

Visitor Information

Carp Lake Provincial Park attracts visitors interested primarily in angling and water-oriented activities in a wilderness setting. The lake, with its many islands, bays and coves, lends itself to exploration by boat or canoe. Some of the islands have primitive campgrounds. Only those who are prepared to be completely self-sufficient should plan on travelling to the park. The nearest settlement is McLeod Lake, located 32 kilometres to the northeast, adjacent to Hwy 97 North.

As part of the Protected Areas Strategy, Carp Lake Provincial Park has almost doubled in size to protect a larger component of the sub-boreal spruce ecosystem. The park provides the province's best representation of the Nechako Lowlands Ecoregion and includes a mix of old-growth spruce and of young naturally regenerated forest.

Abundant wildlife inhabits the park. Larger mammals such as black bear and deer are often seen. Moose frequently forage in the marshy areas about the lake and from time to time may be seen swimming to or from the islands. Waterfowl are prevalent during migratory and nesting periods. The haunting cry of the loon often echoes over the lake, heralding the day's end.

Carp Lake itself covers an area of approximately 6,000 hectares. Alder and willow fringe its shoreline, backed by a mixed forest of aspen, spruce and lodgepole pine.

Carp Lake was so named through historical usage. Carrier Indians of the area went to the lake to "catch immense numbers of fish of the carp kind," according to the journals of the great explorer, Simon Fraser, written in 1806 while he was at nearby Fort McLeod. The plentiful fishery of Carp Lake noted by Fraser close to two centuries ago is still a prime recreational resource. Anglers come from near and far to try their luck with fly or spinner for the lake's succulent rainbow trout.

War Falls on the McLeod River, just downstream from the outlet of War Lake, are a scenic attraction easily accessible from the road. The falls are comprised of two cascades separated by about 100 metres of rushing, white water. The upper falls are close to six metres in height and the lower falls are approximately 12 metres.

Access

The main access road to Carp Lake Provincial Park joins Hwy 97 at the community of McLeod Lake, 141 kilometres north of Prince George. It is 32 kilometres from McLeod Lake to the Carp Lake Campground. The gravel road is single lane over part of its length with some rough surfaces and tight corners. Wildlife and some industrial traffic may be encountered on or near the road over its entire length.

Volunteer Hosts

Campground Hosts and Backcountry Hosts are available in many provincial parks. Anyone interested in becoming a Volunteer Host should contact BC Parks.

Reservation Service

A number of campsites in Carp Lake Provincial Park are available for reservation. To reserve a site call the *Discover Camping* Reservation Service toll free at 1-800-689-9025. Internet users can visit the website at www.discovercamping.ca for further information. Note: the majority of sites remain on a first-come, first-served basis.



DISCOVER CAMPING™
CAMPGROUND RESERVATION SERVICE

For More Information

BC Parks

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>



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and Air Protection

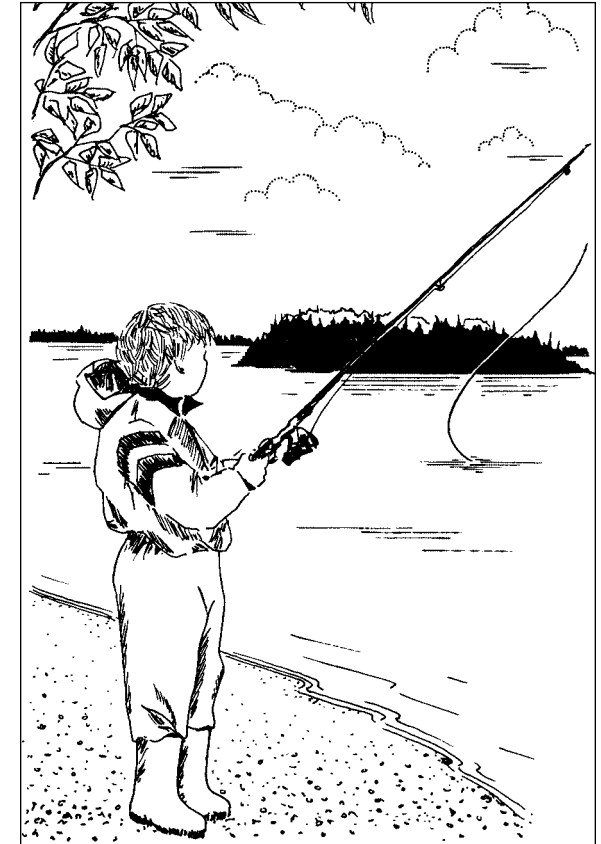


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Carp Lake

PROVINCIAL PARK



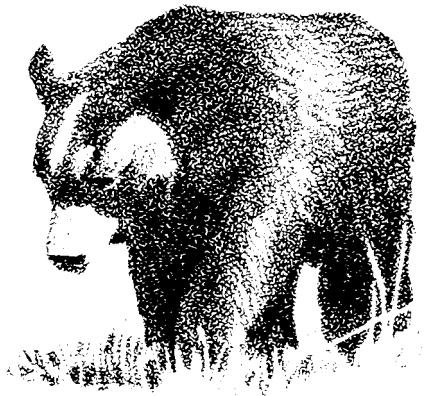
Welcome. Carp Lake Provincial Park has an area of slightly more than 38,600 hectares surrounding and including Carp Lake, nearby War Lake, numerous smaller lakes and streams and the 8-kilometre-long connecting waterway between Carp and War lakes that forms the beginning of the McLeod River.

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Park Hazards

All wild animals are potentially dangerous and may be encountered at any time. Be careful when near wildlife. Bears are particularly unpredictable. They are extremely powerful animals that can cause serious injury or death. While the risk of attack is low, you can increase your safety by following some simple guidelines:

- ▶ Animals that lose their fear of man and become used to eating human food and garbage are especially dangerous. Female bears with cubs are very dangerous. Never approach or feed bears or other animals.
- ▶ Do not cook or store food in your tent. Keep your campsite clean.
- ▶ Be alert for bear scats, tracks or trails and do not hike or camp where these are common. If you do see bear signs where you are hiking, make lots of noise.



Facilities



War Lake Campground

12 campsites near the east end of War Lake. Not suited for long vehicles. Water, toilets, firewood and a car-top boat launch are provided.

Carp Lake Campground

90 campsites at Kettle Bay at the north end of Carp Lake will accommodate tents and most recreational vehicles. A playground, horseshoe pitches and a picnic shelter with wood stove are located within the campground. Water, toilets and firewood are provided.



Designated wilderness campgrounds are located on three of the islands in Carp Lake. The islands are “user-maintained” sites. Bring all your garbage back to the boat launch for disposal. Refer to map for location. Self-registration is located at boat-launch.



A boat-launching ramp is located near the campground. It is capable of handling standard boat trailers but caution should be exercised. After launching, trailers and towing vehicles must be returned to the campground or parking lot before going boating.



A sani-station is located at Carp Lake campground.



Two sandy beaches, suitable for the entire family, are located along the Beach Trail about 20 minutes and 40 minutes from the campground. No lifeguard is on duty.



Power boating or canoeing can be an enjoyable pastime on Carp Lake, provided reasonable care is practised. The lake is subject to high winds and consequent rough waters which can be responsible for swamping the unwary. Watch the weather and always wear life jackets. Power boat operators are requested to reduce speed in Kettle Bay to prevent damage to boats and equipment and to reduce erosion of the lakeshore. Water skiing is not permitted in Kettle Bay.



Angling is the single most popular activity in Carp Lake Provincial Park. Special regulations apply. Consult your current *British Columbia Sports Fishing Regulations*.



A loop trail connects the campground with Rainbow Lake and McLeod River, providing access to fly fishing sites. There is also a trail between Drumlin Bay and Dace Lake.

Near the eastern entrance to the park a short trail leads to magnificent War Falls. Supervise children.

Special Regulations

- ▶ Help us protect your parkland. Enjoy your visit to Carp Lake Provincial Park, but leave it as you have found it so that future visitors may enjoy the park as you have.
- ▶ Be extremely careful with fire. A primus-type stove should be used for cooking. Fires are permitted only in the fire circles provided.
- ▶ In the interests of safety, firearms are prohibited except during a valid hunting season. Consult *British Columbia Hunting Regulations* for dates. Hunting or the discharge of firearms is prohibited at all times within 400 metres on either side of park roads.
- ▶ You will need a British Columbia angling licence if you plan on fishing. The Carp Lake fishery depends solely on natural reproduction. There is no stocking program. With increasing demand on the fishery, the “Catch and Release” program is encouraged.
- ▶ Flowers, shrubs and trees are part of the park’s natural heritage. Do not damage them.
- ▶ Licenced motor vehicles are restricted to vehicle roads and parking areas. ATVs are not permitted in the park.
- ▶ The launching of personal watercraft or boats with above water, unmuffled exhausts is not permitted in Carp Lake Provincial Park.
- ▶ Pets must be kept on a leash at all times and are not allowed on beach areas.