

For more awesome Parks Canada fun in Saskatchewan, don't miss: Fort Walsh, Batoche, Fort Battleford and Motherwell Homestead National Historic Sites and Prince Albert National Park. The park is always open.

Find Us

grasslands.np@pc.gc.ca
www.parks.ca/grasslands

Rock Creek Campground
East Block McGowan's Visitor Centre at
306.476.2018

West Block Visitor Centre in Val Marie
306.298.2257 / Toll Free 1-877-345-2257

Contact Us

May 17 - June 30
Thursday to Monday
July 1 - September 1
Daily
September 5 - October 12
Friday to Sunday

Hours of Operation
Extended Fridays in July/August, 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Let our friendly and knowledgeable staff, at both Visitor Centres, help you plan your Grasslands experience and how to have a safe and unforgettable adventure!

Grasslands National Park Visitor Centre Information



Grasslands National Park

SASKATCHEWAN | 2014



The Events of the Summer!

Sleep-Under-The-Stars Party Weekend

Sleep? Who said anything about sleeping? Begin your day kayaking the heart of the West Block on the Frenchman River, then enjoy an evening of wagon rides and stories of the open range, followed by acoustic music — all before seeking out the elusive Black-footed ferrets in the dark. Whew! Now that's a full day! Fun for the whole family! Start the next morning with a pancake breakfast and guided hike.

July 26, 4:00 pm, West Block. Special Event Fees apply. Don't miss Fireside Chats, Stories and S'more on Friday evening and A Walk in the Park on Sunday morning. Register at the Visitor Centre in Val Marie.

Badlands Blast Weekend

Dig into an extravaganza of fossil fun for all and hop on the wagon to view the badlands! Hear the adventures of the paleontological masters of the past and the present. Enjoy a delicious supper rubbing shoulders with a paleo crew, before kicking up your heels at a Rock Creek hoe down. End the evening relaxing by the embers of the campfire.

August 16, 4:00 pm, East Block. Special event fees apply. Don't miss Fireside Chats, Stories and S'more on Friday evening and A Walk in the Park on Sunday morning. Register at the McGowan Visitor Centre (East Block).



Fossil Fever

Got the Fever? Fossil Fever? Dig for a day with McGill University Paleontologists as they retrieve 65.5 million year old fossils in search of the secret to dinosaur demise. An exclusive opportunity to experience paleontology with world renowned palaeontologists.

August 14 - 18, East Block. Enhanced fees apply, please pre-register at the McGowan Visitor Centre (East Block.) Space is limited.

Awesome Bucket List — Top 12 MUST-Dos

Ecotour Driving Adventure Impress your friends with one of Saskatchewan's most scenic drives.

Wildlife Wonders Build-Your-Own Saskatchewan Safari and see if you can check off at least 5 of our unique wild animals.

Ranching Roots Experience the real west! Try your hand at lassoing, and walk the Larson Interpretive Trail.

Dogtown Chatter Photograph comical Black-tailed Prairie Dogs as they greet each other with an identifying 'kiss.'

Badlands Viewpoint The panorama and fossils here are 'Bad-to-the-Bone' (that means awesome).

Sunset at the Top of 70 Mile Butte Hike to the top of the new trail and check out the awe-inspiring colour display and breathtaking view from the highest point for miles around!

Front-Country Camping Elegance The new Frenchman Valley Campground balances comfort with a rustic prairie feel. You can even rent a tipi!

Backpackers Dream With your home on your back, and the badlands at your feet, traverse the Grasslands wilderness to the Valley of 1,000 Devils.

'Two Trees' and 'Riverwalk' Trails Grab your camera and indulge in nature's colours across the landscape while wandering through wildflowers in the cool of morning.

The Land of Ancient Homes Horseback riders aim high to the rims of the Frenchman River Valley and discover ancient tipi rings, fire cracked rocks and cairns along the way.

Pic'nic at the 'Cric Got guests? Bring them to the Rock Creek day-use site for a special type of picnic. Enjoy the shade of the new summer kitchen.

Horseback Riders Delight Badland buttes, open skies, ferruginous hawks above and geological wonders below... start at the Rock Creek Day-Use site for a magical day.



Build Your Own Awesome Adventure!



My Family's Greatest Adventure Weekends Join a park interpreter on Friday nights by the campfire and roast marshmallows or bannock at Fireside Chats. Come out Saturdays for a new adventure each week! Cap the weekend off with a guided walk on Sunday morning. Oh! And don't miss the Explorers program for kids. Fun for the whole family.

Friday Fireside Chats, Stories and S'more! Fridays in July and August have never looked so good! Join us at both Frenchman Valley and Rock Creek Campgrounds for an unforgettable evening. 7:00 pm. Free with park entry.

Family Super Saturdays

Unforgettable family memories! Whether you're in the East or West Blocks, your family will be sure to love one of the exciting family fun events listed below. *July and August, fees apply.*

Rock Creek Campground East Block, 7:00 pm

Every Saturday in July & August
Ride the Rim: This wagon ride is bad to the bone!
View the buttes and scan the badlands for evidence of dinosaur extinction and quicksand.

Frenchman Valley Campground West Block, 4:00 pm

June 28 Dog Town Chatter What are those Prairie dogs talking about? Sneak up on a prairie dog colony and listen to the barks and calls as they announce our arrival. Discover clues to how the animals depend on each other for survival.

Prairie Cinema Movie under the stars. Dusk.

July 5 Cowboy Up! Immerse yourself in Cowboy Life. Lasso throwing, leather tooling, cowboy cooking and more. Adventures galore await you as you explore a 100 year old ranch stead!

July 12 Wicked Water Adventures Make a splash and slide away! Ditch your shoes and dip your net in the Frenchman River. Can you find any water critters? Don't forget your bathing suit!

July 19 Dog Town Chatter

July 26 Sleep-Under-the-Stars Party & Concert
August 2 Tipi Treasures Bison and tipi rings; cracked rock and arrow heads, oh my! Journey through time and discover evidence of people who used the land before us.

Prairie Cinema Movie under the stars. Dusk.

August 9 Wicked Water Adventures

August 16 Cowboy Up!

August 23 Tipi Treasures

August 30 Dog Town Chatter

Prairie Cinema Movie under the stars. Dusk.

A Walk in the Park

With an interpreter, discover the secrets of what makes Grasslands so special. *Fees apply.*

May 17- June 29

Saturdays & Sundays Guided Hikes beginning at 9:30 am. Meet at the Visitor Centre. Contact us for more details.

July & August

Sundays Guided Walks. Bring your family for a leisurely stroll. Meet at the Frenchman Valley and Rock Creek Campground at 9:30 am. Approx 1 1/2 hours.

Tuesdays & Thursdays Guided Hikes. A hiking adventure deeper into the heart of the park. Contact us for location details, 9:30 am start.



Wilderness Getaways

Species, Spaces, Badlands & Buttes

Connect with national treasures and see some of Canada's rarest wildlife as you explore the West Block's Frenchman River Valley. Hike the breathtaking badlands of the East Block and discover the astonishing dinosaur bones exposed in the eroding layers of earth.

A Prairie in Bloom Witness a succession of vibrant colours and sweet aromas in the grasslands as wildflowers take their place under the sun. Crocus, prairie onion, cinquefoil, rose, cactus, vetch, locoweed, violets, asters, fleabanes, goosefoot, and buttercup — to name a few! June is the peak season to see the most prairie flowers in bloom at one time.

Sounds of Silence Grasslands National Park is considered to have some of the quietest and purest sounds on Earth.

Fall Season Don't miss the slower pace of this wonderful season! Take time to smell the sage brush blooming in the fall.



Astronomy: Beyond the Big Dipper

Join the Astronomical Society of Canada and explore the Grasslands National Park Dark Sky Preserve. From the rings of Saturn to a glimpse of another galaxy — the sky has no limit. **May 31, 8:00 pm, Rock Creek Campground.**

Birder's Paradise If you are lucky, maybe you'll catch a glimpse of one of the unique bird species that make their home in Grasslands National Park. 'Check the list' (copy available) for the unusual and iconic. Enjoy the Sprague's pipit's swirling trill, the horned lark's twinkle, the grasshopper sparrow's rasp, and of course, the meadowlark's welcoming gurgle.

Wildlife Wonders

Catch a glimpse of an elusive Black-footed Ferret, Short-horned Lizard or Bison and spy on the comical Black-tailed Prairie Dogs. Stop at either visitor centre for more information about the awesome species living here as well as where and how to safely view them.

Bison

Bison were absent from this landscape for over 120 years. As of 2005, bison roam free in the West Block of GNP.



Black-tailed Prairie Dog

The West Block and neighbouring lands are the only places in Canada where these comical creatures exist in their natural habitat.



Black-footed Ferret

Once thought to be globally extinct, 18 infamous ferrets were discovered in Wyoming in 1981. These night-loving animals were reintroduced to the park in 2009 and this is the only place in Canada where wild born ferrets are found.



Burrowing Owl

Talk about warm winter holiday! The burrowing owls arrive at the park in early May and head south to Texas in early October for the winter.



Greater Short-horned Lizard

These little guys are living remnants from the days of the dinosaur and have been known to shoot blood from their eyes when scared by predators! If you're really lucky, you just might find one!



Greater Sage Grouse

The historical range of sage grouse has been reduced by 94% in prairie Canada. This is one of the few places in Canada you may be fortunate to see this endangered bird.



Ferruginous Hawk

The largest hawk in North America, these birds used to construct their nests before the 1900s with bison bones, fur and dung. Nests today are made of dried sticks, lined with bark and cow dung.



Turtles

From the painted turtle on the shores of Rock Creek today to the fossilized shell of a 65 million year old prehistoric turtle... both can be found here.



Prairie Rattlesnake

In 2011, historic moisture conditions created flooding and slumping in the Frenchman River Valley and buried one of the largest rattlesnake dens in the park. An incredible example of the forces of nature, it is amazing that the same type of phenomenon that created these slumping formations destroyed it! Keep your eyes and ears open, as we still have rattlesnakes living here.

Camping

Check out our exciting new camping opportunities! Contact us for self-registration, fees and other camping related information.

Frenchman Valley Campground

West Block. 1½ hours south of Swift Current.

- 20 tent/RV campsites (including 4 electrical)
- 1 wheel chair accessible site
- Campsites available first come, first served by self registration
- Fire pit and picnic table per site
- Potable water and vault toilets
- New Coulee Centre cook shelter – central location for West Block park programs.

Rock Creek Campground

East Block. Near the east entrance. 2 hours south of Moose Jaw.

- Beautiful new kitchen shelter and bridge
- Rustic campsites available. Tenting area and RV/ motor home area – first come, first served
- Picnic tables, fire pits and vault toilet
- New on-site visitor centre (McGowan's) – central location for East Block guided programs.

Tipi Camping

Feel like a kid again and live out a dream! After returning from a tipi-ring scattered ridge in the park, tuck into your sleeping bag in your own tipi, and let the rustling prairie grasses rock you to sleep. *Reservations needed, contact Visitor Centre for details.*

West Block: Three walk-in tipi camping sites.

East Block: One walk-in tipi camping site.

Backcountry Camping

Drop your pack following an exhilarating hike. Pitch a tent where no one has camped before – well, maybe not for a thousand years! Look forward to the sunset, and perhaps a coyote howl. The park is yours to explore when backcountry camping. You pick the location! Contact us for safety information.

Equestrian Camping

Embrace a day of miles of open riding, or explore the old prairie trails all on horseback. Equestrian camping is available in both the East and West Blocks.



Hiking

Experience the rare opportunity of walking a timeless, prairie landscape. Select a trail experience that's right for you. Contact the park for information on a range of hiking opportunities from leisurely strolls to awesome backcountry experiences.

Geocaching

Check out geocaching.com to get the coordinates for your Grasslands National Park geocaches. When you get to the park, soak up the scenery as you hunt for hidden geocaches. Each find holds a treasure. Don't have a GPS? Stop by the Visitor Centre and rent one.

Biking

A prairie bike ride has its challenges and rewards. Travel the gravel Ecotour road, an old prairie trail or experience a bladed trail.



Xplorers for Kids

Do you like to Xplore? Have FUN doing activities and collecting COOL souvenirs with Grasslands National Park and Parks Canada in Saskatchewan. Go to either Visitor Centre and ask to become a Parks Canada Xplorer.

Activity!

Complete the Grasslands National Park word search and bring it to either Visitor Centre when you get to the park to claim your prize.



S K V H B A H G Q B
E P K H V G U U P A
R B C A M P I N G N
O E H C A C O E G N
M G N I K I H O G O
S L I S S O F N X C
D C A M P F I R E K
X N Q G V K U P Y J
D N W B I S O N I Q
K I S B K E C L K T

FUN BIKING BISON
CAMPFIRE CAMPING FOSSILS
BANNOCK GEOCACHE HIKING
QUICKSAND SMORES TIPI



We're Closer Than You Think!

Distance between the two Grasslands National Park visitor centres: 234 km

Distance from West Block Val Marie Visitor Centre to:
Fort Walsh National Historic Site314 km
Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, SK – Centre Block Resort, Zipline & Camping (via Eastend, SK)233 km
Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, AB – Elkwater townsite & Camping & Lodge Resort (via Hwy #1)350 km
T.rex Discovery Centre, Eastend, SK121 km
Maple Creek, SK260 km
Swift Current, SK120 km
Saskatoon, SK390 km

Distance from East Block McGowan's Visitor Centre to:
Wood Mountain, SK48 km
Assiniboia, SK111 km
Brandon, MB584 km

GPS Coordinates

Val Marie Visitor Centre, West Block
49°14'44.77"N 107°43'55.85"W
McGowan's Visitor Centre, East Block
49° 4'15.85"N 106°31'46.92"W

Prairie Wind & Silver Sage, Friends of Grasslands

is a volunteer, non-profit organization based on the edge of the West Block in Val Marie, SK. They provide additional visitor services (on a seasonal basis), at the historic Little Brick Schoolhouse, across the street from the Parks Canada Visitor Centre. 306-298-4910 www.pwss.ca

Wood Mountain Rodeo and Ranch Museum

in the Wood Mountain Regional Park near the East Block of Grasslands National Park offers information and a wide range of historical activities at the museum, the Métis Adobe or the Heritage House (on a seasonal basis). 306-266-4953 <http://woodmountain.ca/RodRanc.html>

Cypress Hills Destination Area

After visiting Grasslands National Park, be sure to check out Fort Walsh National Historic Site and some of the many other awesome attractions in the area. www.visitcypresshills.ca

