

Natural Areas

Our goal for these natural areas is to restore characteristics 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:

<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 page 16 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
- Newly-established 35 acres planted with prairie and 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 suited 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, ½ mile east of Cunningham Avenue

Date	Time	Location
September 8	9-11am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
September 29 National Public Lands Day See page 59 for details	9-11am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
October 13	9-11am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
October 27	9-11am	Meadowbrook Park
	1-3pm	Perkins Road Wet Prairie
November 10	9-11am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park
December 8	9-11am	Busey Woods
	1-3pm	Weaver Park

