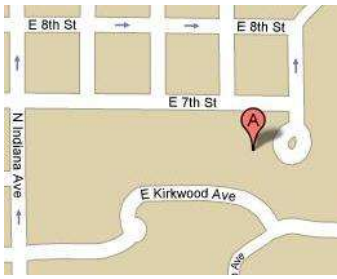


SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR
Family fun on campus and in town



Begin at the **Indiana Memorial Union (IMU)**. A great place to take the kids is the **Back Alley** with discounted bowling and video arcade games. Food vendors throughout the IMU offer snacks and drinks.

Find the **IMU Bookstore** and exit the building from the Bookstore's second floor. Walk to your right and head west towards the **Sample Gates**, where Kirkwood Avenue (also known as 5th Street) extends westward from Indiana Avenue. Walk down Kirkwood Avenue.



The **Monroe County Public Library** (at Grant Street) offers several opportunities for families with kids of all ages. The Children's Services Department doesn't just house books - there are "experiential play stations" for preschoolers, volunteer "homework helpers" for all grades, story hours and special parent-child educational events. Audio-Visual Services circulates DVDs, CDs and audio books - all for free! Outside the building on Kirkwood, most little kids can't resist climbing on the limestone Library Bears.



Walk down another few blocks to the **Courthouse Square**. At Halloween, the courthouse lawn is covered in glass pumpkins, and in the spring, an egg hunt is held. The annual Canopy of Lights downtown lighting

ceremony is held on the square the Friday night after Thanksgiving. The **Scholar's Inn Bakehouse** bakery and café on the northwest side of the Square (College Avenue and 6th Street) offers a great, inexpensive kid's menu. Continue down either Kirkwood/5th or 6th. The **B-Line Trail** is a new addition to downtown Bloomington. A former rail line is being gradually converted into a

tree-lined walking trail convenient to many downtown destinations. It will eventually connect to the **Bloomington Rail Trail** and **Clear Creek Trail** (which are south of town), providing a total of 10 miles of trails for many forms of exercise and recreation.



WonderLab is a hands-on children's science and technology museum located on 4th Street just off the B-Line Trail. In 2008, *Parents Magazine* ranked WonderLab in its Top 25

U.S. Science Centers. The museum is home to a working bee hive, "Bubble-Airium", nature garden, and 2-story climbing maze, to name a few. Special programs are offered daily. Admission is normally \$6 for kids and \$7 for adults. On the first Friday of each month, the museum offers \$3 admission starting at 5:00pm and stays open until 8:30 pm - and there's pizza for \$2/slice. Families often find the annual membership at Wonderlab to be a good deal as it provides a year of free admission for family members and guests.

This tour ends at WonderLab - your children will want to stay! Other resources and opportunities for families are within a short walk or drive. Fun can be had at three local swimming pools, an ice arena, a roller-skating rink, and a skateboard park. Art and music lessons are available at numerous venues. Rent a canoe at the **Griffy Lake Nature Preserve**, just 3 miles from campus. Take the kids camping at **McCormick's Creek State Park**, **Brown County State Park**, or the **Charles Deam Wilderness** - each a 20-minute drive away from town. IU students can rent camping gear on the cheap at IMU's **Outdoor Adventures**. Finally, every family needs to know about the **City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation** department, which offers youth sports and martial arts, runs a weekly **Farmer's Market**, summer day



camp and community gardens, and manages over 40 parks. This map shows how many local parks have a playground. Best bets include the enormous playground at **Cascades Park**,

the large and popular **Bryan Park** (including a swimming pool with slides) and **Leonard Springs Nature Park's** unusual hiking trails and waterfall. **Ψ**