

Come Visit US!

Special Tour Programs

A naturalist will be your group's personal guide when you schedule a Special Tour. Staff lead hikes at district natural areas and tours at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Whether you are looking for a morning, afterschool, or weekend excursion, tours can include hands-on activities, guided hikes, or even an encounter with live animals! Special Tours can help scouts achieve awards and badges.

FEE: \$40/45-60 minute tour. Groups of more than 12 require additional fees. Minimum two weeks notice required. Call 217-384-4062 for scheduling and program information.

Natural Areas

The Urbana Park District maintains several local natural areas. The goal is to restore areas characteristic of Illinois' most biologically diverse habitats. Restoration includes planting and seeding native plants, removing invasive plants, and conducting prescribed burns to encourage healthy growth. These natural areas are open for anyone interested in exploring and learning more about the environment. They are available for hiking, plant and animal study, and photography (but not for collecting). You may request a naturalist to guide you on a Special Tour Program through these natural landscapes.

Or Let Us Visit YOU!

Traveling Naturalist Programs

Invite a naturalist to visit your group. Leaders visit many types of community organizations: preschools, afterschool programs, church groups, scout troops, club meetings, adult care centers, and workplaces. Request a single, weekly or monthly program. Programs may include hands-on activities, natural artifacts, crafts, live animals and more.

FEE: \$55/45-60 minute program. A mileage fee is charged for programs outside of Champaign-Urbana. Groups of more than 12 require additional fees. Minimum two weeks notice required. Call 217-384-4062 for scheduling and program information.

Traveling Naturalist & Special Tour Program Topics:

- Animal Homes
- Around the Campfire
- Birds/Bird Watching
- History of Busey Woods
- Illinois Prairie
- Insects & Invertebrates
- Invasive Species
- Mammals
- Nature at Night
- Nature in the City
- Nature Scavenger Hunt
- Outdoor Survival
- Owls
- Pond Life: Amphibians & Invertebrates
- Reptiles: Snakes and/or Turtles
- Seasonal Nature Hikes
- Spring Wildflowers
- Tree Identification
- Winter Wildlife
- Woodland Ecology

Don't see a topic? Request a custom program created to fit your needs; additional fees apply.

Giving Back!

Service Projects

Looking for a community service project? The districts' natural areas need a helping hand during Stewardship Saturdays. Assist with land management practices such as trail maintenance, seed collecting, plant inventory, or litter pick-up. Cut back invasive species, plants native trees and plants, or help clear trials. There is no fee for these services—your help is greatly appreciated. Call 217-384-4062 for more information.

Adopt an Education Animal

The Anita Purves Nature Center's education animals help to demonstrate the variety of wildlife that lives in Illinois. These animals are part of the living exhibits in the Field Station and also make appearances to thousands of people every year as part of our education program.

Your financial contribution, or "adoption", helps provide the animals with shelter, medical care and the food they need. Adoption is a great way to support environmental education in Champaign County and also makes a unique gift for friends or family.



Resources at the Nature Center

Nature Discovery Packs

Planning your own hike? Borrow a Nature Discovery Pack and take it along when you explore local parks and natural areas. These packs include items such as magnifiers, binoculars and field guides to help you identify what you encounter, and they suggest exploratory hike activities. Specific packs about astronomy, birds, ponds, Busey Woods and Meadowbrook Prairie are available. Packs are FREE with a refundable deposit. Call 217-384-4062 for more information.

Wildlife Observation Room

Looking for a relaxing way to observe nature? Unwind in the windowed observation room and watch birds and other wildlife at the habitat garden and bird feeders. Listen to their calls and chirps through the parabolic sound system. Donations of sunflower seed and mixed bird seed for feeding areas are always appreciated.

We Have Badge Programs!

Scout leaders, are you working on a badge or patch? Need to fulfill a special requirement?

The Anita Purves Nature Center's variety of program topics help scout troops to complete badge requirements. Most nature-related and earth science badges can be started and even completed through the Special Tour and Traveling Naturalist Programs offered by the nature center. Refer to the list of program topics in this brochure to select which topics best meet your badge requirements. Call 384-4062 for scheduling and program information.

DISCOVER THE *Nature* CENTER

Visit the Anita Purves Nature Center, Urbana's connection to natural history and the environment. Learn more about the animals and plants that you can see in your back yard or local park. Located at the north end of Crystal Lake Park, the Anita Purves Nature Center is an environmental education facility open free to the public. Nearby, you will find Busey Woods, a 59-acre forest preserve with a boardwalk loop trail, seasonal ponds and more. The nature center is on the MTD Gold/Ruby bus line on weekdays and the Silver bus line on Saturdays. For information about programs and services, please call **217-384-4062**.

Anita Purves Nature Center

1505 N. Broadway
Urbana, IL 61801
Phone 217-384-4062
Fax: 217-384-1052

Hours:

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm
Sat 9am-4pm
Sun **closed**

