



Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada FACT SHEET

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Climate

Prince Edward Island has a maritime climate with moderate temperatures, though the area also feels the influence of inland features like prevailing westerly winds. These winds offset the influence of the sea, and cause temperatures to fluctuate more widely than normal. Moisture is not a problem here: the area receives over 1000 mm of precipitation annually.

Geology

Prince Edward Island is a collection of sand and mud that was deposited by a large prehistoric ocean basin. Much of this material now exists as sandstone bedrock. Common formations in the park include barrier spits, sand beaches, coastal dunes, and red sandstone cliffs that are forever being shaped by the waves.

Wildlife

The park has mostly small mammals like foxes, raccoons, hares, skunks, mink, weasel, muskrats, squirrels, beavers and chipmunks. The eastern coyote is the largest land mammal in the area. Grey seals and harbour seals frequent coastal areas. The park's numerous wetlands provide habitat and nesting sites for many species of waterfowl and other water-based birds. The park protects the endangered Piping Plover which nests along sandy beaches, as well as the habitat of a number of threatened species and species of special concern, including the Canada warbler, the olive-sided flycatcher and the short-eared owl. Over 300 species of birds have been recorded in the park including horned larks, common and arctic terns, osprey, guillemots, teals, sparrows, warblers and the Great Blue Heron.

Photos



Greenwich, PEI National Park.



Piping Plover.



Activities

Swim

Spend a relaxing afternoon at one of the park's spectacular white sand beaches.

Camp

Book a campsite next to the roaring ocean and enjoy roasting marshmallows and a seaside camping feast.

Bike, Hike, Jog

Bike, hike, jog or roller blade over 50km of well-maintained trails

Visit Landmarks

Visit some of our iconic landmarks - Covehead Lighthouse or Dalvey-by-the-Sea National Historic Site.

Attend a Special Event

Join in one of our interpretive activities or special events taking place in the park through the summer.

Experience Greenwich

Experience the Greenwich Dunes trail and learn about the rare and amazing parabolic dune system at the Greenwich Interpretation Centre.

There is plenty to discover in Prince Edward Island National Park!

Want to know more?

Prince Edward Island National Park

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Location

Prince Edward Island National Park, established in 1937, has an area of approximately 37km², and is one of the smallest national parks in Canada.

Located on the central north coast of the province, the park extends along over 47 km of coastline, from Cavendish to North Rustico, Brackley to Dalvey and the Greenwich peninsula.

Greenwich, located on the eastern side of St. Peter's Bay, became part of the national park in 1998 in an effort to protect and preserve the national and cultural resources found in the area.

The national park is located in the Atlantic Maritime Ecozone and protects a representative sample of the Maritime Plain Natural Region.

Vegetation



Very little of the region's forests remains. The towering white pines that originally dominated the area were largely harvested by the end of the 18th century. Much of the remaining mixed Acadian forest of maple, beech, elm, ash, birch, pine, and hemlock was cleared for farms long ago. The park's dune areas are sparsely vegetated on the seaward side and more heavily vegetated behind the primary dunes. Marram grass, which grows in abundance here, is the main plant that can initially colonize the dunes. The grass roots help to stabilize the constantly shifting sand so that other species such as wild rose, bayberry and seaside goldenrod can become established. Freshwater and saltwater marshes, along with warm lagoons, add even more diversity to the area's plant life. In particular, the habitat of the Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster, a threatened species, is protected in the park.