



Meewasin Valley Authority  
402 - Third Avenue South  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
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## **Attention Grade 5 Teachers**

### **Meewasin Valley Authority - Beaver Creek Conservation Area Grade 5 Environmental Education Program - September 2019 – June 2020 Changes Effective September 2019**

- BCCA will now host two Grade 5 classes on site at the same time with classes using the Interpretive Centre and Chip's Lodge as their staging areas.
- Program offered on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Programs will be offered in the Fall, Winter, and Spring program seasons.
- Programs to be presented with One Teacher & One Interpreter (with the exception of Winter which will have two interpreters and teacher assisting).
- Teacher inservices available each season to inform you of new program content and format.
- Teachers will be presenting a program that explores the ecology of birds through prepared introduction and conclusion materials, collection of hands on artifacts, bird trivia cards, and facilitating the hand feeding of the black capped chickadees. It is recognized that teachers have busy schedules and this program presentation will be designed for ease of delivery for the teacher.
- Interpreter to present a habitat based program requiring site knowledge and answer student and teacher questions.

## **How to Book!**

**Go to: [www.meewasin.com/education](http://www.meewasin.com/education) and review the Fall, Winter, Spring booking calendar.  
Dates are assigned to Catholic, Public, Prairie Spirit School Divisions.**

- **Program bookings to take place September 3-6, 2019.**
- **Call Beaver Creek Conservation Area @ 306-374-2474. Calls will be received from 930am-4:00pm**
- **Do not leave a message on answering machine. You must speak directly to the person creating your booking.**
- This program is for a Grade 5 student audience and a classroom size of approximately 30 students.
- Programs are offered on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
  - Fall Program > September 18, 2019 to November 15, 2019 > Teacher Inservice September 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019
  - Winter Program > January 22, 2020 – March 13, 2020 > Teacher Inservice January 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020
  - Spring Program > April 22, 2020 – June 12, 2020 > Teacher Inservice April 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- **If you are booking for the Fall Program please confirm if you are or are not attending the Teacher Inservice September 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>.**
- The Teacher Inservice will take place at the Meewasin Valley Authority – 402 Third Avenue South – 4:30pm-5:30pm.
- An audio visual presentation will describe what a teacher and class can expect of their day at BCCA.
- Program objective and content.
- BCCA and Teacher responsibilities to ensure program success.
- A Second Adult: As the teacher will be presenting a program to half the class the other half requires the accompaniment of an adult to assist in the management of the students.
- To ask questions about changes to the Grade 5 Environmental Education Program contact Andrew Whiting @ [awhiting@meewasin.com](mailto:awhiting@meewasin.com) or phone 306-665-6887.

Thank you,  
Andrew Whiting

## Next Steps

### You have booked a date of visit.

- Teacher registration is from September 3-6, 2019.
- BCCA will create a booking calendar listing: "Date of Visit - School – Teacher & Contact Numbers – Grade – Class Size – Chip's Lodge / Interpretive Centre" from Saskatoon Public, Saskatoon Catholic, and Prairie Spirit School Divisions.
  - Example: Wednesday September 18 – two Catholic Schools on site at same time or two classes from the same Catholic School on site at the same time. One class hosted through Chip's Lodge and one class hosted through the Interpretive Centre.
- Booking calendar dates have been assigned to Public, Catholic, or Prairie Spirit School Divisions.
- For the 2019-2020 school year the selection of season and booking date is on a first served basis.
- **Call Beaver Creek Conservation Area 306-374-2474 to book your program date.**  
 Jamie Harder @ [jharder@meewasin.com](mailto:jharder@meewasin.com) will be coordinating the program bookings.
- To ask questions about BCCA's change in the Grade 5 Environmental Education Program contact Andrew Whiting @ [awhiting@meewasin.com](mailto:awhiting@meewasin.com) or phone 306-665-6887.

### Beaver Creek Conservation Area Grade 5 Environmental Education Program Program Booking Calendar September 2019 – June 2020

#### September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	<b>2 STAT</b>	3 Program Booking	4 Program Booking	5 Program Booking	6 Program Booking	7
8	9	10	11 INSERVICE	12 INSERVICE	13	14
15	16	17	18 Catholic Chip's Lodge –  Interpretive Centre -	19 Catholic CL – IC –	20 Catholic CL –  IC –	21
22	23	24	25 Public CL – IC –	26 Public CL – IC –	27 Public CL – IC –	28
29	30					

#### October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Prairie Spirit CL – IC –	3 Prairie Spirit CL – IC –	4 Prairie Spirit CL – IC –	5
6	7	8	9 Public CL – IC –	10 Public CL – IC –	11 Public CL – IC –	12
13	14	15	16 Catholic CL – IC –	17 Catholic CL – IC –	18 Catholic CL – IC –	19
20	21	22	23 Public CL – IC –	24 Public CL – IC –	25 Public CL – IC –	26
27	28	29	30 Catholic CL – IC –	31 Catholic CL – IC –		

### November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Catholic CL – IC –	2
3	4	5	6 Public CL – IC –	7 Public CL – IC –	8 Public CL – IC –	9
10	11	12	13 Catholic CL – IC –	14 catholic CL – IC –	15 Catholic CL – IC –	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### December 2019 >> NO BOOKINGS

### January 2020

- One Grade 5 class per day > Cross Country Ski & Nature Study

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 INSERVICE	16 INSERVICE	17	18
19	20	21	22 Catholic SKI & STUDY	23 Catholic SKI & STUDY	24 Catholic SKI & STUDY	25
26	27	28	29 Public SKI & STUDY	30 Public SKI & STUDY	31 Public SKI & STUDY	

### February 2020

- One Grade 5 class per day > Cross Country Ski & Nature Study

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Catholic SKI & STUDY	6 Catholic SKI & STUDY	7 Catholic SKI & STUDY	8
9	10	11	12 Public SKI & STUDY	13 Public SKI & STUDY	14 Public SKI & STUDY	15
16	17 STAT	18 SCHBRK	19 SCHBRK	20 SCHBRK	21 SCHBRK	22
23	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26 Prairie Spirit SKI & STUDY	27 Prairie Spirit SKI & STUDY	28 Prairie Spirit SKI & STUDY	29

### March 2020

- One Grade 5 class per day > Cross Country Ski & Nature Study

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Catholic SKI & STUDY	5 Catholic SKI & STUDY	6 Catholic SKI & STUDY	7
8	9	10	11 Public SKI & STUDY	12 Public SKI & STUDY	13 Public SKI & STUDY	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**April 2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 INSERVICE	9 INSERVICE	10 STAT	11
12	13 SCHBRK	14 SCHBRK	15 SCHBRK	16 SCHBRK	17 SCHBRK	18
19	20	21	22 Catholic CL – IC –	23 Catholic CL – IC –	24 Catholic CL – IC –	25
26	27	28	29 Public CL – IC –	30 Public CL – IC –		

**May 2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Public CL – IC –	2
3	4	5	6 Prairie Spirit CL – IC –	7 Prairie Spirit CL – IC –	8 Prairie Spirit CL – IC –	9
10	11	12	13 Public CL – IC –	14 Public CL – IC –	15 Public CL – IC –	16
17	18 STAT	19	20 Catholic CL – IC –	21 Catholic CL – IC –	22 Catholic CL – IC –	23
24	25	26	27 Public CL – IC –	28 Public CL – IC –	29 Public CL – IC –	30
31						

**June 2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Public CL – IC –	4 Public CL – IC –	5 Public CL – IC –	6
7	8	9	10 Public CL – IC –	11 Public CL – IC –	12 Public CL – IC –	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## **Fall & Spring Program ( One Teacher & One Interpreter)**

Classes are divided into two groups with the Teacher leading the “ VIB – Very Important Birds” program and Interpreter leading the “Habitats are Homes” program.

- 9:30am-10:00am – Introduction by Interpreter
- 10:00am – 12:00pm - Group A with Teacher / Group B with Interpreter
- 12:00pm – 12:30pm – Lunch
- 12:30pm – 2:15pm – Group A with Interpreter / Group B with Teacher
- 2:15pm – 2:30pm - Departure

## **Winter Program (Two Interpreters & Teacher Assisting)**

The class remains as one group for a morning of Cross Country Skiing. For the afternoon Winter Animal Adaptations program the class is divided into two groups. If weather or snow conditions do not permit cross country skiing a nature study program will be presented in its place.

- 9:30am-10:00am – Introduction by Interpreter
- 10:00am – 12:00pm – Cross Country Skiing with two Interpreters
- 12:00pm – 12:30pm – Lunch
- 12:30pm – 2:15pm – Winter Animal Adaptations - Group A with Interpreter / Group B with Interpreter
- 2:15pm – 2:30pm - Departure

## **Program Concepts**

### **“VIB – Very Important Birds” Program**

Birdwatching is a form of citizen science promoting habitat conservation. The study of birds touches on a number of other subjects - biology, history, geography, sociology, and politics. The more you understand about birds, their needs, and the challenges many species face, the more aware and possibly involved you’re likely to become in supporting wildlife habitat conservation and restoration efforts.

During this program, participants will have the opportunity to observe birds using binoculars, learn how to identify different bird species, and possibly hand feed our resident Black-capped Chickadee. Students will participate in hands-on activities and learn many unique adaptations birds have to help them to survive and their inter-connections to many other species.

### **“Habitats are Homes” Program**

During this program students will study the structure of natural systems present at BCCA and discuss how these systems could be created in our urbanized environment. Students will record observations and experiences in their Student Booklet.

Habitat is the place where a plant or animal lives and grows. It includes four important features: food, water, shelter, and space available to a species in an appropriate arrangement.

Habitat destruction occurs when natural habitats are no longer able to support the species present, resulting in the displacement or destruction of its biodiversity. Habitat destruction by human activity is mainly for the purpose of harvesting natural resources for industrial production and urbanization. Clearing habitats for agriculture is a principal cause of habitat destruction.

Lawns are not that useful to most birds, so planting the edges of them is a good opportunity to improve habitat. You can replicate the way nature reclaims clearings by planting some sheltering, dense shrubs around the outside and then shorter flowers and low shrubs and ground covers along the inside. Many birds eat a variety of insects, including aphids, mosquitoes, spiders and other bugs that may not be welcome in a yard or garden. Attracting birds encourages them to take advantage of this natural food source, eliminating the need for harsh chemical insecticides.