



**SEVEN NATURAL WONDERS OF SLOPER HIKE**

1. Hollow Oak Tree
2. Split Tree
3. Vertical Cave
4. Vernal Pool
5. Tree Growing Out of a Rock
6. Waterfall
7. Sinkhole

See corresponding descriptions on reverse side.

*Other hikes available include:*

- Sloper Historical Hike
- Sloper Tree Identification Hike
- Sloper Wetlands Hike
- Sloper Wildlife Identification Hike

# YMCA Camp Sloper Seven Natural Wonders Hike



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Welcome to YMCA Camp Sloper. Here, new experiences are introduced and lasting memories are never forgotten. We reach out to the child in everyone and build character in the leaders of tomorrow. We change lives, build smiles and provide an environment for people to grow. Welcome to YMCA Camp Sloper – love it, share it and preserve it for the next generation.

*YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. The YMCA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.*

## 1. Hollow Oak Tree

**Location:** Purple Trail Hike: Moderate

Located just off of the Purple Trail, the Hollow Oak Tree is a chance to see nature inside and out. We're not sure how many years ago this oak tree died and became hollow, but after many years, it is still holding strong and serves as an amazing natural wonder. After viewing the outside of this amazing sight, feel free to step inside and look up towards the sky through the giant hollow tree trunk.

## 2. Split Tree

**Location:** Silver Trail Hike: Moderate

Located about 100 feet off of the Silver Trail, keep your eyes open for a giant tree that has fallen down. As you get closer, you'll notice that the tree actually was split right down the middle by lightning with both halves of the tree falling in separate directions. Be sure to notice the trunk of the tree, where you can see the destruction that the lightning caused when it struck and look at all of the destruction surrounding the area caused by the fallen tree. You probably won't ever see anything else like this natural wonder.

## 3. Vertical Cave

**Location:** Black Trail Hike: Difficult

As you approach the trap-rock face at the top of the Black Trail known as "Electric Rock" and head left of the power lines, there is vertical cave that is a sight to be seen. From the bottom of the rock face, this vertical cave extends all the way to the top of the cliff. Please do not attempt to climb up or down the cave; rock climbing is dangerous and should only be done with the proper training and equipment.

## 4. Vernal Pool

**Location:** White Trail Hike: Moderate

Deep into the woods, on the side of the White Trail, keep your eyes open for a vernal pool. A vernal pool is an area that drastically changes from a dry area to an area filled with water and life in the late winter or early spring. Having no drainage, a vernal pool holds water from melting snow throughout the spring and early summer, which allows plants and various amphibians to survive there for a good part of the year.

## 5. Tree Growing Out of a Rock

**Location:** Blue Trail Hike: Moderate

This one of a kind sight is located on the Blue Trail. Many years ago, a tree had found enough of a crack to begin growing up and into a giant rock. It has grown up and through the rock and flourished ever since. Whether you climb up to the top of the rock or look at it from the Blue Trail, this tree growing out of the rock is sure to catch your eye.

## 6. Waterfall

**Location:** Yellow Trail Hike: Easy

As you hike up the Yellow Trail, depending on the season, you may hear trickling water as it flows through a small rocky waterfall. Walk towards the sound and you'll see a small waterfall (approx. 6' high), which is part of a stream on the Yellow Trail. If you stand on the bridge located on the Yellow Trail and look up at the stream, you can't miss this relaxing natural wonder. It is at its best during late winter and early spring or after a good amount of rain any time of the year.

## 7. Sinkhole

**Location:** Red Trail/Boardwalk Hike: Easy

At the end of the Wetland Boardwalk off of the Red Trail, where the overflow of Sloper Pond drains, a small sinkhole has naturally developed. Sinkholes form for various reasons, but this sinkhole exists because of the wetness and looseness of the soil in the area. Look for the measuring stick that is emerged in the sink hole. If you pull it up, you'll see that this natural sinkhole is approximately 5' deep. Please be sure to return the measuring stick to the sinkhole.

*Visit our website at*  
**[www.ymcacampsloper.org](http://www.ymcacampsloper.org)**