Halloween has been, and probably will forever be, associated with many fond memories, including candy, door-to-door trick or treating, and spooky animals. For trick or treating enthusiasts decked out in costumes who want to change it up a bit, the Nature Center has an event for you. Trails & Treats is a family friendly Halloween adventure, with kids of all ages gathering candy on our trails and learning about how animals are not really all that spooky. In addition, it is a great way to visit the Nature Center and learn what we offer: programs galore and natural space to enjoy.
On this special night, the Nature Center’s landscape becomes a haven for masked heroes, glamorous princesses, and more. The quest for these pint-sized characters is a bounty of candy found along the trails (the very paths that our local wildlife use). At each juncture, treats greet them. Instead of a door on which to knock, our trick or treaters get to enjoy a natural setting and beauty that pre-date even the oldest Yoda or Jedi Master. The wonder kids experience as they hike is not just the candy up ahead but habitats home to a variety of wildlife.

At the Nature Center, trick or treating is not just candy, but games and activities as well. Throughout the evening, children are involved in games that keep them engaged and challenged, with treats and prizes awaiting all of our participants. Along with games, activities such as face painting and crafts add to the experience. And creating a craft about our animal ambassadors can remind them that animals are not spooky, but beneficial.

Animals themselves are present in the festival area. In years past, we have featured owls, bats, spiders, and nocturnal animals. This year, we will showcase a variety of snakes that we use for our education program. Snakes, in particular, are often seen as spooky and creepy, but you may change your view after this experience.

Every year, we look forward to this event. We love to share the Nature Center with our community, and this is a fun way to do so. If you are looking for a fun Halloween event, we encourage you to come and share Trails & Treats with your friends. Trails & Treats will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2017, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. We hope to see you in your costumes. For more information, please call the Hardwicke Interpretive Center at (817) 392-7410.