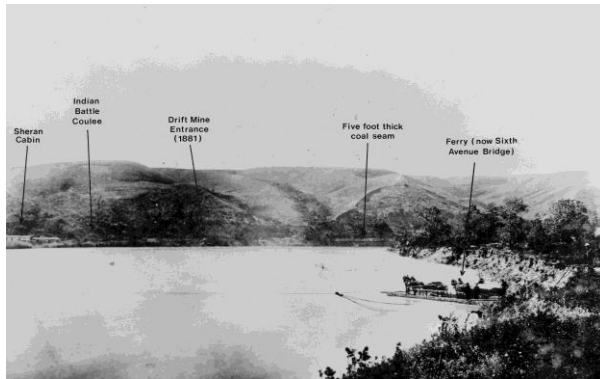


# BULL TRAIL PARK

## HISTORY

Bull Trail Park, which covers about 200 acres, was named in 1986. This area where Whoop-Up Drive is today was an historic trail, a crossing, used by First Nations people. There are several other significant happenings at this site: bull trains coming from Fort Benton, Montana to southern Alberta, would cross the river at this point between Lethbridge and Fort MacLeod; and Nicholas Sheran, who came to Coalbanks [Lethbridge] in 1874, opened the first commercial coal mine, operated a ferry and built his cabin to the south of Indian Battle Coulee. Indian Battle Coulee is so named because it was the site of the last Indian Battle between the Blackfoot and Cree nations.



Sheran's Ferry at right, his cabin and Indian Coulee at left, 1883. Galt Archives 19871210000



View of the Indian Battle Coulee, 1974. Galt Archives 20001076435



Area where Sheran's Cabin and mine were located

2013  
Photo T.Purkis

## PHYSICAL LAYOUT

The park extends from the University at the south to the High Level Bridge at the north. There are two access points for this park; one from northbound University Drive West into the small parking lot; the other from Indian Battle Park. From the west side, a red shale path leads to a walk down the coulee and into the park. The other access is from the east side of the river from the Fort Whoop-Up parking lot towards the Whoop-Up Bridge. There is a switchback trail to the top and a pedestrian bridge which takes you over the river. As the path descends there is a fork in the path; either direction will bring you to the floodplain where Nicholas Sheran had his cabin and mine. There is a small lake and bench to rest awhile and observe nature.



The red shale path that leads up the coulee to the parking lot, 2013.



The gully alongside the path as it descends the coulee from the west side parking lot, 2013.

## BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES

There are no buildings on the site

## ACTIVITIES

The walking trail winds through 395 acres of Indian Battle Coulee popular with walkers and runners. Nature enthusiasts can look for animals and plant life indigenous to the area. The pond that is nearby is used by waterfowl.



View of Bull Trail Park and the Indian Battle south west side of the Oldman River  
2013  
Photo T. Purkis



Another view of Bull Trail Park northwest side of the river  
2013  
Photo T. Purkis



The pond in Bull Trail Park

2013  
Photo by T. Purkis