



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

Bolingbrook Park District's Hidden Oaks Nature Center offers a variety of grade appropriate, inquiry-based programs that will guide your students to a greater knowledge and appreciation for the natural world. Aligned with the Illinois State Standards, experience nature each season through fun, hands-on educational programming. These programs engage students outdoors to bring a better understanding of nature into your classroom.



OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
PreK-K	<p>F is for Fall Let's Get Squirrely Sensing the Season</p>	<p>Snooze or Lose Winter Water Outreach</p>	<p>Mother Nature's Newborns S is for Spring Sensing the Season</p>
1st-3rd	<p>A Place Called Home Leaf Lessons Autumn Animals Water Wonders</p>	<p>Constellation Storytelling Mammal Mania Outreach</p>	<p>A Seed's Needs Pollination Exploration A Place Called Home</p>
4th-5th	<p>Our Ancient Landscapes Eco Explorations Food Web Fun Water Wonders</p>	<p>Constellation Storytelling Jammin' Geology Outreach</p>	<p>Our Ancient Landscapes Eco Explorations Food Web Fun Water Wonders</p>
6th-8th	<p>Grassland Ecology Woodland Ecology Wetland Ecology Go Green</p>	<p>Go Green Watershed Outreach</p>	<p>Grassland Ecology Woodland Ecology Wetland Ecology Go Green</p>

PROGRAM DETAILS

Spring

Preschool – K (1 hour)

Mother Nature's Newborns

From nests so high to burrows so low, explore the places that nature's animal babies call home! Discover their habitats, learn their calls and practice how they move. Hip, hop...tweet, tweet, tweet.

Illinois State Standards:

12 A- life cycles

12 B – needs of living things

12 E - weather

12 F - seasons

S is for Spring

Discover nature's alphabet block S for Sun, Seeds, Surprises and more! Search for green plants, blooming flowers and the sweet smells of the season. Discover why spring is so special.

Illinois State Standards:

1 A- letters

1 A- pictures and symbols

11 A - senses

12 A- categorize

Sensing the Season

Touch, see, smell and listen for spring awakening after a long winter's nap. Find the colors of the rainbow, search for nature textures and experience seasonal change.

Illinois State Standards:

9 A- shapes & structures

11 A- senses

11 B- investigative tools

12 F- seasonal changes



1st – 3rd Grade (1 hour)

A Seed's Needs

Discover the newness of the season as the sweet smell of rainbow blooms fill the air. Investigate what a seed needs to grow and all of its important plant parts from roots to fruits.

Illinois State Standards:

12 A- plant parts

12 A- life cycle

12 B- adaptations

12 B- characteristics

Pollination Exploration

Explore the world of pollination from the buzzing bees and fluttering butterflies to the fragrant spring flowers. Hunt for insects in the grass and under logs, and find out how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly.

Illinois State Standards:

12 A- life cycles

12 B- relationships

12 B- insect parts

12 E- natural resources

A Place Called Home

Uncover the animal homes and habitats of Hidden Oaks. Visit multiple unique habitats to find who lives there and how they work together to survive. Discover how a single tree or one small square of savanna can provide all the needs for a variety of creatures.

Illinois State Standards:

12 A - adaptations

12 A - characteristics

12 B - habitats

12.B - interdependence



4th and 5th Grade (1.5 hours)

Our Ancient Landscapes

Find out what our region was like before shopping malls and interstates. Determine how physical forces like glaciers changed the topography of the landscapes and how climate played a role in the diversity of plant and animal life in our area. Take a trip back in time and uncover secrets of the peoples that once called Illinois home and see how they used the land for survival.

Illinois State Standards:

- 12 E - earth's processes
- 13 B - settlement impact
- 16 E - Illinois settlement
- 17 B - human and natural influences

Eco Explorations

Become a scientist for a day and discover the ecosystems of Hidden Oaks. Use scientific tools, observations and hands-on activities to explore the plants, animals, weather and soil that define each ecosystem.

Illinois State Standards:

- 11 A - data collection
- 12 B - habitats
- 12 B - relationships
- 12 B - living and non-living things
- 12 E - Earth's processes

Food Web Fun

From fungus to foxes, everything is connected! Explore food chains and food webs. Search for evidence of these relationships and how predators and prey interact. The living web demonstrates how even the smallest influences are felt throughout the web.

Illinois State Standards:

- 12 A - characteristics
- 12 B - food webs
- 12 B - relationships
- 12 B - predator/prey

Water Wonders

Discover the amazing properties of water in a solid, liquid and gas. Witness water's super powers through hands-on experiments, and get up-close with aquatic insects in a wetland ecosystem.

Illinois State Standards:

- 12 A - characteristics
- 12 B - adaptations
- 12 C - properties of matter
- 12 E - water features



6th – 8th Grade (1.5 hours)

Grassland Ecology

Discover why grasslands are so unique and important to Illinois. Look and listen for creatures that thrive in grassland ecosystems. Use scientific instruments to measure the elements and identify native plants to determine the health of an Oak Savanna.

Illinois State Standards:

- 11 A - interpret results
- 11 A - data collection
- 12 B - adaptations
- 12 B - relationships

Woodland Ecology

Hike into our woodland ravine ecosystem and discover the plants and animals that live there. Study the soil, topography, and weather using scientific tools. Compare results and discuss what makes this ecosystem different than any other.

Illinois State Standards:

- 11 A - interpret results
- 11 A - data collection
- 12 B - adaptations
- 12 B - relationships

Wetland Ecology

Take part in physical, biological and chemical experiments to see if the local watershed is healthy. Net for aquatic insects, gather water samples and explore the landscape to determine the water quality.

Illinois State Standards:

- 11 A - formulate hypothesis
- 11 A - interpret results
- 12 B - adaptations
- 12 B - relationships

Go Green

Tour Bolingbrook's LEED Platinum certified green building, The Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Discover how water, energy and resource conservation play an important role in today's green technology. Work as a team to solve environmental case studies and balance nature with the needs of people.

Illinois State Standards:

- 11 A - interpret results
- 13 B - resource acquisition
- 17 B - natural resource quality
- 17 C - geographic factors



Fall

Preschool – K (1 hour)

F is for Fall

Discover nature's alphabet block F for fur, falling leaves, fruit and more. Hike through the woodland to investigate how plants change in fall and how animals prepare for winter. F is for fun!

Illinois State Standards:

- 1 A- letters
- 1 A- pictures and symbols
- 11 A - senses
- 12 A- categorize

Let's Get Squirrely

Scurrying! Collecting! Stashing! Uncover the busy life of a squirrel, and other small mammals, that are in a hurry to prepare for winter. Interactive games, hands-on activities and an exploration hike will have you munching for more.

Illinois State Standards:

- 12 A- changes
- 12 F- seasons
- 12 B- needs
- 19 A- gross motor skills

Sensing the Season

Crunch through the crisp, colorful fall season discovering leaves, seeds and the life of a log. Get in touch with nature. Try hands-on activities to refresh your senses. We will hike through the woodlands to touch, smell, see and hear the magic of the season.

Illinois State Standards:

- 9 A- shapes & structures
- 11 A- senses
- 11 B- investigative tools
- 12 F- seasonal changes



1st- 3rd Grade (1 hour)

A Place Called Home

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- 12 A adaptations
- 12 A - characteristics
- 12 B - habitats
- 12 B - interdependence

Leaf Lessons

Experience the colorful fall season by examining the processes of a tree. Trees teach photosynthesis, plant life cycles and the interconnectedness of a woodland ecosystem. Build a human tree, make a bark and leaf rubbing and identify native Illinois trees!

Illinois State Standards:

- 12 A – tree parts & categories
- 12 A - plant characteristics
- 12 B - interdependence
- 12 E - seasonal change

Autumn Animals

Busy squirrels, hungry coyotes and restless birds have something in common this time of year, getting ready for winter. Find out how animals prepare for the snowy season while searching for animal tracks and signs. Head into the woods for a sensory hike, animal home building and hands-on activities.

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- 12 A - characteristics
- 12 B - habitats
- 12 B - relationships
- 12 E - seasonal change

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4th – 5th Grade (1.5 hours)

Our Ancient Landscapes

Find out what our region was like before shopping malls and interstates. Determine how physical forces like glaciers changed the topography of the landscapes and how climate played a role in the diversity of plant and animal life in our area. Take a trip back in time and uncover secrets of the peoples that once called Illinois home and see how they used the land for survival.

Illinois State Standards:

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- 16 E - Illinois settlement
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- 12 A - characteristics
- 12 B - adaptations
- 12 C - properties of matter
- 12 E - water features



6th – 8th Grades (1.5 hours)

Our Ancient Landscapes

Find out what our region was like before shopping malls and interstates. Determine how physical forces like glaciers changed the topography of the landscapes and how climate played a role in the diversity of plant and animal life in our area. Take a trip back in time and uncover secrets of the peoples that once called Illinois home and see how they used the land for survival.

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11 A - interpret results

11 A - data collection

12 B - adaptations

12 B - relationships



6th – 8th Grades (1.5 hours) - Continued

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Take part in physical, biological and chemical experiments to see if the local watershed is healthy. Net for aquatic insects, gather water samples and explore the landscape to determine the water quality.

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- 11 A - formulate hypothesis
- 11 A - interpret results
- 12 B - adaptations
- 12 B - relationships

Go Green

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- 11 A - interpret results
- 13 B - resource acquisition
- 17 B - natural resource quality
- 17 C - geographic factors



Winter

Preschool – K (1 hour)

Snooze or Lose

Brrrr.... With nature all wrapped in a snow white blanket, explore the foot prints left behind. Whose tracks are those? How did it prepare for winter? Discover how nature's nappers, snackers, sleepers and flappers adapt to the frigid weather.

Illinois State Standards:

- 11 A - senses
- 12 B - needs
- 12 A - changes
- 12 F - seasons

Winter Water Outreach

Water, water everywhere... snow, ice and rain! Join snowflakes in their floating dance to earth as we explore the different states of matter, big winter facts and use scientific equipment to find out just how cold it is.

Illinois State Standards:

- 11 A - collect information
- 11 B - scientific tools
- 12 E - weather vocabulary
- 12 F - seasons

1st – 3rd Grade (1 hour)

Mammal Mania Outreach

What makes a mammal a mammal? Compare these special characteristics to other animals. Feel animal furs, examine skulls and bones and the signs mammals leave behind. Use clues from nature to determine a mammal's needs to survive.

Illinois State Standards:

- 12 A - mammal characteristics
- 12 A - life cycles
- 12 B - habitats
- 12 B - food chains

Constellation Storytelling

Join us at Hidden Oaks Nature Center to gaze at the stars in our indoor classroom. Blend history and stories of the skies together to discover navigation and mythology. Head outside to uncover the mysteries of the solar system.

Illinois State Standards:

- 12 F - solar system and constellations
- 12 D - gravitational pulls
- 13 B - navigation and telescopes
- 16 E - mythology and History



4th - 5th Grade (1.5 hours)

Jammin' Geology Outreach

Rock out in your classroom while uncovering what lies beneath the earth's surface. Discover the three categories of rock, how volcanoes work, how mountains form and why glaciers are so cool! Students will have the opportunity to see geologic processes up close by making their own rock right at their desk.

Illinois State Standards:

12 D - actions and reactions

12 E - rock cycle

12 E - earth processes

17 B - physical processes

Constellation Storytelling

Join us at Hidden Oaks Nature Center to gaze at the stars in our indoor classroom. Blend history and stories of the skies together to discover navigation and mythology. Head outside to uncover the mysteries of the solar system!

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12 F - solar system and constellations

12 D - gravitational pulls

13 B - navigation and telescopes

16 E - mythology and history

6th - 8th Grade (1.5 hours)

Watershed Outreach

Where does the water in your faucet come from? Soak up the many ways that all of the earth's water is connected to the water we drink and use everyday. Develop your own watershed to find your water's origin and hypothesize ways of protecting it.

Illinois State Standards:

11 B - town planning

12 E - erosion

13 B - resource acquisition

17 B - human and natural influences

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13 B - resource acquisition

17 B - natural resource quality

17 C - geographic factors



Additional Programs-1st grade and up

Fishing

Identify common Illinois fish and discover the fundamentals of responsible fishing. Practice casting, baiting a hook, and catching a fish. Bait and fishing poles provided.

Environmental Stewardship Projects

Restore and protect our natural areas by collecting native seeds, planting in sensitive ecosystems, eradicating invasive plant species or picking up litter. Safety equipment and tools provided.

Customized High School Programming

Biology, Environmental Science and Health and Wellness all relate to nature. Work closely with the Natural Resource staff to customize a program to fit your curriculum.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Registration

Call Jennifer VanDerMolen, Interpretive Services Manager, at (630) 910-2303 with all inquiries or to register for a program. Program availability is based on a first come-first served basis. Early registration is recommended as our program schedule fills quickly. Following registration, program confirmation will be emailed or mailed to you solidifying group information, directions, program guidelines and pre and post program resources. Hidden Oaks Nature Center staff will confirm program details 3-5 business days prior to program.

Guidelines

- Adjustments to the number of program participants must be made no later than 1 week prior to the date of the program.
- Minimum group size is 8. Groups of less than 8 will be required to pay the minimum.
- Program fees may apply to chaperons depending on attendance.
- Siblings are not permitted.
- It is the group's responsibility to obtain the proper permission slips.
- Please direct students to dress for the weather as programs will occur in rain and snow. Long pants and closed toed sturdy shoes are strongly recommended.



Fees

Full payment is due before the start of the program and can be made at the Hidden Oaks Nature Center front desk. Acceptable forms of payment include cash, check, Visa, MasterCard or Discover.

1 Hour Program (Preschool and Kindergarten)

Resident = \$4 / student

Non-Resident = \$5 / student

1.5 Hour Program (1st Grade – 5th Grade)

Resident = \$5 / student

Non-Resident = \$7 / student

2 Hour Program (4th Grade – 8th Grade)

Resident = \$6 / student

Non-Resident = \$8 / student

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be made at least 24 hours in advance or the full fee will be charged. No-shows and cancellations made less than 24 hours in advance will be charged the full price. Please contact Jennifer VanDerMolen, Interpretive Services Manager to reschedule or cancel your program. In the case of inclement weather, we will attempt to reschedule your program or cancel with no charge if needed.

Attendance and Arrival

To ensure the safety of your students, please provide the proper number of chaperons to create a secure environment. Please arrange groups of no more than 15 students accompanied by at least 2 chaperons.

Please arrive early to begin the program at the designated start time as often one program follows another.

Please have each participant wear a clearly marked nametag stating their first name and school to ensure your students safely stay together.

If you plan on picnicking for lunch at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, please bring coolers to store lunches at the assigned picnic table. Please be sure all containers are clearly labeled.

Bus parking is available at J. S. Boan Woods across Trout Farm Road from Hidden Oaks Nature Center and at the end of the road at Hidden Lakes Trout Farm. Please park according to the directions provided for you at registration.



Where the fun is!

Hidden Oaks

NATURE CENTER



Hidden Oaks Nature Center is located at 419 Trout Farm Road and is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm and Sunday from noon-5:00 pm. For more information, call 630.739.2600.