

Baltimore City Nature Connection Resources

Recreation & Parks

Carrie Murray Nature Center (<https://www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org/>) in west Baltimore's Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park offers free school visits and virtual sessions for students, homeschool and summer nature camp programs, and on-site nature activities for children and families every week.

Find programming via the Department of Recreation & Parks' Community Engagement Calendar (<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=bcrpcommunityengagement@gmail.com>) and program sign-up site, CivicRec (<https://secure.rec1.com/MD/baltimore-md/catalog>).

At the Howard P. Rawlings Conservatory (<https://rawlingsconservatory.org/>) in Druid Hill Park, discover unique landscapes and community programming within the beautiful greenhouse environments.

At Cylburn Arboretum (<https://cylburn.org/>) in northwest Baltimore, explore the gardens and trails, check out the Visitor Center and historic mansion, and take part in seasonal nature programming.

View maps of Baltimore's paved and natural trails (<https://bcrp.baltimorecity.gov/trails>) as well as an overall map of parks and recreation resources (https://www.baltimoresustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ProgramGuideMap_R04292021.pdf).

Schools & Students

The Baltimore City Public Schools System runs Great Kids Farm (<https://www.friendsgkf.org>) in Catonsville, delivering free programming and support on-site, at schools, and virtually.

Get detailed resources, and support for building a schoolyard outdoor learning space with this guide from Baltimore City Public Schools: <https://sites.google.com/bcps.k12.md.us/outdoor-learning/home>

Students can visit the National Aquarium in Baltimore (Sept.-Nov. <https://aqua.org/education/field-trips>) and the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore (<https://www.marylandzoo.org/learn/field-trips/book-school-visit/>) admission-free on field trips, and both offer additional community education and programming.

InDiGO: Inward Discovery Grows Outdoors (<https://www.inwarddiscovery.org/>) offers professional development sessions on outdoor education for Baltimore City Public School teachers, as well as student programs and field trips connecting academics, nature, the arts, and social-emotional learning.

More Programs & Partners

Learn more about what we're doing as a city through Baltimore Connecting Children to Nature (<https://www.baltimoresustainability.org/children-and-nature>).

Explore and care for Baltimore's forest patches with Baltimore Green Space (<https://baltimoregreenspace.org/forest-patches/forest-patches-resources/>), as well as gardens and other community-managed open spaces.

Baltimore's Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center (<https://www.masonvillecove.org>) offers public educational programs as well as water quality monitoring and shoreline cleanups.

Blue Water Baltimore provides guidance on painting storm drains (<https://bluewaterbaltimore.org/learn/programs-and-projects/storm-drain-art>) with environmental messages and provides educational programming and service opportunities.

Visit, learn from, and support Baltimore City's urban farms (<https://farmalliancebaltimore.org/farms/>) and community gardens (<https://bniaifi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/2215bf10357e42af9c46f86469bc01ae> [click the arrow on the left side of the page to expand the menu of options, click on "Type of lot" and choose "garden"]).

The Patterson Park Audubon Center (<https://patterson.audubon.org>) holds free bird-watching tours and other educational events.

Baltimore Inspiring Connections Outdoors (<https://www.facebook.com/Baltimore-Inspiring-Connections-Outdoors-BICO-1063639770437221/>) organizes volunteers to lead outings for youth

The Say Yes! (Youth Environmental Stewards) program (<https://ecb.baltimorecity.gov/bmore-beautiful>) sponsors community-based groups to work with neighborhood youth on beautification efforts.

Baltimore high-schoolers can apply to the Parks & People Foundation's BRANCHES (<https://www.parksandpeople.org/programs/branches/>) for after-school internship and summer job opportunities to experience and learn about nature-based careers.

The Center for Nature-Informed Therapy (<https://www.natureinformedtherapy.com>) in north Baltimore offers trainings and programs connecting mental health and nature.

NatureWorx (<https://www.natureworx.org>) offers local group "saunters" featuring mindfulness and meditation exercises, art, exploration, and play.

These are just a few of the many programs and resources out there! Know of more we should highlight? Contact Youth Sustainability Coordinator Valerie Bloom at valerie.bloom@baltimorecity.gov.

