



Tunkwa

PROVINCIAL PARK



Established in 1996, this 5,100-hectare park provides recreational opportunities and protects grasslands, forests, lakes and wetlands. At its heart are Tunkwa and Leighton Lakes – man-made lakes created for irrigation to downstream ranches. The lakes support one of BC's foremost fisheries stocked with the famous fighting Kamloops rainbow trout. These prolific lakes also provide stock for other lakes throughout BC.

Native grasses (bluegrass, needle-and-thread, bluebunch wheatgrass, rough fescue) share the rolling topography with introduced species such as wheatgrass. The ranching history of the area lives on here as cattle graze and cowboys still ride the grasslands.

The park abounds with wildlife viewing opportunities. Parts of the Douglas-fir/lodgepole pine forest were logged in the past, resulting in a variety of habitats for moose, deer, black bear, cougar, lynx, bobcat, marmots, kestrels, bald eagles and grouse. The swamps and ponds are home to waterfowl including geese, loons, grebes, sandpipers and many species of ducks. Ground-nesting meadowlarks, vesper sparrows and curlews inhabit the grasslands.

Thompson Region

Help Protect Your Park

Several particularly sensitive habitats need special protection.

- ▶ Please refrain from crossing through all watercourses leading into or out of the lakes. While these are wonderful places to view spawning trout in spring, driving through at any speed with any vehicle disturbs the spawning beds and feeding habitats.
- ▶ The grasslands are very sensitive to damage by motorized vehicles because of the hot, dry climate. Disturbance also promotes invasion by noxious weeds which take over from desirable species and have no value as feed for wildlife or for livestock. In the areas identified on the map as Special Management Areas, only foot access is allowed. The map describes which roads are open for motorized travel.
- ▶ Vehicles must also avoid the wetlands (riparian areas) that border streams, to protect water quality and the many species that live there.

Please respect the fragile grassland and wetland ecosystems by riding and driving responsibly on designated trails and by camping only in designated campgrounds. Respect the fences and leave gates as you found them. Ensure the survival of the fishery by using inflows and outflows only for observation.

Motorized Recreation

The motor vehicle act prohibits the use of dirt-bikes and ATVs on public roads, which includes the campground loops.

An ATV staging area has been provided adjacent to the Leighton North campground. This staging area gives access to a play area and marked ATV corridor that crosses the park and connects to traditional riding areas both east and west of the park. Riding off designated areas and trails is not permitted.

Campground Information

Camping is allowed only in the three areas shown on the map, on the east side of Tunkwa Lake and the northeast corner of Leighton Lake. Groups, such as horseback treks, wishing to set up temporary camp in any other area should call BC Parks in advance to find out if a permit can be issued for that purpose.

In Tunkwa Lake campground, please do not set up camp closer than 10 meters from the water on the stretch of lakeshore between the boat launch and the cliffs. This strip of shoreline is for the shared use of all campers and day users to walk along or to fish from.

Maximum Stay of 14 days allowed in a calendar year.

Fires are allowed in metal fire rings only. Do not cut firewood in the park. Firewood can be purchased from the Park Facility Operator. Keep fires small and do not leave your campfire unattended. This is a high-risk forest fire area.

Excessive Noise is not permitted. Please respect other campers' right to quiet enjoyment at all times. Only registered campers are allowed in the campgrounds after 11 p.m.

Pets must be kept on a leash while in the campgrounds. Please collect any feces your pet leaves and deposit in garbage containers.

Liquor Consumption is not permitted in the park except in registered campsites.

Firearms - The handling or discharge of firearms, pellet guns and air rifles are prohibited in the campgrounds.

Remember you're in bear country. Properly store food and garbage, ideally in your vehicle, when you are sleeping or when you leave the immediate vicinity. Keep a clean camp. Use the garbage containers provided.

Please respect the privacy of the cabin-owners on the lakeshore. These are private properties.

Anglers must have a valid BC angling license. Consult the fishing regulations.

Please note: High-speed boat operation is discouraged due to safety concerns relating to very high numbers of fishing craft, and to protect fragile shoreline habitats.

For More Information










BC Parks, Thompson Region
<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

TUNKWA PROVINCIAL PARK

-  Marshy Area
-  Park Boundary
-  Main Gravel Road
-  Gravel Road
-  Private Land
-  Campground
-  Day Use Area
-  Gate
-  Irrigation Channel

