

Visit Mud Creek ELC
1024 Route 66
Ghent, NY 12075

We are located on Route 66, 1 mile east of the Route 9H intersection. Our driveway is Sherman Potts Drive. Mud Creek ELC is based in the lower floor of the Columbia County Soil & Water Conservation District building.

Hours

Office & Exhibit Room:

Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm

We are open evenings and weekends for scheduled public programs. View the “Mud Creek Calendar” on our website for upcoming programs.

Trails & Gardens: Daily from dawn-dusk. Leashed dogs permitted on trails.

For information about Mud Creek ELC or to schedule a program, contact

Chelsea L. Benson
Education Program Coordinator
Phone: (518)-828-4386 ext. 3
Fax: (518)-822-0219
chelsea.benson@ccswcd.org

On the Web

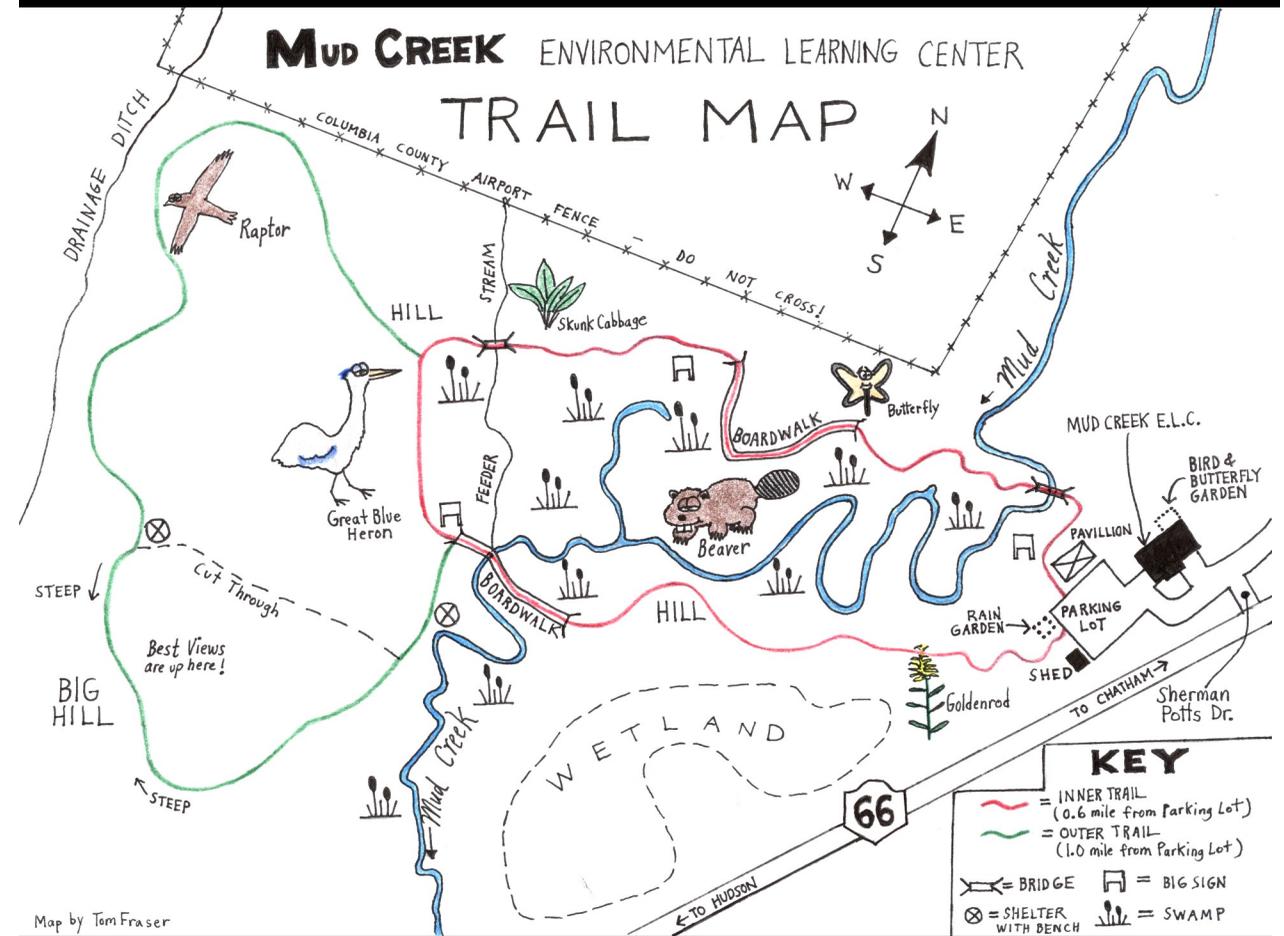
Visit our websites to learn what is new at Mud Creek ELC and at Columbia County Soil & Water Conservation District:
www.ccsxcd.org
www.facebook.com/MudCreekELC
www.facebook.com/CCSWCD

Mud Creek Environmental Learning Center



*Managed by
Columbia County Soil &
Water Conservation District*

Trail Map and Program Guide



What We Do

We offer a variety of hands-on, inquiry based educational programs at Mud Creek and at locations around the county. Our programs can be adapted to any grade level and integrated into the school’s curriculum. Programs are also available for scout troops, libraries, 4H clubs, homeschool organizations, and special interest groups of all ages and abilities. Mud Creek ELC offers public programs on evenings, weekends, and during school vacations.

At Mud Creek ELC

Our facilities include 1.5 miles of nature trails, demonstration gardens, green infrastructure, an indoor classroom, and an exhibit space— all of which provide excellent opportunities for learning about the local environment and conservation practices.

If you cannot come to our learning center, we can come to you! Call or email to find out about our outreach programs.

Programs

Sensing Nature

Grades K-4 (All year)

Use all of your senses while exploring the many facets of nature. Explore a tree while blindfolded, learn frog and bird calls, and experience the palette of colors found in nature.

Life of a Tree

Grades K- 6 (All year)

Discover the importance of trees from sprouting seeds to rotting logs. Discuss the necessary role trees play in the lives of people, other animals, and plants.



Animal Homes & Habitats

Grades K-4 (All year)

Observe real animal homes from Mud Creek's collections. Explore different habitats in search of animal homes. Participants will make their own replica homes.

Ecosystem Exploration

Grades 1-8 (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Take a walk at Mud Creek or around an ecosystem of your choice and learn about natural communities such as the forest, marsh, stream, and field. See what makes each special and explore their interrelationships.

Wonderful Wetlands

Grades 1-8 (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Come and explore the amazing properties of wetlands and learn about the creatures that live there. It's marsh madness!

Reptiles and Amphibians

Grades K-6 (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Explore the differences between these two amazing groups of animals and what makes each unique.

Birds of prey

Grades 1-6 (All year)

Learn about all the unique features that make up birds of prey: their habitats, behavior, and much more. Owl pellets are available for dissection if requested in advance.

Bird Migration

Grades 1-8 (Fall, Spring)

Watch the sky for migrating birds! Learn why birds migrate, where they go, and the obstacles that stand in their way! Mapping activities and games make this program very hands-on.

Incredible Insects

Grades 1-6 (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Learn about insect characteristics and life cycles by observing insects in their natural habitat. Using scientific methods we will check traps, use sweep nets, and learn how to do a beat sample.

Water Quality

Grades 6-12 (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Perform a complete water quality assessment of a pond or stream. We will be collecting and interpreting chemical, physical, and biological data.

Pond/Stream Study

Grades 1-12 (Fall, Spring, Summer)

With nets we will search a local pond or stream for aquatic insects and whatever else may hop or swim nearby.

Tracks and Traces

Grades K-12 (All year—best in Winter)

Become a wildlife detective as you search for signs of animal life. Learn about the natural history of local animals and their habitats. Make your own animal track to take home.

Coping with the Cold

Grades 1-12 (Winter)

Nature does not stop in the winter! Learn how plants and animals adapt to the cold temperatures, lack of food, and limited water availability.

Snowshoe Hikes

Grades 1-12 (Winter)

Incorporate "Tracks & Traces" or "Coping with the Cold" into a snowshoe hike. We have snowshoes available for participants of all ages!



Create-a-Program

Pre-k-12 (All year)

We can design programs that relate to what your students are studying. You provide the topic or educational goal—and we provide the rest!

Nature Buddies: Early Childhood Education

Ages 2-4 years (Fall-Spring)

Learning about the wonders of the natural world is crucial during these formative years. Mud Creek ELC offers monthly programs for daycares and preschools. Program themes are seasonally based. Lessons include exploration, stories, free play, and art. Contact us for a list of programs and descriptions.

Additional Info

All programs can be offered either as a field trip to Mud Creek ELC or as an outreach program to a school or location of your choice within Columbia County. Field trips have the option to bring lunch with them; indoor and outdoor dining areas are available.

Program Length

Field trips to Mud Creek: 2-3 hours

Outreach: 45-90 minutes

Early Childhood Education: 40 minutes

NYS Learning Standards

Mud Creek ELC programs integrate key concepts for the New York State Learning Standards for Mathematics, Science and Technology specifically Standard 1: Analysis, Inquiry and Design; Standard 4: Physical Setting & Living Environment; Standard 6: Interconnectedness; and Standard 7: Interdisciplinary Problem Solving.

Special Needs

We welcome participants with special needs and will work with teachers/group leaders to adapt programs to best serve the abilities of the group. Please let us know in advance so that we may plan accordingly. Mud Creek ELC is handicapped accessible.

