



NOTIFICATION OF BOUNDARY CHANGES AND NEW CAMPGROUND DEVELOPMENT IN CROW LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where is Crow Lake provincial Park?

Crow Lake Provincial Park is located 130km south of Fort McMurray. Access to the park is via Highway 63. Currently there is no road into the park, access is only by foot.

2. What is happening?

Alberta Parks is notifying the public that there will be a change to the boundary of Crow Lake Provincial Park. The western boundary of the park will be removed in order to make room for the twinning of Highway 63. These lands used to contain the previous campground, which was lost to fire in 2002. The site continues to be used for day-use and lake access.

Parks is also notifying the public of its intent to relocate the campground within Crow lake Provincial Park, with a rustic campground offering 38 unpowered sites, vault toilets, and a hand launch for small boats.

3. Why is the boundary change happening and where are the lands located?

The boundary change is occurring on the western side of the park ([see map](#)). The change is happening to allow for the twinning of Highway 63. The twinning of the highway is a provincial priority, and is necessary to increase the safety for drivers. For more information on the twinning project of Highway 63, please go to Alberta Transportations website <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/>

4. Why is a new campground being developed?

The park land being removed for the twinning of Highway 63 used to contain the old park campground, which burnt down in 2002 and has not yet been replaced. New camping facilities are needed to meet recreational demand in the area.

5. Where will the new campground be located?

The new campground will be located on the north shore of Crow Lake ([see map](#)). It will be rustic (no power) with 30 camping units, vault toilets, and a hand boat-launch with lake access

6. When will construction begin for the Highway? The campground?

Work on the segment of Highway 63 that will pass Crow Lake Provincial Park is expected to start in winter 2013.

At this time there is no firm date for the start of the new campground construction. However, the campground is expected to be operational no later than the 2015 camping season.

7. What are the impacts to historical resources and the environment?

An historical resources impact assessment, a rare plant study and an environmental assessment were conducted within the proposed campground area as well as within the surrounding lands. No evidence of historical use was found, no rare plants were identified, and the environmental assessment judged that there would be low impact to the environment provided that measures to prevent erosion and protect the nearby wetlands were enacted.

8. Why is there only notification on the boundary change?

The Government of Alberta has heard from the public that the twinning of Highway 63 is a priority, and needs to be fast-tracked to be completed as soon as possible.

The lands being removed from Crow Lake Provincial Park for the Highway 63 twinning are the only available lands in the area, as other options for re-routing the proposed twinning to avoid the park proved to be too costly or technically unfeasible. Since there are no other route options, any public comments on the boundary would not affect final decision to change the boundaries.

9. Why is there only notification on the campground proposal?

The hilly terrain of the park, in addition to sensitive riparian areas has limited both the location and the layout of the campground design. The campground cannot be developed on the south shore of Crow Lake as it lies within the Crow Lake Ecological Reserve, which under the *Parks Act* does not permit the development of any facilities.

Attempts to change the layout or location of the new campground would potentially impact riparian areas and therefore water quality. Due to these reasons, there are no alternative campground locations or designs.

Alberta Parks is committed to meaningful consultation with Albertans on issues that affect them. However, in this uncommon situation where alternatives are not available and timelines have been shortened due to the fast-tracked Highway 63 twinning, any public comments received during a consultation period would not impact the final decision. As consultation would not be meaningful and comments could not affect the outcome, it was decided that notifying the public about the proposals and the rationale behind them would be more appropriate and transparent.

If you would like further information about the proposed boundary changes and campground at Crow Lake Provincial Park, please call Cara Gill, Park Planner at 780-623-5435.