



#### Plan Your Visit Today!

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## Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens

## PreK-12 Programs

Established in 1985, the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens is a biodiversity hotspot of native plants and natural habitats. The Preserve's 100+ acres offers opportunities to explore and connect with nature. Explore our Native Gardens, Walking Trails, Bunker Interpretive Center and Natural Communities.



## Logistics

### Scheduling

Preserve Field Trips are generally 90 minutes each and happen on Wednesdays and Fridays. "Reverse Field Trips" are more flexible to suit your class schedules.

### Pricing

We try to make our programs accessible to all. Prices per student are included in this brochure.

### Bundle Discounts

Participate in 4 programs within a single school year and get the 5th program FREE!

### Fee Waivers

Please let us know if costs are prohibitive to your participation. Fee assistance is available!

### Interested?

Visit our website using the QR code on the back of this brochure. Fill out the Program Request Form.

# High School Workshop

## Professional Pathways (Reverse Field Trip)

60 minutes, Offered year-round | Cost: \$50/class



Help your students imagine themselves in the world of environmental work. From summer jobs to professional roles in conservation, this interactive talk highlights opportunities at the Preserve and beyond. Hear about the real journeys of our own Ecosystem Preserve students, staff, and alumni.

## Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

*Each program aligns with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)—helping you meet classroom goals through hands-on, place-based learning.*

### Ecosystem Dynamics Game

NGSS: MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-4, HS-LS2-1, HS-LS2-2, HS-LS2-4, HS-LS2-6

### Biodiversity Field Lab

NGSS: MS-LS2-2, HS-LS2-6, HS-ESS3-3, HS-LS4-5

### Native Roots & Restoration

NGSS: HS-LS2-2, HS-LS2-6, HS-LS2-7, HS-LS4-5

### Measuring the Ripple Effect

NGSS: MS-ESS2-5, HS-ESS3-3, HS-ESS3-4, HS-ESS3-6, HS-LS2-1, HS-LS2-2, HS-LS2-7

# Pre K-8 Programming

Tom Hartzell | [tom.hartzell@calvin.edu](mailto:tom.hartzell@calvin.edu)

## Preserve Time Travel

### LANDSCAPE HISTORY

*Recommended: Sept / Cost: \$4/student*

Can we see into the past? Into the future? At the Preserve we can! We'll explore important periods of history, their impact today, and apply our learning to the future. Students will get to investigate real mastodon bones and Indigenous crops.

## Naturally Stronger Together

### BIODIVERSITY

*Recommended: Oct / Cost: \$4/student*

Explore the diversity of ecosystems at the Preserve and the diversity of plants and animals who live there! Students will discover how they all work together through interactive games.

## Plants and Places

### NATIVES & INVASIVES

*Recommended: Nov / Cost: \$4/student*

Right plant, wrong place? Wrong plant, right place? It's important to pay attention to the plants we have, the places they grow, and their impact on the environment. Students will create artwork using invasive species!

## Water Wonder

### WATERSHEDS

*Recommended: March / Cost: \$4/student*

Maybe you've heard, "We all live downstream"...but what does that really mean? Students will be able to explore and map a watershed, and perform real scientific tests to measure water quality.

## Earth Heroes

### SUSTAINABILITY

*Recommended: Apr / Cost: \$4/student*

If we take care of the earth, the earth will take care of us. There are many things we can do to help make this happen, and much we can learn from the earth itself. Students will get "earthy" learning about compost and taking on an engineering challenge!

# 7-12 Programming

Paige Bokach | [paige.bokach@calvin.edu](mailto:paige.bokach@calvin.edu)

## Ecosystem Dynamics Game (Reverse Field Trip)

### LANDSCAPE HISTORY

*Recommended: Dec-Feb / Cost: \$50/class*

Experience a reverse field trip as Preserve Staff bring the interactive Ecosystem Dynamics Game to your classroom! Students use native species cards to build food webs, modeling historical events and land use impacts on the local ecosystem over time.

## Biodiversity Field Lab

### BIODIVERSITY

*Recommended: Sept / Cost: \$4/student*

Encounter the various species and natural communities within this unique biodiversity hot spot. Engage in real scientific sampling methods that can be replicated on your own school campus.

## Native Roots & Restoration (High School)

### NATIVES & INVASIVES

*Recommended: Sept, Nov, Mar, Apr / Cost: \$4/student*

Learn about habitat restoration and make a lasting impact! Plant natives, remove invasives, tend gardens, or maintain trails depending on the season. This program also includes the "Invasives" round of the Ecosystem Dynamics Game as a reverse field trip.

## Measuring the Ripple Effect

### WATERSHEDS

*Recommended: late March - April / Cost: \$4/student*

What is a watershed, and why does it matter? Students model our own watershed, participate in water quality testing and learn about what factors affect our swamps, streams, vernal pools, and the creatures who live there.

## Earth Heroes

### SUSTAINABILITY

*Recommended: Dec - Feb / Cost: \$4/student*

Students will experience project-based learning in this hands on STEM challenge. Tour our LEED-certified Bunker Interpretive Center, explore the clever adaptations of local species, and use biomimicry to create nature-inspired solutions to real-world problems.

