



School Field Trip Programs at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden & Bird Sanctuary

The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary is a spectacular 15-acre garden in Minneapolis with trails meandering through woodlands, wetlands and oak savannas. This natural setting showcases over 500 plant species and 140 migratory birds.

The Garden offers programming for pre-school through high school students. Younger students can hone their observational skills through drawing and explore the Garden using their senses in our one hour long programs. Older students will be able to express themselves not only through sketching but through poetry. They can discover the inhabitants of our three habitats and find out how temperature, sunlight, and wind affects what grows there. Programs for older students are an hour and half in length. Any program can be paired with another for a half day field trip. All programs meet at least one Minnesota State Standard as indicated by corresponding icons. The Garden is wonderful place to explore and just walk through to experience.

Program Availability

The Garden is open from April 1st to October 15th. Programs are available 7 days a week.

Group Size

The Garden requires a minimum of 8 participants to schedule a program. To ensure the best experience, 1 naturalist is scheduled for every 10 participants.

Cost

The cost is \$5.00 per participant per hour for pre-school through high school programs. Chaperones are free of charge. Pre-school and Kindergarten programs are an hour long and elementary through high school programs are an hour half to two hours long.

The Naturalists

Our naturalists have a combination of 20 years experience teaching in the Garden. It is no exaggeration to say these experts bring their passion and excitement into the Garden every day.

Scheduling Your Group

Programs are an hour to two hours long. Groups may schedule more than one program per visit. All programs can be adapted to fit the needs of your class. **Please schedule your visit at least two weeks in advance.**

To Schedule a Program

Contact the Program Coordinator

Phone: 612-499-9244

Email: ebwg@minneapolisparks.org

Standards Icons (complete list of specific MN State Standards available upon request)



Nature of Science & Engineering



Physical Science



Life Science



Earth Science



Visual Arts



Language Arts



Citizen Science/Volunteerism



Pre-K & Kindergarten Programs



\$5.00 per student per hour

Sensory Walk (Spring – Fall) 1 hour

Use your senses while taking a walk through the woods and prairie to search for items in nature. Look for colors, listen for sounds, feel textures, smell the flowers all around!

Nature Scavenger Hunt (Spring – Fall) 1 hour

Learn about the insects and animals that use camouflage in the Garden. Look for some of the masters natural disguise in the Garden and some not-so natural items on our “Un-Nature Trail”.

Nature Sketching (Spring – Fall) 1 hour

Spend an hour taking a close up look at some of the beautiful flowers growing in the Garden and some of the insects that help pollinate our flowers. Students will spend some time drawing and coloring what they see – flowers, insects, and birds – capturing the many colors of nature in their own “nature journals” to take back to school.

Insect Hunt (Summer – Fall) 1 hour

Come along on a hunt for insects! View insects up close and at work in our Garden. Find out why bees, beetles, flies, and even mosquitoes are important residents of the Garden!



1st & 2nd Grade Programs



\$5.00 per student per 1.5 hours

Nature Sketching (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours

Spend an hour taking a close up look at some of the beautiful flowers growing in the Garden and some of the insects that help pollinate our flowers. Students will spend some time drawing and coloring what they see – flowers, insects, birds – capturing the many colors of nature in their own “nature journals” to take back to school.

Forest, Wetland, & Prairie (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours

Find out how nonliving elements of the environment affect living organisms within our three different habitats here at the Garden. Compare the temperature, light, wind, plants and animals of the forest, wetland and prairie through drawing and writing.

Quaking Bog Tromp (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hour

Discover a true quaking bog right here in the city! Learn the characteristics of a wetland and how bogs are formed. Feel sphagnum moss, watch water striders, walk across the floating bridge, and see carnivorous plants all within our Quaking Bog!

Tree-ology (Fall) 1.5 hours

Take a close look at the trees of the Garden to discover just how many different kinds there are! Discover trees unique adaptations to living in Minnesota. Find out how trees spread throughout the forest without being able to move. Students will learn the different parts of the tree by acting out the different roles.

Signs of Fall (Fall) 1.5 hours

As the weather gets cooler the flowers of the Garden begin to fade, but the trees begin to put on a show! Find out why leaves change color and what animals do to get ready for the change of seasons. Make your own colorful leaf rubbings to take home.

Mushroom Madness (Fall) 1.5 hours

Learn all about nature’s recyclers and discover the role mushrooms and other organisms play in our forests. Take a close up look at mushrooms and make a mushroom print using a few fungi and paints.



3rd & 4th Grade Programs



\$5.00 per student per 1.5 hours

Nature Sketching (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours



Spend an hour taking a close up look at some of the beautiful flowers growing in the Garden and some of the insects that help pollinate our flowers. Students will spend some time drawing and coloring what they see – flowers, insects, birds – capturing the many colors of nature in their own “nature journals” to take back to school.

Forest, Wetland, & Prairie (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours



Find out how nonliving elements of the environment affect living organisms within our three different habitats here at the Garden. Compare the temperature, light, wind, plants and animals of the forest, wetland and prairie through drawing and writing.

Birding 101 (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours



Take a bird walk with a seasoned expert to learn the basics of birding. Learn how to use binoculars, identify birds by sight and sound, bird behavior and how to use field guides. Binoculars are provided.

Poet-Tree (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours



Walk through our Garden and become inspired to create works of poetry and art. Try writing a haiku. Discover the cinquain poem. Or combine art and writing using “picture poetry”. Bring home your poetry in your own nature journal.

Quaking Bog Tromp (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hour




Discover a true quaking bog right here in the city! Learn the characteristics of a wetland and how bogs are formed. Feel sphagnum moss, watch water striders, walk across the floating bridge, and see carnivorous plants all within our Quaking Bog!


Tree-ology (Fall) 1.5 hours



Take a close look at the trees of the Garden to discover just how many different kinds there are! Discover trees unique adaptations to living in Minnesota. Find out how trees spread throughout the forest without being able to move. Students will learn the different parts of the tree by acting out the different roles.

Signs of Fall (Fall) 1.5 hours 

As the weather gets cooler the flowers of the Garden begin to fade, but the trees begin to put on a show! Find out why leaves change color and what animals do to get ready for the change of seasons. Make your own colorful leaf rubbings to take home.

Mushroom Madness (Fall) 1.5 hours 

Learn all about nature's recyclers and discover the role mushrooms and other organisms play in our forests. Take a close up look at mushrooms and make a mushroom print using a few fungi and paints.



5th & 6th Grade Programs



\$5.00 per student per 1.5 hours

Nature Sketching (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours

Spend an hour taking a close up look at some of the beautiful flowers growing in the Garden and some of the insects that help pollinate our flowers. Students will spend some time drawing and coloring what they see – flowers, insects, birds – capturing the many colors of nature in their own “nature journals” to take back to school.

Birding 101 (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours

Take a bird walk with a seasoned expert to learn the basics of birding. Learn how to use binoculars, identify birds by sight and sound, bird behavior and how to use field guides. Take a close look at some bird nests and discover the variety of materials birds use to make them. Binoculars are provided.

Poet-Tree (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours

Walk through our Garden and become inspired to create works of poetry and art. Try writing a haiku. Discover the cinquain poem. Or combine art and writing using “picture poetry”. Bring home your poetry in your own nature journal.

Quaking Bog Tromp (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hour

Discover a true quaking bog right here in the city! Learn the characteristics of a wetland and how bogs are formed. Find out pH is and how it affects the plants growing in the bog. Feel sphagnum moss, watch water striders, walk across the floating bridge, and see carnivorous plants all within our Quaking Bog!

Which Niche? (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours

Find out the different roles that plants, animals and insects play within the three different habitats of the Garden. Discover the unique relationships organisms have formed. Take some time to draw these relationships in a nature journal.

Forest, Wetland, & Prairie (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours

Find out how nonliving elements of the environment affect living organisms within our three different habitats here at the Garden. Compare the temperature, light, wind, plants and animals of the forest, wetland and prairie through drawing and writing.

Tree-ology (Fall) 1.5 hours



Take a close look at the trees of the Garden to discover just how many different kinds there are! Discover trees unique adaptations to living in Minnesota. Find out how trees spread throughout the forest without being able to move. Students will learn the different parts of the tree by acting out the different roles.

Signs of Fall (Fall) 1.5 hours



As the weather gets cooler the flowers of the Garden begin to fade, but the trees begin to put on a show! Find out why leaves change color and what animals do to get ready for the change of seasons. Make your own colorful leaf rubbings to take home.

Mushroom Madness (Fall) 1.5 hours



Learn all about nature's recyclers and discover the role mushrooms and other organisms play in our forests. Take a close up look at mushrooms and make a mushroom print using a few fungi and paints.



7th & 8th Grade Programs



\$5.00 per student per 1.5 hours

Aliens in the Garden (Spring) 2 hours



Walk through the Garden in search of aliens! Find out what plants and animals don't belong here, how they got here, and what we can do stop them spreading. Take part in a service project to help remove one of our aggressive invasive species, garlic mustard. Come prepared to pull weeds and work hard!

Nature Sketching (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours



Spend an hour taking a close up look at some of the beautiful flowers growing in the Garden and some of the insects that help pollinate our flowers. Students will spend some time drawing and coloring what they see – flowers, insects, birds – capturing the many colors of nature in their own “nature journals” to take back to school.

Birding 101 (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours



Take a bird walk with a seasoned expert to learn the basics of birding. Learn how to use binoculars, identify birds by sight and sound, bird behavior and how to use field guides. Take a close look at some bird nests and discover the variety of materials birds use to make them. Binoculars are provided.

Poet-Tree (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours



Walk through our Garden and become inspired to create works of poetry and art. Try writing a haiku. Discover the cinquain poem. Or combine art and writing using “picture poetry”. Bring home your poetry in your own nature journal.

Quaking Bog Tromp (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hour



Discover a true quaking bog right here in the city! Learn the characteristics of a wetland and how bogs are formed. Find out pH is and how it affects the plants growing in the bog. Feel sphagnum moss, watch water striders, walk across the floating bridge, and see carnivorous plants all within our Quaking Bog!

Which Niche? (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours



Find out the different roles that plants, animals and insects play within the three different habitats of the Garden. Discover the unique relationships organisms have formed. Take some time to draw these relationships in a nature journal.

The Ecology of the Garden (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours



Find out what lives and grows in each of our three habitats – wetland, woodland and prairie. Where will you find the most trees? Where will you find the most birds? Where will you find the most insects? How does soil pH and sunlight affect what plants can grow? Take a “microhike” to get a close look our “microhabitats.”

Forest, Wetland, & Prairie (Spring – Fall) 1.5 hours



Find out how nonliving elements of the environment affect living organisms within our three different habitats here at the Garden. Compare the temperature, light, wind, plants and animals of the forest, wetland and prairie through drawing and writing.

Tree-ology (Fall) 1.5 hours



Take a close look at the trees of the Garden to discover just how many different kinds there are! Discover trees unique adaptations to living in Minnesota. Find out how trees spread throughout the forest without being able to move. Students will learn the different parts of the tree by acting out the different roles.

Signs of Fall (Fall) 1.5 hours



As the weather gets cooler the flowers of the Garden begin to fade, but the trees begin to put on a show! Find out why leaves change color and what animals do to get ready for the change of seasons. See the where autumn colors come from through a simple chromatography experiment. Make a field journal of leaf rubbings to take home.

Mushroom Madness (Fall) 1.5 hours



Learn all about nature’s recyclers and discover the role mushrooms and other organisms play in our forests. Take a close up look at mushrooms and make a mushroom print using a few fungi and paints.



9th through 12th Grade Programs



\$5.00 per student per 1.5 hours to 2 hours

Any program can be adapted to fit the curriculum for high school aged students. Please call the Program Coordinator to learn more and discuss options for programming.