

BUNCHBERRY MEADOWS & TUCKER'S FIELD SKI AREAS

The Essentials

Name of Area	Bunchberry Meadows & Tucker's Field
Location	25 km SW of Edmonton
Km trails	~14 km
Km classic	~14km
Km skate	nil
Trail Rating	Easy to intermediate
Signage	Good
Grooming	Fair
Facilities	Washrooms at Bunchberry trail head
Trail Fees	By donation
Access Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E side of Bunchberry Meadows • SW side to access Tucker's Field
Other facts	Trails looked after by Parkland County
Loppet	None
Description of trails	<p>Despite the names the trails mainly go through hilly woodland surrounding some open areas. Bunchberry Meadows is a partnership between the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Edmonton Land Area Trust. The ski trails are actually on year round walking trails. About 2/3 of the trails are in the Bunchberry Meadows area while the remainder are in the Tucker's field area to the south. There is a link trail between the two areas.</p> <p>2019-20 was the first winter that these trails have been groomed for skiers. All trails are set with a single classic track and there is space alongside for walkers and people to snowshoe. This leaves little room to get both skis right out of the tracks to slow down on hills. Also, the walking portion can get cut up by users so if the trails are fast or icy it may be difficult to control your speed. There are trail maps at all major junctions..</p>
Trail map	Download from website: http://www.natureconservancy.ca/assets/documents/ab/Bunchberry-trail-map.pdf
Website	http://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/where-we-work/alberta/featured-projects/bunchberry/
Trail conditions & more information	Nthn Alberta ski area report linked to ENSC website
Directions	<p>Bunchberry Meadows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Edmonton head W on Whitemud Drive • Turn S onto 215 St/Winterburn Rd for 6.5 km • Turn W onto Hwy 627/Maskekosihk Tr for 1.6 km • Turn S onto RR 261/Flemming Drive for 5.6km • Turn R or W into the parking area by the sign (Note the sign is difficult to see when coming from the N) <p>Tucker's Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Edmonton head W on Whitemud Drive or on Hwy 16A • Turn S onto Hwy 60 • About 1 km past the entrance to U of A Botanical Gardens turn E or L onto Twp Rd 512 • After 1.5 km reach a 'T' junction with Banksania Rd. Park here at the trail head. • In about 150m you will reach a power line, Tucker's Field is in the ¼ section to the S & E of that spot <p>Travelling time about 30 minutes from centre of city.</p>

Mike's Two Skis Worth

The 2019-20 winter season was the first time these two adjoining areas were advertised by Parkland County as being groomed for cross-country skiing. The area is very pretty and quite hilly. The names of the areas are rather misleading because the trails go mainly through woodland with some open areas. Being a new area for cross-country skiing I have only managed to get out to them once during this first season. Therefore, I would welcome any suggestions from other skiers to improve this description.

The best place to access the trails is probably from the Bunchberry Meadows trail head because there is a good parking area with decent washrooms. From there you can go in either direction on the Aspen Parkland Trail. Part of this trail along with the Tamarack Trail form a pleasant 6.5 km loop around the Bunchberry Meadows area. If you want a shorter ski just stay on the Aspen parkland trail where it joins with the Tamarack Trail.

Going right or north from the Bunchberry Meadows trail head you cross a couple of open areas before going past a horse farm in the NW corner of the area. At the junction with the Tamarack Trail you can either continue on the Aspen Parkland trail back to the trail head or head south on the Tamarack which basically takes a rolling course. Luckily most of the hills in this area do not involve tight turns but if the tracks are very fast there is usually not much space to slow down using a full snowplough, so in these conditions caution is advised.

The junction from the Tamarack Trail to the **Tuckers Field** area is shortly after the trail turns east in the SW corner of the Bunchberry Meadows area. The junction is signed. The trails at Tucker's Field are much shorter and total about 4 – 5 km in length. The loops are quite short, and some do cross an open field on a hilltop.

No dogs are allowed in the Bunchberry Meadows area, but I understand that dogs are allowed in the Tucker's Field area. Trail etiquette advises you keep pooch on a leash when encountering skiers.

At this stage I have not been able to find a downloadable trail map for Tucker's Field although there are maps at some of the junctions. There is a downloadable map for the Bunchberry Meadows area. (See the link on the previous page). Also, you can subscribe on the Parkland County website to receive trail grooming updates. This includes updates for the Chikakoo Lake area.