

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

2018-2019



Urbana Park District



The Anita Purves Nature Center is your classroom extension. Our standards-based field trips, classroom visits, and loan kits will complement your curriculum with hands-on activities. We offer continuing education opportunities that will enable you to bring environmental education into your classroom daily.

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"Anita Purves Nature Center"

Urbana Park District • 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 class. A trained environmental educator will bring hands-on materials, interactive lessons, and sometimes a live animal to your classroom.

Now in its second 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 before or after your school tour or during a Full-Bus School Tour (see pg. 5).

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 Kits** include natural history specimens, standards-based lesson plans for a variety of grades, and materials to assist you. The nature center also hosts the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Loan Trunks.

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.

Program & Reservation Information

- Reservation requests are accepted all year long, however preference will be given to requests received by June 11, 2018.
- Complete and return the enclosed 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 Naturalist in the Classroom program held outside of the Urbana-Champaign area will be charged a travel fee of \$0.56 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 e-mail.
- School Tours are held regardless of the weather. Inside spaces are available at the nature center and Meadowbrook Park, 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.



RESERVATION & FEE INFORMATION

School Program Fees

School Tour fees are set for 25 students with a fee of \$1 per each additional student (32 students maximum). Programs are designed for small groups of 12 or fewer students. Outdoor learning locales, the number of educators available, and the indoor capacities determine group size limitations.

School Tours (at the Anita Purves Nature Center or Meadowbrook Interpretive Center)

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 on the web at www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/anita-purves-nature-center/. Call 217-384-4062 for more information or to reserve loan materials.

Public Programs by Request

Invite a naturalist to work with your preschool, afterschool program, church group, scout troop (badge programs available), club, adult care center, or workplace. Programs include hands-on activities, natural artifacts, live animals and more! Visit us and explore a district facility, park or natural area with a naturalist. Programs for all ages and abilities fit the needs of your specific group! Visit www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/ for more information, and follow the Anita Purves Nature Center on Facebook.

Preschool Programs

Preschoolers discover nature firsthand through interactive and educational programs. More information and a list of program topics is available at www.urbanaparks.org/assets/1/6/APNC_Preschool_Programs_flyer.pdf

Contact Savannah Donovan at sydonovan@urbanaparks.org or 217-384-4062 or visit www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/request-a-nature-center-program/. Make your request at least two weeks in advance.

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

Environmental Education Association of Illinois

www.eeai.net/additional-grant-opportunities.html

Champaign County Audubon Society Grant

<http://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/education/>

Champaign County Schools Foundation

<http://cuschoolsfoundation.org/grant-deadlines-in-october/>

GetEdFunding Grants

<https://www.getedfunding.com/>



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 Park's Interpretive Center & Spomer Prairie. NGSS – Next Generation Science Standards; CC- Common Core.

Kindergarten

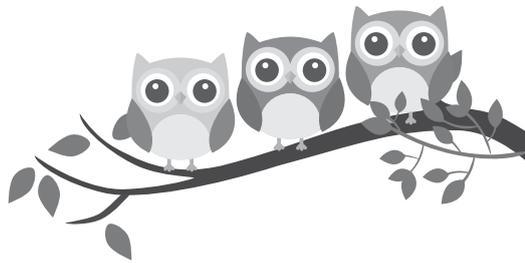
Program length: 1.5 hours

Fall Frolickers: Explore the special adaptations that 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 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):

{Located at Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie and the Sensory Garden | 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.SI.1,3,6, 2.SL.1,3,6, 3.SL.1,3,6, 4.SL.1, 4.L.1, 5.SL.1

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.

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 if something changes the habitat? Find the answers to these questions and more by using observation, simulation, and a habitat design challenge. (Available at either Busey Woods or Meadowbrook Park.) Indicate your preferred 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

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. (Sep-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. (Sep-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. 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.

Full-Bus School Tours

Funding for transportation is often prohibitive for teachers wanting to bring their class for a school tour. Save on busing 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 the class through teacher-planned and supervised activities indoors and/or outside. A classroom with tables and chairs is available, or learn and play in the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape just outside the nature

center. 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:

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

NATURALIST IN THE CLASSROOM



We bring programs to your classroom or facility. Kindergarten programs are 30-45 minutes. 1st-5th grade programs are 1 hour. NGSS- Next Generation Science Standards. CC-Common Core.

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

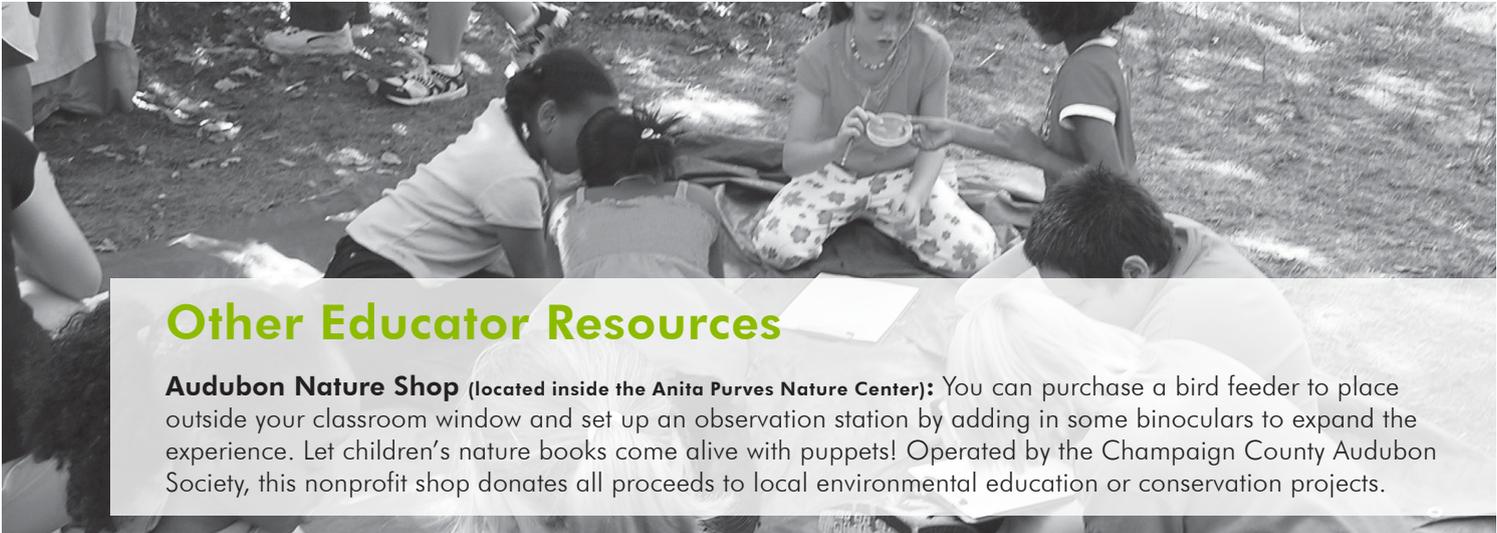
Let’s Make Tracks: Investigate tracks and other signs animals leave behind. (1st-3rd) NGSS: 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-2; CC: 1.SL 1,3,6, 1.L 1, 2.SL 1,3, 2.L 1, 3.SL 1,3,6, 3.L 1

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): You can purchase a bird feeder to place outside your classroom window and set up an observation station by adding in some binoculars to expand the experience. Let children's nature books come alive with puppets! Operated by the Champaign County Audubon Society, this nonprofit shop donates all proceeds to local environmental education or conservation projects.

Educator Newsletter

Stay connected to the nature center throughout the year! Receive mini environmental education lessons to share with your students. Find out about available program dates as well as seasonal happenings in district natural areas such as Busey Woods, Meadowbrook Park and Weaver Park. To subscribe, visit www.urbanaparks.org/e-news/ and input your email address to the Education Resources Newsletter.

Educator Resource Room (inside the nature center)

Find ideas for lessons, programs or activities. The resource room has many complete science curricula to choose from. Teaching about predator prey relations, adaptations, or carrying capacity? There are lessons already written for you. Use reference guides to identify plants and animals. The Resource Room has fiction and nonfiction books, curriculum materials and videos. All items may be borrowed with a deposit.

Natural History Specimens

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

Free! Self-Guided Visits

Busey Woods, Weaver Park and Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie are fragile natural areas, and their use is monitored. When planning a self-led group visit to either site, please call to reserve a date. This helps to ensure high quality visits for everyone. Collection of any natural materials is prohibited.

- **Busey Woods:** This 59-acre oak-hickory woods 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 ADA accessible interpretive boardwalk that allows for exploration even in wet weather.
- **Weaver Park:** This quietly-emerging park includes both Commissioners Grove, an in-progress 5-acre woodland/savanna restoration, and an award-winning watershed management wetland.
- **Meadowbrook Park:** This park and natural area is home to three original farm buildings, two streams, and many gardens, as well as Spomer Prairie, an 80-acre re-created 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

Reserve a loan box in advance and borrow it 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 (such as a frog, monarch butterfly, and squirrel), nature and story books, wildlife pictures, and additional materials teach about animal groups, habitats, life cycles and more. (K-3rd)

Astronomy: A mini planetarium and constellation cards turns your classroom into a solar system. (3rd-12th)

Birds: Explore bird adaptations and habitat needs using hands-on activities including migration games, and natural artifacts such as nests and feathers. (K-5th)

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

Dinosaurs: Step back in time and learn about dinosaurs and other prehistoric life through models, stencils, masks, and fossils, as well as curriculum materials and games. (K-2nd)

Endangered Species: Examine United States Customs — confiscated endangered species parts. Student will learn reasons that species become threatened or endangered and ways they can help. (K-8th)

Feathers: Feathers are for more than flight. Explore their other 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 with the lessons and activities in this kit. This kit includes mounted insect collections, guides and information books, plastic insects and posters. (K-6th)

Plants & Seeds: Learn about plant growth and their many uses with this kit's plant collections and activities. (K-5th)

Ponds and Wetlands: Use nets, see-boxes, basters and other wetland supplies to explore the ponds in Busey Woods or the stream in Meadowbrook Park. Please call to reserve your self-guided hike. (1st-8th)



NATURE CENTER LOAN BOXES

Loan boxes may be reserved in advance and borrow 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.



Prairie Discovery: Explore Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie or other local prairies using games, field guides and scientific equipment including thermometers, hand lenses and trowels. Please call to reserve your self-guided hike. (3rd-8th)

Reptiles and Amphibians: Borrow one of the center's live box turtles for a two-week classroom stay! Supplemental materials include care and feeding instructions and reptile/amphibian natural items and activity suggestions. (K-5th)

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

Skulls: Discover how different animal skulls are used by utilizing this kit's natural items such as skulls from a variety of species. (K-6th)

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

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

Trees and Forests: Explore the importance of trees using the activity guide, identification guides and natural items including different trees and seed samples. (K-6th)

Wildflowers: Explore wildflower growth, adaptations and diversity using this kit. (1st-8th)

Woodlands: Supplies and hands-on activities are ready to use during your self-guided hike in Busey Woods or other local woods. Please call to reserve your self-guided hike. (6th-10th)

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 topic-specific equipment. The suggested activities booklet helps you engage and learn each topic. The packs are intended for families, scouts and 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. Please call to schedule your self-guided hike in any of the district's natural areas. Choose from:

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



Illinois Department of Natural Resources Trunks :

Borrow an IDNR Trunk free with a \$15 refundable deposit. Each trunk contains lessons, natural item artifacts and activity books based on standards. Choose from:

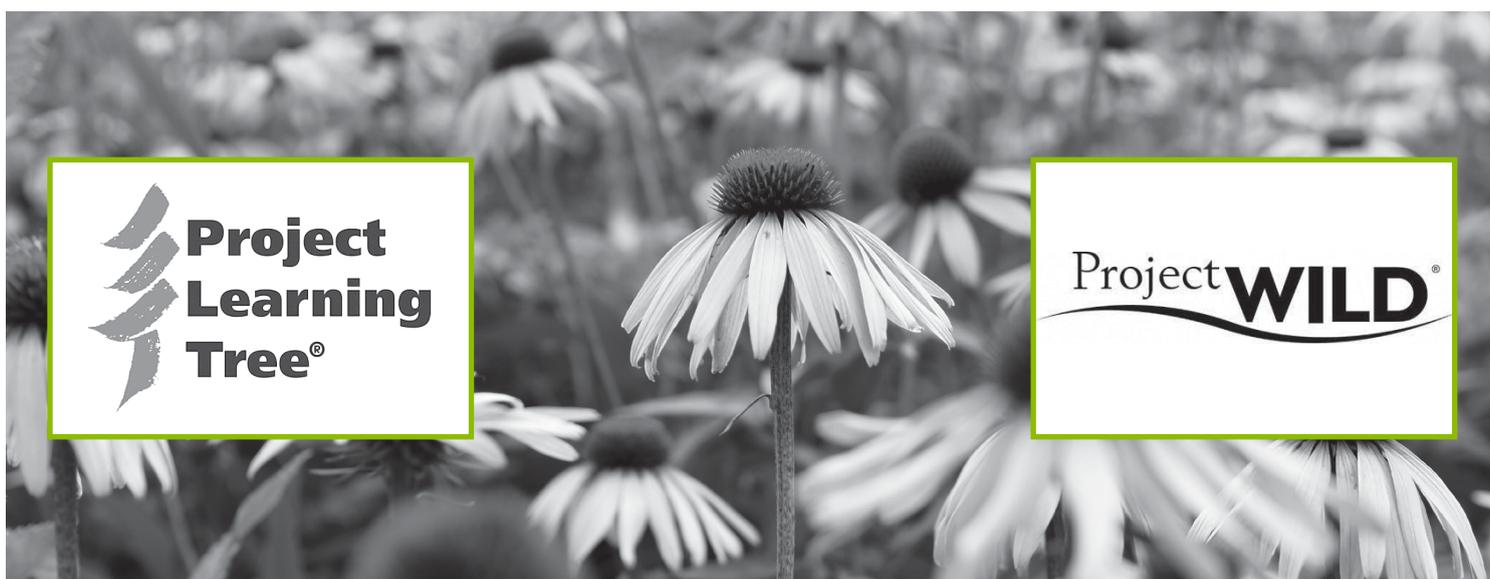
- Field Trip Pack for Early Childhood Educators
- Illinois Birds
- Illinois Fossils
- Illinois Insects & Spiders
- Illinois Invasive Species
- Illinois Mammals
- Illinois State Symbols
- Illinois Wetland
- People & Animals of Illinois' Past

For more information go to:

www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/ItemsForLoan.aspx

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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



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. Take back to your classroom an activity guide that is correlated to state, national and Common Core standard.

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. Take back to your classroom an activity guide that is correlated to state, national and Common Core standard.



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



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