Have you ever seen a black bear up close? A moose or bald eagle? These are just three of the many animals and birds awaiting you at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park. Housing both native Nova Scotian species and exotic ones, the park gives you the opportunity to see and learn about these amazing creatures in an easily walkable outdoor setting. The park is home to over 75 species—like osprey, mink, cougar and reindeer—spread out over 40 hectares of country. Many of our animals were born and raised in captivity. Others make their home here due to injuries that would prevent them from making a successful return to the wild. Interpretive signs, education programs, and knowledgeable park staff can tell you all about the wildlife exhibits. Make sure you don’t miss the wonderful Sable Island horses—seen only here and on Sable Island itself.
Bringing nature to Nova Scotians and visitors for over 50 years

Since its opening in 1954, the park has grown and evolved as Nova Scotia’s premier wildlife destination. Some things stay the same—the magnificent peacocks still stroll the grounds, dozens of waterfowl swim in the central ponds. Others are more recent developments, like enlarged enclosures making use of natural elements and terrain, the interpretive centre and ecosystems display, and walking trails through neighbouring wetlands.

Following the park’s mission of education and conservation, programs are available for school classes and groups, matching school curriculum from early grades to high school. Students can explore topics like animal growth and changes, adaptations, species at risk, habitat, biodiversity and wetland ecosystems.

It’s educational. It’s relaxing. It’s fun. As you stroll the park’s two kilometers of tree-lined gravel paths, you can watch the children run ahead, delight on their faces as they reach the next exhibit. It’s an experience they will enjoy time and time again. The chance to feed a deer, watch the antics of otters or foxes, or maybe see a moose up close. Watch your feet as squirrels scamper freely through the park. Children will have so much fun, they don’t realize they’re learning.

Did you know that wetlands provide homes for as many as 600 species of wildlife in Canada; provide clean drinking water; and reduce greenhouse gases? Come explore the wetlands trail and the Greenwing Legacy Interpretive Centre located in the park near the entrance. Walk the wheelchair-accessible paths that wind nearly 1 km through the wetlands. Stop at the observation areas—you’ll have a front row seat to see some of those creatures yourself. Ducks, frogs and dragonflies are the easy ones. But can you see others? To learn more about wetlands and the small and large creatures that live here, head to the Greenwing Centre—opened in 2006 as a partnership of Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia. The Centre has activities and interactive displays that explain the value of wetlands in a way that’s engaging for all ages. Look at “marsh monsters”—a video microscope that gives you an up-close view of water creatures. Meet some wetland frogs or snakes. With the push of a button, see how wetlands act like sponges to help reduce flooding, or how they serve as natural filters to clean water. You’ll be amazed at the wonder of wetlands.

Four seasons to enjoy

You can enjoy the wildlife park year round—it’s a different experience each season. In Winter, while the fields are covered in snow, a visit to the park is ideal way to enjoy the fresh air. Watch how some of the animals look and act when the weather is colder—many are more visible and more active than on hot summer days. For others, you’ll get a chance to see their new coats, like the Arctic fox whose fur turns winter white. And of course, with Spring comes the arrival of young animals.

Make a day of it

Dine in or eat out. Before or after your visit, why not plan to have lunch at one of the area restaurants or have a picnic in the park. Our 10-hectare picnic area has sheltered tables, water and toilets, plus lots of room for the children to run. Big and little kids enjoy our wonderful playground, one of the largest in Nova Scotia. Just inside the park entrance you’ll find large, clean, modern washrooms with infant change tables.

Discover the wonder of wetlands

Millions of people have visited the park over the years, and shared in its magic.