

## To Reach the Park

Smileys Provincial Park is just off Route 14 (the Glooscap Trail) about 16 kilometres east of Windsor. From Exit 4 on Highway 101, follow Route 1 east for 3 kilometres, turn left on hwy 215 for 3.4 kilometres to MacKay Section Road. Follow this road 4 kilometres, turn left on Clayton MacKay Road, 0.5 kilometres to reach the park.



## RESERVATIONS

1-888-544-3434

9:00 am to 11:00 pm AT (7 days a week)

[www.novascotiaparks.ca](http://www.novascotiaparks.ca) (24 hours)

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION


**Parks and Recreation Division**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
RR # 1, Belmont,  
Colchester County,  
Nova Scotia, B0M 1C0  
(902) 662-3030  
[www.novascotiaparks.ca](http://www.novascotiaparks.ca)

**Department of**  
**Natural Resources**  
PO Box 190, Windsor,  
Nova Scotia B0N 2T0  
(902) 798-2016

**Smileys Provincial Park**  
(902) 757-3131  
(mid-June – late September)



Photos courtesy Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage.

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# Smileys Provincial Park

*Smileys Provincial Park* Nestled along the bank of the Meander River, near the town of Windsor, Smileys Provincial Park provides a magnificent backdrop for campers, picnickers, lovers of nature and those who just want to relax and explore the local attractions.

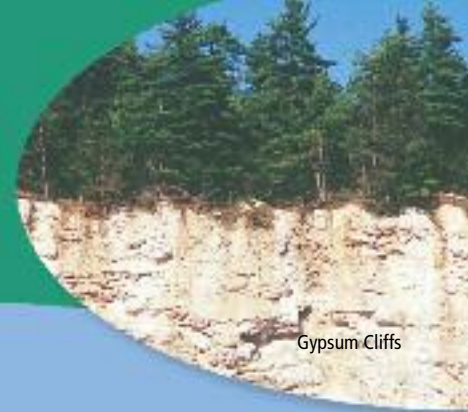
**Geology** Many people associate Smileys' location near Windsor and Brooklyn, with the white gypsum cliffs that look like giant teeth glistening along many rivers and streams. But how did the gypsum get here?

Nearly 350 million years ago, this parkland sat on a wide basin extending from the Bay of Fundy all the way to northern Cape Breton. Towering mountains to the south and north gradually eroded, depositing thousands of metres of sediment in the basin. The weight of that sediment caused the basin to sink, allowing the sea to flood in. Fine oozes, gypsum, salt and limestone eventually built up.

Many millions of years later, the sea retreated and erosion exposed the underlying limestone and gypsum. This wealth of

gypsum has resulted in a landscape feature called karst topography, which is characterized by round sinkholes, underground streams and even a few caves.

Ancient plants and animals once flourished in this area too. Take a fossil-hunting expedition to nearby Horton Bluff and you'll find plants, invertebrates, fish, amphibian bones and tracks. Along the banks of the Meander River at Newport Landing, and near the bridge at Kennetcook River, you'll find many more marine fossils proving that had you been here millions of years ago, you'd be walking on the bottom of the sea. Be sure to check out the fossilized tree stumps at Cheverie, near Mutton Cove. They're over three million years old!



Gypsum Cliffs



Set up camp and relax beneath the shady hardwoods.

**Vegetation and Birds** A walk along the trails in the park will take you through a mix of forest habitats, rich farmland, dykelands, and salt marshes.

Vegetation in and around the park has been greatly influenced by the gentle relief and poor drainage, as well as by humans. Tree lovers will delight in the abundance of white birch, red maple, poplar, eastern hemlock and white pine. Scattered sugar maple, beech and yellow birch occupy the better-drained low ridges, while black cherry, white ash and American elm dominate the flood plain.

Stop for a moment and admire the patience and power of nature; see how she has reclaimed abandoned farms and re-colonized them with white and red spruce and balsam fir.

Bring your binoculars and your bird guide! Flood plain plants such as nodding trillium, false Solomon's seal, bloodroot, yellow violet, ostrich fern and the rare blue cohosh attract a wide variety of feathered friends.

**Facilities and Events** Smileys' family-friendly atmosphere will have you relaxed and in vacation mode in minutes. The park offers a mix of campsite options. Choose between an open field site with a brilliant view of the heavens, or a wooded site tucked among the trees with relaxing river sounds to lull you to sleep.

The layout of the park and its camping loops are perfect for group events. Whether you're planning a family reunion or a touring event for your club, Smileys will make everyone feel at home. To arrange for a family or group visit, simply contact the park or your local Natural Resources office to reserve the group areas.

Smileys hosts a number of special events each season as part of the **Parks are for People** program. Family fun days, astronomy weekends and flora and wildlife appreciation activities are just a few of our regular offerings. Visit [www.novascotiaparks.ca](http://www.novascotiaparks.ca) for this year's events.

Plan to visit again in the fall, when the maples, birches and beeches don their autumn colours, producing a crazy quilt of reds, golds, oranges and yellows. You can also stop by in winter to enjoy cross-country skiing and snow shoeing.



Don't miss Family Fun Day!



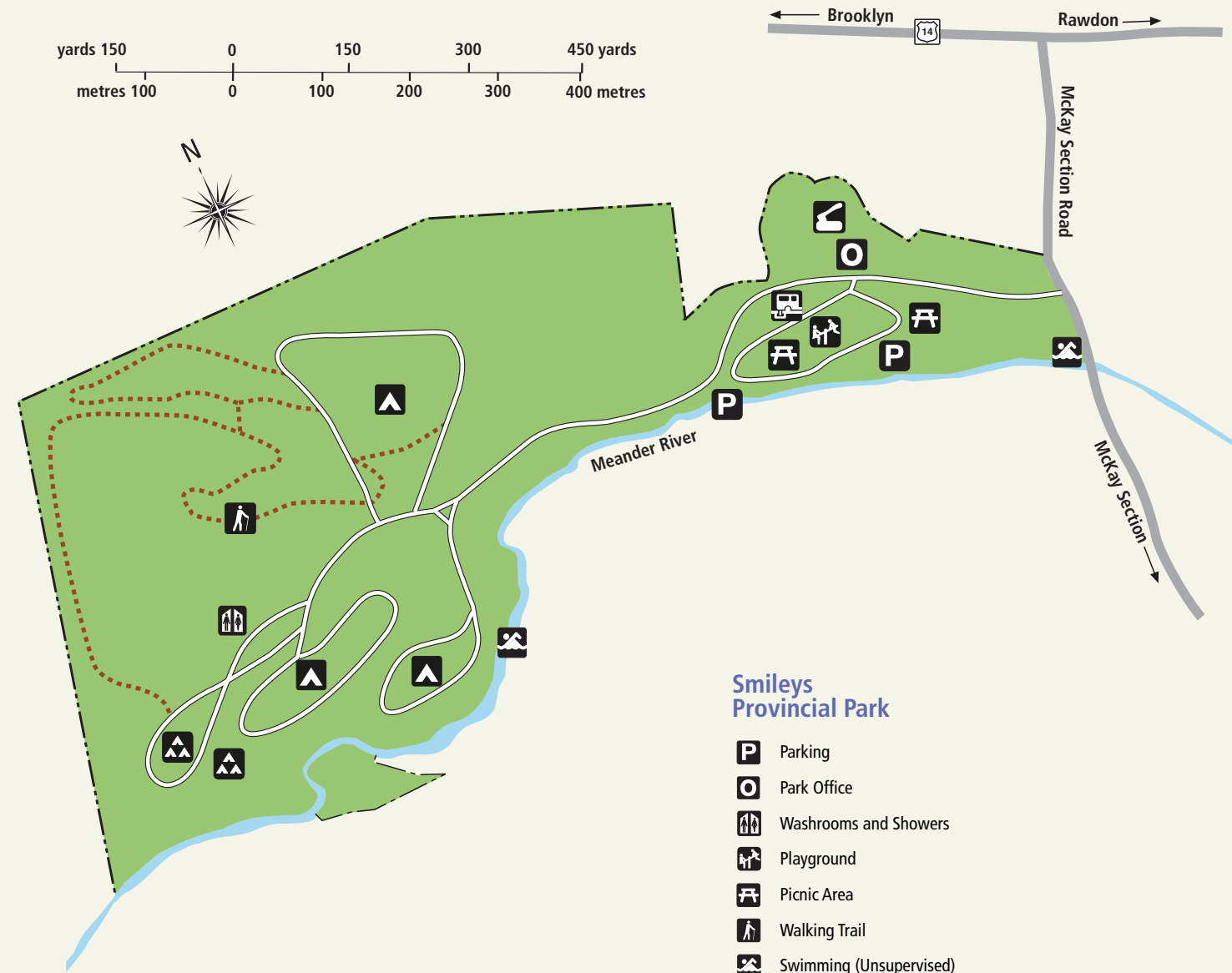
Haliburton House

### Area Attractions

- At Anthony Provincial Park in Lower Selma, experience Fundy waters as they roll up Minas Basin. Stroll the beach, watch seabirds or view interpretive panels following the area's history from first Aboriginal peoples to Second World War naval base.

History buffs will have plenty of opportunities to indulge their passion at a number of sites located just a few minutes drive from Smileys:

- Fort Edward National Historic Site is the oldest original blockhouse in Canada. The fort was one of the main assembly points for the Expulsion of the Acadians, in 1755.
- Haliburton House, completed in 1836, was the official residence of Judge Thomas Chandler Haliburton, creator of the Sam Slick stories. Each August, Sam Slick Days commemorate the author and his colourful character.
- Shand House, completed in 1891, was home to one of Windsor's leading merchants.
- The Uniacke Estate, in Mount Uniacke, includes a large colonial mansion built in 1815 for Richard John Uniacke, a former Attorney General of Nova Scotia. The site also has a number of picturesque walking trails.
- For information on these and other attractions please consult the Nova Scotia Doers and Dreamers Guide, visit a Visitor Information Centre or the website at [www.novascotia.com](http://www.novascotia.com)



### Smileys Provincial Park

- Parking
- Park Office
- Washrooms and Showers
- Playground
- Picnic Area
- Walking Trail
- Swimming (Unsupervised)
- Campground (86 sites)
- Group Campsite (includes kitchen shelter and fire grills; site available by reservation)
- Firewood
- Dumping Station
- Park Boundary

### A Special Message to Park Visitors

#### PARK SAFETY

- Help preserve and protect this beautiful park for the enjoyment of future generations. Plants, animals and rocks are an important part of its natural heritage. Please do not damage or remove them.
- Please keep pets on a leash at all times.
- Firearms are prohibited in the park.
- Contact park staff for further information about the park. They want to make your visit as enjoyable as possible.
- Remember: all fossils are the property of the Province of Nova Scotia.

