



FROM THE TRAILS

OF THE PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

APRIL - AUGUST 2014

FEED THE BISON

The bison are probably the most beloved animals at the Nature Center. Though many people may prefer Kazoo, the barn owl, or Jake, the bullsnake, the most iconic representatives of Pioneers Park Nature Center are the bison. Everyday people drive, bike and walk through the park and make a point of stopping to visit the bison. This year Russ's Market has started a new Community Rewards Program and one of the opportunities to give back is to feed the bison at the Nature Center. If you shop at Russ's please donate your community reward points to provide food for the bison.

SUPPORT OUR ORGANIZATION WITH



CAMP DISCOVERY

Camp for 3 1/2-6 year olds at Pioneers Park Nature Center

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. \$70/week

Each week we'll learn through outdoor exploration, crafts, nature games, snacks and story time.

WILDERNESS NATURE CAMPS

Camp for 6-12 year olds at Wilderness Park and other locations

Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. \$170/week

Build forts, run through meadows, wade through creeks, explore the woods, meet new friends; these are weekly activities at WNC! This camp has the best wild adventures for 6-12 year olds.

Camps are offered weekly in June and July. Need based scholarships are available. Go online or call for a brochure.

Warning: Participating in these camps may result in physical activity, breathing fresh air, laughing hysterically and an increased knowledge of nature.



WILD ADVENTURES

Saturday, April 19 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free

Enjoy a free fun filled day connecting children and families with nature. Walk the trails and discover over 20 activities for all ages. See snakes and bugs, test the pond water, feel the animal hides & pelts, try out the binoculars and build a fairy garden. Listen to the Lincoln Ukulele Group and try hamburgers by Russ' Market. The Nebraska Wildlife Federation will announce the poster contest winner at noon and there is something for all ages.

PIONEERS PARK NATURE CENTER

Admission: Donation \$3/person \$5/family \$10/group

Location: 3201 S. Coddington (west end of Pioneers Park) Lincoln, NE 68522

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 402.441.7895

E-mail: naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov

Website: parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter

Mailing Address: 2740 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives.

Thomas Barry

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Saturdays, May 10 and June 7 10 a.m.
Composting Demonstration Area Free

Learn how to compost in your back yard, UNL Extension and the City Recycling Office will host a workshop at the Nature Center's backyard composting demonstration area. Two lucky participants will receive a free soil thermometer or plastic compost bin.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST AND BIRD WALK

May 12, Sunday 8-10 a.m.
Prairie Building \$10/person, register by May 9

Treat your mother to a unique Mother's Day early morning bird walk followed by a breakfast of rolls, fruit, and a beverage. Binoculars will be provided for participants who need them.

ANIMAL ANTICS: SUMMER DROP-IN PROGRAM

Wednesdays in June & July 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Prairie Building \$3/person

Each week we'll explore one or more of the animals that live at the Nature Center. Groups of six or more are asked to pre-register. Children's groups must be supervised: one adult for every six kids.

June 4: Songbirds	July 2: Bald Eagle or Wild Turkey?
June 11: Bison, Elk & Deer	July 9: Owls, Hawks & Falcons
June 18: Pollinators	July 16: Amphibians
June 25: Macroinvertebrates	July 23: Insects and Spiders
	July 30: Snakes and Turtles

FROGGY WENT A-HUNTIN'

June 21, Saturday 7-8:30 p.m.
Chet Ager Bldg \$8/person, \$15/family, register by June 19

Let's hunt frogs, tadpoles and a lot of exotic-looking little critters that make their home in our ponds or streams. We'll take a good look before letting them go. Wear old clothes and shoes and bring insect repellent.

BUTTERFLY COUNT

July 12, Saturday 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Prairie Building \$5/person, register by July 9

Take part in the annual butterfly count sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). We'll begin with an hour-long introductory slide show. Participants will then disperse to the count areas: Pioneers Park Nature Center, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, and Nine-Mile Prairie. No need to be an expert, an experienced person will accompany each group. The count involves walking about 2 hours and covering 2 to 3 miles. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES: Choose the theme that will make for an exciting birthday celebration. Available from 10-12 on Saturdays and 2-4 on Saturdays and Sundays. We provide the space, program, a favor bag for each child and a special gift for the guest of honor. Available facilities: BirthDay House, \$75 for up to 10 children and 3 adults; \$7 each additional child, maximum of 15 children Auditorium, \$100 for up to 10 children and 5 adults; \$7 each additional child, \$3 each additional adult

ROCK AND MINERAL GRINDING PARTY

July 13, Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Chet Ager Building \$5 Donation

What are some of the various gems and minerals found in the Great Plains? How are gemstones prepared for jewelry? Processes from the "rough" stone through cutting, polishing and finishing will be demonstrated by members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club during this drop-in program.

CAMP ACROSS LINCOLN

July 21-25, Mon - Fri 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Different site each day \$210

Five days, five locations, one great camp! Each day will be spent at a different kid destination in Lincoln: Lincoln Children's Museum, Morrill Hall, LUX Center for the Arts, Lincoln Children's Zoo and Pioneers Park Nature Center. Register through the Lincoln Children's Museum.

FAMILY NATURE NIGHT

August 1, Friday 7-8:30 p.m.
Prairie Building \$15/family, register by July 30

Let's see if we can spot some crepuscular animals on our trails, then share stories around the campfire while enjoying s'mores.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

CHILDREN'S GARDEN FUN

Classes are \$3 per person
1 adult per 3 children, ages 3 and up
Fridays: 10:00 - 11:00am
Saturdays, March through June: 1:30 - 2:30pm
Saturdays, July and August: 9:30 - 10:30am

Come grow with your child at the Children's Garden! We will plant, tend, harvest and learn about the wonders of nature through a variety of crafts and exploratory activities.

Apr 11, 12: Spring Planting	Jun 27, 28: Summer Planting
Apr 25, 26: April Flowers	Jul 11, 12: Water!
May 2, 3: Colorful Salads	Jul 18, 19: Herbs and Spices
May 9, 10: Web of Life	Jul 25, 26: Bugs in the Garden
May 23, 24: Spring Harvest	Aug 1, 2: Fresh Flavors
May 30, 31: Dirt!	Aug 8, 9: Summer Harvest
Jun 6, 7: Roots and Shoots	Aug 15, 16: Garden Circles II

GARDEN TEA PARTIES

Thursdays 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Chet Ager Building \$5/person

Games, crafts, iced tea, lemonade and biscuits will be part of these afternoon tea parties. Dress up if you like, we will be playing outside.

June 12: Garden Gnomes
July 10: Garden Fairies
July 31: Garden Friends

SPECIALLY FOR SCOUTS

SCOUT HIKES

One hour naturalist-led hikes are available.
Fee: \$3/scout/minimum 10. Arrange 2 weeks in advance.

BADGEWORK

The Nature Center rotates scheduled badges and try-its. Upon request, staff will work with leaders for other badge programming with the following fee schedule:

2 hours or less: \$7/scout/minimum 10
2.5-3 hours: \$10/scout/minimum 10

NATURALIST ACTIVITY BADGE FOR WEBELOS

May 3, Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Noon
Prairie Building \$10/scout

Learn to identify the poisonous plants and animals of our area, search for animals of our region, investigate food chains, bird flyways and the importance of wetlands! Complete activities 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 with the help of Nature Center staff. Register by April 30.

JUNIOR NATURALIST SERIES

Sundays 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Prairie Building Fee: \$15/scout

This series of programs is targeted at Brownies but all levels of Girl Scouts are welcome to attend. Fee includes instructor, supplies, snacks and recognition. Come dressed for the weather, we'll be outside for at least part of the time! Register through the Girl Scouts at girlscoutsnebraska.org at least two weeks before the program.

May 18: Grow in the Garden
June 15: Grub in the Mud
July 13: Is Something Bugging You?
Aug 17: Portrait of a Prairie
Sept 14: Solar Powered



Kasey Moomau is an AmeriCorps member focused on working in the Children's Garden. Stop by and say "Hi" if you see him in the garden.

NATURE CENTER PRESCHOOL

Our program is built on the conviction that children learn by doing: hiking, climbing, digging, building and being outdoors regardless of the weather. Contact the Preschool Director at 402-441-8669 for more information.

Now enrolling for the 2014-2015 School Year

FRIENDS OF PPNC

This year the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center are continuing to change up their excellent fund raising efforts. **Wild Adventures** on April 19, is a free family event that the Friends are offering in partnership with several other conservation organizations. Nature's Market will be missed but we are excited about this new opportunity.

The popular **Beer, Brats and Birds or Bison... is now Bees!** It will be held June 13 to inspire all of us to care for our local pollinators. Get your tickets early before they are sold out.

Coming this September will be another new "mystery" event for adults. Details will be available this summer.

Please consider joining the Friends of PPNC Board and become a member. You'll receive better ticket prices, 10% off in our gift shop and invitation to Friends only events.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

COFFEE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE

May 16, Friday 8-10 p.m.
On the Prairie \$15/person

Enjoy a casual evening on the prairie, watching the sunset, sipping beverages and listening to acoustic music and poetry. Sponsored by Meadowlark Coffee & Espresso, this event will have unlimited coffee and tea. Advanced tickets recommended and are available at the Nature Center and Meadowlark Coffee & Espresso.

PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

May 31, Saturday 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Prairie Building \$10/person

Discover ways to promote native pollinators in your gardens. Explore the beautiful gardens and native landscaping at the Pioneers Park Nature Center. Participants will take home native seeds and have the chance to win a plant identification guide.

BEER, BRATS AND BEES

June 13, Friday 6:30p.m.
Prairie Building \$25/Friends of PPNC \$30/guests
Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Join the Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center for a lovely outdoor evening. There will be a social hour sponsored by Blue Blood Brewing, live music, fresh food and a presentation about bees and followed by an evening stroll. All funds raised will help provide food and habitat conservation for the pollinators of Pioneers Park Nature Center.

FRESH HERBAL FOOD

August 2, Saturday 11a.m. - 1 p.m.
Prairie Building \$10/person register by July 30

Middle Eastern cuisine has fantastic vegetarian dishes that are healthy and very flavorful. Learn how easy it is to prepare delicious recipes using fresh herbs and a few key ingredients. Foods to sample will include falafel, hummus and tzatziki.

Pioneers Park Nature Center

Lincoln Parks & Recreation
2740 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

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Save a tree and get your newsletter by email.
Send a request to naturecenter@lincoln.ne.gov.



The mission of the Pioneers Park Nature Center is to interpret the natural history of Nebraska and the central great plains; to promote the enjoyment, appreciation and awareness of our natural environment; to practice and foster a conservation ethic; and to provide a sanctuary for wildlife and a peaceful retreat for people.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Herb Garden Volunteer

Help staff care for the herb garden. Workdays include several afternoons in April to clean up the garden, a garden planting party during the 2nd week of May, 8:30 - 10:30 sessions on a weekday chosen by the group weekly in late May and June, every other week in July and August, and a garden potting party in October.

Prairie Garden Volunteers

Help staff care for the prairie gardens and nursery. Saturday morning workdays from 9 - noon, April through Sept. (Work is intense in May and June, tapering off later in season).

Office Support

The Nature Center occasionally has need for volunteers to assist at the front desk while staff attend required meetings, and periodically with the newsletter mailing.

Land Management

Help staff maintain the Nature Center land. Tasks include chipping trails, preparing for prescribed burns, helping with the actual burns, preparing soil for plantings, planting and watering, weed control, tree removal, and seed gathering.

Contact [Andrea Faas](mailto:Andrea.Faas@lincoln.ne.gov) afaas@lincoln.ne.gov or 402-441-8708 if you are interested.

THANK YOU

DONATIONS

- Kathy Putensen**
Preschool supplies
- Atef Al Arab Family**
Preschool supplies
- Sue Samson**
Cash donation
- Bob Pewthers**
Tables for Chet Ager Building
- Nebraska Herbal Society**
Cash donation
- Tom Lawrence**
Goose meat