



live more, play more
pgparks.com

Bladensburg Waterfront Park

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



HOURS

Park open daily:
Sunrise to Sunset
Park Office Hours:
9 am - 5 pm

4601 Annapolis Rd., Bladensburg, MD 20710
301-779-0371; Maryland Relay 7-1-1
BladensburgWP@pgparks.com
pgparks.com/bladensburgwaterfrontpark



Bladensburg Waterfront Park

Located on the scenic Anacostia River, Bladensburg Waterfront Park offers a variety of science and history-based educational programs for students, pre-k through high school. From river tours to trail hikes, historic presentations to science demonstrations, all programs are led by professional naturalists and park staff, incorporating Maryland State Curriculum Standards and/or Next Generation Science Standards. The perfect spot for your next field trip!

With a focus on sustainability, conservation, and habitat restoration, the park features a beautiful riverfront walkway, miles of paved trails and boardwalks through woods and wetlands, a covered picnic pavilion, playground, and so much more. Come explore both river and land, in a unique and engaging program. See you at the park!

Tours

RIVER BOAT TOURS

Set out aboard our pontoon boat for an interpretive riverboat tour of the scenic Anacostia River! Enjoy the sights, sounds, and wildlife of a vibrant river ecosystem. Life jackets are provided. Boat tour availability may change due to the weather or river conditions.

B&O CABOOSE TOURS

All aboard the historic B&O Caboose! Explore the various parts of this train car, see the crewman's quarters, sit at the Conductor's desk, climb into the cupula to see the view from up high, ring the train bell, and use your imagination as they explore this 1926 Caboose.



Science

ANIMAL CHARACTERISTICS & ADAPTATIONS

Preschool-4 (NGSS: LS1.A; LS1.D)

Touch furs, bones, scales, feathers and more to discover where animals live, what they eat, how they move, how they adapt to survive, and much more. Discover the adaptations of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, and fish.

INSECT INVESTIGATORS

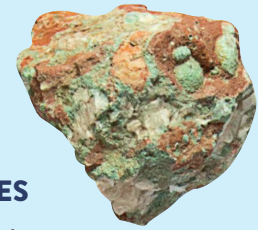
Grades 1 – 4 (NGSS: 1-LS1-1; 2-LS4-1; 3-LS1-1; 3-LS2-1; 3-LS3-1; 3-LS4-2; 3-LS4-3; 4-LS1-1; 4-LS4-1)

Step into the buzzing world of incredible insects and discover how these tiny creatures impact our environment! From life cycles, body parts, communication, cool adaptations, and even their amazing engineering skills, get up close and personal with live and preserved insects using microscopes other awesome science tools.

WATER & YOU

Grades 2 – 5 (NGSS: 2-ESS2-3; 4-ESSE-2; 5ESS2-2)

Water, water, everywhere! With hands-on water experiments and challenges, explore the components and chemistry of water, the water cycle, water conservation, water safety, freshwater vs salt water, and the importance of water as a natural resource to the survival of plants and animals.



EXPLORING NATURAL RESOURCES

Grades 4 – 6 (NGSS: 2-ESS2-3; 4-ESS3-1; 4-ESSE-2; MS-ESS3-3)

Renewable and non-renewable natural resources, the challenges involved in environmental clean-up efforts and the vital role of protecting wildlife and natural habitats! Delve into critical topics such as pollution, recycling, and climate change, and developing a deeper understanding of how human activities impact the environment.

GEMSTONES & GEOLOGY

Grades 3 – 5 (NGSS: 3-ES3-1, 4-ESS1-1; 4-ESS2-1 & 2; 5-ESS2-2, 5-ESS3-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-PS3-1)

Get ready for an adventure into the dazzling world of crystals, gemstones, and geology! In this hands-on workshop, you'll become a rock detective, using cool tools like microscopes, scales, and blacklights to unlock the secrets of rocks and beautiful gems from all over the globe.





PLANTS, CYCLES, & INTERACTIONS

Grades 4 – 6
(NGSS: 2-LS2-1;
4-LS1-1; 5-LS1-1;
5-LS2-1; 5-LS2-1;
5-PS3-1; 5-ESS3-1)

Let's get growing! Discover how plants thrive, from photosynthesis, plant

respiration, and energy flow in an ecological system. Using seeds, stems, flowers and more, understand what plants need to grow and why plants are important for the environment.

WEATHER, METEOROLOGY, & THE CLIMATE

Grades 3 – 6 (NGSS: 3-ESS2-1; 3-ESS2-2; 3-ESS3-1;
4-ESS2-1; 5-ESS2-1)

What's up with the weather? Investigate the importance of weather to the survival of life, the water cycle, concepts in meteorology, the difference between weather and climate, and the cause and effect of human behavior on the climate. Use tools, maps, symbols, and math to measure and interpret the weather.



CLIMATE HEROES: SAVING THE PLANET, ONE ACTION AT A TIME!

Grades 5 -12 (NGSS: 5-ESS2-1, MS-ESS2-5; MS-ESS3-5; HS-ESS3-1-6)

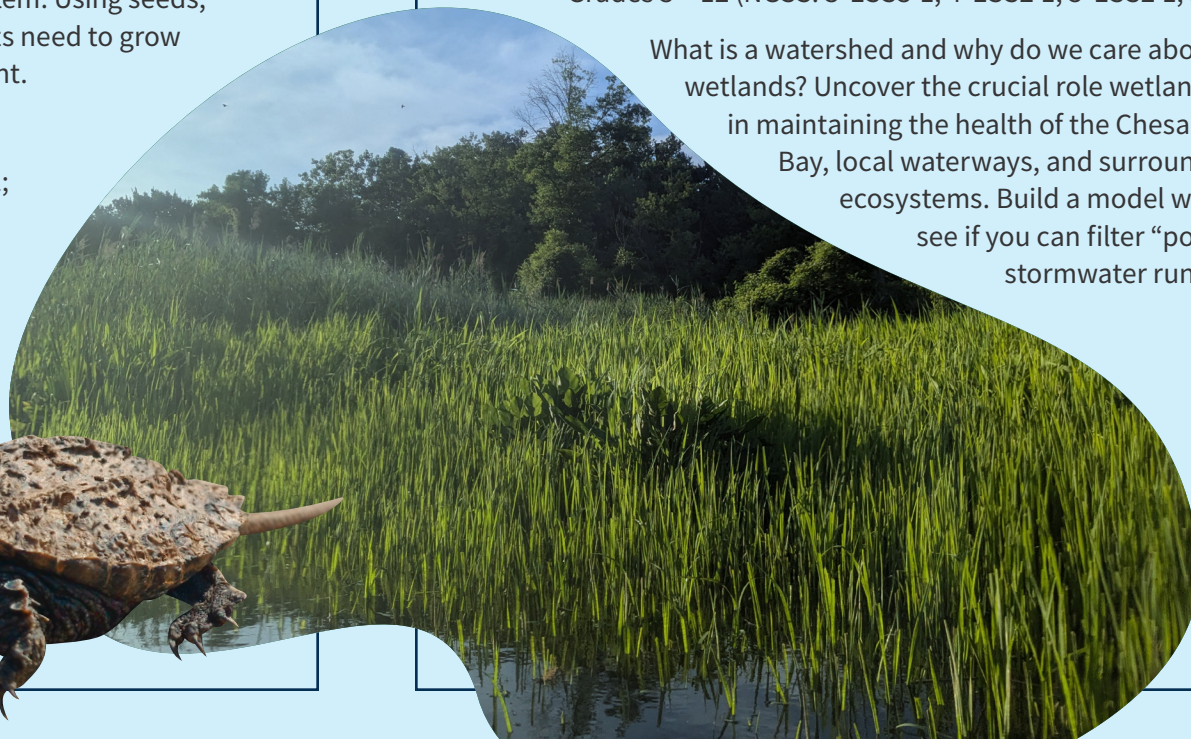
Students will explore the differences between weather and climate, understanding how climate change impacts human, plant, and wildlife populations, as well as sea levels and regional patterns of temperature and precipitation. Through interactive simulations, charts, math, and technology, learn the science behind climate change and how natural systems respond to it.

Additionally, you can add a meaningful, solution-based activity, such as a park clean-up, pedal power activities, build a floating wetland, or native garden planting, encouraging environmental stewardship and responsibility for protecting the natural environment.

WETLANDS & WATERSHEDS

Grades 3 – 12 (NGSS: 3-ESS3-1; 4-ESS2-1; 5-ESS2-1; 5-ESS3-1)

What is a watershed and why do we care about wetlands? Uncover the crucial role wetlands play in maintaining the health of the Chesapeake Bay, local waterways, and surrounding ecosystems. Build a model wetland and see if you can filter "polluted" stormwater runoff!



Outdoor Nature Discovery

NATURE DISCOVERY WALKS

Preschool – 4

Go on a guided nature walk in the park and along the trails to explore ecosystems, wildlife, plants, and more. Field guides, binoculars, nets, critter catchers, scavenger hunts, and other fun supplies are provided so students can fully engage with their surroundings.

WETLAND EXPLORERS & BOAT TOUR

Grades 4 and up (NGSS: 3-ESS3-1; 4-ESS2-1; 5-ESS2-1; 5-ESS3-1)

By boat and by land, the best of both worlds! Starting with a boat tour down the river, disembark at the freshwater marsh to explore the amazing wetland habitat. Use tools such as field guides, water testers, sein nets, binoculars, nets, and soil study tools to learn about environmental and human factors that impact plants and wildlife ecosystems.



History/ Social Studies

THE BIG RED CABOOSE PROGRAM

Grades Pre-K – 3

All Aboard! Meet us at the imagination station and become train engineers, learn about the B&O caboose and the railroad. Discover how trains connect people and goods near and far. The participants can: Build a wooden railway; use walkie-talkies to communicate with friends; learn how to use signal flags and bells; use binoculars to see the surroundings from up high in the cupula; make a craft or write a special letter.

RAILROADS & CULTURE

Grades 3 and up

Follow the tracks of the past to explore how the railroad influenced settlement, culture, and industry in Maryland and the Washington, D.C. areas. Comparing historic and present photos of towns, buildings, trains, and methods of communication, students will understand how railroads connected people and their goods. Then tour the 1926 B&O Caboose!

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE OF THE EASTERN WOODLANDS PEOPLES

Grades 3 – 12

Explore the life of Eastern Woodland Native Americans, and how native traditions continue to influence modern life! Evaluate early interactions between the Native Americans and the European colonists. Then by examining cultural items, using tools, playing instruments and native games, learn the lifestyle and cultural practices/challenges.

THE WAR OF 1812 & BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG

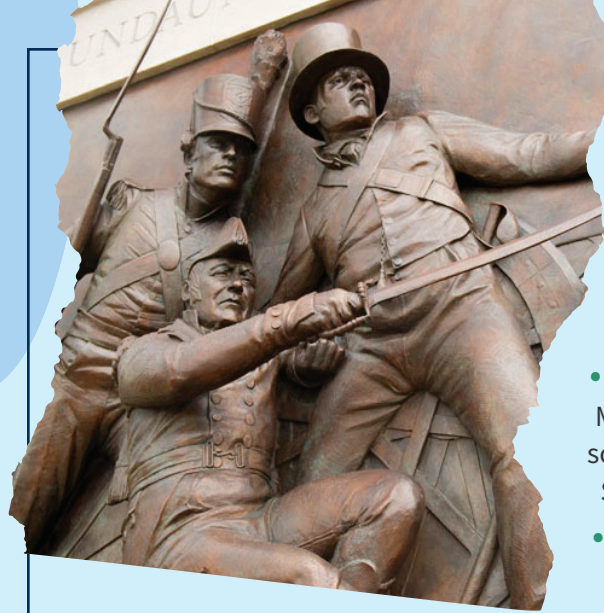
Grades 5 and up

It's a time of war and the small town of Bladensburg is front and center! Learn the causes, factors, heroic (and disappointing) details, and outcome of the battle within the context of America's ongoing fight against the British.

TO SCHEDULE A PROGRAM

To schedule a program, visit pgparks.com/bladensburgwaterfrontpark, click "School Programs" and then "Request a Program" button, to complete the form. For additional information, call 301-779-0371 or email BladensburgWP@pgparks.com.

Programs are generally 45 minutes in length, and we can accommodate up to 100 students per date. Let's build a program/field trip experience to meet your needs!



FEES

Programs presented at Bladensburg Waterfront Park (Minimum fees may apply)

- Prince George's and Montgomery County schools & organizations: Starting at \$4/participant
- Schools & organizations in all other counties: Starting at \$6/participant
- Programs presented at your school or facility (Available Nov.-Mar. only. Minimum fees may apply)
- Prince George's and Montgomery County schools & organizations: Starting at \$6/participant
- Schools & organizations in all other counties: Starting at \$8/participant

We allow one free chaperone for every five students. Chaperones over the 1:5 ratio will be required to pay the program fee. Depending on group size, we cannot guarantee all chaperones will be able to participate in all programs or ride a scheduled boat tour.

PARKING

Buses may park in the lower Bladensburg Waterfront Park parking lot, as available. Please check in at the park office upon arrival.

LUNCH FACILITIES

Picnic tables are available on a first come, first served basis at the Ropewalk Pavilion, a short walk from the parking lot and park office. When confirming your program date(s), please check with park staff on pavilion availability. You are welcome to bring your lunches and enjoy in the park.



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