

Welcome to

Whitney Lakes

Provincial Park

Remember the family vacations you experienced as a child - lazy days on the beach, hours spent exploring trails and evenings spent around the campfire? Come and re-create these memories on the white sand shores and peaceful trails of Whitney Lakes Provincial Park.

Located just three hours northeast of the City of Edmonton, the park is situated in a beautiful forested landscape surrounding four lakes - Whitney, Laurier, Borden and Ross. The park's wetlands and forests create an interesting combination of habitats that will allow you to experience not only fond memories of childhood, but a fascinating variety of plants and animals as well.

Tapestry of Time

As the glaciers retreated during the last ice age, approximately 10,000 years ago, glacial melt-water weaved over and under the great sheets of ice.

Gravel and sand, moved by the water, came to rest in drainage channels leaving the ridge of hills you see here today.



Whitney Lakes Provincial Park protects the spectacular and provincially significant esker and kettle formations formed when the glaciers retreated. Eskers are long narrow ridges of sand and gravel left behind by melting glacier ice. Kettles are hollows or depressions that resulted when ice blocks covered by gravel emerged from the glaciers and subsequently melted, allowing the debris to settle.

Park visitors should definitely take the time to experience this "tapestry of time". For the curious, it's an easy 10-minute walk to view the esker, while the 3.3-km Esker Trail, with its numerous rolling hills, provides excellent views of both the glacial esker, Borden and Laurier lakes.



diverse plant and animal life



.....create fond peaceful memories

Camping

The park has two campgrounds.

Ross Lake campground has 149 well-treed campsites, 18 of

which are equipped with power. Facilities include coin-operated showers, treated tap water, fire pits and a playground. Whitney Lake campground has 45 campsites, potable water (hand pump), a playground and access to a natural sand beach. All campsites are first come-first served.

There are also two group use areas in the park that are ideal for school groups, family gatherings and other special events. The park's group campgrounds are available by reservation only (call 780-639-3341).

Trails

The park has an extensive trail system of more than 30 km, linking Ross, Whitney,

Laurier and Borden lakes. Trails follow shorelines, pass through dense forests and offer exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities. You can walk one of the shorter loops or enjoy a day hike on one of the park's extended backcountry trails. If mountain biking is more to your liking, the trail system offers easy family rides as well as more challenging terrain.

Birding

With more than 145 species of birds and waterfowl recorded in the park, Whitney Lakes provides a rewarding bird watching experience.

Wildlife Viewing

A variety of animals are attracted to the Whitney Lakes area by the diversity of plant life. The park's wetlands and forests of pine, white spruce, aspen, birch and willow are home to deer, moose, beaver, red squirrel



and flying squirrel. In addition to these mammals, keep your eyes open for the elusive tiger salamander, as well as other amphibians, such as boreal chorus frog, wood frog and Canadian toad.

Fishing

Try your luck at catching perch, pike and walleye in Laurier Lake while Whitney and Ross lakes are good bets for perch and pike.

Boating & Canoeing

Enjoy a day out on one of the parks four lakes. Power boating and canoeing are permitted on Whitney, Ross and Laurier lakes. Due to Borden Lake's isolation, only canoes are allowed.

Interpretation

Take a walk along the 2-km Ross Lake self-guided interpretive trail to gain an understanding of the park's rich natural environment.

Winter activities include:

Cross-country skiing - enjoy those beautiful winter days while skiing park trails. Please be aware, trails are not maintained on a regular basis.

Ice fishing - try your luck catching pike, perch and walleye on Laurier, Ross and Whitney lakes.

Snowshoeing - experience the winter beauty while snowshoeing into the untouched white blanket of the park's backcountry.

Note: use of snowmobiles and off-highway vehicles is not permitted in the park.

Be Bear Aware!

Black bears frequent the park during summer months so visitors are advised to take necessary precautions such as

securing food and properly disposing of garbage. For information about bear safety consult a park conservation officer, or pick up a copy of our bear safety brochure "Bear in Mind".





Whitney Lakes Provincial Park

highways of old

Winnipeg Trail

History abounds in Whitney Lakes Provincial Park. Here you will find historic Winnipeg Trail, which stretched from Ft. Garry near Winnipeg to Ft. Edmonton more than 200 years ago. Also called North Victoria or Carlton trail, it played a major role in Western Canada's history. Aboriginal people, early explorers and traders used the trail during the late 1700s and early 1800s. With establishment of Victoria Mission in 1863, the trail was upgraded so Red River carts and wagons could readily use it. It became a vital freight, mail and telegraph route that permitted development of the fledgling Province of Alberta.

Peter Fidler, Reverend John McDougall, Chief Big Bear, Bishop Gabriel Dumont and Father Lacombe traveled the route, as did patrols of the Northwest Mounted Police and, in 1885, the Alberta Field Force of the Canadian Militia.

While hiking the trails near Ross and Whitney lakes, some people say that if you listen carefully you may still hear the creaking of the Red River Carts.

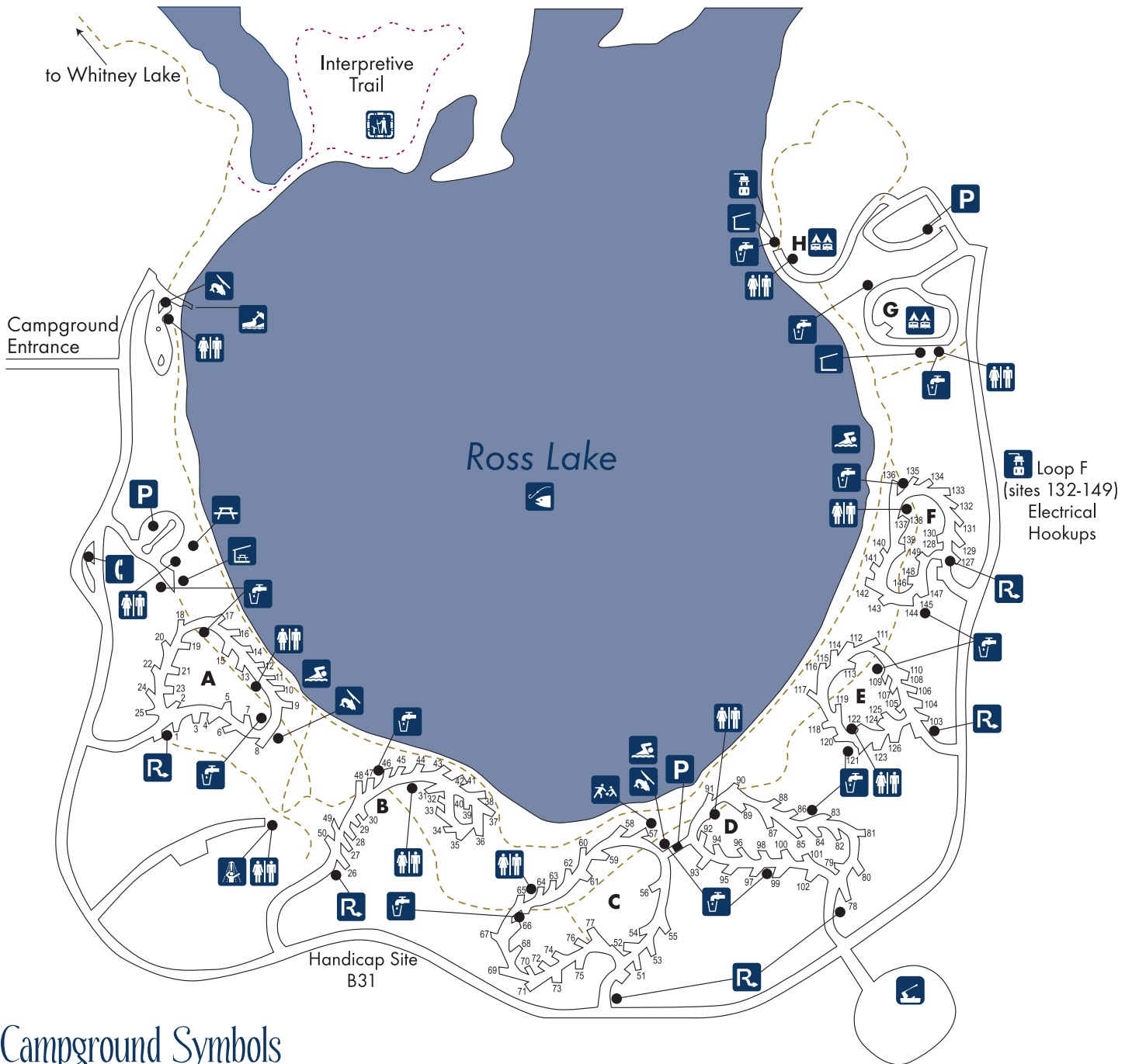
Iron Horse Trail

A short distance south of the park, is a modern-day multi-use trail, developed from abandoned rail line. It is roughly 260 kilometres in length and stretches from Waskatenau in the west to Cold Lake in the northeast and Heinsburg in the southeast. The trail passes by rolling hills, numerous lakes, agricultural lands, dense forests, deep gullies and spectacular views of the North Saskatchewan River. The Iron Horse Trail cuts across and parallels portions of Winnipeg Trail.
























For more information on Iron Horse Trail visit www.ironhorsetrail.ca.



Ross Lake Campground



Campground Symbols

	Electrical		Group Camping		Park Office		Self Registration Booth		Staging Area		Water
	Firewood		Hand Boat Launch		Picnic Area		Sewage Dump		Swimming (unsupervised)		Hiking Trail
	Fishing		Interpretive Trail		Picnic Shelter		Shelter		Tenting		Interpretive Trail
	Fish Cleaning		Parking		Playground		Showers (pay)		Washrooms		

historial & cultural features

While visiting the park, be sure to take time to explore the surrounding area's historical and cultural features.

Fort George-Buckingham House Provincial Historic Site is a great place to experience Alberta's fur trade history. The site, which houses two of the earliest trading posts built in the province, dates back to 1792. It was here the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company competed for Canada's abundant natural resources. Fort George-Buckingham House is located 13 km east of Elk Point on Secondary Highway 646. It is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. May 15 until Labour Day.

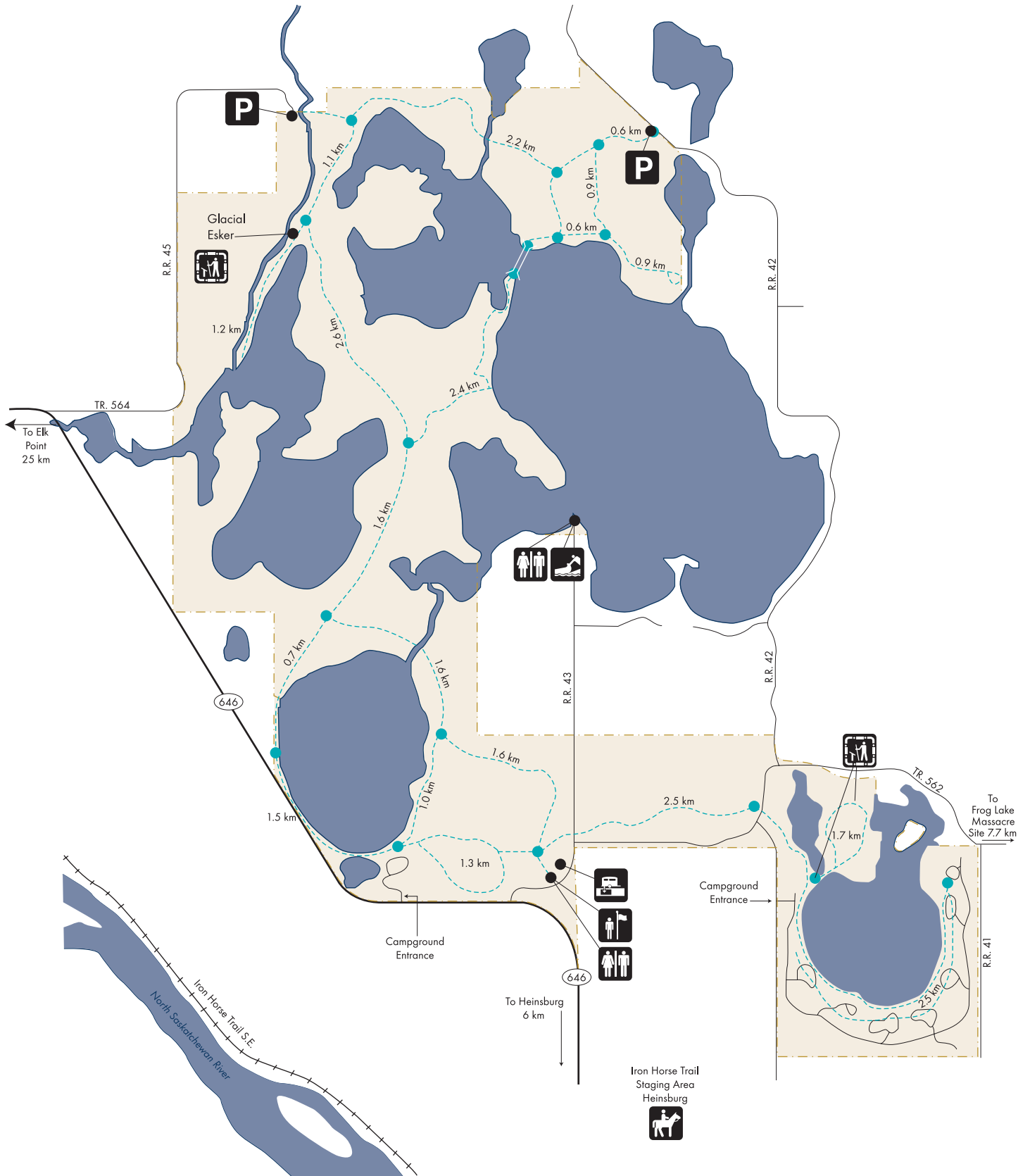
Heinsburg Water Tower is nestled along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River in the tiny Hamlet of Heinsburg, located south of the park. It is Alberta's only intact wooden water tower.

The 10-metre tall chainsaw-carved Peter Fidler statue overlooks the Town of Elk Point. It commemorates Peter Fidler, an early surveyor for the Hudson's Bay Company.

The Frog Lake Massacre erupted on April 2, 1885 during the Northwest Rebellion. Take a step back in time and visit the site where it all took place, just east of the park.



Whitney Lakes Provincial Park



For More Information

Alberta Community Development

Parks & Protected Areas
416, 5025-49 Avenue
St. Paul, Alberta, Canada T0A 3A4
Phone: 780-645-6295
Fax: 780-645-6267

Alberta Community Development

Parks & Protected Areas Division
2nd floor, Oxbridge Place
9820-106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Phone: 780-427-3582
Toll-free: 1-866-427-3582
Fax: 780-427-5980
www.cd.gov.ab.ca/gateway

For police, ambulance or fire department assistance, call 911.

Where Are We

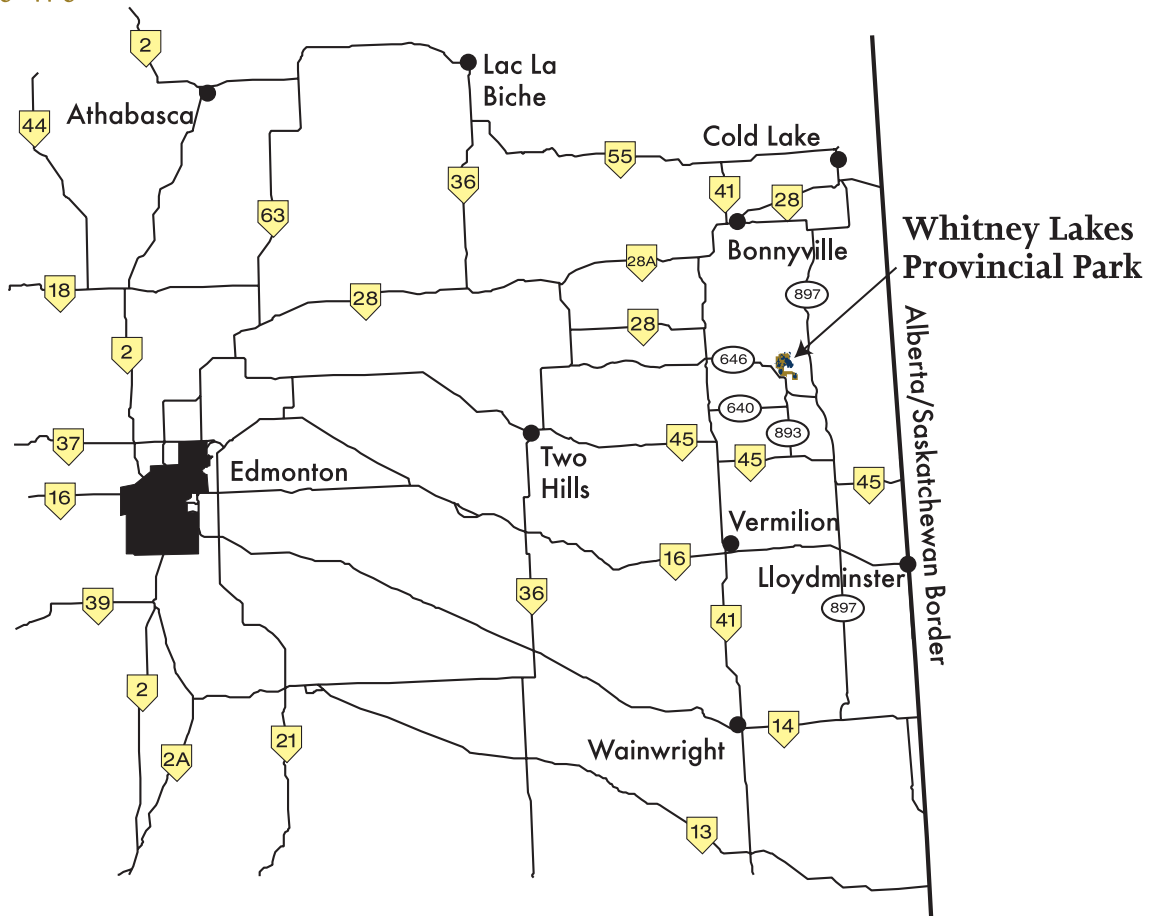


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