

Birds Hill

JUNIOR NATURALIST

AGES 6-9



Hi! Would you like to become a Junior Naturalist just like Howie Whooo the Owl? Complete the activities in this booklet to discover more about Manitoba's provincial parks and the great ways for you to explore the outdoors. Once you are done, fill in the back page and return the book to become an official **Junior Naturalist!**

My name is

What are your three favourite things to do in a park?

1

2

3

My Favourite Park Activities

Birds Hill Park has many recreational and educational opportunities. Use the code to discover some of the different activities you can do with your family and friends in Birds Hill Park.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
12	23	5	8	21	4	9	20	15	16	2	14	11	7	3	10	19	1	24	17	13	25	6	18	26	22

4 15 24 20 15 7 9 20 15 2 15 7 9 5 26 5 14 15 7 9

20 3 1 24 21 23 12 5 2 1 15 8 15 7 9 6 15 14 8 14 15 4 21

25 15 21 6 15 7 9 15 7 17 21 1 10 1 21 17 15 25 21

10 1 3 9 1 12 11 24

Storytime: *Those Who Came Before*

Birds Hill Provincial Park has a rich cultural history.

Fill in the blanks using the words below to finish the story of those who came before.

Words to Use:

1967
Company
cultural
family
gathering
Indigenous
neighbours
people
Red
Scottish
Ukraine

Long ago, before Birds Hill Park was built, this land was home to many different groups of _____. There were no roads or buildings in the beginning; no campground or lake for swimming. Many of the early Red River settlers to this area were French, _____ and Métis. They lived off the land: hunting, trapping and _____ what they needed. When the flood of 1826 hit, many settlers found refuge on one of the highest points of land in the area, now known as Birds Hill Park. Metis people, whose background is French or Scottish, and _____, were given land grants in this area. Many of them decided to leave this land and follow the _____ out west. As more and more people came to this land, the Hudson Bay _____ expanded along the _____ River. One of the important people that worked for the HBC was James Curtis Bird. When he retired, the HBC gave him property in this area. Birds Hill Park is named after him and his _____. In the early 1900s many new immigrants from Poland and the _____ moved here. They were hard working people and helped their _____. The area became known as the Community of Pine Ridge. When the park opened in _____, the people living here left, but some of their homesteads were left behind. Today, you can see many different features of the _____ history that has made Birds Hill Park what it is today.



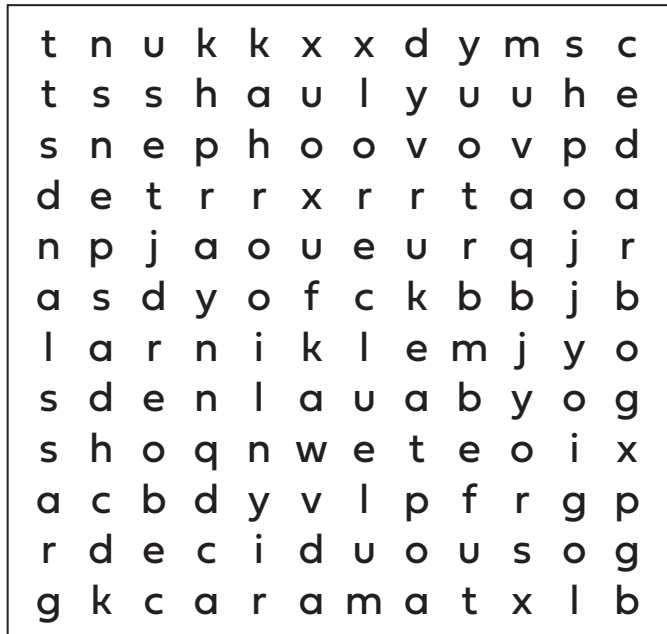
If you need further assistance in completing these activities, look for a Park Interpreter at park programs and interpretive centres for help.

Habitats Along an Esker Ridge

An **esker** is a large hill, formed by sand and gravel leftover from a glacier. When water flows down the hill, it creates different types of habitats in different areas. Find the **12 hidden words** that describe the habitats found along the esker ridge in Birds Hill Park.

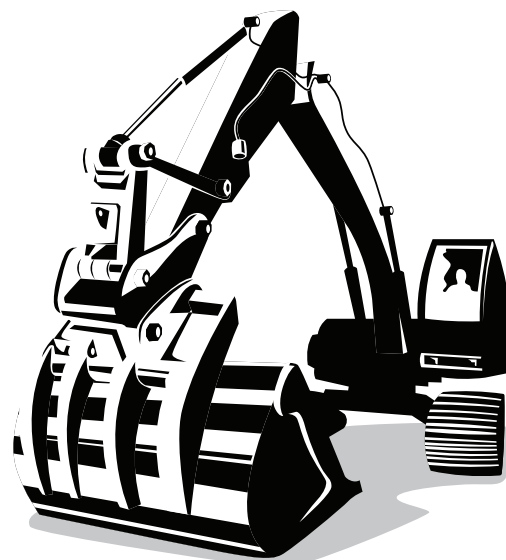
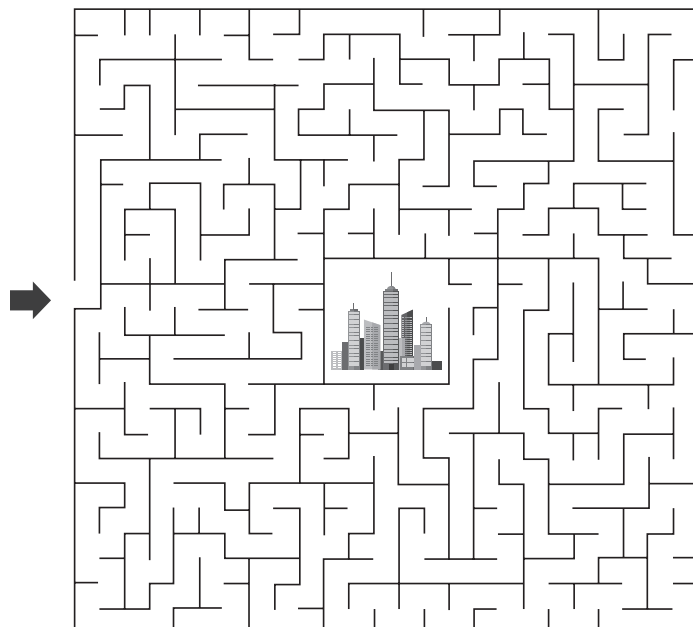
Words to Find:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| aspen | dry |
| boreal forest | grasslands |
| bur oak | parkland |
| cedar bog | spruce bog |
| coniferous | tamarack |
| deciduous | wet |



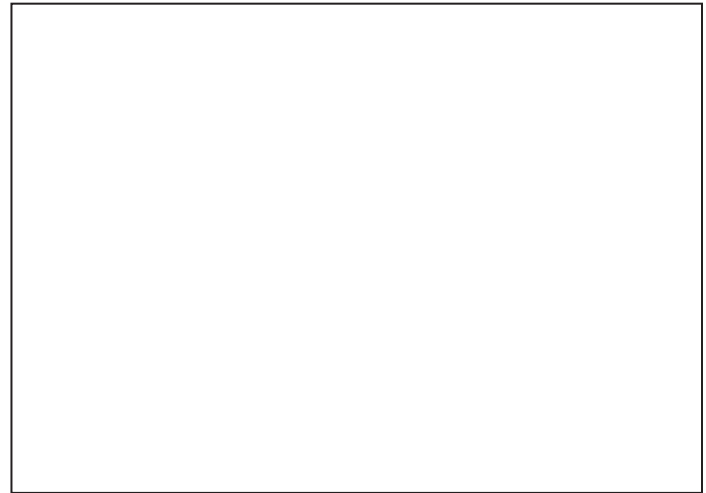
A-maze-ing Sand

When the glaciers moved through this area thousands of years ago, they left deposits of sand and gravel which formed large hills called eskers. The sand and gravel from the eskers in the Birds Hill Park area was used to build the **City of Winnipeg** and other landmarks. Drive the tractor through the maze to move sand and gravel to the City.



Leaf it to Me

In Birds Hill Park, the sandy soil drains moisture away from these plants, which is why **bur oak** grow shorter here than in other environments. Find a bur oak leaf on the ground and do a leaf rubbing of it in your book. To do a leaf rubbing, place the leaf under the page and using the edge of a crayon, rub over the leaf and it will appear on this side. (Please remember to take only leaves that have fallen to the ground.)



Mini Activity: Who am I?

Another plant that grows in the sand as well as all over Birds Hill is one you want to avoid. You can keep safe by staying on the trails. If you do run into this plant, be sure to wash with soap and water.

Remember: leaves of three, leave it be! Can you guess who I am?

P _____ I _____



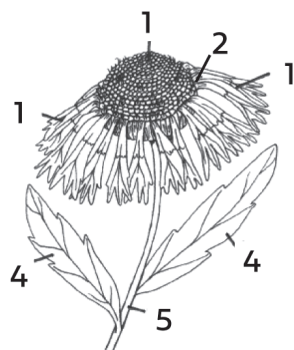
Colours of the Land

When humans dig up the natural land, we disturb the plants and flowers that used to grow there. Sometimes these plants and flowers are never seen again because they cannot grow in other types of soil. When we lose species of flowers, we lose **biodiversity** (many different living things in an area). Birds Hill Park protects the land so that this will not happen to the plants and flowers that grow here. **Follow the legend to colour these flowers found in Birds Hill Park.**

Legend	
1	Golden yellow
2	Organey-red
3	Purple
4	Green
5	Brown



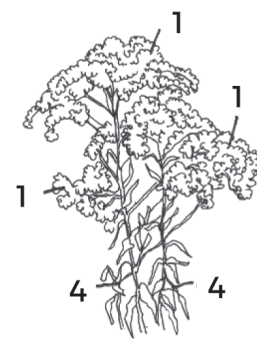
Bergamot



Gaillardia



Prairie Crocus



Goldenrod

Batty about Bats

Bats are really cool creatures that sometimes get a bad name because people don't know very much about them and are scared of them. Good Jr. Naturalists know that the more we learn about something, the less scary it becomes. Can you discover whether the myths below are **true** (T) or **false** (F)?

T or F

Bat Myths:

1. Bats are the only mammals that can fly.

T or F

2. Bats are related to birds.

T or F

3. Bats are nocturnal; they are most active at night.

T or F

4. Bats use echolocation (like sonar) to help them know where they are flying and to find food, like insects, to eat.

T or F

5. Bats are blind and will fly into your hair.



Predators and their Prey

Animals that hunt for their food are called **predators**. The food they hunt for is called their **prey**. There are many predator-prey relationships in Birds Hill Park. Can you connect the predator to its prey?



Predators:

Bat



Coyote



Hawk



Fox



Prey:

Deer



Mouse



Mosquito



Rabbit

Home Tweet Home

Birds Hill Park has many different types of **habitats**. A habitat includes **shelter, water, food** and **space**. All living creatures need a habitat to live in. Different types of habitats attract different types of creatures. Can you unscramble which birds live in which habitats in Birds Hill Park?

1. Lake

A D C A N A
O S E O G

3. Marsh

E D R I G W E D N
L B R A D I K B C

2. Tall Grass Prairie

F U D R F E
U O G E R S

4. Boreal Forest

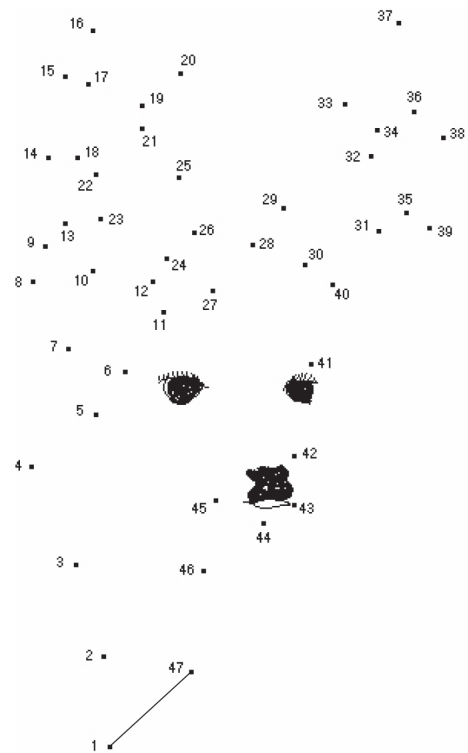
T R E A G A R G Y
W O L

Connect the Dots

This large mammal, often seen in the park during dawn and dusk, has to be very careful of vehicle traffic on the roads, predators such as wolves and coyotes, and natural elements like fire. These things can change their **population** (number of animals).

What animal is this?

W _ _ _ e - t _ _ _ _ _ D _ _ _ _



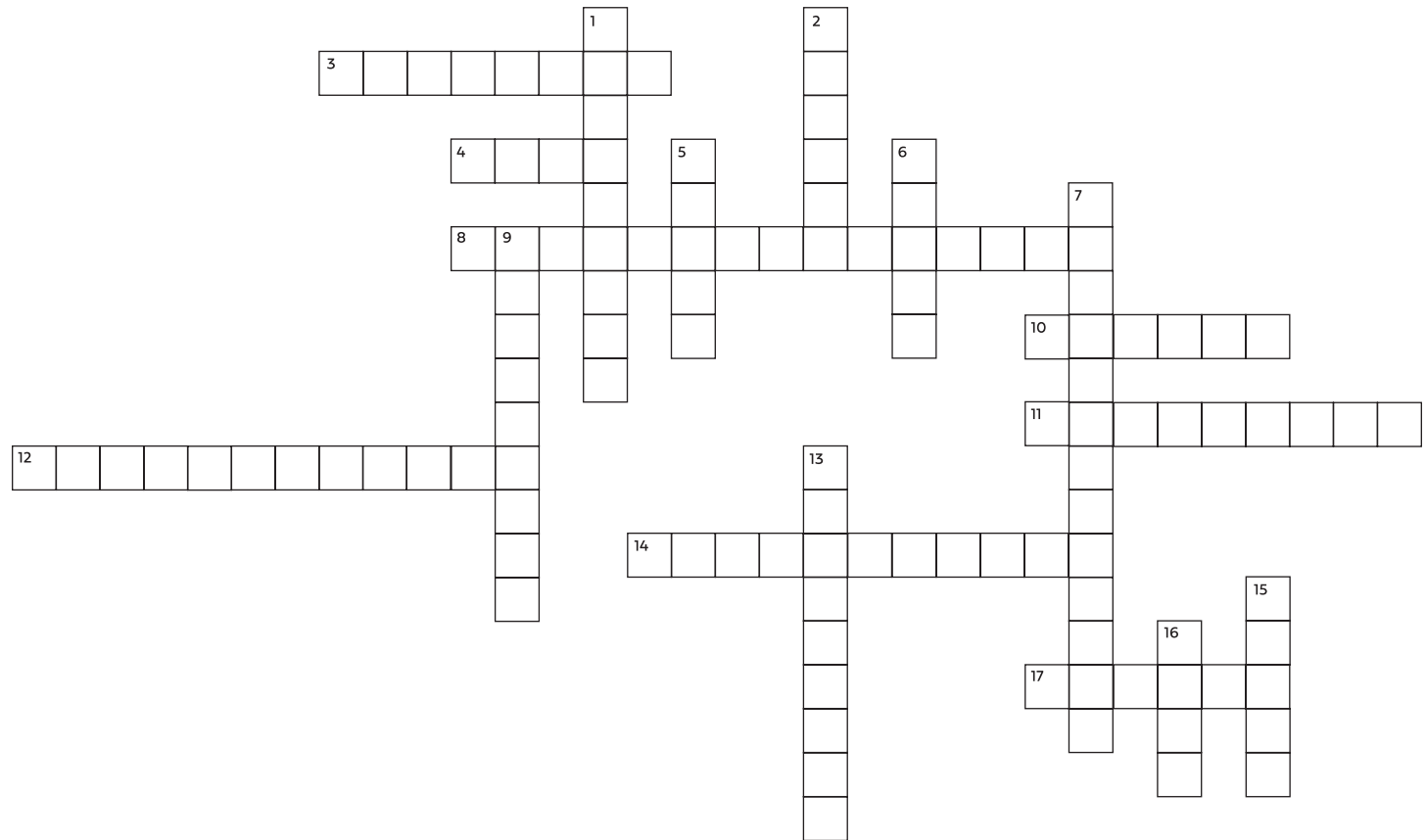
Mini Activity: Be Bear Aware

Bears are a natural part of where we live, camp and visit. Sometimes we may see a bear while we are walking, hiking or playing. Using the words provided, write in the correct answers to remind you what to do if you see a bear.

Stay _____ run
Don't _____ slowly
Back away _____ adult
Tell an _____ calm

Junior Naturalist Crossword

Need a Hint? All the answers are hidden in your booklet.



Across

3. Made of snow and ice; covered this land thousands of years ago.
4. Early settlers lived off the _____.
8. Large mammal often seen in the park.
10. A popular activity in Birds Hill Park.
11. Name of community before the park was built.
12. What a bat uses to find its way.
14. A park person that can help answer your questions.
17. Name of a tree found in Birds Hill Park.

Down

1. The animals at the top of a food chain.
2. What the glacier left behind that was used to build Winnipeg.
5. People of "Mixed-blood."
6. A special area in the park. _____ Bog
7. Name of a prairie flower that grows in Birds Hill Park. *Hint: it is Manitoba's Provincial Floral Emblem.*
9. Company that James Curtis Bird worked for.
13. Name of the park you are visiting.
15. A large hill formed by sand and gravel leftover from a glacier.
16. What a black bear uses to find food.



Check off the boxes of each activity you have completed. Return the completed booklet to receive your official pin. (Your book will also be returned to you.)

Did you enjoy doing this activity booklet?

If so, you can do other Junior Naturalist/Park Explorer booklets at the following locations:

- **Whiteshell**
- **Spruce Woods**
- **Birds Hill**
- **Hecla**
- **Grand Beach**

Completed booklets can be returned to campground offices, park interpreters or mailed to the address below:

Manitoba Parks

Birds Hill Provincial Park
68092 PR 206
Cooks Creek, MB, R5M 0C9

Junior Naturalist Activity Checklist:

- My Three Favourite Things
- My Favourite Park Activities
- Storytime: Those Who Came Before
- Habitats along an Esker Ridge
- A-maze-ing Sand
- Leaf it to Me
- Who am I?
- Colours of the Land
- Batty about Bats
- Predators and their Prey
- Home Tweet Home
- Connect the Dots
- Be Bear Aware
- Junior Naturalist Crossword

Junior Naturalist: _____

Adult: _____

You are almost an official Junior Naturalist!

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____