

Friends of the Refuge Environmental Education Program

An Urban Wildlife Refuge Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is located within the floodplain of the Tualatin River, just north of Sherwood, Oregon. The diverse habitats of the Refuge and its new Wildlife Center with indoor laboratory, offers teachers and students a unique connection and experience towards learning in the natural environment.



The Refuge's Environmental Education program, largely sponsored and funded by Friends of the Tualatin River Refuge, enables students to learn the value of our ecosystems and extend the learning process beyond the conventional classroom. Teachers can select lessons and activities designed by the refuge education committee to carry forward their own objectives and Oregon state benchmark standards.

The program offers comprehensive, interdisciplinary, hands-on learning methods to make use of the diversity of resources, habitat, and wildlife available at the refuge and also in the student's own neighborhoods. The refuge allows students to experience nature firsthand while sparking their natural curiosity and developing a respect for nature.

Teacher-led Field Trips Students explore the outdoors at the Refuge through free teacher-led field trips with trained Refuge volunteers accompanying groups to offer their nature observation skills and knowledge about the Refuge. Our curriculum offers a variety of outdoor lessons for teachers and parent chaperone volunteers to teach and lead, while the staff-led indoor lab program enhances and expands outdoor learning experiences by engaging students with hands-on activities.



Teacher Workshops Teachers can learn ways to inspire students using the Refuge as an outdoor classroom. We offer free workshops in September, late winter and early spring to provide teachers with the tools and information needed to prepare students and parent chaperone volunteers for a successful teacher-led Refuge field trip. Teachers must attend a Refuge workshop before scheduling a field trip.

To learn more about the refuge, its Environmental Education program, the dates for teacher workshops, and review its curriculum please visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/education/>