

# Junior Ropes Course/Playground and Elevated Ropes Course: Key Facts to Know

Sometime this spring, visitors to the park will begin to notice work being done in the area above the Amphitheater parking lot and between the Farmstead Museum. This is when the installation is to take place of three new facilities to the park: a Junior Ropes Course/Playground, Low Course Challenge Elements and an Elevated Ropes Course.

As with any new development, there is an element of excitement and anticipation that surrounds their addition to the park. But there is also an element of intrigue and mystery. Both feelings are understandable and the passion visitors have for the park will usually elicit one response or the other.

The following facts are designed to hopefully better educate our park members and visitors concerning the addition of these new facilities.

1. The addition of these facilities will not require a massive clearing of trees and earth thus changing the scenery and beauty of the park's common area. In fact, each of these elements is designed to fit very nicely and naturally (see photo to the right) into the present park setting. A very minimal amount of clearing will be conducted with great care.

2. Each structure is constructed almost totally of natural materials. In fact, the Junior Course utilizes the large trunks of Hemlocks that have been destroyed by the effects of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and harvested elsewhere. This also allows park staff to share the battle Bays Mountain Park's Hemlocks face against these deadly parasites while preserving the Hemlock for use in a very tasteful, stately manner.

3. Each structure will be made available to park members and other visitors. While the Junior Course and Low Course require only adult supervision and can be accessed any time the park is open, the Elevated Ropes Course will be offered at posted times and for a fee, very similar to our other shows and nature programs. A major reason for this is the Elevated



**Each structure, such as this Junior Course, will blend in with the parks' natural surroundings requiring very little clearing.**

Ropes Course is designed as a challenge course requiring at least four to eight individuals to complete the course. It also requires the supervision and guidance of a certified instructor or a member of our park staff. Safety will be a priority with all of these structures.

4. Each structure provides the park with the opportunity to create programming geared to usage by a variety of groups from school visitation to corporate meeting planners seeking additional value-added perks for their conference attendees.

5. Programs targeting such issues as childhood obesity and environmental education can be created and offered to help stimulate interest in the great outdoors by a generation that has remained inside and glued to TVs, video games and other activities while almost completely ignoring the benefits that outdoor activities offer.

There are other great benefits, but these are a few key items we hope each can rally around and embrace.

