nature Center is free to enter. Patrons are asked to follow the closing procedure by vacating the area thirty (30) minutes before closing or dusk, depending on the season.