

Welcome to the Park

Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park was created to protect the fossil beds on the east side of Driftwood Creek. Preserved within the shale formations are plant, animal and insect species that inhabited the area over 50 million years ago. Driftwood Canyon is recognized as one of the world's most significant fossil beds and provides park users with a fascinating opportunity to understand the evolutionary processes of the area's geology and biology.

The slow deposition of fine mud in the lakebed formed sediments of shale and sandstone, eventually creating fossils of the organisms trapped inside. Each of these fine layers is a millimetre or less thick, and represents one year in the life of the lake or swamp.

As the organisms became trapped within the layers, the absence of oxygen inhibited the decomposition of organic material. A chemical process then resulted in the fossils standing out as a dark brown or black imprint against the light-coloured shale. Plant fossils are the most common, although vertebrates, including some of the oldest specimens of salmon, trout, and suckers, have been found in the shale beds.

Things to Do



There is a short, wheelchair-accessible interpretive trail that leads from the parking area to the fossil beds.



Signs along the trail provide information on fossils and local history.



Below a cliff face at the end of the trail is a viewing area that has interpretive information about the fossil beds. There is also an interpretive platform overlooking Driftwood Creek.



Visitor Services



There are two pit toilets located at the day-use area.



There is a day-use area beside Driftwood Creek. It is a grassy area with picnic tables and fire pits.

Enjoy Your Stay

Park regulations protect the natural state of the park and ensure a quality experience for all visitors.

- Fires are permitted in designated fire rings only. To preserve vegetation and ground cover, please don't gather firewood in the park.
- Pets must be on a leash at all times. Please be responsible for their behaviour and waste.
- Firearms are prohibited except during hunting season. Consult B.C. Hunting Regulations for dates.
- Standing directly beneath the cliff face is dangerous. Do not venture off trails or past the viewing platform.
- Bring drinking water; potable water is not available.

To ensure that future generations may study and learn more about our earth's history, BC Parks asks for your cooperation in refraining from removing any fossils.

Contact Information

Park Operator: Mark and Anais Drydyk
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Visit www.bcparks.ca for more information!



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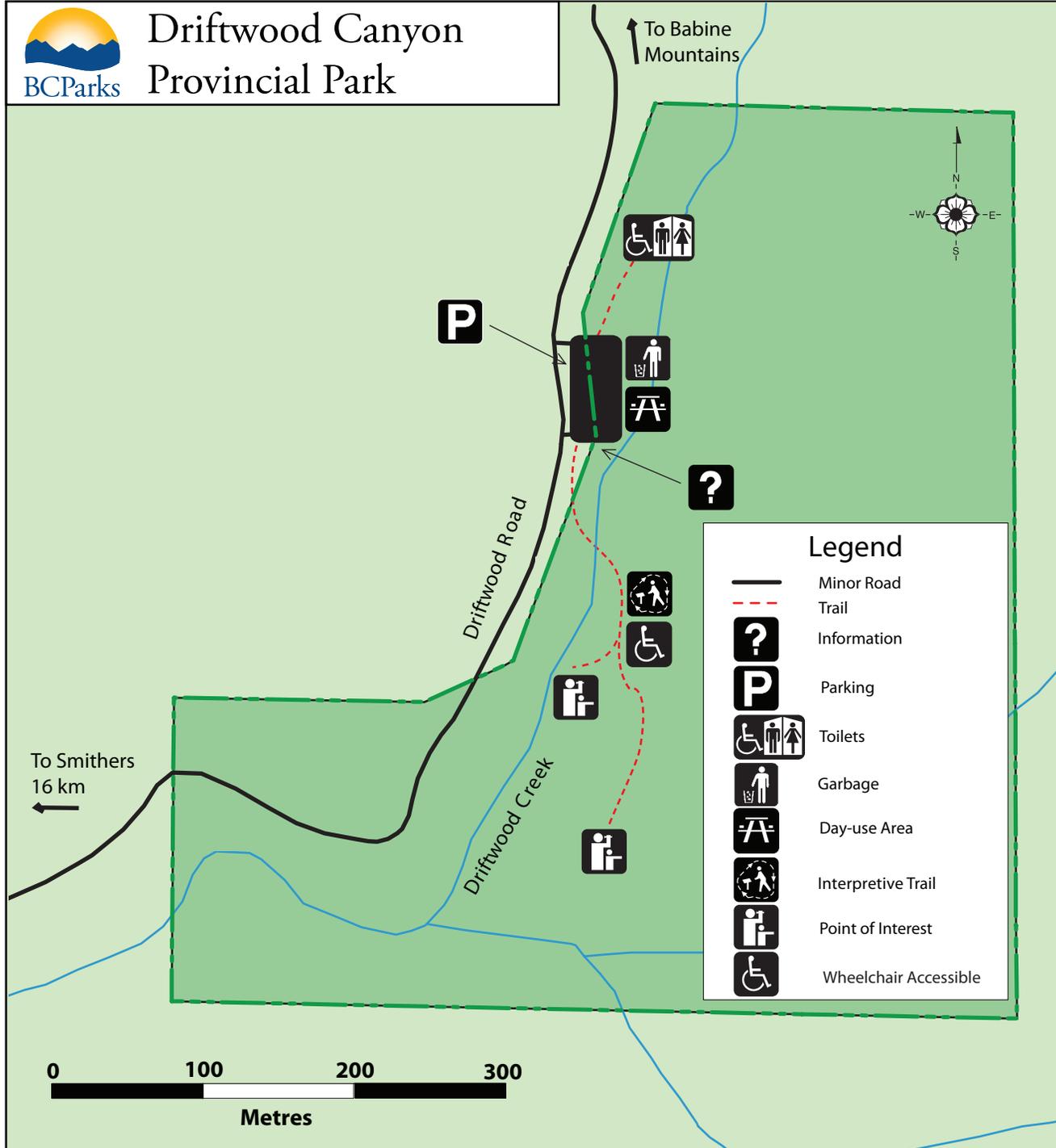
Park Map and Information Guide



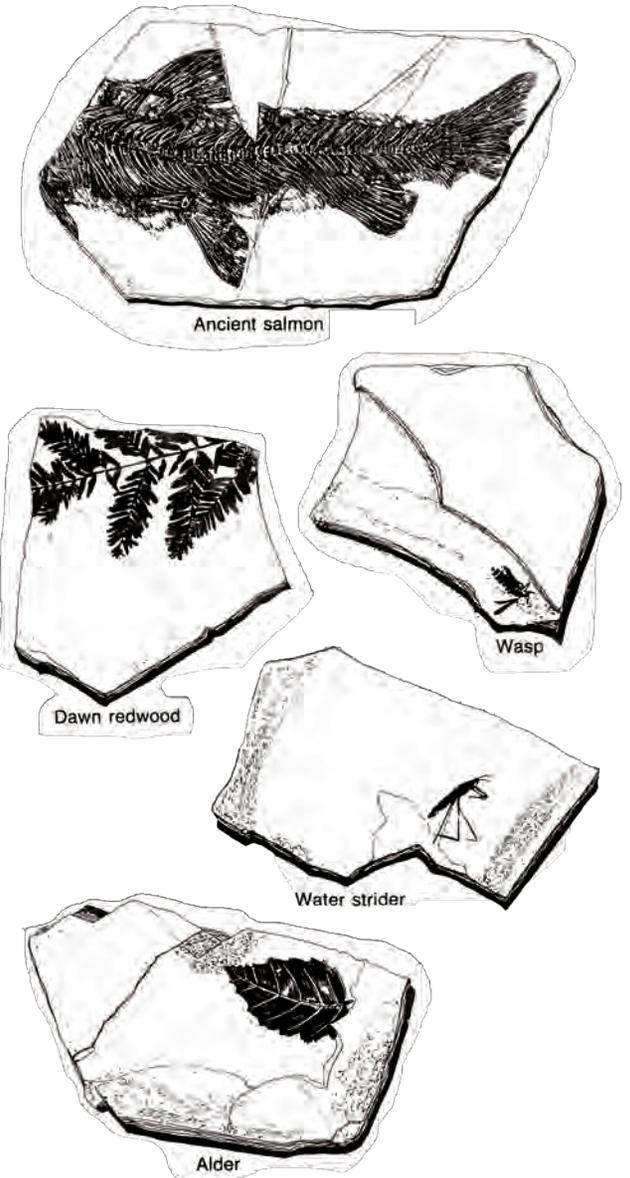
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The Fossils of Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park



BC Parks is committed to conserving this valuable resource at Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park. Please do not remove any fossils from the park.