



March 13, 2025

Dear Rockford Families:

In the fall of 2024, Rockford Public Schools (RPS) established a district-wide, elementary outdoor learning program located at Edgerton Trails. During the last 7 months, students from all of our district's elementary schools have participated in a wide variety of outdoor, hands-on learning experiences by traveling to Edgerton Trails or through a visit to their building by our district's Outdoor Learning teacher, Tara Dzirbowicz.

Looking ahead to the 2025/26 school year, RPS is expanding the outdoor learning program by creating a dedicated outdoor learning magnet classroom at Edgerton Trails available for rising 4th grade students (current 3rd grade students). In 2026/27, we will expand to fourth and fifth grade dedicated outdoor learning classrooms. The outdoor learning program will be available to students from any elementary school in the district and enrollment will be determined by application and a lottery.

The outdoor learning program will guide students through the same curriculum as their peers in traditional classrooms. However, lessons will be enriched with outdoor experiences. This program is for students who love being outside, are curious about the world, and enjoy hands-on, self-directed learning.

[Please visit our website](#) to learn more about the Rockford Outdoor Learning program, the characteristics of an outdoor learning student, as well as the application process and timeline. In addition, Edgerton Trails is hosting an optional open house and tour of the outdoor space on March 20 from 5:00-6:00 pm. If you plan to attend, please enter the building by the main office, gather in the cafeteria and dress accordingly to venture outdoors.

We are thrilled to offer this unique opportunity and are excited to see the positive impact it will have on our students! We look forward to meeting interested families on March 20!

Watch our website for updates and feel free to reach out with any questions to me or Edgerton Trails Principal, Shannon Ouellette.

Thank You,

Mike Ramm
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction