

Join us this summer!

The Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition hosts guided hikes, weed pulls and clean-ups throughout the summer. These free events are opportunities to explore the Castle and make a difference by removing invasive plants and litter.

If you have never been to the Castle region before or if it is your second backyard, everyone is welcome!

We hope to see you this summer!

2017 Hike and Weed Pull Schedule

June 24	Horseshoe Basin	Hike
July 25	West Castle Wetlands	Weed Pull
July 26	Hike and Yoga	Hike
July 29	Window Mountain Lake	Hike
Aug. 10	Blind Canyon	Hike/Weed Pull
Aug. 12	South Fork Lakes	Hike
Aug. 14	Sartoris Road	Weed Pull
Sept. 2	Mount Haig (East Ridge)	Hike
Sept. 9	Hike and Yoga	Hike
Sept. 11	Beaver Mines Lake	Clean-up

Please contact the hike leader to register.

Hike and weed pull locations are subject to change due to weather, bear encounters, trail closures and mountain conditions.

For updates, visit www.ccwc.ab.ca or send a message to office@ccwc.ab.ca.



CASTLE-CROWN WILDERNESS COALITION

About the CCWC

The Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition was formed and registered as a Society in 1989 by a group of southern Albertans who recognized the unique ecological values of the Castle Wilderness.

With the support of local communities and volunteers, the CCWC has programs ranging from advocacy to on-the-ground conservation.

Support the CCWC

All hikes are free; however there are costs to coordinate and produce the hiking program and donations are always appreciated.

Please visit www.ccwc.ab.ca to support the hikes, weed pulls and our ongoing advocacy.

Hike Guidelines and Tips

Be prepared for mountain conditions, and be flexible due to bear encounters, trail closures, or poor weather. Please leave your pets at home. Some hikes require bikes for easy access at lower elevations.

All hikers should be prepared to take full responsibility for their own health and safety. The hike leader will pick someone to sweep the back of the group and no one is to hike ahead of the hike leader unless designated.

For more information and to confirm the hike meeting time and place, contact the hike leader directly prior to the weekend of the hike.

See www.ccwc.ab.ca for more information.



CASTLE-CROWN WILDERNESS COALITION

Summer Hike and Weed Pull Schedule

2017



www.ccwc.ab.ca
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Hikes

June 24 - Horseshoe Basin

The trailhead for this Front Range hike begins at the far end of the bison paddock road on the north edge of Waterton Lakes National Park. Hikers may be treated to sights of woodland lily that often grow on the ascending slope found on the first section of trail. As we gain elevation, Waterton Lakes can be seen to the south. The trail then flattens out into a lovely open grassland valley with spectacular mountain headwall views. Enjoy open prairie vistas and stunning mountain peaks as we eat lunch. If the creek is still high, water shoes are recommended.

Hike Leader: Susan Guerra (403-526-9415)

Rating: Moderate

Time: 6-7 hours

Return Trip: ~20 km

July 26 - Hike and Yoga

Join Karla Breeze of Shanti Hollow Yoga and Retreat for a hike to Carbondale Lookout (tentative hike location). This is an easy hike with some yoga along the way and at the top. Bring your own drinking water, snack/lunch and appropriate clothing. The yoga be for all levels and might be a nice way to introduce you to the practice of yoga.

Contact office@ccwc.ab.ca to register

July 29 - Window Mountain Lake

A half-day hike north of Crowsnest Mountain, this is a moderate, 4 km (round trip) hike to a beautiful mountain lake surrounded on three sides by huge cliffs, then an optional 2 km walk around it. We will have plenty of time at the lake, bring fishing gear if you wish. The spectacular feature is the “window” — a hole through one of the cliffs above the lake.

Hike Leader: Jay Allen (403-628-3048)

Rating: Moderate

Time: 3 hours

Elevation Gain: 150 metres

August 10 - Front Canyon Reclamation Hike and Weed Pull - Blind Canyon

In conjunction with the Nature Conservancy of Canada we will, for a second year, complete a weed pull at the old farm site in the canyon. Enjoy the beautiful scenery and learn about the history of the area. There will be a moderate hike of about 1 hour into the site. Packhorses will assist in removal of the weeds.

Contact office@ccwc.ab.ca to register

August 12 - South Fork Lakes

Ford the West Castle River through knee-deep water. Bring water shoes to cross in. Hike up Barnaby Ridge on our improved switchback trail. Explore the three South Fork Lakes, enjoy stromatolites, larch covered slopes and vista views.

Hike Leader: Rob Bronson (403-978-5756)

Rating: Moderate

Time: 7 hours

Elevation Gain: 630 metres

September 2 - Mount Haig (East Ridge)

Straddling the BC/AB border, this summit will literally take your breath away. The route will avoid any elevation losses and follows the cat ski area ski-out road until it terminates just below a tarn (not Haig Lake). From there, there is 800 metres of elevation up the east ridge on scree slopes and rock ledges. There is an option to traverse left on the east ridge and avoid all scrambling.

Hike Leader: Kevin Kelly (403-627-5128)

Rating: Strenuous/Scramble

Time: 8 hours

Elevation Gain: 1200+ metres

September 9 - Hike and Yoga

See the July 26 - Hike and Yoga description.

Contact office@ccwc.ab.ca to register

Weed Pulls

July 25 - 10th Annual West Castle Wetlands Ecological Reserve

Bring a digging tool, drinking water, lunch and insect repellent. If you want to work both sides of the river, please bring water shoes. We are making a difference on the battle against the invasive species. Many hands make light work – come and join us to protect the ecological reserve and enjoy the company of other like-minded people. Meet at the Castle Mountain Resort parking lot at 9:30 am.

August 10 - Front Canyon Reclamation Hike and Weed Pull - Blind Canyon

See hike description.

August 14 - Sartoris Road

Once again we will be removing invasive species from the Sartoris Road area, please join us; pull some weeds, have some fun and meet new people concerned about the Castle. Bring a lunch, drinking water, sun screen and insect repellent. A great way to educate yourself on the invasive species of south west Alberta.

September 11 - 11th Annual Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-Up

The Shoreline Cleanup encourages people across Canada to remove shoreline litter to help create healthy waters for everyone, including the wildlife and communities that depend on them. Our efforts are focused on the Beaver Mines Lake a popular place for outdoor enthusiasts and campers. This event engages people to remove trash and debris from the lake's shores, identify the sources of debris, and discuss ways to change the behaviors that cause people to leave this debris in the first place.

Contact office@ccwc.ab.ca for more information about the weed pulls.