



Fast Facts

- The following fact sheet will help you answer questions you may receive from visitors to Prince Albert National Park.
- If visitors require additional information, please direct them to Carla Flaman, Communications Manager.
- Direct all media inquiries to Carla Flaman at 306 663 4565.

Updated May 30

Protecting Trees in Waskesiu

Plans for Spruce Budworm Spray in 2005

1. **To protect trees in Waskesiu, PANP will spray for spruce budworm in June 2004. The spray program will likely commence between June 4-8, 2004. This is the third year of a three-year program. A 24 hour notice in advance of the spray date will be issued.**
2. Spruce budworm populations defoliate living spruce trees, limits annual growth, weakens the ability of mature trees to fight disease, and may directly or indirectly cause trees to die.
3. Without interventions, approximately 35 per cent of the spruce trees in Waskesiu will die and 60 per cent may be affected (e.g. the tree tops may die). With intervention of a spray program, the lifespan of these trees will likely be extended.
4. Although these trees will eventually die, the objective of the Waskesiu Vegetation Management Strategy is to gradually move toward an urban forest of mixed species and ages that is representative of the surrounding boreal forest that will be more resilient to future outbreaks of spruce budworm.
5. With significant public input and support, PANP decided to spray Foray 48B to control spruce budworm within the community in 2003 and 2004. This pesticide contains *Bacillus thuringiensis, kurstaki* (BtK), a naturally occurring soil bacteria that is known to kill moths and butterflies.
6. Foray 48B, active ingredient BtK, is registered for use in Canada by Health Canada for aerial application in residential areas. Regulatory authorities in Canada, the United States and at the World Health Organization agree that Btk can be used safely in residential areas. Btk is a naturally occurring soil bacteria which is also used directly on organically grown food crops. This product has been used safely throughout the world for over 30 years.
7. A thorough environmental assessment into the health and environmental impacts of spraying was conducted in 2003 and concluded that there are no significant, immitigable, adverse impacts.
8. Spraying for spruce budworm is consistent with Parks Canada policy, which allows for interventions like this in a community.

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