Why schedule a field study with the McHenry County Conservation District?

Enhance your curriculum.
Most field studies align with Illinois Learning Standards. In addition we continue to revise existing and create new programs driven by Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core Standards where applicable.

Nature is an excellent teacher.
Learning in an outdoor setting helps foster an appreciation of the beautiful and unique natural areas of McHenry County.

We have experienced staff.
Our program leaders are experts at developing and presenting environmental education programs.

The price is right!
Field studies are FREE for McHenry County schools.

We can visit your classroom, too!
Browse our variety of FREE Outreach Programs, specifically tailored to a classroom or auditorium setting. McHenry County schools only. See pages 8 and 9.
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*In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the McHenry County Conservation District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability.*

*If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer at McHenry County Conservation District, 18410 U.S. Highway 14, Woodstock, IL 60098, (815) 338-6223.*
In-County Registration Procedures
On the first day of registration please limit your class to one field study choice per season per site and/or one outreach program choice per season. You are welcome to check for availability of additional programs one week later. To schedule a program, refer to the program listings for facility telephone numbers.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. on these dates:
- September 11, 2019 for Winter 2019-2020
- January 8, 2020 for Spring 2020
- May 13, 2020 for Fall 2020
- December 10, 2019 for Festival of the Sugar Maples Field Studies in March 2020

Out-of-County Registration Procedures and Fees
Out-of-county schools may register for field studies two weeks after the above dates. The cost is $40.00 per class of 12-35 students. Exceptions to the minimum group size of 12 may be made for home school and special needs classes. In these circumstances the fee is $2.00 per student. Fees are confirmed by the program leader when the program is scheduled and the teacher receives a program confirmation and invoice. Fees are due in full five business days prior to the program by a check payable to the McHenry County Conservation District, mailed to the Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake, IL 60014.

About Our Programs
Our programs are free of charge for schools that serve McHenry County residents. We require a minimum of 12 students per program and students must be the appropriate age for the program. At the discretion of program staff, the minimum requirement for home school and special needs classes may be waived. Teachers should select programs for the grade level at which the students are functioning. The maximum number of students per program varies and is noted with the program descriptions. If special assistance is needed for you or your students, notify the instructor when you schedule a program. This ensures all attendees are provided with the best possible learning experience.

Field studies are offered in all seasons, for a wide range of grade levels, and at sites throughout the county. They are available to both in- and out-of-county schools.

Outreach programs are indoor presentations conducted at your facility by Education Services, Wildlife Resource Center, and Police Department staff. While most outreach programs work best in a classroom setting, some accommodate large groups in an auditorium-style presentation. We work with you to select a topic, style, and presentation length that best meets your needs. Outreach programs are available only to in-county schools.

Special request programs are offered at many of the Conservation Areas in the county as staff time permits. While the programs in this guide are in high demand, we recognize our selection of programs may not meet your needs. Call (815) 479-5779 for additional information.

Bring Your Class for a Self-Guided Visit
We welcome self-guided groups to any of the Conservation Areas. Weekday site visits are free for McHenry County schools. Out-of-county schools pay a $25.00 fee per occurrence for weekday visits. All groups of 16 or more people, or any size group requiring exclusive use of a shelter or area, require a Special Use License Agreement and a Certificate of Liability Insurance. Please call the Brookdale Administrative Office at least one month in advance at (815) 338-6223 to reserve a date. All related fees and paperwork are due within 2 weeks of making your reservation and no less than 2 weeks prior to your scheduled visit. Visit our website at MCCDistrict.org for separate Track/Cross Country fees.
Preparing Your Class for Field Studies

Most of our programs have valuable pre-trip activities to enhance your field study experience. We encourage you to download and print this information from our website at MCCDistrict.org. If you prefer to receive hard copies of this material, notify the program leader when you schedule the program. To ensure the best experience possible for everyone, please note the following:

- Make sure the bus driver knows where to drop off and pick up the class, as we offer programs at several different areas throughout McHenry County.
- Make every effort to arrive on time. We may have programs scheduled immediately following yours.
- Field studies are conducted rain or shine so it is essential that students and teachers dress for the outdoors. Consult your school or group weather policy and contact the education center you are scheduled to visit or your program leader to discuss a weather-related cancellation.
- A ratio of 1 adult to 10 students is recommended. In addition to monitoring student behavior, adults are expected to participate in all aspects of the program. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate children who are not students in the class. When recruiting adult helpers, please be sure they understand this rule.
- A sick child is the responsibility of the visiting group. Prepare ahead for such an event. We’ll provide a quiet area for a child to rest. However, direct supervision of the child is the responsibility of the group.

Preparing Your Class for Outreach Programs

The key to preparing for outreach programs is to let the program leader know how the program fits in your curriculum. Are you introducing or reinforcing an existing unit or do you need assistance with ideas for classroom activities that will build on our program? Knowing the material the class has covered on the program topic allows the leader to tailor the presentation accordingly.

Service Hours or Extra Credit for Middle and High School Students

We are happy to serve as a source of service hours or extra credit opportunities for your middle and high school students. Please follow these steps for a cooperative and productive experience.

- Make advance arrangements by contacting the Prairiewood Education Center at (815) 479-5779. Before encouraging students to attend programs or inquire about service hours, contact us to discuss how to best meet your expectations and requirements. This is especially helpful when a staff signature is required to document an experience. It is important to know if students are expected to attend and observe a program or if they are expected to assist us in a more specific way.
- View our programs online or in our quarterly newsletter Landscapes. Register for age-appropriate programs. Inform students that registration is required to attend the majority of our programs and they should adhere to age requirements when registering. Students may attend special events that do not require registration, such as the Festival of the Sugar Maples in March. Call the District’s Administrative Office at (815) 338-6223 to receive the newsletter or download a PDF version from our website at MCCDistrict.org.
- Should students want to observe a program offered for a different age group or assist the program coordinators, arrangements must be made in advance with our Education Services staff.
- To schedule a service project for the District, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (815) 338-6223, ext. 1201. Many Conservation District projects cannot be completed without the help of volunteers. Students should contact the District’s Volunteer Coordinator for additional information.
The Education Services Department staff members are available to provide environmental education workshops for formal educators, from methods used to meet environmental science standards to content enrichment related to our natural resources. We can share hands-on experiences and techniques for the classroom or the field. These can be scheduled on in-service days, evenings, weekends, or during the summer, at your place or ours. There is no charge for this service, however we require a minimum of 12 participants and dates are subject to staff availability. If interested in scheduling a custom workshop for your school, contact the Education Services Manager at (815) 479-5779.

Just For Teachers... Workshop Opportunities

Mission Statement
McHenry County Conservation District exists to preserve, restore, and manage natural areas and open spaces for their intrinsic value and for the benefits to present and future generations.

Vision
McHenry County Conservation District will be a premier public agency in the country for preserving, protecting and managing open space. Residents will have developed a personal responsibility for their local environment, gained a greater appreciation for their natural world and invested into ensuring its future protection.

Achieving this vision will: Inspire respect for the land; Promote sound environmental practices; Promote the long-term viability of the county’s biodiversity; Provide opportunities for responsible use of the land in concert with natural resources; Promote environmental stewardship; Provide quality experiences that promote green, healthy and balanced lifestyles; Connect children to nature and; Foster public and private partnerships.

Promoting Conservation, Education and Recreation
McHenry County Conservation District owns or manages over 25,598 acres of open land diverse with woodlands, prairies, wetlands, ponds, creeks, and rivers. Thirty-four sites are currently open to the public year-round featuring trails, picnic shelters, camp sites, fishing sites, rare plant and animal examples, educational facilities, and more. In addition, within the District’s sites there are 17 State Nature Preserves.
Educational Loan Materials

We offer a variety of materials you can borrow for use offsite or while you visit. Materials are appropriate for teachers, parents, and youth group leaders seeking curriculum supplements, family activities, or assistance with badge requirements. Borrow a maximum of two kits for up to two weeks. Most materials are checked out from and returned to Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake, Illinois. The Water Quality Monitoring Kits are only available at Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park. Materials are free however a $2.00 per day fee is assessed on materials returned after their due date. Call (815) 479-5779 or email Education@MCCDistrict.org.

If you plan to use these materials at a Conservation District area, remember that all groups of 16 or more people, or any size group requiring exclusive use of a shelter or area, require a permit. See page 1 for additional information.

NOTE: We are in the process of retiring and updating our materials. Some topics may no longer be available.

Backyard Buddy and Naturalist in a Box Kits These kits cover a range of grades and are checked out from and returned to the Prairieview Education Center in Crystal Lake. Content lists are available on our website or by request.

Backyard Buddy Kits, Grades PreK-2
Available Topics: Chipmunk, Ladybug, Otter, Cottontail Rabbit, Raccoon, Squirrel, and Groundhog

Naturalist in a Box Kits, Grades 1-8
Available Topics: Astronomy, Bats, Butterflies, Creepy Crawlies, Geology, Hawks and Owls, Mammals, Native Americans, and Wetlands

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Materials We are a lending site for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources educational trunks. The following topics are available and are checked out from and returned to the Prairieview Education Center in Crystal Lake. Content lists are available on our website or by request.

Illinois Birds, Grades 3-8 Illinois Fossils, Grades 3-8
Illinois Trees, Grades PreK-10 Aquatic Illinois, Grades 3-12
Illinois Prairies, Grades K-8 Illinois State Symbols, Grades K-8
Illinois Wild Mammals, Grades K-8 Illinois Insects & Spiders, Grades PreK-8
People & Animals from Illinois’ Past, Grades K-6 Illinois Pollinators, Grades PreK-6
Field Trip Pack for Early Educators, Grades PreK-3

Map and Compass Packs These packs are designed to be used on the map and compass course at Prairieview Education Center. The pack contains maps, compasses, and instructions for map reading activities and compass use. Each pack has supplies for 24 participants. We recommend one adult for every four children.

Water Quality Monitoring Kits We provide water quality monitoring materials for multiple age groups. They contain reference materials, curriculum guides, water quality monitoring manuals, test kits, and the necessary equipment for biological monitoring. The materials in the kits are tailored to meet the needs of your group. To reserve a kit or schedule assistance with biological or chemical monitoring, contact the Outreach Program Coordinator at (815) 678-4532, ext. 8117. Please schedule your pick up date at least two weeks in advance.
Field Studies at Prairiewood Education Center
Silver Creek Conservation Area, Crystal Lake   Register: (815) 479-5779 ext. 14 or 15

Animals in Winter
Discover ways adaptations help animals survive. The program includes a hike to find signs of animal activity.
Grades PreK-2  Dec-Feb
1.5 hours  Min 12/Max 45

At Home in the Woods
A puppet show introduces various types of homes made by animals. Students hike to look for animal homes.
Grades PreK-2  Apr-May
1.5 hours  Min 12/Max 45

Plant Life Cycles
Learn about seeds through indoor activities and outdoor explorations. Use your senses to explore the many patterns, sizes and shapes of seeds. Topics include parts of a plant, plant survival, seeds as a food source, and seed dispersal.
Grades PreK-2  Sept-Nov
1.5 hours  Min 12/Max 60

Animal Babies
Learn about what animals need to survive, the habitats they live in, and the similarities and differences between adult animals and their offspring. The program begins with an indoor interactive discussion of animal needs followed by a story hike to learn more about local animals and their young.
Grades K-1  Apr-May
1.5 hours  Min 12/Max 60

Bugs, Bugs, Bugs: Insect Life Cycles
While assembling McHenry County’s biggest bug, discover the characteristics that make insects different from other animals. We discuss the unique life cycles of insects, including the process of metamorphosis. Students hike outdoors to catch, observe, and identify insects. Students will recognize the importance of insects to the environment and how their traits can be influenced by environmental factors.
Grades 2-3  Sept-Oct
2.5 hours  Min 12/Max 60

Native American Program
Explore Native American cultures through games and activities focusing on survival skills while learning methods of utilizing native plants and animals. Participants gain an understanding and an appreciation of natural cycles. Activities center around a covered wigwam and the natural communities of Silver Creek Conservation Area.
Grades 3-5  Sept-Oct
3.5 hours  Min 12/Max 60

Natural Storytelling
Students listen to animal folklore and discover the morals and lessons hidden within the tales. Stories of the woodland habitat are discovered on an interpretive hike. With natural landscapes and objects as inspiration, students enhance their writing skills by creating stories and poems and then practice their presentation skills. Includes lunch on site.
Grades 3-6  Dec-May
3 hours  Min 12/Max 90

Wandering the Wetlands
Learn about the importance of wetlands and the plants and animals that live in them. After an indoor introduction, the bus brings the class to a pond to collect and observe aquatic life. Students hike back to the center for lunch and a closer look at the specimens collected.
Grades 4-6  Apr-May
3.5-4 hours  Min 12/Max 60

Exploring Ecosystems
Investigate a variety of ecosystems including pond, woodland, and restored prairie. Introductory activities focus on relationships between human and natural communities. The bus transports students to the pond to explore the aquatic ecosystem. Students hike back to the center, taking time to investigate components of the woodland and prairie communities. Includes lunch on site.
Grades 4-8  Sept-Oct
4 hours  Min 12/Max 60

Way Finding with Map, Compass and GPS
Students experience various methods of finding their way through the world in both natural and developed areas. Using a map and compass course, students explore natural relationships and human impact on the land. Using GPS units, students find beautiful vistas and hidden caches. Students learn about orienteering, geocaching and factors to consider while participating in any outdoor recreational activity. Orienteering involves skills in math, geography, teamwork, and problem solving. This program includes instruction in both compass and GPS use.
Grades 5-8  Oct-Nov and Mar-Apr
4 hours  Min 12/Max 60

Winter Ecology
Indoor lessons on wildlife adaptations and plant identification are combined with an interpretive hike to teach students about seasonal changes and life cycles. Worksheets allow for additional classroom lessons after the field study.
Grades 7-9  Dec-Feb
3.5 hours  Min 12/Max 90
Field Studies at Lost Valley Visitor Center
Glacial Park Conservation Area, Ringwood
Register: (815) 678-4532 ext. 8116 or 8118

Animal Homes
Go on an exploratory hike to look for animal signs and learn about wildlife and their habitats. Introductory activities focus on homes and habitats and their differences.
Grades PreK-2 1.5 hours
Apr-May
Min 12/Max 60

Plant Life Cycles
Learn about seeds through indoor activities and outdoor explorations. Use your senses to explore the many patterns, sizes and shapes of seeds. Topics include parts of a plant, plant survival, seeds as a food source, and seed dispersal.
Grades PreK-2 1.5 hours
Sept-Nov
Min 12/Max 60

Pioneer Life
Hike and explore Glacial Park to discover the life of an early settler in McHenry County. Compare daily life then and now with a visit to a restored 1854 farm house. Participate in hands-on chores for an authentic historic experience.
Grades 1-5 3.5 hours
Sept-Nov
Min 12/Max 60

Bountiful Birds
Indoor lessons teach students about bird adaptations, behavior, habitats, and identification. Hike outdoors with binoculars to spot birds arriving on spring migration.
Grades 2-6 3.5 hours
Apr-May
Min 12/Max 60

Animal Survival
This field study pairs well with the “What is Wrong with this Picture?” winter outreach program. Students visit three different types of habitat. Games and activities focus on why organisms are particularly suited to live in that habitat, or why they may have difficulty surviving outside of their niche habitat.
Grade 3 3.5 hours
Apr-May
Min 12/Max 60

Life of an Oak Tree
By hiking through Glacial Park and comparing and contrasting different oak trees and their various traits, students discover more about what makes a good environment for oak growth and how different environments may affect the trees. We use math and measurements to compare and age the trees and learn about the life cycles of these majestic species.
Grades 3-4 3.5 hours
Sept-Nov and Apr-May
Min 12/Max 60

LEED Certified Building Tour
In an interactive scavenger hunt, student teams discover how the Conservation District managed to reduce the use of natural resources during the renovation of the Lost Valley Visitor Center. The building earned a Gold award in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (L.E.E.D.) We explain the innovative sustainable building design and landscaping methods used. Students also get a chance to come up with ideas on how they can reduce their impact upon the earth in their daily lives.
Grades 4-6 3.5 hours
Dec-Feb
Min 12/Max 60

Wonders of Wetlands
Learn about wetland characteristics and inhabitants, as well as the importance of wetlands to all living creatures, including humans. Hands-on investigations of the bog and marsh in Glacial Park help to compare and contrast these two wetland ecosystems.
Grades 4-6 3.5 hours
Apr-May
Min 12/Max 60

Restoring the Nature of Illinois
Watch the history of Illinois’ natural landscape change through the transformation of a “living map” and a hike through the park. In addition the class participates in a District restoration project.
Grades 4-8 3.5 hours
Apr-May
Min 12/Max 60

Predator-Prey
Students learn examples of predator prey relationships and why they are important to the overall balance of the food web and ecosystem. Students participate in a simulation game in which each participant explores the predator-prey relationship of an animal in an ecosystem while searching for the basic needs of food and water.
Grade 5 3.5 hours
Apr-May
Min 12/Max 60

The Ice Age
Named for the massive ice sheet that shaped its landscape, Glacial Park is the perfect setting for this educational program on glacial landforms. Begin the day indoors, learning about geologic time, the formation of northern Illinois, Ice Age mammals, and glacial forces. Students listen to a lecture, watch a movie, and complete worksheets. Outdoor activities include a hike to see a kettle marsh, kettle bog, and the camelback kames.
Grades 6-9 3.5 hours
Oct-Nov
Min 12/Max 60
Festival of the Sugar Maples
at Coral Woods Conservation Area, Marengo
Grades K-5
March 10-13 and 17-19, 2020
Three sessions available each day:
9:30-10:45 a.m.
10:45 a.m-12:00 p.m.
12:00-1:15 p.m.

Students learn the history of maple sugaring, how to identify a maple tree, and how a tree makes sap. They practice tapping a tree, witness modern sap collection, and taste pure maple syrup.

Registration begins for McHenry County schools December 10, 2019, 8:00 a.m. (Out-of-county schools can register two weeks after.) Register: (815) 479-5779 ext. 14 or 15

Geology on the Ridge
at Marengo Ridge Conservation Area, Marengo
Grades 4-7 Sept-Nov, Apr-May
2.5 hours Min 12/Max 65

Marengo Ridge Conservation Area offers unique geological formations that were left behind by the last glacier. This field study has levels that reflect each grade of learners. Students can discover the rock cycle, do rock ID using a key, play geology jeopardy, test vocabulary knowledge, find out the secrets of erosion and glaciations and everyone gets to enjoy a hike to experience our glacial landscape history.

This program is held entirely outside so dress for weather. Groups are welcome to stay for lunch and enjoy the view.
Outreach Programs at Your Facility

Refer to the program descriptions for phone numbers to call to register.

Animals
During this program, students learn the differences between wild and domestic animals. Live animals visit the classroom.
Grades PreK-K (min age 4) Sept-May
30-45 minutes Min 12/Max 30
Register: (815) 728-8307

Native Americans and Natural Resources
Learn how local Native American tribes utilized natural resources in this part of Illinois. Students get a hands-on look at examples of dress, tools, and foods that were used.
Grades 3-6 Dec-Feb
45 minutes-1 hour Min 12/Max varies
Register: (815) 479-5779, ext. 15

Nocturnal Animals Musical Puppet Show
Learn the definition of nocturnal as well as the animal adaptations that make the night a more suitable time to be out for certain creatures. These lessons are taught through a musical puppet show followed by an interactive game.
Grades PreK-K Dec-Feb
45 minutes Min 12/Max 30
Register: (815) 678-4532, ext. 8116 or 8118

Nature in Art
This unique program offers art teachers a chance to have a live animal as an inspiration for their students' creations in art class. After a brief presentation about the animal by District staff, students sketch, paint, or possibly sculpt per the instruction of the art teacher. Art supplies and instruction are to be provided by the art teacher.
Grades 1-12 Sept-May
Times vary Min 12/Max 30
Register: (815) 728-8307

Site Safety
This interactive educational experience led by a McHenry County Conservation District Police Officer covers safety topics concerning bicycles, boats and water, site usage, and trails. Program time ranges from 20 to 45 minutes, and utilizes visual aids and handouts.
Grades 1-12 Sept-May
Times vary Min 12/Max 60
Register: (815) 338-6223, ext. 1210

Have to Have a Habitat
Students learn about local animals, what they need to survive, and how humans can help them. Highlights include a puppet show and a habitat game.
Grades PreK-1 Dec-Feb
45 minutes Min 12/Max 30
Register: (815) 728-8307

Fur, Feathers, or Scales
Students learn the characteristics of mammals, birds, and reptiles and discover some of their unique adaptations. A live animal visits the classroom.
Grades 1-2 Sept-May
45 minutes-1 hour Min 12/Max 60
Register: (815) 728-8307

Nature in Winter
Students learn about the traits plants and animals possess that help them survive the winter in McHenry County. Real artifacts and seasonal changes are examined.
Grades 1-3 Nov-Feb
1 hour Min 12/Max 30
Register: (815) 678-4532, ext. 8117

Turtles
This program covers the classification and natural history of turtles. Students also learn how to identify some common turtle species. A live turtle visits the classroom.
Grades 1-3 Sept-Nov and Mar-May
45 minutes-1 hour Min 12/Max 60
Register: (815) 728-8307

Owls of Illinois
Students learn about the natural history of owls, their relationships with humans, and their importance in the wild. A live owl visits the classroom.
Grades 3-4 Sept-May
45 minutes-1 hour Min 12/Max 60
Register: (815) 728-8307
Amazing Animal Adaptations
Students learn how native wildlife have adapted to living in Illinois habitats by examining animal tracks, skulls, and furs. Learned concepts are emphasized in an animal adaptations game.
Grades 3-5 Nov-May
1 hour Min 12/Max 30
Register: (815) 678-4532, ext. 8117

Chains Make Webs
Students learn about food chains and food webs with the introduction of vocabulary words. Concepts are defined with role-playing and interactive games. Local ecosystems are used as examples.
Grades 3-5 Nov-May
1 hour Min 12/Max 30
Register: (815) 678-4532, ext. 8117

Wonderful Water
Students learn about the value of water by using data to find out how much fresh water is on the planet, create a water cycle demonstration and do a simulated water quality assessment on a favorite pond. Students use the data assessment to discover ways that humans can protect our water resources.
Grades 4-6 Nov-Apr
1.25 hours Min 12/Max 30
Register: (815) 678-4532, ext. 8117

Endangered Species of Illinois
A presentation and interactive activities introduce students to concepts of extinction, extirpation and endangered. A few of McHenry County’s endangered species are revealed and the impacts that changed their habitat are shared. After discovering where and how the animals live, students determine the necessary steps to protect them.
Grades 4-6 Nov-Apr
1 hour Min 12/Max 30
Register: (815) 678-4532, ext. 8117

Town Hall
Students role-play members of a community and discover different perspectives on a community environmental issue. Through interactions with their fellow citizens, students must solve or compromise to make their community a better place.
Grades 6-8 Nov-Apr
1 hour or 1.5 hours Min 12/Max 30
Register: (815) 678-4532, ext. 8117

Conservation District Police
Learn about the duties and roles of a Conservation Police Officer. Through an interactive multimedia presentation, students learn about the role these officers play in protecting the natural resources around us.
Grades 6-12 Sept-May
Times vary Min 12/Max 60
Register: (815) 338-6223, ext. 1210

The Environmental Education Opportunities Teachers’ Guide is a publication of the McHenry County Conservation District’s Education Services Department.

To request additional copies or to be placed on our mailing list, contact us at Education@MCCDistrict.org or at (815) 479-5779.
Lost Valley Visitor Center
Route 31 and Harts Road
Ringwood, IL 60072
(815) 678-4532 / Fax (815) 678-4795
Nov. – March | Daily 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
April – October | Daily 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Lost Valley Visitor Center is located in Glacial Park Conservation Area a few miles north of McHenry. The center has an information desk, indoor and outdoor programming space, washroom facilities, exhibits, and a nature library. Glacial Park encompasses over 3,000 acres and is home to unique ecosystems. Hiking trails allow visitors to view prairies, oak savannas, marshes, a bog, glacial kames, and the Nippersink Creek.

Prairieview Education Center
2112 Behan Road
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
(815) 479-5779 / Fax (815) 479-5766
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Sunday closed

Located in the Silver Creek Conservation Area, the 10,000 square foot Prairieview Education Center offers a variety of programs and exhibits throughout the year for nature enthusiasts of all ages. Visitors can explore 6.5 miles of hiking and cross country ski trails that wind through prairie and savanna restorations to the banks of the Fox River or enjoy a picnic overlooking the prairie.