



Waukesha County
Department of
Parks and Land Use

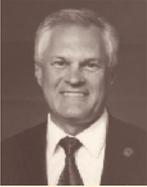
May 2014-May 2015 School Programs

Waukesha County Environmental Education School Guide



www.waukeshacountyparks.com • www.waukeshacounty.gov/EnvironmentalEd

Waukesha County Environmental Education School Guide



Waukesha County, through its Department of Parks and Land Use, is dedicated to fostering the protection, wise use, enhancement, and enjoyment of the County's cultural and natural resources, and the health of its citizens. To help engage businesses, citizens and visitors in achieving this objective, a School Guide of environmental education opportunities has been developed.

The environmental education opportunities presented in this School Guide seek to:

- Increase the amount of material recycled from households and businesses to reduce taxpayer cost.
- Create opportunities for citizens to explore the outstanding natural resources in the Waukesha County Park System.
- Collaborate with School Districts in the County to offer a variety of science-based educational opportunities to meet curriculum requirements and enhance the quality of life in the County.
- Protect and enhance the quality of the County's lakes and streams by informing citizens on how property management decisions impact water quality.
- Protect the quantity and quality of the groundwater resources in the County by promoting water conservation and groundwater infiltration.

I welcome you to explore the opportunities throughout this Activity Guide and help us keep Waukesha County a great place to live, work and play.

Dan Vrakas,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Daniel P. Vrakas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Waukesha County Executive

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Contact Retzer Nature Center at 262-970-6680 for further details and availability of the following programs.

Experience your choice of programs all in a single visit! Whether it's land, water, or outer space, get double the experience without double the cost!

Need help planning your field trip experience? Our staff is ready to help create a program package to suit your needs. ***Come enjoy this year's new programs!***

Field Trips

Retzer Nature Center - S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha

Reservations for 2015 programs begin 10/01/2014

A three week lead-time is required to book all programs held at Retzer. Because your program has been specifically booked for your group (date, program, time, etc), fees must be paid 21 days before program date. When booking a program 21 days before the program date, payment is due at the time of the booking. **We accept American Express, MasterCard and Visa over the phone.**

Program Fees at Retzer Nature Center:

(21 day lead-time required)

Program Fee:

1 Hour Program Base Fee: \$22.50
Up to first 10 students, then
\$2.25 per student

1.5 Hour Program Base Fee: \$35.00
Up to first 10 students, then
\$3.50 per student

Facility Use Fee:

30 Minute Facility Use Base Fee: \$5.00

Chaperones: (Attend for free)

Students	Chaperones
≤ 10	2
11-20	3
21-30	4
Etc.	

Retzer Nature Center's Cancellation Policy

If payment is not received at least 21 days in advance, the program will be cancelled.

If you cancel a program within 21 days of the program date, we reserve the right to forfeit the program fee, or issue a credit instead of a refund. Credit must be redeemed within the same calendar year unless otherwise noted.

Retzer Nature Center Programs

Nature Storytime Hike

Grades 4K - 1

1 hour

(1.5 hours with craft added)

This program is all about reading and roaming! Teachers will select one of a season's storytime programs, and our naturalists will conduct an outdoor nature hike designed to complement the season.

September – November:

Trees, Seeds, Nuts, and Leaves

Autumn is a wonderful time to experience the leaves changing their colors and the bountiful seeds and nuts from our majestic trees. Crunch and stomp along the trails as you learn about the changes fall brings to our forests.

Turtle Time

Learn about the life of the Box Turtle. See where and how they spend their days. What do they eat? Where do they hide?

Hike & Seek - Camouflage

Discover how animals use color to hide from sight while they go about their daily routines. Play a game of hide and seek as we try to blend in like the animals do.

Counting on Colors

Join the naturalist on a colorful exploration of the trails. Children will hunt for natural objects that complement a variety of colors on this rainbow adventure.

December – March:

Sleepy Time

Come learn about hibernation as the animals settle in for a long winter nap. Where will they sleep? What goes on outside as they slumber away the days?

Footprints in the Snow

Winter is here and someone has left footprints in the snow. Whose could they be? Learn about the special tracks and signs our winter animals leave behind.

The Big Chill

Discover the wonders that appear during winter. From a snowflake falling to the ice on the pond and the slumbering landscape, we will bundle up and explore the frosty forest. (Less than 20 kids, snowshoes may be added) Additional \$2.75 per student for snowshoe rental.

April – June:

Spring has Sprung

This program is a celebration of spring! Explore the signs of life in the spring as we look for caterpillars, tadpoles, flowers, and birds while we hike on the trails.

Heads or Tails (NEW)

Learn all about animals from the tops of their heads all the way down to the tips of their tails. This program offers a unique way to examine animals and how each of their senses allows them to survive and have fun in their environment. In this program, the kids will have a chance to meet many of our resident, teaching animals!

Hip Hop 'N Frogs (May - June)

Discover what life is like for our aquatic friends, the frogs. Learn about their unique way of life; how does a frog eat, sleep and breathe in its wet world? And create a project to keep.

I Spy the Pond

(Available May to June)

Grades 4K-1

1 hour

Explore a water world by playing our version of the game "I Spy". Meet cool creatures who call the pond muck home. Learn about the adaptations and features they possess to live in this watery world.

30 students maximum.

I Spy Bugs

(Available Sept., Oct., May & June)

Grades 4K-1

1 hour

Join our naturalists as we play "I Spy" to uncover a world of insects. Students will "sweep" down and under during this hands-on adventure, exploring the unusual habitats of our 6-legged friends.

Retzer Nature Center Programs

Nature Discovery

Grades K-3

1 hour

Naturalists serve as guides and interpreters while children seek out and explore natural treasures.

ALPHABET SLEUTHS

Discover nature objects for each letter of the alphabet. A group collection will be made of each "ABC" found.

SILLY SENSES

Enjoy an exploration of smells, sights, sounds, and textures. We add a twist, discovering new ways to use our senses to explore nature.

MAMMAL MATCHING

Join the naturalist on a quest to search for small and large mammals, using clues of where they live, what they eat, and where they sleep.

"I SPY"

Explore the Nature Center through our version of "I Spy". Children will seek out natural objects to fit the "I Spy" clues given to them. A collection of found items will go back with you for hours of added learning.

(Planetarium options for this age group: Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, The Sky Tonight, or Our Place in Space).

Creature Features / Animal Adaptions – Indoor Talk

Grades 4K-8

1 hour

(Program appropriately designed for your grade level)

Enjoy a visit from the Retzer teaching animals! See how an animal's physical and behavioral traits can help it to survive as we explore the concepts of habitat and adaptation.

Amphibians and Reptiles (NEW)

Grades 1-8

1.5 hours

Discover the life of amphibians and reptiles by looking at differences and similarities that make them so unique. Explore outdoor habitats that allow them to survive through the different seasons. Students will look at the pond and surrounding wetlands where these creatures may be found.

Freaky Forest (NEW)

Grades 1-8

1.5 hours

Discover the wonders from the forest floor all the way up to the forest tree tops. Use binoculars, guide books, and journals to create your own freaky forest picture. Students will learn a variety of unique forest features during this program.

Home Sweet Habitat

Grades 1-6

1.5 hours

Explore wildlife habitats from the viewpoint of the animals that live there. Students will play the role of an animal as they go in search of their animal's basic survival needs for food, water, cover, and space. Finally decide which animal would call a given location "home sweet habitat."

Identifying Insects

(Available Sept., May & June)

Grades 2-8

1.5 hours

Students connect with the insect world through the use of sweep nets, guide books, and hand lenses as they investigate various sampling techniques and compare insect communities. Naturalists assist students in identifying and examining the unique adaptations these creatures display.

What Lurks in the Water?

(Available May to June, 30 students maximum)

Grades 2-8

1.5 hours

Scoop up a net full of pond muck and pick your way through to discover the unusual creatures in the pond. Students investigate pond ecology through interactive observation, temperature readings, and an in-depth study of aquatic organisms.

Mud Risk: High (come prepared).

Branching Out - Tree ID (NEW)

Grades 3-6

1.5 hours

Through an interactive program students will learn how to identify various trees by their appearances and features. Students will hike through the forest and oak savanna habitats and identify different trees along the way as well as determine their functions and uses in everyday life.

Retzer Nature Center Programs

Snowshoe Trekking

(Available January, February & early March)

Grades 3-8 **1.5 hours**

Additional \$2.75 per student for snowshoe rental.

Don't let winter get you down. Come out to the Nature Center and learn how to snowshoe. Our naturalists have cool outdoor treasures waiting for your class to find! Learn about nature in winter as you trek the hills and valleys of Retzer.

Tracks, Scat, and Other Wild Stuff

(Available January, February, & March)

Grades 3-8 **1.5 hours**

(2 hours with snowshoes - Additional \$2.75 per student for snowshoe rental.)

Animals leave behind a number of clues for us to find as we explore our winter world. Start indoors with a slideshow on animal tracks and evidence of their adventures, and then venture outdoors to hunt for some of these winter clues.

Prairie by Design

(Available September to October)

Grades 3-8 **1.5 hours**

The beautiful autumn prairie is a place of wonder and discovery. Customize a prairie program to fit your curriculum requirements.

Select up to 3 activities per program from the following options:

- * Prairie Plant Design: Shape, size, and textures
- * Seeds On the Move: Seed dispersal
- * Roots: How deep do they go?
- * Prairie Wildlife: Animals and insects of the prairie
- * Below Ground Construction: A recipe for soil
- * Prairie Plant Adaptations: Cool facts and amazing stuff

Wilderness Explorers

Grades 3-8

1.5 hours

In this creative program, students assume the roles of early Wisconsin explorers, experiencing the wilderness for the very first time. How would your group survive and flourish in the woods and prairies of Wisconsin?

Ins and Outs of Wings

Grades 4-8

1.5 hours

Ready for take off? Soar with us as we examine feathers, bone construction, and wing design in the performance of flight. Venture outdoors with binoculars to view these navigators at work. Learn how habitats and occupations influence birds in their flight styles and wing design. We will finish off your adventure by tearing apart an owl pellet from one of these birds of prey to see who was its most recent meal. Program includes both in & outdoor time.

Feathered Fascinations - (Indoor Talk)

Grades 4-6

1 hour

Decipher these feathered flyers from head to toe as we uncover their fascinating adaptations and unique habits. A visit from our teaching birds will assist in this exploration of our feathered friends.

Maps and Orienteering

Grades 4-8

1.5 hours

Through hands-on activities and a hike, students will develop the skills necessary to use a compass and read a topographic map. They will also apply math skills on our orienteering trails.

Science in Nature (NEW)

Grades 5-12

1.5 hours

Students discover nature using scientific reasoning and experiments to answer some of the questions they have about nature. Students will use a variety of instruments to answer the questions of each season.

Retzer Nature Center Programs

Reading the Landscape /A Nature CSI

Grades 6-12

2 hours

Learn to read the land around you. Students work in teams to investigate different study areas, using field equipment and observation to uncover the fascinating relationships within our local ecology.

Extend a Retzer Program

Add a 30 minute program to your class field trip to enhance a scheduled Nature Center Program. Add any At-School Recycling program for more “Extend a Retzer Program” opportunities (see page 14). Recycling programs are FREE, however, a \$5.00 per 30 minute facility use fee applies when held at Retzer.

Diary of a Worm (NEW)

Grades 4K-1

30 minutes

Turn yourself into a worm as we explore their damp dark world below ground. How do they help make the flowers and plants grow? Uncover a few worms to hold and examine up close.

Biodiversity Game

Grades 4-8

30 minutes

Wrap up your program with this interactive game as students learn about the complex web created around the diversity of a habitat. Numbers do matter in this game as we uncover the different species found or observed.

Create A Critter

Grades 1-6

30 minutes

Create a make-believe critter using the components of habitat: water, food, shelter, and space. Let your imagination run wild!

Owl Pellet Investigation

Grades 2-6

30 minutes

Take apart an owl pellet and reconstruct the owl's most recent meal! This is a fascinating way to study owl adaptations.

Energy From the Earth!

Our Geothermal Heating and Cooling System, and How It Works

Grades 3-12+

30 minutes

Discover how we get energy from the earth, and use it to heat and cool our building! This program includes an informational PowerPoint, a tour of our geothermal heat pumps and pipe manifold room, and a chance to operate our working geothermal model (a table-top heat pump that blasts out cold or hot air without burning any fuel).



Retzer Nature Center Programs

At-School Retzer Programs - We'll Come To Your Classroom!

\$75 per 1 hour program (includes mileage charge) • Maximum of 30 students per program

Creature Features/Animal Adaptions - Indoor Program

Grades 4K-8 **1 hour**

Enjoy a visit from the Retzer teaching animals! See how an animal's physical and behavioral traits can help it to survive as we explore the concepts of habitat and adaptation. Program content will be adjusted per grade level.

Create-a-Critter - Indoor Program

Grades K-5 **1 hour**

Create a make-believe critter using the components of habitat: water, food, shelter, and space. Let your imagination run wild!

Animal Habitat Survival

Grades 1-3 **1-1.5 hours**

Explore wildlife habitats from the view point of the animals. Consider water, cover, food, and space and decide just who could survive the given habitat.

Creep and Crawl

Grades 2-5 **1.5 hours**

Look for insects that live around the schoolyard. Learn about their unique designs and how they are able to live in this habitats. Equipment provided: sweep nets, hand lens, bug jars, and special insect finders sheet.

Feathered Fascinations - Indoor Program

Grades 4-6 **1 hour**

Decipher these feathered flyers from head to toe as we uncover their fascinating adaptations and unique habitats. A visit from our teaching birds will assist in this exploration of our feathered friends.

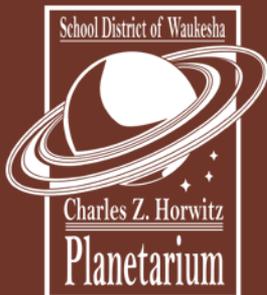
Nature Storytime Hike

Grades 4K - 1 **1 hour**

Have one of our naturalists visit your school, bringing a variety of hands on nature objects for your students to explore. All nature storytime programs include a children's book and craft centered around a theme from nature. See page 5 for available storytime programs.

'Like' Retzer Nature Center on
Facebook & 'Follow'
@waukeshacparks on Twitter





Contact Retzer Nature Center at 262-970-6680 for further details and availability of the following programs.

The planetarium is a multi-media sky and space theater located inside Retzer Nature Center. The main instrument, a Spitz 512 Star Projector, projects an image of the day or night sky on the underside of a dome-shaped ceiling. The Planetarium serves as a resource of current trends in astronomy for students, teachers, and the community.

Field Trips

The Planetarium is located inside Retzer Nature Center -
S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha

Reservations for 2015 programs begin 10/01/2014

All full-length shows are generally 1 hour long. The shows include a brief tour of the current evening sky and a "Feature" program of your choice. All Planetarium shows can be booked as a combination with a Retzer Nature Center program.

Highlights of your sky tour include; finding your directions, phases of the moon, locating visible planets and constellation identification.

Planetarium Fees:

(21 day lead-time required)
(One teacher is admitted free per 25 students)

Show Fee:

"Full Length Show" Base Fee: \$30.00
Up to first 10 persons, then
\$3.00 per person

"Extended Show" Base Fee: \$50.00
Up to first 10 persons, then
\$5.00 per person

Chaperones: Guidelines

Planetarium: 1 teacher per 25 students (chaperones pay admission fee for shows)

Combination Program Planetarium & Nature Center: Follow Nature Center Chaperone requirements (chaperones attend for free)

Retzer Nature Center's Cancellation Policy

If payment is not received at least 21 days in advance, the program will be cancelled.

If you cancel a program within 21 days of the program date, we reserve the right to forfeit the program fee, or issue a credit instead of a refund. Credit must be redeemed within the same calendar year unless otherwise noted.

Feature Programs

The Skies Over Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood

Ages 3 - 4

◆Pre K

45 Minutes

This program uses the scenes and characters from the famous television show "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" to introduce young students to the wonders of the day and night sky. A great sky and space experience.

(Retzer option for this age group: Nature Storytime)

The Sky Tonight

Ages 4 - 6

◆Grade 1

Reach up and paint the sky blue, make a rainbow, sing a song about space, and clap to the music as we all meet Joe Star, Marsha Moon, and Mike Meteor in this fun, participatory sky theater program. A classic sky show!

(Retzer option for this age group: Nature Storytime or Nature Discovery)

Our Place in Space

Grades 1 - 2

◆Grade 1

This award-winning, participatory children's planetarium show introduces jungle animals and a space crossword puzzle to unravel the wonders and the mysteries of the universe.

(Retzer option for this age group: Nature Discovery)

Secret of the Cardboard Rocket

Grades 2 - 4

◆Grade 3

This children's fantasy begins in the backyard, where two children build a rocket out of a refrigerator box. The rocket becomes magical and blasts off, taking the children on a fantastic journey past the Sun, Moon and planets. They return home safely having learned wonderful facts about our solar system.

◆Planetarium Director's Best Choice for this grade level

Photo credit:

NASA, ESA and A. Nota (ESA/STScI, STScI/AURA)

3-2-1 Blastoff

Grades 3 - 5

This wonderful space adventure show transforms a space game into an exciting visual tour of the objects in our solar system. Audiences magically fly past the Sun, land on planets, fly through the rings of Saturn and return safely to earth. Don't miss it!

Honey, I Shrunk the Solar System

Grades 3 - 5

This solar system exploration show takes the audience on an imaginary bike ride past the Sun, Moon, and planets. Students help answer space questions along the way. Always a favorite!

A Solar System Adventure Tour

Grades 3 - 5

◆Grade 4

You won't believe how fun learning about the planets can be when you step aboard the "Star Traveler" spaceship on your interactive journey past the planets in our solar system.

Time Bandits

Grades 3 - 8

Our calendars and many of our methods of timekeeping are based on the motions of the Sun, Moon, and earth. This fascinating show describes the astronomical reasons for modern-day timekeeping. It also presents many of the world's wonderful and elaborate mechanical clocks and how they work.

Nine Planets and Counting

Grades 4 - 6

See the most current images of the sun, moon, and planets in our Solar System. Find out why Pluto is now a "Dwarf Planet". This very beautiful show investigates the formation and the composition of our neighbors in space.

Charles Horwitz Planetarium Programs at Retzer Nature Center

Starship Earth

Grades 4 - 8

This fast-paced astronomy presentation uses spectacular visuals to answer questions about our home planet, Earth. Views of Earth from space, reasons for the seasons, and Earth's place in the universe are explored.

Explorers of International Space Station

Grades 5 - 8

This program shows science research being done on the International Space Station. Communication, medical technology, and life aboard the space station are just some of the topics in this spectacular visual presentation.

Galileo

Grades 6 - 12

Recognized as one of the greatest scientists of all time, this show celebrates the astronomical contributions of Galileo. Brilliantly produced as a 400-year historical view of the world's greatest telescopes, this program is a "must-see" for middle and high school students.

Cosmic Colors

Grades 6 - 12

♦Grade 5

Sit back and explore how colors form a rainbow, create a red surface on Mars, and display the breathtaking Northern Lights. In this program, audiences learn how scientists use wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum to study the wonderful mysteries of deep space. An absolute classic!

Journey to the Stars

Grades 6 - 12

♦Grade 6

This spectacular sky show presents close-up views of the Sun, Moon and planets, then takes the audience into deep space to explore white dwarfs, neutron stars, and black holes. Also in this program, scientists explore some of the most current trends in human and robotic space exploration. This program meets state and national science education standards.

Blown Away, The Wild World of Weather

Grades 6 - 12

Experience our amazing world of weather as you ride out a thunderstorm, fall into a tornado, and view storms from space. This program studies the dynamics of the water cycle, cloud types, lightning and auroras. This program meets many of the goals and objectives of state and national science education standards.

Black Holes, Point of No Return

Grades 6 - 12

Scientists explain that how are born, live out their lives, and die. Some of the most fascinating theories that astronomers develop are those involving the explosive deaths of massive stars. This program explores some of the strangest theoretical objects in the universe: white dwarfs, neutron stars, quasars, and black holes.

The Stargazer

Grades 6 - 12

♦Grade 8

Nichelle Nichols (Lt. Uhura of the television series Star Trek) narrates this fascinating program about stars. "Stargazer" traces the life experiences of astronomy professor Dr. James Kaler. From childhood to adult, his love for the sky shows us that there is a "human" connection to the stars. Spectacular!

Extend Your Planetarium Show

Add one of the following options onto your Planetarium show.

OPTIONS:

1. "Make & Take" Astronomy Project
2. "Feature" program – Select an additional "Feature" program

♦Planetarium Director's Best Choice for this grade level



Contact the UW Extension office at 262-548-7775 for further details and availability of the following program.

At-School Program - We'll Come To Your Classroom!

\$75 per 1 hour program (includes mileage charge) • Maximum of 30 students per program

Dig Into Gardening, Nutrition & Reading

Grades 4K-5

1 hour

Lessons can include preparing a healthy snack, nutrition, and horticulture activities, creating a small container garden, and reading garden and nutrition themed stories. These options can be selected a la carte for a tailored program that can enhance classroom core curriculum themes and lessons.

Professional Development Opportunity for Teachers

Through Wisconsin Education Innovations/Concordia University

ENVIRONMENTAL STEM

INSTRUCTORS:

Rebecca Mattano / Jayne Jenks / Meribeth Sullivan, Waukesha County Parks & Land Use Recycling & Solid Waste

GRADE LEVEL: 3-12 • CREDITS: 1 or 2

DATES: July 28 - July 31, 2014

LOCATION: Brookfield East High School

REGISTRATION: Wisconsin Education Innovations

262-370-5451 or logon to www.inov8ed.com

Are you looking for a way to integrate STEM education into your current curriculum? Environmental education provides a rich foundation for these popular concepts. Join us for a fast paced, community-based environmentally driven integration of science, technology, engineering, and math. Ready-to-use and local resources will dominate our emphasis on natural resources, soil, and water education. We will also take community field trips to see environmental STEM concepts in the real world and explore local partnerships. Whether you have a little or a lot of experience with environmental education or STEM concepts, this course will increase your knowledge, applications, and resource base with these important topics taught by local specialists.

For ENVIRONMENTAL STEM participants who live or work in Waukesha County:

FREE registration for the first 15 participants; 1 FREE graduate credit for the first 10 participants.



Contact the Recycling office at 262-896-8300 for further details and availability of the following programs.

All Recycling Programs and Field Trips are FREE for students and teachers!

At-School Programs - We'll Come To Your Classroom!

Trees/Wood & Paper

Grades K-2

30-60 minutes

Trees are resources for many things we use to meet our daily needs, including paper. Students will learn what comes from trees through an interactive activity. We will feel samples of paper made from other plants & plant-based materials, including linen, parchment, cotton, and elephant dung. Learn how recycling saves trees and “become” mini paper recycling mills (paper shredder, hydro-pulper, slurry-maker, etc.) by making paper!

Green & Healthy School Lunches & Snacks: Waste-free & Nutritious!

Grades K-6

30 minutes

K-2: Our mascot, Recycle Raccoon, will star in a fun PowerPoint look at things we eat (or don't) at school, the waste created and where that waste goes. Learn about healthier choices & packing waste-free healthy food for fuel at school! Recycle Raccoon will show up at the end (optional) to share high-5s, hand out RR trading cards and take-home nutrition information from the UW-extension office!

3-6: Healthy & waste-free lunches go together! Let's look at things we eat (or don't) at school, the waste created and where that waste goes. Learn about healthier choices & packing waste-free healthy food for fuel at school! Find out the cost of your choices & the impacts. Share snack ideas & take home nutrition information from the UW-Extension office.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Rot!

Grades K-5

30 minutes

K-2: Learn about the 3 Rs, trash, what goes in the recycling bin, where recyclables go & what they become. See inside a landfill! Watch a video clip of the recycling facility in action! Play a matching game. Feel a bottle turned into fuzzy filling. Finish up with the story of Recycle Raccoon & a visit from our mascot in person! (Optional)

3-5: Learn about the 4 Rs and the importance of their order. Find out what goes in the bin, where your recyclables go & what they become. Watch a video clip of the recycling facility in action! Do a waste sort. Find out how your choices affect the earth, and how to have a positive effect on the planet.

Rot is Hot! Composting

Grades K-6 30-60 min.- Available in Spring/Fall

K-2: Hear a story about compost. Learn about nature's decomposers through a brief PowerPoint, video clips, and direct observation of live critters with magnifiers & microscopes! Learn the 4 things that make compost happen. Play a “What Goes In?” game. Help create a compost pile at school! (Optional)

3-6: Learn about nature's decomposers through a brief PowerPoint, video clips and direct observation of live critters with magnifiers & microscopes! Learn the 4 things that make compost happen & what goes in the bin through interactive games. Start a compost pile at school! (Optional)

Waukesha County Recycling Programs

Wiggle with Worms/Vermicomposting

Grades K-6

1 hour

K-2: Learn another great method of recycling – composting! We will talk about nature’s ultimate recyclers, worms, and vermicomposting. Children will observe, study, and discuss worm structure, behavior, and needs, as well as find cool “decomposer” bugs. As part of the program children will make a recycled, biodegradable seed pot that they will plant to take home! We will challenge children to learn about all items that can be recycled and actions everyone can take to become more environmentally-friendly at home!

3-6: Learn another great method of recycling – composting! We will talk about nature’s ultimate recyclers, worms, and vermicomposting. Students will observe, study, and discuss worm structure, behavior, and needs. Each student will also learn how to make a microscope slide and use microscopes to identify decomposers. As part of the program, students will make a recycled, biodegradable seed pot that they will plant to take home! We will challenge students to learn about all items that can be recycled and actions everyone can take to become more environmentally-friendly at home!

Field Trips

Waukesha County Materials Recycling Facility - 220 S. Prairie Ave., Waukesha

Cost of bus trip is included for Green Schools

Tour/Visit of the Recycling Facility

Grades K-12

30-60 minutes

K-3: Learn about the 3 Rs plus 1, what goes in the recycling bin, where recyclables go & what they become. Look out our large viewing windows to see the recycling facility in action! Do a waste sort and visit with the Wise Tree of Recycling & his forest friends in Recycle Raccoon’s Clubhouse to do some recycling Q & A!

4-5: Learn about the 4 Rs and the importance of their order. Find out what goes in the bin, where your recyclables go & what they become. Watch the recycling facility in action through viewing windows overlooking the plant floor. Learn about landfills and find out how your consumer choices can make a difference.

6-12: Tour the working plant floor of the county recycling facility. Learn about our consumption as a society. Find out what goes in the bin, where your recyclables go & what they become. Find out how your consumer choices can make a difference

Trees/Wood & Paper

Grades K-2

1 hour

Trees are resources for many things we use to meet our daily needs, including paper. Learn what comes from trees through an interactive activity. Feel samples of paper made from other plants & plant-based materials, including linen, parchment, cotton, and elephant dung. Watch a short video clip on how paper is made and go to our big viewing windows to see how paper gets recycled at our facility. Learn how recycling saves trees AND paper! Visit the Wise Tree of Recycling & his forest friends in Recycle Raccoon’s Clubhouse to do some Q & A about paper!

‘Like’ Waukesha County Recycles
on Facebook & ‘Follow’
@WaukCntyRecycle on Twitter



Water Resources Programs

Contact the Water Resources office at 262-896-8300 for further details and availability of the following programs.

All Water Resources Programs are FREE for students and teachers!

At-School Programs - We'll Come To Your Classroom!

Got Water?

Grades 4-12

45-60 minutes

Learn about the many aspects of water—groundwater, surface water, runoff and more, and how they are related. Learn where drinking water comes from and where it goes after we are done with it. Best of all, students come away with some simple actions they can take to help protect our water resources. Allow 60 minutes if you plan to have the students prepare questions for a question/answer time.

Dragonflies, Damselflies and Scuds—Oh My!

Grades 3-12

45-60 minutes

This hands on activity is a great follow-up to the "Got Water?" program. Students participate in a watershed model to pollute the water and see how runoff carries the pollution to our local water bodies. They learn ways to prevent runoff pollution and observe live aquatic macro-invertebrates from a local stream to see the effects of population. Students learn to use a key to identify the macro-invertebrates, and calculate a biotic index for water quality.

Get the "Dirt" on Soils

Grades 3-12

40-60 minutes

Depending on the age of the students, activities may include learning about the soil profile, soil particle size, erosion, and soil texture. Lots of good visuals included, as well as hands-on with soil. These activities may be a little messy or "dirty" and will need access to a sink and water.

Field Trip

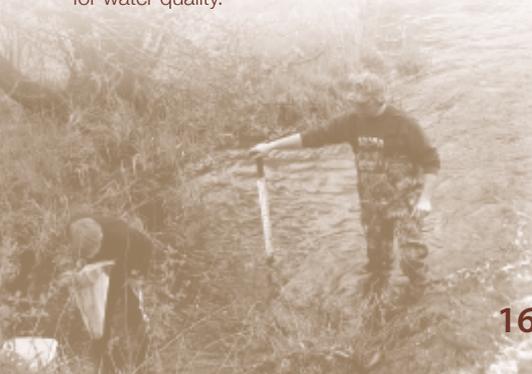
Cost of bus trip is included for Green Schools

River CSI—Who's Polluting the Water

Grades 5-12

1 hour

Depending on the age and number of students and time available, this may involve a number of different activities such as learning to key out and identify aquatic macro-invertebrates, measuring dissolved oxygen, measuring water clarity, and calculating biotic index. This activity can take place at Bethesda Park on the Fox River in Waukesha, Nixon Park on the Bark River in Hartland, or at a local water body (preferably a river or stream) near your school. This field trip can be booked as a combination with a Materials Recycling Facility visit or tour (see Field Trips under Recycling Programs).



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Contact the Environmental Health office at 262-896-8300 for further details and availability of the following programs.

All Environmental Health Programs are FREE for students and teachers!

At-School Programs - We'll Come To Your Classroom!

Animal Bite Prevention

Grades K-6

50 minutes

Find out about animal awareness, animal body language, and making wise choices while interacting with animals. Electricity and a clear wall for projection are required for this program.

Food Safety

Grades 5-12

30-60 minutes

Become aware of food safety and the consequences of mishandling food. Hand washing is emphasized and interactive activities are available.

Humane Animal Education

Grades 3-10

50 minutes

Learn the legal definitions of humane and cruel behavior as they relate to animals. Specific case studies show how humane officers apply the laws. Electricity and a clear wall for projection are required for this program.

Drinking Water

Grades 5-12

30-60 minutes

Learn about where you get your water, what can be harmful in the water, and how to eliminate the dangers. Also find out what to search for at home to keep your water safe.

Humane Animal Careers

Grades 3-10

25 minutes

Explore various careers that involve animals and the preparation required for each career. Electricity and a clear wall for projection are required for this program.



2014 Summer Programs

All Retzer Nature Center Fees and Cancellation policies apply to Retzer Programs

(see page 4 for a detailed list).

All Recycling Programs are FREE, however a \$5 per 30 minute facility use fee per program applies if the program is held at Retzer Nature Center.

Field Trips to Retzer Nature Center

S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha

Call 262-970-6680 for more details and availability of the following field trips to Retzer Nature Center.

Tales On Trails (Storytime Hike)

Ages 3-6

1 hour

(1.5 hours with craft added*)

This storytime hike is all about reading and roaming! Our Naturalists will conduct an outdoor nature hike and storytime designed to complement the month's theme.

Frog N' Around

Down to the pond we go in search of frogs. Use a net to catch one and discover cool adaptations these *slippery* amphibians display.

A Bug's Life

Look under a rock or sweep a net. What do you see? Pill bugs, spiders, butterflies and more! Get down in the dirt and in the meadows and discover the world of crawly creatures.

Hide and Seek - Animal's Camouflage

Discover how animals use color to hide from sight while they go about their daily routines. Play a game of hide-and-seek as we try to blend in like the animals do.

Turtle Time

Learn more about the life of a turtle. Meet real live turtles and maybe catch a couple, too!

Counting on Colors

Join the naturalist on a colorful exploration of the trails. Children will hunt for natural objects that will display colors on this rainbow adventure.

I Spy Natural Treasures

Ages 4-7

1 hour

Naturalists serve as guides and interpreters while children seek out natural treasures through a variation of the game "I Spy." A collection of all the "I Spy" finds will return with you for added adventures.

Down at the Pond

Ages 5-12

1.5 hours

Discover what lurks in the pond as we explore with nets to scoop up mud covered critters, frogs, and other water creatures. This interactive program gives children a close-up examination of the pond's ecosystem. Mud Risk: High (come prepared).

Program availability is dependent on water-level in the pond.

Created by Nature

Ages 6-12

1.5 or 2 hours

A naturalist will guide you along the trails on this artistic adventure. Children will collect a variety of natural items found along the trails to create a unique piece of artwork to take home.

Pick from the following topics:

- Leaves & Flowers
- Bits & Pieces
- Solar Design
- Color Around You
- Nature's Texture Collage

Navigating Nature

Ages 4-12

1.5 hours

If you like scavenger hunts, this program is for you. Teams will solve clues and complete fun tasks as they navigate their way around the trails on this wild nature experience.

Summer Programs

The Freaky Forest!

Ages 5-12

1 hour

Discover the wonders from the forest floor all the way to the forest tree tops! Use binoculars, guide books and journals to create your own freaky forest picture.

Hop, Crawl and Fly with Us

Ages 6-12

1.5 hours

Children explore the insect world using sweep nets, guide books, and hand lenses, and then we'll sample varied insect communities. Pull together your favorite bug's features to build your own bug creation.

Animal Adaptations - Indoor Program

Ages 6-12

1.5 hours

Enjoy a visit from the Retzer teaching animals! See how an animal's physical and behavioral traits can help it survive as we explore the concepts of habitat and adaptation.

Also available as a traveling program

Never Ending Story

Ages 8-12

1.5 hours

Children will discover a story in which they play a role as narrator and author. Through discovery of found objects, observations of their surrounding, and writing a script - the tale of their program will come to view as they fill in the blanks for the present day's story.

Field Trip to the Waukesha County Materials Recycling Facility

220 S. Prairie Ave., Waukesha

Call 262-896-8300 for further details and availability of this field trip to the recycling facility.

FREE Tour/Visit of the Recycling Facility

Ages 4 and up

1 hour

Ages 4 - 11: See where recyclables go when the truck takes them away! In our recycling education room, kids learn about the 3 R's, landfills, composting, what to recycle, and what happens to recyclables.

Ages 12 and up: Experience recycling in-person with a full walking tour of the plant in operation! See tipping trucks, sorting, baling, and forklifts in action. Learn the environmental and economic impacts of recycling, as well as products made from recyclables.

Traveling Programs - We'll Come to You!

Nature Tales

Ages 3-6

1 hour

Have one of our naturalists visit you, bringing a variety of hands-on nature objects for your children to explore. Each program includes: book and craft.

Pick from the following topics:

- A Day in the Life of a Worm
- Turtle Time
- A Bug's Life
- Fabulous Feathers

Call 262-970-6680 for further details and availability of this program.

FREE Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Rot!

Ages 4 and up

30 minutes

Learn about the 3 R's, composting, what to recycle and what happens to your recyclables. See inside a landfill! Watch a video clip of the recycling facility in action!

Also available as a field trip to Retzer (facility use fee applies)

Call 262-896-8300 for further details and availability of this program.

Owl Pellet Dissection

Ages 6-12

1 hour

Take apart an owl pellet and reconstruct its most recent meal! This is a fascinating way to study owl adaptations.



**Waukesha County
Department of
Parks and Land Use**

**Retzer Nature Center
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Waukesha, WI 53188**

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