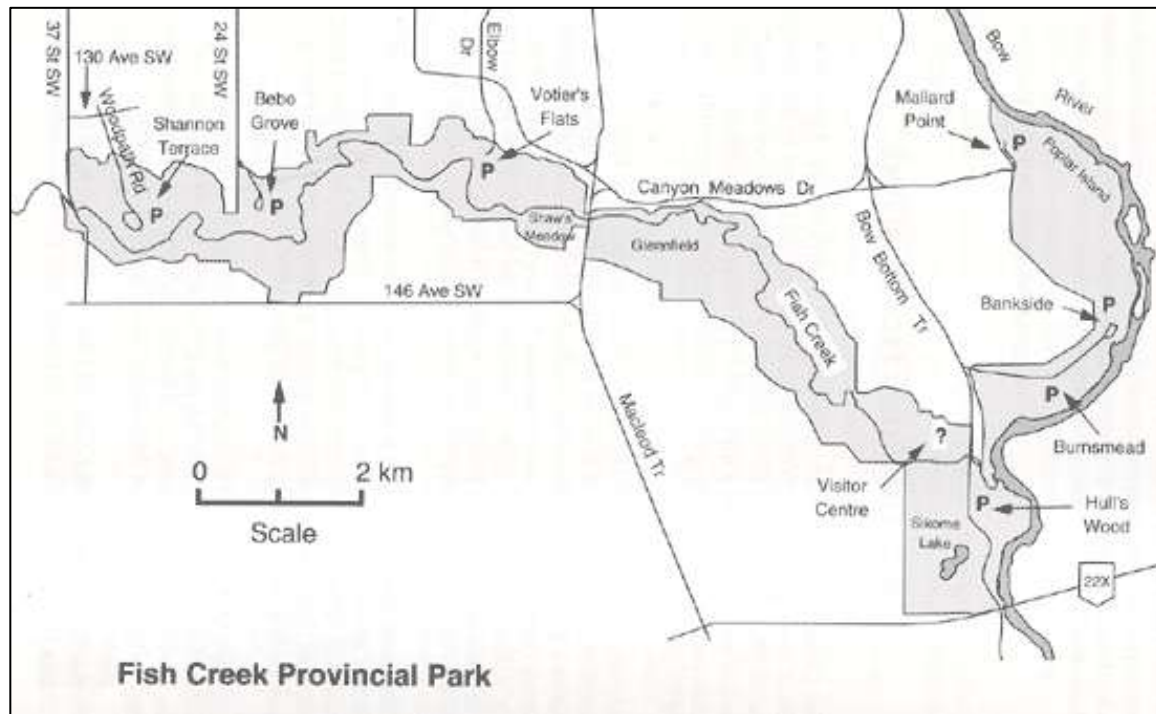


Fish Creek Park – revised Sep/2012

NOTE: Flood damage may have reduced access to some areas.

Fish Creek Provincial Park is the largest park in Calgary. Lying in a broad, deep valley it is 19 km from Mallard Point at the eastern end to Shannon Terrace in the west. There are two reasons why the park is an important area for birders: the diversity of habitats attracts a wide variety of breeding species, plus it is one of the best winter birding locations.



Macleod Trail effectively divides the park in two. Key birding access points for the western section are the following parking areas:

- Votier's Flats (reached from the southern end of Elbow Drive);
- Bebo Grove (from 24 St. SW); and
- Shannon Terrace (from 37 St. SW).

Birding access points for the eastern portion of the park are:

- Bankside, Burnsmead and Hull's Wood parking areas (reached from Bow Bottom Trail); and
- Mallard Point (from Canyon Meadows Drive).

Many open woodland species will be found along the trails between Votier's Flats and Bebo Grove in late May and early June. A good number and variety of raptors should be seen. You can watch for accipiters in the western end, as this is very good habitat for them.

The trails between Bebo Grove and Shannon Terrace should furnish most of the species indigenous to the coniferous forest of the Calgary area. Bebo Grove and Shannon Terrace are also prime winter birding areas.

The other productive winter birding area in Fish Creek Provincial Park is along the Bow River, in the eastern sector. Park at Mallard Point, Bankside, Burnsmead or Hull's Wood parking areas and walk the trails along the river.

Fish Creek Provincial Park is heavily used for recreational purposes - birders should avoid weekends, if possible; if not, go early in the morning. Unfortunately, all of the above access points are gated until 8 am, preventing vehicular access.

The park Visitor Centre is reached from the Bow Bottom Trail access point; detailed trail maps can be obtained here. Cyclists use many of the paved trails so caution should be exercised when birding from these trails, especially at blind corners.

Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre: Phone (403) 297-5293 for further information. 15979 Bow Bottom Trail SE

Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre: Phone (403) 297-7827 for further information. 13931 Woodpath Road SW

[Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park](#) has an office at the Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre, and an informative website.