

Cincinnati Parks Explore Nature! Preschool Programs



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Cincinnati Parks Explore Nature!

In the pages of this guide, you'll find Park Naturalist-led programs for participants of pre-school ages and levels of ability. Use the guide to locate those programs that best complement your lesson plans/activity calendar and to help you schedule a program or field trip for your class. *See you out in the parks!*

We operate 5 Nature Centers and also offer programs in neighborhood parks. For information about a specific center, call the Naturalists at the numbers below. For information or reservations for Krohn Conservatory tours, call Krohn directly at the number below.

For general information and reservations, call the Bettman Center.

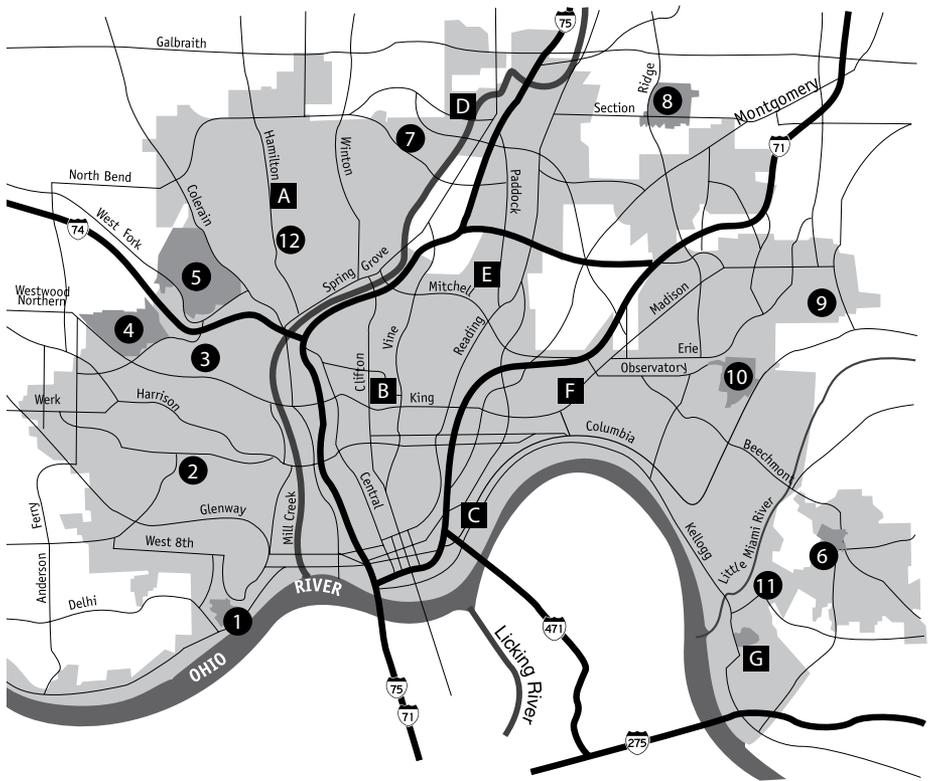
Avon Woods Nature Ctr. Inner-City Outreach	4235 Paddock Rd.	861-3435
Bettman Natural Resources Ctr.	4 Beech Lane	321-6070
Caldwell Nature Ctr.	430 W. N. Bend Rd.	761-4313
California Woods Nature Ctr.	5400 Kellogg Ave.	231-8678
Krohn Conservatory	1501 Eden Park Dr.	421-5707
LaBoiteaux Woods Nature Ctr.	5400 Lanius Lane	542-2909
Trailside Nature Ctr. and Wolff Planetarium	3400 Brookline Ave	751-3679

Reasonable accommodations will be made upon advance request. Call 321-6070 (Nature Centers) or 421-5707 (Krohn.)

Caldwell Nature Center has a wheelchair accessible trail.

Visitors may be photographed, filmed, or recorded by the Cincinnati Park Board for educational or promotional uses.

Welcome to Your Cincinnati Parks!



Parks & Preserves with Trails

- 1 - Mt. Echo Park
- 2 - Glenway Woods
- 3 - Brodbeck Preserve
- 4 - McFarlan Woods (Mt. Airy)
- 5 - Mt. Airy Forest
- 6 - Stanbery Park
- 7 - Seymour Preserve
- 8 - French Park
- 9 - Little Duck Creek
- 10 - Ault Park
- 11 - Magrish Preserve
- 12 - Buttercup Valley / Parkers Woods

Nature Centers - Neighborhood

- A - LaBoiteaux Woods - College Hill
- B - Trailside - Clifton (Burnet Woods)
- D - Caldwell - Carthage/Hartwell
- E - Avon Woods - Paddock Hills
- G - California Woods - California

Explore Nature! Main Office

- F - Bettman - O'Bryonville/ Evanston

Visitor Center

- C - Krohn Conservatory - Eden Park/
Walnut Hills

To Schedule a Program

TO SCHEDULE A PROGRAM; Call 321-6070 ext. 10 or the Nature Center you plan to visit (see page 2).

Program dates fill quickly, so please schedule at least 2 weeks in advance. If you have any questions on program content, call the Nature Center chosen for the program.

When you call, please have ready:

- *Several preferred dates already cleared with administration and transportation, since we cannot put "holds" on dates*
 - *Preferred program and location, and an alternate*
 - *The number of children and adults coming*
 - *Contact information; name, e-mail, phone & FAX numbers*
- ☞ *Cincinnati Public School teachers, please have a PO in progress before calling*



GROUP SIZES / CHAPERONES

The number of participants we may accommodate varies. Typically, each Nature Center can receive up to 50 people (children and adults) simultaneously. If you are planning to bring more than 50, we may need to schedule multiple centers or multiple days.

Ratio– 1 Naturalist for up to 12 children

The Naturalists rely on you to control the group and be with them during all the activities.

TYPICAL PROGRAM / TIMES

Programs for preschoolers usually last 1 ½ to 2 hours. These programs can be either morning or afternoon and can include an outdoor picnic at the Nature Center in suitable weather. A program includes a hike and other hands-on activities such as live animal encounters, and active games.

AGES

All programs emphasize age-appropriate hands-on activities for children ages 4 and 5 years old. Please no 3 year olds.



To Schedule a Program

FEES / PAYMENT FOR PROGRAMS AT NATURE CENTERS

The current program fee, regardless of length, is \$5.00 per child and extra chaperones. All teachers/facility staff and one chaperone for every 10 children attend FREE. Programs with consumable supplies may cost more and are noted in program descriptions.

Minimum Fee: equivalent to \$120 which equals 24 children / paying adults

Payment can be made by voucher / P.O., or by credit card, money order, cashier's check (payable to: Treasurer, City of Cincinnati) in advance or cash at the time of the program. **We regret that we can no longer accept personal checks.**

OUTREACH FEES

Programs are designed for presentation at the Nature Centers. However, some topics (indicated in their descriptions by the icons shown below), can be handled as outreach programs in

neighborhood parks  or at a *daycare/school*. 

Of course, activities will be modified; what can be done depends on the resources available at the outreach site. Call the appropriate Nature Center to discuss details of what can be offered at specific locations and how programs would vary from what is described. Teachers are free.

Outreach Fees:

At Parks: \$5.00 per participant including chaperones.
Minimum Fee: equivalent to \$120 which equals 24 participants.

At Your Location: \$100 for the first 30-60 minute program for up to 24 participants
\$50 each additional program, same topic, same day

CONFIRMATIONS / CANCELLATIONS

Approximately one week prior to your program, a Naturalist will contact you regarding program details. Except in cases of severe weather emergencies, cancellations must be made at least 48 hours in advance of your scheduled visit, or a \$50 cancellation fee will be charged. If your facility is closed due to snow or extreme cold, there is no cancellation charge provided Naturalists are made aware of your facilities closure. We do proceed with programs in cases of rain, normal winter cold, etc.

Caldwell Programs

NATIVE AMERICANS



Season Available: Fall, Winter, Spring

This interactive program focuses on the everyday life of an Ohio Native American child in the late 1700's, including food, clothing and shelter. Children experience daily life skills, pictographs, games and stories. The hike stresses Native Americans' historic uses of forest resources.

Note: To include daily life style activities, program must run a minimum of 2 hours.

MAPLE SUGARING

Season Available: February



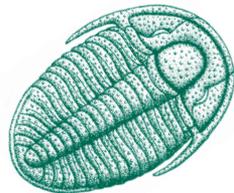
Experience how Sugar Maple trees produce sap and why it is collected for syrup only during this brief season. Watch us collect the sap and cook it down. Taste maple sap in three stages of production. The basic program is one hour in length with half taking place outdoors.

Children should be dressed in layers to be comfortable outdoors for up to 30 minutes and indoors for a 30 minute engaging presentation. We do not cancel if the weather is cold. To secure a date for the popular program, you should call in Fall to schedule a program.

FOSSILS: ORDIVICAN FISHIN'

Season Available: Fall, Spring

Children participate in an interactive introduction to learn about the animals that lived and died in the Ordovician Sea that once covered the Greater Cincinnati area over 450 million years ago. A program highlight is an exploratory creek hike to find Cincinnati's famous fossils.



California Woods Programs

LOCAL WILDLIFE



Season Available: Fall, Winter, Spring

Explore the wildlife in the Cincinnati region! Hike the preserve to look for animal homes, and how they meet their needs in our area: food, water, shelter, space. Meet some local animals in the Nature Center and learn about the adaptations that help them live here. We will also explore a little bit of animal classification.



WONDERS OF THE SEASONS

Season Available: Fall

Fabulous Fall: Learn all about the wonders of fall. Enjoy a puppet show highlighting how animals prepare for winter, take a hike to explore the season in person, and make a fall-themed craft.

Season Available: Spring

Spring Into Spring!: After a long winter, explore the wonders of spring renewal in nature! Enjoy a puppet show that focuses on how local animals got through the winter and prepare for spring. Take a hike to explore the wonders of the new season, and make a spring-themed craft.

"TREE"-MENDOUS TREES



Season Available: Fall, Spring

This program is a well-rounded introduction to all aspects of the plant kingdom. Hike the preserve and explore basic tree identification and uses, based on the season. Inside, learn about plant physiology and photosynthesis.



HISTORY AND MYSTERY OF MAPLE

Season Available: February/Early March

From the Native American, to pioneer, to current sugar farmers, we taste and experience the magic of maple sugaring. Learn about the fascinating process trees use to make sweet sap and why this is the only time per year we can use it. Assist the Naturalist in tapping trees, collecting sap, and witness the transformation from sap to syrup. Program length: Pre-K - K up to 2 hrs.

LaBoiteaux Woods Programs

HISTORY IN MOTION WITH JOHNNY APPLESEED AND SACAJAWEA

Season Available: Fall, Winter, Spring



This interactive program introduces students to the famous Johnny Appleseed and Sacajawea. Presented in first person and designed to give students the experience that they are actually meeting these two American and Native American icons respectively. Step back in time as we explore the contributions that each one of these individuals made to the United States of America and how their influence helped shape a nation.

SPRING MAGIC

Season Available: Spring

Celebrate the season of new life with a trail walk and activities that illustrate nature's important cycles. Discover how plants and animals meet their basic needs in various local habitats.



THE WONDERS OF FALL

Season Available: Fall

Naturalists focus on how plants and animals meet their survival needs in the Fall. Hike to observe seasonal plant changes and signs of animals preparing for winter. Activities on migration, hibernation and other ways local animals survive cold weather complete the day.

NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE

Season Available: Fall, Winter, Spring

This interactive program focuses on the everyday life of an Ohio Native American child in the late 1700's, including food, clothing and shelter. You experience daily life skills, create pictographs, and participate in fun games. The informative hike stresses Native Americans' historic uses of forest resources.



THE REAL WORLD

Season Available: Fall, Winter, Spring

Does your class know more about the Internet than their backyard? Enjoy a grab-bag of the Naturalists' favorite activities with the emphasis on fun and exploration (They'll soak up lots of information as well). Wear old clothes and sturdy shoes for woods exploration. Touch nature, meet an animal or two and play a game.

Trailside Programs

A BUG'S LIFE



Season Available: Fall, Spring

They're creepy, crawly and all together fascinating! Discover the exciting world of a bug's life, as we look at the most successful group of animals on the planet. From the depths of Burnet Woods to the butterfly gardens of Trailside Nature Center, this program offers a unique opportunity to examine metamorphosis, life cycles and the unique roles they play in our day-to-day lives.



PLANTS: SEEDS TO TREES



Season Available: Fall, Spring

This exciting program functions as a primer on plant life. Children learn about the structure, function and reproduction of local trees and wildflowers as they explore the wooded hillsides of the this urban forest. Through the use of hands-on activities, children are exposed to the process of photosynthesis, seasonal changes, seed dispersal and more.



HABITATS AND ADAPTATIONS

Season Available: Fall, Winter, Spring

This program introduces children to our local habitats, their composition and how plants and animals have adapted to tlive within them. Through a combination of exploration, fun-filled activities and live animal demonstrations, children gain a greater understanding of the world around them.

Available at All Nature Centers

SEASONAL PROGRAMS

• **Fabulous Fall:** Animals need to make preparations for migration or hibernation as the cooler weather sets in. Join us as we find out what makes this season special! • **Winter Wonders:** Discover who is out and about and who is snoozing the winter away. Bundle up for some winter exploration. • **Springing into Spring:** Plants are greening up. Animal babies are springing up. Come see what's happening in spring.

Program Details

CUSTOMIZING

Park Naturalists are happy to work with you to customize to best fit your instructional and group needs. If you would like specific vocabulary, concepts, activities or information emphasized, call the appropriate Nature Center as soon as possible to work out those specifics.

PARKING

FREE parking is available at the Nature Centers, city parks and Krohn Conservatory.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Come prepared for the weather and count on being outside for at least part of the visit. The true value of a Nature Center is in its forests and fields; we want everyone to experience nature outdoors.

Participants should wear rain gear or coats as the weather requires, sturdy closed-toe shoes (no sandals or flip-flops), and hats and gloves in cold weather.

ACCESSIBILITY

Reasonable accommodations are available upon advance request. Wheelchair accessible hikes are available at Caldwell and California Woods Nature Centers (some indoor program elements are not wheelchair accessible at California Woods). Call the Nature Center you are interested in scheduling for details. Naturalists work with group leaders to create an appropriate program to accommodate participants with learning delays or disabilities.

LUNCHESES

Lunches should be marked with each child's name, and include a drink (The Nature Centers and city parks do not have vending machines). Depending on the weather, participants eat outside at picnic tables or inside the Nature Center.

CINCINNATI



PARKS

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