

Field Trip Guide 2022-2023



BAIRD CREEK PRESERVATION FOUNDATION'S MISSION

"Facilitate the preservation and restoration of the Baird Creek Watershed in order to enhance its value as an ecological, recreational, and educational resource for generations to come."



PLAN YOUR VISIT!

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation's environmental education programs are designed to pair well with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Our programs are hands-on intensive to help your students or children experience science from a real-world view.

Features

- 400-500 plant species
- 18+ distinct biological communities
- Multiple entrance points to trails
- Trailside benches
- Lots of hands-on opportunities!
- 4 ecosystems to explore: wetland, creek, forest & prairie
- Immersive outdoor activities in nature!

Payment Policy/Fees

School Field Trips (4 hrs):

\$4.00 per student / Minimum number of students may apply. (Ask if there are any grant dollars for a cost savings!!!)

After-School Programs (1 - 2.5 hrs):

contact us for cost as it varies per amount of time and student count.

Lunch Time

Lunch will be outside weather permitting. You are responsible to help with "Leave No Trace" by taking recyclables with you. Baird Creek Preservation Foundation does not provide lunch.

Scheduling

Scheduling of field trips is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest registering as early as possible to ensure availability.

TO REGISTER: (920) 328-3505

or

lexi@bairdcreek.org

Day Of Information

- Programs are outdoors - rain, snow or shine! Please dress appropriately.
- Please arrive in a timely manner for your program.
- If you are a chaperone, please
 - assist with behavior management
 - encourage participation
 - step in when requested.

Cancellation Policy

We ask that we are notified at least two weeks in advance if you need to cancel or reschedule. In the case that there are weather conditions that will impede on the safety of students and our staff, we will notify you of cancellations as soon as possible and you will be fully refunded or rescheduled.

Curriculum Note

We can create curriculum and field trip topics and plans that best fit your needs as an educator. We have experience combining topics, adding to our already existing topics and creating trips from scratch based on what educators want us to cover. Feel free to reach out if you have an idea of what you want the trip to look like and we will make it happen.

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

Environmental Education Programs at Baird Creek	All Things Ecosystems*	All Things Climate*	Water in Our World*	Critters in the Creek	Signs of Spring	Animal Tracking	Fish	Nature Hike/Biology in Baird Creek	Hibernation	Prairie Exploration (Bugs)	Trees - Life Cycle	Trees - Identification	Wetland	
	Physical Science													
	PS3: Energy		✓	✓								✓		
	Life Science													
	LS1: From Molecules to Organisms	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	LS2: Ecosystems	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
	LS3: Hereditary	✓		✓	✓	✓							✓	
	LS4: Biological Evolution	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	Earth/Space Science													
	ESS1: Earth's Place in the Universe		✓			✓								
	ESS2: Earth's Systems		✓	✓	✓			✓						✓
	ESS3: Earth & Human Activity	✓	✓	✓			✓					✓	✓	✓

*Four hour field trip options

Chart is based on the grades 1-5 standards even though "Water in Our World" can extend through High School. If desired, contact us for High School or Middle School NGSS Standards.

Full Day School Field Trip Programs

4 Hours Fall or Spring

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation school field trips run for four hours. The day is broken into two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon with a 45-minute lunch break.

ALL THINGS ECOSYSTEMS

Grades: 1-5

Students will embark on a journey to four ecosystems found in Baird Creek: Wetlands, Prairie, Forest, and Creek. At each ecosystem students will be immersed in hands-on activities, such as dip nets at the creek and sweep nets on the prairie. Topics of impact include definition of ecosystems, importance of wetlands, spiders versus insects, life cycle of trees, and navigating identification charts.



ALL THINGS CLIMATE

Grades: 3-5

Through outdoor lab experiments and other engaging activities, students will develop an understanding of how climate change is affecting our ecosystems. Topics of impact include erosion, weather, environmental cycles, greenhouse effect, consequences on flora and fauna, and steps students can take to help make positive changes.



WATER IN OUR WORLD

Grades: 3-8

Students will have the opportunity to jump into Baird Creek to catch and identify macro-invertebrates and fish, test water quality, and debrief. Topics of impact include water cycle, water quality testing, and correlation between healthy water ecosystems and habitats. Content can be adapted for higher grade levels. Middle school we touch on the biotic index, erosion, soil quality and what that means for water quality, and how it effects inhabitants of the creek.



FOOD CHAINS & WEBS

Grades: 3-8

Students will be able to explore both the forest and creek as we talk about what food chains and food webs are, how they are impacted by humans and available natural resources, and how energy moves through them.



Half Day Field Trips/ After-School Programs

1.5 - 2.5 Hours

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation has ten topic options for shorter time spans! Topics can be combined for a full-day field trip, or they make great after-school programs. Contact us for more field trip topics.

CRITTERS IN THE CREEK

Grades: 1-5

Fall/Late Spring

Students will use dip nets in the creek to find cool critters called macro-invertebrates. They will learn how to navigate an identification chart and will discover what the critters tell us about our water quality in Baird Creek.

NATURE HIKE/BIOLOGY IN BAIRD CREEK

Grades: 1-5

All Seasons

Students will embark on a journey to different biomes in Baird Creek where they will learn about animal adaptations and what may negatively affect a habitat. They will develop ideas to help humans leave less of a footprint.

FISH

Grades: 1-5

Fall/Late Spring

Students will be introduced to a seine net and will see and touch fish that are caught in Baird Creek. No harm will be done to any fish or critters, as they will learn to properly release them afterwards.



ANIMAL TRACKING

Grades: 1-5

All Seasons

Students will venture out to discover animal tracks, as well as other signs of animal and insect activity. This scavenger hike is for all animal lovers!

HIBERNATION

Grades: 3-5

Fall/Spring

Students will be exposed to terms that encompass the topic of hibernation. They will participate in an interactive game as they hike to four different ecosystems, learning about the Baird Creek species that hibernate along the way.

PRAIRIE (BUGS)

Grades: 1-5

Early Fall

Students will be provided with sweep nets and bug viewers as they step into the prairie and uncover all sorts of creatures. Bugs, spiders, and grasshoppers, oh my!

TREES - LIFE CYCLE

Grades: 1-5

Fall/Spring

Students will hike and learn about the importance of trees in the Baird Creek forest areas. From living trees to decomposing trees, students will learn about the symbiotic relationships between trees and forest critters.



SIGNS OF SPRING

Grades: 1-5

March-May

Students will observe the signs of Spring on this fun hike! With April showers, flowers come...as well as birds and other animals. Students will experience nature in the Springtime and will learn all about the sounds and plants that are starting to reappear.



TREES - IDENTIFICATION

Grades: 3-5

Fall/Late Spring

Students will embark on a hike through Baird Creek to learn about different types of trees and how to identify them. The trip wouldn't be complete without a stop at the famous Cottonwood tree where students will count how many of them it takes to wrap around the tree!

WETLAND

Grades: 1-5

Fall/Late Spring

Students will hike to a boardwalk and explore a wetland in Baird Creek. Students will touch cattails, make observations of wildlife and plants, and discover the important role wetlands play with a fun interactive model.

OTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Customized Programs

If your group is interested in doing something that varies from the listed topics, contact us, and we will work to accommodate your specific needs. There are so many topics to explore, and we love creating new material!

Free Public Hikes

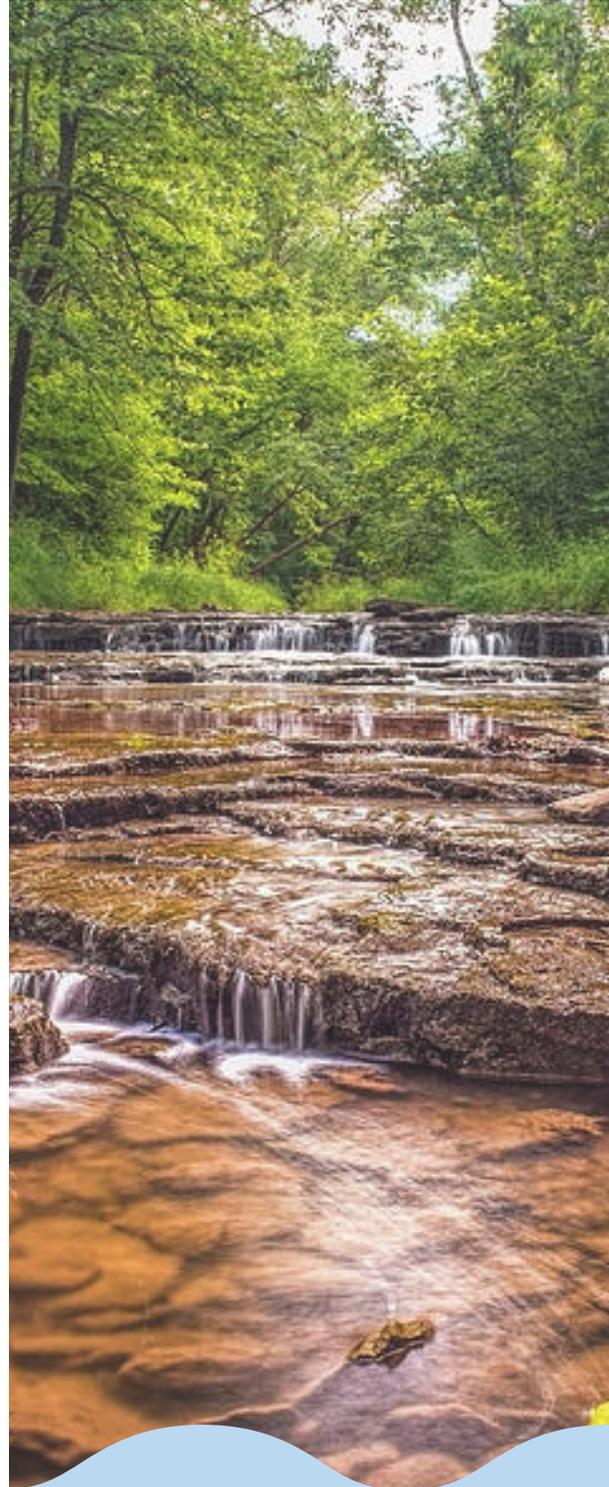
Baird Creek Preservation Foundation holds free monthly hikes with an educational topic. Refer to website and Facebook for more info!

Scout Programs

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation has different badge options! If interested, check our website or contact us for further questions.

Homeschool Programs

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation offers educational programming for homeschool groups! The provided topic choices are modified and designed specifically for your children.



**Scheduling of programs is on a first come first served basis.
Register early to get your preferred date choice!
920-328-3505 or lexi@bairdcreek.org**