

Riverside Nature Center



RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER

Animas Park off Browning Pkwy
Farmington, NM 87401

www.fmtn.org/RiversideNatureCenter
(505) 599-1422

[@RiversideNatureCenterFarmington](https://www.facebook.com/RiversideNatureCenterFarmington)

Riverside Nature Center has an exhibit hall, activity room, observation room, and picnic pavilion. The nature center offers:

- Interactive exhibits exploring the environment and wildlife of Farmington
- Exhibits by nature photographers, artists, and projects by area schools
- Free weekly programming for all ages
- Wetlands for wildlife
- Gift store

HOURS OF OPERATION

THROUGH MARCH

Tuesday - Saturday • 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Sunday • 1:00 to 4:00PM

HOURS OF OPERATION

STARTING APRIL

Tuesday - Saturday • 9:00AM to 6:00PM

Sunday • 1:00 to 5:00PM

BIRD WATCHING

BIRD WALK

Fee: FREE

Many interesting birds are here in the winter but not in summer so now is the time to see them. Come for a walk of about a mile and time view the feeders outside the nature center to learn our winter birds. Bring binoculars if you have them or borrow some of ours.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATE(S)	TIME
Sa	Feb 1	10:00AM-Noon

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

January 1 • CLOSED for New Year's Day

April 12 • CLOSED for Easter

ADMISSION

FREE

FIELD TRIPS

Do you have a large group of children you would like to bring in for a field trip? Contact us and we can even build a program around your curriculum.

BROWN BAG BIRDING

Fee: FREE

Bring your lunch and join us in the observation room to watch wildlife as we eat overlooking the wetlands. Anyone needing handicapped access may drive to the parking area right outside the building.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
W	Ongoing	Noon-1:00PM

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BIRD WATCHING

SPRING MIGRATORY BIRD COUNT

Fee: FREE

Join an international project to learn where migratory birds are spending the spring nesting season by observing and counting the birds in Animas and Berg Parks and throughout San Juan County. Beginning and expert observers are all welcome as we walk the park trails and bridges. Other routes are available for those who prefer to drive. **Call Alan Nelson at (505) 325-8619 for more information.**

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATE(S)	TIME
Sa	May 2	8:00AM-3:00PM

EXHIBITS

WINTER WATERFOWL EXHIBIT

Fee: FREE

Waterfowl of the river parks in winter are featured in this exhibit of pictures by local expert Timothy Reeves, author of *Waterfowl of the Four Corners Region*. The book is available in the nature center gift shop. During the winter, many unusual waterfowl appear on the Animas River and the exhibit will help to identify them.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATE(S)	TIME
Tu-Su	Jan - Feb	Facility hours

RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER PHOTO SHOW

Fee: FREE

This annual photo show, featuring the work of local photographers will be on exhibit at the nature center. Photos show wildlife, scenery, and activities in the Animas River parks.

Want to enter the show? If you would like to enter your photographs for inclusion in the show submit up to five (5) photos taken of scenery, people, wildlife, and activities in Animas or Berg Parks in Farmington. Plan to print and mount them for the March show.

Ages: ALL

DESCRIPTION	DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Photo submission deadline	F	Feb 28	5:00PM
Art Reception	Su	Mar 8	2:00-4:00PM
Show	Tu-Su	Mar 2 - Apr 11	Facility hours

TUESDAY BIRDING

Fee: FREE

Join a group of beginning and experienced birders for a walk every week and follow the changing seasons. Over 150 species of birds have been seen in Animas and Berg Parks and this is your chance to see some of them. Bring your binoculars and bird book or borrow some from us. Come early for coffee and to observe birds at the feeders before the walk begins.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Tu	Through Mar	9:00-11:00AM
Tu	Starting Apr	8:00-10:00AM



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HIKES & WALKS

BIRD WALK

See full listing on page 59.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATE(S)	TIME
Sa	Feb 1	10:00AM-Noon

FAMILY TRAIL LUNCHES

Fee: FREE

It's spring break! Let's enjoy a walk and lunch along the park trails. Families with children of all ages are invited. Bring your lunch and every day we will walk a different trail in Animas Park. We will see the wildlife and spring blossoms along the river with a different destination and theme each day. Come one time or everyday.

Ages: Families

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Tu-F	Mar 17 - Mar 20	Noon-1:30PM

MAKING TRACKS

See full listing on page 62.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Jan 4	1:00 - 3:00PM



SCIENCE & LEARNING

BENEFICIAL BUGS

Fee: FREE

Learn about New Mexico's pollinators and beneficial insects through planting seeds that attract pollinators, art activities in the observation room, and a hands-on visit to the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden with NMSU Master Gardeners.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Feb 29	1:00-3:00PM

MOONLIGHT WALK

Fee: FREE

The river parks are especially beautiful in the evening so join us on the walk by the light of the moon. We hope to see deer and nocturnal animals on this two-mile stroll along the woodland trails and sparkling river. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight but you probably won't need it, especially if we have some snow in our winter wonderland. Children should be old enough to understand walking silently. No pets.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Jan 11	7:00-8:30PM

STARS & STORIES

Fee: FREE

This early evening walk is an opportunity to learn winter stars, constellations, and the myths which help remember them on a stroll through Animas Park. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. Binoculars are helpful. Children should be old enough to understand walking silently. No pets.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Jan 25	7:00-8:30PM
Sa	Mar 28	7:00-8:30PM

TREES, WEEDS, & WILDFLOWERS

See full listing on page 62.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Apr 11	10:00 - 11:30AM

COMPASS GAMES

Fee: FREE

Learn to use a compass to follow a trail or lay out a trail for someone else by playing games and having fun in the park. Compasses are provided for this outdoor activity.

Ages: 4th grade through adult

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Mar 7	10:00AM-Noon

Riverside Nature Center

SCIENCE & LEARNING

CUB SCOUT DAY

Fee: FREE

Cub Scouts can enjoy a short walk and talk with nature center staff and volunteers to learn the wildlife and trees in the river park and how we protect them and the environment. Ask questions and make notes or sketches while meeting other Scouts. You are welcome to bring a lunch to enjoy in our picnic area and to plan a hike in the park before or after your visit.

Ages: Cub Scouts

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Apr 25	10:00AM or 2:00PM

EARTH SCIENCE DAY

Fee: FREE

Drop in at the nature center with your unidentified rock and mineral finds to have experts identify them. Tour a gas and oil well and learn about petroleum geology. Look at the collections of the Farmington Museum as well as those of some lifelong rockhounds. Learn about volcanoes, fossils, and careers in earth science. Scouts who bring their badge books can get requirements signed by our consultants.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Feb 8	1:00-4:00PM

GEOCACHING

Fee: FREE, preregister by calling 599-1422

Use GPS clues to find and to hide a small "treasure" to share with others from all over the region. Begin logging your adventures in geocaching in this active class led by experienced participants. Dress for the weather and for walking up to two miles at a leisurely pace in the beautiful parks along the river. Bring your hand-held GPS unit or your phone with the GPS feature.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Mar 14	9:00AM-Noon

MAKING TRACKS

Fee: FREE

Take a walk through Animas Park looking for tracks and traces of the animals who live here. If weather permits, make a plaster cast of a track to take home. Nature center staff and volunteers will help everyone learn more about the wildlife in the park.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Jan 4	1:00 - 3:00PM

PICNIC IN THE PARK FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Fee: FREE

Preschool children and their families bring lunch and meet at the nature center for a picnic followed by a story or activity and stroller-friendly walk in the park. Learn about plants, insects, birds, and all the interesting wildlife. Feed the friendly ducks and be home in time for naps.

Ages: Preschoolers

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Tu	Ongoing starting Apr 2	11:30AM - 12:30PM

ROPES & KNOTS

Fee: FREE

Knot tying is an old-fashioned skill that still comes in handy and is fun to learn. Make your own sample of rope using an ancient hand method, try the pioneer rope-making machine, tie some useful knots, and learn rope tricks. Come to learn or share your own favorite skills with knots. Children should be able to tie a bow or shoestring.

Ages: Elementary kids through adult

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Feb 22	1:00 - 3:00PM

TREES, WEEDS, & WILDFLOWERS

Fee: FREE

Take a walk to learn the many wild plants of our river parks and appreciate their spring flowers. Get ideas for plants you might grow at home and learn some of the plants with traditional uses on this walk of about a mile.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Apr 11	10:00 - 11:30AM

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SPECIAL EVENTS

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Fee: FREE

Create art from recycled materials, learn about curbside recycling, take a guided trail walk, learn about the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, and try other activities with staff and volunteers from our parks department. Bring your own art from recycled materials to show and share.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Apr 18	11:00AM-2:00PM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NATURE CENTER DOCENT TRAINING

Register: Kandy at 599-1421

If you can give some time to help groups of children and others learn about the ecology and beauty of our river parks, attend this training session (includes a light lunch). We will walk the trails, find some of the interesting things to show, and learn some techniques for managing groups. New guides will begin by assisting experienced docents and then can schedule their times to lead tours. Volunteers at any of the other museum facilities are welcome to attend and become more familiar with the nature center programs.

Ages: Adult

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
W	Mar 11	9:00AM-1:00PM



FRIENDS OF THE NATURE CENTER ANNUAL MEETING

Location: Farmington Museum (Page ??)

Fee: FREE, RSVP for dinner by January 14

All members and others interested are invited for a simple supper, elections of board members, and news about the nature center activities and plans. You can also enjoy the Farmington Museum exhibits while there.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
F	Jan 17	6:00-8:00PM

XERISCAPE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN VOLUNTEER DAY

Help staff and volunteers groom the Xeriscape Demonstration Gardens for the spring and learn about herbs, native plants, and successful low-water landscaping features as we work. Bring your own favorite tools and gloves if you have them. Come any time during the day and help with this spring project.

Ages: ALL

DAY(S)	DATES(S)	TIME
Sa	Mar 21	8:00am-3:00PM

