

# WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER

## BUILDING HOURS

Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am-5:00 pm    Sunday: 12:00-5:00 pm  
Building is closed on legal holidays. Trails remain open.

## PARK HOURS

Daily: 5:00 am-11:00 pm



6710 Lake Shore Drive  
Richfield, Minnesota 55423  
[www.woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://www.woodlakenaturecenter.org)  
612-861-9365

**2018 Spring & Summer  
Programs and Events**

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**Nature Adventurers Summer Edition Limit 15**  
 Young explorers (ages 3-5) accompanied by an adult will have an exciting time exploring different natural topics each visit. Enjoy stories, crafts, hands-on activities, snack, and outdoor discovery time. Online registration and prepayment required at [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org).

**Storybook Hike Camp**  
 Explore a new children's book each day on a hike through the forest and prairie. Enjoy activities that focus on the story and allow time for parent and child interaction.  
**Tuesday-Thursday June 26-28 9:30-11:30 am \$52/child**

**Wild Wings**  
 Discover the amazing world of nature's fliers. Explore how birds, bats, and insects use their wings to aid in survival. Each day will include hikes, games, stories, snacks, and an art project!  
**Tuesday-Thursday August 14-16 9:30-11:30 am \$52/child**

**Preschool & Kindergarten Graduate Day Camps (ages 4-6) Tuesdays-Thursdays Fee \$52**

**Forest Friends Limit 15**  
 Daily adventures digging in the soil, rolling over logs, and looking at tree-tops will help uncover forest animals both small and large. Listen to animal sounds and make your own art-inspired furry friend!  
**June 12-14 9:30-11:30 am**

**Dino-Mite Limit 15**  
 Imaginations are welcome at this dinosaur camp, where campers will experience the world of paleontology. Discover and find bones, then put them together and solve the mystery of whose bones these once were! Enjoy daily crafts, games, and stories based on these ancient reptiles.  
**June 19-21 9:30-11:30 am**

**Terrific Turtles and Toads Limit 15**  
 Through games, demonstrations, crafts and live animals, learn how these reptiles and amphibians live. Enjoy three days of inspired fun as you meet and feed Wood Lake's resident turtles and salamanders, too.  
**July 10-12 9:30-11:30 am**

**Where the Wild Things Are Limit 15**  
 Wild plants and animals thrive at Wood Lake! Learn about the unique animals that call the park home through hikes, games, songs, and crafts in the prairie, forest, and marsh. Make your very own adventure cape that will help you soar through each day's adventures!  
**July 17-19 9:30-11:30 am**

**Birds, Bees, and Bunnies Limit 15**  
 Fly, buzz, and hop while exploring bird nests, a live bee hive, and the furry mammals that call Wood Lake home. Make a natural bird feeder, enjoy a visit from a furry friend, eat honey snacks, and play games that will keep everyone hopping!  
**July 31-August 2 9:30-11:30 am**

**Nature's Rainbow Limit 15**  
 From red ladybugs to yellow butterflies and green turtles, the world of nature is full of color. Look for the colors of the rainbow in the plants and animals of Wood Lake and learn how animals use color to hide from predators or hunt for prey. Enjoy delicious rainbow treats and let your creativity run wild with watercolor paintings and more.  
**August 7-9 9:30-11:30 am**

**Marsh Magic Limit 15**  
 Explore the marsh each day with nets, underwater cameras, and more to discover how animals live in this wet environment. Collect and examine beetles, bugs, and other marsh water creatures. Create colorful art projects that inspire!  
**August 21-23 9:30-11:30 am**

**First-Second Grade Graduate Day Camps Mondays-Fridays Fee \$84**

**Nature's Chefs Limit 15**  
 Discover delicious wild edible plants and berries on hikes in the forest, marsh, and prairie. Learn how to use these ingredients to create both yummy and healthy recipes. Each student will design their own cooking aprons and daily recipe cards!  
**June 25-29 9:00-11:30 am**

**Marsh Adventurers Limit 15**  
 Discover kids' favorite stomping grounds at Wood Lake - the marsh! Dig into this fascinating world with nets in search of the animals that live here. Meet turtles, toads, fish, and insects up close and learn the challenges of life in this wild, wet place!  
**July 9-13 9:00-11:30 am**

**Fantastic Forts Limit 30**  
 Work in small groups to build forts from fallen sticks, logs, and tarps. These unique hideouts will become home base for snacks, games, and nature activities. Parents can visit the fort on Friday!  
**July 30-August 3 9:00-11:30 am**

**Butterflies and Bees: Nature's Pollinators Limit 15**  
 Explore the amazing world of nature's pollinators. Discover the special lives of insects, bats, and some birds and how they help grow the food we eat. Each day will include a hiking adventure, art creation, snack, and story!  
**August 13-17 9:00-11:30 am**

**Third-Sixth Grade Graduate Day Camps Mondays-Fridays Most Classes \$84 unless indicated differently**

**Summer Adventure Reading Club Limit 15**  
 Explore one adventure book a month followed by activities, games and snacks that relate to that month's story. All books must be read before class, and can be found at local libraries or purchased online. Some copies may be available for loan; please check with center for details. Students that attend all three sessions will receive a special prize at the last class.  
 (Note- this camp is for all ages, 3rd grade and up) **\$12/session**  
**June 25, 1-3 pm Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen  
 Activities include survival fire making  
**July 30, 1-3 pm Lewis and Clark and Me** by Laurie Myers  
 Activities include an introduction to orienteering  
**August 20, 1-3 pm The Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich  
 Activities include Native American cooking with fire

**Outdoor Survival Skills Limit 20**  
 Learn the skills needed to survive outdoors and become more aware of the natural world. Discover how to use a compass and read a map, build a shelter and fire, track animals, and identify edible plants. Put your new skills to the test with an end-of-the-week Survivor Challenge!  
**June 18-22 9:00-11:30 am**

**Junior Naturalists Limit 15**  
 Discover what it's like to be a Naturalist by caring for Wood Lake's exhibit reptiles, learning how to identify and survey wild plants and animals, and assisting with prairie and forest management.  
**July 16-20 1:00-3:30 pm**

**Introduction to Nature Photography Limit 10**  
 Explore the elements of good photography composition through daily hikes and wildlife observation. Favorite pictures from the week will be on display for parents the last day in our camp gallery! Cameras will be provided for camp use or you are welcome to bring your own. **Fee \$105**  
**August 6-10 9:00-11:30 am**

**Bike Hike Limit 12**  
 Join us as we pedal to fun local destinations! Before taking off, review bike safety, participate in a bike rodeo, and learn to perform bike tune-ups. Each day, we bike to a different destination that may include playgrounds, a local ice-cream shop, a swimming beach, and Minnehaha Falls. Price includes a daily snack. **Fee \$105**  
**August 13-17 9:00-12:30 pm**

**Girls in Nature Limit 15**  
 Explore nature through photography, art, science experiments, hikes and games! Each student will have an animal of focus for the week and will explore what makes it a special part of nature. Parents will enjoy an end-of-camp open house to experience special art and treats made by campers.  
 (Note: this camp is for girls only and all ages are welcome third grade and up.)  
**August 20-24 9:00-11:30 am**



## SATURDAY AND SUNDAY SPECIALS

No pre-registration. Programs are offered on a first-come, first-served basis for both members and non-members. Check in at the front desk.

**Games on the Ice Limit 30**  
 Sardines, tag, races, and more! Enjoy the winter season with family-fun games on the icy marsh of Wood Lake. Hot chocolate and popcorn served after the fun.  
**Sunday, February 25 1:00-3:00 pm \$3/person, free for members**

**Magical Maples Limit 30**  
 Hike into Wood Lake's sugar bush and help tap, collect, and boil maple sap into syrup. Listen to the cultural and natural history of this amazing tree as we make delicious maple treats!  
**Sunday, March 4 3:00-4:30 pm**  
**Saturday, March 10 10:00-11:30 am**  
**Sunday, March 11 1:00-2:30 or 3:00-4:30 pm**  
**Saturday, March 17 10:00-11:30 am**  
**\$3/person, free for members**

**Wild about Woodpeckers Limit 25**  
 Discover the unique life of Minnesota's woodpeckers through photos and bird calls. Build your own suet feeder and go on a short bird hike to spot woodpeckers and other resident bird species. Suet feeders make wonderful gifts for the bird lover in your family!  
**Sunday, March 18 1:00-2:30 pm \$3/person, free for members + \$8/feeder**

**Read-a-Story Theater Limit 40**  
 Young and old alike will enjoy listening to the talented folks from Read-a-Story Theater as they dazzle you with their tales of spring. We'll have a fire going in the fire place so come on in and warm up while watching the antics of this energetic group.  
**Sunday, March 25 3:00-4:30 pm \$3/person, free for members**

**Spring Babies Limit 30**  
 Discover the amazing diversity of 'nature's nursery' as we explore the park in search of nests and newborn critters. Learn what to do if you discover babies in your own yard and how to turn your yard into a perfect habitat for wildlife!  
**Sunday, April 8 3:00-4:30 pm \$3/person, free for members**

**Spring Storybook Hike Limit 20**  
 Create a bird mask for your stroll through the trails of Wood Lake and stop to discover the wonderful children's book, Counting is For the Birds! Enjoy a short bird hike to discover resident species and try your hand at bird bingo!  
**Sunday April 15 1:00-2:30 or 3:00-4:30 pm \$3/person, free for members**

**Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration Limit 100**  
 First celebrated as a wake-up call to protect the planet and raise awareness, Earth Day is now in its 47th year! Enjoy the day at Wood Lake by planting trees, going on an Earth Day-inspired scavenger hunt, and dedicating the Marlene Glaus Overlook.  
**Sunday, April 22 1:00-4:00 pm Free**

**Flying High! Limit 20**  
 Learn the physics of flight that allows butterflies, birds and jumbo jets to soar through the sky. We'll practice with boomerangs, flying discs and water rockets and then build a kite that will fly on the slightest breeze!  
**Sunday, April 29 3:00-4:30 pm \$3/person, free for members**

**Wonderful Warblers Limit 20**  
 Warblers are a fun challenge to spring birders for both sight and sound identification. Enjoy a casual stroll through the park focusing on these small migrants. Binoculars and field guides will be available for loan.  
**Sunday, May 6 1:00-3:30 pm \$5/person, free for members**

**Compost Critters Limit 30**  
 From bacteria, molds and fungi, to sowbugs, springtails and millipedes, to centipedes, ants and ground beetles, discover the myriad of lifeforms in the food web of a compost pile or the forest floor. Find out how these amazing creatures recycle the nutrients of dead plants and animals back into the soil to keep an ecosystem flourishing.  
**Sunday, May 20 3:00-4:30 pm \$3/person, free for members**

## ADULT PROGRAMS

Building re-opens approximately 15 minutes prior to evening events.

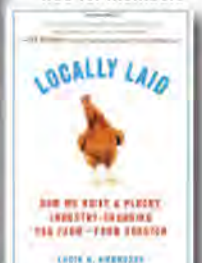
**Wood Lake Book Club**  
 Join other adults to discuss some wonderful environmental and outdoor recreation-based books. Refreshments will be provided. Books are available at local libraries or may be available for loan through the nature center. Reserve a spot online at [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org).  
**6:30-8:00 pm \$5/person free for members**



Thursday, March 8  
**Walking the Big Wild**  
 by Karsten Heuer



Thursday, April 5  
**Pig Tales**  
 by Barry Estabrook



Tuesday, May 1  
**Locally Laid**  
 by Lucie B. Amundson

**Full Moon Snowshoe Strolls Limit 15**  
 Enjoy snowshoeing along moonlit trails at Wood Lake. Afterwards, sip hot chocolate and enjoy the warmth of a fire. Please wear snow boots and warm clothing. If snow conditions are poor, we will hike the trails. Reserve a spot at [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org); payment will be taken on the night of the program. Ages 16 and up.  
**March 1 7:00-8:30 pm Pre-registration required**  
**\$10/person, \$5/person for members (includes snowshoe rental)**

**Spring Bird Hikes**  
 Enjoy a spring hike through Wood Lake and/or Veteran's Park as we look for both migrating and resident birds. Discover how to identify species from sight and sound. Binoculars and field guides will be available for loan. Reserve a spot online at [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org); payment will be taken on the night of the program.  
**April 26 & May 3 6-7:30 pm Wood Lake Nature Center**  
**May 10 6-7:30 pm Veterans Park- meet in front of the ice arena**  
**\$5/hike, free for members Pay cash or check only.**

**Warbler Walks**  
 Join us bright and early at the peak of warbler migration for a stroll along the trails to inventory species moving through the park. Binoculars and field guides will be available for loan. Reserve a spot online at [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org); payment will be taken at the program.  
**May 3 & 10 8-9:30 am \$5 per hike, free for members**

## ADULT/CHILD PRESCHOOL CLASSES

**Nature Adventurers Limit 14**  
 Young explorers (ages 3-5) accompanied by an adult will have an exciting time exploring a different natural topic each visit. Enjoy stories, puppet shows, crafts, hands-on activities, snack, and outdoor discovery time. Online registration required at [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org). Sorry, no younger siblings.  

Mondays	Wednesdays	Topic
10:00-11:30 am	10:00-11:30 am	\$10/child/class
February 26	February 28	Read-a-storybook Theater
March 12	March 14	Magical Maples
March 26	March 28	A Nest Is My Home
April 9	April 11	Spring Storybook Hike
April 23	April 25	Earth Day Celebration
May 7	May 9	Beautiful Birds
May 21	May 23	My Pet Rock + picnic after class

**Spring Storytime Limit 14**  
 Enjoy the outdoors together as a nature-themed story is read aloud in the children's nature play area, followed by a related activity or hike. For children ages 3-5 with an adult chaperone. Online registration required at [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org).  
**Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 am**  
**April 24, May 1, May 8, May 15, May 22 \$6/child/class**

**Nature Adventurers Summer Edition Limit 15**  
**Storybook Hike Camp (Parent/child Program)**  
 Explore a new children's book each day on a hike through the forest and prairie. Enjoy activities that focus on the story and allow time for parent and child interaction.  
**Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-11:30 am**  
**June 26-28 \$52**

**Wild Wings Camp**  
 Discover the amazing world of nature's fliers. Explore how birds, bats, and insects use their wings to aid in survival. Each day will include hikes, games, stories, snacks, and an art project!  
**Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-11:30 am**  
**August 14-16 \$52**



## Friends of Wood Lake Fundraising Dinner

Friday, April 27, 2018

6:00 pm Social 7:00 pm Dinner  
\$50/person

### Valuing Trees: Promoting Citizen Science and Community Forestry

The Friends of Wood Lake (FOWL) present their annual fundraising dinner, benefitting Wood Lake Nature Center's programs and facilities. FOWL's biggest event of the year brings together the community of Wood Lake supporters for entertainment, dinner, and fundraising. Gary Johnson, University of Minnesota Extension Professor of Urban Forestry, will be our speaker. He is an engaging tree expert offering insights on selecting the right trees for a changing climate. Ticket price includes dinner, and an opportunity to bid on silent auction items. The Friends of Wood Lake Fundraising Dinner will be held at the Minnesota Valley Golf Club in Bloomington. To purchase tickets, call 612-861-9365 or buy them online at [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org). Only 200 seats are available, so don't delay!!



Guest Speaker: Gary Johnson  
University of Minnesota  
Extension Professor of Urban Forestry



### Come for a visit...

Wood Lake Nature Center is a 150-acre natural area dedicated to environmental education, wildlife observation, and outdoor recreation. Three miles of trails and boardwalks wind through the park. The trails are either blacktop or crushed limestone, and most are wheelchair accessible during summer months. During the winter season, cross-country ski trails are open, snow permitting. To preserve the natural habitat, pets, bikes, rollerblades, and smoking are not allowed.

The Interpretive Center offers visitors a chance to learn more about plants, animals, and the environment through live animal displays, and interactive exhibits. Naturalists are available to answer questions during building hours. For more information about nature center classes, programs, or facilities, please call 612-861-9365 or visit [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org).



MINNESOTA'S GREEN RACE  
BENEFITTING WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER

Saturday, July 28, 7:00 am  
Richfield Ice Arena (636 E 66th Street)

The Urban Wildland Half Marathon & 5K, now in its 16th year, benefits the 46-year environmental-education partnership between Wood Lake Nature Center and Richfield Public Schools. The event has attracted thousands of runners over the years and is a favorite among many runners for its fast, flat, USATF-certified course, moisture-wicking running shirt, finisher medal, food, and great location.

Register at [www.urbanwildland.com](http://www.urbanwildland.com);  
there is no race-day registration.

### Community Gardens

There will be no community gardens offered this year due to road construction on 28th Avenue. Please seek other gardening opportunities at the Gardening Matters website <https://www.gardeningmatters.org/find-garden>.

You are invited to join  
**Friends of Wood Lake (FOWL)**  
 and enjoy the following benefits:



Friends of Wood Lake Nature Center (FOWL) memberships help protect vital wildlife habitat, support educational programs and interpretive displays, plus come with great benefits for you to enjoy. Memberships are good for one year and include free admission to Saturday and Sunday Specials (up to \$3) and other programs, including Half-Haunted Halloween, Candlelight & Ice, and Adult Book Club. Also includes **free** on-site cross-country ski and snowshoe rental and a 10% discount on select programs and merchandise. See membership levels for additional benefits.

Individual	\$ 30	Basic membership benefits (listed above) for one person.
Family	\$ 50	Basic membership benefits for a maximum of 2 named adults residing at the same address and their dependent children or grandchildren under age 18.
Sustaining	\$ 100	Family benefits plus four Wood Lake mugs.
Life	\$1000	Family benefits for one family plus engraving on Life Member plaque

## Group Programs and Fees

Interpretive Naturalists have developed engaging, hands-on programs for schools, homeschools, childcare centers, scout groups, seniors, adults with disabilities, and other groups. Cost is \$4 per participant (\$40 minimum). Visit [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org) for a program list. Call 612-861-9365 for availability.

## Room Rentals

The nature center offers a wonderful setting and central location in the metro area for meetings, parties, memorials, anniversaries, and receptions. Auditorium rental includes seating for 60-80, tables and chairs, use of the fireplace, and a beautiful view of the marsh. Non-alcoholic beverages only; no helium balloons.

Richfield Residents	\$46/hour for private party rentals
Non-Residents	\$52/hour for private party rentals
Non-Profit groups	\$36/hour for non-profit groups

## Outdoor Pavillion Rental

This lovely new addition to Wood Lake Nature Center features picnic table seating for 60; includes access to water and electricity.

**\$80 for four-hour block of time between 10:00 am-10:00 pm**

## BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Wood Lake offers a variety of birthday parties that are fun, educational, and the mess stays with us! Parties include a naturalist-led activity and use of the party room with tables, chairs, and tablecloths. Payment is due when the party is booked. For an additional \$10, make it a "green" party; includes use of reusable dishes, cups, and silverware. Treat bags are available for \$2 each. 10% discount on party fee for Friends of Wood Lake members. Visit [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org) for additional information and full party descriptions.

**Time:** 2 Hours Total (first hour with naturalist, second hour without naturalist)  
**Fee:** \$115 for up to ten children, \$5 per additional child (max.15)

- **Critter Hunt Birthday (ages 4-5)**  
Become nature detectives and look for hidden animals at Wood Lake.
- **Treasure Hunt Birthday (ages 5-9)**  
Solve nature mysteries along the trail to receive puzzle-piece clues that lead to a hidden treasure.
- **Puppet Play Birthday (ages 5-9)**  
Make a stick puppet and create a play with party guests using Wood Lake's puppet stage.
- **Creatures from the Marsh Birthday (ages 5-12)**  
Head out with nets and buckets to discover what creatures lurk in Wood Lake's marsh. (May 15-Sept.15 only)
- **Scaly Tales Birthday (ages 5-12)**  
Meet a live snake, turtle, and salamander and learn about these amazing creatures.
- **Games Birthday (ages 7-12)**  
Hawk vs. crows, squirrel tag, everybody's it! Play fun, nature-oriented games chosen by the birthday child.
- **Survival Birthday (ages 8-12)**  
Learn the basics of survival and build an outdoor shelter. Work together to see if your group can survive!

