



Nature Programs

Nature Play Kids

*Fridays, September 6-20 & October 4-25, 10-11am
Anita Purves Nature Center
Recommended for Ages 3-6; kids under 2 years attend FREE
Fee: \$4/child*

Bring your young ones 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 \$4/child fee is to be paid upon arrival. There is no program on the day of the Busey Woods BioBlitz on September 27; see page 57 for more information.

Date	Pre-Register by	Code
September 6	September 5	8112
September 13	September 12	8113
September 20	September 19	8114
October 4	October 3	8115
October 11	October 10	8116
October 18	October 17	8117
October 25	October 24	8118



Forest Preschool

*Mondays & Wednesdays, October 7-30, 8am-12pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
Ages 3-6; must be toilet trained*

This budding program is for children who have not yet attended kindergarten and takes place entirely outdoors no matter the weather! Drop off is at 8am at the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape. From there, kids will head into Busey Woods for themed nature explorations. Daily snacks are cooked and enjoyed around the campfire. Children must come dressed appropriately for the weather and bring a refillable water bottle daily.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$160R/\$240NR Sep 23	\$200R/\$300NR Sep 30	8120

FREE! Nature Center Pre-K Fridays (2016)

*Drop-In Fridays, November 1-22 & December 6 & 13, 9am-12pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 6 and Under with adult*

Kids and their families can drop by the nature center to discover self-guided activities just for little naturalists. Your adventures may lead you outdoors as weather permits, so come prepared! Themes are announced the week before each program. Call 217-384-4062 for more information or follow the Anita Purves Nature Center on Facebook. We request a \$2/child free-will donation.



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

Take A Child Outside Week

September 19-28 is Take a Child Outside Week! Join the national effort to connect children with nature. Check out great ways to get outdoors throughout the park district! Just look for this symbol in the guide:



See pages 54-58 for program details.

Date	Event	Time	Page #
Thursday, September 19	Moon Walk	7-8:30pm	58
Friday, September 20	Nature Play Kids*	10-11am	54
	Play Date with Nature: Fort Building	4-6pm	58
	Outdoor Movie Night: A Bug's Life	6:45-8:30pm	55
Saturday, September 21	Family Forest Sensory Walk	10-11am	58
	Rain Date: Outdoor Movie Night	6:45-8:30pm	55
Sunday, September 22	Birds, Binoculars & Beverages	7:15-9:45am	58
	Sunday Morning Bird Walk	7:30-9am	58
Monday, September 23	Play Date with Nature: Mud Kitchen	4-6pm	58
Wednesday, September 25	Family Forest School*	8am-12pm	55
	Play Date with Nature: Art & Music	4-6pm	58
Friday, September 27	Busey Woods BioBlitz	Starts at 12pm	13 & 57
Saturday, September 28	Busey Woods BioBlitz	Ends at 12pm	13 & 57

*Pre-registration and fees required.

Outdoor Movie Night: A Bug's Life

Friday, September 20, 6:45-8:30pm

• Rain Date: Saturday, September 21

Anita Purves Nature Center

All Ages - under 15 with adult



Celebrate Take a Child Outside Week and Welcoming 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. We'll have free popcorn and lemonade as long as supplies last. Bring your own snacks or picnic dinner if you wish. Donations of \$5/person are strongly encouraged. Call 217-384-4062 for more information.

NEW! Family Forest School

Wednesday, September 25, 8am-12pm

Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods

Ages 3-12 with adult; one adult attends FREE with each registered child



During this morning of exploration and discovery, we will let the kids take the lead into their own investigations in Busey Woods. We will cook and enjoy a morning snack around the campfire. This program will take place entirely outdoors, so come dressed for the weather! For more, check out "Forest Preschool" on page 54.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$10R/\$15NR Sep 11	\$13R/\$20NR Sep 18	8212

Forest Sensory Walks

Various Dates, 10-11:30am

Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods

Age 15 and Up

Experience the therapeutic effects of Shinrin-Yoku, the practice of immersing or "bathing" the senses in the atmosphere of the forest. Enjoy a slow, mindful guided walk through Busey Woods as you awaken your senses and reconnect with nature. Each walk will include a variety of sensory awareness activities and will conclude with tea made from local edible plants. Space is limited, so register early.

Check out "Family Forest Sensory Walk" on page 58, free for ages 8 and up!

Date	EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
Tues, Sep 10	\$10R/\$15NR Aug 27	\$13R/\$20NR Sep 8	8095
Mon, Sep 16	\$10R/\$15NR Sep 2	\$13R/\$20NR Sep 14	8096
Wed, Oct 2	\$10R/\$15NR Sep 18	\$13R/\$20NR Sep 30	8097
Sat, Oct 12	\$10R/\$15NR Sep 28	\$13R/\$20NR Oct 10	8098
Thurs, Oct 17	\$10R/\$15NR Oct 3	\$13R/\$20NR Oct 15	8099

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 the animals with the care and the food they need. For prices and more information see page 60, or call 217-384-4062. Download an adoption brochure from the bottom of the Anita Purves Nature Center page at www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/anita-purves-nature-center/.

Join the C-U Outdoors Club!

Join Champaign-Urbana’s new family nature club. Membership is free, and the benefits are countless! Learn about free, local outdoor programs, events, hikes, play dates, and more as you meet other families who are interested in enjoying the outdoors together. Find the C-U Outdoors Club Facebook Group online or call 217-384-4062 for more information.



NEW! Proper Behavior When Going to the Dog Park

Monday, October 7, 6:30-8pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Age 16 and Up

Every dog has its own distinct personality. Some are outgoing and playful. Others are skittish and easily bothered. Explore the cues your dog is giving you to better understand its readiness for a play date at the dog park. Dog trainer and owner of JODIE VEE’S, Jodie Varner, will discuss dog behavior, training and socialization tips and manners, for both dogs and people, when visiting the dog park. This program is for dog owners – please leave your dog at home.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$12R/\$18NR Sep 23	\$14R/\$21NR Sep 30	8083



NEW! DIY Homemade Dog Treats

Monday, October 28, 6:30-8:30pm
 • Halloween Treats
Monday, December 9, 6:30-8:30pm
 • Winter Holiday Treats
 Phillips Recreation Center
 Age 15 and Up

Making your own dog treats saves you money and gives you peace of mind knowing what your dog is eating. You can avoid any allergens, make them as healthy as you want, and cater to your dog’s specific needs with DIY treats. Diane Rowe-Cain, owner of Cousins Dog Biscuit Company, will walk through the how-to for this bake and take cooking class at the Phillips Recreation Center’s new teaching kitchen. Take-homes include ingredient jars and a cookie cutter. Give your dog special treats you make yourself this holiday season. Please bring your own rolling pin.

Menu:

October 28: Pumpkin Biscuit and Peanut Butter Macaroons
 December 2: Holiday Doggy Biscuits with decorations

Date	EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
Oct 28	\$20R/\$30NR Oct 14	\$30R/\$45NR Oct 21	8080
Dec 2	\$20R/\$30NR Nov 25	\$30R/\$45NR Dec 2	8082

Wreath-Making Workshop

Wednesday, December 4, 6-7:30pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Age 15 and Up

Display your own hand-made delight for the holidays! Delight Flower Farm welcomes you to experience the winter spirit through wreath-making. You will learn basic wreath-building and design techniques and use locally-sourced supplies to make a beautiful, handmade treasure to take home with you. During this workshop you will construct an approximately 20” diameter wreath on a 12” frame. Wreath decor includes fresh evergreen, berries, pine cones, tree nuts, ribbons, dried flowers, and more.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$43R/\$65NR Nov 20	\$54R/\$81NR Nov 27	8100

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 search for “Urbana Park District” at www.rainoutline.com, and sign up to receive email or text alerts for Nature Programs.



Wild Encounters (2014)

Saturday, October 26, 2-3pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Ages 4 and Up with registered adult



Most wildlife will not stick around for a close encounter outdoors, but you can meet the nature center animals up-close during this program! Discover what these animal ambassadors have to teach us about living with wildlife. Fees for this program help support the care of the nature center animals.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$6R/\$9NR Oct 11	\$8R/\$12NR Oct 18	8101

NEW! Scale-ebration

Saturday, December 7, 1-3pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Recommended for Age 6 and Up; one adult attends FREE with each registered child

Celebrate the reptiles and amphibians that live at the nature center during a party in their honor! Enjoy games, crafts and up-close encounters with turtles, snakes and even a toad! Fees for this event go directly to the ongoing care of the nature center animals. **Pre-registration is required, as space is limited!**

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$10R/\$15NR Nov 23	\$13R/\$20NR Nov 30	8103

Recycled Gift Wrapping Workshop

Wednesday, December 18, 5-7:30pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 All Ages - under 13 FREE with registered adult

Put a creative, personal touch on your gifts without adding to the landfill. Secondhand and natural materials will be used to wrap, box, bag, and embellish presents of all sizes and shapes. Both basic techniques and special recycling tricks will be taught. Wrapping materials are provided, although you are welcome to contribute your own. Come with your gifts anytime during program hours. Kids and parents are welcome to take turns wrapping gifts for each other while the other enjoys hot cocoa and nature center exhibits.

Cost Deadline	Code
\$5R/NR Dec 16	8109

2019 Busey Woods BioBlitz (2015)

Friday, September 27, 12pm-Saturday, September 28, 12pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods
 All Ages - under 15 with adult



In 1991, after a nearly 20-year lease with the University of Illinois, the Urbana Park District purchased Busey Woods. This 59-acre remnant of the Big Grove is located in north Urbana adjacent to Crystal Lake Park. In June of 2005, the Urbana Park District hosted the first BioBlitz and it was a success with over 1,200 species counted. Designed as a combination contest, festival, educational event, and scientific endeavor, the 2005 Busey Woods BioBlitz brought together 800 people, including scientists, volunteers, naturalists and people of all ages.

To celebrate Anita Purves Nature Center's 40th anniversary, we are organizing a 2019 Busey Woods BioBlitz event from noon September 27 to noon September 28. The goal is to add species to the Busey Woods list and compare species documented with those found in the summer of 2005.

The 2019 BioBlitz will bring together scientists in a race against time to see how many species they can count in a 24-hour biological survey of Busey Woods. Come observe the scientists' activities, interact with them and participate in other activities presented by the scientists. All hikes and presentations are free but require pre-registration by calling 217-384-4062.

BioBlitz Programs

In the weeks leading up to the Busey Woods BioBlitz, scientists will be conducting public programs where you can get up-close and hands-on with native species. Check out the BioBlitz page at www.urbanaparks.org or follow the Anita Purves Nature Center on Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

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, September 1-October 27, 7:30-9am
Busey Woods - Meet in Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot
All Ages - under 15 with adult



Join the Champaign County Audubon Society for their 75th year of birding! Walk with CCAS 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). Check out the nature center and grab a snack during extended hours for a limited time. See Birds, Binoculars and Beverages below.

Birds, Binoculars & Beverages (2003)

Sundays, September 1-October 27, 7:15-9:45am
Anita Purves Nature Center
All Ages - under 15 with adult



The nature center will be open early to visitors and birders. Don't have binoculars? They will be available for loan at the nature center. After your walk, enjoy coffee, light snacks and conversation while you observe birds from the Wildlife Observation Room, explore the exhibits in the Field Station or shop in the Audubon Nature Shop.

Don't Call It Dirt!

Thursday, September 5, 6-8pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 15 and Up

Get your hands dirty during this program about soil. Dirt is what you find under your fingernails. Soil is what grows your food. Soil is a complex and dynamic natural resource. It supports plant growth, affects water and air quality, and helps clean up wastes. It also provides physical support, water, air, and nutrients for plants. Explore how soil is made, methods to conserve it and the chemistry and composition behind it. Bring your garden gloves and wear shoes that can get muddy. **Please call 384-4062 by September 3 to let us know you are coming.**

The Buzz About Native Bees

Saturday, September 7, 10-11:30am
Anita Purves Nature Center
All Ages - under 15 with adult

Join Maddy Kangas, "bee aficionado", to discover some of our smallest wild neighbors — native bees! Compared to honey bees, native bees are superior pollinators and are often less aggressive. Learn about their life history, how to identify them, and what conservation actions you can take to help them and the environment. Drop in anytime during program hours!

Moon Walk (1982)

Thursday, September 19, 7-8:30pm
Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods
All Ages - under 15 with adult



Experience a new side of Busey Woods on this guided hike scheduled on the night of the full moon. Listen for owls and other nocturnal creatures, and learn how they survive and thrive.

Play Date with Nature

September 20, 23 & 25, 4-6pm
 • *Friday, September 20: Fort Building*
 • *Monday, September 23: Mud Kitchen*
 • *Wednesday, September 25: Art & Music*
Anita Purves Nature Center
Recommended for age 6 and up with adult



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. Explorations and play are based on different themes each day! Come and go anytime during program hours. Everyone is welcome regardless of ability.

Family Forest Sensory Walk

Saturday, September 21, 10-11am
Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods
Age 8 and Up; children under 15 must attend with an adult



Connect with nature during this slow-paced sensory walk through Busey Woods. You and your child(ren) will experience the peacefulness and simple joy of immersing yourselves in the forest. Call 217-384-4062 by September 19 to let us know you are coming. **For more, check out "Forest Sensory Walk" for adults on page 55.**



Come See What's Free!

Low-Mobility Birds Sits

Saturdays, 9-10am

- October 12
- November 9

Anita Purves Nature Center
All Ages - under 15 with adult

Sit a spell and bird-watch with a representative from the Champaign County Audubon Society. Enjoy the sights and sounds from the windowed Wildlife Observation Room at the Anita Purves Nature Center. The room features a parabolic microphone system that brings the sounds of nature indoors! This program is wheelchair accessible and open to all ages and abilities.

America Recycles Day: 40 Years Later (1981, 1988, 2009)

Saturday, November 16, 1-4pm

Anita Purves Nature Center
All Ages - under 15 with adult



Join us to explore old and new ways to recycle household waste. Just how far have we come in 40 years of recycling? Learn tried-and-true recycling methods and what has changed.

- Make your own creation from reused or re-purposed materials at home before the event, and enter to win an award in the fifth annual Creative Reuse Competition. Call 217-384-4062 for more information.
- Try your hand at turning recycled fibers into beautiful pieces of paper during the Pulp to Paper activity from 1:30-2:30pm.

Winter Solstice Prairie Grove Holiday (1986 & 2015)

Saturday, December 21, 4-7pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
All Ages - under 15 with adult



Share the magic of an old-fashioned, homespun holiday season in this twilight event on the shortest day of the year. Choose from a variety of holiday activities including ornament-making, a kids-only craft shop, a winter woodland walk and trimming a tree for wildlife. Gather around the campfire for hot apple cider, popcorn and s'mores as you burn a yule log and set your intentions for the coming year. Musical entertainment and a visit from a special nature guest will highlight this free program. **Pre-registration is required for this exclusive opportunity, as space is limited! Call 217-384-4062 to sign up.**



Photo Credit: Champaign County Audubon Society



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 captive-bred. All of the animals are on exhibit and featured during educational programs with schools, scouts and the general public. In 2018 these animals visited over 50 different groups!

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 to the animal lovers in your life.

Upon adoption you receive:

- 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

You can also help increase visibility of wildlife in the outdoor habitat gardens by donating bird seed!

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

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



Teach with a Turtle

Borrow the Reptiles and Amphibians loan box and have a live turtle in your classroom for up to two weeks! This is a great way to have a classroom education animal for a short time and provide a hands-on experience for your students. This box includes supplemental activities involving turtle care and feeding instructions along with standards-based reptile and amphibian lesson plans. This loan box delivers an unforgettable experience for you and your students!



Meet the Animals Programs

Check out these programs for an up-close look at the education animals:

- Wild Encounters - Saturday, October 26, page 57
- Scale-ebration - Saturday, December 7, page 57

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:

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 17 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:

- 35 acres planted with prairie and native grasses
- An award-winning watershed management wetland
- A 5-acre woodland/savanna restoration
- Parking for the Kickapoo Rail Trail

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 recreate 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.

Stewardship Saturday volunteer workdays are on hiatus. If you or your group is interested in other volunteer opportunities at the Urbana Park District, contact Ellen Kirsanoff, Development Coordinator, at 217-367-1536 or email erkirsanoff@urbanaparks.org.

NEW & FREE! "Connecting You to Nature" Hikes

Wednesdays, 6-8pm
All Ages - under 15 with adult

Join Natural Areas Coordinator, Matt Balk, during these special hikes through district natural areas. Learn about restoration and how to identify native and invasive plants. See how each natural area changes throughout the fall, and maybe lend a hand collecting seeds or trash. Your explorations may take you off-trail, so dress in shoes and clothes that can get dirty. These hikes take place in rain or shine. Trail snacks are provided! Call 217-384-4062 by 4pm each Wednesday to let us know you are coming.

Location	Date
Busey Woods - Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center	Sep 4, Oct 2, Nov 6
Weaver Park - Meet at the parking lot off Main St	Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 13
Meadowbrook Park - Meet at Race St parking lot south of Windsor Rd	Sep 18, Oct 16, Nov 20
Perkins Road Wet Prairie - Meet at the Dog Park parking lot on Perkins Rd, a half mile east of Cunningham Ave	Sep 25, Oct 23

The Urbana Park District is tackling some large improvement projects in a few of the natural areas. To find out more, please visit www.urbanaparks.org/projects/.



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 55-59).
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 staff engage with thousands of elementary and middle school students involved in educational tours and programs.

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, toad, worms or snake 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. The Nature Connections Brochure with tour information is available for download at: www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/.

NEW! Naturalist in the Classroom Programs are now available at the Anita Purves Nature Center!

This new opportunity allows your class to extend your experience by exploring and learning in the Field Station, Observation Room, Busey Woods, and the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape for no extra charge.

Nature Items You Can Borrow

The Urbana Park District offers a wide variety of education loan items at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Items such as curriculum guides and natural history reference materials are available as well as themed loan boxes. These 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/. Educators in Urbana-Champaign who do not have time to transport loan materials may request pick-up or delivery for a small fee.

FREE! Be a School Tour Volunteer

By Appointment
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 18 and Up

Share the excitement of teaching while exploring Busey Woods, Weaver Park and Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie. 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.

"School Tour Volunteers play an important role in our community. Volunteers welcome excited children into natural areas and guide them while encouraging moments of curiosity and discovery. They help to open young minds to the wonders of the environment, and we are thankful for their valuable contributions." - *Chelsea Prah*, Environmental Education Coordinator

Meadowbrook School Tours (1987)

Monday-Friday, September 3-20
Meadowbrook Interpretive Center & Spomer Prairie
Students with their teachers



Students will visit Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie for hands-on learning experiences geared towards Illinois prairie plants and the animals that inhabit the area.

BioBlitz: Citizen Science with Urbana Schools (2005)

Monday-Thursday, September 23-26
Students with their teachers



Students will interact with scientists and local naturalists the week leading up to the 2019 BioBlitz. Students will participate in hands-on activities, learn about the significance of biodiversity, and discover ways to continue growing as citizen scientists!

Educators, Stay Connected!

Join the Nature Connections Facebook Group to stay informed about environmental education opportunities, programs and other resources the nature center has to offer. The Anita Purves Nature Center is your classroom extension where learning comes naturally!
www.facebook.com/groups/natureconnections/about/

Connecting Classes with Nature Sponsorship Program

The Urbana Park District seeks funding from businesses, organizations and individual donors to cover the costs associated with environmental programming for local schools.

Businesses/Organizations/Individuals, for information on helping students attend nature education programs at the Urbana Park District, contact Ellen Kirsanoff at 217-367-1536 or erkirsanoff@urbanaparks.org.

For more information about these services, contact Chelsea Prah, Environmental Education Coordinator, at 217-384-4062 ext. 360 or ckprahl@urbanaparks.org.