

Active Learning during the Food Chain Game



## Loveland Open Lands Environmental Education

*What to expect and how to prepare*

### Transportation to River's Edge Natural Area in Loveland:

*By bus:*

Plants & Places: 960 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Main entrance.

Wildlife Around Us and Urban Wilderness:

715 S. Roosevelt Ave. Gate on west side of road.  
Bus access recommended from south.

*On foot:*

All programs: 960 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Use designated  
crosswalks, traffic lights and underpasses.

### Facilities & Preparation:

Covered picnic areas and restroom facilities  
are available. Students should bring sack  
lunches and wear closed-toed shoes and long  
pants for the best experience.

Programs include lots of walking and a game or  
two that involves running. The games are lots  
of fun and educational too!

**Accessibility:** Learning stations, trails, and  
lunch areas are accessible by chairs and  
scooters able to navigate packed surfaces and  
recycled asphalt.

## Critter Scene Investigation (Pre K–2)

CSI is a 2.5-hour  
outdoor program for  
Pre-Kindergarten to  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade students.  
Students travel along a  
nature trail through 5-6 stations collecting clues  
and information to solve a wildlife mystery.  
CSI programs are held at Namaqua Park or  
Kings Crossing Natural Area or per classroom  
teacher request.



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

### Reservations:

Spring season: March – May

Fall season: September – November

### Request program dates online at:

<https://offero.cityofloveland.org/Calendar>

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[www.CityofLoveland.org/OpenLands](http://www.CityofLoveland.org/OpenLands)



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS



*For grades K-6 and as  
introductory material for grades 7-12*

**Provided by Open Lands & Trails,  
a Division of the City of Loveland  
Parks & Recreation Department**

*The smells of yarrow and sage add to the experience*



Photo by Lori Adair

## **Plants and Places** – Grades 2-4

**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. Students also dissect cattails to learn of their adaptations.

**Unique & Hazardous Plants of Colorado** 30min  
What does it mean to be "native" or "invasive"? How do some plants protect themselves? How can you protect yourself? What does poison ivy look like?

**Plants and Places Habitat Hunt** 45 min  
Using plant illustrations, students receive basic instruction to habitats and plants at River's Edge. They will then be given a scavenger hunt list and will be guided around the ponds and other areas.

**Seed Dispersal Hike** 45 min  
Students learn about various methods of dispersal, collect specimens, and compile a small bookmark collection to take home.

*Includes Sun, Soil, Water, and Air song and relay race.*

### **A La Carte Option:**

*For all programs listed here, select the subjects from all three programs that best fit your curriculum. 2 weeks advance notice required.*



## **Urban Wilderness** – Grades 4-5

**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 wild animals?



**RENA Rocks! & Watersheds** 30 min  
Discuss portions of the rock cycle as it pertains to the history of the front range and River's Edge. Lesson activity illustrates structures of local watersheds from mountain origins to our floodplain towns.

**Natural Areas & Open Spaces** 30 min  
A migration game to illustrate the value of natural areas as migratory corridors, animal habitat, and buffers between the urban and natural. Short discussion on the value of open spaces to humans.

**Macro-invertebrate River Lab** 45 min  
Students 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.

*Includes food chain game and several other interactive activities.*



*Live macroinvertebrates can be fascinating*

*Pelts, skulls, and other animal artifacts are favorites.*



## **Wildlife Around Us** – Grades 4-6 \*

**Life Zones** 30 min  
Students learn about 5 Colorado Life Zones and how habitats are different within them. Includes information on specialist and generalist animals.

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

**Changes in Climate, Changes in Critters** 30 min  
How our changing climate is changing the residents of Colorado; the animals, their territories, their behavior, and how these changes may affect us.

**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 older grades as introductory material.*



