

The Trans Canada Trail in Alberta: Completed Sections

Wetaskiwin Trail System 23 September 2008

Type of Trail: Urban trail consisting of asphalt, concrete and gravel surfaces.

Location: City of Wetaskiwin. (68 km south of Edmonton)

Historical Perspective: The trail passes the Reynolds-Alberta Museum, a major collection of mechanized modes of transportation. Adjacent is Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame, with many antique aircraft.

Terrain: By The Lake Park features a manmade waterway area with gravel and paved pathways through a nature habitat surrounding the lake. Peace Hills Park consists of all gravel and grass paths surrounding a nature wetland. There are a few uneven areas along this trail and a good climb in some places. Beginner and experienced walkers will enjoy this path. The Recreation Grounds has paved pathways to the various facilities located there. Additional trail (paved in 2002) was built along Hwy 13 going east.

Access: By The Lake Park, Peace Hills Park, and the Recreation Grounds. The 2002 trail addition is adjacent to the Loon's 9 Hole Golf Course, the Lion's Campground and the Wetaskiwin Agricultural Society grounds.

Signage: Signage is posted along trail identifying native plant species. Trans Canada Trail signage is not in place as of August, 2008.

Facilities: The City of Wetaskiwin offers full services. The By The Lake Park Trail system features benches, garbage receptacles, directional signs, year-round heated washrooms, children's playground, a gazebo and picnic areas along the lakeside. Winter activities include full two full size rinks (one for family skating – one for ice hockey). There is also a cleared path along the perimeter of the lake for leisurely skating. A hall is available for bookings. Peace Hills Park has two observation decks and hosts The Peace Hills Invitational Cross Country Run every fall. The Wetaskiwin Track and Field Association use this facility for their activities. The Recreation Grounds portion of the trail give access to the swimming pool, ball diamonds, running track, a children's playground and a skateboard park.

Points of Interest: By The Lake Park features a children's playground by the Hall and a gazebo along the north shore of the lake for resting or observation. There are two observation decks on either side of Peace Hills Park – one for overlooking the wetland; the other for overlooking the entire park. The recreation grounds feature the various activities and facilities located there, including swimming pool, ball diamonds, a running track and a newly added skateboard park.

Trail Operator: City of Wetaskiwin.
Dan Maygard, Parks & Works Foreman, Telephone: (780) 361-4441.

Length: 20.3 kilometres (12.69 miles) total.

Surface: Asphalt, concrete and gravel.

Width: 2.4 metres (7.87 feet)

Permitted Uses: Walking, bicycling, roller blading, wheelchairs, scooters, cross-country skiing (no motorized vehicles are permitted.)

New Trail: As of August, 2008 a new 1.5 km East addition is being built from the Hospital (47 Street – Highway 13 East) and heading west just past the Northpoint housing development running parallel to the highway. This portion should be completed by the end of 2008. A South addition will then be built between from where this east-west addition ends and the C.P. railroad tracks to the west to Northmount Drive, a distance of approximately 500m. The City supports gradually increasing the amount of paths within the City and has designated the appropriate funding. A master plan has been developed to ensure that future development agrees with the trail system.

This is an unsupervised recreational trail and is used at the personal responsibility and risk of the person using the trail. Please use respect, and obey all regulations.