



Nature Programs

Amazing Owls! Zoom for Kids

Friday, February 19, 5-6pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center
 Age 6 and up with adult supervision

Do you love owls? This program is for you! Nature center staff will help you to dissect an owl pellet from the comfort of your home, meet one of the nature center owls up-close, and explore what makes these birds unique. You may pick up your owl pellet dissection kits from the nature center before the program (between February 8-19, after you register). Proceeds from this program support the nature center's education animals.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$6R/\$10NR Feb 5	\$7R/\$11NR Feb 12	9263

Amazing Owls! Zoom for Adults

Friday, February 26, 7-8:30pm
 Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods
 Age 15 and Up

Join Illinois Natural History Survey Ornithologist Tara Beveroth and nature center staff for an exploration of native Illinois owls. Learn how you can safely and respectfully find and watch owls outdoors in your area, and get the opportunity to ask an expert your questions. This Zoom presentation will also feature a chance to see one of the nature center's Eastern screech owls up-close. Proceeds from this program support the nature center's education animals.

EB Cost Deadline	Cost Deadline	Code
\$4R/\$7NR Feb 12	\$5R/\$8NR Feb 19	9262

Shinrin-Yoku with Your Household

January 11 - April 30
 Busey Woods
 By appointment only; call (217) 384-4062
 or email sydonovan@urbanaparks.org
 \$25 per household; for up to 8 household members age 6 & up

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 uplift your spirits. Face masks are required, however there will be opportunities to safely remove them during the program. All participants must reside in the same household.

Watch for Pop-Up Programs & Services

Follow "Anita Purves Nature Center" on Facebook and Twitter "@UPDNature" for pop-up program announcements and the most up-to-date program information. Sign up here to receive the nature center's monthly e-newsletter: <http://www.urbanaparks.org/e-news/>.

Live Animals!

Come meet the owls, turtles and snakes at the Anita Purves Nature Center and learn how you can "Adopt an Education Animal." Learn how to schedule a visit on page 14.

Come See What's Free!

Woodcock Zoom

Friday, March 5, 5-6pm
Age 6 and up; under 15 with adult supervision

Each spring male American woodcocks perform their "sky dance". This program will explain how and where you can go to see this aerial display in person. Discover what makes this strange bird so remarkable as you Zoom along with a naturalist guide. Registration by March 3rd is required; your Zoom invitation will be emailed to you following your registration.

Deadline	Code
March 3	9264

Connecting You with Nature - Virtual Hikes on Facebook Live

- Wednesdays from 12-1pm
- Busey Woods: March 10
 - Weaver Park: March 24
 - Meadowbrook Park: April 7
 - Perkins Road Wet Prairie: April 21

Join staff from the Anita Purves Nature Center during these virtual hikes through district natural areas. Explore the plants, animals and unique natural history of each unique and beautiful preserve. These programs are a great way to learn about nearby nature before visiting on your own. To watch, find the Anita Purves Nature Center on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/APnaturecenter>.

Climate Change in Champaign County

Sunday, April 18, 2-3pm
Virtual Zoom Class
All Ages - under 15 with adult

Climate change impacts us all, but what does that mean here in central Illinois? What can you do to slow and even reverse global climate change? Join Environmental Public Program Coordinator and Climate Reality Leader Savannah Donovan to explore the latest updates on the science, impacts and solutions. Bring your questions and discover how you can participate in the growing number of solutions.

Deadline	Code
April 17	9265

The Great Backyard Bird Count

February 12-15
All Ages - under 15 with adult

You can be a citizen scientist from the comfort of your own home! By counting birds you see from your windows or in your yard, you will help scientists collect important real-time information. Anyone can participate—count for as little or as long as you wish! Submit your observations online to gbbc.birdcount.org/ anytime from February 12-15. Share photos of your sightings with the Anita Purves Nature Center and Urbana Park District on social media! **#UrbanaParks #GBBC #birdcount**

Bird ID Hike on Facebook Live

Saturday, February 13, 8-9am

Learn tips and tricks for how to find and identify different bird species! Guides from the Anita Purves Nature Center and Champaign County Audubon Society will go live on Facebook during this virtual hike. To watch, find the Anita Purves Nature Center on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/APnaturecenter>.





Organic Gardens: Community Gardening in Meadowbrook Park

Growing Season: March 7-November 7, 2021
Meadowbrook Park - Race St entrance
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 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 65. **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.
- Gardeners will receive a digital orientation packet upon registration. Plot selection will take place during the orientation process.

Plot Size	Fee	Code
Raised Plot*: 11’ x 3’	\$20R/\$30NR	9257
Half Plot: 17’ x 15’	\$30R/\$45NR	9255
Full Plot: 17’ x 30’	\$50R/\$75NR	9254

*Raised Plots are ADA Accessible

www.Solidarity-Gardens-CU.org



#NeighborsFeedingNeighbors

Solidarity Gardens CU

Solidarity Gardens CU, modeled after the WWII-era Victory Gardens, encourages home gardening through the distribution of tools, seeds, plants, and information, and is a center for production and distribution of fresh produce to community members that are most in need. The Solidarity Gardens began in 2020 and was successful in enhancing community garden production by utilizing nearly 10,000 sqft. across various community garden spaces in the area! The Solidarity Gardens CU provides a platform to let home gardeners know where they can donate their extra produce to feed those in need in their community. In 2020, over 200 lbs. of produce was donated to those in need in the community. Visit <https://www.solidarity-gardens-cu.org/> to donate, get involved and learn more about this great resource!

Is your club or group interested in volunteering?

Solidarity Gardens CU is looking for groups to “adopt” garden plots in local community garden spaces to plant, maintain and harvest produce to be donated through the Solidarity Garden CU initiative. **Interested? Email Chelsea Prah at ckprahl@urbanaparks.org.**

Environmental Education Opportunities

Environmental Education Resources

Are you looking for resources to compliment a unit or lesson you are teaching? 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. **Contact Chelsea Prah, Environmental Education Coordinator, at (217) -384-4062 or ckprahl@urbanaparks.org.**

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.

Teachers, for more information email Chelsea Prah at ckprahl@urbanaparks.org or call the Anita Purves Nature Center at 217-384-4062.

Businesses/Organizations/Individuals, for information on helping students attend nature education programs at the Urbana Park District, call 217-367-1536



Request a Virtual Environmental Education Program!

Add to your virtual learning experience by inviting a naturalist into your online classroom! Take your class on a virtual naturalist-led hike through Busey Woods, Meadowbrook Park or Weaver Park wetland. Environmental Education Animal Zoom programs are also available featuring an owl, turtle, snake or toad!

Email ckprahl@urbanaparks.org to schedule a program.

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

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 2019 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

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



Animal	Cost/Month	Cost/6 Months	Cost/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.

The Urbana Park District has been awarded the Best of the Best Award for Best Green Practices from the Illinois Association of Park Districts!

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 52-56).
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.

For more information about Urbana Park District green initiatives, visit www.urbanaparks.org/about-us/green-initiatives/.

