



# FOREST ECOLOGY: TOP to BOTTOM

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LOCATION	SEASON	AGE RANGE	DURATION	# OF VISITORS
DC	ALL	3-9 <sup>th</sup> grades	90 min.	35 max.

## DESCRIPTION:

This guided walk gives students the opportunity to observe the diversity of plant life and the benefits of their use as wildlife habitat in Waterloo Recreation Area. Characteristics of a healthy forest are discussed including the forest layers and the inhabitants of each layer. An in-depth look at trees, their attributes, and photosynthesis are included in the program as well as a discussion on invasive species and other influences on forest ecosystems. Students will learn how forests can be affected by land management practices, with a look at both good and bad examples.

## GOALS:

Students recognize the role of forested lands in our daily lives in the areas of human health, economics, and aesthetics.

Students understand there is an interdependence of all components of the forest community.

Students realize forest survival is threatened in a number of ways.

## OBJECTIVES:

- List six ways trees benefit people.
- Identify at least two tree species by their bark.
- List at least two ways fallen leaves are important.
- Identify at least three differences between hardwood swamp and forested upland.
- Describe the process of photosynthesis.
- Identify at least one herbaceous plant that lives in forests.
- Recognize that fire is not always destructive, but is, under certain circumstances, beneficial or even essential.
- Identify at least one invasive species and one disease that threaten our forests.

The following grade level content expectations will be emphasized as determined by the grade attending: L.OL.03.31; L.OL.03.41; E.ES.03.41-43; E.ES.03.51; L.OL.04.15; L.EC.04.11-4.21; L.EV.05.12; L.OL.06.51; L.EC.06.41-42; E.ES.07.41 and L3P3-4; B3.4A-C; B5.1A