



# 2019-2020 Nature Exploration Guide

## Environmental Education School Programs

Visit [calgary.ca/natureexplorations](http://calgary.ca/natureexplorations) for more information and to register



### Booking Information

Before booking, please review the Program Information table for all program locations, costs, grade levels, and durations.

#### Phone

Contact 311 or 403-268-2489 if outside the city limits.

#### Email

Contact [ibs@calgary.ca](mailto:ibs@calgary.ca) for Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Devonian Gardens, Reader Rock Garden and "Your location" bookings.

Contact [rkp@calgary.ca](mailto:rkp@calgary.ca) for Ralph Klein Park bookings

Please provide the following information when booking your programs:

- Program names, locations and preferred dates and times
- Class size
- School address
- School phone number and your extension
- School fax number
- Your first and last name
- Best time to contact you

Maximum class size is 25 for all programs at the Colonel Walker House (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary) and Reader Rock Garden, and 30 for all programs at Ralph Klein Park, Devonian Gardens, or a location of your choice.

Maximum class size is 25 for all Preschool – Kindergarten programs.

**Note:** Due to upcoming construction for the Nature Centre Expansion Project, all programs at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary will be based out of the Colonel Walker House until further notice.

**Note:** A maximum of 6 adult guests (including the visiting teacher and parent volunteers) will be permitted into the classroom. Additional adult guests and family members are welcome to use our park facilities, however they will not be permitted into the classroom or outdoor learning experiences once the maximum number of adult guests is reached.

### Preschool – Kindergarten

(Ages 4+)

#### Curious Critters **NEW**

Through an interactive performance, craft and group activities, students will learn about the diversity of Calgary's wildlife, including mammals, birds and insects.

#### Ladybug Lore

This interactive program includes group activities and a craft, and will teach young stewards about the ladybug's anatomy, hearty appetite and important role as a pest controller.

#### Seasonal Safari

Take your class on an indoor safari! Students will learn about mammals, birds and other seasonal creatures through participating in interactive vignettes. This hands-on program will have students exploring feathers, furs, skulls and tracks.

#### The Best Nest

Help Rachel Robin find the perfect place to build her nest and raise her babies. Students will learn about eggs, nests and the birds that create them. This program includes a puppet show and craft.

#### Owls of All Sizes

Alberta is home to over a dozen species of owls. Students will explore the adaptations and great hunting abilities of these amazing creatures, and will have a hoot crafting their own owl.

Program booking begins June 3rd, 2019 for the 2019-2020 school year. Book early to avoid disappointment.



### Grades 1 – 3

One-day schools

#### Animal Adaptations

Students will investigate what animals have in common and what makes them unique by examining their skulls, tracks, furs and teeth. Participants will learn how to identify these traits and discover how different adaptations help animals survive. This program includes adaptation stations and an introduction to animal families.

#### Surviving the Seasons

This program introduces students to the needs of living things, identifies the challenges posed by each season and illustrates the strategies and adaptations animals use to survive. Activities include an exploration exercise and seasonal art or games.

#### Wetland Wigglers

Participants will explore aquatic acrobats and strange swimmers, and learn what they can tell us about healthy wetlands. This program includes a pond study, craft and an introduction to the wetland ecosystem.

#### Become a Botanist

This interactive program introduces students to the field of botany and makes relevant curriculum links along the way. Participants will learn about plant biology and ecology through an exploration of plant needs, photosynthesis and journaling.

#### Growing Gardens, Changing Cities

This multisensory program takes students on an exploration of the plants, stories and history of Reader Rock Garden and Union Cemetery. Students will explore changes from small plant growth to Calgary's city growth and discover how these changes have shaped our world.

**Note:** only one class per day.

#### Reader's Rocks

Did you know there are rocks from across Western Canada in downtown Calgary? This program will have students "cooking up" some fun learning about geology and exploring William Reader's rock collection.

**Note:** only one class per day.

#### Half-day programs

##### Animal Tracks

Through an art activity, students will explore different types of animal locomotion and learn how to identify animal tracks in nature.

##### Insect Investigations **UPDATED**

This program examines the bizarre structures of bugs and uncovers some of their unique adaptations. Student will learn about the complexities of metamorphosis and discover why insects are so important.

Multi-program Savings! Book two or more full-day programs (\$200 each) and pay only \$185 per program.



#### Occupation Bird

There are approximately 350 bird species in Alberta, each with their own adaptations to perform their most important job—survival! Through a transformation into local bird species, students will learn about the different adaptations of several native birds.

#### Surviving the Seasons

This program introduces students to the needs of living things, identifies the challenges posed by each season and illustrates the strategies and adaptations animals use to survive. Topics covered in this program vary by season.

#### Traveling Seed Show **UPDATED**

Students will learn about the ingenious ways trees, plants and flowers reproduce and participate in hands-on activities involving real seeds.

#### Seasonal Nature Studies **UPDATED**

Study one park, green space, pathway or your schoolyard in three different seasons. An educator will guide your class through your favourite natural area in fall, winter and spring. Activities include nature walks, interactive games, flora and fauna identification, environmental actions and more!

### Specialty Programs

Preschool – Grade 9

#### Nature Walks

Explore the wonders of nature through a guided walk. Your students will discover plants, insects, birds and animals, and investigate topics such as seasonal variation, migration, adaptation and hibernation.

Grades 1 – 9

#### Environmental Education Alumni Program

This program allows past Campus Calgary/Open Minds (CCOM), Nature School, EcoAction School, and Mud Between My Toes alumni to move their classroom out to Ralph Klein Park. Program delivery follows the CCOM philosophy and provides an engaging and hands-on nature experience. Experienced education staff will assist in the planning and program delivery process. Program includes: Guided walk and site orientation, inquiry based nature bins, planning session, and classroom space.



## Grades 4 – 6

### One-day schools

#### Marsh Madness

Explore a local wetland ecosystem and discover the diversity of life that lives below the surface. This hands-on program includes an introduction to the local watershed, on-site pond dipping and an exploration of the role students play in the sustainability of our wetlands.

#### Forest Floor and More

This multidisciplinary program explores different communities found in a forest and examines how they are interconnected. Through outdoor activities, students will investigate what makes an urban forest unique and how human actions influence its ecology.

#### Wild Weather and Climate

Students will explore climate change, weather phenomena, renewable energy sources and the impact weather has on society. Using a variety of devices, participants will measure the weather and perform a number of climate-related experiments.

#### Avian Air and Aerodynamics

Discover the amazing world of flight! This program explores the structure and dynamics of a bird's anatomy, and will have students applying their knowledge of aerodynamics to design, build and test a variety of flying devices.

#### Become a Botanist

This interactive program introduces students to the field of botany and makes relevant curriculum links along the way. Participants will learn about plant biology and ecology through hands-on learning stations, and will end the day by designing their own plant.

### Exploring Our Legacy

This program takes students on an in-depth exploration of the biodiversity and cultural diversity represented in two of the city's unique parks. Students will explore the legacies of past Calgarians and participate in observation, journaling and hands-on activities.

**Note:** Only one class per day at Reader Rock Garden.

### Seasonal Nature Studies **UPDATED**

Study one park, green space, pathway or your schoolyard in three different seasons. An educator will guide your class through your favourite natural area in fall, winter and spring. Activities include nature walks, interactive games, flora and fauna identification, environmental actions and more!



## Grades 7 – 9

### One-day schools

#### BioBlitz

BioBlitz is a fast, fun and fantastic way to get your students excited about biodiversity! Students will learn how to identify local plant and animal species in a short amount of time using a variety of techniques. This program will explore how species diversity contributes to the health of an ecosystem. Students will have the opportunity to compare a natural riparian or wetland ecosystem with either the man-made Bioengineering Demonstration and Education Project site (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary) or the man-made Shepard Constructed Stormwater Treatment Wetland (Ralph Klein Park).

#### H2Ohh!

Catch the wave of water literacy with this interactive program that dives into the science of water quality and wetland ecology. Your group will learn about the "story of stormwater" and be empowered to create a sustainable water future. Students will participate in a water testing activity, or a wetland invertebrate study (Seasonal: September to mid-October; May to June).

## Sponsored Programs

### Grades 1 – 9



#### Mud Between My Toes

This wetland exploration program, in partnership with ConocoPhillips Canada, includes an in-class session to introduce your students to the urban wetland, followed by a trip to Ralph Klein Park for a guided walk and pond study. Bus transportation is included. This program is seasonal.

**Note:** Register early as program space is limited.

### Grades 7 – 12



#### Caring For Our Watersheds

This program, in partnership with Nutrien, asks students to submit a proposal explaining what they can do to improve their watershed. They must research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern, and develop a realistic solution. Top entries are selected to compete at a final competition, with cash awards for finalists and participating schools. Implementation funding is available.

#### Classroom Presentations

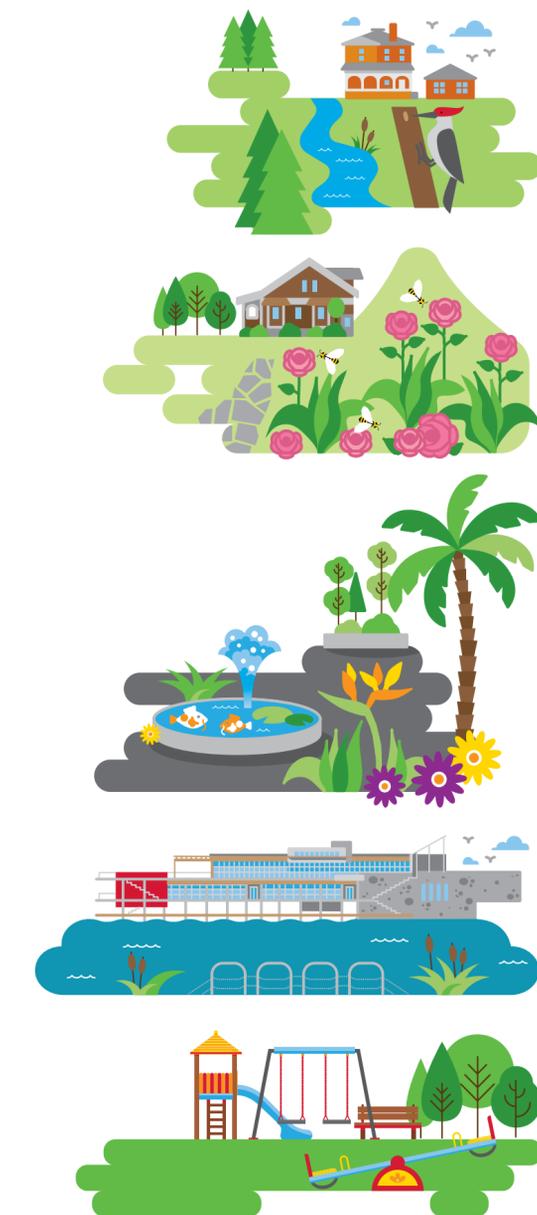
Teachers can request a classroom presentation to introduce the topic of watersheds, discuss local environmental concerns and explain the contest. Visit [caringforourwatersheds.com](http://caringforourwatersheds.com) for contest details.

## Program Information

PROGRAM	LOCATION AND COST	DURATION
<b>Preschool – Kindergarten</b>		
Curious Critters	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, \$70	45 minutes
Ladybug Lore		
Seasonal Safari		
The Best Nest		
Owls of All Sizes	Your location, \$105 (must be booked with another 45-minute program within a three-hour period)	
<b>Grades 1 – 3</b>		
Animal Adaptations	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Ralph Klein Park, \$200	5 hours
Surviving the Seasons		
Become a Botanist	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Ralph Klein Park, and Reader Rock Garden*, \$200	90 minutes (45-minute program with a 45-minute guided walk)
Wetland Wiggles	Ralph Klein Park**, \$200	
Growing Gardens, Changing Cities	Reader Rock Garden*, \$200	
Reader's Rocks	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, \$105	45 minutes (program only) (must be booked with another 45-minute program within a three-hour period)
Animal Tracks		
Insect Investigations		
Occupation Bird		
Surviving the Seasons		
Travelling Seed Show		
Seasonal Nature Studies	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Ralph Klein Park, or a location of your choice, \$400	6 hours (3 sessions of 2 hours each)
<b>Grades 4 – 6</b>		
Marsh Madness	Ralph Klein Park**, \$200	5 hours
Forest Floor and More	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, \$200	
Wild Weather and Climate	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Ralph Klein Park, \$200	
Avian Air and Aerodynamics		
Exploring Our Legacy	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, and Reader Rock Garden*, \$200	
Become a Botanist	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Ralph Klein Park, and Reader Rock Garden*, \$200	
Seasonal Nature Studies	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Ralph Klein Park, or a location of your choice, \$400	6 hours (3 sessions of 2 hours each)
<b>Grades 7 – 9</b>		
BioBlitz	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary** and Ralph Klein Park**, \$200	5 hours
H2Ohh!	Ralph Klein Park, \$200	
<b>Sponsored Program</b>		
ConocoPhillips Canada Mud Between My Toes	Ralph Klein Park**, Free (\$0)	1 hour classroom session, 2 hour field trip
Caring For Our Watersheds	Your location, Free (\$0)	1 hour
<b>Specialty Programs</b>		
Nature Walks	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Ralph Klein Park, Devonian Gardens, and Reader Rock Garden*, \$60 Park of your choosing, \$80 <b>Only \$35 when booked with another program</b>	1 hour
Environmental Education Alumni Program	Ralph Klein Park, \$155 per day (Nov. to Mar.)	3 or 4 days

\* Reader Rock Garden is seasonal: Sept. to mid-Oct.; May to June. Only one class per day.

\*\* Seasonal: Sept. to mid-Oct.; May to June



## Locations

### Inglewood Bird Sanctuary

2425 – 9th Ave. S.E.

The Inglewood Bird Sanctuary is one of Calgary's most protected parks. It offers a unique learning environment where students can observe many species of birds, plants and animals. The sanctuary has approximately two kilometres of walking trails and a teaching facility on site to accommodate your program needs.

### Reader Rock Garden

325 – 25th Ave. S.E.

William Roland Reader, The City of Calgary Parks superintendent from 1913 to 1942, touted Calgary as the "Garden City of the West." Located in the heart of Calgary, adjacent to Union Cemetery, this botanical treasure offers full-day programs that connect students with past legacies through journaling, observation and hands-on activities.

### Devonian Gardens

400, 317 – 7th Ave. S.W.

Devonian Gardens, Calgary's only indoor public park, provides year-round opportunities for students to explore nature. Programs at this downtown oasis focus on ecological literacy and connect students with local and global environmental issues through hands-on activities, observations and investigations.

### Ralph Klein Park

12350 – 84th St. S.E.

Ralph Klein Park is located within the Shepard Wetland, Canada's largest man-made storm water habitat. This unique 30-hectare park offers a peaceful setting for nature exploration where students can observe and interact with the watershed. The park's Environmental Education Centre, built as an island within the wetland, features interpretive exhibits, a green roof, classroom space and innovative green technologies.

### City Parks and Green Spaces

Calgary has an abundance of parks and green spaces where students can connect with nature throughout the seasons. Whether you meet us at a park or we walk to a green space near your school, we will work with you to bring your outdoor classroom to life.