Plan Ahead and Prepare

You are responsible for your safety

- Get advice at the Visitor Centre.
- Study trail descriptions and maps before starting.
- Check the weather forecast and current trail conditions.
- Choose a trail suitable for the least experienced member in your group.
- Pack adequate food, water, clothing, maps and gear.
- Carry a first aid kit, insect repellent and sunscreen.
- Tell somebody where you are going, when you will be back and who to call if you do not return.
- Travel with a friend or group.

Share the trail

- Cyclists yield to hikers. Cyclists and hikers yield to wildlife.
- Cyclists can come upon wildlife quickly; slow down, stay alert and make noise.

Winter Use

Winter fun is easy to find in Elk Island. Spot wildlife tracks in the snow, and wildlife through the bare branches. Look for geocaches and admire the frost as it sparkles in the sunlight.

Things to remember:

- Services are limited in the park in the winter. For your safety be prepared for your visit.
- Avoid thin ice or slippery paths.
- Dress warm and wear appropriate footwear. Washouses are available at the Visitor Centre, theatre, and most trail heads.
- Use caution around wildlife when skiing or snowshoeing on the trails.
- A warming shelter is available at Twanyik Lake.

Leave What You Find and Take What You Bring

- Pack out all garbage, including diapers, wrappers and machine.
- Natural and cultural resources such as mushrooms, fossils, artifacts, horns, antlers, wildflowers and nests are protected by law and must be left undisturbed for others to discover and enjoy.

Stay on Maintained Trails

To prevent trail damage, stay on the trail and avoid shortcuts.

Park Information and Safety

Park Regulations

National parks are special places protected for the enjoyment of all Canadians. Park regulations are designed to protect you and the park, for future generations.

Please be aware of the following regulations:

- It is illegal to pick flowers or mushrooms, cut down trees, build structures or otherwise cause damage to natural objects, living things or cultural artifacts.
- It is illegal to enter, touch or approach, harass or feed wild animals in the park. Please respect wildlife by giving them their space.
- A valid park pass is required during your visit. Please purchase your pass at the visitor centre, park gates or at the automatic payment machines.
- Please obey all posted speed limits while driving in the park.

Being Wildlife Wise

Elk and all are wild animals. Even though they look cute they can be dangerous and unpredictable. Approaching wildlife is unlawful and puts yourself and others at risk.

Follow these simple safety tips:

- Keep at least 30 metres (330 ft) away from large animals. Stay in your vehicle, drive slowly. Do not approach wildlife on foot.
- Bulls can be aggressive during the mating season (late April or early May). Do not approach a bull or elk while hiking. Make them aware of your presence, walk slowly around them at a safe distance, always keep an eye on them. If necessary, return to the trail head.
- Never enter a herd of bulls on foot or come between two animals, especially a cow and her calf.

Pet Owners:

Keep pets on leash for their safety.

Animals like coyotes and porcupines can pose a risk to your pet. Keeping your pet on a leash minimizes unexpected wildlife encounters.

A warming shelter is available at Twanyik Lake.

Picnicking in the Park

For your safety and enjoyment: help keep the wild in wildlife.

- Store all food in vehicle when not in use.
- Use food storage lockers when available.
- Keep a tidy camp or picnic site.
- Dispose of waste water in toilets.
- Dispose of garbage or recycling in appropriate bins.

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(C) Parks Canada

Sandy Beach Campground

Sandy Beach Campground offers 76 unserviced camp sites including RV and oleo-sway tenting sites. Group camping is also available. Campground fees include:

- Flush toilets
- Hot showers
- Food storage lockers
- Picnic shelters

Firewood is provided with the purchase of a fire permit.

To reserve your campsite call 1-877-RESERVE or visit www.reserve.parkscanada.gc.ca.

(C) Parks Canada
80km of Trails to Explore

Elk Island’s trails offer unique and memorable experiences. Watch the ever busy beaver as it constructs its dam; listen to the songbirds sing you a tune; or breathe in the fresh air as you watch the sun set over Astotin Lake. Most of the park’s trails offer parking, exhibits, view points, washrooms, and garbage facilities.

During winter, trails are available for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking. Visit www.geocaching.com for containers called caches.

High-Tech Treasure Hunt

Geocaching is a fun high-tech adventure where participants use a GPS device to hunt for containers called caches. Eight geocaches have been set in Elk Island! Caches range from quick grabs to challenging half day finds. Locate all 8, crack the code and receive a geocache coin. Visit www.geocaching.com to find out where Elk Island's caches are hidden.

Geocaching Elk Island

Walk...Hike...Explore...

Step by the Astotin Theatre in the summer to borrow one of our NEW Explora devices or download the iPhone or android application and choose your trail. Can you do all three?

Family Adventures

These family day packs come with binoculars, an animal identification guide, a pond dipping kit, trail maps and information about other attractions in the area.

Pack Elk Island on Your Back

Pick up a pack at the Astotin Theatre and spend a fun-filled day with your family! (End of June-August)

Park Map

Did you know?

Elk Island is Canada’s only wildlife sanctuary.

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Did you know?

Elk Island sends bison to other parks and reserves across North America and the world.

© Parks Canada

Did you know?

Elk Island is Canada’s first wildlife sanctuary.

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