

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. 1st 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. 1st 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 2nd 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://offer.o.cityofloveland.org/Calendar>

Michele Van Hare
Environmental Education Coordinator

Michele.VanHare@CityofLoveland.org
970-962-2643 – Office
970-217-3173 – Cell



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS & TRAILS
500 East Third Street, Suite 200
Loveland, CO 80537
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

30 min

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.*

