



Planning a field trip to the Wild Mile? Our team is excited to make the experience fun and memorable for your participants, regardless of age. We host school groups, summer camps, university students, and more year-round. Field trips are entirely free, though donations are always appreciated!

### **Location:**

905 W Eastman St. Street, Behind the REI. Bus parking available nearby provided the driver is present.

### **Wild Mile Introduction:**

Field trips typically begin with an introduction to the Wild Mile, led by one of our knowledgeable staff members or volunteers. Participants will learn about the history of the Chicago River, the mission of our organization, and the ecological benefits of habitat restoration. The introduction features a walk-through tour of the Wild Mile, often complete with a freshwater mussel meet-and-greet!

### **Activities:**

We offer a range of educational activities, all centered around ecology and nature. With large groups, we often set up multiple stations and rotate subgroups (5-20 participants each) through each activity.

- **Seed Bombs:** Distributing native plant seeds in an earthenware clay "bomb"!
- **Macroinvertebrates:** Exploring aquatic habitat and discovering tiny members of the ecosystem.
- **Nature Journaling:** Tap into creativity while appreciating the natural beauty of the Wild Mile.
- **Microscopes:** Learning to use research-grade microscopes and meeting the Wild Mile's aquatic microbes, from planarians to diatoms!
- **Trash Pickup:** Help clean up the river by picking up trash on the Wild Mile or surrounding streets!
- **Buoyancy:** Learn a principle of physics in the context of our floating gardens.
- **Native Plant ID:** Learn about native wetland species.
- **Birdwatching:** Learn about local birds and their ecological significance.

### **Limitations:**

Due to space constraints we unfortunately cannot accommodate groups of more than 60 children at once. We are happy to schedule multiple field trips for larger groups. The Wild Mile is entirely outdoors and subject to changing weather conditions. We are able to reschedule if inclement weather occurs. Our field trips generally last no more than 2 hours due to limited staff bandwidth, and average 60-90 minutes.

If you have any concerns, don't hesitate to reach out. Email [team@urbanriv.org](mailto:team@urbanriv.org) to schedule your visit!