

Visitor Information

- ▶ West Lake Provincial Park offers much more than beaches and boat launches. Most of the park's 256 hectares are natural wetlands and forests, lying north of the parking lot. Winter cross-country ski trails provide undeveloped hiking trails in the summer. Take a walk with us and experience some of the other pleasures of this park.
- ▶ Much of the parkland here is forested. Lodgepole pine, trembling aspen and white spruce prefer the dry, gravelly soils found here. Shrubs and plants such as Labrador tea, thimbleberry and bunchberry can be found on the forest floor.
- ▶ Beverly Creek flows from West Lake near the group-use picnic shelter. The outlet of the creek has been enhanced to provide a spawning channel for the lake's fish. It meanders north through a lush marshland. Water-loving trees and plants such as black spruce, cow parsnip and skunk cabbage are found here.
- ▶ This park offers superb habitat for moose, deer, beaver, black bear and a wide variety of bird life. The marsh offers a seasonal staging area for Canada geese and trumpeter swans. Osprey and belted kingfishers nest near the swamp and can be seen diving for fish in the creek in the early morning and late evening. Spotted sandpipers may be seen feeding along the water's edge.
- ▶ In the spring the Bonaparte's gulls bob in the water for morsels while red-necked grebes begin to look for nesting sites. Common yellowthroats, ruby-crowned kinglets and black-capped chickadees flit through the bushes along the creek. As you walk, listen for the songs of the many warblers living here. You may be lucky enough to see a sandhill crane or hear the unusual call of the American bittern as you walk near the marshy areas.
- ▶ Help us to serve you better. Your comments are always appreciated. A visitor comment box is provided at the park information shelter.

For More Information

BC Parks

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>



Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection

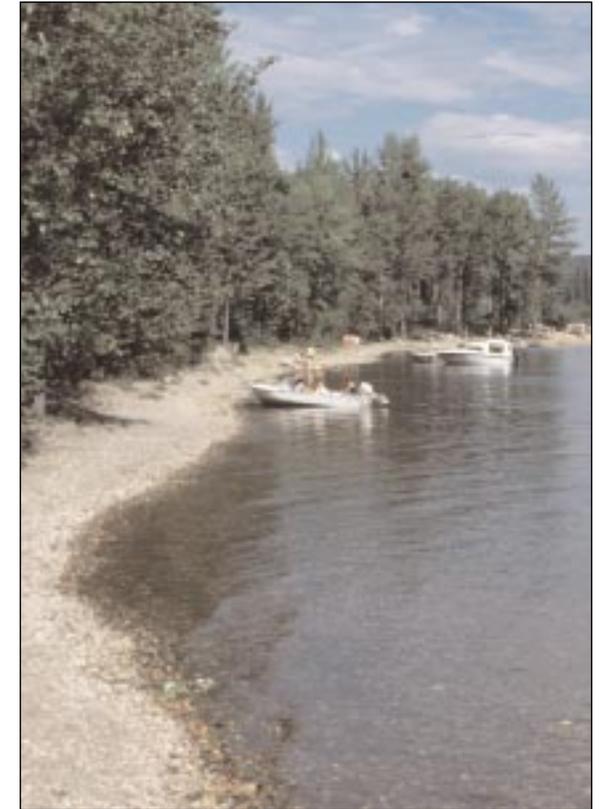


03/2003



West Lake

PROVINCIAL PARK



Welcome. West Lake Provincial Park offers year-round day-use fun for groups of all sizes. It is located 22 kilometres southwest of Prince George on the northern shores of its namesake lake. Over 400 metres of swimming beaches, boat ramps, picnic grounds, grassy play areas and plenty of parking ensure a spot for you to enjoy this natural playground.

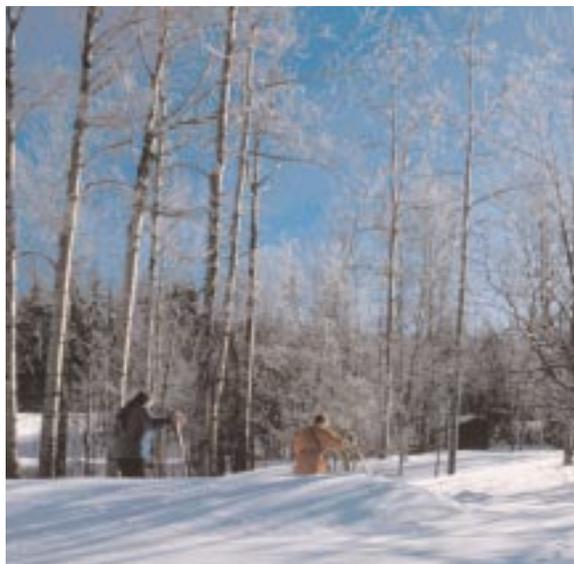
Upper Fraser

In summer West Lake Provincial Park is a popular spot for relaxation and outdoor fun. Its attractive setting, easy access, long sunny beaches, and water fun create a perfect destination for the entire family.

In winter the park is a favourite spot for crosscountry skiing, snowshoeing and tobogganing. Extensive trails and warming shelters offer a winter-wonderland of opportunities.

Park Hazards

- ▶ Safe swimming practices are a must. Visitors are encouraged to remain within the designated area. Refer to the water safety zones. No lifeguards are on duty. Children should be watched at all times and solo swimming should be avoided.
- ▶ To avoid problems with nuisance animals such as bears, keep your food in airtight containers and be sure to use the garbage containers provided.
- ▶ Swimmers itch (cercarial dermatitis) is a condition that may occur in area lakes during the summer. It is caused by small, colourless organisms called shistosomes that are present in waterfowl and snails. Prolonged exposure may cause small itchy red spots to develop on your skin. An immediate shower with fresh water (available near the toilet building) and immediate towel drying will help prevent the organism from entering the skin and causing irritation. Further information is available from local pharmacists and the health unit.



Facilities



The day-use area has all the ingredients for an ideal family outing. Sunbathers will find a perfect spot to spread a blanket on the expansive sandy beach or under the shady cottonwood trees. Nearby change houses, picnic tables and firepits make it easy to spend an entire day enjoying this beautiful setting. Parents can enjoy the picnic area while watching their children at the waters edge nearby. For energetic visitors looking for a little light-hearted competition, a play field, volleyball net and horseshoe pitches are provided.



This park is extensively accessible to wheelchairs. Selected picnic tables, the change rooms and rest rooms, the group picnic areas, swim ramp and the beach front trails are all designed to accommodate wheelchairs.



The warm waters and gentle incline are excellent for swimming. Special water safety zones ensure that swimmers are safe from other users.



For groups, two picnic areas are available. A wood stove, horseshoe pitches, fire circles and a play field make year-round fun available for groups of up to 100. One of the shelters is enclosed for optimum use in winter and on cool days. It is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The other shelter can be reserved for group use by calling BC Parks.



The park's double concrete boat launch and ample parking offer easy access to a world of water fun. Fishing, boating and water-skiing are popular. Fishing can be productive as West Lake has been stocked with rainbow trout. A nearby boaters' beach offers complete facilities to enjoy a picnic just metres away from your boat. Water safety zones are strictly enforced.



In winter the park is a haven for crosscountry skiers. An extensive ski trail system winds through the park, offering over 15 kilometres of ungroomed trails. Snowpacks are usually suitable for skiing from December to February. The enclosed shelter located beside the lake is ideal for warming up.



In summer these undeveloped trails offer rustic walking paths through the park's diverse habitat. There is also a short hiking trail along Beaverly Creek.

Special Regulations

- ▶ The gates are closed from dusk to 8:00 am during the summer.
- ▶ Help protect the parkland. Enjoy West Lake Provincial Park, but leave it as you found it so that future visitors may also enjoy the park.
- ▶ Each picnic table has an attached barbecue stand. Use it as it protects the table.
- ▶ Flowers, trees and shrubs are part of the park's natural heritage. Do not damage or remove them.
- ▶ Beaverly Creek provides spawning habitats. Keep out and do not harass the fish.
- ▶ The launching of boats equipped with motors that have above-water exhausts is prohibited in the park. Motorized boats must remain outside the boundary line between the orange shore markers. Strict boating regulations are enforced.
- ▶ Licensed motor vehicles including motorcycles, trail bikes and similar vehicles are restricted to vehicle roads and parking areas. Unlicensed vehicles are prohibited in provincial parks. All terrain vehicles and snowmobiles are not permitted in the park.
- ▶ Pets are restricted in most areas of West Lake Provincial Park and, as in all provincial parks, pets are prohibited in the day-use areas and on the beaches. Pets outside the day-use and beach areas must be on leashes.
- ▶ The possession of alcohol is not permitted in West Lake Provincial Park.
- ▶ Valid provincial angling licences are required to fish in West Lake.
- ▶ For safety reasons, no firearms are permitted in the park.