



GRAVES WILDLIFE SANCTUARY TRAIL

Nature Species Count



Tally how many species in each category you can find! Bonus: Can you name them?

Pollinators



Pollinators can be many different shapes and sizes. Pollinators travel from flower to flower carrying pollen - helping to sustain our plant populations. Insects like bees and butterflies and even birds like hummingbirds are all examples of pollinators.

Mushrooms



While we might think of mushrooms as a plant, they are their own unique group. Instead of using sunlight for energy (photosynthesis), they absorb nutrients by using enzymes that break down their surroundings into nutrients. Look on the ground, on tree trunks, and on fallen logs for mushrooms, but be careful! Mushrooms can be poisonous and so can their spores - so do not handle them.

Birds



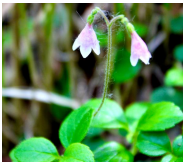
There are so many birds to be found at the Graves Wildlife Sanctuary Trail! You may find familiar birds like Robins and Chickadees - or maybe even something new like a Least Flycatcher. The trick for finding the most birds is to not only look, but listen. Every species of bird has a unique song.

Native Grasses



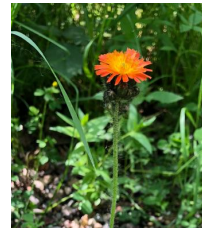
Did you know that we have dozens of native grasses in Alberta? Grasses are important to much of our wildlife, acting as a food source, a nesting spot, and more. Look at the shape, color, and if present, the seeds at the top of the grass to help you tell them apart.

Flowers



Spring and summer are the best times to go searching for flowers. Flowers will show up in all sorts of places - close to the ground growing on soft green stems or even on shrubs. You should be able to find many different types of flowers - but remember that many plants are not safe to be handled, so observe and take photos, but leave them untouched.

Invasive Plants/ Weeds



"Invasive plants" is the technical term for what most of us call weeds. These plants are not naturally from the area and can cause problems for native species as they outcompete for resources - causing problems for the native species. Orange Hawkweed is an example of an invasive species.

INSTRUCTIONS : Download and print the PLWA Nature Explorer Trail Series Challenge Card for the trail you are visiting. Go on a nature walk with friends and family at one of the feature trails at Pigeon Lake: Rundle's Mission, Graves Nature Sanctuary, and the Village at Pigeon Lake Walking Trail. Complete the Challenge Card as you go. Share your adventure with us! Through social media or email info@plwa