

EXPLORE

Alberta Parks

2014

Provincial parks guide to year-round activities and experiences

Alberta


Alberta Parks

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Alberta Parks Information

explore.albertaparks.ca

1-866-427-3582

Camping Reservations

reserve.albertaparks.ca

1-877-537-2757

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Premier's Message



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5K 2B6



Message from Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC Premier of Alberta

Welcome to the home of some of the most majestic and breathtaking sites in the world ... Alberta Parks.

Our provincial parks are filled with superior landscapes that provide unique and memorable experiences for all to enjoy. From the imposing mountains of Kananaskis, to the cool green parkland of Miquelon Lake, Alberta's Provincial Parks are sure to inspire.

We are proud to boast almost nine million visitors annually to our scenic parks, which offer a range of opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts and those visitors just seeking a relaxing getaway. Whether it's summer, winter, fall or spring, every season in Alberta's Provincial Parks provides its own unique experience.

Explore Alberta Parks is an excellent guide to help you discover the wonderment of Alberta's mountains, lakes, forests and wildlife, so enjoy reading about the many experiences available to you, your friends and family.

Thank you for choosing Alberta Parks as your destination.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison Redford".

Alison M. Redford, QC

January 1, 2014

The word "Alberta" in a stylized, cursive font, followed by a small blue square.

Minister's Message



ALBERTA
TOURISM, PARKS AND RECREATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Vermilion-Lloydminster*



Message from the Honourable Dr. Richard Starke Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation

As a born and raised Albertan, and Minister responsible for Parks, I have the great fortune to travel to many of our province's majestic parks. With every stop, I am always in awe of the wonderful experiences and opportunities our natural settings afford to Albertans and visitors from around the world. We are truly blessed to live in a province that cherishes our parks for their recreational, educational, wildlife and scenic values.

Alberta's provincial parks truly contribute to our quality of life. Parks are magic elixirs that help us to escape from the "everyday" to "what a day!" in surroundings that inspire, relax and afford us the opportunity to reflect.

In every corner of our province, parks exist for everyone to enjoy and explore, so I encourage you to use this guide to discover the natural beauty of Alberta's amazing and renowned landscapes in our provincial parks.

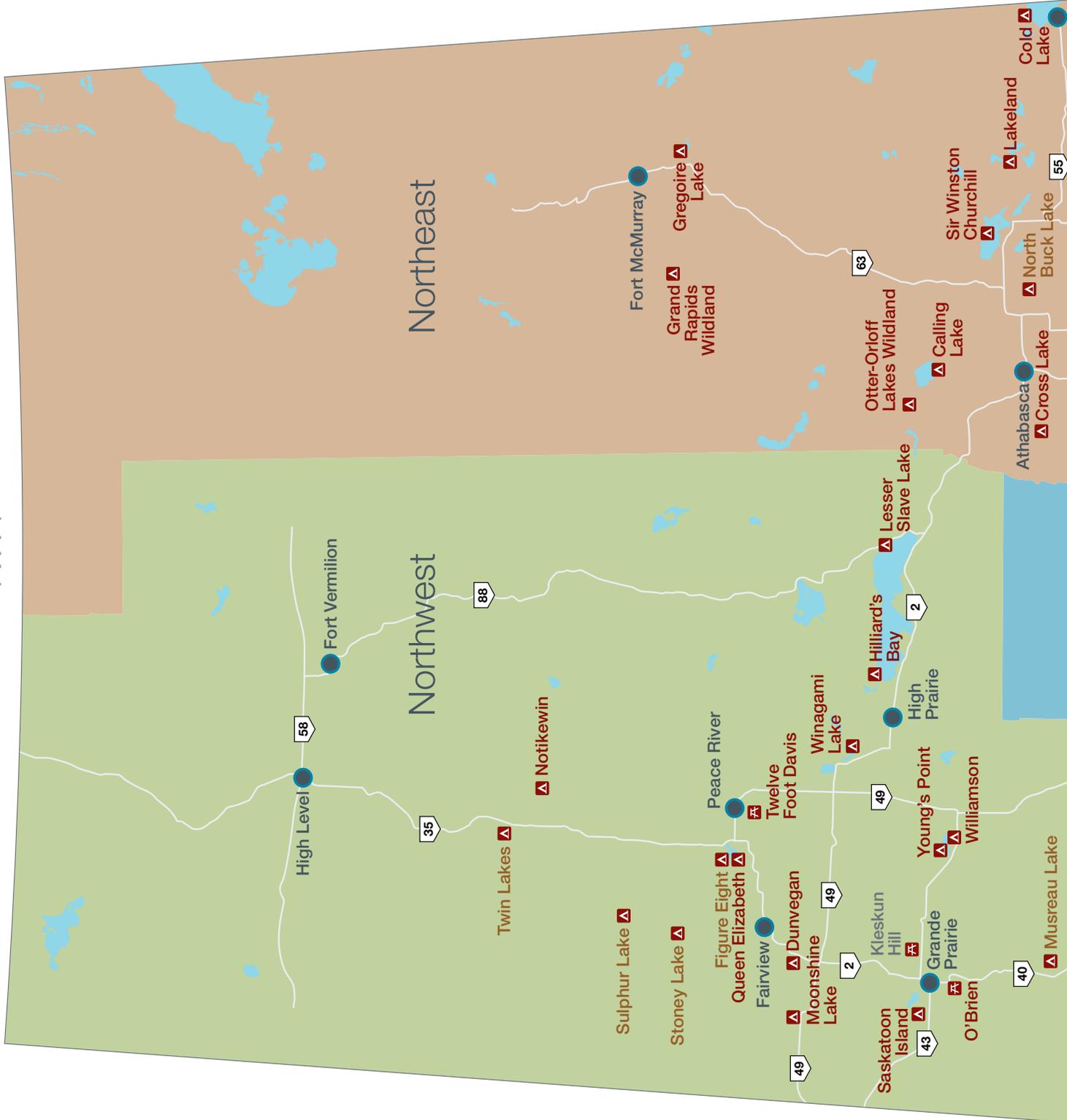
Dr. Richard Starke
Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation

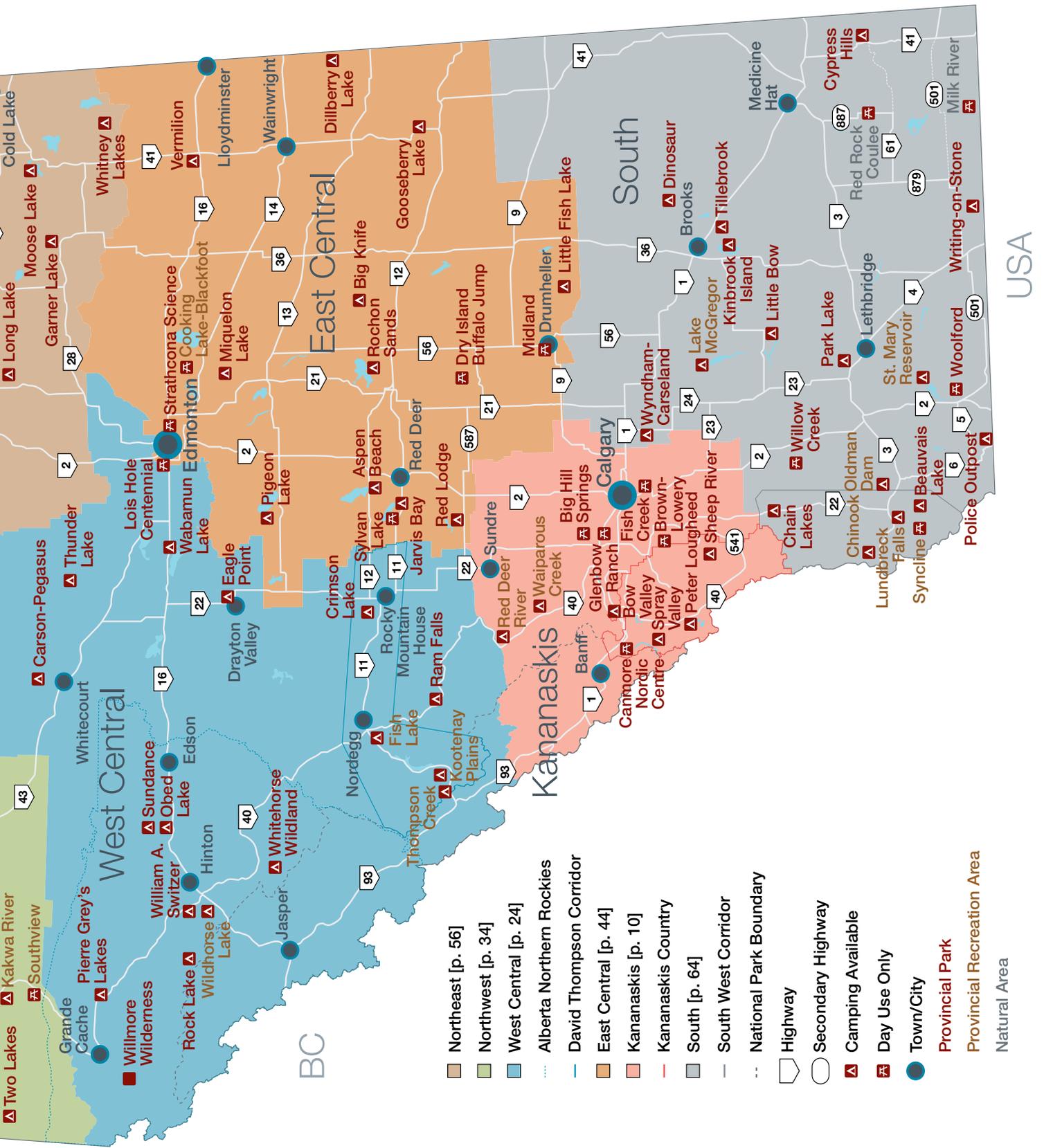
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NWT

SK





Activity Page

Word Search

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Beach | Kayaking |
| Bear | Moose |
| Birdwatching | Pictographs |
| Campfire | Rivers |
| Canoe | Rockart |
| Deer | Sandcastle |
| Dinosaurs | Shady |
| Equestrian | Snowshoeing |
| Explore | Songbirds |
| Fishing | Stars |
| Fossils | Tents |
| Hike | Waterfalls |
| Horses | Yurts |

T X C L Y X B P K A Y A K I N G V A M B
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Bat Facts

1. Bats make good neighbours! When mosquitoes hatch, a single bat can catch 1000 or more in just 1 hour!
2. Most bats can't see well and do a lot of living at night, so they send out pulses of sound and listen for variations in echoes that bounce back at them to get around – it's called "echolocation."
3. They are the only mammal capable of true flight – other mammals said to fly, such as flying squirrels, can only glide for short distances.
4. Nine species of bats are known to live in Alberta.

The little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)

is the most common bat species in Alberta. These bats often gather as colonies in buildings, attics, and sometimes, bat houses. Little brown bats occur throughout much of Alberta and can live more than 35 years, making them one of the world's longest living small mammals.

Little Brown Bat



Bat Scramble

C A C L I O E N O H T O

Answer: Echolocation

Parks Day

Canada's Parks Day – Real Nature, Real History, Real Experiences

A day celebrated all across Canada! July 19, 2014

Can you imagine Alberta without any parks? Where would we go to sleep under the stars, hike a shady forest trail, listen to the birds in the early morning hours or watch the sun set across a glassy lake surface? Where would we gather with our family to have s'mores around a campfire and build sandcastles on a sandy beach?

First celebrated in 1990, Canada's Parks Day is set aside to enjoy and appreciate our parks. Albertans and our visitors know very well how spending time in our parks restores us through the beauty of nature, the excitement of adventure and the space to relax and breathe deeply.

On Parks Day, enjoy special events like bird walks, geocaching, hikes, sand castle contests, demonstrations of rescue and forest fire fighting techniques and hot dog roasts. Park visitors across the country will join in this national recognition of our awe-inspiring parks and historic sites.

More parks will confirm events for Parks Day as we get closer to July. For information visit explore.albertaparks.ca and click on events. Check the website often as events may be added right up until July 18th.



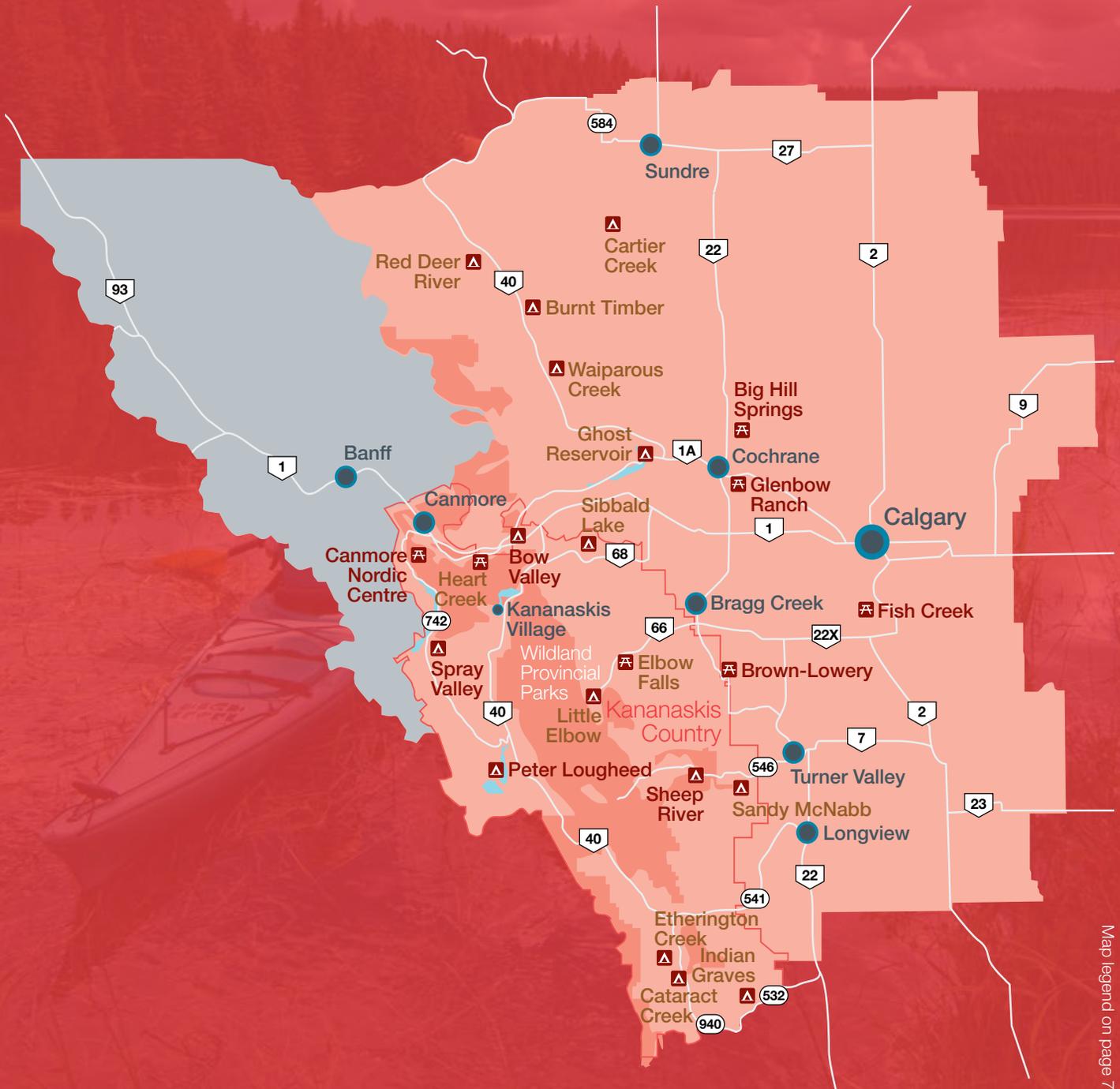
Mark your calendar to come and celebrate at an Alberta Provincial Park! Here are some parks we already know will be celebrating Parks Day on July 19, 2014:

- Aspen Beach Provincial Park, east of Bentley
- Beauvais Lake Provincial Park, near Pincher Creek
- Big Knife Provincial Park, near Forestburg
- Buffalo Lake Provincial Recreation Area, north of Stettler
- Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area, east of Edmonton
- Crimson Lake Provincial Park, west of Rocky Mountain House
- Cross Lake Provincial Park, west of Athabasca
- Cypress Hills Provincial Park, south of Medicine Hat
- Dillberry Lake Provincial Park, east of Chauvin
- Dinosaur Provincial Park, northeast of Brooks
- Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park, east of Consort
- Jarvis Bay Provincial Park, just north of the town of Sylvan Lake
- Kinbrook Island Provincial Park, south of Brooks
- Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park, north of Edmonton
- Long Lake Provincial Park, south of Boyle
- Miquelon Lake Provincial Park, east of Edmonton
- Pembina River Provincial Park, near Entwistle
- Pigeon Lake Provincial Park, west of Wetaskiwin
- Red Lodge Provincial Park, west of Bowden
- Rochon Sands Provincial Park, near Stettler
- Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park, east of Lac La Biche
- Vermilion Provincial Park, near the town of Vermilion
- Wabamun Lake Provincial Park, west of Edmonton
- William A Switzer Provincial Park, west of Hinton
- Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, east of Milk River

On Sunday July 20, Parks Day is celebrated in Kananaskis Country, at Bow Valley Provincial Park, west of Calgary.



Kananaskis



Rediscover the Wilderness

In 2013, massive flooding across the southern half of the province left many Albertans wondering what would become of their beloved provincial parks. The Government of Alberta has since committed \$61 million to support flood recovery over the next four years in provincial parks in Kananaskis Country, and another \$15 million for Fish Creek Provincial Park. In the meantime, the impact of the flood has created a rare opportunity to rediscover places you have visited many times before. An Alberta Parks trail crew was among the first people to explore the post-flood landscape.

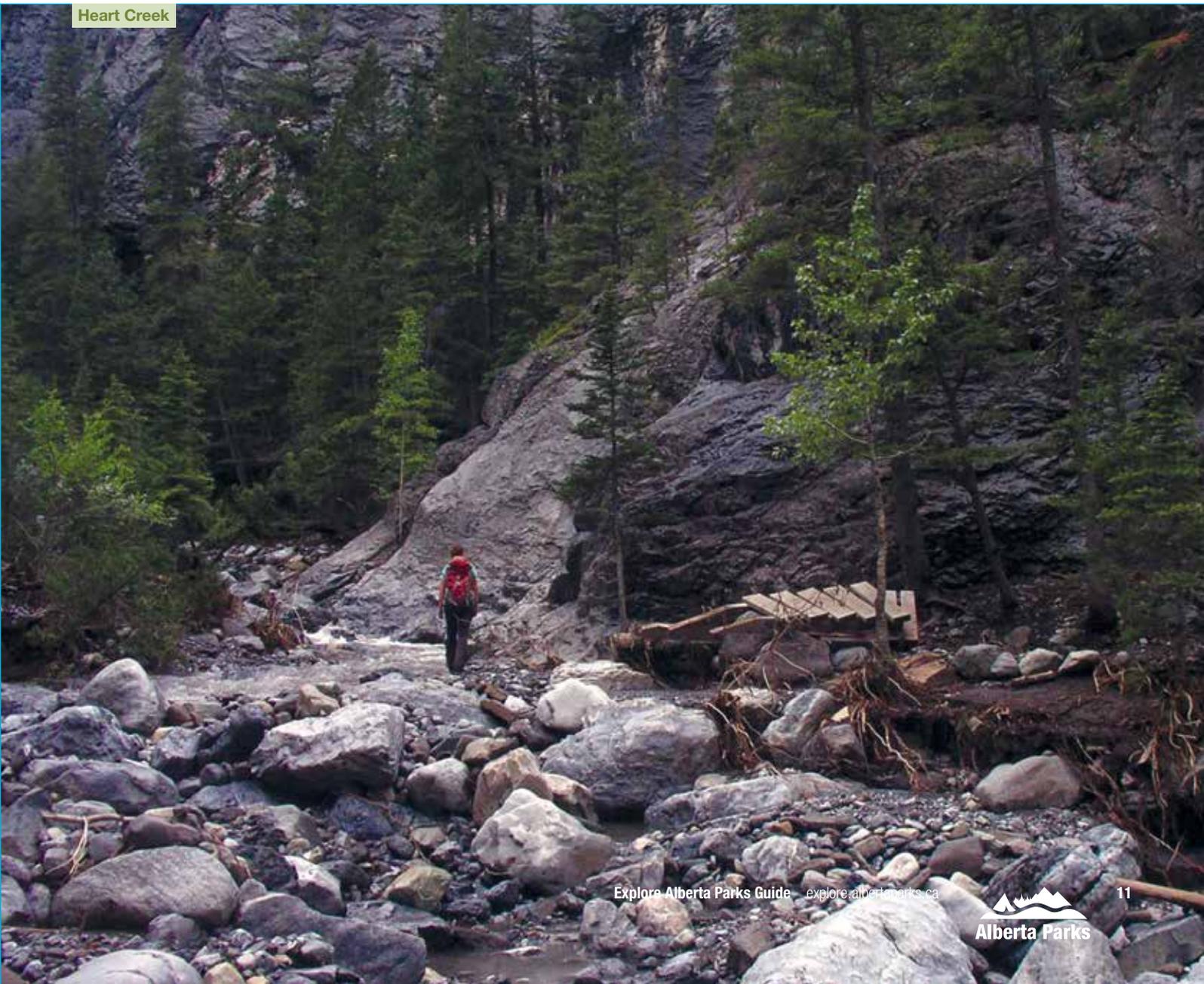
The six-person Bow Valley trail crew arrived at Heart Creek trail to find it simply unrecognizable. We threaded our way, in disbelief, up the completely new path the water had forged as it ripped out huge sections of forest

and rock. The canyon was choked with giant piles of fallen trees, stripped of their bark by the abrasive, silty water. Not one of the trail's seven wooden bridges remained in place, though we found several half-buried and upside-down in the debris.

The mantra of the trail repair project became “don’t give up!” We dug bridge poles out by hand and dragged them in place using only ropes and pulleys.

It took weeks of hauling rocks by hand, chainsawing through the tree tangles and pulling debris apart to build up a proper path. It took hours more effort from the crew and a group of dedicated volunteers from the Friends of Kananaskis Country to bring the trail to even a basic wilderness state.

Heart Creek



Animal Tracks



Spending so much time up-close with the changed landscape quickly changed our feelings from shock and grief to excitement and wonder. We saw first-hand how destruction in nature offers dramatic renewal, and how quickly life reshapes itself into a new habitat.

For those who remember the shady and forested Heart Creek Trail of old, the new trail is brightly sunlit and warm, with wide gravel flats and giant boulders. The trail now offers clear pools and tiny waterfalls moving across newly exposed bedrock. Previously hidden cliffs and spires are now visible across the canyon. Wildflowers are thriving among the sunshine, moisture, and newly deposited soil. There are more changes waiting for you to explore as you walk, listen, and connect to the new landscape and see its new life. Heart Creek trail is different. It's more rustic, more elemental, and just a little more wild. Like so much of our reshaped landscape, Heart Creek is a beautiful reminder that our parks are alive and changing and ready to inspire!

Summer Lodging



Year-Round Recreation in the Evan-Thomas PRA

Discover a wide variety of recreational opportunities year-round in the Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area in the heart of the Kananaskis Valley. Take a hike or head out on the trail on your mountain bike or on horseback. There are lots of streams and lakes to try your luck at sport fishing, and in winter, come and ski or snowboard in this mountain playground. Just 15 minutes south from the Trans-Canada Highway on Highway 40 you'll find your outdoor adventure!

Enjoy the Scenery of Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area



Skiing at Nakiska



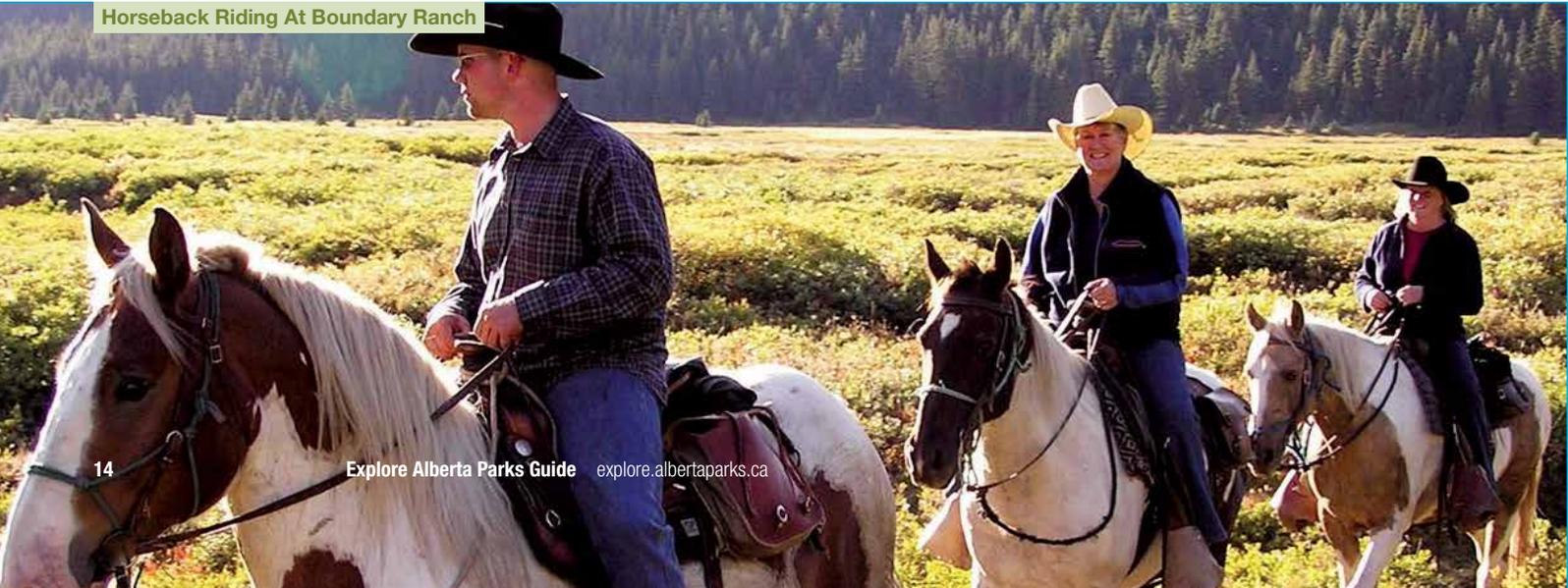
The Newly Renovated Kananaskis Village Centre



Things to do in the heart of the Kananaskis Valley!

- Close to the Kananaskis Village, short trails such as Terrace, Terrace Link, Kovach and Aspen are popular with hikers, cyclists, snowshoe enthusiasts and cross-country skiers.
- Watch for the seasonal eagle migration and feel the spray of the waterfall on the gentle and popular Troll Falls/Hay Meadow loop.
- Touch the sky on the spectacular hike up Centennial Ridge on Mount Allan, an elevation gain of 1,340 metres.
- Enjoy a unique camping experience in trapper tents and tipis at Sundance Lodge; book a night at the Ribbon Creek Hostel or indulge in the ultimate comfort camping at one of the Delta hotels in the Kananaskis Village.
- Stop by the newly-renovated Village Centre to book a guided tour, or rent bikes, cross-country skis, snowshoes, skates and other outdoor gear from Kananaskis Outfitters.
- Bring your Alberta Sport Fishing License to fish at the stocked Mt. Lorette Ponds or Wedge Pond, or enjoy more challenging fishing along the Kananaskis River.
- Explore on horseback! Boundary Ranch offers guided horseback trail rides from a two-hour Ridge Ride to a full-day Adventure Ride between mid-May and early October.
- Ski or snowboard at Nakiska on Mt. Allan, site of the alpine ski events for the 1988 Winter Olympics. Nakiska features a variety of terrain, a day lodge and mid-mountain lodge, as well as gear rental and lessons.

Horseback Riding At Boundary Ranch



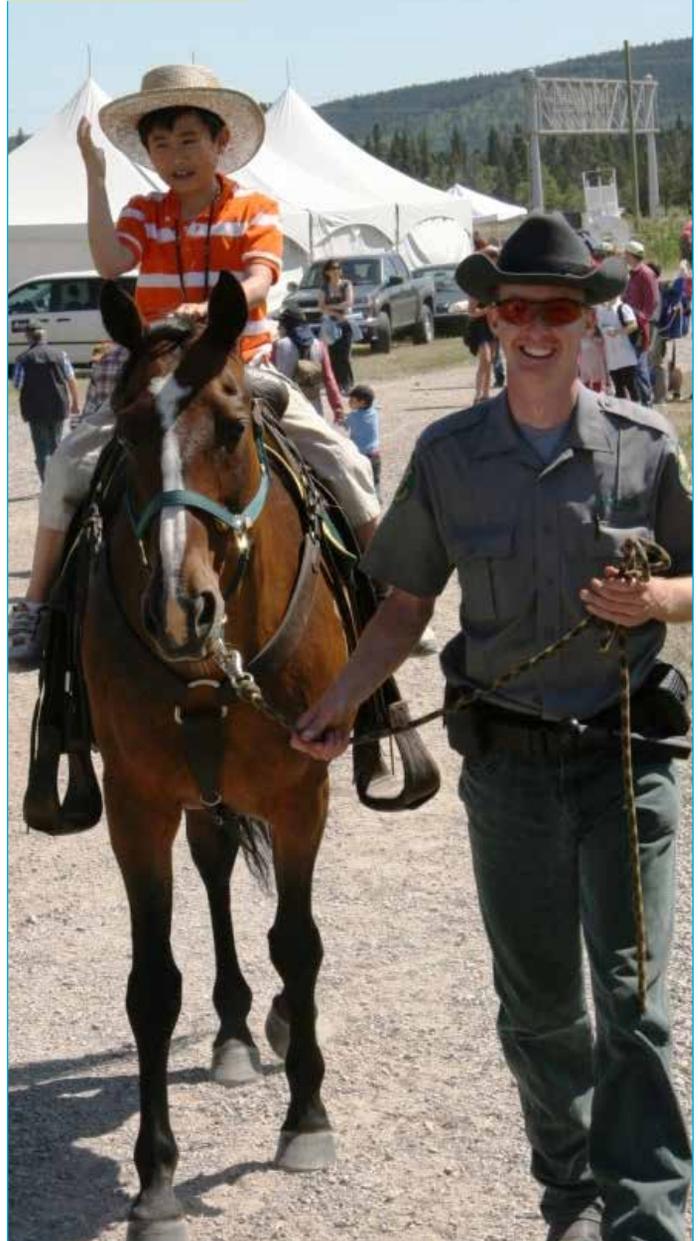
Make Your Trip a Special Event!

If you are coming to the Kananaskis Region to camp or picnic, or you've never visited and are looking for trip planning ideas, Alberta Parks offers extraordinary special events for everyone. Our facilities and partners host dozens of great events each year. Best of all, the following events hosted by Alberta Parks are free!

One fantastic family outing is Parks Day in Bow Valley Provincial Park on Sunday July 20th. Visible from the Trans Canada Highway at Exit 114, the Kananaskis Country Parks Day Event is the largest celebration of its kind in the province, and is free to the public. This hands-on showcase highlights some of the amazing programs, opportunities, and partnerships found throughout Kananaskis Country. There's also a free barbecue lunch and interactive activities for all ages.

Another free event that recognizes our emergency services personnel – and provides a close-up experience with the tools they use to keep us safe – is the annual Kananaskis Emergency Services Showcase on June 7th in the Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area. Heroes such as Kananaskis public safety, professional

Kananaskis Parks Day



KANANASKIS COUNTRY'S AWARD WINNING RESORT

Rated "Top 10" by Trip Advisor in 2012 for Family Friendly Resorts
Voted #1 Hotel for the past 2 years by Calgary's Child Magazine!

Enhance your Kananaskis adventure in the Summit Spa and Fitness Centre or with one of the many activities available in the Valley of Adventure.

Summer

- hiking
- golfing
- mountain biking
- horseback riding
- whitewater rafting
- fly fishing



Winter

- downhill skiing
- X-country skiing
- ice skating
- snowshoeing
- sleigh rides
- tobogganing

For more information: **1-866-432-4322**
or visit: **www.deltalodgeatkananaskis.com**

Bear Spray Demonstration





Husky Energy Inc. has been actively involved in environmentally responsible energy development in the Kananaskis area for more than 20 years. Husky operates facilities in the Moose Mountain/McLean Creek area that have been developed with reduced footprints to minimize environmental impacts.

Husky has supported a long-term wildlife monitoring program in the region since 2004. Monitoring has been conducted on mammals, birds and insects over randomly selected areas. Husky will continue this monitoring program in 2014.

Operating in Kananaskis Country means interacting with many kinds of trail users. Over the years, Husky has supported the Greater Bragg Creek Trail Association (GBCTA) and The Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance. Husky donated to the GBCTA to repair trails from flood damage in 2013.

Husky is committed to an open dialogue with people concerned or affected by its operations or development plans. The Company's involvement with regulatory agencies, environmental interest groups, recreational users and area residents is ongoing.

For more information about the wildlife monitoring program, visit www.huskyenergy.com to view Husky's Community Report.



and volunteer firefighters, volunteer search and rescue, STARS Air Ambulance, conservation officers and paramedics will show off helicopters, ambulances, fire trucks, and offer great prizes throughout the day.

If you want to visit Kananaskis Country earlier in the season, join us on April 12th at the Canmore Civic Centre to sharpen up your bear safety skills during Bear Days! Alberta Parks and WildSmart team up for this free annual event aimed at ensuring everyone knows what to do to keep people and bears safe when we all emerge from our winter dens.

Events even happen in the midst of winter! Avalanche Awareness Day took place at the Chester Lake trailhead on Sunday, January 19th, 2014. Featuring free transceiver clinics, snowpack analysis workshops, rescue dogs and interpretive snowshoe tours, visitors were able to increase their avalanche skills and have fun at the same time.

With even more events closer to Calgary at both Fish Creek and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Parks, 2014 is shaping up to be one of the greatest years ever. Visit explore.albertaparks.ca and click on the events link to learn more.

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Kananaskis Emergency Services Showcase



Snowpit at Avalanche Awareness Day



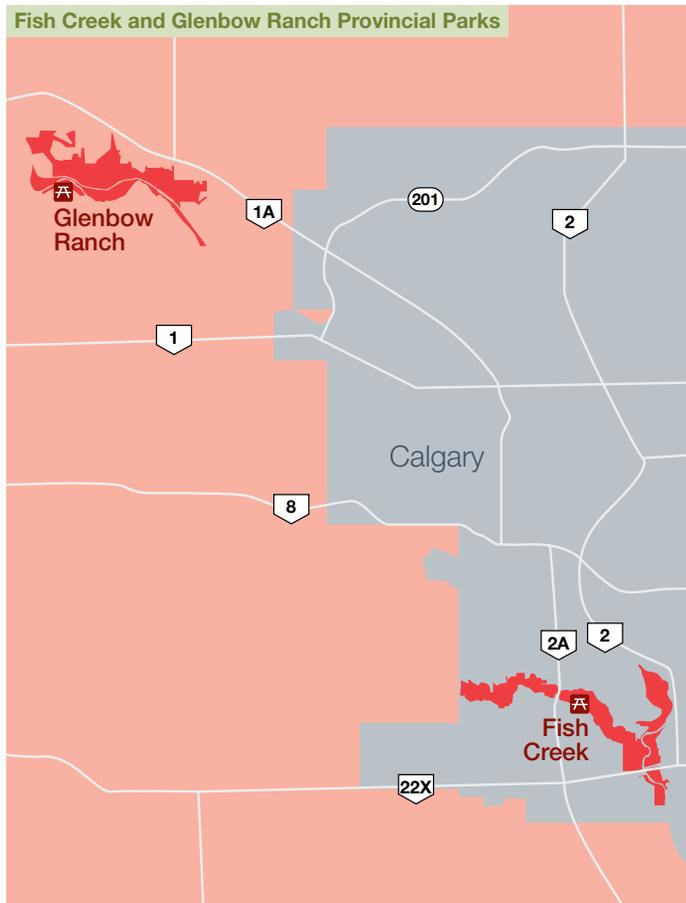
Events in Fish Creek and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Parks

Fish Creek Provincial Park and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park offer many opportunities to relax, learn and recharge all within a short drive, pedal or hike from your home in Calgary. These urban parks protect natural and cultural features, including lush forests, rolling grasslands, archaeological sites and spectacular views. Visit these areas through guided tours, or explore them along one of the many pathways.

The Friends of Fish Creek and the Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation provide in-park conservation and education programming and co-ordinate membership, volunteer opportunities and special projects. Some of the year-round special events, programs and workshops planned for 2014 include:

- Birding courses (Year-round)
- Photography workshops (Spring, Summer, Fall)
- Guided walks (Spring through Fall)
- Yoga classes (Spring through Fall)

- Electric Minibus & Golf Cart Tours (Spring, Summer, Fall)
- Star Night (October, March/April)
- Creekfest (July, in Fish Creek)
- Ride for the Ranch (September, in Glenbow Ranch) ... and much more!



Events at the Canmore Nordic Centre

Situated beneath Mount Rundle in Kananaskis Country, Canmore Nordic Centre Provincial Park hosts a variety of special events throughout the year. Recognized internationally as a top venue for cross-country ski and mountain bike racing, the centre also hosts disc golf tournaments, orienteering races, fun runs and learn-to-ride events for kids. The following list is only a small sample of the events scheduled in 2014. A comprehensive list can be found at: canmorenordiccentre.ca.

- **February 6–9:** Alberta Winter Games – 2014awg.ca
- **March 16:** Rocky Mountain Ski Marathon – canmorenordic.com
- **March 29:** Canmore Winter Meltdown Triathlon – canmorewintermeltdown.com
- **May 17–18:** Big Bear Disc Golf Tournament – albertadiscgolf.com
- **May 31:** Children's Bicycle Safety Rodeo – cmags.org
- **July 19–20:** 24 Hours of Adrenalin – www.24hoursofadrenalin.com
- **August 23–24:** M.S. Bike Tour – msbiketours.ca
- **September 13:** 5 Peaks Trail Running Race – 5peaks.com
- **October 12:** Grizzly Ultra Marathon and Relay – grizzlyevents.ca

Art. Legacy. Nature: Visit the Artisan Gardens



The Ranche at Fish Creek Restoration Society opened its breathtaking Artisan Gardens September, 2013. Showcasing over 150 original pieces of artwork in a beautiful outdoor setting, this is one of Canada's largest outdoor, permanent exhibitions. You are invited to explore

the many expressions of art presented by 72 Canadian artists celebrating the local natural, cultural, and First Nations history.

This remarkable project became a reality through the hard work of volunteers dedicated to the Ranche Restoration Society's vision, and the support of many private and corporate sponsors – all of whom are celebrated on site.

The space is adjacent to two excellent dining establishments and is available for group bookings. The Artisan Gardens are a perfect celebration location for weddings and other special gatherings of family and friends.

The Bow Valley Ranche and Artisan Gardens are found on Bow Bottom Trail in southeast Calgary.

To become involved and to learn more, visit bowvalleyranche.com or call (403) 278-2595.

Eco-Tours in Fish Creek and Glenbow Ranch

Take a seat on an open-air electric vehicle to enjoy the diversity and natural splendor of two of Alberta's urban provincial parks. These vehicles, used for workshops and guided tours, allow people to explore large areas at a comfortable and enjoyable pace and are ideal for people with limited mobility. Many walking aids can be easily accommodated on the tours.

Tours are offered at both Fish Creek and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Parks, with all funds raised directly supporting each park's conservation and education programming.

A Private Minibus Tour is a great way for families, friends, employees, clubs or just about any group to experience their favourite park. You can host a park tour for your out-of-town guests, or plan a picnic outing or birthday tour with your family!

For more information and to register, contact:

Fish Creek tours, friendsoffishcreek.org or call (403) 238-3841.

Glenbow Ranch tours, grpf.ca or call (403) 851-9053.

For information about Fish Creek and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Parks, visit explore.albertaparks.ca.





Photo: Ryan McLeod/Cochrane Eagle

It's Summer...Get out Here!

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Kids Fest | Lions Rodeo | Canada Day Concert & More!



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cochrane-tourism.ca   



“GO PLAY *outside.*”

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Our members are practically family.



Comfort Camping



Even if you don't own a tent or an RV you can visit a provincial park. Enjoy spending the night in the outdoors and relax surrounded by nature. Alberta Parks offers a variety of ways to camp in comfort, in several parks around the province.

site, watching birds and other wildlife who make their home near this rich wetland habitat.

If you are looking for a beach and lake experience, *Pigeon Lake Provincial Park* has three fully furnished yurts just a short walk through the forest to the lakeshore.

Three different sizes are available, and have beautiful decks for relaxing, nice big outdoor barbecues and campfire rings for gathering around for hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows. Description and photos are on page 48 of this guide.

Camp in comfort in *Kananaskis Country* at Sundance Lodges' comfortable tipis and trappers' tents, nestled in the forest near the Kananaskis River. Each has a wooden floor, wood-frame beds with mattresses, a small heater and a lantern. Outside each is a private fire pit and picnic table. Bring your own camping supplies or rent supplies from Sundance Lodges. To reserve, visit sundancelodges.com or call (403) 591-7122.

Trapper's Tent



In central Alberta, you can choose Comfort Camping at *Miquelon Lake Provincial Park* in furnished wall tents complete with a floor, outdoor barbecue and comfy deck chairs. Trails for walking or mountain biking can be accessed from right outside your door or relax at your

You just have to try the furnished tents overlooking the scenic badlands of *Dinosaur Provincial Park*. Use your site that include dishes, refrigerator and bedding, and your own campfire ring as a base while

Comfort Camping Interior At Dinosaur



building sandcastles and toasting marshmallows around the campfire.

In the north, The Nest is a lodge available to small groups, at *Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park*. It provides sleeping accommodations, complete with a kitchen and lounge area. Hiking trails are right outside your door, the lakeshore is just a short walk away, and during the spring wake to the calls of hundreds of nesting songbirds in the surrounding forest. Take part in guided tours and interpretive programs at the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation right next door! Fully accessible for wheelchair visitors.

you immerse yourself in authentic experiences. Take a Guided Excavation by day and, by night enjoy a Sunset Photography Tour before retiring to your comfy camp to barbecue and stargaze from your private deck.

At *Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park*, relax at your private Comfort Camping site set amongst the tall cottonwood trees. This no-fuss camping alternative provides bedding, dishes, refrigerator and electric lighting. With much of the work of camping taken care of, families can have maximum time for Rock Art tours, floating down the river,

Don't rule out a camping trip just because you don't have camping equipment. There are many options to choose from for an outdoor getaway in a provincial park.

Reservations can be made online at reserve.albertaparks.ca for Comfort Camping, The Nest group lodge at Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park and Yurts starting at 9 a.m. on February 24, 2014, or by calling 1-877-537-2757 from 9 a.m. on February 24th.

To get more details about alternative camping facilities, please visit explore.albertaparks.ca.

The Nest, The Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation



Alberta Northern Rockies

Hinton and Yellowhead County

Each year, more and more Albertans are making Hinton and Yellowhead County in the Northern Alberta Rockies and Foothills part of their vacation plans – and it isn't hard to see why.

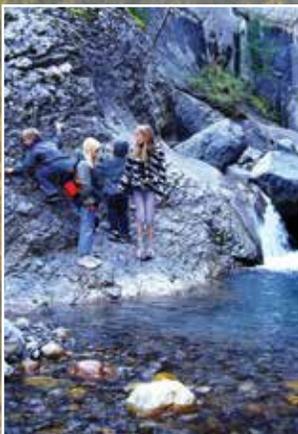
The natural landscape and choice of outdoor activities to enjoy are what make this area a must for your vacation bucket list. When you visit, make sure you leave enough time – you'll be surprised at how much there is to do.

You could start your day with a morning bike ride at the Hinton Bike Park and pedal through the thick stands of trees that embrace the Happy Creek trail system. Pack a picnic lunch and head to Kelley's Bathtub or Jarvis Lake for a refreshing swim – or stop at any of the other viewpoints or parks in William A. Switzer Provincial Park. What's that – you lost track of time? Return to town for a bite of dinner at any of the great restaurants Hinton has, but get your dessert to go. Dusk is the perfect time to take in the beavers hard at work at the Beaver Boardwalk.

If instead of spending the night at one of the area's bed and breakfasts or comfortable hotels, you camped at one of the 1,000 campsites within an hour's drive of Hinton, or if you cantered down a scenic trail on a guided horseback adventure, you'd already know that the Northern Rockies landscape is striking.

Terms like, "rugged splendour" and "unspoiled wilderness" are often bandied about when describing what visitors experience in this area, but what will that mean for you?

It means that you'll marvel at the vast forest backdrop overlooking inviting lakes, and towering mountaintops in the distance as you trek through William A. Switzer Provincial Park. It means you'll stop in your tracks when you come across a grazing herd of bighorn sheep in Cadomin, the heart of Yellowhead County's historic Coal Branch area. But what it really means is that memorable moments await you in the Northern Rockies – moments that will call you back for another taste of adventure.



Overnight With Nature

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West Central



Alberta Northern Rockies

Alberta's Northern Rockies are an outdoor paradise with thousands of square kilometres of rugged and untamed wilderness. In this wild landscape, many parks provide a treasure trove of recreation opportunities including camping, fishing, boating, hiking, skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding and more.

Stunning scenery varies from lofty mountain tops and glaciated peaks to deep valleys, clear lakes and wild rivers. Rolling foothills are covered with forests of pine, spruce, aspen and fir. This area is home to a wealth of wildlife including black and grizzly bears, wolves, cougars, moose, caribou, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk and deer.

With a lifetime of exploration at your fingertips, Alberta's Northern Rockies will entice you to return again and again.

Willmore Wilderness Park



William A. Switzer Provincial Park

Switzer Park is the hub of the Northern Rockies. Enjoy all the comforts of front country camping including powered campsites, hot showers, a visitor centre, amphitheatre, and interpretation programs. Popular park activities range from fishing in one of the five lakes, canoeing the gentle Jarvis Creek, or lounging on the sandy beach. The park offers numerous trails for hiking, biking, skiing and wildlife viewing. Bring your camera to the Athabasca Lookout for one of the most breathtaking views of the Rocky Mountain front ranges.

Willmore Wilderness Park

Ancient glaciers, high mountain peaks, thick forests and raging rivers define these 4,600 square kilometres of untamed wilderness. Backpackers and horseback riders seeking a true backcountry experience can explore over 750 km of trails where wildlife abounds. Visitors to Willmore must be experienced and well equipped for a rugged backcountry adventure. For a shorter taste of Willmore, visitors can explore the deep canyon of Sulphur Gates and then hike up to the towering Eaton Falls for an unforgettable three hour round trip.

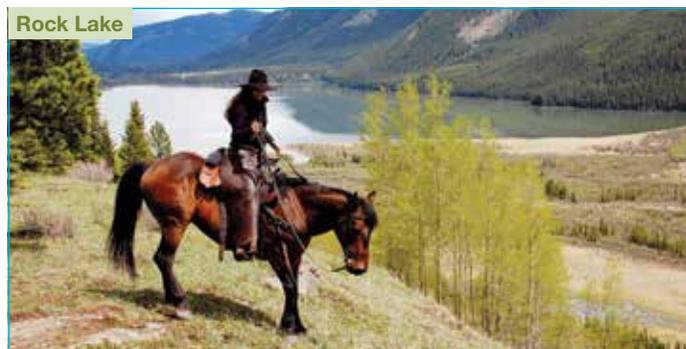
Kelley's Bathtub, William A. Switzer





Rock Lake Provincial Park

Nestled between the Willmore Wilderness and the Rock Lake Solomon Creek Wildland Park, Rock Lake is surrounded by stunning mountain views. Visitors can enjoy camping, boating, fishing and equestrian staging areas. Elk, deer, bears and bighorn sheep are often seen in open meadows on the hillsides.



Pierre Grey's Lakes



Pierre Grey's Lakes Provincial Park

Just two words are needed to describe Pierre Grey's Lakes – quiet and lovely. This park is known by locals as a fishing paradise where the lakes are stocked with brook trout and rainbow trout. Many campsites are located close to the water for easy canoe access, and new powered campsites provide convenience for RVs. The park is named after a very successful Métis fur trader who operated a trading post in the late 1800s. The remains of Pierre's log cabins are still visible along the lakeshore.

Whitehorse Wildland Provincial Park

Backcountry hiking and horseback riding are popular activities in Whitehorse Wildland. Visitors can experience the fragile beauty of alpine meadows on the Cardinal Divide. Colourful harlequin ducks nest along high mountain streams and natural caves provide critical habitat for bats. A backcountry camping trip to Whitehorse Falls makes a cherished mountain memory. Camping facilities and equestrian staging areas are available at the adjacent Whitehorse Creek Provincial Recreation Area.

Still More to Explore...

Once you have been to Alberta's Northern Rockies, you will find many reasons to return. Discover the peculiar hoodoos at Sundance Provincial Park, go whitewater rafting at Sulphur Gates, or splash in the waterfalls at Ogre Canyon. If relaxation is your quest, stretch out your beach towel on the sand at Jarvis Lake. The possibilities are endless.

Whitehorse Wildland



Jarvis Lake



Ram Falls Provincial Park

Tucked away in the scenic foothills of Central Alberta is one of the best camping experiences you could ask for. Ram Falls Provincial Park provides quiet, traditional camping, access to great fishing in the Ram River and a large group camp that can be booked for private gatherings. A short walk from the campground is a unique viewing platform and staircase that allows you to safely descend a rugged canyon. Partway down is the breathtaking site of Ram Falls, where you will likely spot bighorn sheep that frequent the slopes near the waterfall.

Peppers Lake Provincial Recreation Area

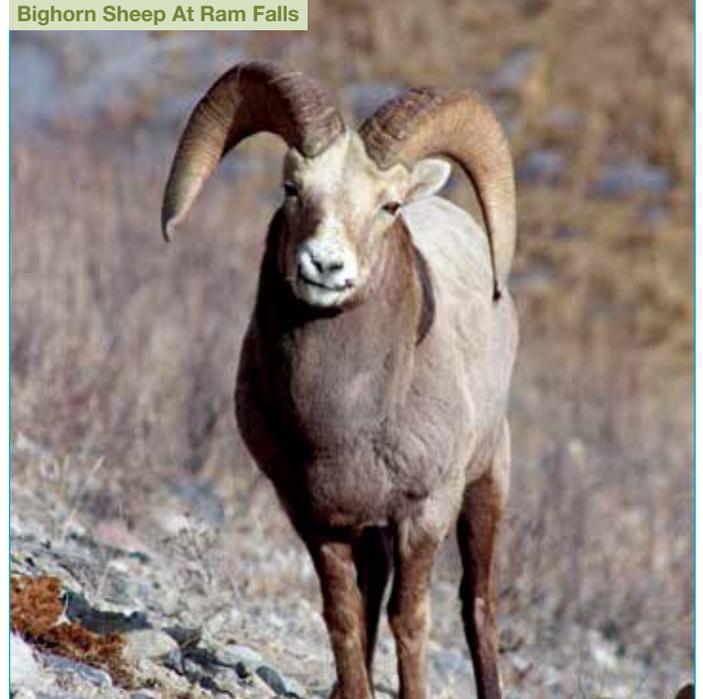
Get off the beaten path and come enjoy a hidden gem of a lake that will provide you with everything needed, and more, for a memorable camping trip. Stunning vistas of clear blue Peppers Lake, backdropped by rugged mountains, dominate the views from the campground. Walk the trail around the lake to find a great spot to fish for brook trout, or launch your boat (electric motors only) from the boat dock. Explore the surrounding forests on horseback from the Peppers Lake staging area.

For more information on Ram Falls, Peppers Lake or Prairie Creek, call (403) 845-8349.

Prairie Creek Provincial Recreation Area

Just a short 20 minute drive from Rocky Mountain House, Prairie Creek Recreation Area has 50 private secluded campsites. Situated between two clear running creeks in a mature spruce forest, it is the perfect location for a relaxing camping trip. Two popular group camping areas are available for booking, including one large group use site where up to 30 units can camp with access to non-designated off-highway vehicle trails.

Bighorn Sheep At Ram Falls



Peppers Lake



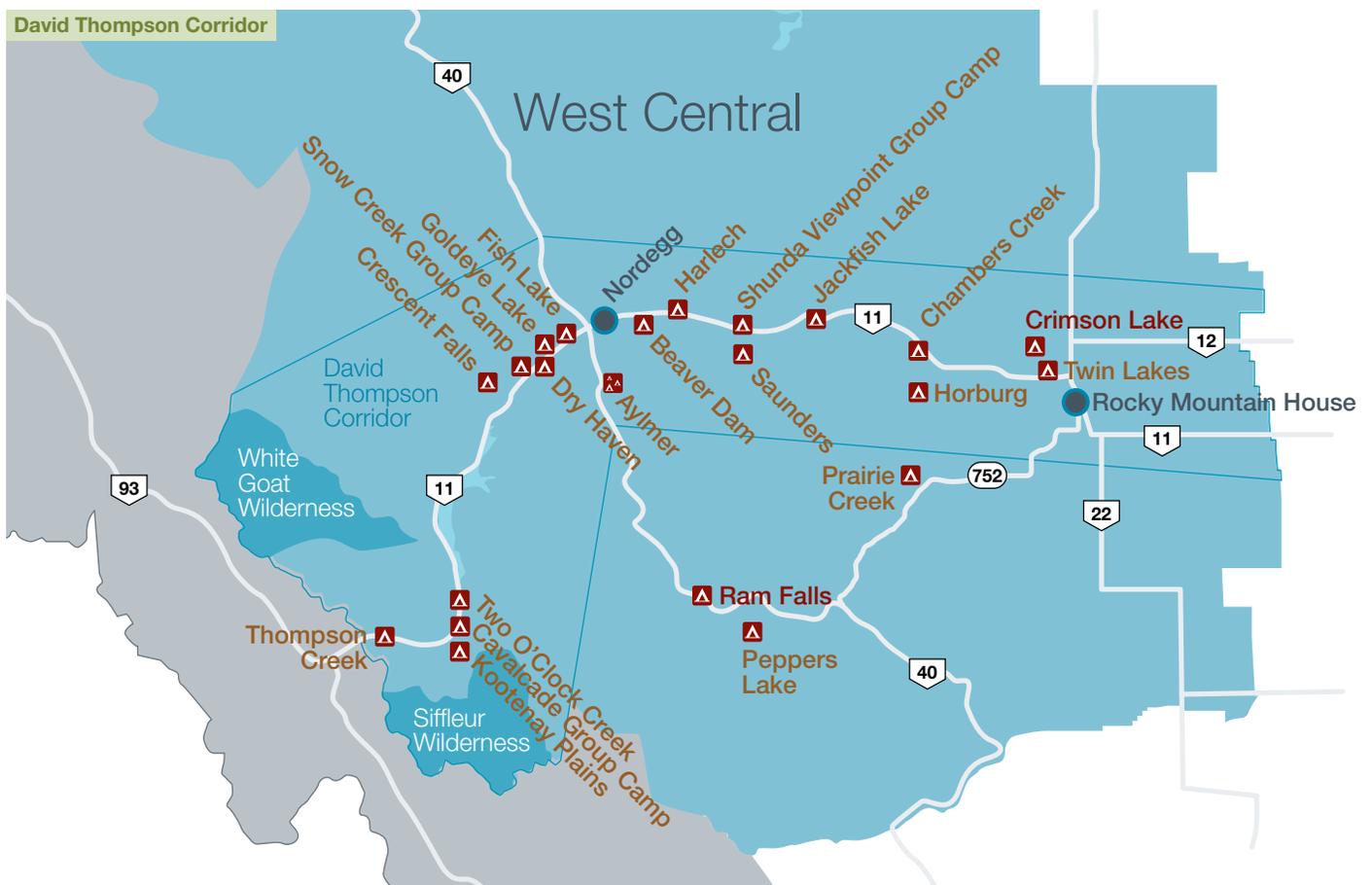
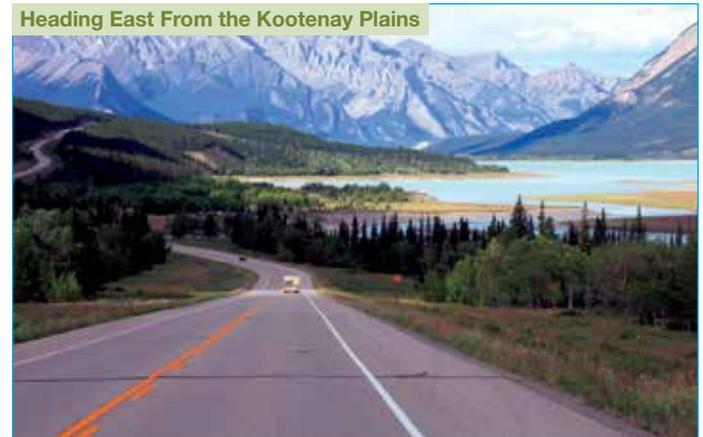
David Thompson Corridor

Discover a string of spectacular parks from Red Deer to the Rocky Mountains, all along Highway 11. Nineteenth century explorer, fur trader and map maker, David Thompson, lived and worked in this often unsung mountain corridor where you will find some of Alberta's best kept secrets for rugged mountain scenery, wildlife viewing and outdoor adventure. Spend a day or spend a week and discover an abundance of uncrowded camping, hiking and site-seeing treasures.

Along the corridor there are camping opportunities for every interest. Have fun at the beach and enjoy excellent family camping at Crimson Lake Provincial Park. Spend the day riding the large network of mountain bike trails starting right from your campsite at Fish Lake Provincial Recreation Area. See vistas few have seen, on a backcountry camping trip into the White Goat Wilderness Area. Or enjoy camping by the river at Saunders or Horburg Provincial Recreation Areas, after an exhilarating day of paddling the North Saskatchewan River.

Explore the rich history and countless recreational opportunities at over 20 provincial parks and recreation areas along Highway 11. There is an adventure waiting for everyone!

For more information on the David Thompson Corridor, call (403) 845-8349.



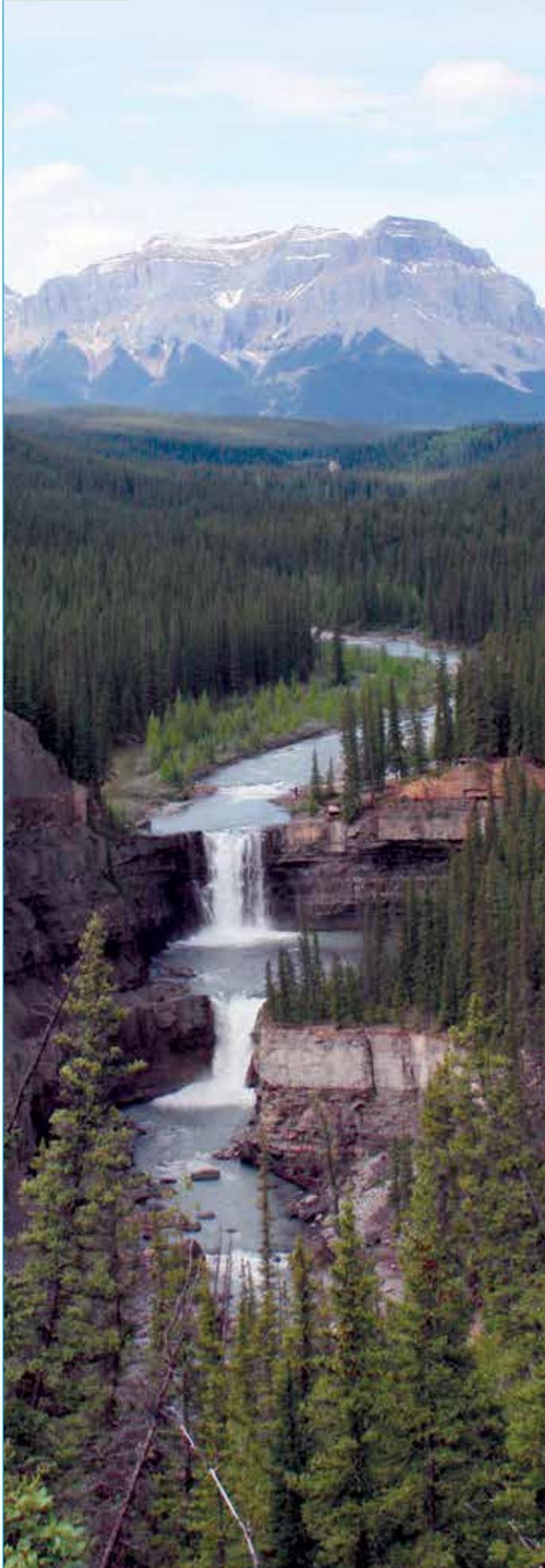


Geocache the Corridor

Ready for some adventure, exploration and fun this summer? Follow your GPS to discover hidden geocaches in some of the most scenic locations along the David Thompson Corridor. Take part in the 'Geocache the Corridor' challenge by finding 10 geocaches located in 10 Alberta Parks along Highway 11, west of Rocky Mountain House. Geocaches will be hidden along trails, in campgrounds or at scenic viewpoints. A passport is available to guide your adventure and reveal secrets about the Alberta Parks you will be visiting and can be stamped at each geocache. Completed passports can be entered into a draw to win an Alberta Parks geocoin. To download your 'Geocache the Corridor' passport and for more information, visit explore.albertaparks.ca.

Geocache the Corridor



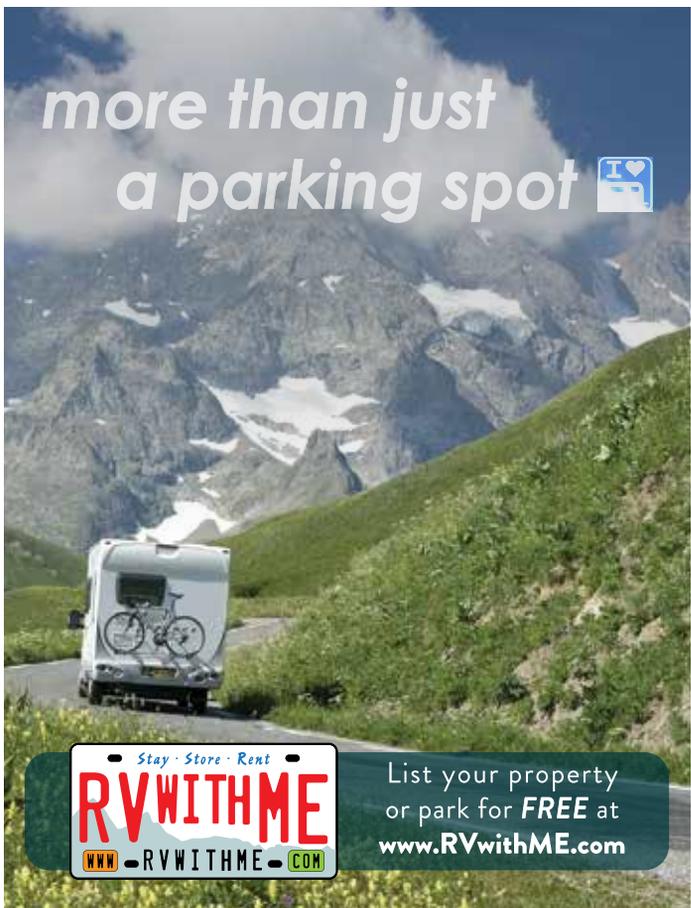


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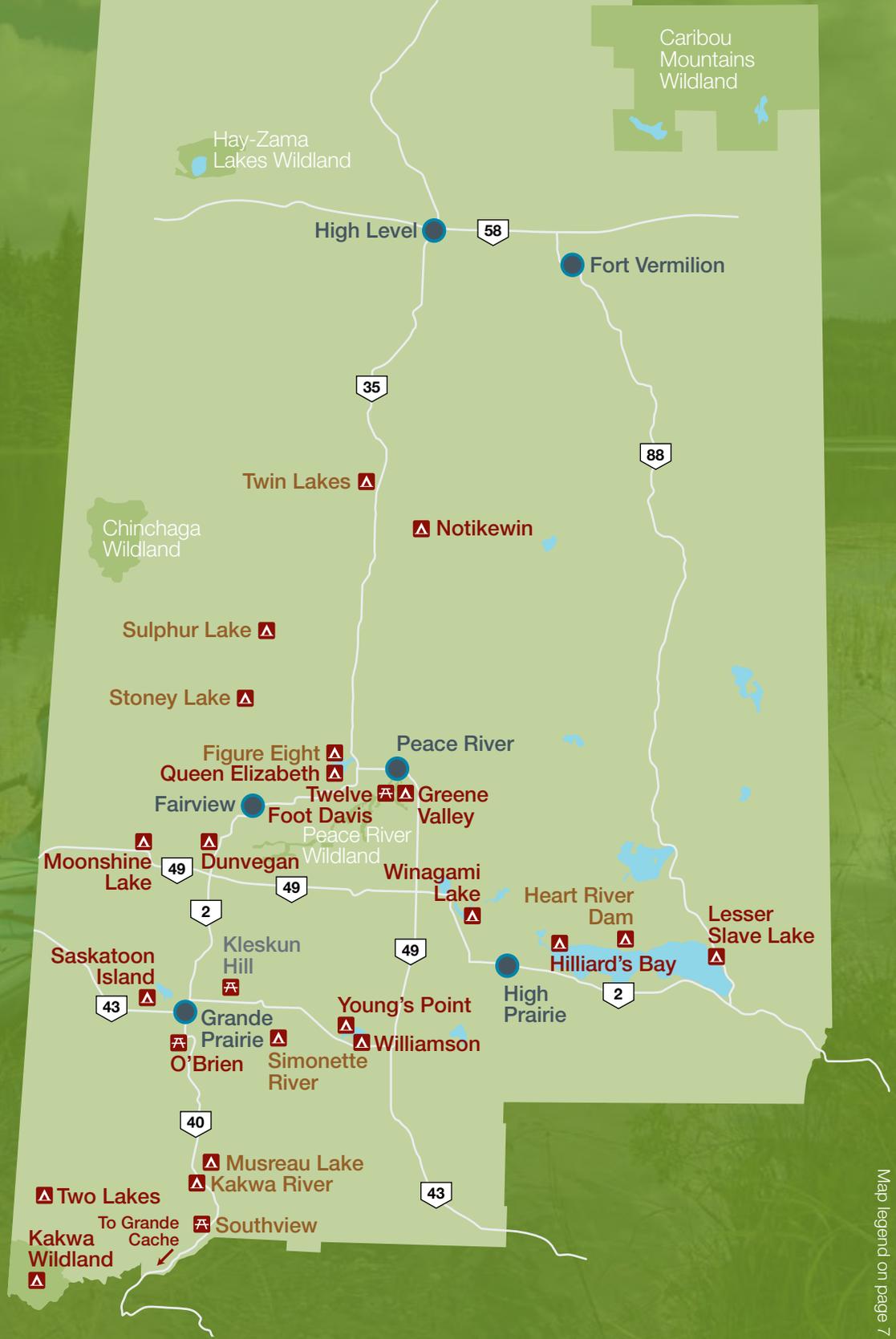


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Northwest



Grasslands in the Northwest

When you think of Northern Alberta, the image of thick boreal forests comes to mind. But forests are not the only things you will see when visiting the Northwest Region. Hidden amongst the parklands and large forests are unique patches of grassland that are similar to what you would find in the southern part of the province. Come take a tour of these special places when you explore the north.

Kleskun Hill Natural Area

Travel 25 minutes east of Grande Prairie on Highway 43 to find the rolling landscape of the Kleskun Hill Natural Area rising 100 meters above the plains. Less than half of 1% of native grassland remains undisturbed in the Grande Prairie area and this natural area protects one of the largest pieces in the region.

Walking trails wind through meadows of wildflowers and past the ancient hills. More than 160 flowering plants can be found here, including the showy bright flowers of the prickly pear cactus. Grassland birds you will see and hear include vesper sparrow, upland sandpiper and western meadowlark.

Kleskun Hill is the most northern location of badlands in Alberta. These eroded remnants of a prehistoric river delta are a miniature version of the more well-known badlands found in southern Alberta. The banded hills reveal sediments deposited under prehistoric lakes and



seas in alternating layers of clays, sands and narrow seams of coal. Fossils of ancient lizards and early mammals have been found here, but not large dinosaurs.

Visitors to this 90-hectare natural area can also enjoy the adjacent small campground, picnic area and historic buildings operated by the City of Grande Prairie.

Peace River Wildland

You can also see the grasslands of the Peace Region along the sunny south-facing slopes of the Peace River. One hour north of Grande Prairie, Highway 2 crosses the river at Historic Dunvegan Provincial Park. Camp overnight or stop for a picnic in the beautiful Peace Valley, an outlier of parkland natural region surrounded by the northern boreal forest. This unique northern zone is made up of a mosaic of meadows and woods, complete with its own micro climate.

The campground at Dunvegan has 65 powered sites and is located next to a historic site, where you can wander among, or take tours of restored buildings that were built over 100 years ago by fur traders and missionaries.

Continuing north towards the Town of Peace River, explore the Shaftesbury Trail, along Highway 684, where you can catch a view of the Peace River Wildland from one of the last operating ferries in Alberta. Above the town of Peace River, take in spectacular views of the river valley from the 12 Foot Davis grave site, which is part of Greene Valley Provincial Park. Watch for the turn off from Highway 2 as you approach the town from the south.



Fishing in the Northwest

Lesser Slave Lake



The lakes and rivers of northwestern Alberta offer incredible fishing opportunities in a variety of beautiful locations. Whether you prefer fishing from a boat or casting your line from shore, you will not be disappointed.

North of Edmonton

Lesser Slave Lake is Alberta's largest lake. Both Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park, on the eastern shores, and Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park, on the west, provide access to great fishing. Just a two-and-a-half hour drive north of Edmonton, this breathtaking lake is home to a variety of fish including walleye, pike, perch, lake whitefish, and burbot. Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park has a hand-launch for small boats, but you can fish from shore or use the municipal boat launch near the Town of Slave Lake for launching large boats. Hilliard's Bay, east of High Prairie, has a boat launch and both parks offer camping as well as day use facilities.

Moonshine Lake



Winagami Lake Provincial Park, 15 km east of High Prairie and 20 km north on Highway 2, offers excellent walleye and pike fishing from your boat or off the breakwater. While staying at the park, explore the trails at the nearby O'Mahoney Conservation Area or fish from shore at the Heart River Provincial Recreation Area.

Winagami Lake



Around Grande Prairie

Moonshine Lake Provincial Park is stocked annually with rainbow and brown trout. You can cast a line from shore or try out your belly boat, canoe or kayak. Electric motors only please. The life jacket loaner station and winter aeration program make this park a great place for families to fish year round. Campground and washrooms are available. Moonshine is about 90 minutes northwest of Grande Prairie on Highway 2 and then east on Highway 49.

Young's Point Provincial Park, located on the northwest shore of Sturgeon lake, offers hours of fun, fishing for that big one you have always wanted to catch. Boating, camping, a life jacket loaner station and great interpretive programs in the summer make this spot a great place for anyone! Young's Point is approximately 30 km west of Valleyview.

Williamson Provincial Park, also on Sturgeon Lake, offers a boat launch and additional campground for fishing enthusiasts on the south shore.

Simonette River Provincial Recreation Area is a popular camping and day use area. The popular large sandy beach and access to Simonette River is great for fishing and other water-based activities. Anglers have caught trout, arctic grayling, mountain whitefish, walleye and pike in the river and nearby tributaries. This provincial recreation area can be found between Grande Prairie and Valleyview, 10 km south of Highway 43 on the Forestry Trunk Road.

The lakes at Two Lakes Provincial Park are stocked with trout; cutthroat in the south lake and rainbow in the north. Power vessels are only allowed on the south Lake and speed is limited to 12 km/h. The north lake offers a quiet

Moonshine Lake



place for fly-fishing. Three campgrounds and a network of trails provide additional recreation opportunities. This hidden gem is located 130 km – just over two hours drive southwest of Grande Prairie on Highway 666.

Further south, you will need four wheel drive vehicles to access the Kakwa and Torrens Rivers, where you'll discover great fly-fishing in some of the most pristine surroundings in the northwest. This area is worth checking out!

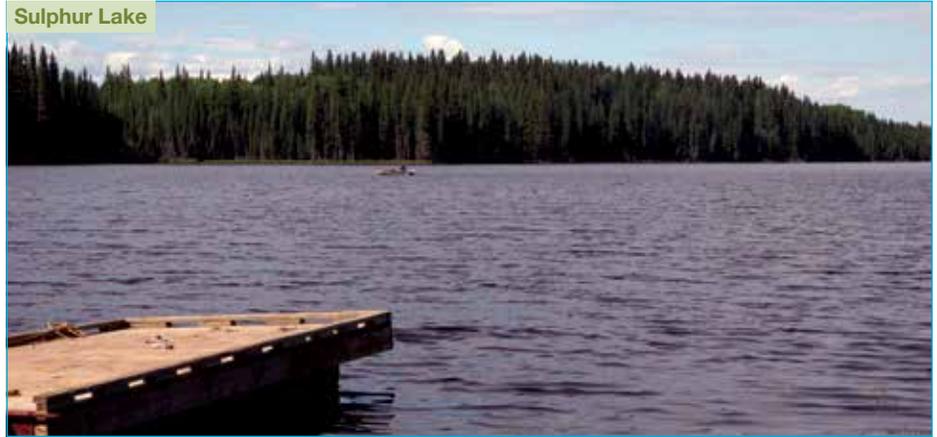
Two Lakes



North of Peace River

Figure Eight Lake Provincial Recreation Area is located 45 minutes west of Peace River just off of the Highway 737. The lake is stocked with rainbow trout; keeping anglers happy in spring, fall and winter. You can fish from your boat (muscle power boats and electric motors only) or from the seawall. The park has 20 rustic campsites with basic amenities.

Several small, but popular lakes north of Peace River offer good fishing in quiet and uncrowded settings. The gravel road conditions may range from poor to fair, so be prepared.



Sulphur Lake Provincial Recreation Area is less than three hours northwest of Peace River, following Highway 35 north and turning west on gravel Highway 689. Gas powered motors are allowed on the lake, with a maximum speed limit of 12 km/hr.



Stoney Lake Provincial Recreation Area is located northeast of Hines Creek on the gravel CANFOR haul road.

Twin Lakes Provincial Recreation Area is just over 30 minutes north of Manning on the Mackenzie highway. This lake has easy access and is very clean. Electric motors only.

All three of these lakes are stocked with trout providing anglers with



Twin Lakes



great fishing opportunities in spring and fall and basic camping amenities. When fishing in this area, also check out Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park, just outside of the Town of Grimshaw.

The remote but breathtaking Notikewin Provincial Park has natural populations of walleye, pike, burbot, arctic grayling and goldeye in the adjacent waters of the Peace River. Cast a line from the shore or enjoy your fishing experience from a boat on the river. Basic campground amenities can be found at this peaceful getaway located northeast of Manning on Highway 35!

You can find details about these and other northwest Alberta provincial parks, recreation areas and natural areas at explore.albertaparks.ca. Information about facilities and services, activities and even downloadable maps are all available on this official Alberta Parks website.

Notikewin



Equestrian Trails

May Your Trail be the Sound of Hooves Upon the Ground

Alberta Parks is about protecting natural landscapes, encouraging people to enjoy and experience nature, and it is also a venue where we sometimes find ourselves taking part in a lifetime adventure.

While riding down the Berland Trail in Willmore Wilderness, too close to sunset to avoid a nighttime ride, a group of horsemen find themselves making their way back to camp in the pitch dark. Many horsemen do not ride in the dark enough for their mounts to be completely comfortable with such a scape. To a horse, their senses are heightened; they snort, shy and become even more aware of what might be just a short distance off the trail watching. As a rider, you must trust your horse completely; depend on their smarts, their eyesight and their surefootedness. They depend on your leadership, balance and calm. It is a true partnership.

To ride a horse through the dark, then see the glow of a rising moon over an eastern peak and watch as the light begins to fill the valley, is one of those lifetime moments. You and your horse appear out of the darkness and enter a dreamscape of faint glowing light bouncing off rocks, creeks and overhanging branches. And, because you are not multitasking, you are only

watching and being calm, the moment is suspended as your horse carries you along in another world.

Not that riding in Alberta's Parks is a nighttime activity. With exceptional equestrian camping facilities throughout many wildlands, parks and recreation areas, you and your trusty equine can be sure to be safely tucked in at night and ready for a fresh start on the trail in the morning. We all know that one day in the mountains with your horse is not enough.

By reserving a site like the Little Elbow Equestrian Campground, you can base out of your camp for several days and ride world class trails without having to load your horse trailer and drive to the site each day. Here you'll find water, a superb extra large campsite, clean outhouses and a barn with tie stalls, right next to trailheads that lead off in every direction to the wonders of Kananaskis Country.

Bob Creek Wildland



Powderface Ridge in Kananaskis Country



If you are looking for a peak experience, Powderface Ridge is a must. Trails in the area are taken care of beyond the call of duty by volunteers who keep the trail in great shape. Of course, your horse will need shoes to get up to, across and back down Powderface Ridge. The trail is moderately rocky, and very steep in sections. The view however is spectacular and has a quick loop back along the road.

Equestrians follow the same rules as hikers, with a little extra caution. Remember you are the horse community's ambassador, for passing and sharing trails. A calm and happy rider can direct traffic to keep everyone safe on shared trails. There are places where horses cannot go, and places only horses and hikers can travel. Plan and know your route, have the right equipment and horse for the ride and know the rules in protected areas.

For more information to plan an equestrian getaway, visit explore.albertaparks.ca.

Beehive Natural Area



Equestrian Destinations

1. Powderface Ridge in Kananaskis Country, a nice day ride from Little Elbow Equestrian Campground.
2. Willmore Wilderness, only accessible on foot or horse - one of those once-in-a-lifetime places you try to visit more than once in a lifetime!
3. Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area, well-marked and mapped trails, nice for opening it up a notch and safely covering ground at a pace horses enjoy.
4. Bob Creek Wildland, South West Alberta's best kept equestrian secret.
5. Outfitters are available in the Kananaskis Region, Bob Creek, Willmore Wilderness, Rock Lake/Soloman Creek and Whitehorse Creek Wildlands. Book a hike supported by pack horse, or go for the true equestrian experience as part of an outfitter led backcountry riding exploration.
6. Rock Lake/Soloman Creek and Whitehorse Creek Wildland are only accessible on foot or horseback for a true backcountry experience.



Whitehorse Wildland



Reserve.AlbertaParks.ca

Book your campsite up to 90 days in advance at one of our many provincial campgrounds.

Make your reservation online or call 1-877-537-2757.



Cross-Country Skiing

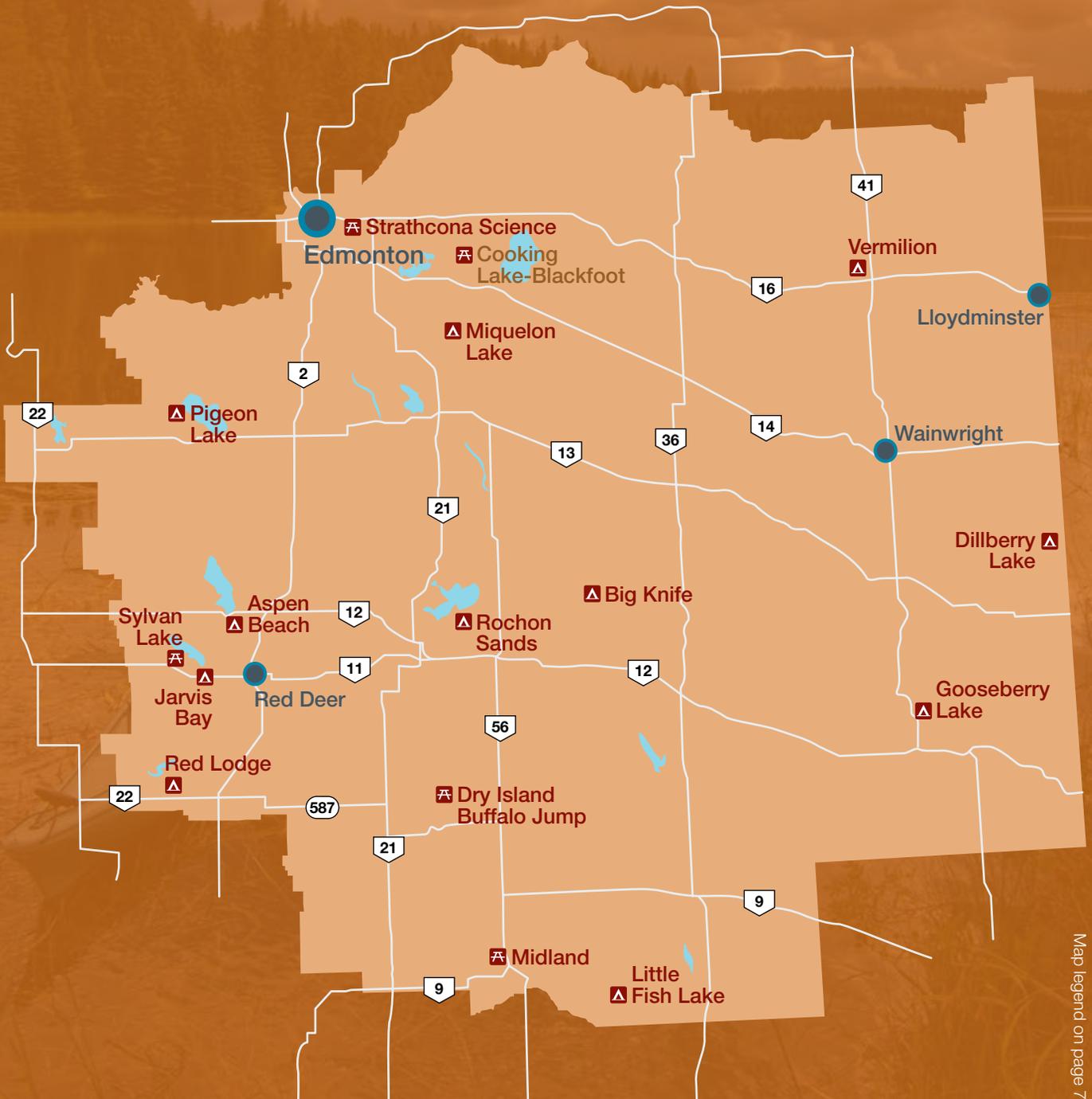


Frozen Waterfall at Ogre Canyon





East Central



Vermilion Provincial Park

Covering over 750 hectares along the north and south shores of the Vermilion River, this park is a local treasure. Several community organizations and volunteers have worked together with Alberta Parks to make this a prime destination for sport tournaments, outdoor recreation pursuits and camping.

This summer, stay cool at the new spray park! With plenty of exciting water play features including the splash blaster and twist n spill. Or, explore over 20 kilometres of trails through undulating terrain on foot or mountain bike. Five kilometres of the trails are paved for rollerblading, walking and accessibility. The park is home to a variety of wildlife including more than 100 species of birds.

Going fishing? The park features the Claude N. Brennan Memorial Trout Pond, stocked annually with rainbow trout. Or, try your luck catching walleye in the Vermilion River.

The campground has all the amenities to enjoy a relaxing weekend with family and friends. There are three group use areas and 111 camping sites; some with power hookups, and some with power, water and sewage hookups. Both are reserveable online or by calling 1-877-537-2757.

If you are looking for a unique place to hold a private family, community group or business event, call (780) 853-4372 to book the fully restored CN Train Station or the group day use area.





Visitors are invited to make use of the shale ball diamonds and soccer pitches.

In winter, groomed and track-set trails take cross-country skiers through the wooded wonderland. Skiers can enjoy an extended season with many trails protected from the sun along the southern slope of the valley. There is a camp kitchen along the trails that is available to warm up.

The Town of Vermilion, Vermilion Soccer Association, Nordic Ski Club, Rotary Club, Senior Aces Ball Club, Lakeland Community College and Rowing Club, are some of the key community players who help develop and support recreational opportunities in the park. With their support, Alberta Parks is able to offer year-round outdoor recreation opportunities to visitors from near and far away.

Tree Swallow



Wilson's Phalarope



Pigeon Lake Provincial Park

If you haven't visited Pigeon Lake Provincial Park in the last two years, now is the perfect time to return and enjoy the many improvements the park has to offer.

New Shower Building



After an extensive redevelopment over the past two seasons, park visitors will delight in a variety of upgrades and additions this season! Some of the key improvements for 2014 include: 10 new *full* service sites, 10 new power pedestals per group use area, two brand new group use shelters in sites formerly without shelters, upgrades to facilities and day-use parking lot, a new shower building, landscaping, new information kiosks and a new boat launch exclusive to campground users!

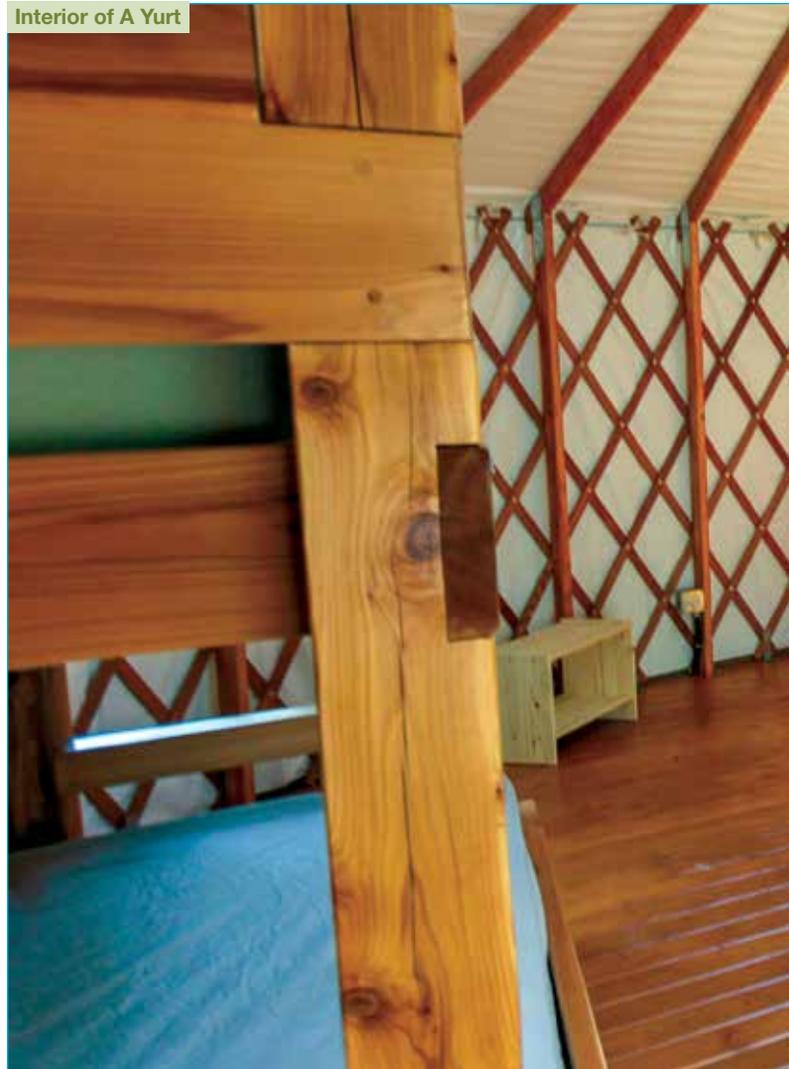
In addition to its many improvements, Pigeon Lake features two attractive beaches that are perfect for picnicking, relaxing and swimming. Anglers will enjoy fishing the lake for walleye and whitefish, while water goers find their thrills power boating, waterskiing, windsurfing, sailing or kayaking. Hike or bike the trails in scenic woodlands throughout the park, where a variety of habitats from creeks and shorelines to mix-wood forests are ideal places for wildlife.

If you are seeking the beauty of the outdoors, but still want to enjoy the comforts of a sturdy shelter and a comfy bed, then Pigeon Lake Provincial Park has a treat to awaken your senses! *Yurts!*

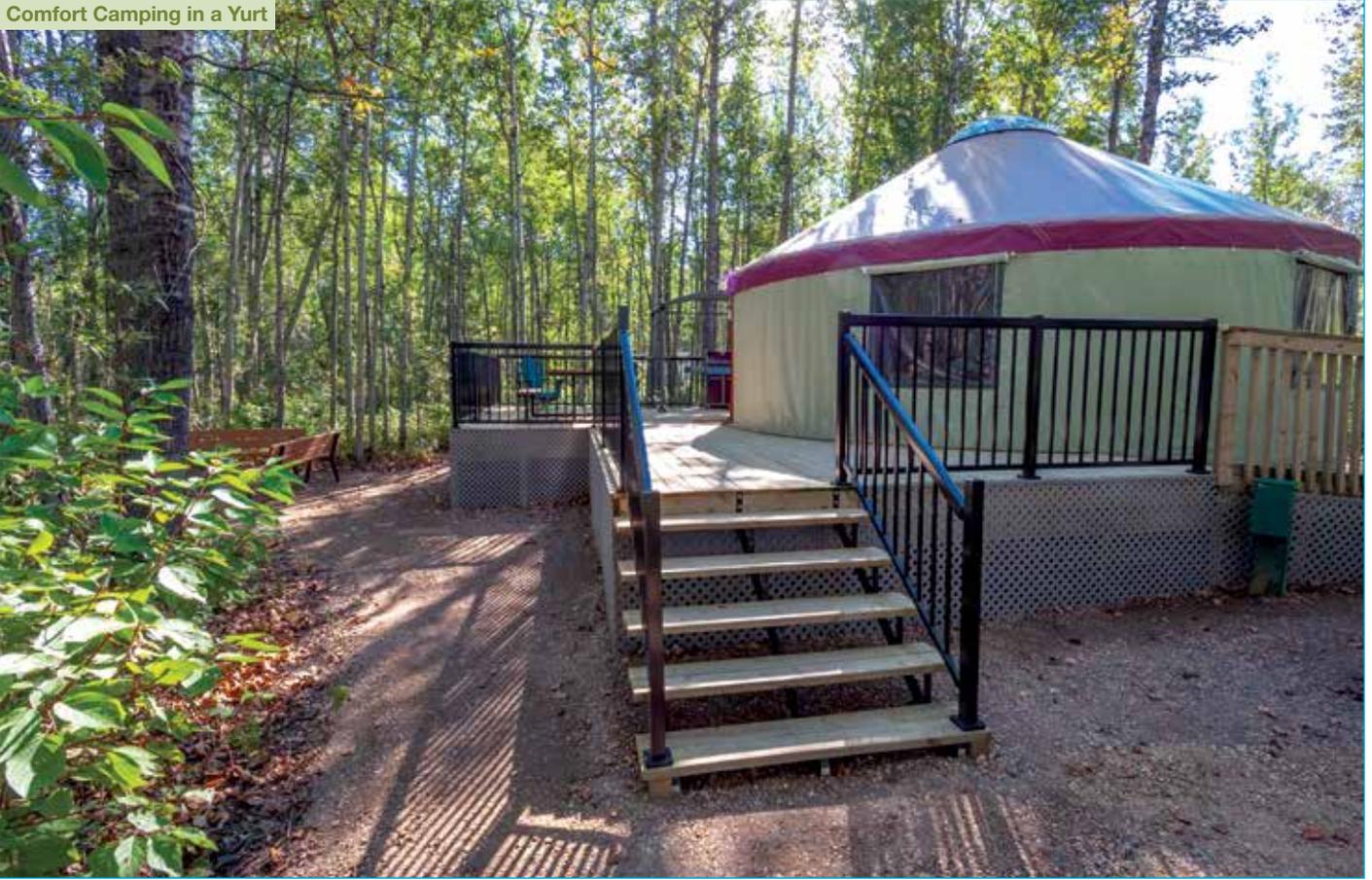
Yurts are a modern version of traditional dwellings used by nomads of central Asia. This cool haven is an insulated, round, tent-like structure mounted on a wooden deck, and completely equipped for your convenience and enjoyment. More secure and comfortable than a tent, yurts provide a more organic and intimate experience with nature than a hard-walled cabin. All yurts are wheelchair accessible, and come with full interior power and lighting, kitchen table and chairs, double-over-queen bunk beds, with mattresses, mattress covers and bottom sheets, fridge and freezer, electric heater, pots, cooking utensils, dishes, cutlery and cleaning supplies.

Enjoy a night outside your yurt and cozy up to a warm campfire. Kick back and relax on an Adirondack chair and *Continued on page 50...*

Interior of A Yurt



Comfort Camping in a Yurt





feel the lake breeze from your sheltered, private deck complete with a picnic table and BBQ with side-burner. Or snuggle up in a comfortable bed and gaze up through the sky-light while the sounds of owls and gentle rustling of leaves serenade you to sleep.

Yurts offer authentic camping experiences for visitors who want to envelop themselves in a setting that provokes as well as satisfies, connects as well calms. With three sizes to choose from, you are sure to find the hassle free get-away you have been seeking. Reserve online or call 1-877-537-2757.

On the west shore of Pigeon Lake, just 15 minutes north of Pigeon Lake Campground, is Zeiner Campground. Zeiner Campground has 123 sites; 88 serviced and 35 unserviced sites that include nine walk-in tent sites. There are also showers, flush toilets, water, sewage disposal for your comfort and convenience. There is a playground for kids and a small beach where you can take a refreshing swim.

Can't make it out during the summer? Come experience the solitude and beauty the park in winter. Groomed cross-country ski trails wind through serene and frosted landscapes. Enjoy a sun-filled day out on the

lake, reeling in the catch of the day. Or, camp in six available campsites (with 15 amp power) in Pigeon Lake Campground. There is plenty of year-round enjoyment for the whole family waiting for you at Pigeon Lake Provincial Park.



Red Lodge Provincial Park

Red Lodge Provincial Park is a quaint retreat from city life. The lush river valley of this area has attracted users for well over 100 years. In 1890, it was home to an English settler named Thomas Crichley, who built a large log house along the shore of the Little Red Deer River. The logs were painted red and thus became the name of his ranch and eventually, the park. The lodge is no longer there but the timeless beauty of the area is still alluring.

Nestled among large spruce and cottonwood trees, this 129-hectare park provides opportunities for camping, picnicking, hiking, wildlife viewing and water activities. Open from mid-May until mid-October, the park features a campground with 39 powered and 67 unserviced sites and three group use areas. Picnic shelters, a shower building, playground, horseshoe and volleyball pitches are some of the facilities in the park to make your stay comfortable and fun. The Little Red Deer River meanders along the north side of the park, making this a popular destination for swimming, tubing, rafting and canoeing. When playing on the water you must wear life-jackets



at all times. This is the simplest way to ensure your adventures are safe and happy.

Visit the craft cabin in the day-use area, build a nature craft or participate in a scheduled interpretive presentation. Stop by the park office for some snacks,

ice or to rent out one of three Family Discovery Packs. Introduced to the park last summer, these do-it-yourself kits come equipped with everything you need to start exploring the park.

Anglers will enjoy the short walk to the river to catch a fresh treat for dinner. Brown trout, brook trout, burbot and whitefish call the Little Red Deer River home. Remember to bring your fishing licence!

Take a peaceful walk on the trail along the river. During the summer watch for the colourful blooms of prickly wildrose, tall bluebells and bunchberry. In the early morning or evening, look for moose and beaver browsing on tender willows from two viewpoints located along the shoreline and listen for the calls of white throated sparrows and robins.

Less than an hour drive southwest of Red Deer, this little hideaway has much to offer for a fun weekend or even longer stays.

Explore More

Visiting provincial parks in the off-season may take a bit more preparation, but for outdoor enthusiasts who like to play year-round, it is well worth the effort and there are some big advantages. Besides the obvious, less mosquitoes, off-season visitors can enjoy a less crowded and more peaceful park experience, with your choice of prime camping spots. For more information call 1-866-427-3582 or go to explore.albertaparks.ca.

Spring Time in Alberta

May is an ideal time to explore Alberta's provincial parks. In the south, where the weather in May is not as intense as in summer months, spring is great for traveling and sightseeing. Across the province, after the May long weekend, most facilities are up and running for the season, and reservations can be made. The parks are not as busy as in July and August, and migrating birds and wildlife are commonly seen. If you come prepared for the cooler temperatures typical in springtime, you will find peace and quiet as well as many sights and sounds that you won't experience during the long warm days of summer.

Fall Camping in Provincial Parks

Some of our best camping is enjoyed in the fall. September typically has clear blue skies and sunny days. The sounds of migrating birds and the scent of fallen leaves and campfires hang in the air. Take advantage of the shorter daylight hours and dark skies to do some star gazing. Mosquitoes are usually long gone by September and your camping trip takes on a new dimension when you wake up with a little frost on the tent.

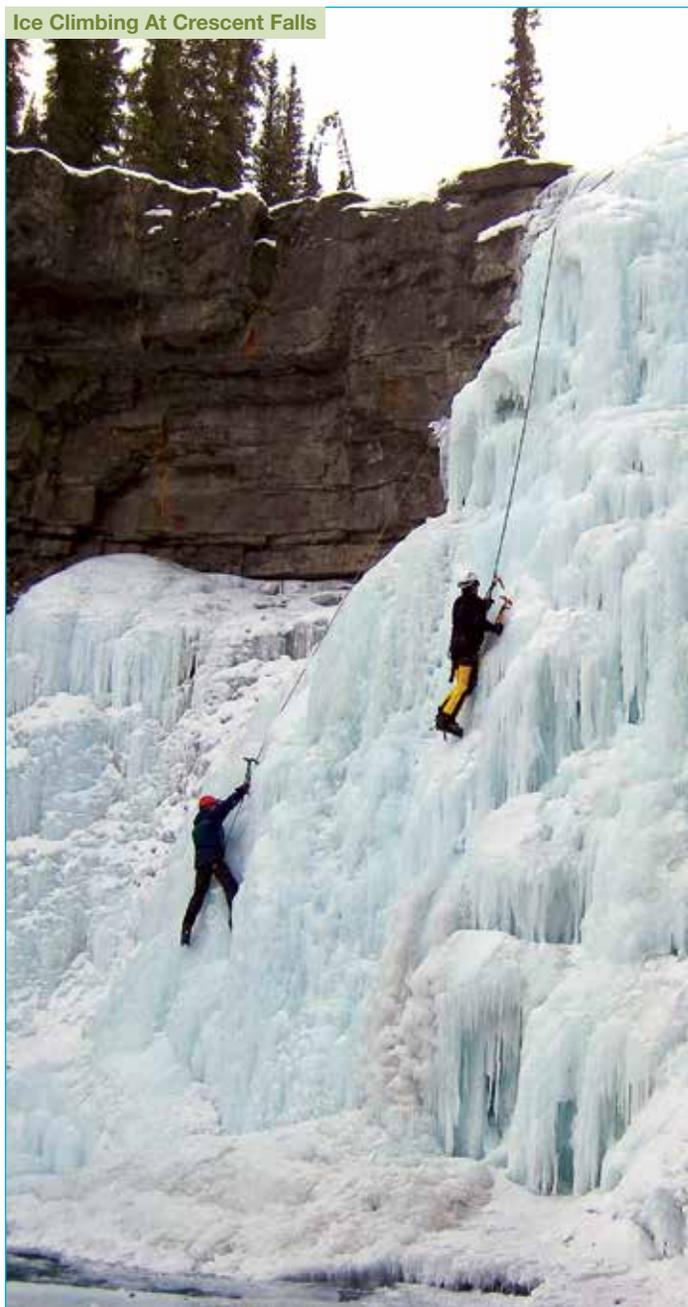
Call ahead if you are planning to visit a park in the fall as service levels may be reduced. To prevent freezing water lines, most water service in parks is turned off by mid to end of September. Firewood may not be re-stocked over the winter and shower facilities are usually closed.

Parks in Winter

Some parks remain open through the winter for adventurous souls who enjoy the quiet magic of winter in Alberta. While most parks are available for day use, there are a number of parks open for winter camping. Call ahead to get details from the park before you go out.

In the north, go to Saskatoon Island, Young's Point, Moonshine Lake, Winagami Lake or Lesser Slave Lake for winter activities like snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and ice fishing. Winter trail brochures can be downloaded

Ice Climbing At Crescent Falls



Important Tips for Off-Season Activities

- Call before you go
- Self registration in effect
- Dress in layers
- Be prepared for all kinds of weather
- Reduced services in campgrounds
- You may need to bring firewood
- You may need to bring potable water

at explore.albertaparks.ca. Try ice fishing or snowshoeing at Cross Lake and Long Lake or the cross-country ski trails at Gregoire Lake near Fort McMurray and Shaw Lake in Lakeland Provincial Park.

In the central part of the province, discover a winter wonderland in the Northern Rockies at William A. Switzer Provincial Park, where the Athabasca Lookout Nordic Centre offers many kilometres of cross-country skiing. Just up the road at Pierre Greys Provincial Park, you'll find even more trails for cross-country enthusiasts. Watch for the winter Carnivale Bonhomme and Ice Fishing Derby at Switzer Park in February. In the David Thompson corridor, cross-country ski or snowshoe at Crimson Lake Provincial Park. If you are an ice climber, Crescent Falls Provincial Recreation Area, west of Rocky Mountain House offers some of the best ice climbing in the province.

In the eastern reaches of Alberta, cross-country skiers will find track set and groomed trails at Vermilion Provincial Park, Miquelon Lake Provincial Park and the granddaddy location for ski trails, Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area. This large park has 170 km of trails, of which 110 km are groomed for cross-country skiing. Every February hundreds of skiers from around the world flock to this park to participate in one of only three Birkebeiner ski races held in the world. In addition to the skiing, there are opportunities for other winter activities in these central Alberta parks.

In the south, downhill or cross-country ski at Cypress Hills Provincial Park. You can also ice fish and snowshoe. Elkwater Lake Lodge, right in the park, provides comfortable accommodations while you play. Beauvais Lake Provincial Park is another winter playground for skiing, snowshoeing and more. Out on the prairie, chinook winds often remove the snow to create excellent

winter hiking at Dinosaur and Writing-on-Stone Provincial Parks.

In Kananaskis Region, you'll find no end to the winter activities that are possible in this vast area. From world-class cross-country ski trails at Canmore Nordic Centre Provincial Park, to downhill skiing at Nakiska, to over 100 km of trails for snowshoeing, there's lots to do for everyone, beginner to expert. The great accommodations nearby can make your getaway even more memorable.

Other parks offering winter activities can be found by searching our website:

- Under Find A Park, select the search by activities like cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or ice fishing, or
- Select Find A Park, then from the left side navigation click camping, then winter camping.

Cross-Country Skiing At Cooking Lake-Blackfoot



It is recommended that you call the park before you venture out in our off-season. Ask if the park is open and what services are still available, so you can make the necessary plans to have a memorable spring, fall or winter camping experience.



SAFE CAMPING TIPS

IT ONLY TAKES ONE TO START A WILDFIRE

Selecting a site

In a campground, always use the designated fire facilities. Stoves, rings and pits are designed to prevent the fire from spreading to our forests.

If you are backcountry camping or your campsite has no designated fire facilities, ensure your campfire is safe as possible. Choose level ground away from dry grass, heavy bush, logs, leaves and overhanging branches. If possible, try to choose a site close to a water source.

Always have a large container of water on hand in case your fire accidentally spreads.

Preparing your campfire

Dig or scrape down to the bare soil an area for your campfire that is one metre in diameter. Remove all flammable materials such as dry leaves, grass, twigs and moss within another metre of your cleared area.

Never use lighter fluid, gasoline or any other accelerant to start your fire. Gradually build your campfire with kindling and then add larger pieces of wood.

Keep your campfire small and never leave it unattended.

Putting the campfire out

Let your fire burn down completely before extinguishing. Spread the remains of the fire evenly around the pit. Add water or loose dirt and stir with a stick or shovel until you no longer see smoke or steam.

To ensure your campfire is completely extinguished, place your hand over the ashes. If you don't feel any heat and you can touch the ashes, your fire is completely out.

Remember, soak it, stir the ashes and soak it again.

REPORT WILDFIRES
310-FIRE
3 1 0 - F I R E

Alberta
Government



OHVs CAN START WILDFIRES

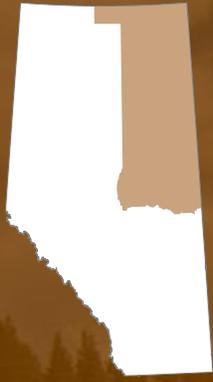
KEEP YOUR MACHINES CLEAN

Visit our website: esrd.alberta.ca or call 310-0000

REPORT WILDFIRES
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Government

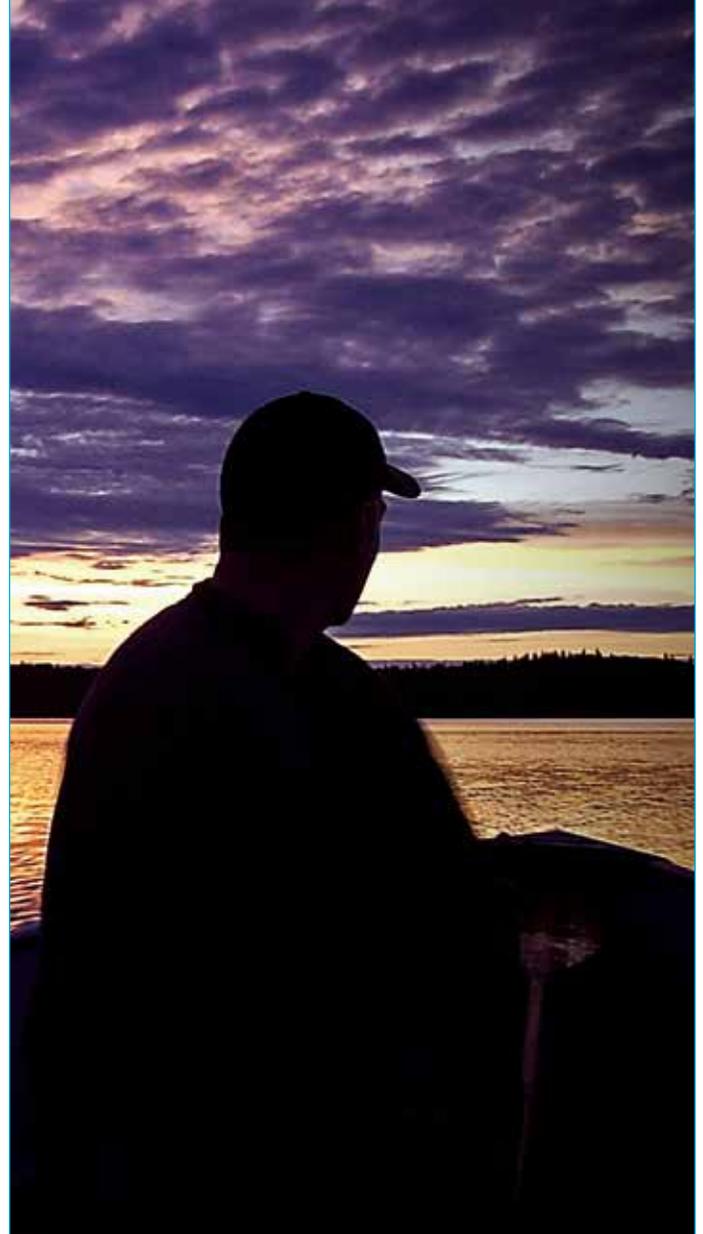
Northeast



Alberta's Northeast

Dominating nearly 50% of northern Alberta, the northeast is an outdoor playground of four different natural regions: the shady Boreal Forest, the rock, trees and water of the Canadian Shield, the mixed woods of the Parkland and a small island of Foothills. This means clear northern lakes with sandy bottoms, old growth forests filled with songbirds, mountainous sand dunes, campsites in stands of jack pines and unlimited wild places for you to discover.

This region is divided into several administrative districts including the Cold Lake District, featured in this issue and the Athabasca District, where you'll find North Buck Lake that is also spotlighted here.



Red Admiral Moth



Pelican with Ducks



Cold Lake District

Characterized by boreal forest, breathtaking scenery, abundant wildlife, and the numerous opportunities for camping and recreational activities – the Cold Lake District is the perfect getaway for the outdoor enthusiast.

Whitney Lakes Provincial Park

Reserve your site at Whitney Lakes Provincial Park, just three hours northeast of Edmonton, where four lakes offer visitors fishing, canoeing and other water activities. The main beach at Whitney Lake and several small campers' beaches at Ross Lake provide plenty of real estate for building your own sandcastle or medieval fortress.

The park encompasses four lakes – Whitney, Laurier, Ross and Borden. A large campground, located at Ross Lake, has powered campsites, hot showers and group camping areas, while the smaller campground at Whitney Lake has about 50 campsites, over half of them with power.

The “knobby” esker and kettle terrain makes a great setting for interesting trails to hike and mountain bike throughout the park. Over 30 km of trail system follows shorelines, passes through dense forests and provides exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities.

Garner Lake Provincial Park

This beautiful small park is a nice getaway for families and others looking for a peaceful retreat.

The lake is ideal for canoeing, kayaking, fishing and swimming. The sand beach is also one of the main drawing cards to this park, for those looking to kick back. The park offers five km of trails through the lush forest as well as a boat launch and playground. There are 61 reserveable campsites, many with power, and a shower facility.

You can find this park just off of Highway 28 and only a two-hour drive through the scenic rural landscape northeast of Edmonton.

Perfect for that weekend getaway or even just a day trip to the beach, once you get here you won't want to leave.

Great Grey Owl





Moose Lake/Franchere Bay

These two parks on Moose Lake are very popular for boating, fishing, canoeing and other water sports. Take an early morning walk to hear songbirds and watch for a variety of waterfowl and raptors, as well as wildlife like bear, moose and deer.

For that perfect family getaway, reserve your spot at either one of these.

Moose Lake Provincial Park, on the north shore of Moose Lake in a jack pine forest, provides overnight camping, a small beach, boat launch, day use and a group use area. Trails are used year-round by hikers, skiers and snowshoers.

Franchere Bay Provincial Recreation Area is on the west shore of Moose Lake and has many camping sites, hot showers, boat launch and a great, white sand beach.

Either of these parks is the perfect spot to sit around the campfire and take in the incredible star show after dark, while the haunting songs of coyotes call from off in the distance.

Cold Lake Provincial Park

For a northern treat, head for Cold Lake Provincial Park. Located between parkland and boreal forest natural regions, the park protects marshes, mixed wood forests, beautiful sand beaches and lakeshore landscapes.

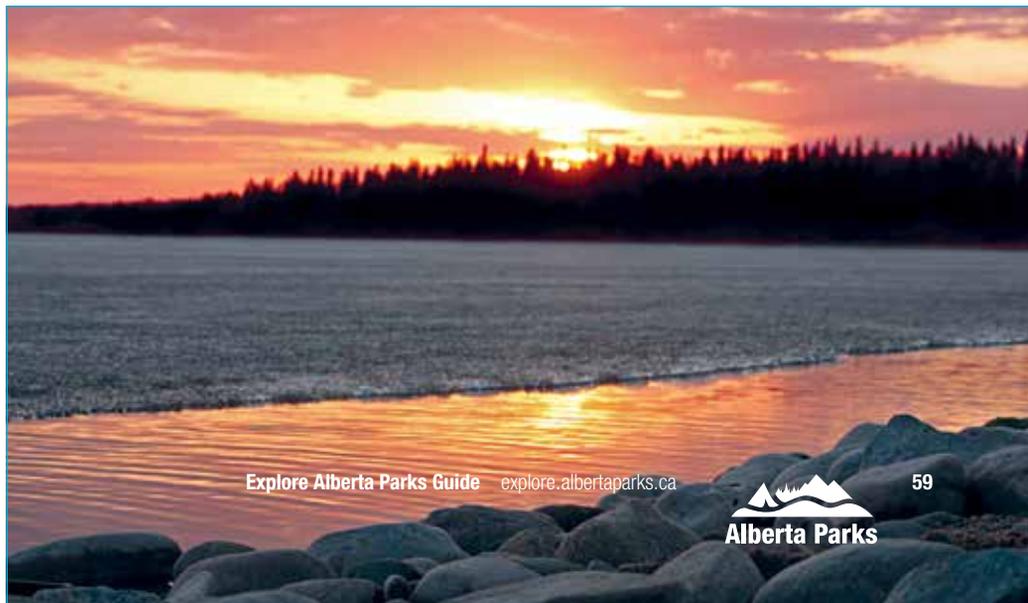
Despite its name, the lake's depth actually creates a thermal basin that prevents ice forming until well into December. This a great place to see waterfowl and shorebirds, hear hundreds of songbirds and encounter other forest species that live in the varied and rich habitats in the park. Many species use the sheltering forests of the park as wintering grounds.

There are nine km of trails to explore on foot or mountain bike. Along the lakeshore you can watch many species of waterfowl, busily feeding or caring for their little ones. Or you may catch a glimpse of other resident wildlife like bear, deer or moose.

In summer, relax on the beach until the end of the day, and then wander back to the shore after supper to see a spectacular northern sunset.

The park has over 100 campsites, including many power hook-ups and some walk-in tenting sites. For your comfort and convenience, there are coin-operated showers, flush toilets, sewage disposal, boat launch, playgrounds and fish cleaning facilities. Individual and group camp reservations can be made online or by calling the reservation centre.

Come back in winter to discover the park all over again, blanketed in snow. Explore on snowshoes or cross-country skis, and enjoy the quiet of a northern winter wonderland, just minutes away from the amenities available in the City of Cold Lake.



Kehiwin Provincial Recreation Area

Just north of Elk Point along Highway 41, Kehiwin Provincial Recreation Area stretches along the long narrow Kehiwin Lake. The lake, surrounded by tree covered hills, occupies an ancient river valley leftover from the retreat of the glaciers, thousands of years ago.

This small and rustic campground, in the picturesque and historic northeastern Alberta hills, does not take reservations. With only 34 campsites, this can be a nice getaway for fishing, canoeing or just sitting by your campfire only steps from the lakeshore.

You can find details about facilities, services and activities, as well as downloadable maps, of these and other northeast Alberta Provincial Parks, Recreation Areas and Natural Areas at explore.albertaparks.ca.

French Bay Provincial Recreation Area

Are you looking for a small, more rustic campsite? You should head for French Bay Provincial Recreation Area on the shore of Cold Lake. No more than 10 basic sites with a campfire ring and picnic table are waiting for you to set up camp and relax in the peace and quiet. Enjoy the sand beach and a boat launch just right for launching your small boat. The sites are close to the lake, so handy for grabbing your camera to capture the amazing sunsets and the wildlife as it wanders by.

In the winter, return to French Bay for ice fishing and downhill skiing. Kinosoo Ridge Ski Area, run by the M.D. of Bonnyville, is located right in the recreation area. To find out details about skiing at Kinosoo go to kinosoo.ca.

For more information about these and other parks in the Cold Lake area, go to explore.albertaparks.ca.

Cold Lake Canoeing and Fishing



Great Blue Heron



Snowshoeing





Athabasca District

North Buck Lake

If you are looking for a campground with a peaceful, remote feeling then North Buck Lake Provincial Recreation Area in the Athabasca District of northeast Alberta is the place for you. It's an easy two-hour drive north of Edmonton, just 22 km east of the town of Boyle.

Boating and fishing for pike and perch are popular activities at this lake. We recommend use of smaller boats, as low lake levels in recent years have resulted in launching difficulties for larger prop or deep hull boats.

There are several fish cleaning stands available throughout the campground for cleaning your catch. Enjoy an afternoon relaxing on the clean, sandy beach or pull out the binoculars and take advantage of the abundant bird watching opportunities. You might also spot a deer, elk or moose as they are frequent visitors to the area.

Although there are many areas outside the park used by off-highway vehicle (OHV) riders, operation of OHVs within the boundaries of the provincial recreation area is strictly prohibited.

The provincial recreation area is on a sunny, sandy hill with the picturesque jack pine forest nearby and along the lakeshore. The campground has 125 campsites, 29 of them with power hookups and some spacious enough to accommodate large RVs. Several sites are right on the waterfront for quick and easy access to the lake. This campground has been operated by the Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement on behalf of Alberta Parks for many years.

Starting in February of 2014, a number of selected campsites for North Buck Lake Provincial Recreation Area will be available for reservation online at reserve.albertaparks.ca or by phone at 1-877-537-2757.



North Buck Lake



Programs In Parks

Interpretive Programs in Alberta's Provincial Parks

One of the special treats of camping at a provincial park is the opportunity to get closer to nature through a program delivered by enthusiastic park staff. Visitor programs are available throughout the camping season. Some are led by park staff, and some are self-guided activities like scavenger hunts and activity guides. You can sign out activity packs to help you explore pond life, learn about animal tracks, study bugs, watch birds, do art in the park, or get started with astronomy and geocaching.

At *Miquelon Lake Provincial Park*, southeast of Edmonton, guided programs are offered weekly from Thursday through Sunday from the July long weekend to the September long weekend. Many self-guided activities such as Discovery Packs and scavenger hunts are available for those wishing to explore the park on their own.

In the south, *Cypress Hills Provincial Park* welcomes you aboard a Wildlife Safari bus tour! Or, you can learn to fish, go geocaching, and explore the night sky. At *Dinosaur Provincial Park*, try a hands-on Fossil Safari, or a more challenging Centrosaurus Quarry Hike. At *Writing-on-Stone*, take a Rock Art Tour and experience authentic Blackfoot cultural programs, guest speakers, and special events.

In *Kananaskis Country*, be sure to take in an interpretive theatre program. The excellence of these shows has earned many national awards. Or take part in a one-hour activity-based program where fun, hands-on learning experiences are designed for the whole family. You can also chat with a park interpreter one-on-one at

select trailheads, day use areas and visitor centres. If you prefer to stay near to Calgary, there are interpretive programs and self-guided hikes available at *Fish Creek* and *Glenbow Ranch* provincial parks, many of which are offered by Friends of Fish Creek and the Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation.

Explore west central parks: in the *David Thompson Corridor* discover the area through self-guided geocaching adventures, sign-up for a guided backcountry hike or enjoy evening interpretive programs by the campfire at Fish Lake. In the *Northern Rockies*,

Learning About Mushrooms





take a guided hike to identify medical plants and edible mushrooms in *Switzer Park*. Learn about bear and cougar safety. Catch butterflies, bake bannock, and re-discover forgotten bushcraft.

In northeast parks, visitors to *Sir Winston Churchill* or *Long Lake* provincial parks can take part in amphitheatre programs, guided hikes, spontaneous presentations and displays, family programs and special events with lots of hands on activities that can combine natural or cultural history and physical activity.

In northwest Alberta, amphitheatre programs are delivered on Saturday nights at *Saskatoon Island* and *Young's Point* provincial parks. Drop in programs at *Young's Point*, *Saskatoon Island*, *Musreau* and *Moonshine* provincial parks, share topics like Learn to

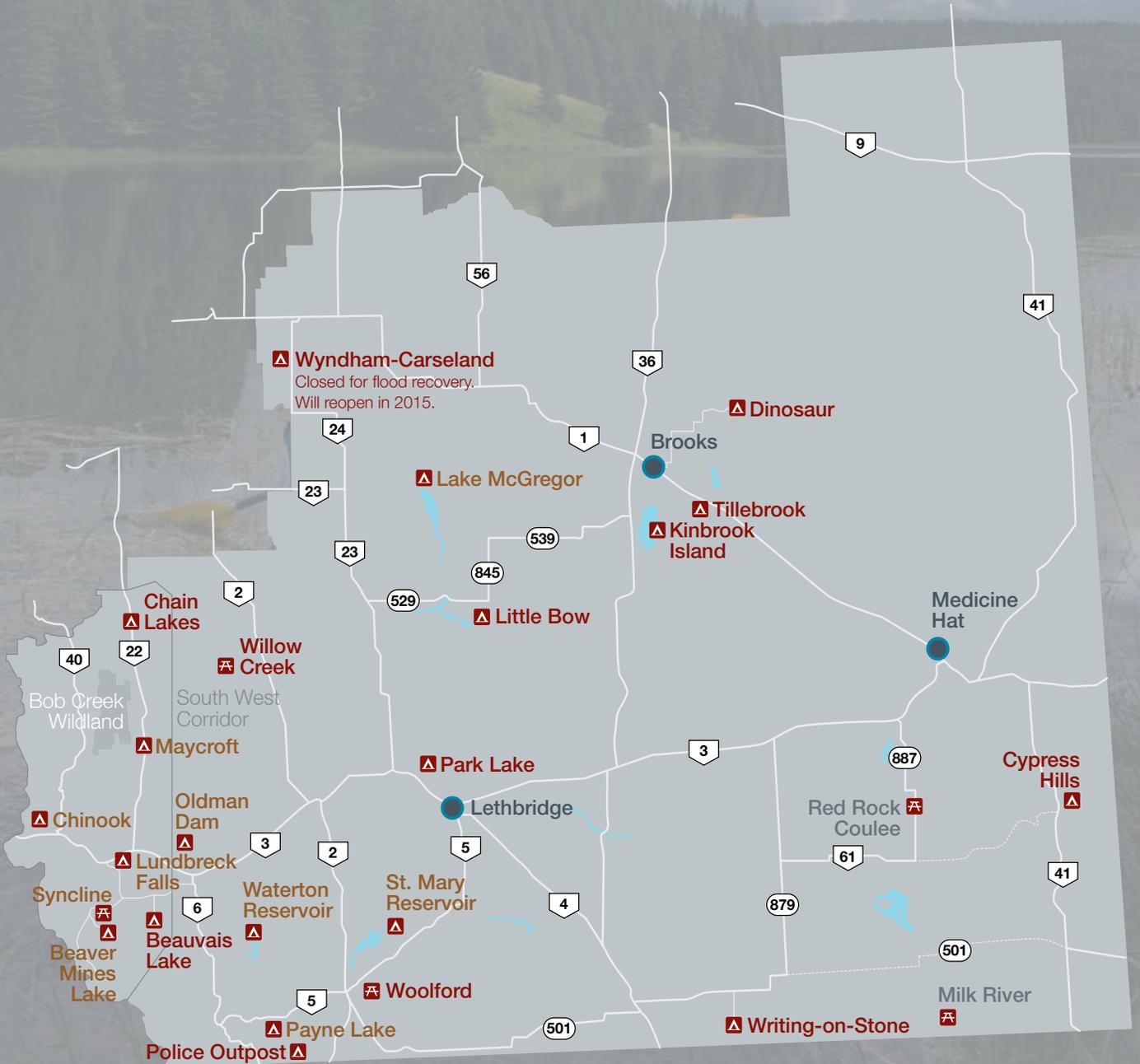
Fish, Buggin' Out, Encountering Wildlife, Beautiful Birds and Nature Detectives.

Visitor centres provide valuable information, helpful tips and interesting displays at *Dinosaur*, *Cypress Hills*, *William A Switzer*, *Writing-on-Stone* and *Lesser Slave Lake* provincial parks. In *Kananaskis Region* there are visitor centres at *Peter Lougheed*, *Bow Valley*, *Sheep River*, *Canmore Nordic Centre*, *Fish Creek*, and *Glenbow Ranch* provincial parks, as well as in the *Elbow Valley* and near *Barrier Lake*.

You can find out more by looking up your favourite park at explore.albertaparks.ca.



South



Welcome to Southern Alberta

The south is packed with unparalleled diversity of landscapes and experiences! Hike the high mountain peaks in the Crown of the Continent, and explore for dinosaur bones in the deep canyons in the Canadian Badlands. Bike or paddle in the beauty of Cypress Hills, and connect with the spirit of Writing-On-Stone. No matter which destinations you choose, you will find landscapes that take your breath away, and experiences you will never forget.

The provincial parks and recreation areas in southern Alberta are destinations unto themselves, and also make excellent staging areas for exploring other attractions. Getting into the local communities and businesses you will experience the warmth of western hospitality, while supporting sustainable tourism in the area.

Flip through the following pages to discover the jewels of the Crown of the Continent and Canadian Badlands. You will find that there are many hidden gems along the way.

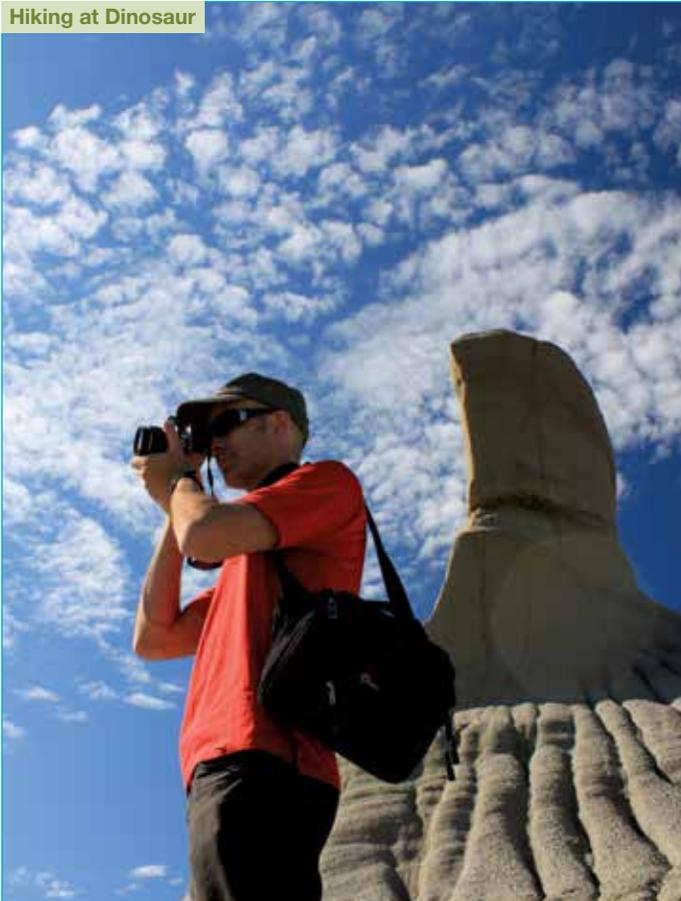
Cycling at Cypress Hills



National Aboriginal Day at Writing-on-Stone



Hiking at Dinosaur



Fishing At Castle Falls

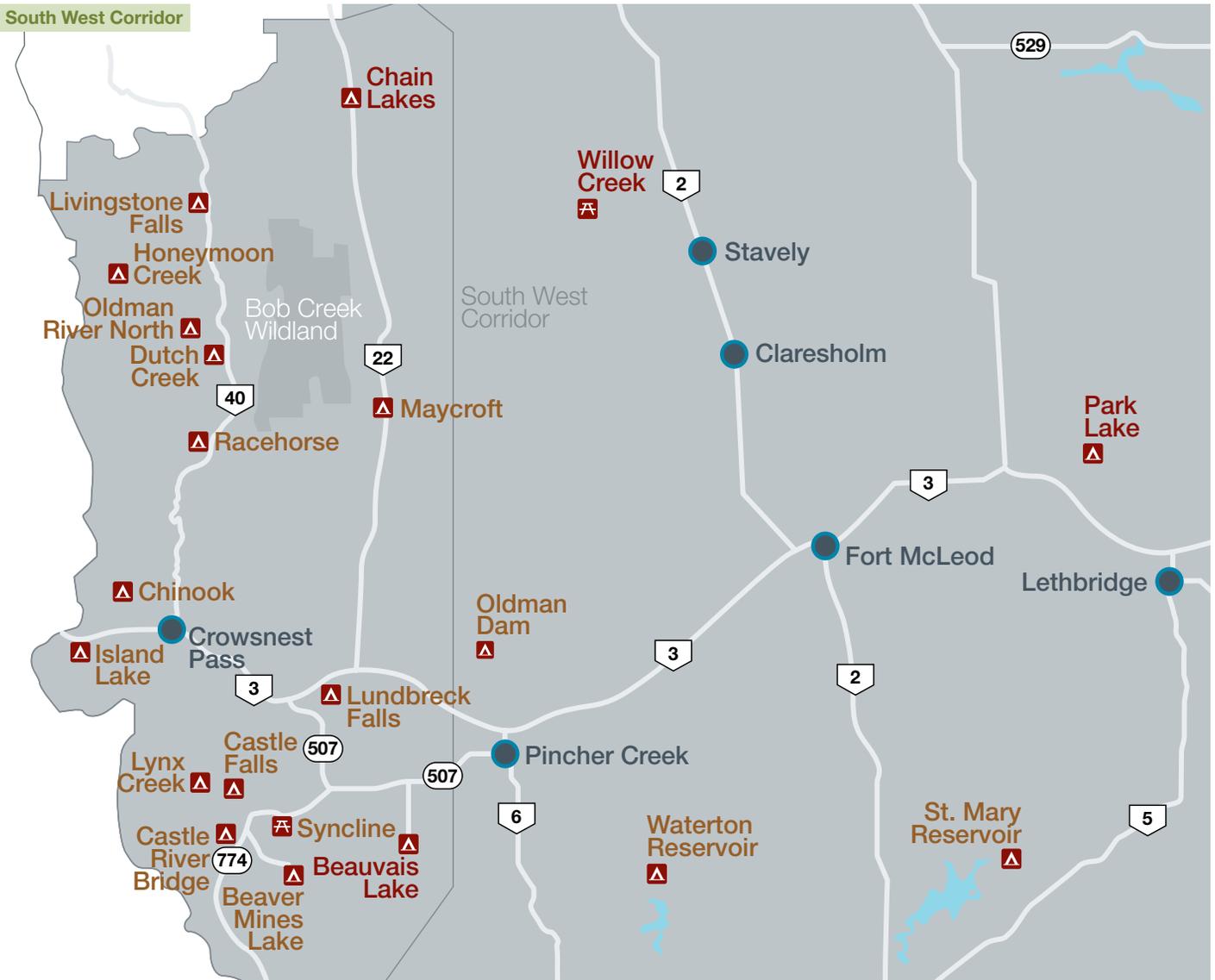


Alberta's Crown Jewels

The Crown of the Continent is one of the most diverse and intact wilderness areas in North America. Alberta's provincial parks and recreation areas are some of the jewels of this crown, protecting ecosystems and species, preserving cultural heritage, and providing opportunities to experience this amazing region.

Base yourself at any of the campgrounds while you explore the streams, lakes, trails and peaks of this precious landscape. Nearby communities and historic sites will welcome you and share their heritage. Prepare yourself for experiences that you will remember forever. The opportunities are endless.

South West Corridor



Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park

Milk River, Writing-on-Stone



1.5 hours southeast of Lethbridge

Venture off the beaten path and immerse yourself in the ancient badlands, quiet grasslands and rare environments of Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.

Called *Áísínai'pi* by the Blackfoot First Nations, Writing-on-Stone has attracted people for thousands of years. No matter where you travel from, once you arrive you will feel energized and inspired to explore this place that is alive with history.

Today, visitors can enjoy a wide range of experiences suitable for a day-trip or a week-long adventure. An excellent starting point is the Visitor Centre where staff and exhibits will welcome you to this special place. Here you can find out program details and book your spot on a guided interpretive tour into the Archaeological Preserve.

Our quiet 60-site campground and unique Comfort Camping sites are beneath the cottonwoods, alongside the lazy Milk River. While we are open year-round, the summer months are our most popular. Spring and autumn often have excellent weather and are perfect for birders who wish to catch the songbird migration.

Rock Art Tour



Float the Milk River

One of the most memorable ways to see the hoodoos, wildlife and beautiful landscapes is from the water. Tubing, rafting, canoeing and kayaking are all great ways to float the Milk River. Options range from a quick 1.5 hour tube float, to an overnight camping/canoeing trip.

If you'd prefer to remain on solid ground, enjoy a sunny afternoon on the sandy beach near the campground, cool down in the river and build sandcastles with the kids!

The best time of year to enjoy canoeing and kayaking is between mid-May and mid-August. Water levels change with the seasons, so check on river levels before you set out. For more information and other park opportunities and activities contact the staff at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park at (403) 647-2364.

Ideas for Exploring

- Celebrate National Aboriginal Day with us on June 21, 2014.
- Bring binoculars to enjoy birding and wildlife watching.
- Join a guided Rock Art Tour or attend an evening interpretive program.
- Hike the Hoodoo Trail and view the Battle Scene petroglyphs.

You can book your campsite or comfort camp site online, at reserve.albertaparks.ca.

More trip information, including tour tickets, is available at albertaparks.ca/writing-on-stone.

Dinosaur Provincial Park

UNESCO World Heritage Site

48 km north of Brooks

Noted for having the highest concentration of dinosaur fossils from the late Cretaceous Period of anywhere in the world, Dinosaur Provincial Park is also famous for its stunning landscapes and diverse and unusual wildlife. Have an adventure, rejuvenate in nature or share remarkable experiences with your family!



A UNESCO/
World Heritage Site

Valley of the Moon



Trip Tips

- **Take a Guided Program** – designed for all age levels and physical abilities. The schedule for interpretive tour programs is available online at the end of February.
- **Book in Advance** – the guided programs and campsites book up quickly! Use www.reserve.albertaparks.ca to book camping and Comfort Camp sites and albertaparks.ca/exploredinosaur to book programs.
- **More Camping** – A beautiful little campground, Tillebrook Provincial Park is only a half hour from Dinosaur Provincial Park and just 10 minutes to the beach at Kinbrook Island Provincial Park.
- **For Your Comfort and Safety** – Wear light, breathable clothing, a hat, and sturdy footwear. Carry lots of water, some snacks, sunscreen and insect repellent. A walking stick can be a great help.
- **Caution!** – Ancient volcanic ash makes the badlands slick when wet. In these conditions, hiking is not recommended and occasionally some programs must be cancelled.
- **Wildlife** – There is abundant wildlife to see; this prairie habitat is a birder's paradise.
- **Don't Forget Your Camera** – the badlands are among the most beautiful landscapes in the world. Bring your camera, and try to capture the golden light in early morning or in the evening.

Outdoor Camping



Explore with an Expert

Qualified guides take you into the Natural Preserve to learn about the park's science and history, and to discover fossils for yourself. Take an Explorer's Bus Tour, capture stunning photographs on a Sunset Tour, hike to the Centrosaurus Quarry, or join in a real dig on a Guided Excavation.

Discover Fossils Together



Make your own Adventure

Climb to the top of the hills, find an undiscovered cave, or observe wildlife from the shade of the cottonwood trees. Walk one of the five self-guided interpretive trails, drive the scenic loop road, see outdoor fossil displays and indoor exhibits.

Explore Your World



Fun with Friends and Family

Picnicking near the playground, paddling on the river, or having a reunion in the Comfort Camping sites, you reconnect with family and friends. Make a fossil cast in the Palaeo-Lab, take in a theatrical show, go on a Fossil Safari, or do the four-hour long Great Badlands Hike.

Create New Memories



Gaze At The Stars



Stay the Night

Coyotes howl as you toast marshmallows over a campfire. There is so much to do here, that a single day is not enough. Spend a magical night under the stars in an RV, tent, or one of our furnished wall tents.

Kinbrook Island Provincial Park

The Jewel of Newell

Just 90 minutes east of Calgary and 15 km south of Brooks you'll find an oasis on the prairie.

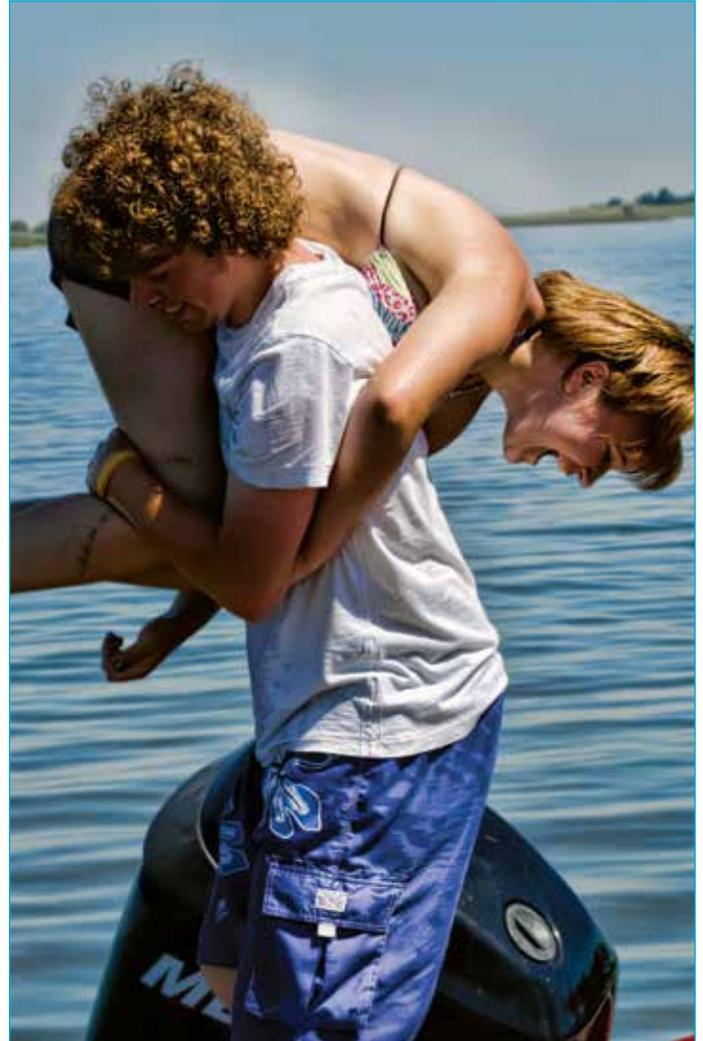
Kinbrook Island Provincial Park is on a sandy island along the east side of beautiful Lake Newell. The campground has over 150 sites and offers shower and laundry facilities.

Swim in the warm waters of Lake Newell, build sandcastles on the beach, relax under a shade tree in your campsite, while enjoying ice cream from the concession.

Walk around the Marsh Trail with your binoculars, looking for yellow-headed blackbirds among the cattails or white pelicans soaring above.

Watch a magnificent prairie sunset on the lake as the breeze fills your sails, launch your boat and waterski, try out your new stand-up paddleboard, or canoe to a sheltered bay to cast your line for northern pike or walleye.

Get more details to plan your getaway at explore.albertaparks.ca.



Family Time At Kinbrook Island



Experience the wild prairie at the Milk River Natural Area

Travel to the far southeastern corner of Alberta to see the same kind of undisturbed prairie, where bison used to roam. Explore the unique geological features called lava dykes, several archaeological and fossil sites and the deepest canyon in the Canadian grasslands. In this remote and scenic landscape, streams and springs, oxbow lakes, coulees and badlands create an array of habitats. Alberta's only native lizard, the short-horned lizard suns itself along the rims of coulees, golden eagles nest in the cliffs, and tumbleweeds bounce across the horizon.



Camping at Kinbrook Island

Discover the unearthly landscape of Red Rock Coulee Natural Area

Wander among the red sandstone boulders scattered throughout the area, creating an otherworldly scene. Amongst grassy knolls and boulders up to 2.5 metres in diameter, you may catch a glimpse of western meadowlark or Nuttall's cottontail or even a rattlesnake. This hilly grassland coulee has an abundance of aromatic sagebrush and flowering plants like the prickly pear cactus and prairie crocus.

You'll find each of these intriguing landscapes south of Medicine Hat

There are no facilities on site and it can be extremely hot and dry. When visiting, be sure to wear proper closed toe shoes, sun protection and bring lots of water. In wet conditions, the natural clay becomes extremely slippery. Help care for these fragile landscapes by packing out garbage and reporting any interesting observations or concerns.

For more information, call (403) 893-3833 or go to explore.albertaparks.ca.

Red Rock Coulee



Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park

Experience hands-on nature and history activities for the whole family.

With its mix of rolling hills, lakes and grasslands, this high plateau offers many weekends of adventure and relaxation in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Explore over 75 km of trails for hiking, mountain biking or horseback riding.

An ancient meeting place and hunting ground for First Nations, the Hills remain an excellent wildlife viewing site. Over 250 bird species, 47 different mammals, and rare and unusual reptiles and amphibians can be found.

Within the park, more than a dozen campgrounds and two small communities provide most amenities, including restaurants, lodges and golf courses.

Hiking At Cypress Hills



Elkwater Beach



Guided Activities and Events

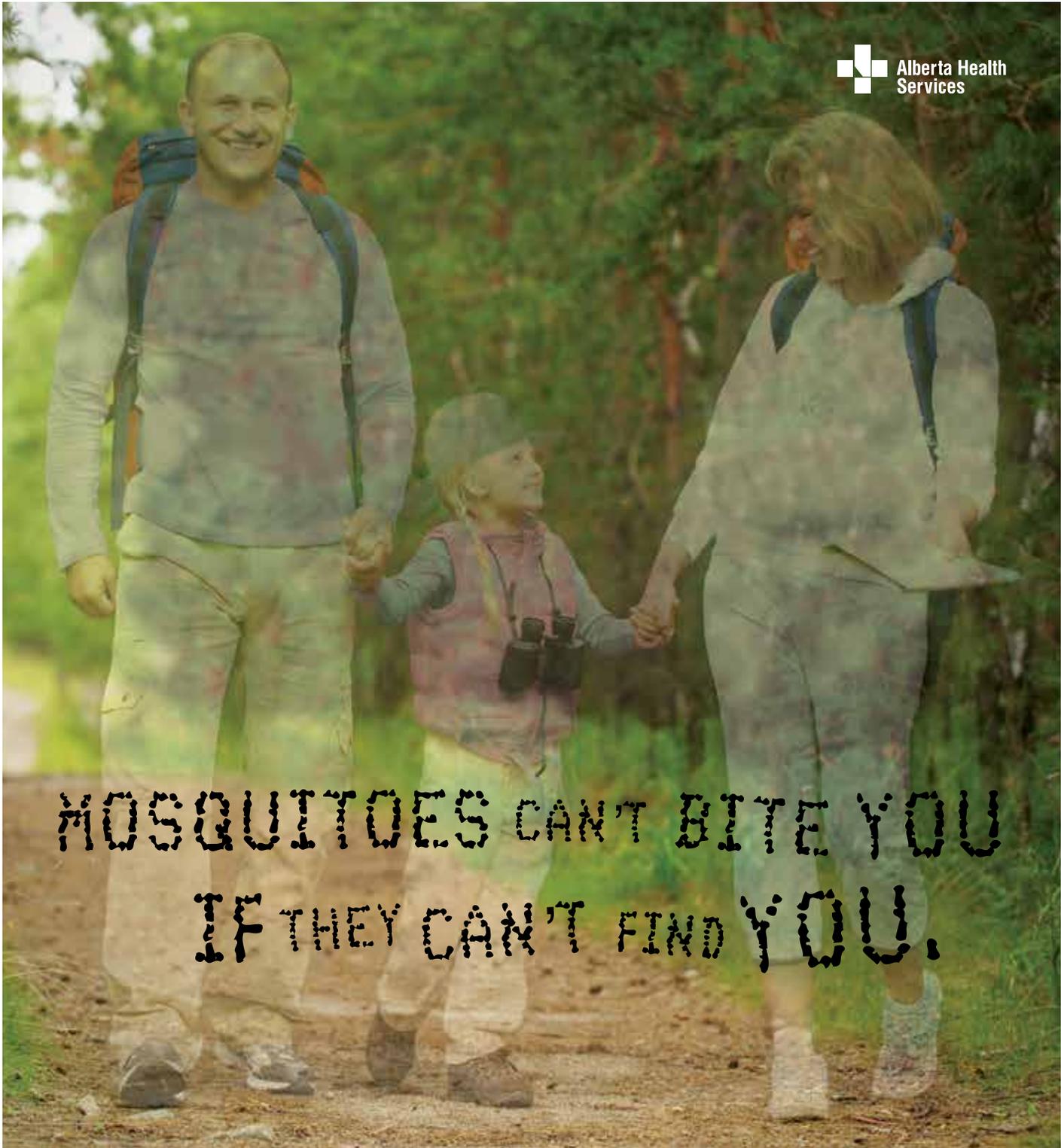
Popular guided activities include Learn-to-Fish, GPS Geocache Adventures and the Wildlife Watching bus tour. Visit the bird banding station or celebrate Parks Day with us on July 19th!

For more information, visit us online at explore.albertaparks.ca.



Fort Walsh National Historic Site © Parks Canada/Hogarth Photography





MOSQUITOES CAN'T BITE YOU
IF THEY CAN'T FIND YOU.



- Use an insect repellent with DEET.
- Wear light-coloured long-sleeved shirts and pants, and a hat.
- Consider staying indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

Some mosquitoes carry the West Nile virus, so it's best to avoid being bitten at all.

For more information and tips, visit fightthebite.info or call Health Link Alberta at 1-866-408-5465.

More Information

General Information

Find live updates of campsite reservation availability, upcoming events, trail reports, fire bans and swimming advisories to help you plan your visit at explore.albertaparks.ca.

Here you will find individual park web pages and downloadable information that are updated regularly. You can search for parks, facilities and activities.

If you need help navigating the website or have any questions, call our general information line at 1-866-427-3582.

Social Media

Check explore.albertaparks.ca for safety advisories such as firebans, avalanches, and blue green algae. Advisories are updated regularly as necessary.

Social Media

Visit Alberta Parks on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, or on YouTube.

Look for some of these YouTube titles:

- *Land of Awe*
- *Valley of the Moon Dinosaur Provincial Park*
- *Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park*
- *What Goes On when you are not there!* A YouTube hit taken from one of our wildlife cameras.

Maps

Need a campground map? While on our website, you can download and print many maps and park guides. *We are working on making the website more compatible with hand held devices. We appreciate your patience.*

For More Information

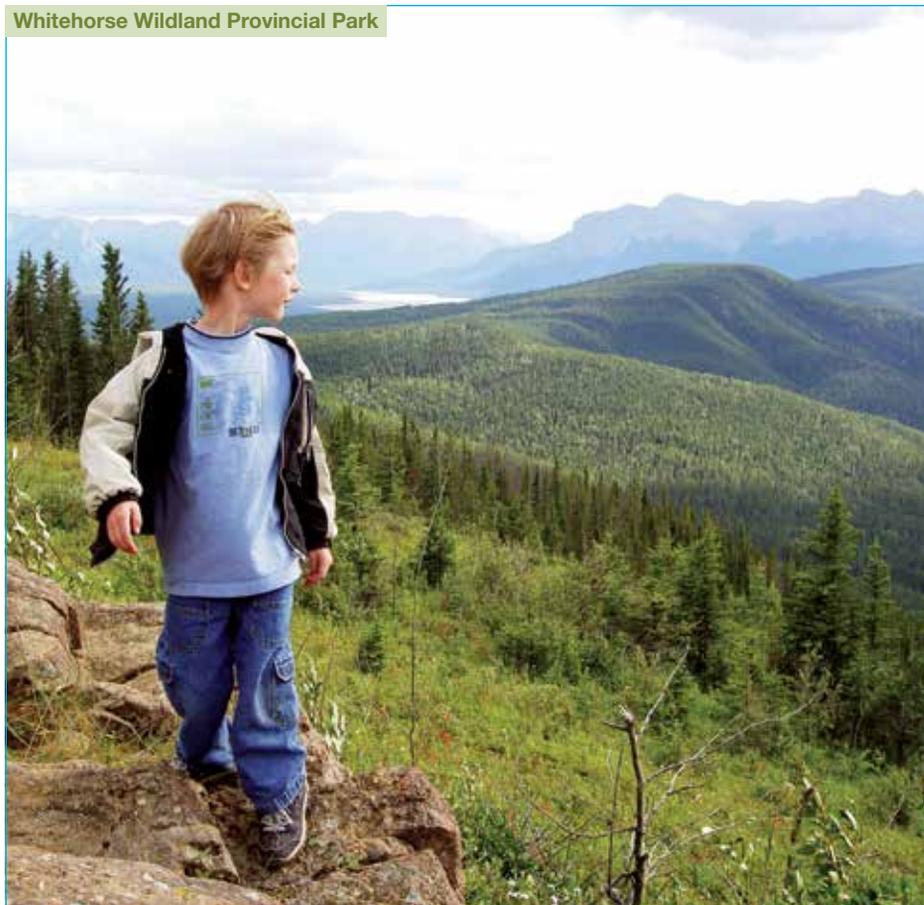
For current information on provincial parks and recreation areas or to obtain the Alberta's Parks & Protected Areas map, contact:

Alberta Parks
Phone: (780) 427-3582
Toll-free: 1-866-427-3582
explore.albertaparks.ca

Kananaskis Country information is also available year-round by calling the Public Information Line at (403) 678-0760.

To call any Alberta Government office, toll-free from an Alberta telephone, first dial 310-0000 and then the number.

Whitehorse Wildland Provincial Park



Camping Season

Peak season at provincial campgrounds is mid-May until early September. Some campgrounds remain open longer. Camping season dates are listed on each park's web page at explore.albertaparks.ca.

Maximum stay in all provincial campsites is 16 consecutive nights. Checkout time is 2 p.m. in regular campsites and 12 noon in Comfort Campsites.

Reserving Your Campsite

Many campsites and group camping areas can now be reserved online. At reserve.albertaparks.ca, you can search for all campsites available on the dates you want. There are photos of most campsites as well as other areas of each park. You can view campground layouts and make your reservation in real time. You will receive confirmation once you complete and submit the online reservation form.

For assistance in making online reservations call 1-877-537-2757.

There are still some parks that cannot be reserved online and must be booked by calling the park directly.

First Come, First Served Camping

Campsites at many provincial campgrounds are available on a "first come, first served" basis. Once you have paid for your site, you must immediately occupy the campsite designated by your camping permit with your camping accommodation unit (tent, trailer, RV). If an accommodation unit is not present, the campsite may be re-assigned.

Camping Fees

Camping fees vary depending on facilities and services. Please check for most current fees on explore.albertaparks.ca.

New for 2014: Special promotions are available at select parks. Check explore.albertaparks.ca for details.

Comfort Camping

In recent seasons, Comfort Camping has come to Alberta Parks, in select locations. Several options are available including furnished yurts at Pigeon Lake Provincial Park, fully-furnished canvas tents at Dinosaur, Writing-on-Stone and Miquelon Lake Provincial Parks.

More information about reserving Comfort Camping units, other details are available at explore.albertaparks.ca or call our general information line at 1-866-427-3582.

Seasonal Camping

Opportunities for longer term camping are available at select locations around the province. Check explore.albertaparks.ca for details.



Firewood

Firewood is provided at many provincial campgrounds, either for sale at a concession or through a surcharge on the camping fee. Alberta is currently free of Dutch elm disease, but it can easily be spread from infested elm firewood brought in from other parts of Canada or the United States. To prevent this, visitors are asked not to bring out-of-province firewood into provincial campgrounds.

Regulations

Regulations in Alberta's Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas

To protect the lands, habitats and wildlife, and to keep our parks safe for visitors, regulations are necessary. Here are a few of the important rules we enforce so that everyone can have a safe and happy holiday.

- Be good neighbours; help protect one another's property.
- Make sure your camping gear and valuables are securely stored.
- Report acts of vandalism.
- Day use areas are open from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m.
- In campgrounds, the maximum stay is 16 consecutive nights and checkout time is 2 p.m. in regular campsites and 12 noon in Comfort Campsites.
- Quiet hours are from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m.
- Everyone enjoys the peace and tranquility of our parks; please avoid making excessive noise, including excessive use of generators.
- Consumption of liquor is allowed only in your registered campsite.
- For your safety and to protect wildlife, do not approach, feed or harass wild animals.
- Never take food and other articles that could attract wildlife into your tent or tent trailer; use the park garbage bins to dispose of garbage.
- Gathering dead wood from around the campground for firewood is not allowed. It is also illegal to remove, deface, injure or destroy plants, fossils and rocks.
- Protect your pet, wildlife and other campers by keeping your pet on a leash; pets are not allowed on public beaches, in public swimming areas and in public buildings. Please pick up after your pet.
- Be considerate of swimmers and boaters; obey all signs at boat launches and on lakes.



For more information about boating regulations, contact Transport Canada at 1-866-995-9737 or www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm.

Make sure you have an Alberta Fishing licence if you will be fishing during your stay. Details are available from Fish and Wildlife offices or albertafishingguide.com.

Operation of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is not permitted in most provincial parks.

For more information and the complete parks regulations brochure, please visit explore.albertaparks.ca.

Etiquette and Safety

Park Neighbours

We all go to our favourite park to relax and enjoy the surroundings. Be considerate of others by keeping the volume down on radios and other electronic devices; refrain from disorderly behaviour; and, make sure your dog is on a leash, comfortable and not barking and disturbing people and wildlife.

Electric power generators should be used in moderation (i.e. for only a couple of hours at a time), unless required for medical reasons. Electrical sites are available at many provincial campgrounds for visitors who require power for longer periods. Constant running of generators is considered excessive noise.

Quiet hours in provincial campgrounds are 11 p.m. until 7 a.m.

Campfire Safety

- Campfires are permitted only in facilities provided.
- Never leave your campfire unattended.
- Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving your campsite.

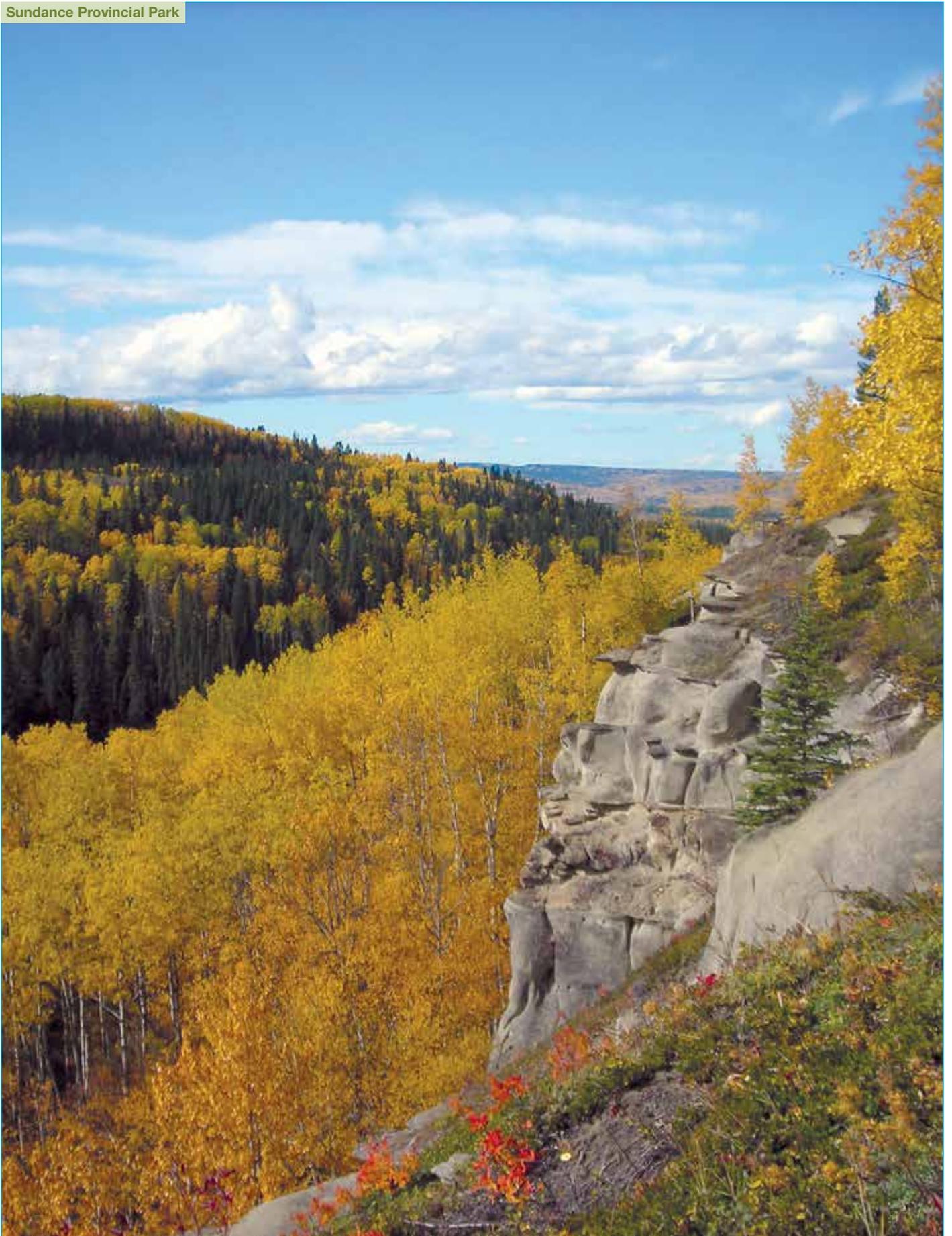
Hiking

- Use well-defined trails.
- Walk single file to avoid widening trails.
- Don't create your own pathways around muddy or rough sections of trail; this makes multiple paths and worsens the problem.
- Avoid low wet areas and if that isn't possible, take care to minimize disturbance of vegetation.
- Keep litter in your pockets or bring along a bag to put it in. As you hike pick up litter that may have been left along the trail.

Cycling

Stay alert! You could startle bears or other wildlife as you move quickly and quietly along the trails. When coming up behind other trail users and when approaching blind corners, use your bell to warn others of your presence.





The Camp Site: The Ultimate Social Network

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