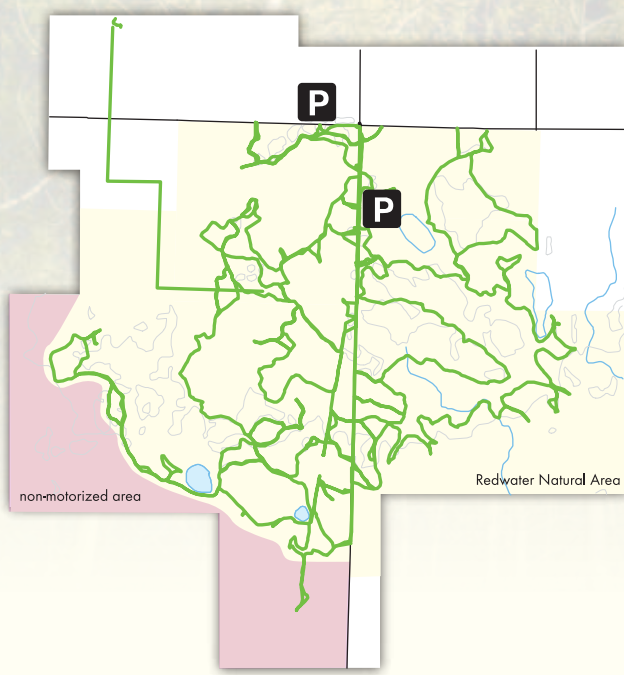


Trails Northeast of Edmonton

To the northeast of Edmonton, **Bruderheim** has new cycling trails and a heritage trail, dotted with playgrounds, leading to a wetland interpretive centre. Not far away, **Gibbons** (www.gibbons.ca) offers 2 km of walking trails - part of the **Trans Canada Trail's** (www.tctrail.ca) northern leg along the Sturgeon River in Echo Glen Park. Trails can be found in nearby Lily Lake Village Resort, north of Bon Accord. Further northeast, **Redwater** (www.town.redwater.ab.ca) is home to North America's largest oil derrick and close to **Redwater Natural Area**, popular with both orienteers and off-highway vehicle enthusiasts. Nearby, rustic trails - including a section of the Trans Canada Trail - wind through tamaracs in Half Moon Lake Natural Area.

Just north of Edmonton along Highway 2, **Morinville** (www.town.morinville.ab.ca) provides 6 km of paved paths and a historic downtown walking tour; more trails can be found in nearby Cardiff Park. Further north, **Legal** (www.town.legal.ab.ca), billed as the National Capital of French Murels, has trails in its Centennial Park.

Redwater



Long Lake - White Earth



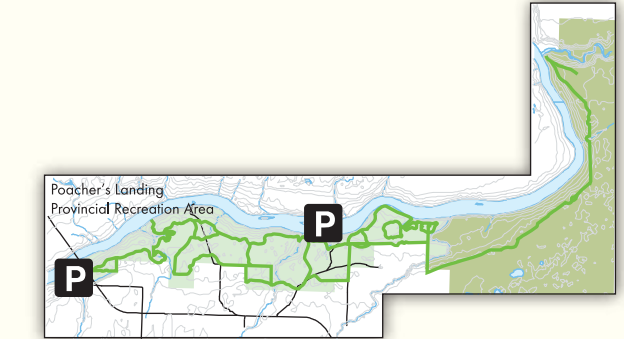
To the northeast, and just south of Boyle in Thorhild County (www.thorhildcounty.com), **Long Lake Provincial Park** sits in a spectacular remnant of ancient glacial activity, with steep, irregular terrain harbouring mixed forests and willow bogs - creating some of Alberta's most productive moose habitat. A lakeside hiking trail provides excellent views, while nearby to the north, the Long Lake Ski Area has snowmobile trails. Directly south of Long Lake, **White Earth Valley Natural Area** offers fine wildlife viewing and ideal terrain for hiking, mountain biking and trail riding, with snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in the winter.

Just east of Highway 2, along the North Saskatchewan River near Fort Saskatchewan, is the start of the **Athabasca Landing Trail** (www.albertatrailnet.com), part of the northern leg of the Trans Canada Trail. It closely follows the historic overland route of the same name - between Edmonton and the southern loop of the Athabasca River at the town of Athabasca - used by 19th-century fur traders, followed by missionaries, Klondike gold prospectors and homesteaders. This 170 km route follows a patchwork of pathways, gravel and secondary roads, sand tracks and railway beds as it winds through valley bottoms, open countryside and woodlands, passing communities such as Waugh, Tawatinaw and Perryville. Highlights include the scenic Sturgeon and Tawatinaw River Valleys, pine-studded sand dunes and abundant wildlife. In spring, be prepared for some boggy sections between Perryville and Athabasca.

Besides vibrant historic riverside paths, the town of **Athabasca** (www.town.athabasca.ab.ca) offers 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 kms [lit at night] to 10 km, providing something for all levels of skiers. From Athabasca, the Trans Canadian Snowmobile Trail heads west to Swan Hills and beyond.

Northeast of town, **Poacher's Landing Provincial Recreation Area** features a network of trails on the south side of the Athabasca River. (www.athabascacountry.com)

Poacher's Landing



Cross Lake



West of Athabasca, **Cross Lake Provincial Park** has extensive hiking trails that pass through forests of pine, spruce and poplar that skirt bogs and marshy wetlands. The park provides good opportunities for glimpsing deer, moose, beaver, loon, nesting osprey and bald eagle, and perhaps a black bear.

Just north of Athabasca at Sawdy is the start of the **Old Peace River Trail** (www.albertatrailnet.com) a historic route that follows the Athabasca River north for 60 km to nearby Moose Portage. A section of the Trans Canada Trail, this multi-use trail travels on a natural surface through superb old-growth boreal forest teeming with moose, elk, deer, wolves and black bears. This is a remote trail with few access points, primitive campsites and no services north of Athabasca. Use is not recommended during hunting season. Except for steeper creek valleys, the trail generally consists of gently rolling terrain with corduroy in some wet areas.

The Athabasca River is also part of the Trans Canada Trail's northern water route, heading downstream from the town of Athabasca all the way to Lake Athabasca and then on to the Northwest Territories. [Note: This is a challenging, dangerous river with significant rapids that require numerous portages.] Between the river's big looping bend, north of Athabasca, **Calling Lake Provincial Park** has a number of hiking trails, along with white sand beaches, fine bird watching and some of the best large walleye fishing in Canada. (continued on other side)



Trails Along Highway 16 (west to east)

Just east of the busy metropolis of Edmonton, refuge can be found in several dense systems of trails. The **Strathcona Wilderness Centre**, on the eastern doorstep of Sherwood Park, has 12 km of hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoe loops of varying difficulty that wind through aspen forest and along Bennett Lake.

A bit further east along Highway 16, the 194 km² **Elk Island National Park of Canada** (www.pc.gc.ca/elkiland, phone 780-992-2950) protects free-roaming herds of wood and plains bison, along with moose, elk and more than 250 bird species. The park's 100 km of trails feature 11 hiking and cross-country ski trails - ranging from short strolls to several in excess of 10 km - that wind through aspen parkland and past spruce bogs and small lakes. A park pass is required.

Immediately to the south, **Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Recreation Area** boasts a sprawling, 170 km network of hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, cross-country skiing and snowmobile trails - ranging from less than one kilometre to 25 km in length and offering something for all levels of ability. The area hosts the annual Canadian Birkebeiner each February. (www.canadianbirke.com) the largest classic cross-country ski race in North America.

Near the junction of Highways 16 and 15, the **Parkland Conservation Farm** has hiking trails amongst its demonstration crops and wetlands. Just beyond, **Vegreville** (www.vegreville.com) is noted for its amazing World's Largest Ukrainian Pysanka (Easter egg), historic train station and walking and cycling trails through town. Close to Innisfree, **Wapau Lake Conservancy Project** is a migratory stop for white swans and has 8 km of nature trails that pass bird viewing and native botanical sites. (continued on other side)



Alberta's Iron Horse Trail



(www.ironhorsetrail.ca) or phone toll-free 888-645-4155)

Alberta's Iron Horse Trail is a superb, 300 km multi-use (except for two-wheeled motorized vehicles and four-by-fours) trail. Of mostly moderate difficulty, the trail follows a former Canadian National Railway line through the heartland of northeast Alberta. Part of the **Trans Canada Trail** (www.tctrail.ca) and **Trans Canadian Snowmobile Trail** (www.cscs-ccom.ca/transcan.html), it bisects a mosaic of farmland, wetlands, and aspen and boreal forest - connecting many communities, attractions and even a few ghost towns along the way. Shaped in a horizontal 'Y', this year-round trail branches at Abilene Junction, with one leg angling northeast to Cold Lake and the other southeast to Heinsburg. With 15 roadside staging areas, travellers can choose any number of start and finish points to design a short outing or multi-day trip. Snowmobilers riding between communities on the trail can also connect to hundreds of kilometres of club trails for a pleasant detour.

Western Iron Horse Trail: Smoky Lake County to Abilene Junction - 92 km

The trail's western leg starts just east of **Waskatenau** (www.waskatenau.ca), which has a paved, creekside nature path, a magnificent 1919 wooden railway trestle and a rare, working grain elevator. The trail heads east through level, open farmland dotted with sloughs, passing through **Warspite** before entering the Smoky Lake Valley.

Noted for its restored CNR train station and Great White Northern Pumpkin Fair in early October, **Smoky Lake** (www.smokylakeregion.ca) is also the gateway to **Victoria Settlement Provincial Historic Site** (www.culture.alberta.ca/museums/historicsiteslisting/victoriasettlement) and **Métis Crossing** (www.meticrossing.com) both to the near south along the North Saskatchewan River. Victoria Settlement is the site of a Methodist mission and a Hudson's Bay Company fort, both established in the 1860s, and of a river crossing used for thousands of years by Aboriginals. Besides historic buildings and interpretive facilities, these two sites have walking trails.

Victoria Settlement was also the eastern terminus of the old **Victoria Trail** (www.kalynacountry.com/victoriatrail) - part of the historic Carlton Trail, a major nineteenth-century Red River cart and wagon route that connected fur trading posts situated between today's Edmonton and Winnipeg. A 57 km section of the Victoria Trail, including the Kalyna Country interpretive trail, has been preserved in Sturgeon, Smoky Lake and Thorhild Counties and can still be roughly followed along country roads northeast of Edmonton. Snowmobile trails can also be accessed from Victoria Settlement.

The ensuing section of Iron Horse Trail is an enchanting mix of hilly farmland and wet lowlands, crossing the winding White Earth River on several trestles and passing ancient sand dunes covered in pines. The hamlet of **Bellis** features a 200 m trestle and good late-season blueberry and bog cranberry picking. 16 km to the east is Vina (www.historicvina.ca), boosting Alberta's oldest pool hall and barber shop, the World's Largest Mushroom and a historic village walking tour on boardwalks. (continued on other side)



Snowmobile Trails



The area covered by this map contains more than 600 km of interconnecting snowmobile trails, supported by usually thick snowpack, that traverse a scenic mix of parkland, boreal forest and rolling farmland. These range from networks of trails near and between towns and villages to long rides along the 300 km Iron Horse Trail and the **Trans Canadian Snowmobile Trail**, which on this map stretches from Cold Lake west to beyond the Athabasca area.

Most of these winter trails are maintained, signed and groomed by the region's local **Alberta Snowmobile Association** (www.altnsnowmobile.ab.ca) clubs, which often provide warm-up shelters along the way. These trails are supported through the ASA Trail Pass Program, and passes may be purchased through local snowmobile clubs or dealers.



Northeast Alberta Trails

Northeast Alberta is blessed with an extensive system of multi-use trails. These range from long linear routes along old rail beds to networks of park paths and quiet strolls through the region's small cities, towns and villages. There's something here for everyone: hikers, cyclists, off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, equestrian riders, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, dog sledders and even wagon trekkers.

A significant portion of the sprawling, 53,000 km² area covered by this map is lightly populated, and so are the trails. One can often travel alone for long stretches of time - perfect for quietly admiring the passing scenery, pausing at sweeping vistas or stopping to scan the woods, marshes and skies for an abundance of bird and animal life. Still, civilization intervenes sufficiently for trail users to restock supplies, enjoy a well-earned meal and sample the area's rich, diverse culture and history.

Alberta's Iron Horse Trail, the Trans Canada Trail and the Trans Canadian Snowmobile Trail figure prominently in the trails in this map region. The Trans Canada Trail route includes some connecting roads as well as portions of the Athabasca River along its northern land and water legs.

The landscapes the trails on this map traverse are a pleasant mix of rolling farmland, heavier, wetter forests, wandering rivers and one of the largest concentrations of lakes in Alberta. Some of the most magnificent terrain is set aside in national and provincial parks, recreation and natural areas and ecological reserves.

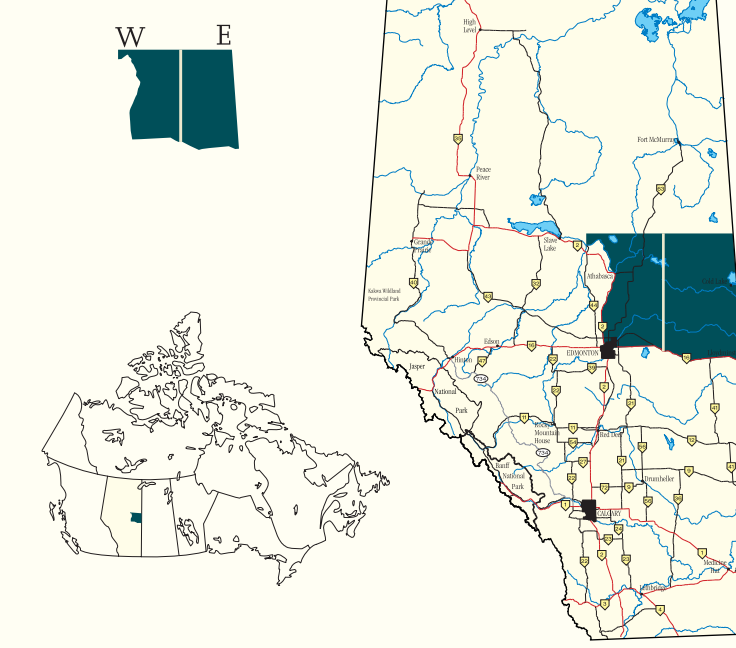
This region embraces two primary natural regions. Aspen parkland - the transition zone between grasslands to the south and boreal forest to the north - reaches into the southern portions of the area. It is characterized by open stands of aspen with wildlife ranging from deer and coyotes to blue herons and Swainson's hawks.

Boreal forest is the region's predominant landscape. Aspen groves give way to dense forests of white spruce broken by lakes and large areas of muskeg dominated by black spruce and tamarack. This is one of Alberta's most productive habitats, home to such animal species as moose, black bear, snowshoe hare, lynx, wolf and weasel.

Elsewhere, there are surprisingly extensive pockets of sand dunes, often covered in jack pine forests. Many of these are found in natural areas, provincial parks and recreation areas.

The 20,000 km² Kalyna Country (www.kalynacountry.com), which covers the parkland drained by the North Saskatchewan River, has been declared the world's largest ecosystem. This unique region promotes heritage, cultural and natural attractions and outdoor adventures east/northeast of Edmonton. Much of the area covered in this map is also included in Alberta's Lakeland (www.albertalakeland.com), a region with a rich mosaic of history, culture and natural settings, featuring more than 250 lakes, spectacular boating, camping, fishing and hunting opportunities and over 400 km of multi-use trails.

Northeast Alberta Trail Map Boundary



Respect the Land

Access to recreational opportunities on public and private lands is built on a foundation of responsible use. By focusing your activities on managed trails, you are contributing to the sustainable enjoyment of Alberta's magnificent natural landscapes.

Trail Etiquette and Safety

Be a leader and ambassador for your favourite outdoor activity. Join the many hikers, cyclists, horseback riders, cross-country skiers, off-highway vehicle users, snowmobile enthusiasts and other recreationists who proudly take a stewardship role by:

- Knowing and abiding by applicable regulations and trail signs
- Staying on designated trails and restricting your use to approved activities
- Sharing trails with courtesy and respect - Wheels yield to heels; heels yield to horses. Motorized users should pull over to the right side of the trail, turn off the engine and remove helmets when horses are approaching
- Respecting landowners by leaving gates and fences as found and avoiding livestock
- Leaving artifacts and natural features undisturbed
- Controlling pets and keeping them on leash
- Properly disposing all waste in provided facilities and following the pack-in, pack-out philosophy
- Avoiding the spread of invasive species by cleaning recreation equipment (vehicles, tents, packs, boots, etc.) after every trip and using certified weed-free feed for pack animals
- Minimizing the threat of wildfire by ensuring flammable debris is kept away from hot exhaust systems, and by keeping campfires small, contained and in designated areas, and ensuring they are fully extinguished
- Respecting wildlife by observing from a distance and properly managing food and garbage
- Avoiding recreation use during sensitive times (e.g. wet conditions, wildlife mating and rearing seasons) and in sensitive areas (e.g. watercourses, stream banks, wetlands and alpine areas)
- Ensuring motorized vehicles are licensed and insured, and that all vehicles and equipment are operated with care
- Wearing an approved helmet for your particular activity
- Actively participating in local club and trail stewardship programs.

For more information on responsible recreation and stewardship opportunities, contact Alberta's recreation associations or visit www.srd.alberta.ca.