Aquatic Invasive Species Threaten Park Waters!

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is dominated by large fjord-like glacial lakes. For many visitors they are a primary destination. Boating, fishing, or just plain hanging out on the shore and skipping rocks are the stuff of magical memories. We need your help to keep it that way.

On the surface things look fine, but in the past stocking of non-native fish changed the ecosystems of most park lakes. These fish out compete native species for food and habitat. We need to prevent addition of non-native species of animals or plants from accidentally being introduced, because each small change effects the overall health of park waters. Now there is a new and serious threat. Imagine a future where going to your favorite rock-skipping beach, you find the shoreline matted with tens of thousands of small mussel shells, with everything cemented together in a sharp, Smelly mess. Imagine once productive fisheries wiped out by these new invaders. It's not science fiction, impacts are already occurring in waters in the Great Lakes, eastern provinces and states, the prairies and plains, and more recently in the south west United States.

Since the 1980's freshwater zebra and quagga mussels have steadily advanced westward, presumably transported on trailered boats. In February of 2012 a mussel-carrying boat was intercepted at a marina on Flathead Lake. The boat had come from the southwest. Flathead Lake is just downstream from Glacier. Protecting the waters of the Peace Park requires immediate action, both by the parks and by every boater. This summer a permit to launch a boat in either park is mandatory. The regulations specific to each park are slightly different.

A permit to launch a boat in either Waterton or Glacier National Park requires immediate action, both by the parks and by every boater. This summer a permit to launch a boat in either park is mandatory. The regulations specific to each park are slightly different.

Regulations on obtaining a mandatory boating permit are listed on the back page of this paper.

It is imperative that all boaters comply with these regulations.

2013 - Summer Guide to Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park
Waterton Lakes National Park Visitor Guide included inside

Jewels in the Crown

What would you like to see in the park today? Most of us would answer a bear, a bighorn sheep or a mountain goat. Pygmy poppy, moonwort and bladder-fern may not be high on most visitors’ lists. Yet the role Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks play in the protection of rare species is even more significant than that of animals.

Both parks contain more than their fair share of the plants represented in their state or province as a whole. For example, over half of Alberta’s plant species can be found in Waterton Lakes National Park. Over 70 of Montana’s 413 rare plants grow in Glacier, with 15 of these found only in the park. Waterton has over 125 of the 360 species considered rare in Alberta. Both parks also protect plants which are considered rare nationally as well. In Waterton’s case, this includes over 35 species! Over 20 species in Glacier are considered globally rare.

Don’t fret if you don’t know the name of every plant you see here. After all, over a thousand different species have been identified in each park! This diversity is due to the fact that Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park lies on a floral crossroads. Here northern Rocky Mountain plants mingle with southern mountain cousins, and both hardy prairie flowers and lush west coast species inhabit park lands. The high alpine zone is home to species which grow in the arctic. Many are considered rare because they are living on the fringe of their normal range.

In 1901, when George Bird Grinnell called this area “the Crown of the Continent,” he was likely referring to the magnificent scenery and the parting of waters along the Continental Divide. Today this term seems just as appropriate for the area’s flora – the true jewels in the “crown.”

Protecting these jewels does not seem as easy as it was in Grinnell’s day, when he was promoting the creation of Glacier National Park. Today, we realize that national parks are integrally tied to and affected by the areas surrounding them. Now the term “Crown of the Continent” is used to describe the entire ecosystem of which the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is only a part. If we hope to maintain the diversity of plants and animals living in this ecosystem, we need to work with our neighbors in the surrounding wilderness areas, national and provincial forests, Indian reservations crown and privately-owned lands.

Not all parts of the “crown” require the strict protection provide by our national parks, but all living things within the magnificent ecosystem deserve to be considered with care and respect when decisions affecting them are made.
World’s First International Peace Park

In 1932, Waterton Lakes National Park and Glacier National Park were officially joined together as Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. The Peace Park celebrates the peace and goodwill existing along the world’s longest undefended border, as well as a spirit of cooperation which is reflected in wildlife and vegetation management, search and rescue programs, and joint interpretive programs, brochures, and exhibits.

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park became a World Heritage Site in 1995 - for its scenic values, its significant climate, landforms and ecological processes, and abundant diversity of wildlife and wildflowers.

Discover Our Neighbors’ Cultural Heritage

This area holds special appeal for visitors interested in the culture of indigenous peoples. Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park lies just west of the Kainai and Piikani Reserves in Canada and borders the Blackfeet Reservation in the United States. People of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, southwest of the park, also have a close association with the park. Take the time to learn about our neighbors.

Nearby in Browning, Montana, the Museum of the Plains Indian features fascinating exhibits and Native American handcrafts as sales items. The museum is open daily from June through September. Also in Browning, North American Indian Days, the second weekend in July, is a large celebration of Native American culture that includes a parade, traditional dress, and dancing. Visitors are always welcome.

North of Waterton, early plains culture is dramatically displayed at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site. This site is open seven days a week in summer. Phone 403-553-2731 for further information.

The People’s Center and Native Ed-Ventures, for the preservation of Kootenai and Salish Culture, are located near Pablo, Montana. The Center provides educational opportunities, full-day and half-day interpretive tours of the Flathead Indian Reservation, a museum collection, and gift shop. Open daily throughout the summer. Call 406-883-5344 or 406-675-0160 for further information.

Accessibility

Wheelchair accessible trails include the Trail of the Cedars and the Running Eagle Falls Nature Trails in Glacier, and the Linnet Lake, Kootenai Brown, and Townsend trails in Waterton Lakes. Visitors sensitive to altitude should be aware of the following park elevations:

- Lake McDonald: 3150 ft. (960m)
- Logan Pass: 6640 ft. (2024m)
- Many Glacier: 4900 ft. (1494m)
- Polebridge: 3600 ft. (1097m)
- St. Mary Lake: 4500 ft. (1372m)
- Two Medicine: 5150 ft. (1570m)
- Waterton: 4200 ft. (1280m)

Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park

Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park is located in the southeast corner of the British Columbia and borders both Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks. High spacious alpine ridges, deep secluded valleys and windswept passes provide habitat and connectivity to the last self-sustaining grizzly bear population in the United States. Exposed alpine ridges, southern latitude and southern exposure provide winter range for goats and big horn sheep.

The trails and passes of the Akamina-Kishinena used today to cross the axis of the continent, were established and used for many years by the early peoples and wildlife travelling between the Flathead Basin and the abundant Great Plains.

Akamina Kishinena is a wilderness area, without supplies or equipment of any kind. All arrangements for supplies and transportation must be made beforehand.

International Peace Park Hike

Join us in celebrating our 80th year of friendship and cooperative management by participating in an International Peace Park Hike. These special hikes are held every Wednesday and Saturday, beginning June 29, and throughout July and August. Starting at 10 a.m. from the Bertha Lake trailhead in Waterton Lakes National Park, this 13 km (8 mi) hike along Upper Waterton Lake is jointly led by a Glacier Park Ranger and a Waterton Park Interpreter. Learn about Waterton-Glacier’s three international designations and take part in a peace & friendship ceremony as you cross the International Boundary on your way to Goat Haunt in Glacier National Park, Montana. Return to Waterton via boat.

A fee is charged for the return boat trip and advance reservations are recommended. The boat will have you back to the dock in Waterton by 6:30 p.m. Each hike is limited to 35 people, so you must pre-register at either the Visitor Centre in Waterton (403-859-5133) or at the St. Mary Visitor Center (406-732-7750) in Glacier. Reservations are only accepted for the next scheduled hike (beginning on Saturday for Wednesday hikes; beginning on Wednesday for Saturday hikes).

Come prepared with a lunch, water, rain gear, jacket, hat. Wear sturdy footwear. The trail is not difficult, but you will be hiking most of the day. Bring money for the boat. Pets are not permitted.

Accessible boardwalk on the Trail of the Cedars - Bill Hayden

“Hands across the border” ceremony - Jeff Yee

Blackfeet at Two Medicine - R. E. Marble

Accessible boardwalk on the Trail of the Cedars - Bill Hayden

The International - David Restivo
Welcome to Waterton Lakes National Park

As you travel through this distinctive landscape “where the mountains meet the prairie”, take time to explore and enjoy its natural features. No other national park in Canada protects so much within such a small place. Shaped by wind, fire and water, Waterton has over 250 species of birds, more than 60 species of mammals, 24 species of fish and 8 species of reptiles and amphibians. Because the open prairie sweeps up mountainsides, you can enjoy spectacular vistas, carpeted by abundant wildflowers and peppered with wildlife such as deer, bighorn sheep, ground squirrels, birds and bears.

In Waterton, a combination of geography, topography, and mild, moist, windy climate has created a wide variety of growing conditions within a very small area. Add in the effects of fire, floods, and avalanches and you end up with a varied landscape which provides homes for many plants and animals, as well as a wonderful place for you to visit. Stroll along a beach, hike a flowery trail, paddle a canoe, tour the Upper Waterton by boat, relish a picnic, learn something new at an exhibit, spot a deer or jay, brave a chilly dip in a mountain lake, or just kick back and relax. There’s lots to do here and you can enjoy it knowing that it will always be here.

When you’re heading out of the park, remember that Waterton is just one of 44 national parks, 167 national historic sites and 4 marine conservation areas that Parks Canada protects across the country, each representing a place, person or event that Canadians value and that are there for you to experience.

Ask the Interpreters!

Look for us at popular areas as you explore the park. We may have a cougar or bear pelt that you can hold in your hands. We may have a story to tell, or a trail to recommend. Let us make the most of your visit!
Whether you enjoy a relaxing stroll with an ice cream, a challenging hike, or an evening program with friends, Waterton Lakes National Park offers a wide range of activities and adventures. Ask our staff for an experience designed with you in mind.

**SCENERY & WILDLIFE**

If scenery and wildlife appeal to you, drive one of the scenic parkways. All have pulloffs and viewpoints for safe viewing opportunities and a chance to discover more about this special place. As an alternative, hop on a shuttle to enjoy an interpretive tour along the parkways and leave the driving to someone else.

- **The Entrance Parkway** begins on the prairie and follows the Waterton Lakes chain to the village. Enjoy scenic views of the Waterton Valley and its wildlife. Take time to explore the Prince of Wales Hotel National Historic Site.
- **The Akamina Parkway** winds 16 kilometres through mountains to Cameron Lake, where exhibits describe life in the subalpine. Along the way, visit the First Oil Well in Western Canada National Historic Site, commemorating the first producing oil well in western Canada.
- **Red Rock Parkway** is the best place to experience Waterton’s special mountain and prairie mix. Stop at the Native History exhibit to gain some insight into the lives of aboriginal peoples in this area. The 15 kilometre parkway is very narrow and may not be suitable for larger motorhomes.
- **The Chief Mountain Highway** links Waterton with our neighbour in Montana, Glacier National Park. Stop at the Waterton Valley Viewpoint to view the Waterton and Blakiston valleys, then continue on through the site of the 1998 Sola Mountain fire.
- **Located just inside the park boundary, off Highway 6, the Bison Paddock loop road provides an opportunity to see these magnificent animals in their natural grassland habitat. For your safety, please do not get out of your vehicle.**

**PICNICKING**

Picnic areas are great places to stop for a meal, or for a break to relax and enjoy the view. Many have level ground and accessible washrooms. Remember to keep a “bare” picnic site so wildlife don’t join your meal.

**INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS**

If you’d like to learn more about the park, join us in the Falls Theatre near Cameron Falls and the Townsite Campground, or the Crandell Theatre in the Crandell Campground.
Choose the Best Season

Waterton’s character changes with the seasons. By understanding these seasonal cycles, you can plan your trip to best suit your interests.

Before you arrive, check the information available. In summer months, planning your arrival times and calling ahead may save you frustrating lineups or lack of accommodation. In winter, check road and avalanche reports and gas up. Prepare yourself by finding out what the park offers at the time of year in which you intend to travel.

**Spring**
Spring is the best time for wildflowers in Waterton. Within a short walk from your car you can find 20 or 30 different species. Wildflowers can be seen in the park at almost any season as summer weather progresses up the mountains.

**Summer**
The most popular time to visit Waterton is July and August. The weather is generally warmer, dryer, and more dependable, and summertime offers the most opportunities. Over half of Waterton’s visitors come during these two months.

**Fall**
Late summer and fall are particularly good wildlife viewing times, especially for black bear, elk and deer. The grasslands of the lower mountainasdes provide important food for wildlife, as well as open views which make them more visible. Ungulates such as deer, elk and bighorn sheep mate in the fall, so they are looking their best. The most spectacular birding time is in late fall when large numbers of waterfowl migrate through the park.

**Winter**
Winter is a time of quiet retreat. Facilities and businesses are limited, and include some accommodation, restaurants, and gift shops. Enjoy a variety of winter activities, such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, ice climbing and wildlife viewing. Be prepared for conditions ranging from warm and windy to extreme cold and deep snow. Strong winds can create poor visibility, icy conditions, and drifting snow on roads.
Festivals and family activities, storytelling and science exhibits, it’s all included with your park entry fee.

WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL
June 15-23

CANADA DAY
July 1 Free Admission
• Celebrate Canada in Waterton Lakes National Park!
• 10:30 Bike parade. Meet in front of Waterton United Church. All are welcome!
• Flag raising and $3 hot dog lunch, free lemonade and cake following the parade.

PARKS DAY
Friday, July 19 and Saturday, July 20
Star Spotting: 9pm - 11pm
Cameron Bay picnic shelter
(past Cameron Falls, adjacent to Townsite Campground)
• The stars are out! Tips, tricks & tools to guide you through our spectacular night sky.

Saturday, July 20
Waterton’s Walter B. Foster: Stone Mason, Log Builder and Outdoorsman: 11 am Waterton Natural History Association
• Special exhibit featuring photographs and memorabilia from Walter B. Foster, who left a legacy of stone and logwork in Waterton.

PERSEID METEOR SHOWER STAR GAZING
Friday August 9 and Sunday August 11, 9:30 pm-11pm
• Marvel at the year’s most spectacular meteor shower.

BLACKFOOT ARTS & HERITAGE FESTIVAL
August 20-22
• Celebrate traditional and contemporary aboriginal dancing, music, art, and cuisine. Participate in an Exhibition Pow wow at the Waterton Community Centre.

WATERTON WILDLIFE WEEKEND
September 27-29
• Discover Waterton’s wildlife at its best through a variety of wildlife events. Visit www.wildflowerfestival.com.

4TH ANNUAL RIDE THE RED ROCK / TAKE A KID MOUNTAIN BIKING DAY
October 5
• Ride along a vehicle-free Red Rock Parkway! Bring your kids for a family bike ride and get a sneak peek at riding the Red Rock Parkway when it’s closed to motor vehicles.

For more information
1-403-859-2224
waterton.info@pc.gc.ca
www.pc.gc.ca/waterton

Bar U Ranch National Historic Site
The only National Historic Site that commemorates the importance of ranching to the development of our country, the Bar U was one of the original four outfits that launched the cattle business in southern Alberta. Already world renowned for its beef and Percheron draft horses, the Bar U helped launched the Calgary Stampede. Join us at the historic ranch headquarters this season as the Bar U celebrates 100 years of what has become the “Greatest outdoor show on earth”.

The Bar U Ranch is located south of Longview, Alberta just off Highway 22. The site is open from late-May until mid-October each year.

BAR U RANCH—WHERE RANCHING HISTORY COMES ALIVE!
A video showing how the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site commemorates ranching history in Canada. Watch it now.

For more information
1-800-568-4996 www.pc.gc.ca/baru
Activities for Young Xplorers

Starting June 29, 2013. Free with park entry!

Discover Waterton Lakes National Park through our Xplorers program designed for families with children aged 6 to 11. Pick up an Xplorers activity book from the Heritage Centre on Waterton Avenue, and complete as many of the activities as possible to receive a certificate and souvenir.

Try the Waterton Geocaching Challenge!

Join the 21st century scavenger hunt. Use your GPS to uncover a series of hidden caches in Waterton Lakes National Park! There are 11 caches to find in or near the park. Find the five Waterton Lakes NP caches to earn a collectible coin.

Want to find out about geocaching? Take our free geocaching 101 course, offered at 10 am at the Heritage Centre on Waterton Ave., Wednesday and Saturdays June 29 to September 1, 2013. Magellan eXplorist GC GPS units are also available for free at the Heritage Centre on Watson Ave, and pick up your passport. A shout out to the Waterton Natural History Association and Magellan for their support of this program.

Parks Canada Merchandise

Bring home a unique souvenir, made by Roots Canada, that will provide lasting memories and inspiration for your next visit to Canada’s natural and historic treasures.

Stop by the Heritage Centre on Waterton Avenue to view the merchandise available for purchase or shop online at www.pc.gc.ca.

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If you have your own GPS unit, download the caches and passport from geocaching.com or parkscanada.gc.ca.

Waterton Natural History Association

The Waterton Natural History Association works closely with Parks Canada to help the public appreciate, enjoy and learn about the natural wonders of the park.

We are a not-for-profit organization formed in 1983. We create educational products and services such as publications, displays, and special events. Our two key fundraising events each summer are the Moonlight Cruise (August 13) and a Silent Auction (September 2 to 5).

Visit our Heritage Centre in the community, and check out our bookstore and displays. We provide information and advice on what to do in the park, as well as maps and trail guides. We also run the Crooked Creek Campground, six kilometres outside the park on Highway 5. Campground revenues are used to support our efforts.

If you are interested, we welcome new members and volunteers.

For more information
1-403-859-5133
www.wnha.ca
wnha@toughcountry.net

For more information or to reserve a tipi
1-403-859-5133
waterton.info@pc.gc.ca

Camping In Waterton Lakes National Park

Waterton has three campgrounds, each providing a unique experience and excellent opportunity to celebrate nature and explore the great outdoors. Campground locations, services, open dates and fees are indicated on the park map on page 12.

TOWNSITE
This sunny open campground is an excellent place for RV’s or for those who wish to be within walking distance of Upper Waterton Lake, Cameron Falls and town amenities. The area is in high demand in July & August and on long weekends.

RESERVATIONS For Towsite campground can be made at www.reservation.pc.gc.ca or call 1-877-737-3783.

For more information
www.wnha.ca
wnha@toughcountry.net

BELLY RIVER
Located along the Chief Mountain Highway in a pleasant area of mixed aspen forest, right beside the Belly River. Belly River is favoured by campers wanting a secluded experience.

CRANDELL
Located along the Red Rock Parkway, this campground is set in a pleasant montane forest, and popular with those campers who like their campsite’s more sheltered and removed from town.

For more information or to reserve a tipi
1-403-859-5133
waterton.info@pc.gc.ca

WHAT IS GEOCACHING?
Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played around the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The goal is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Anyone can use coordinates found on geocaching.com to locate caches.

WHO GEOCACHES?
People of all ages! Each geocache listing has a difficulty and terrain rating. 1/1 is easiest and 5/5 the hardest. This allows you to seek a geocache suitable for your ability and fitness level.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO GEOCACHE?
A GPS device or GPS-enabled mobile phone with internet access. In addition, a membership with geocaching.com is recommended.

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Interpretive Theatre Programs, Guided Hikes & Activities

How long are you staying in Waterton? A few hours? A couple of days? Waterton’s team of Interpreters offers a variety of visitor programs during July and August. Theatre programs, guided hikes, and family activities—these programs are all free with your park entrance fee. Check the schedule on the next page for days and times and the maps on page 3 and 12 for locations.

New to nature?

Do you want to go for a hike, but aren’t sure which trail is right for you? Are you excited to hike, but feel a little unsure? Do you know what to do if you see a bear? We have a couple of programs just for you!

Bear Safety Brush-Up
Join us in the Falls or Crandell Theatres in the morning to brush up on bear safety. Get a few suggestions for a suitable trail and, if you like, use this opportunity to find a hiking partner!

“Learn to Hike”
Wondering what to put in your pack? What do you do if you meet a bear on a trail? How about if you get lost? Whether you’re new to hiking or just want an entertaining refresher, this program is a great place to start!

Only have an hour to spare?

EASY Cameron Lakeshore Stroll | Family Friendly
- Cameron Lake

A refreshing walk along the west shore of this subsaline lake provides scenic views of Mount Castle and Mount Forum. Be serenaded by Steller’s jays, gray jays, thrushes and various woodpeckers.

Blakiston Falls Walk | Family Friendly
- Blakiston Falls

Join us for a walk in the park! This short stroll delights with fragrant pine forests that lead to a magnificent waterfall.

Visiting for a half day?

Look, See, Play! | Family Friendly / Children Aged 4-12
- Waterton Avenue

Follow Waterton Avenue past the campground to the last building on the left (Community Kitchen Shelter). Look for a park vehicle and interpreter in the parking lot. Come discover what makes Waterton unique through family games and activities near the lakeshore! New activities every day!

Geocache 101 | Family Friendly
- Waterton Avenue

Meet the Interpreter at Waterton Heritage Centre on Waterton Avenue in the Townsite. Curious about what geocaching is? We’ll tell you about this global-wide treasure hunt! Want to try but don’t have a GPS? Sign out one of ours for free! Geared up and ready? Come find out about the Waterton Geocache Challenge!

Blackfoot Crafts & Stories | Family Friendly
- Waterton Avenue

Meet in the Crandell Theatre Tipi at Crandell Campground. Join our Blackfoot Interpreters. Listen to stories, hang out by the fire, and make a small craft to take home with you.

Through Ancient Eyes: Bison, Bunchgrass and Burning | Adults & Older Children
- Waterton Avenue

Difficult: Easy
- Waterton Avenue

Distance: 5 km (3 miles) return
- Waterton Avenue

How did people survive here 10,000 years ago? Have arrowheads been found in the park? Join us for a walk along the base of Mt. Bellevue and gain a unique perspective on the park.

Bertha Falls Walk | Family Friendly
- Waterton Avenue

MODERATE: 2.5 km (1.6 miles) return
- Waterton Avenue

Distance: 8 km (5 miles) return
- Waterton Avenue

How did people survive here 10,000 years ago? Have arrowheads been found in the park? Join us for this guided walk along one of Waterton’s most popular trails.

Have a whole day? Try a longer hike

Be sure to bring some extra layers of clothing, sturdy footwear, water, sunscreen, insect protection and a hat. Don’t forget your lunch.

Summit Lake Hike | Adults & Older Children
- Summit Lake

Difficult: Moderate
- Waterton Avenue

Distance: 8 km (5 miles) return
- Waterton Avenue

Where: Meet at Cameron Lake
- Waterton Avenue

Hike through old-growth forest, past waterfalls and monkey flowers up to Summit Lake. Discover what Park staff are doing to save the endangered Whitebark Pine tree and learn how a bird is teaching us how to do this!

The International Peace Park Hike | Adults & Older Children
- Waterton Avenue

MODERATE: 13 km (8 miles) one-way
- Waterton Avenue

Distance: 13 km (8 miles) one-way
- Waterton Avenue

Where: Meet at Bertha Trailhead in the Townsite
- Waterton Avenue

For over thirty years, visitors have hiked across the Canada/U.S. boundary on foot, accompanied by both a Glacier Park Ranger and a Waterton Park Interpreter. The hike ends in the United States at the Goat Haunt Ranger Station where you will board a boat to return to the Waterton Townsite. Spaces are limited so please pre-register either in person or by phoning the Waterton Visitor Centre (403) 859-5133, or the St. Mary Information Center (406) 732-7750.

Cost: The hike is free with your park entry fee, but there is a charge for the boat ride back.

Identification: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security requires Canadian and American citizens to carry a passport or passport card. All visitors from countries other than Canada or the United States need their passports and have to be documented at another U.S. port of entry.

Staying the night? Take in an evening theatre Program

Evening Theatre begins Friday, June 28
- Waterton Avenue

Join us in the Falls Theatre (near Cameron Falls and the Townsite Campground), or in the Crandell Theatre (in Crandell Campground), at 8:00 pm most nights for a 45-minute program. From bats to bears, felines to fire, wolves to wildflowers, we share the latest research and fun stories to kids and adults alike. Look for our What’s Happening posters in the campgrounds and Visitor Centre for this year’s new evening program topics.
Volunteer programs in Waterton provide a range of opportunities for you to become directly involved with park protection. By contributing your skills and energy, you can help accomplish important work in the park, and benefit from the chance to:

• Explore an interest in nature;
• Learn about new subjects and skills;
• Make a contribution to the community; and,
• Develop a personal connection to Waterton

Upcoming events include:

**Spring Plant Count | See website for dates**

Twitter is not the only place to receive your “tweets”. In support of a province-wide program of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, the Lethbridge Naturalists’ Society organizes a count of birds in Waterton Lakes National Park during the first weekend of June each year. Sign-up at the Community Fire Hall on Saturday morning for this self-guided event. Binoculars are helpful.

**Knapweed Rodeo | See website for dates**

Knapweed is an invasive plant that can crowd out native species by releasing toxins from its roots and producing thousands of seeds. Join us for the 19th annual Knapweed Rodeo to help us wrangle this nasty buckaroo and keep our native plants blooming. Cowboy hats are not mandatory but are appreciated!

**on-going opportunities**

Are you interested in being more involved? If so, these two projects might be a good fit. The Adopt-a-Patch program allows you to select your own special spot to visit, pick weeds, and protect wildflowers. Or, while you’re hiking, participating in Weed and Wildlife Watchers allows you to watch for non-native plants and wildlife species we’re particularly interested in. Both projects are a great opportunity to make a deeper connection with the park.

**OTHER VOLUNTEER PROJECTS AND EVENTS**

We update our volunteer opportunities throughout the summer so please watch for posters or periodically visit Waterton’s volunteer web page by clicking on the “Activities” tab at [www.pc.gc.ca/waterton](http://www.pc.gc.ca/waterton).

For further information about volunteer opportunities or to sign up for volunteer updates, contact:

Becky Mitchell-Skinner
1-403-859-5107
becky.mitchell-skinner@pc.gc.ca

[www.pc.gc.ca/waterton](http://www.pc.gc.ca/waterton)
6 Tips to enjoy a safe visit
and ensure that future generations have the chance to see wildlife that is truly wild.

1. Wildlife are attracted to roadides for feed and for easy travel. To prevent collisions with wildlife, SLOW DOWN, balance, and scan ahead for animals. If you spot one animal, look for others: they often travel in groups.

2. Store all food and food-related items inside a closed, hard-sided vehicle. Coolers, boxes and cans are not bear-proof. If you leave food or garbage out where wildlife can get at it, you may start a process of habituation, where animals aggressively seek out human food. Animals that have become habituated often have to be killed.

3. Keep at least three bus lengths (30 metres/100 feet) away from large animals and at least 10 bus lengths (100 metres/330 feet) away from bears. Deer and bighorn sheep may appear tame, but they may suddenly strike out with their hooves, antlers or horns.

4. If an animal approaches you, keep your distance. Keep the animal’s line of travel or escape route clear.

5. Enticing wildlife by feeding, reaching out or mimicking calls is illegal. It will cause them to lose their natural fear of people, and be more likely to become aggressive, which will put other visitors in danger.

6. Read the pamphlet “Keep the Wild in Wildlife” — available from all Park facilities.

Safe Travel in Bear Country
Bears are naturally wary of humans, and generally choose to avoid us. However, bears may at times threaten or attack people, especially if surprised. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind.

REDUCE YOUR RISK
• If you want to avoid a problem with a bear, avoid the bear. Do this by making noise. Bears will usually move out of the way if they hear you approaching. Bear bells are not loud enough.
• Use your voice instead.
• Hike in groups and stay on established trails during daylight hours. Keep children close.
• Watch for bears and their sign—tracks, droppings, diggings, torn-up logs and overturned rocks. Leave the area if you see fresh sign. If you come across dead animals, leave the area immediately and report it to park staff.
• Some trail conditions make it hard for bears to hear or see hikers. Be particularly careful by streams, blind corners, dense vegetation and on windy days.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR
Bears are intelligent and complex animals. Each bear and each encounter is unique, there is no single strategy that will work in all situations.

• Stay calm. Most bears want to avoid you and ensure you’re not a threat.
• Pick up small children and stay in a group.
• Keep your pack on, it may provide protection if you’re attacked.
• Back away slowly, while talking calmly and firmly. Do not make eye contact as the bear may interpret this as aggression. Leave the area or take a detour.

IF YOU SURPRISE A BEAR, AND IT DEFENDS

• If a bear attacks, fight back aggressively. If contact is imminent, play dead. Lie on your back of your head and neck.
• If the attack continues for more than a couple of minutes, consider fighting back.
If a bear stalks you, or attacks at night, it probably thinks you are food itself.
• If a bear attacks, and you have pepper spray, use it! Spray only when the bear gets close. Be aware of wind and spray distance.
• If contact is imminent, play dead. Lie on your stomach with legs apart. Use your arms to protect the back of your head and neck.
• If the attack continues for more than a couple of minutes, consider fighting back.

Beware the Brown-Eyed Beggar!
Who could resist those liquid brown eyes? That cold wet nose? Those expressive ears? And she’s obviously sooooo hungry! But don’t be fooled. When deer become accustomed to human food and touch, they lose their natural fear and become “habituated” to people. This causes problems for both them and us.

DEER THAT ARE FED BY PEOPLE LEARN TO AGGRESSIVELY BEG FOR FOOD. THEN THEY TEACH THEIR OFFSPRING.
A deer that lets you touch it or feed it is not afraid of you. When you run out of bread, leaves, grass, popcorn, French fries, or whatever else you’re feeding it, it does not understand why the food-source has dried up. It may strike at you, knock you down and trample you, demanding more food.

Their hooves are very sharp and they have a powerful kick. This is especially dangerous to children, who often will put their hands out to lure deer over to them.

IF IT SMELLS LIKE FOOD, IT MUST BE FOOD.
A deer that is fed human food will seek it out in future, and may eat plastic bags, food wrappers and other garbage, mistaking it for food. Parks Canada veterinarians have found plastic bags and garbage tangled up in the intestines of dead deer.

NEVER APPROACH OR FEED DEER, PLEASE HELP KEEP THEM WILD AND ENJOY THEM FROM A DISTANCE.

In bear country be loud and make noise!

CYCLISTS AND TRAIL RUNNERS
Your speed and quietness put you at risk for sudden bear encounters. Slow down through shrubby areas and when approaching blind corners.
Tips to preventing injury

1. Don’t go it alone. Interpreter-led hikes are available, or if you go on your own, tell someone where you’re going and when you’ll be back. Travel with others and keep your group together.

2. Wear sturdy shoes and watch your step. Most accidents in Waterton occur when people trip and fall. The risk is higher if you’re near waterfalls, streams or lakes because the area can be slippery and the water is very cold. Just a few minutes in cold water can cause hypothermia and helplessness. Snowfields and avalanche deposits obscure trails and should be carefully crossed or avoided. Loose rock on scree slopes and near steep inclines creates especially dangerous footing. Reduce the risk by staying on designated trails, stay away from edges and watch your children.

3. Pamper yourself. Take enough food and drinks to keep yourself safe and happy. A snack at the summit or the end of the trail is a great way to relax and take in the view. It’s also a good way to lobe reluctant children or friends!

4. Be prepared. Take along enough gear to keep you warm, safe and to keep you from getting lost. Wear layers of clothing. It can snow any month of the year here. Wind will chill the body, especially if you’ve been sweating, putting you at risk of hypothermia. Sunburn can be a major problem, particularly at higher elevations. Carry sunscreen.

5. Bug off! Few things will ruin your hike like being chased down the trail by mosquitoes or horses. Avoid stings or bites by using repellents and not wearing scented lotions or perfumes.

6. Water. Though park waters are generally clean, harmful bacteria or parasites may be found in any untreated surface water. Carry water from one of the park’s treated water sources or boil and filter all untreated water.

7. Cooking and Campfires. Use fuel stoves for safety and environmental reasons. Small, controlled campfires are allowed in designated places. Check fire hazard and wind conditions first.

If undertaking a hazardous activity (mountain or rock climbing, or hiking alone) you may register with the Warden office. Once registered to go out, you must register back in by returning your registration form as soon as possible. Staff will investigate all overdue permits.

Tips to watching wildlife wisely

1. Act small. Resist the urge to get close, reach out, or call out to wildlife. Use binoculars or a telephoto lens. Your best chance of observing truly wild nature is to become as insignificant as possible — and stay safe. Retreat slowly if any animal approaches you or shows signs of aggression. Wildlife watching and photography are best done from a safe distance and from your car.

2. Watch for the signs. Hone your senses by looking for tracks, diggings, or hair on trees. Listen for bird song or elk bugling. Buy a wildlife postcard and write on your hike like being chased down the trail by mosquitoes or horses. Avoid stings or bites by using repellents and not wearing scented lotions or perfumes.

3. Outta bed, sleepy head! Dawn and dusk are great times to watch wildlife, but they can be cool. Take a blanket, a thermos of something hot, your wildlife guide, binoculars and camera. Find a spot you like and settle in. Then, sit still and be quiet. After about 10 or 15 minutes, the wildlife will ignore you and go about their business.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Cougar Caution

Cougars are not often seen because they are solitary, elusive and active mainly at night. They may be more active in areas that have habituated deer, like towns and campgrounds. Avoid meeting a cougar by travelling in groups and making lots of noise. Keep children close to you. Fire-ecosystem pets may attract and be attacked by cougars. If you encounter a cougar, immediately pick up small children. Face the animal, and retreat slowly — do not run or play dead. Try to appear bigger and show aggression by holding your arms or an object above your head, waving a stick or throwing rocks. If a cougar attacks, fight back.

Ticked Off

Ticks live in tall grass and wooded areas. They are most active in spring and early summer, but may be found earlier or later depending on the weather. Tick bites can cause serious illness, although cases are rare. Avoid them by staying on trails and away from bushes and tall grass. Wear light-coloured clothing so you can spot them more easily. Tuck your pant-legs into your socks, so ticks stay on top where you can see them. If a tick is embedded, carefully remove it so that the mouth parts do not stay in your skin, and wash the area with soap and water. If you are unable to remove the entire tick or the area becomes infected, or if a rash develops around the bite area, see your doctor immediately.

Animal Jam

Seeing wildlife is such a vacation highlight that many people forget safety. That’s why we have staff who help keep both visitors and wildlife safe. You can help. If you see wildlife, watch for traffic, then carefully pull over onto the side of the road, keeping your left wheels on the pavement. Limit your viewing time so others have a chance to see. Please do not stop in dangerous locations, e.g. close to a curve. Happy wildlife-watching!

The National Parks of Canada are hereby dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment and shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

~ Canada National Parks Act, 1930

National Park Regulations

It is your responsibility to know and respect park regulations. They are strictly enforced.

- Pets must be on a leash at all times, including in your campsite. Pets are allowed on trails in Waterton. Please remove pet feces and garbage.
- It is unlawful to feed, entice or touch park wildlife.
- Camping is permitted only in designated areas, as marked by signs.
- A national park fishing permit is required in Canada’s national parks. Only barbless hooks are permitted for use.
- Removing or collecting natural and historic objects is not allowed. This includes antlers, berries, wildflowers, dead wood, fossils and nuts.
- Obey closures. Areas may be temporarily closed by order of the Park Superintendent. They are marked with signs and/or tape.
- Firearms are prohibited.
- Personal watercraft (seadoos, jet skis, etc.) are prohibited on all waters.
Restoring our Terrestrial Ecosystems

Have you spotted teams of park staff roaming the open grasslands, tearing up or spraying plants? Perhaps you’ve encountered park employees surveying roadside vegetation or noticed small cages protecting pine cones? These are all signs of efforts the Parks Canada Agency is making to restore the health of terrestrial ecosystems and to protect species at risk in Waterton Lakes National Park.

NON-NATIVE PLANTS

Non-native plants threaten the health of terrestrial ecosystems. These are plants that do not naturally occur here. They arrive as ornamental plants, in hay or soil moved from one area to another, or simply on the undercarriage of a vehicle entering the park. Non-native plants that have no local predators can spread and displace native plants and the animals that use them for food and cover. For example, the half-moon hairstreak butterfly is an endangered species listed in Canada’s Species at Risk Act which relies on native lupine plants as both the nursery and food source for its larvae. If unchecked, invading non-native plants can displace native plants including lupine and threaten the survival of the half-moon hairstreak butterfly. Ask at the Visitor Centre about opportunities for volunteering at weed pull events like the Knapweed Rodeo near the end of July, or for a chance to help park ecologists detect and map infestations along trails in the backcountry.

Parks Canada invites you to take part in protecting the environment. Every time you visit the Park, ask yourself if you may be transporting plant material, seeds or insects from other areas. Bray and burn local firewood only, ensure hiking boots and camping gear are free of mud and seeds, and give your car a wash before going into to any protected area.

GEOCACHING

Geocaches highlighting restoration activities and species at risk have been placed in various locations throughout the park for geocachers to find. Geocache listings and GPS units (free for use with a credit card imprint) are available at the Heritage Centre on Waterton Avenue. The geocache coordinates are also registered on geocaching.com.

Park Entry Fees

Park entry and camping fees help pay for maintaining visitor facilities such as roads, viewpoints, trails, picnic areas, and less obvious water, electrical and natural gas systems. Fees also support visitor services, interpretive theatre programs, guided walks, search and rescue teams and maintenance crews.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK ENTRANCE FEES</th>
<th>DAILY*</th>
<th>ANNUAL LOCAL*</th>
<th>NATIONAL PASS*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
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*Fees are subject to change

Separate entrance fees are charged at Glacier National Park, MT.

Too Close for Comfort

Everyone enjoys Waterton’s amazing watchable wildlife. A close encounter with deer and their fawns in the community is a real highlight, yet it can also put you in a dangerous situation if you get too close.

A large deer population lives within the community because it provides an attractive food source (lawns) and a relatively safe haven from predators. Many years living near people led the deer to lose their natural wariness, and this behavior is reinforced when visitors approach or entice deer. This situation affects everyone’s safety, as well as predators like bears and cougars.

The Waterton community also has a long history of deer aggressively protecting their fawns from dogs during fawning season. Over time the deer have moved from passively tolerating people to boldly approaching people, and some have struck out with their hooves.

Parks Canada and the community agree that it is important to re-establish a more natural and safe situation. They are working together on a Deer Advisory Group to address public safety and wildlife protection, while maintaining the quality wildlife viewing everyone enjoys.

For the last two years, we tried a new technique to reduce conflict between people and deer. Christine Jobe, an experienced dog handler, used herding dogs to shepherd deer from the community during the spring and early summer. The dogs were under the control of their handler at all times, and never contacted the deer. This approach built on the deer’s natural avoidance of dogs, which strongly resemble their natural predators, coyotes and wolves. Christine and the dogs will continue their work this year.

Please report any instances of particularly aggressive deer behaviour, deer attacks and any injuries due to an attack. If possible, take a picture of the deer. Make sure you maintain a good distance from deer while watching them and choose not to entice or feed them.

You can help—never approach or feed deer!

Report any deer attacks or injuries due to an attack by calling: 1-403-859-2636
Park Regulations

It is your responsibility to know and respect park regulations. Violations are punishable by fines up to $500.00 and/or six months in jail. Park regulations are strictly enforced.

- Pets must be on a leash, and are not permitted on trails or anywhere off-maintained roadways.
- Feeding or disturbing any wildlife is prohibited.
- It is illegal to remove any natural or cultural features including plants, rocks, mushrooms, artifacts, driftwood, or antlers.
- Park Rangers strictly enforce drinking and driving laws. Open containers of alcohol in a motor vehicle are prohibited in the Park. DUI and Safety Checkpoints are occasionally conducted.
- All food and utensils must be properly stored to protect wildlife.
- Hunting is not allowed in Glacier.

Backpacking

Permits for backcountry camping are required and are available at St. Mary Visitor Center, Apgar Backcountry Permit Office, and the Many Glacier, Two Medicine, and Polebridge Ranger Stations. Permits are issued no more than 24 hours in advance and are not issued after 4:30 pm. There is a $5.00 person per night charge. Reservations are also available by mail or at Apgar and St. Mary. There is a $30.00 reservation fee. Visitors entering the backcountry at Great Haunt or Belly River may obtain their permit at the Waterton Visitor Reception Center (credit cards only).

Hiking

Ranger-led hikes are available throughout the park or your group can enjoy Glacier’s 700 miles of maintained trails on your own. Hikers need to assume individual responsibility for planning their trips and hiking safely. Read all the warnings and recommendations in this newspaper. Trail maps, trail guides, topographic maps, and field guides are available at park visitor centers. The Trail of the Cedars and Running Eagle Falls Nature Trails are wheelchair accessible.

Camping

Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. Campgrounds, except Fish Creek and St. Mary, are available on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Utility hookups are not provided. Visitors may make advanced reservations for sites at the Fish Creek and St. Mary campgrounds, the two group sites at St. Mary, and at five of the ten group campgrounds at Apgar. Regular sites are $23 per night, group sites are $53 per night. These group sites are non-reservable group sites are $50.00 “first-come first-served” basis. These two group sites at Apgar and the Five Medicine that are operated on a “first-come, first-served” basis.

Glacier National Park Pass

Valid for one year from month of purchase.

- $23 per night, group sites are $53 for the first 9 campers and $5 per person each additional camper up to the site limit of 24.
- Reservations may be made through the National Park Service Reservation Service. Contact www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.
- There are five group sites at Apgar and one each at Many Glacier and Two Medicine that are operated on a “first-come first-served” basis. These non-reservable group sites are $90.00 for the first 9 campers and $5 per person each additional camper up to the site limit of 24.
- Hiker-biker sites at St. Mary are $8.00 per person.

Concession Services in Glacier National Park

RESTAURANTS
Food service is available at: Eddie’s Restaurant in Apgar • Russell’s Fossilina Dining Room and Jammer Joe’s Restaurant & Pizzeria at Lake McDonald • Parmiggiano Dining Room and the Italian Garden Ristorante in the Many Glacier Valley • Two Dog Flats Grill at Rising Sun • Snack Bar at Two Medicine Campground.

CAMPSTORES & GIFT SHOPS
Groceries and gifts are available at: Eddie’s Campstore, The Cedar Tree, Schoolhouse Gifts, and the Montana House of Gifts at Apgar • Lake McDonald Lodge Gift Shop and Campstore at Lake McDonald • Many Glacier Hotel Gift Shop and Swifton Campstore in the Many Glacier Valley • Rising Sun Campstore at Rising Sun • Two Medicine Campstore at Two Medicine.

BOAT TRIPS & RENTALS
Narrated boat cruises are offered at Lake McDonald, Many Glacier, and Rising Sun. These boat cruises are offered on some trips. Boat and canoe rentals are also available. For information contact: Glacier Park Boat Company - (406) 257-2426.

GUIDED BUS TOURS AND SHUTTLES
Narrated tours and shuttle services are offered by Glacier Park Inc. For reservations contact: Glacier Park, Inc. - (406) 892-2525.

Sun Tours offers interpretive tours from late May to mid-October. Tours highlight Blackfoot culture and history relating to Glacier National Park’s natural features. Tours begin from St. Mary, East Glacier, and Browning. For reservations contact: Sun Tours - (800) 786-9220 or (406) 226-9220.

BACKCOUNTRY GUIDES
Glacier Guides offer guided day hikes and backpacking trips into Glacier’s backcountry for one to seven days. Custom guide service trips are available. Camp equipment is available for rent from West Glacier office. For reservations contact: Glacier Guides - (406) 387-5555 or (800) 521-1AFT (2238).

HORSEBACK RIDES
Horseback rides are provided by Swan Mountain Outfitters at the following locations: Lake McDonald Lodge, Apgar, and Many Glacier Hotel. For information contact: Swan Mountain Outfitters - (877) 888-5557.

Glacier National Park

“Just across the border, Glacier National Park forms the other half of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Together, with Waterton Lakes, these two parks formed the world’s first international peace park and continue to be models of cooperation, partnership, and ecosystem management.”

Entrance Fees

WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK HAS SEPARATE ENTRANCE FEES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Vehicle Pass</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valid for 7 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Person Entry</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>By foot, bicycle, or motorcycle for 7 days.</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valid for one year from month of purchase.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interagency Pass*</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid for one year from month of purchase.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Glacier National Park

Two Medicine Lake and Mt. Sinapah - photo by Bill Hayden

Two Dog Flats Grill at Rising Sun • Snack Bar at Two Medicine Campground.

Lodging

The Village Inn, Lake McDonald Lodge, Rising Sun Motor Inn, Swiftcurrent Motor Inn, and the Many Glacier Hotel are operated by Glacier Park, Inc. For reservations contact: Glacier Park, Inc. - (406) 892-2525.

GRANITE PARK AND SPERRY CHALET
Granite Park Chalet provides rustic accommodations that include rooms, beds, and a common kitchen. Guests provide their own sleeping bag, water, food, and cooking utensils. Optional bedding service is available. Sperry Chalet offers full service rustic overnight accommodations and full meal service, in a wilderness setting. For reservations contact: Belton Chalets Inc. (888) 345-3649.

Sun Tours offers interpretive tours from late May to mid-October. Tours highlight Blackfoot culture and history relating to Glacier National Park’s natural features. Tours begin from St. Mary, East Glacier, and Browning. For reservations contact: Sun Tours - (800) 786-9220 or (406) 226-9220.

Backcountry guides offer guided day hikes and backpacking trips into Glacier’s backcountry for one to seven days. Custom guide service trips are available. Camp equipment is available for rent from their West Glacier office. For reservations contact: Glacier Guides - (406) 387-5555 or (800) 521-1AFT (2238).

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**Driving the Going-to-the-Sun Road**

This 90-mile road combines both history and unparalleled scenery. While portions of the road remain open year-round, the higher sections may be open after winter snows are plowed. Ongoing rehabilitation of the Going-to-the-Sun Road may cause short delays of up to no more then 30 minutes. Please allow additional driving time.

**Vehicle Size Restrictions on the Going-to-the-Sun Road**

Vehicles, and vehicle combinations, longer than 21 feet (including bumpers) or wider than 8 feet (including mirrors), are prohibited between Avalanche Campground and Rising Sun. Vehicles over 10 feet in height may have difficulty driving west from Logan Pass, due to rock overhangs. Stock trucks and trailers may access Packers Roost and Syeich Bend.

**Visiting Logan Pass**

Frequently the parking lot at Logan Pass fills to capacity, forcing visitors to drive on without stopping. The most congested times at Logan Pass are between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. It is best to plan a visit for early morning or later in the afternoon. Consider using the free Going-to-the-Sun Road Shuttle. Shuttles run frequently throughout the day between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm. Concession operated tours also stop at Logan Pass.
Campground & Service Station Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Fee Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waterton townsite*</td>
<td>May 1 – October 8 (weather dependant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crandell Mountain</td>
<td>Mid-May – Labour Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belly River</td>
<td>Mid-May – Labour Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belly River Group</td>
<td>By Reservation Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass Creek Winter</td>
<td>Late Oct – Late April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camping season dates are approximate. Please confirm at Visitor Centres prior to heading out.

Arrive early. Non-reservable sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Fire permit is required. Camping permitted in designated campgrounds only. *Interpretive programs offered. Highlighted campsites maybe be reserved: 1-877-RESERVE or pccamping.ca

Map of Waterton Lakes National Park.
Climate Change in the Crown of the Continent

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. The impacts of a rapidly warming world may affect every aspect of life on earth. As the earth's temperature continues to rise, many plant and animal species increasingly face rapid adaptation, migration, or even extinction. Our national parks demonstrate how warming temperatures are changing the environment and may provide a refuge for plant and animal species. They help us to understand the extent of climate change, how to mitigate its effects, and how to protect our natural and cultural treasures for the enjoyment of our children and grandchildren.

Glaciers are responsible for the sculpted peaks, hanging valleys, and azure lakes that inspire park visitors. However, glaciers provide much more than scenery. They are an integral part of the ecosystem, especially during dry periods and pouring cold water into thirsty streams during the hottest days. In 1850, there were an estimated 150 glaciers in the park. Today there are 25, all in Glacier.

Whitebark pines are now on the brink of disappearing from the peace park. A study conducted in the park spanning 13 years (1996-2009) noted that mortality and blister rust infection in whitebark pines both increased by a staggering 3% with every year.

In response to the alarming mortality and infection rates, a joint effort was initiated to reverse the effects of human impact and restore the pine population. A number of prescribed burns were used to open the canopy and create areas suitable for whitebark pines to grow. The area surrounding Summit Lake, for example, has had a number of plots cleared where whitebark pine seedlings have been planted. These seedlings were grown in greenhouses associated with Glacier’s Native Plant Nursery, from seeds collected from healthy whitebark pines in the area. In fact, Waterton and Glacier staff, alongside numerous volunteers have been planting thousands of seedlings over the last five years in areas suitable for whitebark pine habitat. The hope is to tip the balance back in favour of our whitebark pines in the hope of reinstating the natural balance that permits these trees to compete in the wild.

The restoration of the whitebark pine population in the International Peace Park is a high priority for both parks as these fascinating trees are crucial to maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Contact the park to see how you can be involved in the restoration project.

The Pine Balance: A Shared Responsibility

Pale skin, elongated needles, contorted spines; whitebark pines certainly dress for the role they play as the elders of our forest. Patiently growing over centuries, many of the whitebark pines currently living in the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park began their lives over a thousand years ago, long before there ever was such a thing as a peace park, the boundary dividing it, or Europeans in North America.

This keystone species plays a role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem in the peace park. Growing especially well in alpine regions (2000 to 3000 m elevation), where fewer trees compete for the sunlight they depend on; these trees are perfectly adapted to a delicate balance of natural factors. Growing on steep slopes, the roots of the whitebark pine stabilize the soil, decreasing the rate of soil erosion, and create micro-climates wherein neighbouring organisms might thrive. Additionally, the cones of whitebark pines produce nutrient-rich seeds, similar to the pine nuts you might find in a fancy salad, that are an integral food source for numerous animals in the park, including black and grizzly bears, red squirrels and the Clark’s nutcracker. Like the hierarchy of a family, these pines create a foundation that supports an ecosystem.

Though renowned for their resilience and longevity, human actions have inadvertently threatened these trees. Whitebark pines are now on the brink of disappearing from the peace park and are threatened across the continent. The synergistic effects of a century of fire suppression, the introduction of an invasive fungus and a spike in pine-beetle populations have all contributed to the rapid decline of the whitebark pine in the peace park.

The absence of wildfires has tipped the natural balance out of the whitebark pines' favour. These pines need lots of sunlight, which means they depend on the canopy-clearing action of wildfires to establish themselves. Without these clearings - the canopy-clearing action of wildfires to establish themselves. Without these clearings - these pines will become less competitive.

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The Pine Balance: A Shared Responsibility

Pale skin, elongated needles, contorted spines; whitebark pines certainly dress for the role they play as the elders of our forest. Patiently growing over centuries, many of the whitebark pines currently living in the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park began their lives over a thousand years ago, long before there ever was such a thing as a peace park, the boundary dividing it, or Europeans in North America.

This keystone species plays a role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem in the peace park. Growing especially well in alpine regions (2000 to 3000 m elevation), where fewer trees compete for the sunlight they depend on; these trees are perfectly adapted to a delicate balance of natural factors. Growing on steep slopes, the roots of the whitebark pine stabilize the soil, decreasing the rate of soil erosion, and create micro-climates wherein neighbouring organisms might thrive. Additionally, the cones of whitebark pines produce nutrient-rich seeds, similar to the pine nuts you might find in a fancy salad, that are an integral food source for numerous animals in the park, including black and grizzly bears, red squirrels and the Clark’s nutcracker. Like the hierarchy of a family, these pines create a foundation that supports an ecosystem.

Though renowned for their resilience and longevity, human actions have inadvertently threatened these trees. Whitebark pines are now on the brink of disappearing from the peace park and are threatened across the continent. The synergistic effects of a century of fire suppression, the introduction of an invasive fungus and a spike in pine-beetle populations have all contributed to the rapid decline of the whitebark pine in the peace park.

The absence of wildfires has tipped the natural balance out of the whitebark pines’ favour. These pines need lots of sunlight, which means they depend on the canopy-clearing action of wildfires to establish themselves. Without these clearings - the canopy-clearing action of wildfires to establish themselves. Without these clearings - these pines will become less competitive.

The synergistic effects of a century of fire suppression, the introduction of an invasive fungus and a spike in pine-beetle populations have all contributed to the rapid decline of the whitebark pine in the peace park. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. The impacts of a rapidly warming world may affect every aspect of life on earth. As the earth’s temperature continues to rise, many plant and animal species increasingly face rapid adaptation, migration, or even extinction. Our national parks demonstrate how warming temperatures are changing the environment and may provide a refuge for plant and animal species. They help us to understand the extent of climate change, how to mitigate its effects, and how to protect our natural and cultural treasures for the enjoyment of our children and grandchildren.

Glaciers are responsible for the sculpted peaks, hanging valleys, and azure lakes that inspire park visitors. However, glaciers provide much more than scenery. They are an integral part of the ecosystem, especially during dry periods and pouring cold water into thirsty streams during the hottest days. In 1850, there were an estimated 150 glaciers in the park. Today there are 25, all in Glacier.

Whitebark pines are now on the brink of disappearing from the peace park. A study conducted in the park spanning 13 years (1996-2009) noted that mortality and blister rust infection in whitebark pines both increased by a staggering 3% with every year.

In response to the alarming mortality and infection rates, a joint effort was initiated to reverse the effects of human impact and restore the pine population. A number of prescribed burns were used to open the canopy and create areas suitable for whitebark pines to grow. The area surrounding Summit Lake, for example, has had a number of plots cleared where whitebark pine seedlings have been planted. These seedlings were grown in greenhouses associated with Glacier’s Native Plant Nursery, from seeds collected from healthy whitebark pines in the area. In fact, Waterton and Glacier staff, alongside numerous volunteers have been planting thousands of seedlings over the last five years in areas suitable for whitebark pine habitat. The hope is to tip the balance back in favour of our whitebark pines in the hope of reinstating the natural balance that permits these trees to compete in the wild.

The restoration of the whitebark pine population in the International Peace Park is a high priority for both parks as these fascinating trees are crucial to maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Contact the park to see how you can be involved in the restoration project.
• A new launch permit will be required upon

• Between Memorial Day and Labor Day,

• Motorized boats and trailered watercraft, such

Boat Permit Regulations

- Motorized boats and trailered watercraft, such as sailboats, will need an NPS AIS inspection and launch permit. Other watercraft will need a self-certification form (available at ranger stations, visitor centers, backcountry permit offices, and at many boat launches). The signed form should be kept while on the water.
- Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, permits will be available 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Park Headquarters, in West Glacier. Permits are also available, between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the St. Mary Visitor Center, and the administration office, and campground kiosks. The permit offices, and at many boat launches.
- To qualify for a permit, boats must be clean, drained and thoroughly dry (including bilge areas and hidden compartments).
- Boats with internal ballast tanks or other enclosed compartments that exchange water with the environment, that cannot be readily opened and fully inspected are prohibited within Glacier National Park.
- Boats that fail to pass the inspection will be denied a permit. Boaters may re-apply for a permit after the boat is thoroughly cleaned, drained and dried.
- Boats found with certain infestations of aquatic invasive species may be quarantined until they can be fully decontaminated. Depending on the infestation, this may take up to 30 days.
- Boaters on Waterton Lake must comply with permit and inspection requirements of Waterton Lakes National Park.