

Site Name:	Sylvan Lake
Site Type:	Natural Area
Status:	Order-in-council (OC)
Subtype:	Recreation
PASite ID (Map Ref #):	241
O.C. No. (Land Ref. Manual):	786/87
Site # (Parks Website):	466
Reserved Area:	0.00 ha. (0.00 ac.)
Designated Area:	13.44 ha. (33.20 ac.)
Total Area:	13.44 ha. (33.20 ac.)
Additional Protected Areas:	none
Lat/Long Co-ordinates:	52.3941066868 N, -114.239206625 W
Natural Region:	Boreal
Natural Subregion(s):	Dry Mixedwood
IUCN Classification:	II
Operated By:	Parks Division
Info Phone:	403-340-7691
Steward(s) Aug2002:	Volunteer(s) 2+
Steward(s) Aug2003:	Volunteer(s) 2+
Steward(s) Dec2011:	yes
Petroleum & Natural Gas Surface Access Aug2002:	No Surface Access
Day Use Site(s):	Sylvan Lake
Recreation Activities:	Birding, Hunting
Access:	

Notes: Sylvan Lake Natural Area is part of the southern-most extension of Alberta's boreal forest. Numerous boreal plants, including 3 species of woodland fern, grow here at their known southern limits. Within the site are a number of fascinating biophysical features. A levee parallels the shoreline of the natural area, sheltering a special lagoon-like habitat with a mosaic of willow shrubbery and reed beds containing many marsh plant species and providing excellent bird-watching opportunities for waterfowl and woodland species. Canada's largest woodpecker, the pileated woodpecker, is found in this natural area. The old-growth stands of trees here are hosts to the wood-boring insects and larvae that these woodpeckers feed on. They also provide suitable nesting cavities but the area is too small to provide a year-round home range and the pileated woodpecker is not known to nest here

This site lies in the Boreal Forest Natural Region, Dry Mixedwood Sub-region. The Dry Mixedwood Sub-region is the only Boreal Forest sub-region that does not have excellent representation within Alberta's parks and protected areas network. There are still significant shortfalls in the glacial lakebed, ground moraine, sandplain and sand dune natural history themes. Listed in "Other Natural Areas" (Alberta Parks web site, 2012).

Images:



