



# Prince Albert National Park of Canada

## Climate

The park's central location, away from the influence of large water bodies, gives it a continental climate. Summers are short and cool, winters long and cold. Frost can occur at any time of year. The average annual precipitation ranges from 400 to 500 mm, with summer months receiving the heaviest rainfall.

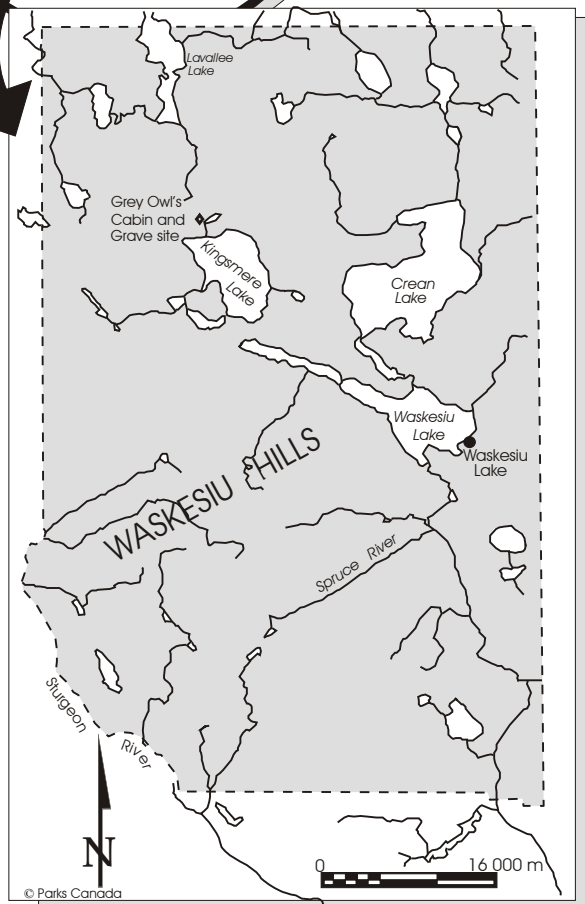
## Geology

The Waskesiu Hills Upland area covers some 90% of the park, and a drainage system of streams originates from these hills. The most common landforms in the park are moraines and other glacial deposits such as eskers. The entire area was once glaciated, the movement of the huge ice sheets gouging out three large, 15 medium, and over 1 500 small-sized lakes.



## Location

Prince Albert National Park is situated in central Saskatchewan, about 75 km north of the city of Prince Albert. Established in 1927, the park protects 3 875 km<sup>2</sup> of near pristine plains and forest in the Southern Boreal Plains and Plateaux Natural Region. An additional 3 584 km<sup>2</sup> of this Region are protected in Wood Buffalo National Park in northern Alberta. The cabin home of Grey Owl, world-famous naturalist and writer, sits on the shores of Ajawaan Lake. This small lake, ringed by spruce, is found just north of the much larger Kingsmere Lake. Prince Albert is located in the Boreal Plains Ecozone.



### **Vegetation**

The plant life of this park features over 630 species of vascular plants. Mixedwood forests of spruce and poplar, areas of lowland black spruce and tamarack, and jackpine stands occur in the central and northern part of the park. Aspen mixed with open meadows dominates in the southern part, where a significant portion of Canada's remaining fescue grasslands are found. This grassland association is one of the more important resources being protected in the park. Extensive sphagnum bogs occur in the northwest corner of the park, while marl bogs are found in the southern extremity.

### **Wildlife**

Wildlife in Prince Albert National Park is representative of the southern mixedwood boreal forest, with several other species occurring in the isolated fescue grasslands that dot the southern edge of the park. Mammals include water shrew, six bat species, snowshoe hare, beaver, black bear, badger, river otter, lynx, deer, moose, elk, and the only fully protected free-ranging plains bison herd on its historic range in Canada. Small numbers of woodland caribou and wolf denning sites also occur in the park. There are over 235 bird species, most of which are migratory or summer residents, including 22 warbler species. Year-round residents include the great gray owl, pileated woodpecker and spruce grouse. One of the largest breeding colonies of American white pelicans in Canada thrives on an island in Lavallee Lake in a Class 1 Special Protection Zone. This is the only fully protected such colony in this country. There are 21 species of fish recorded in the park, including Iowa darter, yellow perch, brook stickleback, spottail shiner, cisco, northern pike, walleye, and lake trout. The latter is of particular conservation concern in the region.



### **Activities**

Activities in the park include: canoeing, interpretive events, boating, swimming, hiking, fishing, picnicking, sightseeing, cycling and nature study. Visitors can also enjoy lawn bowling, tennis and golf. Most of the park's facilities are found in the townsite of Waskesiu. One suggested backcountry route is to take the north shore road which leads to Kingsmere River. From there you can paddle three different canoe routes or hike 20 km to Grey Owl's cabin. There are six campgrounds with over 500 sites, and almost 50 campsites in the backcountry adjacent to major lakes. The park office is located in the resort townsite of Waskesiu Lake, where there are also roofed accommodations, a marina, the park offices, an information centre, and an interpretive centre. Interpretive programs are offered to help visitors understand the ecology of the park.

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