

Backgrounder

ROYAL SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM AND PARTNERS TO HOST BIOBLITZ CANADA 150: REGINA

BioBlitz Canada 150 (from bioblitzcanada.ca)

To mark Canada's 150th, BioBlitz Canada 150 will bring together the Canadian public with scientists to explore the richness of Canada's biodiversity and to engage our passion to know, celebrate and conserve our natural heritage.

The Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF), with BioBlitz Canada and other partners in conservation, will carry out a series of public bioblitzes across the nation.

Across Canada, 35 bioblitzes will include five flagship events in urban areas including Regina, Vancouver and Toronto, 20 community-scale events and 10 science-intense blitzes. We will document the species discovered from sea to sea to sea to create Canada's nature selfie.

Through this project new scientific data will be generated and new species will be documented which will help to inform choices on such issues such as climate change and loss of biodiversity. These discoveries will be showcased to the Canadian public, wildlife managers, conservation organizations, educational institutions and government agencies to shape conservation decisions and ensure these wild species and spaces remain for generations to come.

BioBlitz Canada 150: Regina – Schedule

Friday, June 9

7:00 pm	Saskatchewan Science Centre <i>Drop-in</i> Nature Crafts (7:00 pm to 9:00 pm) Wascana Ferry to Willow Island <u>Pre-register</u> Evening Insect Walk (2 hours) -- <i>Presented by SaskTel</i>
7:30 pm	Saskatchewan Science Centre <u>Pre-register</u> Bat House Building (7:30 pm to 9:00 pm) <u>Pre-register</u> Owl Calling Walk (1 hour)
8:00 pm	Saskatchewan Science Centre <u>Pre-register</u> Frog Calling Walk (1 hour)
9:00 pm	Saskatchewan Science Centre <i>Drop-in</i> Bat Presentation (1 hour) -- <i>Presented by PCAP Native Prairie Speaker Series</i>
10:00 pm	Habitat Conservation Area <i>Drop-in</i> Insect Light Trapping (2 hours)

Saturday, June 10

- 7:00 am Habitat Conservation Area
[Pre-register](#) Bird Walk (1 hour)
- 8:00 am Habitat Conservation Area
[Pre-register](#) Vertebrate Walk (1 hour)
- 9:00 am Habitat Conservation Area
[Pre-register](#) Bird Walk (1 hour • French)
[Pre-register](#) Insect Walk (1 hour)
Habitat Conservation Area
[Pre-register](#) Traditional Plants Walk (1 hour)
[Pre-register](#) Urban Ecology Walk (1 hour)
- 10:00 am Habitat Conservation Area
Drop-in BioBlitz Basecamp (10:00 am to 5:00 pm)
 - Registration
 - Watch scientists at work
 - Learn to use iNaturalist, and get assigned an area to search
Wascana Ferry to Willow Island
[Pre-register](#) Insect Walk (2 hours)
- 11:00 am Habitat Conservation Area
[Pre-register](#) Plant Walk (1 hour • English • French)
[Pre-register](#) Bird Walk (1 hour)
Habitat Conservation Area
[Pre-register](#) Vertebrate Walk (1 hour)
- 12:00 pm Habitat Conservation Area
Drop-in Pond Dipping, Turtle Viewing, Bug Catching, Worm Charming
(12:00 pm to 5:00 pm)
- 1:00 pm Habitat Conservation Area
[Pre-register](#) Bird Walk (1 hour)
[Pre-register](#) Plant Walk (1 hour)
- 2:00 pm Habitat Conservation Area
[Pre-register](#) Urban Ecology Walk (1 hour)
- 3:00 pm Habitat Conservation Area
[Pre-register](#) Bird Walk (1 hour • French)
- 4:00 pm Habitat Conservation Area
[Pre-register](#) Insect Walk (1 hour)
- 7:00 pm Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Drop-in Songs 4 Nature Concert (7:00 pm to 10:30 pm)

Wascana Centre Map



Helpful Information for *BioBlitz Canada 150: Regina Attendees*

Come Prepared

Come prepared for a day outdoors; proper footwear, hat, clothing, sunscreen, lunch/snacks and a water bottle. Portable washrooms will be available onsite at the Habitat Conservation Area and there are washrooms available at Leibel Field. Download the free iNaturalist app and join the BioBlitz Canada 150: Regina project to be prepared to enter your data from the blitz.

Parking

Parking is available at the Science Centre. Parking for the Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) can be found along McDonald St. and Assiniboine Ave. There is also a parking lot at Leibel Field. It is a very busy area. Avoid the mess of parking – walk, bike or take the bus! Bikes are not allowed in the HCA itself but can be locked together at BioBlitz Basecamp.

Be Kind

The Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) is a 23-acre site in Wascana Centre that has been set aside for wildlife, providing valuable habitat for various mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects and plants. Explore the HCA listening for the unique calls of the Bobolink, watch the pelicans glide above the water searching for a quick bite, see the turtles bask on the banks on a sunny day, or just come to enjoy being out in nature.

To preserve this gem, keep in mind:

- No dogs are allowed inside for the protection of wildlife, nests and young.
- No bicycles are allowed inside for the preservation of our trails and grassland habitat.
- Stay on the paths to prevent degradation to the surrounding habitat and the spread of invasive species.
- Please leave all natural material HCA and avoid breaking branches or picking plants; they are homes and food for wildlife.
- Strollers can be used inside as long as they stay on the pathways.

Songs for Nature

In May 2016, high school students throughout Saskatchewan were invited to apply for a year-long education and research program called Songwriting for Nature, developed by the RSM in partnership with Campion College at the University of Regina.

A dozen program participants were mentored by three local songwriters (Megan Nash, BreakOut West 2016 Western Canadian Music and Industry Award Nominee (Songwriter of the Year), RSM Curator of Human Ecology and accomplished musician Glenn Sutter, and Regina-based singer/songwriter Ryan Hicks) to generate song ideas and lyrics inspired by the Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area (NWA).

During weekend workshops at the NWA in September 2016 and May 2017, students learned about song structure and strategies for crafting lyrics and melodies. They also learned

techniques for capturing their impressions of nature and contributed to research about creativity and nature connection.

The project has culminated with an exhibit and a final concert. The new exhibit, called Nature Inspires, features recordings of the students' songs and is now open at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM). During a free concert on June 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the RSM, the students and their mentors will perform songs created through the project at the Songwriting for Nature Wind-Up Show.

This Songwriting for Nature project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Department of Environment and Climate Change. Learn more at www.songs4nature.ca, through the [Songwriting 4 Nature Facebook page](#), or via the podcast at <http://saskscapes.libsyn.com>.