



Your Parks Stories



J.J. Collett Natural Area, 2016. Photo submitted by an AWA member.

Dear AWA Supporter,

One month ago, we asked if you could share your most treasured memories of the 164 sites being removed from Alberta's Parks system. Your response blew us away!

We heard stories about first park experiences, family adventures, favourite birding locations, beloved trails, and unforgettable life lessons. You acknowledged the value of these places, not only to gather as a community or in seeking quiet space for reflection, but for their ecological significance - what they mean for migrating birds in need of a stopover, wandering grizzly bears,

and as dark sky preserves.

Your stories, while unique to you, resonate with so many others who use and care about Alberta's parks and protected areas. Thank you for sharing them.

Sheep Creek PRA



Sheep Creek PRA is located in west central Alberta, north of Grande Cache.

"I was born near Sheep Creek and my story is about seeing the Woodland Caribou migrating about 15 years ago... My mother and I were out for a drive to see this majestic area when we were lucky enough to see a herd of about 500 of these majestic animals grazing just inside the recreation area and many just outside, on a ranch that sponsors riding tours."

"My 90 year old mother remarked that when she was a small child, she had seen hundreds of Trumpeter swans [there] at one time."

Tillebrook Provincial Park

"This park is a little oasis of forest, bush, and shelter, and as such is a major staging area for songbirds, particularly warblers, in their migration in both spring and fall."

"These trees provide refuge and insect food sources for needy (often exhausted depending on weather conditions) migrants."

Bow Valley and Gooseberry Provincial Park Visitor Centres



"We never skipped going into these information sites whenever headed further into the hills for camping or day hikes, any season of the year. It was a tradition that we all looked over the brochures, displays, and trail reports."

"It was a competition as to who could find any new displays and provide the parks staff with more details on rocks, animals and birds than were presented, to my kids' delight."

J.J. Collett Natural Area

"[J.J. Collett] has trails suitable for everyone from seniors to school groups and families and they appear to be used. Dedicated volunteers help maintain the area but they can't do it all by themselves."

Bleriot Ferry PRA



"We camped at Bleriot Ferry and found it to be a beautiful place with abundant wildlife. We saw 27 different species of birds in one afternoon, many of which were nesting in the area. The trees were full of warblers. There were birds on the river and on the fence lines. This is a significant bird area and it is especially important to protect small passerine birds which are becoming increasingly infrequent."

It's not too late to share your story!

If you haven't yet, please write to **Minister Jason Nixon** (aep.minister@gov.ab.ca) **AND your local MLA** (you can find their info [here](#)) to show them how much you care about the future of Alberta's parks. Please forward a copy to awa@abwild.ca if you do!

With gratitude,
Alberta Wilderness Association



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