



Loveland Venture – guided programs for venturing outdoors in your local Parks and Open Lands.

School group presentations are held at locations within walking distance of your school, can be one to two hours, and are given in a large group format. Additional time on site and picnic lunch options are teacher-directed.

Select from the following two options:

Stewardship and Park Explore –

Naturalist view of your park; flora and fauna, riparian information and geology as appropriate, with service learning focusing on caring for parks and open lands (picking up litter, removing graffiti, repairing or removing trails, riparian restoration, etc.).

More “educational” focus.

The Art of the Picnic –

Organized team-building play and games with family and friends. Teambuilding: human knot, lap-sit, centipede. Just play: do you remember how to play kick the can, sharks and minnows, and capture the flag? All games set up with minimal materials. Students then eat their sack lunches and clean up after, modeling good park stewardship.

Reservations

Spring season dates begin in mid-April and continue through May.

Fall dates begin mid-September and continue into the first half of October.

Dates are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Our wonderful volunteers are ready to engage your students in learning about nature and natural areas.



**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
AT RIVER'S EDGE NATURAL AREA**
500 East Third Street, Suite 200
Loveland, CO 80537
www.CityofLoveland.org/OpenLands



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT RIVER'S EDGE NATURAL AREA



For grades 2-6, youth groups, and as introductory material for grades 7-12.

**Provided by Loveland Open Lands,
a division of the City of Loveland
Parks and Recreation Department.**

Live macroinvertebrates can be fascinating.



Urban Wilderness – Grades 4-5

Macro-invertebrate River Lab 45 min
Students will examine and identify fresh water invertebrates and relate their presence to the health of the river.

Adaptations (Migrate, Adapt, or Die) 45 min
Learning about how an animal's physiology fits with their habitat and environment, while handling pelts, skulls, and other aids.

Rivers & Watersheds 30 min
Discuss the Big Thompson watershed from mountain origins to River's Edge floodplain. Includes constructing a watershed model.

Grasslands & Open Spaces 30 min
A meadow walk to see value of grasslands as migratory corridors, hunting sites, and buffers between urban and natural habitats.

Urban Wildlife – Living With Nature 30 min
Which animals share our urban habitat? Is there a balance of nature in urban environments? What should you do if you encounter various animals?



Includes food chain game and several other interactive activities.

Plants and Places – Grades 2-6

Seed Dispersal 30 min
Students will learn about various methods of dispersal, collect specimens, and compile a collection to take home.

Cottonwoods 30 min
Students learn about the parts of a tree, the succession of a cottonwood gallery along the river, and then hear of the tree's value and lore.

Cattails Lab/ Pond Plants 30 min
Plants of wetlands and pond edges are featured, along with their inhabitants. Then students dissect cattails to learn of their adaptations.

Plants and Places Habitat Hunt 90 min
Using plant samples, students receive instruction in habitats and plants at River's Edge. They will then be given a scavenger hunt list and ID booklet and will be guided around the west side ponds and other areas. (1.5 miles)

Includes a take-home seed collection.

The smells of yarrow and sage add to the experience.



Photo by Lori Adair

A La Carte Option:

Select the subjects that best fit your curriculum.

4 weeks advance notice required.



Pelts, skulls, and other animal artifacts are favorites.



Wildlife Around Us – Grades 4-6 *

Life Zones 30 min
Students will learn of 5 Colorado Life Zones and how habitats are different within them and why. Plant communities and food chains included.

Animal Classification 30 min
Using mammals and birds as the primary examples, students will learn about basic taxonomy and identifying characteristics.

Specialist/Generalist 30 min
A look at species with special habitat and food requirements, where they're found in Colorado, and how changes in our state are affecting them.

Wildlife Management 45 min
What does it mean to be endangered or threatened? How do managers balance the needs of animals with those of humans?

Adaptations (Migrate, Adapt, or Die) 45 min
Learning about how an animal's physiology fits with their habitat and environment, while handling pelts, skulls, and other aids.



Includes food chain game and camouflage game.

**Also suitable for grades 7-12 as introductory material.*