

THE
WILDERNESS
OBSERVER

VOLUME 1



Photo: Colin Field

Welcome to the first edition of the Wilderness Observer! If you’re reading this, you’ve made your way to one of our spectacular North Slave Region parks!

We invite you to explore and enjoy our naturally spectacular NWT Parks. Where the midnight sun brings new meaning to the term night-light, and running water refers to thundering waterfalls, not just campsite amenities.

For visitors and locals alike, NWT Parks provide the perfect backdrop for unforgettable summer adventures and a lifetime of great memories.



Make the most of it. Reach out and meet new friends, paddle our pristine waterways, cast a line, try roasting bannock on a stick, or take in our local events and festivities.

These experiences count on everyone working together to ensure your time in our parks is both safe and memorable. From parks operators and officers to campers and hikers, everyone has a role in making our parks world-class.

Within these pages are a few stories about our parks and the people who make them worth visiting. We hope you enjoy the stories. But most importantly, we hope you enjoy your stay. And don’t be shy — we’d love to hear from you!

Sincerely,
Your NWT Parks Team

Share Your #NWTParks stories at [Engage-ITI.ca/NWTParks](https://engage-iti.ca/NWTParks)

 fb.com/NWTParks  [@NWTParks](https://twitter.com/NWTParks)

We know you’ll love ALL of our parks, but this quiz will help you decide which of the three North Slave Region campgrounds best fits your lifestyle!

1. It’s bright (thanks to the midnight sun) and early. You decide to enjoy a steaming cup of coffee to start the day off right. Do you...

a. Grab the kettle and heat water over the campfire for your French Press brew

b. Make a quick trip to Yellowknife for a gourmet latte and maybe a breakfast sandwich too

c. Who needs coffee? A quick hop in the lake will wake you right up!
2. Saturday has come around and you’re looking for something fun to do. Which is your ideal excursion?

a. Launch a canoe and explore the surrounding waterways with camera in hand

b. Hop over to a local festival – art, crafts, music, food; what’s not to enjoy!

c. Take a hike! Lace up those hiking boots and hit the trails to learn about foliage in the area and snap a photo from a panoramic lookout point
3. When booking your campsite, which feature is most important to you?

a. Affordability – mid-week booking discounts mean you spend more time at the campground

b. Access to a big, sandy beach – perfect for enjoying the sun and keeping the family entertained!
- c. Lake access is key! A boat launch and marina come in handy when you want to spend the day on the water

4. Which best describes your camping persona?

a. Unplugged and unencumbered: catching up on rest and relaxation is key!

b. Social butterfly: meet and greet your camping neighbors and host communal meals

c. Explorer extraordinaire: whether you’re hiking trails, water skiing or visiting the playground, you like to keep active

5. When venturing to your camping destination, which do you prefer:

a. It’s about the journey as much as the destination: drive a ways out of the city centre and see beautiful lakes, foliage and wildlife along the way.

b. Close to comfort: a quick drive that keeps amenities nearby

c. Middle ground: enjoy the solitude of a secluded campsite with shops 30 minutes away (in case you forget something crucial – like ketchup!)
- Answers:
Mostly As: Reid Lake Territorial Park | Mostly Bs: Fred Henne Territorial Park | Mostly Cs: Prelude Lake Territorial Park
Learn more about these and other NWT parks at www.nwtparks.ca
-
- Government of
Northwest Territories



Annual Tree Planting Helps Spruce Up NWT Parks

NWT Parks, which are owned and operated by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, are looking greener thanks to park officers, campers and enthusiastic children who took on the task of planting seedlings throughout Prelude and Reid Lake Territorial Parks. Between 2017 and 2018, approximately 1,200 seedlings were planted!

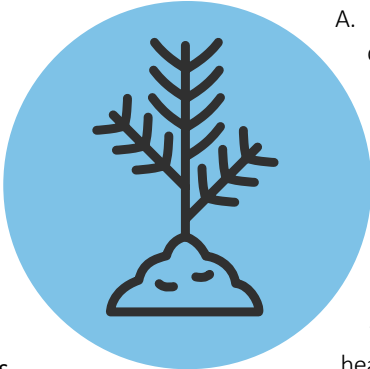
Quick Questions with Environment and Natural Resources

Ever wondered why it is so important to stick to designated paths and trails? Lawrence Lewis, Manager of Forests with Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), helps to answer these and other questions! We hope you enjoy the natural environment of NWT parks and help us to preserve it!

Q. Can you tell us a bit about the NWT Parks tree planting exercise and how it came about?

A. It's a partnership between ENR and NWT Parks. ENR has supplied seedlings to various organizations for several years and we include instructions on the best methods of caring, handling and planting of the seedlings. We provide seedlings to NWT Parks and the parks officers take care of getting them planted.

Q. Once you plant the new seedlings, how long does it take for full re-growth in areas where trees have been run over or cut down?



A. There are many variables that will affect the growth rate of seedlings into mature trees. From personal experience, a properly planted white spruce seedling in an ideal environment can be expected to reach several meters in height in about a 10-15 year period.

Q. Why is it so important for ATVs and other recreational vehicles to stick to designated paths/roads within the parks?

- A. It's important for ATVs to stay on designated trails/roads for several reasons, some include:
- To limit the amount disturbance to vegetation for wildlife that rely on this vegetation;
 - Prevent the disturbance to nesting sites of migratory birds;
 - To limit the impact of erosion from trails, which may be detrimental to the health of aquatic ecosystems;
 - To mitigate the risk of forest fires caused by overheated mufflers in dry conditions; and
 - To limit the spread of invasive species that could be transported from ATVs from one area to another.

Q. Are there any types of plants that campers should be especially cautious not to disturb?

A. There are certain types of vegetation, such as lichens, that take a very long time to grow and campers should try to leave them undisturbed. A full list of plant species at risk in the NWT can be found at www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca.

A fed bear is a dead bear

Keep food safely stored in your vehicle and never in your tent. By keeping a clean camp a bear is less likely to be interested, this includes washing dishes and not burning your garbage. NWT Parks have bear safe garbage disposals and we recommend that you dispose of your garbage in these receptacles daily.

Enjoy fish? So do our bears! Please do not clean fish on picnic tables or other parks infrastructure as this

can attract bears to the area. For more information on being Bear Aware go to Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) website: www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/bear-safety

If you see a bear in one of our North Slave parks please contact gatehouse staff, if it is an emergency you can call ENR's Wildlife Emergency Line at 1-867-873-7181.



Fire Safety



The forest fire season in the NWT in 2014 reached historic heights. There were 385 fires burning in the territory, which were fought at a cost of \$56.1 million.

To keep park users safe, it's important that campfires are kept under control. Here are a couple tips to do just that!

- Keep your fires in designated fire pits
- Keep a bucket of water, sand and a shovel handy
- Be sure to extinguish your fire before you go to sleep or when you leave the site
- Pay attention to fire bans: if there's a fire ban in the park you're visiting, you'll see signs go up at the entrance. You can also stay up to date on fire ban details by following NWT Parks on social media.

To report a forest fire, please call 1-877-NWTFIRE (698-3473) 24 hours a day / 7 days a week

Park Permits

Reminder: You need a park permit to enter NWT Parks – even if you're just visiting other campers. You can purchase a day pass at each park gatehouse – or for better bang for your buck, pick up a seasonal pass!

Inquire at NWT Park gatehouses for more information.

Pinterest-Worthy Campfire Recipes

As you cozy up around your campfire, here are a couple delectable dishes that are sure to be a hit!

Banana Boats

1. Slice banana lengthwise to form a boat shape
2. Remove part of the peel so you can stuff your banana
3. Fill banana with mini-marshmallows, chocolate chips, and whatever else takes your fancy
4. Wrap in tinfoil
5. Place in hot coals for no more than 10 minutes or until chocolate has melted.
6. Remove and enjoy!

Pizza Subs

1. Slice a sub bun (or another type of bread)
 2. Spread pizza sauce on the inside of the bun
 3. Cover one side with shredded cheese
 4. Add toppings to side with cheese
 5. Top with more cheese
 6. Wrap tightly with foil
 7. Place in hot coals for no more than 10 minutes or until cheese is melted and bun is toasted
- TIP** – for a flatter sandwich place a warm stone on top (careful when removing as it will be hot)



Roasted Fruit in Marshmallow Fluff

1. Put a chunk of fruit on your stick
2. Cover fruit in marshmallow fluff (spread)
3. Place over fire (keep an eye on it)
4. Remove once fluff is browned to your liking
5. Enjoy! Careful it can be hot!



Photo: Colin Field

Five Beautiful Stops on Your Way Home

Our territory is big, beautiful and diverse and we invite you to explore more of it. If you're driving south from Yellowknife, here are five stunning stops to fit in your home-bound itinerary.

Fort Providence Territorial Park (Powered and non-powered sites)
Just over 300 km from Yellowknife, Fort Providence Territorial Park is a great spot to stop on your route south. With the shores of the mighty Mackenzie River nearby, campers can enjoy bird watching and fishing. It's a great location to try out the Pinterest-worthy campfire recipes on page 2.

Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park (Powered sites)
Tranquility. Relaxation. The sound of water rushing over limestone. Are we describing a spa or Lady Evelyn Falls park? This oh-so-relaxing campground, near the community of Kakisa just off highway 1, is a great way to cap off your northern adventure. It's a hot spot for fly fishing so bring your gear for excellent Northern Pike, pickerel and Arctic grayling fishing. Or, for ultimate serenity, unroll your yoga mat in front of the falls!

Blackstone Territorial Park (Non-powered sites)
If you're BC-bound, make sure you add beautiful Blackstone Territorial Park to

your camping list. This stunning park was named one of the most family-friendly campgrounds in Canada by Today's Parent magazine in 2018. With the season recently extended to October 1, there's more opportunity than ever to make this part of your NWT memories.

Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park (Powered sites at Louise Falls Campground)
If kicking back and relaxing isn't your cup of tea, Twin Falls Gorge Park has plenty to keep you busy. Twin Falls is home to two sets of falls and two parks: Alexandra Falls Day Use Area and Louise Falls Campground. Spend a few days exploring boardwalks and hiking trails, snapping photos of the thundering

falls, and enjoying picnic lunches with unforgettable views.

Fort Smith Mission Territorial Park Day Use Area (Day use only)
This day use area, located in the centre of Fort Smith, is what remains of the original 151 acre Oblate Catholic Mission Church. It's open 9AM – 4:30PM Monday to Friday for self-guided tours. With the nearby Wood Buffalo National Park and the Slave River Rapids, there's no shortage of add-ons for your visit.

Learn more about these campsites and more at www.nwtparks.ca.



Though it may be difficult to believe it's time to wind down when the sun is still shining brightly well into the evening, please be respectful to other nature lovers and observe quiet hours from 10:30pm to 7:00am.

- Refrain from riding ATVs and driving around the campgrounds
- Turn off generators
- Turn down loud music and enjoy roasting your marshmallows quietly by your campfire

Photo: ITI/Angela Houweling



WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

We might be the great white North, but by summertime, dozens of crystal clear lakes and rivers around the North Slave are ice-free, warm, and ready for visitors.

There's a ton of great ways to get the most out of your trip to the region's bountiful reservoirs. Here are five fun activities to do on the water, in no particular order.

Stand-Up Paddle Boarding
There's something special about gliding across glass-smooth water while standing up and taking in all the sights.

With its proximity to the city, accessible waterfront, Yellowknife River Territorial Park is a popular spot. And its relative wind-shielded location means it's ideal for those looking to amble along the gentle bends of the well-forested river for a daytrip.

Fishing
In the North Slave, fish are so bountiful that folks around here sometimes say bait is optional.

While we still recommend a well-stocked tacklebox, Reid Lake near the end of the Ingraham Trail is renowned for its plentiful pike and flavourful trout.

With a good boat launch, whether you want to cast your rod from shore, or

venture out with trolling motor or paddle, you have options to build the fishing trip you want.

- REMEMBER:**
- Always use Personal Floatation Devices on the water
 - Always obey signs related to the safety of all
 - Make sure you have a valid fishing license before casting (visit enr.gov.nt.ca for more information)

Paddling
Ahh paddling. There's perhaps nothing that says summer in the North Slave like escaping the city to paddle and portage through the region's spectacular waterways.

For a fun daytrip, launch at North Arm Territorial Park off the highway on the way to Behchoko, and finish up with a picnic at the sheltered gazebo back on shore.

If you're feeling ambitious, Boundary Creek — also near Behchoko, just off Highway 3 — offers some rapids and good opportunities for camping.

Visit spectacularnwt.com for information on these kinds of experiences, where to get gear, and many more ways to work the waters of the North Slave.

Word Search

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Find the words:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. ANIMALS | 6. FISHING | 11. OUTDOORS |
| 2. BACKPACK | 7. KINDLING | 12. SAFETY |
| 3. BUGS | 8. LANTERN | 13. SWIMMING |
| 4. CAMPFIRE | 9. MARSHMALLOWS | 14. TENTS |
| 5. CHAIR | 10. MATCHES | 15. WILDLIFE |

Keep NWT Parks Safe Obey Speed Limits

Everyone wants to enjoy our endless hours of sunshine by going for a stroll or bike ride through NWT Parks. Children play near the road and can quickly run out before anyone can stop them.

Be aware of your surroundings and please abide by the speed limit. Enjoy the ride and keep our NWT Parks safe!





Photo: ITI/Angela Houweling

Get Yer Boots

Four Great Hiking Spots in the Yellowknife Area

You're at a park. You like the outdoors. So why don't you get out there and explore more of it? We're here to help. Here are five great spots to go for a hike around the capital.

Prospector's Trail

Ancient rocks? Scenic lakes? Yes please! The trailhead for this 4km hike is conveniently located in Fred Henne — our largest campground — near the Yellowknife Airport. This area became home base for the NWT gold rush when federal government geologists struck gold in the early 1900s. There are interpretive brochures onsite and some plaques

with history and context along the way.

Prelude Lake Nature Trail

This scenic nature trail within the Prelude Lake Territorial Campground (30km down the Ingraham Trail) is sure to expand your knowledge of the local flora and fauna. The 2.5 km loop provides gorgeous views of Prelude Lake and interpretive signage will explain everything you need to know about the wildlife and vegetation in the area.

Cameron Falls Trail

A favourite for locals and visitors alike, Cameron Falls Trail is found about 46km down the

Ingraham Trail at the Hidden Lake Day Use Area. It's capped off with a rushing waterfall and a 360 degree view of the spectacular taiga. Its 2km length means this is a prime day trip destination. Interpretive brochures are available for the geologically-curious.

Frame Lake Trail

Take a trip into town for Yellowknife's best-known urban trail. You can start at Yellowknife City Hall to start this 7km loop along the shores of Frame Lake.

The eastern half of the loop is a paved path, perfect for a relaxing stroll. It will lead you

past several attractions including the territorial legislative assembly, city hall and the Prince of Wales museum. The western half of the trail is more rigorous and gives hikers a taste of the Northern backcountry. You will definitely want your hiking shoes on as you trek along rocky outcrops, ascend hills and cross wooden boardwalks.

This trail is great for taking in the city sites as well as getting a taste of nature!

Learn more about hiking trails at: www.yellowknife.ca/en/getting-active/trails.asp

Did You Know?

Every year, buckets of nails are picked up from around the fire pits in NWT Park campgrounds. They're the result of stacked pallets that don't fit within the fire pits.

With little ones running or playing around campsites, it's important to keep the ground free of hazards like nails. Help us keep our campsites safe and reduce the risk of forest fires by only burning logs that fit within the designated pits.



Photo: ITI/Angela Houweling

Share Your NWT Parks Stories!

A stunning nature walk; a welcome wildlife sighting; a picturesque paddle — we've all had some amazing times in parks across the NWT.

We want to hear your stories about NWT parks. Hearing about your experiences, what made them great, and how we could make more of them will help us bring more spectacular experiences to parks users.

We're engaging through the end of parks season in mid-October. If you share your story, you will be eligible to win one of three free weekends of camping in NWT parks.

Visit Engage-ITI.ca/NWTParks to provide your submission.

