

Castle

Provincial Park & Wildland Provincial Park



Welcome to the Castle Parks

Encompassing more than 105,000 hectares, Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park in southwest Alberta protect valuable watersheds and habitat for more than 200 rare species such as whitebark and limber pine, Jones' columbine, dwarf alpine poppy, grizzly bear, wolverine, westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout and harlequin duck. The parks share borders with the Waterton Biosphere Reserve to the east, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park to the south, the Crowsnest Pass to the north and the Flathead River Valley of British Columbia to the west. Extensive wildlife corridors link all these unique areas and together they form part of the extraordinary Crown of the Continent 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*. Please familiarize yourself with any new regulations before you venture into the parks. Responsible and sustainable use will ensure that everybody can have an incredible experience in this unique landscape while supporting its protection.

Important Note

This interim Castle Park Guide is for the 2017/2018 winter season only. Revisions will occur following approval of the Castle Management Plan. The information in this guide is subject to change.

Recreate Responsibly

The Castle Parks offer a wide variety of front country and backcountry winter experiences including snowshoeing, skiing, ice fishing, wildlife viewing and backcountry camping. Previously designated snowmobile trails and areas are open for the winter 2017/2018.

- Stay on the designated trails and respect other users in the area
- Leave no trace of your visit and dispose of your trash in appropriate receptacles once you leave the area.

Trails

All trails in the Castle Parks are being assessed to inform the development of a trails strategy. Be aware that some trails are not improved or maintained, and natural hazards are present. Trails may be closed for improvements, so be sure to "Know Before You Go".

Cross-Country Skiing

Syncline Cross-Country Ski Area has over 20 kilometres of packed and tracked ski trails, between the South Castle and West Castle rivers. The scenic beauty of these trails extends through rolling landscapes of montane forests and meadows.

The Syncline Castle Trails Association (SCaT) is a non-profit volunteer group that helps maintain these trails. Alberta Parks has recently upgraded



the Syncline parking areas, which will be maintained and plowed for the winter season.

Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing is permitted anywhere in the Castle Parks unless otherwise posted. Know your routes, carry weather appropriate gear, and safety and navigation equipment. Snowshoeing is also permitted on the Syncline Cross-Country Trail system, however please keep off to the side of the groomed ski tracks.

Fat Bikes

Fat bikes are allowed on designated trails unless otherwise posted. Caution is advised as most trails are not yet improved or regularly maintained, and are shared by motorized and non-motorized users. Know how to safely recreate in a winter backcountry environment and carry appropriate gear, and safety and navigation equipment.

Off-Highway Vehicles

Random Ride Areas (as shown the map) are permitted as in previous years. Use at your own risk. Know how to safely recreate in a winter

Visitor Information

Visitor information is available at kiosks located throughout the parks, at albertaparks.ca/castle, by calling 403-627-1165, or by speaking with Alberta Parks staff.

Local communities offer a wide range of services to complement your visit including accommodations, restaurants, shopping and more. Two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Waterton Glacier International Peace Park and Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, are located nearby. Other attractions include Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Remington Carriage Museum and Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village. Visitor Information is available in the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, and towns of Pincher Creek, Beaver Mines, Lundbreck, Cowley and Twin Butte.

Winter Recreation and Education Programs

Winter Interpretive Programs are available, check albertaparks.ca/castle for details!

Contact our Environmental Educator at 403-627-1152 or email swparks@gov.ab.ca to book an Alberta Parks Winter Ecology program or Introduction to Snowshoeing program.

Enjoy an outdoor weekend snowshoeing with your family at the Syncline Cross-Country Ski area. If you don't have snowshoes, sign out an Alberta Parks Winter Family Explorers Kit at the Pincher Creek Municipal Library and Crowsnest

Pass Library. There are track set trails for skiers. Just snowshoe alongside, not over top, so you don't disturb the ski trail.

Or join park staff on a winter snowshoe adventure exploring the new Castle Park, its wildlife and landscape, while enjoying a day outdoors!

Alberta Parks is working to provide adaptive equipment in order to promote accessibility to trails in all seasons for people of all abilities. For more information search for "Push to Open Nature" at albertaparks.ca.

Day Use in Castle Provincial Park

Although most campgrounds are closed for the winter, day use is encouraged in Castle Provincial Park.

Beaver Mines Lake boat launch is plowed and accessible for day users throughout the winter. Day use in the Beaver Mines campground is available by foot, ski, snowshoe or fat bikes, and subject to weather and snow conditions. Carbondale parking area is plowed and open all winter. Castle River Bridge campground is open for day use (also open for winter camping). Syncline Cross-Country Ski Area parking lots are plowed and open all winter. Ski trails are packed and track set. Snowshoeing is welcome but please not on top of the track set ski trails, just ski alongside so the tracks are not disturbed. Day use at Castle Falls and Lynx Creek campgrounds is available only by foot, ski or fat bike access, and of course subject to weather and snow conditions. Lynx Creek can also be accessed by snowmobile. Park right on site and have a winter picnic in the day use area.

Firearms and Hunting

Under *Provincial Parks (General Regulation)*: "firearm" means any device that propels a projectile by means of explosion, spring, air, gas, string, wire or elastic material or any combination of those things.

Provincial Park

Possession or discharge of firearms is not allowed in Castle Provincial Park without a discharge permit. Download a permit from albertaparks.ca/castle or contact 403-627-1165 for more information.

Wildland Provincial Park

Hunters with a valid licence and tags to hunt in Castle Wildland Provincial Park under the *Wildlife Act* do not need 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, as they travel to the Wildland Provincial Park, or during their stay in the Provincial Park.

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 Wildlife Smart

The Castle area is an important refuge and movement corridor for wildlife, including grizzly and black bears, wolverines, wolves, cougars, moose and elk. All wildlife can be unpredictable

Camp Responsibly

The Castle Parks offer diverse camping experiences in both the front country and the backcountry. Visitors should be aware that upgrades to existing facilities in the park are ongoing, to improve camping experiences for visitors in the future.

Campgrounds in Castle Provincial Park

Castle River Bridge Campground is open for winter camping, subject to snow conditions. Bring your own firewood!

Campgrounds at Beaver Mines Lake, Castle Falls and Lynx Creek are closed for the winter season. Non-motorized access to these areas is permitted for day use recreation. Visitors should be aware that facilities are limited. For opening dates check albertaparks.ca/castle.

Backcountry Camping in Castle Wildland Provincial Park

Backcountry winter camping is allowed within the Castle Wildland Provincial Park, providing that the campsite is at least 1 kilometre from any designated facility. Please practise traceless 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.



Contact

Alberta Parks Pincher Creek Office

Phone: (403) 627-1165
Toll-Free: 310-0000
Visitor Services: (403) 627-1152

General Provincial Park Information

Web: albertaparks.ca
Toll Free: 1-866-427-3582

Fire Bans in Alberta

Web: albertafirebans.ca

Avalanche Canada

Web: avalanche.ca/map

Conservation Officer and Public Safety

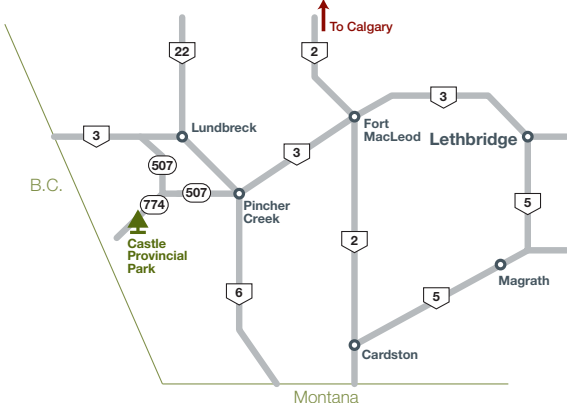
Phone: 1-844-HELP-PRK (435-7775)

Public Lands Concerns

Report a forest fire: 310-FIRE (3473)
Report a poacher: 1-800-642-3800

Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)

Phone: 911



Media Inquiries: (780) 427-8636

Updated December 2017



Firewood and Fires

Before your visit, please check albertafirebans.ca for current notices.

Provincial Park

Fires are only allowed inside a receptacle or facility designated and supplied for that purpose. Firewood is available for purchase at retailers in nearby communities. Please do not bring firewood from another province into Alberta. The collection of wood or any dead vegetation for burning must be authorized by a Conservation Officer or a permit.

Wildland Provincial Park

Traceless camping practises are required (eg. dismantle fire rings). Collection of dead wood for fires within the Wildland Provincial Park is allowed.



Know the Rules

In accordance with provincial regulation:

- Every person within the Castle Parks shall comply with the lawful orders and instructions of a Conservation Officer
- Every person within the Castle Parks shall comply with the instructions, prohibitions and directions contained in signs and/or notices
- Snowmobile users must stay on designated trails (trails are marked with a winter trail sign)
- No cutting, removing, or damaging live trees or any other vegetation
- Do not deposit any foreign materials into any watercourses (fuel, soap, body waste, grey water)
- A Conservation Officer may order a person to refrain from doing anything that, in the opinion of the officer, is dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the management of or use of any road, trail or route
- 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 any facility area or on a trail.

Every snowmobile operating in the Castle Parks must have:

- Valid registration and insurance
- Operators and passengers wearing approved helmets as required
- License plate properly affixed in a visible location
- Tail lamp on the vehicle rear capable of emitting a red light visible from at least 60 metres (185 feet)
- At least one white headlamp on the front must be of sufficient intensity to reveal a person, another vehicle or a thing that is at least 60 metres ahead (185 feet)
- Proper exhaust muffler.

To operate a snowmobile in the Castle Parks, people from another jurisdiction must:

- Carry proof of residency
- Follow the rules, regarding registration of the vehicle and the display of license plates, that are required by their home jurisdiction
- Produce valid proof of insurance
- If you have been in Alberta for more than 30 days, all Alberta requirements apply
- Operators under 14 must be supervised by an adult.

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.

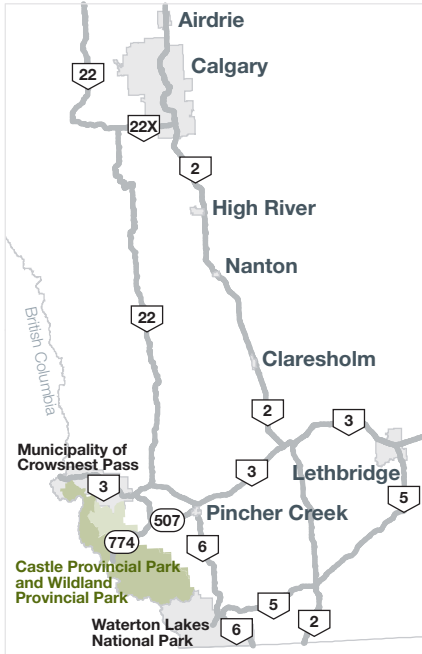
Caution to Trail Users

This area is mostly undeveloped, and hazards exist. Use at your own risk. The terrain can be physically challenging and conditions may change due to weather and other factors. Users are responsible for their own safety and should have skills and equipment necessary to enjoy their outdoor experience. This map is for general wayfinding using roads and designated trails. If you require more detailed maps for wayfinding, you will need to purchase topographic maps.

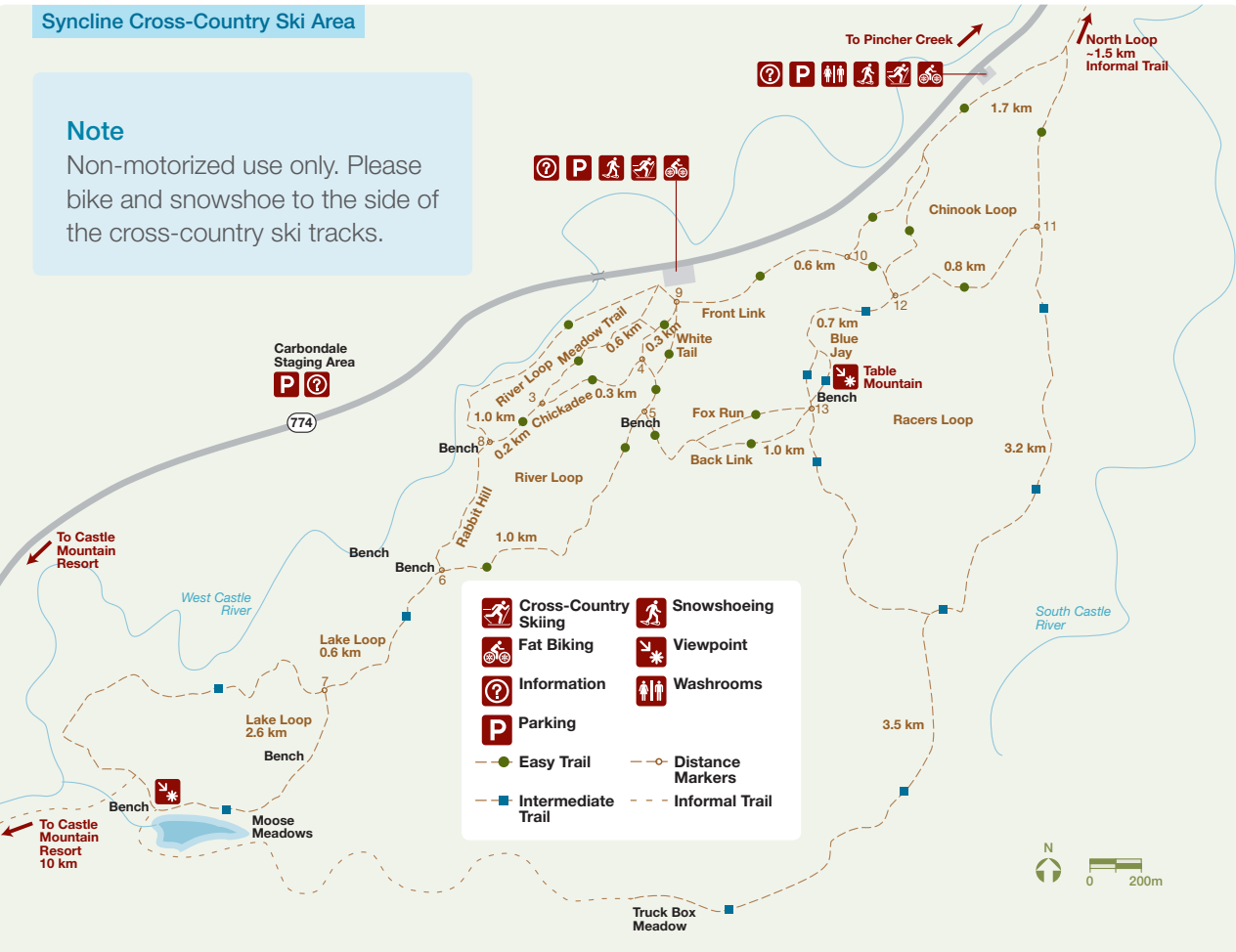
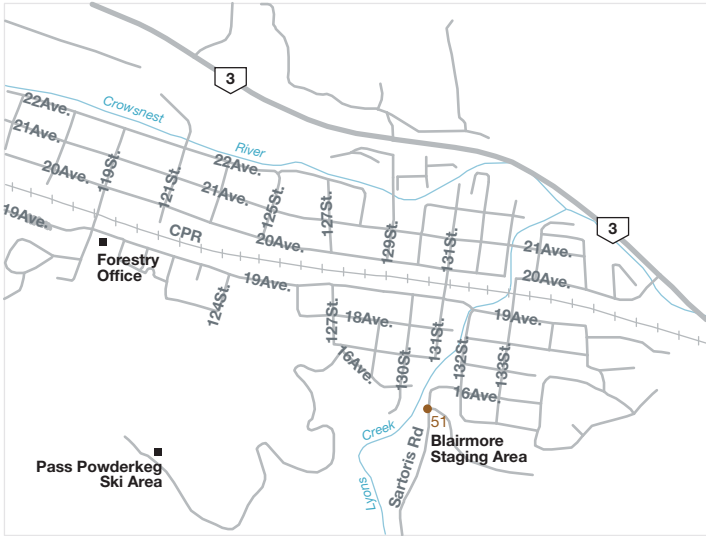
Legend

- Castle Wildland Provincial Park
 - Castle Provincial Park
 - Parks and Protected Areas
 - Private Land
 - Facility Zones¹
 - Random Ride Areas
 - Designated Winter Trails
 - Trail Intersections
 - Winter Camping
 - Staging Area/Parking
 - Parking
 - Forestry Office
 - Cross-Country Ski Area
 - Fat Biking
 - Snowmobile Shelter
 - Information Kiosk
 - Day Use Area
 - Snowshoeing
 - Ice Fishing
 - Group Camping
 - Accessible
 - Towns and Villages
 - Fire Lookout
 - Mountain
 - Pass
 - Roads - Paved
 - Roads - Gravel
- ¹ Refer to Hunting Regulations and Fire Permits

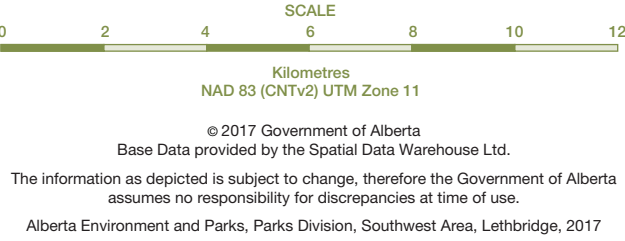
Directional Map



Blairmore Access



British Columbia



Hillshade: 2007 LIDAR BE data
1Metre Accuracy