trail and boardwalk with interpretive signs. 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 To the north, Westlock (www.westlock.ca 780-349-4849) is an agriculture based community of 5,000 residents. Its paved Rotary winds for 48 km through the city and includes 22 major parks, making it the largest expanse of urban parkland in North America. Trail meanders around town for 9.6 km, connecting parks and recreational facilities, and is a great place for walking, jogging, in line

Freeman

River

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.

into the valley along quiet ravines. A 28.7 km stretch of the city's trail system is part of the Trans Canada Trail.

This allows for long linear trips as well as short outings, thanks to the many access points and feeder trails, the latter often dropping

Trails Northwest of Edmonton

Located on Edmonton's northwest doorstep, St. Albert (www.stalbert.ca 780-459-631) 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 Sturgeon River and surrounding areas for 34 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 Govenor. The park is also the site of the John E. Poole Interpretive Wetland facility which includes a Ducks Unlimited

North of Westlock, the Pembina Drift Busters Snowmobile Club (www.pembinadriftbusters.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.

View from Fort Assiniboine Sandhills PP

Iorseback Riding - Fort Assiniboine PP Snowmobiling - Swan Hills

today. Snowmobiles and wagons are permitted on some park trails.

Fort Assiniboine Sandhills Wildland Provincial Park

peckers and flying squirrels. Deer, moose and beaver are also abundant.

Just north of the park, the 38 km² Timeu 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.

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 wood-

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



A little farther west on Highway 33 is **Swan Hills** (www.townofswanhills.com 780-333-4477), a 1,800 person community surrounded by a recreational playground of boreal and subalpine forest on public lands. A network of natural hiking and cross country ski trails winds through mainly hilly terrain within town.

At an elevation of 1010 m, Swan Hills is the highest Canadian town east of the Rocky Mountains. This lofty elevation helps ensure a deep and long lasting snowpack, making Swan Hills a popular destination for snowmobilers. Indeed, the local Swan Hills Snow Goers Club maintains some 400 km of signed, groomed trails, many of them accessible from within town. The network includes numerous loop rides, such as one that passes the historic **Trapper Lea's Cabin**, southeast of town, and the **Tamarack Loop** to the west. Longer excursions include the Golden Triangle which connects Swan Hills with Fox Creek and Whitecourt, and the Trans-Canadian Snowmobile Trail to Athabasca. The club maintains a clubhouse and several staging areas and warm up cabins.

All terrain vehicle ---- Primary highways Backcountry camping ——— Secondary (paved & gravel roads) Boat launch Tertiary roads → Rail ← Campground Canoeing Cross country skiing Urban **S** Cycling Indian reserve Metis settlement Day use area Equestrian Natural area Farmers market Forest recreation area Group campground Provincial recreation area National park Hiking Provincial park Historic site H Hospital Wildland park ? Information centre Wilderness park Motorcycle Public land use zone Museum Green area Municipal park Picnic shelter River tubing Ecological reserve Shelter Watchable Wildlife sites Snowmobile 1 Special interest site P Staging area Trans Canada Trail Trans-Canadian Snowmobile Trail Viewpoint — Mixed use (motorized — Designated winter use & non-motorized) Edson Towns with trails Non-motorized Off highway vehicle ----- Historic Trail Route recreation activity area Non-motorized recreation activity area All trail distances are one way unless otherwise indicated. 1:300,000 © 2012 Government of Alberta

Base Data Provided by the Spatial Data

The Crown provides this information without

warranty or representation as to any matter

error, defect, danger, or hazard and whether it is

otherwise useful or suitable for any use the user

1:300,000

including but not limited to whether the data/information is correct, accurate or free from

Warehouse Ltd.

may make of it.

Legend - East Half

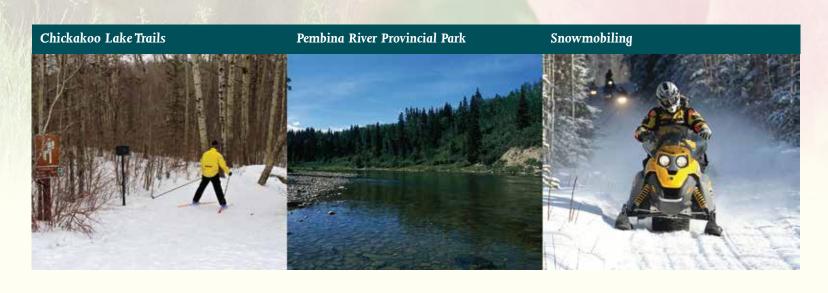
Trails Along Highway 16 West

Just north of Stony Plain, the 1.94 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 Onoway, 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 Matchayaw (Devil's) Lake. Southeast of town, the Bilby Natural Area is a good place to watch birds from trails that meander through aspen 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 Tawatinaw River valley, open countryside and woodlands, passing communities such as Waugh,

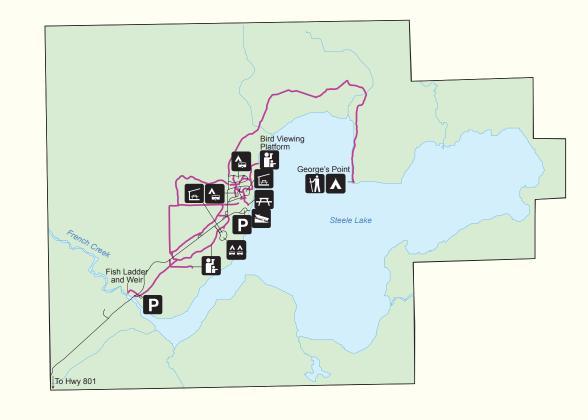
Along with quiet riverside paths, **Athabasca** (www.town.athabasca.ab.ca 780-675-2063) boasts 17.5 km of non motorized trails in the wooded **Muskeg Creek Park** 2. In winter, its groomed cross country ski trails are considered among the best in Alberta, with loops ranging from 1.2 km (lit at night) 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.



Cross Lake Provincial Parl

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



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. Huestis Demonstration Forest 8. Forest Interpretive Centre and Heritage Park
- 9. Fort Assiniboine Museum
- 10. Galloway Museum 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
- Mission Hill 17. Musée Héritage Museum
- 18. Musée Morinville Museum 19. Onoway 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

Grande Alberta North Trails

Grande Alberta North is a region of stirring contrasts, ranging from the bustling metropolis of Edmonton in the southeast to the wilderness settings of Swan Hills and Fox Creek in the northwest. 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.

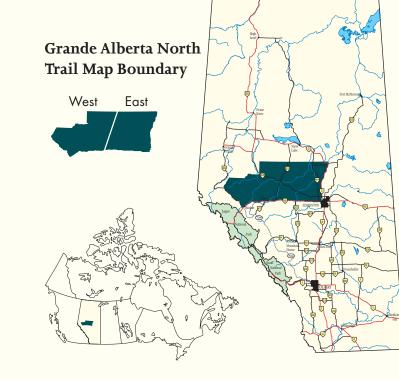
Within Grande Alberta North's expansive boundaries are well over a thousand kilometres of trail for all types of summer and winter enthusiasts. Nearly all the cities and towns on this map feature networks of non motorized trails, often nestled within river and creek valleys and connected to green spaces. 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 Timeu 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.ccso-ccom.ca/ transcan.html), a coast to coast route that on this map extends

west from Athabasca to north of Fox Creek.





Respect the Land

ccess to recreational opportunities on public and private lands is built on a oundation 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

- staying on designated trails and restricting 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
- 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

For more information on responsible recreation and www.albertaparks.ca



