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Tacoma Nature Center Building Closes Temporarily for Improvements

Roof and window repairs, a rebuilt ADA-accessible entry among essential upgrades coming to the Tacoma Nature Center building May 30-July 4.

Tacoma, WA: It's been a place of food and resources for Indigenous peoples since time immemorial, a beloved urban nature site since the early 1900s, a Metro Parks Tacoma park since 1979 and an interpretive center since 1991. Now the Tacoma Nature Center building is about to get some essential repairs and upgrades from May 30-July 4.

The building will be closed during that time, with limited access to outdoor sections including trails and the Discovery Pond Play Area. No restrooms will be available, and parking will be limited. Visitors should see www.tacomanaturecenter.org to check trail status, and call after 9:30am to check on play area status for that day.

“The Tacoma Nature Center is a fabulous place for Tacoma families to explore and learn about nature,” said Metro Parks Tacoma’s Park Board president, Andrea Smith, who herself spent many hours discovering wildlife there when her mother served as a volunteer docent. “The summer camps sell out, and the nature preschool helps little kids get comfortable with the outdoors. These repairs will help keep that nature connection going strong.”

The \$503,685 repair project is largely funded by \$400,000 from the Tacoma voter-approved 2014 bond, plus \$100,000 from the Metro Parks Tacoma operations budget and \$3,685 from open space fees.

Improvements include:

- Roof repairs
- Window repairs, including cased and clerestory windows
- Siding and soffit repairs
- New automatic door opener at main entry
- Replacement of wood stairs and guard rail
- Rebuilding of ADA-accessible entry walk

“The Tacoma Nature Center is a beloved gathering and learning place for our community,” said Hollie Rogge, deputy director of neighborhood and community parks. “These building repairs are essential to ensuring that Metro Parks can keep offering that nature connection and education to everyone for many more years to come.”

LEARN MORE: Discover more about the Tacoma Nature Center, including daily outdoor access times, at www.tacomanaturecenter.org

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