Fanshawe Conservation Area

Fanshawe Outdoor Education Centre

Fall and Spring Junior and Intermediate Programs

Watery World
2-4 Fall and Spring
Discover how bugs help us learn about the quality of the water, and join in the games to better understand metamorphosis by becoming a dragonfly, damselfly, and other aquatic animals. Remember your boots and sense of awe!

Habitat Tour: Pond, Field, Forest
4 Fall and Spring
Explore what these three natural communities have in common and what makes them distinct. Through collecting and identifying organisms, students are encouraged to discover animal adaptations and habitat requirements. Insect sweep nets and pond dip nets are supplied. Rubber boots or old running shoes are recommended.

Climate Change Helpers
5-8 Fall and Spring
Learn how we can help navigate and adapt to a changing climate. Students will experience a guided tour of Low Impact Development features by the Watershed Conservation Centre, as well as the top of the Fanshawe Dam to discuss flooding and clean energy. Together, we will discover local actions to combat climate change, including Conservation Authority projects. There will also be games and simulations to help students understand the local impacts of climate change.

We recommend combining with Climate Change in Our Watershed to create a full-day program.

Climate Change - In Our Watershed
5-8 Fall and Spring
Students will get a glimpse of what it's like to be a scientist. They will make predictions based on simulations using a Ward's Stormwater Floodplain Simulation System, use dip nets and classification guides to gather information on water quality indicators, and practice using a precipitation monitoring device. These examples will help build an understanding of how to monitor changes over time, and how data is used to understand our changing climate. Students learn about the local impacts of climate change and analyze how extreme weather and water quality are impacting habitats and species.

We recommend combining with Climate Change Helpers to create a full-day program.

Environmental Games
4-8 Fall and Spring
Catered to your grade's science curriculum and age level (see below), we will use a variety of games and simulations from the long-standing and trusted Project Wild and Project Wet resources to highlight science topics in a fun, active way.

Beginner Map and Compass Orienteering
4-6 Fall and Spring
Learn what orienteering is and how to use a compass. Pairs of students are given a set of directions and use their map reading skills and a compass to find their way to a series of locations. Compasses supplied.

Watershed STEM+
Grades 7 and 8, 3.5 hrs / full-day program Spring
The program will highlight how Conservation Authority staff in STEM careers survey and evaluate local ecosystem health. The program starts with a guided tour across the top of Fanshawe Dam to learn about the Thames River. Students then take part in a series of hands-on activities that mimic some of the water quality monitoring that occurs as part of the Watershed Report Cards (WRC), including identifying benthic invertebrates and conducting a habitat assessment. We explore how pollution gets into the Thames River, code WRC information using ozobot robots, and learn to identify a variety of species at risk. **Special program fee: $20/student**

Survival Game
4-8 Fall and Spring
Urban sprawl has claimed the natural habitat of many wildlife species. In this game, students role play as animals commonly found in towns and cities to experience their challenges for survival. Survival will depend on meeting their individual needs while avoiding predators and the destroyer!

BIO: Biodiversity and Interactions in Our Local Environment
6-7 Fall and Spring
Students discover basic ecological concepts as we explore aquatic and terrestrial communities to identify and classify a variety of plants and animals. Discover how ecosystem health depends on biodiversity, and use authentic field work tools including sweep nets to explore habitats.

Alien Invaders
6-7 Fall and Spring
Are there aliens among us, cleverly disguised as familiar flora and fauna? Students will discover and distinguish between native and non-native species and explore steps to take toward eliminating invasive plants. This program includes a scavenger hunt, movement-based games, a scavenger hunt, and species collection in the meadow with sweep nets.

Threats to Biodiversity
6-7 Fall and Spring
Dynamic and cooperative activities will help foster awareness of how human impacts and pressures endanger our local environment. Themes include habitat loss and degradation, population growth, pollution, invasive species, and over consumption.

Intermediate Map and Compass Orienteering
7-8 Fall and Spring
Learn what orienteering is and how to use a compass. Pairs of students are given a set of directions and use compasses and their map reading skills to find their way to a series of locations. Compasses supplied.

Introduction to GPS
7-8 Fall and Spring
Learn the basics of GPS technology and apply your skills. Using GPS units out on a set course, students are challenged to find answers to natural science questions and to locate specific eco-caches.

Team Building
6 - 8 Fall and Spring
Looking for ways to help your students support each other and strengthen their connection to one another? Participate in a series of team building and leadership activities centered around understanding their local environment. Get ready to have fun while working on collaboration and problem solving skills! Your class will participate in various activities that involve listening, communicating, teambuilding, and trust-building skills.

Winter Junior Programs
Offered in January and February 2025

Hide Hunt Hoard
3-4
Students will learn about different food and shelter sources that animals use to survive in winter, and discover more about the winter habits and habitats of different animal groups.

Focus on Flooding STEM+
5, 3.5 hours
This special full-day hands-on STEM program focuses on the local issue of flooding in the watershed. After a tour across the top of the Fanshawe Dam, students work cooperatively in small groups to complete a number of investigations including identifying why and how floods occur. Students will participate in floodplain simulations, and test the water holding abilities of natural land covers and natural LID solutions. This is an indoor program. **Special program fee: $20/student**

Program Fee
$8.00/student/program
$136 minimum charge for groups with fewer than 16 participants
No charge for leaders or parent volunteers

For bookings: Complete the google form or contact -
Kim Gilbert, Community Education Technician
519-451-2800 ext 284
gilbertk@thamesriver.on.ca

UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY