

Visitor Guide



Welcome!

Whether this is a first-time or return visit to FortWhyte Alive, 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!

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

5 Lakes

Winnipeg's lake district offers residents and tourists alike a serene and picturesque experience within city limits. Rent one of our canoes and go paddling (weather permitting) and drop a line for catch-and-release fishing (kids 12 and under can take home 1 fish). For paddling and sailing lessons, please visit www.fortwhyte.org 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.

Begin at the Alloway Reception Centre

The Alloway Reception Centre is your gateway to FortWhyte Alive. Here you will find Visitor Reception to greet you and answer any questions you may have about your visit, activities, programs and membership. The Alloway Reception Centre also houses the Nature Shop, Buffalo Stone Café, and washrooms.

Buffalo Stone Café

Located in the Alloway Reception Centre, the award-winning Buffalo Stone Café features delicious light meals – bison burgers, homemade soups, FortWhyte Farms salads, daily specials, and freshly ground coffee. The Café is open until 4:30 pm 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 unique local food items, birdfeeding supplies, children's educational toys, books, jewellery, clothing, and more. 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 atlatis, dipnetting in the marsh, canoeing, or orienteering. Available in July and August. Please call (204) 989-8355 to reserve.

Rentals

- Canoes & Row Boats
- Fishing Poles
- Wagons
- Fire Pit
- Ice Auger
- Snowshoes
- Nordic Walking 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.



FortWhyte Farms works with at-risk youth using the practice of sustainable urban agriculture to build confidence and leadership skills, provide employment training, while instilling values of individual and community self-reliance.

Support this unique social enterprise program – FortWhyte Farms honey products and seasonal produce are available at the Nature Shop. Visit www.fortwhyte.org/fortwhytefarms for information on purchasing a CSA share, and you too can enjoy the farm's bounty!

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

Explore our tipis, and discover what makes these shelters perfect for life on the Plains. Step inside to learn about Aboriginal history and culture.

Pioneer Sod House

Cross the threshold into history. Sundays and holidays, volunteer pioneers bring the Sod House to life with stories and authentic artifacts.

Bison Prairie

Climb the stairs to the Saturn Family Tree House or stand atop 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 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: 9 am – 5 pm
 Saturday, Sunday & Holidays: 10 am – 5 pm
 Closed Christmas Day

Extended Summer Hours: June, July, August

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

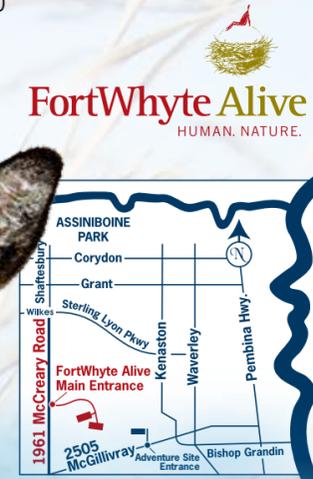
Info

Visitor Reception and the Nature Shop

PH: (204) 989-8355 · info@fortwhyte.org

Buffalo Stone Café

PH: (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.

Green Corridor Trail

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

This is the spine of FortWhyte's 7 km trail network. As part of the Trans Canada Trail, its length passes through our diverse habitat and landscape. 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 —

Carolyn Sifton Trail

Loop 2 km – Approximately 40 minutes round trip
Bison viewing mound 0.5 km – Approximately 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 of seasonal migrants.

Janice Raleigh Pond Trail

Round trip 0.5 km – Approximately 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 – Approximately 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 – Approximately 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 water's surface. In winter, the Wetland Boardwalk Trail is a great place to snowshoe and 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**

