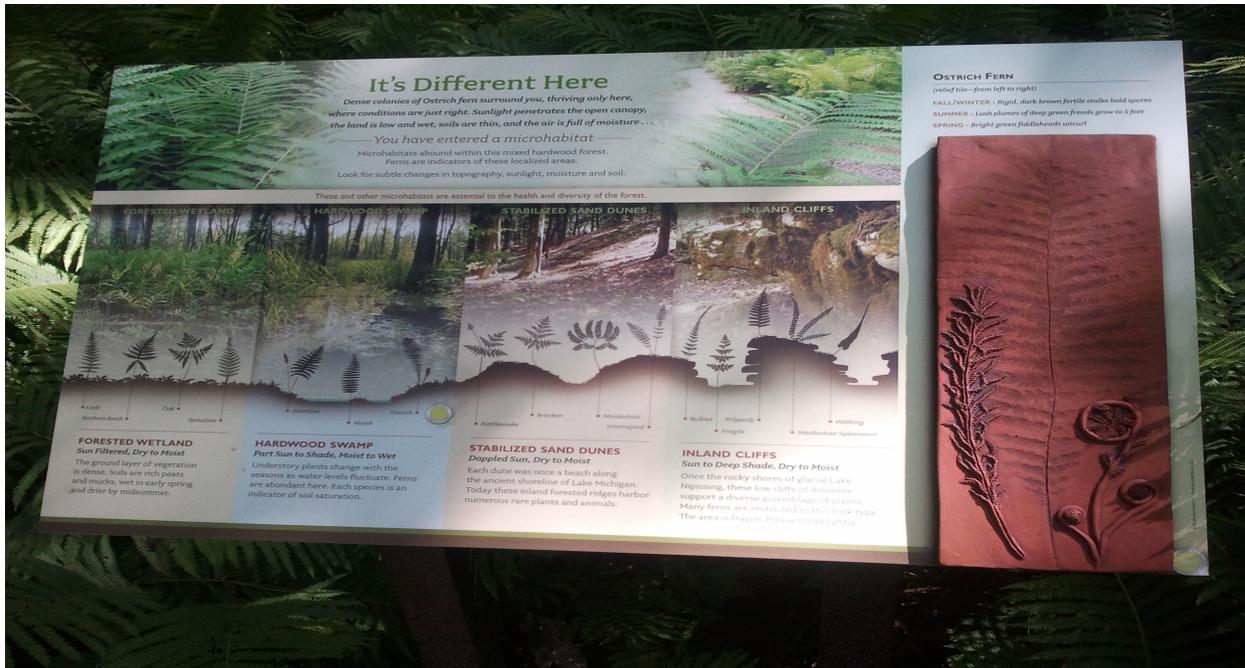


Nature Journaling at Newport State Park: Ferns

1. Make sure all participants have a non-lined pad of paper and multiple pencils. Extra sharpeners are needed when out on the trails.
2. After introductions, begin by drawing what you see when you get to where you intend to explore/start. Some people find it easier to identify something from each of the 5 senses.
 - Close your eyes, what do you HEAR?
 - What do you SEE around you? What do the clouds look like?
 - What do you SMELL?
 - Stick your tongue out...can you TASTE the air?
 - Where are you? Are you sitting? Standing? Reach down and TOUCH the ground. What does it feel like?
3. Now put the date, time, temperature, and physical location (address if known) of your location.
4. Meet in Lot 3. Discuss poison ivy.
5. Have participants write/draw everything they know about ferns.
6. Discuss what they have written or drawn. Group discussions are great. No information is right or wrong. Share in large group
7. Discuss what participants know about the book "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." When the characters go through the back of the wardrobe, they enter into a new world called Narnia. Explain that this is the same thing that will happen on the walk to the Fern explorer spot.
8. Follow the Fern Trail. Point out numerous plants, but few ferns. Talk about the rare Walking Fern. Tell the story of this shy variety that is never seen in the same place twice.
9. As you come close to the Ostrich fern hollow, walk slowly

and tell participants to get their cameras ready.

10. As you enter the specific spot, show the display board that does a nice job of explaining where certain ferns are



located (habitat) and what they look like.

11. Ferns are old forms of plants. What would it be like if a dinosaur came walking up right now?
12. Why is this spot here? It has all of the right conditions: temperature, moisture, sun, and soil conditions.