

We are currently open noon to 4pm Saturdays, 2pm to 4pm Sundays and other times by appointment.  
Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

**Mission:** Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: Friends and Family Everywhere  
From: Cheri and Raven Hill  
Date: November 19, 2022  
Re: Evolving Technology Exhibit

The **Evolving Technology Addition** is a new walking pathway soon to be completed. The sixteen 4' x 8' panels illustrate the technology of fashion, shelter, energy, transportation & roadways from the Stone Age to today's Information Age. The outdoor exhibit mirrors the time-periods that are found inside the Evolving Technology Building. This outdoor exhibit has been "on the radar", since the Evolving Technology Building opened in 2015 with its timelines of daily life, toys, tools and communication.



In October, the 8' x 4' panels were constructed to create a timeline of technology from Stone Age to Modern. Now they patiently wait for the actual exhibit to be installed. The panels already guide visitors to the Wetlands Boardwalk and the Ancient World.

The **Evolving Technology Addition (ETA)** project will provide yet another outdoor exhibit for Raven Hill visitors and expand the Evolving Technology Building with an entirely different set of technology timelines, ones that are not easily displayed indoors! This open-air exhibit will provide exciting informal **STEM** (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) learning opportunities for area families, schools and the community.



The timeline panels were unloaded into the Evolving Technology Building this past Thursday afternoon. The timing was perfect! Soon after, the snow started falling. By Friday morning, we had over two feet of snow at the Center!

Hanover College professor, Frank Luttmmer stated, "While it is commonly acknowledged that an understanding of the past is fundamental to an understanding of the present...There is another reason to study history: **it's fun**. History combines the excitement of exploration and discovery with the sense of reward born of successfully confronting and making sense of complex and challenging problems."



The **ETA** panels start at the beginning of recorded history with the Stone Age. Several images on this panel can be found at the Center, including a sample of a corduroy road in the Connections Trail, plus both Skarra Brae and the Sweet Track causeway in Raven Hill's Ancient World exhibit.



*The Information Age panel brings the **Evolving Technology** timeline up to the present—for now. What do you think the next “Age” should be called?*

Raven Hill visitors can build a framework of understanding by exploring how technology has changed over time in the ET Building and through the new **ETA** exhibit. Both the indoor & outdoor displays help guests see patterns and trends in technology throughout history. A better awareness of the history of technology will allow visitors to analyze information from the past; challenge them to think about a current problem in a new and different way; and then to apply this knowledge to creatively solve that problem.

With additional funding, the **Evolving Technology Addition** is slated for completion in 2023. Yet to be added is a walkway showing traditional types of road construction, from two-track pathways to cement highways; historical-style garden benches and play structures that illustrate water, land and air transportation, like boats, wagons, trains and planes, as well as playhouses, like tipis, castles and log cabins, representing changes in shelters over time.



*This log bench can be found around Raven Hill’s fire pit and is an example of outdoor furniture. The history of garden benches originated with the Greeks, who used stone for their open-air seating. Throughout history, garden benches have been created of earth, stone, wood, cast iron and contemporary plastic. Seating along the timeline panels will allow visitors to relax and enjoy the exhibit.*

*Need a project for this winter? Consider building a garden bench for the **Evolving Technology Addition**.*



*Yet to come will be an expanded display of road construction similar to that already found on the Connections Trail.*



*--Free clipart photo*

*Along with road construction and garden benches, a variety of transportation & shelter play structures for the youngsters will encourage the little ones to slow down and explore. Everyone can enjoy different aspects of the outdoor **Evolving Technology** exhibit designed especially for them. If you are interested in building or funding a car, train, boat or playhouse, give us a call at 231.536.3369.*

Take care and stay in touch. Better yet, plan a visit to Raven Hill soon! Over this coming Thanksgiving weekend, we will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, open Friday by appointment and then open our regular weekend hours—noon to 4pm on Saturday and 2pm to 4pm on Sunday. Call 231.536.3369 or email [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org) for more information or to make reservations.

Have a good week,

*Cheri*