

Critter Scene Investigation

Namaqua Park | 730 Namaqua Ave.

Critter Scene Investigations are 2 to 2.5 hour outdoor programs for Pre-Kindergarten to 2nd grade students.

Students walk from station to station in small groups, collecting clues and information to solve a wildlife mystery. Each mystery is based on a real-life event that happened in one of our natural areas. The program changes each year so students can return and experience a new program. Morning or afternoon programs available.



Our open Lands & Trails volunteers are ready to engage your students in learning about nature and the environment. *Your adventure awaits!*

Program Seasons

Spring: March – May
Fall: September – November

How To Reserve a Program

Register online at: offero.cityofloveland.org

On the Home page click on the **Request** box. Log in or create a new account. The green calendar dates are available for registration. Please fill out the form as completely as possible.

You need one chaperone for every eight students.

Use the program titles in this brochure as your topic – Plants and Places, Urban Wilderness, Critter Scene Investigation, etc.

All programs support CDE Standards for education. For lists of supported standards for each program visit cityofloveland.org/environmentaleducation. This link also provides more information and resources, including preparatory materials and site information for each program location.

Facilities & Preparation

Covered picnic areas and restroom facilities are available. Students should bring a sack lunch, extra clothing layers and wear closed-toe 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; terrain consists of packed surfaces and recycled asphalt.

The City of Loveland is committed to providing an equal opportunity for services, programs and activities and does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, age, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender. For more information on non-discrimination or for translation assistance, please contact the City's Title VI Coordinator at titlesix@cityofloveland.org or 970.962.2372. The City will make reasonable accommodations for citizens in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

For more information on ADA or accommodations, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at jason.smitherman@cityofloveland.org or 970.962.3319.



REGISTER: offero.cityofloveland.org

MORE INFO: 970.962.2643

City of Loveland Parks & Recreation
Open Lands & Trails Division
500 E. Third St., Suite 200 • Loveland, CO 80537
cityofloveland.org/openlands

Environmental Education Programs

For Pre-K - Grade 6

Introductory Material for Grades 7-12

Supports 2020 CDC Standards
(Colorado Department of Education)



Open Lands & Trails Division
City of Loveland
Parks & Recreation Department



Plants and Places

*River's Edge Natural Area | 960 W. First St.
Walk-in access: use crosswalks & underpasses
Bus entrance: 715 S. Roosevelt Ave. (west gate)*

Cottonwoods | 30 min
Students learn about the parts of a tree, the cottonwood life cycle and the tree's value and lore.

Cattails Lab & Pond Plants | 30 min
Wetland plants and wildlife inhabitants are featured. Students dissect cattails to learn about their adaptations.

Unique & Hazardous Plants of Colorado | 30 min
What do "native" and "invasive" mean?
How do plants protect themselves?
What does poison ivy look like?

Plants & Places Habitat Hunt | 45 min
Students receive basic instruction on habitats and plants at River's Edge to use in a guided scavenger hunt.

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

Includes Sun, Soil, Water and Air song & relay race



Urban Wilderness

*River's Edge Natural Area | 960 W. First St.
Walk-in access: use crosswalks & underpasses
Bus entrance: 715 S. Roosevelt Ave. (west gate)*

Urban Wildlife - Living With Nature | 30 min
What animals share our urban areas? Is there an urban "balance of nature?" How do we handle wildlife encounters?

RENA Rocks! & Watersheds | 30 min
Introduces the rock cycle as it pertains to the history of the Front Range and River's Edge. Students will build a model watershed.

Natural Areas & Open Spaces | 30 min
A migration game illustrates the value of conserved natural areas for migration, habitat and urban buffering.

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
Learn how an animal's physiology fits their habitat and environment, handling pelts, skulls and other aids.

Includes Food Chain game & other interactive activities

Wildlife and Us

*Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park | 1211 W. Hwy. 34
Bus parking: turn right at entrance*

Life Zones | 30 min
Students learn five CO Life Zones, how habitats differ within them and specialist or generalist animal residents.

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

Changes in Climate, Changes in Critters | 30 min
How changing climate is changing Colorado animal territories and behavior and how the changes may affect us.

Wildlife Management | 45 min
What does it mean to be endangered or threatened? Can managers balance the needs of animals with those of humans?

Adaptations: Migrate, Adapt or Die | 45 min
Learn how an animal's physiology fits their habitat and environment, handling pelts, skulls and other aids.

Includes Food Chain game & camouflage game

**Also suitable for older grades as introductory material*



Rare Earth: Geoscience

*Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park | 1211 W. Hwy. 34
Bus parking: turn right at entrance*

Origins | 30 min
A lesson on mountain building, volcanic activity and area topography. This is a geologic history of Colorado focusing on our area.

Erosion Revelations | 30 min
An introduction to erosion, canyon cutting and the revealed rocks and layers present in the canyon.

The Power of Nature | 30 min
What happened here in 1976 and 2013? How do we respond to natural events like floods?

Rock Cycle: Mineral & Rock Formation | 30-40 min
What is the difference between a mineral and a rock? How does each form? What are the three rock types and how are they represented here?

Rock Hounds Field Lab | 50-60 min
What rocks and minerals can you find and identify onsite? Use hardness kits, digital microscopes, information sheets and samples.

Includes large group game, a metamorphic chocolate activity & take-home rock ID worksheets

**Also suitable for older grades as introductory material*