**Little River Wetlands Project Program Form**

At Little River Wetlands Project, we offer a wide variety of fun-filled wetland restoration and education programs for groups of all abilities. We are able to offer these programs for FREE due to the support of our generous members. You can schedule a Seed to Marsh learning adventure with an experienced Trail Guide or take a self-guided hike using one of our property maps.

Through our Seed to Marsh program, Little River Wetlands Project provides educational opportunities that allow our participants to learn about native plants and restoration, why it is important, and be actively involved in our restoration efforts. We are happy to run tailored programs for school groups of all ages and abilities, homeschool groups, day care centers, clubs, scouts, after-school groups, senior citizens, nature clubs, and other specially developed programs for groups of all ages.

If you are interested in scheduling a hike or would like to hear more about our Seed to Marsh programs, contact Aly Munger at (260) 478-2515 or by email at a.munger@lrwp.org. Dates for our program opportunities fill up fast, so sign-up well in advance of your requested trip date. Let us know if your group is also interested in volunteering at our preserves.

**No date is confirmed until the *Guided Visit Request Form* on the last page is filled out and returned to LRWP three weeks prior to the scheduled date.**

**Code of Conduct at LRWP Preserves:**

* **All visitors must remain on the marked trails**. Wildlife needs our restored habitat so we ask that you do not allow anyone in your group to go off the marked trails. Stay away from indicated hazards and use caution near water. Avoid areas where mowing, spraying, or planting is taking place.
* **Please protect our wildlife**. The collecting of any plant or animal materials is prohibited unless prior arrangements have been made with LRWP. Do not bring animals or plants of any kind into our preserve as they can bring diseases or other problems with them. Please take your trash out with you.
* **Do not engage in prohibited behaviors or allow those in your group to do so.** Under no conditions are pets, hunting, fishing, biking, horseback riding, motorized vehicles, alcohol, drugs, camping, campfires, or weapons of any kind allowed on any of the Little River Wetlands properties.
* There is **no smoking** on any Little River Wetlands Project property.

**Things You Should Know:**

**In General:**

Many of our programs are held at Eagle Marsh, which has acres packed with a variety of plants and animals. We also schedule limited off-site programs and presentations. The Eagle Marsh barn and parking lot are located at 6801 Engle Road, one-half mile east of West Jefferson Blvd. in Fort Wayne. Scheduled visits are generally between one and two hours. We ask that there be a minimum of ten participants for a guided program. Please dress for the weather and possible wet conditions at the marsh. Visitors should bring drinking water, bug spray, sunscreen and at all times wear closed-toed shoes or boots that can get wet. Please see our Chaperone, Weather and Cancellation policies below.

**Seed to Marsh Programs:**

Seed to Marsh is a free, stewardship-based program designed around community, phenology, education, and restoration. Our program is offered all-year and we can work with your group to provide a program that is relevant and fun. We encourage any group that wants to learn about our wetlands to sign up today. We ask that there be a minimum of 10 participants for a guided program. Our programs last from 1 to 2 hours and activities are contingent on time of year and the priority of seasonal tasks. See how to sign up below!

**For Teachers**:

Our trained Trail Guides are familiar with meeting Indiana State Standards and curricular requirements. We can discuss what you are studying in your classroom and work together to help insure that your field trip will help you meet your educational needs while still being a fun-filled learning adventure for your students. School field trips are held at Eagle Marsh, 6801 Engle Road, Fort Wayne, 46804. There is a large parking lot with plenty of space for your bus and chaperone’s cars. There is no potable/drinkable water. There are three port-a-pots, including one that is for visitors with disabilities, that are cleaned on a regular basis and available for student use. We ask that there be a minimum of ten students for a guided program.

**For Scout Leaders:**

Eagle Marsh is a favorite site with scouts because we are centrally located and offer a variety of ways to work on requirements! We can help your troop earn badges, belt loops and try-its that need a little extra knowledge, time, or a specific location. Many Eagle Scouts have completed their final project on our property. We ask that there be a minimum of ten scouts for a guided program.

**Chaperone Policy:**

* All groups with children grades Pre-K through third grade need a minimum of one responsible adult chaperone for every five children in attendance.
* For grades four to six, junior high, and high school, a minimum of one responsible adult chaperone must accompany every ten youth in attendance.

### Weather and Cancellation Policy:

### Eagle Marsh has many different land types but predominantly it is a marsh and as such it is prone to holding water. We will go out in most conditions other than severe flooding or storms with thunder or lightning, so please be prepared for hiking in all kinds of weather. The Trail Guide and teachers will determine if the trip needs to be rescheduled or if it can be completed in the barn. When possible, we try to give twenty-four hour notice if conditions at the marsh aren’t suitable for visitors.

All programs are cancelled if any of the following conditions occur within Allen County:

* Southwest Allen County Schools close due to inclement weather
* A winter storm warning is issued
* A thunderstorm warning is issued
* A tornado warning is issued
* Hikes are cancelled if the heat index is 100° F or greater
* Hikes are cancelled if the wind chill is 10° F or colder

For other inclement weather or dangerous site conditions not mentioned above (ie. flood conditions, downed power lines), programs may be subject to cancellation if deemed unsafe.

If there is lightning seen or thunder heard (by an adult) during a hike, **ALL PARTICIPANTS AND LRWP VOLUNTEERS** mustreturn to the barn. The scheduled event on the marsh can continue 30 minutes after the last lightning was seen or thunder heard. The program is allowed to continue in the barn. If weather conditions change overnight or you are unsure about the marsh, call our office at 260-478-2515 to discuss the status of your trip.

If you have any questions or concerns about any part of the Little River Wetlands Project Program Scheduling information, don’t hesitate to contact Aly Munger at 260-478-2515 or by email at a.munger@lrwp.org for clarification.

**No date is confirmed until the *Guided Visit Request Form* on the last page is filled out and returned to LRWP three weeks prior to the scheduled date.**

**Little River Wetlands Project Seed to Marsh Program**

Seed to Marsh is a free, stewardship-based program designed around community, phenology, education, and restoration. Our program is offered all-year and we can work with your group to provide a program that is relevant and fun. We encourage any group that wants to learn about our wetlands to sign up today.

Our Program:

* Engages the community in educational opportunities that encourage good stewardship of wetlands and other natural ecosystems
* Teaches the importance, identification and life cycle of Indiana native plants
* Works to increase native habitats at Little River Wetlands Project's preserves and throughout the community

We ask that there be a minimum of 10 participants for a guided program. Our programs last from 1 to 2 hours and activities are contingent on time of year and the priority of seasonal tasks. When filling out the form on the last page, choose from the activities list below which Discovery Hike and Stewardship activities you are interested in, and list them after “Requested topic(s)”.

***Stewardship Activity****:*

Groups may choose one or two activities from the list below that interest them most, but these activities are contingent on time of the year and the priority of tasks.

***Remove Invasives (Spring - Fall)***

***Seeding (Winter - Spring)***

***Sowing Seeds (Winter-Spring)***

***Seed Balls (Winter-Spring)***

***Transplant Seedlings (Spring-Summer)***

***Plant Natives (Spring-Summer)***

***Watering Plants (Spring-Summer)***

***Seed Stratification (Fall-Winter)***

***Cleaning Seeds (Fall-Winter)***

***Seed Collection (Fall-Winter)***

***Seed Sorting & Mixing (Winter)***

***Discovery Hike****:*

Groups may choose a Discovery Hike theme from the list below that interests them most or ties into what they are learning. These activities are contingent on the time of the year. Expanded descriptions are listed on the next page.

***Pond Exploration (Spring)***

***Decomposers (Spring-Fall)***

***Wildflower Mania (Spring-Fall)***

**It’s a Bug*’s Life (Spring-Fall)***

***Magnificent Monarchs (Summer-Fall)***

***Secondary Signs (Year-Round)***

***Towering Trees (Year-Round)***

***A Bird’s Eye View (Year-Round)***

**Discovery Hike Descriptions:**

Pond Exploration (Spring)

*Description:* One of the jobs of a wetland is to clean water. The variety of macro-invertebrates and tadpoles found within indicates the water quality of an area. We display tanks with examples of the different creatures found in the water at the marsh. After learning how to use our equipment, participants are taken to areas shallow enough to allow for pond dipping. Dichotomous keys and pictures are used to determine the type of macro-invertebrates, tadpoles, crayfish, fish, and other creatures found. Microscopes are also available for use to look closer at identifying features.

Decomposers (Spring-Fall)

*Description:* Decomposers perform an important job on the marsh. Finding them under our logs, beneath tree cookies, and in our forested areas using magnifying glasses to identify them is a fun adventure. Participants divide into small groups and move between stations along the trails of Eagle Marsh, while discovering what is a decomposer, where they live, and the important role they play in our ecosystem.

Wildflower Mania (Spring-Fall)

*Description:* The restoration process of Eagle Marsh includes a wide variety of native wildflowers. These wildflowers have an important niche in our food chains. Using models we will learn about the different parts of a flower and construct a “giant” flower as a group. Participants divide into small groups and move along the trails of Eagle Marsh to explore the variety of wildflowers and their role in providing food to a variety of animals and insects.

It’s a Bug’s Life (Spring-Fall)

*Description:* Join us to learn why doing the “bug stomp” shouldn’t be the first choice when meeting an insect. Participants divide into small groups and move along the trails of Eagle Marsh, while learning about the important roles insects play in our ecosystem. Where do insects live? What do they eat and how do they talk to each other? And ultimately, what makes an insect…an insect? All these questions answered and more.

Magnificent Monarchs (MidSummer-Fall)

*Description:* Monarch butterflies are known for their big, beautiful orange wings and their incredible migration made every year. Participants divide into small groups and move between stations along the trails of Eagle Marsh, while learning about these magnificent insects.

Secondary Signs: The CSI of the Marsh (Year-Round)

*Description:* Did you know you can tell an herbivore versus carnivore just by looking at the skull? Or that an animal’s scat and tracks can tell you more than just what it ate or what direction it was going? Food chains are the balancing act of an ecosystem and can indicate a habitat’s health. Participants will learn about what it’s like to be a predator or prey, while exploring the different facets of secondary signs they leave behind.

Towering Trees (Year-Round)

*Description:* Eagle Marsh includes a mature woods and an emergent tree area. Using tree “cookies,” bark samples and leaves, we discuss the parts of trees. In addition, we compare and contrast the similarities and differences between different tree species, and examine what animals depend on trees. Participants divide into small groups and move between stations along the trails of Eagle Marsh, while exploring our emergent and older woods. Participants will then explore what adaptations trees make in order to survive in a wet environment.

A Bird’s Eye View (Year-Round)

*Description:* There are over 230 species of birds that either live or migrate through the marsh. Birds are incredible engineers, and are frugal foragers. Participants divide into small groups and move along the trails of Eagle Marsh, while learning about our flying friends and how they fit into the ecosystem on the marsh.

**Little River Wetland Project Guided Visit Request Form:**

Please fill out the information below and return it to LRWP. Aly Munger, our Wetland Educator, will contact you to finalize scheduling your program. The earlier you submit your request, the more likely it is that you will get your desired date and times**. No date is confirmed or placed on our calendar without this form (submit at least 3 weeks prior to requested date).**

**School or Organization Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Click here to enter text.

Title: Click here to enter text.

Contact E-mail: Click here to enter text.

Cell Phone: Click here to enter text.

Work Phone: Click here to enter text.

Home Phone: Click here to enter text.

School/Organization Name: Click here to enter text.

School/Organization Address: Click here to enter text.

City: Click here to enter text.

State: Click here to enter text.

Zip: Click here to enter text.

What is the best way to contact you in case of cancellation (phone or email)? Click here to enter text.

**Attendance Information (there needs to be a minimum of ten participants) :**

Expected Number of Participants: Click here to enter text.

Expected Number of Adult Chaperones: Click here to enter text.

Grade Level/Age of Participants: Click here to enter text.

Requested Topic(s): Click here to enter text.

Goals/Curricular requirements: Click here to enter text.

Any allergies or other accommodations needed?: Click here to enter text.

**Requested Dates and Times \*\*Visits are a maximum of two hours\*\***

First Date Choice: Click here to enter a date.

Second Date Choice: Click here to enter a date.

Rain Date: Click here to enter a date.

Arrival Time at Marsh: Click here to enter text.

Departure Time from Marsh: Click here to enter text.

You can mail your completed request form to Little River Wetlands Project, Attn: Education, 5000 Smith Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46804, call (260) 755-0063 to fax the request, or scan the form and email it to Aly Munger at a.munger@lrwp.org. If you have specific curricular requirements or standards that you would like to have covered during your learning adventure with LRWP please include the information either on the form or on an additional sheet.

**We look forward to helping your group learn more about the importance of wetlands and the many creatures that live at Eagle Marsh. Every day is a good day on the marsh!**