



Nature Programs

FREE! Nature Center Pre-K Fridays

Drop in Fridays, 9-12pm
 Feb 3-Mar 10
 Anita Purves Nature Center

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. Call 217-384-4062 for more information.

Owl Prowl for Kids

Saturday, Feb 11, 6-8pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Ages 6-15 (Parents free with a registered child)

Kids can explore Busey Woods at night in search of wild owls. Start with a short presentation indoors then hit the trails! After the hike, meet the nature center's resident screech owl, dissect an owl pellet, and warm up with hot cocoa. Dress for wet, cold and slippery conditions. Hikes are on non-paved or boardwalk trails - please no strollers. Fees for this hike support the care of the nature center's education animals. A minimum of one adult is required for every three children.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$9R/\$14NR Jan 28	\$11R/\$17NR Feb 4	5182

Candlelight Night Hike

Friday, Mar 10, 6-7:30pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 All Ages (under 15 with registered adult)

Discover the beauty of Busey Woods by candlelight on a crisp evening. Enjoy some fresh air and exercise on a guided hike. We'll conclude with hot chocolate and snacks around the campfire.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$9R/\$14NR Feb 24	\$11R/\$17NR Mar 3	5183

FREE! Nature Play Kids

Fridays, 10-11am
 Mar 17-Apr 21
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Age 3 and Up with adult; all ages welcome

Bring your little one to the nature center to experience guided activities and explorations in nature as we gear-up for the grand opening of the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape (see page 9). Drop-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is encouraged to have enough for everyone; call 217-384-4062 to let us know you are coming. Donations of \$5/child are encouraged.

Be on the Lookout for Pop-Up Programs!

Naturalists from the Anita Purves Nature Center occasionally conduct last-minute "pop-up" programs when special events occur in nature such as salamanders laying eggs, fairy shrimp in the ponds, or thousands of wildflowers blooming in Busey Woods! 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.

Adopt an Education Animal

The nature center's education animals help to demonstrate the variety of wildlife living in Illinois. Your financial contribution or "adoption" helps provide animals the care and the food they need. For more information, please call 217-384-4062 and ask for an adoption brochure. Or you may download one from the bottom of the Anita Purves Nature Center page at:

www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/anita-purves-nature-center



Adults Only Owl Prowl

Saturday, Jan 28, 7-9pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 15 and Up

Explore Busey Woods at night in search of owls with Illinois Nature History Survey Avian Specialist, Tara Beveroth. Start with a native Illinois owls multimedia presentation. Then head outside to listen for them calling. After the hike, meet the Anita Purves Nature Center's resident screech owls and warm up with hot cocoa. Fees for this hike support the care of the nature center's education animals. Dress for wet, cold and slippery conditions. Hikes are on non-paved or boardwalk trails.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$7R/\$11NR	Jan 14	\$9R/\$14NR	Jan 21	5184

RiverWatch Training

Saturday, Mar 18, 9am-4pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
All Ages

The Illinois RiverWatch Network is a statewide, non-profit, volunteer stream monitoring program. Volunteers are trained and certified as "Citizen Scientists" to monitor and protect a local stream. Upon completing training and becoming certified, volunteers adopt a stream site and examine indicators of water quality like stream habitat and the diversity of species such as dragonfly nymphs, beetle larva, midges, and snails. Citizen Scientists play an important role in helping identify potentially degraded waters and areas that may need better protection.

This training is cosponsored by the Urbana Park District and the Illinois RiverWatch Network. For questions or registration, contact Matt Young at 618-468-2784 or email riverwatch@lc.edu. Registration is \$50 for adults and free for Illinois 4-H members. Children may attend but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Project Learning Tree® for Naturalists and Caregivers



Saturday, Mar 25, 1-5pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
Fee: \$35; includes Project Learning Tree® Family & Nature Activity Guide and resources
Facilitators: Savannah Donovan, Urbana Park District & Stacey Clementz, Champaign County Forest Preserve District

Join us for an exciting professional development opportunity for anyone who works in non-formal education including Master Naturalists, scout leaders, parents, and volunteers. Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is a collection of award-winning, multi-disciplinary environmental education activity guides that improve children's environmental awareness and critical thinking skills. Each participant will receive a copy of the nationally acclaimed *PLT Nature Activities for Families* activity guide, with materials appropriate for ages 3-15. Come prepared to go outside in rain or shine.

Cost	Deadline	Code
\$35R/NR	Mar 11	5185

Rent an Organic Garden Plot: Community Gardening in Meadowbrook Park

Growing Season: Mar 5-Nov 5, 2017
Age 18 and Up

Plant and grow your garden at the oldest local organic community gardens! Since 1975, the Meadowbrook Organic Garden program has supported healthy bodies and a healthy community. We provide space, water, hoses and wheelbarrows. You supply tools, plants, labor, and optional fencing. A garden supervisor can assist with questions or concerns. Garden plots are rented in "as is" condition, and participation is at your own risk. For more information, call 217-384-4062 or read the garden manual at www.urbanaparks.org/meadowbrook-park/.

To Register for a Garden Plot:

1. Register by calling 217-367-1544 or completing the registration form on page 61. Online registration is not available.
2. In addition to the plot rental fee, gardeners pay a \$30 deposit. The deposit is returned at the end of the growing season if the gardener abides by the Urbana Park District's published guidelines. Returning gardeners in good standing earn a discounted deposit.
3. New gardeners must attend a Garden Meeting at the Anita Purves Nature Center or Meadowbrook Park where garden plot selection will take place. You must register and pay for the garden at least two days prior to attending a meeting.

Day	Date	Time	Register for a plot and a meeting	Location
Sat	Mar 4	1-2pm	Mar 2	Anita Purves Nature Center
Mon	Mar 27	6-7pm	Mar 23	Anita Purves Nature Center
Wed	Apr 12	7-8pm	Apr 10	Meadowbrook Interpretive Center
Sat	Apr 29	10-11am	Apr 27	Meadowbrook Interpretive Center
Tue	May 9	7-8pm	May 5	Meadowbrook Interpretive Center

Plot Size	Fee	Code
Raised Plot 11' x 3'	\$20R/\$30NR	5133
Half Plot 17' x 15'	\$30R/\$45NR	5131
Full Plot 17' x 30'	\$50R/\$75NR	5130

Raised plots are ADA accessible.

School Tour Volunteer Orientation

By Appointment
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 18 and Up

Hone your natural history knowledge and leadership skills and make a difference to more than 3,000 children who visit the nature center each year. Share the excitement of teaching while exploring Busey Woods and Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie. Volunteers learn to guide many fun and easy nature activities as they lead tours at these two sites. To be a volunteer, you must be available on a weekday morning or afternoon. To arrange an orientation, call 217-384-4062.

Come See What's Free!

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 18, 9am-4pm
Guided hikes at 10am and 3pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
All Ages (under 15 with adult)

Help with bird conservation by counting birds. Anyone can participate - count for as little or as long as you wish! Record the birds you see through the windowed Wildlife Observation Room and during guided hikes. Instruction in basic bird identification will be provided. Dress for the weather, and bring binoculars if you have them or borrow a pair at the nature center. Free activity stations will also be available. To learn more about this annual four-day-long nationwide event, visit gbbc.birdcount.org/.

Sunday Morning Bird Walk

Sundays, Mar 5-May 28, 7:30-9am
Meet in Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot
All Ages (under 15 with supervising 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 borrow one from the Anita Purves Nature Center with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15 (pick up M-Sat 9am-4pm).

Woodcock Walk

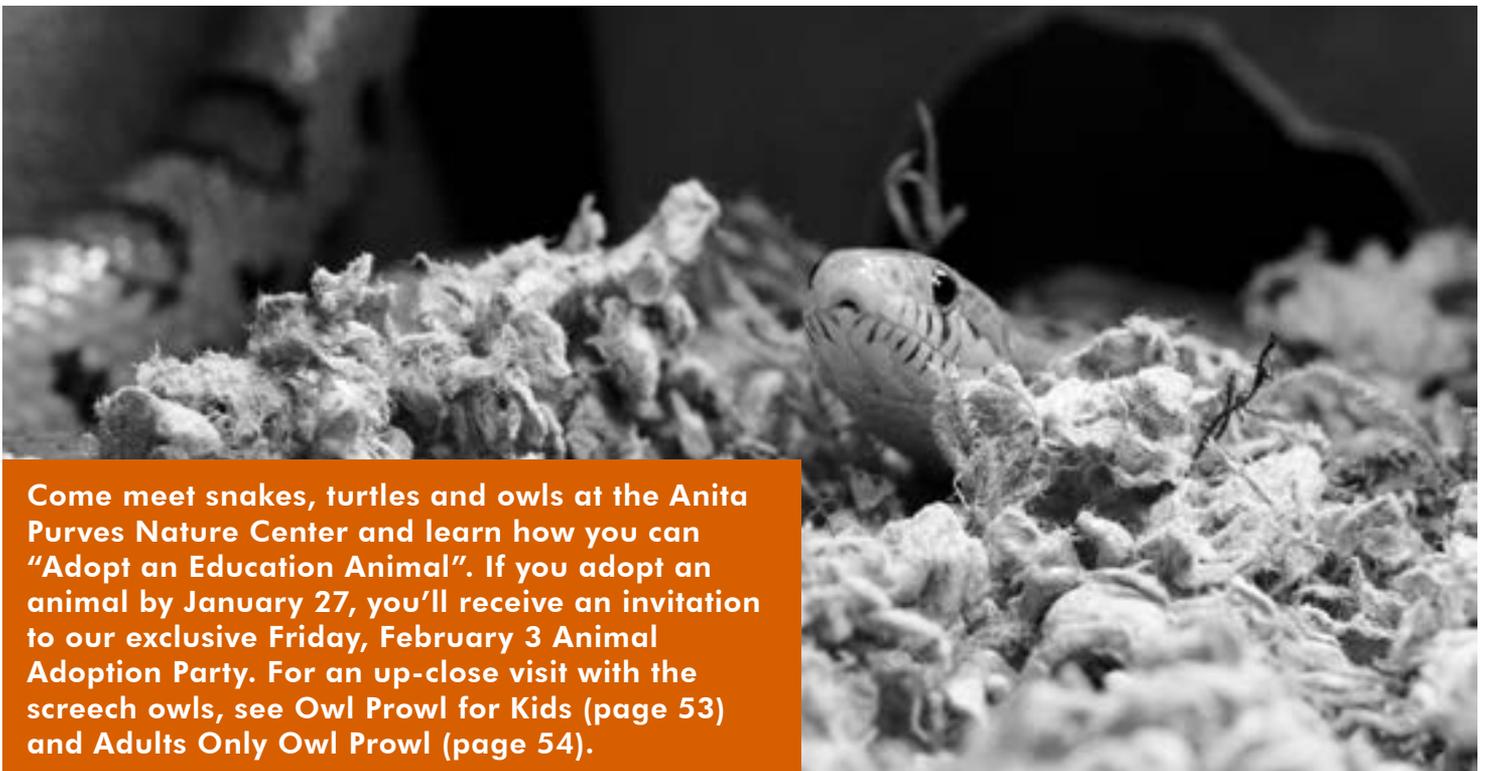
Wednesday, Mar 22, 7-8pm
Meadowbrook Interpretive Center
All Ages (under 15 with adult)

Discover the secret life of the bird with the upside-down brain during a guided twilight stroll. Find out why this bird has so many other intriguing names like Labrador Twister, Pop-eyed Shot Dodger and Mud Snipe. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them. We will hike through muddy and non-paved surfaces. Please, no strollers. Call 217-384-4062 by March 20 if you plan on attending.

EarthCare Expo & Nature Playscape Tour

Saturday, April 29
Nature Playscape Tour and Activities from 1-2pm
EarthCare Expo from 2-4pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
All Ages (under 15 with adult)

Celebrate Earth Day, meet Earth-friendly folks and engage with hands-on displays and activities for all ages. Co-sponsored by the Urbana Park District, Faith in Place and C/U Interfaith Alliance, the event will feature displays and reports from Faith in Place partners in and around Champaign and Urbana. Before the Expo, enjoy a tour of the new Friendship Grove Nature Playscape and guided nature play activities outside! Call 217-384-4062 with questions. No pre-registration is required. For more information, visit www.faithinplace.org and click on Events.



Come meet snakes, turtles and owls at the Anita Purves Nature Center and learn how you can "Adopt an Education Animal". If you adopt an animal by January 27, you'll receive an invitation to our exclusive Friday, February 3 Animal Adoption Party. For an up-close visit with the screech owls, see Owl Prowl for Kids (page 53) and Adults Only Owl Prowl (page 54).

Natural Areas

Nature Programs

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, visit: 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 page 12 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:

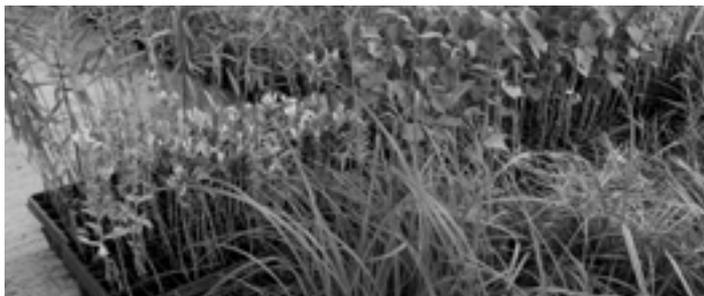
- An in-progress 5-acre woodland/savanna restoration
- Newly-established 35 acres planted with prairie & native grasses
- An award-winning watershed management wetland

Meadowbrook Prairie

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
January 28	9-11 am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
February 11	9-11 am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
February 25	9-11 am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
March 11	9-11 am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
March 25	9-11 am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
April 8	9-11 am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
April 29 <i>*Boneyard Creek Clean-Up Day</i>	9-11 am	Crystal Lake Park Saline Creek <i>*Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center</i>
May 13	9-11 am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park