

Winnipeg Nature Parks
Environmental Education



LIVING PRAIRIE MUSEUM

Awareness, Education, and Conservation

Living Prairie Museum School Programs

LIVING PRAIRIE MUSEUM

The Living Prairie Museum is a 13 hectare (32 acre) tall grass prairie preserve located inside the City of Winnipeg. Officially protected in 1971, this preserve is home to over 160 species of prairie plants and a great array of prairie wildlife. Our interpretive centre was opened in 1976, and features information and hands-on artifacts that reveal prairie history and ecology.

Prior to European settlement, tall grass prairie covered one million square kilometers in central North America, stretching from Texas to southern Manitoba. Less than 1% of this once vast ecosystem remains. The Living Prairie Museum is one of the few locations where high-quality, remnant prairie exists today.

Our goal is to provide awareness and conservation of natural areas, specifically tall grass prairie, through environmental education.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Environmental education programs introduce students to the tall grass prairie. Our naturalists engage students with an indoor presentation and a guided hike or other outdoor adventure.

Programs are available for all ages and are based on the Manitoba curriculum. A selection of learning outcomes are specified for each program. We also have fun programs that teachers can match with curriculum goals.

Program Information: Programs are 1.5 hours in length, however should you wish to explore longer, or book multiple programs, please discuss with a naturalist. Picnic tables and a nature playground are available on-site.

We go outside rain or shine, so please dress for the conditions!

Please see back page for fee schedule



Preschool and Kindergarten

PRAIRIE COLOURS AND SOUNDS

Children investigate the beautiful array of prairie colours and hear the sounds of prairie wildlife.

Learning Outcomes:

- K-2-01 Use appropriate vocabulary related to their investigation of colours.
- K-2-03 Compare and contrast colours using appropriate terms.
- K-2-07 Explore to identify and describe colours found in their environment.

WHO LIVES ON THE PRAIRIE?

This program introduces students to the prairie and the animals that call it home.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1-1-07 Recognize that plants, animals, and humans, as living things, have particular needs.
- 1-1-10 Describe how humans and other living things depend on their environment to meet their needs.
- 1-1-14 Show respect for living things in their immediate environment.

Early Years

LIFE CYCLES

Examine the changes and life challenges animals go through during their journey from birth to adulthood.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1-1-07 Recognize that plants, animals, and humans, as living things, have particular needs.
- 2-1-11 Identify and describe constant and changing characteristics of an animals as it grows and develops.
- 2-1-13 Describe and compare ways in which different animals care for their offspring.

OWLS, BISON, OR BUTTERFLIES

Explore our amazing Manitoban wildlife in their natural prairie habitat. Please select which animal you prefer.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1-1-07 Recognize the plants, animals, and humans, as living things have particular needs.
- 2-1-16 Observe and describe and animal's life process.
- 4-1-04 Identify physical and behavioural adaptations of animals and plants, and infer how these adaptations help them to survive in a specific habitat.
- 4-1-14 Investigate natural and human-caused changes to habitats, and identify resulting effects on plant and animal populations.

GETTING THE DIRT ON SOIL

Learn about what's underground and how all living things are connected and returned to the soil.

Learning Outcomes:

- 3-4-02 Identify and describe various components within a sample of soil from the local environment.
- 3-4-08 Explain the importance of understanding the characteristics of different soils.
- 3-4-10 Describe ways to return organic matter to the soil.

FROM ROOT TO SHOOT

Observe plant characteristics and become familiar with the variety of plant life on the prairie.

Getting the Dirt on Soil and From Root to Shoot make a great pairing for a full day of learning.

Learning Outcomes:

3-1-08 Explain how different adaptations of plants help them survive in particular environments.

3-1-13 Describe ways that plants and animals depend on each other.

4-1-14 Investigate natural and human-caused changes to habitats, and identify resulting effects on plant and animal populations.

STORMS ON THE PRAIRIE

Learn about climate, weather, cloud forms, and extreme storms. Find out how our prairies endure wild weather.

Learning Outcomes:

5-4-02 Describe how weather conditions may affect the activities of humans and other animals.

5-4-15 Identify and describe common cloud formations.

5-4-17 Identify factors that influence weather and climate in Manitoba and across Canada, and describe their impacts.

Middle and Senior Years

MARVELOUS MICROBES

Discover the tiny creatures of the prairie, from microbes to invertebrates. Students apply what they learn with a hands-on experiment using yeast. Best suited to a single classroom.

Learning outcomes:

6-01-06 Classification - Monerans, Protists and Fungi.

6-1-07 Unaided and aided viewing of lifeforms.

6-1-08 Observe and describe diversity in the environment.

7-1-14 Identify beneficial and harmful roles played by microorganisms.

ECOSYSTEM INTERACTIONS

On the prairie, everything is connected. Learn about the relationships that hold prairie life together.

Learning Outcomes:

7-1-01 Students learn and use appropriate vocabulary (abiotic – scavengers).

7-1-02 Students define and understand the tall grass prairie ecosystem from microbes to the biosphere.

7-1-09 & 10 Analyze food webs and ecological pyramids showing energy loss at each trophic level and implications in Manitoba and across Canada.

PRAIRIE SAMPLING

Learn the basic techniques used for assessing prairie habitat, with emphasis on quadrat and transect sampling.

Learning Outcomes:

S2-1-08 Observe and document a range of organisms that illustrate the biodiversity within a local or regional ecosystem.

S3B-0-P1 Demonstrate confidence in their ability to carry out investigations.

S4B-5 Conservation of biodiversity.

Grade 3 to Adults

TALL GRASS PRAIRIE INTRODUCTION

Our prairie introduction covers prairie history, habitat declines, human impacts, and keystone species. This program can be adapted to different age groups.

Learning Outcomes:

4-1-09 Recognize that plant and animal populations interact within a community.

5-KE-051 Compare First Peoples' and European approaches to natural resource use in early Canada.

S4B-5-04 Investigate an issue related to the conservation of biodiversity.

FUN PRAIRIE PROGRAMS

Interested in visiting the Living Prairie Museum but not sure what program to book? Give one of our Fun Prairie Programs a try! These programs are fun, and educational, too!

For Teachers:

Fun Prairie Programs are suitable for ages 4 - 12. All programs can be linked to the Manitoba curriculum. However, it's up to you to match the program with specific learning outcomes. Please speak to a naturalist to select the best program for your age group.

THE SCOOP ON POOP

Why learn about poop!?! Come and learn what poop (scat) can tell us, and keep your group giggling along the way.

BEAUTIFUL BUMBLE BEES

Learn about the bumble bee life cycle, where they live, what they eat, and how we can help them bumble along.

BAT BASICS

Brush up on your bat basics, dispel the myths, and get the real facts on bats.

INSECT BASICS

Our prairie is full of insect life! Learn about insect growth, feeding, adaptations, and why insects are important.

THE ANTS GO MARCHING

Small but mighty, ants drive many processes - soil aeration, decomposition, and even farming?! Learn about these social insects with an ant feeding experiment on the prairie. Best suited to a single classroom.

WINTER PROGRAMS

Here at the Living Prairie Museum we celebrate winter with exciting programs that are sure to take the chill out of the air.

ANIMALS IN WINTER

Learn about hibernation, migration, and adaptation, followed by animal track trivia. Ages 3 - 5.

ADAPTING TO WINTER

A variety of behavioural and structural adaptations allow our prairie wildlife to survive in winter. This is a great seasonal addition to the Early Years curriculum.

SNOWSHOE EXCURSION

Learn how to snowshoe on the prairie! We cover snowshoe basics followed by a guided snowshoe excursion. Snowshoeing can be combined with an education program or bannock bake. Contact us for available sizes.



NATURE COMES TO YOU!

Living Prairie Museum naturalists hit the road and visit your school! Available **November to April**, each one hour program includes a presentation and hands-on learning with relevant artifacts. **Programs include:**

- Animals in Winter
- Adapting to Winter
- Owls are Interesting
- Manitoba Butterflies
- Insect Basics
- North American Bison
- Tall Grass Prairie Introduction



BUTTERFLY GARDENING AT SCHOOL

Living Prairie Museum offers a butterfly gardening program for educators who are interested in butterfly conservation, and who want to provide students with a unique learning experience. We engage both students and teachers at all stages of the process. From garden planning and design, to planting and maintenance, we provide everything that you need to create a beautiful butterfly sanctuary in your schoolyard.

Each garden contains a variety of native prairie wildflowers. Using native species ensures that appropriate host plants are present, as many of our local butterflies specialize on particular plants. Without these native plants, they cannot complete their life cycles.

Planting prairie wildflowers offers many advantages. We supply perennial species that return every spring, so your garden does not need to be replanted annually. Native species are drought tolerant, require little maintenance beyond weeding, and are aesthetically pleasing.

We can only accommodate five gardens per season, so please **contact us by the end of April**. The garden must be planted between mid May and early June.

WHY PLANT A BUTTERFLY GARDEN AT SCHOOL?

A schoolyard is a perfect place for a butterfly garden! Gardens provide children with the opportunity to experience nature through hands-on learning. From life cycles to conservation ecology, these gardens offer endless tie-ins to curriculum.

Butterfly gardens are filled with beautiful flowers that bloom from spring through fall, brightening the schoolyard and the community in which they are planted.

Creating a butterfly garden will provide much needed habitat for many species of butterflies who may otherwise have insufficient food and shelter to survive.

BUTTERFLY GARDENING AT SCHOOL



EACH BUTTERFLY GARDEN INCLUDES

Site Visit: We will visit your school to determine the best location for your garden and suggest potential curriculum tie-ins.

Environmental Education: We will visit your class to introduce your new butterfly garden. Our 25 - 30 minute presentation covers why habitat is important, garden care, the plants we provide, and the butterflies they might attract.

Plants and Planting: We provide high quality, native prairie wildflowers and assist your class with planting the garden.

Maintenance: We visit your garden twice during the following summer to assist you with weeding and watering.

Please contact us for availability and fees

Online Learning

Activity Booklet for Children - Kids learn about prairie wildlife and how to become a citizen scientist. Reading, drawing, and colouring. Print B&W, flip on short edge. *Click to view*

Manitoba's Butterflies - A webinar with information about butterfly biology, classification, and the host plants that help our local butterflies thrive. *Click to view*

Native Pollinators: Who they are and how to help them out - This webinar from our Curator provides useful information about local pollinators and how to create the habitat they need. A great resource for teachers wishing to establish a pollinator garden at school. *Click to view*

Directional Teachings and the Four Sacred Medicines:

We worked with Indigenous Relations Division and a local Indigenous Knowledge Keeper to learn the lessons of the Medicine Wheel. These teachings can be *found here*.



Program Fees and Contact Information

FEE SCHEDULE

\$3.50 per participant (includes GST)
No charge for teachers, assistants, and parent volunteers.

Minimum charges:

- Programs at the Living Prairie Museum - \$40 per program
- Nature Comes to You - \$70 per 1 hour program
- Programs at other nature parks - \$70 per 1 hour program

OTHER NATURE PARK LOCATIONS

Assiniboine Forest: 282 hectares of forest, marsh, and wildlife for you to enjoy without having to leave Winnipeg! Here you can enjoy wood-chipped trails and a wetland boardwalk in one of Canada's largest urban forests.

Little Mountain Park: Set aside in 1965, Little Mountain is significant both as a natural area and for its historical background. The 65 hectare park contains large sections of aspen forest and tall grass prairie, a mosaic of hiking and cross-country ski trails, and an old quarry converted to a scenic pond and picnic site.

LaBarriere Park: Explore a riverbottom forest along the back of the LaSalle River. While some of the park has been developed for picnic areas and sports fields, much of the area has been left in a natural state with walking and cross-country ski trails.

Contact Us to Book Your Program

living prairie museum



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Interpretive Centre Hours

May-June: Saturdays 10-5
July and August: 7 days a week, 10-5
September to April by appointment