

# EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

2017-2018



Urbana Park District



*The Anita Purves Nature Center is your classroom extension. Our standards-based field trips, classroom visits, and loan boxes will complement your curriculum with hands-on activities.*

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"Anita Purves Nature Center"

Urbana Park District • [www.urbanaparks.org](http://www.urbanaparks.org)

Anita Purves Nature Center • 1505 N. Broadway, Urbana 61801 • 217-384-4062

## Welcome Teachers!

The Anita Purves Nature Center provides environmental education programs. Your class can come to us, or we can come to you! All programs meet grade-specific Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Teachers receive supplemental activity ideas to connect the real world to the classroom.

Bring your class on a **School Tour** to visit Busey Woods or Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie. Busey Woods programs include time to explore the nature center's Field Station. Or, invite a **Naturalist in the Classroom** to visit your group. A trained environmental educator will bring hands-on materials, interactive lessons, and sometimes a live animal to your classroom.

New this year! The **Friendship Grove Nature Playscape**, located just outside the nature center, is a unique and interactive landscape that engages children of all ages in imaginative and active outdoor play. Your class can explore this exciting new feature if you sign up for a Full-Bus School Tour (see page 3).

The Anita Purves Nature Center also offers a wide variety of **Educational Loan Items** such as curriculum guides and natural history reference materials. Our themed **Loan Boxes** include natural history specimens, standards-based lesson plans for a variety of grades, and materials to assist you.

Urbana Park District environmental educators are eager to help you! Contact Heidi Vasel, Environmental Education Coordinator, at 217-384-4062 or [hjvasel@urbanaparks.org](mailto:hjvasel@urbanaparks.org) with your questions or requests.

## Program & Reservation Information

- Reservations for the coming school year's environmental education programs start in June. Preference will be given to reservation requests received by June 12, 2017. Requests for available dates are taken throughout the school year as well.
- Complete and return the reservation form or call 217-384-4062. If your dates and times are flexible, please indicate so on the form.
- A \$15 deposit is required for each program requested. Payment must accompany your reservation form. Payment can be made by cash, check, credit card, or school district purchase order made out to the Urbana Park District.
- The remaining balance is due on the date of your program. A \$10 late fee will be incurred if the balance is not paid on that date.
- Any program held outside the Urbana-Champaign area will be charged a travel fee of \$0.54 per mile.
- All confirmation materials (including supplemental activity ideas, chaperone information, and how to dress for outdoor exploration) will be sent to you electronically. Be sure to check your email.
- Field trips are held regardless of the weather. Inside spaces are available at both locations, though every attempt is made to hold programs outdoors. All students are to be dressed for outdoor conditions.
- Arrive on time or give us a call if you are running late.



## School Program Fees

Class size is set at 25 students with a fee of \$1 per each additional student. (32 students maximum). Group limits consider the number of educators available, the number of learning stations, and the capacity of the indoor learning spaces.

### School Tours (at the Urbana Park District)

K-5th Grade.....\$42

### Naturalist in the Classroom (at your facility)

Kindergarten.....\$40

1st-5th Grade.....\$48

## Loan Materials

### Standards-based loan items

Nature Center Loan Boxes

- \$12 fee + refundable credit card deposit of \$15

IDNR Trunks

- Free with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15

### Other loan items (not standards-based)

Nature Discovery Packs

- Free with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15

Books, videos and natural history specimens (by request)

- Free with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15

See pages 8-9 for loan box topics or visit the Educator Resource Room at the nature center or online at [www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/environmental-education-loan-boxes/](http://www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/environmental-education-loan-boxes/) Call 217-384-4062 for more information or to reserve loan materials.

### Afraid a field trip won't fit in your budget?

Experiential and real-world learning are an important part of a student's education. Visit the following websites for grants that are available to help fund your Urbana Park District environmental education program.

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

[www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx)

**Environmental Education Association of Illinois**

[www.eeai.net/additional-grant-opportunities.html](http://www.eeai.net/additional-grant-opportunities.html)

## Full-Bus School Tours

Transportation is often prohibitive for teachers. Save on bussing costs by teaming up with another teacher at your school for a Full-Bus Program. With this option, two classrooms schedule simultaneous visits to the Anita Purves Nature Center.

While one teacher's class participates in a school tour, the second teacher leads his or her class through teacher-planned and supervised activities indoors or outside. A classroom with tables and chairs is available, or learn and play in the new Friendship Grove Nature Playscape just outside the nature center, or explore the Field Station. After lunch, classes trade places and the second teacher participates in a school tour. Collaborating teachers may choose different topics when participating in a Full-Bus program.

### Benefits:

- Shared transportation costs
- More time to explore the nature center's Field Station, Crystal Lake Park, Busey Woods or Nature Playscape
- Opportunity to expand on School Tour topics by utilizing educational loan materials (see pages 8-9).



# SCHOOL TOURS

## School Tours

These programs take place at Urbana Park District natural areas and facilities. Program length varies from 1.5-2 hours. Programs are typically held at the Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods, or at the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center & Spomer Prairie.

### Kindergarten

*Program length: 1.5 hours*

**Fall Frolickers:** Explore the special adaptations squirrels have for life in the trees. (Oct - Nov) NGSS:K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1; CC: K.SL.1,3,6, K.L.1, K.CC.A,B, K.MD, K.GA

**Fabulous Fall:** Observe seasonal changes and discover how different plants and animals prepare for the coming cold season. (Oct - Nov) NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2; CC: K.SL.1,3,6, K.L.1

**Sense-ational Spring:** Sharpen students' observation skills with a variety of activities using all five senses. (Apr - May) NGSS:K-ESS2-1; CC: K.SL.1,3,6, K.L.1, K.CC.A, K.GA

**Wee Wigglers:** Your class will learn about the multitude of tiny animal life that lives in, on, or under the land and water. (Apr - May) NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1; CC: K.SL.1,3,6, K.L.1, K.CC.A, K.GA

### 1st & 2nd Grades

*Program length: 1.5 hours*

**Billions of Bugs:** Search for and compare insects and their relatives found in forest and prairie habitats. (Sep - mid-Oct) NGSS: 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1; CC:1.SL 1,3,6, 1.L.1, 2.SL 1,3,6, 2.L.1

**Nature's Hitchhikers:** Investigate how seeds travel and look at ways that seeds and forest animals depend on each other. (mid-Oct - Nov) NGSS: 1-LS1-1, 1-ESS1-2, 2-LS2-2; CC: 1.SL 1.3.6, 1.L.1, 2.SL 1,3,6, 2.L.1

**Where Do They Go?:** Identify the different strategies used by animals to survive winter and discover the adaptations that allow some animals to stay active. (Jan - Feb) NGSS:1-LS1-1, 1-ESS1-1, 2-LS4-1; CC: 1.SL1,3,6, 1.L1, 2.SL 1,3,6, 2.L.1

**Little Critters:** Determine what roles forest and pond invertebrates play in these ecosystems. (Apr - May) NGSS:1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1; CC: 1.SL1,3,6, 1.L1, 2.SL 1,3,6, 2.L.1

**The Green Machine:** From baby trees to grandfather trees, explore how trees make food and support life in the forest. (Apr - May) NGSS:1-LS1-1, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS2-2 2-LS4-1; CC: 1.SL1,3,6, 1.L1, 2.SL 1,3,6, 2.L.1, 2.MD.A

### Summer Option (K-5th Grade):

*{Program length: 1.5 hours; mornings only}*

**Going Buggy!** Search for and compare insects living in the prairie and the gardens. (mid-June - early Aug) NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-3 4-LS1-1; CC: K.SL 1,3,6, K.L.1, 1.SL 1,3,6, 2.SL 1,3,6, 3.SL 1,3,6, 4.SL 1, 4.L.1, 5.SL 1

### Preschool Programs

While fun and educational, these programs do not meet any state learning standards. To request a preschool program, contact Savannah Donovan, Environmental Public Program Coordinator, at sydonovan@urbanaparks.org or 217-384-4062.



## 3rd-5th Grade

*Program length: 2 hours*

**Amazing Animal Adaptations:** Beaver feet, rabbit ears, and raptor eyes – learn how these and other amazing adaptations help animals survive. (Oct - Nov or Apr - May) NGSS: 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 4-LS1-1; CC: 3.SL 1,3,6, 3.L 1, 4.SL1, 4.L 1, 5.SL1

**Happenin' Habitats!:** What makes a habitat? What happens in the habitat? Find the answers to these questions and more by using observation, simulation, and a habitat design challenge. Available both at Busey Woods and Meadowbrook Park. Indicate the location on the reservation form. (Sept-Nov or Apr - May) NGSS: 3-LS2-1, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1; CC: 3.SL 1,3,6, 3.L 1, 4.SL1, 4.L 1, 5.SL1

**What's in a Pond?:** Explore "life in the fast lane" – life cycles, adaptations, and interrelationships of the organisms as you pond-dip for macroinvertebrates living in Busey Woods' vernal ponds. (Apr - May) NGSS: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-PS3-1; CC: 3.SL 1,3,6, 3.L 1, 4.SL1, 4.L 1, 5.SL1

## Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie Programs

Programs at Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie are offered in October for 3rd-5th grades. Program length is 2 hours unless otherwise noted.

 Programs begin at the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center (Race St. park entrance).

### 1st & 2nd Grade

*Program length: 1.5 hours*

**A Look at Habitats:** Explore animal survival in Meadowbrook Park's various habitats. (mid-Apr - May) NGSS: 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 2-LS4-1, 2-ESS2-1; CC: 1.SL1,3,6, 1.L1, 2.SL 1,3,6, 2.L 1

### 3rd-5th Grade

*Program length: 2 hours*

**Exploring Tallgrass Prairies:** Explore how both plants and animals are adapted to survive in the tallgrass prairie. (Oct) NGSS: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS1-1; CC: 3.SL 1,3,6, 3.L 1, 4.SL1, 4.L 1, 5.SL1

**Illinois Prairie Plants:** Discover how tallgrass prairie plants are adapted to survive fire, animal grazing and the prairie's harsh climate conditions. (Oct) NGSS: 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 3-ESS2-2, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS1-1; CC: 3.SL 1,3,6, 3.L 1, 4.SL1, 4.L 1, 5.SL1

## New Location!

**Explore Weaver Park's prairie.** Explore Weaver Park's prairie. Located on the eastern edge of Urbana along Main Street, this 60-acre park includes 35 acres of prairie. Your students will have plenty of space to investigate while trying out this new program venue. Please provide two date options in case of rain.

### *Studying a different topic?*

Request a customized program for an additional fee (dependent on the degree of customization required). Call 217-384-4062 to discuss the possibilities.

# NATURALIST IN THE CLASSROOM



We bring programs to your classroom or facility. Kindergarten programs are 45-minutes. 1st-5th grade programs are 1 hour.

**Flying Friends:** Learn about the adaptations of birds and other flying animals. **(K-5th)** NGSS: K-ESS2-2, 1-LS-1, 2-LS4-2; CC: K.SL 1,3,6, K.L 1, 1.SL 1,3,6, 1.L 1, 2.SL 1,3, 2.L 1, 3.SL 1,3,6, 3.L 1, 4.SL 1, 4.L1, 5.SL1, 5.L 1

**Intestines of the Earth:** Warm up with “worm exercises” and explore the world of earth worms. **(1st-3rd)** NGSS: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2; CC: 1.SL 1,3,6, 1.L 1, 2.SL 1,3, 2.L 1, 3.SL 1,3,6, 3.L 1

**Let’s Make Tracks:** Investigate tracks and other signs animals leave behind. **(1st-3rd)** NGSS: 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-2; CC: 1.SL 1,3,6, 1.L 1, 2.SL 1,3, 2.L 1, 3.SL 1,3,6, 3.L 1

**Powerful Plants:** Learn about plant structure, function, and growth during this fast-paced look at plants. **(2nd-5th)** NGSS: 2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2, 3-LS1-1; CC: 1.SL 1,3,6, 1.L 1, 2.SL 1,3, 2.L 1, 3.SL 1,3,6, 3.L 1

**Remarkable Reptiles:** Explore reptile characteristics when a live snake and a box turtle visit your classroom. **(K-5th)** NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS-1, 1-LS-2; CC: K.SL 1,3,6, K.L 1, 1.SL 1,3,6, 1.L 1, 2.SL 1,3, 2.L 1, 3.SL 1,3,6, 3.L 1, 4.SL 1, 4.L1, 5.SL1, 5.L 1

**Who-o-o Knows?:** Meet a live screech owl and learn about these native birds of prey. **(K-2nd)** NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS-1, 1-LS3-1, 3-LS4, 4-LS1-1; CC: K.SL 1,3,6, K.L 1, 1.SL 1,3,6, 1.L 1, 2.SL 1,3, 2.L 1, 2.MD

**Winter Animals:** Discover how wildlife survive winter as students pretend to be woodchucks, squirrels, or other local critters. **(K)** NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1; CC: K.SL.1,3,6, K.L 1





## Other Educator Resources

**Audubon Nature Shop** (located inside the Anita Purves Nature Center): If you need a bird feeder, binoculars, children's books or puppets, the Nature Shop has something for you. Operated by the Champaign County Audubon Society, this nonprofit shop grants all proceeds to local environmental education or conservation projects.

### Educator Newsletter

Stay connected to the nature center throughout the year through this e-newsletter. Find out about open program dates and seasonal occurrences in Busey Woods and Meadowbrook Park. Try mini environmental education lessons with your students. To subscribe, visit [www.urbanaparks.org/e-news/](http://www.urbanaparks.org/e-news/) and add your information to the Education Resources Newsletter.

### Educator Resource Room (inside the nature center)

Find ideas for lessons, programs or activities. Reference guides help you identify a bird, flower, or tree. The resource room has fiction and nonfiction books, curriculum materials and videos. All items may be borrowed with a deposit. Small fee required for loan boxes (next page).

### Natural History Specimens

The nature center houses a collection of skulls, skins, nests and other natural history artifacts and specimens. These items are available by request with a refundable deposit.

### Free! Self-Guided Visits

Busey Woods and Spomer Prairie at Meadowbrook Park are fragile natural areas, and their use is monitored. When planning a self-led group visit to either site, please call 217-384-4062 to reserve a date. This ensures quality visits for all. Collection of any natural materials is prohibited.

- **Busey Woods:** This 59-acre remnant of the Big Grove grows along the Saline Branch of the Salt Fork River. The Urbana Park District maintains Busey Woods as a nature preserve. It features approximately 2.5 miles of trails, including a 1/3-mile all-weather accessible boardwalk that allows access in wet weather.
- **Meadowbrook Park:** This park and natural area is home to three original farm buildings, two streams, and many gardens, as well as an 80-acre re-created Spomer Prairie. A favorite feature is the PrairiePlay playground, located at the intersection of Windsor Road and Vine Street. A picnic lunch and visit to PrairiePlay is the perfect complement to a field trip at Meadowbrook Park.

# NATURE CENTER LOAN BOXES

Loan boxes may be reserved in advance and borrowed for up to two weeks. Each box contains a comprehensive, standards-based activity guide and accompanying materials. Call 217-384-4062 to check availability and reserve kits. A \$12 fee plus a refundable credit card deposit of \$15 is required.

**Animal Puppets:** Puppets, books, pictures, and additional materials teach about animal groups, habitats, life cycles and more. (K-3rd)

**Astronomy:** A mini planetarium and constellation cards brings the solar system to your classroom. (3rd-12th)

**Birds:** Explore the lives of birds using hands-on activities including migration games, nests and feathers. (K-5th)

**Bird Nests:** Discover how birds build nests and learn what birds need to successfully raise their brood. (K-8th)

**Dinosaurs:** Learn about dinosaurs through stencils, masks, fossils and bones, as well as games and curriculum materials. (K-2nd)

**Endangered Species:** See items made from parts of endangered species that were confiscated by U.S. Customs and given to educational institutions. Learn about the reasons that species become threatened and endangered and how you can help. (K-8th)

**Feathers:** Feathers are for more than flight. Explore their roles in a bird's life with pictures, games and activities. (K-8th)

**Habitats:** Discover a variety of ecosystems and what it takes to survive and thrive in them. (K-5th)

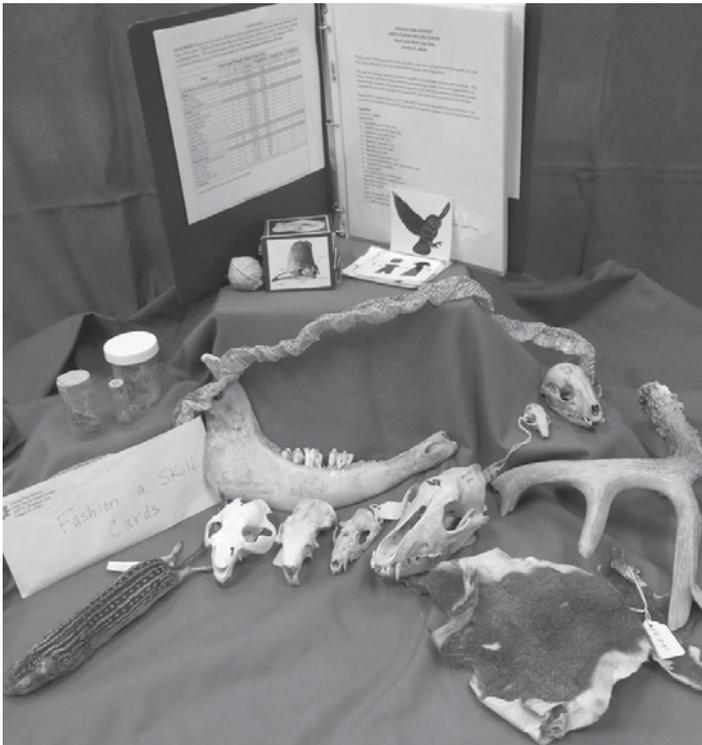
**Insects:** Explore the fascinating world of insects and their relatives. (K-6th)

**Plants & Seeds:** Learn how plants grow and are used with the collections and activities in this kit. (K-5th)



# NATURE CENTER LOAN BOXES

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**Ponds and Wetlands:** This box includes dip nets, see-boxes, basters and other supplies for a real dip and drip experience! (1st-8th)

**Prairie Discovery:** Explore the prairie using games, field guides and scientific equipment including thermometer, hand lenses and trowels. (3rd-8th)

**Reptiles and Amphibians:** Borrow a live turtle for your classroom! Supplemental activities include care and feeding instructions and reptile and amphibian activities. (K-5th)

**Rocks and Minerals:** Explore the world of rocks and minerals. Includes rock and mineral samples, books, pictures, and basic mineral testing equipment. (K-5th)

**Skulls:** This kit includes skulls and study skins from a variety of species. (K-6th)

**Squirmy Science:** This live worm kit is perfect for lessons about recycling, composting, gardening, soil and invertebrates. (K-5th)

**Tracks:** Students learn about tracks with guides, rubs and rubber tracks ideal for stamping. (1st-5th)

**Trees and Forests:** Learn how important trees are by using the activity guide, identification guides and natural items, including different species of trees and seeds. (K-6th)



# NATURE DISCOVERY PACKS



Borrow a Nature Discovery Pack, and take it with you when you explore local parks and natural areas. These packs include magnifiers, binoculars, field guides and more to help you identify what you encounter. The packs are intended for families or other groups and do not follow learning standards. Packs are free with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15. Call 217-384-4062 to check availability and reserve packs. Choose from:

- Astronomy
- Birding
- Busey Woods (Spring/Summer or Fall/Winter)
- Carle Park Trees & Urban Wildlife
- Ponding
- Meadowbrook Prairie (Spring/Summer or Fall/Winter)

**IDNR Trunks:** Borrow an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Trunk free with a \$15 refundable deposit. Contain lesson and activity books based on standards. Choose from:

- Field Trip Pack for Early Childhood Educators
- Illinois Birds
- Illinois Fossils
- Illinois Insects & Spiders
- Illinois Invasive Species
- Illinois Mammals
- Illinois State Symbols
- Illinois Wetland
- People & Animals of Illinois' Past

For more information go to:  
[www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/ItemsForLoan.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/ItemsForLoan.aspx)





## Project Learning Tree: Pre K-8

Project Learning Tree (PLT) uses forests as a window on the world and provides educators with environmental education curriculum resources that can be integrated into lesson plans for all grades and subject areas. PLT teaches students how to think, not what to think, about complex environmental issues, and helps them acquire the skills they need to make sound choices about the environment.

The user-friendly guide includes 96 interdisciplinary activities, scientific background, and reproducible student pages. (Activities are correlated to state and national standards including the Common Core.)

## Project WILD and Aquatic WILD (K-12)

Project WILD is an interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education program emphasizing wildlife. The goal of Project WILD is to assist learners of any age in developing awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment resulting in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment.

The Aquatic WILD K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide serves as an invitation to explore and understand the fascinating world of water and the aquatic habitats it supports. (Activities are correlated to state and national standards including the Common Core.)

Urbana Park District environmental staff are trained facilitators offering professional development workshops for educators. These workshops are scheduled at the nature center or brought to your school for in-service needs. Educator trainings average six hours but can be adapted for in-service needs. For more information, call 217-384-4062.



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Meadowbrook Park's Meadowbrook Interpretive Center (Race Street entrance)