Outdoor Play in Beloit and the Welty Environmental Center

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“Early experiences with the natural world have also been positively linked with the sense of wonder” --Ruth Wilson, PhD.

Nature Deficit Disorder (NDD) in the United States

- NDD is a term coined by Richard Louv in his book *Last Child in the Woods*
- It is the occurrence of children spending more time playing indoors than out
- It may lead to developmental and psychological ramifications in children

The Welty Environmental Center

- Offers outdoor environmental education opportunities to the Beloit community
- Attempts to foster children’s sense of curiosity in nature
- Would like to expand the amount of children reached

Researching NDD

- Research shows parents played outdoors more than their children
- Technology, organized sports, and a change in community dynamics has helped change how children play

The Welty Environmental Center and Beloit

- Parents of children attending Welty programs were surveyed to find if the Center fulfills the child’s desire to play outside
- Children attending programs tend to play outdoors already
- Parents responded their children play outdoors as much or more than they did as children
- The next interest of the Welty Environmental Center is to reach a broader audience