

Standards-Based LIFE SCIENCES PROGRAMS

The **Anita Purves Nature Center** is your classroom extension where learning comes naturally. Our field trips, classroom visits, and loan items will complement your curriculum with hands-on activities and place-based education. By employing direct observation and experiential learning opportunities, the Anita Purves Nature Center enriches and strengthens existing school curricula and provides students the opportunity to explore and connect with the natural world. **All programs meet Next Generation Science Standards and Illinois Learning Standards.**



Reservation Information

Visit: urbanaparks.org/programs/nature-programs/
or **Scan the QR Code**

Call: 217-384-4062

Email: Cathy Schneider at
cmschneider@urbanaparks.org



Program Fees

Naturalist-in-the-Classroom Programs

Kindergarten: \$40 (for up to 25 students)
+ \$1/each additional student (32 students maximum)
1st-5th Grade: \$48 (for up to 25 students)
+ \$1/each additional student (32 students maximum)

School Field Trip Programs

K-5th Grade: \$42 (for up to 25 students)
+ \$1/each additional student (32 students maximum)

Custom Programs

Are you looking for a program to compliment a unit or lesson you are teaching? We can work with you to develop a unique environmental education program to fit your specific needs. Requests must be made at least 4 weeks in advance.

Naturalist-in-the-Classroom Programs

A naturalist will come to your facility.

Grade	Program Description
1st-3rd Grade	<u>Intestines of the Earth:</u> Students will dig this hands-on exploration of the world of worms. Prepare to get dirty!
1st-3rd Grade	<u>Let's Make Tracks:</u> Work alongside a naturalist in a hands-on investigation of tracks and other signs that animals leave behind.
1st-5th Grade	<u>Powerful Plants:</u> Learn about plant structure, function, and growth during this fast-paced look at plants.
K-5th Grade	<u>Remarkable Reptiles:</u> Explore reptile characteristics when a live snake and two box turtles visit your classroom.
K-5th Grade	<u>Awesome Amphibians:</u> Explore the characteristics of amphibians with help from the nature center's newest education animal — a salamander!
K-5th Grade	<u>Who-o-o Knows?:</u> Meet a live screech owl and learn about these native birds of prey. Want to add more to this program? For an additional \$3/student and an extra 30 minutes to the program time, each student can dissect an owl pellet.

School Field Trip Programs

Please note field trips are available at Busey Woods (BW), Weaver Park (WP) or Meadowbrook Park (MBK) as indicated in the program descriptions. Location availability varies by season.

Grade	Program Description	Location
Kindergarten Program Length: 1.5 hours	<u>Fall Frolickers</u> : Explore the special adaptations that squirrels have for life in the trees. (Fall)	BW
	<u>Fabulous Fall</u> : Observe seasonal changes and discover how plants and animals prepare for the coming cold season. (Fall)	BW, MBK
	<u>Sense-ational Spring</u> : Sharpen students' observation skills with a variety of activities using all five senses. (Spring)	BW, WP, MBK
	<u>Wee Wigglers</u> : Your class will learn about the multitude of tiny animals that live in, on, or under the soil and water. (Spring, Summer)	BW, WP, MBK
1st & 2nd Grade Program Length: 1.5 hours	<u>Billions of Bugs</u> : Search for and compare insects and their relatives found in forest and prairie habitats. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	BW, WP, MBK
	<u>Nature's Hitchhikers</u> : Investigate how seeds travel, and look at ways that seeds and forest animals depend on each other. (Fall)	BW
	<u>Where Do They Go?</u> : Identify the different strategies used by animals to survive winter, and discover the adaptations that allow some animals to stay active. (Fall, Winter)	BW
	<u>Little Critters</u> : Determine what roles forest and pond invertebrates play in these ecosystems. (Spring, Summer)	BW, WP
	<u>Terrific Trees</u> : From baby saplings to grandmother oaks, explore how trees make food and support life in the forest. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	BW
	<u>A Look at Habitats</u> : Explore a forest or prairie and the animals who live there. Students will learn about the components of a habitat in this hands-on experience. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	BW, WP, MBK
3rd-5th Grade Program Length: 2 hours	<u>Amazing Animal Adaptations</u> : Beaver feet, rabbit ears, and raptor eyes – learn how these and other amazing adaptations help animals survive. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	BW, WP, MBK
	<u>Exploring Tallgrass Prairies</u> : Explore how both plants and animals are adapted to survive in the tallgrass prairie. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	MBK
	<u>Happenin' Habitats!</u> : Investigate a habitat and the wildlife that call it home! Learn what animals need to survive in their habitat. (Spring, Summer, Fall)	BW, WP, MBK
	<u>What's in a Pond?</u> : Explore life cycles, adaptations, and interrelationships of organisms as you dip for macroinvertebrates living in local ponds. (Spring, Summer)	BW, WP

Other Resources

Teach with a Turtle

Borrow the Reptiles & Amphibians Loan Kit and have a live turtle in your classroom for up to two weeks! The kit includes supplemental activities and instructions about turtle care and feeding, and standards-based reptile and amphibian lesson plans. This hands-on kit delivers an unforgettable experience for you and your students.



Nature Items You Can Borrow

The Anita Purves Nature Center offers a wide variety of educational loan items at the Anita Purves Nature Center such as natural history specimens, curriculum guides, reference materials and IDNR Loan Trunks. A new Climate Change Loan Kit is available! Call Cathy Schneider at 217 384-4062 or email cmschneider@urbanaparks.org to reserve yours today.