

Kleskun Hills Provincial Park

Conserving rare grasslands for all Albertans



What is Kleskun Hills Provincial Park?

Kleskun Hills Provincial Park is a newly established park located about 30 kilometres northeast of Grande Prairie. This park was made possible through the purchase of 1,087 hectares of private land by the Government of Alberta, over many years. This park protects and highlights the area's rolling hills and spectacular, rare grassland ecosystems.

Why is this area important?

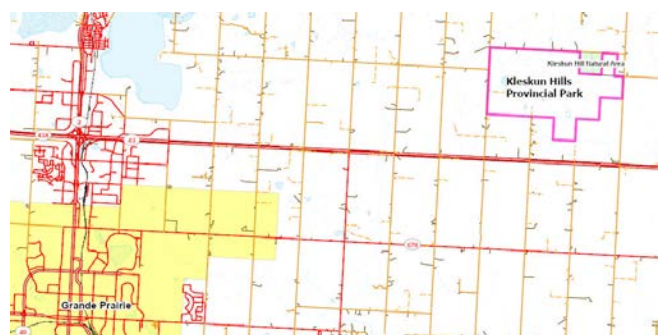
Kleskun Hills Provincial Park conserves rare grasslands, maintains habitat for wildlife including species at risk, preserves features of paleontological significance, and creates opportunities for Albertans to visit and appreciate this park through nature-based recreation opportunities.

It is an incredibly important area given how rare intact, native grasslands are in Alberta and around the globe. Representing Alberta's diverse landscapes is a priority goal for the provincial parks system, and the establishment of this park quadruples the amount of park land protected within the Peace River Parkland Natural Subregion.

This park connects with the adjacent Kleskun Hills Natural Area (65 hectares) and enhances landscape connectivity for wildlife.

Why is this a Provincial Park?

Provincial parks play a key role in preserving Alberta's natural heritage while supporting recreation, tourism, and educational activities that depend on, and are compatible with the natural environment. Designation as a provincial park provides the tools needed to manage this new park for current and future generations. It provides the authority to manage activities that may impact sensitive grassland habitats, while supporting access for low impact recreational activities such as hiking, wildlife appreciation or hunting (foot access only).



What activities will be permitted?

Recreation Use

Recreation opportunities in Kleskun Hills Provincial Park will include hiking, bird watching, nature appreciation, and other day-use activities compatible with the intent to conserve grassland ecosystems.

Access through the fenced park is by foot, and facilities such as parking and trails will be developed to support access while maintaining the natural, rugged character of this park.

Hunting (foot access only) will be considered as a low-impact recreation and tourism opportunity through careful assessment and planning.

Land Use

As a former bison ranch, livestock grazing will continue through permits as needed to maintain grassland health while contributing to the local economy.

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

Why was there no consultation before this park was created?

This land was previously privately owned, and no reduction in public use has occurred with the establishment. This is the same approach used to establish Antelope Hill Provincial Park in 2014.

Summary

Kleskun Hills Provincial Park invites Albertans to discover the incredible native grasslands in Alberta's Peace River region. More information will be shared in spring 2024 about how this park will be opened for public enjoyment.

