



Sylvan Lake Provincial Park Divestiture to the Town of Sylvan Lake

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is being proposed?

Alberta Parks is proposing to transfer ownership of the dry-land portion of Sylvan Lake Provincial Park to the Town of Sylvan Lake. The portion of the provincial park that is lake bed and shore will remain under provincial ownership and be managed under the *Public Lands Act* and *Water Act*.

2. What are the details of the proposal?

The provincial park lands being transferred to the town would have a legally binding condition or caveat upon them that the lands must remain as public recreation property and cannot be sold or leased for an alternate use.

The land would be transferred to the town for the fee of \$1 along with a one-time payment of \$1.96 million from the province to the town to support the town's transition to full ownership. The funds would be used to complete some outstanding landscape upgrades such as trails and tree plantings, contribute to a capital reserve fund for the eventual replacement of the washroom buildings, and support the town with operational costs in the first few years that they assume full responsibility for operation of the land and managing its use by the public.

The property locally known as the "pier" or "jetty" was built on "bed and shore" which belongs to the province. The pier must remain under provincial ownership, but would be leased from the province to the town so they can manage the lands as a single unit under their authority.

3. Where is the project area located?

Sylvan Lake Provincial Park is a 67-hectare property embedded in the waterfront portion of the Town of Sylvan Lake. The park is comprised of a long narrow beach-front property that is backed on the upland side by a highly-developed and high-use urban park owned and managed by the Town of Sylvan Lake.

4. What would this mean for the future management of the lake bed and shore that is part of the park right now?

Only the dry-land portion of the park would be transferred to the town. The bed and shore portion of the park would remain under the administrative control of the Alberta Government. The water body and lake bed are administered by the Ministry of Environment and Parks under authority of the *Water Act* and *Public Lands Act*. Federal regulations regarding fish habitat and navigable waters remain unchanged.

5. Why does the map show the pier/jetty portion of the park being leased to the town rather than sold like the rest of the dry land?

As a rule, the province retains ownership of bed and shore. The pier is a man-made infill structure placed on the bed and shore (built in the early 1970's) and therefore is legally still defined as part of the lake bed and shore. A lease will give the town full management authority and the ability to enforce town by-laws.

6. Will this proposed transfer to the town have any impact on my camping opportunities at Sylvan Lake?

Sylvan Lake Provincial Park is a day-use park only, on the town's waterfront beach. Two-and-a-half kilometres north of Sylvan Lake Provincial Park is Jarvis Bay Provincial Park, which provides camping facilities. Jarvis Bay will remain an important part of the Alberta Parks' system, serving many visitors to Sylvan Lake.

7. I am a frequent user of the park. Will I see any changes if the transfer is approved and how might this impact my enjoyment of the area?

Park visitors will not see significant changes resulting from the transfer because the land use will continue to be dedicated to public recreation on the lake front. Most of the day-to-day management of the park is already done by town staff and law enforcement officials.

8. Why does the Town of Sylvan Lake want ownership of the park?

The majority of the lakeshore park space is already owned and managed by the town. There is no visible property line between the town-owned land and park land. This makes management and law enforcement more difficult than it needs to be and having the park under single ownership will be much more cost efficient and effective.

It will also be easier for the town to manage special events and tourism attractions which right now requires complex coordination and approvals from the town and Alberta Parks.

9. Why is Alberta Parks comfortable with removing Sylvan Lake Provincial Park from the provincial park system?

Since the park was first created in 1932, the town has grown immensely as a tourism destination and Sylvan Lake Provincial Park is now a narrow strip of beach, grass and trees in a human-built and highly-manicured urban park. Without any significant conservation values, the park does not fit well in the provincial parks and protected areas mandate.

This transfer will enable Alberta Parks to reallocate resources to other provincial parks that fulfill the mandate for conservation and outdoor recreation.

10. How can I be assured that the town would not sell the lakeshore property to commercial developers for condominiums or businesses?

A legally binding caveat (condition) will be placed on the land title if it is transferred to the town. This caveat legally binds the town to manage and retain all the park lands as publicly accessible recreation space. The town would not be able to sell the land without the consent of the Minister. If consent were to be granted, the legally binding caveat would continue to apply.

11. How do I comment on this proposal?

Alberta Parks encourages feedback on this Proposal. Send in your comments, suggestions, and concerns online (link below) or by emailing or mailing your feedback to the addresses below. Feedback will be collected until May 15, 2017.

Online: www.albertaparks.ca/consult

By Email: ParkNews@gov.ab.ca

By Mail:

Attention: Sylvan Lake Provincial Park
Alberta Parks
Suite 700 Millennium Centre
4909-49 Street
Red Deer, AB T4N 1V1

12. What happens after the public comment period?

Alberta Parks will make a decision regarding the proposal after the 60-day public comment period is over. Alberta Parks will consider public feedback before a making a final decision.

A summary of public comments and the proposed actions and responses will be posted on www.albertaparks.ca/consult once a decision has been reached.

13. Who can I contact for further information on this Proposal?

If you would like further information on the Proposal, please contact Terry Krause for Alberta Environment and Parks at terry.krause@gov.ab.ca.

