



Experience the outdoors together!

Join us for a park district program where you and your family can learn, explore, and bond together.

Nature Programs

Preschool Programs

The Anita Purves Nature Center provides fun and educational **Programs for Preschools!** Bring your preschool group on a Special Request Tour to explore the nature center and Busey Woods. Or, invite a Traveling Naturalist to bring hands-on materials, interactive lessons, and sometimes a live animal to your facility. These programs are available for groups of parents, preschools, childcare facilities or summer camp programs.

For summer programs for your preschooler visit our camp section (page 28).

Preschool Special Request Tours (at the nature center)

Duration: 60 minutes

Capacity: Up to 24 children

Chaperones: 1 adult for every 3 kids; max 12 adults

Fee: \$40

- **Forest Friends** - Meet Mr. Big Mouth Frog, then “hop” through the forest learning about the animals that live in all its layers. (March-November)
- **Going Buggy!** - Search for and compare different types of insects and other bugs. (June-September)
- **Life in the Underworld** - Search out the tiny creatures that live on and under the forest floor. (April-October)
- **Seeing Red** - Learn about winter birds and their adaptations, with a focus on cardinals. (December-February)
- **Spring Fling** - Practice using all five senses while exploring the springtime forest. (April-June)
- **Terrific Trees** - Using music, movement, and outdoor exploration, preschoolers will get in touch with trees! (April-November)
- **Tree-mendous Seeds** - Investigate how seeds travel and what happens to them in the fall and winter. (September-November)

Preschool Traveling Naturalist Programs (at your facility)

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Capacity: Up to 20 children

Fee: \$45 + additional mileage fee if outside Champaign-Urbana

- **Flying Friends** - Learn about the adaptations of birds and other flying animals.
- **Remarkable Reptiles** - Explore reptile characteristics when a live snake and two box turtles visit your classroom.
- **Winter Animals** - Discover how wildlife survives winter as students pretend to be woodchucks, squirrels, or other local critters. (October-February)
- **Who-o-o Knows?** - Meet a live screech owl and learn about these native birds of prey.



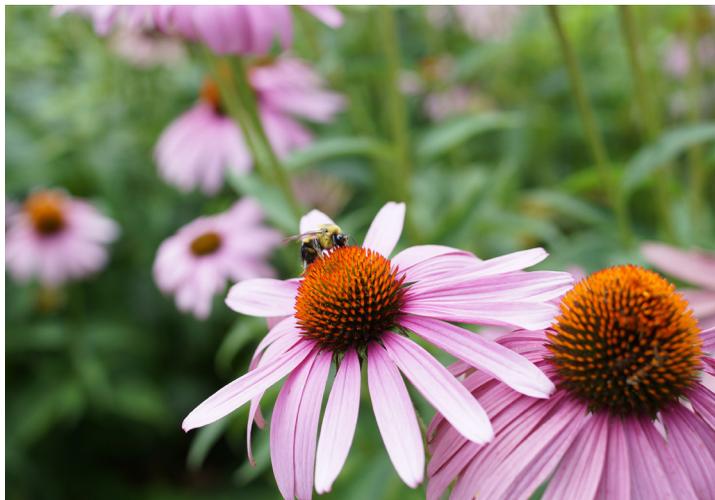
Exploring a different topic? Request a customized program for an additional fee (dependent on the degree of customization required) at least three weeks in advance. Contact Savannah Donovan, Environmental Public Program Coordinator, at 217-384-4062 or sydonovan@urbanaparks.org with your questions or requests.

Backyard Composting Workshop

Saturday, May 5, 10am-12pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 15 and Up

Explore the benefits of food scrap and landscape composting at home! Representatives from the City of Urbana and the University of Illinois Master Gardener program will discuss ways in which you can create your own backyard compost bin, feed your garden's flowers and vegetables using compost, and highlight the types of compost available locally at the Landscape Recycling Center in Urbana. One lucky participant will win a door prize – a free compost bin from the City of Urbana's U-Cycle program!

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$3R/\$5NR Apr 21	\$4R/\$6NR Apr 28	6552



Organic Garden Weed & Pest Control

Wednesday, May 9, 6:30-8pm
Meadowbrook Interpretive Center, Meadowbrook Park
(Race Street entrance)
Age 15 and Up

Join organic gardener Craig Miller as he shares tried and true organic pest control methods. This interactive program will start in the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center then move to the Organic Gardens for demonstrations. There will be a question and answer portion of the presentation.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$9R/\$13NR Apr 25	\$10R/\$15NR May 7	6381

The Spice of Life: Herb Gardening

Saturday, May 19, 9-10:30am
Meadowbrook Interpretive Center, Meadowbrook Park
(Race Street entrance)
Age 15 and Up

Join a Champaign-Urbana Herb Society member to learn how herbs can be beneficial for your vegetable garden. During the program participants will learn about interesting and helpful herbs and see how the herb garden at Meadowbrook Park is arranged by plant type. The program will end with a tour and brief history of the herb garden.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$9R/\$13NR May 5	\$10R/\$15NR May 12	6397

Flower Arranging

Friday, May 11, 5:30-7pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 15 and Up

Delight Flower Farm welcomes you to learn how to arrange flowers like a pro. Instructors will introduce you to a wide variety of flowers and bouquet elements using freshly cut stems grown on Delight Flower Farm! Participants will then be able to play with the flowers from the farm and design their own arrangement to take home (vase included). Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. This class is a wonderful way to celebrate Mother's Day together, or to create a hand-made arrangement as a gift for someone special.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$18R/\$27NR Apr 27	\$23R/\$35NR May 4	6614

Herbal First Aid

Saturdays, 10-11:30am

- June 2 - Calendula Wound-Remedy Salve
- July 7 - Disinfecting Yarrow Spray
- July 21 - Plantain Itch & Bite Relief Salve

Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 15 and Up

Join local herbalist and flower farmer Liz Faermark to learn how common weeds and cultivated garden plants can be used in easy-to-make first aid preparations. During each program, participants will make and take home their own tin or bottle of first aid preparations, and receive a booklet summarizing the day's teachings. Please note, information contained in this program is strictly and categorically intended as a reference. The Urbana Park District is not responsible for what participants use for first aid outside of this program. **Attend a single class or all three for a discounted price!**

Date	EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
June 2	\$16R/\$24NR May 19	\$18R/\$27NR May 26	6616
July 7	\$16R/\$24NR Jun 23	\$18R/\$27NR Jun 30	6617
July 21	\$16R/\$24NR Jul 7	\$18R/\$27NR Jul 14	6618
All Dates	\$44R/\$66NR May 19	\$49R/\$73NR May 26	6619

Archaeology in the Park: An Overview of Recent Discoveries in Illinois

Monday, June 18, 6:30-8pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Age 15 and Up

Archaeologists often work closely with landscape managers and preservation-minded groups on public land in Illinois. These program partners and community stakeholders help to identify, protect, and interpret archaeological sites and heritage landscapes. Join Mike Smith from the Illinois State Archaeological Survey to learn about highlights from some of the recent archaeological discoveries made in Illinois and the impact they have on public outreach. This program is in partnership with the East Central Illinois Master Naturalists.

Register early, as space is limited.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$3R/\$5NR	Jun 4	\$4R/\$6NR	Jun 11	6620

Bats at Busey Woods

Friday, July 13, 7:30-9pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods
 All Ages - Recommended for Age 6-Adult; under 15 with registered adult

Join Dr. Joyce Hofmann from the Illinois Natural History Survey to discover more about these misunderstood creatures of the night. We will begin with a multi-media presentation indoors, and then head outside in search of bats. Learn about the status of white-nose syndrome in Illinois and what you can do to help.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$7R/\$11NR	Jun 15	\$9R/\$14NR	Jun 22	6551



Organic Gardens: Community Gardening in Meadowbrook Park

Growing Season: March 4-November 4, 2018
 Age 18 and Up

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. This is a community garden and interaction with the general public is expected and encouraged. For more information, call 217-384-4062 or read the garden manual at www.urbanaparks.org/parks/meadowbrook-park/.

To Register for a Garden Plot

- Register by calling 217-367-1544 or completing the registration form on page 79. Online registration is not available.
- 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 pay a discounted deposit.
- 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 plot at least two days prior to attending a meeting.

Garden Meetings:

Date	Time	Deadline for Registration & Meeting	Location
Sat, Apr 7	10-11am	Apr 5	Meadowbrook Interpretive Center

Other times by appointment; call Heidi Vasel at 217-384-4062

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

Raised Plots are ADA accessible

“So You Want to Be a Leader?” Workshops

These workshops are perfect for new educators, homeschool parents and camp, scout and afterschool leaders. It is also for those who just want to renew their nature hike and team building activity repertoire.

Nature Hikes 101 for the Newbie Leader

Wednesday, May 16, 6-8:30pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Age 15 and Up

A sense of wonder for the kid-at-heart will be the theme for this workshop for the curious. We will explore the natural world and discover fun and engaging ways to share what we know with all ages. This workshop will be hands on and largely outdoors. Be ready to play, explore and ask questions as we peek under logs, discover fun ways to remember bird calls, and explore ways to connect kids with learning. You will take home a ready to use, tricks-of-the-trade pack as well as a renewed sense of awe.

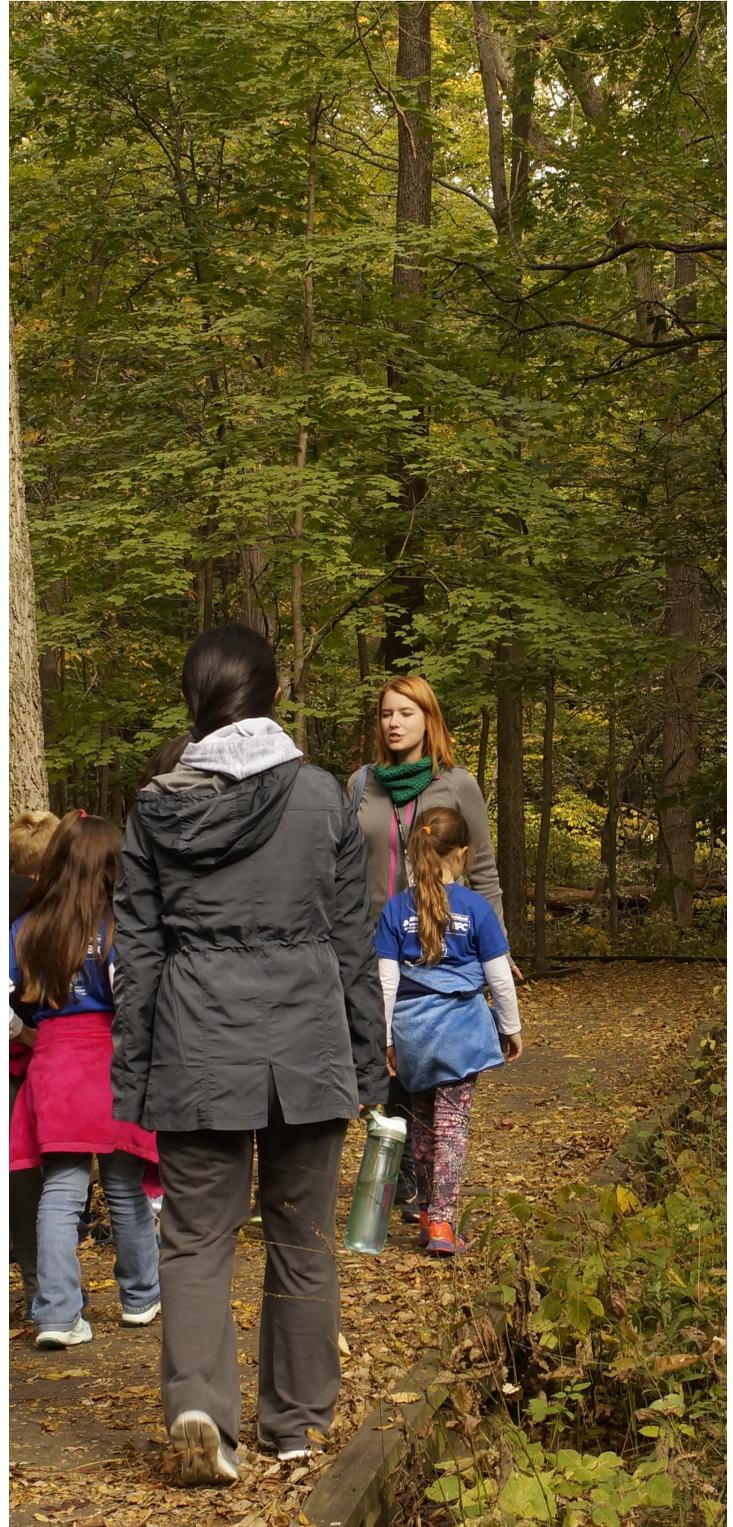
EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$30R/\$45NR	May 2	\$33R/\$49NR	May 14	6396

Team Building Facilitation

Saturday, June 2, 1-4pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Age 15 and Up

Explore fun ways to build a team or just get along with people you work with. You will gain tools to challenge your group and get them cooperating! We will play and learn “ground initiatives” that require little to no supplies. Take home an activity booklet.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$13R/\$20NR	May 14	\$15R/\$23NR	May 23	6395



Urbana Park District Rainout Line - Download the app or call us.

For information about program cancellations, including weather cancellations, and for updates about special events or other key happenings at the Urbana Park District, you may call the **Sports, Program, and Event Hotline at 217-367-9575**. For evening sports programs, this line will be updated after 4:30pm on weekdays and one hour before the scheduled program or sports on weekends. All other updates will be made as conditions change. You may also find out about the Rainoutline App for your phone at: <http://www.urbanaparks.org/events/rain-outs-and-cancellations/>

Come See What's Free!

Sunday Morning Bird Walks

Sundays, Through May 27, 7:30-9am
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 Monday-Saturday 9am-4pm).

Bee Spotter BeeBlitz

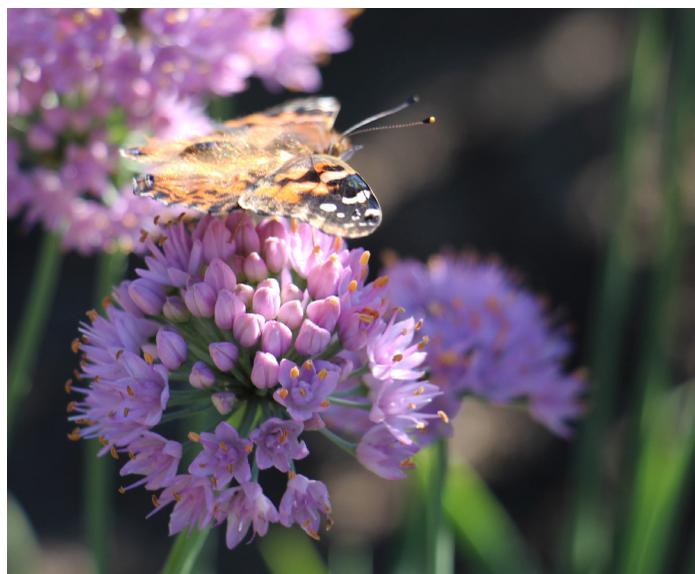
Saturday, June 16, 10:30am-12pm
Meadowbrook Park Garden Pavilion, Race Street entrance
All Ages - under 15 with adult

Celebrate National Pollinator Week (June 18 - 24, 2018) by becoming a citizen scientist! Join us for the fourth annual BeeBlitz, where people all over Illinois are encouraged to go outside and photograph bees on a single day, then upload their photos to www.beespotter.org. A guided expedition through Meadowbrook Park's Sensory Garden and Spomer Prairie is departing from the Garden Pavilion. Bring your camera or smartphone and comfortable walking shoes, and be ready for an adventure! Learn more online at www.beespotter.org/beeblitz. Call 217-384-4062 by Friday, June 15 to let us know you are coming.

C-U Pollinator Count

Saturday, June 23, 9-10:30am
Meadowbrook Park - meet at the Garden Pavilion
(Race Street entrance)
All Ages - under 15 with adult

Celebrate National Pollinator Week (June 18 - 24, 2018) by becoming a citizen scientist! Join entomologists from the C-U Pollinator Count to determine what insects, butterflies, and bees are visiting ornamental plantings in Urbana parks. Results of this long-term study will help determine what we can do to make our town more pollinator-friendly! Call 217-384-4062 by Thursday, June 21 to let us know you are coming.



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 at the peak of the firefly season, or when certain prairie flowers are in bloom! 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 houses a number of education animals who help demonstrate the variety of wildlife living in Illinois. Most have injuries that would compromise their survival in the wild, or were captive bred. All of the animals are on exhibit and use for educational programs with schools, scouts and the general public. In 2017 alone these animals visited over 80 different groups!

You could be part of their lives! Your financial contribution or “adoption” goes directly towards the animals’ medical care, housing and food. This is a great way to support local environmental education! Adoptions also make great gifts to the animal lovers in your life!

Upon adoption you receive:

- A fact sheet with the animal’s history and photographs
- Adoption certificate
- Your name on the donor exhibit in the Field Station for the period of the adoption
- Invitation to a private 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.



Natural Areas

Our goal for these natural areas is to restore areas characteristic 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:

<http://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 18 for information. **Help us maintain these natural areas by not collecting items, walking pets or cycling.**

The Urbana Park District is tackling some large improvement projects in a few of our natural areas. To find out more about what is planned and what is taking place now, please visit:

www.urbanaparks.org/projects/

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
- 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 suitable 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
May 12	9-11 am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
June 9	9-11 am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
June 23	9-11 am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
July 14	9-11 am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
July 28	9-11 am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie



The Urbana Park District is leading the community in environmental stewardship!

Environmental issues are important to the Urbana Park District. The District is a leader in implementing programs and practices that demonstrate the value of responsible environmental practices. The “Green Team” committee implements and oversees environmental initiatives district-wide.

The Urbana Park District follows these environmentally responsible practices:

1. Provide environmental education and interpretation opportunities for the public (see Nature Programs on pages 63-69).
2. Promote preservation, restoration management and stewardship of open spaces, nature preserves, waters, greenways and trails.
3. Conserve and protect water and soil, enhance air quality, limit the production and release of damaging pollutants, and protect plants and wildlife.
4. Conserve energy resources and utilize alternative energy technologies when possible.
5. Re-use or recycle natural materials and manufactured products whenever possible; cooperate with local government and community groups to support recycling efforts.
6. Purchase and use environmentally safe and sensitive products whenever feasible.



Outdoor Learning Opportunities

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.

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 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.

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/.



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 during your visit.

FREE! School Tour Volunteer Orientation

By Appointment
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 18 and Up

These important programs touch so many in our community, and we need volunteers help to make them possible. 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 Spomer Prairie at Meadowbrook Park. Volunteers learn to guide many fun and easy nature activities as they lead tours at these sites. To be a volunteer, you must be available on a weekday morning or afternoon. If you love the outdoors, enjoy working with children and families, and want to make a difference in your community, call 217-384-4062.

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.

"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 student discovery."

- Heidi Vasel
Environmental Education Coordinator