

Historic Mill Creek Social Story Guide



Hello!

We are so excited that you will be visiting us soon! We hope you will find this **Social Story Guide** helpful before and during your visit. This guide can be helpful in planning visits for anyone who would like to know what to expect. This preview of your visit may help you to picture what it will be like to visit and choose what you would like to experience. If you would like a map of the site, you can find one at the Visitor's Center when you arrive or at our website at mackinacparks.com.



Historic Mill Creek Visitor Information

I can bring drinks and food to snack on if I need to. There may also be water and some snacks available in the Visitor's Center. If I get thirsty, there is a water fountain near the restrooms.

I can eat my snack at a table under the pavilion, or at a picnic table in the grass. There are also benches for me to sit on.

I will not throw or kick gravel sticks or anything else while I am visiting. There is a playground near the Visitor's Center if I need to use up some energy. There are also nature trails I can hike.

I will not pick wildflowers or other plants at Historic Mill Creek. Some plants may have sharp thorns or make my skin itchy if I touch them.

Sometimes there may be loud noises from the sawmill, or a triangle ringing when people announce programs. They will be over quickly. When I am on the bridge, rushing water can be loud as it flows over the dam. Sometimes it sounds like a train.

I will not go in the water at the mill pond or in Mill Creek. I will not throw sticks, stones, or anything else in the water. If I find a snake or frog, I may enjoy seeing them, but will not touch them or pick them up.

The temperature can change fast at Historic Mill Creek. Most days it is useful to bring a jacket in case I might need one. If it's hot, I can find shade under trees or in the picnic pavilion.

When I get to Historic Mill Creek, I will first go into the Visitor's Center. I may need to buy a ticket at the admissions desk. I can get a map that will have the locations of bathrooms, trails, and things to see. The map has a schedule that will tell me when programs take place. Inside the Visitor's Center, there is a museum store with items to purchase.



Inside the Visitor's Center, there are exhibits which explain what I will see during my visit. Before I leave the Visitor's Center, I can enter a small theater to watch a short movie that tells the story of Historic Mill Creek. The theater has dim lighting so I can see the screen. I can sit down to watch and listen to the movie. The movie starts every 15 minutes.



During my visit to Mill Creek, I will meet people wearing historic clothing. They are like teachers who can answer questions about the history of the things I am seeing. Their clothing may look different from what I am used to, but it is meant to help me learn about the clothes people wore in the past.



Once I leave the Visitor's Center, I will see another building with restrooms and a drinking fountain. The back of this building is a pavilion where naturalists lead programs about plants and animals at the park. There are tables and benches at the pavilion where I can sit and talk with a naturalist or relax.



When I leave the nature pavilion, I can walk on a short trail which leads to a playground called the Forest Friends Play Area. There, I can climb on large fiberglass animals, including a bear, beaver and frog. I can try a small slide and see signs with animal tracks to touch.



Another trail leads to a place called the saw pit. There, I can watch someone chop a log with an axe and cut a log with a large saw. The tools are sharp, so I will stay behind the fence where it is safe for me to watch the program. I will not go inside the fence unless a staff person is there and invites me in.



Near the sawpit, I can visit the millwright's house which has museum exhibits inside. The millwright lived at Mill Creek to run the sawmill. Now, staff wear historic clothing and will show me how the sawmill works. No one lives in the millwright's house today.



I will see a large pond near the sawpit. A wooden dam creates the pond by holding back water flowing down Mill Creek. I may see frogs near the shore or fish swimming underwater. I will stay out of the water and enjoy the pond with my eyes and ears today.



To visit the sawmill, I will walk over a bridge which crosses Mill Creek. The bridge is high over the water. To stay safe, I will not climb on the bridge railing or lean over the side. As I cross the bridge, the sound of water may be loud as it flows over the dam. Sometimes it sounds like a train. I can stop on the bridge to enjoy the view before going to the other side.



After I leave the bridge, I can turn left to visit the sawmill. At the sawmill, I can stand near the railing to watch the program. During the program, I will first learn how the sawmill works. Then, I will see how the saw cuts a board.



When the sawmill runs, it is very loud, and the saw moves very fast. This is over quickly. I can watch from outside the mill if I prefer.



The British Workshop is a wooden building near the sawmill. "Farming at Mill Creek" programs take place in the workshop several times each day. I will stay behind the rope and not touch tools inside the workshop.



I can walk on nature trails in the woods at Historic Mill Creek. My map shows how long each trail is and where it goes. I will also find maps on signs along the trail. I can stop to rest on benches along the trails. I will not pick flowers, leaves, or mushrooms so others can enjoy them too.



Along the trails, I can climb 70 steps up the Treetop Discovery Tower. I will hold the handrail and be careful on the stairs. At the top, I will not run or lean over the railing as I enjoy the view. The tower may feel like it sways back and forth a little. This is on purpose, so I can pretend I am at the top of a tree. I will stay calm and sit down on the bench if I need a break or go back down the stairs.



Sometimes, I may be bothered by mosquitoes, flies, or other insects while walking on trails at Mill Creek. I can wear insect repellent and a hat to help keep them off my skin. If they bother me, I can return to the Visitor's Center area.



If I get lost or need help, I can ask one of the people wearing historic clothing, or a naturalist, to help me. Naturalists wear green shirts and nametags. I can also ask staff working in the museum store. They wear purple shirts and nametags



When it is time for me to leave, I can exit through the Visitor's Center. If the building is closed, I can also get back to the parking lot from the trail near the restrooms.



Thank you so much for visiting Historic Mill Creek!
We hope you enjoyed your visit and
come to see us again.