



Fast Facts

Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site in Prince Albert National Park

1. **The Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site evolved from** discussions with First Nation Elders and community representatives combined with an interest in holding larger traditional cultural events within the park (such as a Pow Wow) as well as creating educational tourism ventures based on traditional cultural activities.
2. The location of the Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site is the decommissioned Bison paddock located at the junction of Hwy #263 and the Cookson Road.
3. The Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site will be identified and incorporated into the new park management plan. The area will be re-zoned to enable activities of this nature (from a Zone II to a Zone III).
4. This summer of 2006, the Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site sign will be installed near the site and a picnic shelter, three campsites, small parking area, water stand and outhouse will be constructed and placed at the site. A cultural interpretive trail from the Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site will link the site to the neighboring Little Red River First Nation cultural site.
5. Aboriginal groups view this area as a special site and want to ensure that the environment and also ceremonial and cultural sites are protected.

The Cree word “paspiwin” means survival. The cultural site was given this name by an Elder in the context of: survival - of the bison, events affecting first peoples, the aboriginal languages and culture, also from the residential schools.

Background

6. The “Proposal For Designation of An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site” and the Terms of Reference for the Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site Committee was approved and signed off by the former FUS Superintendent (Rod Blair) and Chair (Agency Chief, Lyle Whitefish) of the Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Committee in January 2004.
7. The Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site committee includes representatives from neighboring Aboriginal communities and organizations (14 separate groups in total). A draft Memorandum of Consultation is in place and is to be signed off in the near future.
8. The environmental assessment of the cultural site was approved to ensure the proposed activities do not have adverse environmental impact.
9. The site is to be maintained as natural as possible.
10. The Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site project is sponsored by the Prince Albert Model Forest’s – Beyond Our Boundaries sub program and supported through in-kind contributions by Prince Albert National Park staff such as” GIS Mapping, facilitating meetings, and small work projects by the Initial Attack fire crew and Asset Management staff.

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