



LATODAMI NATURE CENTER

NORTH PARK EST. 1969



PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAM GUIDE



OVERVIEW

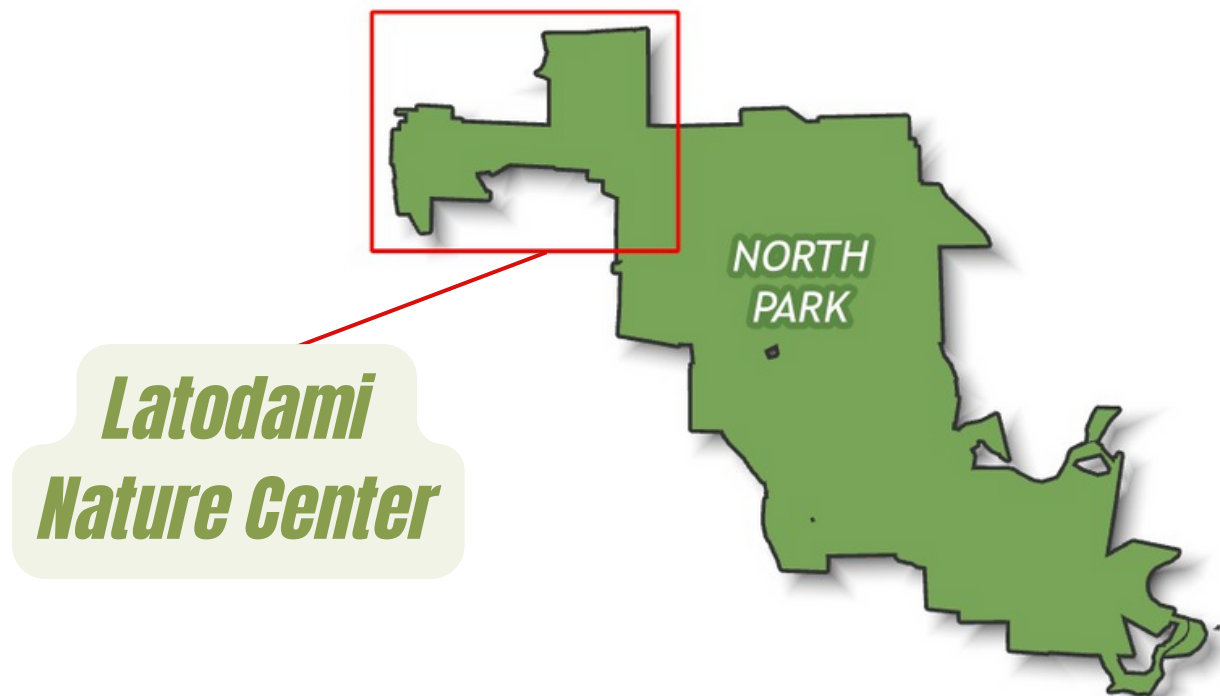
Latodami Nature Center has been providing quality programming to the public, schools, scouts, and other groups since its creation in 1969. Latodami's Naturalist-guided interpretive programs are designed to get people out into the natural world and observe it in action and to explore and investigate the wide diversity of habitats and wildlife found in our Allegheny County parks and western Pennsylvania region.

The Nature Center is approximately 250 acres, (within North Park's 3,094 acres), which include field, forest, pond, wetland, and stream habitats, with a series of marked trails to guide the visitor. The Nature Center is open from dawn to dark.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR TRAILS](#)

The building provides the rustic setting of a 1914 dairy barn. There is a large open-air auditorium where large groups can be accommodated, and local plant and animal displays are found. There is also a small, heated classroom for use in cold weather. The barn is open only during scheduled programs.

Special features of Latodami include: multiple meadow and grassland ecosystems, bluebird/tree swallow trails, wetland sites, restored farm pond, apple orchards, mature woodlands, successional stage field to forest habitats, multiple butterfly/hummingbird garden sites, deer enclosures, vernal pools, and multiple permanent streams.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Naturalist-led programs are offered through the year. All programs require pre-registration due to limited space or materials. Although our programs are “rain or shine”, visitors are encouraged to call 724-935-2170 for up-to-date information due to changes, cancellations, or additions. Remember to dress appropriately for outdoor exploration.

Programs are mostly free and between 1-2 hours in length. Public programs range from tough hikes to slow walks, from preschool-aged to all ages, and from singular to diverse topics.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR PUBLIC PROGRAMS](#)

PRIVATE GROUP PROGRAMS

Programs are available to school, scout, public and private groups by special request September through May.

- Private group programs must be scheduled Monday through Friday, as weekends are reserved for public programming
- Programs can be scheduled for morning, afternoon, and evening hours
- Programs can be scheduled on site at Latodami Nature Center or off site within northern Allegheny County
- Accommodations can be made for anyone with specific needs
- Groups must be at least 10 people
- Programs are free unless otherwise noted
- School programs can assist teachers in providing to their students the state-mandated environmental education and ecology standards for Pennsylvania
- Scout programs can assist leaders in obtaining badges or awards
- Program topics can be anything related to the environment; examples of program topics can be seen on the next page

To schedule your private group program:
call **724-935-2170** or email Latodami@AlleghenyCounty.us



Possible Program Topics:

*Denotes a program fee

LIFE IN THE CREEK

Investigate how we can tell whether a body of water is healthy or polluted by looking at its chemistry and life. If program is conducted on-site, in-stream investigations will take place.

FALL FOLIAGE

Pennsylvania has the longest and most varied fall foliage season in the world, but why do the leaves change color?

BATS

The only true flying mammal in the world, bats are incredibly important and fascinating, providing pest control and saving crops!

WAHDO:GWAS WETLANDS

Wetlands are some of the most productive ecosystems on Earth, in line with the Amazon Rainforest. Why are they so special, and who lives here?

GEOLOGY

Why does Pennsylvania have such a booming coal and gas industry? Why are our mountains so much smaller than Western ones? Learn how geology can interpret our past.

SEASONAL DISCOVERY

Let's explore what is happening this season! How are animals, plants and mushrooms changing?

BEAVER

These stealthy ecosystem engineers create habitat, clean our water, and do so much more!

EAGLES AND BIRDS OF PREY

Discover the incredible adaptations that make Pennsylvania's raptor species such powerful predators.

OWLS

As the sun sets, Pennsylvania's most silent hunters arise. Learn how owls hunt in darkness.

MAPLE SYRUP MAKING*

During February and March, learn how to make maple syrup at home using simple household items and taste Latodami's own maple syrup! \$5 per person.

NIGHT HIKE

Discover the world of nocturnal creatures in this active outdoor sensory exploration. Specialty "Owl Prowls" and "Coyote Howls" also available.

GRASSLAND AND MEADOW ECOSYSTEMS*

With no trees for shade, these vanishing habitats require hardcore inhabitants and creative plants. Discover how they try to be seen, or how they attempt to hide. This can be incorporated with seed bomb activities for \$5 per person.

APPLES

Explore Latodami's remnant and restored apple orchards and learn what Johnny Appleseed was all about.

BLUEBIRDS

A colorful bird with a beautiful song, learn how these birds survive the seasons and what you can do to help their dwindling populations.

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS OF NORTH PARK*

Delicate but brilliant, butterflies and moths accomplish some incredible feats. This can be incorporated with Painted Lady caterpillar raising activities for \$5 per person.

ANIMAL HABITATS

Just like humans, animals are particular about how they live. Explore what requirements different animals have for their homes.

PREDATOR VS PREY

In order for nature to function, there must be balance. To eat, or to be eaten? Learn about the importance of both roles in our ecosystems.

THE SCARY ANIMALS IN YOUR BACKYARD (& WHY THEY'RE NOT SO SCARY)

Coyotes, bears, snakes, oh my! The less we know, the more we fear. Understand why we need these creatures in our parks and yards!

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF NORTHERN ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Explore the incredible history of our country's first inhabitants, and all that they taught settlers to survive.

TURKEYS

Turkeys don't just gobble! They also purr, turk, eek, cluck and more! Learn all about these social birds and how they aided in the survival of settlers.

INVASIVE SPECIES

There are dangerous strangers in our forests, meadows, and waters - help us destroy them!

STAR PARTY

Explore the night sky with eyes, binoculars, and telescopes.

SONGBIRDS

More than just pretty sounds in the springtime, songbirds are particular creatures with many different needs! Learn a few fascinating facts about our local birds.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Learn all about the scaly, slimy world of herpetology! What reptiles and amphibians can you find around here? Includes a section on our endangered and threatened animals, like Hellbenders and Box Turtles.

WHAT MAKES A MAMMAL A MAMMAL?

We are mammals, and so are bats, coyotes, and squirrels. Quite the diverse list - so what do we all have in common?

ANIMALS IN WINTER

What choice would you make if you had to live outside in Pennsylvania's winters? Discover the choice our local wildlife makes: migrate, hibernate, prepare, or tough it out.

THE PAST AND FUTURE OF OUR FORESTS

About 100 years ago, there were almost no trees left in Pennsylvania. What happened, how did we get here, and what will our forests look like in the future?

ANIMALS IN LOVE

Perfect for the month of February! Discover the interesting ways that animals find mates.

NATURE'S HARVEST

Fall means plenty of food, for us and for wildlife! Discover the wild foods provided by nature and how animals take advantage of this bountiful season.

SNEAKY SEEDS

Fly, float, stick, poop, explode - these are all of the amazing ways that seeds can spread! Discover plants' incredibly sneaky ways to reproduce.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Latodami Nature Center is always looking for individuals and groups interested in giving back to the out-of-doors.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR PUBLIC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

Outreach volunteer projects can be developed for to school, scout, company, and private groups. Opportunities are available year-round to learn, exercise, relax and contribute.

To schedule your outreach volunteer opportunity:
call [724-935-2170](tel:724-935-2170) or email Latodami@AlleghenyCounty.us

