

Quick Facts: Parks

- More than 12.5 per cent of Alberta is designated as national or provincial parks (8.3 per cent - national parks, 4.2 per cent – provincial parks).
- The Alberta Parks system protects more than 27,600 square km of the province. That's more than four times the size of Prince Edward Island.
- The Lower Athabasca Regional Plan includes the creation of 14 new and expanded wildland provincial parks and recreation areas, which will be an increase of 12,400 square km (45 per cent) to the Alberta Parks system.
- Visitors to Alberta's provincial parks generate a provincewide economic impact of \$1.2 billion.
- There are about 250 campgrounds with nearly 14,000 campsites in the Alberta Parks system.
- In 2014, approximately 7,279 campsites will be available on the ReserveAlbertaParks.ca (RAP) website, of which almost 5,500 sites can be reserved. Remaining sites on RAP are first come, first serve.
- 66 provincial campgrounds, 152 Group Camping areas and 17 Comfort Camping units accept reservations online at Reserve.AlbertaParks.ca or by phone by calling 1 877 537-2757. Total Reserve.AlbertaParks.ca user accounts: 301,494.
- 119,614 campsite and group camp area reservations were made in 2013. Net payments received in 2013: just over \$14.3 million.
- In the last 10 years, the government has invested just over \$300 million towards repairing, upgrading and replacing provincial park facilities and infrastructure.
- Alberta has some of the largest urban parks in the country, including Lois Hole Centennial (St. Albert) and Fish Creek (Calgary) Provincial Parks.
- Alberta is home to four internationally significant wetlands; two are in our provincial parks system (Beaverhill Lake and Hay-Zama Lake).

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- Provincial parks provide access to some of the most spectacular natural landscapes on our planet, including:
 - one of the richest dinosaur finds in the world, at Dinosaur Provincial Park – a UNESCO World Heritage Site;
 - the largest collection of Aboriginal rock art on the North American Plains, at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park – a National Historic Site of Canada; and
 - one of Canada's most northerly bird observatories at Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park.
- Caribou Mountains Wildland Provincial Park is Alberta's largest provincial park, at approximately 591,000 ha. The smallest is Egg Island Ecological Reserve, at 0.36ha – half the size of a city block.
- Kananaskis Country Public Safety Team members are internationally certified mountain guides who lead a public safety team of Conservation Officers and other responders on an average of 300 incidents annually.
- Dark Sky Preserves protect the nocturnal environment, using responsible lighting practices to preserve the natural darkness of the area. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park is one of the largest preserves in North America, covering 39,600 hectares – that's 97,850 football fields.
- Annually, 2,500 Albertans and 75 non-profit organizations contribute 100,000 volunteer hours to provincial parks – representing about a \$2 million contribution. Additionally, in response to the 2013 flood, over 650 Albertans and 50 corporations/non-profit organizations registered to support recovery efforts in impacted parks.