

NATURE CENTER

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MINIMAL IMPACT was the driving force behind the concept for the **VISITOR'S CENTER**. First, the building is lifted off grade and rests on columns thereby reducing the impact to the sloping site. Vegetation is preserved and water runoff is allowed to continue to flow into the lake and surrounding wet lands. Secondly, the use of a **BOARDWALK** as a design element is used to guide visitors to the facility, through the facility, and out towards the nature trails. On the exterior the boardwalk floats above the site to emphasis the desire to protect the natural habitat:wildlife, vegetation and soil. On the interior, the role and importance of the boardwalk is expressed as a dominant element in the following ways: the same texture and color of the exterior boardwalk flows from the exterior into the interior; and glass follows the shape of the boardwalk as either a wall of glass or as a skylight. The boardwalk is crafted of recycled wood. The Visitor's Center also features a green roof that reduces heat gain and provides wildlife habitat.



 **FLOOR PLAN**
3/16"=1'-0"

