



Creating a safe and enjoyable community is a shared responsibility. Parks Canada is introducing several new protocols and strategies in summer 2023 that impact residents and commercial operators in Waskesiu.

New: Keep the Rubber Off the Road

Parks Canada, the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association, and the Waskesiu Community Council are working together to make residential streets safer.

Keep the rubber off the roads! As of April 1, 2023, cabin owners and guests on the bird streets (Bluebird to Pelican) must park vehicles and/or boats so that the tires are not on the asphalt. This means vehicles and boats must be parked on the leasehold property or other designated parking areas. Keeping the streets clear ensures that emergency vehicles can access the area as needed.

Cars and boats parked on residential streets obscure drivers' sightlines and blocks access for emergency vehicles. This may prevent emergency vehicles from accessing the area and increase the response time for those in need.

Help keep the streets clear and park on your leasehold or in designated parking areas.

Vehicles and/or boats that are improperly parked after April 1, 2023, may be towed and owners charged under the National Park Regulation.

New: Changes to Boat Towing

There are two situations in which you may require a tow while on water in Prince Albert National Park. Know the difference and what to do if it happens to you.

Life-Threatening (Emergency) Situations on the Water

Safety on the water for you and your guests is your responsibility. Visitors should be self-reliant when visiting Prince Albert National Park. In the event of any life-threatening (emergency) situation on the water, call Parks Canada Dispatch at 1 877 852 3100. Response times may vary.

Parks Canada rescuers prioritize your personal safety. You are responsible for the safe return of your watercraft and equipment.

Watercraft Retrieval (Non-Emergency Situations)

Ensuring the safe return of your watercraft is your responsibility. Visitors should be self-reliant when visiting Prince Albert National Park. Before you leave, always be prepared for the unexpected. Watercraft operators are often stranded by storms, wind, or waves, and by mechanical breakdowns. Always check the weather – before heading out and during your trip.

Prior to heading out on the water, consider the following:

- a. Have a trip plan - and tell your friends or family where you are going, and when you plan to be back.
- b. Have an emergency contact number to call for assistance.
- c. Have all required safety equipment on board.
- d. Have recommended survival items on board in case help cannot get to you immediately. A list of essentials can be found at www.adventuresmart.ca/boating/.
- e. If your watercraft is motorized, always ensure:
 - It is full of fuel.
 - It has been properly serviced.
 - Your battery is in good condition and fully charged.

In the event of mechanical failure, lack of fuel, or other non-emergency situations, watercraft towing services are available (for a fee) from Mile 11 Towing in Montreal Lake (Contact 306 961-8038). Response times may vary.

Waste Collection in Waskesiu

The health and safety of residents, commercial operators and visitors is a priority for Parks Canada. Parks Canada provides waste collection services and facilities to keep Waskesiu clean, free of wildlife attractants and prevent excess demand on park staff time, equipment, and infrastructure.

Yard Waste:

- Don't miss pick up day! Remember to bag yard waste in compostable paper bags designed for yard waste and leave it at the edge of your yard for pickup. The calendar for pick-up days can be found [here](#).
- If your property is large and you require assistance, please contact Parks Canada at panpassets@pc.gc.ca

Small Project Construction Waste Disposal (available at Operations Centre grounds)

The "Roll off bin" is a seasonal receptacle for residential construction waste. It is on the Operations Centre grounds. All material must be put **in** the bin, do not leave materials on the ground. This bin is not intended for the disposal of construction waste from commercial properties.

Hours of Operation – hours are posted at bin

Open daily 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from May long weekend to September long weekend.

Open weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. after September long weekend until Thanksgiving.

Please call 306-663-4548 or email panpassets@pc.gc.ca to book an appointment for weekend drop off in the fall.

What can I put in the Roll Off Bin?

- Small construction materials from residential properties (windows and frames, deck boards, dry wall, carpet, treated and non-treated scrap wood)

Contact the District of Lakeland Transfer Station or the City of Prince Albert Landfill for disposal of the following materials:

- Mattresses and household furniture (sofas, tables, chairs)
- Propane tanks, gas, fuel, oil, solvent products, paint containers (empty or with paint), fluorescent tubes and batteries
- Household appliances (washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, microwaves and water heaters)
- Electronic equipment and electric wire
- Concrete and rocks
- Dead animals
- Brush and leaves – please take this to the staging area
- Refundable cans and bottles, cardboard boxes, office paper and newspapers, clean plastic containers, milk jugs, sheet plastic, metal – please take these to appropriate recycle bins in town.
- Household garbage – please put this in designated garbage bins
- Hazardous materials – DDT (a pesticide) or other hazardous materials - please email the sanitation supervisor at panpassets@pc.gc.ca to arrange drop off at Operations Centre

Parks Canada appreciates the diligence of residents and businesses in properly disposing of waste. Remember - deliberately abandoned waste and/or improper use of disposal facilities is a violation of the National Parks of Canada Garbage Regulations under the Canada National Parks Act. Violators can be charged and face court appearances and fines. Costs associated with addressing abandoned waste are also charged back to the community.

Help us keep neighborhoods clean and safe by properly disposing of waste and reporting abandoned garbage or illegal dumping.

How to Report Illegal Dumping:

1. Email panp-wardens@pc.gc.ca
2. Phone the Townsite Office at 306-663-4520.

Reminder: Install a preventer valve!

As of July 1, 2022, Parks Canada required all residences and commercial businesses to install back flow preventers on their properties. Back flow preventers reduce the risk of sewer backups, which can cause thousands of dollars of damage to property. Buildings that do not have back

flow preventer valves will not be compensated by Parks Canada for damage from backed up sewers.

If you still need to install a back flow preventer, please contact the Waskesiu Townsite Office for a permit at (306)-663-4520.

Protect your summer residence as you would your year-round home: install a back flow preventer valve!

Reminder: Pouring fats, oils, and grease down drains can cause clogs and sewer back-ups.

Restaurants should use grease interceptors to trap and separate fat, oils and grease before it goes down the drain. Grease traps should be no more than 25% full at any given time. Please report cleaning of grease traps to Parks Canada. If sewer backups are caused by fat, oil and grease that can be traced to specific restaurant(s), they will be responsible for the cost of damage.

Reminder: Fall water procedures: don't forget to disconnect!

Cabin owners and commercial operators are responsible for disconnecting their property from the main water system according to the *Fall Water Service Shut Down Directive*. Make this a part of your end-of-season routine.

Cold weather can damage the seasonal water system if water is not properly disconnected from it at the end of the summer. Parks Canada may shut down water services to areas of Waskesiu that are at risk because of cold weather. When possible, there will be advance notification when the water shut off in the fall.

Seasonal Water Disconnection Procedure for residents on bird streets with water boxes:

To physically disconnect plumbing parts from the main water line:

- There is a grey, plastic union in each water box. This splits into two: one line leads to Parks Canada's water main while the other leads to the residence. The half that leads to the residence must be 'broken'. To do this, unscrew the nut by HAND ONLY. Once complete, the lid on the water box must be closed. Residents must follow this procedure at the end of the season.

Grey plastic union in water box to be disconnected in fall.



Reminder: Pesticide Use

Although the use of pesticide and herbicide within Waskesiu are not prohibited, their use is at odds with larger park management practices. The 2018 Community Vegetation Management Strategy encouraged residents to reintroduce native boreal vegetation and to allow them to grow with minimal interference. This strategy was meant to minimize non-native vegetation in the townsite. It also aligned with larger Parks Canada policy that townsites within national parks should not have negative environmental impacts and should demonstrate responsible environmental stewardship.

Reminder: Water Quality (THM)

Parks Canada routinely monitors drinking water quality to make sure it is within the guidelines set by Health Canada, including quarterly monitoring of trihalomethane (THM) levels. As part of its water treatment process, Parks Canada uses chlorine.

Chlorine is an effective disinfectant but can react with organic compounds in the water to produce a by-product on the surface called trihalomethanes (THMs). Their levels vary from year to year. The benefits of disinfection outweigh the risks of current THM levels and untreated water. Drinking water that has 0.1 mg/l has a 1 in 1,000,000 carcinogenic risk based on someone consuming 1.5 litres every day for 70 years

Residents and visitors to Waskesiu can reduce or eliminate THM in their drinking water by:

- Keeping water uncovered overnight
- Boiling it
- Filtering it with activated carbon filters

If you have any questions, please contact the Waskesiu Townsite Office at (306) 663-4520.