

FIELD ECOLOGY AT BIG CREEK PARK

Thursdays, September 3-December 3 (no class Sept 24, Nov 26; 12 weeks)

11:00am – 12:30 pm

Ages 11+

Students investigate the hidden systems that shape outdoor environments, including microclimates, soundscapes, human impacts and more. Each week at Big Creek Park, students practice real field science skills by making observations, collecting data, mapping patterns and designing solutions to environmental challenges. Be prepared to walk on wooded trails and be outside each class. Class will meet rain or shine. All lab costs are included in the registration fee.

Instructor: Ashley Blocker, BSc

Location: Back parking lot at Big Creek Park (1600 Old Alabama Rd, Roswell). There are bathroom facilities at this park entrance.

Full semester - \$285 OR \$28/lab (plus \$0.99 AH fee)

10% member discount

10% sibling discount

Register for full semester or individual labs.

LAB SCHEDULE:

FIELD SCIENCE – Thursday, September 3

Learn basic field science skills by observing outdoor spaces and recording patterns in temperature, light, sound, wind, moisture, and life.

MICROCLIMATES – Thursday, September 10

Compare small “mini climates” within one area and create a microclimate map based on shade, wind, moisture, and sunlight.

NATURE’S SOUNDSCAPE – Thursday, September 17

Explore natural and human-made sounds and create sound maps to study how noise shapes environments.

SEED DISPERSAL – Thursday, October 1

Investigate how wind moves seeds and particles, then design a seed model that travels with air currents.

ENVIRONMENTAL GRADIENTS – Thursday, October 8

Collect data across a transect line to see how conditions slowly change across outdoor spaces.

DECOMPOSITION – Thursday, October 15

Compare how different materials break down over time and what affects decomposition in nature.

COLOR COMMUNICATION – Thursday, October 22

Test how animals use color for camouflage, warning, and attraction through simple outdoor experiments.

ECOTONES – Thursday, October 29

Study habitat edges and compare environmental conditions where two ecosystems meet.

WATER MOVEMENT – Thursday, November 5

Observe how water flows across different surfaces and predict runoff, infiltration, and erosion patterns.

LIGHT ECOLOGY – Thursday, November 12

Explore how natural and artificial light affect living things and design wildlife-friendly lighting ideas.

HUMAN IMPACTS – Thursday, November 19

Map human impacts on the environment and suggest ways to improve wildlife habitats.

FIELD INVESTIGATION – Thursday, December 3

Design and complete their own field investigation using skills learned throughout the course.