



Grande Prairie Region Parks Management Plan Update August 2009

The parks included in this plan are:

Saskatoon Island Provincial Park	
Saskatoon Mountain Natural Area	
O'Brien Provincial Park	
Kleskun Hill Natural Area	
Young's Point Provincial Park	
Williamson Provincial Park	
Simonette River Provincial Recreation Area	
Musreau Lake Provincial Recreation Area	
Big Mountain Provincial Recreation Area	
Demmitt Provincial Recreation Area	



What's Happening

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation is preparing a regional management plan for ten parks within an hour's drive of the City of Grande Prairie. The management plan will outline the future management direction for these parks to support recreational activities while ensuring continued protection.

Albertans were asked to comment on preliminary management strategies during the spring of 2009. We would like to update you with what we heard.

Click on "[*Grande Prairie Regional Parks Management Plan—Preliminary Strategies*](#)" and a "[*map of Grande Prairie region parks*](#)" to review the proposed strategies.

Thanks for Your Input!

Thank you to everyone who took time to attend the open houses, send emails and letters with your comments, and sign petitions. Public input is a key part of the process of preparing a management plan, so we were happy to hear from so many of you.

Your comments will be considered in the next stages of the planning process for the Grande Prairie Region Parks Management Plan.

For a summary of what we heard, scroll to the next page.





What We Heard

We received a diverse range of comments. Even though your specific comments may not be reflected in this brief general summary, all comments have been read and will be considered as we move forward with this planning process.

General

There were a variety of general comments such as: expand current parks or add new parks, increase protection, increase facilities and trails, restrict off highway vehicle (OHV) use or increase OHV areas, and maintain recreational opportunities for area residents.

Saskatoon Island Provincial Park

There was some support for improving day-use facilities and increasing interpretation and environmental programming. There were comments both for and against power boating restrictions on Saskatoon Lake.

Young's Point Provincial Park

Generally, comments supported facility and trail improvements for this park. There were some requests for more winter recreation opportunities. Some concern was expressed about the potential impact on Sturgeon Lake if power boating continued to increase.

Williamson Provincial Park

Most comments supported improvements to park facilities. There was some concern about safety and security in the park.

Simonette River Provincial Recreation Area

Comments suggested more control of OHV use in the park because current measures do not seem effective. Security and vandalism were also concerns for others. Some suggested expanding the campground.

Big Mountain Provincial Recreation Area

The proposed preliminary strategy to formalize this area as a staging and camping area for OHV users of trails on surrounding crown land was strongly supported. Local OHV groups were interested in partnerships.

Demmitt Provincial Recreation Area

Campground expansion was suggested.

Saskatoon Mountain Natural Area

Several comments favored re-designation of the area as a provincial park for increased conservation, although this raised concerns about potential increase in use. Comments suggested prohibiting or restricting OHV use to avoid damage. However, many were in favor of continuing OHV use. Several wished to see the primitive weapon zoning for hunting continue. Horse trails were suggested. Development of a campground was not supported.

O'Brien Provincial Park

Most comments supported re-designation as a provincial recreation area as long as current services were not reduced. There were suggestions to add land along the west side for future all-season trail use opportunities.

Kleskun Hill Natural Area

Comments did not support re-designation as a provincial park or the potential removal of historic buildings and the campground. Comments did favor protection of the landscape, but felt that the current management of the area provides adequate protection.

Musreau Lake Provincial Recreation Area

Some comments supported re-designation as a provincial park and upgrades to facilities, including boating facilities. Power boating is very popular in this lake and the majority of comments supported continuing this use. Some boating supporters recognized that the number of boats may need to be managed.



Next Steps

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation has reviewed the public input and is preparing a draft regional management plan. Once the draft plan is ready, it will be posted on the Grande Prairie Region Parks Management Plan Public Consultation website for review and comments.



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