

## From Forgotten Forest to First Rate Feature

• In the early 1960s, plans were made to develop Bussey Woods into an industrial park. At the same time Lincoln Square Mall was under construction. Debris removed from that site was dumped in Bussey Woods.

• Anita Purves was an original member of the Park District Advisory Committee and was key in saving Bussey Woods from development.

• More than two miles of hiking paths wind through Bussey Woods. A boardwalk makes a 1/3-mile loop through the woods - allowing people to enjoy the woods in all types of weather. The boardwalk improves access for people with limited mobility.

## APNC Timeline

1963 - Friends of Bussey Woods was founded

1971 - Anita Purves and Natural Areas Study Group offer tours to school children

1974 - Meadowbrook Organic Garden program begins

1979 - Anita Purves Nature Center opens

1995 - Remodeled and expanded nature center opens

2002 - Field Station Grand Opening

2005 - **BioBlitz**: 24-hour accounting of species in Bussey Woods

2009 - Wild About Parks Quest initiated



Turtle Exhibit

**Urbana Park District**  
(217)384-4062/www.urbanaparks.org



## More About the Anita Purves Nature Center

Each year more than 50,000 visitors explore the Urbana Park District's Anita Purves Nature Center and adjacent Bussey Woods. Programs, events and services are offered to the public throughout the year. During the school year more than 10,000 preschool through college age students participate in programs that are offered on-site and at local schools.

The Anita Purves Nature Center opened in 1979 and was renovated in 1995. The addition created four classrooms, a field station, a wildlife observation room, and the Audubon Nature Shop. The existing building was remodeled into a workspace and grounds also underwent a metamorphosis. Volunteer groups helped relocate prairie plants, small shrubs, and woodland flowers to create new habitat gardens that better meet the educational goals of the center. These gardens demonstrate the ways to attract wildlife such as butterflies, hummingbirds and songbirds. The area just outside the Wildlife Observation Room is planted with native Illinois species and includes a variety of wildlife feeding stations, nesting houses and water features.

The Field Station, Bussey Woods and environmental programs are ready for you to explore. The exhibits were made possible by a capital grant funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois State Museum.



**Monday-Friday** 8am-5pm / **Saturday** 9am-4pm  
Call ahead for seasonal variations to public hours

Nature is yours to discover...



## Anita Purves Nature Center

1505 N. Broadway, Urbana  
(217) 384-4062



# Welcome

The environment is more than just something out there far away; it's all around us. Learn about the local environment by exploring the indoor and outdoor exhibits at the Anita Purves Nature Center: the Field Station, Wildlife Observation Room, Habitat Gardens, and Busey Woods. You'll be surprised how much there is to know about your own backyard.

## Nature Center Programs

### Traveling Naturalist Programs

Let a trained naturalist visit you! Request a customized one-time, weekly or monthly program for your camp program, scout troop or community organization. Choose from many topics.

### Special Tours

A trained naturalist will take your scout or community group on a tour of Busey Woods or Meadowbrook Park. Custom tours are available, including special tours designed for most scout badges. Please reserve your tour at least two weeks in advance. Weekday afternoon and weekend times are available.

### Adopt an Education Animal

The nature center's wildlife exhibit helps demonstrate the variety of wildlife that lives in Illinois to thousands of people every year. These animals are part of the living exhibits in the Field Station and also make appearances at community and school functions as part of the Traveling Naturalist program.

Your financial contribution, or "adoption", helps provide the animals with shelter, medical care and the food they need. Adoption is a great way to support environmental education in Champaign County. An adoption also makes a unique gift for friends and family.

### Nature Discovery Packs

Borrow a Nature Discovery Pack and take it with you while exploring Urbana's parks and natural areas. Packs include supplies such as magnifying glasses and binoculars, as well as field guides to help you identify what you encounter. Specific packs about astronomy, birds, ponds, Busey Woods and Meadowbrook Prairie are available.

Call (217) 384-4062 for more information or to schedule these programs.

## Yours To Discover

### Wildlife Observation Room

An outdoor feeding station for birds and other small wildlife can be seen from this quiet room through a wall of windows. A parabolic sound system brings the outdoors in. Stop and sit in any season and observe a variety of species in a garden filled with plants native to Illinois. This room was funded by a gift from the Carle Foundation.

### Educator Resource Room

Be sure to visit the Resource Room if you are seeking ideas for lessons, programs, activities, or need help identifying a bird, flower or tree. Devoted to assisting people who educate others about the outdoors, the Resource Room contains many reference guides, curriculum materials, study skins and videos. A wide variety of Educational Loan Boxes are also available. All items may be borrowed. Call (217) 384-4062 for availability, or just stop by and have a look.

### Audubon Nature Shop

Looking for a unique nature-related gift? Visit the Audubon Nature Shop for a wide range of carefully selected items. Find bird feeders, binoculars, books for all ages, party favors or puppets, and much more. Operated by the Champaign County Audubon Society, this nonprofit operation donates all proceeds to local environmental education or conservation projects. Audubon members get a 10% discount on purchases. Visa, Mastercard and Discover are accepted.

### Multipurpose Rooms

The nature center's multipurpose rooms are ideal for educational programs or group retreats. They feature views of the prairie garden and are in close proximity to Busey Woods. Available rooms seat between 25 and 75 people. Amenities include a VCR/DVD monitor, easels, slide projectors, counter space and sinks. To request rental information, call (217) 384-4062.

*Sep-May:* 8am-11pm

*Jun-Aug:* weekdays 7pm-11pm

*Jun-Aug:* weekends 8am-11pm

### Field Station

Field Station exhibits introduce visitors to the plants and animals commonly seen in Busey Woods and Meadowbrook Prairie. Look for:

**A Beehive-** A working colony of bees enters and exits this real hive.

**Turtles-** Several box turtles live in a natural landscape.

**Screech Owls-** Live screech owls can be observed in a themed aviary.

**An Interactive Tree-** Peek inside the White Oak's holes to see who is home. Locate two discovery doors and explore life in and around the tree.

**Snakes-** Dispel common reptilian fears and get acquainted with some common local snakes.

When you enter the Field Station you're entering the outdoor environment of a secluded research field station. In the Field Station you can:

- Work with Anita Purves to study and learn from the amazing world of nature.
- Observe animals, solve problems, and learn about nature that is as close as your backyard.
- Open a drawer and discover something about rocks, soil, seeds, mammals, reptiles or insects.
- Look into the Wentzscope and explore the microscopic world of fur, scales and seeds.
- Step off the porch, and immerse yourself in the habitats native to East-Central Illinois.
- Step onto the Field Station porch and encounter a backyard of living exhibits.
- Find a painted prairie landscape that blends into a late summer/early fall woodland view.
- Look up at cloud-filled sky and see a hawk soaring.
- Look down at a dirt texture floor and follow tracks.

# Discover...