

Wetland Education and Interpretation Centres

Across Alberta

Alberta Parks

Many provincial parks in Alberta offer the use of their parks for self-guided tours of wetlands, as well as interpretive programming. Contact a park near you to learn more!

<http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/preserving/index.asp>

Northern Alberta

Muskoseepi Park

Bag 4000
9905 – 100 Street
Grande Prairie, AB
T8V 6V3

Phone: 780-538-0451 Fax: (78) 539-5229

Muskoseepi Park in the City of Grande Prairie is the home of Crystal Lake, a rich prairie wetland with wildlife viewing facilities, as well as quiet picnic sites and paved trails encircling the lake. Seasonal education programs designed to fit the school curriculum of Kindergarten through Grade 5, are available to schools and other groups. Crystal Lake can be accessed off of 94 Street, just north of 116 Avenue, in Grande Prairie. For information about booking a program or to learn more about Crystal Lake, see the website or email musko@cityofgp.com.

<http://www.cityofgp.com/citygov/dept/musko/Default.htm>

The Kimiwan Birdwalk and Interpretive Centre

General Delivery
McLennan, AB
T0H 2L0

Phone: 780-324-2004

Kimiwan Lake, located at McLennan, Alberta, Canada is an internationally recognized wetland that has tremendous wildlife values, particularly for waterfowl and shorebirds. The importance of the lake is recognized by several designations including: Globally Significant Important Bird Area, candidate Provincial Natural Area, Migratory Bird Sanctuary and the most northern site in Alberta nominated under the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

http://tis.gov.ab.ca/publicit/item/kimiwan_birdwalk_and_interpretive_centre.htm

Edmonton and Area

Bennett Environmental Education Centre

Edmonton Public School Board
9703-94 St
Edmonton, AB
T6C 3W1

Phone: 780-468-1439

Located in the picturesque Cloverdale Community three blocks east of the Muttart Conservatory, the Bennett Centre has access to the Edmonton River Valley. Our Pond Study activity correlates to the Grade 5 Wetland Ecosystem unit. Students visit our on-site pond, collect critters and then observe them in our indoor laboratory recording their results in a student booklet. To book this program contact the centre.

<http://bennettcentre.epsb.ca>

John Janzen Nature Centre

P.O. Box 2359
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7

Phone: (780) 496-2910

Located in the heart of Edmonton's River Valley the John Janzen Nature Centre is located next to Fort Edmonton Park at the corner of Fox Drive and Whitemud Drive. Visit an active working beehive, a living pond community and enjoy 4 kilometers of self-guided interpretive nature trails through some of the most interesting river valley scenery in Edmonton.

http://www.gov.edmonton.ab.ca/comm_services/city_op_attractions/JJNC/

Strathcona Wilderness Centre

2025 Oak Street
Sherwood Park, AB
T8A 0W9

Phone: (780) 922-3939 Fax: (780) 922-6415 E-mail: swcinfo@strathcona.ab.ca

Located 16 km (20 min.) east of Sherwood Park on Baseline Road and Range Road 212, the Centre maintains a 12 km trail system that includes a wetland interpretive walk and a Spruce Bog Boardwalk. The boardwalk allows individual the opportunity to explore this unique ecosystem without disturbing the sensitive forest floor. The site is open to the public year-round. For group bookings and guided events, contact the Centre in advance to make arrangements.

Elk Island National Park

R.R. #1, Site 4
Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta
T8L 2N7

Phone (780) 992-2951 Fax: (780) 992-2951

Located 45 minutes east of Edmonton straddling Hwy 16, Elk Island is a birdwatcher's paradise, with more than 230 species living in the park's meadows, forests and wetlands. Wetland programs for schools and groups are offered; book in advance. As well, events and programs are staged for the public in summer. Contact the park for more information.

www.parkscanada.gc.ca/elk

Beaverhill Lake Nature Centre

Phone: (780) 662-3191 (or off-season at 780-662-3269) E-mail: nature@edm.imag.net

Beaverhill Lake has been recognized provincially, nationally and internationally as a waterfowl staging area. Home of the Annual Snow Goose Festival in April, and known to many birders as "the place" for birding, the Lake itself offers several viewpoints. It is located slightly north and east of the Town of Tofield. Staff at the Nature Centre can assist you in planning your visit to the lake, where you can visit viewpoints, or hike one of several trails.

The Nature Centre is located on the service road off of Hwy. 14 in Tofield, and is open from June to early September.

<http://users.imag.net/~edm597/>

Parkland Conservation Farm

Box 974
Vegreville, AB
T9C 1S1

Phone: (780) 764-3927

Wetlands are an important part of maintaining wildlife on a farm. Busy with life, wetlands make a very interesting ecosystem to study.

Parkland Conservation Farm has a large wetland equipped with a dock and discovery area. Youth start the program by first understanding what a wetland is, types of wetlands, why wetlands are important to wildlife, farmers and society, and wetland plants and animals.

<http://www.telusplanet.net/public/paripcf/>

The Wagner Natural Area

Also known as the Wagner Bog with its rich diversity of flora and fauna is a prime example of a rich spring fen. Wagner is located approximately 6.5 km west of the Edmonton city limits. For more information and detailed directions to the site:

http://www.tis.gov.ab.ca/publicities/item/Wagner_Natural_Area_Wagner_Bog.htm and
<http://wagner.fanweb.ca/>

Devonian Botanical Gardens

Located 5 minutes north of Devon on highway 60; the gardens have several water areas including the Imiry Wetlands, which hosts a bird watching platform. For more information call (780) 987-3045.

<http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca/>

Central Alberta**Kerry Wood Nature Centre**

Waskasoo Park Interpretive Program
6300 – 45 Avenue
Red Deer, AB
T4N 3M4

Phone: (403) 346-2010 Fax: (403) 347-2550

The Gaetz Lakes Sanctuary was Alberta's first federal migratory bird preserve. Now managed by the Kerry Wood Nature Centre, the Centre offers extensive school and public programs, both in the Sanctuary and in adjacent wetlands. There are also self-guiding trails with interpretive signage, specialized wetlands booklets, species checklists and class sets of wetland activity packs available for individuals, families and groups to borrow for free.

The Kerry Wood Nature Centre and adjacent Sanctuary are at 6300 - 45 Avenue, Red Deer -- 1 1/2 km north of 55 Street, next to the Red Deer River. There is no scheduled bus to the Nature Centre but the South Bank Trail -- part of Red Deer's 85 + km of trails -- goes by the front door.

<http://www.waskasoopark.ca> or <http://www.city.red-deer.ab.ca/kerry/>

Ample parking, wheelchair accessible, no admission charge. Groups programs available by reservation, for a fee.

Medicine River Wildlife Centre

Box 115
Spruce View, AB
T0M 1V0

Phone: (403) 728-3467

Adjacent to the Wildlife Centre building there is a 20- minute Nature Trail that leads to an Observation Tower that overlooks a 75-acre marsh. Many species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and marsh birds can be seen including Sandhill Cranes, which nest here annually. Along the trail, a number of interpretive signs highlight local plants and animals, which can be seen depending on the season.

<http://www.telusplanet.net/public/mrwrc/>

Calgary and Area**Pearce Estate Park Interpretive Wetland**

c/o Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery-Bow Habitat Station
1440 - 17A Street S. E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 4T9

Phone: (403) 297-6561

Located adjacent to the Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery on the Bow River in Calgary, aquatic habitats common to southern Alberta are showcased. Self-guided interpretive signage alerts the visitor to plants, fish and animals, and the importance of biodiversity. Treatment wetlands are being developed. The pre-booked programs that are currently available for various groups and grade levels will expand once the treatment wetlands are constructed. In-school visits can also be arranged.

<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/fishing/index.html>

Weaselhead Glenmore Park Preservation Society

Phone: (403) 251-9634

Grade 5 Wetlands program and Grades 4-8 programs offered in Weaselhead Natural Area in city of Calgary. Half and full day interpretive field trips are offered. For more information, contact Joey Temple 251-9634. Access from 66 Ave SW, Calgary, near the Glenmore Reservoir.

<http://www.weaselhead.org/fieldtrips.asp>

Cross Conservation Area

Box 20, Site 23, RR#8
Calgary, AB
T2J 2T9

Phone: (403) 931-9001 Fax: (403) 931- 2726 E-mail: info@crossconservation.org

The Cross Conservation Area is a 4800-acre day use natural area located just south west of the city of Calgary. It is located one mile west of the city limits on Highway 22X; or one mile south on 160 Street SW. The conservation area is dedicated to protecting habitat and providing space for native species of wildlife; offering conservation education programs (particularly to young people) without jeopardizing wildlife and habitat; and managing human use of the Area through 'entry by appointment only.' Pond studies are offered to grades 2 & 3 students. Call first to book a visit or field trip!

<http://www.crossconservation.org/>

Southern Alberta

Elizabeth Hall Wetland

c/o Helen Schuler Coulee Centre
910 – 4th Avenue, South
Lethbridge, AB
T1J 0P6

Phone: (403)-320-3064 **E-mail: hsc@city.lethbridge.ab.ca**

The Elizabeth Hall Wetland is an oxbow pond nestled beside the beautiful cottonwood forest of the Oldman river. A short walk from the parking lot to the wetland will be rewarded with an abundance of wildlife viewing opportunities! Interpretive signs allow you to experience the wetland on your own or you can plan ahead and book a special guided program. Grade 5 students regularly visit the wetlands and public programs are often available.

Located beside the Bridge Valley Golf Course on Highway 3a W (Bridge Rd.) Lethbridge, Alberta. For information about the Elizabeth Hall Wetland, contact the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre.

<http://www.city.lethbridge.ab.ca/hsc/>

Last updated February 15, 2006