



## Nature Programs

### FREE! Nature Center Pre-K Fridays

*Drop-in Fridays, January 12-February 23, 9am-12pm*  
**Anita Purves Nature Center**  
**Age 6 and Under - with adult**

Kids age 6 and under and their families can drop by the nature center to discover self-guided activities just for little naturalists. Each week, we'll explore a different theme. Your adventures may lead you outdoors to the nature playscape as weather permits, so come prepared! Call 217-384-4062 for more information. Themes explored depend on what current events are happening in nature at the time. To keep these programs relevant to the changing seasons, themes are announced the week before each program. Donations of \$5/child are encouraged.

### FREE! Nature Play Kids

*Fridays, March 2-April 13, 10-11am*  
**Friendship Grove Nature Playscape, Anita Purves Nature Center**  
**Age 3 and Up with adult; All Ages welcome**

Ready to get outdoors and welcome spring? Bring your little one to the nature playscape to participate in naturalist-led themed activities during these special times. Programs take place outdoors except in cases of severe weather; please come prepared. Drop-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is encouraged to have enough supplies for everyone; call 217-384-4062 to let us know you are coming. Donations of \$5/child are encouraged. Themes explored depend on what current events are happening in nature at the time. To keep these programs relevant to the changing seasons, themes are announced the week before each program.

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

### NEW! Animal Care Helpers

*Saturdays: January 13, 20 & 27, February 3 & 10, 9-11am*  
**Anita Purves Nature Center**  
**Age 6 and Up - under 15 with registered adult**

Caring for wildlife in captivity is a big job. You can help nature center staff take care of the education owls, turtles and snakes during this exclusive opportunity. Help clean cages, feed and water, exercise the animals and other related tasks. All proceeds help fund the ongoing care of these animals. Group size is limited to four people on each date, and pre-registration is required.

Date	EB Cost   Deadline	Cost   Deadline	Code
Jan 13	\$14R/\$21NR   Dec 30	\$15R/\$23NR   Jan 11	6195
Jan 20	\$14R/\$21NR   Jan 6	\$15R/\$23NR   Jan 18	6196
Jan 27	\$14R/\$21NR   Jan 13	\$15R/\$23NR   Jan 25	6197
Feb 3	\$14R/\$21NR   Jan 20	\$15R/\$23NR   Feb 1	6198
Feb 10	\$14R/\$21NR   Jan 27	\$15R/\$23NR   Feb 8	6199

### Spring Sensations Night Hike

*Friday, March 16, 7-8:30pm*  
**Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods**  
**All Ages - under 15 with registered adult**

Experience the sights, sounds and smells of spring's arrival during a nighttime hike through Busey Woods. Enjoy some fresh air and exercise, and finish the night with hot chocolate and snacks around the campfire! In the event of rain, this program may be rescheduled.

EB Cost   Deadline	Cost   Deadline	Code
\$9R/\$14NR   Mar 2	\$11R/\$17NR   Mar 9	6156



## Adults Only Owl Prowl

**Saturday, February 3, 7-9pm**  
**Anita Purves Nature Center & Busey Woods**  
**Age 15 and Up**

Explore Busey Woods at night in search of owls with Illinois Natural History Survey Avian Specialist Tara Beveroth. Start with a native Illinois owls multimedia presentation. Then head outside to listen for them calling. After the hike, meet the Anita Purves Nature Center's resident screech owls and warm up with hot chocolate. Fees for this hike support the care of the nature center's education animals. Dress for wet, cold and slippery conditions. Hikes are on non-paved or boardwalk trails.

EB Cost   Deadline	Cost   Deadline	Code
\$7R/\$11NR   Jan 20	\$9R/\$14NR   Jan 27	6155

## Owl Prowl for Kids

**Saturday, February 24, 6-8pm**  
**Anita Purves Nature Center**  
**Ages 6-15 - parents are free with a registered child**

This program is a special opportunity for kids to explore Busey Woods at night in search of wild owls. We will start with a short presentation indoors then hit the trails! After the hike, meet the nature center's resident screech owls, dissect an owl pellet, and warm up with hot cocoa. Dress for wet, cold and slippery conditions. Hikes are on non-paved or boardwalk trails—please no strollers. Fees for this hike support the care of the nature center's education animals. A minimum of one adult is required for every three children.

EB Cost   Deadline	Cost   Deadline	Code
\$9R/\$14NR   Feb 10	\$11R/\$17NR   Feb 17	6200

## Project Learning Tree® for Naturalists and Caregivers

**Saturday, April 14, 1-5pm**  
**Anita Purves Nature Center**  
**Age 15 and Up**

**Fee: \$40; includes Project Learning Tree® Family & Nature Activity Guide and resources**

**Facilitators: Savannah Donovan, Urbana Park District & Stacey Clementz, Champaign County Forest Preserve District**

Join us for an exciting professional development opportunity for anyone who works in nonformal education including Master Naturalists, scout leaders, parents, and volunteers. Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is a collection of award-winning, multi-disciplinary environmental education activity guides that improve children's environmental awareness and critical thinking skills. Each participant will receive a copy of the nationally acclaimed PLT Nature Activities for Families activity guide, with materials appropriate for ages 3-15. Come prepared to go outside in rain or shine.



Cost   Deadline	Code
\$40R/NR   Mar 31	6157

## Organic Gardens: Community Gardening in Meadowbrook Park

**Growing Season: March 4-November 4, 2018**  
**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 can 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/](http://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 71. 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 pay a discounted deposit.
- New gardeners must attend a Garden Meeting at the Anita Purves Nature Center or Meadowbrook Park where garden plot selection will take place. You must register and pay for the garden at least two days prior to attending a meeting.

### Garden Meetings:

Date	Time	Deadline for Registration & Meeting	Location
W, Feb 21	6:30-7:30pm	Feb 19	Anita Purves Nature Center
Sat, Mar 3	1-2pm	Mar 1	Anita Purves Nature Center
Tu, Mar 13	6-7pm	Mar 9	Meadowbrook Interpretive Center
M, Mar 26	7-8pm	Mar 22	Meadowbrook Interpretive Center
Sat, Apr 7	10-11am	Apr 5	Meadowbrook Interpretive Center

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

**\*Raised Plots are ADA accessible**



# Come See What's Free!

## The Great Backyard Bird Count

*Saturday, February 17, 9am-4pm*  
**Guided Hikes at 10am & 3pm**  
**Anita Purves Nature Center**  
**All Ages - under 15 with adult**

Help with bird conservation by counting birds. Anyone can participate—count for as little or as long as you wish! Record the birds you see through the windowed Wildlife Observation Room and during guided hikes. Instruction in bird identification will be provided. Dress for the weather, and bring binoculars if you have them or borrow a pair at the nature center. Free activity stations will also be available. To learn more about this annual four-day-long nationwide event, visit [www.gbbs.birdcount.org/](http://www.gbbs.birdcount.org/).

## Sunday Morning Bird Walks

*Sundays, March 4-May 27, 7:30-9am*  
**Meet in Anita Purves Nature Center parking lot**  
**All Ages - under 15 with adult**

Birding is an adventure for any age. 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 if you have them or you may borrow one from the Anita Purves Nature Center with a refundable credit card deposit of \$15 (pick up M-Sa 9am-4pm).

## Canada Geese: Friend or Foe?

*Saturday, March 17, 2-3pm*  
**Lake House in Crystal Lake Park**  
**Age 15 and Up**

Whether you love them or despise them, Canada geese are a common sight around Crystal Lake Park. Once hunted to the brink of extinction, they have made an incredible rebound in the last 60 years. Join us to learn about their recovery, why they no longer migrate in the winter, and what communities and the Urbana Park District are doing to prevent them from overpopulating.

## Woodcock Walk

*Wednesday, March 21, 7-8pm*  
**Meadowbrook Interpretive Center**  
**All Ages - under 15 with adult**

Discover the secret life of the bird with the upside-down brain during a guided twilight stroll. Find out why this bird has so many other intriguing names like Labrador Twister, Pop-eyed Shot Dodger and Mud Snipe. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them. We will hike through muddy and non-paved surfaces. Please, no strollers. Call 217-384-4062 by March 20 if you plan on attending.

## NEW! Anita Purves Nature Center Open House

*Saturday, April 7, 2-4pm*  
**Anita Purves Nature Center**  
**All Ages - under 15 with adult**

Visit the nature center, the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape and Busey Woods during this special event to learn about the wide variety of programs and services that we offer to the community.

- Dive into educational Loan Box content;
- Learn about programs for schools and other groups;
- Enjoy guided nature play activities at the playscape;
- Sample nature birthday party activities;
- Explore the multipurpose classrooms for your next room rental;
- Meet the animals, and maybe “adopt” one!

## EarthCare Expo

*Saturday, April 21, 1-4pm*

- **Nature Hike in Busey Woods, 1-2pm**
- **EarthCare Expo, 2-4pm**
- **Short Film Screenings, 2pm & 3pm**

**Anita Purves Nature Center**  
**All Ages - under 15 with adult**

Celebrate Earth Day as you meet Earth-friendly folks and engage with activities and displays from local Faith in Place partners. Additional fun will take place outdoors at the adjacent Friendship Grove Nature Playscape! For more information, visit [www.faithinplace.org](http://www.faithinplace.org) and click on Events. Call 217-384-4062 with questions. Co-sponsored by the Urbana Park District, Faith in Place and C/U Interfaith Alliance.

## 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 salamanders laying eggs, fairy shrimp in the ponds, or thousands of wildflowers blooming in Busey Woods! 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 visit [www.rainoutline.com](http://www.rainoutline.com), search Urbana Park District, and sign up to receive email or text alerts for Nature Programs.



## Adopt an Education Animal

The Urbana Park District houses a number of native animals at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Most have injuries that would compromise their survival in the wild, or were captive bred. All the animals are on exhibit and used for educational programs with schools, scouts and the general public. In 2016 alone, our animals visited 80 different groups!

Your sponsorship, or “adoption”, supports local environmental education. Adoption fees generate funds for the medical care, housing and feeding of these animals.

### Upon adoption you receive:

- Your picture taken with the animal you adopt
- Adoption certificate plus a fact sheet with the animal’s history and photograph
- Your name on the donor exhibit in the Field Station for the period of the adoption
- Invitation to a member adoption party at the Anita Purves Nature Center

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

Visit [www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/anita-purves-nature-center/](http://www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/anita-purves-nature-center/) for an adoption application.



# 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, visit:

<http://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 p.13 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:

- An in-progress 5-acre woodland/savanna restoration
- 35 acres planted with prairie & native grasses
- An award-winning watershed management wetland

## 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 re-create 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. For a sneak peek at this developing natural area, attend a Stewardship Saturday.



## Stewardship Saturdays

Dress for the weather and lend a hand while learning about local natural areas. During Stewardship Saturdays, volunteers assist with:

- Invasive plant removal;
- Trail improvements and clean-up;
- Native plant seed harvest and/or planting.

Tools, gloves, instruction and refreshments are provided.

Stewardship Saturday workdays are recommended for children 8 years and older, however accommodations for younger participants may be available with enough advance notice. All children under 16 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Large groups are welcome. Scouts and groups with children should call well in advance to make arrangements to help - an alternate workday may be required as some stewardship activities are not suit for children.

Let us know you will be attending by calling 217-384-4062 prior to each date. Please dress for the weather.

### For Busey Woods

- Meet at the Anita Purves Nature Center

### For Meadowbrook Park

- Meet at the Race Street parking lot south of Windsor Road

### For Weaver Park

- Pull off at the intersection of Main Street and Smith Road

### For Perkins Road Wet Prairie

- Meet at the Dog Park parking lot on Perkins Road, 1/2 mile east of Cunningham Avenue

Date	Time	Location
January 27	9-11am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
February 10	9-11am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
February 24	9-11am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
March 10	9-11am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
March 24	9-11am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
April 7: Boneyard Creek Community Clean-Up Day *Rain Date: Sat, April 21	9-11am	Crystal Lake Park Saline Creek - Meet at Anita Purves Nature Center
April 14	9-11am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
April 28	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie

## *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 developing and implementing programs and practices that demonstrate and teach the value and importance of responsible environmental policies and practices. The inter-departmental “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 EarthCare Expo on page 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 possible.

 Urbana Park District

# green team

# Outdoor Learning Opportunities

The Anita Purves Nature Center offers environmental education programs and helps educators teach their students about the natural world.

Bring your class on a **School Tour** to visit Busey Woods or Meadowbrook Park's Spomer Prairie. Busey Woods programs include time to explore the nature center's Field Station. Or, invite a **Naturalist in the Classroom** to visit your school. A trained environmental educator will bring hands-on materials, interactive lessons, and sometimes a live animal 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. A brochure with 2017-2018 tour information is available for download at [www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/](http://www.urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/).

**Urbana Park District environmental educators are eager to help you! Contact Heidi Vasel, Environmental Education Coordinator, at 217-384-4062 or [hjvasel@urbanaparks.org](mailto:hjvasel@urbanaparks.org) with your questions or requests.**

## Get on the List!

Sign up for our new educator resources email list and get seasonal helpful tips for the classroom and information about resources and upcoming programs. Visit [www.urbanaparks.org/e-news/](http://www.urbanaparks.org/e-news/) and scroll to Educator Resources.

## Items You Can Borrow

The Anita Purves Nature Center also offers a wide variety of Education Loan items such as curriculum guides and natural history reference materials. Our themed loan 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/](http://www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/environmental-education-loan-boxes/).




The Friendship Grove Nature Playscape, located just outside the nature center, is a unique and interactive landscape that engages children of all ages in imaginative and active outdoor play. Your class can explore this exciting new feature during your visit.

“School tour volunteers are a vital part of the education programs at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Volunteers serve as an extra set of eyes, ears and hands to assist in directing the children’s attention to the wonders around them. This might show itself by being very excited about an insect that a student caught or asking guiding questions to assist in student discovery.”

**- Heidi Vasel**

*Environmental Education Coordinator*

Each year the Anita Purves Nature Center brings thousands of elementary and middle school students through its doors to be involved in educational tours and programs. Educating children, families and the public about the outdoors and natural environment is a part of the mission of the nature center and is of great benefit to all those who participate.

These important programs touch so many in our community, and we need volunteer help to make them possible. If you love the outdoors, enjoy working with children and families, and want to make a difference in your community, see below for more information.

## **FREE! School Tour Volunteer Orientation**

**By Appointment**  
**Anita Purves Nature Center**  
**Age 18 and Up**

Hone your natural history knowledge and leadership skills, and make a difference to more than 3,000 children who visit the nature center each year. Share the excitement of teaching while exploring Busey Woods and Meadowbrook 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. Register at least two days before the orientation, or arrange an alternate orientation time by calling 217-384-4062.



## **Urbana Park District Advisory Committee**

UPDAC is a citizen's advisory committee formed by the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners in 1971. UPDAC members serve in an advisory and informative capacity to the Board of Commissioners and to the citizens of the district. The group studies issues that are of importance to the park district and helps the board and staff to make decisions that are in the best interest of the district and its residents.

UPDAC members are chosen for appointment to the committee based on their interest in Urbana Park District issues, and their ability and willingness to represent their neighborhood. Each member is also chosen based on geography. Ideally, the commissioners would like to have the membership of UPDAC reflect Urbana as a whole, with representation from all areas of the district.

Over the years, UPDAC has provided advice and input into a number of developments and programs/directions that the park district has undertaken. Meetings are once a month for 10 months of the year, at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday.

**YOU can be part of this group, too. Apply online at:**  
**[www.urbanaparks.org/get-involved/urbana-park-district-advisory-committee-updac/](http://www.urbanaparks.org/get-involved/urbana-park-district-advisory-committee-updac/)**