



Waukesha County
Department of
Parks and Land Use

2016-2017 School Year

Waukesha County Environmental Education School Guide



Waukesha County Environmental Education School Guide



Waukesha County, through its Department of Parks and Land Use, continues to foster the protection, wise use, enhancement, and enjoyment of the County's cultural and natural resources, and the health of its citizens. We have created a School Guide of environmental education opportunities to help engage businesses, citizens and visitors in achieving this objective.

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 hope you take part in the opportunities available throughout this Activity Guide and help us keep Waukesha County a great place to live, work and play.

Paul Farrow,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Waukesha County Executive

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This booklet is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

www.waukeshacounty.gov/EnvironmentalEd



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

Experience your choice of programs in a single visit! Whether it's land, water, resource management 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!

Free Recycling and Water Resources programs held at Retzer! See pages 16-18.

Field Trips

Retzer Nature Center - S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha

Reservations for 2017 programs begin 9/1/2016

A 21 day lead-time is required to book all programs held at Retzer. Since your program has been specifically booked for your group (date, program, time, etc.), fees must be paid 21 days before program date. If booking a program 21 days or less from the program date, payment is due at the time of the booking. We accept credit card payments over the phone.

Program Fees at Retzer Nature Center: (21 day lead-time required)

Program Fee:	Chaperones: (Attend for free)	
1 Hour Program: \$2.25 per student (Minimum of 10 students)	Students ≤ 10	Chaperones 2
1.5 Hour Program: \$3.50 per student (Minimum of 10 students)	11-20 21-30	3 4
2 Hour Program: \$4.50 per student (Minimum of 10 students)	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-2

1 hour
(1.5 hours with craft added)

This program is all about reading and roaming! Teachers can select a seasonal program, and our naturalists will share a story and conduct an outdoor nature hike designed to complement the season and the story.

Fall:

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 Retzer.

Life in a Shell

Turtles, beetles, snails, eggs and nuts! Think of all the things that have a shell! Explore the trails on our way to the pond to see what we can find in a shell. Meet our resident box turtles during the program.

Hide & 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.

Color by Nature

How many different colors can we find while out on the trails? Green frogs, yellow birds, red bugs, blue flowers...Which is your favorite color?

Who's Bugging Me?

Join the naturalist as we sweep nets in the meadow, roll logs in the forest, and flip over rocks in search of the amazing wonders of the insect world.

Winter: (Add snowshoes to your winter Storytime program for an additional \$2.75 per person. Maximum of 30 students per program for this option.)

Sleepy Time

Learn about hibernation as the animals settle in for a long winter's nap. Where will they sleep? Who is still awake and who left us for the winter? Bundle up and come explore the frosty forest as we discover the wonders of winter.

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.

Spring:

Spring has Sprung

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

Things with Wings

Is it a bird? Is it a butterfly? Is it a bee? Is it a seed? Look upwards to see what is flying in the air. Learn how living things use flight in their daily lives for survival. Their intriguing behavior and special adaptations are sure to amaze students.

Pond Adventures

Once upon a time at Retzer... our story begins at the pond. Here we will find princes (frogs), damsels (flies), dragons (flies), and knights in armor (turtles). Let's dig in and see what adventure comes true!

Soil Secrets and Blazin' Blooms

Let's go find the beauties of the season and the secrets of their underground neighbors. Be ready to get dirty as we dig a little deeper to see the hidden helpers of the plant world.

What's in a Name?

Understand how animals get their name and how they are classified by the unique features they display. After reading a fun, rhyming story to start us out, we will go in search of all the classifications.

Retzer Nature Center Programs continued

I Spy the Pond

(Available May - June • 30 students maximum)
Grades 4K-2 1.5 hours

Explore the world of water 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.

I Spy Bugs

(Available Sept., Oct., May & June)
Grades 4K-2 1.5 hours

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.

Creature Features (Indoor)

Grades 4K-2 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.

Animal Adaptations

Grades 3-5 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.

Migration/Hibernation: Should I Stay or Should I Go?

(Available Sept. - March)
Grades 3-5 1.5 hours

Hit the trails to see who you can find. Find out which animals at Retzer stay, sleep or leave during winter. Learn about their special adaptations and strategies that help them to survive and search for their various forms of shelter and food sources. Fall will focus on departure and preparation; spring will focus on arrival and awakening.

Nature Discovery

Grades 4K-2 1.5 hours
(2 hours with nature collage added)

Using the powers of observation and sensory skills, we will have a scavenger experience collecting the natural treasures of the season. Naturalists will modify the exploration according to the seasons.

Be Sensitive!

Grades 4K-2 1.5 hours
Additional \$2.75 per student for snowshoe rental.

Our natural world comes in many different sizes, shapes, colors, textures, odors, sounds and tastes. Explore your senses while discovering the diversity of nature at Retzer. Depending on the season, students may find themselves collecting colorful leaves during fall, smelling & touching plants in the Retzer's Children Garden or snowshoeing through the winter wonderland.

Discover Art in Nature

Grades 4K-2 1.5 hours
Maximum 25 students

Make connections between the natural world and art. Study patterns, colors, shapes, and textures all around us and create an art project using a variety of media appropriate for the season.

Who's Bugging Me? (Incredible Insects!)

(Available Sept., Oct., May & June)
Grades 3-5 1.5 hours

Students connect with the insect world through the use of sweep nets, guide books and bug boxes as they investigate various habitats while comparing and contrasting insect communities up close. Naturalists assist students in identifying and examining the unique adaptations these amazing creatures display.

What Lurks in the Water? (Pond Life!)

(Available May - June)
Grades 3-5 1.5 hours

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

Retzer Nature Center Programs continued

Home Sweet Habitat

Grades 3-5

1.5 hours

Explore wildlife habitats from the viewpoint of the animals that live there. Compare and contrast the different habitats observed. 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. Decide which animal would call a given location "home sweet habitat."

Go Figure! Math in Nature

Grades 3-5

1.5 hours

Discover the connections between math and nature as we hike the trails. Work through a variety of math concepts and find real examples in the natural world. Symmetry, shapes, patterns, sequences will all be observed as we search and measure our way through the forest and prairies.

Soil Secrets and Blazin' Blooms

(Available Sept. & Oct., March - June)

Grades 3-5

1.5 hours

Let's go find the beauties of the season and the secrets of their underground world beneath our feet. Be ready to get dirty as we dig a little deeper to see the hidden helpers of the plant world and the soil's role in making them gorgeous.

What's in a Name? (Animal Classification)

Grades 3-5

1.5 hours

Using observation skills and inquiry on a group exploration, students will cultivate their curiosity while hiking the trails of Retzer. Students learn how to classify an animal by relating it to its habitat/ecosystem and the role of its unique physical and behavioral adaptations.

Mystery of the Forest

Grades 3-5

1.5 hours

Through this interactive program, students will learn how to recognize and describe characteristics that differentiate trees. Students will hike through the forest and oak savanna habitats and identify a variety of Wisconsin trees on the way. Emphasis will be on the immense value trees bring to our ecosystem.

Investigate Art in Nature

Grades 3-5

1.5 hours

Using observation skills and outdoor exploration, students will develop basic art skills. Through a variety of mixed media, students will discover an awareness of the many ecosystems around them and then create an art project that connects them with their experiences in nature.

Nature Exploration

Grades 3-5

1.5 hours

(2 hours with collage added)

Using the powers of observation and sensory skills, we will have an in-depth scavenger experience collecting the natural treasures of the season. Naturalists will modify the exploration according to the season. Program will cover a sampling of the following topics: animal habitats; plant/tree/animal identification; plant and animal adaptations; food chain; predator/prey interactions.

Track That Scat

(Available Jan., Feb. & March)

Grades 3-5

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.

Winter Adventure on Snowshoes

(Available Dec. - March)

Grades 3-5

1.5 hours

Additional \$2.75 per student for snowshoe rental.

Strap on snowshoes and hit the trails of Retzer. Learn how to snowshoe as our naturalist shows amazing outdoor treasures waiting for your class. Discover nature in the wintertime.



Retzer Nature Center Programs continued

Wilderness Explorers

Grades 3-5, 6-8

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?

Let's Wing It - Birds

Grades 3-5, 6-8

1.5 hours

(2 hours with extended option)

Feathers, bones, feet and tails! Discover these feathered flyers from head to tail as we examine their adaptations and unique habits. Pay close attention as we soar with predators and their prey in this winged adventure. A visit from our teaching bird with the help of hands-on items will assist in this exploration of our feathered friends. Travel the trails as we take flight in search of these avian flyers. Extend your program 30 minutes with one of these options:

Discover what a bird of prey enjoyed as its most recent meal **OR** make and fly paper airplanes to represent the 4 different wing types of birds and their motion in air.

Exploring the Prairie

(Available Sept. - Oct.)

Grades 6-8

1.5 hours

The beautiful autumn prairie is a place of wonder and discovery. A visit to the prairie underground is included. 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 & amazing stuff

Forest Ecology

Grades 6-8

1.5 hours

Through this interactive program, students will learn how to recognize and describe characteristics that differentiate trees. Students will hike through the forest and oak savanna habitats and identify a variety of Wisconsin trees on the way. Emphasis will be on the immense value trees bring to our ecosystem. A great way to learn how to use a dichotomous key!

Reading the Landscape / A Nature CSI

Grades 6-8

2 hours

Use your detective skills to uncover the "whodunit" of the Retzer landscape. Learn to read the land around you. Students work in teams to investigate the local ecosystems, using field equipment and observation to uncover the fascinating relationships within our environment.

Science in Nature

Grades 6-8*

2.5 hours

Students discover nature using the scientific method, reasoning, data collection and experimentation to answer some of the questions we have about nature. Current issues will be taken into consideration. Service learning component can be added if desired. Choose one from the following topics:

- **Mammal Survival** (Year Round)
- **Gifts of the Glacier** (Year Round)
- **Dealing with Invasive Species** (Sept-Oct & March-June)
- **Water & Soil Chemistry** (Sept-Oct & April-June)
- **Forest Ecology** (Sept-Oct & May-June)
- **Pollinators and the Prairie** (Sept-Oct & May-June)
- **Life in Winter** (Nov-March)

* Program can be adapted for grades 9-12 upon request.

Retzer Nature Center Programs continued

Create Art in Nature

Grades 6-8 1.5 hours

Bridge the gap between the creative art processes and observations of the natural world around us. Through a variety of media, students will create a personalized, reflective art piece to help understand the ecosystems, habitats, and adaptations of life at Retzer. Art projects will vary with the season and supplies will be provided.

Snowshoe Trekking

Grades 6-8 1.5 hours

Additional \$2.75 per student for snowshoe rental.

Don't let winter get you down. Learn how to snowshoe as our naturalists show cool outdoor treasures waiting for your class! Learn about nature in winter as you trek the hills and valleys of Retzer.

Tracks, Scat and Other Wild Stuff

(Available Jan. - March)

Grades 6-8 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.

Extend a Retzer Program

Add a 30 minute program to your class field trip to enhance a scheduled nature center program.

Create A Critter

Grades 4K-5 30 minutes

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

Web of Life

Grades 4K-8 30 minutes

Make physical connections between living things within a common ecosystem and watch as a web of life emerges! Game will be related to the main program selected.

Biodiversity Game

Grades 3-8 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.

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).

Add a Recycling or Water Resources program to your Retzer experience for free. See pages 16-18.

Retzer Nature Center Programs continued

At-School Programs

\$75 per 1 hour program (includes mileage charge) • \$110 per 1.5 hour program
Maximum of 30 students per program

Nature Storytime

Grades 4K-2

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 on a theme from nature. See page 5 for available storytime programs.

Who's There? - All About Owls

Grades 4K-5

1 hour

(1.5 hours with owl pellet dissection added)

Decipher these feathered flyers from head to toe as we uncover their amazing adaptations, unique behaviors and habitats. A visit from our teaching birds and hands-on objects will assist in this exploration of our feathered friends. Extend your experience by dissecting an owl pellet.

Creature Features (Animal Adaptions)

Grades 4K-5

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.

Let's Wing It – Birds

Grades 3-8

1.5 hours

(2 hours with extended option)

Feathers, bones, feet and tails! Discover these feathered flyers from head to tail as we examine their adaptations and unique habits. A visit from our teaching bird with the help of hands-on items will assist in this exploration of our feathered friends. Extend your program 30 minutes with one of these options:

Discover what a bird of prey enjoyed as its most recent meal **OR** make and fly paper airplanes to represent the 4 different wing types of birds and their motion in air.



Add a Recycling or Water Resources program for free. See pages 16-18 .

Like "Retzer Nature Center" on Facebook & Follow @waukeshacoparks on Twitter



Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers

2nd Annual Waukesha County Land Conservation Teacher Tour

**Wednesday, July 20th
from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Location: Starts at
Retzer Nature Center,
S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha

Fee: Free—box lunch included

*Limit 30 teachers/administrators
(from Waukesha County schools
only—first come, first served)*



Broaden your background knowledge of your own community! Join our Land Resources Division staff for a coach bus tour, including a dairy & CSA farm, soil profile, composting operations and more. A Certificate of Completion will be provided.

Call 262-896-8300 for more information or to register.

Project Water Education for Teachers

Project WET Training Session

Thursday, August 18 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Retzer Nature Center - S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha

Course Fee: \$25.00

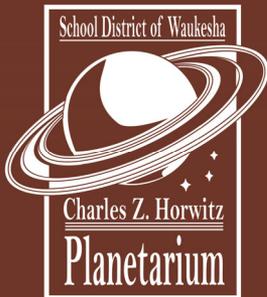
Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is hands-on activities to learn about water designed and tested by teachers. Best of all, Project WET is fun! In this workshop, we will focus on stormwater and how it impacts the environment. Spend a day at Retzer Nature Center:

- Learning how to use the hands-on learning activities, including water quality testing and macro-invertebrate sampling
- Sharing ideas and tips with other teachers
- Learning about local program resources

The \$25 workshop fee covers all program materials, morning break and beverages, and the project WET guidebook—please bring your own bag lunch.

Call 262-970-6680 to register.

Please register by August 10th, 2016.



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 at S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha

Reservations for 2017 programs begin 9/1/2016

All full-length shows are 1 hour long unless otherwise noted. The shows include a brief tour of the current evening sky and a "feature" program of your choice. All Planetarium shows can be booked in 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 thereafter

"Extended Show" Base Fee : \$50.00

Up to first 10 persons, then
\$5.00 per person thereafter

Chaperones: Guidelines

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

Combination Program Planetarium & Nature Center: Follow Retzer Nature Center's chaperone requirements on page 4 (chaperones attend for free)

Retzer Nature Center's/Charles Z. Horwitz Planetarium'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.

Charles Horwitz Planetarium Programs

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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

♦Planetarium Director's Best Choice for this grade level

Charles Horwitz Planetarium Programs continued

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.

Space Aliens “Looking for Life in the Universe”

Grades 5 - 12

♦Grades 8-10

Join our “experts,” Hopeful and Skeptical as they try to convince each other whether or not life exists on other planets in outer space. Follow their astrobiology arguments from the ocean floor to a journey across the galaxy. This fantastic new program is produced by the Daniel Soref Planetarium at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Cosmic Colors

Grades 5 – 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!

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.

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.

Voyage to the Edge of the Universe

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.

Black Holes, Point of No Return

Grades 6 - 12

Scientists explain how stars 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. Add a second “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

\$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, 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.

Fundraising Expectations with Environmental Education



Waukesha County Educators provide seasonal programs that raise funds for your school while students actively explore nature! Whether it's snowshoeing, hiking, pond critters or papermaking, choose your activities for fundraising fun!



To learn more and book a fundraiser at Retzer Nature Center call 262-896-8014



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

All Recycling Programs are FREE and can be held at Retzer Nature Center, at your school or as a Field Trip!

At-Retzer and At-School Programs

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot!

Grades Pre-K, K-2, 3-4

30 minutes

Pre-K: Learn about 3 of the 4 “Rs,” what to recycle and what happens to your recyclables. See inside a landfill. Meet some of Recycle Raccoon’s friends! *Optional: a visit from Recycle Raccoon mascot.*

K-2: Learn about the 4 “Rs.” What goes in the recycling bin? Where do recyclables go? What do they become? Help sort recyclables like the workers at the recycling plant. Play a matching game. Feel a plastic bottle turned into fuzzy filling! See video clips of our new recycling facility in action! Take home a pencil made from old blue jeans. *Optional: a visit from Recycle Raccoon mascot.*

3-4: Learn about the 4 “Rs” in order of importance. Review new items that go in the bin, find out where they go and what they become. Do a waste sort. Watch a video clip of our new high-tech single-sort recycling facility in action! Discover the benefits of reducing waste and recycling, and the positive effects they have on our planet!

School Recycling Assembly (At-School Only)

Grades K-2, 3-5 or all-school

45 minutes

(shorter versions available)

Our high-energy recycling assemblies are sure to rev up your students to recycle more and recycle right! A spirited recycling relay race along with group games and PowerPoint images have been a hit!

Slurry, Sludge and Shred: Let’s Make Paper!

Grades K-2, 3-6

45-60 minutes

K-2: Does paper always have to be made from trees? How does it get recycled? We will make our own recycled paper, play a guessing game, feel paper made from other plants and take home a sample of paper made from elephant dung! See a short video of how paper is sorted at our new recycling plant!

3-6: Play a team game to find out what unexpected products come from trees. Find out how paper can be made without them! Watch a short video on paper production, what happens to paper at the recycling facility, and how recycled paper is made at the mill. Make your own recycled paper to understand the process.

Complements Foss Science Unit and WI history/Forestry



Waukesha County Recycling Programs continued

Rot is Hot! Composting

Grades Pre-K-1, 2-6 30-60 minutes
(Available in Spring/Fall only if observing live organisms)

Pre-K-1: Hear a story about Slop. Observe compost critters up close with magnifiers. Play a "What Goes In?" game and learn the four things that make compost happen!

2-6: Learn about nature's decomposers and how they create compost. Observe live compost microorganisms through magnifiers and microscopes. Learn the four critical components that help make compost happen and what goes in the bin through age-appropriate games and activities.

Considering composting at school? Contact our office for information/assistance: 262-896-8300

Wiggle with Worms/Vermicomposting

Grades Pre-K-2, 3-6 1 hour

Pre-K-2: Observe and examine nature's recyclers - worms! Discover how worm bodies work, how they behave and how they help nature. Use magnifiers to search for worm eggs and decomposers that share their home and job duties. Pre-Ks take home their own "worm" to care for!

3-6: Vermicomposting! Learn about nature's ultimate recyclers: worms! Students will observe, assess and discuss worm structure, behavior and needs with the aid of magnifiers and microscopes, along with locating worm eggs and the decomposers that share their home and job duties.



Field Trip

The Materials Recycling Facility
1401 West Mount Vernon Avenue - Milwaukee, WI 53233
Cost of bus trip is included for Waukesha County Green Schools

Tour of the Recycling Facility

Grades 5-12 1 hour (plus travel time)

Tour the Waukesha County/City of Milwaukee recycling facility. Observe the fascinating combination of physics, technology and workers sorting the new mix of recyclable materials before heading to market. Learn the details of what can be recycled, why some things cannot, who is buying each commodity and what it will become.

Like "Waukesha County Recycles"
on Facebook & Follow
@WaukCoRecycles 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 and can be held at Retzer Nature Center, at your school or as a Field Trip!

At-Retzer and At-School Programs

Got Water?

Grades 3-12

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. If students prepare questions for a question/answer session, allow 60 minutes.

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. 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

Activities are age dependent and may include learning about the soil profile, particle size, erosion, and texture. These activities are both visual and hands-on and may be a little messy or “dirty” and will need access to a sink and water.

Get the Groundwater Picture

Grades 4-12

30 minutes

Learn how a well works and what goes on above ground that affects our drinking water supply. See how groundwater moves and functions using a groundwater model. This model helps take the guesswork out of groundwater.

Field Trip

River CSI—Who’s Polluting the Water

Grades 5-12

1 hour

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. Programming activities depend on age and number of students and time available. 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.



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!

At-School Programs

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.

