

# Wye Lake Park

Town of Watson Lake

Started: 1989

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Wye Lake Park, in the town of Watson Lake, has a cabin, a gazebo style bandshell and a three kilometre trail around the lake. The park was planned and established by a volunteer group called Friends of Wye Lake in partnership with the Town of Watson Lake.



**Community benefits:** Wye Lake Park is used by community members for a broad array of events. Many groups, both private and public, use the cabin or park area for meetings and special events. For non-profit groups, the facilities can be used for free. The area is also visited by many tourists who learn more about the ecology of the area. The nature park approach provides important opportunities for interpretive programs for schools, the town or other organizations. The trail is regularly used, improving the physical health of many community people, and the lake water is tested every year to help monitor its health.

**Lessons learned:** There was some dissension in the community about the way the town land and resources were used. Some people wanted more recreational space provided (e.g. playing fields). However, the bird life and frequent wildlife sightings at the park have helped to alleviate some of these concerns.

**Future of the project:** The project is now managed by the Town of Watson Lake. There are no plans for expansion but every year there are a variety of programs offered at the park.