



HICKORY KNOLLS Discovery CENTER

**A destination unlike any other —
part educational facility and part entertainment venue!**

A facility of the St. Charles Park District
3795 Campton Hills Road • St. Charles IL 60175
630-513-4399 • stcnature.org (coming soon)

Building Hours

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday: 10am-4pm
Thursday: 10am-8pm • Sunday: 12-4pm
Monday & Tuesday: CLOSED

Why travel to another state, or country, when you can make amazing discoveries in your own backyard? Designed around the enchanting theme, “You Don’t Know What You’ve Got...,” Hickory Knolls’ exhibits and displays showcase the Fox Valley area’s many natural treasures.

To stand in the spacious lobby of this 10,500-sq.-ft. building is to stand at the crossroads of two distinct aspects of St. Charles. Looking to the east through a 20-foot-high wall of glass, one sees rooftops of its suburban neighborhoods. Turn 180 degrees to the west, and the expanse of windows opens onto a majestic view of 100-year-old oak trees and tall, native prairie plants.

Bridging these two worlds — and many others — is what the Hickory Knolls Discovery Center is all about. A wide range of attractions will appeal to visitors of all ages. Some of Hickory Knolls’ outstanding offerings include:

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification
- Indoor turtle pond and wetland exhibit
- Live animal displays among interactive floor-to-ceiling murals
- Room rentals for your special events & business meetings
- Birthday party packages hosted by trained naturalist staff



As part of the planning process for the St. Charles Park District's 2005 Master Plan, the Park Board of Commissioners solicited the thoughts and preferences of residents through a professionally administered community survey. To respond to evolving needs, in 2007, the District appointed the Environmental Ad hoc Advisory Committee which met over a series of months to study program and facility needs.

Upon recommendation of the committee, the Park Board sought voter approval of a \$25 million referendum which included construction of an environmental education center. Voters overwhelmingly approved the referendum in February 2008.

As a LEED-certified building, the Hickory Knolls Discovery Center could, and should, very well be a destination in and of itself. The acronym stands for Leadership in Energy and Environment Design, and buildings that receive such certification must adhere to a number of criteria in both concept and construction. From its overall architectural design to the materials incorporated throughout the building, the center represents cutting-edge ideas, techniques, and resources that demonstrate and promote sustainability and eco-responsibility.

Working with Williams Architects and Williams Construction Management of Carol Stream, the Park District envisioned a facility that itself would serve as a showcase for green building features as well as a source of ideas for how to make eco-friendly lifestyle choices.



With new and innovative programming, vibrant and collaborative displays, and a state-of-the-art environmentally-friendly building, the Hickory Knolls Discovery Center stands poised to open new worlds to more people than ever before.

