

# Castle

## Provincial Park & Wildland Provincial Park



**Lynx Creek Campground** Offers first come first serve camping in a more remote location near picturesque Lynx Creek.

**Designated Camping Areas 1–9** In Castle Provincial Parks are unimproved, first come first serve campsites, accessible on rough trails. Free camping permits are available online, at kiosks located at each camping area, and from park staff. Designated camping areas are marked on the map reverse of this guide; please ensure you are camped within the boundaries of the camping areas.

**Syncline Group Use A and B** Are available for reservation May 17–September 30 in 2018. These upgraded camps feature shelters, picnic tables, fire pits and new outhouses along the West Castle River.

To reserve campsites, group camps, comfort cabins, or to check for opening dates, advisories and other information, please go to [albertaparks.ca/castle](http://albertaparks.ca/castle)

## Backcountry Camping

### Castle Wildland Provincial Park

Backcountry tent camping is allowed within the Castle Wildland Provincial Park, providing that the campsite is at least 1 kilometre from any facility, road, or boundary, and at least 50 metres

#### Important Note

This Castle Park Guide is for the 2018 summer season only.

#### Welcome to the Castle Parks

Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park in southwest Alberta protect over 105,000 hectares of valuable watersheds, and habitat for more than 200 rare species. The parks share borders with the Waterton Biosphere Reserve to the east, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park to the south, the Crowsnest Pass to the north and the Flathead river valley of British Columbia to the west. The lands in the Castle region form part of the extraordinary Crown of the Continent ecosystem.

Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park were established on February 16, 2017 and are managed according to Alberta's *Provincial Parks Act*.

## Interpretation and Education Programs

Join park staff on an interpretive adventure in the new Castle Parks! Explore new places, learn new skills, and discover incredible wildlife and landscapes. Program information is posted at park kiosks and online at [albertaparks.ca/castle](http://albertaparks.ca/castle).

from any trail. Please practice traceless camping methods by packing out all your supplies and garbage, and dismantling fire pits. For more information on safe and responsible backcountry camping, visit [albertaparks.ca](http://albertaparks.ca) and “Know Before You Go”.

## Outdoor Recreation

The Castle Parks offer a wide variety of front country and backcountry experiences. When enjoying the outdoors, please remember:

- Please respect other users in the area
- Leave no trace of your visit and dispose of your trash in appropriate receptacles
- Pets must be kept on a leash (2 metres), supervised and under physical control at all times
- Please clean up after your pet if within any facility area or on a trail
- Do not deposit any foreign materials into any watercourses (fuel, soap, body waste, grey water)
- No cutting, removing, or damaging live trees or any other vegetation unless you have a permit.

#### Trails

The best way to explore the Castle Parks is by traveling the park trails or by choosing your own hiking route using a topographic map. See the trail map for detailed information on the places to go and permitted uses. Note that roadside parking is required at some trailheads.

Programs are available for school and youth groups. Contact us at 403-627-1152 or email [swparks@gov.ab.ca](mailto:swparks@gov.ab.ca) for information or to book.

Adaptive equipment is available for use in the Castle Parks. To book this equipment, call 403-627-1152, or search for “Push to Open Nature” at [albertaparks.ca](http://albertaparks.ca).

## Day Use

There are many day use opportunities in Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park. These vary from a place to picnic and take photos, to a place to begin a backcountry recreation adventure. All day use areas have an information kiosk, picnic tables, outhouses, and waste receptacles.

### Castle Provincial Park

**Syncline Day Use and Trails** are ideal for hiking, biking and equestrian use. A temporary Visitor Centre will be situated at Syncline south in 2018. Both parking areas are large enough to turn around a horse trailer.

**Beaver Mines Lake** offers day use areas located around the lake, plus the Table Mountain Trailhead. If the trailhead parking lot is full, please park in another day use parking area.

**Carbondale Staging Area** is a great place to access multi-use trails in the Castle Wildland. Castle Falls Day Use Area is a lovely picnic area and great location to enjoy the falls. Look for bull trout in the deep waters.

Be aware that some trails may be closed for improvements or reclamation. Natural hazards are present on all trails, so learn how to recreate safely in a backcountry environment and carry appropriate gear, including safety and navigation equipment.

#### Syncline Trails

Hike or ride more than 20 kilometres of trails between the South Castle and West Castle rivers, through rolling landscapes of montane forests and meadows. These trails are ideal for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Alberta Parks has recently upgraded the parking areas and installed picnic tables, fire rings, information kiosks, outhouses, and a warm-up shelter. Come see us at the temporary visitor centre located here in 2018.

#### Hiking and Snowshoeing

Hiking and Snowshoeing is permitted anywhere in the Castle Parks unless otherwise posted. Know your routes, carry weather appropriate gear, and safety and navigation equipment. Caution is advised as most trails are unimproved and not regularly maintained, and motorized and non-motorized recreationists share designated trails.

#### Equestrian

Horseback riding is permitted on trails in the Castle Parks, please see map for specific trails. Parking areas suitable for horse trailers include the Syncline North and Carbondale Day Use staging areas. Horses are not permitted in developed campgrounds, but are allowed in Designated Camping Areas 1–9. Backcountry riders must follow traceless practices for overnight horse camping in the Wildland Provincial Park, including using weed free feed.

#### Castle River Bridge and Lynx Creek

**Campgrounds** have small day use areas next to the river. Stop for a picnic, and enjoy the sound of the river.

### Castle Wildland Provincial Park

**Bathing Lake Day Use Area** is fully accessible and ideal for fishing, picnicking, photography, and sightseeing. This is also a great spot to stage a backcountry hike into the wildland.

**Butcher Lake Day Use Area** welcomes fishing, picnicking, photography, and sightseeing. This is also a great spot to stage a backcountry hike into the wildland.

**West Castle Trail Head**, at Castle Mountain Resort, offers access into the West Castle Valley of Castle Wildland Provincial Park. Please ensure you “Know Before You Go” and are prepared for backcountry travel in a Wildland Provincial Park.

**South Castle Trail Head** Ride the South Castle on horse or mountain bike from this new staging area. Please ensure you are prepared for a backcountry experience in a Wildland Provincial Park.

## Camping

The Castle Parks offer more than 200 campsites in four campgrounds and 2 group camps, and additional opportunities in designated camping areas and in the backcountry.

#### Cycling

Non-motorized bicycles are allowed on trails, please see map for specific trails and unless otherwise posted. Be advised that some designated trails are shared by off-highway vehicles.

#### Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

OHVs are permitted on designated summer OHV trails in Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Park, as indicated on the trail map and on park signage. Please be respectful when using trails, be cautious of non-motorized trail users, and stay clear of wildlife.

#### Highway Vehicles

All vehicles (e.g. cars, trucks, Jeeps, SUVs) registered for highway uses are only allowed on highways and secondary highways that access the Provincial Park and Wildland Provincial Park. Highway vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas, or safely off to the side of the road when visitors are taking part in any recreational activity. Highway vehicles are not permitted on trails.

#### Know Before You Go

It is your responsibility to become familiar with the activities allowed in this area before you visit. Please refer to the information and map in this publication for further details. Pick up or download the Alberta Parks regulations brochure, look for park information kiosks and contact park staff, if you have any questions. Visit: [albertaparks.ca/castle](http://albertaparks.ca/castle)

#### Alberta Parks Regulations

Regulations under the *Provincial Parks Act* are enforced by Conservation Officers (Peace Officers in the Province of Alberta). Conservation Officers work with local police authorities

### Campgrounds in Castle Provincial Park

**Castle Provincial Park** has a wide range of campgrounds and campsites to suit any camping style. Many of the campsites have been widened in recent years to accommodate newer RV units. To reserve your campsite at Castle River Bridge, Beaver Mines Lake and Castle Falls campgrounds visit [albertaparks.ca/castle](http://albertaparks.ca/castle) and click on “book it”. Or, simply arrive, find a vacant first come first serve campsite, fill out the permit and pay at the registration vault for first come first served campsites.

#### Note

Sites marked with an “R” on the campsite post are available by reservation only. Campers who have reserved a site may not arrive until much later in the evening.

**Beaver Mines Lake** Campground Offers first come first serve and reservation campsites along the shores of Beaver Mines Lake, in the surrounding forest and in the scenic shadows of Table Mountain.

**Beaver Mines Lake** Comfort Camping Cabins Five rustic cabins offer a secluded location above the lake are available for reservation. Each cabin has basic furnishings and sleeps up to four people.

**Castle Falls Campground** Offers first come first serve and reservation campsites alongside the Castle River and within walking distance of the falls.

**Castle River Bridge Campground** Offers first come first serve and reservation campsites in the forest along the beautiful Castle River.

to ensure the safety of park visitors. Please familiarize yourself with the regulations that apply. A complete set of park regulations is accessible online and from park staff.

#### Firearms & Hunting

Under *Provincial Parks (General Regulation)*: “firearm” means any device that propels a projectile by means of explosion, spring, air, gas, string, wire or elastic material or any combination of those things.

**Provincial Park** – Possession or discharge of firearms is not allowed in Castle Provincial Park without a discharge permit. Download a permit from [albertaparks.ca/castle](http://albertaparks.ca/castle) or contact 403-627-1165 for more information.

**Wildland Provincial Park** – Hunters with a valid licence and tags to hunt in Castle Wildland Provincial Park under the Wildlife Act do not need a discharge permit. Hunters who access Castle Wildland Provincial Park without crossing through Castle Provincial Park would not need a discharge permit. They will need a permit if in possession of their firearm within the Provincial Park. It is to remain dismantled or completely enclosed in a case or other covering designed for that purpose while not in use.

#### Liquor

In accordance with the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Act, consumption of liquor is restricted to a temporary dwelling situation inside a registered and permitted campsite or camping area only.

#### Be Wildlife Smart

The Castle area is an important refuge and movement corridor for wildlife, including grizzly and black bears, wolverines, wolves, cougars, moose and elk. All wildlife can be unpredictable and precautions should be taken when in their

# Contact

#### Alberta Parks Office

Phone: (403) 627-1165 (Toll-free: 310-0000)

#### Visitor Services (Interpretation & Education)

Phone: (403) 627-1152 (Toll-free: 310-0000)

Email: [swparks@gov.ab.ca](mailto:swparks@gov.ab.ca)

#### General Provincial Park Information

Web: [albertaparks.ca](http://albertaparks.ca)

Toll Free: 1-866-427-3582

#### Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)

Phone: 911

#### Conservation Officer (Public Safety, Enforcement & Other Urgent Issues)

Phone: 1-844-HELP-PRK (435-7775)

#### Fire Bans in Alberta

Phone: 1-866-FYI-FIRE (394-3473)

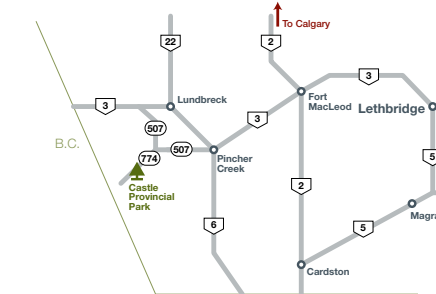
Web: [albertafirebans.ca](http://albertafirebans.ca)

#### Report a Forest Fire

Phone: 310-FIRE (3473)

#### Report-A-Poacher

Phone: 1-800-642-3800



[albertaparks.ca/castle](http://albertaparks.ca/castle)  
Updated May 2018



habitat. Avoid surprise encounters by making noise, and store food, garbage and pet food in a secure vehicle or bear/wildlife proof container. Keep children close to adults, and keep dogs on a leash. Carry bear spray, learn how to use and store it safely. Bear spray is available for purchase at most retailers in the area.

#### Safety and Emergency Communication

The Castle area offers wilderness settings that range from accessible front country to remote backcountry destinations. Cellular phone service is not available so please ensure that you have properly planned your trip and arranged emergency communications before you arrive.

- When traveling in the backcountry ensure you have experience and appropriate equipment.
- Provide family or friends with your detailed trip plans, including emergency protocols if you do not report back.

Pay phones are located at the Beaver Mines Store, Beaver Mines Lake (Camp Impeesa), Castle Mountain Resort, the Crowsnest Pass and at the Twin Butte General Store.

**Provincial Park** – Fires are only allowed inside a receptacle or facility designated and supplied for that purpose. Firewood is available for purchase at retailers in nearby communities. Please do not bring firewood from another province into Alberta. The collection of wood or any dead vegetation for burning must be authorized by a permit or Conservation Officer.

**Wildland Provincial Park** – Traceless camping practices are required (e.g. dismantle fire rings). Collection of dead wood for fires within the Wildland Provincial Park is allowed.

# Castle Provincial Park & Wildland Provincial Park Designated Summer Trails 2018

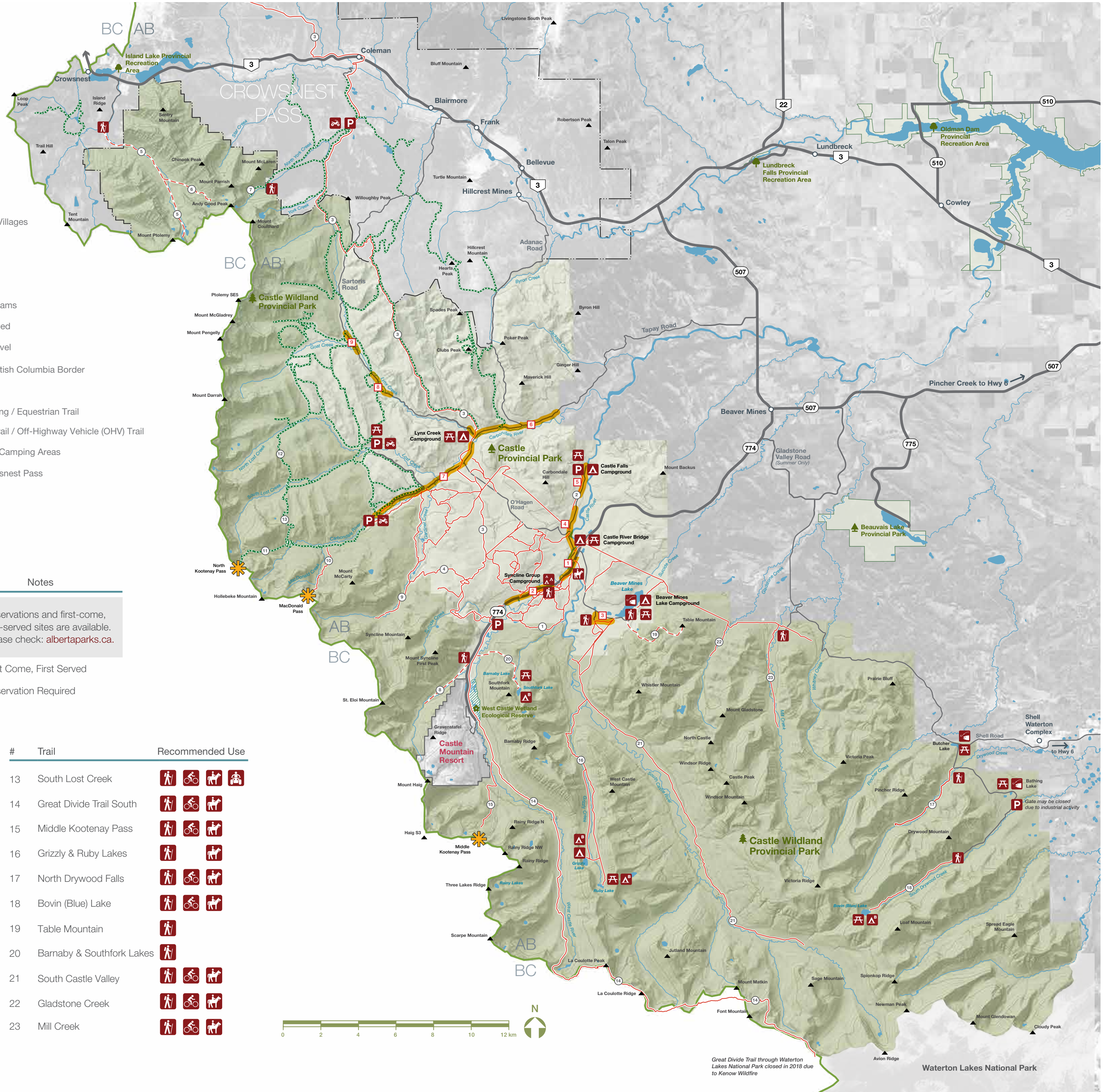
## Map Legend

- Castle Provincial Park
- Castle Wildland Provincial Park
- Other Provincial Parks
- Ecological Reserve
- Campground
- Backcountry Campground
- Group Use Campground
- Day Use Area
- Equestrian
- Fishing
- Staging / Parking
- Trailhead
- Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Staging
- Washrooms\*  
\*Pit toilets available at most day use, camping and staging areas
- Towns and Villages
- Mountain
- Pass
- Lakes
- Rivers / Streams
- Roads - Paved
- Roads - Gravel
- Alberta - British Columbia Border
- Hiking Trail
- Hiking / Biking / Equestrian Trail
- Multi-Use Trail / Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail
- Designated Camping Areas
- MD of Crowsnest Pass

| Campground          | # of Sites | Services | Notes   |
|---------------------|------------|----------|---|
| Beaver Mines Lake   | 86         | Basic    | Reservations and first-come, first-served sites are available. Please check: <a href="http://albertaparks.ca">albertaparks.ca</a> . |
| Castle Falls        | 47         | Basic    |   |
| Castle River Bridge | 30         | Basic    |   |
| Lynx Creek          | 28         | Basic    | First Come, First Served  |
| Syncline Group      | 20         | Basic    | Reservation Required  |

| #  | Trail                                   | Recommended Use |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 1  | Syncline Trail Network                  |                 |
| 2  | Castle Falls Grassland                  |                 |
| 3  | Great Divide Trail North                |                 |
| 4  | Gardiner Creek / Great Divide Connector |                 |
| 5  | Mount Ptolemy                           |                 |
| 6  | Andy Good Base                          |                 |
| 7  | North York Creek / Plane Crash          |                 |
| 8  | Syncline Brook                          |                 |
| 9  | Gardiner Creek                          |                 |
| 10 | MacDonald Pass                          |                 |
| 11 | North Kootenay Pass                     |                 |
| 12 | North Lost Creek                        |                 |

| #  | Trail                     | Recommended Use |
|----|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 13 | South Lost Creek          |                 |
| 14 | Great Divide Trail South  |                 |
| 15 | Middle Kootenay Pass      |                 |
| 16 | Grizzly & Ruby Lakes      |                 |
| 17 | North Drywood Falls       |                 |
| 18 | Bovin (Blue) Lake         |                 |
| 19 | Table Mountain            |                 |
| 20 | Barnaby & Southfork Lakes |                 |
| 21 | South Castle Valley       |                 |
| 22 | Gladstone Creek           |                 |
| 23 | Mill Creek                |                 |



Great Divide Trail through Waterton Lakes National Park closed in 2018 due to Kenow Wildfire  
 Waterton Lakes National Park  
 Gate may be closed due to industrial activity