

Native Orchid Conservation Inc.
Camp Morton Provincial Park Field Trip, May 30, 2015

Camp Morton is named after Monsignor Thomas W. Morton who developed the area in 1920 as a summer camp for Roman Catholic children. Morton arrived from England in 1919 to become rector of St. Mary's Cathedral in Winnipeg. He devoted much of his time, funds and energy to establish the children's camp with its ornate buildings and gardens. Daily mass and prayers were an important routine of the camp. The recreation hall was used for arts and crafts. Baseball, tennis, soccer and swimming were the favourite physical activities. Throughout the summer, visitors strolled through the flower-adorned garden and swam in the lake. The camp operated until the late 1960s when a decline in interest led to its closure. In 1974 Camp Morton and the adjacent lands were designated a provincial recreation park, now complete with cross-country ski and snowshoe trails (which we shall investigate).

Early spring to June is the best time to hear frogs and songbirds. You can also walk along the shoreline and discover its varied wildlife. Near and on the water, terns, gulls and American white pelicans are commonly seen. Out over the water you may catch a glimpse of an osprey in action, fishing for a meal. Bald eagles pass by here as well during their spring and fall migrations. Walk the woodland trails and discover the plants and animals of the Interlake's mixed boreal forest. White spruce are mixed with aspen, oak, ash, balsam poplar and Manitoba maple. Shrubs include saskatoon, high bush-cranberry, hazel and mountain maple.

Species list - potential sitings

Ram's-head lady's-slipper (<i>Cypripedium arietinum</i>) – globally rare, S2 species	
Small yellow lady's-slipper (<i>C. parviflorum</i> var <i>makasin</i>)	
Large yellow lady's-slipper (<i>C. parviflorum</i> var <i>pubescens</i>)	
Showy lady's-slipper (<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>)	
Black snakeroot (<i>Sanicula marilandica</i>)	
Twisted stalk lily (<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>)	
Palmate-leaved coltsfoot (<i>Petasites palmatus</i>)	
Pussy toes (<i>Antennaria microphylla</i>)	Wild rose (<i>Rosa</i> sp.)
Wintergreen (<i>Pyrola virens</i>)	River birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>)
Wild strawberry (<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>)	Gooseberry (<i>Ribes oxycanthoides</i>)
Canada mayflower (<i>Maianthemum canadensis</i>)	Sarsaparilla (<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>)
False solomon's seal (<i>Smilacina stellata</i>)	Nodding trillium (<i>Trillium cernuum</i>)
Balsam (black) poplar (<i>Populus balsamifera</i>)	
Goldenrod (<i>Solidago canadensis</i>)	
Wild Columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>)	Baltimore oriole
Marsh marigolds (<i>Caltha palustris</i>)	American red-start
Canada anemone (<i>Anemone Canadensis</i>)	Black & white warbler
Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus rhomboideus</i>)	Boreal chorus frog
Burdock (<i>Arctium</i>)	Yellow rumped warbler
Bishop's cap (<i>Mitella nuda</i>)	Oven bird
Harebell (<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>)	Brown-headed cow bird
Horsetail (<i>Equisetum</i> ssp.)	King bird
Early blue violet (<i>Viola adunca</i>)	Yellow warbler
Yellow violets	Beaver lodge & recent activity