



## Weaselhead Grade 9 Field Trip Teachers Guide Package "Biodiversity and Environmental Chemistry"

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***Thank you for your participation in our Grade 9 Weaselhead Education Program!***

The following items have been enclosed in the Teacher's Guide:

- A map of the Weaselhead
- Field trip outline
- Behavioural expectations
- Post field trip activity



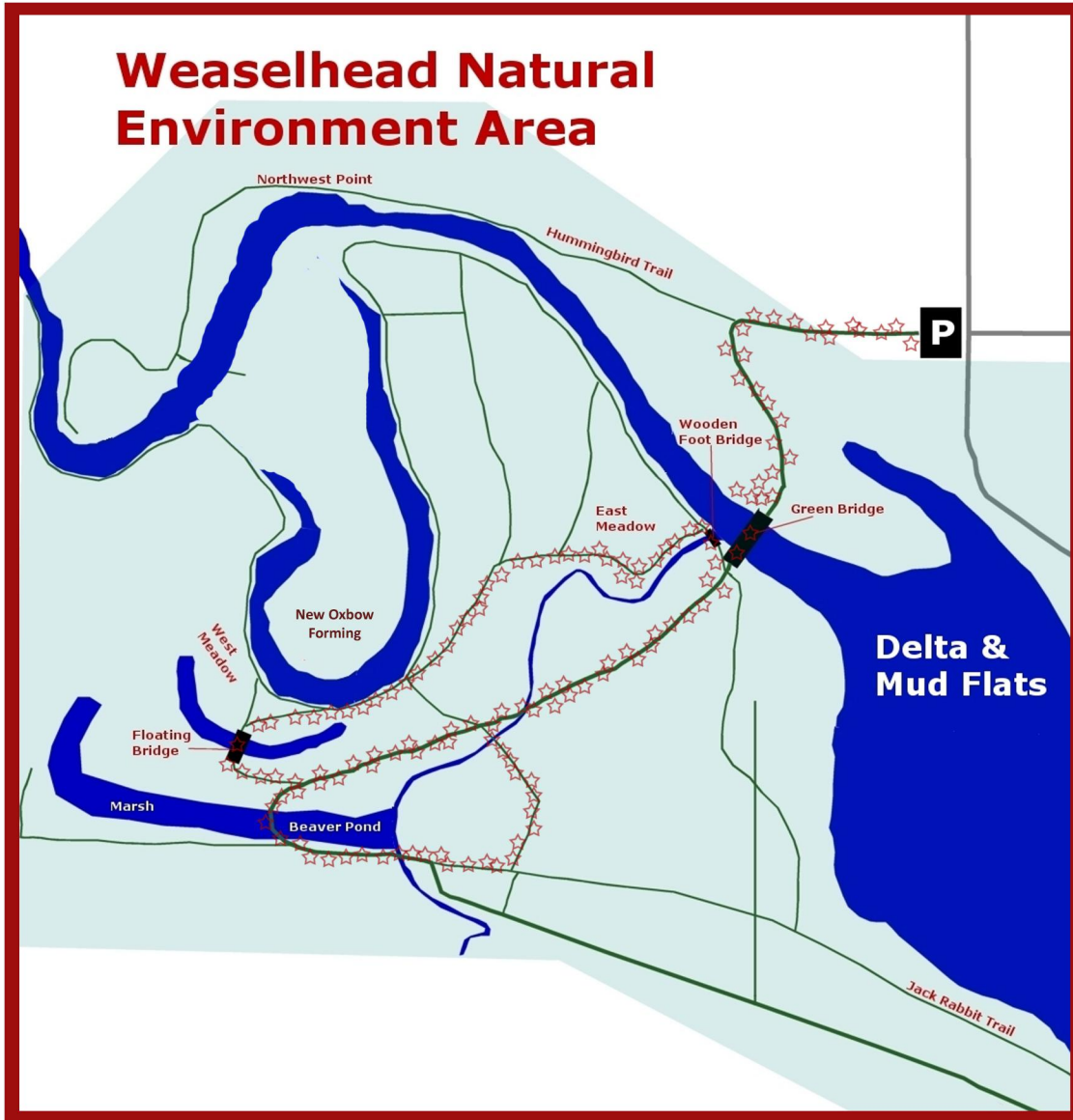
### **Pre-trip preparation:**

- Please have the students broken into 5 groups per class prior to the field trip.
- Students should bring their field journals or set up a field trip journal with scrap paper including the worksheets at the end of this document.
- If possible, have an adult leader (parent volunteer) per student group.
- View the Weaselhead Field Trip Introduction Power Point.

### **Participants should bring:**

- Appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather. Dress in layers.
- Water bottle.
- A snack and waste-free lunch for a full day field trip.
- Field journal/worksheets
- Pencil
- Something to write on (clipboard etc.)
- Something to sit on (example: grocery bag with newspaper in it and taped shut). Lunch is outside with no benches and you will be sitting on the ground.

***Note: This entire program is held outside with no indoor facilities. Students must be prepared for all weather and conditions. They will be hiking approximately 5 km on dirt trails on uneven terrain.***



Your group will be starting their hike at the North Glenmore parking lot (P) or the nearby Snow Owl picnic site. Hiking down into the valley and crossing the Green Bridge, the students will discover how the plant diversity changes with elevation and proximity to the water. We will explore approximately 5 km of trails, visiting the Beaver Lagoon across the Wooden Foot Bridge, the new Oxbow forming, the Oxbow Floating Bridge and the Beaver Pond.

## Field Trip Outline

Time	Activity
9:30	<b>School arrives at site</b> -Introduction of Naturalists -Go over behavioural expectations
9:40-10:00	<b>Lookout:</b> -The naturalists will go over the outline of the day, introduce biodiversity as well as invasive plants and their effects on biodiversity. -General overview of the watershed and water quality issues will be discussed
10:00-10:30	<b>Walking down the hill:</b> -Naturalists help students find examples of mutualism, parasitism and commensalism, and niches among local native shrubs, as well as sexual/vs. asexual reproduction in trees.
10:30-10:45	<b>Nutritional Break</b>
10:45-12:00	<b>Study of the Beaver Lagoon:</b> -Students will do abiotic water quality sampling -Students will do biotic water quality sampling, searching for bioindicators and comparing their results. -Sketch of plants and invertebrates -Discuss results and present to group.
12:00-12:30	<b>Lunch Break (no tables)</b>
12:30-1:30	<b>Study of the Oxbow</b> -Do a second biodiversity study at the Oxbow and compare findings at this wetland with it's lower dissolved oxygen content.
1:30-2:00	<b>Hike back to the bus</b> (times adjusted according to pick-up time)
2:00-2:30	<b>Educational Game and Wrap-up.</b>

\*Please note: this outline is adjusted by each Naturalist leader to accommodate distances between the classes. If there are 2 or 3 classes coming, we will be visiting different places at different times and may not see each other during the day. The above is just an example of a typical outline.

### **Behavioural Expectations of ALL Group Members:**

- Remain in the assigned group and keep in sight of supervisors at all times.
- There is always an adult leader in the lead and at the end of the group.
- NEVER remove natural items from the area. Vegetation, insect, mammal, bird and amphibian life is to be respected and left in the natural habitat.
- Leave no trace of our visit. All litter must be brought out by you.
- Unsafe behaviour such as tripping, wrestling, and teasing is unacceptable and may result in withdrawal from the activity.
- Cooperation by listening, participating in group discussions, observing and recording is expected during the learning experience.
- Each adult is expected to participate in the activities and to provide due safety and care for each of the students.

### **Post Field Trip Activities:**

- Contribute to water quality data in Alberta! You can enter your results from Weaselhead Natural area on this land use simulator.

Visit: Alberta Tomorrow website:

<http://albertatomorrow.ca/#education>