



Ojibway Prairie Complex

Natural Heritage

With numerous protected wildlife habitats, woodlands, reserves, conservations areas, and its southern latitude, it is no surprise that Windsor is a rarity in Canada - a city rich in biodiversity.

The Prairie ecosystem once extended over much of southern Ontario. The Prairie landscape was characterized by fields of tall grasses. The poor sandy soils left a distinct lack of trees; instead in their place you will find native grasses, wildflowers, and rare birds and animals.

Through natural and manmade fires, the landscape fought off larger trees for thousands of years. However, it is estimated that less than 0.5% of the original

prairies ecosystem exists in all of southwestern Ontario.

One of these remnants, the Ojibway Prairie Complex is a 350-hectare nature reserve partly located on the west side of Windsor.

Over 200 species of birds have been recorded in this reserve, and as an active migration route, the complex attracts serious birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts.

Even for the untrained eye, you might catch a glimpse of the Tufted Titmouse with its rust coloured sides and prominent grey crest. Easily spotted, the brilliant turquoise Indigo

Bunting is also a common sight during their summers feasting in the prairie landscape.

Not to be outdone, flocks of Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles have made nests under the Ambassador Bridge, and can be viewed from University Avenue.

Butterflies and moths also are numerous, with a list of over 300 species in the Ojibway area. The massive migration of tiny Monarch Butterflies can be experienced in a small way at the Ojibway Nature Centre before they make the giant trek through Pelee Island and then 3,000 km south to Mexico for winter.

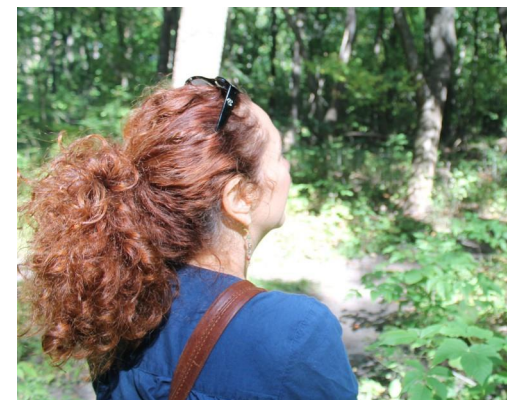
Open seven days a week, there is no charge to visit the newly reconstructed Ojibway Park Nature Centre.



Students participate in a hawk release at Ojibway



Owls at Ojibway



Walking the Ojibway trails