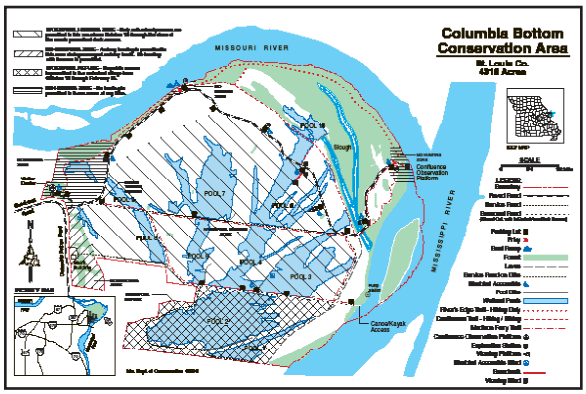
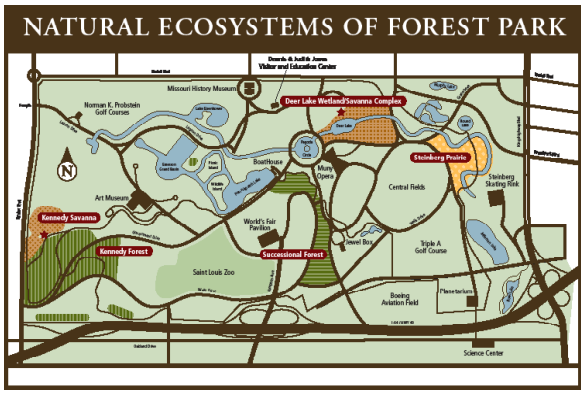
2014-2015 School Programs



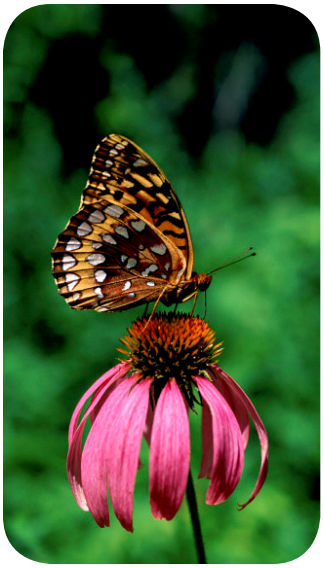
Columbia Bottom

Missouri Department of Conservation
Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
801 Strodtman Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63138



Forest Park

Missouri Department of Conservation
Forest Park Office
5595 Grand Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63112



Pre-K - Second Grade

Life Cycles

Every living thing, big and small, has a life cycle. Discover nature as it grows, through the exploration of one of the following:

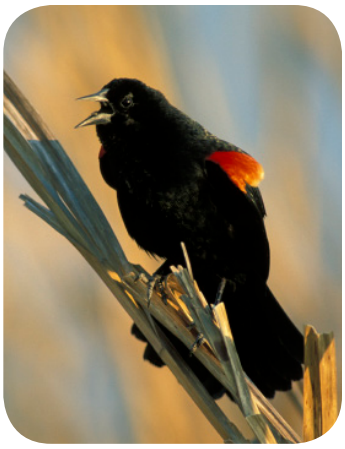
- **Amphibians** - Learn the difference between frogs and toads and their lives during metamorphosis. Weather permitting, catch these fun froggy creatures and explore hands-on what makes them so fabulous! (Spring)
- **Insects** - Some insects start their lives in the ground, others in the water. Learn how insects grow and where they live. Scoop through the water, sweep through the grasslands, and dig under rocks and logs to explore this crawly world.
- **Plants** - Explore the life cycle of plants from a shrub to a tree. What kinds of seeds do they have and how do they spread? Understand the importance of trees from seed to plant and after death.

Animal Adaptations

Discover unique adaptations that allow animals to thrive in their environment. Examine animal artifacts to better understand the role that they play in survival. Choose from the following:

- **Birds** - Examine wings, feathers and feet that give birds the ability to survive in different habitats.
- **Mammals** - Touch pelts, examine skulls, and understand how unique Missouri's wildlife really is.
- **Reptiles** - Discover the life of a turtle or a snake. What is so great about a shell or a slither? This is your opportunity to find out!

Third Grade - Fifth Grade



Habitat Exploration

Wade into a wetland, prance through a prairie, or forge through a forest to discover the diversity of life. Choose from the following:

- **Forests -** Enter the forest to discover the plants and animals that call this ecosystem their home.
- **Prairies -** Experience the tall grasses and wildflowers while pointing out the many organisms that can be seen along the way.
- **Wetlands -** Explore how wetlands provide a home for animals living in or around the water, as well as a rest stop for many migratory birds.

Hunting & Tracking

Learn how hunting and tracking is strategically used to manage populations as well as provide a food source. Test your skills at how well you can shoot our home-made bow and arrow; find and identify animal tracks.

Surviving the Wild

How well can you survive in the woods? Try your hand at creating a primitive shelter and making a fire pit and learn more about other techniques to help you survive.

Lewis & Clark Survivors (Offered at Columbia Bottom)

Learn some of the talents of the Corps of Discovery members which helped them survive the journey up the Missouri River. Includes a trip to the Confluence.

Urban Wildlife (Offered at Forest Park)

Animals aren't just found in the suburbs and country; they're everywhere. Students will learn about urban wildlife and discover what adaptations animals have that enable them to survive in the city.

Sixth Grade - Twelfth Grade

Aquatic Studies

How healthy is the water around you? What kinds of things live there? Students put the scientific process to work to determine how biotic and abiotic factors affect the diversity of aquatic ecosystems. Chemical and macroinvertebrate sampling will be conducted.

Taxomony

Learn the science behind describing, identifying, naming and classifying organisms. Discover the characteristics that group them together.

- **Vertebrates -** Vertebrates make up only 5% of the animal kingdom yet are the most well-known. Students will classify organisms into the 5 vertebrate classes using Missouri skulls, pelts, and other animal artifacts.
- **Invertebrates -** Invertebrates are everywhere! Outnumbering all species of animals and plants combined, these spineless creatures are prevelant in almost every habitat. Students will classify these organisms through hands-on collection and examination of local Missouri species.

Ecosystem Dynamics

What makes the ecosystem go 'round? Activities that model predator-prey relationships, nature's recycling, food pyramids and webs will help students better understand these concepts.

Forest Ecology

What is the value of a tree? Learn about the importance of a forest through its lifetime. Become familiar with tree transect lines, succession, forest management, and invasive species.

Teacher-Led Activities for all Grades

Allow us to assist you in making your own teacher-led activity. We will provide you with supplies and instructions to help guide you and your students. These activities are great options for self-guided field trips when Naturalists are unavailable:

•Discovery Hike •Nature Games •Service Projects •Nature Journaling

If you are interested in a specific topic not listed, such as map & compass or geocaching, we are more than happy to tailor a program to suit your needs.

Program Reservation Information

- All programs are FREE and available between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Tuesday - Friday.
- Please make requests two weeks prior to your visit.
- Program time is 90 minutes or longer for larger groups.
- Groups of two or more classes may require teacher-led activities.
- The option of two Naturalists for larger groups is dependent upon availability.
- Tailored programs available upon request.
- Weather may affect the availability of certain activities.
- Science GLE connections available upon request.

LOCATIONS

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area is located north of I-270 on Columbia Bottom Road in north St. Louis County. Take I-270 east to Riverview Dr. Turn North on Riverview which becomes Columbia Bottom Road. The entrance is 2.8 miles ahead on the right hand side.

Forest Park Satellite Office is located inside the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center. The Visitor's Center is located just east of the History Museum in the building with the big clock tower at 5595 Grand Drive.

Columbia Bottom Reservations

Nicki Wheaton
Naturalist
314.877.6014 x27
nicholewheaton@mdc.mo.gov

Forest Park Reservations

Melissa Hurayt
Naturalist
314.877.1309 x1982
melissa.hurayt@mdc.mo.gov

Beyond the Classroom

Both Columbia Bottom Conservation Area and Forest Park have recreational opportunities for students and their families. Weekend and evening programs are provided at both locations. Check out the many exciting MDC opportunities to explore and enjoy the outdoors online at **mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis**