

Eagle Point Nature News

Adventure Awaits....

www.epbrparksCouncil.org



Spring, 2022



Signs of Spring Edition

Kathy Schwengler, Education & Outreach Coordinator,
Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council

"Nothing ever seems impossible in spring, you know!" L.M. Montgomery

It's great to see the snow melting after a long winter! Spring is the very best time to teach your kids about buoyancy by building some miniature rafts and puddle boats! We've got a youtube video you can watch to get ideas!

While you're outdoors, watch for migrating birds returning to the area and Parks! Geese, robins, starlings, varied thrushes and crows are here already!

On another spring note, hibernators (bears, skunks) will be out and about so take extra care when you're on the trails. Keep your dog on a leash and consider carrying a small air horn and/or bear spray in case you run into one on the trail.

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UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR PARKS





GLOBAL BIG DAY

with the
Eagle Point Team
May 14, 2022

**Join us on our
5th Annual
Global Big Day
Bird Count!**

The data we collect helps scientists understand bird populations, bird migration and birds at risk across our planet!

You can count bird species and numbers from your backyard or your neighbourhood or join us on the bird tour!

For more information on how to join, you can email us at outreach@epbrparks council.org, call us at 780-898-7275 or visit the webpage at www.epbrparks council.org/events/global-big-day-2022/

**Global Big Day
Bird Tour
Schedule:**

7:30 am
Hilltop Trailhead to Willey West Campground

9:30 am
Blue Rapids Prov. Rec. Area Wetlands

11:30 am
Buck Creek area

1:00 pm
Alder Flats/Buck Lake Fish & Game Group Campground to Buck Lake Provincial Park






Virtual Trail Series!

- * MAY 14 RACE
- * JUNE 18 RACE
- * JULY 23 RACE

OPEN TO ALL AGES AND ABILITIES!
PRIZES & MEDALS FOR WINNING TIMES!

REGISTER AT
www.epbrparks council.org/events/the-eagle-trail-triple-2022/
OR CALL
780-898-7275
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

GUARDIANS OF THE PARKS SUMMER DAY CAMPS:



July 18 to 21 for 9 to 12 year olds

July 26 to 28, 2022 for 6 to 8 year olds

Registration opens on April 6, 2022.



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5 SPRING ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY! *New and Revisited Ideas!*

1. BUILD AND TEST PUDDLE RAFTS



Spring isn't spring without some puddles to play in! Watch our **PUDDLE RAFTS YouTube video** for ideas on how to build 3 kinds of puddle rafts, or get inspired to test your own ideas. Kids can experiment with different materials buoyancy - wood, bottle caps, plastic, cardboard, etc. Decorate your rafts with feathers or leaves or home made flags.

2. BUILD A BIRD HOUSE



Many birds who return to Alberta for the spring nesting season appreciate bird houses! Tree swallows, purple martins, bluebirds, wrens - even some species of ducks will make use of a man-made birdhouse. Visit [Ellis Bird Farm](#) to download bird house plans or purchase a bird house kit. Remember that the size of the entrance hole will invite certain birds to enter the nest box.

3. CHECK OUT THE TRAILS IN EAGLE POINT PROVINCIAL PARK

Spring means longer daylight hours and warmer weather! Enjoy Alberta's spectacular sunsets & spring evenings by taking the family out for an afternoon hike in Eagle Point Provincial Park. Remember to dress properly and make sure you've got rubber boots!

4. START YOUR OWN NATURE JOURNAL

Spring is the perfect time to begin a Nature Journal! Journalling is a great way to form a deeper, more personal connection to our natural world and can help relieve anxiety and stress while developing our senses. You can use a lined or plain notebook or [download our free My Nature Journal](#). Print off the booklet or just the pages that inspire you.

5. DISCOVER BIRDS!

There is no better time than spring to take up the hobby of birding! Migrating birds return from their southern and coastal habitats from early March to mid May and we are wake to a morning chorus of robins, sparrows, warblers, black-birds and more! Get a Bird Identification book or app, borrow or buy a pair of binoculars, head out to your nearest trail or wetlands, park or backyard. We encourage new birders to participate in [Global Big Day on May 14/2022](#) with our Eagle Point team!

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Thinking about venturing into the wilderness this spring? Whether you're a new visitor or not, familiarize yourself with [Leave No Trace](#) Seven Principles for Outdoor Ethics.

- ◆ Plan Ahead and Prepare
- ◆ Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- ◆ Dispose of Waste Properly
- ◆ Leave What You Find
- ◆ Minimize Campfire Impacts
- ◆ Respect Wildlife
- ◆ Be Considerate of Others



Which animal made the bigger track in the mud?

- a. Deer
- b. Black Bear
- c. Lynx
- d. Great Horned Owl

b. black bear

Heading out to our two Parks this spring? Show us what you love about our Parks with your photographs by tagging us at [#iloveEPBRParks](#)





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Questions or Suggestions?

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Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council

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Visit our website:
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DON'T MISS OUR NEXT ISSUE!**

Enjoy these informative Links!

- ❖ **LEAVE NO TRACE** Outdoor recreation comes with responsibility. Explore without harm.
- ❖ **24 Egg Painting Ideas for Easter!**
- ❖ **Geocaching.com** - Discover Geocaching! A worldwide, year round scavenger hunt and it's free!
- ❖ **Birding in the Drayton Valley Area** - the what & how of birding, plus tips on where to find various bird species in our area.
- ❖ **Nestwatch** Where Birds Come to Life! Awesome website for the family.
- ❖ Remember **HINTERLANDS WHO'S WHO?** Updated & interactive stuff for kids who like animals and nature.

Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council thanks our supporters for their continued support of our programs! Our featured supporter of our Spring 2022 edition is Intercon Messaging.

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