

The Chino Creek Wetlands & Educational Park

The park encompasses twenty-two acres and is landscaped with a variety of drought tolerant and California native plants and trees; a few examples include deer grass and prickly-pear cactus. A state-of-the-art irrigation system regulates water usage and promotes conservation. The park also features wetland and riparian habitat, which provide a productive environment for wildlife. Six ponds and a sub-surface system constitute the wetlands filled with reclaimed water which then flows into Chino Creek. The trail system guides visitors to various attractions such as the amphitheatre and treatment tank observation tower. A key component of the park is public outreach and community education on water conservation, efficiency, and storm water treatment.



The Chino Creek Wetlands
and Educational Park
Post Office Box 219
Chino, Ca 91708



SAWA

Santa Ana Watershed Association

Water Discovery Field Trip Program at the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park



Reconnecting students with the natural world.....

WATER DISCOVERY PROGRAM

The Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) and the Inland Empire Utilities Agency offer a free elementary education program focusing on water conservation, wetlands, and watershed issues. By incorporating innovative, hands-on techniques with California State Standards, naturalists engage students to learn about current water challenges. The program consists of three chosen stations placed throughout the park encouraging observation, imagination, and critical thinking. Students will be organized into field groups and rotate among these stations. SAWA strives to empower students with knowledge of water conservation and motivate them to take action in school and at home.

To book a field trip or for more information please contact:
Dolly Aguirre, Education Coordinator
at 909-606-1933, ext 110 or at
daguirre.education@sawatershed.org

STATIONS

Wetlands Wildlife Behavioral Study / Birding

This station will begin with a discussion and an activity about wetlands. Students will then use binoculars and checklists to monitor, observe, and document wildlife behavior. Students participating in birding will walk on trails around the ponds and view waterfowl and birds. This station encourages critical thinking and teaches children how to use field glasses as well as the proper techniques for wildlife observation.

EnviroScape® Watershed Model

With the aid of a hands-on model, naturalists will educate students on the workings of the watershed. Using edible ingredients, students will “pollute” the model city. As a mock rainstorm moves in, students will be able to see how pollutants enter groundwater. This station allows students to visually and conceptually understand watersheds and non-point source pollution.



Pond Life Microscope Study

At this station, students will have the opportunity to view microscopic pond life. The Naturalist will give a brief overview on the workings of a microscope and the different types of pond life. With assistance, students will assemble their own slides and view their findings under the microscope. Slides will already be assembled for the lower grade levels. A discussion will follow the observation.



STATIONS

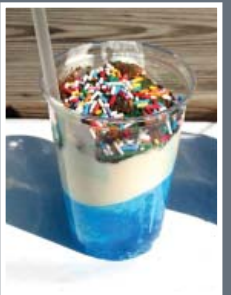
Water Cycle and Water Sampling

This station will begin with an introduction to water and its forms. The naturalist will introduce students to the water cycle with the aid of posters and discussion. If time allows, students will also assemble keepsake water cycle bracelets. Students will then experience simulated rain underneath the park bridge. After a discussion on water conservation and the uses of water, classes will take part in a sampling experiment. Using water from the wetlands, each student will test the water for pH, nitrate, and dissolved oxygen levels.



*Edible Aquifers**

Following lunch, students will partake in one last activity. At this station, the naturalist will talk about aquifers, defining what they are and how they work. The presentation will also include a discussion reinforcing the impact of pollutants on groundwater. Students will then construct and pollute their own aquifers using edible ingredients. With parental consent, students will be rewarded for their stellar participation with their aquifer treat!



* Please note that this activity is supplemental and requires parental and school consent.