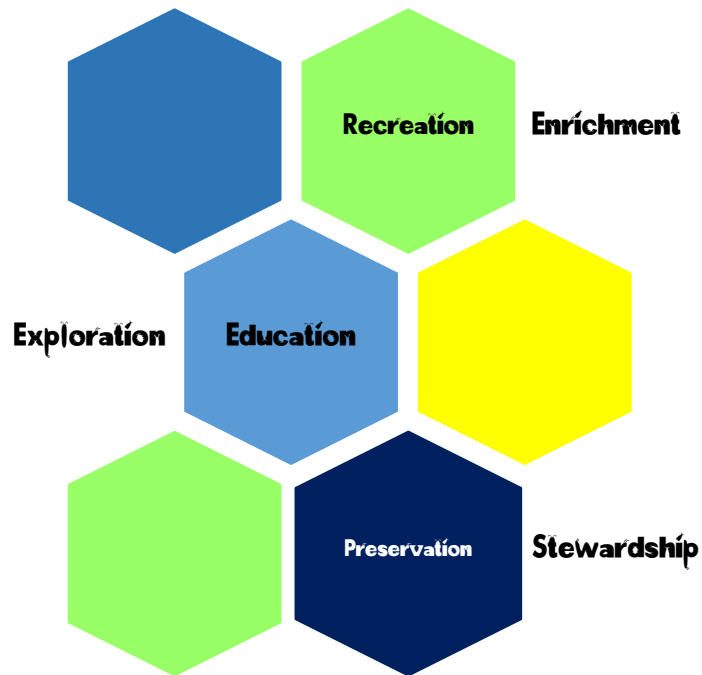
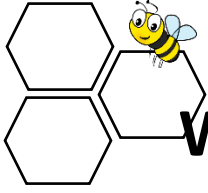




Field Trip Guide & Group Information



Willowhaven Park & Nature Center
1451 N 4000 E Rd, Kankakee IL 60901
BTPD.org (815) 933-9905 Ext. 472



Willowhaven Park & Nature Center

A facility of the Bourbonnais Township Park District

About Us:

The Willowhaven Park & Nature Center is a restored 1900's barn designed as a place for children and adults to discover and interact with the splendors of the outdoor world. The nature center features both historical and nature displays including taxidermy displays, live animals, hands-on touch tables with pelts, feathers, antlers, minerals and much more. Hands-on learning is encouraged as well as outdoor explorations in the park surrounding the Nature Center.

The Willowhaven Park is 120 acres of ponds, prairies, wetlands with recreational features tucked in amongst natural areas. Willowhaven Park features miles of hiking trails, a picnic shelter, playground, disc (Frisbee) golf and fitness station. The ponds provide catch and release fishing opportunities year round. The pond overlooks and rock outcroppings provide easy access to the pond edge. We will open a 3.5-acre dog park in the spring of 2018.

Our Philosophy:

The Willowhaven Park & Nature Center is a play centered discovery museum with displays from around North America. We encourage hands-on exploration and self-led discovery. We want children to ask questions and get excited about nature! We strive to provide a safe and inviting environment which allows children to explore and develop a level of comfort with the great outdoors.

Our Mission:

The Willowhaven Park & Nature Center is a facility of the Bourbonnais Township Park District and our mission is to enrich the quality of life through recreation, education and preservation. We encourage outdoor recreation, education of the natural world through exploration and discovery, and encourage stewardship and preservation of the natural environment.

Planning your Visit:



Step 1: Gather your group information.

We need to know:

- # of students. We require a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 25 students per group. For larger classes we recommend breaking the students into smaller groups.
- What program(s) desired
- Special accommodations needed
- Contact information.
- Student age & grade level.
- Arrival and departure times.
- Lunch plans.
- Estimated adult chaperones. All teachers, adult chaperones and bus drivers are welcome at the center and can observe programs at no cost.

Step 2: Contact the Nature Center at (815) 933-9905 ext. 472 to speak to our rental & group coordinator. Office Hours are 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday. Groups can reserve any weekday date between the hours of 8:30 am- 4:30 pm. Some dates fill up quickly so we recommend booking as early as possible. We know educators are busy so we also take reservations via email. Please contact Nicole Jenkins at nicole@btpd.org to get started. When requesting reservations through email please include information listed in Step 1.

Step 3: Confirm the visit. You will receive a confirmation email or letter in the mail after registration. This confirmation will also include any programs for your group. Please verify the information is correct prior to your visit. No shows will be subject to a \$25 fee.

Step 4: Talk with your group and get them excited about their visit! Ask them what they think they will learn? What are their questions or fears? How do they feel when they talk about nature?

Step 5: Arrive for the visit. Please bring confirmation letter and any outstanding payment due. Program fees are based on a per participant fee due upon arrival. **Checks made out to B.T.P.D.**

Registering for a Program:

Choose one or multiple programs for your visit. If you have a large group, we can split students into smaller groups and have multiple programs taking place at the same time.

Recommended program size is 20 students per group.

Guided Nature Hike- Recommended for all ages.

A park naturalist will take the students on the trails at Willowhaven to observe animal tracks, trails & scat. Students will observe native prairie and wetland species while recording their observations on a species list. Wildlife at the park include several species of frogs, snakes & turtles, deer, coyote, muskrat, great blue heron, green heron, egret, red-tail hawk, redwing blackbird, killdeer and many others. After the hike, students will compare their observations, and discuss the role of ecologists & wildlife biologists along with restoration biologists in protecting, preserving and managing natural areas.

Fee: \$2 per student

Length: 60 minutes



Insects & Spiders Workshop- Recommended for Pre-K – 5th Grade.

Students will take turns at multiple stations & learn about anatomy of insects & spiders.

Students will also venture outdoors to find insects & spiders in their natural habitat.

Station 1: Insect Anatomy Station - Students will learn to identify at least 5 body parts of an insect.

Station 2: Spider Anatomy Station - Students will learn to identify at least 5 body parts of a spider.

Station 3: Insect Life Cycle Station - Students will learn about metamorphosis while using stamps to create the life cycle of a butterfly.

Station 4: Bug Hunt –Students will use special bug capture equipment to find and collect insects & spiders in their natural habitat. (indoor alternative will use replica insects inside nature center)

Station 5: Build-a-bug. This hands-on activity will use their creativity to create their own insect, spider or other bug to bring home.

Fee: \$2 per student

Length: 60 minutes



Animals that live at Willowhaven- Recommended for all ages.

A.K.A. Live Animal Presentation

Nature Center staff will share information and stories about the live animals that live at the

Nature Center. The presentation about animal kingdoms and features hands-on interaction with live animals as well as a few mounted displays and pelts. Live animals featured can include a corn snake, box turtle, aquatic turtle, sunfish, salamander, bearded dragon, and rabbit.

Fee: \$2 per student

Length: 60 minutes

Tree & Leaf Workshop - Recommended for 1st – 5th Grade.

In this hands-on workshop, students will learn all about plants and trees.

Station 1: Tree Leaf Id Station - Students will learn to identify at least 10 tree species by leaves after a rubbing plate activity.

Station 2: Poisonous Plant Station - Students will learn about poisonous plants and the ways plants defend themselves. The students will also identify poison ivy plants by the leaves, vine, flower cluster and fruit or berry clusters. Students will quiz themselves on how to spot real poison ivy leaves.

Station 3: Tree Growth Station - Students will learn how a tree grows. This station will feature a two and a half foot tree cross section where students learn how to determine a tree's age and why tree ring spacing is an environmental indicator.

Station 4: Plant Anatomy Station - Students will be able to learn and identify the internal parts of a flowering plant using a model. Using craft supplies students will create their own plant anatomy display to take home.

Station 5: Importance of Plants Station - Students will learn a variety of ways trees and plants provide food, shelter and materials. Students will be able to identify at least 10 ways that plants or trees directly affect them on a daily basis.

Fee: \$2 per student

Length: 60 minutes

Owl Pellet Dissection- Recommended for 2nd grade-adult

Owl pellets consist of undigested hair and bones that owls spit up following a meal. As such, they contain valuable clues to what the owl was eating and the habitat in which the owl was hunting. Students will classify and record the types of bones of the owl's prey using bone identifying charts while learning the ecology of food, energy, and the web of life. Students will also learn the role of the apex predator in keeping the healthy balance of an ecosystem, and discuss the value of conservation science in today's society. Program is based on availability.
Pre-K-11

Fee: \$4 per student

Length: 60 minutes



Watershed Workshop- Recommended for 2nd grade-adult

Students will learn about drainage basins and discuss the geology and biodiversity of the Kankakee River watershed. Students will have the opportunity to look at problems and solutions associated with habitat, water quality, and quality of life along the river. This program includes a hike around the pond, the wetland and prairie habitat, and an interactive watershed model demonstrating non-point source pollution of water resources.

Fee: \$4 per student

Length: 60 minutes

Custom, Scout & Offsite Programs:

Custom, Scout & offsite programs must be requested at least 14 days prior to the group visit date to insure adequate materials. Custom, Scout & offsite programs are \$4 per student/scout and a minimum of 10 participants are required. Weekend and evening dates are based on availability. Please contact the nature center for more details!

Lunch break:

The nature center does not have food services onsite at the park so please bring a sack lunch. Please check for multipurpose room or outdoor shelter availability when you reserve your group.

Tips for a Successful Field Trip:

- Dress appropriately for the weather. Most programs will run rain or shine and outdoor shelters will be used as program locations as needed.
- Wear close-toed shoes and long pants. With outdoor explorations, kids will likely get muddy or dirty.
- Apply sunscreen or bug repellent prior to arriving.
- Have lunch bags labeled and stored in large boxes or bins while at the nature center.
- Groups are always welcome to explore the park & do self-guided hikes at no charge. Groups are also welcome to utilize the playground, disc golf and fitness station.
- If your group arrives late we will do our best to accommodate your field trip time. If you foresee a late arrival, please contact the nature center at (815) 933-9905 ext 472.

Questions:

For questions about a group reservation or program, contact us over the phone at (815) 933-9905 extension 472 or by email to Nicole@btpd.org.