To schedule a program please call Tricia Schupra at 616-526-7700 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

When you call please have the following information available:
- School /organization name
- Contact person
- Address
- Phone number and email
- Desired program theme
- Preferred dates and times & alternates
- Grade and number of students and adults
- Any special needs

**Confirmation**

Confirmations will be mailed before your visit. Please distribute the information to all participating teachers and inform us of any changes.

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**The Ecosystem Preserve**

Our preserve consists of 90 acres of temperate deciduous forest, wetlands, and old fields on the campus of Calvin College on the east side of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Around 40 acres with a mile long trail is open for the public to walk through and enjoy the outdoors. The remaining 50 acres are maintained for a wildlife refuge and scientific research.

**Hours:** Trail are open everyday from dawn to dusk.

**Bunker Interpretive Center**

This award winning facility has a number of environmentally friendly features, such as a photovoltaic array for generating electricity from sunlight and composting toilets. We invite you to learn more about “green” technology and see a variety of educational displays.

**Hours:** Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm
- Saturday 10 am to 4 pm (School Year Only)
- Closed Sundays and Major Holidays

**Public Education**

Throughout the year we offer a variety of public education programs including our 1st Saturday’s Program and Summer Camps. For more information about these programs and other events please visit www.calvin.edu/academic/bunker or call 616-526-7601.

1750 E Beltline Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
www.calvin.edu/academic/bunker
616-526-7601
preserve@calvin.edu

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“**We love the variety of activities offered. Every step of the way was engaging for the students.”**

Local School Teacher
Our Programs are aligned with the KC4 curriculum guideline to provide your students with hands-on, outdoor experiences. Calvin College students and volunteers share their love for nature and knowledge with your students during these 1 1/2 hour programs.

Schedule School programs are scheduled Monday through Friday during the following time slots:

9:00 to 10:30 am
10:45 am to 12:15 pm
12:45 to 2:15 pm

These times can be adapted to work with your schedule.

Fees and Payment Information Program fee is $1 per student. Teachers and adult chaperones are admitted free of charge. Fees are due on the day of your programs. Cash or checks only.

Helpful Information Group size is limited to 40 students per a program. If you have more students please plan on scheduling additional programs in other time slots.

We ask that for every 10 students you provide 1 adult chaperone.

Themes Most of our themes can be adapted to other grade levels.

Using Our Five Senses Pre-K & K Students learn to explore the fields and forest using their senses.

Plants in the Spring 1st Grade Students discover the spring wildflowers and trees on the Preserve while learning more about plant life cycles.

Animals in the Spring 2nd Grade Students discover the relationship between animals through observation and activities that illustrate predator-prey interaction and camouflage.

Habitats and Communities 3rd Grade Students explore different habitats in the Preserve to see how animals and plants depend on each other for survival.

Rocks and Minerals * 4th Grade Using scientific tools, students identify rocks and minerals in our lab and then look for signs of glacial history in the Preserve.

Our Wet Wild World * 5th Grade Students explore the concepts of the water cycle, pollution, and watersheds through a variety of hands-on activities.

*These programs are by special request only.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are programs limited to only 40 students? The preserve is first and foremost a refuge for the flora and fauna that live there. Thus, we limit group size to lessen our impact on the land. Additionally, group limits take into account logistical concerns such as the number of program leaders available and our desire to have a low student to teacher ratio.

Are there facilities available on site for us to have lunch or a snack? Again because this is a preserve, we do not offer any picnic facilities in order to reduce the amount of trash and food waste on site. We encourage you to plan accordingly and/or visit a local city park for lunch. Thank you for your cooperation.

Are your facilities and trails handicap accessible? The Bunker Interpretive Center is accessible to wheelchairs. Our trails are wood chipped and accessible by some wheelchairs. Please note that the trails can be muddy in the spring. When scheduling, please let us know if any of your students have special needs.