



Fast Facts

The following fact sheet will help you answer questions you may receive from visitors to Prince Albert National Park.

Narrows Solar Power System Upgraded in 2006

1. Parks Canada Agency expanded the Narrows solar power system in the fall of 2006.
2. The Narrows campground solar project involves the installation of:
 - 16 additional solar panels,
 - 8 additional storage batteries, and
 - all of the associated equipment to incorporate them into the existing system.
3. This upgrade will improve the systems capacity for electric power generation and storage that will decrease the running time of the generator during cloudy periods because of extra power storage capability.
4. The solar power system expansion was required because when the system was originally designed, the water system at the Narrows was less of a demand on the system. The following were added to the system and more power was therefore required:
 - Water treatment components - which comply with current potable water regulations
 - A new, deeper well - the old well was not capable of supplying sufficient water
5. The total solar generating capacity of the system is 5.12 kilowatts (enough power to power 85 - 60 watt light bulbs per hour of sunlight). With the addition of 8 – 6 volt batteries, the storage capacity is doubled. We expect the expansion to the system will mean that less demand on the generator.
6. Funding for this expansion is provided by Parks Canada Agency and Natural Resources Canada.



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Background

- A group of campground users formed the Narrows Campground Committee and suggested converting the Narrows into a model, low impact campground. Parks Canada responded to their initiative by installing solar technology in the campground. Funding was provided in Parks Canada Agency and Natural Resources Canada.
- Parks Canada is installing solar power equipment in this remote campground. Solar power will give the public electricity and running water in the washrooms and at the Marina, while preserving the ecological integrity of the environment.
- This technology could also be used in other remote locations such as fly in fishing camps which now use generators for electricity.
- “The use of solar electricity makes a lot of sense for Parks Canada,” says Dale Redford, formerly PANP’s front country manager. “It makes a lot of sense both ecologically and economically to invest in sources like solar energy. Even if initial capital costs are high, the payback time can be long, given that national parks are meant to be here forever.”

