

Pinawa Dam

Pinawa Dam Provincial Park

Park Tips

- Be sure matches are extinguished. Break them in half before discarding.
- Build no fires except in a designated firepit or use a camp stove. Before leaving make sure your fire is completely out.
- Be careful with your cigarettes, cigars and pipe ashes. Crush them thoroughly before discarding. Never toss them from a vehicle.
- Please! Do not litter.
- Be sensitive to wildlife. Bears can be dangerous and should not be fed. Food must be stored away from your campsite, preferably in a locked vehicle, to avoid attracting hungry animals. Do not store food in your tent.
- Warm clothing is needed for cool nights.
- The use of insect repellent will add to your comfort.
- Learn to recognize and avoid poisonous plants such as poison ivy.
- It is illegal to use or transport elm firewood.
- Out of Province Firewood can spread harmful pests and destroy our forests - buy it locally, burn it locally.

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- The water flows through the ruins, forming rapids and waterfalls



Pinawa Dam, which started operations in 1906, was constructed for the production of residential and commercial hydroelectric power for the city of Winnipeg. In 1951, the dam was closed to allow the full flow of the Winnipeg River to enter the Seven Sisters Hydro Station. Later, parts of the dam were destroyed by the Canadian Armed Forces when it was used for demolition practice. Today, the water flows through the ruins, forming rapids and waterfalls. The scenic 25-hectare park is named after the native word meaning “it is slow, calm or gentle.”

The old dam employed many people and the townsite provided families with homes and recreational facilities. Traces of this former town still exist at the site, even though all the buildings have been torn down.

The Old Pinawa self-guiding trail leads you through the landmarks of the former town. Take a brochure to find out more about the townspeople’s life and experiences, and look at the accompanying historic photos.

The park overlooks the Pinawa Channel and is home to fish species like walleye, northern pike, catfish and smallmouth bass. Animals

that you might spot wandering along the waterway include white-tailed deer, black bear, fox and otter.

The partnership between Manitoba Conservation and the Friends of Old Pinawa has created an amphitheatre, interpretive signage, walking bridge, picnic shelter and Heritage nature trail. Recreational facilities like a picnic area add to the enjoyment of the park. Hike the variety of trails that weave through the area, including the Trans-Canada Trail that runs through the park or spend the day casting a line to catch some fish.

The town of Pinawa offers many recreational facilities like a marina, golf course, tennis courts and baseball diamonds. Shopping at the Lac du Bonnet Farmers’ Market (open Saturdays) and at the Lac du Bonnet House, a mini museum and craft boutique, will complete the day. Lac du Bonnet offers fireworks, a parade, antique car show and other fun events at its annual Canada Day celebrations.

More information on Pinawa Dam Campground and Pinawa Dam Provincial Park is available on request from Manitoba Conservation.

