

Each spring, Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park comes to life with the subtle and inspiring beauty of prairie wildflowers. The diverse habitats found in the Park have allowed a wide variety of plant life to flourish. A number of species that are rare in the province, and in Canada, are protected within the Park. This checklist will help you enjoy the wildflowers of Writing-on-Stone.

A Great Diversity

The plant life found at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park is diverse and exciting. We have now identified over 400 flowering plant species. Over 80 species that are uncommon or rare in Alberta. This checklist is designed to help you identify the most prominent of these flowering plants. The list also includes dominant trees and shrubs, as well as the major grasses that make up Writing-on-Stone's mixed grass prairie.

Seasonal Variations

This checklist has been divided into four seasonal categories: Early Spring, Late Spring, Early Summer, Late Summer. It is a general guide to follow. There is a great deal of variation in flowering times from year to year. Seasonal weather conditions are generally responsible for these variations. Within each of the four categories, the plants have been listed in order of expected flowering time relative to each other.

Contact

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Box 297
Milk River, AB T0K 1M0
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Programs and Resource Management
Phone: 403-647-2364
Toll-Free: 310-0000 in Alberta

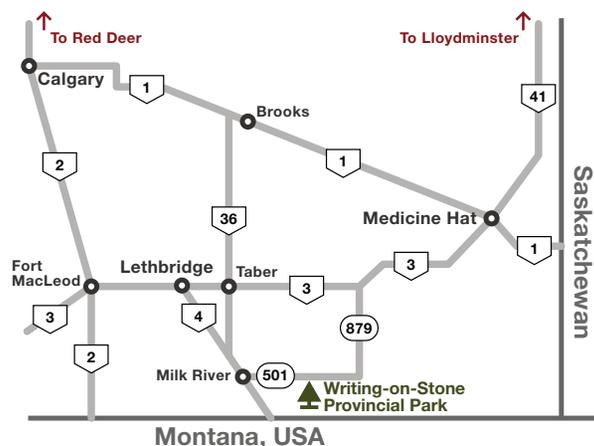
Individual Campsite and Group Camping Reservations
Web: shop.albertaparks.ca
Phone: 1-877-537-2757

General Provincial Park Information
Web: albertaparks.ca
Toll Free: 1-877-537-2757

Illegal Activity/Public Safety (24/7)
Phone: 310-LAND (5263)

Fire Bans in Alberta
Web: albertafirebans.ca

Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)
Phone: 911

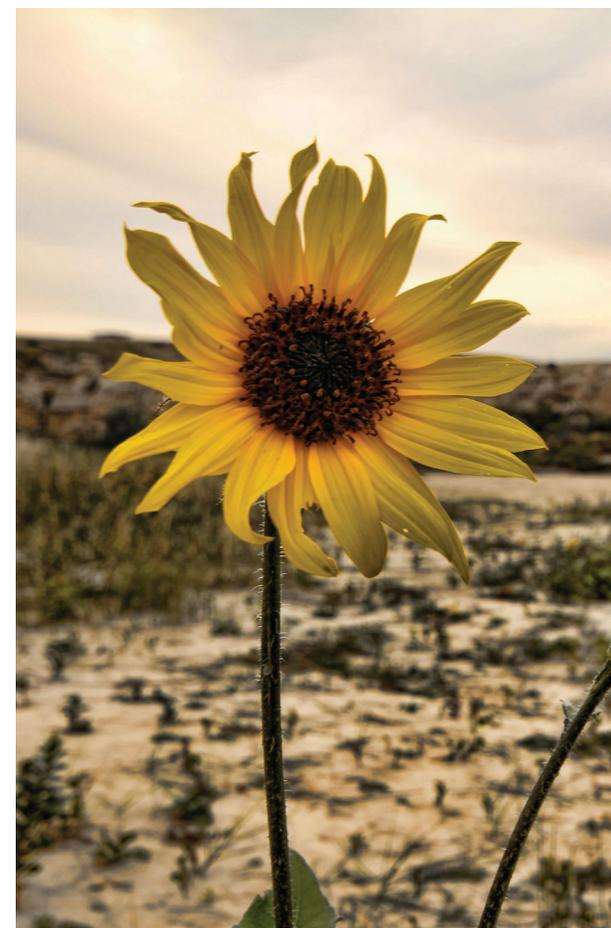


Cover Image: Sunflower
Updated February 2025



Wildflowers

Writing-on-Stone/Áísínai'pi Provincial Park



Writing-on-Stone/Áísínai'pi
A UNESCO World Heritage Site



Checklist

Early Spring

Prairie Crocus
Yellowbell
Moss Phlox
Low Townsendia
Saline Shooting Star
Yellow Prairie Violet
Early Yellow Locoweed
Three-flowered Avens
Leafy Musineon
Low Larkspur
Cushion Milk Vetch
Smooth Bluebeard Tongue
Narrow-leaved Puccoon
Golden Bean
Common Comandra
Prairie Groundsel
Thorny Buffaloberry
Star-flowered Solomon's Seal

Late Spring

Golden Currant
Silverberry
Chokecherry
Mouse-eared Chickweed
Sand Bladderpod
Spatulate Bladderpod
Cut-leaved Anemone
Saskatoon
Prairie Onion
Two-grooved Milk Vetch
Missouri Milk Vetch
Gumbo Evening Primrose
Colorado Rubberweed
Cock's-comb Cryptantha
Small-leaved Everlasting
Small-flowered Rocket
Wild Blue Flax
Yellow Umbrella-plant
Drummond's Milk Vetch
Ascending Milk Vetch
Northern Hedysarum
Wild Vetch

Silvery Lupine
Scarlet Mallow
Scarlet Butterfly-weed
Yellow Goat's Beard
Common Yarrow
Gaillardia
Low whitlow-wort
Pin Cushion Cactus
Prickly Pear Cactus
Prairie Rose
Prickly Rose
Wavy-leaved Thistle
Tufted Fleabane
Smooth Fleabane

Early Summer

Yellow Flax
White Evening Primrose
Harebell
Western Clematis
Common Annual Sunflower
Blue-eyed Grass
Hairy Golden Aster
Sand-lily
Stick-seed

Prairie Cone-flower
Owl Clover
Western Snowberry

Late Summer

Wild Bergamot
Showy Milkweed
Low Goldenrod
Broad-leaved Toad-flax
Dotted Blazingstar
Smooth Aster
Gumweed
Purple Prairie Clover
Broomweed
Skeleton Weed
Silver Sagebrush
Prairie Sagewort
Pasture Sagewort



Blue grama grass

Park Habitats

At Writing-on-Stone, three major growing environments can be found: the upland prairie, the hoodoo and the riparian (or riverside) habitats. Within these habitats, many micro-habitats, with a wide variety of growing conditions, exist. As a result, many of the park's flowering plants can be found in one or more habitats. Because of the existence of micro-habitats, and specific site characteristics within the larger habitats, it is impossible to draw distinct lines between these environments. The categories listed under Habitat Types reflect this wide range of growing conditions that exists within the Park.

A Fragile Environment

Two thirds of the mixed grass prairie has disappeared through cultivation and other economic activities. Today, the natural native prairie is finally being recognized for its subtle beauty and ecological importance. When moving through this environment, please do so with respect. It is illegal to remove any plant life from within the Park. Please don't pick Writing-on-Stone's precious wildflowers.



Western clematis



Dotted blazingstar