

# Nature Near You

## Schoolyard Education Programs

**Outdoor areas play a key role in expanding the educational space available at your school.**

**Bring Essex Region Conservation's experienced Environment Educators to you.** Our 'Nature Near You' schoolyard programs bring our trained outdoor education specialists to you. These programs allow your students to enjoy experiential, curriculum-connected programming including games, human and natural history concepts, nature hikes, lessons in stewardship, and more!

Conservation Authority Education Programs meet provincial curriculum standards and focus on environmental issues that are important today. Education programs also complement and enhance classroom learning by providing students with hands-on activities and outdoor experiences.

**Program Fee** – \$125/class for 1-hour program

Please note: two 1 hour programs (1/2 day booking \$250 minimum required). \$100 per additional 1 hour program at same school on the same day.

A travel fee of .58 cents/km applies from ERCA main office, Essex, to and from your school site.

**To Book Your Program**  
contact [education@erca.org](mailto:education@erca.org)



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## Elementary 'Nature Near You' Program Options:

### **Maple Making (Grades K-8) Available February – April**

*Also available in French – Disponible en français.* Celebrate the local, traditional methods of maple sugaring that began with Indigenous Peoples. Learn how maple syrup is made while exploring the properties of liquids and states of matter with hands-on activities. Explore your schoolyard for signs of spring on a nature hike led by a naturalist. Francophone culture can be emphasized. Pure maple sugar samples can be provided, by request.

### **Animals and Habitats (Grades K-6)**

Learn about the amazing animals (birds, mammals, insects, amphibians and reptiles) in our local environment, the habitats they live in and what they need in order to survive (i.e. food, water, adaptations). Curriculum Foci: Grade 1 - Needs and Characteristics, Grade 2 - Growth and Change, Grade 3 - Growth and Changes in Plants, Grade 4 - Habitats and Food Webs, Grade 6 - Biodiversity.

### **Endangered Species Around Us (Grades 4-8)**

This active program introduces students to some of the Species at Risk found in Ontario. Students will also explore the relationship between biotic and abiotic elements in the environment. Learn about the lives of Ontario at-risk turtle species and discuss human impacts on their survival. Students role-play as an endangered species trying to survive the many threats affecting local wildlife.

### **Invasive Species – Uninvited Guests (Grades 4 – 8)**

What are they? Where did they come from? Are they good or bad? What can we do about them? Students will learn about and see a variety of invasive species up-close. Explore their impacts on native species, biodiversity, and more. Explore the schoolyard for evidence of invasives and other environmental unwanted. Learn to identify some of the most common invasive species in our region. Develop stewardship skills to help improve the local environment for native species.

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