

Q and A's – General Park Users

Q: When will boat launches and trails be open to the public?

A: As of May 4, 2020, Saskatchewan Provincial Parks will re-open to limited day use. In addition to allowing people to use boat launches (as ice conditions and normal operating conditions allow), hiking and biking on trails will be open. During this time, gatherings of any sort will be prohibited.

Visitors will be asked to utilize the parks responsibly by:

- Using the self-assessment tool prior to entry (www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus);
- Continuing to practice physical distancing and only visit the park alone or with those whom you live with; and
- Following all the advice of the public health experts to protect yourself and others during this pandemic.

Some of our trails include narrow spaces and it will be very important to continue physical distancing. Be mindful of other trail users and follow directional signage, if passing someone, alert them so that you can keep a distance.

Q: When can I book my campsite this year and when will the camping season open?

A: Saskatchewan Provincial Parks Campsite Reservation Launch is set to begin May 4, with a camping start date of June 1, 2020.

Reservations for campsites will open at 7 a.m. on the scheduled days below, with the queue opening at 6:40 a.m. Staggered launch dates and the queuing system will be implemented again in 2020 to help manage the volume the site experiences.

The schedule is as follows:

- Monday, May 4: Seasonal campsites across provincial parks
- Wednesday, May 6: Pike Lake, The Battlefords, Narrow Hills, Blackstrap
- Thursday, May 7: Bronson Forest, Meadow Lake, Makwa Lake, Lac La Ronge
- Friday, May 8: Saskatchewan Landing, Douglas, Danielson
- Monday, May 11: Buffalo Pound, Rowan's Ravine, Echo Valley, Crooked Lake
- Tuesday, May 12: Cypress Hills
- Wednesday, May 13: Duck Mountain, Good Spirit Lake, Greenwater Lake
- Thursday, May 14: Candle Lake, Great Blue Heron, Moose Mountain

Q: Will anyone be able to book a campsite this year?

A: Not at this time, to limit travel between provinces, camping in provincial parks will be restricted to Saskatchewan residents starting June 1, until further notice.

Q: Will my camping experience be different than in previous years?

A: The safety of our park users and staff is the priority and while the province slowly and methodically begins to open, there will be many restrictions in place to protect everyone from the spread of COVID-19, which includes (while the public health order is still in effect):

- Overnight stays and limited-term campsites will only be occupied at 50 per cent capacity, with no adjacent sites occupied at the same time.
- Reservations are encouraged via the online reservation system or the call centre.
- No group campsites/reservations permitted. Double sites may not be booked.
- All shower and laundry facilities will be closed.
- Washroom access will be limited to one household at a time.
- Campers must use bathroom facilities in their trailers or recreational vehicles, avoiding public bathrooms.
- Park users will be asked to continue physically distancing and to utilize only their campsite and have no visitors into that site.
- Playgrounds will remain closed.
- Swimming lessons are cancelled until further notice
- Programs and activities will be offered virtually rather than in person.
- Campers are being asked to protect themselves and others by not going camping if they are showing signs of illness and to bring along supplies to help stop the spread of the virus.
- All shared facilities will remain closed (showers, laundry facilities, cookhouses, clubhouses, firewood distribution centres).
- Visitor reception centres will be closed until further notice.
- All recreational facilities will remain closed (swimming pools, beach access, picnic areas, playgrounds, tennis courts, etc.), including beaches and shared shoreline access; however, boats may be launched as long as physical distancing requirements are strictly observed.
- The rental of tents and yurts is not permitted (Including Camp Easy).
- All public services, such as interpretation services, children's programming and community-based programming, is postponed until further notice.

Q: What kind of actions will provincial parks be taking to help stop the spread of COVID-19?

A: A variety of new protocols and cleaning practices will be in place:

- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices will be undertaken at central dump stations and water fill stations. All other common water sources are closed.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection efforts will be undertaken in campground sites and in all public/shared spaces (e.g. picnic table, garbage cans and other high-touch surfaces).
- Employees will have access to gloves and sanitizing wipes, and are required to stay home if they are unwell or symptomatic.
- Signage will be posted to caution campers about the risks of COVID-19.

Q: Will group camping be permitted?

A: We are following the advice of public health experts and encouraging physical distancing, as such, group camping will be prohibited in Saskatchewan Provincial Parks until further notice.

Q: If I am interested in a seasonal campsite, will I still have to pay the full amount?

A: Seasonal camping fees will be pro-rated to June 1, 2020.

Q: Will I be offered a discount on my annual park entry permit?

A: Annual entry permits for \$75 provide access to an entire year of park access, events and activities. There will not be a discount offered on annual park entry permits.

Q: Will the camping season be extended this year?

A: Camping will be offered in all Saskatchewan Provincial Parks until September 30, 2020 with most services available. Our parks are open year around for those who wish to camp in the spring, fall and some parks even offer winter camping. The online reservation system will provide a list of which campgrounds within each park will offer camping until the end of September.