



School Field Trip Guide 2025-2026



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!
- 5 ecosystems to explore: wetland, creek, forest, pond & prairie
- Immersive outdoor activities in nature!

Payment Policy/Fees

School Field Trips (4 hours):
\$6.00 per student / Minimum number of students may apply.

School Field Trips (2 hours):
\$4.00 per student / Minimum number of students may apply.

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
 - keep an eye on the time for us

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	Wetland	Amphibians	Trees - Life Cycle	Prairie Exploration (Bugs)	Hibernation	Nature Hike/Biology in Baird Creek	Fish	Animal Tracking	Signs of Spring	Critters in the Creek	Water in Our World*	Food Chains & Webs*	All Things Ecosystems*	
	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 (Sep-Oct) or Spring (April-early June)

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. You can also combine two 2-hour trips.

ALL THINGS ECOSYSTEMS

Grades: 1-5

Students will embark on a journey to four main 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, forest wildlife, and navigating identification charts.



WATER IN OUR WORLD

Grades: 1-8

Students will have the opportunity to jump into Baird Creek to catch and identify macroinvertebrates 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 lower & 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: 1-8

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. through interactive activities and games!



Half Day Field Trips

2 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 half-day or 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 macroinvertebrates. 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 ecosystems 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 while spending time outdoors.

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. Learn about their unique adaptations. 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 on a hike to discover animal tracks, as well as other signs of animal and insect activity. This scavenger hike is for all animal lovers!

WINTER ADAPTATIONS

Grades: 3-5

Late Fall-Early Spring

Students will be exposed to all things winter adaptations, such as the topic of hibernation. They will participate in interactive games as they hike to four different ecosystems, learning about the Baird Creek species that both hibernate and thrive in winter along the way.

PRAIRIE (BUGS)

Grades: 1-5

Fall/Late Spring

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

TREES - LIFE CYCLE

Grades: 1-5

Year round

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, come wildflowers...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.



AMPHIBIANS!

Grades: K-5

Fall/Late Spring

Students will learn about the amphibians that live in Baird Creek before taking their dip nets down to the pond where they will find aquatic insects, frogs, tadpoles and possibly salamanders!

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 while immersing themselves in the wetland!

OTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Public Programs for Groups

If your group is interested in doing a program like the ones above, please check out our public program page on the website for details on non-school groups visiting Baird Creek.

Public Hikes

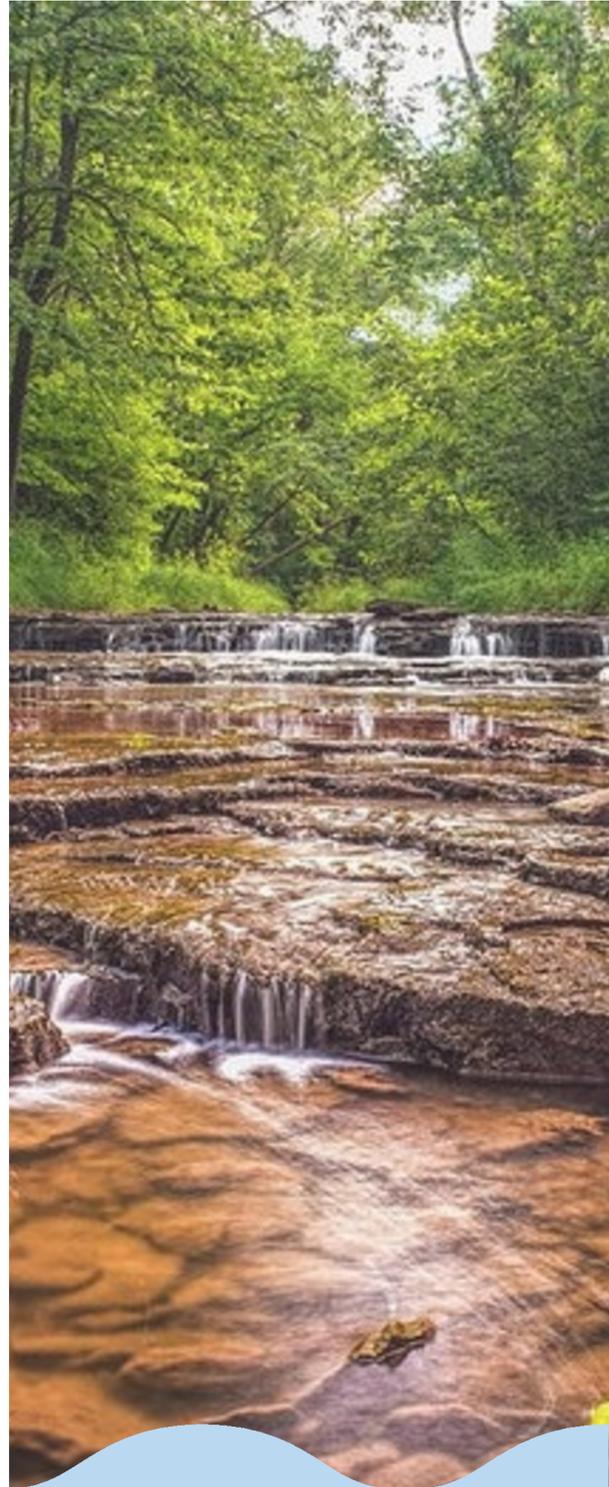
Baird Creek Preservation Foundation holds various hikes with an educational topic. Refer to the website and Facebook for upcoming events!

Scout Programs

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

Homeschool Programs

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation offers educational programming for homeschool groups! Please check out our public program page on the website.



**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**