

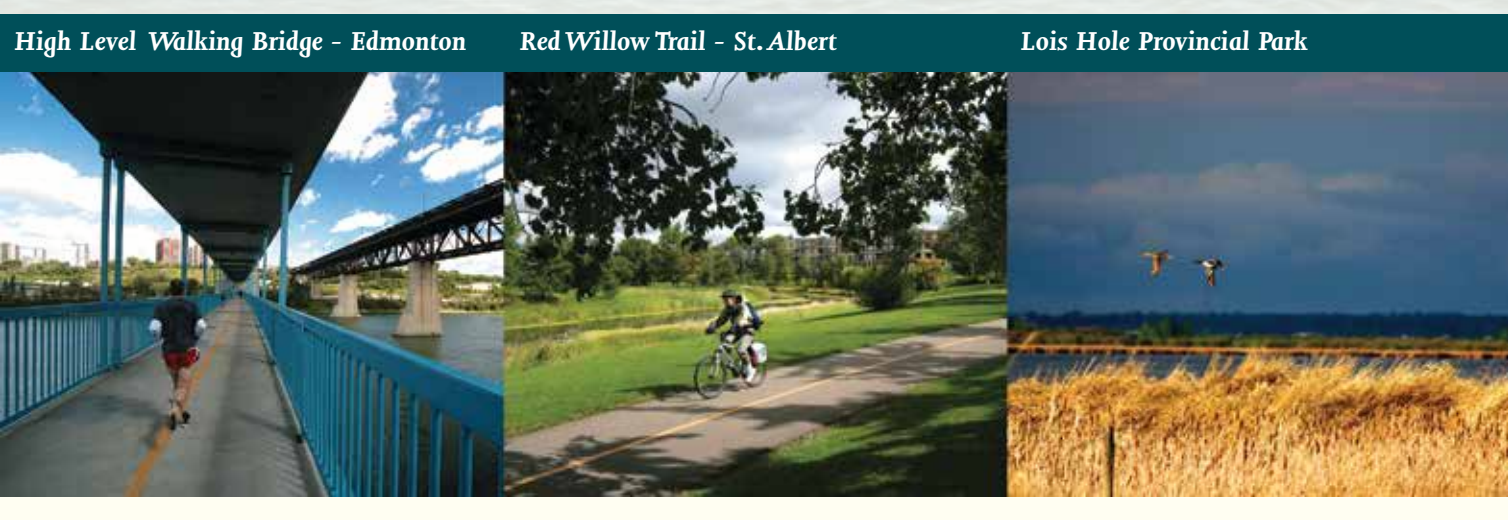
Edmonton

The **City of Edmonton** (www.edmonton.ca 800-463-4667) oversees more than 160 km of paved and gravel trails for walking, jogging, in-line skating and cycling. The heart of this vast network lies in the deep, forested North Saskatchewan River Valley, which winds for 4.8 km through the city and includes 22 major parks, making it the largest expanse of urban parkland in North America. This allows for long linear trips as well as short outings, thanks to the many access points and feeder trails, the latter often dropping into the valley along quiet ravines. A 28.7 km stretch of the city's trail system is part of the **Trans Canada Trail**.

The city and the Edmonton Nordic Ski Club maintain groomed cross country ski trails in a number of city parks, several of them lit for night skiing. One stretch of central river valley trail, along the south side of the river, is designated for equestrian use.

Trails Northeast of Edmonton

Located on Edmonton's northwest doorstep, **St. Albert** (www.stalbert.ca 780-459-6311) features a wealth of trails for walking, jogging, cycling, in-line skating and cross country skiing. On the city's eastern outskirts, **Riverlot 56** is a natural area with 2 and 3 km loop trails for hikers, bird watchers and cross country skiers. From here, the paved **Red Willow Trail** winds through the city along the Surgeon River and surrounding areas for 3.4 scenic km. It passes through five major parks and extends west to shallow **Big Lake**, considered one of the 20 most important wildlife habitat areas in Alberta, with a viewing platform on its eastern shore. Here, more than 235 bird species have been recorded, including trumpeter swans, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, short eared owls and, in fall, swarms of migrating tundra swans and pelicans.



Big Lake is part of the recently expanded, 18 km² **Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park**, named after Alberta's late Lieutenant Governor. The park is also the site of the **John E. Poole Interpretive Wetland** facility which includes a Ducks Unlimited trail and boardwalk with interpretive signs.

To the north, **Westlock** (www.westlock.ca 780-349-4849) is an agriculture based community of 5,000 residents. Its paved **Rotary Trail** meanders around town for 9.6 km, connecting parks and recreational facilities, and is a great place for walking, jogging, in-line skating and cycling.

North of Westlock, the Pembina Drift Busters Snowmobile Club (www.peminadriftbusters.ca) has developed a 150 km network of moderate trails complete with a staging area, warm up shacks and fire pits. These groomed trails are laid out in loops of 30, 40 and 80 km in a landscape dotted with lakes. The 80 km loop skirts the northeast boundary of **Cross Lake Provincial Park** and provides access to the Trans-Canadian Snowmobile Trail connecting Athabasca and Swan Hills.

Once located along the historic gold rush Klondike Trail, **Barrhead** (www.barrhead.ca 780-674-5203) is now a 4,200 person town amidst agricultural lands at the south end of boreal forest dotted with numerous small lakes. In town, the **Homesteaders Walking Trail** follows the quiet Paddle River and is groomed in winter for cross country skiing.

Just west of Barrhead, **Thunder Lake Provincial Park** is a popular destination for boaters, swimmers and campers. Several km of gravel and grass walking and cycling trails connect campground loops, follow the lakeshore and swing through mixed upland forest.

The Northern Lights Snowmobile Club maintains a system of trails along with two staging areas and a number of warm up cabins. One trail heads northwest of Barrhead to the Misty Ridge Ski Hill, along the Athabasca River, while another goes northeast into **Hubert Lake Wildland Provincial Park**.

Hubert Lake Wildland Provincial Park features a sand dune complex and numerous lakes and wetlands. It is home to a small caribou herd and is an important nesting area for great blue herons and sandhill cranes.

Just southwest of Fort Assiniboine, the **Holmes Crossing Ecological Reserve** has 10 km of trails for hiking and cross country skiing. The reserve features transverse sand dunes dominated by stands of jack pine along with marshes and bogs.



Fort Assiniboine Sandhills Wildland Provincial Park

Located along the Athabasca River's north shore, to the southwest of Hubert Lake, **Fort Assiniboine Sandhills Wildland Provincial Park** contains diverse landscapes that include steep river valleys, stabilized dunes, grasslands, wetlands, springs and old growth mixed forests. This diversity has produced 436 recorded plant species, 20 of which are provincially rare such as blunt leaved bog orchids. The 66 km² park harbours some of Alberta's best habitat for cavity requiring bats, ducks, bank swallows, pileated woodpeckers and flying squirrels. Deer, moose and beaver are also abundant.

This wealth of nature can be experienced via more than 66 km of hiking, cycling and equestrian trails, reached through three staging areas. Backcountry camping is permitted. Highlights include the Athabasca Viewpoint and a portion of the historic **Klondike Trail** - a major link in the Hudson Bay Company's 19th century transportation corridor. Portions of the historic Klondike Trail are still in use today. Snowmobiles and wagons are permitted on some park trails.

Just north of the park, the 38 km² **Timeau Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Activity Area** is a mixed use recreation area, featuring sand hills and wetlands, that is primarily focused on off highway vehicle use. To the northwest, along Highway 33, is the so-called **Geographical Centre of Alberta**. From an information kiosk, a 3 km trail leads through mixed wood forest (good bird watching) to a cairn marking the midway point between Alberta's four boundaries.



Trails Along Highway 16 West

Just north of Stony Plain, the 1.74 km² **Chickakoo Lake Recreation Area** is a scenic mix of woods and lakes that attracts a diversity of birds. The 14 km of trails are a popular destination for hikers, cyclists and horseback riders in summer and are groomed for cross country skiers in winter (there's a warm up chalet).

Just east of nearby Onaway, **Imrie Park** has some 5 km of hiking trails (3 of them groomed for cross country skiing) and a wildlife viewing blind overlooking the west side of Matchaway (Devil's) Lake. Southeast of town, the **Bilby Natural Area** is a good place to watch birds from trails that meander through open balsam forest and wetlands. The natural area also allows off highway vehicles.

Some 60 km west of Edmonton, the Alberta Beach Snowmobile Club (<http://absnowmobileclub.com>) operates a 100 km network of trail loops that head west from Lac Ste. Anne to Isle Lake and the Pembina River, with plans to expand north to Sangudo.

Straddling Highway 16A to the near west, **Pembina River Provincial Park** is close to a 60 metre deep gorge in the river valley, carved by meltwaters from retreating glaciers some 10,000 years ago. A 3 km walking loop trail along the valley rim offers great overviews of the gorge, with interpretive signage along the way providing information about the area's geology, ecosystems and wildlife. To the north Mayerthorpe is developing a walking trail system that will connect the town's communities and parks.

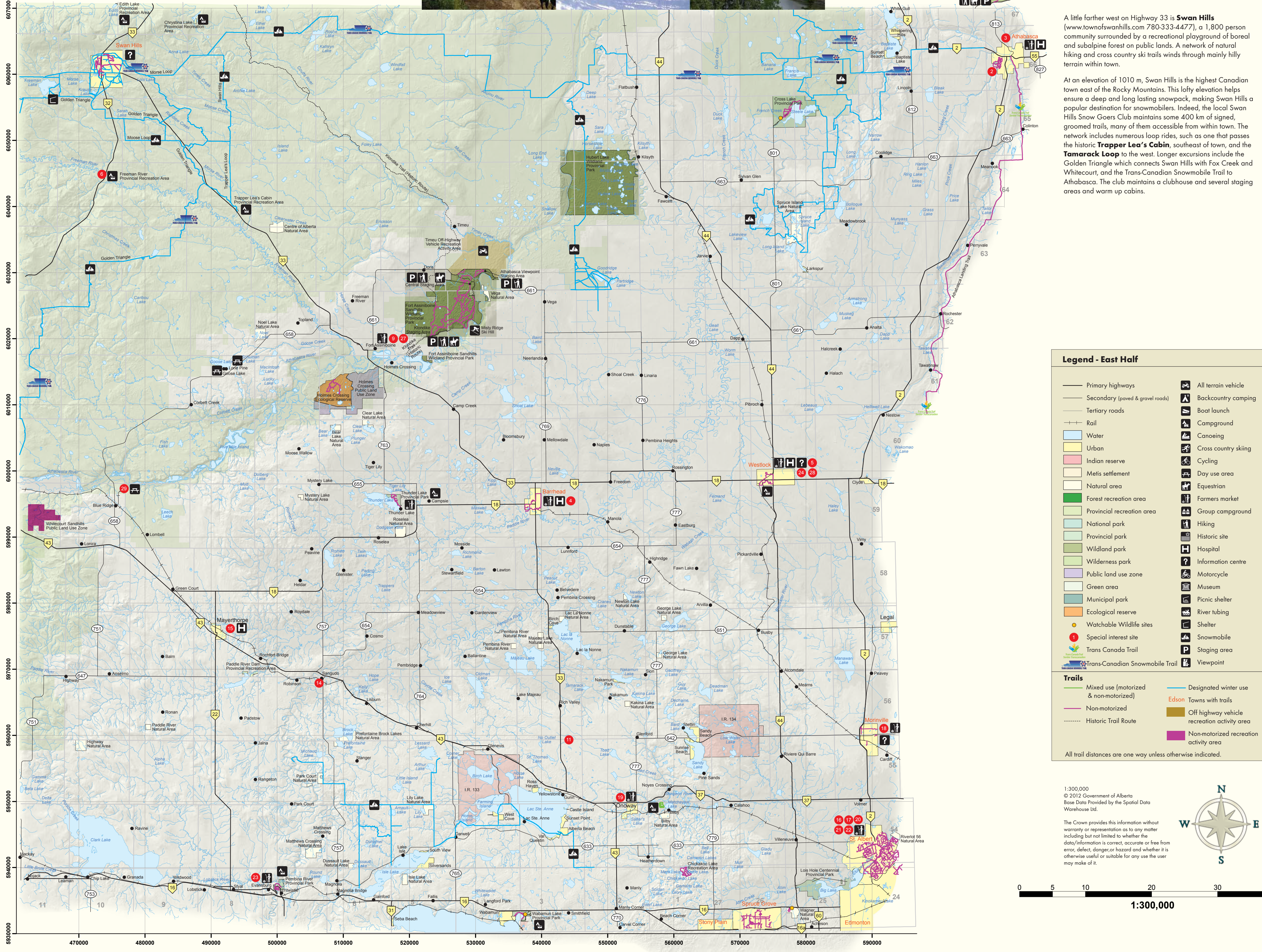


Athabasca Area

South of Athabasca and just east of Highway 2, the **Athabasca Landing Trail** (www.athabascalandingtrail.com) is part of the Trans Canada Trail and follows the historic overland route used by 19th century fur traders and, later, missionaries. Klondike gold prospectors and homesteaders. The route covers a patchwork of pathways, gravel and secondary roads, sand tracks and railway beds as it winds through the picturesque Tawatitow River valley, open countryside and woodlands, passing communities such as Waugh, Tawatitow and Perryvale.

Along with quiet riverside paths, **Athabasca** (www.town.athabasca.ab.ca 780-675-2063) boasts 17.5 km of non motorized trails in the wooded **Muskeg Creek Park**. In winter, its groomed cross country ski trails are considered among the best in Alberta, with loops ranging from 1.2 km (lit at night) to 10 km, offering something for all levels of skiers.

The Athabasca River Runners oversee a large network of snowmobile trails that, on this map, extend west through Flatbush all the way to Swan Hills, again part of the Trans-Canadian Snowmobile Trail. The club features a staging area, just west of town, and a warm up shelter on the Swan Hills route.



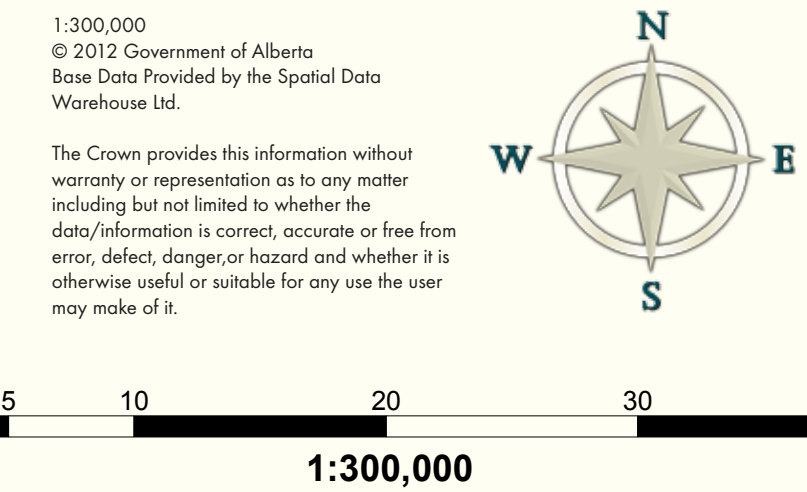
Legend - East Half

Primary highways	All terrain vehicle
Secondary (paved & gravel roads)	Backcountry camping
Tertiary roads	Boat launch
Rail	Campground
Water	Canoeing
Urban	Cross country skiing
Indian reserve	Cycling
Metis settlement	Day use area
Natural area	Equestrian
Forest recreation area	Farmers market
Provincial recreation area	Group campground
National park	Hiking
Provincial park	Historic site
Wildland park	Hospital
Wilderness park	Information centre
Public land use zone	Motorcycle
Green area	Museum
Municipal park	Picnic shelter
Ecological reserve	River tubing
Watchable Wildlife sites	Shelter
Special Interest Site	Snowmobile
Trans Canada Trail	Staging area
Trans-Canadian Snowmobile Trail	Viewpoint

Trails

Mixed use (motorized & non-motorized)	Designated winter use
Non-motorized	Edson Towns with trails
Historic Trail Route	Off highway vehicle recreation activity area
	Non-motorized recreation activity area

All trail distances are one way unless otherwise indicated.



Grande Alberta North Trails

Grande Alberta North is a region of striking contrasts, ranging from the bustling metropolis of Edmonton in the southwest to the wilderness settings of Swan Hills and Fox Creek in the northeast. The southern landscapes of open farm fields and aspen parkland give way, farther north, to dense boreal forest and wetlands. The region contains several major waterways and harbours hundreds of small to mid-sized lakes, many of them popular destinations for camping, boating, fishing and other forms of recreation.

Within Grande Alberta North's expansive boundaries are well over a thousand kilometres of trail for all types of summer and winter enthusiasts. Nearly all the cities and towns on this map feature networks of non motorized trails, often nestled within river and creek valleys and connected to green spaces. Outside these urban areas are popular trail systems in well established provincial parks, such as William A. Switzer, Carson-Pegasus and Cross Lake, as well as in newer ones like Fort Assiniboine Sandhills Wildland and Sundance. There's something for off highway enthusiasts, too, particularly in the dedicated Timeau Area northwest of Edmonton.

With its abundant snowpack and long winters, this region features the highest density of managed snowmobile trails in Alberta. Many local clubs maintain signed, groomed trails ranging from short loops to extended rides that connect far flung towns. These clubs typically offer family rides and annual events such as poker rallies. Some communities permit snowmobilers to ride within town limits to reach surrounding trail systems.

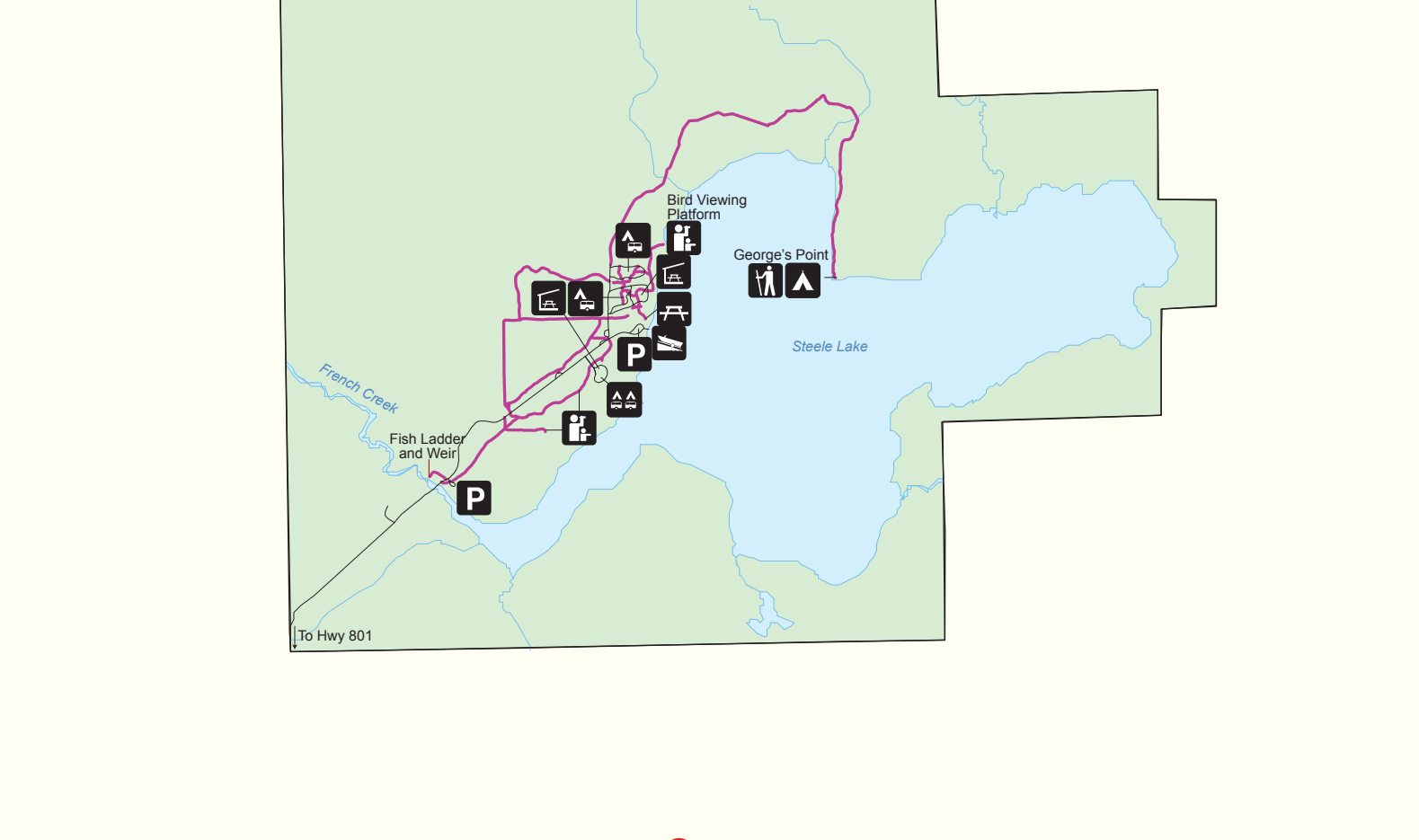
The most famous long snowmobile ride is the Golden Triangle, a well marked 350 km route linking Whitecourt, Swan Hills and Fox Creek. Usually tackled over two or three days, the trail features six warm up shelters, staging areas in all three communities and semi alpine terrain that features rolling, forested hills and long, flat stretches along cutlines, forestry roads and creek and river valleys. A good introduction to this route is the Golden Triangle 220 Snowmobile Rally, an organized ride over two days in early March. Phone toll free 800-313-7388 for current snow conditions along the Golden Triangle trail. Parts of this trail are included in the Trans Canadian Snowmobile Trail (www.cscoc.com.ca/transcan.html), a coast to coast route that on this map extends west from Athabasca to north of Fox Creek.

Grande Alberta North Trail Map Boundary



Cross Lake Provincial Park

Protecting 2,000 hectares along the shores of Steele Lake, west of Athabasca, **Cross Lake Provincial Park** offers visitors camping, swimming, boating and a sandy beach. Hiking trails ranging from 1 to 6.5 km travel through mixed wood forests and wetlands to several bird viewing platforms. One hiking trail swings around the lake's northern end to a small, secluded campground at George's Point.



- Special Interest Sites**
1. Alberta Forest Service Museum
 2. Athabasca Muskeg Creek Trails
 3. Athabasca "Old Brick School"
 4. Barrhead Centennial Museum
 5. Canadian Tractor Museum
 6. "Geophysical centre of Alberta"
 7. E.S. Huessis Demonstration Forest
 8. Forest Interpretive Centre and Heritage Park
 9. Fort Assiniboine Centre and Heritage Park
 10. Galloway Museum
 11. George Pegg Botanic Garden
 12. Hinton Museum of Culture & Heritage
 13. Hoodoos via the Wild Sculpture Trail
 14. Lac St. Anne Historical Society Pioneer Museum
 15. Mayerthorpe Fallen Four Memorial Park
 16. Mission Hill
 17. Musée Heritage Museum
 18. Musée Morinville Museum
 19. Onaway Museum
 20. Profiles Public Art Gallery
 21. St. Albert Botanic Park
 22. St. Albert Heritage Sites
 23. Tipple Park Museum and Information Centre
 24. Westlock Pioneer Museum
 25. Whitecourt Riverboat Park
 26. Woodland County Hard Luck Canyon
 27. World's Largest Wagon Wheel and Pick Axe
 28. World's Tallest Working Weather Vane
 29. Whiteridge MX Park

For more information on responsible recreation and stewardship opportunities, visit www.srd.alberta.ca and www.albertaparks.ca