







Prince Albert

NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

Waskesiu Community Plan Amended 2015



Parks Canada Agency Mandate

"On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations."

Prince Albert National Park of Canada is part of Canada's system of national parks. Together with national historic sites and national marine conservation areas, national parks are part of a larger network of national protected heritage areas.

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FOREWORD

Canada's national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas are part of a century-strong Parks Canada network which provides Canadians and visitors from around the world with unique opportunities to experience and embrace our wonderful country.

From our smallest national park to our most visited national historic site to our largest national marine conservation area, each of Canada's treasured places offers many opportunities to enjoy Canada's historic and natural heritage. These places serve as sources of inspiration, relaxation, learning and discovery.

As we plan for the years to come, we can encourage lasting connections to our heritage and promote our protected places to be enjoyed in ways that leave them unimpaired for present and future generations.

Our Government's vision is to build a culture of heritage conservation in Canada by protecting these irreplaceable places and offering Canadians exceptional opportunities to build personal connections with our natural and cultural heritage.

These values form the foundation of the amended Waskesiu Community Plan for Prince Albert National Park of Canada. I offer my appreciation to the many thoughtful Canadians who helped to develop this plan, particularly to our dedicated team from Parks Canada, and to all those local organizations and individuals who have demonstrated their good will, hard work, spirit of co-operation and extraordinary sense of stewardship.

In this same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the amended Waskesiu Community Plan.

Leona Aglukkaq

Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada

PREAMBLE TO THE WASKESIU COMMUNITY PLAN AND THE 2010 AMENDMENTS

The core of the 2000 Waskesiu Community Plan (WCP) is still current and valid; however, during the consultation process, two issues were identified that warranted revisions or additional clarification:

- The adjustment of zoning to reflect the current usage, and
- The update of the "Limits to Growth' chart to reflect a correction to commercial floor space available and the changes to zoning and the lot releases.

Parks Canada used the existing Waskesiu Community Plan as the guiding document and has made the applicable updates through the use of these amendments. All sections of the Waskesiu Community Plan remain in force unless amended through this document.

PLANNING PRINCIPLES FOR THE WASKESIU COMMUNITY

Limits to Growth

The management plan for Prince Albert National Park provides direction on community management. Specifically it states that:

"As a community in a national park, Parks Canada will ensure that the community of Waskesiu continues to provide services and administrative functions necessary to support visitors during their stay and serve as the base for park administration and operations."

Some level of development within the community of Waskesiu will be permitted to ensure quality visitor experiences and services. However, limits to growth must be defined to make sure that the national park experience is not eroded and that park resources are protected.

Objectives

- To foster sustainable growth and development in order to maintain the community's economic health and quality of life. This growth will be harmonious with Waskesiu's natural environment and will respect all Parks Canada planning principles.
- To develop a land-use pattern which minimizes social and environmental impacts and helps maintain the Parks ecological integrity.
- To oversee the rate and type of development that is compatible with the community's heritage, character and physical setting, and which will enhance the sense of community.
- To monitor the effects of development upon the social and economic fabric of Waskesiu and the environment.

Policies

- Development in the townsite will be consistent with the town boundary identified in the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Waskesiu Community Council.
- An ecologically appropriate limit to development will be set through the planning process.
- Development will respect and strengthen the visual

- character and cultural resource integrity of the Park and the community.
- In order to preserve viewscapes and the community character, height limits in the Commercial Core will be limited to the following:

C1 - Retail Commercial District:

maximum height 9m. Compact forms of development will be encouraged in this district to maximize limited commercial space.

C2 - Mixed Use Commercial District: maximum height 10.6m.

C3 - **Commercial Accommodation District:** maximum height 10.6m.

C4 - Restricted Commercial Accommodation: maximum height 8m.

- The commercial core will be reduced by six lots.
- Existing commercial developers or operators will be encouraged to improve their property's appearance through design guidelines, sign control, landscaping, and development review.
- The maximum amount of commercial development will not exceed 34,574.6m².
- Potential infill properties along Montreal Drive and Elk Street will be released for staff accommodation. The seasonal staff trailer park will be expanded on disturbed land to meet existing demand. Adjacent lands will be developed if demand warrants.
- To ensure orderly development, growth management strategies will be implemented.

Heritage Character

The community plan will outline a strategy to protect Waskesiu's heritage character. The primary focus will be on protecting and preserving heritage buildings, the heritage character and the quality of life. All of these attributes combine to make Waskesiu unique.

Objectives

- To ensure Waskesiu's historic and cultural resources are protected for present and future generations.
- To ensure future development and redevelopment are consistent with the heritage character of the built environment of Waskesiu.
- To encourage development which recognizes and reflects Waskesiu's unique "sense of place".

Policies

- Priority will be given to re-use and rehabilitate existing buildings for residential and commercial growth.
 Preserving the community's natural environment and historic character will be encouraged.
- The vision of the Waskesiu community will be articulated through architectural standards and specific land-use policies which will focus on protecting the community's visual and historic character. Any new development must be compatible with these standards and policies.
- Lease amendments will be developed to ensure Federal heritage buildings are protected as a requirement of the lease.

Appropriate Uses

The Waskesiu community is designated "Zone V - Park Services" by Parks Canada. The community's role is to provide services and facilities for visitors and residents. It is necessary that businesses and development proposals assist the community in this role and at the same time be appropriate in a national park setting.

Objectives

- To create and maintain a sustainable environment and economy by ensuring that all developments meet the No Net Negative Environmental Impact Framework.
- To ensure that all developments complement and enhance the community's character and national park setting.
- To maintain the community's primary function as a service centre for cottage and cabin owners, residents and visitors.
- To provide a wide range of interpretation, orientation and information services.

 To ensure there are clear guidelines and regulatory procedures for defining appropriate activities in Waskesiu.

Policies:

- Guidelines will be developed defining businesses and services appropriate in a national park setting.
- All applications for development will have to meet conditions set out in the Waskesiu Land Use Directive and The No Net Negative Environmental Impact Framework.

A Model Environmental Community

Prince Albert National Park protects a representative portion of the southern boreal forest in which it is located. Waskesiu, as a national park community, must be operated and managed in an environmentally responsible manner. Specific natural features must be protected and any land development must respect the ecosystem it is situated in.

Objectives:

- To adopt a stewardship approach where residents, cottage and cabin owners, commercial operators and visitors minimize their impact on the environment.
- To conserve and protect the natural environment, scenic quality and ecological integrity of the Park for present and future generations.
- To encourage the use of non-motorized modes of transportation.

Policies:

- To maintain the Waskesiu community as a model environmental community compatible with its national park setting by operating with no net negative environmental impact on adjacent lands or water bodies.
- To establish a monitoring program to track and identify environmental impacts. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and Parks Canada Environmental Assessment Directive will be applied.
- To participate in the Regional Waste Management initiative.
- To maintain the existing recycling programs. A wider range of visitors will be encouraged to use the recycling programs through public education.

- To encourage leaseholders to maintain native vegetation cover on their leasehold.
- Expand and improve the tree planting program through the preparation and distribution of a brochure which promotes gardening and landscaping with native species. Public education workshops will be held to help promote this initiative.
- To present interpretation programs which reflect Waskesiu's role as a model environmental community.

No Net Negative Environmental Impact

Adopting a policy of "no net negative environmental impact" complements sustainable development by recognizing that development implies a modification of the environment which it is negatively affecting. However, within the limits of a host environment there is capacity to support development and to reduce the effect of localized impact through larger scale environmental management.

Objectives

- To achieve a healthy environment which does not show symptoms of stress such as decreased water quality, a preponderance of non-native and invasive species or biodiversity drastically reduced from original conditions.
- To minimize to the greatest extent possible, impacts generated through community development, planning, restoration or mitigation measures initiated within the community and its immediate environment. To be a useful tool, no net negative environmental impact must mean community scale management of environmental mitigation.
- To ensure that all development meets the No Net Negative Environmental Impact Framework. Any development which does not meet this framework will not proceed.
- To cap allowable commercial buildout at 34,574.6m2.

Policies

- No net negative environmental impact will be implemented through a four part framework which consists of:
 - Limits to Growth and Environmental Quality
 Targets: Clear limits to growth and environmental
 quality targets are required to direct future com munity development and to provide specific points
 of reference to enable decision making. Research
 is required to determine measurable indicators and
 set targets. Indicators and targets will be set within
 one year of the approval of this plan.
 - Cumulative Effects Assessment: Cumulative effects assessment is intended to characterize and, where possible, quantify the cumulative effects of past and future townsite developments. Parks Canada will investigate the likely routes of impact and then establish or modify growth limits and quality targets based on these investigations. Mitigation would then follow.
 - Community Scale Strategic Mitigation and Restoration: By identifying cumulative impact issues, we will better direct efforts to undertake strategic mitigation and restoration within the townsite. Once limits are set, projects should be approved with reference to these limits, in addition to the normal process of development approval and environmental assessment.
 - Monitoring and Reassessment of the Environmental Quality Criteria and Limits to Growth: Parks
 Canada will monitor indicators to determine if development and townsite operations are within the established targets. This monitoring is also critical for evaluating the suitability of the limits over time, the accuracy of predictions regarding future states and to help refine the limits and quality targets.

The Waskesiu Community Plan is a tool that will help Parks Canada and the community make decisions that are consistent with Parks Canada's mandate and the vision for the townsite and Prince Albert National Park. Parks Canada supports responsible growth that will help the townsite of Waskesiu continue to be healthy - environmentally, economically and socially.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The preparation of this plan involved many people. Their input has resulted in a plan that will guide the management of the Waskesiu townsite for many years to come. A note of thanks is extended to those who devoted their time to this plan. The following deserve special mention:

- The 1999-2000 and 2008-09 Waskesiu
 Community Councils spent countless hours
 providing input, discussing and communicating
 issues to Parks Canada and reviewing the
 document as it took shape. The community
 of Waskesiu is fortunate to have such
 dedicated people representing them.
- Special thanks to Diana Hawryluk who was hired as the Community Planner to prepare the 2000 plan. She put in many extra hours consulting with community members and the general public.
- Calibre Consultants Inc. was retained to compile and analyze the 2000 public comments provided through questionnaires and feedback forms.
- 4D Solutions was retained to develop and edit all renderings and maps included in the 2000 document.
- Behind the scenes there were a number of Parks Canada staff that worked closely on the development of the 2000 plan: Bill Fisher, Sandra Hicke, Norm Stolle, Dale Redford, Jean Fau, Sid Paul and the 2010 amendments: Kalya Brunner, Alan Fehr, Henry Fremont, Cliff Kaleski, Ed McLean, Terry Schneider and Norman Stolle
- A special thanks to all other Parks
 Canada staff who are too numerous to
 mention but without whose help, the
 plan would not have been developed.
- Thanks to Trevor Ashfield who edited the 2000 document. He helped make the ideas presented here easier to understand.
- Thanks to IDEA Marketing group who completed the layout and design of the plan.

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INTRODUCTION

Background
Geographic Location
History of the Waskesiu Townsite
Role of the Waskesiu Community Plan
Scope of the Waskesiu Community Plan
Public Consultation
How to Use the Plan
Limits to Growth

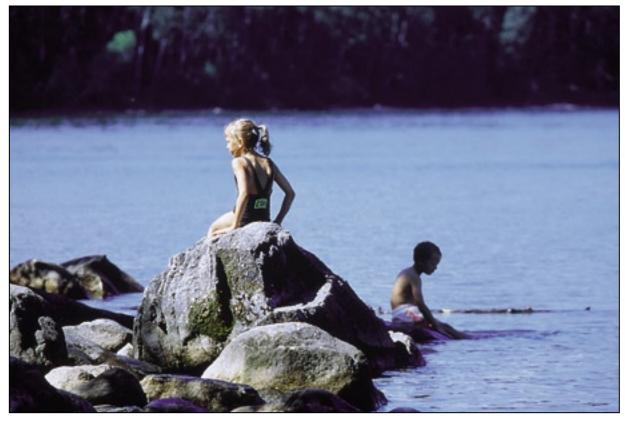


Photo: Sean Francis Martin, Parks Canada

BACKGROUND

Waskesiu has been a gathering place for people long before the boundaries of Prince Albert National Park were established. It is the focal point for the majority of visitors to the Park. With more visitors coming to the Park, the Town of Waskesiu faces new challenges to meet visitor needs and to address the environmental impact these issues bring forth.

Parks Canada has prepared this Community Plan with the participation of the Waskesiu Community Council and the public. The community plan is a detailed course of action for the future development of the townsite of Waskesiu. Its purpose is to ensure that the community will contribute to and enhance the natural and cultural environment of Prince Albert National Park while maintaining the townsite as a viable social and economic centre for residents, lessees, park visitors and commercial operators. As the townsite changes, this plan should be evaluated for its effectiveness in meeting its objectives and changes to the plan should be made accordingly.

The townsite of Waskesiu is a mix of both private and public interests and purposes. Balancing these interests in the sphere of the national park system depends upon all stakeholders working together to guide the community's function, design and development, while keeping environmental stewardship and heritage conservation a primary focus in development.

The plan provides clear direction on the way Waskesiu must manage its future growth to maintain a healthy community. It sets a strategy for future development that benefits from and contributes to its national park setting where both residents and visitors have an opportunity to work, live, learn and play in a sustainable environment. The plan is intended to be comprehensive. Not only is guidance provided for more traditional concerns such as zoning, but also for less tangible elements that reflect community ties such as preserving our natural and cultural heritage.

The townsite of Waskesiu has unique opportunities being located within a national park; however, with opportunity comes responsibility. The Waskesiu Community Council and Parks Canada agree that the townsite of Waskesiu's primary responsibilities are: the preservation of Waskesiu's natural and cultural heritage; to be a leader in environmental stewardship; and to sustain a social and economically healthy community.

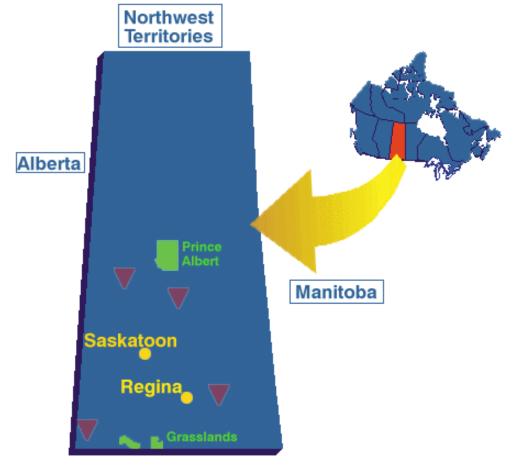
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Prince Albert National Park is 3875 square kilometers in size. The park is the largest protected wilderness area in Saskatchewan, representing approximately 0.6% of the total area of the province and is located 90 kilometers north of the City of Prince Albert.

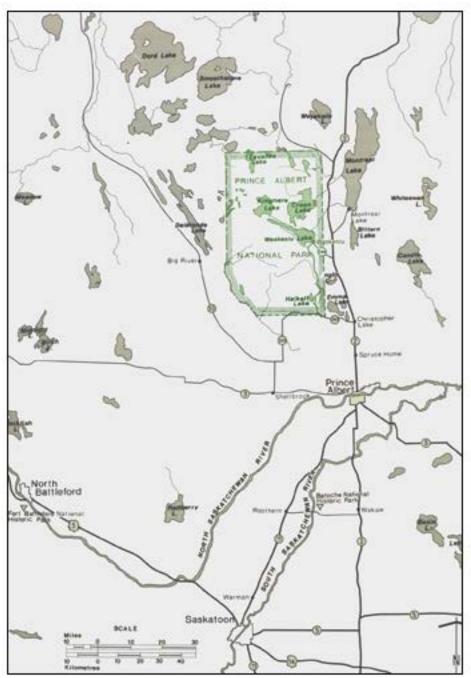
The park protects a diverse assemblage of physical and cultural resources within the Southern Boreal Plains and the Plateaux Natural Region. The park includes over fifteen hundred lakes and seven watersheds, which amounts to approximately 10% of the total park

area. It has been termed "Saskatchewan's Playground" and is dedicated to future generations of Canadians and other visitors for their understanding, appreciation and enjoyment.

Prince Albert National Park is one of seven national parks in the Canadian national parks system which has a townsite community inside the park boundaries. The townsite of Waskesiu is situated on the south end of Waskesiu Lake, near the east boundary of the park. The lake and the boreal forest, which surrounds the townsite, provide residents and visitors with a unique sense of place.



Regional map showing location of Prince Albert National Park



Provincial map showing location of Prince Albert National Park

Aerial photo of Waskesiu townsite



Photo: Mr. McBurney, Parks Canada

HISTORY OF THE WASKESIU TOWNSITE

On May 9, 1927, the Honorable Charles Stewart, Minister of the Interior, announced the establishment of Prince Albert National Park with a seasonal headquarters at Waskesiu Lake. Waskesiu Lake was considered the finest and most easily accessible of a chain of northern lakes, particularly because of the presence of a large natural beach area. As early as 1925, a small subdivision had been surveyed at Waskesiu Beach by the Forestry Branch and a few lots had been made available

for business and residential purposes. Anticipating a demand for summer cottages and commercial lots soon after park establishment, a survey for a new townsite was completed in 1928.

Development of the townsite continued through 1929 and subsequent years. A large breakwater built in 1930 provided shelter for swimming and docks, developing the strong aquatic recreation base of the community. Public works projects undertaken between 1932 and 1935, primarily to relieve massive unemployment,

resulted in development of a golf course, public campgrounds, tennis courts, and a number of log buildings displaying superb craftsmanship (e.g., Nature Centre, Community Hall, Golf Course Clubhouse.)

A seasonal residential area on Prospect Point was developed in 1928, augmented in 1938 by a survey of the Lakeview subdivision. Surveys expanded the business community in 1933, providing bungalow camps and hotel accommodation for visitors, with a further expansion in 1950.

The initial access road, Highway 263 from the south gate to Waskesiu, was completed in 1928 with subsequent improvements to all weather status by 1952. A new access road (Highway 264) from Provincial Highway 2 in 1969 replaced Highway 263 as the favored road to Waskesiu. Reorientation of the entrance to this new access along Montreal Drive changed the locational advantage of businesses and park facilities.

Waskesiu townsite was the administrative centre for the park only during summer months for the first 30 years following park establishment. Park headquarters was shifted to the city of Prince Albert for the winter months. By 1959, park maintenance and operations staff were quartered in the community year round. The Superintendent and administrative staff continued to commute seasonally to Prince Albert until 1967 when the present Administration Building was completed.

National Parks Policy also evolved during the period of the community's establishment. The park was established a few years prior to the 1930 National Parks Act. Awareness of Canadians towards the spirit and intent of the Act has grown and evolved into formal expressions of widely supported policies in national parks. These sometimes conflict with past practices or established visitor uses and local expectations, particularly by those with a vested interest in the management direction of the park, or those whose longtime association with Waskesiu pre-dates this policy evolution.



Photo: Parks Canada

ROLE OF THE WASKESIU COMMUNITY PLAN

The objectives of the Waskesiu Community Plan are to:

- develop a clear vision of the future of Waskesiu
 that is consistent with the *National Parks Act* and
 Regulations, Parks Canada's Guiding Principles and
 Operational Policies, The Prince Albert National Park
 Management Plan, and the community planning
 principles announced by the Minister in June, 1998.
- set limits to growth and parameters for development and use, that ensure the community is ecologically and socially healthy.
- create conditions favorable to successful economic development and re-development which respect the planning principles set forth in this document.
- provide a tool that helps managers make timely decisions about proposals for development, redevelopment and appropriate activities.
- provide a strategy that:
 - reflects Waskesiu's potential contribution to natural park values;
 - meets the needs of Canadians, visitors, residents and business people;
 - safeguards the ecological and cultural resources for which the Park is recognized;
 - allows both the private and public sectors to contribute to the creation of an attractive and functional community.

SCOPE OF THE WASKESIU COMMUNITY PLAN

This plan applies to all areas within the current townsite boundary that have potential for development or are in need of conservation. It provides direction to park officials, town managers, residents, businesses and government agencies on the future growth of Waskesiu, and in being a model national park community. The regulations of the form, character, location and density of commercial, residential and institutional leasehold, will be set out in the Land Use Directive:

The Waskesiu community plan will address such topics as:

- the social well-being and liveability of the community;
- conditions for affordable economic development and redevelopment;
- limits to growth;
- heritage conservation and the enhancement of a distinctive community character;

- the community's contribution to the enhancement and protection of the natural and cultural environment of the Park;
- · commercial, residential and institutional land uses;
- the status of Waskesiu's infrastructure.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

This plan was prepared by Parks Canada. The Waskesiu Community Council and the public were invited to participate in the planning process through discussions, questionnaires and open houses which were held across the province of Saskatchewan.

Parks Canada recognizes the importance of involving the community and the public in its decision making process, and its own responsibility for the long-term health of the environment and for the protection of the park's cultural resources. This responsibility and government policy have guided Parks Canada in shaping this community plan.

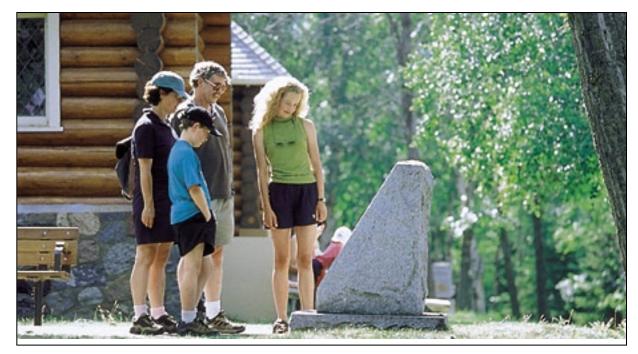


Photo: Sean Francis Martin. Parks Canada

HOW TO USE THE PLAN

The plans, renderings and diagrams in this document reflect the characteristics, look and feel that the park and the community are trying to achieve. Readers should first review the general intent of the plan and the concept for the entire townsite. They should then refer to the more detailed requirements in the Waskesiu Land Use Directive. The principles and requirements outlined in this document apply to all proposals for development.

The Waskesiu Community Plan does not stand on its own. Anyone who puts forward a development proposal must ensure that their submission complies with the intent and requirements of the Prince Albert National Park Management Plan and all other appropriate guidelines, directives and statutory requirements.

LIMITS TO GROWTH

Because Prince Albert National Park plays a significant role in Saskatchewan's tourism, some level of development within the townsite of Waskesiu will be encouraged to help ensure high quality visitor experiences and services. Within this context, limits to growth must be clearly defined to ensure that the national park experience is not eroded and that park resources are protected; ecological and cultural integrity are the park's primary mandate and must be maintained or enhanced. Therefore, specific limits to growth are defined within this community plan.

Objectives

- To encourage sustainable growth and development compatible with Waskesiu's natural environment in order to maintain the community's economic health and quality of life.
- To protect the natural environment of Waskesiu.
- To develop a land-use pattern which minimizes social and environmental impacts
- · To manage rate and growth of development.
- To monitor the effects of development upon the environment and the social and economic fabric of Waskesiu.

Policies

- Development will be limited to the current town boundary to ensure the protection of the Park's ecosystem.
- The community plan will provide for a balance between community growth and the protection of both ecological and cultural resources.
- Development will respect and strengthen the visual character and cultural resource integrity of both the park and the community.
- The community plan will allow for commercial redevelopment in support of improving the community's character and service to visitors. Three of the nine existing commercial infill lots will be released to assist in accomplishing this. Compact forms of development will be encouraged in order to maximize limited commercial space.
- Where commercial developments exist, efforts will be made to improve their appearance through design guidelines, sign control, landscaping and development review.
- Limits to growth will be established. In the future, the total amount of development in the commercial core will not exceed 34,574.6m².
- All existing commercial buildings that exceed the approved floor area ratio will be grandfathered.

- Redevelopment of these buildings will be permitted in accordance with the size of building on June 26, 1998.
- The approved commercial floor space does not include staff accommodations.
- The requirement for on-site parking for future commercial development will be reduced. Specific parking requirements will be included in the Waskesiu Land Use Directive.
- A Growth Management Strategy will be implemented to ensure orderly development within the townsite of Waskesiu.
- The residential area will be increased to provide sufficient accommodations for staff working in the Park as required.

New development in Waskesiu will be limited. The chart below indicates the total amount of new development if all aspects of this plan are implemented. These numbers may not be exceeded.

These limits are based on:

- The impact of growth on the character of the townsite, infrastructure, the socio-economic health of the community, and ecological integrity.
- · The public's desire for limited development.

Limits to Growth	2000 Plan	Changes Made	Updated Maximum
Commercial Floor Space*	24,137 m²	Correction adding 9,738.26 m ²	34,574.6 m²
Commercial Lots	50 Lots	No Change	50 Lots
Cottage Lots	118 Lots	14 Lots Added	132 Lots
Cabin Lots	451 Lots	4 Lots Added	455 Lots

^{*} There was an error in the 2000 Waskesiu Community Plan. Commercial floor space has been corrected to reflect the allowable commercial space identified in the *Canada National Parks Act* (p. 127, Schedule 4, Section 33, 34). This number reflects the C5-Bungalow Camp Accommodation that was omitted in error in the 2000 Waskesiu Community Plan.

PRESENT SITUATION IN WASKESIU

A Model Environmental Community and Environmental Stewardship

Wildlife, Aquatic Systems, Vegetation Management, Environmental Management

Achieving No Net Negative Environmental Impact in Waskesiu

Setting Limits to Growth and Environmental Quality Targets, Cumulative Effects Assessment, Community Scale Strategic Mitigation and Restoration, Monitoring and Reassessment of the Environment Quality Criteria and Limits to Growth

Protecting Waskesiu

Law Enforcement, Community Fuel Break Strategy

Heritage Character

Setting, Sense of Arrival, Architecture, Streetscapes, Commercial Buildings, Residential Waskesiu, Parks Canada Structures, Historic Buildings, Protecting Waskesiu's Cultural Heritage, Heritage Presentation

Socio-Economic Situation

Trends, Population, Tourism

Utilities and Infrastructure

Drinking Water, Sewage Distribution and Treatment, Storm Sewers, Solid Waste System, Streets, Pedestrians, Bike Paths, Parking

A MODEL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting ecological integrity and ensuring commemorative integrity take precedence in acquiring, managing, and administrating heritage places and programs. In every application of policy, this guiding principle is paramount." Parks Canada: Guiding Principles and Operational Policies (1994)

Environmental stewardship for Waskesiu encompasses a range of actions. It is the intent of Parks Canada to provide leadership in environmental stewardship and to promote and encourage the following:

- Implementation of the Prince Albert National Park's Environmental Management Action Plan.
- Use of the existing recycling and composting programs and expand where appropriate.
- · The design of energy efficient buildings.
- · The use of natural materials in development.

- · Ecotourism and environmental education.
- Use of low-volume water fixtures in new developments.

In planning for the future of Waskesiu, Parks Canada must live up to this commitment to the people of Canada. The main areas of ecological concern in Waskesiu include:

- · conflict between people and wildlife
- wildfires
- · water quality
- · vegetation management

The continued health of the ecosystem is a primary concern for park managers. The park and the community must monitor progress carefully and must assess when changes are needed to maintain the park's ecological integrity.

Indicators and targets will be developed within one year to measure no net negative environmental impact. Key aspects to be addressed include, wildlife, contaminated sites, water quality, exotic plants and new developments.



Photo: Merv Syroteuk, Parks Canada



Photo: Merv Syroteuk, Parks Canada

Wildlife

Some wildlife species are unnaturally attracted into the townsite and adjacent facilities as a result of human activities, facilities and management practices. The objective of Parks Canada is to only have wildlife species at natural densities within the developed townsite that are compatible with high densities of people and developments.

The main species of concern are black bears, elk, white tailed deer, red foxes, skunks and to a lesser extent squirrels and various species of bats. All these species may pose a public safety or health concern within the townsite depending on the situation. In Waskesiu, major concerns to date have involved black bears and red foxes, with minor concerns over elk, white tailed deer, bats and skunks.

The primary factors which attract black bears into the community are the early green up on the golf course and roadsides and accessible human food and food refuse odour in the townsite and campgrounds. There are some natural food sources within or near the townsite which also attract bears such as spawning suckers that

occasionally get trapped in Beaver Glen Creek, berry patches and carrion. These attractions along with the bears' natural curiosity and continuous quest for food have brought them into the townsite on many occasions.

Red foxes in the community have become accustomed to being fed by people. As a result, they have become extremely bold in attempting to obtain food, which can easily lead to bite injuries and afterwards the destruction of the animal.

Objectives:

• To maintain and restore, to the maximum extent

possible, natural wildlife habitat within the community boundary.

 Where natural hazards due to wildlife encounters have been identified, the public will be advised.

Policies:

- Where conflicts occur between wildlife and existing or proposed developments the "No Net Negative Environmental Impacts" principle must be applied.
- Continue strict control of food and manage garbage in the townsite and campgrounds through provision of proper storage facilities, timely collection, education and enforcement.
- Educate visitors and residents about the harm that comes from feeding wildlife, and the strict enforcement of the National Park Wildlife Regulations against feeding or enticing wildlife.
- Prevent access to Beaver Glen Creek by suckers during periods of water release from the lagoon. Suckers will be allowed to enter the creek during periods of naturally high water levels in the creek.
- Discourage bears from frequenting the townsite or areas immediately adjacent to the townsite.
- Building owners will be responsible to prevent

- wildlife (eg. bats, skunks, squirrels) from living in or under their buildings.
- Deer and elk frequenting high use areas within the
 townsite may be moved by Park Wardens if they
 are considered to be posing a hazard to the public.
 Specific vegetation management may be required to
 deter elk and deer from grazing in some areas of the
 townsite. Public information about the dangers of
 approaching these animals will be distributed and
 signs warning of these or other potentially dangerous
 wildlife will be posted when warranted.

The community fuel break is expected to have some effects on wildlife movements and habitat use in the vicinity of the community. Thinner deciduous forest in the fuel break and the townsite will likely attract elk and possibly deer. It is anticipated that black bears will relocate to areas of thicker forest cover. The relative openness of the fuel break and community forest will improve the opportunities for observing birds and mammals that will frequent this area.



Photo: Merv Syroteuk, Parks Canada



Photo: Joe Benge

Aquatic Ecosystems

Humans presently contribute more atmospheric nitrogen to the ecosystem on a global annual basis than the rest of nature. Recent research in Prince Albert National Park has documented high levels of atmospheric nitrogen deposition in terrestrial ecosystems and increasing nitrogen concentrations over time in aquatic ecosystems. Increases in nitrogen inputs to Waskesiu Lake from global and regional scale human activities (agriculture and hydrocarbon burning) may be exacerbated by effluent discharged from the community's sewage system. Although nitrogen is a very important component of living systems, increases in nitrogen inputs caused by humans can have substantial negative impacts on ecosystem structure and function. In aquatic ecosystems such as Waskesiu Lake, elevated nitrogen concentrations increase the intensity of algae blooms. Since what grows must eventually die, increases in production are followed by increases in decomposition processes that consume dissolved oxygen in the water column. Larger more frequent oxygen deficiencies in the deeper portions of the lake would degrade water quality, reduce large fish populations and affect water-based recreation.

Objectives:

- Determine effects of various magnitudes of chronic nutrient inputs (nitrogen and phosphorous) to Waskesiu Lake from the community sewage system, and identify the level of inputs which causes no net negative environmental impact.
- Develop a strategy to ensure that the target level of nutrient input is not exceeded ("no net negative environmental impact").

Policies:

- Initiate specific research studies to determine the effects of present and future community nutrient inputs into Waskesiu Lake.
- Identify a level of nutrient input which would have no net negative environmental impact.
- Evaluate options (water conservation, development constraints, diversion of effluent to terrestrial ecosystems, etc.) to ensure that this level of input is not exceeded.
- Implement selected options to achieve target or reduce target levels of nutrient inputs to Waskesiu Lake

from the community sewage system. Lack of vegetation cover, hard surfaces (e.g. pavement, compacted soil, rooftops) and storm sewers in the community area alter local runoff and cause the flushing of contaminants and biological wastes directly into Waskesiu Lake. In natural ecosystems, runoff is often filtered before it enters the lake by wetlands and beach ridges. Recent research has documented chemical contaminant and bacteria problems along the community waterfront.

Objectives:

To minimize the flushing of contaminants and biological waste into Waskesiu Lake.

Policies:

- Minimize conversion of vegetated surfaces to hard runoff-contributing surfaces.
- Prevent further conversion of ephemeral streams to storm sewers.
- Add filter system to storm sewer runoff prior to lake discharge.



Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada

Vegetation Management

Development of the Waskesiu townsite and the control of natural wildfires has changed the species composition and structure within the townsite. Non-native species of vegetation have been introduced into the townsite and have also altered the natural vegetation patterns of the area.

Non-native species of vegetation fall into two groups:

- 1) Stationary Those that disperse poorly and are not viable unless actively managed (i.e., flowers); and,
- 2) Invasive Those that have the capacity to disperse from their point of establishment, expand their range, and out-compete native vegetation (i.e., caragana).

Stationary species are not of a significant concern if they are located on leasehold property however, invasive species threaten the representative vegetation within the townsite and the greater park area.

Objectives:

- To ensure the vegetation within Waskesiu townsite will be managed such that its species composition remains representative of the southern boreal plains and plateaux natural region.
- Encourage leaseholders to maintain native vegetation cover on their leasehold.
- Where stationary non-native species have established on non-leasehold property, Parks Canada will replace this vegetation cover with native species.
- Where possible, to eradicate invasive species and where this is not possible, a mechanism will be designed to limit their dispersal.
- · To establish an active tree planting program.

Policies:

- · Use native species for all new planting.
- Set up a program to eliminate exotic species within the townsite.
- Prepare and distribute a brochure to promote gardening with native species.

Environmental Management

The Prince Albert National Park's Environmental Management Action Plan was completed in 1998. The plan outlines aspects of its operations that may have an adverse environmental impact and prioritizes actions designed to minimize these impacts. The plan assigns resources and identifies staff responsible for implementing these actions and sets out deadlines for completion. Finally, it identifies a review mechanism to determine whether the actions were implemented, how successful they were, and whether new action is needed.

ronmentally aware and responsible manner by setting an example to the public by implementing efficient and environmentally-friendly practices.

Each element of the plan has been included with the intention of minimizing environmental impacts. However, it is recognized that some activities can result in unintended impacts and must be carefully planned and executed. All proposed activities will be subject to review and where necessary individual environmental assessments.



Photo: Merv Syroteuk, Parks Canada

The environmental management action plan fulfills part of Parks Canada's requirement under the Guide to Green Government and the *Auditor General Act* to demonstrate how the principles of sustainable development are applied throughout its operations. As well, the action plan will help Prince Albert National Park meet other relevant environmental law and policy requirements in an efficient and coordinated manner. Finally, the action plan will help the Park operate in an envi-



Photo: Merv Syroteuk, Parks Canada



Photo: S. Heard, Parks Canada

ACHIEVING "NO NET NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT" IN WASKESIU

The concept of "no net negative environmental impact" complements sustainable development by recognizing that development implies a modification of the environment which by its nature must generate impact. However, within the limits of a host environment there is capacity to support development and to reduce the effect of localized impact through larger scale environmental management.

Within the townsite, the goal of environmental protection cannot be ecological integrity - we cannot expect to maintain the full structure of the ecosystem and still have roads and buildings. Rather, the goal must be the achievement of a healthy environment, or one which does not show symptoms of stress such as decreased water quality, a large population of non-native and invasive species or reduced biodiversity from original conditions. To be a useful tool, "no net negative environmental impact" must mean community scale management to mitigate environmental impact. To the greatest extent possible, impacts generated through community development should be minimized or avoided through planning, restoration or mitigation initiated within the community and its immediate environment. No net negative environmental impact will be implemented through the following objectives:

Setting Limits to Growth and Environmental Quality Targets

Clear limits to growth and environmental quality targets are required to direct future community development and to provide specific points of reference for facilitating management decision making. Limits and targets must be set with the best available knowledge regarding the capacity of the environment to sustain development activity, allowing for a significant margin for error. Once in place, they should be periodically reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure protection of the environment.

Limits and quality targets may include, but would not necessarily be limited to:

- the conversion of the landscape to paved/built areas;
- the area of the landscape which is dominated by exotic or cultivated plants;
- the amount of natural vegetation which must be maintained on individual building lots,
- · runoff/storm water quality;
- site specific effluent quality which would emphasize total amounts of nutrients and their form rather than simple concentrations;
- power consumption;
- water consumption;
- · waste diversion programs;
- · herbicide use.

Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA)

CEA is intended to characterize and, where possible, quantify the cumulative effects of past and future townsite development states. The purpose is to investigate the likely impacts and to then establish or modify growth limits and quality targets based on these investigations and implement strategic mitigation. Hypotheses on cumulative environmental effects would be developed for the range of anticipated impact issues or stressors (such as effluent release, exotic plants, storm water) reflected in the chosen growth limits and quality targets.

In several areas, preliminary information suggests that harmful effects are accumulating. Sudden increases in bacterial counts at the main beach, evidence of changing organic carbon levels and nitrogen levels in Waskesiu Lake, and the presence of pesticide residues in the sediment that accumulates inside the breakwater suggest that the development and continuing use of the townsite are producing negative impacts. These data should be evaluated and assessed to determine the extent to which continued and cumulative effects in the townsite and adjacent environments are likely to result from continued use and future development. Future states of development should be modeled considering the chosen limits to growth as a means of assessing potential cumulative effects and refining the limits to ensure protection of the greater environment.

Community Scale Strategic Mitigation and Restoration

The identification of the cumulative impact issues will direct strategic mitigation and restoration efforts within the townsite. Development normally occurs one project at a time which is rarely the best way to manage cumulative impact. Once limits are set, projects should be approved with reference to these limits (in addition to the normal process of development approval and environmental assessment). The larger impact of the development of land in several projects is best managed through a broad, community scale approach, which serves to mitigate a class of impacts. For example, if Parks Canada determines that the conversion of forested lands to parking and building lots has resulted in an increase in polluted runoff to the lake (and this conversion is responsible for the bacterial problems) it may take action to restore selected areas in the townsite to a vegetated state to intercept water or to treat the polluted runoff. Alternatively, mitigation may involve altering a growth limit or quality target given new information regarding the nature of the impact.

Monitoring and Reassessment of the Environmental Quality Criteria and Limits to Growth.

Monitoring is a necessary part of the implementation for three reasons:

- To ensure development is within the prescribed limits and meets the environmental quality targets.
- To ensure that the mitigation techniques are effective. For example, is there a predicted improvement in water quality following the implementation of a storm water treatment mitigation?
- Data for the key indicators are critical to evaluating the suitability of the limits over time and the accuracy of predictions regarding future states (i.e. Is the assessment of cumulative effects correct or is further investigation required?) and will facilitate adaptations in the limits and quality targets.

Objectives:

- Complete the following within one year:
- · Identification of stressors and indicators.
- Identification of appropriate measurement methodology, frequency and responsibility.
- Adjustments to both the Community Plan and the framework as needed.

Policies:

- Ensure individual projects are reviewed and decisions made in accordance with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.
- Use environmental indicators/stressors to help determine the environmental health of the area.
- Ensure infrastructure has the capacity to support growth and where necessary upgrades will need to be in place prior to new development.
- Provide leadership in environmental stewardship.

PROTECTING WASKESIU

Law Enforcement

Parks Canada, through an effective legislative framework and regulatory process, will ensure a fair, impartial, predictable and consistent law enforcement and compliance program.

Objectives:

• To enforce Parks Canada's mandate of protecting ecological and commemorative integrity.

• To provide support to the RCMP to ensure the safety of visitors and employees, enhance visitor enjoyment, protect property, and prevent crime.

Policies:

- Administer the legislation primarily through education and by encouraging voluntary compliance and participation.
- Use the full range of authority required to effectively protect the heritage resources on park lands.
- Use rules, sanctions and processes that are securely founded in law.



Photo: Sean Francis Martin. Parks Canada

- Maintain a responsive and expedient service to the public.
- Ensure that the Law Enforcement Program encompasses the four major activities of Planning, Monitoring, Prevention, and Enforcement.
- Respect the confidentiality of information and communicate the information only to those legally entitled to receive it.
- To review and update the Visitor Risk Management Plan as new public safety issues arise.

Community Fuel Break Strategy

Waskesiu is situated in the boreal forest region of Canada which is characterized by frequent, large, and intense fires. These fires spread rapidly and move through the forest canopy. The last fire that went through the townsite of Waskesiu occurred in 1919. Fire is a natural process and it can be expected that other fires will threaten to burn over the townsite in the future.

There are currently very few locations near the townsite from which fire suppression actions could be effectively staged. Research into wildland-urban interface fires has shown that the risks from wildfire can be reduced with the development of a fuel break. The Community Fuel Break (CFB) being proposed for Waskesiu provides the townsite with maximum protection while producing the lowest environmental effects.

Objective:

 To develop and maintain an area of discontinuous forest fuels (the Waskesiu townsite CFB) from which fire suppression activities can be staged. The fuel break should reduce the intensity of a crown fire to that of a more manageable surface fire.

Policies:

- The CFB will be developed by thinning the forest around the townsite. All forest stand types will not be thinned to the same level. Conifer stands will be heavily thinned whereas deciduous stands will be classed as a natural fuel break after green up. Approximately 12 forest stands have been identified within the project area and each stand will be treated as a unique area.
- A trail along the outer perimeter of the fuel break (4

to 5 M wide) will be established in order to minimize the impact of tree removal and other maintenance equipment and activities. It will be maintained on a long-term basis to provide park fire managers with a first line of defense and to serve for recreational use (hiking, biking, skiing).

• Physical removal - instead of burning - will be used to thin the forest around the townsite, and most

of the work will be done in the off-season or winter months. Merchantable timber will be sold to defray the costs of fuel reduction. Small prescribed burns may be used to clear the forest floor of debris and dead material. The end result will be a more 'open' forest that still provides wildlife habitat and preserves aesthetics.

Maintenance of the fuel break will ensure continued effectiveness.







Community Fuel Break

HERITAGE CHARACTER

Waskesiu's range of heritage resources demonstrate its evolution. The Community Plan recognizes the importance of preserving these heritage resources to maintain the townsite's character. Heritage protection must come from both the community and Parks Canada. Public education is vital to promote awareness, stewardship and research into the future of these historic resources so as to preserve them for present and future generations.

Setting

The Waskesiu Community is a low-density town, located within the boreal forest along the shores of Waskesiu Lake. The community is a mix of cottages, cabins, staff residences, park facilities and commercial tourist services and facilities. The community has developed slowly and has retained many of the characteristics it had when it was first developed. Waskesiu has a unique character which has contributed to its setting, architecture, streetscapes, historic buildings and open space. The Waskesiu townsite's location within a national park provides a setting that is unsurpassed. Natural features, such as the lake and the surrounding forest, all provide for a unique and memorable visitor experience.



Photo: Sean Francis Martin, Parks Canada

Sense of Arrival

There exists no major vista in the town except when visitors approach the community by water along the lake. The approach to the town is made through the vast northern boreal forest that spans the northern prairie region. The Park gate formalizes the major highway approach. The scenic approaches along Waskesiu Lake and from the Highway 264 form the backbone of the town's major circulation pathways.

When entering the townsite, the main intersection is at Lakeview Drive and Waskesiu Drive. Lack of signage at this intersection directing visitors to their destinations within the townsite has posed some problems. The Park Administration and Information Building is directly across from this intersection; however visitors often do not see this building because of lack of signage. A sign welcoming visitors is needed upon entering Waskesiu. Proper orientation signage is also required at the intersection of Lakeview Drive and Waskesiu Drive.

Architecture

The townsite of Waskesiu is a special place with a unique architectural character that is the basis for community pride. This character defines the community to visitors, and is a major factor which contributes to a positive lasting memory in the minds of visitors. Such pleasant nostalgic memories or images enhance the "visitor-experience" as well as the commercial and recreational facilities which make Waskesiu a unique tourist destination. The townsite consists of several distinct areas including: the commercial core along Waskesiu

and Lakeview Drives, the edge between the lake and town, the cottage subdivisions, staff housing, the cabin area, the golf course, campground areas, and beach facilities. In each separate area, the small scale commercial and residential development next to wooded hills, wooded plains and lake views are visually linked through application of the park's Facility Appearance Guidelines.

Since Prince Albert National Park was first created, efforts have been made to develop a distinct architectural character for buildings in the Park. This distinct rustic image combines the use of stone, log construction, gabled roofs and rough hewn wood 'picturesque' architectural details. This style is readily identifiable with Canadian national parks and the image of 1930's prairie craftsman buildings.

The rustic style has been used for a wide variety of original park facilities which were constructed prior to 1940, including warden cabins, kiosks, picnic shelters as well as such buildings as Prime Minister Mackenzie King's cottage, the Park Superintendent's residence, the Community Hall, the Nature Centre, and the Golf Course Clubhouse.

The style of Waskesiu's architecture, both past and present, has made a significant contribution to the town's character. By looking at these buildings for inspiration, much of this character can be preserved for present and future generations to enjoy. New Facility Appearance Guidelines will be written to help preserve Waskesiu's heritage character.



Photo: Parks Canada



Photo: Sean Francis Martin, Parks Canada

Streetscapes

Development in the townsite of Waskesiu has followed the shoreline outward, influenced by proximity to the main beach area. In general Waskesiu has had limited streetscape improvements. The streetscapes in different areas of Waskesiu vary greatly.

The cottage areas have been preserved with natural tree and ground cover at the street edge to provide a pleasant natural streetscape. The roads in these areas need to be upgraded as they have not been re-capitalized since they were established. The cabin area has a quaint atmosphere despite the tightly packed housing which dominates the streetscape. The streets in this area need to be upgraded.

The buildings in the commercial core have varying frontages with a lack of vegetation and trees on some lots. New developments and re-developments in the commercial core will have to incorporate a landscape strategy so that green spaces are more dominant in this area. Existing developments will be encouraged to plant native vegetation on their lots.

Sidewalk improvements have been done in portions of the commercial area. To keep this continuity within the commercial core, the remainder of sidewalks within the area will have to be completed. The roads in the commercial core need to be re-surfaced as they are becoming dilapidated. Wapiti Drive will need to be extended to accommodate future developments along this street. Alternatives to asphalt and concrete will be examined for all hard packed surfaces such as streets and sidewalks.

Commercial Buildings

The downtown core of Waskesiu consists of two main streets, Lakeview Drive and Waskesiu Drive, extending from the Park Administration building at one end, to Willow Street at the other. One can walk around this entire area in a matter of minutes. Small, rustic buildings such as the Skyline Motel, Armstrong Hillcrest Bungalows and Mackenzie Inn add to the charm of the area.

The early commercial buildings in Waskesiu reflect the rustic, picturesque style associated with the image of Canadian national parks. The structures typically have wood siding, 'older style double hung windows', as well as visible, articulated roofs with relatively large eaves and porches. Building elements and details such as doors, chimneys, trim boards and signage suggest earlier, simpler times.

In the 1960's and 1970's a number of flat roofed "modern" structures were constructed. Renovations to alter the appearance of these structures will be encouraged as they do not add to the unique rustic resort community image of Waskesiu. Examples of this type of structure include the post office and the old liquor store building.

More recent structures are larger and use modern commercial styles and materials, such as the new Mall, Hawood Inn and the Waskesiu Lake Lodge. Parks Canada intends to permit development of viable commercial facilities in the commercial core of Waskesiu in a manner which does not detract from the unique charm and character of the community. This will be accomplished through new Facility Appearance Guidelines and an improved development review process.

Vistas and buildings along Waskesiu and Lakeview Drives will require care to ensure the Waskesiu commercial core retains a coherent, unique identity that:

- meets commercial building requirements while enhancing the natural and unique resort-town
- promotes "craftsmen style/Tudor-rustic" charm of Waskesiu Lake;
- use a development review process which fairly balances commercial needs with concern for the overall appearance and image of the community;
- · visually screens unsightly commercial service and

- receiving areas, storage facilities, parking lots and garbage bins;
- maintains existing treed and open spaces adjacent to the commercial walks;
- emphasizes or enhances existing older small scale commercial 'character' buildings which have become historic visual landmarks;



Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada



Photo: Brad Muir. Parks Canada

Residential Waskesiu

Residential Waskesiu includes:

- Cottage Subdivisions (Prospect Point, Lakeview Subdivisions I, II, III)
- Cabin area
- Housing for Park employees and commercial staff along Montreal Drive and Elk Street.

The cottages have been built in an attractive rustic, craftsman style, with simple but elegant roofs and trim work. The historic wood of the Superintendents House on Prospect Drive is a fine example of this style. The cabins were originally constructed as inexpensive semipermanent homes. Cottages and cabins are now being replaced with larger structures which cover more area with buildings, decks and sheds. Newer cottages and cabin structures make use of contemporary materials and styles which are compatible with the older/earlier architectural styles found in the Park.

The residential community along Montreal Drive and Elk Street, where both Parks Canada and commercial staff live, is in a transition period with fewer Parks Canada staff residing in the townsite on a year round basis and more commercial staff needing accommodations year round. This area has a variety of different accommodations ranging from single family dwellings, duplexes, apartments and trailers. Parks Canada is implementing improvements to these housing units.

The seasonal staff trailer park located on Tern Street and Grouse Street, provides residences for most of the seasonal staff during the summer months. This area is not aesthetically pleasing due to a lack of green space and separation between campsites. The demand for more low cost accommodations such as the trailer park has created an over crowding problem in this area. To help alleviate this problem, the staff trailer park will be expanded to meet the demand for this type of accommodation.







Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada



Photo: Brad Muir. Parks Canada

Parks Canada Structures

Many of the character-defining original structures in the Waskesiu townsite are still owned by Parks Canada. The older log sided buildings such as the Community Hall and Information Building along Waskesiu Drive harken back to an earlier era of the Park in terms of architectural form and detail. Such architectural detail and style is also evident in the simple wooden siding of the Assembly Hall along Lakeview Drive.

Historic Buildings

The townsite of Waskesiu is one of only seven national park townsites in Canada, and thus is an intrinsic part of the Canadian cultural landscape. Many Canadians and visitors to Canada cherish memories associated with national park townsites. This historic image of our townsites can be defined as one of our national historic resources. The historic buildings in the townsite add to the distinctive image of Waskesiu.

Prince Albert National Park has used design guidelines from the inception of the Park in 1927. A characteristic of the early designs is the use of native log and stone materials and certain architectural motifs borrowed from the picturesque cottage tradition. This creates a distinctive rustic image that harmonizes with the natural setting and is readily identified with the national parks system. This design involves the use of horizontal log construction with stone trim typically applied to front entrance porches and half timbered gables.

Within Waskesiu there are three buildings associated with the early years of the Park:

- the log cabin built as a gift for Prime Minister Mackenzie King in 1927;
- the Park Superintendent's Residence built in 1929 - 1930;
- the Pease Cottage, built in 1930.



Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada

The basic picturesque cottage tradition building design guidelines introduced in 1929 to 1930 were continued and elaborated upon in the Depression era during a second phase of construction which used logs and stone work combined with mock Tudor-rustic architectural styles. Park Administration maintained design controls during the construction of the cottages in the Lakeview and Prospect Point Sub-divisions. Recommended architectural details include the use of hipped or gabled roofs; broad eave overhangs; large screened verandahs and rustic stone fireplaces and chimneys. Windows and doors were frequently framed with broad trim boards. Some structures feature a distinctive cross timber rail on verandahs and balconies. This period of time coincided with unemployment relief funding for labour intensive projects including:

- the Community Hall adjacent to the beach area;
- the Nature Centre on Lakeview Drive;
- the Golf Course Clubhouse;
- staff housing buildings on Montreal Drive;
- the Assembly Hall on Lakeview Drive (former dance hall built in 1931);
- the Tennis and Lawn bowling Clubhouse on Montreal Drive built in 1936;
- a number of privately owned commercial and cottage buildings.

A third phase of construction occurred from 1936 to the end of World War II. The comparatively smaller number of buildings constructed during this time are distinguishable structurally and stylistically from the earlier periods. The emphasis on logs and native stone was phased out in favor of more economical lightly decorated concrete work and frame construction finished with milled half logs, windows with sashes and frames divided into small panes of glass, exposed roof rafter ends visible under eaves, wide trim boards surrounding doors and windows, moderate stone work chimneys and fireplaces and simple roof profiles utilizing shed additions for porches. Examples of this period include:

- the Information Building on Waskesiu Drive (originally the Warden's headquarters);
- the Youth Hostel structures on Montreal Drive (originally the Kitchen & Dining Hall);
- the former garage adjacent to the Administration Building;

- the golf course Pro-shop;
- a number of privately owned commercial and cottage buildings.



Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada

After World War II structures were constructed from stock plans borrowed from other federal government building programs and a trend developed toward half log timbering, with less emphasis on the use of stone, rustic detail and timber construction. During the 1950's, some commercial structures were constructed with half-timbered siding, high parapets and low slope roofs.

The legacy of the early building program is still evident in the townsite of Waskesiu, but is largely confined to a small group of conspicuous structures including those mentioned above. These historic buildings help define the historic character of the town of Waskesiu. The guiding principles behind the original Facility Appearance Guidelines have been carried on by Parks Canada to this day, however new Facility Appearance Guidelines are needed to help better preserve the architectural heritage character of Waskesiu.

Protecting Waskesiu's Cultural Heritage

Management of cultural resources in national parks is subject to national policy which applies to all lands administered by Parks Canada. This policy states that:

"Appropriate uses of cultural resources will be those uses and activities that respect the historic value and physical integrity of the resource, and that promote public understanding and appreciation." Guiding Principles and Operational Policies

The policy also stipulates that all cultural resources in national parks, including those on leased lands, be surveyed and evaluated, and that "cultural resources are dedicated and held in trust so that present and future generations may enjoy and benefit from them."

Objectives:

- Parks Canada will protect the heritage value of important historic buildings as well as their settings where appropriate.
- Parks Canada will encourage stewardship of heritage resources in the community.
- The need for measures to protect archeological resources threatened by development must be assessed.
- Redevelopment, alterations or additions will respect the elements that define the heritage character of individual historic structures.
- The character of the town should emphasize the experience of being in a national park.

Policies:

- All Federal Heritage Buildings will continue to be maintained respecting their heritage designation.
- The Information Building and former Garage will remain in their present locations and will be let for commercial purposes.
- All new construction and renovations will respect the historic character and scale of existing developments and will follow traditional patterns of land use and landscaping.
- The community and the park will support heritage tourism through appropriate activities, services, education and information.

 The architecture and landscape requirements set out in the Waskesiu Land Use Directive and the Facility Appearance Guidelines will apply to all development proposals.



Cultural Heritage Map

Heritage Presentation

The role of Heritage Presentation is to inspire an appreciation and knowledge of environmental and heritage characteristics of local, national and global significance. This is achieved through personal and non-personal programming to the visiting public, non-visiting public, outreach education, school and convention groups. Personal programming is achieved through the venues of outdoor theater programs, guided hikes, campfires and impromptu events. Non-personal programming is achieved through products such as self-guided interpretive trail brochures, on-site signs, videos, CD-ROMS, multi-media and edu-kits.

During the peak operating season a variety of programs are offered within the townsite of Waskesiu. The locations vary from the Nature Centre, which is located on Lakeview Drive, to the Beaver Glen Outdoor Theatre, located at the Beaver Glen campground, to evening campfires and impromptu events throughout the townsite and outlying areas. The Community and Assembly Hall are used frequently for special events. Interpreters also offer a wide range of hikes.

The Nature Centre features an award-winning exhibit on the boreal forest. Theater presentations, films, exhibits and other events are also held in this facility. As well, the Friends of Prince Albert National Park Cooperating Association operates a bookstore in this building.

The Heritage Presentation unit works with partners such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of the Park, Prince Albert Model Forest, the University of Saskatchewan and local First Nations communities. These partners have enhanced Parks Canada's communications.

Policies:

- Integration of the National Park and National Historic Site System messages into programs;
- Expansion of extension education and learning opportunities;
- Expansion of local Aboriginal cultural and historical interpretation;
- Rejuvenation of personal programming. (eg. guided walks, threatre presentations)
- Recapitalization of Heritage Presentation assets

- will be explored. (eg. On-site exhibits and displays)
- Heritage Presentation will continue working with partners.
- Enhance communications work with the First Nations communities.
- Communicate messages of ecological, historical and national significance.
- · Enhance our shoulder season programming.
- · Continue strong environmental stewardship messages.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION

The townsite of Waskesiu had emerged as a seasonal community before the creation of Prince Albert National Park. Once established as a park, private and public works building projects resulted in the development of many of the facilities still in use today. Expansions of

cottage subdivisions and the business area as well as the construction of all-season roads continued to transform the community. Waskesiu maintained its seasonal focus for 30 years after park establishment, shifting in the late fifties and again in the mid sixties to a small year round community.

Parks Canada and the Waskesiu Community Council have a strong desire to see the townsite of Waskesiu socially and economically healthy within the limits imposed by its ecological and physical setting. To achieve social and economic goals the townsite needs to meet the following objectives:

- Have a large enough permanent population to support a variety of essential social and cultural activities as well as to adequately serve visitors to the park.
- Support local education facilities and opportunities and permit a range of basic recreational opportunities.
- Encourage a year-round operating season that will improve the economical viability of businesses.



Photo: Sean Francis Martin, Parks Canada

Trends

After a period of decline in the early to mid-nineties, Prince Albert National Park and Waskesiu are experiencing pressure to improve services and extend the operating season. Contributing to this pressure are:

- the expansion of commercial operations outside the park boundary
- an increase in the number of visitors
- the increasing popularity of ecotourism
- the desire for more educational and recreational facilities within the townsite



Brad Muir, Parks Canada

Population

The annual population of Waskesiu has not changed much over the years. On most summer weekends about 5000 residents, visitors, campers, cottage and cabin owners, stay overnight in Waskesiu. Prince Albert National Park welcomes, on average, 180,000 visitors every year. The majority of visitors are Saskatchewan residents (approximately 80% of visitors), and Albertans (10%) and Canadians, Americans and International visitors account for the remainder.

The winter community has experienced change over the last ten years. The population has ranged from a high of approximately 200 people to the current low estimated at 50 residents. The trends show that, over the last ten years, Park employees living in the townsite have decreased while commercial staff residents have been increasing. Government restructuring and the lack of a school system in the townsite are some of the contributing factors to the declining population.

Tourism

According to the Canadian Tourism Commission, tourism in Saskatchewan and Western Canada as a whole is expected to grow well into the 21st century. The number of visitors to Prince Albert National Park has increased by 2.9% over the last 10 years, with 1998 being the peak year at 219,500 visitors, and there is every indication that this trend will continue. Changing demographics, ecotourism, tourism promotion, and favorable exchange rates have all contributed to this trend and will increase the demand for differing types and levels of service. Tourist expectations have changed and the park is responding to the demand. The greatest changes are being experienced in the camping sector. The camping trend is increasing and with it, large, fully-equipped recreational units are becoming more common. Consequently, there is demand for more serviced campsites. Prince Albert National Park has responded by electrifying 76 campsites in Beaver Glen, the largest campground in the park with 213 sites, located on the edge of the townsite. A reservation system for the two main campgrounds, Trailer Park (152 water/sewer/electrical sites) and Beaver Glen, has also been established.

While these two projects have improved the services the park offers, the visiting public is requesting that these improvements continue. Campsites in the townsite are at a premium in the summer season. An overflow area does not meet our goal of offering the visitor a quality national park experience.

Policies:

- Electrify an additional 31 sites in Beaver Glen campground.
- Study the feasibility of increasing the number of fully-serviced sites in the Trailer Park campground if demand warrants. Any proposed development must meet the No Net Negative Environmental Impact Framework.

Prince Albert National Park, in conjunction with other Parks Canada attractions, Tourism Saskatchewan, Northern Saskatchewan Tourism, Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce, Friends of PANP, and businesses, are pursuing opportunities to enhance its market position. Priority is on the domestic and nearby provincial markets, shoulder season visitation, and critical partnership and product development opportunities.



Photo: Sean Francis Martin. Parks Canada

UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Resource conservation and waste management is a primary objective for the townsite of Waskesiu.

Policies:

- The townsite will participate in the Regional Waste Management initiative for the greater Prince Albert region.
- The existing recycling program will continue. A
 wider range of visitors will be encouraged to use the
 recycling program through public education.
- The existing townsite composting program will continue.

Drinking Water

The drinking water is drawn from Waskesiu Lake and is treated at the water treatment plant, constructed in 1998/99. The water is distributed through a series of various size water mains (shallow and deep buried). The pressure is achieved by the use of a 100,000 gallon water tower constructed in 1953 and upgraded in 1988, as well as the holding tanks at the new water treatment plant. Additions to the system include the installation of shallow buried waterlines in the Cabin area. Freezing, over-pressurization, leaks and breaks due to unstable soils and frosts are chronic problems.

Sewage Distribution and Treatment:

The sewage distribution system includes:

- Three vertical shaft lift stations constructed in 1959 and upgraded in 1988.
- Two submersible lifts one constructed in 1959 and the other in 1973.

The sewage is transmitted through a series of various sized sewer lines, all of which are in some need of repair or replacement. The sewage treatment system includes a three-cell facultative lagoon. The first two cells were constructed in 1973 and the third in 1959. This facility is currently operating at or exceeding capacity.

The main concern is retention time and volume. Using a formula to calculate the number of gallons pumped and the capacity of the cells, there is not enough room to hold the volume pumped, (possibly an indication of infiltration into the ground). The lagoon is currently released twice per year (spring and fall). This meets provincial guidelines; however, it does not meet the federal guideline for effluent treatment at federal establishments, which calls for one year retention.

The following initiatives will be taken in the next few years to help alleviate pressures on the sewage system and ultimately improve the quality of effluent released from the lagoon.

- upgrading of Lift Stations 1, 2 and 3.
- sewer line repairs
- a study will be conducted to address the sewage lagoon capacity and appropriate actions will follow-up.

Storm Sewers

A majority of the streets in the townsite require a storm sewer system to control high volumes of storm water. Except for Montreal Drive, Lakeview Drive and a section of Waskesiu Drive, the majority of streets have no curb gutter and spill storm water into surrounding areas, causing damage. Montreal Drive and sections of Waskesiu Drive and Lakeview Drive need to have a storm sewer strategy to tie in with the recapitalization

of roads. The system requires scanning existing lines to determine the condition of existing old corrugated metal pipes.

Policies:

- The existing storm sewer system will be assessed to determine its effectiveness. Upgrading of the system will be concurrent with the recapitalization of roads.
- Options for providing a filter for storm sewer discharge will be assessed.

Solid Waste System

Parks Canada is participating in a Regional Waste Management initiative, designed to address solid waste management in the greater Prince Albert region. Although some containers are in need of recapitalization, the townsite should wait until the Regional Waste Management program is in place.

Policy:

 The present container system will be evaluated to determine if it can accommodate some recycling deficiencies, namely the kitchen waste compost program and the glass recycling program. There is a keen interest in both of these areas; however the townsite is lacking a practical way in which to collect the waste.



New Water Treatment Plant Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada

Streets

The following streets were not upgraded with the recent major recapitalization and require attention in the near future:

- a section of Waskesiu Drive between Balsam Street and Montreal Drive
- Montreal Drive
- · a network of streets in the Cottage subdivisions
- · a network of streets in the seasonal staff trailer area
- Poplar Street and connecting back lane behind Montreal Drive staff housing
- · a network of streets in the Cabin area

All these streets require more than normal maintenance attention. The subgrade and base material on a portion of Waskesiu Drive in the core business district is termed at best as "floating" due to extreme frost action. The hard surface on all the streets has broken down to a point where spot patching is not practical. Curbs and gutters are also required for definition and control of storm water.

The completion of Wapiti Drive will be required for access to the three commercial infill lots.

Pedestrians

The community would like to keep Waskesiu "pedestrian friendly". The overall network of sidewalks within the townsite is quite good; however sections of Waskesiu Drive and Lakeview Drive pose vehicle-pedestrian conflicts during the summer months.

Policies:

- A sidewalk is required to connect Bluebird Street and Waskesiu Drive. Pedestrian traffic now crosses the main access road to get to the core business area.
- A strategy will be implemented to discourage pedestrian traffic from using the roadway on Lakeview Drive between Aspen and Kingsmere Drive.

Bike Paths

As with pedestrian traffic, bicycle traffic must be discouraged from using the roadway on Lakeview Drive

between Aspen and Kingsmere Drive. The community fuel break will allow for an additional bicycle trail within the townsite.

Policy:

 A study is required to identify appropriate bike path networks not presently available within the townsite.

Parking

During the summer months, parking in the commercial core is at a premium. Parking for both buses and recreational vehicles is lacking.

Policies:

- · Reduce on-site parking for businesses.
- Reconfigure Lots 5, 12, 13 Block 5 as core area commercial parking.
- Reconfigure the Park Administration and Information Building lot so that it accommodates more public and RV parking.



Photo: Sean Francis Martin, Parks Canada



Photo: Sean Francis Martin. Parks Canada



Core Area Parking

MANAGEMENT PLAN & POLICY DIRECTION

Prince Albert National Park
Vision Statement
Maintaining Ecological and Cultural
Resource Integrity

Importance Of Residents And Visitors

Role Of Waskesiu

Facilities

Waskesiu Community Council Vision Statement



Photo: Parks Canada

The 1995 Prince Albert National Park Management Plan and Parks Canada's Guiding Principles and Operational Policies describe the vision for Prince Albert National Park. This vision provides the basis for decisions about development and operations in Waskesiu.

PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK VISION STATEMENT

Prince Albert National Park and its programs are being managed in a way that sustains its ecological and cultural resource integrity. The park contributes to broader sustainable development and conservation strategies by protecting, monitoring and maintaining its ecological integrity and the biodiversity of the larger natural area, and providing visitors with opportunities to appreciate and understand the value of sustaining the park and the regional ecosystems. With the cooperation of many different groups, the restoration of the park's ecosystems is well underway. The role of Prince Albert National Park as an important

component in sustaining the integrity of the regional ecosystems and a network of protected areas is valued.

Park management demonstrates the interdependence of humans and the environment, and provides enhanced educational and interpretative opportunities for all park visitors. The park promotes increased public stewardship, a conservation ethic, citizenship values based on respect for the environment and our heritage, and ecosystem and cultural resource management.

Prince Albert National Park continues to play a significant heritage tourism role in the region. It provides visitor opportunities that conform to the national park mandate and complements those in the surrounding region. Many different types of visitors, from seasonal residents and destination resort users, to wilderness enthusiasts and neighbors, come to Prince Albert National Park. They come for different reasons, but discover the same thing: outstanding natural and cultural resources that provide high quality, enriching national park experiences. The park is recognized as a national treasure. It receives the special care and

attention needed to ensure it remains for the appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of this and future generations.

The heritage community of Waskesiu provides visitors with a unique experience. Waskesiu is being used as a regional centre for learning about natural and cultural heritage protection. Visitors use the services offered by local businesses to enjoy Waskesiu, and some use the community as a base from which to discover other parts of the park. Seasonal residents, business operators, and Parks Canada work together to make Waskesiu a municipal model for shared decision making, known for its exemplary cultural and environmental resource protection practices.

Spring, summer, fall, and winter find visitors enjoying many activities in a variety of settings, from outings at a range of facilities accessible to all, to soul refreshing wilderness. All visitors have the chance to learn about the park and the role it plays in the regional ecosystems. Experiences in Prince Albert National Park renew and inspire visitors. By reflecting on the role and contribution of national parks, visitors from Canada more clearly understand who they are as Canadians.

Alliances have flourished. Protection, research and presentation of the park's natural resources and processes, and cultural resources consider the close relationship between people and the environment. People work together to provide a diverse range of visitor experiences that respect the park's ecological integrity and its cultural resources. The park is managed with increased efficiency, costs of personal benefits are shared equitably with users, and its protection mandate is secure.



Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada

MAINTAINING ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE INTEGRITY

Protecting ecological integrity and ensuring commemorative integrity must take precedence in acquiring, managing and administering heritage places and programs. In every application of policy, this guiding principle is paramount. The integrity of natural and cultural heritage is maintained by striving to ensure that management decisions affecting these special places are made on sound cultural resource management and ecosystem based management practices.

Policies:

- Establish a long-term monitoring program to detect changes in the No Net Negative Environmental Impact Framework.
- Work with park stakeholders to restore, promote, and commemorate the park's significant ecological and cultural values.
- Work with businesses, seasonal residents, and others to encourage water conservation, use of environmentally friendly products, reduction and recycling of waste, and other initiatives that improve environmental quality in the regional ecosystems.



Photo: Sean Francis Martin, Parks Canada

IMPORTANCE OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

Visitors and residents who come to Prince Albert
National Park enjoy many different aspects of the park:
everything from exploring the back country to enjoying the facilities and services the townsite has to offer.
Parks Canada policy states that "essential services and
facilities will serve the basic needs of the public, and will
be directly related to the provision of understanding,
appreciation and enjoyment of the natural and cultural
heritage. "To allow visitors and residents to better appreciate and enjoy Prince Albert National Park and the

townsite of Waskesiu, the following principles will be applied:

- Parks Canada, working in cooperation with others, will offer high-quality visitor services which do not deteriorate park resources or visitor experiences.
- The involvement of the public, including private and voluntary organizations, will be encouraged in the planning, development and operation of appropriate services and facilities in national parks.
- The range of visitor opportunities offered in the park reflects the park's heritage character, respects national park priorities to maintain ecological and cultural resource integrity, and continues to complement the opportunities available within the region.



Photo: Kevin Hogarth, Parks Canada

ROLE OF WASKESIU

Waskesiu will provide:

- a service centre for visitors;
- · an administrative centre for Parks Canada;
- a year round residential community for people with a need to reside in Waskesiu;
- a seasonal residential community;
- an opportunity for new services for visitors and residents. The type and extent of these services will be clearly defined in the Waskesiu Land Use Directive;
- respect for the community's low density and small scale character.

FACILITIES

- The design of future development and/or redevelopment will be compatible with the surrounding environment. The natural landscape will dominate and the visual impact of new structures will be kept to a minimum.
- Architectural regulations will protect the town's basic character. Historic buildings and facilities will serve as the primary motif. There will be a unity among structures.
- Colour and texture will blend with the natural surroundings. Natural materials such as stone and wood should be used wherever possible.

WASKESIU COMMUNITY COUNCIL VISION STATEMENT

The people of Waskesiu take pride in being part of a model four season community respecting its heritage character and natural environment. We serve as ambassadors for Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan's premier destination park, committed to celebrating all aspects of our human history and identifying and maintaining our architectural heritage for all Canadians.

The elected Council, the commercial sector, the residents, and Parks Canada share a sense of purpose and harmony in guiding and managing the townsite.

Together with Parks Canada, the community of Waskesiu educates and demonstrates by example the importance of ecological integrity.

Waskesiu is both a destination and a departure point for a variety of leisure experiences within the park and offers the services and amenities of a community within a national park. The townsite offers a choice of affordable recreational experiences for all ages. Special events provide opportunities to enjoy Waskesiu and the park in a variety of ways and serve to build a strong sense of community.

The elected Council continues to exercise prudent fiscal management and to support tourism and other economic opportunities that are consistent with national park values.

Waskesiu continues to be a meeting place for generations of families who enjoy and respect its unique recreational opportunities, abundant wildlife and natural beauty.



Photo: Sean Francis Martin, Parks Canada



Photo: Parks Canada

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

Land Uses

Land Use Maps

Commercial Infill Map and

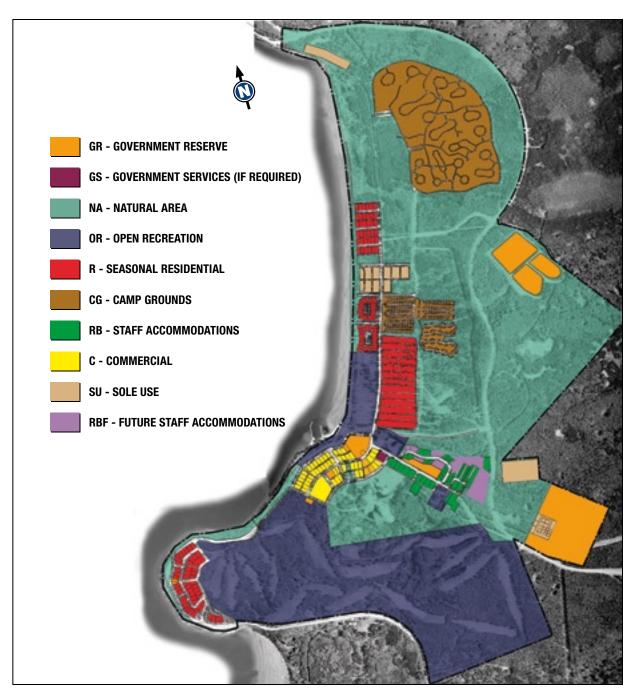
Renderings

Need To Reside

Staff Accomodation Map

Landscape Strategy

Landscaping, Signs, Lighting



Map of Waskesiu showing land use zones.

The Waskesiu Community Plan allows for a relatively small amount of commercial and staff accommodation growth. While the plan allows for some growth it also maintains the natural and historic character of the townsite. The main components of the plan are:

- The commercial core buildout will be capped at 34.574.6m².
- Three commercial lots will be re-zoned to natural area.
- Three commercial lots will be re-zoned to government reserve to be used as commercial core area parking.
- Three commercial infill lots will be released to enhance visitor services.
- A new Waskesiu Land Use Directive will set strict limits on the size and placement of developments.
- New Facility Appearance Guidelines will be completed to help improve and maintain Waskesiu's heritage character.
- An expansion of the staff accommodation area will allow for more economical housing options for commercial and park staff working within the park.
- Indicators and targets for ensuring no net negative environmental impact will be completed within a year.
- A growth management strategy will be implemented to phase in development.

LAND USES

Changes to both the townsite boundary and land use zoning address several issues:

- The ecological integrity of Prince Albert National Park.
- The social and economic well-being of residents, visitors and commercial operators.
- · The demand for more staff accommodations.
- The need for a moderate increase in commercial development to provide essential services to visitors.

The Land Use Map illustrates the new zoning districts and the following is a summary of appropriate uses within each zoning district. A more detailed list of appropriate uses can be found in the Waskesiu Land Use Directive.

GR - Government Reserve

Government and community services are located within this zone. This will include such services as:

- Park Administration Facilities
- Public Utilities
- Staff Housing
- Public Parking Areas

GS - Government Services (if required)

Lands set aside to be used to support local government if required.

• Lot 1501 Montreal Dr (Lot 9, Block 5).

NA - Natural Area

The lands within this area are protected because of their natural quality and aesthetic importance. Only recreational uses such as walking trails and camping will be permitted in this area.

OR - Open Recreation

This district will provide open space for recreational and cultural uses. This will include:

- · Public Education Centres
- · Playgrounds
- · Tennis Courts
- Golf Course (existing)

CG - Camp Grounds

This area will be limited to semi-serviced and full-serviced campsites.

R - Seasonal Residential

Cottage and cabins will be the only permitted uses within this zone.

RB - Staff Accommodations

The staff accommodation area will be used for people who work within Prince Albert National Park and have a need to reside within the Park.

C - Commercial

This area is the commercial core of the townsite of Waskesiu. It allows businesses to provide basic and essential services for residents and visitors to the townsite of Waskesiu. Appropriate uses within this district have been defined in the Waskesiu Land Use Directive.

SU - Sole Use

The sole-use district represents specific land-uses providing special services or facilities. The intent of this land use district is to maintain designated sole purpose land uses at specific locations in the community.

- Parcel K Sole Use: Bungalow Camp and Accessory Uses
- · Lots A-F-Sole Use: Bungalow Camp and Accessory Uses
- Parcel M Sole Use: Riding Stable, Bungalow Camp and Accessory Uses
- Block SX Sole Use: Commercial Storage

RBF - Future Staff Accommodation

COMMERCIAL INFILL MAP AND RENDERINGS

There are presently nine commercial infill lots within the townsite of Waskesiu. Lots 2,16,17; Block 5 will be re-zoned from commercial space to natural area. Lots 5, 12,13; Block 5 will be re-zoned from commercial to government reserve. Lots 9-11; Block 5 will be released for commercial development.



Map of Waskesiu showing commercial district



Map of Waskesiu showing commercial infill lots

The following renderings represent the architectural style that the commercial core of Waskesiu will strive for. New Facility Guidelines will be written to ensure developments do not detract from the unique charm and character of the community.



Key to Renderings

Footprint of Renderings (FAR = Floor Area Ratio)



Lakeview Drive, Lot 2 Block 2



Lakeview Drive, Lot 3 Block 2



Lakeview Drive, Lot 4 Block 2



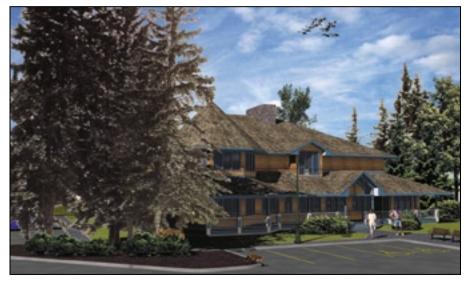
Lakeview Drive, Lots 12 & 13 Block 1



Waskesiu Drive, Lots 5 & 6 Block 2



Waskesiu Drive, Lots 3, 4a & 4b Block 5



Wapiti Drive, Lot 9 Block 5



Wapiti Drive, Lots 10 & 11 Block 5

NEED TO RESIDE

The objective of "need to reside" is to ensure residential lands in national parks are occupied by people who need to reside in the park for reasons of employment. Compliance with this policy in Waskesiu is very good.

During the summer months, there is not enough residential housing in Waskesiu to accommodate all Parks Canada and commercial staff. This has caused many problems for commercial operators to find suitable accommodations for their employees during the summer months. It has also created the problem of people illegally dwelling within sheds in the cabin and cottage areas.

In the winter and shoulder seasons, Waskesiu does not have a housing shortage, because of the drastic change in population. Approximately 50 people reside within Waskesiu during this period without retail services. The low population raises concerns regarding fire protection. At present, the Wasksiu volunteer fire department does not have the minimum required number of people to adequately respond to a fire or emergency during the winter months. This causes many concerns for the safety of the community.

The following principles will be established to help alleviate these problems:

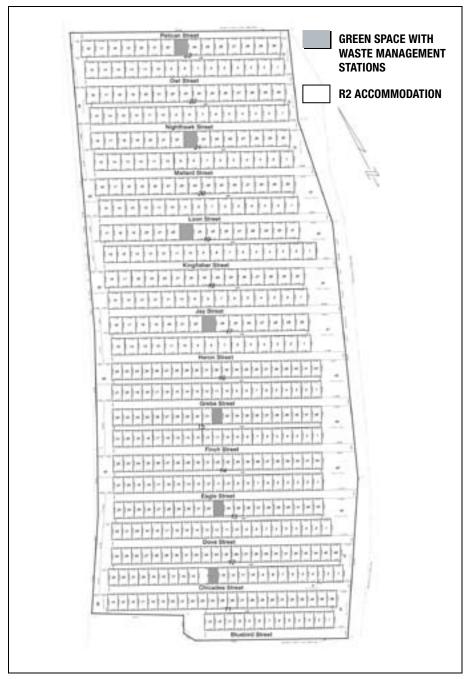
- Residential accommodations in Waskesiu will continue to be for the use of individuals who qualify as an eligible resident. Renting units to people who do not work in the park will not be allowed.
- A framework will be developed to give seasonal Park and commercial employees the option of residing in the park during the time they are laid off.
- Parks Canada and commercial operators will continue to provide accommodations for all employees who choose to live in Waskesiu.
- Release of potential infill land along Elk Street will help resolve the current housing concerns and shortfalls during the peak operating season.
- The creation of affordable accommodations for both Parks Canada and commercial staff will be accom-

plished by expanding the seasonal staff trailer park. This will include redevelopment of Parcel P and developing on disturbed lands adjacent to the existing staff trailer park on an as needed basis.

- To create a framework for the allocation of residence to seasonal and year round employees.
- To encourage commercial operators to build accommodations within the existing staff accommodation area for their employees.



Map of Waskesiu showing zoning of staff accommodation area





Map of cabin area zoning

Map of Prospect Point subdivision zoning

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

Individual residents, the community as a whole, and Parks Canada must work together to improve the areas throughout the community that would benefit from better landscaping. This can be achieved by:

Landscaping

Plants make a major contribution to the character of the townsite of Waskesiu. Native plants, in addition to being attractive and appropriate in a national park, support the ecological integrity of the park. The Park's landscaping principles include:

- The use of native plants wherever possible.
- Avoiding manicured properties.
- Eliminating non-native species, and noxious and nuisance weeds.
- Replacing non-native plants with native species wherever possible.
- Protecting the remaining communities of native plants within the townsite.



Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada

Signs

Hand crafted signs made of natural materials, such as painted carved wood, are appropriate in the townsite of Waskesiu. Several such signs already add to the character of Waskesiu. Signage is not currently a problem within the townsite. The following are general policies which should be reviewed if problems arise and the Parks Canada Sign Regulations should be enforced with any sign erected within the townsite. Signs should:

- orient residents and visitors;
- refer to the property on which they are located and not indicate services or facilities elsewhere;
- be oriented and scaled in size for pedestrians;
- hand carved and painted are preferred as they enhance the streetscape;
- · reflect the building size.



Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada

Lighting

Lighting should enhance the streetscape, draw attention to positive elements, and eliminate light pollution. Lights should be mounted on buildings and on poles. Light fixtures should be inspired by historical designs.

Lights should:

- help people find their way;
- improve public safety;
- face downwards with a sharp cut-off and no glare;
- be in scale with pedestrian traffic;
- consider adjacent light sources.



Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada



Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada

APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT

Prince Albert National Park offers visitors and residents a wide range of activities and services, from tennis and lawn bowling in the townsite to back country hiking and camping. The activities and services offered in the park and in the townsite of Waskesiu must reflect the natural and cultural heritage that makes Prince Albert National Park a special place. It is the intent of this plan to ensure there is a mix of facilities, goods and services for visitors and residents, and that new business applications and development proposals are appropriate to a national park setting.

Parks Canada and the community must adopt, and vigorously apply, new approaches, processes and tools

to ensure consistency in working towards this plan's objectives. This will be achieved through the preparation of the new Waskesiu Land Use Directive and new Facility Appearance Guidelines which will be completed within the first year of the adoption of this plan. These documents will ensure:

- new business developments are appropriate in a national park setting;
- strict guidelines for new development are in place;
- the townsite of Waskesiu maintains its cultural and heritage character;
- new developments abide by the no net negative environmental impact framework;
- the prescribed limits to growth are followed.



Photo: Brad Muir, Parks Canada

MANAGING GROWTH

Growth Management Strategy
Development Control
Development Review
Plan Update And Review

Growth in the townsite of Waskesiu will need to be carefully managed to ensure the pace of development respects ecological concerns and the needs of the community. It is the intent of this plan to:

- · address ecological issues;
- · resolve staff housing issues;
- ensure growth does not undermine the parks ecological health;
- support the community in its economic efforts.

The key areas in managing growth within Waskesiu are:

- The limits identified in this plan are fixed and may not be exceeded.
- Using the No Net Negative Environmental Impact Framework, establish indicators and targets.
- Apply the new Waskesiu Land Use Directive which will test new developments for appropriateness and define the limits of growth.
- Formulate new Facility Appearance Guidelines which will ensure new developments retain Waskesiu cultural and heritage character.
- Release only three of the nine existing commercial infill lots for development to enhance visitor and residential needs.
- Allow for expansion in the staff accommodation area on disturbed lands as needed.

- development which was submitted to Parks Canada first will proceed.

 Any new commercial development which does not
- Any new commercial development which does not exceed 46 m² will not be included in the annual allotted growth, however it will be included in the cumulative commercial growth.
- Commercial infill lot release will be in accordance with National Park policy.
- The three commercial infill lots will be available for release effective the date this plan is approved.

To help alleviate the need for affordable staff accommodations for both Parks Canada and commercial staff the staff trailer park will be redeveloped by developing on disturbed lands adjacent to the existing staff trailer park on an as needed basis.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

The Waskesiu Land Use Directive, Facility Appearance Guidelines and the No Net Negative Environmental Impact Framework will allow for development within the townsite which respects the requirements set out in this plan.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

In order to ensure orderly growth in the commercial zone, the following growth rate strategy will be implemented regarding new commercial developments.

- Total new cumulative commercial growth will not exceed 4,824.06 m².
- Annual allotted growth will be 1000 m² of new development per year.
- If the annual allotment of growth is not fully used during a year it may be carried over to the next year.
- The carry over growth and the allotted growth will not exceed 2000 m² of new growth per year.
- In the event that more than one commercial development proposal is submitted, and they exceed the annual allotment and carry over growth, the proposed

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

All development or redevelopment projects in the townsite of Waskesiu are subject to review. Proponents must submit their applications to the park superintendent or delegated representatives, who will begin the review process. Parks Canada will have the final authority on development control within the townsite.

The review process will confirm that development proposals are consistent with:

- · the Waskesiu Community Plan
- the No Net Negative Environmental Impact Framework
- · the Waskesiu Land Use Directive
- the Facility Appearance Guidelines
- · the Prince Albert National Park Management Plan
- applicable regulations, directives, standards and codes.

The process has two main aspects:

- the development permit
- the building permit.

It is the proponents responsibility to ensure the necessary applications are completed and to provide all required information. Individuals should discuss their ideas with the Townsite Manager and Development Officers before preparing their designs. Submitting an application does not guarantee approval. It is the proponents responsibility to ensure that the development complies with regulatory requirements, directives and statutory standards.

PLAN UPDATE AND REVIEW

The Park Management Plan should incorporate the initiatives set forth in this plan. The community plan should be reviewed and updated every five years. The results of monitoring the health of the ecosystem will be an important part of these reviews.

CUMULATIVE IMPACT

The Waskesiu Townsite
Achieving No Net Negative
Environmental Impact
Achieving The Status Of A Model
Environmental Community
Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
(CEAA)

The following summarizes the findings of a separate report entitled Environmental Effects of the Waskesiu Community Plan. Parks Canada is accountable to the people of Canada to ensure that Waskesiu and Prince Albert National Park continue to protect, preserve and present, for all times, the natural and cultural resources associated with them. Although the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* does not require a review of the Waskesiu Community Plan, Parks Canada has chosen to examine the potential effect on the environment of all new plans and policies.

This evaluation includes immediate effects of the construction of buildings, roads and infrastructure, as well as incorporating the individual projects.

The impact of a community located in an area that is protected for its natural and cultural resources can extend well beyond the surveyed townsite boundary. As a result, the report examined how the proposed projects outlined in the Waskesiu Community Plan would affect the townsite and the surrounding environment. After identifying the environmental impacts of each project and the cumulative impacts of the entire plan, its development and activities were addressed.

Development implies a modification of the environment, which by its nature must generate an impact. However, within the limits of a host environment, there is a capacity to support development and to reduce the effect of localized impact through large scale environmental management. It is extremely desirable to achieve a healthy environment which does not show symptoms of stress, such as a declining water quality, a dominance of exotic and invasive species or a reduction in biological diversity. The most significant issue is how to achieve no net negative environmental impact while still allowing development to occur.

THE WASKESIU TOWNSITE

Overall, the proposals in the Waskesiu Community Plan will enhance the community's economic health and quality of life. It will also provide the opportunity to encourage more support for an environmentally aware community.

Positive initiatives include:

- the desire to set limits to growth which would ensure that the national park experience is not degraded and that the natural and cultural resources are protected.
- that a land use pattern will be developed to maintain the Parks ecological integrity along with minimizing social and environmental costs.



Photo: Joe Benge, Parks Canada

- that the rate of development will be monitored so that the community's heritage setting and character is maintained.
- that the effects of development will be monitored and appropriately mitigated.
- · that commercial floor area ratios were determined.
- that a model environmental community is being sought, where through educational programs we will be able to implement and communicate a strategy which could increase recycling, and reduce consumption of energy and water, and reduce the input of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
- the development of the Community Fuel Break Trail may encourage people to enjoy the park, and use non-motorized transportation, as well as reducing the impact associated with fire suppression when a wildfire occurs.
- the re-use and rehabilitation of sites so that undisturbed areas can remain as such.
- environmental effects associated with improvements to existing parking lots can be mitigated in several

different ways. Alternate surfaces can be investigated, native vegetation can be used in any landscaping improvements, which will result in positive environmental effects by increasing habitat on a small scale and improving the appearance of the lot. It will also make the lots more desirable for use by providing shade. The use of vegetation will further divert rainwater, thereby reducing the amount of run-off from hard surfaces.

- develop a strategy to provide direction on vegetation management, including exotics.
- develop a framework which will meet water quality standards based on studies which determine the effects of nutrient inputs into Waskesiu Lake.
- the ability to continue to educate people about wildlife concerns, while strictly enforcing control of food and refuse management.
- · encourage wildlife viewing in natural settings.
- New Facility Appearance Guidelines will be written to ensure developments do not detract from the unique charm and character of the community.

 the ability to develop environmentally sound designs such as a storm sewer strategy. The existing system of diverting run-off to Waskesiu Lake needs to be reviewed. Options including the installation of mechanical separators in storm sewers for the removal of suspended solids and oil and grease. Alternately, wet ponds, constructed wetlands or existing marshes have been successfully used to treat run-off, effectively removing both solid and dissolved pollutants, with the additional benefit of providing wildlife habitat.

If all the development described in the Community Plan takes place, it will result in the following increases:

Maximum commercial development: 24,137m²
Bungalow Camp Correction: 9,738.26m²
Total: *34,574.6m²



Photo: Kim Strange, Parks Canada

ACHIEVING NO NET NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Priority will be given to "no net negative environmental impact" and the Prince Albert National Park Ecological Integrity statements and that all development proposed will be subject to both. With the development of the No Net Negative Environmental Impact Framework, specific indicators and targets will be set. Under policy, priority will be given to re-use and rehabilitation of disturbed lands. Consideration must be given to the fact that there is a cap on commercial development.

Many of the projects in this community plan are proposed by the Park, such as:

- · altering the sewage lagoon,
- · constructing a community fuel break,
- · electrifying additional sites in Beaver Glen,
- · expanding the trailer park,
- constructing a new water treatment plant and pumphouse, as well as decommissioning the existing site,
- · initiating a storm sewer strategy,
- · altering sidewalks, roads and bike paths,
- changing and improving the parking lot areas will be addressed to meet the needs of the community,
- modifying the streets,
- increasing the size of the residential area,
- attaining a high quality visitor experience and taking on a role with Sask Tourism.

ACHIEVING THE STATUS OF A MODEL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY

A "model environmental community" can be achieved through plans like the community plan. The plan provides the opportunity to demonstrate that we will reduce our impact on the environment, by:

- · reducing the amount of energy we require,
- reducing the amount of waste we generate,
- re-using and rehabilitating sites instead of developing green space.

Ultimately, a model environmental community would benefit the environment. In this plan there are few initiatives which can demonstrate that the community would improve the surrounding environment. However, we would lessen our impact of proposed new initiatives through mitigative measures. The townsite will maintain its disturbed area (Zone I found in paper by Snell, Fitzsimmons, 1999). The fuel break will not allow the park to maintain any true natural areas within the townsite, as there is a modification of species composition and age structure.

By providing educational opportunities and interpretation facilities we will be effectively teaching everyone about being responsible for their own actions. Parks Canada, by adhering to the limits set in the Environmental Management Action Plan, will lead by example and contribute to a "model environmental community".

A balance between the community growth and protection of ecological and cultural resources is required. Priority must be given to the Parks ecological integrity.

With this plan there exists the potential for a net negative environmental impact, if we consider all of the current and proposed development projects. However, by prioritizing the projects, implementing mitigative measures and generating environmentally-friendly options, the impacts can be minimized. And as stated within the CEAA section, individual projects will be assessed accordingly, giving consideration to the cumulative impacts as well.

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT (CEAA) 2012

Each development described in the Waskesiu Community Plan is subject to federal legislation. The CEAA 2012 requires an environmental screening of each project and a cumulative effects assessment to determine how the project under review relates to other existing or proposed projects. This assessment will result in an environmental protection strategy that is unique to each project but which complements the overall direction of the Community Plan. It will also identify measures, in addition to those included in the Community Plan, to ensure the environment is protected and no net negative environmental impact is attained.

Amendment To The Summary of Environmental Assessment

The "Waskesiu Community Plan" (2000) was reviewed in 2002 in accordance with the cabinet directive "The Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals" (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency 1999). That assessment focused on cumulative impacts (impacts from repeated or multiple activities) on wildlife, vegetation, surface water, ground water, soil, global air quality and landfill environmental quality. The impacts of the community plan were also evaluated on community harmony, aesthetics, services, education and promotion, economy and cultural resources.

The implementation of the Community Plan and Amendments will have many positive residual effects:

- maintenance and enhancement of ecological integrity through the environmental assessments of each of the lots, that will be released,
- better visitor experiences through the implementation of the Waskesiu "Sense of Place".
- stronger relationships with stakeholders, exhibited by the public involvement and input of the Waskesiu Community Council during the consultation process, and
- greater diversity of vegetation and species through continued implementation of the Waskesiu Vegetation Management Strategy.

Potential Negative Outcomes

Five concerns that may have a negative effect on ecological integrity have been identified: quantity of water used in the community, quantity of wastewater produced, wildlife corridors, vegetation issues and increased runoff water quality problems.

Quantity of water used in the community

- The park has in place requirements to reduce the overall water consumption within the townsite. Low flow water fixtures (toilets, showers, taps) are mandatory for all new buildings in Waskesiu. The park is in the process of replacing all of its fixtures to low flow devices. Wise water use articles are included in the townsite newsletter.
- All seven of the water inefficient washroom facilities in the cabin area will be removed in 2009, greatly reducing the overall water consumption in the cabin area.

Quantity of wastewater produced

- Upgrades to lagoon and wastewater treatment system will take place in 2009/10. New sand filters and cell membranes will provide better containment and the effluent discharge to Waskesiu Lake will be a much higher quality.
- The quality of the released effluent will meet or be better than the federal and provincial regulations with a Biological Oxygen Demand CBOD5 that will be below 25 mg/l, a Suspended Solids TSS level that will be below 25 mg/l and an Ammonia level that will be below 25 mg/l.

Wildlife corridors

- Elk, deer, foxes, grouse and other wildlife range freely through the community and conflicts between wildlife and humans are minimal.
- In the cabin area, the new seasonal lots will be developed on three of the former washroom sites. Since this is a developed area, there should not be a wildlife corridor issue.
- The lots in Prospect Point Subdivision have never been released. The release of these lots will be scrutinized through an environmental assessment to ensure that it is not a wildlife corridor issue.

Vegetation issues

- Non-native vegetation remains a concern in and around Waskesiu. The 'Waskesiu Vegetation Management Strategy' (WVMS) provides direction for the management within the community.
- The rehabilitation of former cabin area washrooms will be guided by the WVMS.
- Development proposals for the lots that will be released must meet landscaping requirements.
- Community Arbour Day volunteer tree planting programs will continue, significantly increasing the diversity of tree and shrub species in the community and the age-class diversity of the urban forest.

Increased runoff water quality problems

• The townsite is located on the shore of Waskesiu Lake; therefore, any activity in the townsite has the potential to impact the water quality of Waskesiu Lake. It is vital to protect the health of the lake for social, economic, and ecological reasons. A storm sewer capital project with oil-water separators will address the run-off quality concerns.

All the mitigating actions are appropriate and achievable. It is unlikely that the continued plan implementation and plan amendments will negatively impact the ecological integrity of PANP.

The amendments are consistent with the vision and principles of the 2000 Waskesiu Community Plan. They conform to applicable legislation and policy including CEAA 2012 and cabinet direction provided in: "The Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals" (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency 2010) and the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (2013). They continue, and strengthen, the direction towards improved ecological integrity, while providing a visitor "hub" with opportunities to experience and understand Prince Albert National Park.

Recommended Native Vegetation List

Common/Botanical Name	Mature Height/Spread	Maximum Transplant Size	Comments
TREES:			
WHITE SPRUCE / Picea glauca	- 12m to 20m ht. - spread up to 5m	- B & B to 1.2m ht.	- plant @ 3-4m o/c and min. 1.8m from bldg
TAMARACK (LARCH) / Larix laricina	- 8m to 10m ht. - spread up to 5m	- B & B to 1.2m ht.	- plant @ 3-4m o/c and min. 1.8m from bldg
PAPER BIRCH / Betual papyrifera	- 12m to 20m ht. - 6m spread	- bare root to 1.5m ht. - B & B to 3m ht.	- plant @ 3-5m o/c and min. 2.5m from bldg
TREMBLING ASPEN / Populus tremuloides	- 12m to 18m ht. - 2.5m to 3m spread	- bare root to 1.2m ht. - B & B to 3m ht.	- plant @ 1.2m - 2.5m o/c and min. 2m from bldg: ensure plants are not from suckers
SHRUBS:			
CHOKECHERRY / Prunus Virginiana	- 5m ht. - 3m spread	- bare root to 1.8m ht. - B & B to 3m ht.	- plant @ 2m o/c and min. 1.5m from bldg: multi-stem
REDOSIER DOGWOOD / Cornus stolonifera	- 2.4m ht. - 2m spread	- bare root to 6m ht. - B & B to 1.2m ht.	- plant @ 1.2-1.5m o/c and min. 1.2m from bldg
PRICKLY ROSE / Rosa acicularis	- 1m ht. - 1m spread	- bare root to 30cm ht. - B & B to 60cm ht.	- plant @ 0.5m-o.8m o/c
WILD BLACK CURRANT / Ribes hudsonianum	- 1.5m ht.	- bare root to 30cm ht. - 30cm ht.	- plant @ 0.8-1m o/c and min. 0.8m from bldg: shade tolerant plant
SASKATOON / Amelanchier alnifolia	- 4m ht. - 2m spread	- bare root to 45cm ht. - B & B to 1.5m ht.	- plant @ 1.8-2m o/c and min.1.5m from bldg: multi-stem
SILVERWEED / Potentilla anserina	- low, tufted	- root ball should equal plant spread	- spreads by runners - suitable for low, wet areas
WHITE CINQUEFOIL / Potentilla arguta	- 30-90cm ht.	- bare root to 25cm ht. - B & B to 50cm ht.	- plant @ 0.5-0.8m o/c - suitable for moist areas
SHRUBBERY CINQUEFOIL / Potentilla futicosa	- up to 150cm ht.	- bare root to 30cm ht. - B & B to 60cm ht.	- plant @ 0.5-0.8m o/c - suitable for low moist ground
THREE TOOTHED CINQUEFOIL / Potentilla tridentata	- low growing to 20cm ht.	- root ball should equal plant spread	- plant @ 10-20cm o/c
WOODLAND STRAWBERRY / Fragaria vesca	- 5cm ht. - 3m spread	- root ball should equal plant spread	- plant @ 10-15cm o/c

REFERENCES

REFERENCES

The National Parks Act and Parks Canada's Guiding Principles and Operational Policies provide the legislative and policy framework for Canada's National Parks. This plan was prepared in the overall context of these documents and the Prince Albert National Park Management Plan.

Regulations, Directives, Standards and Codes

- National Building Code of Canada
- · National Fire Code of Canada
- National Parks Business Regulations
- National Parks Lease and License of Occupation Regulations
- · National Parks Water and Sewer Regulations
- · Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
- National Parks Cottage Regulations
- · FHBRO Code of Practice
- National Parks Signage Regulations

Publications

- Parks Canada. Facility Appearance Guidelines Prince Albert National Park, Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan.
- Calibre Consultants inc. 1999. Survey Results Prince Albert National Park March, 1999
- Parks Canada. 2000. Waskesiu Community Plan. Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan.
- Parks Canada. 2002. Environmental Assessment of the 'Waskesiu Community Plan'. Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Parks Canada. 2003. Waskesiu Vegetation Management Strategy. Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan.
- Parks Canada. 2007. Prince Albert National Park State of the Community Report - Waskesiu. Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan.
- Parks Canada. 2007. The Waskesiu Land Use Directive Prince Albert National Park. Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan.
- Parks Canada. 2008. Prince Albert National Park of Canada Management Plan. Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan.
- Parks Canada. 2008. Prince Albert National Park of Canada Cabin Development Guidelines. Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan.

The Waskesiu Community Plan has been recommended for approval by:

Alan Latourelle

Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada

Alan Fehr

Superintendent, Prince Albert National Fark

Appendix A. Waskesiu Community Council Letter



WASKESIU COMMUNITY COUNCIL Box 203 WASKESIU LAKE, SASK, SQJ 2YO RECEIVED
JAN 2 6 2009
P.A. NATIONAL PARK

January 23, 2009

Alan Fehr Field Unit Superintendent Prince Albert National Park Parks Canada Agency PO Box 100 Washesiu Lake, Saskatchewan 501 270

Dear Alan.

As you are aware, the Waskestu Community Council has worked in an advisory role with Parks Canada to update the 2000 Waskestu Community Plan.

In principle, the council recommends and agrees with the amendments to the Community Plan; however, there is one area where we believe a commitment from Parks Canada has fallen short and therefore we cannot be a signatory to the revised plan.

The amendment to the 2000 Community Plan indicates that Parks Canada will release to the public, cabin and cottage lots that have been surveyed but at this time are not leased. Council feels very strongly that Parks Canada should allocate the release foos of these lots for expenditures related to deteriorating infrastructure in the town-site. To this end Council passed a motion that stated, "In principle... the Waskeski Community Council agrees that funds obtained from the release of residential lots will be directed towards the betterment of the Waskeski community, with particular attention to improved infrastructure in Waskeski".

Over the past thirty years there has been a tremendous deterioration of our roads and other infrastructure in the town-site. We are also aware of the increasing pressure for limited infrastructure funding within Parks Canada Agency. Therefore, we strongly urge Parks Canada and the Government of Canada to designate the release fees to address these long-standing town-site deficiencies.

Respectfully submitted.

Don Ravis

Chair, Waskeslu Community Council