

Visitor Guide



Welcome!

Whether this is a first-time or return visit to this very special place, we are sure that you will leave with new insights into the natural world, a deeper appreciation of Manitoba's heritage, new information and actions for sustainable living; and plenty of opportunities for fresh air, recreation, and fun with family and friends.

FortWhyte Alive is a premier, privately operated, non-profit environmental education facility that provides a multitude of indoor and outdoor settings for an unforgettable day of adventure and fun rolled into one.

Planning Your Visit

Take a moment to read this brochure for guidelines to ensure an exciting and rewarding visit. Use the trail map (opposite side) to find your way.



GET INTO Nature

Have a new adventure every day! FortWhyte Alive offers all-season outdoor recreation and environmental education for everyone.

5 Lakes

Winnipeg's lake district offers city residents and travelers alike a serene and picturesque experience within city limits. Rent one of our canoes and go paddling (wind speed and weather permitting) and drop a line for catch-and-release fishing (kids 12 and under can take home up to 2 fish). For paddling and sailing lessons visit www.fortwhyte.org/paddling or www.fortwhyte.org/sailing for registration information.

Trails & Floating Marsh Boardwalks

All trails lead to FortWhyte Alive, connecting neighbourhoods throughout southwest Winnipeg. Bike or walk 7 km of wood chipped and limestone trails, winding through prairie and forest habitats. Take the kids dipnetting and watch for wetland wildlife along the floating marsh boardwalks.

Winter Fun

Bring your skis and go on a Nordic adventure—we have cross-country ski trails! The kids love our fantastic Richardson rrrun toboggan slide. Go skating, ice-fishing, Nordic walking, or rent snowshoes and trek the snow laden forest floor.



Buffalo Stone Café

Located in the Alloway Reception Centre, the award-winning Buffalo Stone Café features delicious light meals including bison burgers, homemade soups, FortWhyte Farms salads, daily specials, and freshly ground coffee. The Café is open until 4:30pm daily, but may close early to prepare for private banquets. Call (204) 989-8370 if you are planning a late lunch.

The Nature Shop

The Nature Shop carries a unique array of gift ideas inspired by nature, including fine crafts and artwork created by Manitoban and Canadian artisans. Also offered are FortWhyte Farms honey, blueberry and Saskatoon preserves; and childrens' educational toys, local books, field guides, birdfeeding supplies, jewellery, clothing and souvenirs. Call (204) 989-8355 for more information.



EXPLORE the Interpretive Centre

Generate some excitement and learn about nature by touring the intriguing exhibits that await you in the 10,000 square-foot Interpretive Centre.

Kiwanis Touch Museum

Go nose-to-nose with taxidermy specimens ranging from a bison bull to a varied display of Manitoba birds. NOTE: Touching is encouraged, but please be gentle.

Aquarium of the Prairies

FortWhyte has the largest freshwater aquarium in Manitoba! Discover what lives in our province's lakes.

Prairie Soil Diorama

Take the worm's eye and the bird's eye views to inspect the changing soil and landscape conditions from pre-settlement to modern day agriculture.



Sunday 2 O'clock Walks

A FortWhyte nature guide will take you north to the Bison Prairie, the Tipi Encampment and the Pioneer Sod House; south to the aspen forest for bird watching; or for a stroll on the floating boardwalks.



Rent-A-Naturalist

Enrich your knowledge of the natural world with the guidance of a staff interpreter. We have the resources to help you explore early bison hunting with atlatls, dipnetting in the marsh, canoeing, or orienteering. Monday to Thursday in July and August from 10am–4pm. Please call (204) 989-8355 to reserve your tour. (Max. 6)

Rentals

- Bison Buggies (seats 6)
- Canoes & Row Boats
- Fishing Poles
- Wagons
- Fire Pit
- Ice Auger
- Snowshoes
- Nordic Poles
- Family Adventure Packs

Please see Visitor Reception for details and rental fees.



Planet H₂O

Dive in and immerse yourself in the vibrant story of our local watershed that emphasizes the true value of clean water. Soak up a new appreciation for the water that sustains all life and find out what you can do to protect your watershed.



Prairie Partners Live Exhibit

Enjoy a rare opportunity to view an endangered species, the burrowing owl, and learn more about their plight and the continuing pressures on prairie grasslands. This exhibit is also home to black-tailed prairie dogs; another prairie species that (for thousands of years) has provided the nesting burrows for this fascinating ground-dwelling owl.



Look for the Market Open Sign

Share in the bounty of this truly unique social enterprise that engages inner-city youth in hands-on urban agriculture. During the harvest (July to September), look for the 'Market Open' sign at the FortWhyte Farms headquarters. A variety of vegetables, herbs and honey are for sale fresh from the field as well as pasture-raised chicken and pork. FortWhyte Farms honey products and seasonal produce are also available at the Nature Shop.

Call (204) 989-8353 to book farm tour. No drop-in tours please.

DISCOVER our Outdoor Exhibits

Prairie Dog Town

Always entertaining as colony members scurry about feeding, sunning and jump-yipping!

Tipi Encampment

Step inside and see how a tipi makes the perfect plains shelter. Learn about the Aboriginal culture and what life was like as a bison hunter.

Pioneer Sod House

Cross the threshold into history. Sundays and holidays, volunteer pioneers bring the Sod House to life. Look for the laundry on the line and smoke rising from the chimney.

Bison Prairie

Climb the stairs to the Saturn Family Tree House or take a trip by foot or Bison Buggy to the top of the Bison Viewing Mound for a great view of the plains bison herd.

Floating Marsh Boardwalks

Stroll along the wetland where wildlife thrives. Spring brings pussy willows and lady slippers, in early summer ducklings dabble, painted turtles sun on logs, and muskrats swim in and out of the cattails. Kids can dipnet and discover marsh insects.

Biodiversity Garden

This beautiful garden, located between the Alloway Reception Centre and the Interpretive Centre, is full of native plants and flowers providing a wealth of landscaping ideas for inviting nature into your backyard.

Birdfeeding Stations

Walk the wood-chipped trails into the forest to discover our local residents and seasonal migrants.



SUPPORTING FortWhyte Alive

FortWhyte Alive is a privately operated, non-profit project of the Fort Whyte Foundation Inc., promoting awareness and understanding of the natural world and actions leading to sustainable living.

FortWhyte Alive is privately funded, relying on generous support from every sector of our community, including businesses, foundations, individuals and government.

Inspired by our mandate and committed to our community, FortWhyte delivers four main program streams: school programs, outdoor recreation, public programs for all age groups, and FortWhyte Farms' ground-breaking social enterprise program for inner-city youth.

Call us for more information regarding:

Membership: (204) 989-8361

Donations/Development: (204) 989-8352

Volunteering: (204) 989-8368

Facility Rentals/Group Bookings: (204) 989-8353

Frequent Visitor? Become a Member!

The cost of your admission will be deducted from the price of membership (valid for 30 days at Visitor Reception). With your membership you will receive free year-round admission, valuable discounts at the Nature Shop, rentals, programming and day camps among many other benefits.

Stop at Visitor Reception or call (204) 989-8361 for details, or sign up online at www.fortwhyte.org/membership

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday: 9am–5pm
 Saturday, Sunday & Holidays: 10am–5pm
 Closed Christmas Day

Extended Summer Hours June, July, August

Monday to Thursday: 9am–8pm
 Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays: 9am–5pm

Info

Visitor Reception & the Nature Shop:
 (204) 989-8355 • info@fortwhyte.org

Buffalo Stone Café: (204) 989-8370



1961 McCreary Road
 Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
 R3P 2K9

FIND Your Way

All walking times are approximate. Times will vary based on speed and mobility level. Bison Buggies (seat 6) are available for rent to explore the north Green Corridor and Carolyn Sifton trails. Please see Visitor Reception for details.

Green Corridor Trail

End to end 4.6 km – Approx. 90 minutes
McGillivray Blvd. to Alloway Reception Centre
1.4 km – Approx. 30 minutes
Alloway Reception Centre to Sterling Lyon Pkwy.
3.2 km – Approx. 65 minutes

This is the spine of FortWhyte's 7 km trail network. As part of the Trans Canada Trail, its entire length passes through every habitat and vista offered, but unless you're a cyclist, jogger, or a vigorous hiker, you might consider exploring its unexpected treasures on two separate visits—one of northern discovery, and the other to its southern reaches.

Group Use Trails — No public access
Trail Gates || Locked ½ hr before closing
Property Line —
Bison Buggy On north trails only

Carolyn Sifton Trail

Loop 2 km – Approx. 40 minutes round trip
Bison viewing mound 0.5 km – Approx. 10 minutes
 Begin your walk at the North Trailhead. Step inside the Pioneer Sod House or Tipi Encampment and imagine the prairie of our forefathers. Observe Plains Bison as they once existed on the Great Plains. Visit the Bison Viewing Mound and Saturn Family Treehouse for the best sightings. Lake Cargill provides excellent viewing opportunities for seasonal migrants.

Janice Raleigh Pond Trail

Round trip 0.5 km – Approx. 10 minutes
 Begin your walk at the South Trailhead. This tranquil forest trail will lead you through a variety of small wetlands within a short distance. Watch for the brilliant plumage of the male wood duck and listen for the signature call of the red-winged blackbird. Observe spring wildflowers or winter animal tracks along this winding route. This trail is cleared for winter access.

Jansson Forest Song Trail

Round trip 0.8 km – Approx. 15 minutes
 Begin your walk at the South Trailhead. Look for wildflowers along the Aspen Parkland floor and squirrels showing off their high-wire acrobatics. Birders and nature enthusiasts will enjoy looking for seasonal migrants and resident songbirds along this wood chip path. Spend some time at the Birdfeeding Station and observe woodpeckers and chickadees as they flit to and from birdfeeders. Enjoy this trail by snowshoe in winter.

Wetland Boardwalk Trail

Round trip 1 km – Approx. 20 minutes
 Begin your walk at the South Trailhead. Get up-close and personal with wildlife! Our floating boardwalks will carry you out into our swamp and marsh ecosystems. Pick up a dipnet kit from the Interpretive Centre and find out what lurks below the dark waters of the swamp. In winter, the Wetland Boardwalk Trail is a first-class snowshoe route and a great place to observe winter animal tracks.

- Bison Prairie
- Prairie Dog Town
- Pioneer Sod House
- Tipi Encampment
- Bison Viewing Mound
- Saturn Family Treehouse
- Wetland/Marsh
- Sailing Dock
- Biodiversity Garden
- Fishing & Paddling Dock
- Birdfeeding Station
- Loly Lookout Picnic Shelter
- North Trailhead
- South Trailhead

