

INFORMATION UPDATE FOR STAKEHOLDERS – COVID-19

UPDATED MAY 15, 2020

As part of the government's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19, Parks Canada suspended visitor access and services at all national parks, national historic sites, historic waterways, and national marine conservation areas in March.

We know that being in nature provides important physical and mental health benefits. To help Canadians gain access to the health and wellness benefits that come from being outdoors and in nature, Parks Canada will begin gradually restoring limited visitor access and limited visitor services at a number of locations across the country beginning on June 1, 2020.

Access and services will be focused on limited autonomous day use of trails, grounds, and other outdoor settings.

The health and safety of our employees, our visitors, and all Canadians is of the highest priority for Parks Canada. The Agency will follow the advice of public health authorities in resuming visitor access and services. Only places and activities where health and safety risks to employees and visitors can be mitigated will be available for visitation.

Parks Canada's network and operations are large and diverse. Visitor access, services, and even opening dates, may vary across the country or even within a region or a place depending on specific circumstances. The visitor experience will be different than it has been in the past as we adapt to COVID-19.

Opening Parks Canada places to limited visitation will provide a safe outlet to physically distance outdoors and in natural settings. We are asking our visitors to be cautious and conservative in their use of these places, to observe travel restrictions, to respect the guidance of public health authorities, and to help flatten the curve and keep our families, friends, and neighbours healthy and safe.

More information about Riding Mountain National Park's resumption plan will be available next week. Please follow Parks Canada's social media channels and visit our [website](#) for information and updates on the status of all Parks Canada places.

The following information is specific to Riding Mountain National Park:

When will Riding Mountain National Park reopen?

Until June 1, suspensions of visitor services and closures of facilities announced in March remain in place, including over the Victoria Day long weekend. For their own safety, Canadians should not try to access locations that are closed.

During this period, businesses in Wasagaming can open and are required to take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as directed by public health authorities in their jurisdiction as well as the Public Health Agency of Canada.



Cottage and cabin owners can access their properties, however, all washroom facilities throughout the park will remain closed at this time, including the shower building and all other individual washroom buildings in the cabin area.

Parks Canada will begin gradually restoring limited visitor access and limited visitor services at Riding Mountain National Park on June 1, 2020. Access and services will be focused on limited autonomous day use of trails, grounds, and other outdoor settings.

All camping facilities remain closed until at least June 21, 2020, while Parks Canada assesses whether and how these services might resume. Group activities and public events will be prohibited until further notice.

The Agency looks forward to reopening and will continue to assess its suspension of services, while ensuring the health and safety of Canadians, visitors and Parks Canada team members.

If I come into the townsite of Wasagaming to support a local business, can I walk around Wasagaming?

Local services are limited and Parks Canada is asking visitors to stay home. Access to public spaces and visitor facilities is not permitted when entering the townsite to support local businesses.

Public parking lots operated by Parks Canada will remain closed in the townsite of Wasagaming; however, customers and residents of Wasagaming are still permitted access to the townsite. Customers of local businesses can only park in designated parking stalls for those businesses (within their leasehold space) or in street parking stalls. Local services are limited and Parks Canada is asking visitors to stay home.

Is the Clear Lake Golf Course open?

All visitor services and visitor motor vehicle for the purpose of recreational use is suspended in Riding Mountain National Park, until May 31, 2020.

Accessing the Clear Lake Golf Course is possible. The golf course was able to open as per the Government of Manitoba guidelines. People are encouraged to contact the golf course regarding their services.

Updated information:

Is recreational boating allowed?

Recreational boating is currently prohibited in Riding Mountain National Park as it would interfere with our aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention program. For more information, visit: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mb/riding/bulletins/AC1876CF-9CFD-47B4-B8F4-3A4ED57F9834>

The Agency has suspended visitor services at all Parks Canada places until May 31, 2020. This includes all parking lots, washrooms, and day use facilities.

When will recreational fishing be allowed?

The sale of all Parks Canada passes and permits has been suspended until at least May 31, 2020. In addition, entry kiosks and visitor centres are closed, as a result fishing permits cannot currently be sold or validated.



Please note that visitor services are suspended and all visitor facilities are temporarily closed. Many trails and day-use areas are no longer accessible due to road closures. Park users must obey all signage and closures.

More information will be made available regarding the timing of potential opening of facilities as it becomes available.

Recreational boating is currently prohibited in Riding Mountain National Park. For more information, visit: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mb/riding/bulletins/AC1876CF-9CFD-47B4-B8F4-3A4ED57F9834>

For previously shared Q&A's, please visit our website:

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mb/riding/info/urbain-townsite>

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mb/riding/visit/covid-19-info>