

## VERMILLION CROSS-COUNTRY SKI AREA

### The Essentials

Name of Area	Vermillion
Location	200 km east of Edmonton
Km trails	15 km
Km classic	15 km
Km skate	5 km
Trail Rating	Easy to intermediate
Signage	Good
Grooming	Very good
Facilities	Heated shelter at trail head with washrooms
Trail Fees	None
Access Points	From shelter.
Other facts	Trails looked after by Vermillion Nordic Ski Club
Loppet	Beckie Scott Loppet (classic): 5,10, 20 & 30 km in late January
Description of trails	<p>The trails are located on the NW edge of Vermillion, next to a campground. They are located on the wooded south side of a valley alongside a lake. Some of the classic trails are one way. The perimeter route follows a figure of eight course and is about 9 km long. The western most loop involves several climbs up some steep hills. There are no really tricky downhill sections on these ski trails. The Lakeside trail is a wide trail following a road &amp; is set for both classic &amp; skate skiing. This is the one of the easiest trails. Most junctions are signed with a map &amp; a location marker.</p> <p>The ski lodge is a lovely old converted station building. It is often closed during the week. There are also some outdoor washrooms next to the car park.</p>
Trail map	None except at trail junctions
Website	<a href="http://www.vermilionnordic.com/">http://www.vermilionnordic.com/</a>
Facebook	None
Trail conditions & more information	Nthn Alberta ski area report linked to ENSC website
Directions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proceed east from Edmonton on Hwy 16 for 200km to Vermillion.</li> <li>• Take Vermillion off-ramp &amp; turn left (north) into town</li> <li>• Pass under railway bridge &amp; turn left at first set of lights</li> <li>• Drive about 2 km &amp; turn right onto the Beckie Scott Trail</li> <li>• Follow road round for about 1 km through a campsite. Park in the car park near the old station building</li> <li>• Travelling time is about 2 hours from the centre of city.</li> </ul>

## **Mike's Two Skis Worth**

This is the former hometown of Beckie Scott, currently our most famous Nordic Olympian. Vermillion is another one of those areas that sometimes receives snow before Edmonton and can sometimes retain it longer. However, in more recent years they have suffered from poor snow conditions.

Although it is a bit of a long haul out for a day trip particularly in the early part of the season when the days are short, I have often found the trip well worth it. This is particularly when there is no decent snow in Edmonton. I have usually found the grooming to be very good. This ski area probably has more options for classic skiing.

For a pleasant ski with a reasonable variety of terrain, I find the 9 km figure of eight loop around the perimeter trails a good option. Be warned the back 3 km loop on this circuit has several very steep hills that require herringbone ascents. For a gentler ski take the Lakeside trail that as the name suggests follows a road along the lake shore for most of its course.

The Beckie Scott Loppet is another one of my favourite events on the loppet circuit because it still retains a casual atmosphere. The course is a series of laps roughly following the course of the perimeter trail, e.g. The 10 km is once round, the 20 km twice & so on. This loppet is another event I recommend to skiers who want to start some recreational racing and are intimidated by some of the larger events. The 10 km or 20 km distances are good ones to enter, as they are usually less competitive than the 30 km event.

Compiled by Mike Stern 25/03/08  
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