


Croydon Creek Nature Center

Field Trip Guide for educators



City of
Rockville
Get Into It



 Our mission at the Croydon Creek Nature Center is to promote and enhance the knowledge, understanding, appreciation and protection of our natural resources through quality interpretive programs and exhibits. Our school group programs incorporate challenging and thought-provoking activities with outdoor experiences that make natural science fun and exciting.

Guided Field Trip Programs:

We offer a variety of naturalist-led field trip options for you and your students. Programs are 60 minutes or 90 minutes in duration depending on the topic. Staff at the nature center is also able to offer customized programs for your group. Please note that customized programs require 4 weeks' advance notice.

All programs are conducted both indoors and outdoors. Please remind your students to dress appropriately for the weather. Name tags are encouraged to allow us to personalize our programs for your students.



Programs Offered By Grade Level:

	Pre K	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
MBRA	x	x	x				
Habitat Explorers	x	x	x				
Seasons	x	x					
Forecaster's Soup		x	x				
Budding Botanists		x	x				
Life Cycle Discovery			x	x			
Soil Sleuths			x	x			
Insect Explorations			x	x			
Investigating Habitats				x	x	x	
Plants and People					x	x	x
Geology Rocks					x	x	x
From the Creek to the Chesapeake					x	x	x



Here's what our teachers are saying about field trips at Croydon Creek Nature Center:

"Perfect curriculum connection!"

"I like the combination of classroom discussion, nature walk & hands-on experience in the center exhibits."

Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians (MBRA)

Croydon Creek critters will help your young zoologists learn about the animal kingdom. Students will learn how to classify these creatures, discover their unique adaptations and meet a few of Croydon Creek's favorite critters. They will also take a walk through our forest and meadow to put their classifying skills to the test.

Available: All year

MCPS Curriculum 2.0 Alignments: K, I

Habitat Explorers

All living things have the same basic needs: food, water, shelter and space. By engaging your group in activities and adventures in our forest and meadow, our naturalists will help your students learn how different animals meet their basic needs.

Available: All year

MCPS Curriculum 2.0 Alignments: K, I

Seasons

Spring, summer, fall and winter -- the natural world changes with the seasons. Students will discover why our seasons change and how animal and plant life changes, too. Depending on the season, your group will travel outdoors to learn why leaves change color in the fall, how animals prepare for winter or how to recognize the signs of spring.

Available: All year

MCPS Curriculum 2.0 Alignments: K

Forecaster's Soup

Rain or shine, the same ingredients are needed to make the weather. Learn how air, water and heat combine to create everything from sunny summer days to chilly winter snowstorms. Students will use a weather journal to practice weather forecasting at home and participate in a weather scavenger hunt.

Available: All year

MCPS Curriculum 2.0 Alignments: K

Budding Botanists

What makes a plant green? Where do new plants come from? Why are plants important? Your group will learn about form and function from our photosynthesizing friends. Students will collaborate to conduct plant part dissections, record observations in their field journals and journey outside to search for plants in their natural environment.

Available: September-October,

March-June

MCPS Curriculum 2.0

Alignments: K, I



Life Cycle Discovery

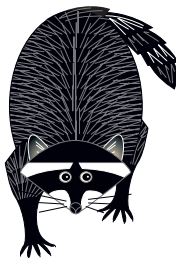
Explore the life cycles of common plants and animals to learn how growth and development can differ from species to species. Whether it is the transformation from plant to seed or tadpole to frog, your students will learn about the stages and compare the life cycles of Maryland flora and fauna. Available: All year
MCPS Curriculum 2.0 Alignments: 2

Soil Sleuths

Soil is essential to all living things. Students will have a chance to examine soil samples up close to determine the different components and discover why it is essential to life on earth and why it is important to conserve. Next, go on a hunt for the origin of soil – rocks. On the trail we will uncover the different types of rocks common to our area and learn how rocks are classified. Available: September-early November, late April-June
MCPS Curriculum 2.0 Alignments: 1

Insect Explorations

Did you know that there are more insects on our planet than any other type of living creature? We'll look at the world of entomology and discover the insect inhabitants of Croydon Creek. From butterflies and moths to grasshoppers, your students will enjoy learning how to identify a variety of species. Available: April-June
MCPS Curriculum 2.0 Alignments: 1, 2



Plants and People

You couldn't live in a world without plants. From the socks on our feet to the cereal we eat, plants are organisms we depend on daily. Students will discuss the



different ways we use these plants every day, dissect and classify some familiar plant parts and create a project using natural dyes. Of course no program is complete without a hike outdoors to see how plants function in the local environment.

Available: All year
MCPS Curriculum 2.0 Alignments: 3

Geology Rocks

Come discover the role that rocks have played in forming Croydon Creek. Your budding geologists will examine the physical properties of various rocks and minerals using a variety of testing methods and record their results. Then, they will venture outdoors to observe geology in action by studying the earth processes and materials that form the John G. Hayes Forest Preserve.

Available: All year
MCPS Curriculum 2.0 Alignments: 4

Investigating Habitats



Habitats provide basic needs for all plants and animals. Delve into local ecosystems and investigate the plants and animals that call these habitats home.

Available: All year
MCPS Curriculum 2.0
Alignments: 2, 3, 4

From the Creek to the Chesapeake

The Chesapeake Bay sustains an amazing array of wildlife. Learn how Rockville's streams are connected to the Bay and the impact human activity has had on the aquatic organisms living there. Students will conduct an experiment to explore the importance of water quality and hike to Croydon Creek to see the impacts of conservation on stream health.

Available: April-June
MCPS Curriculum 2.0 Alignments: 3, 4

Self-Guided Field Trip Programs:

You are welcome to bring a group to the nature center without having a naturalist-led program. We offer various activity sheets to enhance your nature center experience. Advance reservations are required in order to ensure a quality visit for all. No fee is required. To register your self-guided group, please call us at 240-314-8770.

Outreach Programs:

Croydon Creek Nature Center's outreach programs bring the nature to your classroom, library or meeting place. These lively 30-40 minute presentations are informative, educational and are presented in an engaging learning format. Programs feature active learning through live animal demonstrations or hands-on activities. Please call the nature center to discuss possible program topics to meet the needs of your students.

The fee for our outreach programs is \$120 plus \$3 per student for City of Rockville schools or groups, or \$5 per student for non-City of Rockville schools or groups. The fee is due the day of the program. All checks must be made payable to City of Rockville. Programs can be scheduled Tuesdays through Fridays from September through May. The maximum group size is 30 students per presentation. Multiple presentations may be scheduled for the same day.



What else is there to do at Croydon Creek Nature Center?



The nature center offers a variety of activities and exhibits.

We invite everyone to spend some time learning about their urban environment and enjoy some of the resources we have to offer.

Discover: Meet the animals that live in and around Rockville, including snakes, turtles and amphibians. Hands-on activities, books and puzzles entertain and educate.

Learn: Observe and identify birds while relaxing on the oak and hickory bentwood benches. Meet our Eastern Screech Owl and investigate our ever-changing exhibits. Visit our lower level exhibit area to learn about the local watershed.

Explore: Find the animal tracks in the building or search for hidden animals in the mosaic mural. Venture outdoors for a scavenger hunt, have a picnic, or take a walk to discover our meadow, forest and stream. Trail maps are available at the front desk to guide you through the John G. Hayes Forest Preserve adjacent to the nature center.

Group Size:

Due to facility size, we may limit group size to maintain quality and provide personalized attention. Large groups may be asked to visit on multiple days depending on their size.

How to register and fees:

Guided field trip programs fees are as follows: For City of Rockville schools the cost is \$3 per student with a minimum of \$50 per program. For non-City of Rockville schools the fee is \$5 per student with a minimum of \$50 per program. There is no charge for chaperones.

To register for a program please call us at 240-314-8770. Full payment for the program will be due upon arrival.

Lunch Facilities:

Due to space limitations we cannot reserve indoor lunch facilities for your group. On nice weather days we invite you to enjoy the outdoors and picnic on the grounds provided you dispose of your trash appropriately.



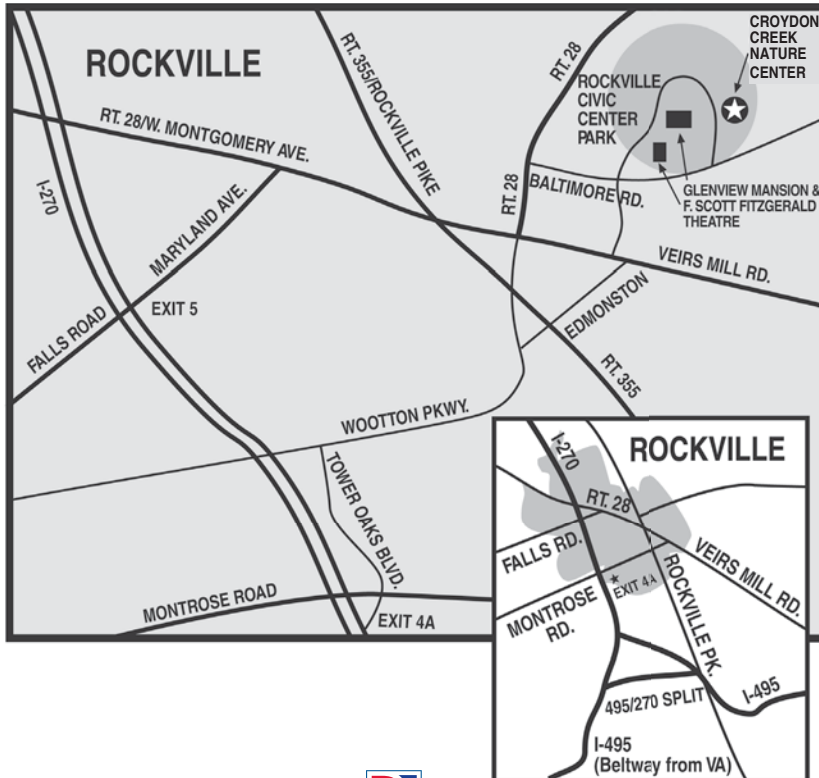
Location and Hours of Operation:

Croydon Creek Nature Center
852 Avery Road
Rockville, MD 20851
240-314-8770
www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek

Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Directions:

Croydon Creek Nature Center is located within the Rockville Civic Center Park. From Route 355 in Town Center, take Veirs Mill Road to Route 28. Make a right onto Baltimore Road. Go past the main entrance to Glenview Mansion and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre/Civic Center at Edmonston Dr. Continue straight on Baltimore Rd. Turn left on Avery Road. Follow Avery Road to the nature center.



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