



live more, play more
pgparks.com

331 Watkins Park Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
301-218-6702

WatkinsNatureCenter@pgparks.com
pgparks.com/watkinsnature

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm
Sunday 10 am-4 pm
Monday closed



Watkins

NATURE CENTER

Education Programs

Connect with us!  @pgparks  @pgparks  @pgparksandrec  @pgparksandrecreation

- ▶ The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Register a minimum of two weeks prior to the program start date to request and receive a disability modification.
- ▶ Customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, call Maryland Relay 7-1-1.
- ▶ Language interpretation is available at all facility front desks. Please ask for assistance.





Watkins Nature Center

Located in the heart of Prince George's County's largest regional park, *Watkins Nature Center* has been a leader in developing innovative nature programs for **50 years**. With a focus on wildlife conservation and education, the state-of-the-art facility features live animal displays, indoor and outdoor ponds, an aviary, a songbird viewing area, and more.

Surrounded by *old growth forest* and with *over six miles of beginner-level hiking trails*, Watkins Nature Center is the ideal field trip venue for giving your students an immersive, educational experience. All programs are led by professional naturalists and include hands-on activities incorporating Maryland State Curriculum Standards and/or Next Generation Science Standards.

Plan Your Day

- Spend your whole school-day with us!
- Schedule as many as three educational programs.
- Have a picnic lunch at an outdoor pavilion.
- Visit the Old Maryland Farm or the Wizard of Oz themed playground.
- Explore the outdoor raptor display and gardens.
- Hike on our 6+ miles of beginner-level nature trails.



To Schedule a Program

To schedule a program, visit pgparks.com/watkinsnature and complete the Field Trip Application in the School Programs tab. A staff member will follow-up within 3 business days.



Education Programs

Programs last approximately 45 minutes. \$4 (resident), \$6 (non-resident) per student.

- **Making Sense of Nature** (Pre-K- K): Explore the five senses and learn how animals use their senses to survive. **K-LS1-1**
- **Wild Things** (Pre-K – adult): Meet a variety of the nature center’s animals. Learn how and why scientists classify animals and what makes a species unique. **PRE-K – ADULT K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS1-1, MS-LS2-2**
- **Reptiles & Amphibians** (1st – adult): Explore the differences and similarities between amphibians and reptiles. See how each has adapted to survive relatively **unchanged for millions of years**. Meet cold-blooded creatures from around the world! **K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS1-1, MS-LS2-2**
- **Invertebrates** (2nd- adult): In the natural world, “spineless” does not mean wimpy. Learn all about invertebrates and why they are so skillful at survival. **Meet arthropods, arachnids, and insects!** **2-LS4-1, 3-LS2-1, 4-LS1-2**
- **Animals in Winter** (2nd – adult): How do animals survive in the cold? Explore nature’s cold weather strategies: **hibernation, migration, and adaptation** and meet a few Animal Ambassadors who use these strategies. **2-LS4-1, 3-LS2-1, 4-LS1-2**
- **Web of Life** (2nd-5th grade): Learn about ecosystems, food chains, and how the natural world is connected! Create a living food web with local animals! **2-LS2-1, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1**
- **Wild About Birds** (2nd grade-adult): Discover the wonderful world of birds. **Learn about the many adaptations of different avian species**. You may also enjoy a special visit from one of our Avian Ambassadors! **K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS1-1, MS-LS2-2**
- **Pre-Colonial Maryland** (3rd – 6th grade): Learn how indigenous peoples interacted with local plants and animals before the European colonization of the **Chesapeake Bay** area. **4-ESS1-1, 5-PS1-3, MS-PS1-2**
- **Rocks & Minerals** (4th – 6th grade): **Geology rocks!** Discover common (and not so common) minerals and rocks from around the world. Learn how rocks form, how we classify them, and why they are important. **4-ESS1-1, 5-PS1-3, MS-PS1-2**
- **Discovery Hike** (1st grade – adult): Go on a hike led by a naturalist. Learn to identify local plants and animals while connecting with the natural beauty of Watkins Regional Park. **K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS1-1, MS-LS2-2**
- **Outdoor Survival Skills** (4th grade-adult): Unlock the secrets of outdoor survival! Learn about the basic needs of survival then move outdoors to learn the art of fire making.
- **Nature Walk** (Kindergarten): Collect and observe data while walking in a natural setting. Students draw pictures of local plants and animals they see. This program introduces young learners to **analyzing data**. **K-LS1-1**
- **The Best Beak** (1st grade): Discover why bird beaks come in different shapes and sizes depending on natural habitat. Students create a new bird with its own unique beak and hypothesize what foods that bird might eat. **Our budding ornithologists will then test their new creations and record their results.** **1-LS1-1**
- **Seed Speed** (2nd grade): Seeds may not have legs, but that doesn’t mean that they can’t move! Seeds travel. They float, glide, and stick their way to new lands. Students examine a variety of seeds and identify how they spread. **Our beginner botanists** then chart their data to better understand repeatability in science. **2-LS2-2**
- **A Polar Bear in the Desert?** (3rd grade): Animals have adaptations to help them survive in their natural habitat, but those same traits may be disadvantages elsewhere. **Budding zoologists** learn how animals survive in different climates. Building on what they have learned, students create an animal that can survive in a specific habitat. **3-LS4-3**
- **Erosion Race** (4th grade): **Landscapes are created and changed by wind and rain**. Students build their own mini landscape and then explore the impact of erosion and what humans can do to prevent both natural and man-made runoff. **4-ESS2-1**
- **Follow that Food!** (5th grade): Energy from the sun is transformed into plants and from there moves through food chains. **Students create their own food chain**, calculate percentages of lost energy, and discuss how many species their ecosystem could support. **5-PS3-1**

Extended Curriculum Programs

The following programs are approximately 1.5 hours. \$8 (resident); \$11 (non-resident) per student.

- **Owl Pellet Lab** (3rd-5th grade) :This hands-on experience takes students to the laboratory, using equipment to dissect owl pellets and record their observations. **Students apply the Scientific Method to draw data-driven conclusions about owls, their environment, diet, and biology**. You may also enjoy a special visit from one of our Avian Ambassadors! **4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-10**
- **Wonderful Wetlands** (4th-7th grade): Learn about one of the most important ecosystems on our planet! Students investigate the importance of wetlands to the health of **the environment**, learn how wetlands act as natural filters, and test the water quality in our local wetland. Participation in a wetland clean-up and the opportunity to meet the live animals who inhabit this ecosystem are included in this program. Dress for the weather and expect to get dirty! **5-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-3**
- **The Almighty Oyster** (5th-8th grade): Students learn about the Chesapeake Bay as an estuary, **the importance of estuaries** as an oyster habitat, and the role oysters play as a food source and as a filter preserving water quality for other species. Students test the salinity of three water samples and determine which one is the best habitat for an oyster. Working in teams, students dissect an oyster to find out how its anatomy contributes to the health of the Bay. **5-ESS3-1, MS-LS2-2**
- **Outdoor Survival Skills Plus** (4th grade-adult) Embark on an immersive journey into the wilderness with our Outdoor Living Skills Program. This experience combines outdoor shelter building, a guided nature hike, and indoor basic survival needs training to equip you with essential skills for thriving in the great outdoors.
 - All educational programs are led by professional naturalists.
 - Virtual programs are available.
 - Programs can be customized.
 - Ample school bus parking is provided.
 - One FREE chaperone per every five students.