



Nature Programs

FREE! Nature Play Kids



Fridays, August 25, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 10-11am
Friendship Grove Nature Playscape, Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 3 and Up with adult; all ages welcome

Bring your little one to the nature playscape to participate in naturalist-led activities during these special times. Drop-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is encouraged to have enough supplies for everyone; call 217-384-4062 to let us know you are coming. Donations of \$5/child are encouraged.

FREE! Nature Center Pre-K Fridays

Fridays, November 3, 17, December 1, 8 & 15, 9am-12pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 6 and Under - with adult

Kids age 6 and under and their families can drop by the nature center to discover self-guided activities just for little naturalists. Each week, we'll explore a different theme. Your adventures may lead you outdoors to the nature playscape as weather permits, so come prepared! Call 217-384-4062 for more information.

Wild Child Survival Skills Class



Saturday, September 23, 1-4pm
Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods
Ages 8-14

With an experienced guide, your child will get "lost" in Busey Woods and practice survival skills to get back safely. Kids will learn how to use a compass, build a survival shelter, and responsibly build and extinguish a fire without matches. We'll celebrate our success with roasted marshmallows and s'mores! Pre-registration is required to have enough supplies for everyone.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$15R/\$23NR Sep 9	\$17R/\$26NR Sep 16	6010

Winter Solstice Night Hike

Thursday, December 21, 6:30-8pm
Meadowbrook Park - meet at the Race Street parking lot
Age 6 and Up - with a registered adult

Bundle up as we experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the prairie during the longest night of the year. Explore features of the night sky, and look for signs of wildlife—we may even hear the call of owls. A brisk nighttime hike will leave you feeling energized! Pre-registration is required for this exclusive opportunity.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$8R/\$12NR Dec 7	\$9R/\$14NR Dec 14	6015

Be on the Lookout for Pop-Up Programs!

Naturalists from the Anita Purves Nature Center occasionally conduct last-minute or "pop-up" programs when special events occur in nature such as the nighthawk migration, the fall leaves changing colors, or the first winter snow. Look for pop-up program announcements on social media by following the Anita Purves Nature Center and Urbana Park District on Facebook and Twitter. Or visit www.rainoutline.com, search Urbana Park District, and sign up to receive email or text alerts for Nature Programs.



Micro-Urban Edibles

Saturday, September 9, 10am-12pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 15 and Up

Discover the bounty in your own backyard! Local wild food enthusiast JP Goguen will introduce you to the edible landscape. Find out about consumable native and invasive plants and fungi. Focus will be on identification and safety as we discuss the culinary potential of each species. Start with classroom discussion and move on to identification outdoors. Information presented is strictly and categorically a reference. The Urbana Park District is not responsible for what participants collect and eat outside of this program. There is no collecting natural items from any Urbana parks.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$12R/\$18NR	Aug 26	\$13R/\$30NR	Sep 2	5334

What Plant is That? Woodland Plant ID

Saturday, September 16, 10-11:30am
Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods
Age 15 and Up

Get the introduction you need to begin recognizing woodland plants. Learn basic skills and terms for how to identify plants. We'll start with a brief talk inside then hike into Busey Woods for some real-world practice.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$9R/\$14NR	Sep 2	\$10R/\$15NR	Sep 9	6016

Animal Tracking Basics

Saturday, December 9, 1-3pm
Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods
Age 15 and Up

Animals leave behind clues that can tell us much about them. Learn how to inspect tracks and other animal signs in this class for beginners. In the second half of the program, we will head outdoors to see what we can find! Be sure to come dressed for the weather.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$10R/\$15NR	Nov 25	\$12R/\$18NR	Dec 2	6018



Take a Child Outside Week

September 22-30 is Take a Child Outside Week, encouraging children and adults to spend time together outdoors. Help children better understand and appreciate the environment, and join the national effort to reconnect children with nature.

Check out great ways to get outdoors throughout the park district! Just look for this symbol in the guide:



Regular contact with nature is associated with:

- Improved creativity, problem solving & self-control
- Enhanced ability to focus and reduced symptoms of ADD
- Better academic performance and social relations
- Increased physical activity and lower rates of obesity

Take A Child Outside Week events at the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape and Anita Purves Nature Center

Date	Time	Event
Fri, Sep 22	10-11am	Nature Play Kids
	5:30-6:30pm	Family Nature Walk
	6:45-8:30pm	Outdoor Movie Night - Rain Date: Sat, Sep 23
	8:30-9pm	Star Gazing
Sat, Sep 23	12-2pm	Worldwide Day of Play
	1-4pm	Wild Child Survival Skills Class* (pg 49)
Sun, Sep 24	7:30-9am	Sunday Morning Bird Walk
Mon, Sep 25	1-4pm	Play Date with Nature
Tues, Sep 26	3-6pm	Play Date with Nature
Wed, Sep 27	1-4pm	Play Date with Nature
Thurs, Sep 28	3-6pm	Play Date with Nature
Fri, Sep 29	1-4pm	Play Date with Nature
	4:30-5:30pm	Family Nature Walk
	6-6:45pm	Kids Yoga (pg 46)
	7-8pm	Stories by the Fireside
Sat, Sep 30	9-11am	National Public Lands Day: Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	National Public Lands Day: Perkins Road Wet Prairie
		Nature Center Art Show Opening (pg 9)

***Pre-registration and fees required**

Recommended ages vary by activity. Children must be accompanied by an adult/guardian. All programs for Take a Child Outside Week are weather dependent. Check www.urbanaparks.org or sign up for Rainout Line for up-to-date cancellation information.

Come See What's Free!

Sunday Morning Bird Walks



Sundays, September 3-October 29, 7:30-9am
Busey Woods - Meet in Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot
All Ages - under 15 with adult

Birding is an adventure for any age. Walk with Champaign County Audubon Society leaders and search for birds in Busey Woods and Crystal Lake Park. Learn and practice basic bird watching and identification techniques. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them or you may borrow one from the Anita Purves Nature Center with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15 (pick up M-Sa 9am-4pm).

Star Gazing



Thursday, September 21, 7:30-9pm
Meadowbrook Interpretive Center & Timpone Grove
Race Street entrance, Meadowbrook Park
All Ages - under 15 with adult

The evening will begin at the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center with a short presentation about amateur star watching. Then explore the night sky with astronomers from the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society and William M. Staerkel Planetarium. Chat with local experts as you observe through their high-powered telescopes. Bring a blanket/lawn chair to sit on and binoculars or telescope if you have them. Call 217-384-4062 for more information.

Family Nature Walks



Friday, September 22, 5:30-6:30pm
Friday, September 29, 4:30-5:30pm
Busey Woods - meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center
All Ages - under 15 with adult

Celebrate Take a Child Outside Week with a relaxing walk through Busey Woods. We will explore the boardwalk and unpaved trails, so wear shoes that can get dirty. Call 217-384-4062 for more information.

Outdoor Movie Night: Honey, I Shrank the Kids



Friday, September 22, 6:45-8:30pm
Rain Date: Saturday, September 23
Friendship Grove Nature Playscape, Anita Purves Nature Center
All Ages - under 15 with adult

Celebrate the start of Take a Child Outside Week with an outdoor movie at the park! Bring a blanket/lawn chair to sit on, and arrive by 6:45pm to find your seat; the movie will begin promptly at 7pm. Free popcorn and lemonade will be available as supplies last. Donations of \$5/person are encouraged. Following the movie, we will look for stars, planets and constellations in the night sky from 8:30-9pm. Call 217-384-4062 for more information.

Play Date with Nature



September 25-29
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 1-4pm
Tuesday, Thursday: 3-6pm
Friendship Grove Nature Playscape, Anita Purves Nature Center

Come play with us at the nature playscape in celebration of Take a Child Outside Week! During these special times, a nature play facilitator will be on-hand with extra supplies and "loose parts" for play. Our explorations and play will be based on different themes each day!

- **Monday:** Dig In!
- **Tuesday:** Building with Wood and Sticks
- **Wednesday:** Forts
- **Thursday:** Mud Kitchen
- **Friday:** Nature Art

Stories by the Fireside



Friday, September 29, 7-8pm
Fire Ring, Anita Purves Nature Center
Recommended for Age 6 and Up - under 15 with adult

Listen to folk stories by the fireside in celebration of Take a Child Outside Week as local storyteller Kim Sheahan brings myths and legends to life! Bring your listening ears and a blanket/lawn chair to sit on. Free cocoa and marshmallows will be available while supplies last. Remember to dress for the weather. Spaces are limited; call 217-384-4062 in advance to let us know you are coming.

National Public Lands Day Volunteer Event



Saturday, September 30
9-11am: Meadowbrook Park, Race Street entrance
1-3pm: Perkind's Road Wet Prairie (Urbana Dog Park)
Age 7 and Up - under 15 with adult

Celebrate the beauty and importance of native plants with park district staff on National Public Lands Day. Help collect seeds by hand and/or plant native plants at two vital restoration sites. Your efforts will be appreciated by the pollinators and wildlife that depend on native plants, and the public who share and enjoy these lands. Stay for refreshments and receive a National Public Lands Day Certificate for volunteering. Long pants, long sleeves, and sneakers or hiking boots recommended. Call 217-384-4062 by September 29 to let us know you are coming.

Come See What's Free!

Owl-ebration

Saturday, October 21, 12-3pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 All Ages - under 15 with adult

Love owls? Help us celebrate the owls that live at the nature center at a party in their honor! Enjoy crafts and up-close encounters with Eastern screech owls Quasi, Ginger, and Jack. Come and go any time during the event hours. Pre-registration is encouraged, as space is limited. Call 217-384-4062 to let us know you are coming. This event has a suggested donation of \$5/person or \$10/family. Donations for this program help support the care of the nature center animals.



America Recycles Day: "Three Rs in the Tub"

Saturday, November 4, 11am-3pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 All Ages - under 15 with adult

Sub-a-dub-dub, three Rs in the tub! How can you Recycle, Reuse and Reduce waste in the bathroom—the most overlooked room when it comes to recycling? Join us to learn what to do with boxes, bottles and containers from the bathroom. For this event only, a drop-box will be available where you can recycle toothbrushes (non-electric) and empty tubes of toothpaste (squeeze out all of the toothpaste first!). Make your own creation from reused or repurposed materials at home before the event, and enter to win an award in the fourth annual Creative Reuse Competition. Visit www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/ for competition rules and a complete list of recyclable items that can be dropped off during the event. Call 217-384-4062 for more information.

Come Visit Live Animals!

The Anita Purves Nature Center has live animals and you can be a part of their lives! Learn more about each individual owl, snake, or turtle and what it takes to make them feel at home in the Field Station. Attend the Owl-ebration (above) to meet the owls up-close!

Learn how you can "Adopt an Educational Animal" (next page). All proceeds from your adoption go directly to the animals' care. You can also help increase the visibility of wildlife in our outdoor habitat gardens by donating bird seed!





Adopt an Education Animal

The Urbana Park District houses a number of native animals at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Most have injuries that would compromise their survival in the wild, or were captive bred. All the animals are on exhibit and used for educational programs with schools, scouts and the general public. In 2016 alone, our animals visited 80 different groups!

Your sponsorship, or “adoption”, supports environmental education in Champaign County. Adoption fees generate funds for the care, housing and feeding of these animals.

Upon adoption you receive:

- Your picture taken with the animal you adopt
- Adoption certificate plus a fact sheet with the animal’s history and photograph
- Your name on the donor exhibit in the Field Station for the period of the adoption
- Invitation to a member adoption party at the Anita Purves Nature Center

Animal	Cost Per Month	Cost for 6 Months	Cost Per Year
Turtle	\$15	\$80	\$150
Snake	\$30	\$160	\$300
Owl	\$50	\$260	\$525

Visit www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/anita-purves-nature-center/ for an adoption application.



Outdoor Learning Opportunities

The Anita Purves Nature Center offers environmental education programs and helps educators teach their students about the natural world.

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 school. A trained environmental educator will bring hands-on materials, interactive lessons, and sometimes a live animal to your classroom.

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. A brochure with 2017-2018 tour information is available for download at www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/.

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

Get on the List!

Sign up for our new educator resources email list and get seasonal helpful tips for the classroom and information about resources and upcoming programs. Visit www.urbanaparks.org/e-news/ and scroll to Educator Resources.

Items You Can Borrow

The Anita Purves Nature Center also offers a wide variety of Education 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. For more information on available loan boxes and photos of what's inside, visit www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/environmental-education-loan-boxes/.



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.

FREE! School Tour Volunteer Orientation

By Appointment
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 18 and Up

Make a difference to more than 3,000 children who visit the nature center each year and help get kids excited about the environment. Share the excitement of teaching while exploring Busey Woods and Spomer Prairie at Meadowbrook Park. Volunteer naturalists learn to lead many fun and easy nature activities as they lead tours at these sites. To be a leader, your schedule must allow you to lead tours on a weekday morning or afternoon. Please call 217-384-4062 to set up a time for an individual training.



Natural Areas

Our goal for these natural areas is to restore areas characteristics of Illinois' most diverse habitats. Restoration includes planting and seeding native plants, removing nuisance plants, and conducting prescribed burns to encourage healthy growth. Learn more about each of these areas at www.urbanaparks.org/parks/natural-areas/

Natural areas are open sunrise to sunset. Naturalists are available, and classes are designed for all age groups and interests. To inquire about programs and services, call the Anita Purves Nature Center at 217-384-4062. Visit p.13 for information. **Help us maintain these natural areas by not collecting items, walking pets or cycling.**

Busey Woods

Busey Woods is a 59-acre bottomland oak-hickory forest. It is located at the north end of Crystal Lake Park with an entrance just west of the Anita Purves Nature Center. The C-U Optimist Club sponsors management of Busey Woods.

Commissioners Grove & Wetland in Weaver Park

With the help of volunteers, the Urbana Park District is restoring a variety of ecosystems at this quietly emerging park. Located south of the intersection of Main Street and Smith Road, this 60-acre park contains:

- An in-progress 5-acre woodland/savanna restoration
- Newly-established 35 acres planted with prairie & native grasses
- An award-winning watershed management wetland

Spomer Prairie in Meadowbrook Park

Prairie was the dominant natural feature of Illinois before the settlers arrived. Since 1978, the Urbana Park District and countless volunteers have worked to re-create approximately 80 acres of Illinois native landscape. Visit this park in south Urbana, along Windsor Road and Race Street, and explore and enjoy a part of Illinois' natural history that has all but disappeared.

Perkins Road Wet Prairie

With help from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation 2000 program, the district is restoring 35 acres behind the dog park. Once restored, the park will include prairie and wetland environments for wildlife observation, environmental education programs and recreation. For a sneak peek at this developing natural area, attend a Stewardship Saturday.



Stewardship Saturdays

Dress for the weather and lend a hand while learning about local natural areas. During Stewardship Saturdays, volunteers assist with:

- Invasive plant removal;
- Trail improvements and clean-up;
- Native plant seed harvest and/or planting.

Tools, gloves, instruction and refreshments are provided.

Stewardship Saturday workdays are recommended for children 8 years and older, however accommodations for younger participants may be available with enough advance notice. All children under 16 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Large groups are welcome. Scouts and groups with children should call well in advance to make arrangements to help - an alternate workday may be required as some stewardship activities are not suited for children.

Let us know you will be attending by calling 217-384-4062 prior to each date. Please dress for the weather.

For Busey Woods

- Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center

For Meadowbrook Park

- Meet at the Race Street parking lot south of Windsor Road

For Weaver Park

- Pull off at the intersection of Main Street and Smith Road

For Perkins Road Wet Prairie

- Meet at the Dog Park parking lot on Perkins Road, 1/2 mile east of Cunningham Avenue

Date	Time	Location
September 9	9-11am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
September 30 National Public Lands Day - see p. 51	9-11am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
October 14	9-11am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
October 28	9-11am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
December 9	9-11am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park



Each year the Anita Purves Nature Center brings thousands of elementary and middle school students through its doors to be involved in educational tours and programs. Educating children, families and the public about the outdoors and natural environment is a part of the mission of the nature center and is of great benefit to all those who participate.

These important programs touch so many in our community, and we need volunteer help to make them possible. If you love the outdoors, enjoy working with children and families, and want to make a difference in your community, please consider becoming a Volunteer Naturalist and School Tour Leader at the Anita Purves Nature Center this fall!

“School tour volunteers are a vital part of the education programs at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Volunteers serve as an extra set of eyes, ears and hands to assist in directing the children’s attention to the wonders around them. This might show itself by being very excited about an insect that a student caught or asking guiding questions to assist in a student discovery.”

- Heidi Vasel

Environmental Education Coordinator



Urbana Park District Advisory Committee

UPDAC is a citizen’s advisory committee formed by the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners in 1971. UPDAC members serve in an advisory and informative capacity to the Board of Commissioners and to the citizens of the district. The group studies issues that are of importance to the park district and helps the board and staff to make decisions that are in the best interest of the district and its residents.

UPDAC members are chosen for appointment to the committee based on their interest in UPD issues, and their ability and willingness to represent their neighborhood. Each member is also chosen based on geography. Ideally, the commissioners would like to have the membership of UPDAC reflect Urbana as a whole, with representation from all areas of the district.

Over the years, UPDAC has provided advice and input into a number of developments and programs/directions that the park district has undertaken. Meetings are once a month for 10 months of the year, at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday.

YOU can be part of this group, too. Apply online at:
www.urbanaparks.org/get-involved/urbana-park-district-advisory-committee-updac/