Welcome to the Castle Parks
Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park
in southwest Alberta protect over 105,000 hectares of valuable watersheds, and habitat for more than 200 rare species. The parks share borders with the Waterton Lakes National Park, The Castle-Waterton International Peace Park to the south, the Crowsnest Pass to the north and the Redcliff River valley of British Columbia.

The Castle lands in the Castle region form part of the extraordinary Crown of the Northern Rockies ecosystem.

Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park were established on February 16, 2017 and are managed according to Alberta’s Provincial Parks Act.

Day Use

There are many day use opportunities in Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park. These vary from a place to picnic and take photos, to a place to undertake day-long community recreation adventures. All day use areas have an information kiosk, picnic tables, outhouses, and waste receptacles.

Castle Provincial Park

Syncline Day Use and Trails are ideal for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and day use. A temporary Wellness Centre will be situated at Syncline south in 2018. Both parking areas are large enough to turn over a horse trailer.

Beaver Mines Lakes offers day use areas located around the lake, plus the Table Mountain Trailhead. If the trailhead parking is full, please park at another day use parking area.

Carbonado Staging Area is a great place to access multi-use trails in the Castle Wildland. Castle Falls Day Use Area is a lovely picnic area and a great location to enjoy the falls. Look for bull trout in the deep waters.

Castle River Bridge and Lynx Creek Campgrounds have small day use areas next to the river. Stop for a picnic, and enjoy the sound of the river.

Castle Wildland Provincial Park

Bathing Lake Day Use Area is fully accessible and ideal for fishing, picnicking, photography, and sightseeing. This is also a great spot to stage a backcountry hike into the wilderness.

Butcher Creek Day Use Area welcomes fishing, picnicking, photography, and sightseeing. This is also an area to observe wildlife in the Castle Wildland.

West Castle Trail Head, at Castle Mountain Resort, offers access into the West Valley of Castle Wildland Provincial Park. Please ensure you “Know Before You Go” and are prepared for backcountry travel in a Wildland Provincial Park.

South Castle Trail Head Rides the South Castle on horse or mountain bike from this new staging area. Please ensure you are prepared for a backcountry experience in a Wildland Provincial Park.

Camping

The Castle Parks offer more than 200 campsites in four campgrounds and 2 group camps, and additional opportunities in designated camping areas and in the backcountry.

Camping in Castle Provincial Park

Castle Provincial Park has a wide range of campgrounds and campsites to suit any camping style. Many of the campgrounds have been widened in recent years to accommodate newer RV units. To reserve your campsite at Castle River Bridge, Beaver Mines Lake and Castle Falls campgrounds visit albertaparks.ca/castlecreek and click on “book it.” Or simply arrive, find a vacant site, first come first serve campsite, fill the permit and pay at the registration vault for first come first served campsites.

Note: Sites marked with an “R” on the campsite post are available by reservation only. Campers who have reserved a site may not arrive until much later in the evening.

Beaver Mines Lake Campground Offers first come first serve and reservation campsites along the shores of Beaver Mines Lake, in the surrounding forest and in the scenic shadow of Table Mountain.

Beaver Mines Lake Comfort Camping Cabins Five rustic cabins offer a secluded location above the lake are available for reservation. Each cabin has basic furnishings and sleeps up to four people.

Castle Falls Camps Offers first come same and reservation campsites alongside the Castle River and within walking distance of the falls.

Castle River Bridge Campgrounds Offers first come first serve and reservation campsites in the forest along the beautiful Castle River.

Backcountry Camping

Backcountry tent camping is allowed within the Castle Wildland Provincial Park, providing that the campsite is at least 1 kilometer from any facility, road, or boundary, and at least 50 metres from any trail. Please practice fireless camping methods by packing out all your supplies and garbage, and dismantling fire pits. For more information on safe and responsible backcountry camping, visit albertaparks.ca and “Know Before You Go”.

Backcountry tent camping is allowed within the Castle Wildland Provincial Park, providing that the campsite is at least 1 kilometer from any facility, road, or boundary, and at least 50 metres from any trail. Please practice fireless camping methods by packing out all your supplies and garbage, and dismantling fire pits. For more information on safe and responsible backcountry camping, visit albertaparks.ca and “Know Before You Go”.

Outdoors Recreation

The Castle Parks offer a wide variety of front country and backcountry experiences. When enjoying the outdoors, please remember:

• Please respect other users in the area
• Leave no trace of your visit and dispose of your trash in appropriate receptacles
• Pets must be kept on a leash (2 metres), supervised and under physical control at all times
• Please clean up after your pet if within a family area or on a trail
• Do not dispose any foreign materials into any watercourses (that’s soap, body waste, grey water, etc.)
• No cutting, removing, or damaging live trees or other vegetation unless you have a permit.
• Trails The best way to explore the Castle Parks is by traveling the park trails or by choosing your own hiking route using a topographic map. See the trail map for detailed information on the places to go, levels and2 permits. Note that roadways parking is required at some trailheads.

Cycling

Non-motorized bicycles are allowed on trails, please respect other users for space, trails and unless otherwise posted. Be advised that some designated trails are shared by off-highway vehicles.

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

OHVs are permitted on designated summer OHV trails in Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park, as indicated on the trail map and on park signage. Please be respectful when using trails, be cautious of non-motorized trail users, and stay clear of wildlife.

Highway Vehicles

All vehicles (e.g. cars, trucks, Jeeps, SUVs) registered for highway use are only allowed on highways and secondary highways that access the Provincial Park and Wildland Provincial Park. Highway vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas unless it is to the side of the road when visitors are taking part in any recreational activity. Highway vehicles are not permitted on trails.

Know Before You Go

It is your responsibility to become familiar with the activities allowed in this area before you visit. Please refer to the information and map in this publication for further details. Pick up or download the Alberta Parks regulations brochure, look for park information kiosks and contact park staff, if you have any questions. Visit: albertaparks.ca/castlecreek

Alberta Parks Regulations

Regulations Under the Provincial Parks Act are enforced by Conservation Officers (Peace Officer). Please notify the Castle Provincial and Castle Wildland Conservation Officers work with local police authorities to ensure the safety of park visitors. Please familiarize yourself with the regulations that apply.

A temporary parking pass is available online and from park staff.

Fishing & Hunting

Under Provincial Parks (General Regulation) “fishing” means by means of exploitation, spring, air, gas, steam, or any other material or combination of those things.

Provincial Park – Possession or discharge of firearms is not allowed in Castle Provincial Park unless via a discharge permit. Hunters who access Castle Wildland Provincial Park without crossing through Castle Provincial Park would not need a discharge permit. They will need a permit if in possession of their firearm within the Provincial Park. If a weapon is dismantled or completely encased in a case or other covering designed for that purpose while not in use.

Liquor

In accordance with the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Act, consumption of liquor is restricted to a temporary dwelling situation inside a registered and permitted campsite or camping area only.

Be Wildfire Smart

The Castle area is an important refuge and movement corridor for wildlife, including grizzly and black bears, wolves, wolverine, cougars, moose and elk. All wildlife can be unpredictable and precautions should be taken when in their habitat. Avoid surprise encounters by making noise, and store food, garbage and pet food in bear-resistant containers or in portable coolers. Keep children close to adults, and keep dogs on a leash. Carry bear spray, learn how to use it and store it safely. Bear spray is available for purchase at most retailers in the area.

Contact

Alberta Parks Office
Phone: 403–627–1152 (Toll-free: 310–3000)

Visitor Services (Interpretation & Education)
Phone: 403–627–1152 (Toll-free: 310–3000)
Email: swpark@is.gov.ab.ca

General Provincial Park Information

Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)
Phone: 911

Conservation Officer (Public Safety, Enforcement, Emergency Issues)
Phone: 1–844–HELP-FIR (435–7775)

Fire Bans in Alberta
Phone: 1–866–711–FIRE (394–3943)

Report a Fire Forest
Phone: 310–FIRE (3473)

Report A-Poacher
Phone: 1–800–642–3800

Be a Wildlife Smart

Records of wildlife sightings in the Castle region form part of the Alberta Wildlife Atlas. The Atlas is an online, interactive, and freely accessible tool that helps users understand where and when to find wildlife. The Atlas is updated annually, and is available at albertawildlife.ca. For more information, please contact park staff, if you have any questions.

To reserve cabins, group camps, campgrounds, contact staff, or to check for opening dates, addresses and other information, please go to the Castle Provincial Parks, please see map for specific trails. Backcountry tent camping is allowed within the Castle Wildland Provincial Park, providing that the campsite is at least 1 kilometer from any facility, road, or boundary, and at least 50 metres from any trail. Please practice fireless camping methods by packing out all your supplies and garbage, and dismantling fire pits. For more information on safe and responsible backcountry camping, visit albertaparks.ca and “Know Before You Go”.

Be aware that some trails may be closed for improvements or reclamations. Natural hazards are present on all trails, so please use caution when attempting the safety in a backcountry environment and carry5 appropriate gear, including safety and navigation equipment.

Syncline Trails

Hike or ride more than 20 kilometers of trails between the South Castle and West Castle Rivers, through rolling landscapes of montane forests and meadows. These trails are ideal for hiking, mountain biking and horseriding. Castle Parks has recently upgraded the parking along the installed (2017), fire rings, information kiosks, outhouses, and a warm-up shelter. Come see us at the temporary visitor centre located here in 2018.

Hiking and Snowshoeing

Hiking and Snowshoeing is permitted anywhere in the Castle Parks (unless posted). Know your routes, carry weather appropriate gear, and safety and navigation equipment. Caution is advised as most trails are not marked and not regularly maintained, and motorized and non-motorized recreationists share designated trails.

Equestrian

Horserback riding is permitted on trails in the Castle, please see map for specific trails. Park areas suitable for horse trailers include the Syncline North and Carbonado Day Use staging areas. Horses are not permitted in developed campgrounds, but are allowed in Designated Camping Areas 1-8. Backcountry riders must follow horserace practices for overnight horse camping in the Wildland Provincial Park, including using veed roe too.

Lynx Creek Campground Offers first come first serve camping in a more remote location near picturesque Lynx Creek.

Designated Camping Areas 1-9 in Castle Provincial Parks are unreserved, first come first serve campsite, accessible on rough trails. Free camping permits are available online, at kiosks located at each camping area, and from park staff. Designated camping areas are marked on the map overview of this guide; please ensure you are camped within the boundaries of the camping areas.

Designated Group Use A and B are available for reservation May 17–September 30 in 2018. These upgraded camps feature shelters, picnic tables, fire pits and new outhouses along the Castle River.

To reserve campgrounds, group camps, campgrounds, comfort cabins, or to check for opening dates, addresses and other information, please go to the Castle Provincial Parks, please see map for specific trails.