

Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary School Program Descriptions

Each program can be presented to groups of about 30 students. Several groups may be able to book at once depending on Interpreter availability and with the option to rotate students through each activity. More information can be obtained by contacting the interpreter at 204-369-3157, Morgan.Hallett@gov.mb.ca or check us out on the web at manitobaparks.com.

Guided Hikes

Guided Hikes are presented on the Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary Hiking Trail for all grades and ages. This 2.5 km trail winds around the goose pond, crosses the river, leads over wetlands, through the forest and along rock ridges. This is a great way to spot wildlife and see nature up close. The trail is rocky enough to be an adventure for older students but also gentle enough for the youngest hiker. Hikes are approximately 1 ½ hours in length, please allow an extra 30 minutes for Kindergarten and Grade 1 Students. Students should be dressed for hiking with appropriate footwear, raingear, sunscreen, a hat, a water bottle and bug-spray. Cameras and binoculars are great optional items for students to bring.

	Animal Signs	Birds!	Climate Change	Fall Adaptations	Great Glaciation	The Boreal Forest	Understanding Ungulates	Wild About Wetlands
K								
Gr. 1								
Gr. 2								
Gr. 3								
Gr. 4								
Gr. 5								
Gr. 6								
Gr. 7								
Gr. 8								
Sr. 1								
Sr.2								

Animal Signs: Take a walk on the wild side with an interpreter! The creatures of the forest are illusive and shy but students will become animal detectives as we find clues to discover who calls this area home. Feathers, fur, nests, tracks, owl pellets and scat will all be explored along our trail.

Birds! Look up –way up and explore the feathered features of the Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary. On our walk-about students will discover what makes a bird a bird, who is the symbol of Manitoba and how do you tell a raptor from a songbird. We will also explore how birds meet their needs in the boreal forest. Younger students will be provided with a mini-set of binoculars to help them in their quest and older students will be introduced the basics of using guidebooks and keys.

Climate Change: A warmer winter? Longer summers? Most Manitobans would love that – so what are the possible side-effects of a changing climate? Students will discover how creatures and plants are adapted to our climate and what changes may mean for them and us. We will take a look at indicator species that inhabit the pond and also how our wild areas can help so slow the effects of a changing climate.

Fall Adaptations: Fall in the Whiteshell is a collage of colours as nature undergoes intense preparation for the coming winter. How do our plants and animals survive 30 below and blowing snow? It's all in the planning of course! Discover a conifer that breaks the rules, the pukak layer hunter (and hunted), the differences between torpor and hibernation and where do birds go? *This option is only available in September and October.*

The Boreal Forest: The Boreal Forest is a unique a unique ecosystem with many overlooked features. Discover this fascinating area - find out who is who is who and how to see the forest for more than just the trees. Students will discover the forces that shape this habitat. Fire, weather, water, soil and other ingredients that add up to over 60% of Canada.

Great Glaciation: The craggy features of the shield region were carved thousands of years ago. Discover how this ice cold period in history shaped the landscape we walk today. Students will take a look at different climates throughout Manitoba's natural history, its succession to our modern day forest and unique challenges that it faces because of its past.

Understanding Ungulates: Deer, moose and caribou – oh my! Meet these hooved inhabitants of eastern Manitoba. Each of these familiar creatures shares some similarities but it's their differences that may astound you. Discover the microhabitats that are required by each and the delicate balance required to retain healthy populations. This will include a look at Woodland Caribou and the factors that have caused them to become Threatened.

Wild about Wetlands: Wetlands are disappearing, but do you know why we should care? Discover why we should protect these areas, the types of wetlands in Manitoba, their function and their benefits to us all. We will also look at some of the wetland residents in the goose pond and their amazing adaptations to this soggy habitat.

Guided Hikes on Alternate Trails

This is an option for older students (Grade 7 – Senior 2). These hikes are located inside the park (teachers are required to arrange transportation to trailheads). These full day excursions start at Alfred Hole and then head out for an in-depth look at any of the previous topics. Trail available include: **Cabin Lake Trail (4.6 km)**, **Amisk Trail (4.8 km)** and the **Rainbow Falls Trail (8 km)**.

1 Hour Interpretive Programs

These programs take a look at the topics below. They include games, crafts, experiments and much more to help students gain an understanding of the subject. Programs may be presented either indoor or outside. All supplies are provided for the programs.

	Amazing Astronomy	Bats!	Bears in our Backyard?	Caribou Capers	Fall Adaptations	Goose Games	Owls of the Night	Reptiles and Amphibians	Terrific Tracks	The Whiteshell Rocks	Wild About Wolves	World Of Water
K												
Gr. 1												
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Sr.2												

Amazing Astronomy: This program is an introduction to astronomy, with a look at the planets, basic constellations, stars, comets and meteors. Storytelling and a PowerPoint presentation are followed by students making their own star charts.

Bats! It's a bird, it's a plane – it's a bat! Take a look at the characteristics of bats and the adaptations that make them special. Students will discover the bats of Manitoba, their adaptations to our cold environment and the challenges that they face. This program includes many games and students from Kindergarten to Grade 5 may have the option of making their own bat to take home.

Bears in our Backyard? This introduction to the world of our wily Black Bears includes their life cycle, physical features and how they use their amazing senses. Students will learn what to do if they encounter a black bear and how to avoid an encounter to begin with. This program comes in a 30 minute and 1 hour versions. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 may participate in a follow-up activity where they can earn prizes – ask the interpreter for more details! Younger students will create a bear puppet to take home; older students will test their new knowledge in a mini-game show.

Caribou Capers Woodland caribou are found in the eastern region of Manitoba, but they are found in fewer places than 50 years ago. These endangered species require a habitat that is specific to meet their needs. Discover the fantastic adaptations of caribou and how we are preserving them for future generations.

Goose Games: This program is a series of environmental games that can be used to re-enforce ideas and review topics of other programs you have chosen or as a great way to introduce the concepts of conservation and the challenges facing our natural areas. This program is a favourite with teachers and students.

Owls of the Night: Manitoba is prime habitat for owls – in fact our provincial bird is the stately Great Grey Owl and eastern Manitoba has some of the best owl habitat anywhere. During this program we discuss the special adaptations of owls, learn about owl species in Manitoba and discover how owls fit into the web of life. Students may make their own owl call, an owl puppet or their own owl food chain.

Reptiles and Amphibians: These ancient creatures of the deep are right at home in our park and a special kind of turtle symbolizes the Whiteshell. What is a reptile, what is an amphibian, how are they alike, how are they different and are they really creatures from the past? Can these creatures indicate the health of our environment? Activities may include frog calling and musical turtles. Ask the interpreter about bring a live example to your classroom today.

Terrific Tracks: Footprints in the soil tell a story that people often don't understand. Students learn to identify basic tracks of Whiteshell Provincial Park animals, what these animals require to survive and where to look for clues to our illusive creatures of the park. Students will make their own tracks to take home.

Visitor Centre Tour: This tour of our building includes the history, biology and population of Giant Canada Geese. Students see firsthand the impact that one person can make and how Alfred Hole created a place for us to enjoy. This program includes a game with candy.

Whiteshell Rocks: Whiteshell Provincial Park is the start of the great Canadian Shield Region. The rocks beneath our feet are some of the oldest in the world. Students will uncover the secrets of the exposed rock while we discuss glaciation, the rock cycle, types of rocks and rocks vs. minerals. Students will make their own craft to take home rock buddies/ sedimentary chalk rocks.

Wild about Wolves: This program includes a background on timber wolves and their history throughout Canada and the world. Discussions include their physical description, life cycle, family life and communication techniques (with students learning how to howl). Activities include a food web, origami wolves or a moveable wolf.

World of Water: The Shield region of Manitoba is a vast network of lakes, rivers and streams – what better place to talk about the paths water takes! This program is a look at the water cycle including the effects of pollution and the importance of clean water. The water cycle both locally and globally will be discussed. Activities include a giant water board game, a mock city pollution model and rain sticks.