



**Baltimore Woods
Nature Center**
Nature in your hands

Nature in the City News

April 2026



Welcoming Spring through *Nature in the City* Explorations

As spring continues, so do *Nature in the City* (NITC) lessons across the Syracuse City School District!

First graders observed how seeds move throughout their environment in the lesson, **Journey of a Seed**. Students learned that seeds disperse in a number of ways including by animals, wind, water, and even by explosion to have the space to grow. Students have been enjoying collecting seeds outside and using their magnifying glasses to make observations!



Katie Robideau (she/her)
School Programs Manager



Second graders have been exploring the interconnectedness of nature through the lesson "**Bugs, Blooms, and Birds**." This lesson starts in the classroom, teaching students all about the process of pollination and the unique relationship between pollinators and flowers.

Then, with a brand-new perspective on bugs, students are excited to head outside into their schoolyard and explore what pollinators and plants they can find (and see if they can find any pollinating insects in action)!

As we bid farewell to early spring conditions in March and April, Kindergarten and 5th grade classrooms have just begun their final *Nature in the City* lessons of the year. Our education team is also gearing up for the exciting 3rd grade field trip to Elmwood Park!

Check back for those stories in the NITC newsletter next month and make sure to follow along with us on **Instagram** and **Facebook**!

Katie Robideau

April *Nature in the City* Lessons

1st Grade



Journey of a Seed

In the final 1st grade lesson of the year, students learn all about seed dispersal! First, students make observations of seeds native to Central New York and then learn how each seed disperses or moves away from their parent plant. From animals to explosion, seeds disperse in a number of ways!

2nd Grade



Bugs, Blooms, and Birds!

The third and final 2nd grade lesson of the school year has students learning all about pollination! Classes learn why plants are important for us and wildlife to survive. Then, they learn about the mutualistic relationship between pollinators, like bees and butterflies, and flowers and how they each help each other survive!

[Click here to see teacher and student assessment data for the first & second NITC lessons for K-5th grade!](#)

Stories from the Classroom



Discoveries Made in the Search for Seeds

By Amelia Gross (she/her)

Environmental Educator

While searching for seeds, the first-graders were so excited to share what they found that their teachers and I were becoming (happily) overwhelmed with discoveries. We couldn't take more than one step without a student running up talking incredibly fast with a maple seed, pine cone, or interesting piece of tree bark. I especially liked when they dragged me to look at a blooming flower, reminding their classmates not to pick it.



Exploring Leads to Explorers

By Kaylen Iorio (she/her)

Environmental Educator

During the second-grade lesson "Bugs, Blooms, and Birds", it is incredible to see how students perspective on insects and flowers totally shifts. There is suddenly a new found appreciation and overwhelming interest in bugs, flowers, and birds as we explore their schoolyard. Instead of being afraid that they saw a bee they are exclaiming how wonderful it is that they saw a pollinator in action! In a schoolyard they visit every single day, even 20 minutes of exploring with NITC help them see it in an entirely new light and I encourage them to continue exploring and noticing nature right in their community (because there is a whole lot to see)!



Thank You to Our Sponsors and Partners!



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The Baltimore Woods *Nature in the City* program is only possible with the support from the Syracuse City School District and local companies, foundations, and individuals who believe in the mission of connecting students to the natural world right here in Syracuse.

Special thanks to the **C&S Foundation** for their renewed support that helps ensure every K-5th grade classroom gets three interactive lessons across the seasons!

YOU can be part of helping every student explore science through nature and find the joy of discovery with *Nature in the City*! **Email Executive Director Whitney Lash-Marshall** to learn more about becoming a program sponsor today!

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