

GLENBOW RANCH PROVINCIAL PARK

PARK NOTES

Why is this Park important?

The new park will help meet a growing demand for education programs, walking and biking trails between Calgary and Cochrane.

The Park will join an existing network of municipal and provincial protected areas making a substantial natural corridor between the two communities. Glenbow Ranch Provincial park will be managed and operated by the Fish Creek District of Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Did you know...

Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park is not yet open to the public. Premature access would irreparably harm this sensitive area.

Public access is prohibited to protect the landscape and its sensitive ecological balance while the government and Harvie family complete the transition from ranch to parkland.

Public access is at least a year away. People are asked to please not trespass as the transition to a park takes place. Parks Conservation Officers patrol the land base and we look forward to the cooperation of the public.

What is happening?

- Research experts are conducting a detailed biophysical inventory and archaeological assessment of the planned Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park. Experts are also assessing options and opportunities for environmental education, tourism and outdoor recreation.
- Working closely with the Harvie Conservancy Foundation, the government and the Harvie family are developing a long-term vision for the use and protection of the various parts of the planned park.
- The vision will be used to develop locations for infrastructure and activities while ensuring stewardship of environmentally unique or sensitive areas.
- The process ensures expedient, orderly development in an environmentally progressive manner.
- The knowledge and experience of planning team members is very strong.

What is next?

The inventory and archaeological assessment will be used to ensure the site's sensitive and significant natural and historical features are protected. Once this inventory is complete, a management plan for Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park will be developed in accordance with provincial parks legislation and policy. The management planning process ensures that all interested stakeholders and members of the public have the opportunity to provide input.



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Alberta

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History of Glenbow Ranch

The lands of the Glenbow Ranch have a history spanning 11,000 years.

- Native people corralled bison in the coulees and established tipi camps on the uplands
- Portions of the Park were formerly part of the historic Cochrane Ranche
- A flag station and rail siding was coined 'Glenbow' in 1909 to service a nearby quarry and brickyard
- Sandstone from the quarry was used in the construction of the Alberta Legislature
- The quarry and brickyards closed in 1912 and the surrounding lands were known thereafter as the Glenbow Sheep and Horse Ranch
- In 1933, the Eric L. Harvie family purchased the ranch and it has remained with the family since then



A New Protected Area

In August 2006, the Government of Alberta approved the acquisition of 3,246 acres (1,314 ha) of ranchland near Calgary from the Harvie family that will be designated as Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park.

The government agreement includes the purchase price of \$40 million along with a \$27 million charitable donation tax receipt for the Harvie family, based on an independent appraisal completed in late 2006 that placed the land value at about \$67 million.

The Harvie family also provided \$6 million to establish the Harvie Conservancy Foundation. The Foundation will divide the funds between the planned Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park and the recently created Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park near Edmonton.



A Lasting Legacy

Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park will legislatively protect this spectacular and increasingly threatened landscape along the north shoreline of the Bow River between Calgary and Cochrane. This new park will also provide a unique opportunity to celebrate and showcase Alberta's rich ranching history and culture. By including these landscapes representative of the Foothills Parkland Subregion of Alberta, this site fills several key gaps within the Parks and Protected Areas network.