

# TRAILS OF ELK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

## 1 Hayburger Trail - 10 km (3 - 4 hours)

Trail head location: 7.5 km north of Highway 16; 4.6 km south of the Astotin Lake Area. Trail crosses a spruce bog near the beginning. Open aspen forest and generally flat terrain. Several large meadows near the midpoint. Remain on the trail as areas of quicksand may be encountered. Good for viewing wildlife.

## 2 Simmons Trail - 3.5 km (1 - 2 hours)

Trail head location: Shirley Lake parking lot on the Parkway, 7 km north of Highway 16; or the Tawayik Lake Road, 5 km north of Highway 16 and 1 km west of the Parkway. Beaver ponds, knob and kettle terrain.

## 3 Shirley Lake Trail - 10.5 km (3 - 4 hours)

Trail head location: Parking lot is 7 km north of Highway 16; or the Tawayik Lake Road and 1 km off the Parkway. Trail passes through rolling terrain, aspen forests and meadows where moose, bison and elk can be seen.

## 4 Moss Lake Trail - 13 km (3.5 - 4.5 hours)

Trail head location: Parking lot is 11 km north of Highway 16. Picnic area with picnic tables, fire boxes, firewood, washroom and exhibits. Passes through mixed wood forest with aspen, spruce and birch spread over rolling terrain. Near the end of the trail there are several open meadows and beaver ponds, with waterfowl during the spring, summer and fall.

## 5 Amisk Wuche Trail - 2.5 km (1 - 1.5 hours)

Trail head location: Parking lot is located 14.4 km north of Highway 16; 400m north of the Astotin Lake Area turnoff. Gravel tread and several sections of boardwalk through marsh and forest. Rich aquatic life. Varying aspen, birch and spruce forest; knob and kettle terrain apparent on second half of trail. Excellent snowshoe trail.

## 6 Lakeview Trail - 3.5 km (1 - 2 hours)

Trail head location: North west end of Astotin Lake Area parking lot, west towards Astotin Lake. Poplar and spruce forest. Passes near a bog. Good views of Astotin Lake and the islands; beaver pond and wetlands visible from viewing platform.

## 7 Beaver Pond Trail - 3.5 km (1 - 2 hours)

Trail head location: 16 km north of Highway 16; 2.3 km north of Astotin Lake Area. Aspen forest and sedge meadows where bison graze and moose browse. Beaver lodge visible from trail.

## 8 Living Waters - Boardwalk 300 m

Trail head location: South end of Sandy Beach in the Astotin Lake Area and ends near the Astotin Theatre. Point of Good Hope section is paved asphalt path; remainder of the trail is floating boardwalk. Good views of Astotin Lake and the islands. Self guided interpretive exhibits throughout.

## 9 Tawayik Lake Trail - 16.5 km (4 - 5 hours)

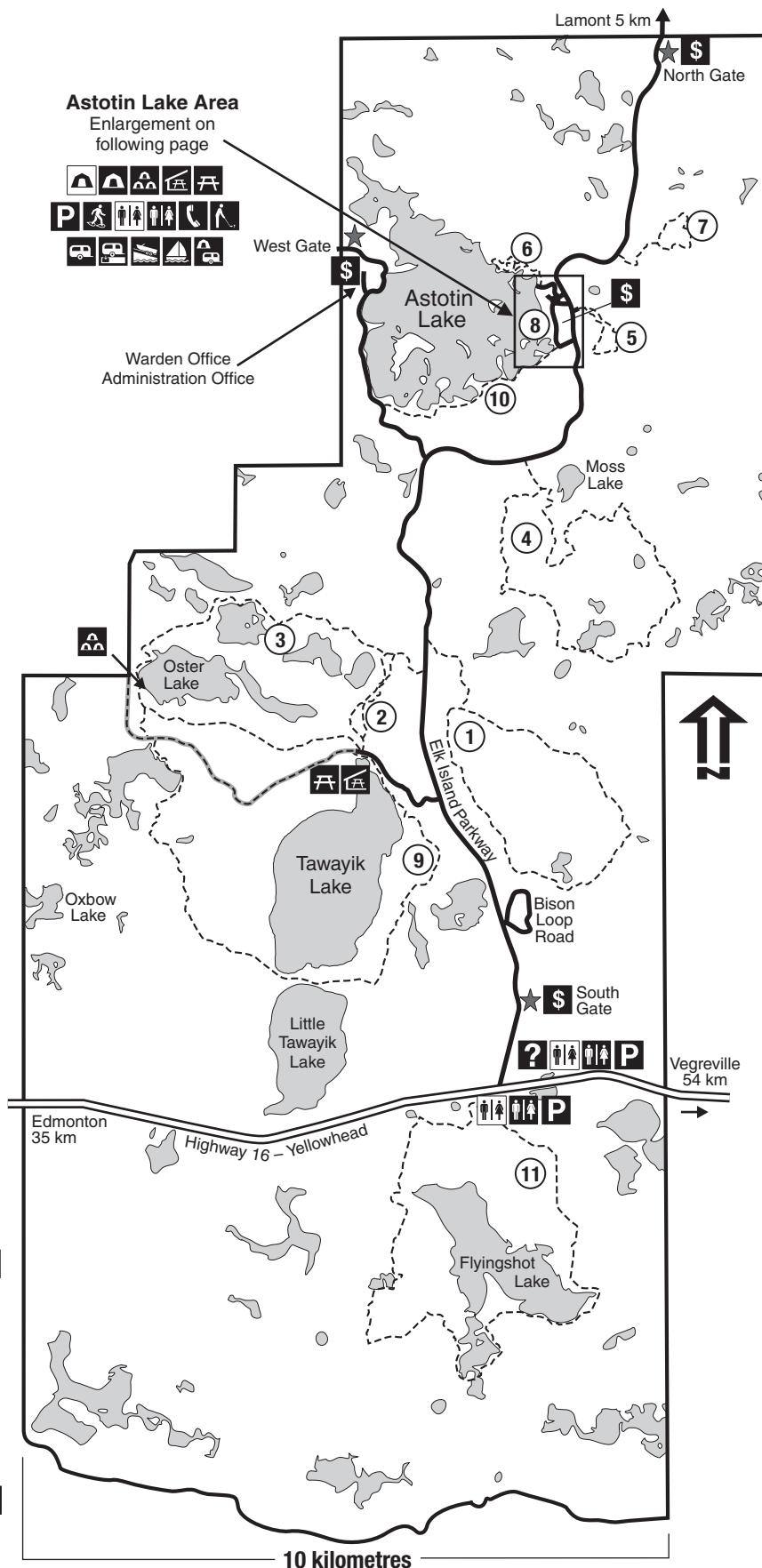
Trail head location: Tawayik Lake Picnic Area, 5 km north of Highway 16 and 1 km west of the Parkway. Meadows and marshes between the two Tawayik lakes. Good place for viewing waterfowl, bison and elk. Rolling hills on west leg of trail provide vantage point for viewing elk. Majestic stands of mature birch. Full day cross-country ski trip. Note: A loop trail between the two Tawayik lakes exists only during very dry summers and in the winter when the ground is frozen. No bridge exists at other times.

## 10 Shoreline Trail - 6 km return (2 - 3 hours return)


















Trail head location: Golf Course parking lot in Astotin Lake Area; 10 km north of Highway 16 and 1 km west of the Parkway. Follows an old road bed characterized by mature mixed wood forest, excellent views of the spruce forests on the islands, and opportunities to sight beaver, moose, waterfowl and other birds. Beaver Bay Picnic Area (toilets, picnic tables, fire boxes and firewood) and a causeway to Elk Island (not wheelchair accessible).

## 11 Wood Bison Trail - 16 km (4 - 5 hours)

Trail head location: South side of Highway 16 across the highway from the turnoff to the Parkway, and slightly west. Opportunities to view free-roaming wood bison, as well as moose and elk. Follows the shores of Flyingshot Lake where waterfowl and other birds can easily be viewed. A valid Park Pass is required.



### Legend

 Hiking / Walking	 Accessible	 Viewpoint
 Snowshoeing	 Information	 Cook Shelter
 Cross Country Skiing	 Picnic Site	 Boat Launch
 Washrooms (Summer)	 Parking	 Golf Course
 Washrooms (Winter)	 Exhibit	 Trailers / RV
 Telephone	 Group Tenting	 Sani-Station
 Park Passes Available	 Campground	 Sailing



# PARK REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

In order to preserve our natural and cultural heritage for future generations, visitors to Elk Island National Park must comply with national park rules and regulations. Park Wardens work in co-operation with other conservation agencies to deter poaching, conserve wildlife, protect natural resources, and to ensure public safety.

The **Visitor Guide** (available at the entrance gates and warden office) provides information on how to increase your enjoyment while on the trails. As you may encounter bison and other wildlife on the trails, contact Parks Canada staff for more information on wildlife and public safety.

Wild animals are unpredictable and potentially dangerous. Keep a minimum distance of 100 m (330 feet) from them at all times.

Treat wildlife with respect. It is unlawful to feed, entice, harass, or kill wildlife and to collect wildlife products such as antlers.

Allow flora to grow undisturbed and undamaged. It is unlawful to pick plants, berries or mushrooms.

For the enjoyment of other visitors and your safety, **dogs** must be kept on a leash at all times to avoid potential conflict with wildlife. Please pick up after your dog.

For your safety, **bicycling** is recommended on the Parkway and other roadways. Bicycling along the trails is not recommended as there is the potential for encounters with large mammals, especially bison, which may charge without warning if surprised.

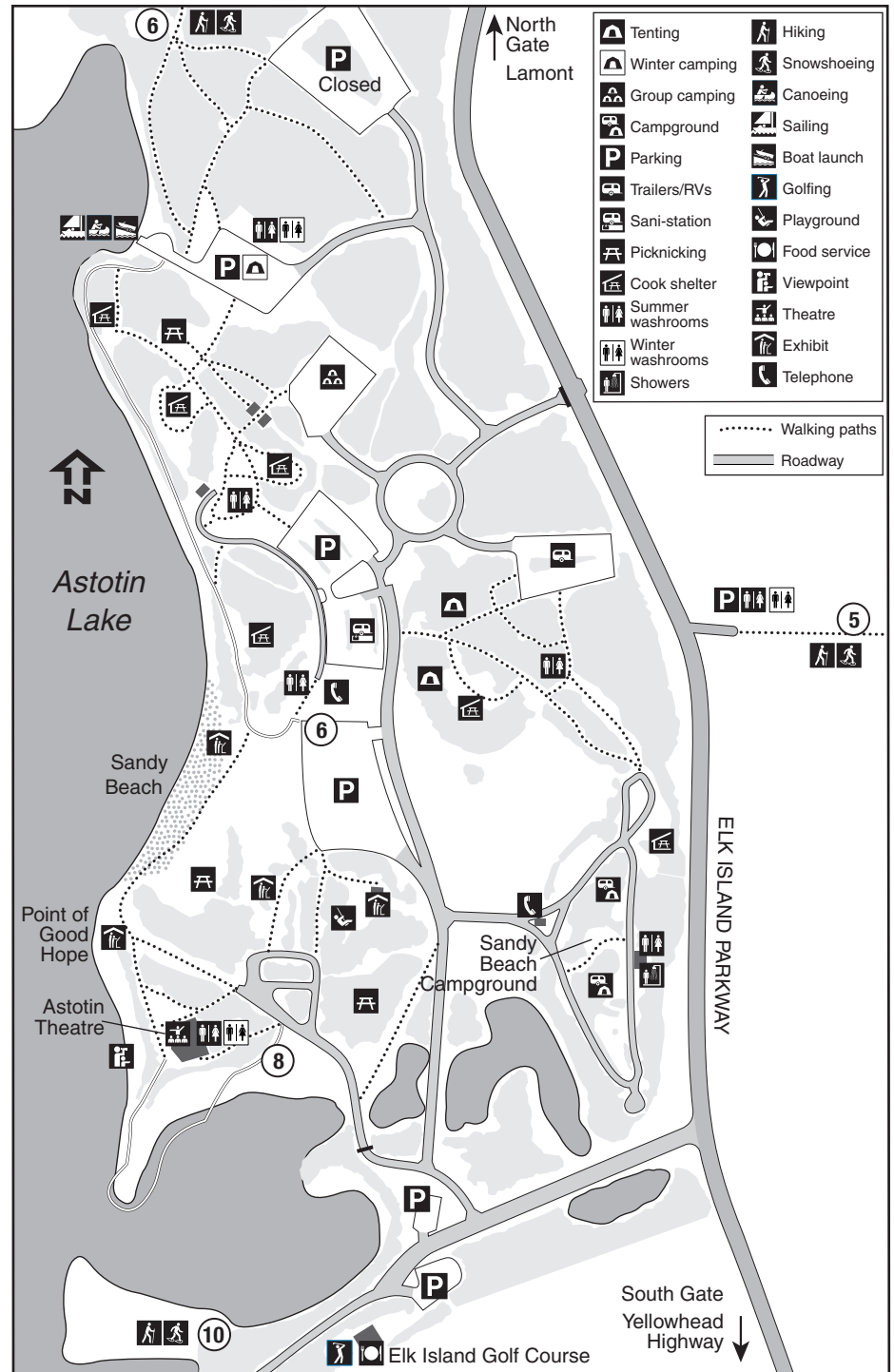
**Canoeing, kayaking, and sailing** are allowed on Astotin Lake; canoeing and kayaking are allowed on Oster Lake. Paddlers must be prepared to self-rescue as Park Wardens do not patrol the lake. In order to protect the numerous birds nesting on the lakes, motorized boats, including electric motors are not permitted.

**Camping** is allowed in designated camping areas only; camping is illegal on the islands of Astotin Lake.

**Fires** are allowed in designated fire boxes located at picnic sites in the Astotin Lake Area and at the Tawayik Lake and Moss Lake trail heads. Fires are illegal on the islands.

Lake and pond water is stagnant and not suitable for drinking. Potable water is available in the Astotin Lake Area.

# ASTOTIN LAKE AREA



## Winter Use of the National Park

**Hazards** are numerous in winter; beware of thin ice and remember to dress appropriately.

**Camping** is permitted for self-contained vehicles in the Boat Launch parking lot.

**Washrooms** are available at the Visitor Information Centre, Astotin Theatre, Boat Launch and most trail heads.

Some **cross-country ski trails** are machine-groomed. Contact the Warden Office for trail conditions.

**Snowshoeing** is recommended on the Amisk Wuche Trail and trails that are not machine-groomed.

**Park Passes** can be purchased at the Park Gates or Warden Office. Day passes are available 24-hours a day from the Automatic Pass Machines. While in Elk Island National Park, visitors must display a valid park pass on their vehicle at all times.

## Park Directory (Area Code 780)

### Emergency:

RCMP/FIRE/AMBULANCE 911

Warden Service 24-hour Emergency Line 992-6389

RCMP Fort Saskatchewan 992-6100

### General Information

Warden Office (office hrs) 992-2950

Environmental Education Programs (office hrs) 992-2965

### Visitor Information Centre

(seasonal) 922-5790

### Elk Island Golf Course

(seasonal) 998-3161

### Gates

South Gate 922-5833

North Gate 895-2520

### Campgrounds

Sandy Beach (seasonal) 992-0017

Group Camping Reservations (seasonal) 922-5833

**Campground Reservation Service**  
1-877-RESERVE (1-877-737-3783)

www.pccamping.ca

Wildlife Watch 1-888-927-3367

Alberta Environment Report-A-Poacher  
1-800-642-3800

### Write to: Superintendent

Elk Island National Park

R.R.#1, Site 4

Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 2N7

Phone: 992-2950 Fax: 992-2951

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