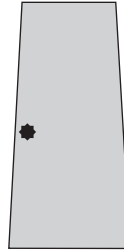


Meadow Lake Provincial Park



Covering over 1,600 square kilometres of forest, lakes, and rivers, Meadow Lake Provincial Park is one of the most popular parks in the province. Over 175 species of birds occur in the park including great blue herons, great horned owls, common terns, pileated woodpeckers, bald eagles, and a variety of waterfowl. Wetlands are good places to spot beaver, muskrat, and river otter. The forest environment attracts big game such as moose, deer, and elk. Since the black bear population is especially high, you do have to be cautious when on any of the trails.

The park has 12 campgrounds, plus backcountry campsites, and resorts. There's fishing, canoeing, birdwatching, swimming at sandy beaches, and a variety of watersports. But where this park really shines is in its hiking trails. It is most famous for the Boreal Trail, Saskatchewan longest hike, but you can choose among a variety of other short nature walks or half-day hikes.

Contact: Meadow Lake Provincial Park
306-236-7680
www.saskparks.net

Boreal Trail

Distance: Approximately 120 km. The exact distance will vary because of three optional routes near the east end of the trail, and any optional side-trips.

Time: Allow at least one week for the entire trail. There are numerous options to hike shorter sections.

Access: Western trailhead: Follow Road #919 to the Cold Lake Campground near the western edge of the park. The trailhead is 1.5 km south-east of the campground along Road #919. Eastern Trailhead: west of Greig Lake, just off the main park road.

Facilities: Several backcountry and front country campsites enroute.



Trailhead of the Boreal Trail near Cold Lake.

Cautions: Bears could be encountered anywhere along the trails. All water taken from lakes, rivers, or streams should be filtered or boiled before consuming. The trail has several water crossings and areas that could become flooded or impassable in wet conditions.

NOTE: Construction of the Boreal Trail was nearing completion during research for this guide, with some work still in progress. The park is anticipating further refinements and improvements, so the exact details will continue to evolve over the next few years. The description here is intended as a general overview of the trail. Hikers should always contact the park for the latest information and updates before starting a trip.

While Saskatchewan abounds with great places to hike, the Boreal Trail is in a class by itself. It's the first long distance wilderness trail that is both easily accessible and has facilities designed specifically with hikers in mind. The trail stretches most of the way across this large park, from Cold Lake near the Alberta border to Greig Lake in the east, taking you through fascinating forested lakelands, rivers and streams, wetlands, hills and valleys, and practically every type of boreal forest habitat the north has to offer. The chances of seeing wildlife are excellent – deer, moose, elk, bear, and birds galore. You're never far from water, with inviting sandy beaches, or fishing for pike, walleye, and trout. This is one trail that has it all.