Contact

Saskatoon Island Provincial Park
c/o Alberta Parks
Room 1301 Provincial Building
10320–99 Street
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 6J4
Phone: 780-766-2378

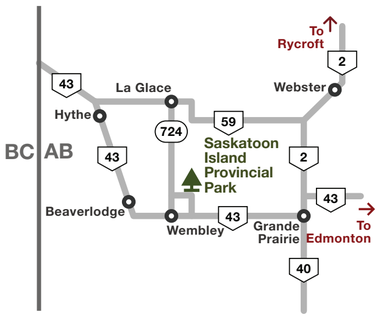
Campsite Reservations
Web: shop.albertaparks.ca
Phone: 1-877-537-2757

Alberta Parks Visitor Information
Web: albertaparks.ca
Phone: 1-877-537-2757

Illegal Activity/Public Safety (24/7)
Phone: 310-LAND (5263)

Alberta Parks Fire Bans
Web: albertafirebans.ca

Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)
Phone: 911



Updated July 2026

Alberta

Located just 25 minutes west of Grande Prairie, Saskatoon Island Provincial Park's mosaic of forests, wetlands, shrub lands and native prairie provides habitat for an amazing variety of plants and animals. It is named for the saskatoon berries that grow here in abundance and have traditionally been harvested by First Nations to make pemmican.

The Park Story

Saskatoon Island Provincial Park is one of Alberta's first provincial parks, dating back to 1932. While the park was originally established at the request of local residents who wanted to protect the saskatoon berry bushes, by 1933 it was also recognized as a wildlife refuge for its most famous residents, the trumpeter swans. It has been a federal migratory bird sanctuary since 1948, protecting critical nesting habitat for the swans.

The provincial park actually was once an island, but decreasing water levels in Saskatoon Lake resulted in the island joining the mainland in the 1960s. The cut-off section of Saskatoon Lake is now known as Little Lake. Sandwiched between the two lakes, the park is home to large numbers of grassland, forest, and lakeside birds in addition to the swans. It is a popular place for bird watching.

Trumpeter Swan

Trumpeter Swans

Once ranging throughout western Canada and the United States, and as far east as the Great Lakes, the trumpeter swan was hunted for meat as well as its wing feathers, which reportedly made the highest quality quill pens. By the early 1900s, there were only 77 breeding swans left in Canada, and 50 in the United States. Trumpeter swans were listed as threatened in Alberta until 2014. Conservation efforts, including protecting their breeding habitat in parks like Saskatoon Island Provincial Park, have allowed the trumpeter swan population to increase to about 16,000 in North America and the birds are now considered a species of special concern in Alberta.

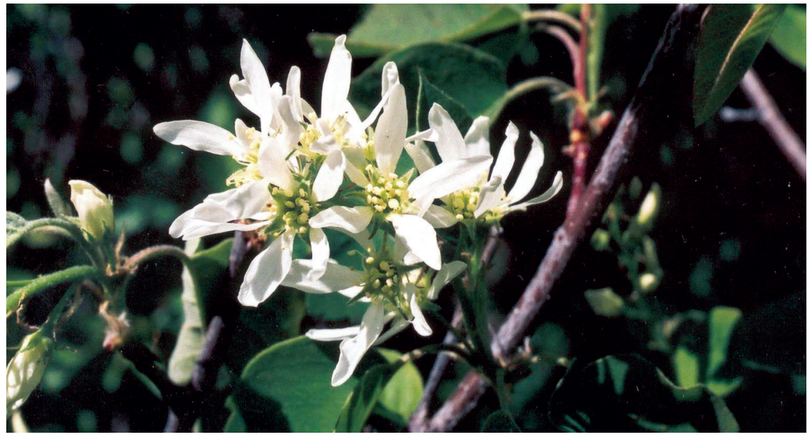
Summer Fun

Have you ever imagined being a squirrel or a mountain goat? Saskatoon Island Provincial Park's "natural playground" will give your imagination a chance to soar. Enjoy clambering around in and among real and artificial logs and bushes, or climb and hop from rock to rock. Traditional playground equipment and a small bike park are also available. In addition to exciting playground areas, the park boasts more than 6.5 km of trails well-suited to walking, biking, hiking, or for a quiet retreat. Wildlife viewing is popular and the park is home to mammals such as beaver, snowshoe hares, muskrats, moose and deer as well as a wide variety of birds.

Winter Fun

The park in winter is a magical place of pale blue shadows on glittering snow. Depending on conditions during the winter, 6.4 km of trails are available for cross-country skiing and ice skating may be possible on a rink at the day-use area. A loop trail is kept clear for walking. Snowshoeing is another popular activity in the park during the winter months.

Winter is the best time of year to view animal tracks in the park. Can you figure out whose tracks are whose?



Saskatoon Flowers

Interpretive Activities

Interpretive programs are presented during the summer, including family drop-in programs, guided hikes and entertaining amphitheatre shows. Park programs bring to life fascinating stories about the natural and cultural history of the region.

The Saskatoon Island Swan Festival is held within the park every April to welcome back the trumpeter swans.

Services & Accommodations

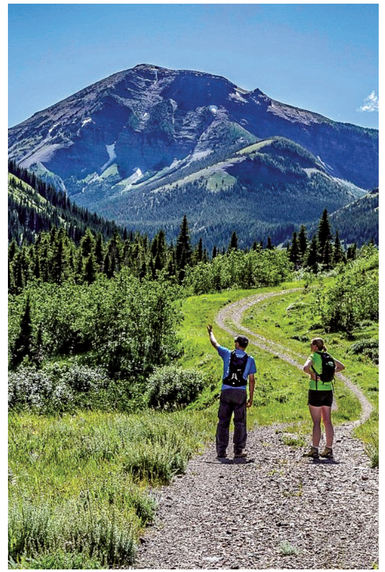
The nearby city of Grande Prairie offers all services including laundromats, hardware and sporting goods stores, grocery stores, banks, gas and propane sales, auto repair shops, pharmacies, the Grande Prairie Museum and Heritage Village, Muskoseepi Park and a tourist information centre. The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum is located one mile west of the park turn-off on Highway 43.

Exploring the Region

The park is only a short drive from several other protected areas. Kleskun Hill Natural Area, only 25 km east of Grande Prairie, protects one of the last parcels of native grassland in the region, as well as Alberta's northernmost badlands. Saskatoon Mountain Provincial Recreation Area, located 30 km west of Grande Prairie, contains old-growth mixed wood forest and provides an amazing view of the Rocky Mountains. O'Brien Provincial Park is a day-use area nestled among enormous poplars on the banks of the Wapiti River. It is 10 km south of Grande Prairie, just off Highway 40.

Saskatoon Island Provincial Park

Alberta Parks **Winter Guide**



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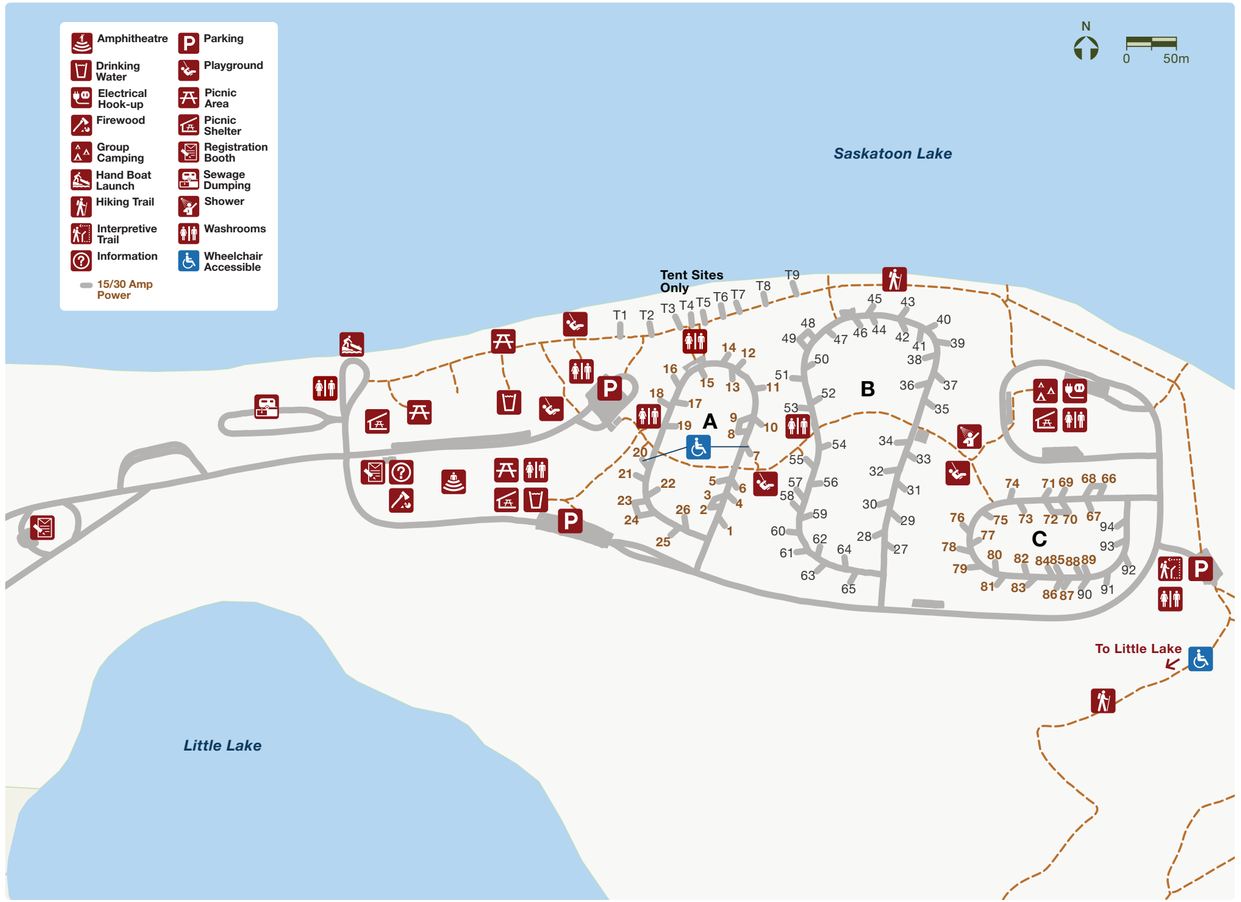

Saskatoon Island Campground Map

Park Trails

Shoreline Trail

This trail follows the scenic Saskatoon Lake shore, linking the campground loops to the day use area. At 2 km, it is a nice easy walk or bike ride with great views of the lake. The Shoreline Trail is wheelchair accessible.

Little Lake Trails

The interconnecting loops of the Little Lake Trails total 4.2 km and provide a scenic tour through aspen stands, saskatoon shrubs and a meadow. Look for signs of moose, deer, snowshoe hare, and of course songbirds, waterfowl, owls and raptors. The 1 km Little Lake Loop is wheelchair accessible and leads to the Little Lake bird viewing platform. This raised platform provides an excellent view out over the lake, allowing you to spend some time observing the wild residents of the park go about their daily business.

Viewing Platform at Little Lake

Campground

Saskatoon Island Campground, located between Saskatoon Lake and Little Lake, has power and non-power campsites, a shower building with flush toilets and a sewage disposal station. The campground's native trees and shrubs create privacy. Reserve a campsite online at reserve.albertaparks.ca or by phone at 1-877-537-2757 or choose a first come, first served site.

Group Camping

This beautiful group camping area, complete with a beach volleyball court, is ideal for family reunions and other special events. Reservations can be made online at shop.albertaparks.ca or by phone at 1–877–537–2757.

Be Bear Smart

Although black bears are uncommon in Saskatoon Island Provincial Park, it is bear country. For information about bear safety during camping and hiking trips, consult a park conservation officer.

Great Horned Owl