

# Scout Island Nature Center

## Scout Island

Scout Island is located on the west end of Williams Lake and is accessed by a causeway linking the island to the main shore. The result of the construction of the causeway many years ago was the creation of marsh, marginal land, and a perfect environment for migratory birds. Dense shrub thickets, mature trees and wild grass surround the edges of the island and provide a home to a spectacular diversity of birds and other wildlife. Redwing and yellow headed blackbirds, marsh wrens, geese and a variety of ducks and other water birds nest in the marsh and cattails bordering the island while Great Blue Herons, kingfishers and osprey hunt for fish in the shallows.



Photo courtesy Diane Campe

## The Nature House

The Nature House is also located on the island. It is open daily from May through August and features natural history displays and exhibits as well as a nature bookstore and library.

There is a viewing platform on the roof of the Nature House that allows a clear view of the surrounding marsh, Williams Lake River flowing into the lake and the birds and wildlife on the island.



During the summer naturalists provide nature discovery programs for children so that they can learn all about insects, mammals, fish, reptiles, birds and plants. Presenters from various clubs often hold workshops for adults as well. Call to find out what's available and to Pre-register.



There are numerous trails on the island, many dotted with comfortable benches to sit on to rest, or from which to watch the myriad wild occupants of Scout Island. There are a number of large signs on the island identifying the birds and wildlife that can be found there as well as a number of small interpretive signs, including signs identifying the wild trees and shrubs along the way.



The Nature Center also provides the usual facilities and a number of picnic tables where you can relax in the sun and feed the gulls. Parking is ample as well, starting right out at the end of the causeway where you can view birds feeding on fish to several different parking spots on the island itself. Scout Island Nature Center is open year round from 8:00 am to dusk. Dogs are permitted on the trails on leash.

Scout Island Nature Center is sponsored by:



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