

Deregulation fact sheet

Fort Vermilion Provincial Recreation Area

The Fort Vermilion Provincial Recreation Area (PRA) is a former highway wayside site. Highway waysides were originally intended as resting places for travelers and were established by Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors. Over time, they were replaced with modern amenity stations along provincial highways, and former waysides were then transferred to Forestry and Parks and established as PRAs in the 1990s.

Since 2010, Fort Vermilion PRA has been operated and managed by Mackenzie County under a long-term lease, with agreement from the Government of Alberta in 2011 that this site would be formally transferred to them in the future. Deregulation follows through on this commitment and enables Mackenzie County to manage the lands together with an existing lease on adjacent public lands. This reduces red tape and streamlines decision-making.

Location: Fort Vermilion PRA is located approximately 10 kilometres west of Fort Vermilion on Highway 88.

Size: Five hectares or about the size of five soccer fields.

Why is it being deregulated?

This deregulation is the last administrative step to follow through on a past commitment and allows the municipality to operate the site more flexibly to suit their regional recreation and tourism needs.

Deregulation means that Fort Vermilion's provincial recreation area designation has been rescinded, and it will no longer be managed under the *Provincial Parks Act*. These lands will be managed as public lands under the *Public Lands Act* and will continue to be leased to Mackenzie County to support local recreation needs.

How will recreation be supported in this area?

The former recreation area contains a small 10-unit campground and day-use area, and this use will continue. These lands will continue to support regional recreation needs, managed by Mackenzie County under lease.

