



Nature Programs

Nature Play Kids

Fridays, September 3-17, 10-11am
 Friendship Grove Nature Playscape
 Ages 3-6; kids under 2 years may attend with a registered participant at no extra cost
 Fee: \$4/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, and themes are announced the week before each program. Call 217-384-4062 for more information. Pre-registration is required.

Date	Pre-Register By	Code
Sep 3	Sep 2	10064
Sep 10	Sep 9	10065
Sep 17	Sep 16	10066

Forest Preschool

Mondays & Wednesdays, October 4-27, 8am-12pm
 Busey Woods & Friendship Grove Nature Playscape
 (Anita Purves Nature Center)
 Ages 3-5, must be toilet trained



This budding program for children who have not yet attended kindergarten 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 20	\$200R/\$300NR Sep 27	10067



Nature Center Pre-K Fridays

Fridays from 9am-12pm
 November 5-19 and December 3-17
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Age 6 and under with adult

Kids age six and under 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. Free-will donations of \$5/child are requested. Space is limited; call 217-384-4062 to register.

PRIDE Nature Hike - FREE

Sunday, September 26, 1-2:30pm
 Busey Woods - meet outside the Anita Purves Nature Center
 All ages (under 15 with adult)



Celebrate CU Pride Fest, and share your pride and love of the outdoors by enjoying a guided hike! Relax in the sights, sounds and smells of nature as we explore Busey Woods. Everyone is welcome, but space is limited. Call 217-384-4062 by 5pm on Friday September 24 to sign up.



Take A Child Outside Week

September 17-26 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. ***Pre-registration and fees required. **Free with Pre-registration.**

FREE Outdoor Movie Night: WALL-E**

Friday, September 17 from 6:45-8:30pm

Rain Date: Saturday, September 18
Friendship Grove Nature Playscape,
Anita Purves Nature Center

All ages (under 15 with adult)

Celebrate Take a Child Outside Week with an outdoor movie at the park! Bring your own snacks and a blanket/lawn chair to sit on. Check in by 6:45pm; the movie will begin promptly at 7pm. Space is limited! Register by calling (217) 384-4062.



Fab Lab Fort Building - FREE**

Saturday, September 18 from 1-4pm

Anita Purves Nature Center

All ages (under 15 with adult)

We have partnered with the CU Community Fab Lab to offer an exciting afternoon that's sure to get our minds and hands working together. With a focus on critical thinking and engineering, we will build forts that have structural integrity with creative flair! Participants will receive their very own fort-building kit to take home and keep the fun going! Call 217-384-4062 to register. Visit <http://cucfablab.org/> to learn more about the Fab Lab.

Moon Walk*

Monday, September 20, 7-8:30pm

Busey Woods (meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center)

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. Pre-registration is required, as space is limited.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$5R/\$7NR	Sep 2	\$6R/\$9NR	Sep 14	10061

Play Date with Nature**

September 20, 22 & 24, 4-6pm

Friendship Grove Nature Playscape,
Anita Purves Nature Center

Recommended for age 6 and up with adult

- Monday September 20: Mud Kitchen
- Wednesday September 22: Art & Music
- Friday September 24: Scavenger Hunt

Come play with us at the nature playscape in celebration of Take a Child Outside Week! 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.

Outdoor Family Classroom*

Tuesday, September 21, 9am-noon

Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods

Age 3-12 with adult (one adult attends free with each registered child)

During this morning of exploration and discovery, the kids will take a lead role as we learn what it means to be inspired by nature. We will enjoy a snack in the forest, practice nature journaling, and meet a special animal guest. This program will take place entirely outdoors, so come dressed for the weather! For more, check out "Forest Preschool" on page 48.

EB Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Code
\$18R/\$22NR	Sep 7	\$27R/\$33NR	Sep 16	10062

Log-Busters Walk - FREE**

Saturday, September 25, 10-11am

Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods

Age 6 and up (children under 15 must attend with an adult)

Turn an urge for destruction into learning instruction! On this free guided walk, we will discuss topics of decomposition and nutrient cycling in an active and engaging outdoor setting. Space is limited; call 217-384-4062 to register.

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: <http://www.urbanaparks.org/e-news>



Shinrin-Yoku by Request

90-minute session; Available weekdays
9am-6pm & weekends 10am-4pm
Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods
Age 15 and up
By appointment only; call (217) 384-4062
or email dasubers@urbanaparks.org
\$25 per group; up to 8 people per group

Bring your household or get a small group together to 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 leave you feeling relaxed and rejuvenated.

America Recycles Day Collections

November 15-20

Trying to live sustainability, but you’re not sure how to responsibly dispose of some things? The City of Urbana’s U-Cycle program wants to help rid you of YOUR difficult-to-recycle items. America Recycles Day is on November 15th. That week we will offer collections for certain items, and advice on how to dispose of others. Follow the Anita Purves Nature Center on social media for more information.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 18, 4-7pm
Anita Purves Nature Center
All Ages (Under 15 with adult)

Enjoy a festive evening of stories and adventure during this twilight event in anticipation of the shortest day of the year. We will space out around the fire for snacks and storytelling, make wildlife treats to decorate a native tree, and set our intentions for the coming year. Guided hikes through Busey Woods will depart every hour, and we will finish with a candlelit winter spiral walk. **Pre-registration is required for this event as space will be limited. Call 217-384-4062 to sign up.**

Shinrin-Yoku / Forest Sensory Walks

10-11:30am each date (see below)
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. Facemasks are required; however, there will be opportunities to safely remove them during the program.

Date	EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
Th, Sep 16	\$10R/\$15NR Sep 2	\$13R/\$20NR Sep 14	10071
Sat, Oct 2	\$10R/\$15NR Sep 18	\$13R/\$20NR Sep 30	10072
Tu, Oct 12	\$10R/\$15NR Sep 28	\$13R/\$20NR Oct 10	10073
Fri, Oct 29	\$10R/\$15NR Oct 15	\$13R/\$20NR Oct 27	10074

FREE! Sunday Morning Bird Walks

Sundays, September 5-October 31, 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. Visit <http://www.champaigncountyaudubon.org/> for more details.

Connecting You to Nature - Hybrid Hikes! FREE



Wednesdays from 1-2pm

- Meadowbrook Park: September 22
- Busey Woods: October 6
- Weaver Park: October 20
- Perkins Road Wet Prairie: November 3

Join staff from the Anita Purves Nature Center during these hikes through district natural areas. Explore the plants, animals and unique natural history of each beautiful preserve. Limited space is available to participate in person; call

217-384-4062 to sign up. Or, watch and interact on Facebook as the hikes are broadcast live! Find the Anita Purves Nature Center on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/APnaturecenter>.

For more opportunities at District Natural Areas, see page 21.

Educating children, families and the public about the outdoors and natural environment is a part of the mission of the nature center and is a great benefit to all who participate.

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.

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 https://www.urbanaparks.org/assets/1/6/ESB_2019-20_v4_-_links.pdf

FREE! Be a School Tour Volunteer

By Appointment
Anita Purves Nature Center
Age 18 and Up

Hone your natural history knowledge and leadership skills, and make a difference to thousands of children who engage in environmental education programs each year. 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. You must be available on a weekday morning or afternoon. You can arrange a training time by calling Chelsea Prahel 217-384-4062 or email ckprahl@urbanaparks.org.

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 Prahel 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! 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 kit includes supplemental activities involving turtle care and feeding instructions along with standards-based lesson plans. This loan box delivers an unforgettable experience for you and your students.



Natural Areas Stewardship Days

Come and go any time between 8am and 5pm! Projects will include seed collection, nuisance plant removal, trash pick-up, and trail maintenance.



- **September 22, 2021, 8am-5pm**
Fall Equinox at Meadowbrook Park – park at the Race St. entrance and meet at the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center (the barn) to help us celebrate National Public Lands Day!
- **December 21, 2021, 8am-5pm**
Winter Solstice at Busey Woods – meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center Parking Lot

Wednesday Workdays

- **9am-11am, September-October**
 - **10am-12pm, November-December**
- Locations are announced weekly – Follow the Urbana Park District on social media. 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.

Custom Programs

Are you looking for a program to compliment a unit or lesson you are teaching? Contact Chelsea Prahel, Environmental Education Coordinator, at 217-384-4062 or ckprahl@urbanaparks.org to develop a custom environmental education program to fit your specific needs.



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 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 to the animal lovers in your life.

When you adopt 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



Animal	Cost/Month	Cost/6 Months	Cost/Year
Turtle or Toad	\$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.

Wild Encounters

Saturday, October 23, 2-3pm
Ages 4 and up

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

Cost	Deadline	Code
\$5 per zoom invitation	Oct 18	10069

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.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/natureconnections/about/>

Presenting the Urbana Park District CARES Plan

In April, the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners accepted the district's progressive new climate action and sustainability plan for 2021-2026.

The Climate Action, Resilience, Education and Sustainability (CARES) Plan centers on breaking down information barriers and creating a healthier, safer and more resilient community for all. The plan sets actionable goals for reducing the district's carbon footprint, offsetting local impacts of climate change, improving air and water quality, and fostering biodiversity. Goals and objectives are organized within three pillars:

1. **Communicating Climate Action** underscores the Urbana Park District's commitment to serve as a community leader and role model for climate action—through internal practices, public outreach & programs, and collaborative partnerships.
2. **Protecting & Strengthening Our Natural Environment** reinforces the Urbana Park District's responsibility to care for the health of humans, plants, animals, ecosystems & the climate—by reducing our carbon footprint, stewarding biodiversity & natural areas, and improving air & water quality.
3. **Conserving Resources** highlights the Urbana Park District's dedication to the sustainability of natural resources—through conserving energy & water, using clean energy, reducing waste, and increasing recycling & reuse.



For more information about Urbana Park District green initiatives, visit www.urbanaparks.org/about-us/green-initiatives/ or contact Savannah Donovan, Environmental Public Program Coordinator, at 217-384-4062 or sydonovan@urbanaparks.org