Smell It

Imagine a hot summer night, a lightning storm dancing through the sky. Along the path headed towards the creek you’ll find a marred and scarred old tree. This tree was struck by lightning and still stands proudly in our gardens!

» Close your eyes and take a deep breath.
» Can you smell the burned wood?

Touch It

Wander by the koi-filled Reflecting Pool and you’ll find all kinds of grasses and plants. Some are tall and some are short. Some are fuzzy and some are smooth.

» Touch 3 different kinds of leaves.
» Which plant do you think our local cottontail rabbits would most like to eat?

Taste It

Head towards the creek, south of the Tempietto. Do you see a chewed stump? Beavers love the taste of trees like maples, willows, birches, and more. Look around. Do you see any little fences wrapped around some of our tree trunks? That’s to keep beavers from snacking on our beautiful trees.

» Would you eat a woody snack?
» What snacks do you like to gobble up like a beaver?

Hear It

Follow the path past the rabbit sculpture across from the creek. This is where a barred owl likes to hang out, up in the trees. Listen closely, do you hear its hoots? You can usually hear it around lunchtime.

» Look around the area for a green sign about our owl.
» Scan the QR code with your phone to hear a barred owl hoot through the trees.

See It

Near the terrace you’ll find our Monarch Waystation.

Did you know butterflies see more colors than we do? Our eyes see three kinds of colors: red, blue, and yellow. From these three primary colors we are able to see all the colors of the rainbow. But butterflies see red, blue, yellow, and ultraviolet (UV) light - which is invisible to our eyes!

» Find the QR code and scan it with your phone to see the differences in vision between humans and insects.
» Do you see any patterns or differences than what we are able to see? Why might that be?