



## Outdoor Environmental Education Programs for Elementary Schools

### **Program Guide & Booking Information**

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

Contact us at:

[hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca)

905-525-2181 ext.266

Connect your class with the outdoors through year-round outdoor environmental education programs offered by the Hamilton Conservation Authority in affiliation with the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS BOOKING INFORMATION



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### PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Most groups arrive around 9:30-10:00 and depart around 1:30-2:00, though program length and time can be adapted to suit your group's scheduling requirements.
- Groups usually have a short nutrition break upon arrival and a half-hour nutrition break mid-day.
- We can accommodate two classes per day with a maximum class size of 30 students.
- Programs are connected to the Ontario science curriculum.
- The majority of the program time is spent outdoors, weather depending.
- While we make every effort to accommodate students with special needs it is not always possible given our rugged and hilly terrain. Please let us know about all your students' needs at the time of your booking request so that we can discuss potential program options.
- Please ensure that all your students are dressed properly for an outdoor program, proper outdoor footwear like running shoes, hiking boots or other closed toed shoes is essential. Students that arrive without proper outdoor gear may not be permitted to participate in outdoor activities.
- Our staff are enthusiastic Naturalists who are excited to share their knowledge and appreciation for the natural world with you and your students.

### PROGRAM LOCATION

Dundas Valley Conservation Area - 650 Governors Road, Dundas, Ontario

### PROGRAM COST

Environmental Education program fees for HWDSB schools are covered by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board in partnership with the Hamilton Conservation Foundation.

### TRANSPORTATION

Schools are required to make their own transportation arrangements.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

- All programs continue rain or shine. Program participants are expected to dress appropriately for the weather and outside conditions.
- During inclement weather programs will be modified to have more of the program conducted indoors.
- In extreme weather school programs may need to be cancelled. Schools will be notified in advance to make alternative arrangements and re-schedule the date.

### BOOKING PROCEDURE

Please complete the **Booking Request Form** and return it by email to [hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca)

Teachers will be emailed a **Booking Confirmation Letter and Pre-Trip Preparation Information** with all the details pertaining to the field trip once a trip date has been finalized.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE

### DUNDAS VALLEY PROGRAMS

Each program contains hands-on exploration, nature walks, and games connected to the local ecology.

#### **Kindergarten: Forest Friends**

Sherlock the Squirrel is planning a party for his forest friends and he needs your help! Students will be guided through a variety of activities that combine imaginative play and hands-on exploration, discovering what can be found in the Dundas Valley as they prepare for Sherlock's guests to arrive.

#### **Grade 1: Needs and Characteristics of Living Things**

No matter the season, there is so much to discover in the Dundas Valley! Students will complete a seasonal scavenger hunt and classify what they find as living or non-living. Through games and exploration students will also learn about what all living things need to survive and how some of our local wildlife adapts to our seasonal changes.

#### **Grade 2: Growth and Changes in Animals**

Become animal detectives as you explore the Dundas Valley in search of insects, birds, mammals, and other wildlife. Students will learn about different types of animal evidence and search for clues to solve the mystery of which animals call this area their home. Through games and discovery students will also learn more about various animal characteristics, life cycles, and adaptations.

*Note: This program is available with French language components, upon request.*

#### **Grade 3: Growth and Changes in Plants**

From trees and wildflowers to moss and vines there are many plants to discover in the Dundas Valley! Students will learn about a variety of local plants and how these plants change throughout their life cycle. Through games and exploration students will also learn more about different plant-animal relationships.

#### **Grade 4: Habitats and Communities**

What habitats can be found within Dundas Valley and who lives there? Students will investigate a nearby habitat, exploring what resources are available within the habitat and what living things are part of its community. Through games and exploration students will also learn more about food chains and predator-prey relationships.

#### **Grade 6: Biodiversity**

Did you know that Hamilton is a biodiversity hotspot? Dundas Valley is one of the unique natural areas within the city and is home to many different living things! Students will spend time exploring the incredible biodiversity of the area. Through games students will also learn more about the impact of invasive species on biodiversity.

#### **Grade 7: Interactions in the Environment**

Participate in an ecosystem survey to discover what producers, consumers, and decomposers can be found in the Dundas Valley and learn about how they interact with one another. Students will further reinforce these concepts through different eco-games.

#### **Grade 8: Water Systems**

Explore the water systems of the Dundas Valley. Students will learn about the Hamilton watershed, the role that the conservation authority plays in monitoring it, and how human activity can impact the health of our watershed.

Had something else in mind? Reach out and we will see what we can do.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE

### IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Programming can be customized to fit your site and class needs. A full-day visit can be split amongst multiple classes within the school, though we recommend at least 45 minutes per class. Programs can contain a mix of schoolyard exploration, eco-games, and examination of nature artifacts.

#### **Grade 1: Needs and Characteristics of Living Things**

Living things can be found all around us, no matter where we are in the city! Students will complete a seasonal scavenger hunt around their schoolyard and classify what they find as living or non-living. Through games and exploration students will also learn about what all living things need to survive and how some of our local wildlife adapts to our seasonal changes.

#### **Grade 2: Growth and Changes in Animals**

Become animal detectives as you explore your schoolyard in search of insects, birds, mammals, and other wildlife. Students will learn about different types of animal evidence and search for clues to solve the mystery of which animals call this area their home. Through games and discovery students will also learn more about various animal characteristics, life cycles, and adaptations.

*Note: This program is available with French language components, upon request.*

#### **Grade 3: Growth and Changes in Plants**

From trees and grass to moss and flowers there are many plants to discover wherever we are! Students will investigate what plants can be found around their school, as well as learn more about different types of plants and how these plants change throughout their life cycle. Through games and exploration students will also learn more about different plant-animal relationships.

#### **Grade 4: Habitats and Communities**

What habitat is available around your school and who lives there? Students will investigate a nearby habitat, exploring what resources are available within the habitat and what living things are part of its community. Through games and exploration students will also learn more about food chains and predator-prey relationships.

#### **Grade 6: Biodiversity**

Did you know that Hamilton is a biodiversity hotspot? With a diversity of habitats throughout the city Hamilton is home to many different living things! Students will explore nature artifacts to learn about some of these different species and spend some time exploring the biodiversity of their schoolyard. Through games students will also learn more about the impact of invasive species on biodiversity.

Had something else in mind? Reach out and we will see what we can do.