

Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant #04-016W
Environmental Education Programs
Illinois Audubon Society's Adams Wildlife Sanctuary

Most members of the Illinois Audubon Society associate spring and fall with seasonal bird migration. When I think of spring and fall, I think of school children coming to visit Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. Lots of school children.

Yes, migrating birds stop to rest and "refuel" at the Sanctuary, but they flee to the safety of the trees when busloads of school children arrive for environmental education programs. The students don't really care if they see tanagers or warblers. Everyday robins and cardinals are exciting for urban children who don't have a chance to be in the woods very often. Slugs and beetles under a rotting log, a spider web shimmering in the sunlight, or spotting a squirrel's nest bring nature into young lives. At the end of a visit, I try to take a few minutes to let children tell what they've seen. Everyone has at least one thing that they want to share.

During the WPF grant period, approximately 1,250 children and adults participated in Adams Wildlife Sanctuary programs. In October alone, 385 school children visited to walk the trails and experience 8' tall prairie grass. Most of the programs take place at the Sanctuary. Off-site programs include visits to school classes to dissect owl pellets, presenting a migration game at Earth Stewardship Day, and programs for adult groups. Groups visit all year, but spring and fall are the most popular times for field trips. During the summer, day care and day camp groups from the area visit.

Programs include Discovery Hikes for preschool and younger elementary school children. We often use magnifiers to get "up close and personal" with insects or spiders. Even though we may not see them, many animals live at the Sanctuary. In the Nature Detectives program, children look for clues that birds, squirrels, raccoons, and other animals leave behind. All environmental education programs are designed to meet Illinois State Learning Goals. If a teacher requests a special topic, a program can be designed to meet that need. Of course, if the request is to see a particular animal, there are no guarantees!

The financial situation in the Springfield school district continues to be tight. The Sanctuary offers free programs for school that have 75% or more low-income children. A grant from the Rotary Club of Springfield South for "bus scholarships" brings many of these children for visits. The Sanctuary could not offer free programs or bus scholarships if it weren't for the interest and support of many organizations, foundations, businesses, and individuals. The IDNR Wildlife Preservation Fund is an important partner in providing environmental education programs for area students.

Thank you.

PROJECT BUDGET -- #04-016W

Item	Estimated	Actual
Labor	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
Commodities	200.00	274.96
Travel to schools to present programs	<u>50.00</u>	<u>10.00</u>
	\$8,750.00	\$8,784.96
Funds provided by Adams Sanctuary	\$7,750.00	\$7,790.00
Funds provided by IWPF	1,000.00	994.96
Funds provided by IWPF:		
Labor		\$725.00
Commodities		<u>274.96</u>
		\$994.76

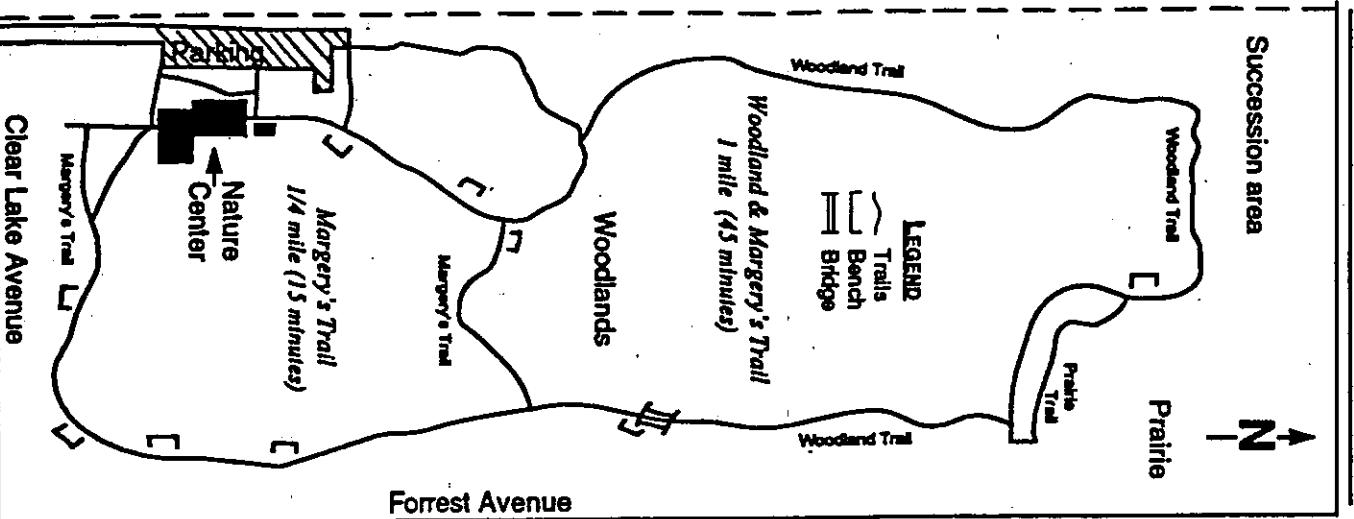
Number of children and adults served by AWS programs – 1,250

Number of classes/groups – 63

Number of off-site programs – 16

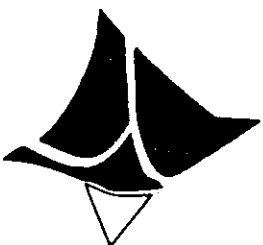
SANCTUARY TRAIL MAP

Succession area



ENVIRONMENTAL

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



The Illinois Audubon

Society's

Adams Wildlife

Sanctuary

2315 Clear Lake Avenue

(217) 544-5781

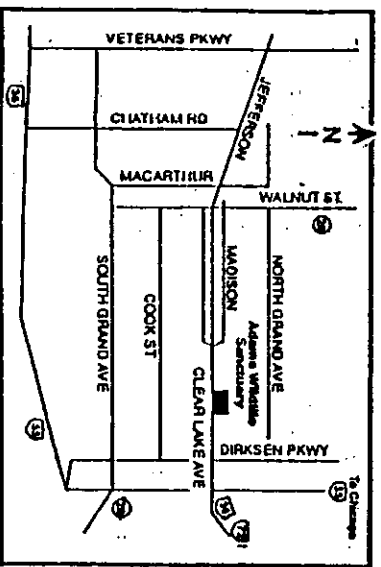
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ABOUT THE SANCTUARY
Adams Wildlife Sanctuary is one of several nature areas preserved by the Illinois Audubon Society. Located just minutes from downtown Springfield, the Sanctuary provides an opportunity for urban children to experience hands-on activities and learn about the interdependence of plants, animals, and themselves. Woods and prairie habitats are found in this 30 acre Sanctuary.

Environmental education programs for school classes are held year-round. Boy and Girl Scout troops use the Sanctuary as a resource for badgework and service projects. Programs for the public are scheduled throughout the year. The trails are open for visitors from sunrise to sunset daily.



COME AND EXPLORE the woods and prairie at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. There are different aspects of nature to enjoy and explore each season of the year! The trail is approximately a mile long.

GROUPS ARE WELCOME to walk the trails from sunrise to sunset daily. The Adams house is not open except for scheduled programs. To schedule a program, call 544-5781.

PROGRAM FEES
\$1.00 per student for a 1 - 1 1/2 hour program. Additional materials fees for special programs.

BOY SCOUT AND GIRL SCOUT TROOPS can arrange for programs to help meet badge requirements. Troops can also schedule service projects. Call 544-5781.

DISCOVERY HIKES are an introduction to outdoor education. Preschoolers and younger elementary students will enjoy hiking the trails to observe the plants and animals. We often use magnifiers to get "up close and personal" with insects and spiders, or binoculars to watch birds. The length of the program depends on the age of the students.

NATURE DETECTIVES Even though we may not see them, animals including birds, squirrels, raccoons, and opossums call the Sanctuary home. Look for clues that animals leave behind in this program for grades 1 - 3.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Programs can be designed to fit your needs. Insects, birds, habitat, animals in winter, and food chains are just a few of the topics available. (Please note: we do not bring animals to classrooms. All of the Sanctuary's animals are wild and live in the woods and prairie.) Programs take place at the Sanctuary or in school classrooms.

- Owl Pellets -- students grade 4 and up dissect owl pellets and reconstruct prey skeletons -- additional materials fee \$1.00/student

- Backyard birds -- focus on birds that visit backyard feeders -- students make pine cone bird feeders -- additional materials fee \$.50/student
- Special programs for special people -- everyone deserves a chance to experience nature! Trail guides are available in braille. Adaptive programs can be arranged for your special group.
- Programs usually are 1 - 1 1/2 hours long. Half-day (2 1/2 hour) and full-day (5 hour) programs for school classes can be arranged. Additional fees apply.

Environmental Education Programs take place all year. We dress for the weather -- programs take place rain or shine. In case of severe weather, teachers have the option of either rescheduling or having students participate in an indoor program. Please provide at least one adult for every eight children in your group. Picnic at nearby Bergen Park.

BIRD FEEDER CHALLENGE and SEASONAL BIRD CENSUS
These free Illinois Audubon Society programs for youth are fun and educational for school classes and youth groups. For information call 544-5781.

FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES. Displays, videos, posters and books on many topics. Call 544-5781 for details.

Adams Wildlife Sanctuary educational programs are made possible by the Susan Cook House Educational Trust, the Wal-Mart Foundation, the Springfield Audubon Society, the IDNR Wildlife Preservation Fund, and Friends of the Adams Sanctuary.