



# Birds Hill Provincial Park

## Free Interpretive Programs for Schools & Groups

*Discover Manitoba's wilderness right in your own backyard.*

Dear Educators and Group Leaders,

Birds Hill Provincial Park invites you to discover Manitoba's wilderness, right in your own backyard! Come explore the Aspen/Oak Parkland – one of twelve natural regions in Manitoba – and home to white-tailed deer, beavers, bats, bears and owls. These are just some of the amazing creatures that students will have the opportunity to discover through our educational programs.

Birds Hill Park offers **free** year-round school programs to suit a wide variety of curriculum needs for all grades and ages. Interpreters will guide your group through fun, hands-on programs, designed around the Manitoba School Curriculum and the natural and cultural themes of the park. Games, activities, experiments and new experiences await you as you explore the beauty of the park and the animals that call it home.

The park offers pristine walking trails of various lengths, a heated one-room classroom for year-round programs and specialized group use areas to accommodate large groups. Programs are flexible and can be adapted to fit your specific needs. We offer programs especially designed for pre-schoolers and teens and are pleased to offer programs using GPS units to explore the park in a new way. Choose from the list of programs on the follow pages or request additional topics.

Winter is a long season in Manitoba, but you can re-discover the magic of playing in the snow when you bring your group out to the park to build quinzhees, go snowshoeing, identify animal tracks and learn about nature's winter adaptations. Indoor programs can also be held during the winter for those chilly days.

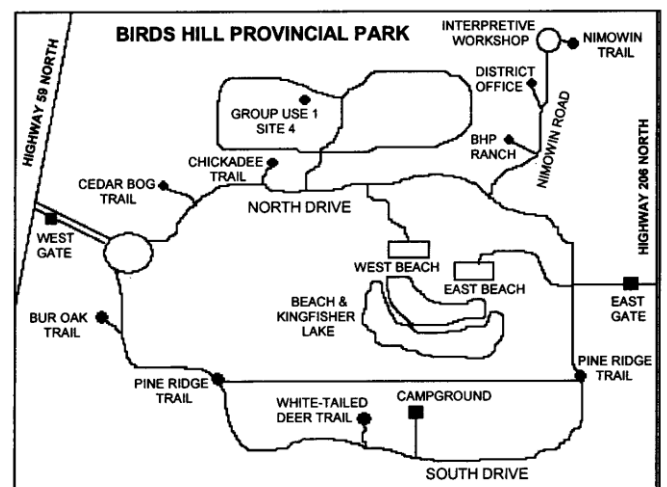
Unable to bring your group out to the park? We can come to you! Interpreters can provide extension programs at your school or meeting place. We can also provide programs on-site if you are camping in the park.

For more information on our programs or to book a program, please call the Senior Park Interpreter at 204-654-6739 or email [Morgan.Hallett@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Morgan.Hallett@gov.mb.ca).

*\*\* Programs must be pre-booked to ensure space and interpreter availability. \*\**



Visit us at [manitobaparks.com](http://manitobaparks.com)



Birds Hill Provincial Park is located along PTH 59 approximately 24 km north of Winnipeg.

Did you know that Birds Hill Park opened on July 15, 1967 in celebration of Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and is considered the "gateway to Manitoba's Provincial Parks."

## Program Locations

Interpretive school programs can take place in two areas, depending on the number of students attending and the time of year.

The Interpretive Workshop is a heated, classroom-style building with two washrooms, a double sink, chalkboard, coat rack, tables and chairs (*please note: there is no microwave or stove for heated lunches*). The Interpretive Workshop can accommodate 1-2 classes and has access to Nimowin Trail and a playing field for games and activities. Picnic tables and an outdoor fire pit are also located on-site for campfires.

**The Interpretive Workshop is used for programs year round (including winter programs).**

Planning on bringing a few classes out? No problem! We have a Group Use Site that can accommodate up to four classes for programs. The Group Use Site is equipped with a picnic shelter, picnic tables, fire pits and is in close proximity to modern washrooms. As well, the nearby Chickadee and Aspen Trails can be used for guided walks. **The Group Use Site is available for programs in May & June.**

## Guided Walks

Guided walks are a great addition to any program and can incorporate a number of natural and cultural themes. **Walking trails are located at various locations around the park and may require additional transportation from where other programs are held.**

**Chickadee Trail** (4 km; 1 – 2 hrs): Topics: Glaciation, Aspen/Oak Parkland & habitats.  
Choice of half or full trail.

**Cedar Bog Trail** (3.5 km; 1.5 – 2 hrs): Topics: Biodiversity of ecosystems & glaciation history.  
Choice of half or full trail. *Note: bottom half of full trail may be wet in spring months.*

**Nimowin Trail** (1.8 km; 45 minutes – 1 hr): Topics: Interactions of plants, animals & humans.  
*Note: This trail is located adjacent to the Interpretive Workshop.*

**White-tailed Deer Trail** (1.5 km; 45 minutes – 1 hr): Topics: White-tailed Deer & their habitat.

**Bur Oak Trail** (1 km; 30 – 45 minutes): Topics: Animals & plants of the Aspen/Oak Parkland.  
*Note: This is a wheelchair accessible trail with an adjacent picnic shelter that can be used for programs.*



## Preschool Programs

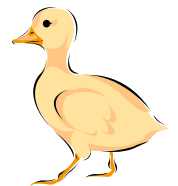
Preschool programs are 45 minutes in length and are geared towards 3 – 5 year olds. Daycares are welcome to book during the summer months, depending on interpreter availability.

**Baby Animals** – Baby animals don't always look like their parents. See if you can match them up and discover what a baby animal needs to grow.

**Tiny Trees** – Not all trees start off as giants of the forest. Discover what makes a tree grow and how it can provide a home to other animals.

**Itsy Bitsy Insects** – From egg to larva to six-legged creepy crawly, discover the magnificent changes these tiny creatures go through, where they live and how they are important to our ecosystem.

*Preschool aged groups may also book a guided walk or eco-games program.*



## **Spring & Fall Programs**

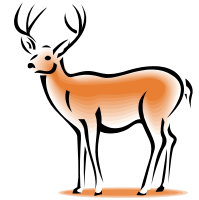
Each spring & fall program listed below is one hour in length and can be held at the Interpretive Workshop or at a Group Use site. Pair them with a guided hike or pick more than one for a half day or full day adventure.

Day cares and day camps are also welcome to book any of these programs over the summer months.

**Eco-games (K – 8):** Various topics explained and demonstrated through fun, interactive games for all ages.

**Plants & Seeds (Grades 1 – 3):** Discover the many types of plants in the park, what they need to grow and how their seeds disperse.

**Super Soils (Grades 1 – 3):** Get your hands dirty with the discovery of soils in the park and why they're important to the ecosystem.



**Deer Detectives (Grades 1 – 4):** Discover the characteristics, habitat and adaptations of Birds Hill's white-tailed deer.

**Way of the Bison (Grades 1 – 4):** Discover the historical uses of the bison on the plains and how every part of the animal benefited the people that hunted them. **NEW!**

**What's Alive (Grades 1 – 6):** Learn about the biodiversity and interactions of living and non-living things in the park's ecosystems.

**Animal Investigation (Grades 1 – 6):** What makes a bird a bird? A mammal a mammal? Learn about the uniqueness of the living creatures in the park.

**Nature's Engineers (Grades 1 – 6):** Find out how the beaver's adaptations help them change the landscape to form their perfect habitat.



**Owls – Lords of Darkness (Grades 3 – 6):** Learn about this magnificent predator: what they eat, how they hunt and their special adaptations.

**Going Batty (Grade 3 – 6):** Is it a bird or a flying mouse? Uncover the myths and facts about bats and discover their unique adaptations and importance in our ecosystem. **NEW!**

**Be Bear Smart (Grades 3 – 8):** When visiting bear country, it's our job to know how to protect ourselves and help bears remain wild creatures. **NEW!**

**Rocks & Minerals (Grades 4 – 8):** Discover the geological history of Birds Hill with some hands-on glaciation experiments to help illustrate the formations that shaped this land.

**Vanishing Grasslands (Grades 4 – 8):** Did you know that the Tall-grass Prairie is more endangered than the Rain Forest? Discover the plants and animals that are affected by the decrease of the prairies with this life-sized board game.

**Tree ID (Grades 4 – 8):** Learn how to identify some of the most common native trees in Manitoba that are found in Birds Hill Park using a dichotomous key. **NEW!**

**Dr. Deer (Grades 5 – 8):** With few natural predators in the area, discover how the white-tailed deer population is affected by humans and habitat in the web of life.

**Water Systems (Grades 5 – 8):** Find out about the importance of water, its link to the weather and our role in conserving it.

## Just for Teens

*NEW for 2011!*

These programs are geared towards middle and high school students. Each program is 1 – 2 hours in length and challenges students to discover topics related to park management, safety, animal survival and environmental issues.



**Picture Perfect Park** – An overview of Manitoba's Provincial Park system starts students off with an assessment of values and what is important to them (and Manitobans) while they experience being park managers in this scenario based program. They will discover the challenge of managing recreational activities and conserving biodiversity.

**Prepared for the Woods** – A basic introduction to wilderness survival, including how to build a survival kit, basic bear safety and what to do if inclement weather strikes while camping.

**Instincts for Survival** – A high energy game of predator-prey where each student role plays an animal either out for the hunt, or running for fear of being hunted. Discover the web of life first hand.

**Leave No Trace** – This program consists of fun games and activities that strive to develop a sense of awareness, appreciation and respect for our wild lands.

**Mock Muck** – Experiment with water purification methods to discover ways in which we can clean our water for future consumptions. Discover why it is our responsibility to keep our water sources clean and pure.

## GPS Adventures

*NEW for 2011!*

Take part in a real adventure – discovering the great outdoors with the help from modern-day technology! This program is geared towards students in grades 5 – 12, and is approximately 2 hours in length.

**GPS Hide & Seek** – A very fun and high-tech scavenger hunt game, students will learn basic GPS skills using the provided GPS units to navigate themselves to find hidden treasures that will help them discover the natural and cultural features of the park. This program can take place at the Interpretive Workshop, in a Group Use site or on a hiking trail. The possibilities to this adventure are endless!

## Winter Programs

Winter programs can encompass a variety of activities for grades K – 12. Choose a particular program to experience or a combination of programs for a full day adventure. All winter programs are held at the Interpretive Workshop and can accommodate a maximum of 30 students.

**Snowshoeing Trail Trek** – Venture down one of the winter walking trails in the park to discover nature's winter adaptations. 30 pairs of snowshoes are available for grades 4 – 12. **NEW!**



**Quinzhee Building** – Break-up and pile the snow, then let it stand before digging out this traditional winter shelter used on the prairies. Time required: 30 minutes at the beginning and 1 hour at end of your field trip.

**Snow Ecology** – Take a more in-depth look at snow: the various temperatures, shapes and sizes of snowflakes and how it is important to animal survival.

**Winter Eco-Games** – Take part in a variety of outdoor games based on nature's winter adaptations for survival.

Contact us today to book your **FREE** programs and plan your back-yard adventure to Birds Hill Park!  
Call the Senior Park Interpreter at 204-654-6739 or email [Morgan.Hallett@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Morgan.Hallett@gov.mb.ca).