

# CPAWS Manitoba Outdoor Education Program

*The CPAWS Manitoba Outdoor Education Program gets kids outside and teaches them to appreciate the wonders of nature through games and activities that spark their curiosity.*

Environmental Educator Carly Gray - a certified teacher who has a decade of experience working with children in schools and as a day camp counselor and dance instructor - leads the program.

We've developed fresh, new programs and activities for the 2023-24 school year to help children explore Manitoba's natural environment.



## School Workshops

Get your students excited about prairie pollinators, Manitoba's North, the boreal forest or the Lake Winnipeg Watershed with these engaging and inquiry-led outdoor education workshops.

The 45-minute workshops are ideally delivered in the school yard or a nearby greenspace but can be held inside during extreme weather.

An action plan and classroom extension materials are provided to help teachers extend the learning beyond the workshop.

*Tied to curriculum outcomes for K-8.*

## After School Program

Students spend 90 minutes playing games and learning about Manitoba's animals, plants, climate, trees, soil and more in their school yards.

The six-week program incorporates inquiry and exploration-based learning, stations, group games, and crafts for students to take home.

*Tied to curriculum outcomes for 2-8.*

## Field Trips

This 3.5 hour excursion includes instruction on basic wilderness safety, movement games, a guided hike with plant and tree identification, a scavenger hunt, self-guided activities, 30 minutes of free play, and group reflections.

Our Nature Discovery Backpacks - filled with great teaching tools like binoculars, a magnifying glass and field guides - enhance the learning experience.

Each student received a take-home workbook with activities to use alongside the backpacks, during the field trip and beyond.

Field trips are offered in Bird's Hill Provincial Park, Beaudry Provincial Park, La Barriere Park, and Assiniboine Park.

*Tied to curriculum outcomes for 2-8.*

Learn more at  
[cpawsmb.org](http://cpawsmb.org)



# CPAWS Manitoba Outdoor Education Program

## Summer Program

Get kids outside, moving their bodies and exploring nature with our summer programs for daycares and camps.

We offer a variety of different programs tailored to ages ranging from 3-12 which include scavenger hunts, nature mindfulness exercises and games. Each workshop also includes take-home crafts like making butterflies or building bird feeders (we bring seeds!).

The fun-filled activities are intended to help kids take notice of nature and engage with Manitoba's trees, birds, bugs, plants and animals in new ways.

## Litter Cleanup Challenge

Children learn about the value of public service and protecting the environment with our litter cleanup challenge.

This contest is open to schools, daycares, and school-aged groups (such as sports teams and youth groups) across Manitoba.

*The lesson plan is tied to curriculum outcomes for grades K-12 in science, social studies, and phys ed.*

## Activity Tables

We bring activity stations to festivals and venues like the Winnipeg zoo to engage families who may not otherwise have the opportunity to benefit from our programs.

These place-based activities and crafts are tailored to the spaces we visit. Kids who find us at the zoo's pollinator garden learn about what butterflies like to eat through a scavenger hunt for colours, plants and shapes. Kids who visit us in the polar bear exhibit get to be biologists by observing seal behavior and drawing what orcas eat. Kids who find us at festivals learn about bird habitats and adaptations with our build a bird exercises.

## Community Group Workshops

We adapt our popular school programming for community groups like Girl Guides, Scouts and the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre.

Programs are tailored to the age of participants and are delivered in natural settings like parks.

## Classes for Adults & Families

Our Nature Club offers drop-in classes in Crescent Drive Park on topics like nature journaling, forest bathing, tree identification and nature photography.

We also deliver interpretive programming like Beginner Bird Walks in Bunn's Creek and exploring the remnant prairie in Headingley with biologist John Morgan.



# Outdoor Education Program By the Numbers

A total of **14,938 students and children** benefited from **733 CPAWS Manitoba place-based outdoor education workshops, field trips and activities** from May 2021 to December 2023. A further **983 Manitobans** benefitted from **44 Nature Club classes & adult-oriented workshops** while **12,003 people** registered for **57 nature-themed webinars**.

*We look forward to helping many more Manitobans connect to nature in the years to come.*

**301**

School workshops, field trips & activities



**6,254**

Students participated

**126**

After school program sessions



**2,130**

Cumulative attendance at after school program

**281**

Daycare & camp workshops



**5,204**

Children participated

**21**

Activity tables at festivals & venues like the zoo



**1,189**

Children & teens participated

**4**

Workshops with community groups like Girl Guides



**90**

Children & teens participated



Learn more at  
[cpawsemb.org](http://cpawsemb.org)



## Outdoor Education Program Teacher Feedback

### School Workshops and Activities

CPAWS Manitoba school workshops were launched in May 2021 to support teachers with remote learning opportunities as schools were shutting down due to pandemic restrictions. We were able to begin providing workshops in schoolyards beginning in October 2021.

Here is some feedback from teachers.

*"The kids loved it."*

*"I think that our students do not get nearly as much outdoor, free play time away from recess at school. This is a great way to have them connect authentically to the outdoors."*

*"Getting to be outside and explore nature was fantastic. It made them see their surroundings in a different way and they spent recess searching for and identifying bugs!"*

*"The workshop goes PERFECTLY with grade 4 curriculum of Habitats and Communities. Another huge benefit is that the workshop is offered outside. It's also not often students have the opportunity to have a guest work with them outdoors."*

*"Excellent description and interactive nature of animals that stay, fly away or hibernate. Students loved looking for prints and they used this knowledge when we went to Birds Hill park the following day."*

*"We learned something new about trees. Students got a chance to use a magnifying glass, and they had never before."*



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## Outdoor Education Program Feedback from Teachers

### More Feedback About School Workshops

*“The students loved learning about local Manitoba trees and were so proud to share their own experiences with the presenter. The programs were interactive, encouraged movement and the visuals were age-appropriate and captivated the students' attention.”*

*“Engaging activities/ games at the students' ability level about Manitoba and outdoors. It was great to see some real excitement about exploring their environment and the world around them.”*

*“The students loved to move around and be outside.”*

*“I feel the information was relevant. It was interesting, it allowed for questions, reflections... It allows for children to make informed decisions about their environment.*

### Feedback About Field Trips

*“The CPAWS program was an incredible, and magical experience. We went to Birds Hill Park with two grade 2/3 classrooms. I would do this every month if I could! The CPAWS team was incredible, they are so knowledgeable and really make this experience possible. They are prepared, organized and fun.*

*The learning integrated into our adventure at Birds Hill Park has carried forward into our classroom (this being themes of Land acknowledgements, living on the land, animal and plant species, as well as name places and history of the land around us.) Over a month later, students are still talking about our field trip to Birds Hill Park. **For many students, this was their first experience in a forest.** CPAWS made this experience magical and memorable, thank you CPAWS! “*



Learn more at  
[cpawsemb.org](http://cpawsemb.org)

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## Environmental After School Program Parent & Student Feedback

### CPAWS Manitoba Environmental After School Program

The CPAWS Manitoba Environmental After School Program was launched in May 2022 at three schools in Winnipeg: Montrose School, Ecole Constable Edward Finney and Windsor School. Since then, we've delivered 17 more programs in Winnipeg, Lorette and Selkirk.

Students spend 90 minutes playing games and learning about Manitoba's animals, plants, climate, trees, soil and more in their school yards. The six-week outdoor program incorporates inquiry and exploration-based learning, stations, group games, and crafts for students to take home.

Here is some feedback from parents:

- *"I was hoping to foster a love of nature in my child. This was absolutely achieved!"*
- *"Great program and hopefully it will be available each year! "*
- *"I feel children need to be well rounded. I was excited to see something not sports driven offered."*
- *" The after school model is so convenient. I was really impressed that the kids were learning skills like water testing, as well."*
- *My daughter has autism. I appreciate Avery helping and supporting about my daughter's condition. Thanks to her thoughtful and inclusive attitude, my whole family are glad for this program.*

What their children enjoyed:

- *"Staying outside in nature, gaming about nature and running on the ground."*
- *"Growing plants and crafts."*
- *"Everything, he loved it."*
- *"She loves it and has been asking if I can enroll her in more CPAWS!"*
- *"Being with friends, learning in nature, open space to play and learn"*
- *"Running games, animals, trees, playing fun games, caring for the earth, being outside, dolphin, nice teachers."*



Learn more at  
[cpawsmb.org](http://cpawsmb.org)

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## Outdoor Education Program Partners

*CPAWS Manitoba is grateful to these schools for inviting us to share our love of nature with their students. We are especially appreciative of those who invite us back again and again.*

Beaver Creek Academy	École Waterford Springs School	Riverbend Community School
Bruce Middle School	Elwick Community School	Riverton Early Middle School (Riverton)
Buchanan School	Emerson School	Robertson School
Calvin Christian School	Frontenac School	Rockwood School
CanAsia School	Garden City Collegiate	Royal School
Chief Peguis Middle School	General Byng School	Ruth Hooker School
Crestview School	General Wolfe School	Shamrock School
Daerwood School (Selkirk)	Greenway School	Sherwood School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute	Harold Hatcher School	Shevchenko School (Vita)
Darwin School	Isaac Brock	Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School (Gimli)
Dawson Trail School	Island Lakes Community School	Sister MacNamara Elementary School
Dr. F.W.L. Hamilton School	Juniper School (Thompson)	South Oaks School (Grunthal)
École Belmont	King Edward Community School	South Pointe School / École South Pointe
École Charleswood	Kleefeld School (Kleefeld)	Southwood School (Steinbach)
École Constable Edward Finney School	Laidlaw School	University of Winnipeg Collegiate
École Crescentview School (Selkirk)	Lakewood School	Valleyview Centennial School (Brandon)
École Dieppe	Linden Meadows School	Victor Mager School
École Howden	Lord Nelson School	West St. Paul School (Saint Paul)
École Julie-Riel	Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre	Westview School
École Provencher	MET School	Windsor School
École Sage Creek School	Minnetonka School	Winnipeg Mennonite School - Bedson Campus
École Selkirk Junior High (Selkirk)	Montrose School	Winnipeg Mennonite School - Katherine Friesen Campus
École Sir William Osler	Niverville High School (Nieverville)	Woodlawn School (Steinbach)
École South Point School	O.V. Jewitt Community School	
École St Germain	Pacific Junction School	
École St. Avila	Parc La Salle School	
École Viscount Alexander	Prairie Sunrise School	
	River Elm Elementary	
	River West Park School	

*Schools are located in Winnipeg unless otherwise indicated.*

## Outdoor Education Program Partners

*CPAWS Manitoba is grateful to these daycares and summer camps for inviting us to share our love of nature with their children. We are especially appreciative of those who invite us back again and again.*

Alana McRae Licensed Family  
Child Care

Anne Ross Day Nursery

Assiniboine Castle Day Care Co-  
op

Assiniboine Children's Centre Inc

Bambini Montessori Preschool

Brooklands Day Care Centre

Campus Children's Centre

Carpathia Children's Centre

Cornish Child Care Centre

Day Nursery Centre - Crossways  
Unit

Directorat de l'activité sportive du  
Manitoba Inc

Dugald Daycare (Dugald)

Earl Grey Children's Centre

East St Paul Summer Camp (East  
St. Paul)

Eastern Star Preschool

Étoiles d'la Rouge Inc. (Saint Jean  
Baptiste)

Fort Rouge Co-op Day Nursery

Garden Grove Child Care

Harrow Co-Op Children's Centre

Harstone Children's Centre

- Clifton site
- Minto site
- Sargent site

Homeschooling Families (Kleefeld)

James Child Care Inc

K.I.D.S. Inc. Montrose

K.I.D.S. Inc. Sir William Osler

K.I.D.S. Inc. South Pointe

Laura Secord Community Child Care

Linwood Child Centre

Little Lambs Christian Preschool

Living Prairie Childcare Inc.

Louis Riel School Division ASPIRE  
Program

- École Henri-Bergeron
- General Vanier School
- Victor Mager School
- Victor Wyatt School
- Windsor School

O.K. Before & After School Child  
Care Centres - Elwick School

On The Move Inc

Panda Bear Day Care Co-Op

Prairie Children's Centre

Prairie Sunrise Child Care

R.H.S. Child Care

Rainbow Day Nursery

- Island Lakes
- Sage Creek
- Southdale

Riverview Ashland Child Care  
Centre

Ryerson School Age Centre

Splash Child Enrichment Centre

Springfield Learning Centres  
(Anola)

Stanley Knowles Pre-School  
Centre

Sugar-n-Spice Kiddie Haven -  
Ecole Riviere Rouge

University of Winnipeg Students'  
Association Day Care

Victor Mager Family Centre

Victor Mager Lunch & After Four  
Program

Victor Play Centre Inc

Waverley Heights Child Care Inc

Weston Child Care Centre (West  
St. Paul)

YMCA - YWCA

- École Robert Browning
- Frontenac School
- Linden Meadows School
- Whyte Ridge School

YMCA - YWCA St. James

Preschool Child Care Centre





## Outdoor Education Program Partners

*CPAWS Manitoba is grateful to these organizations and community groups for inviting us to share our love of nature through activity tables and workshops. We also appreciate invitations to provide professional development workshops to educators and camp counselors interested in integrating outdoor education into their programs.*

*We are especially appreciative of those who invite us back again and again.*

### Activity Tables

- Assiniboine Park Conservancy - at the Zoo's Pollinator Garden and Gateway to the Arctic
- Assiniboine Park Conservancy - Party for the Planet at the Leaf
- Children's Museum
- Green Action Centre Clean Air Day
- University of Manitoba Science Rendezvous

### Community Group Workshops & Activities

- Fort Garry Women's Resource Center
- Headingley Community Center - Grandfriends Program (workshops with preschoolers and seniors)
- 84th Winnipeg Girl Guides
- 99th Winnipeg Girl Guides
- Prairie Valley Area Girl Guides



### Professional Development - Teachers

- Garden City Collegiate
- General Byng School
- Manitoba Teachers' Society SAGE Conference
- Nieversville School
- Schovenko School
- University of Winnipeg Faculty of Education

### Professional Development - Early Childhood Educators & Camp Counselors

- First Nations Education Resource Center Inc.
- Sport Manitoba
- Camp Awesome

### Program Delivery Partners

- Delta Marsh Bird Observatory
- Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition (Ocean Week)
- Sports en Francais
- University of Winnipeg Inner City Work Study Program
- Watersheds Canada
- Wilderness Supply

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## Outdoor Education Program Supporters

*CPAWS Manitoba is grateful to the following organizations and agencies for supporting the Outdoor Education Program since its inception in 2020.*



THE  
**CONSERVATION  
TRUST**

A Manitoba Climate and Green Plan Initiative  
delivered by The Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation



Learn more at  
[cpawsmb.org](http://cpawsmb.org)

