

Boone County Conservation District

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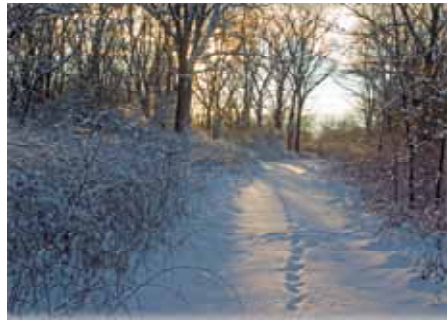
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*"Let your walks be a little more adventurous."
-Henry David Thoreau*

Boone County...



Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area



Spencer Conservation Area



LIB Conservation Area



Flora Prairie Nature Preserve



Distillery Conservation Area



LIB Conservation Area

Naturally



Distillery Conservation Area

Formed in 1964, the Boone County Conservation District began offering educational programming for school groups and the general public through various classes and trips throughout the year, which continues today. The District offers school programs for Pre-K through 12th grade. Living history, ecology, and native flora and fauna are just some of the programs given on-site, as well as some programs offered as an in-school option. Teachers, scout groups, and organizations may call and request special interest programs. Staff will be happy to speak at your class, meeting or scout program.

Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center

The Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center, (formerly known as the Administration/Nature Center), was re-named in 2008 to honor the District's first Executive Director, and is home to live and mounted displays of local wildlife. The Nature Center is open Monday-Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM. The interior of the building is unique because of the hand-picked limestone columns. If you look closely, you will be able to find many fossils within these rocks. The Nature Center is located at the Northern edge of Spencer Conservation Area.

Riffles & Eddies

Reminders of District happenings, events and educational program information can be found in "Riffles & Eddies", a free quarterly newsletter. If you would like to be placed on our mailing or email list, please contact the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center at (815) 547-7935. The newsletter can also be viewed online at www.BooneCountyConservationDistrict.org under the "Newsletter" tab.

Self-guided Visits

Teachers are welcome to bring their classes to conservation areas for self-guided trips. There is no fee, but permits are required for groups of 25 or more. Permits may be picked up at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center, 603 N. Appleton Rd., Belvidere, IL 61008 or by calling (815) 547-7935.

Scout Programs

Scout leaders are encouraged to visit the BCCD for badge workshops. Please contact the BCCD at (815) 547-7935 for specific programs. Classes are typically held during after school hours, or on Saturdays. Please see the Fee Schedule for cost of the programs.

"It is only in adventure that some people succeed in knowing themselves."
—André Gide



Your Conservation Areas

The District manages over 2,500 acres of prairies, woodlands and wetlands in 24 conservation areas. These sites are home to a wide array of diverse flora and fauna. Maps are available at the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center for certain Conservation Areas. Conservation Areas listed below are open to the public.

Anderson Bend Conservation Area– 540 acres *combined with Distillery & Nelson Ford*
7421 Distillery Rd. Belvidere, IL 61008

Beaver Bluffs Conservation Area– 79.1 acres; *Presently, only the N side of river open*
897 Bus. Rt. 20 Belvidere, IL 61008

Distillery Conservation Area– 540 acres *combined with Anderson Bend & Nelson Ford*
7421 Distillery Rd. Belvidere, IL 61008

Edward’s Park & Conservation Area– 21 acres
15339 Rt. 76 Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Elmhurst Chicago Stone Wetland– 12.7 acres; *limited access*
802 Ipsen Rd. Belvidere, IL 61008

Flora Prairie Nature Preserve– 10 acres
498 Poole Rd. Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Green Giant Prairie– 13 acres; *limited access*
1886 Bridgewater Dr. Belvidere, IL 61008

Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area– 429 acres; *Includes Nature Preserve*
18388 Caledonia Rd. Caledonia, IL 61011

LIB Conservation Area– 200 acres
5601 Newburg Rd. Belvidere, IL 61008

Long Prairie Trail (Bike Path)- 14.2 miles
Runs East-West; Parking lots in Caledonia, Poplar Grove & County Line Rd. in Capron

Nelson Ford Conservation Area– 540 acres *combined with Anderson Bend & Distillery*
739 Distillery Rd. Belvidere, IL 61008

O.O. Stimes Memorial Park– 26 acres
14897 Mill Rd. Capron, IL 61012

Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area– 40 acres
8605 Norris Ln. Capron, IL 61012

Sewell Conservation Area– 200 acres; *limited access*
10683 Fruit Farm Rd. Belvidere, IL 61008

Spencer Conservation Area– 353.72 acres
1318 N. Appleton Rd. Belvidere, IL 61008

Tuttle Clarkson Natural Area– 28.63 acres
7300 Rt. 173 Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Wagner Conservation Area– 8.2 acres; *limited access*
11310 Station St. Garden Prairie, IL 61038

All Conservation Areas are open year-round with hours from one-half hour before dawn to one-half hour after dusk unless other- wise posted.

Program Information

Scheduling a Field Trip

Field trip sign-ups begin at 7:00AM. Please refer to your program flyer for specific dates. Program sign up information can also be found in the District's newsletter, "Riffles & Eddies."

Preparing For a Field Trip

After you schedule your field trip, you will be sent a program confirmation in the mail or by email. Be sure to check the information to ensure accuracy. Please fill in the information pertaining to field trip arrival, number of students and adults, and please mail/fax it back to the Boone County Conservation District. If you do not receive a program confirmation, please contact the BCCD.

Please be sure to note the program's location and cost, as these may have changed from previous years.



So as not to interfere or disrupt the learning experience, please help BCCD staff in reminding adults accompanying a field trip to turn off or silence cell phones. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- *Make sure everyone dresses for the weather, especially winter temperatures.
- *Wear shoes that are comfortable for walking; no open-toes or heels, please.
- *Raincoat or poncho when it's raining.
- *We will be outside rain or shine, only severe weather will keep us inside.
- *Everyone should wear a nametag.
- *Please bring one adult for every seven students; four or five per class is ideal.
- *The teacher is responsible for all discipline.

Special Program Requests

Although the Boone County Conservation District offers a wide range of educational programming, we understand that all of these may not fit in with your lesson plans. Education staff is able to offer customized programs, either in-school or site-based, to meet your needs. Please note we require a two week notice for customized programming. Call the Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center at (815) 547-7935 or refer to page 9 of this guide for additional information.





Additional Education Information

Meet Our Nature Center Critters!

Our nature center critters would love to come and meet your class. Our critters include Milky Way, a milk snake; CT and Flo, 3-toed box turtles; Slippy, a red-eared slider; Myrtle, a painted turtle; Pepsi and Sprite, leopard geckoes; and our Madagascar hissing cockroaches, too many to name! Call the BCCD to schedule a critter visit for your classroom!



Dawson's River Road Schoolhouse

The Boone County Conservation District will be building a replica of the River Road school on the Festival Grounds located in Spencer Conservation Area. The River Road school was located 2.5 miles west of Belvidere on Newburg Road. Once completed, the District will have a working replica of a late 19th century one room school house. **Anticipated programs** include using the school for the District's fall programs, as well as classroom teachers being able to rent the facility to either teach their own class (a period costume will be provided upon request) or have BCCD staff conduct a class for you. Additional information will be sent at a later date. Keep an eye out!

IL Dept. of Natural Resources Trunks

The Boone County Conservation District is a host-site for two Illinois Department of Natural Resources Learning Trunks. These trunks are available to be loaned out to any classroom for two weeks. Choose between **Illinois Prairies** and **Illinois State Symbols**. Requesting a trunk is FREE, but call soon to reserve your date! Please see page 5 for additional information on the State Symbols and Prairie trunks. If you'd like to learn about additional IDNR lending trunks or various educational materials, visit www.dnr.state.il.us, and click on the Education link.

Lending Trunks

Illinois Department of Natural Resources



Illinois State Symbols



Illinois Prairies

Illinois State Symbols

Are you teaching about Illinois' state symbols? Then borrow the Illinois State Symbols trunk! Photos, replicas, actual examples, activity books and other items are included for your use. *All items are correlated to the Illinois Learning Standards and the Illinois Early Learning Standards.*

Suggested grades: K-6 but can be modified for other grade levels.

Illinois Prairies

Are you teaching about prairies or the people who inhabited the prairies? Then borrow the Illinois Prairies trunk! Field guides, activity books, reference manuals, bison artifacts, numerous lessons, CD-ROMs and other items are included for your use. *All items are correlated to the Illinois Learning Standards.*

Suggested grades: 4-8 but can be modified for other grade levels.

Additional Information:

Various teaching resources and educator classes (CPDUs offered) can be found by contacting the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Education.

Division of Education
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
(217) 524-4126
dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov

or visit

www.dnr.state.il.us



Field Trip Opportunities

First Grade

"Magic of Winter"

January through February

Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center

In this program, students become scientists and explorers as they learn what makes winter unique. The morning is spent learning about weather, measuring temperature and wind speed and doing some outdoor activities. Over the lunch period students have the opportunity to explore the Nature Center. In the afternoon, students learn what different animals do in the winter and the signs they leave, before venturing out to investigate. Each student receives a journal in which to record the day's adventures. *Half-day and in-school programs are available.*

Second Grade

"Springtime in Spencer"

April through May

Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center

Students become explorers for a day as they learn the differences between mammals and birds, reptiles and amphibians, and insects and arachnids. After becoming an "expert" in these animal groups, we head outside to find as many of them (or at least as much evidence) as we can while hiking and playing games through woods, wetlands and prairie. Students also make a craft representative of one of the described animal groups. *In-school programs are available.*

Third Grade

"Habitats are Homes"

April through May

Spencer Conservation Area

For this program, students learn what components make up a habitat and how important each component is. Scavenger hunts and games help to focus students on each of our four habitats—woods, wetlands, prairie and dead logs, as well as how human activity impacts habitat quality. After lunch we make a habitat-related craft and do some more exploring.

"You can discover more in an hour of play than you can in a lifetime of conversation." -Unknown

Please refer to page 8 for program cost

Field Trip Opportunities

Fourth Grade

"Living History"

October through November

Roger D. Gustafson Nature Center & Festival Grounds

Fur Traders (1700's) Students learn about the Voyageurs, or French fur traders, the Native Americans and how the two groups interacted. Over the course of the day students will prepare their lunch, which is cooked over an open fire, tour a Potawatomi village, practice Voyageur skills, like throwing a tomahawk, running a bale-portaging relay, fur identification; and play a trading game and make a period craft.

Pioneers (1800's) This is a living history program in which students travel back to the 1840's. They will learn about the pioneers, why they came West and the pioneer lifestyle. During this program students will help prepare their lunch to be cooked on an open fire, explore an authentic 1840's cabin and homestead, learn about pioneer recreation hands-on by throwing the tomahawk and playing with pioneer toys, do chores and make their very own pioneer craft.

Fifth & Sixth Grades

"Populations & Ecosystems"

October through November

Spencer Conservation Area

Fifth and sixth graders become ecologists for the day and discover the ecosystems in Boone County. This program focuses on ecosystems, population change, food chains and food webs. They will get to explore prairie, forest and wetland ecosystems and participate in hands-on games and activities.

Junior High & High School

"Outdoor Recreation"

September through May

Various Conservation Areas

Junior high and high school students have the opportunity to come to the BCCD and participate in various low/minimum impact recreational opportunities. Program opportunities include (but are not limited to), canoeing classes (taught by ACA certified instructors), GPS, map and compass, Leave No Trace™, tent camping, fire building, backpacking, outdoor survival, cross country skiing/snowshoe, fishing, and letterboxing.



Please refer to page 8 for program cost

Boone County Conservation District
Fee Schedule*

1st through 6th grade school programs at BCCD

In Boone County.....\$2 per student

Out-of-County.....\$4 per student

*The first 6 adults (including teacher) are free.
Additional adults will pay the per student price.*

Autumn Pioneer Festival School Day

Open to any grade level.....FREE

Junior High & High School groups at BCCD

In Boone County.....\$25 per class up to 3 hours (\$10 each additional hour)

Out-of-County.....\$30 per class up to 3 hours (\$10 each additional hour)

In-School Programs (Pre-K through 12th)

In Boone County.....\$15 per class for 1 hour (\$5 each additional hour or class)

Out-of-County.....\$20 per class for 1 hour (\$5 each additional hour or class)

PreK-K Groups at BCCD

In Boone County.....\$1 per student

Out-of-County.....\$2 per student

1 to 2 hour program

Public Presentations to Organized Groups

In Boone County.....FREE

Scout Groups at BCCD

In Boone County.....\$2.00 per student

Out-of-County.....\$4.00 per student

\$25 fee for Saturday programs, or per scout fee, whichever is greater.

**Please note that prices may be subject to change without notice.*

Boone County Conservation District

Program Request Form



COPY ME!

Please note: This Program Request Form is for in-school programs only. For additional information on programs held at BCCD sites, please refer to pages 4-6 of this guide or call (815) 547-7935.

Thank you!

School Name: _____ Teacher's Name: _____

Grade Level: _____ Number of Students: _____

Please select a program from the lists below, or write-in your own.

| Elementary (K-4th) | Upper Elem. (5th-6th) | Jr. High (7th-8th) | High School (9th-12th) |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bats (1st-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bees | <input type="checkbox"/> Bees | <input type="checkbox"/> Aldo Leopold/ The Land Ethic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bees (K-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Adaptations | <input type="checkbox"/> Cells | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Soil Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Adaptations (3rd-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cells (6th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Club (Env. lit focus) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species (3rd-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species | <input type="checkbox"/> GPS | <input type="checkbox"/> Cells |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exploring Nature (K-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploring Nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater | <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furs (3rd-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Furs | <input type="checkbox"/> Gun Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> GPS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GPS (3rd-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> GPS | <input type="checkbox"/> Insects | <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gun Safety (2nd-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater | <input type="checkbox"/> Letterboxing | <input type="checkbox"/> Gun Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letterboxing (4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gun Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Map & Compass | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfills & Reclamation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map & Compass (4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Insects | <input type="checkbox"/> Owls | <input type="checkbox"/> Letterboxing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Owls (K-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Letterboxing | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Map & Compass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling (1st-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Map & Compass | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Skills Leave No Trace™ Survival/Outdoor Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles (2nd-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Owls | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Prim. Camping Tech. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Symbols (1st-4th) | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling | <input type="checkbox"/> The Incredible Journey | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |
| <i>Feel free to request your own!</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> State Symbols (5th) | <i>Feel free to request your own!</i> | <i>Feel free to request your own!</i> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |
| | <i>Feel free to request your own!</i> | | |

Thank you for your interest in an in-school program. We look forward to visiting your class. *You may fax, mail, email, or phone in your program request.* An education staff member will contact you to confirm a date that fits the schedule of both teacher and staff alike.

Boone County Conservation District
603 N. Appleton Rd., Belvidere, IL 61008
(815) 547-7935 Fax: (815) 547-7939
www.BooneCountyConservationDistrict.org



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603 North Appleton Rd.

Belvidere, IL 61008

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Fax: (815) 547-7939

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"Must we always teach our children with books? Let them look at the mountains and the stars up above. Let them look at the beauty of the waters and the trees and flowers on earth. They will then begin to think, and to think is the beginning of real education."

-David Polis



Photographs courtesy of Joe O'Sullivan