

Proposed Boundary Amendments for Sylvan Lake Provincial Park

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation (TPR) proposing to remove lands from Sylvan Lake Provincial Park?

Urban development and population growth have gradually transformed the beach and lake front at Sylvan Lake Provincial Park into a facility that functions both as a highly developed summer resort and an all-season urban park.

In response to that growth, the Town of Sylvan Lake has proposed a major redevelopment of Lakeshore Drive to create an urban waterfront park. The proposed change would allow the Town of Sylvan Lake the flexibility to pursue its lakeshore redevelopment plans.

2. Under the proposal, which lands would be removed from Sylvan Lake Provincial Park and why?

There are two parcels of land within current Sylvan Lake Provincial Park boundaries that are proposed for removal.

One parcel consists of the lake bed and shore in front of Chateau Suites at the western-most edge of the park, to the west of the jetty. This underwater parcel is surrounded by commercial development on two sides and is not needed for provincial park purposes.

The second parcel of land is “Centennial Park”. In 2007, the Town of Sylvan Lake expressed its interest in acquiring jurisdictional authority for this parcel of land to the province. The Town of Sylvan Lake identified this parcel as a key piece of land needed to implement its redevelopment plan. Removing this parcel from the provincial park system is necessary in order for the Town to proceed with its plans.

The rest of the park lands would remain within provincial park boundaries.

Maps of the lands proposed for removal from the park system can be found at: www.tpr.alberta.ca/parks/consult/SylvanLake

3. What is considered to be ‘bed and shore’?

Bed and shore includes lands covered by water (lake bed) as well as the portions of the lake bed which are exposed when water levels are low (shore).



4. Will the removal of these lands change the way I access the park or affect activities that are allowed in Sylvan Lake Provincial Park?

The removal of these two parcels of land will not affect the management, administration, access or permitted activities in the rest of Sylvan Lake Provincial Park.

Access and use within the boundaries of the park will continue to be managed under the authority of the Provincial Parks Act by Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation.

5. How will activities on the removed lands be affected?

If removed from the park, the bed and shore parcel would be considered public land, and would be subject to the uses allowed under the Public Lands Act, and managed by the Province accordingly.

Although park-specific restrictions would be removed, approvals would be required from the provincial government (Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Environment) and the federal Department of Fisheries & Oceans for any activity that may disturb the bed and shore of the lake, or impact the aquatic environment. This parcel also falls within municipal limits, and would be subject to municipal development guidelines and bylaws.

If removed from the park, the Centennial Park lands would be available for transfer from the Province to the Town of Sylvan Lake. Activities and development would be managed according to the town's bylaws and development plans, as long as the lands remain available to the public for recreation purposes.

6. What does “de-list” mean?

In cases where individual parcels of land within a park or protected area are no longer required for park purposes, these parcels may be de-listed, or legally removed from the park system, by changing the legal land description through an Order-In-Council amendment approved by Cabinet.

7. What is a divestiture?

A divestiture can only happen once a parcel of land is de-listed. This involves the transfer of authority / title for an individual parcel within a provincial park to another level of government (i.e., the Town of Sylvan Lake). In this case, a caveat would be placed on the land title of the lands transferred to the Town of Sylvan Lake to ensure the lands continue to be managed for public recreation. If the lands are no longer managed for public recreation, the lands and title would revert to the Province.

8. Has the province collaborated with the Town of Sylvan Lake regarding the proposal?

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation continues to work closely with the Town of Sylvan Lake on the proposed changes. When the Town announced its redevelopment plans for Lakeshore Drive, the Province informed the Town that the plans did not fit within the mandate of provincial parks. As a result, the Parks Division recommended the Town assume control of the lands in order to pursue its urban waterfront vision.



9. How has the province supported the operation of Sylvan Lake Provincial Park?

Considerable effort has been made over the last four years to increase the operating budget for Sylvan Lake Provincial Park, and to work cooperatively with the Town to increase operating standards. Additionally, the Parks Division has committed \$2.1 million to upgrading washroom facilities along the beach.

10. How can I share my opinion on this proposal?

From February 18th, 2009 to April 18th, 2009, Albertans are invited to provide comments about the proposal online at www.tpr.alberta.ca/parks/consult/SylvanLake

Information, maps and background information on the proposal for Sylvan Lake Provincial Park will also be posted on February 18th, 2009. Once the 60 day consultation period is over, comments will be reviewed and considered.

11. When will a decision be made on the proposal?

A decision will be made on the removal of each of these two parcels from Sylvan Lake Provincial Park once the 60 day consultation period is over and comments have been considered. Any changes to the park boundary must be approved by Cabinet. This process would likely occur in spring 2009.

