



Get a Group Together

Come Visit Us or Let Us Visit You!

Invite a naturalist to visit your preschool, afterschool program, church group, scout troop (badge programs available), club meeting, adult care center, or workplace. Programs may include hands-on activities, natural artifacts, live animals and more! Visit us and staff can lead programs at a district facility, park or natural area.

Programs for all ages and abilities fit the needs of your specific group! Topics include:

- Bats
- Birds/Bird Watching
- Insects & Invertebrates
- Invasive Species
- Outdoor Survival
- Owls
- Pond Life/Amphibians
- Prairies
- Reptiles
- Seasonal Nature Hikes
- Tree Identification
- Woodlands

Requests must be made at least two weeks in advance.

Public Programs

Environmental and nature-themed public programs take place year round. Visit www.urbanaparks.org/nature-programs/ for more about upcoming nature programs, special events, and camps.

Anita Purves was an original member of the park district advisory committee and was key in saving Busey Woods from development in the early 1960s.

The Anita Purves Nature Center opened in 1979 and was renovated in 1995. The remodel created multipurpose rooms, a field station, a wildlife observation room, resource room and the Audubon Nature Shop. Prairie plants, small shrubs, and prairie and woodland wildflowers created new habitat gardens that better met the education goals of the center. These gardens demonstrate ways to attract wildlife such as butterflies, hummingbirds, and songbirds. The Gateway Trail merges the built park environment with the natural habitats of Busey Woods and includes a variety of wildlife feeding stations and a small pond.

The Anita Purves Nature Center, Busey Woods, and surrounding habitat gardens were made possible by a capital grant funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois State Museum.

Each year more than 50,000 visitors explore the Anita Purves Nature Center and adjacent Busey Woods. During the school year, more than 10,000 preschool through college age students participate in programs offered on-site and at area schools.



Hours:

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm | Sat 9am-4pm

**Anita Purves Nature Center
1505 N Broadway, Urbana, IL
217-384-4062**



ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER



**Nature is yours
to discover...**

Nature is more than just something out there far away; it's all around us. Immerse yourself in nature by exploring the indoor and outdoor exhibits at the Anita Purves Nature Center.

Yours to Discover

Busey Woods

More than two miles of soft hiking paths wind throughout Busey Woods. The 1/3-mile accessible boardwalk trail allows visitors to enjoy the woods in all types of weather.

Field Station

Exhibits introduce visitors to common native plants and animals commonly seen in Busey Woods and Spomer Prairie in Meadowbrook Park. Look for:

- Discovery drawers to explore rocks, soil, seeds, mammals, reptiles, birds and insects.
- The microscopic world of fur, scales, and seeds through the Wentzscope.
- Box turtles, snakes and owls!

The Friendship Grove Nature Playscape

This unique and interactive hands-on outdoor playscape engages children in imaginative and active play with nature. The playscape provides accessible play opportunities for a variety of physical, mental, cognitive and emotional abilities. The four Anchor Pieces include: Fort, Fallen Tree, Digging Area and Tunnel.



Rentals

The nature center's multipurpose rooms are ideal for parties, meetings, or group retreats. Rooms seat between 25-60 people. A fire pit is also available for rent.

Birthday parties include: a 2.5 hour room rental time slot, a 45-60 minute kids' program package with activities and sometimes a live animal, and the use of the room for opening gifts and enjoying treats. Birthday party themes can be found in our Program Guide.

Call 217-384-4062 to make a reservation for a rental, loan box or program.



Audubon Nature Shop

Visit the shop for a selection of nature-related gifts: bird feeders, binoculars, books, post cards, puppets, and more. Operated by the Champaign County Audubon Society, this nonprofit donates all proceeds to local environmental education and conservation projects.

Educator Resource Room

Find ideas for lessons, programs, and activities. Using the reference guides, curriculum materials, study skins, and slides available. Borrow an Educational Loan Box with a deposit.

