

Nature Programs at Two Rivers SRA

Saturday, June 17th and Saturday, July 15th
10 am to Noon and 12:30 pm to 2 pm



Join our Naturalists at the picnic shelter just north of lakeside campground. Discover tracks, pelts, skulls and more things to explore. Meet a live animal and learn about some of our favorite Nebraska species that you can find at Two Rivers!

Mud Pie Mornings at Schramm Education Center

9 am to 10:30 am

- **Friday, June 2nd**
- **Thursday, June 29th**
- **Monday, July 24th**
- **Thursday, August 10th**



Make a mud pie at the Game and Parks Test Kitchen, otherwise known as the outdoor classroom. We'll meet by the side entrance to Schramm Education Center, then go on an ingredient-seeking hike. Next, we will squish through a mud-pie recipe, all while learning about soil composition.
 *Dress for dirt and muddy messes.

Nature Journaling at Schramm Park SRA

9 am to 10:30 am

- **Saturday, June 17**
- **Saturday, July 29**

Join Nebraska Master Naturalist, Writer and Educator, Jeff Lacey on a hike designed to help naturalists of all ages and ability levels write and sketch in or about the forest in a nature journal. Develop your field journaling skills and celebrate the forest in a supportive community. The program will meet at the park shelter with a green roof by the first pond as you enter the park. Resources provided.

Pollinator Party at Schramm Education Center

Saturday, June 24th from 10 am to 2 pm

Celebrate and learn more about pollinators and their plants at this free event with activities, science, crafts and fun for all ages! See live bees and watch honey extraction with the UNL Bee Lab. Explore pollinator gardens with Master Naturalists. Pick up a few plants for your backyard pollinators from the NE Statewide Arboretum plant sale on site.

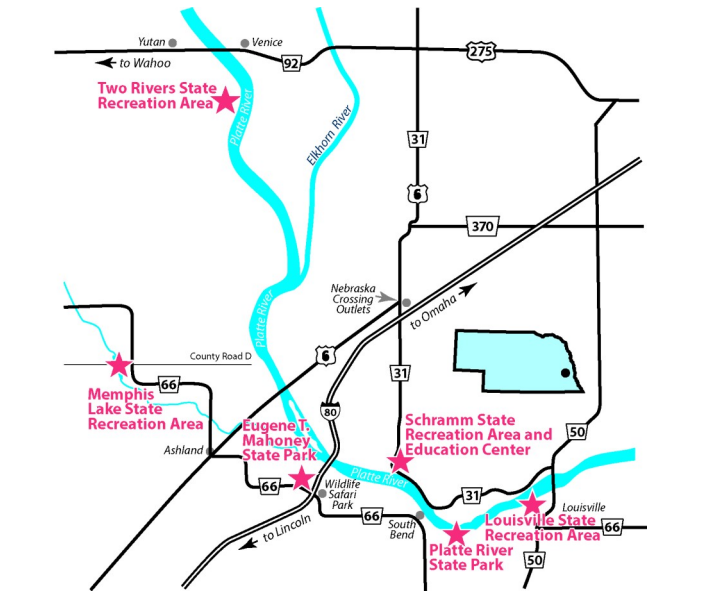


Snakes of NE at Schramm Education Center

Saturday, July 29th and Sunday, July 30th
10 am to 4:30 pm each day

Snakes of Nebraska is free to the public! University of Nebraska-Lincoln herpetologist Dennis Ferraro and his lab will lead a live snake encounter featuring most of Nebraska's native snake species! The live snake exhibits will be set up in the Schramm Education Center classroom where you can meet snakes up close and have your snake questions answered by the experts.

LOCATIONS AND CONTACT INFO



E.T. Mahoney State Park

Office: 402-944-2523
 Email: ngpc.mahoney@nebraska.gov
 28500 W Park Highway,
 Ashland, NE 68003

Platte River State Park

Office: 402-234-2217
 Email: ngpc.Platte.River@nebraska.gov
 14221 346th Street, Louisville, NE 68037

Schramm Education Center

Office: 402-332-3901
 Email: ngpc.schramm@nebraska.gov
 21502 W. Highway 31, Gretna, NE 68028

Louisville SRA

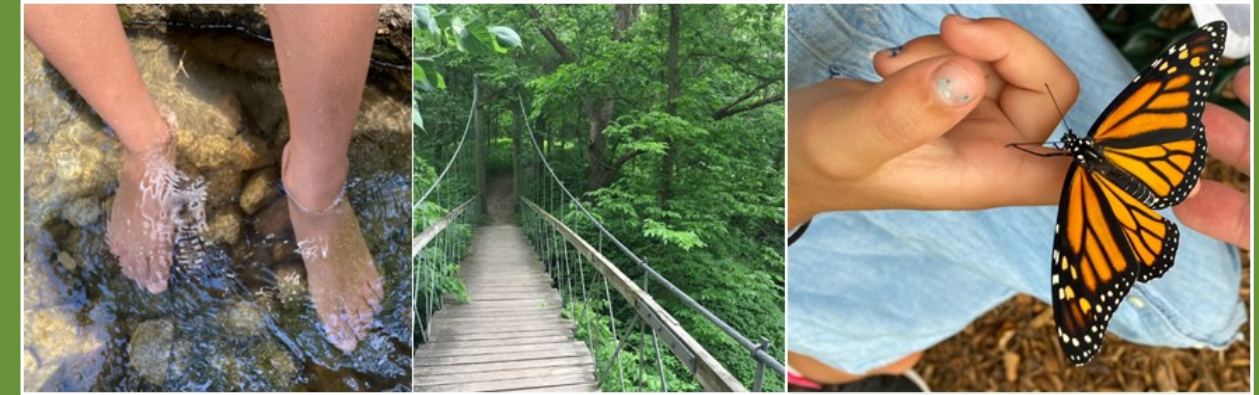
Office: 402-234-6855
 Email: ngpc.louisville@nebraska.gov
 15810 Highway 50
 Louisville, NE 68037

Two Rivers SRA

Office: 402-359-5165
 Email: ngpc.two.rivers@nebraska.gov
 27702 F. Street, Waterloo, NE 68069

Memphis SRA

Office: 402-944-2523 ext.7122
 Nebraska 78K Recreation Road,
 Memphis, NE 68042



Summer Park Programs

Mahoney, Platte River, Schramm, Louisville, Two Rivers



The Venture Park Education Team provides outdoor learning opportunities for our park guests. It is our goal to inspire appreciation and knowledge of natural and cultural resources while promoting greater understanding, support for and participation in conservation and outdoor recreation. The Venture Parks Region includes the parks of the Platte River Valley landscape near the Omaha and Lincoln Metro areas.

VISIT FOUR VENTURE PARKS IN A DAY!

The Venture Park Adventure is a virtual geocache program that will lead you on a mission through four parks in the region. Simply download the Adventure Lab app, then use your phone's native QR code scanner to open the "NGPC Venture Adventure" and start exploring park destinations. Each GPS location will give you a clue to solve a question, then enter it in the app to complete the challenge.



Plan a picnic! Picnics are a great way to get outdoors and enjoy some fresh air, listen to the birds sing and have a restful and relaxing lunch break. Bring a blanket or find one of our many picnic tables around the parks.

Summer Star Parties

Mahoney State Park

The Nebraska Star Party group is sponsoring Star Gazing Parties for the public at dusk on the following dates:

- **Friday, June 23rd**
- **Friday, July 28th**
- **Friday, August 25th**
- **Friday, September 22nd**

Powerful telescopes will be set up near the park's golf shack for a glimpse of the night sky spectaculars. Remember to bring your camp chairs or blankets. This event is free and viewing equipment is provided.

**Rain dates are the next day/Saturday following.*

Pre-Party Astronomy Naturalist Programs

will be held at the picnic area in front of Owen Marina on the dates of each star party from 3 pm to 4:30 pm. We will have astronomy-related activities to prepare you for the party at dusk.

Regularly Scheduled Programs June 1st to August 15th

PROGRAM FAQ's: Programs are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Please dress appropriately for the activity and the weather. Programs are free unless a fee is noted. A Nebraska Park Entry Permit is required on all vehicles entering Nebraska State Parks and Recreation Areas. Programs are intended for general-audience park guests. If you would like to do these programs with a group or have other program-related questions email kelly.ekue@nebraska.gov or call Kelly at (402) 332-5022.

MONDAY

Schramm Park State Recreation Area

- **3 pm to 4 pm Reptiles!** Meet an animal ambassador and learn about habitats and adaptations of Nebraska reptiles. Meet at the shelter by the first pond as you enter the park.

TUESDAY (No regularly scheduled programs)

WEDNESDAY

Platte River State Park

- **9 am to 11 am Crawdad Creek** Roll up your pant legs and meet us at Crawdad Creek. Net and identify the critters you find and discuss their role in the ecosystem.

- **1 pm to 4 pm Nature Center Open**

Mahoney State Park

- **9 am to 10:30 am Sling Shots** Try out this game of skill! Use a sling shot to test your precision and accuracy. Meet behind Bur Oak picnic shelter. Ages 5 and up.
- **11 am to 12 pm Frisbee Golf** Learn about why Frisbee Golf is a great alternative to standard golf and give this sport a try. Meet at the parking lot near the Conservatory.
- **1 pm to 2:30 pm Wildflower Wednesdays** Park naturalists will lead wildflower-themed activities and guide you on a hike to find flowers in the park. Meet in front of the Activity Center entrance area.

THURSDAY

Platte River State Park

- **9 am to 11 am, Noon to 2 pm Nature Center Open**
- **9 am to 11 am Crawdad Creek** Roll up your pant legs and meet us at Crawdad Creek. Net and identify the critters you find and discuss their role in the ecosystem.
- **12 pm to 1 pm Reptiles!** Meet an animal ambassador and learn about habitats and adaptations of Nebraska reptiles. Meet at the Nature Center.

Mahoney State Park

Save the Date: Thursday June 29th, No Programs, but look for us at MUDVILLE... a special event on site!

- **9 am to 10:30 am Archery** Try your aim at the targets in this introductory archery program. Meet behind Bur Oak picnic shelter. Ages 5 and up
- **9 am to 11 am Mammals & More** Explore touchable items from nature such as tracks, pelts, skulls and more while learning about some of Nebraska's cool critters. We will be located in the picnic area in front of Owen Marina.
- **1 pm to 2 pm Frisbee Golf** Learn about why Frisbee Golf is a great alternative to standard golf and give this sport a try. Meet in the parking lot near the James Family Conservatory.



FRIDAY

Louisville State Recreation Area

- **3 pm to 6 pm Naturalist Choice Program** If you love nature and surprises, meet us near the shelter across from the concessions building to find out what the naturalists picked for the day!

Platte River State Park

- **9 am to 12 pm Crawdad Creek** Roll up your pant legs and meet us at Crawdad Creek. Net and identify the critters you find and discuss their role in the ecosystem.
- **1 pm to 4 pm Nature Center Open**
- **5 pm to 7:30 pm Canoeing & Kayaking** Take a Friday evening float on Jenny Newman Lake. Join us at Owen Landing to parkake in your preferred paddle-craft: kayak or canoe. Paddling is available for all skill levels and equipment is provided. Participants must fit in a life jacket to participate.

Mahoney State Park

- **9:30 am to 12 pm Beginner Fishing** Join our naturalists at Owen Marina to give fishing a try. We'll show you how to bait a hook, cast a line and catch a fish. Fishing license required for ages 16 and up.
- **1 pm to 2 pm Sling Shots** Try out this game of skill! Use a sling shot to test your precision and accuracy. Meet behind Bur Oak picnic shelter. Ages 5 and up.
- **3 pm to 4:30 pm Naturalist Choice Program** If you love nature and surprises, meet us at the picnic area in front of Owen Marina to find out what the naturalists picked for the day!



SATURDAY

Platte River State Park

- **9 am to 12 pm Beginner Fishing** Join our naturalists at Owen Marina to give fishing a try. We'll show you how to bait a hook, cast a line and catch a fish. Fishing license required for ages 16 and up.

- **1 pm to 4 pm Nature Center Open**

Mahoney State Park

- **9:30 am to 11 am Sling Shots** Try out this game of skill! Use a sling shot to test your precision and accuracy. Meet behind Bur Oak picnic shelter. Ages 5 and up.
- **1 pm to 3 pm Naturalist Choice Program** If you love nature and surprises, meet us at the picnic area in front of Owen Marina to find out what the naturalists picked for the day!

SUNDAY

Platte River State Park

- **9 am to 11 am Breakfast & Birding** Start your Sunday morning with breakfast at Scott Lodge Restaurant (see menu for specials and prices) then head outside to enjoy bird-themed resources and activities.

Mahoney State Park

- **9:30 am to 10:30 am Mammals and More** Explore touchable items from nature such as tracks, pelts, skulls and more while learning about some of Nebraska's cool critters. We will be located at the lodge.

Schramm Education Center

- **10 am to 12 pm Bioblitz** We'll grab bug nets and binoculars to survey the Schramm prairie and gardens, then document our findings on the *i naturalist* application. Meet at the flag pole in front of Schramm Education Center.
- **1 pm to 3 pm Maker Space Crafternoon**



A naturalist will spend the early afternoon guiding Maker Space guests as they craft works of art, enjoy loose parts play or explore a creative activity prompt.

The Schramm Education Center maker space area features "Make & Take" art supplies and "Play & Stay" building tools.

This program requires admission to the education center.

Visit a Nature Center!



SCHRAMM EDUCATION CENTER is located at Schramm Park State Recreation Area and is a state-of-the-art facility featuring over 60 species of fish, reptiles and amphibians, along with interactive exhibits, a maker space, reading nook, birding area and pollinator gardens.

Fees: Adults \$10, Seniors (60+) \$7, Youth (ages 4-12) \$7, Youth ages 3 and under free

Hours: Daily 10am-5pm, Modified hours on major holidays

PLATTE RIVER STATE PARK NATURE CENTER is located below Mallet Lodge near the Wooden Tower and features a classic nature-nook feel with live reptiles and amphibians and hands-on exhibits to explore. During Nature Center hours, a naturalist is available to greet guests and share their knowledge about nature and the outdoors. No admission fee.

Monday Closed

Tuesday Knock on the door. If we are Open, we'll answer.

Wednesday Open 1 pm to 4 pm

Thursday Open 9 am to 11 am, Noon to 2 pm

Friday Open 1 pm to 4 pm

Saturday Open 1 pm to 4 pm

Sunday Knock on the door. If we are Open, we'll answer.

Opening Fall of 2023! James Family Conservatory

Mahoney State Park is excited to announce that the conservatory has a new nature center addition! Stay posted for opening announcements and please stay clear of the construction that is underway as we finalize the surrounding spaces.

