



Chapter 4: Stakeholders and Partnerships

Introduction

The *Prince Albert National Park Management Plan (2008)* and *Parks Canada's Corporate Plan 2010–2011/2014–2015* make it clear that stakeholder consultation and partnerships are key to the ongoing operations of the park.

This chapter briefly reviews and assesses:

- current stakeholder groups
- current partners who deliver Visitor Experience and Outreach products in the park and to outlying regions
- current funding partners
- potential partners*

* This chapter identifies and assesses 22 potential partner groups and organizations. This section of the chapter describes the continuum of collaborative relationships and gives examples of each. It also includes a list of criteria for assessing potential partners. These criteria can be applied to group the list of potential partners.

This listing is in no way an exhaustive census of potential partners and collaborators. Instead, it is a starting point for park staff to begin the adventure of expanding its program of collaboration and community involvement.

Since the agency's corporate plan and the park's management plan both strongly supports the development of partnerships with existing conservation, education and research institutions, staff should work to develop relationships with a number of these groups, organizations and institutions to fund, and/or collaborate on the development, delivery and support of a wide array of products.

It will be up to Visitor Experience and Outreach and park management staff to select partners who will contribute directly and positively to the corporate directions of Prince Albert National Park. They will initiate partnerships and regularly update this list of current and potential partners and assess their compatibility.

Major Stakeholder Groups in the Park

Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site Committee

The Paspiwin Cultural Heritage site is located within the park's southeast corner adjacent to the Little Red River First Nation. The site is the location of a decommissioned bison paddock constructed in the 1930's to enclose a small captive herd.

"Paspiwin" was given by a Sturgeon Lake First Nation Cree elder, and is a Cree word meaning "successfully escaping or eluding danger; clearance; survival." Paspiwin refers to continuation of First Nation and Métis peoples' cultures, languages, traditions and heritage.

The site is managed by a multi-stakeholder advisory committee that includes representatives of most Aboriginal communities (local First Nations elders and Aboriginal community representatives) and the Aboriginal Affairs Manager of Prince Albert National Park. The committee facilitates opportunities for Aboriginal people to perform traditional spiritual and ceremonial activities in the park in ways that protects natural and cultural resources. Each year the park, in partnership with the committee, organizes a large community event to facilitate a traditional cultural event, such as a community feast. The group also works to ensure the protection of historical, archaeological and sacred sites in the Park.

Assessment

The Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site and the elders and representatives that sit on the committee are important cultural resources for Aboriginal communities and for the park.

Whenever possible Visitor Experience staff should:

- attend in events that take place at the site to:
 - become better acquainted with Aboriginal culture
 - meet and begin to develop relationships with members of the Aboriginal community
- work with the Aboriginal Affairs Manager to include park Visitor Experience participation in events at the Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site
- continue to promote events at the cultural heritage site to park visitors, especially at the Waskesiu townsite

Whenever possible Outreach staff should:

- link special events at the cultural heritage site to web-based Outreach products such as FaceBook pages, Twitter feeds, blogs and information about First Nations and Métis culture



Groups Currently Delivering Education and Interpretation Products in the Park

Friends of Prince Albert National Park

This is a volunteer, charitable, non-profit group dedicated to the stewardship of the natural and cultural resources and public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Prince Albert National Park. It includes individuals, organizations and businesses. The group is a member of the Canadian Park's Partnership, a non-lobby, non-profit, charitable organization that supports Friends-of-the-Park groups across Canada.

Mandate:

Vision

As Friends of the Park it is our hope and desire that everyone who visits Prince Albert National Park will have maximum enjoyment and appreciation for its natural beauty and cultural heritage, at the same time assisting in preserving its uniqueness for future generations.

Goals and Objectives

- to continued development and operation of educational programming to complement the services offered by Prince Albert National Park
- to encourage stewardship and involvement with the natural environment and cultural history in Prince Albert National Park
- to continue development of the Bookshop, our retail sales outlet, and conduct and sponsor special events and services that help achieve the objectives of Friends of the Park
- to accept, hold and disperse funds received by donations or other means and support research into the natural and cultural history of Prince Albert National Park

Programs

Book Store

The society operates a nature bookshop in Waskesiu townsite which sells nature related books, CD's and cassettes, and mementos related to park.

Education Programs

The group offers educational programming to complement the services offered by the park.

Interpretation Programs Delivered in 2010

1. Native plant beds located near the bookstore and administrative building featuring native plants common to Prince Albert National Park.
2. A presentation on Grey Owl and Anahareo's lives and their accomplishments.
3. A guided tour of Beaver Lodge, the replica of the interior of Grey Owl and Anahareo's home, and The Grey Owl and Anahareo Gallery which housed their artifacts.

Publications

- include the park trail guide, bird list and Petey Pelican guides

Children's Program

- reaches over 300 people each summer

Fund-Raising

- raises funds to be used to increase awareness and for scientific research in the park (e.g., the Kingsmere River project)

Special Events

- works with park staff to deliver special events such as Parks Day, Canada Day and a Children's Festival

Assessment

This group has a long history of delivering information and interpretation to park visitors. Its mandates are very compatible with the park and its Visitor Experience program. Members of this group have deep knowledge and keen interest in the park. New seasonal Visitor Experience staff should take advantage of this local knowledge base.

Visitor Experience staff should continue to work with this group to ensure the coordination of content and timing of programs.

The central location of the group's office and bookstore in Waskesiu townsite make this group's programs very accessible to many park visitors. As well, its location near the park office and Visitor Centre suggests to many visitors that there is a close connection between this group and the park. Indeed, many visitors are not likely to distinguish that the Friends of the Park staff and volunteers working at the bookstore and delivering programs are not park employees.

As a result, park Visitor Experience staff should continue to work closely with this group offering to share training and technical assistance when possible to ensure the continued maintenance of high quality programming.



Frog Watch

www.naturesask.ca/?s=education&p=frogwatch

In this program, volunteer citizen scientists help to increase scientific knowledge of local biodiversity of frogs and toads in Saskatchewan.

Complete information on FrogWatch can be found at the national FrogWatch web page: www.naturewatch.ca/english/frogwatch/sa/intro.html

This is an important program because there has been increasing concern, world-wide, regarding observed declines in many populations of amphibians.

There is some evidence that suggests some populations of amphibians in western Canada have also declined. For example, the northern leopard frog is now considered a rare species in the Prairie Provinces compared to perceptions of much greater abundance in previous decades. There is no information to indicate whether other species of amphibians have declined in abundance or have been reduced in their distribution in Saskatchewan and other Prairie Provinces. Near pristine habitats like those found in Prince Albert National Park can provide baseline data for comparison with disturbed boreal and aspen parkland habitat elsewhere in the province.

Non-intrusive sampling such as monitoring of calling male frogs can provide information regarding presence and for developing an index to abundance and is a technique that can be implemented by volunteers. All observations can be valuable contributions to the Saskatchewan Herpetology Atlas Project as well.

Icewatch

www.naturewatch.ca/english/icewatch/

IceWatch is part of the NatureWatch suite of national volunteer monitoring programs designed to help identify ecological changes that may be affecting the environment. IceWatch allows Canadians of all ages to participate in discovering how—and more importantly, why—our natural environment is changing.

IceWatch volunteer citizen scientists contribute to a scientific understanding of climate change by recording freeze-thaw cycles of Northern water bodies. Scientists analyzing citizen records have found strong evidence that Saskatchewan's climate is changing.

WormWatch

www.naturewatch.ca/english/wormwatch/

Worm Watch, another Canadian Nature Federation initiative, uses earthworms to help participants discover soil and appreciate the importance of soil ecology in sustaining agriculture, the natural environment, and themselves. The program promotes awareness of the diversity beneath their feet through participation in a nationwide earthworm census. Wormwatch has lots hands-on learning activities for students and teachers.

Most Canadian native earthworms were killed in the last ice age. Earthworms were accidentally reintroduced by European settlers that came to Canada and the US. Worm Watch works to answer questions such as:

- Worms move slowly—how could they have moved into so many places in such a short time?
- Did some earthworms survive glaciation?

Worm Watch has developed a set of standard sampling methods that work anywhere and can be used by anyone.

The WormWatch National Earthworm Survey will help scientists determine how many earthworm species are in Canada, and where they live.

Assessment

Citizen Science and stewardship projects are excellent tools to enable park visitors and school groups to make meaningful contributions to the stewardship of the park. In many cases, citizen science projects can be time consuming, especially is the background information and organization of projects has to be designed from scratch. Nature Saskatchewan's Citizen Science projects are ready-made and are part of nation-wide programs. By partnering with Nature Saskatchewan on these four programs, Prince Albert National Park can reduce much of its overhead costs, reduce the amount of staff time needed to deliver the programs and will be providing a top-notch mature program to park visitors.

Also, by working with Nature Saskatchewan, the park will extending its profile with nature enthusiasts in Saskatchewan.



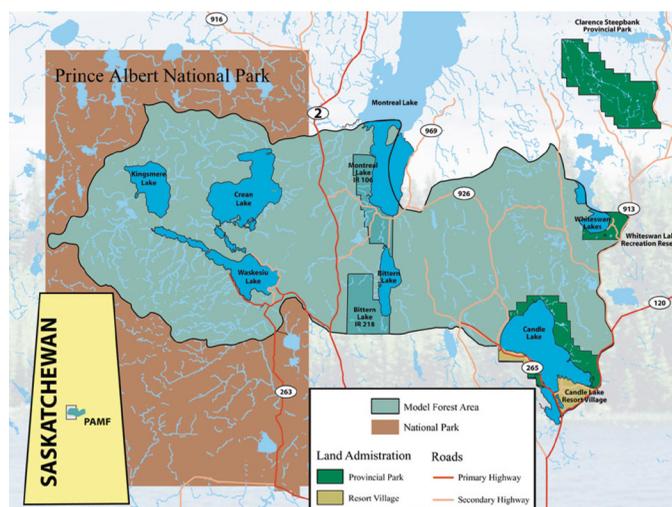
The Métis Nation—Saskatchewan

This is an organization that represents the approximately 80,000 Métis people in Saskatchewan. It is affiliated with the Métis National Council.

It is led by an elected Provincial Métis Council which meets annually with representatives from the organization's youth and women departments to discuss matters affecting the Métis Nation in the province.

Prince Albert Model Forest Association Inc.

Prince Albert National Park is a member of this non-profit partnership of forest users committed to the sustainability of Saskatchewan's forests through research, education and the equitable sharing of forest resources. Currently the park is reviewing its participation in this group. This group is supported by funding from the Canadian Forest Service and partner contributions. The Prince Albert Model Forest Association belongs to the Canadian Model Forest Network and the International Model Forest Network.



Prince Albert Model Forest covers 10,000,000 hectares in the mid-boreal upland ecoregion of the boreal forest. The model forest includes portions of Prince Albert National Park including Waskesiu townsite. It also includes the Resort Village of Candle Lake, the Weyerhaeuser Forest Management Agreement area, the reserve lands and community of Montreal Lake Cree Nation, the reserve lands of Lac La Ronge Indian Band and some provincial crown land.

Assessment

This organization represents the Métis People of Saskatchewan.

When developing products aimed at Aboriginal people, this group should be consulted for advice and for contact with elders and experts on the Métis culture and history.

Members of the Prince Albert Model Forest Include:

- Amisk-Atik Forest Management Group
- Association of Saskatchewan Forest Professionals
- Beardy's Okemasis First Nation
- Canadian Forest Service
- Canadian Institute of Forestry
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
- First Nations Island Forest Management Inc.
- Independent Forest Operators of Saskatchewan
- Lac La Ronge Indian Band
- Métis Heartland
- Montreal Lake Cree Nation
- North Central Enterprise Region
- Prince Albert Grand Council
- Prince Albert National Park
- Resort Village of Candle Lake
- Saskatchewan Forestry Association
- Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
- Saskatchewan Research Council
- Sturgeon River Plains Bison Stewardship Committee
- University of the Arctic

The Prince Albert Model Forest is a leader in integrated resource management, and has developed strong partnerships with industry, governments, aboriginal groups, communities, and researchers. The organization has a strong focus on Aboriginal partnerships and provides a forum of neutral ground, mutual respect for discussion and sharing of ideas, problems, concerns and solutions. This organization applies the principle of adaptive management, making modifications as required to improve our effectiveness.

Mandate:

Goals:

- to work with forest communities to develop governance models for creating new resource-based opportunities
- to build capacity among local people including Aboriginal communities
- to provide the tools and the forum that brings diverse groups together to integrate land management, develop ideas and find solutions that lead to community sustainability



Potential Partners: Training Professional Development

Museums Association of Saskatchewan

This association is a non-profit, collective organization of over 200 member museums and a total membership of over 400.

Mandate:

Vision And Values

Saskatchewan's cultural and natural heritage will be preserved, understood and celebrated through a strong, vibrant museum community, valued and supported by society.

Philosophy

Heritage is our social and natural inheritance: the objects, ideas, places, and traditions of intrinsic value which have shaped our present and will guide our future.

We believe our collective inheritance is an asset that must be preserved, understood, and built upon by each generation.

We believe that museums, in service to society, provide stewardship for the material evidence of our human and natural inheritance and contribute to the understanding of the world and our place in it - our past, our present, and our future.

Key Programs

- conferences and symposiums
- regionally-based training such as the Network Knowledge Exchange
- resources and publications (on-line and in print)
- special interest program - special interest groups and special-topic workshops

Assessment

The park has a history of fruitful membership in this association. It is recommended that this continue. Key areas of collaboration opportunities include:

For Visitor Experience:

- staff capacity building and professional development
 - the association provides workshops and courses on best practice in planning, delivering and evaluation of on-site personal and non-personal interpretation products

For Outreach:

- staff capacity building and professional development
 - the association provides workshops and courses on best practice in planning, delivering and evaluation of off-site personal and non-personal interpretation products, including exhibits and new media

Saskatchewan Provincial Parks

Saskatchewan Provincial Parks have a mandate to preserve and education about:

- biodiversity
- healthy park ecosystems through cooperation
- protecting the integrity of natural ecosystems

Provincial Parks and Recreation Sites in the region of Prince Albert National Park include:

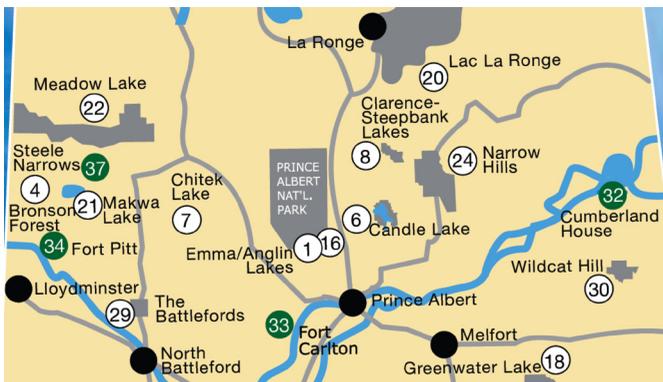
- Anglin Lake
- The Battlefords
- Chitek Lake
- Clarence-Steepbank Lakes
- Meadow Lake
- Emma Lake
- Candle Lake
- Lac La Ronge
- Narrow Hills

Provincial Historic Parks include:

- Fort Pitt
- Fort Carlton
- Steele Narrows
- Cumberland House
- Fort Pitt

Interpretation

Sixteen Saskatchewan provincial parks offer interpretive programs throughout the summer. Of these only two, Meadow Lake Provincial Park (near the Alberta border) and Fort Carlton Historic Park are somewhat close to Prince Albert National Park (see map below).



These programs are designed to help visitors experience and learn about Saskatchewan's cultural history and the ecosystems and the environment of Saskatchewan parks. Programs include tours, hikes, campfire programs and children's programs. Self-guided trails, displays and brochures are also available.