



M E Q U O N
N a t u r e
P r e s e r v e

2016

Environmental Education through
Inquiry-based Learning

Teacher designed and state standard aligned

About the Mequon Nature Preserve

Our mission is to be a guiding example for restoration and environmental education that *inspires exploration, cultivates stewardship* and *encourages* visitors to get *off the path*.

Mequon Nature Preserve Educational Opportunities

- Every program will include an outdoor component.
- Field trips will be scheduled on a “first come, first served” basis. Please first call or email education staff members for available dates.
- There is no general fee for programs at MNP, but some programs will require fees to cover the cost of supplies. (Donations are always appreciated.)
- Most school visits are planned for 3-4 hours. Students are welcome to eat lunch in or outside the education building.
- Transportation scholarships are available for schools within the City of Milwaukee. Contact MNP for more information.
- Most lessons can be modified to suit your students’ abilities, ages, special needs or time constraints. Special requests for lessons not listed in the brochure are accepted. Contact education staff with questions.

Resources in the Natural World

Tour and Habitat Hike

Offered: Year-round

Suggested Grade Levels: Any

Science performance standards: C4.1+2, F4.2, F8.8, F12.7, F12.8

Description: MNP staff will guide your group through the “green” education center and point out the renewable energy features. Students will then hike up to two miles through wetlands, forests, and prairies, learning about these different habitats along the way. A great choice for first time visitors.

Tour and Scavenger Hunt

Offered: Year-round

Suggested Grade Levels: Pre-K through 2nd

Science Performance Standards: C4.1, C4.2, F4.2

Description: Students will be led on tour of the education center to meet its various resident animals. Afterwards, MNP staff will lead the students on a half-mile hike to look for items on a prepared

Invasive plant species and Land Restoration

Offered: Spring through Fall

Suggested Grade Levels: 5th and above

Science Performance Standards: F8.8, F8.9, F12.7, F12.8

Description: Students will learn to identify non-native plants and assess their disruptive effects on our native plants and animals. Removal of invasive plants and planting of native plants will be part of the experience as well.

Renewable Energy

Offered: Year-round

Suggested Grade Levels: 3rd and above

Science Performance Standards: D4.8, E4.6, G4.1, G8.2-3

Description: Students will learn about the need for renewable sources of energy by investigating the benefits of wind and solar power.

George Blommel Wetland Science Programs

Aquatic Organisms

Offered: Spring through Fall

Suggested Grade Levels: 6th through 12th

Science Performance Standards: C8.6, F8.2+10, C12.3, F12.7+9

Description: Students will observe, collect and index many of the organisms present in MNP’s wetlands. The students’ data will be used to assess the relative health of the wetlands.

Food Chains in Wetlands

Offered: Spring through Fall

Suggested Grade Levels: 3rd through 8th

Science Performance Standards: F4.1, F8.2, F8.8

Description: Students will collect and observe many of the organisms present in MNP’s wetlands and organize them into native food chains.



Water Quality from Wetlands

Offered: Spring through Fall

Suggested Grade Levels: 5th through 12th

Science Performance Standards: C8.1, C8.6, D8.1, C12.3

Description: Students will learn about the benefits of wetlands and assess the health of MNP’s wetlands by observing its organisms as well as testing water chemistry (pH, turbidity, nitrate and phosphate levels, temperature and dissolved oxygen).

Forest Explorations

All About Trees

Offered: Year-round

Suggested Grade Levels: K5 through 6th

Science Performance Standards: C4.2, F4.1-4, F8.2, F8.8

Description: Students will learn about the basic parts of trees, study the stages in a tree's life cycle and identify five or more native trees common to southeast Wisconsin.



Exploring the Forest Floor

Offered: Spring through Fall

Suggested Grade Levels: 2nd through 6th

Science Performance Standards: C4.2, F4.1, C8.6, F8.8

Description: Students will closely examine the ground in a forest, discovering seeds, bugs, worms, fungi and other things that often go unnoticed. Decomposition, nutrient cycling and food chains within woodlands will be discussed.

Soil Science

Offered: Spring through Fall

Suggested Grade Levels: 1st through 4th

Science Performance Standards: C4.1, C4.2, E4.2, F4.1-2, F4.4

Description: Students will examine various types of soil, note what type of plants live in each of the soil types and discuss the role insects and other animals play in recycling nutrients and making soil.

Animal Inquiries

Birding 101

Offered: Year-round

Suggested Grade Levels: 3rd through 8th

Science Performance Standards: F4.1, F8.2, F8.7

Description: Students will learn about the diversity of bird species and how each requires a different habitat. With binoculars and a species list, groups will seek out various common birds in their natural habitats.

Bird Anatomy and Behavior

Offered: Year-round

Suggested Grade Levels: K through 5th

Science Performance Standards: F4.1-4, F8.2, F8.8

Description: Students will take a close look at the physical characteristics of birds, their behavior (migration, nesting, food sources) and the need for our assistance in their survival.

Insects in the Prairie

Offered: Late spring through Fall

Suggested Grade Levels: 1st through 6th

Science Performance Standards: C4.2, C8.6, F8.2

Description: Insects are the unsung heroes that keep the soil moving, nutrients recycling and flowers pollinated. In this lesson, students will learn about various types of native insects by catching, identifying and releasing insects from our prairie.

The Monarch Migration

Offered: August through October

Suggested Grade Levels: 2nd through 6th

Science Performance Standards: F4.1-4, F8.2, F8.5, F8.7, F8.8

Description: Students will study the monarch's life cycle, its food sources and the incredible, yearly migration of monarchs between Mexico and Wisconsin. Students may take part in tagging butterflies for scientific study.

Owls and Owl Pellets

Offered: Year-round

Suggested Grade Levels: K5 through 4th

Science Performance Standards: C4.2, C4.4, C4.5, F4.4

Description: Students will develop a basic knowledge of the four common owl species in southeast Wisconsin and examine the content of owl pellets to determine a typical owl diet.



Tracking Animals in the Winter Time

Offered: Winter

Suggested Grade Levels: K5 through 6th

Science Performance Standards: C4.1-2, F4.1-2, F4.4, F8.2, F8.9

Description: Students will hike to discover which animals are active in winter by searching for scat, tracks and other signs of activity.

*MNP has around 20 children's snowshoes and dozens of winter boots available for use by school groups.

Understanding Amphibians

Offered: Spring through Fall

Suggested Grade Levels: 3rd through 8th

Science Performance Standards: F4.1-4, F8.2, F8.6-8

Description: Students will study amphibians through classroom and field observation, recognize different species by their calls and learn about their food sources and life cycle.

Other information:

- MNP staff may be able to create an outdoor experience for your students that is not listed in this brochure to match your curriculum needs.
- Many of the lessons can be adapted for students outside of the suggested grade level.

If you are interested in a visit,

- 1) Contact Nici Perez or Jason Nickels regarding date availability (contact information below)
- 2) Arrange your transportation
- 3) Complete the online registration form at: mequonnaturepreserve.org/registration

Mequon Nature Preserve

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