

ADVENTURES EVERY DAY

Nearby Nature School Program

This half-day program offers carbon-conscious, curriculum-connected adventures for students in grades 4 - 8 in the natural spaces closest to them.

Walking trips to city parks, trails and natural features closest to schools will feature nature interpretation, grade-specific curriculum connections, community-building activities and hands-on exploration. Led by experienced teachers and outdoor educators, the Nearby Nature programme will create meaningful and multi-modal outdoor learning experiences while building capacity with HWDSB staff to empower them and their students to seek the great benefits of outdoor education independently.

Sample program at Bennetto School

9:15 Meet class and teacher in classroom, share map of walking route and review safe walking expectations, minds on for curriculum connection e.g. How many different kinds of trees can you observe on our walk to the Park?

9:35 Walk to Bayfront Park

10:00 Site orientation scavenger hunt in defined area

10:30 Guided walk with student participation and curriculum connections may involve taking photos, collecting artifacts or recording observations

11:30 Community-creating activity e.g. joint art project, co-operative game

12:00 Walk back to Bennetto, de-brief and share exit survey with teacher

12:30 Program End

AED values process over product and feelings of connection over mastery of fact. We aim to guide all educators to uncover learning and connection with their students rather than seeking completion and perfection of academic tasks.

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School	Park or Nature Space
Bennetto, Hess Street	Bayfront Park
Westwood, Westview	Captain Cornelius Park
Memorial, Adelaide Hoodless	Gage Park
Kanetskare, Earl Kitchener	Highland Gardens Park, Bruce Trail
Hillcrest	Red Hill Trail
Cootes Paradise	Churchill Park, RBG North Shore Trails

Curriculum Connections

Grade 4	Habitats and Communities B2. Exploring and Understanding Concepts: demonstrate an understanding of habitats and communities and of interrelationships among the organisms that live in them
Grade 5	Human and Environmental Health B1. Relating Science and Technology to Our Changing World: analyse impacts of various social and environmental factors, human activities, and technologies on human health
Grade 6	Biodiversity and Invasive species B2. Exploring and Understanding Concepts: demonstrate an understanding of biodiversity, its contributions to the stability of natural systems, and its benefits to humans
Grade 7	Relationships in the Environment B2. Exploring and Understanding Concepts: demonstrate an understanding of interactions between and among biotic and abiotic components in the environment
Grade 8	Water systems E2. Exploring and Understanding Concepts: demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of Earth's water systems and of factors that affect these systems