

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Provincial Recreation Area?

Provincial recreation areas (“PRAs”) are typically small land areas in the immediate vicinity of campgrounds or day use sites that are managed under the Provincial Parks Act and Regulations to accommodate a wide range of non-motorized and motorized recreation opportunities.

2. What is a park management plan?

The Alberta Government is committed to developing management plans based on public input for all parks in Alberta to determine their future management. Park management plans:

- describe protected areas, and the surrounding environment and community;
- identify government goals for the park, and how they will be achieved;
- provide objectives and guidelines on how a site’s natural and cultural heritage will be preserved;
- detail the type and extent of recreation, heritage appreciation and tourism opportunities that will be supported in an area, and how they will meet the needs of the community; and,
- provide opportunities for ongoing review and public consultation on park management.

3. Where are these parks located?

These plans are for Bragg Creek Provincial Park, which is next to the Hamlet of Bragg Creek, and for 51 PRAs within the Kananaskis Management Area, which is west of Calgary.

4. How are these parks currently being used?

Nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, Bragg Creek Provincial Park contains a day use area and provides numerous recreational opportunities, including picnicking, hiking and fishing.

The provincial recreation areas accommodate a wide range of outdoor public recreation use including camping, picnicking, hiking, horse riding, biking and motorized trail staging.

Together with the network of designated recreation trails that lead out from many of the PRAs, they form a very significant area for outdoor recreation activities in the Calgary region.

5. Do these draft plans have anything to do with creating new provincial parks?

The draft plan for the PRAs proposes to reclassify eight **existing** PRAs as provincial parks. It also proposes to consider establishing some additional small PRAs where demand warrants and studies indicate it would be appropriate. No new provincial parks, wildland parks or other new protected areas are proposed in this plan.

6. How do these draft plans relate to the draft terms of reference circulated earlier for public review and comment?

This management plan process started with the public announcement and distribution of the draft terms of reference (TOR) to any interested individuals or groups. We also held two public open houses in November 2007. The draft TOR is like an outline of the plan and provides a brief introduction to the plan area, proposed management intent and objectives, as well as a list of issues and concerns which the plan will address.

Stakeholder and public comments on the draft TOR are carefully considered by the planning team when the TOR are finalized and they guide the preparation of the draft plan. For example, as a result of comments received, all PRAs in the Ghost Waiparous were added to this plan and additional potential future recreation sites were identified for consideration.

7. What are some highlights of these draft plans?

- Proposed management vision, purpose, objectives and strategies/actions for all sites, collectively and individually.
- Proposed facility expansion or change at some sites, including three small-scale, fixed roof accommodations.
- Fourteen proposed sites for possible new recreation facilities
- Proposal to reclassify eight existing PRAs in the Elbow Valley to provincial park status

8. When will these draft plans be approved?

Following the September 30th deadline, the planning team will review all comments and recommend revisions to the plan. It will then be submitted for approval by the Minister later in the fall of 2008.