



INFORMATION UPDATE FOR STAKEHOLDERS – RESUMPTION OF SERVICES

UPDATED MAY 27, 2020

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 Riding Mountain National Park beginning on June 1, 2020.

Parks Canada is planning a phased approach to resume visitor services based on our capacity and the ability to maintain the health and safety of Canadians, visitors, and Parks Canada team members. Resumption of operations and services will take time and may be incremental in nature.

Access and services will be focused on limited autonomous day use of trails, grounds, and other outdoor settings. Camping is suspended until at least June 21, 2020. Visitors will be asked and expected to follow physical distancing and personal hygiene requirements.

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.

Opening Parks Canada places to visitors offers Canadians opportunities to physically distance in natural settings. Parks Canada is asking Canadians to be cautious and conservative in their use of these places, to observe travel restrictions, to respect the guidance of public health experts, and to make every effort to flatten the curve and keep one another safe.

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:

Beginning on June 1, 2020 the following services and facilities in the park will be open:

- Entry Gates open 7 days a week for information only.
- Trails – most trails will be open, but certain trails will not be accessible due to Highway 19 road closure or trail maintenance.
- Day use areas, including outlying campgrounds day use areas (closed to overnight camping): picnic areas, kitchen shelters, beaches, and pit privies.
- Bison enclosure
- Shore fishing is permitted, however, Parks Canada will not be selling fishing licences in phase one, visitors must buy one from a 3rd party seller. For more information about where to buy a fishing licence, visit: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mb/riding/visit/pass#5>
- Visitor services in the Townsite of Wasagaming:
 - access to businesses remains open
 - green spaces
 - Main beach and pier
 - parking lots





- washrooms
- trails
- kitchen shelters
- playground
- The Clear Lake cabin area shower building and kitchen shelters, washrooms will gradually reopen

For more information on continued closures, visit: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mb/riding/visit/covid-19-info>

Will trails in Riding Mountain National Park be open?

Most of the trails in RMNP will be open to the public on June 1, 2020. Certain trails will not be accessible due to the temporary road closure of Highway 19 or trail maintenance. Our trail condition report will be updated in the coming days with more information.

Those who choose to access trails must obey all signage and closures. They must follow the advice of public health experts on things like hand hygiene and physical distancing. They must also be conservative in their choices to avoid injury and minimize any need for emergency response. They must leave no trace and remove their garbage.

When will Highway 19 be reopened?

Highway 19 is currently closed due to hazardous driving conditions. Parks Canada will continue to assess the road conditions and reopen Highway 19 when it is safe to do so.

Is recreational boating allowed?

All boating, including motorboats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, etc. is prohibited on all park waters until our aquatic invasive species prevention program is fully functional (estimated start date of June 12, 2020).

For more information, visit:

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mb/riding/bulletins/AC1876CF-9CFD-47B4-B8F4-3A4ED57F9834>
<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mb/riding/visit/moto-boat>

When will boating be permitted in the park?

The virtual AIS Seasonal Permit Orientation Sessions will start June 1, 2020. Boating will not be permitted in park waters until at least June 12, 2020. More information on the virtual orientation sessions will be available on our website soon.

Mandatory inspections are required for motorboats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, and all other watercraft entering park waters. This includes Clear Lake, South Lake, and all outlying lakes (Deep Lake, Lake Audy, Moon Lake, Whirlpool Lake, Lake Katherine & Grayling Lake) as well as all streams and rivers. The service is free of charge and watercraft passing inspection will receive a permit from Parks Canada.

Is recreational fishing allowed?

As of June 1, 2020, shore fishing is permitted. However, Parks Canada will not be selling fishing licences in phase one of resumption of services and visitors must buy a fishing licence for Riding Mountain National Park (differs from a provincial fishing licence) from a 3rd party seller. For more information about where to buy a fishing licence, visit: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mb/riding/visit/pass#5>

Until our aquatic invasive species prevention program is fully operational, recreational boating is 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>

What about activities like camping and events?

All camping facilities including backcountry camping, oTENTiks, and other roofed accommodations remain closed until at least June 21, 2020, while Parks Canada assesses whether and how these services might resume. All large events are suspended until further notice.

Please note that an announcement regarding camping and group activities will be made at a later date. Please visit pc.gc.ca frequently for information and updates.

Will Riding Mountain National Park be taking any precautions such as additional cleaning in washrooms?

The health and safety of visitors, employees, and all Canadians is of the utmost importance and Parks Canada will be following the advice of public health authorities and implementing measures for cleaning, hygiene, and physical distancing at all places open for visitation. Only those places where measures can be implemented to minimize health and safety risks will be open to the public. Regular, thorough cleaning will be completed daily using cleaning products approved by Health Canada.