

# Program Seasons

**Spring:** March–May | **Fall:** September–November

## How To Reserve a Program

Register online at: [offero.cityofloveland.org](http://offero.cityofloveland.org)

On the Home page click on the **Request** box. Log in or create a new account. Available dates on the calendar are shown in green. Please fill out the form as completely as possible. Call Michele Van Hare for assistance: 970.962.2643.

**We require 1 chaperone for every 8 students.**

When filling out the reservation form, use the program titles in this brochure as your topic: Plants and Places at River's Edge, Our Canyon and Its Wildlife at the Mountain Park (Half-day or Full-day) and Critter Scene Investigation at your school or Namaqua Park.

All programs support CDE Standards for education. For lists of supported standards for each program visit [lovgov.org/environmentaleducation](http://lovgov.org/environmentaleducation). This link also provides more information and resources, including preparatory materials and site information for each program location.

## Facilities & Preparation

Covered picnic areas and restroom facilities are available at each location. Students should bring a sack lunch, extra clothing layers and wear closed-toed shoes and long pants for the best experience. Programs include lots of walking and a game or two that involves running. The games are lots of fun and educational, too!

## Accessibility

Learning stations, trails and lunch areas are accessible by wheelchairs and scooters; terrain consists of packed surfaces and recycled asphalt.

### Notice of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of the City of Loveland to provide equal services, programs and activities without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or age and without regard to the exercise of rights guaranteed by state or federal law. It is the policy of the City of Loveland to provide language access services at no charge to populations of persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) and persons with a disability who are served by the City.

For more information on non-discrimination or for translation assistance, please contact the City's Title VI Coordinator at [TitleSix@cityofloveland.org](mailto:TitleSix@cityofloveland.org) or 970.962.2372. The City will make reasonable accommodations for citizens in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

For more information on ADA or accommodations, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at [ADACoordinator@cityofloveland.org](mailto:ADACoordinator@cityofloveland.org) or 970.962.3319. Title VI and ADA Grievance Policy and Procedures can be located on the City of Loveland website at: [lovgov.org](http://lovgov.org)



**REGISTER:** [offero.cityofloveland.org](http://offero.cityofloveland.org)  
**MORE INFO:** 970.962.2643

City of Loveland Parks & Recreation  
Open Lands & Trails Division  
500 E. Third St., Suite 200 • Loveland, CO 80537  
[lovgov.org/openlands](http://lovgov.org/openlands)

# Environmental Education Programs

**Free Program Instruction**  
**Transportation Scholarship Funding available for qualified schools**  
**Supports CDE Standards**  
**(Colorado Department of Education)**

Open Lands & Trails Division  
City of Loveland  
Parks & Recreation Department



## Grades Pre K–2

### Critter Scene Investigation

Offered at your school or  
Namaqua Park | 730 Namaqua Ave.

**Critter Scene Investigations** are 2 to 2.5 hour outdoor programs for Pre-Kindergarten to 2nd grade students.

During CSI programs, students walk from station to station in small groups, collecting clues and information to solve a wildlife mystery. Each mystery is based on a real-life event that happened in one of our natural areas. The program changes each year so students can return and experience a new program. Morning or afternoon programs available.



Our open Lands & Trails  
volunteers are ready to engage  
your students in learning about  
nature and the environment.

*Your adventure awaits!*

## Grades 2–4

### Plants and Places

**River's Edge Natural Area** | 960 W. First St.  
*Walk-in access: use crosswalks & underpasses*  
*Bus access: from Taft Ave. during 1st St. closure*

**The Mighty Cottonwood** | 30 min  
Students learn about the parts of a tree, the cottonwood life cycle and the tree's value and lore.

**Cattails Lab & Pond Plants** | 30 min  
Wetland plants and wildlife inhabitants are featured. Students dissect cattails to learn about their adaptations.

**Unique & Hazardous Plants of Colorado** | 30 min  
What do "native" and "invasive" mean?  
How do plants protect themselves?  
What does poison ivy look like?

**Plants & Places Habitat Hunt** | 45 min  
Students receive basic instruction on habitats and plants at River's Edge to use in a guided scavenger hunt. Length: 0.5–1 mi ADA accessible

**Seed Dispersal Hike** | 45 min  
Students learn various methods of dispersal, collect specimens and compile a small collection to take home. Length: 0.5–1 mi ADA accessible

Includes Sun, Soil, Water and Air song & relay race



## Grades 4–6

### Our Canyon and Its Wildlife - Energy Through the Biosphere

**Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park** | 1211 W. Hwy. 34  
*Bus parking: turn right at entrance*

Offered in two versions:

**Full-Day** (for groups of 60 or less) – 4.5 hours at the Mountain Park, includes full lessons for all 5 stations.  
**Half-Day** – 2.5 hour program, includes adjusted lesson times as noted below and our online supplemental curriculum. Larger schools may sign up for two half-day programs (morning & afternoon) and lunch periods will overlap at the Mountain Park. Contact us for details.

**Animal Adaptations** | 45 min (both versions)  
Students learn how different adaptations increase ability to survive when the animal's physiology and/or behavior fit the environment.

**Wildlife Management** | 45 min\*^+  
Students discuss actual wildlife management challenges and brainstorm possible solutions.

**Plant Life of the Canyon** | 30 min\*^+  
A walking tour presents information about different microclimates resulting in three different plant communities in the canyon.

**Colorado's Life Zones** | 30 min\*^  
Includes information on specialist and generalist animals. A look into species' habitat and food requirements and identifying which life zones they are found in Colorado.

**Closing the Loop – Energy Returned and Recycled** | 30 min\*^+  
Includes discussion of decomposition, decomposers and items that resist decomposition resulting in habitat degradation.

Includes large group Food Chain game

\* times shown are for the full-day version  
^ 15 minute mini-station in half-day version  
+ online supplemental lesson available