

Weed Lake *by Ian Halladay Sep/2012*

Weed Lake is located about 20 kilometres east of Calgary immediately northeast of the Hamlet of Langdon, Alberta. It is a 600 hectare wetland regionally important as waterfowl habitat. In 1971 the original lake was drained for agricultural purposes but starting in 2006 construction commenced to restore the lake and it is now a fully functioning healthy wetland ecosystem. Organizations involved in acquiring the land and restoring the lake were led by Ducks Unlimited and include the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society.

The lake has a constant source of water from tertiary treatment of waste water and storm water from Langdon. Additional irrigation inflows allow circulation through the wetland and ensure that the lake is functional during periods of drought

One hundred and thirty-three species of birds have been recorded at Weed Lake since its restoration. In addition to 22 species of waterfowl many of which breed at the lake in large numbers there have been 31 species of shorebirds recorded most using the lake while in migration. The surrounding grasslands and agricultural activities produce a wide variety of passerines both nesting and in migration.

The lake is relatively shallow, a metre or less in depth over much of its area. As a consequence when water levels are lowered in late summer and in autumn extensive mudflats can provide feeding areas for shorebirds at many locations around the lake.

Also, as the lake is shallow wind can affect the water levels throughout the area. For example strong north winds can result in exposed mudflats in the north part of the lake and high water levels at the south and visa versa.

The variety of ownership of lands surrounding the lake dictates the location of the present public access to the lake. There are presently four locations of good access and are shown on the accompanying map.

The southern access is from Glenmore Trail one kilometre east of the Hamlet of Langdon where there is parking for two vehicles on the north side of the highway. There is a good view northward over the lake and of the continuation of the lake to the south. When the water is low there are good mudflats visible along the west shore. Please use caution when entering and exiting this parking area, or if walking along the busy highway from Langdon.

Access from the east is along Twp Road 240 westward from Boundary Road. This location provides good views over the northeast portion of the lake.

Access to the north end of the lake is from the service road that joins Highway 797 immediately south of the intersection of Highway 797 and Highway 1. When the water level is low there are good mudflats exposed at this end of the lake.

Access to the west side of the lake is along Twp Road 240 east from Highway 797. This road can be impassable in wet weather but can be walked the 0.8 kilometres to the lake. Good mudflats are visible along the shore.

With arrival of spring waterfowl arrive at the lake and include the local nesting birds as well as migrating Tundra and Trumpeter Swans. As Spring progresses shorebirds stop at the lake often in good numbers. During the summer White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants can be seen at the lake and LeConte's Sparrows can be found in the adjacent grasslands. Black-necked Stilts, Avocets and Marbled Godwits are present along the margins of the lake. With late summer and early Autumn the shorebirds pass through again in good numbers. They include Long-billed Dowitchers, Red-necked Phalaropes and many species of the smaller shorebirds. Western and White-rumped Sandpipers are recorded regularly. Waterfowl and the occasional shorebird linger at the lake until freeze-up.

Grocery stores and coffee shops are available in Langdon.

See map below.



Ducks Unlimited Canada Weed Lake Project

Landowners - May 2010

-  Private
-  Private
-  Private
-  Minister_of_Sustainable_Resources
-  Private
-  Private
-  Private
-  Ducks_Unlimited_Canada
-  MD_of_Rockyview

Public Access Points

DO NOT trespass on private land without permission.
DO NOT block trails or approaches with vehicles.
No litter, fires, camping, etc.
USE RESPECT

-  Follow Range Road 271 South to Lake
Stay on road allowance until you reach the Lake
-  1.25 miles South of Hwy #1 on Boundary Rd.
Park alongside trails or lease sites
Foot access only down to Lake
-  Follow Township Rd. 240 West to Lake
-  1.03 miles East of Intersection of
#797/Glenmore Trail
Foot access only to Lake
Use caution around lagoon outlet
-  Follow Township Rd. 240 East to Lake
*Stay on road allowance until you reach
MD of Rockyview land*

For more information please contact
Ducks Unlimited Canada at 403-362-4827

