APR 28 1998

SASKATOON ISLAND

PROVINCIAL PARK

Management Plan

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Approval Statement

The Saskatoon Lake Provincial Park Management Plan is the official plan of Alberta Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Service.

The Plan is a commitment by the Northwest Boreal Region to the protection and management of resources in Saskatoon Lake Provincial Park and the provision of recreation opportunities within it.

Date JAN 7 / 98

*Pat Long, Regional Director
Natural Resources Service
Northwest Boreal Region*

This plan is consistent with the provisions of the Provincial Parks Act and Regulations and with provincial policies, priorities and direction.

Date Jan. 21/98

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Acknowledgements

The Saskatoon Lake Provincial Park Management Plan is recommended for approval and implementation.

Date December 11, 1997

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Date December 15, 1997

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The team responsible for preparation of the management plan included Scott Blake, Andrea Barnes, Sandra Hogg, Terry Dueck and Elaine Nepstad. Thanks to Susan Gillespie for her work in the early stages of the plan, and to Terry Dueck for use of his photographs.

Thank you to the park visitors who responded to visitor surveys, to stakeholders who answered questionnaires, and to those who attended open houses. Your interest and support for the park is appreciated.

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REGIONAL LOCATION

▲ PROVINCIAL PARK

Statistics compiled by
Resource Data Division, 1986
1:11,000,000 Map Scale

BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALBERTA

SASKATOON ISLAND
PROVINCIAL PARK

1.0 Introduction

1.1 History of Park Establishment

Saskatoon Island is a small provincial park of 101.5 hectares located on an isthmus of land between Saskatoon Lake on the north and Little Lake on the south. It is named after the saskatoon shrubs that grow in abundance there.

At one time the park area was completely surrounded by water. Aboriginal people camped there and picked berries in late summer. It was never homesteaded during the early 1900s when the surrounding land was settled, due to public pressure to retain it for public use. In 1932 it was established as one of the first six provincial parks in Alberta.

In 1948 the Canadian Wildlife Service designated Little Lake and Saskatoon Lake as a Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary for the protection of migratory waterfowl, and in particular trumpeter swans. This sanctuary surrounds the park (see Appendix C for map of sanctuary).

1.2 Significant Features of the Park

Trumpeter Swan/Waterfowl Habitat

Both Saskatoon Lake and Little Lake provide outstanding migratory bird nesting and staging areas, and Little Lake supports nesting swans.

Besides being a Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary, these two lakes are recognized as critical molting and staging areas for swans and other waterfowl by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (1989).

Peace River Parkland

Saskatoon Island Provincial Park is the only provincial park in the Peace River Parkland Subregion of Alberta. Kleskun Hill and Fourth Creek Natural Areas also protect small remnants of this subregion.

High Diversity

For such a small land base, the park has a high diversity of vegetation and wildlife because of its mix of lake and upland habitats.

Saskatoon Community

The saskatoon community in the park is unusually abundant. It supports a variety of bird species, and offers the opportunity for visitors to pick berries and to birdwatch.

Marsh Area

This semi-aquatic community along the northwestern shore of Little Lake supports breeding and feeding waterfowl, and is excellent habitat for trumpeter swans.

Provincially Rare Orchid

The aspen/willow community includes a population of striped coral root (*Corallorhiza striata*), a provincially rare orchid.

1.3 Purpose of Management Plan

Several studies and planning documents have been prepared for Saskatoon Island Provincial Park throughout the years, including a Resource Assessment (1981) and a Policy and Concept Alternatives Report (1982). This plan will build on these and other documents, and will provide direction for preservation and use of the park for the next 5 years.

Management direction is based on the park mandate, park policy, and stakeholder input. It is also guided by an ecosystem management approach. This approach attempts to integrate the

management of natural landscapes, ecological processes, physical and biological components, and human activities, to maintain or enhance the integrity of an ecosystem (Natural Resources Service 1995).

More specifically, this management plan will:

- Place the park within the protected areas system and state its natural history themes;
- Divide the park into zones;
- Define objectives for protection, heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation and tourism and economic development;
- Outline management guidelines and developments which address the concerns and issues of park management, park stakeholders, and park users, and which meet park objectives; and
- Schedule implementation of the plan.

1.4 Public Involvement

The preparation of a management plan must include involvement with those interested in the management of the park, such as park users, local

communities, local resource industries, and other government agencies. Their input is incorporated into the preparation of the management plan.

Public involvement in this planning process took several stages. In the initial stage, concerns and issues about the park were identified through a survey of park visitors administered in the summer of 1996, and through a questionnaire sent to park stakeholders.

This information was used in the preparation of a draft management plan. The plan was reviewed by those stakeholders who requested it, and then two open houses were held in the fall of 1997 to give the public the opportunity to review and comment on the plan.

A summary of the public input into the plan is available from the park

2.0 Overview of Park

2.1 Regional Setting and Access

Saskatoon Island Provincial Park is located near Grande Prairie in the Peace River Country of northwestern Alberta. The economy of this region is based on agriculture, forestry, and oil and gas activity, and has experienced strong growth over the last 25 years. Grande Prairie, as the regional center, provides business, retail, cultural, and educational opportunities to the surrounding areas. Several forest industries are located here, as well as many services which cater to the oil and gas activity in the region.

The park is 25 kilometers from Grande Prairie – 21 kilometers west on Highway #2, and four kilometers north on a secondary road. Other communities near the park include Wembley (8 kilometers), and Beaverlodge (23 kilometers). Highway #2 is the primary connection to the beginning of the Alaska Highway which starts at Dawson Creek, British Columbia, about 110 kilometers northwest of the park.

2.2 Description of Park

The park is situated in an area characterized as a gently rolling plain that slopes gradually towards the Wapiti River to the south. There are several large hills in the area which provide some relief, such as Saskatoon Mountain and Richmond Hill. The park itself is relatively flat, with the land gently sloping from the center portion of the park towards the lakeshores. Low bluffs, which were the shorelines of the lake at earlier times, rise about 14 meters above the present shoreline and back from the shore a short distance. Elevation of the park ranges from 710 to 724 meters above sea level.

The landscape of the park is typical of uplands in the southern portion of the Peace River Parkland Subregion. Most of this subregion has been

cultivated and only small, scattered remnants, such as Saskatoon Island Provincial Park, are still in native cover.

2.2.1 Geology and Soils

Bedrock of the area is of the Wapiti Formation, a formation of sandstone, shales, and some scattered coal beds formed in a fresh-water environment during the Upper Cretaceous period (@ 65-100 million years ago).

During the last glaciation, the ice sheet at its maximum was about 7000 ft. thick, and advanced from the north-northeast. The glacier deposited a sheet of till (unsorted gravel) over the entire area.

As the glacier retreated, the melting ice formed Lake Peace that covered much of the Peace River area. This lake took on many shapes as the glacier advanced and receded; however, it was apparently never deep enough to cover Saskatoon Mountain. As the lake drained, it left a layer of clay, silt and sand. In all, the till and the lacustrine deposits (left by the lake) are about 30 meters thick. These deposits which lie between the bedrock and the soil are known as surficial deposits.

Three kinds of soils overlay the surficial deposits in the park- Luvisolic, Gleysolic and Solonetzic. Luvisolic soils cover the largest portion of the park. These soils are formed under forest vegetation, and are moderately leached of minerals.

Gleysolic soils develop in water-logged areas. They are found on the west edge of the park and in small pockets on the east side; both areas would have been wet at higher water levels.

Solonetzic soils are also developed in wet areas usually covered with water. They are mineral soils that tend to be water-impermeable, highly erodable, and very hard when dry. These soils are present at the extreme western edge of the park and on the eastern edge. All of the soils have high clay content that renders them slippery or sticky when wet after vegetation is removed.

2.2.2 Climate

The regional climate is described as humid continental, with humid winters and cool summers. Summers are about three months long, compared to winters that usually last about six months. Mean annual precipitation is 453 millimeters of which about 60% falls as rain. The number of frost-free days averages 80-90. Prevailing winds are from the west, and are frequent and intense. April to June are the windiest months.

2.2.3 Aquatic Systems

The dominant aquatic features are the two lakes, Saskatoon Lake and Little Lake. Historically the two lakes were joined, and the land that is now the park was an island. By some reports the lake level was still high enough in 1917 to surround the island. Since then the lake level has declined by at least three and one-half meters, and by the early 1960s the island had joined the mainland at the east and west ends. There was much local concern about the declining lake level, but little could be done as the lake has no outlets. However, since 1966 the level of Saskatoon Lake has remained fairly constant with fluctuations of about 1.5 meters.

Saskatoon Lake is a very shallow, medium-sized body of water. It has a surface area of 7.47 square kilometers and a maximum depth of 4 meters. Little Lake covers an area of 1.5 square kilometers, and is shallower. Because of this shallowness, the water column in both lakes is well mixed and of a uniform temperature during the summer.

The drainage basin of the lakes is about four times their size. The only defined inflow is a small creek entering the southwest end of Saskatoon Lake, outside of the park. Additional inflow is from runoff, precipitation and groundwater. There is no apparent outlet; the lakes drain by percolation into the sandstone aquifers of the bedrock, and from there into the Wapiti River.

The lakes are hyper-eutrophic, with high levels of chlorophyll and phosphorus. Algae turn the water green in mid- to late summer and aquatic vegetation grows abundantly around the shores. Both lakes, but Little Lake more so, support emergent vegetation (cattails), submergent vegetation (sago pondweed, northern watermilfoil) and floating vegetation (water smartweed).

2.2.4 Vegetation

The vegetation in the park is typical of uplands in the Peace River Parkland Subregion. Aspen is the dominant tree cover, with balsam poplar in wetter areas. Saskatoon, wolf willow and prickly rose are common shrubs in the open areas. The major disturbance is fire, but the last reported large fire in the region was in the 1890s. It is likely that parts of the park have burned since then, but there is no record.

The park has remarkable diversity for such a small land base. Five vegetation communities can be distinguished within it: aquatic weed beds, marsh and moist thickets, woodland, dry scrub, and grassland.¹ See vegetation map on next page.

1. The aquatic weed beds, tangles of free-floating or submerged vegetation, occur in shallow areas of the lakes sheltered from strong winds or currents.
2. Marsh communities occur along the west bay of Little Lake and at the east end of the park. They are characterized by a dense growth of tall sedges and rushes. These two areas are excellent habitat for waterfowl, marsh birds, and the trumpeter communities, local resource industries, and other government agencies. Their input is incorporated into the preparation of the management plan.

¹ A 1981 resource assessment by Fairbairns et. al. recognized 7 vegetation types- aquatic weedbeds, marsh, moist thickets, woodland, dry scrub, grassland and disturbed areas. In this report marsh and moist thickets, and grassland and disturbed areas, have been combined. This reduces the number of categories from seven to five.

VEGETATION MAP

swans. Moist thicket communities, mostly of willow, exist adjacent to the marsh areas, as well as along much of the shore of Little Lake. Generally this community consists of a tall willow overstory and an understory of grasses and sedges.

3. The deciduous woodland community is in the drier, upland areas of the park, particularly in the western half. Most stands consist of aspen, although balsam poplar occurs near the lake. A dense undergrowth of shrubs is usually associated with these woodlands, with wildflowers and grasses forming the lower story.

4. Dry shrub communities can be divided into tall and low shrubs. Tall shrub communities, dominated by saskatoon, cover much of the eastern half of the park and parts of the western half. At the edges aspen are invading this community, but because of soil and drainage factors, the process is slow. Other shrubs found here are chokecherry, gooseberry, rose, raspberry, and snowberry. The lower understory includes a variety of grasses, sedges and wildflowers.

The low shrub community occurs in areas where the average height of the shrubbery is less than five feet high and saskatoon is co-dominant with species such as prickly rose, wolf willow and snowberry. This community is probably an early stage of succession from grassland to shrubland to aspen woodland. These communities are often located adjacent to tall shrub communities and share much of the same vegetation, except grasses tend to be more prevalent.

5. The grassland communities are on previously disturbed land in the west section of the park, including the facility areas. Native vegetation includes marsh reed grass, sedges, and some wildflowers, although much of it is introduced plants such as brome grass, dandelion, chickweed and tansy. Tansy is currently the most prevalent non-native species, and is considered a noxious weed in Alberta.

See Appendix A for list of vegetation found in the park.

2.2.5 Wildlife

Birds

The park has been a Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary since 1948 because of its significance as a nesting site for the trumpeter swan, and as a migratory bird resting and staging area. The Grande Prairie region is the major nesting area in Canada for the trumpeter swan, and the park is typical of this type of habitat.

Family of swans on Little Lake

Because of its diversity of habitats, the park hosts at least 121 species of birds, including marsh and shore birds, waterfowl, and woodland species. A minimum of 44 of these species breed in the park. See Appendix B for list of birds observed in the park.

Mammals

Small mammals that live in the park include snowshoe hare, porcupine, least chipmunk, red squirrel, voles and mice, coyote, muskrat and beaver. Moose, mule deer and white-tailed deer range through the park, particularly in winter.

Fish and Amphibians

The only fish species known to inhabit Saskatoon Lake naturally is brook stickleback. Because of the shallowness of the lake and the huge growth of algae, most fish cannot survive the winter. The lake has been stocked periodically since 1987; this is discussed in Section 5.3.2.

Amphibians in the park include the wood frog, boreal chorus frog and boreal toad. The hyper-eutrophic nature of the lake provides good habitat for invertebrate species, including freshwater shrimps.

2.2.6 Cultural/Historical

The Peace River area has probably provided favorable hunting habitat for aboriginal people for over 10,000 years. Archaeological assessments in the park in 1973 and 1984 confirmed the presence of prehistoric archaeological resources. The five sites along the bluffs on the north and south sides of the park revealed quartzite flake fragments, burnt cobbles, and charred bone representing a hearth. However, relatively few artifacts were found, probably reflecting the difficulty of access to the area in earlier times when it was an island. However, it is known that in later times aboriginal people camped there each summer, as recently as 1929.

The community of Lake Saskatoon was started in the late 1890s when a trading post was built on the west end of the lake. By 1900 the trading post was owned by Fletcher Bredin and Jim Cornwall², and operated by Alex Monkman. Alex Monkman later homesteaded on Cutbank Lake; some of his original farm buildings are still there. Monkman became well known through his plan to build a road through a pass in the Rockies southwest of Beaverlodge – this pass now bears his name.

In 1901 the Hudson's Bay Company built a trading post, and soon a church, school and NWMP barracks followed. The community became a business center as trails converged here from all directions. One well-known trail known as the Hinton Trail ended at Lake Saskatoon. Treaty Indians also came to collect treaty money, and to camp at Saskatoon Island. The surrounding area was surveyed beginning in 1909, and opened for homesteading in 1910.

By 1920, the Lake Saskatoon settlement boasted several churches, a school, a NWMP post, law offices, and some retail businesses. However, when the railroad was built through Wembley in the late 1920s, 10 kilometers to the south, the settlement was moved. The only building there now is a community hall.

² Bredin and Cornwall were both well known in northern Alberta for their entrepreneurship and as members of the Legislative Assembly. Bredin also operated a trading post along the Hinton Trail at the Redwillow River in the 1920s

2.3 Visitor Use

2.3.1. Recreation Opportunities

The natural environment of Saskatoon Island Provincial Park and the park facilities provide visitors the opportunity to participate in a variety of outdoor activities year round. (See map on previous page for facilities in park).

Summer Activities

Camping

- 87 vehicle-access campsites; 26 are electrified
- 9 walk-in tent sites
- 30 sites in the group campground; 12 are electrified
- firewood, tap water, comfort station, and enclosed shelters.

Day use

- picnic areas with tables, fire pits, firewood, and tap water
- a beach and wash house/showers
- horseshoe pitches, volleyball and baseball areas, mini-golf and playground
- concession sells fast food and basic supplies
- two group day use shelters. The newest shelter can be reserved for use, and has a natural gas barbecue, furnace, running water, and wheelchair accessible washroom. The other shelter has power and a wood stove.

Boating

- boat launch
- powerboating, sailing, water skiing, canoeing, kayaking and windsurfing.
- canoe and paddleboat rental concession

Hiking

- 6.4 kilometers of hiking trails
- 1.1 kilometers of wheelchair accessible paved trail to lookout

Winter Activities

Ice skating

- a large outdoor lighted skating rink with warmup shelter, fire pit and firewood.

SASKATOON ISLAND PROVINCIAL PARK

L	E	G	E	N	D
— roads	information	registration	picnic area		
- - - trails	group camping	concession	group picnic area		
P parking	camping	garbage	baseball diamond		
boat/trailer parking	shelter	water	skating rink		
washrooms	wood	dumping station	cross-country skiing		
telephone	showers	boat launch	hiking		

Cross-country skiing

- 6.4 kilometers of groomed trails

Winter camping

- available in the day use area.

2.3.2 Park Visitation

Visitation to the park has fluctuated, but is generally increasing. Day use is particularly strong, as the park has a long history of being a favorite site for family and community gatherings. The new group day use shelter is intended to support this use.

Park Occupancy			
	Occupied Campsite Nights ³	Day Use Party Visits	Group Use Nights
95/96	5904	29,425	340
94/95	5159	25,875	451
93/94	5014	25,025	379
92/93	3618	27,400	374
91/92	3712	21,951	313
90/91	4717	27,425	284
89/90	3027	18,105	258
88/89	3543	15,500	294
87/88	3026	13,550	230

Most visitors, and in particular day use visitors, come from the Grande Prairie region. During weekdays, about 25% of the campers come from other regions or provinces or are Americans travelling the Alaska Highway.

Camp occupancy in the summer is at about 50-60% occupancy during the week, and usually at 100% occupancy on the weekends.

Saskatoon Lake attracts a variety of water-based recreationists. A local competitive water ski club uses it as a base for training. Most other motor boating includes some type of tow equipment. There is some non-motorized boating on the lake, and some windsurfing. A 10-kilometer per hour speed limit within 30 meters of the entire shore is enforced, and signs have been installed to inform visitors of this regulation.

Park staff on mounted patrol

³ Occupied campsite night - one site occupied for one night; day use party visit - person(s) in a vehicle entering for one day without staying overnight; group unit night - one camping accommodation unit in a group use area.

3.0 Role in Alberta's Protected Areas Network

3.1. Objectives

Natural Resources Service has adopted four broad program objectives that identify a range of functions which protected areas provide. They are:

Preservation

To preserve and protect in perpetuity a system of representative, special and outstanding natural landscapes and features as well as landscape-related prehistoric, historic and cultural resources of Alberta.

Heritage Appreciation

To provide opportunities to explore, understand and appreciate the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Alberta, and to enhance public awareness of our natural environment and our relationship to it.

Outdoor Recreation

To provide a variety of intensive and dispersed outdoor recreation opportunities and related facilities and services.

Tourism

To encourage residents and visitors to discover and enjoy the natural, historical and cultural resources of the province through a variety of recreation opportunities, facilities and accommodation services.

3.2 Natural Regions Framework

Alberta is building a network of protected areas that are representative of the province's natural heritage. A framework based on natural features has been adopted to help select and manage these areas. The framework is a hierarchy of natural regions, subregions, and natural history themes.

Natural Regions provide the big picture of Alberta's landscape, such as grasslands, mountains, and boreal forest. The subregions and natural history themes are subdivisions of the natural regions, and provide a more specific picture of smaller areas.

There are six Natural Regions in Alberta. (See map on next page). Differences between these regions are readily apparent by their distinct landform features and vegetation.

Each of these Natural Regions has been divided into subregions based on criteria that may vary depending on the Natural Region. For instance, the Boreal Natural Region is divided into 6 subregions based on vegetation, geology, and landforms. These subregions vary, then, with the predominant forest cover, the topography (whether they are level, undulating, or hilly), and the mix of uplands and wetlands. In the Parkland Natural Region, however, there are 3 subregions, based on geographical location and major differences in vegetation. In all there are 20 subregions in Alberta.

Subregions are further divided into Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Natural History themes. Level 1 themes are based on easily observed landforms of subregions, such as wetlands and

valley/ridges. There are 20 Level 1 themes distributed across the subregions, but not all are represented in each subregion. For example, within the six Boreal Forest subregions, 12 of the 20 Level 1 themes occur.

Level 2 themes are more specific breakdowns of Level 1 themes. They refer to distinctive vegetation, habitat types or highly visible geology features. Examples of Level 2 themes for wetland marshes in the Parkland subregions are shallow marshes, shallow open water marshes, and deep open water marshes.

Alberta

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL REGIONS AND SUB-REGIONS OF ALBERTA

0 50 100km

BOREAL FOREST NATURAL REGION

- Central Mixedwood
- Dry Mixedwood
- Wetland Mixedwood
- Sub-Arctic
- Peace River Lowlands
- Boreal Highlands

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURAL REGION

- Alpine
- Sub-Alpine
- Montane

FOOTHILLS NATURAL REGION

- Upper Foothills
- Lower Foothills

CANADIAN SHIELD NATURAL REGION

- Athabasca Plain
- Kazan Uplands

PARKLAND NATURAL REGION

- Foothills Parkland
- Peace River Parkland
- Central Parkland

GRASSLAND NATURAL REGION

- Dry Mixedgrass
- Foothills Fescue
- Northern Fescue
- Mixedgrass

Level 3 themes are finer breakdowns of Level 2 themes. They include specific features such as rare plants and animals, and specific bedrock and landform types, for instance the Kleskun Hills landform.

Because of their detail, it is the themes that are most useful for identifying the natural diversity within Alberta. Level 1 themes can usually be seen on aerial photographs, while Level 2 and Level 3 themes require detailed biophysical studies. Analysis of these themes can determine which sites in Alberta would be the best samples of our natural heritage.

Saskatoon Island Provincial Park lies in a transition zone between two Natural Regions. On the 1:1,000,000 scale Natural Regions map the park is in the Dry Mixedwood Subregion of the Boreal Forest Natural Region, but is immediately adjacent to the Parkland Subregion of the Parkland Natural Region. Its natural themes have been evaluated for the Peace River Parkland Subregion, because it is more typical of this landscape than of a boreal forest. The table indicates the themes represented in the park.

Natural History Themes Saskatoon Island Provincial Park	
Parkland Natural Region Peace River Parkland Subregion	
Level 1 Themes	Level 2 Themes
Non-sandy Upland - glacial lake bed	Woodland Low Shrubbery Tall Shrubbery Grassland
Wetland - meadow	Wet meadow
Wetland - marsh	Shallow marsh Deep marsh
Wetland - lake	Lake

3.3 Classification

Natural Resources Service is responsible for the administration and management of protected areas designated under the authority of the Provincial Parks Act and the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act. Under these two

pieces of legislation, six classes of protected areas are recognized: Ecological Reserves, Wilderness Areas, Wildland Provincial Parks, Provincial Parks, Natural Areas, and Provincial Recreation Areas. Each protected area is designated within one of these classes on the basis of its contribution to the four broad program objectives. Those areas classified as provincial parks may make strong contributions to all four objectives.

3.4 Contributions of Saskatoon Island Provincial Park to Provincial Objectives

To Preservation

- Preserves a remnant of the Peace River Parkland Natural Subregion.
- Contributes to protection of nesting and staging habitat of the trumpeter swan.
- Protects locally significant saskatoon shrub communities.

To Heritage Appreciation

- Provides interpretation and environmental education programs to park visitors and surrounding area.
- Offers opportunity for visitors to experience a Peace River Parkland setting, and to view the vegetation and wildlife common to that area.

To Outdoor Recreation

- Offers quality facilities and services for camping and day use activities.
- Provides opportunities for winter recreation activities.

To Tourism

- Offers easily accessible camping facilities to tourists traveling on Highway #2, the major route to northern British Columbia, Yukon, and Alaska.
- Provides economic opportunities for the private sector to deliver services in the park.

3.5 Saskatoon Island Provincial Park – Natural Heritage Site

In order to refocus their management direction and satisfy budget requirements, Recreation and Protected Areas Division of Natural Resources Service has implemented a management strategy towards building a protected areas network in Alberta. This strategy groups protected areas into two classifications for management purposes – Natural Heritage Sites and Recreation Facility Sites.

Natural Heritage Sites are intended to contribute primarily to the preservation objective, but usually make a significant contribution to heritage appreciation and may contribute to outdoor recreation and tourism.

Recreation Facility Sites are intended to contribute primarily to outdoor recreation. These sites may be of local importance with respect to tourism and heritage appreciation. Their land bases tend to be small and are often highly modified.

Although Saskatoon Island Provincial Park has a highly modified land base and contributes much to the outdoor recreation objective, it is classified as a Natural Heritage Site because it represents a landscape which is currently under-represented, and for which there is little possibility of replacement for a larger, less modified site.

The purpose, then, of Saskatoon Island Provincial Park is:

To protect a representative sample of the Peace River Parkland, to protect habitat for trumpeter swans and other waterfowl, and to provide opportunities for local visitors and tourists to experience, understand and appreciate the natural and cultural heritage of the area through outdoor recreation activities and interpretation programs.

This is a shift in the focus of management for the park, and is consistent with its status as a Natural Heritage Site in the Peace Parkland Subregion.

3.5.1 Role of Natural Resources Service

To manage Saskatoon Island Provincial Park as a Natural Heritage Site, Alberta Environmental Protection will:

- Establish operating criteria for facility operation, maintenance and fees;
- Maintain responsibility for promoting the province's natural, historical and cultural resources;
- Continue to provide educational and interpretative programming;
- Provide security services; and
- Retain overall responsibility for resource management.

3.5.2 Role of Private Sector

The role of the private sector in the management of Saskatoon Island Provincial Park is outlined below.

- The private sector is currently operating the campground in Saskatoon Island Provincial Park through a facility operating agreement. This arrangement will continue.
- The campground will continue to be operated and maintained at established provincial standards and fees.
- The facility operator may choose to upgrade existing facilities or to construct new facilities. This development would be approved by the department if consistent with publicly supported management plans and with the public's expectations of the park. This could be done without public review.
- Except for trails, facility development would only take place within the facility zone in the park.
- The private sector will be encouraged to become partners with the park in the delivery of protection, interpretation, site development and operation services. These partnerships could be with individuals, clubs, volunteers, and other members of the public. These kinds of partnerships have benefited the Recreation and Protected Areas Program in the past, and will continue to do so.

4.0 Park Zoning

Zoning is a management tool that divides a landscape into units and identifies the intent and objectives of each unit. It is useful because the “mix” of values in a protected area may vary within it. For instance, preservation values may have a higher priority in some areas, and recreation values may have a higher priority in others.

Saskatoon Island Provincial Park is divided into two zones, a natural environment zone and a facility zone. The intents of the two zones are discussed below.

4.1. Facility Zone

The intent of a facility zone is to provide land to accommodate a range of moderate to intensive outdoor recreational activities. The zone will be managed so that the opportunity for these activities will be sustained. Facilities appropriate to this zone are campgrounds and day use areas that accommodate the greatest density and highest levels of visitor use in the park.

At Saskatoon Island Provincial Park the facility zone includes the campgrounds, group use areas, concession and mini golf areas, playgrounds, and beach and boat launch areas. These are all in the western end of the park.

4.2 Natural Environment Zone

The intent of a natural environment zone is to offer a variety of dispersed outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation activities that bring the visitor in close contact with the natural and cultural heritage of the park. It is intended to provide a higher level of protection to the natural environment than a facility zone. Appropriate activities could include hiking, cross-country skiing, and nature appreciation.

In Saskatoon Island Provincial Park, the natural environment zone is all of the park which does not include the facility zone. Facilities in this zone include hiking trails and a viewing platform, providing visitors with the opportunity to view nature firsthand.

The map on the next page shows the two zones.

ZONING MAP

5.0 Management Objectives and Actions

5.1 Preservation

5.1.1 Objectives

- To preserve a portion of the Peace River Parkland Natural Subregion
- To support protection of the trumpeter swans and their nesting and staging grounds, as well as other waterfowl, shorebirds and migratory birds.
- To regenerate the saskatoon bushes which are part of the natural and cultural heritage of the area.
- To manage the mixedwood stands in the facility zone so they become a healthy viable forest community.

5.1.2 Current Situation

In support of the Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary, the protection of trumpeter swans and other waterfowl and their habitat is of prime concern. The lakes are a high priority production and staging habitat for trumpeter swans, and priority production and staging habitat for other waterfowl and shorebirds (North American Waterfowl Management Plan 1989). Little Lake has supported nesting swans over the years, many with large broods. Both lakes are major staging areas beginning in early September when juvenile trumpeters gather for migration. Many other waterfowl species, such as eared grebes and a variety of ducks, nest in the marsh and upland areas of the park. Colonial species, such as the black tern, are also present on the lakes.

Saskatoon Lake continues to be monitored for water quality. The beach area water is monitored weekly for coliforms and other pollutants that would affect safe recreational use. Lake water samples are collected monthly for water clarity, nutrient composition, and presence of pesticides.

There is some concern about the state of the saskatoon shrubs in the park. Saskatoons are a pioneer species, and they thrive in open, fairly dry areas on mineral soil. Many distinct even-aged clonal stands, ranging in height from two to five meters, are a unique feature. There are also large scrub patches of saskatoon, wolf willow and prickly rose, with the saskatoon shrubs averaging a meter high. Diseases such as black leaf fungus, leafspot and blight, and cytospora dieback have infected some plants. These diseases are native to the area, and could not be completely eradicated. The best defense against them is to encourage healthy stands.

The facility zone has a number of old, damaged aspens that are potentially hazardous to visitors and which contribute to a high fuel load. Trees have been selected for removal. The park also has a continuing noxious weed problem, and has been working with the County of Grande Prairie to control the weeds.

5.1.3 Management Actions

Natural Resources Service will continue to enforce the no-hunting restriction within 800 meters (.5 miles) of the lakes because of their status as bird sanctuaries, and will ensure adequate signs are installed to keep the public informed of this restriction. This restriction is an Alberta Environmental Protection hunting regulation.

In cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service, three bays on Lake Saskatoon are currently closed to the public during open water season. This will continue in order to prevent disturbance of waterfowl habitat. A string of buoys is used to close off the bays. These buoys will be maintained, and signs placed on them to explain the regulation.

Little Lake is currently closed to boaters (both motorized and non-motorized) to prevent disturbance to nesting waterfowl. This will continue.

Regeneration of the saskatoon stands will be investigated. A potential method is through controlled burning. A long-term regeneration plan will be developed, and will include:

- identification of stands i.e. age, size, current fuel load
- identification of areas for possible controlled burning, i.e. scrub patches of saskatoon, rose and wolf willow
- controlled burn plan, including size and shape of plots, fuel load
- post-burn monitoring for invasion of grasses such as brome and quackgrass.

Western wood lily

Several informal trails in the park are regenerating. The park requests the public to stay off these trails and will discourage their use by planting native shrubs at the trailheads.

A canopy management program, based on the Gregoire Lake Provincial Park program, will be developed and implemented for the facility zone. The aim of this program is to recreate an uneven-aged mixedwood forest and maintain aesthetics in the campground. It will involve removing hazardous trees, decreasing fuel load, and replanting white spruce and aspen. Attention will be paid to retaining snags for bird species that use older growth, such as woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees. This is a long-term project, and will be planned and implemented in stages.

In cooperation with the County of Grande Prairie, a noxious weed control program will be developed and implemented to remove noxious weeds, and particularly tansy, from the park. Natural Resources Service will continue to participate in the water monitoring programs.

5.2 Heritage Appreciation

Heritage appreciation is a valuing of our heritage, both natural and cultural. Aids to heritage appreciation include interpretation, environmental education, and information. Interpretation refers to effective communication of our natural and cultural heritage in a way that helps people appreciate, understand and care for it. Interpretation can be done personally, for instance by a park ranger leading a nature walk, or impersonally through signing and displays. Environmental education is generally more formal, and usually tied in to school curriculums. Information helps visitors plan their visit to the park and makes it more enjoyable by creating awareness of park features and of park regulations.

5.2.1 Objectives

- To offer interpretation of the park's natural and cultural heritage to park visitors.
- To offer environmental education opportunities to schools and groups in the surrounding communities.
- To increase public awareness of the conservation programs of Natural Resources Service and of other agencies such as the Canadian Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited.
- To explain the role of Saskatoon Island Provincial Park within the protected areas network of Alberta.
- To encourage visitors and surrounding communities to be stewards of the park.

5.2.2 Current Situation

Interpretation programs are offered in the park from May to September on a weekly basis, and include evening presentations, guided hikes, and children's programs. The self-guided Parkland Trail is paved and wheelchair-accessible. Environmental education programs are offered on request year round.

The viewing platform on Little Lake was recently upgraded to enhance the view and encourage its use

by park visitors. It was dedicated to the campground hosts who, as volunteers, have shown outstanding commitment and support to the park.

Information cubicles at the boat launch, the park office and the trailhead were updated and installed in 1997, and a bird checklist brochure is being prepared.

A "Friends of Saskatoon Island Provincial Park" cooperating association is currently being formed. This is a not-for-profit partnership between the park and committed community individuals that aims to support the park and enhance its programs.

5.2.3 Management Actions

Environmental education programs will be promoted in schools and children's groups within the surrounding communities.

Cultural heritage of the area will be given more emphasis in interpretation programs. This will include aboriginal history of the park area. The park could work with local groups to present programs about local historical/cultural heritage.

Watchable wildlife signs will be placed on existing hiking trails.

The park will continue to work with other agencies in the delivery of interpretation programs, and encourage volunteers to participate in presenting programs.

The park will seek partnerships and sponsorships with other agencies and groups to assist in providing heritage appreciation opportunities to both park visitors and the surrounding communities. One possibility is to present interpretation programs at the boardwalk on Wembley Lake in conjunction with the Watchable Wildlife program.

The role of the park in Alberta's network of protected areas will be worked into interpretation and environmental education programs. The role of the park as a bird sanctuary will also be explained.

5.3 Outdoor Recreation

5.3.1 Objectives

- To continue to provide quality camping and day use opportunities to park visitors.
- To offer water-based recreation opportunities that are consistent with bird sanctuary objectives.
- To provide opportunities for less intensive recreation activities such as hiking and nature watching.
- To continue to offer opportunities for winter outdoor recreation.

5.3.2 Current Situation

The population of the Grande Prairie region continues to expand, and with this growth are increasing demands for use of the park. Recent facility development in the park is accommodating these demands; they include a group day use site (1996), new park office, boat launch site, extensive campground and group camping developments (most recently in 1996), day use shelters, access roads and parking lots. However, the park is small in size, and its capacity for outdoor recreation development is probably near capacity if the natural environment of the park is to be sustained.

One demand is for motor boating on Saskatoon Lake. It is the most accessible lake to motorboats in the Grande Prairie area, and is popular with a local group of water skiers. This recreational use is not compatible with bird sanctuary objectives, but there are few alternate sites for accessible motor boating. Currently the situation is being managed by not permitting powerboat access to three bays on Saskatoon Lake that contain prime waterfowl habitat.

Saskatoon Lake has had a history of fish kills in winter, and by 1987 no sport fish remained. A stocking program of rainbow and eastern brook trout was begun in that year, and the lake was stocked annually until 1992. Although the growth rate of the fish was high because of all the nutrients in the lake, most did not survive the winters. An

experimental lake aeration system was installed in the winter of 1996, but it did not aerate the lake enough to prevent winterkill. At this point, the lake is not being stocked.

The beach area on Saskatoon Lake is tested weekly for coliforms and other pollutants that would affect the recreational quality of the water. A beach and swimming area is maintained by adding sand periodically and raking the weeds that accumulate on shore.

The campsites in the park have recently been graveled to level the sites.

A variety of winter outdoor activities are offered in the park, as well as fun events such as Family Day, Christmas Skating Party, and other events.

5.3.3 Management Actions

Any proposed facility development must meet the following guidelines:

- Facility development will only be allowed in the facility zone, except for hiking/skiing trails.
- Any development must be carefully assessed for its impact to the natural environment of the park.
- The proposed development must be consistent with the intent of this management plan.

Alternatives to development of new facilities, such as upgrading of present facilities or development of facilities outside the park, would be a consideration in the review of development proposals.

Motor boating and water skiing opportunities will continue on Saskatoon Lake during the summer season. Markers that close off the bays to boating will be made more visible, and signs installed to explain the restriction.

The boat speed limit of ten kilometers per hour within 30 meters of the shoreline will be enforced. This applies to the shoreline of the entire lake. A sign will be installed at the boat launch explaining this regulation.

Park staff and the facility operator will work towards preventing vandalism to park facilities.

Leveling and graveled of campsites will be done as required.

The presence of campground hosts is a benefit to the park and to visitors, and will continue to be offered. A site has been developed and set aside for their use, and it will remain as a campground host site.

A request for non-powered boat and bike rental concession has been granted. This will add to the outdoor recreation opportunities in the park.

A contingency plan dealing with procedures in emergency situations will be updated.

In conjunction with the canopy management program, removing hazardous trees in the campgrounds may affect the privacy of campers. Ways to alleviate this will be considered when implementing the program.

Most facilities are connected into the main sewer system in the park. Remaining facilities will be tied in if it is cost effective to do so.

5.4 Tourism

5.4.1 Objectives

- To continue to offer recreation opportunities to tourists travelling on Highway #2, particularly those en route to and from Alaska.
- To continue to offer economic opportunities to local businesses.
- To investigate ways of marketing the park to local people and tourists.
- To promote the contribution of the park to Alberta's network of protected areas

5.4.2 Current Situation

The location of Saskatoon Island Provincial Park near Highway #2 makes it a popular stopping point for tourists travelling northwest to the Yukon and Alaska.

Up to now, most promotion has emphasized the outdoor recreation opportunities at the park. Because of the park's status as a Natural Heritage Site, park promotion will pay more attention to promoting the natural features of the park.

5.4.3 Management Actions

The park will be promoted in provincial park brochures, in Alberta North's tourism publications, through the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce, and through other avenues that provide opportunities to increase awareness of the park.

Park management will continue to provide the local media with information about the park and its special events.

Park staff and the campground hosts will continue to promote the park in appropriate situations during their daily work routines.

The businesses in the park, such as the facility operator and concession operators, will be encouraged to help promote and market the park.

The park will utilize the Park Ambassadors Program to promote the park outside the Peace River region. The focus of this promotion will be on the natural features of the park and its contribution to Alberta's network of protected areas.

6.0 Surrounding Lands

6.1 Surrounding Land Use

The land adjacent to the lakes is all privately owned land. Except for a treed buffer around most of the shoreline and along the inflow, the land has been cleared for agriculture.

6.2 Dispositions

The farmlands surrounding the park overlie gas and oil fields. Producing wells have been in existence

since the 1980s. The closest well is southwest of the park about 150 meters from the boundary.

Two active petroleum and natural gas leases include the park area. Both have a "no surface access" addendum on the portion within the park.

Saskatoon Lake has occasionally been used as a source of water for oil/gas and seismic activity. This is being discouraged because of contamination.

6.3 Additions to the Park

No land has been added to the park since its establishment, although this has been investigated periodically. However, if an opportunity arose, management would consider land additions that would increase the park's protection value. This could include any shorelines or cultivated land that could be restored to a native condition.

7.0 Regional Coordination

Parks cannot be managed in isolation from the surrounding lands. What happens on lands around the park may have an impact inside the park. In turn, the presence of a park may affect management of land adjacent to the park. Saskatoon Island Provincial Park recognizes this, and seeks to be a "good neighbour" with landowners and managers of adjacent lands, and with the local community. The "Friends of Saskatoon Island Provincial Park" cooperating association will hopefully assist in developing this relationship.

7.1 Adjacent Land Owners

All the land surrounding the lakes, and the land adjacent to the east and west boundaries of the park, is privately owned.

- The park will continue to practice a "good neighbour" policy with adjacent landowners.

- The weed problem in the park affects the surrounding lands, but the reverse is also true. The park will work with adjacent landowners to obtain support for weed control in the park.
- The exact location of the east boundary of the park is not known. This boundary will be surveyed for its exact location and signed "No access for off-highway vehicles". The park will work with the adjacent landowner to discourage access to the park through this land.
- There is potential for an increase in subdivision development around the lake. The park will work with the County of Grande Prairie to reduce impacts of this activity on the lakes and the park.

7.2 Local Community

The nearest community is Lake Saskatoon, while the nearest town is Wembley, about six kilometers south of the park. The community of Lake Saskatoon has an active agricultural society, and a community hall where many community activities are held.

The surrounding area has used the park, since before its establishment, as a community gathering place in the summer, and this continues. For instance, the Lake Saskatoon Agricultural Society is supportive of the park and uses it for recreational activities. Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Junior Forest Rangers, school groups and other children's groups use the park for their programs.

- In recognition of a long history of use by local people, the park will continue to encourage community involvement in the park. This could be done through hosting traditional events such as a Farmer's Day Picnic, Old Timer's Picnic, and other events which were held here in the past.
- The park has initiated the formation of a "Friends of the Park" Cooperating Association. The park welcomes this opportunity to involve local people in the park and looks forward to developing this partnership with them.

7.3 Other Agencies

Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) has jurisdiction of the Saskatoon Lake Bird Sanctuary. CWS also monitors the bird populations on the lake on a regular basis. The park will continue to support the mandate of CWS through management guidelines that place priority on preservation of bird habitat.

Alberta Fish and Wildlife were involved in the experimental aeration system installed in the lake in 1996. They will continue to enforce fish and wildlife regulations, including enforcement of the no-hunting restriction within 800 meters of the lakes up to Nov. 1 of each year.

The park will work with the *County of Grande Prairie* to control noxious weeds in the park, and seek cooperation with surrounding landowners to this end.

RCMP from Grande Prairie present safety programs in the park. This program is successful and will be encouraged to continue.

Muskoseepi Park in Grande Prairie has supported park interpretation programs by providing resources. The park will continue to seek cooperation with this community resource.

The local *Ducks Unlimited Association* is available as a resource for waterfowl and lake issues.

8.0 Plan Implementation

8.1 Management Actions

This section compiles all the actions listed throughout the management plan. The actions are organized below under ongoing and project oriented actions.

8.1.1. Ongoing Actions

These are ongoing actions that mostly proceed through park operations. These tasks will be

reviewed regularly by the park manager to ensure that they are carried out and that the intentions of this management plan are being followed.

- Enforce the 800 meter (half mile) no hunting zone around the park.
- Restrict use of the three bays during open water season with buoys and install signage that explains the closures.
- Continue to monitor water quality of the lake.
- Include cultural heritage of the region, aboriginal history, information about conservation programs, and explanation of role of the park in the protected areas system of Alberta in heritage appreciation programs.
- Work with local societies, agencies, and volunteers to develop and deliver heritage appreciation programs.
- Promote environmental education programs.
- Promote the park in local and provincial travel brochures and at trade shows.
- monitor shrub planting on trails, and replant as required.
- monitor noxious weeds in the park, and evaluate effectiveness of plan to remove them from the park.
- Continue to work with the contractor to prevent vandalism in the park.

8.1.2. Task or Project Oriented Actions

These projects will require varying amounts of planning and time to complete. Projected completion times are dependent on staffing and funding resources.

- Develop plan to regenerate saskatoon bushes. Plan completed and implementation to begin by spring 1998.

- Plant native shrubs to act as barriers to use of regenerating trails. Completion date summer 1998
- Develop and implement plan to regenerate mixedwood forest in facility zone. Plan developed in the winter of 1998 and implementation to begin by spring 1998.
- Develop and implement noxious weed program. Plan developed in spring of 1997, and implementation begun in summer 1997.
- Place watchable wildlife signs on trails. Completion date summer 1998

8.1.3 Proposed Development Projects

Starting in 1998, a portion of visitor fees at Natural Heritage Sites will be allocated towards upgrading of existing facilities and towards development of new facilities.

For Saskatoon Island Provincial Park, proposed development projects include:

- Expand beach and upgrade waterfront
- Electrify sites in C Loop
- Improve parking lot/overflow area
- Pave campground access road and loop roads
- Construct combined visitor center/indoor interpretative center with amphitheatre.
- Construct boardwalk along Little Lake for interpretative and nature watching purposes.

8.2 Plan Review

Implementation of the management plan will proceed through ongoing park operations. Those actions that require capital funding will proceed on a priority basis as budget resources are available.

The management plan will be formally reviewed not more than 10 years after approval. Earlier reviews may be required if there are significant issues that need addressing.

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APPENDIX A

Vegetation Species List Saskatoon Island Provincial Park

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
AQUATIC WEEDBED	Common Duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>
	Planktonic Algae	<i>Aphanizomenon, Microcystis or Anabaena sp</i>
MARSH & MOIST THICKETS	Common Cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>
	Willow	<i>Salix spp.</i>
	Sedge	<i>Carex spp.</i>
	Bulrush	<i>Scirpus spp.</i>
	Baltic rush	<i>Scirpus sp.</i>
	Water hemlock	<i>Cicuta douglasii</i>
	Common horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>
	Wild mint	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>
	Nodding beggarticks	<i>Bidens cernua</i>
	Water smartweed	<i>Polygonum natans</i>
	Water plantain	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>
	Western dock	<i>Rumex occidentalis</i>
	Slough grass	<i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i>
WOODLAND	Trembling aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
	White spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>
	Balsam poplar	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>
	**many low shrub and grassland sp. found in understory	
DRY SCRUB : Tall shrub	Saskatoon	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>
	Choke cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
	Gooseberry	<i>Ribes oxycanthoides</i>
	Wild rose	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>
	Prickly rose	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>
	Wild red raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>
	Twining honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera dioica var. glaucescens</i>
	Western snowberry / buckbrush	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>
	Wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>
	High-bush cranberry	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>
	Cow parsnip	<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>
	Red-osier dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
	Silverberry	<i>Elaeagnus commutata</i>
DRY SCRUB: Low Shrub	Shining arnica	<i>Arnica fulgens</i>
	Baneberry	<i>Actaea rubra</i>
	Canada Buffaloberry	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>
	Common bluebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
	Western snowberry /	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>

	buckbrush	
	Shrubby cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>
	White cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla arguta</i>
	Fairybell	<i>Disporum trachycarpum</i>
	Three-leaved false solomon's seal	<i>Smilacina trifolia</i>
	Giant hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>
	Veiny meadow rue	<i>Thalictrum venulosum</i>
	Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
	Common red paint brush	<i>Castilleja miniata</i>
	Wild red raspberry	<i>Rubus strigosus</i>
	Western wood lily	<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>
	Wild vetch	<i>Vicia americana</i>
	Wild red currant	<i>Ribes triste</i>
GRASSLAND	Brome grass	<i>Bromus inermis</i>
	Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
	Alumroot	<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>
	Many-flowered aster	<i>Aster pansus</i>
	Northern bedstraw	<i>Galium boreale</i>
	Fireweed	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>
	Large-flowered false dandelion	<i>Agoseris glauca</i>
	Smooth fleabane	<i>Erigeron glabellus</i>
	Canada goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>
	Lamb's quarters	<i>Chenopodium album</i>
	Narrow-leaved hawkweed	<i>Hieracium umbellatum</i>
	Pasture sage	<i>Artemisia frigida</i>
	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
	Common yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
	Awed wheat grass	<i>Agropyron subsecundum</i>
	Foxtail barley	<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>
	Slender wheat grass	<i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i>
	Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
	Three-flowered avens	<i>Geum triflorum</i>
	June grass	<i>Koeleria cristata</i>
	White sweet clover	<i>Melilotus alba</i>
	Hedge nettle	<i>Stachys palustris</i>
	Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
	Common tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>
	Common plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
	Pineapple weed	<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>
	Common nettle	<i>Urtica gracilis</i>
	Tansy	<i>Descurainia sp.</i>
	Prairie buttercup	<i>Ranunculus rhomboideus</i>

NOTE: Species list is not complete but rather an overview, habitats overlap and the species listed may appear in a variety of areas throughout the park.

APPENDIX B

Bird Species List Saskatoon Island Provincial Park

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
LOONS	Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>
GREBES	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>
	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
	Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>
	Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
CORMORANTS	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
HERONS	American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>
CRANES	Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>
SWANS and GEESE	Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>
	Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>
	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
DUCKS: Surface Feeding	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>
	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>
	Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
: Bay	Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>
	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>
	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>
	Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>
: Sea	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
	Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>
	Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>
	Oldsquaw	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>
	White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>
	Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>
: Stiff-tailed	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>
: Mergansers	Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>
	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
FLYCATCHERS	Western Wood-peewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>
	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>
	Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>
	Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus borealis</i>
	Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
	Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>

	Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>
SWALLOWS	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
	Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>
JAYS	Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
	Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>
MAGPIES, CROWS, and RAVENS	Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
EAGLES, HAWKS, and FALCONS	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
	Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
	Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
	Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>
GROUSE	Spruce Grouse	<i>Dendragapus canadensis</i>
	Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>
	Sharp-tailed Grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>
	Gray Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
CHICKADEES	Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>
CREEPERS	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>
PIPITS	American Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
WAXWINGS	Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>
	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
STARLINGS	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
VIREOS	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>
	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
	Solitary Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>
	Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>
BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES	Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>
	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
	Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
	Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>
	Northern Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>
	Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>

NUTHATCHES	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>
	White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
WRENS	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
THRUSHES	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>
	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
	Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>
SHRIKES, RAILS, and COOTS	Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
	Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>
	American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>
SHOREBIRDS	Lesser Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>
	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>
	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>
	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>
	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>
	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>
	Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>
	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>
	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
GULLS and TERNS	Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>
	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>
	California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>
	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
DOVES	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
OWLS	Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
	Snowy Owl	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>
	Boreal Owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>
	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>
	Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>
GOATSUCKERS	Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>
HUMMINGBIRDS	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>

KINGFISHERS	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>
WOODPECKERS	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>
	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>
	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
TANAGERS	Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>
WARBLERS	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
	Black and White Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
	Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>
	Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>
	Cape May Warbler	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>
	Connecticut Warbler	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>
	Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>
	Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>
	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>
	Palm Warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>
	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>
	Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>
	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>
GROSBEAKS and FINCHES	Red-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
	Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>
	Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>
	Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus prpureus</i>
	Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>
	Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>
SPARROWS and BUNTINGS	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
	Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>
	Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>
	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
	Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>
	Savannah's Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
	White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>
	Le Conte's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>
	Tree Sparrow	<i>Spizella arborea</i>
	Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>
	White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>
	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>

NOTE: This bird species list may not be complete. As well, some of the above species may only be seen during the spring and fall migrations.

APPENDIX C

SASKATOON LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY

- Bird Sanctuary Boundary
- Road
- - - Trail
- Open Water
- Marsh
- ▨ Grass/Shrubs/Trees (Park)

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