



ecosystems

BUD MILLER ALL SEASONS PARK (BMASP)
SHOWCASES THE NATURAL BIODIVERSITY
OF THE CENTRAL PARKLAND REGION.

A variety of habitats support populations of plant communities, vegetation, trees and wildlife. This diversity is essential to the sustainability of life in the 200-acre park through the interconnections of ecosystems. An ecosystem is a community of living organisms interacting with its physical environment to conserve life. Explore the park and reconnect with nature year-round. In the winter, rent snowshoes through lloydminster.ca/Snowshoes and experience this snowy wonderland. Discover how plants and animals adapt and survive until spring. As you walk on the groomed trails search for animal tracks in the snow. Some animals are camouflaged and blend in well with their surroundings.

1 AQUATIC LIFESTYLE

The 10-acre manmade lake supports a suitable aquatic habitat for waterfowl, rainbow trout, water bugs and insects, muskrats, amphibians and plant-like algae. Waterlogged soils on sections of the shoreline sustain growth of herbaceous plants, bullrushes, willows and mixed shrubs. It is a natural habitat for a variety of bird species including shorebirds, Canada geese and ducks. In the fall, migrating birds stopover for an energizing rest on their way south for the winter and again on their return flight home. BMASP is proud to be a provincial fish conservation site which is stocked annually by the Alberta Conservation Association. During winter, these colorful fish match their body temperature to the winter conditions which slows their metabolism and conserves energy. The root systems of aquatic plants remain undamaged. When spring comes with its warmer temperatures, new vegetation is produced.



2 AN ISLAND FOR BIRDS

The island is a nesting ground and home for a wide range of bird species. Completely surrounded by water, this area is basically undisturbed by humans with limited access during the winter. The natural vegetation of trees, shrubs and grasses provide food and shelter. Birds have a basic instinct to return to their original home year after year. Birdwatchers will notice a variety of birds flying to and from this island. Only the heartiest of species spend the winter insulated against the cold temperatures.

- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- American Robin
- House Wren
- Sparrows
- Yellow Warbler
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Common Tern
- Baltimore Oriole
- Northern Flicker
- Blue Jay
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Black-billed Magpie
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Barn Swallow
- Cedar Waxwing
- Western Meadowlark
- Canada Geese

3 TERRESTRIAL LIFE

A diversity of large and small land animals ranging from tiny insects to the gophers, squirrels, mice and snowshoe hares call this park home. The fertile soil supports the abundant growth of wild roses, bluebells, foxtails, grasses, weeds and herbaceous plants such as ferns. These grasses are a nutritious food source and shelter for many living organisms year-round. All species co-exist in winter by adapting to the cold, blending in with their surroundings or migrating to warmer climates. Bird species include:



6 GARDEN MAZE

From the wooden boardwalk entrance to the pebbled and mulch strewn pathways, visitors enjoy finding their way through the outdoor maze. Dormant over the prairie winter, this maze is full of activity in the early spring. We invite you to observe the Cotoneaster hedge maze come to life. Watch for butterflies, small birds, caterpillars, grasshoppers and ants going about their daily activities. Close your eyes and listen to the sounds of squirrels chattering, bees buzzing, the whirring of insect wings and rustling of leaves from the wind. Smell the fragrance from the nearby gardens. Feel nature's strength through your senses as it calms and relaxes you.



5 FORMAL GARDENS

These natural pollinators rest through the winter months and their seeds thaw in the early spring ready for renewed growth. This fragrant formal garden is an evolving mini-ecosystem attracting a wide variety of insects including pollinating bees, butterflies and dragonflies. The rich mosaic of native plants, prairie grasses and wildflowers blend well with the seasonal addition of annual bedding plants transplanted by Parks staff. This growing display is a fine example of how humans can conserve natural growth and use natural resources responsibly.



4 TERRESTRIAL VEGETATION

An abundance of deciduous and evergreen trees including pine, spruce and poplar mix well with the willows and ground cover vegetation. Species of fruit bearing shrubs include chokecherry, blueberry, raspberry, Saskatoon and strawberry. Organic matter rich with minerals are mixed together with the prairie soil by burrowing animals to create a rooting mixture. Spruce needles not fully decomposed combine with the moss leaving a highly acidic soil base. Lichen, mosses and native plants provide food sources and coverage. As the land rests beneath the snow cover of our cold winters, the soil's nutrients and organic matter are preserved. Vegetation stays rooted and adapts to the wintry conditions surrounding them. Some shed leaves and go dormant; others reduce water loss by growing thick coatings for protection.



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