

FACTS ON

Sundance Provincial Park

Sundance Provincial Park, designated by the Minister of Alberta Environment on April 28 1999, adds 3 712 ha (9 172 acres) to Alberta's network of parks and protected areas.



The park was designated under the Special Places program, which is the government's strategy to

complete a network of protected areas that preserve representative examples of Alberta's six natural regions.

Alberta's provincial parks preserve significant natural landscapes and features. They are perfect settings for nature-based outdoor recreation and are fun and exciting places to explore and learn about the natural world.

The Sundance Park Management Plan was initiated in the fall of 2000 and is being developed in consultation with park users, industry, aboriginal communities, government agencies and the general public. This plan will provide direction and guide park management and protection.

Site Description and Location

Sundance Provincial Park is located northwest of Edson, in the Foothills Natural Region. The park stretches from the Emerson Creek Road in the northwest, south through Sundance Canyon and Marl Bog, to the aspen uplands in the southeast, reaching its southern-most boundary at Hwy. 16.

The park is made up of two areas, the Sundance Valley along Sundance Creek and Emerson Lakes to the west. A unique 500 metre Special Management Zone surrounds the park, providing a transition zone between the park and the surrounding area. Activities and resources in this zone will be managed to enhance the ecological integrity of the park.

Sundance Provincial Park protects diverse landscapes. It contains moist, old growth spruce/fir woodlands and is one the most scenic areas in the lower foothills.

Spectacular sandstone cliffs, steep valley walls and hoodoos, and an important and fascinating wetland complex are just a few of the sights that await park visitors. The park is home to moose, deer, elk, bear, cougar and a variety of birds and waterfowl, all of which are common to Alberta's foothills.

Significant Features

The Sundance Valley was formed by meltwaters rushing off a receding glacier. This created a unique channel known as **Sundance Creek**, which winds along the valley bottom from **Sundance** and **Beaver Lakes**.

High above these lakes are the **Sundance Hoodoos**, a "Special Feature of Alberta", among the most unique



sandstone sculptures in the province. You can view these hoodoos by hiking

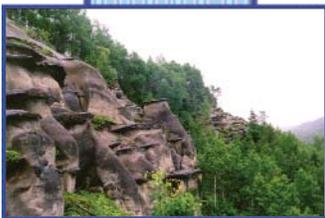
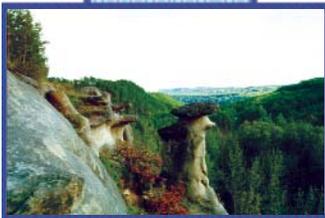
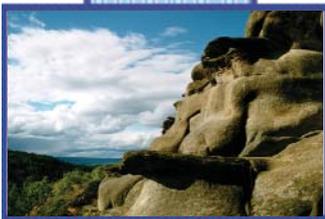
the **Wild Sculpture Trail**. The trail winds through the forest and leads to three peaceful lakes, where you'll find a small number of walk-in campsites. Explorers will also discover several unusual plant communities, as well as an old growth white spruce forest.

Sundance Provincial Park contains a variety of native fish species including mountain whitefish, Arctic grayling, northern pike, burbot and bull trout. Rainbow, brook and brown trout have also been introduced through stocking programs to provide additional recreational fishing opportunities.

At **Emerson Lakes**, a network of beautiful clear lakes can be found nestled in a peaceful oasis. Approximately 7 km of hiking trails circle three of the lakes, offering a variety of scenic viewpoints. This popular camping spot provides anglers with good fishing for brook trout. Gas powered motors are not permitted on Emerson Lakes.



Marl Bog is a provincially significant site where 12 different species of orchids have been found, including the rare bog adder's mouth (*Malaxis paludosa*) and five different species of carnivorous plants (some of which are also considered rare). Unique aquatic plants, sedges, rushes, mosses and ferns are also found here. These rare species of flora thrive in the area because of a combination of unique soils and hydrology (water quality/quantity). To help preserve this sensitive site, please be careful and travel by foot when visiting this area.



Recreational Activities

Sundance Provincial Park is a spectacular setting for hiking, horseback riding, fishing, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, camping and cross country skiing. Emerson Lakes is a popular destination, where campers and day users will experience diverse and scenic landscapes. Basic camping and picnic facilities are provided. Although hunting seasons formerly occurred in the area of Sundance Provincial Park, it is no longer permitted.

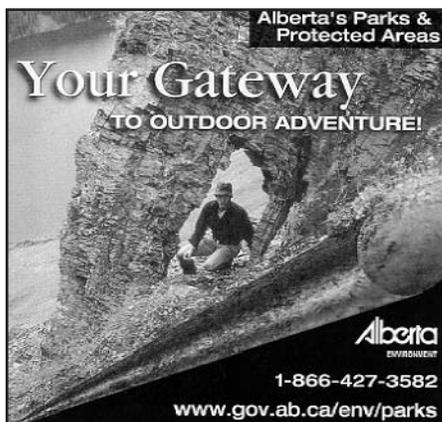


Trail and Access Information

An extensive network of trails winds through the forest and valleys. The trails, camping facilities at Emerson Lakes and the backcountry campsites along Sundance Lake are maintained by Weldwood of Canada (Hinton Division).



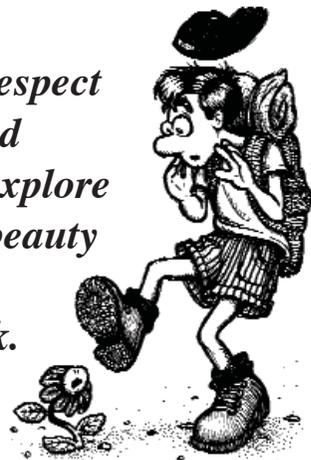
For information on designated trails and access into Sundance Provincial Park, please refer to the map provided or call (780) 723-8244 in Edson.



To learn more about Alberta's parks and protected areas, visit your "Gateway to Outdoor Adventure". This dynamic website is a trip planning tool that will allow public access to the Park Sites and Facilities database.

For more

Remember to respect others and tread lightly as you explore and enjoy the beauty of Sundance Provincial Park.



information, call (780) 723-8554 in Edson. To call toll free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000

and enter the number.

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