

Battle River Watershed Alliance

BIG KNIFE PROVINCIAL PARK HABITAT TOUR

Overview –

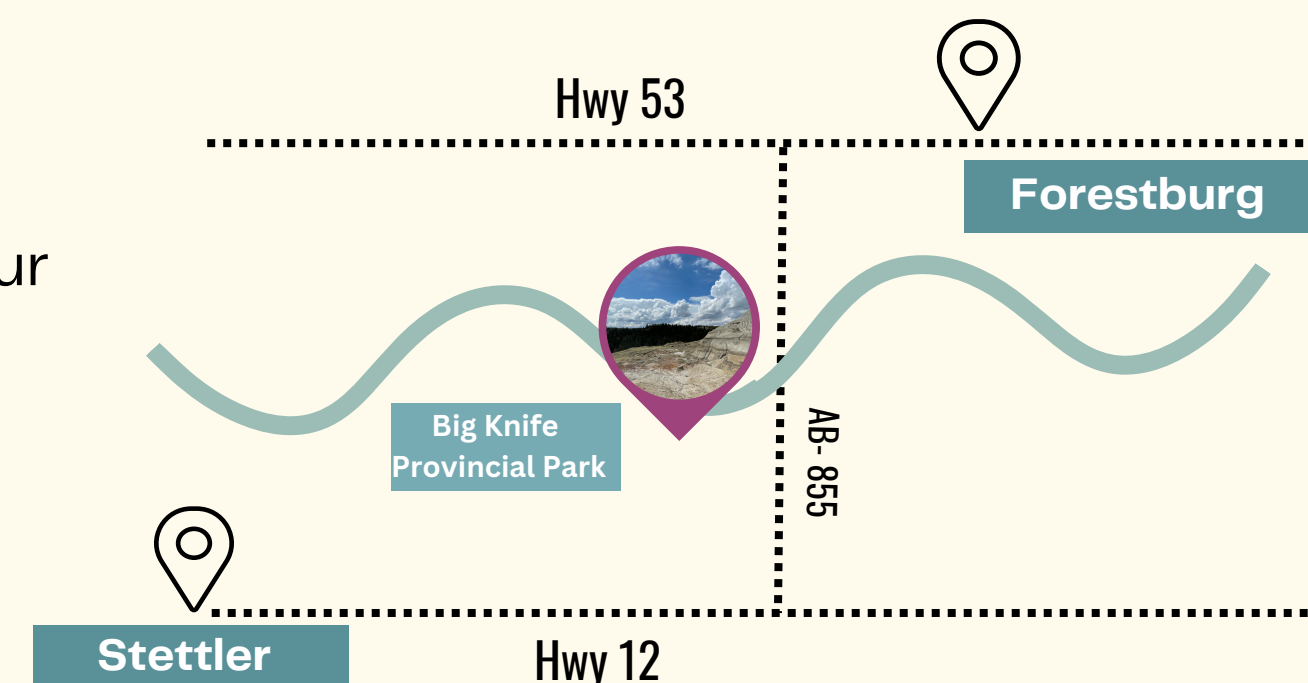
The Habitat Tour is a field trip program offered by the Battle River Watershed Alliance. The program brings grade six curriculum to life through a combination of activities, teaching, and observation of the ecosystems of central Alberta. Led by the BRWA education staff, the field trip is an outdoor learning experience which provides quality teacher resources and hands on learning for students. The length of the tour can be adjusted upon preference between 1.5 hours and an entire morning (roughly 3 hours.)

Location - Big Knife Provincial Park

The tour is located in Big Knife Provincial Park. Big Knife contains a variety of ecosystems and compliments the Habitat Tour's rich connections to Grade 6 curriculum through inviting students to have personal experiences and clear visuals of the content learned in the class.



Big Knife is southwest of Forestburg and within an hour of most schools in the Clearview area. The primary access road is Highway 53.



PROGRAM FOCUS

The tour is based on the most recent Grade 6 Curriculum and connects especially to the Earth and Living systems unit. Primary questions explored on the Habitat Tour are:

How does the continuous **change of climate** affect Alberta's ecoregions?

How does the **watershed** support habitats in Big Knife Provincial Park?

How does human activity impact **habitat**?

What influences and changes an **ecosystem**?

Tour Schedule

- Arrival
- Introductions + map exploration
- Ecosystem adventure hike (5 stops)
 - Each stop contains an educational and observational portion
 - Games, questions, and student led exploration occurs within and between stops
- Return to start + departure

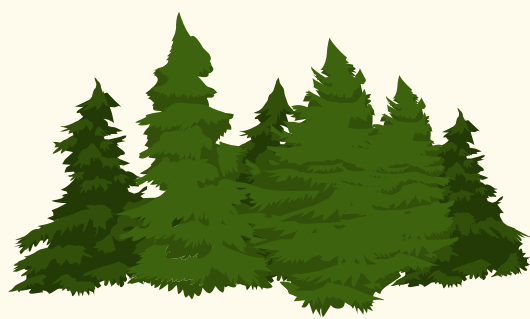
Book a Class Trip!

Tours will be ran in the Spring and Fall. Spots are subject to availability. For more information and to book visit: <https://bit.ly/3RuQZif>

Request a copy of the Teacher's Guide

Please email the BRWA Education Lead, subject line "BKHT Teacher's Guide" Kandra@battleriverwatershed.ca

Ecosystem Stop Details & Curriculum Links



STOP 1 - CONIFEROUS FOREST

Exploration and observation of forest with primarily cone bearing trees. Discussion of species specific habitats.

LEARNING OUTCOMES - LIVING SYSTEMS

- The components and characteristics of an ecosystem affect the diversity of the organisms that live in it.

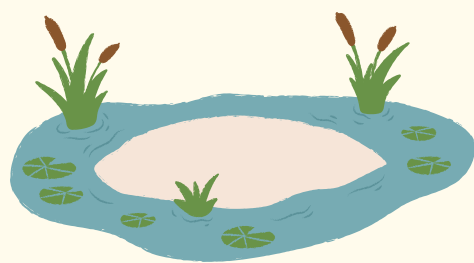


STOP 2 - ASPEN FOREST

Transition between boreal forest and grasslands. Investigation of the habitat and wildlife indicators.

LEARNING OUTCOMES - LIVING SYSTEMS

- Ecosystem components, especially focusing on signs of wildlife.
- Use of scientific method in exploration.

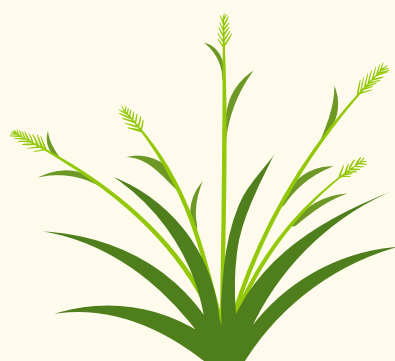


STOP 3 - WETLAND AND FRESHWATER AREAS

Explanation of riparian areas and the importance of riparian vegetation. Discussion of the components of a wetland.

LEARNING OUTCOMES - EARTH & LIVING SYSTEMS

- Micro-habitats
- Climate change affect on ecosystems
- Plant relationships within an ecosystem



STOP 4 - GRASSLANDS

Grassland ecosystem overview and discussion of importance of certain species to Indigenous peoples. Student exploration of plant diversity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES - LIVING SYSTEMS

- Ecosystem components
- Native vs. non-native species
- Plant biodiversity



STOP 5 - HOODOOS

Definition and formation of hoodoos. Major emphasis on student exploration and observation of ecosystem.

LEARNING OUTCOMES - LIVING SYSTEMS

- Interaction between abiotic and biotic components of an ecosystem
- Microhabitat diversity



The Habitat Tour is a rewarding educational experience with clear curriculum connections and the unique ability to bring classroom materials to life.

