

“Berry Prairie” Green Roof

An experiment in urban, native, rooftop ecosystems.

The Berry Prairie is the Berry Center’s green roof, located directly above the Vertebrate Collection. The Prairie is an experiment in green roofing, as it is the only one of its kind! There are over 60 species of grasses, shrubs and forbs (wildflowers) all native to the Laramie Basin growing in the Berry Prairie. It is an ideal setting to examine, study and monitor the local flora as well as native insects, arachnids and birds.



How your class can study the Berry Prairie:

1. Bring your class to the green roof to **study the native plants of Wyoming**. Find answers to questions like what do the grasses all have in common? Why don't the forbs grow very tall? What adaptations do plants have to survive drought? Take samples of various plant leaves into the Ecology Lab in the Berry Center to look at leaf tissues under a microscope.
2. Bring your class to the Berry Prairie to **study how green roofs impact** buildings, habitat conservation, and urban environmental dynamics (heat island effect or run-off changes, etc.).



3. Bring your class to the green roof to **observe and collect data on the number and species of pollinators** that visit the plants in flower. Use insect nets and bug boxes to get a closer view of caught specimens. View the reproductive parts of flowers under a microscope to better understand what happens to pollen once a flower is pollinated.