



SASKRIVERS, OUR HERITAGE - OUR LEGACY

FACT SHEET #4

SEPTEMBER, 2012

RECREATION VALUES

The South Saskatchewan River and the Saskatchewan Rivers (SaskRivers) were formally nominated as a Canadian Heritage River in May, 2012. The SaskRivers were nominated primarily based on their cultural heritage values, although these are closely linked with its natural heritage and recreational values.



This Fact Sheet provides a brief overview of the recreation values that were outlined in the nomination document. You're encouraged to read the full document available on the Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin webpage at: www.saskriverbasin.ca, click on Heritage Rivers.

If you are aware of any additional recreation values not covered in the nomination document and that warrants special recognition please contact us either through the website at www.saskriverbasin.ca or via e-mail at: saskrivers@myaccess.ca

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SaskRivers Recreation Values

The South Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Rivers offer varied tourism and recreation opportunities associated with both its natural and cultural heritage values. This range of attractions include boating, fishing, hunting, golfing, heritage interpretation, golfing and numerous events including a theatre festival, fishing derbies, canoe races, and "Back to Batoche" Days. Historically, the rivers were probably most appreciated during hot, dry summers. They could provide shady respite and relaxation down in their valleys and along shores lined with cottonwoods and elm trees. Today the South Saskatchewan River is important to both Saskatchewan and Alberta residents since it provides some of the best and most reliable water based-recreation experiences. The diverse landscapes and rich history can also serve as an inspiration to both amateur and professional painters, photographers, poets and musicians.

River Based Recreation

- At the two extreme ends of the rivers and between the South Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Rivers there are opportunities to **canoe, kayak and boat in generally shallow, safe waters**. The rivers are relatively accessible with shores rich in cultural and historic resources within an attractive natural setting. Several sections have been promoted as canoe routes and an ecotour guide exists between Outlook and The Forks compliments of Meewasin Valley Authority. Access is available from bridge and ferry crossings as well as from regional parks. Regional parks include **Lemsford Ferry, Eston Riverside, Cabri, and Outlook and District** on the South Saskatchewan river and **Wapiti, and Nipawin and District** on the Saskatchewan River.
- **Pike Lake Provincial Park**, located a 30-minute drive south of Saskatoon in the South Saskatchewan flood plain, was developed to provide public recreation facilities near the city. The water level of Pike Lake is maintained by a pumping station on the South Saskatchewan River.
- North of Saskatoon are numerous cultural heritage resources associated with Wanuskewin Heritage Park,



Near Lemsford Ferry

Petite Ville Provincial Historic Property, Fish Creek and Batoche National Historic Sites and Cumberland House.

Reservoir-Based Recreation



Elbow Harbour

The three reservoirs have excellent water quality, beaches, boating opportunities, recreational cottage subdivisions, parks and provide world-class sport fishing, in generally close proximity to many provincial residents.

• **Lake Diefenbaker** is a 225 km long lake with a surface area of 430 km². Due to the ever-present wind, it is considered to be the best lake for sailing in Western Canada.

There are several major marinas with over 800 km of sandy beaches. **Saskatchewan Landing, Douglas and Danielson Provincial Parks**, along with **Herbert Ferry**,

Prairie Lake and Palliser Regional Parks provide excellent water access and large scenic natural areas for enjoying native vegetation and wildlife.

- **Tobin and Codette Lakes** along the Saskatchewan River and adjacent to the town of Nipawin are known for their fishing: Tobin Lake anglers have landed the record walley at 18.2 pounds and the largest known Northern Pike at 38 pounds!

Urban-Based Recreation

- **Saskatoon** is the largest community located along the South Saskatchewan River. Within the city a weir across the river maintains a stable water level. It is a favourite fishing spot for local anglers and provides opportunities for power boating and river boat tours. Parks along the river bank host many events that are major tourist attractions including Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival, the Saskatoon Dragon Boat Festival, and the Saskatoon Fireworks Festival.
- The **Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA)** (Meewasin is a Cree word meaning “beautiful”) has the primary responsibility to conserve the natural and cultural resources of 60 km of river and adjacent shoreline within Saskatoon and immediate area. The Meewasin Trail, which runs the length of the Authority and is currently being extended north to Wanaskewin Heritage Park and south to the Whitcap Dakota First Nation, provides opportunities for cycling, jogging, cross country skiing and leisurely walks through landscaped parks and natural areas along the river banks. The MVA offers programs focused on river valley education, development, and conservation.
- **Wanaskewin Heritage Park**, located just north of Saskatoon, focuses on the interpretation of cultural heritage of the area. Nineteen pre-contact sites which were occupied by northern plains people featuring summer and winter campsites, bison kill sites, tipi rings and a medicine wheel are located in the park.
- The towns of **Outlook and Nipawin** are partners in the Regional Park Authorities within their respective communities, and their citizens enjoy the amenities these parks provide.



Cumberland House Provincial Historic Park

• **Cumberland House** on the Saskatchewan River is home to the Cumberland House Provincial Historic Park the site of the first inland Hudson Bay Company Post and oldest community in the province. Parts of the Northcote, a steamboat used by the fur trade and at Batoch during the North-west Resistance are also preserved at the park.



Cabri Regional Park



Nipawin Regional Park



Saskatoon



Wanaskewin Heritage Park

Recreational Values of the South Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Rivers

