

Greg Duke Memorial Recreation Area (#27)

The Greg Duke Memorial Recreation Area has walking trails, 6 lakes, a dock, benches at two of the lakes with mountain views, an outhouse, and wildlife viewing opportunities. It is a great side trip for those on the way to and from Kinuseo Falls.

Time/Distance:**Irene Lake:** Rating: Easy ●

Time/Distance: 1 hour/1.5 km return

Norden Lake: Rating: Moderate ■

Time/Distance: 2 hours/4 km return

Directions to the Trailhead

It is 58.5 km by road south of Tumbler Ridge to the parking area and trailhead for this recreation area. Leaving town, follow the signs for Kinuseo Falls: head south on Hwy 52 E, also known as the Boundary Road, for 14 km, then turn right onto the Kinuseo Falls Rd. This road is paved for the first 3.5 km, then becomes gravel all the way to the parking area for another 41.5 km. There is signage to Kinuseo Falls at intersections. The falls are 6.5 km past the Greg Duke parking area.

Trail Directions

The trail starts at the back of the parking lot. The first 500 m to Irene Lake are wide and fairly level, passing beside the small creek that is the outflow of Irene Lake. The trail leads past the memorial cairn and plaque for Greg Duke, where there is a view of the beaver dam that raises the level of Irene Lake. The lake has a dock, picnic table, outhouse, and Ducks Unlimited signs. Continuing on the trail around the lake, it is worthwhile taking the short spur to the Castle Mountain viewpoint and bench. A variety of waterfowl can often be viewed on the lake.

The trail to the second lake, Norden Lake, is steeper, and the lake has a different character, being longer and narrower than the circular Irene

Lake. Common Loon nest here in summer, and can usually be seen or heard. The trail leads along the southwestern shore of the lake to a small bench from which there is a good view of some of the summits of the Albright Ridge to the northwest.

Greg Duke

Greg Duke was a much loved, long-time forester and trapper who passed away in 1993. The Greg Duke Memorial Recreation Area, comprising six lakes, was developed for hiking and fishing by the Ministry of Forests in the mid-1990s. Due to funding cutbacks the project lapsed. Over time the well-constructed trail, which included a memorial stone cairn and plaque, became overgrown.

Work on the Trails

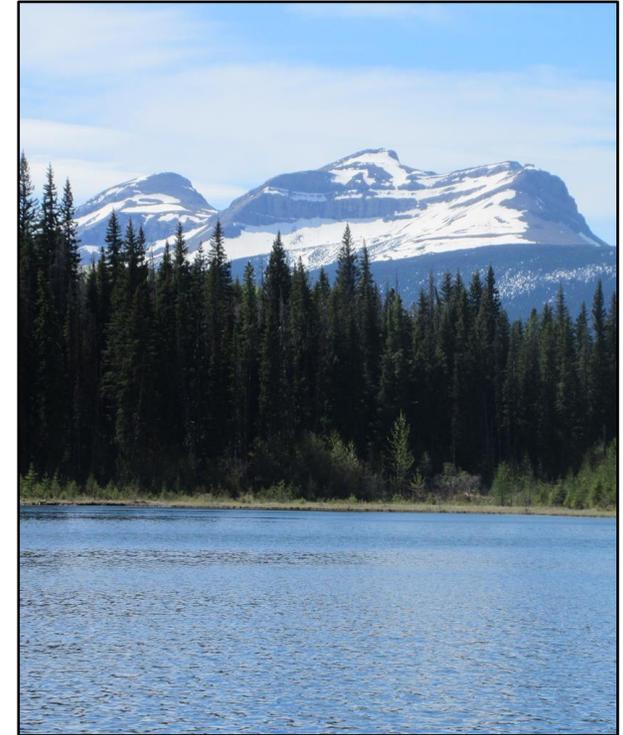
In the summer of 2016, volunteers from the Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society, Recreation Sites and Trails BC and Spectra Energy dedicated their time and funding to re-establish the Recreation Area. Boardwalks were installed, the old dock was rebuilt, Ducks Unlimited signage was erected, the trail as far as the end of the second lake (Norden Lake) was brushed clear, and the parking lot was cleared of brush. Interpretive UNESCO Global Geopark signage and roadside signage completed this phase of the project.

In 2017 a rustic dock was built at Norden Lake, and more benches and signs were installed. Greg Duke's daughter Lois and her family were active participants in and supporters of this work. Much of the area beyond Barbour Lake to the other three lakes has been logged following the pine beetle infestation, and is currently not suitable for further trail development.

Generous funding by the Peace River Regional District allowed WNMS volunteers to make the substantial improvements to the Greg Dukes Lakes trail.

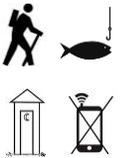
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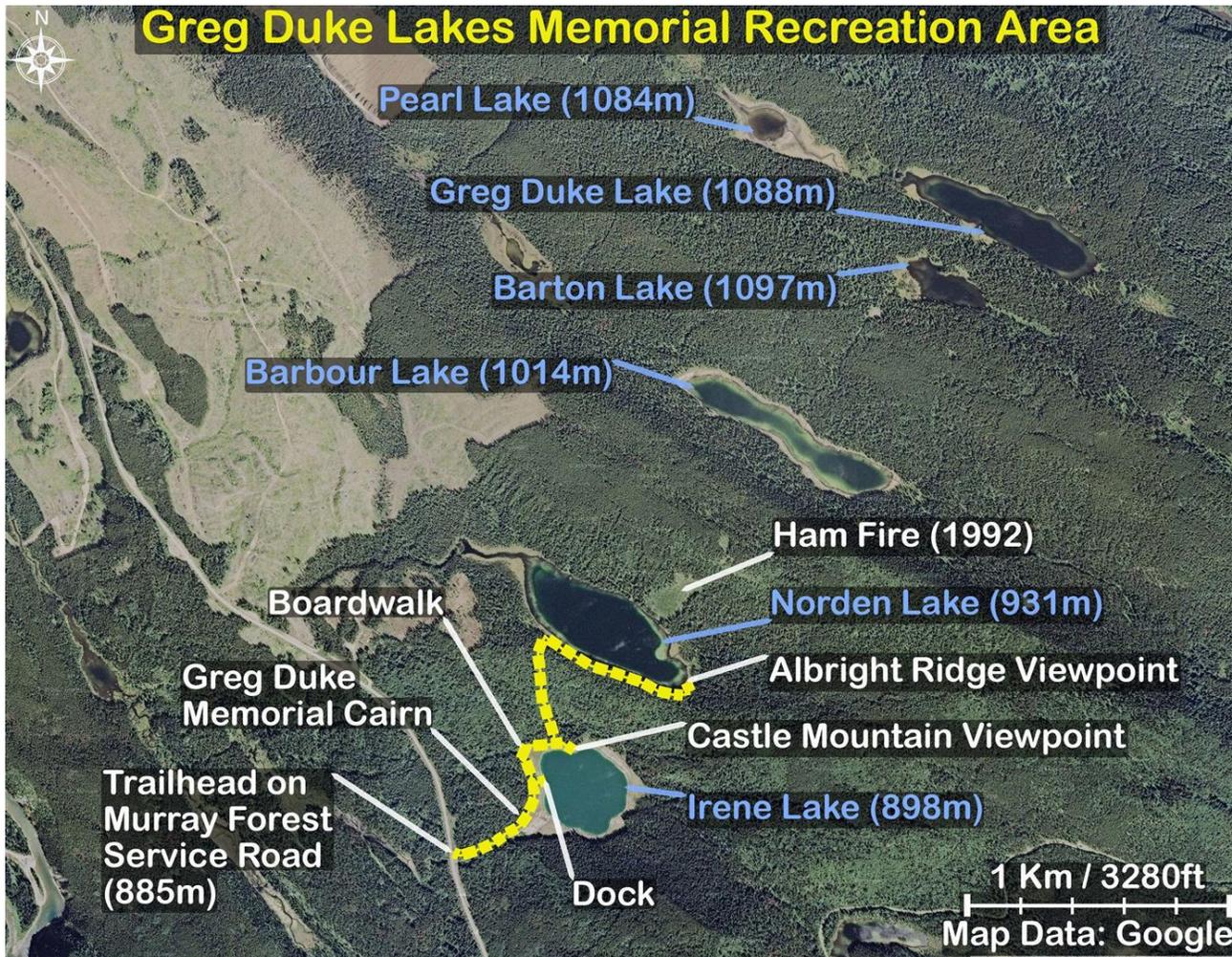
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Rating: Easy/Moderate ●■

Time: 1 - 2 hours





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- *This route is in bear country; travel in groups and make noise*
- *Please pack out what you packed in*



Volunteers building the dock at Irene Lake

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