

Rejuvenating ecosystems and increasing wildlife habitat

Amyot Trail Prescribed Fire

Date: Spring

Size: 1,340 ha

Location: West Boundary Trail and Amyot Trail in the south west corner of Prince Albert National Park

The Amyot Trail prescribed fire plays a key role in multi-year restoration projects to rejuvenate forested areas, expand and restore grasslands and increase bison habitat. Prescribed fire is used to return the natural process of fire to the landscape thereby reducing encroaching aspen forests and rejuvenating meadows and native grasslands like fescue. The increase in biodiversity creates habitat for insects, native plants and animals including the Sturgeon River plains bison herd, which feed in these natural meadows.

Plans may be interrupted due to COVID-19 or if prescribed conditions cannot be met.

FAQs

What goes into assessing where, when, why and how a prescribed fire is implemented?

Throughout the planning process, the priority is to reduce risks to people and property while meeting objectives. Each prescribed fire requires a peer reviewed plan and environmental impact assessment. Prescribed fire plans outline the conditions required for implementation, such as:

- Specific weather including wind direction and speed
- Good atmospheric venting to reduce the impact of smoke
- Taking steps to ensure minimal impacts on ecological and cultural values

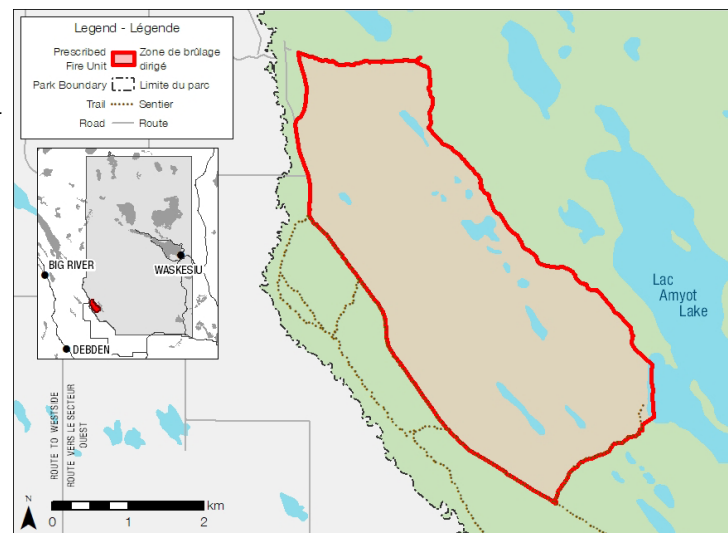
Prescribed fires are carried out mainly to improve the health of ecosystems or reduce the risk of wildfire. Sometimes prescribed fires contribute to meeting both objectives.

How does COVID-19 impact prescribed fire operations?

Due to COVID-19, Parks Canada temporarily suspended all prescribed fire activities including the Amyot Trail prescribed fire in March 2020. The decision to resume prescribed fire operations is consistent with provincial and territorial fire management agencies in Canada and will be re-examined prior to the 2021 fire season. Additional safety measures and standard operation procedures are in place to ensure the safety of fire management personnel and prevent transmission of COVID-19 during fire operations.

How do fires affect wildlife?

During the passage of fire, many animals are able to flee the fire. Smaller animals may seek refuge underground. There is potential that fire may cause mortality of some animals, yet, the creation of ecosystem diversity benefits most ecosystems as a whole.



Location of the Amyot Trail prescribed fire.

Get in touch

Visit our website pc.gc.ca/princealbert to learn more about fire management in Prince Albert National Park.

Contact Bronwyn Craig, Information Officer, for more information about spring prescribed fire plans in Prince Albert National Park. Call 306-914-6289 or e-mail pc.feu-princealbert-fire.pc@canada.ca.

Reducing the risk of wildfires

Waskesiu Community Fuel Break

Date: Spring

Size: 40 ha

Location: South of the Waskesiu townsite

The Waskesiu Community Fuel Break (CFB) prescribed fire is a preventative measure to reduce the risk from potential wildfires to the Waskesiu townsite. Since 2006, a prescribed fire has occurred each spring along the southern boundary of the CFB, with a few exceptions where prescription was not met. This prescribed fire is one part of a maintenance strategy that keeps the CFB effective in protecting Waskesiu from wildfire. **Plans may be interrupted due to COVID-19 or if prescribed conditions cannot be met.**

FAQs

What is a fuel break?

The Waskesiu Community Fuel Break is an area where coniferous trees (trees with needles) like spruce and pine are removed in favour of less flammable leafy trees like aspen. In the event of a wildfire, the “green belt” around Waskesiu helps slow the speed of an approaching wildfire, and provides time to evacuate the population or defend the community, if required. This is a proven approach to reduce the risk of property damage from potential wildfires in communities surrounded by forest.

What goes into assessing where, when, why and how a prescribed fire is implemented?

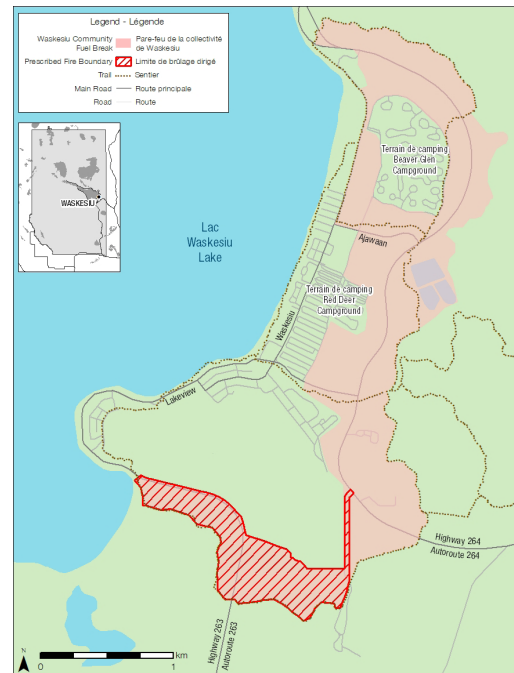
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Location of the Waskesiu Community Fuel Break prescribed fire.

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