



Brightwood Kids - Nature Detectives!

June 2021 Newsletter

Summer is here! Time to go exploring in the park. Brightwood Park is home to many different plants and animals. There are 1.6 miles of trails that go around the pond and off into the forest. Here are some photos of nature you can find in Brightwood Park.

Who or what made holes in this tree? Why do you think it made them?



The holes in the tree were made by woodpeckers. Brightwood Park is home to a variety of woodpeckers. Mostly, when woodpeckers peck holes in trees they are looking for food, specifically, insect larvae. However, in the spring, they also carve out nests – as seen in the photo of a red bellied woodpecker peeking out from its home in Brightwood Park!



photo by Chuan-Chu Chou

The next time you are in the park listen for the red-bellied woodpecker's song: <https://www.bird-sounds.net/red-bellied-woodpecker/>

If you look around and listen, you might also see or hear a hairy woodpecker:

<https://www.bird-sounds.net/hairy-woodpecker/>



Photo by Chuan-Chu Chou



Photo by Chuan-Chu Chou

or perhaps, a pileated woodpecker:

<https://www.bird-sounds.net/pileated-woodpecker/>

Moss – Incredible Moss!

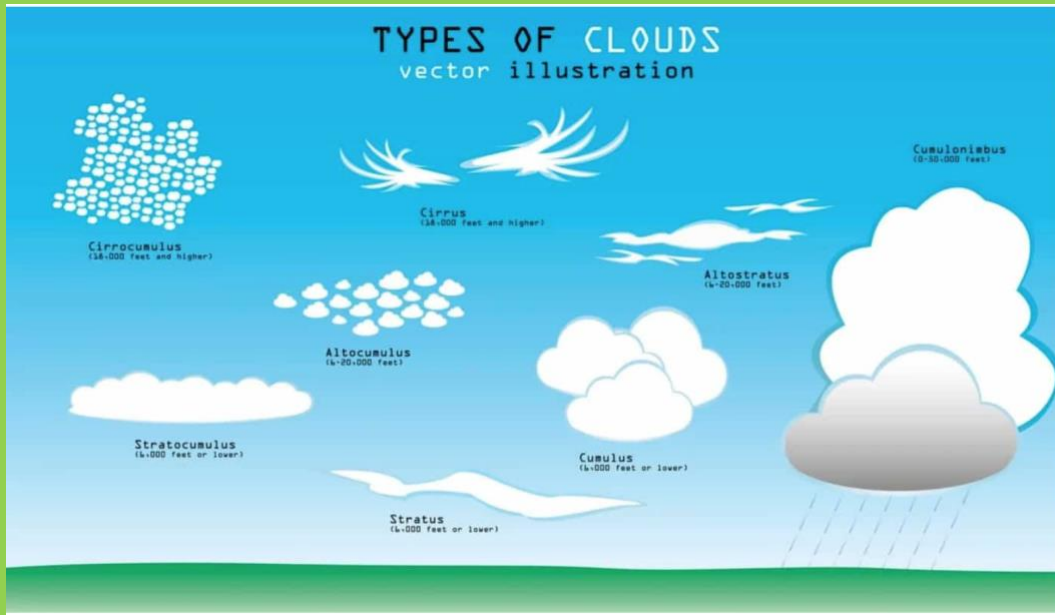
- Moss species have survived 450 million years through many different climate crises and events. That means moss lived on the Earth about 200 million years before the first dinosaurs stomped around!
- Moss grows on every continent and in wide-ranging environments from snowy mountains to dry deserts.
- Moss is a plant without roots. It anchors itself to the ground with hair-like rhizoids.
- Moss can help keep soil cool in hot temperatures and warm in cold climates – keeping tree roots and soil protected from extremes.
- Moss can even adapt to low light and grow in caves.
- Moss is a microhabitat that helps biodiversity.



Photo by Chuan-Chu Chou

Do you know about clouds?

Clouds are made up of tiny droplets of water or ice. Though there are many, many types of clouds, the illustration below shows some of the more common formations:



What types of clouds do you see above Brightwood pond?



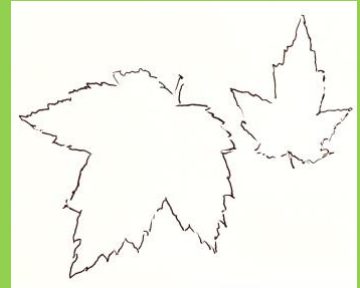
Photo by Chuan-Chu Chou

Young Artists:



Next time you are in Brightwood Park, check out all of the leaves around. Look at their veins and shapes.

FOBP artist, Vickie Williams sketched these Maple tree leaves. Can you sketch the leaves?



Caption contest:

Email us a caption for our frog of wonder at FriendsOfBrightwoodPark@gmail.com. We will pick one to put on our webpage! The winner will receive a Nature Detective bag! The deadline for submissions is July 15, 2021.



Photo by Chuan-Chu Chou

Now you be a “Nature Detective!” What can you find in the park? Send us your photos at FriendsOfBrightwoodPark@gmail.com and you may just find them on our website!