

E.C. Manning Provincial Park Thursday October 11th, 2018

Trail and Backcountry Campground Conditions Report– updated every second Thursday throughout the fall.

Synopsis for October 11th – Manning Park Resort’s Dark Sky Astronomy Weekend is here! And it looks like clear skies for the foreseeable future; perfect for star-gazing! Once the day warms up, it is perfect weather for a hike...all the fall colours of Manning Park are on display, but hurry – snow on the peaks means that many of the hiking trails will only be accessible as long as this current stretch of nice weather lasts.

A number of significant projects are currently underway in the Park. Near the Resort, we’re currently working to reduce the fuel load just west of the cabins; a project estimated to be completed near mid-December. On the Grainger Creek trail, crews are repairing or replacing all the foot bridges and boardwalks between the trailhead and Nicomen Lake. On South Gibson, a cross country ski grooming machine bridge will be replaced, and near the Lodge again a small reroute of the Little Muddy Trail will be completed as a result of a washout. Lots of improvements in store around the Park!


Backcountry Camping fee in effect. The fee for camping in the backcountry in Manning Park is \$5.00 per person, per night. Backcountry camping permits can be purchased at <https://discovercamping.ca/Backcountry/E.C.Manning?Map> up to two weeks prior to your visit. This permit is not a reservation for a specific campsite in a backcountry camp. You must retain your permit while camping. Day use hiking does not require a permit.


Important Considerations

- **Caution:** Unpredictable weather may occur at any time of year. Use local Hope or Princeton weather as a source for planning your trip, and prepare accordingly. There is limited cell service in the Park; your phone WILL NOT WORK in most locations.
- To help prevent conflict with wildlife, and for the respect of other Park users, **dogs must be on a leash at all times, and picked up after.**
- To protect the Park’s ecological values, please stay on trails at all times.

Help with determining which trail you should hike:

- Trail difficulty is based on the length of the trail section, change in elevation and trail type for the average Park visitor.
- Trail type is defined as:
 - **Type I:** 1.5 to 2.5 m wide, paved, crushed gravel or board walk, less than 10% grade.
 - **Type II:** 1.5 m wide, gravel surfacing in wet areas, up to 15% grade.
 - **Type III:** 0.5 m wide, grade greater than 15%
 - **Type IV:** up to 0.3 m wide, lightly used wilderness trail, tread as worn not grubbed out, infrequent maintenance.


 BC Parks	Estimated Distance one-way (KM)	Estimated time one-way (hours)	Estimated Elevation gained (meters)	Trail type	Trail Condition	COMMENTS/ Trail safety Information
Easy Trails						
Beaver Pond Trail	500m	10 min	Very little	Type II	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	Often good wildlife viewing
Paintbrush Trail	1.5 km	20 min	Very little	Type III	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
Rein Orchid Trail	600 m	15 min	Very little	Type II	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
Rhododendron Flats Trail	1 km	20 min	40m	Type II	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
Strawberry Flats Trail (From Strawberry Flats to Gibson Pass Ski Hill)	4.5 km	2 hrs	125m	Type I	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
Sumalo Grove Trail	1 km	30 min	Very little	Type II	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	<p>Note – Skagit Valley Provincial Park (Accessed from Sumalo Grove) is CLOSED as part of a broader area closure due to hazards resulting from this summer's wildfire.</p>
Twenty Minute Lake Trail	1 km	20 min	10m	Type II	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
East Similkameen Trail (From Windy Joe Trail to Castle Creek)	4.7 km	2 hrs	75	Type II & III	Trail has been cleared of windfall and is open to horse, bike and foot traffic. A few wet areas.	<p>Bridge over Castle Creek CLOSED at 7 km accessing Monument 78 trail. Trail has not been cleared 200m from Castle Creek.</p>
West Similkameen Trail (From PCT trailhead to Windy Joe Jct.)	2.1 km	1hrs	75m	Type II	Trail has been cleared of windfall and is open to horse, bike and foot traffic.	

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Moderate Trails						
Canyon Nature Trail (From Gibson Pass Road to Coldspring Campground, and back)	2 km	45min	50m	Type II	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
Monument 78 Trail (From Highway 3 to border)	12 km	4 hrs	200m	Type III	Windfall has been cut, but trail is in poor condition; not recommended for use.	Not recommended at this time due to erosion issues from a washout along 1km of the trail. Numerous brushy sections. Use PCT Trail to access Monument 78 Camp.
Dry Ridge Trail (From and to Blackwall Road)	.7 km	40min	75m	Type III	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
Engineers Loop Trail (Westgate – the Marmot)	1km	15min	200m	Type III	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
Heather Trail (From Blackwall Peak parking lot to Buckhorn camp)	5 km	1.5 hrs	100m	Type III	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
Heather Trail (From Buckhorn to Kicking Horse campsite)	7km	2.5 hrs	292m	Type III	Trail cleared of windfall from Bonnevier Junction to Kicking Horse Camp.	
Heather Trail (From Kicking Horse campsite to Nicomen Lake Campsite)	9km	3 hrs	122m	Type III	Trail cleared of windfall from Kicking Horse to Nicomen.	
Lighting Lake Loop (Around Lightning Lake)	9 km	3 hrs	200m	Type III	Cleared of windfall. No snow. Good condition.	

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Lightning Lake Trail (to and around Rainbow Bridge)	4.5 km	2 hrs	10m	Type II	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
Lighting Lake Trail - Flash Lake Loop	3.5 km	1.5 hrs	Very little	Type III	Flash Lake Loop CLOSED until bridge and boardwalk repairs can be made.	CLOSED
Lighting Lake Trail (From Lightning Lake to Flash Lake and Strike Lake Camp)	2 km	30m	31m	Type III	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
Lighting Lake Trail (Strike Lake Camp to Thunder Lake)	3 km	1hrs	30m	Type III	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
North Gibson Trail (From Lightning Lake Campground to Strawberry Flats)	3.5 km	1.5 hrs	90m	Type III	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
South Gibson Trail (From Lightning Lake Campground to Strawberry Flats)	3.5 km	1.5 hrs	90m	Type II	Good condition, windfall has been cut.	
Three Falls Trail (From the bottom of the T-bar)	9km r/t	2-3 hrs.	-160 one way	Type III	Good condition	
Difficult Trails						
Bonnevier Trail (From Eastgate Portal – the Bear – to Heather Trail)	18 km	5 hrs	950m	Type III	Windfall has been cleared and the trail is snow free	
Bonnevier – Upper Eastgate Bypass Trail (km 12 on the Bonnevier Trail to Eastgate/Park Boundary)	3km approx.	30min		Type III	Windfall has been cleared and the trail is snow free	

 BRITISH COLUMBIA BC Parks	Estimated Distance one-way (KM)	Estimated time one-way (hours)	Estimated Elevation gained (meters)	Trail type	Trail Condition	COMMENTS/ Trail safety Information
Dewdney Trail (From Cascade Parking Area to Whipsaw FSR)	36 km	10 hrs	1131m	Type III	Trail cleared of windfall and brushed to 8km, and snow-free. Expect windfall, and wet and brushy sections from 8km to Paradise Valley.	
Grainger Creek Trail (From the Hope Pass Trail to Nicomen Lake)	9 km	3 hrs	952m	Type III	Cleared of windfall, possible patches of snow for the next week or so.	Crews currently working on the trail to replace damaged foot bridges and boardwalks.
Hope Pass Trail (From Cayuse Flats to Whipsaw FSR)	24 km	7 hrs	1000m	Type III	Cleared of Windfall and snow-free from Cayuse Flats to Grainger Creek Junction. Expect windfall past this point.	
Windy Joe Trail (From West Similkameen Trail Junction)	5.5 km	2 hrs	525m	Type II	Trail cleared of windfall	 Restoration of the historic fire lookout complete!
Mt. Frosty Trail (From Lightning Lake Day Use Area to Summit)	10.5 km	3.5 hrs	1150m	Type III	Trail has been cleared of windfall.	Larch trees have begun their annual colour change. Not to be missed!
Mt. Frosty Trail (From Windy Joe Trail to Summit Junction)	7 km	3 hrs	854m	Type III	Trail has been cleared of windfall.	Larch trees have begun their annual colour change. Not to be missed!
Memaloose Trail (From Poland Lake to Highway 3)	9 km	3 hrs	427m	Type IV	Expect heavy windfall and brush	Not recommended for use at this time. Trail has not been maintained for a number of years. BC Parks staff have begun restoration along the trail; estimated to be complete by fall 2019
Mount Outram Trail (From Westgate – the Marmot)	10 km	3.5 hrs	1699m	Type IV	Trail cleared of windfall to the Park Boundary; Unknown after that.	Not maintained by BC Parks Past the Park Boundary

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Monument 83 Trail (From Highway 3 to Lookout)	16 km	5 hrs	859m	Type II	Trail cleared of windfall to near the Monument 78 Junction. Expect windfall past this point.	Ranger staff currently working to clear this trail.
Nicomen Lake Trail (From Nicomen Lake to Hope Pass Trail)	7.5 km	2.5 hrs	31m	Type IV	Approximately 10 windfall between Nicomen Lake and Marmot City Camp. Wet areas.	
Pacific Crest Trail (From Windy Joe Junction to Border)	8 km	2.5 hrs	450m	Type III	Trail cleared and snow-free from the Windy Joe Junction to PCT Camp.	As of August 23rd - PCT is closed south of Monument 78 in the Pasayten Wilderness of Washington State due to a wildfire. ***NEW – detour is now available for hiking access to border. Say hi to PCT hikers when you see them! There are still a few coming in.
Poland Lake Trail (From Strawberry Flats)	8 km	4 hrs	35m	Type II	Trail cleared and snow-free from Strawberry Flats to Poland Lake, and is snow-free	
Skagit Bluffs Trail (From Cayuse Flats to Cascade Parking Area)	5.6 km	2.5 hrs	225m	Type III	Trail cleared of windfall and snow-free	Some retaining features on the trail are failing; use caution.
Skagit River Trail (in Skagit Valley Provincial Park)	16 km	4 hrs		Type III	Trail cleared of windfall and snow-free. Trail is currently CLOSED	Note – Skagit Valley Provincial Park (Accessed from Sumalo Grove) is CLOSED as part of a broader area closure due to hazards resulting from this summer's wildfire.
Skyline Trail (From Lightning Lake to Strawberry Flats Loop)	16.6 km	5 hrs	775m	Type III	Trail cleared of windfall and should be mostly snow-free	Excellent views across to the golden larch of Mount Frosty.
Skyline II Trail (From Despair Pass to Mowich Camp)	12.5 km	3 hrs	469m	Type III & IV	Trail has been cleared of windfall	Excellent views across to the golden larch of Mount Frosty.

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Silverdaisy Mountain Trail (Crown Land into Skagit Valley Provincial Park)	10 km	2.5 hrs		Type IV	Unknown.	Not maintained by BC Parks. Note – Skagit Valley Provincial Park (Accessed from Sumalo Grove) is CLOSED as part of a broader area closure due to hazards resulting from this summer's wildfire.
Warburton Loop (To and From the Dewdney Trail)	7 km	2 hrs	280m	Type IV	Unknown. Expect windfall.	
Whatcom Trail (To and From the Dewdney Trail)	9.5 km	4 hrs	1081m	Type III	Trail has not been cleared of windfall. Expect a number of large windfalls.	