

# Bleriot Ferry Provincial Recreation Area

Connecting landscape, history and people in Alberta's badlands

## What is Bleriot Ferry Provincial Recreation Area?

Bleriot Ferry Provincial Recreation Area (PRA) is 23 kilometres northwest of Drumheller on highway 837 at the ferry crossing. It is aptly named after the small ferry that operates nearby. It is a small site (4.7 hectares) established and designated in 1997. PRAs support outdoor recreation and tourism, in a natural or near-natural setting. This park is regionally significant as it supports day use and overnight camping in proximity to the world-renowned Royal Tyrell Museum.

An additional 2.9 hectares have been added to this PRA. The government purchased these from a private seller. These lands were intended to be added to enhance regional recreational value and support site operations.

## Why is this area important?

Bleriot Ferry provides important recreational supports (day-use and camping) in an underserved area of the province. Notably, it supports visitation to the dramatic landscapes found within Alberta's badlands. Alberta's badlands provide stunning nature-based experiences including hiking, photography, and looking for fossils. The Royal Tyrell Museum is located 20 kilometres away and is a world renowned museum of paleontology

Visitors can experience the free cable ferry – which operates seasonally, relax near the Red Deer River, and take in the beautiful badlands. This PRA supports staging for visitation to other areas including Horsethief Canyon, the Royal Tyrell Museum and the municipality of Drumheller.

## Why was there no consultation before this park was expanded?

This land was previously privately owned, and no reduction in public use has occurred with the expansion of this existing PRA.

## What activities are permitted?

### Recreation Use

Recreation opportunities at Bleriot Ferry include camping, picnicking and river access. It hosts 14 unserviced camping



spots that are available on a first come – first served basis. It is a perfect place to relax in the cottonwoods along the river, or to access the Red Deer River to canoe, kayak, float or fish.

### Land Use

Surface access for new petroleum and natural gas, mining and mineral extraction, coal development, surface materials extraction and commercial forestry are not permitted.

### Summary

The expansion of Bleriot Ferry PRA adds titled lands to a small but critical recreation area in central Alberta. It enhances opportunities for connection with nature on or near the Red Deer River, in Alberta's stunning badlands. It will enable improvements in the operation of this PRA, including day use and overnight (camping) opportunities.