

Public Programs for Small Groups



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

1.5 Hour Program

Minimum 10 people

\$8 per person over the age of 2 years old.

Facilities

Picnic tables are available for public use at Triangle Hill Chalet or Christa McAuliffe Park.

There is no access to the indoor building. The City has a porta-potty at Triangle Hill Chalet. During the summer months, a public restroom is open at McAuliffe Park

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 on time 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 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 trip topics that best fit your needs as a group. We have experience combining topics, adding to our already existing topics, and creating trips from scratch based on what groups 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.

Public Program Guide

1.5 Hours

CRITTERS IN THE CREEK

Ages: 5+

Late Spring-Fall

Participants 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

Ages: 7+ (1+ mile hike)

All Seasons

Participants will embark on a journey to different ecosystems in Baird Creek, where they will learn about animal adaptations and the history of the area. Participants will learn about the flora and fauna they see on the trails and hear what we do to help protect the ecosystem.

FISH

Ages: 5+

Late Spring-Fall

Participants will be introduced to a seine net and will have the opportunity to see and touch fish 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

Ages: 7+

All Seasons

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

WINTER ADAPTATIONS

Ages: 7+

Late Fall-Early Spring

Participants will be exposed to all things winter adaptations, such as the topic of hibernation and how animals survive the cold Wisconsin winters. You will hike to different ecosystems, learning about the Baird Creek species that both hibernate and thrive in winter along the way.

PRAIRIE (BUGS)

Ages: 5+

Late Spring-Fall

Participants 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

Ages 5+

Year round

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



SIGNS OF SPRING

Ages: 7+

March-May

Participants 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!

Ages: 5+

Late Spring-Fall

Participants 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

Ages: 5+

Late Spring-Fall

Participants 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 in water quality while immersing themselves in the ecosystem!

Programs for 3k & 4k Preschoolers

Enjoy a one-hour outdoor program designed especially for our preschool friends! This program takes place at Christa McAuliffe Park and blends guided nature exploration with plenty of time for free play.

Groups are welcome to begin their visit at the playground before joining us for a one-hour nature program. We'll start with a short circle time to introduce the day's activities, then set off on a gentle walk along the prairie trail that leads through the woods and down to a shallow creek. At the creek, children will enjoy approximately 30 minutes of open-ended nature play using hands-on exploration tools and toys.

We'll wrap up the program by heading back to our circle area for snack time (snack not provided) and a story, giving children a calm and connected end to their outdoor experience.

This program is a wonderful opportunity for caregivers to join their child. A ratio of one adult per four children is expected. This is not a handicap accessible trail and has uneven terrain. If you need a handicap accessible program, please see the email below. Public park bathrooms are available at the Christa McAuliffe building.

This program is only available from May through September on a limited basis. No fewer than 12 children and no more than 24 children per program. Please email Lexi@bairdcreek.org to inquire about our Preschool Program

What to bring:

- Snack
- Water bottle
- Complete change of clothes, including underwear and socks – our explorers are likely to get wet & muddy.
- A plastic/separate bag for wet and/or muddy clothing that they change out of to go into
- Closed-toe, comfortable shoes that can get wet – sneakers are fine. Water shoes/sandals/Crocs are best for creek days. Rain boots spill over and fill with water, leaving kids uncomfortable.
- Sunscreen – please apply sunscreen on your child before the program
- Bug Spray – this is not required, but highly recommended.
- Hat (optional) – to protect from sun & insects.
- Backpack to hold all of the above belongings, or bins to hold for the entire group.

