**Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area**

**The 97 square kilometre Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area contains bokstick forests, pastures and wetlands. It is a multiple use area that supports a variety of activities, including agriculture, wildlife management, natural gas extraction and outdoor recreation.**

Active wildlife management programs in the area have created a wide range of habitats that support numerous wildlife species. Winter recreation opportunities include horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and fat biking. The area provides excellent wildlife viewing opportunities along its more than 170 km of maintained trails.

Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area is the site of the Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival, held each year in February.

**Trail Information**

**Trail Conditions**
- Winter trail conditions vary depending on snowfall amounts, temperature fluctuations and levels of trail use.
- Trail grooming staff will work hard to ensure trails are managed accordingly.
- Typical trails between Waskehegan and Islet Lake staging areas are groomed first.
- Be sure to check trail reports before you head out at albertaparks.ca/trailsreport

**Cross-Country Ski Trails**
- Dogs are not permitted on track-set trails.
- Trails are packed and groomed regularly, as snow conditions warrant.
- There are trails for both novice and advanced skiers; 65 km track-set, 35 km packed for sking, and numerous non-groomed trails.
- Many trails are double-tracked for 2-way traffic. Some warm-up shelters are provided along trails. Please extinguish fires when you leave. Skiers should keep left when passing and step off to the right when stopping. Downhill traffic has right-of-way. Use caution when approaching steep slopes and bridges.

**Equestrian Trails**
- Features, alleys and winter equestrian trails may be used for horseback riding (alleys are also used by snowmobilers).
- For a quieter ride, use marked equestrian trails from Central and Waskehegan Staging Areas.
- Blackfoot Staging Area trails are closed to horses Dec 1 to Mar 31.

**Dogsledding**
- Available from Blackfoot Staging Area.
- Snowmobiling
  - Snowmobiling is permitted only when there is at least 30 cm of compacted snow.
  - Waskehegan Staging Area offers the only access point for snowmobiling. Snow machines must be transported to the staging area on trailers.
- Selected fields are open for use when there is sufficient snow, as indicated by signs at each field entrance.
- Central Alleway also allows snowmobiling.
- Snowmobiles use not allowed on easurian, cross-country ski and boundary trails.

**Waskehegan Staging Area**
The first four loops follow gently undulating terrain for 14 km and are ideal for families with children. Red stops are spaced along the first three loops and there’s a larger shelter at Lost Lake/Meadow junction. Pockets of spruce in low areas along trails are evidence of the mixed boreal forest that used to dominate this area.

**Ski Trails**
- Detour (2.1 km) shortens Wanisan loop, following ungulate fence on the inside.
- To prevent travel problems and conflicts with other users, please respect all cautionary and trail closure signs.

**Snowshoeing** and fat biking are not allowed on track-set ski trails.

**Hunting**
- During hunting season, a valid hunting license is required for the kind of wildlife and the wildlife management unit to which the open season applies. Indigenous hunting is allowed in the area year-round.
- Dogs are not permitted within 400 metres of staging areas or within 200 metres of blackcrown shields. Boundaries are identified by bright orange-yellow signs.
- Note: under the Provincial Parks Act, bows are considered to be firearms.
- Discharge Permits are available at the Blackfoot Recreation Area Administration office (780-822-3393). If no office is in the office, leave your name and number for contact.

**Safety**

In an emergency, locate the nearest trail map sign for emergency contact numbers.

Travel on recreation area trails can be hazardous. Weather can change quickly. Many of the trails are remote and are not patrolled on a regular basis. It is important that you be prepared or carrying the following in your pack or saddlebag:
- first aid kit
- warm clothes
- extra food and drinks
- headlamp or flashlight
- lighter or matches

**Contact**

**Information**
Phone: 780-922-3393

**General Provincial Park Information**
Web: albertaparks.ca
Toll Free: 1-877-252-3757

**Fire Bans in Alberta**
Web: alberta.ca

**Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)**
Phone: 911