



Nature Programs

Nature Play Kids

Saturdays, May 14, June 11, July 16, 10am-11am
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Recommended for ages 3-6;
 Kids under 2 attend free with registered participant
 Fee: \$5/child

Bring your young one to the nature center for creative outdoor playtime with guidance and additional supplies from a Nature Play Facilitator. Everyone is welcome regardless of ability. Weekly themes depend on current events in nature. To keep these programs relevant to the changing seasons, themes are announced the week before each program. Call 217-384-4062 for more information or follow the Anita Purves Nature Center on Facebook. Pre-registration is encouraged so we have enough supplies for everyone. Drop-ins are welcome, in which case the \$5/child fee is to be paid upon arrival.

Date	Register By	Code
May 14	May 13	912
Jun 11	Jun 10	913
Jul 16	Jul 15	914

FREE! Playscape Office Hours

Tuesdays, May 10-31, 4-6pm
 Friendship Grove Nature Playscape
 Recommended for age 6+ with adult

Come play with us at the nature playscape! A Nature Play Facilitator will be on-hand with extra supplies and "loose parts" for play. Explorations and play are based on different themes each day! Come and go anytime during program hours. Everyone is welcome regardless of ability. Sign up by calling 217-384-4062.

FREE! Sunday Morning Bird Walks

Sundays, March 6 – May 29, 7:30-9am
 Busey Woods (meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot)
 All ages (under 15 with adult)

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 or borrow one from the Anita Purves Nature Center with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15 (pick up Monday-Saturday 9am-4pm).

FREE! Connecting You to Nature Hikes - In Person!

- Wednesdays from 1-2pm
- Busey Woods: May 11
 - Meadowbrook Park: June 22
 - Weaver Park: July 20
 - Perkins Road Wet Prairie: August 17

Join staff from the Anita Purves Nature Center on hikes through district natural areas. Explore the plants, animals and unique natural history of each preserve. Content for these informal programs is based on seasonality and group interests. **Call 217-384-4062 to sign up.**

Follow the Anita Purves Nature Center on Facebook for the most up-to-date program information, or sign up here to receive the nature center's monthly e-newsletter: www.urbanaparks.org/e-news

Shinrin-Yoku by Request

May 15–July 31: Available weekdays 1-8pm & weekends 9am-8pm | Busey Woods

By appointment only; call 217-384-4062 or email dasubers@urbanaparks.org

\$25 per group; for up to 8 people age 6+

Experience the therapeutic effects of Shinrin-Yoku, the practice of immersing or “bathing” your senses in the atmosphere of the forest. This 90-minute, slow-paced walk will awaken your senses and lift your spirits.

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. Look for pop-up program announcements on social media by following the Anita Purves Nature Center and Urbana Park District on Facebook.



FREE - Volunteer Programs

See how you can make a difference during volunteer opportunities at District Natural Areas. Pre-registration is required for groups of 8 or more people. Call 217-384-4062. Clubs, scouts, and other groups may request their own private workday by calling the number listed above.

Natural Areas Stewardship Day - Summer Solstice

Tuesday, June 21, 8am-5pm

Meadowbrook Park – park at the Race St. entrance and meet at the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center

Come and go any time between 8am and 5pm!

Projects will include seed collection, nuisance plant removal, trash pick-up, and trail maintenance.

Wednesday Workdays

9am-11am, each week

Locations are announced weekly. During these two-hour sessions you might plant trees or flowers, collect or scatter seed, remove nuisance plants, maintain trails, and pick up trash as needed. Email Matt Balk at mjbalk@urbanaparks.org to join the e-mail list for location announcements.



Organic Gardens: Community Gardening in Meadowbrook Park

Growing Season: March 6-November 6, 2022
Meadowbrook Park - Race St entrance
Age 18+

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 will 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 75. **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 earn a discounted deposit.
- New gardeners will receive an orientation email once they are registered. This is when plot selection will take place.

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

www.Solidarity-Gardens-CU.org



#NeighborsFeedingNeighbors

Solidarity Gardens CU

Solidarity Gardens CU helps home and community gardeners to grow food for themselves and neighbors in need. It supports:

- Vegetable donation drop-off sites at Sola Gratia Farm and Channing Murray Foundation
- A community and home gardener network
- Seed Exchange at The Urbana Free Library
- Tool Lending Library at Cunningham Township
- Gardening volunteer opportunities

Solidarity Gardens CU is a collaboration between Urbana Park District, Cunningham Township, Sola Gratia Farm, Channing Murray Foundation, The Urbana Free Library, and other community partners. Visit the Solidarity Garden website for more information: www.solidarity-gardens-cu.org/about

Are you a gardener or aspiring gardener interested in volunteering?

Solidarity Gardens CU can match you with a community garden in need of extra hands. Or, bring some of your friends together and create your own garden with their support! Interested? Email Chelsea Prahl at ckprahl@urbanaparks.org

Classroom Connections

Teachers - Bring your class for a **School Tour** through Busey Woods, Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie, or Weaver Park. Programs at Busey Woods include time to explore the nature center's Field Station. Or, invite a **Naturalist in the Classroom** to visit your school. An environmental educator will bring hands-on materials, interactive lessons, and as related to the topic, a live owl, turtle, worms or snake to your classroom. Virtual Naturalist in the Classroom programs are available!

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. The Nature Connections Brochure with tour information is available for download at www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/.



Custom Programs

Are you looking for a program to compliment a unit or lesson you are teaching? We can work with you to develop a special request environmental education program to fit your specific needs. Requests must be made at least four weeks in advance.

Nature Items You Can Borrow

The Urbana Park District offers a variety of education loan items at the Anita Purves Nature Center such as natural history specimens and reference materials. Call Chelsea Pahl at 217-384-4062 for more information on what is available!

Teach with a Turtle

Borrow the *Reptiles and Amphibians* loan box and have a live turtle in your classroom for up to two weeks! The kit includes supplemental activities involving turtle care and feeding instructions, and standards-based reptile and amphibian lesson plans. This hands-on kit delivers an unforgettable experience for you and your students.





Adopt an Education Animal

The nature center houses a number of education animals that demonstrate the variety of wildlife living in Illinois. Most have injuries that would compromise their survival in the wild, or were hatched in captivity and are non-releasable. All of the animals are on exhibit and featured during educational programs with schools, scouts and the public.

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

When you adopt you receive:

- Adoption certificate
- A fact sheet with the animal’s history and photographs
- Your name on the Animal Adoption exhibit in the Field Station for the period of the adoption
- An optional photo opportunity with your adopted animal



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

Help us feed the wildlife that visit the center’s habitat gardens by donating birdseed!



Call 217-384-4062 or visit www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/anita-purves-nature-center/ for an adoption form and additional information.