

THE PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD:

YOUR **PARTNER** IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

We teach environmental conservation to youth so they will practice it in the future.

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District is one of 23 Natural Resource Districts in the state, and serves residents of Nebraska in counties that border the Missouri River, from Sarpy north to Dakota County. Our popular recreation areas and reservoirs at Chalco Hills, Danish Alps, Prairie View, and Flanagan Lake- results of our important flood control projects- are enjoyed by many year round. Equally significant are our many wildlife habitat restoration projects along the Missouri River.

All of the projects provide rich educational opportunities for schools, families, teachers, and youth groups in Douglas, Sarpy, Thurston, Burt, Dakota, and Washington counties.

Teachers love us.

Presentations are developed by professional environmental educators and are individually tailored to students K-12.

Since 1972, your NRD has been providing educational opportunities for District residents. Each year we engage more than 10,000 youth with nature.



*Birchcrest Elementary
uses their Outdoor
Classroom Grant to
design and build their
very own garden!
Students tend to the
garden, learning a
variety of skills!*



SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Scholarships: Scholarships are available and awarded throughout the year to teachers attending a class or training on a natural resources topic.

Amount Available: \$500 per fiscal year (July 1- June 30)

Outdoor Classroom Grants: Outdoor classroom grants can apply to a range of projects, such as butterfly gardens, prairie grass plantings, gardens, trails, and more. Visit our website for more information.

Amount Available: \$1000 per fiscal year

Mini Grants: Apply for a mini-grant to work on some fun environmental science projects in your classroom!

Amount Available: \$150 per fiscal year, per teacher

Contact: Austen Hill at ahill@papionrd.org or 402.315.1777.



**Papio-Missouri River Natural
Resources District**
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PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
2022-2023

CULTIVATE **AWE**





LOOKING FOR SOMETHING VIRTUAL?

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES!

WWW.PAPIONRD.ORG



FIELD TRIPS:

Chalco Hills Recreation Area is a great, local field trip destination! We offer 3 field trips each fall and spring. Our field trip schedules can be modified based on age, group size, and areas of interest. We do have some limitations as our education team is relatively small. We are able to accommodate up to 3 classrooms per field trip (max. of 75 students).

Field trips are offered at no cost, and are reserved on a first come, first serve basis. All field trips offered are entirely outdoors, with primitive bathrooms available to students.

If you are interested in learning more, or booking with us, please contact Kaylyn at kkelley@papionrd.org.



SEEDS AND TREES:

Trees and seeds are available at no cost for your classroom or youth group upon request. Every year the Papio-Missouri River NRD gives away thousands of trees and wildflower seed packets. The trees are small seedlings and the flowers are a "bee friendly" wildflower mix. Seedlings will be picked up in mid-April, in time for Arbor Day and Earth Day festivities. We begin taking orders in January!

CONSIDER PAIRING WITH OUR TREES PRESENTATION!



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS:			
Arrange a natural resource focused presentation for your class. Some programs are available year-round, others are season- specific or offered on a limited basis. <i>All programs are free of charge.</i>		Ages:	K-12, per specific program
		When:	During normal school hours or as scheduled.
		Where:	Your school or a location specified by presenter
		Lead Time:	2-3 months
		Reservations:	Call or email with your requested topic and date
		Contact:	Kaylyn at kkelley@papionrd.org or 402.315.1713
ALL ABOUT OWLS:	With the aid of feathered teachers, students will learn about predator/prey relationships, adaptations and owl pellets, providing students and teachers with an up close view of raptors that many never get the opportunity to see.	NATURAL RESOURCES:	Looking for something all encompassing? This presentation is designed to give insight into natural resources, human impact, and what NRD's do. <i>Includes portions of several other presentations and is best suited for upper elementary to high school students.</i>
ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS:	Through various educational animals, students will learn about some unique adaptations that allow these animals to survive.	RECYCLE RELAY:	Conservation, natural resources, and recycling are all topics of the day! Learn what makes something a natural resource, decide what common household waste is recyclable! <i>Best for Pre-K to 2nd grade.</i>
AQUATIC ANIMALS:	Aquatic animals can give us insight into the health of our local water! Join us as we explore a variety of aquatic animals, their adaptations, and what they can tell us about our ecosystem health!	SURFACE WATER:	Through the use of hands-on models, students learn about watersheds, erosion, and pollution to help understand current water quality problems facing the Metro.
FLOOD 101:	Our district is no stranger to flooding! Through our hands-on flood model, students gain a thorough understanding of the dangers of flooding, and the ways the NRD works to prevent/limit the impact of flooding in our area! <i>Presentation limited to small groups.</i>	TREES:	In conjunction with our annual Trees and Seeds program, discover what a tree needs to survive, as well as how trees help us to do the same. Get your own tree seedling to take home and plant to continue the Nebraska tradition of Arbor Day. <i>Presentation available seasonally.</i>
GEOCACHING:	This high-tech program combines technology with the natural world. Using GPS devices to find "hidden treasure" at an area park (or your school grounds), students will gain experience with GPS technology. <i>Presentation available seasonally.</i>	TURTLE TALK:	Nebraska is home to 9 species of turtles. With the help of a few of our animal educators, we will learn all about what makes a turtle...a turtle!
GROUNDWATER:	It can be tough to grasp what you cannot see, which explains why groundwater is an often misunderstood resource. Using a cross-section ground model, students get a better insight into the hydrology and issues affecting this essential resource.	WETLANDS & MACRO INVERTEBRATES:	Let's get our hands a little dirty as we investigate a wetland up close. Using sampling equipment, students will dip for macroinvertebrates to get a better understanding of the health of area ponds and lakes. <i>Presentation available seasonally.</i>
INCREDIBLE INSECTS:	Insects are mysterious and often misunderstood. With the aid of live insects, we will explore the wonderful world of six-legged animals. <i>Presentation available seasonally.</i>	WILDLIFE WONDERS:	Explore the life history of common Nebraska mammals. Through the hands-on use of pelts, skulls, and tracks, kids will acquire a better understanding of how these animals live.