

Public Programs

Pond Insect Safari

Sat, Jul 6, 10-11:30am, \$5/person, \$15/family, FREE for members

There's a jungle of animals right here at River Bend. Come find out what's hiding in the prairie. Use dip nets to collect insects in the pond and then learn what they can tell us about the quality of our water. Even those normally squeamish by bugs will be fascinated by what we find.

Bagels and Birds

Saturday, Jul 13, Aug 3, Sept 7, 9:30-10:30am, FREE

Join us on the first Saturday each month September through April. Enjoy coffee and bagels in a relaxed atmosphere while watching wildlife from the comfort of the Interpretive Center through our Windows on the Wild viewing area.

Persnickety Parsnip

Saturday, Jul 13, 10am-3pm | Sunday, Jul 14 9am-2pm FREE

Come learn about wild parsnip and the problems it poses to Minnesota's native habitats and the safety of those who spend time in nature. Help River Bend staff pull and clip the seed heads. Must wear pants, closed toed shoes, long sleeve shirt, and gloves. WARNING: wild parsnip sap can cause blisters if sap is present on the skin and exposed to sun light. Ages 16+ only

Family Float

Jul 18, Aug 22, 6:00-8:00PM, \$20/person, \$15/member

Enjoy a beautiful summer night canoeing on the Cannon with your family. Meet River Bend staff at North Alexander Park, get a paddling lesson, and then head out on River Bend's fleet of canoes and kayaks for a leisurely paddle.

Raising Monarch Butterflies

Sat, Jul 20, 10-11:30am, \$5/person, \$15/family, FREE for members

Experience how to help out the Monarch population by learning how to raise them. Learn what they eat, where to find them, and how to be successful at raising an egg into a butterfly. Spend time outside looking for monarch eggs, caterpillars and butterflies.

Hike and Hygge

Saturday, Jul 27, Aug 31, 10:00-11:00am, FREE

Slow your Saturday morning down while enjoying some outdoor activity with old or new friends. Pronounced Hue-ga, hygge is a Danish concept of creating time and space for all things comforting. Join us for an easy group hike around River Bend with a naturalist and then take time for some hygge before you leave – warm drinks, unhurried conversation, or a good book.

Nature Tech: Geocaching

Sat, Aug 10, 1-2pm, \$5/person, \$15/family, FREE for members

Try your hand at the world's largest treasure hunt! Geocaching uses a GPS or mobile device to search for hidden containers that are marked by coordinates. Meet at the Interpretive Center to learn some tips, tricks, and etiquette before heading out for the trails in search of caches. GPS units available for use.

Buckthorn and Bratwursts

Aug 16, 8am-12pm | Aug 24, 9am-1pm FREE

The primary focus will be working on reducing the amount of buckthorn invading the woods at River Bend. Activities include pulling, cutting, and piling buckthorn. Wear pants, bring gloves, safety glasses, and a water bottle. A light bratwurst and chips lunch will be provided for those registered. Ages 8+

Nature Tech: iNaturalist

Sat, Aug 17, 1-2pm, \$5/person, \$15/family, FREE for members

Always wanted to impress your family and friends with your knowledge of trees, bugs, flowers, mushrooms, and everything else there is to find on a hike through the woods or even through downtown? Learn how to use your smartphone to identify everything you could possibly imagine without flipping through pages of dusty old guide books.

Visit our website at rbnc.org or give us a call at (507)-332-7151 for more information & to register for upcoming programs and events.



Adult Programs

Lunch & Learns

Join us for a meal and nature presentation on the third Wednesday of the month from 12-2PM. \$12/person, \$10/member

July 17—**Raising Monarchs** by RBNC Naturalist, Katy Anderegg

In July, hear from Katy Anderegg about how to be successful at raising monarch butterflies. Learn what supplies you need and how to get set up. Keeping the right plants in your garden will attract these beauties and keep them coming around year after year.

August 21—**Three Episodes in the Deep History of River Bend** by Mary Savina, Professor of Geology at Carleton College

Where were you on this date 455 million years ago? How about on this date 14,000 years ago? Where are you today? Most of the bedrock underlying River Bend dates from about 455 million years ago - give or take a few million. All of the landscape is much younger. The youngest "rocks" are forming right now. Mary Savina, Carleton College, will explore three critical episodes in the area's geologic history.

September 18—**Topic TBD**

Adult Night Out: Float with Floats

Thursday, Aug 8, 6:00-8:00pm, \$20/person, \$15/member

Have an adult night out with someone special in your life. Enjoy a beautiful summer night canoeing on the Cannon. Meet River Bend staff at North Alexander Park, get a paddling lesson, and then head out on River Bend's fleet of canoes and kayaks for a leisurely paddle. Finish off the float with some root beer floats.

Adult Night Out: Splatter Paint Archery

Thursday, Sept 5, 6:00-7:30pm, \$10/person, \$5/member

Have an adult night out with someone special in your life. Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow and get some practice shooting before we add some paint balloons to the target and watch them splatter. Leave with a piece of art created in a one-of-a-kind way. Pre-registration required.

Save the Date: School's Out Adventure Days

Time: 9:00am-3:30pm

Cost: \$50 (Scholarships available to those who qualify for Free and Reduced Price lunch)

Optional Before and After Care - for \$20 more you can drop your child off as early as 7:30AM and pick them up by 5PM.

School is Out Adventure Days are day-long camps open to kindergarten through 5th grade students on days when school's not in session, but the craving for adventure and exploration is strong! River Bend's team of naturalists will provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and activities to interact with, discover, and understand nature.

Wed, Oct 16: **Kids in the Wild**

Thurs, Oct 17: **Spinning in Circles**

Fri, Oct 18: **A Little Dirt Won't Hurt**

Mon, Nov 4: **Animal Antics**