



SABNES nature trail

Parks and picnic areas

One thing you'll notice about Salmon Armenians, we love the colour green. So we have a large proportion of green space right in the downtown area.

When tourists leave in the fall the locals get busy planning more trails and more parks. If you're a seasoned visitor to the area and you like hiking or biking, you will notice even more trails and improved signage. If you're new to the area, don't attempt to visit all the parks and go on all the trails in one vacation or you will be listed as missing in action when you are supposed to back at work.

But what is easy enough to manage in a day are the parks right around the downtown area.

Fletcher Park, located right next to Salmon Arm City Hall on 2nd Avenue N.E. is one of the local hotspots because the new splash park offers a fast and free way to cool off. Kids enjoy the colourful splash park with its variety of shooting and gentle spray coming out of giant flowers and arches, but few are brave enough for the cold water bucket drop. Take the challenge!

There are picnic tables, a playground and lots of green grass as well. There are also clean washrooms and change rooms.

Another conveniently located downtown green space is **Marine Peace Park**. Turn off Lakeshore Road, go over the train tracks to Marine Park Drive N.E. The park has picnic tables, lots of grass, a wharf, a boardwalk and nature trail all in the vicinity. This park comes alive especially in the early evenings as locals and tourists enjoy the cool breeze along the lake. On Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. during June, July and August there is free entertainment at the gazebo. There are washroom facilities.

The Salmon Arm Bay Nature Trails (SABNES) and Interpretative Centre is a popular choice. You can see Western Grebe and an Osprey nest on the trail to the west of the boat launch. There are viewing platforms along the east walkway. Check out the SABNES Nature Centre during the summer months. To get there just cross the tracks at Marine Park Drive off Lakeshore. Some sections are wheelchair accessible and all trails are open for pedestrians and cyclists.

Also, right on the edge of the downtown (6th Ave. N.E.) is **McGuire Lake**. This is also a popular strolling area. The highlights here are the fountain in the middle of the small lake and a Japanese gate, as well as plentiful ducks, geese and turtles. There is a paved walkway through the park and the kids enjoy running around the big weeping willow trees. Its natural beauty makes it one of Salmon Arm's most popular spots for wedding pictures.

Blackburn Park, located along 5th Avenue S.W., is just a few blocks from the downtown area, off the Trans Canada. It has soccer fields, a baseball diamond, an impressive skateboard park, and a small play area. You can run, play frisbee or take the dog for a walk on the nearby green grass. There is a Mexican food stand with tasty tacos and burritos on the grounds and washroom facilities.

Walking & hiking parks

Every day can be a different adventure in Salmon Arm. There are several hiking trails and parks to explore.

Coyote Park has 2.5 kms of hiking and biking trails. Enjoy the Outer Loop Trail or take one of the various shortcuts: Ridge, Birch, or Cedar Trail. There are two ways to access Coyote Park: 54th Avenue N.E. and 60th Street N.E.

Little Mountain Park also has multiple well marked trails. The park is 33 hectares and has nearly 6 kilometres of trails. You can pick an easy 10 minute trail or hike around for half an hour. Some trails are multi purpose and allow cycling as well. There are three entrances, 10th Avenue S.E., Okanagan Avenue and 33rd Street S.E.

The John Lund Park, across from 70th Avenue N.E. in Canoe, has a nice picnic area and is a great site for birding.

Off Park Hill Road, above Canoe Beach, there are approximately 6 kilometres of hiking and biking trails, with easy access.

The Raven Park entrance is located on 14th Street N.E. in the Raven subdivision. It is a little different from the other parks. There are park benches, a large grass field and a playground with basketball nets.

One of the all time favourite parks for locals and tourists is the Peter Jannick Park (aka Shuswap Naturalists Park) with its gravel walking trail along the lake. Picnic in the covered shelter, and enjoy the flower gardens and waterfowl viewing platforms.

The accesses to this peaceful park are across from Narcisse St. N.W. and Hudson St. N.W.



Fletcher Park's waterpark is popular on hot days

Recreation

Tennis

If you brought your tennis rackets and are looking for a court, there are newly upgraded tennis courts at the Jackson Campus on 6th Avenue N.E. No booking is required; it's a first come first serve. It's free for community use as long as school isn't in. (School kids get first dibs during the school year.)

If you want to shoot some hoops or play ball hockey, this is a nice spot. It's located right near McGuire Lake and other playing fields.

The easiest way to get there is to follow the signs for the hospital. Right across from the hospital emergency entrance is 6th Avenue. Head up the road a block and you'll find the courts. There are new washroom and change room facilities.

Skateboarding

At the corner of 5th Street and 5th Avenue S.W. you will find an impressive skateboard park. It's located in Blackburn Park, right beside soccer fields and baseball diamonds with green space around. It's good for beginners and for advanced boarders.

There are washroom facilities at Blackburn Park.