



# Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park

Draft Management Plan



# Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	3
<b>2. Background and Park Attributes</b> .....	3
2.1 Park History .....	3
2.2 Natural Features .....	3
2.3 Recreational Use .....	4
2.4 Commercial Operations .....	4
<b>3. Park Purpose and Role</b> .....	4
3.1 Park Classification and Purpose .....	4
3.2 Land Use Categories .....	4
<b>4. Park Management Guidelines</b> .....	5
4.1 Natural Features .....	5
4.2 Recreation .....	5
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	6

## 1. Introduction

The Provincial Parks Act requires that a management plan be prepared for each provincial park.

Management plans establish long-term direction for parks and address issues pertaining to resource use, development of park land, environmental protection, and the preservation of culturally significant areas.

They are used in conjunction with park regulations, procedures and other departmental and government policies and legislation.

This draft management plan includes proposed guidelines that will inform management of Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park. The final plan will be based on the role of the park in Manitoba's system of parks and will take into account feedback received from the public on the draft management plan. Once finalized, the management plan will guide management of the park over the next 10 to 15 years. Implementation of the plan will occur on a gradual basis, and will be partially dependent on the availability of resources to sustain proposed initiatives.

The rights of Indigenous Peoples to pursue traditional uses and activities within Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park are acknowledged and respected within the context of this draft management plan.

## 2. Background and Park Attributes

### 2.1 Park History

Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park was designated in 1974. This small park is 99.60 hectares (1.0 km<sup>2</sup>) and is located about 50 kilometres (km) from the City of Thompson. The park is centered on Sasagiu Rapids, which flow from Setting Lake into Brostrom Lake. This location is part of the Grass River waterway, which was part of the "upper track" trade route between Cumberland House and York Factory during the fur trade era. At that time, Indigenous Peoples who had travelled this route for thousands of years showed traders from Hudson Bay that they could reach the Saskatchewan River and the interior of

western Canada by this route. Along the Grass River, competition between the "Bay" men and North West Company traders was intense during the 1790s and early 1800s as both companies vied for furs.

Today, the park is primarily used as a highway rest stop and for a privately operated campground. Pisew Falls Provincial Park is located close by, roughly six km downstream, with Paint Lake Provincial Park another 40 km beyond that. In Cree Sasagiu means "where fast flowing water runs through slippery rocks".

### 2.2 Natural Features

The park is located in the Hayes River Upland Ecoregion, which is typically composed of sandy soils, coniferous forests and boggy wetlands. Wildlife common to the ecoregion includes moose, black bear, woodland caribou, wolf, and many small mammals and birds. A portion of the land within the park is undeveloped forest, and the remainder contains a privately operated campground. The rocky shoreline offers a close-up view of the rapids and the lakes on either side. PTH 6 crosses through the park, with a bridge over the rapids also offering a scenic view from both sides.



## 2.3 Recreational Use

The primary recreational facility in Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park is a seasonal campground. In addition to campers and people making a stop along the highway to take in the view of the rapids, other potential visitors to Sasagiu Rapids include those staying at a lodge located on private land adjacent to the park. The lakes in the area offer good fishing opportunities for species such as walleye and northern pike, with public access to the shoreline provided for angling. As the park is located along the Grass River canoe route, canoeists also pass through periodically, using a short portage over the rapids. In the winter, a snowmobile trail follows a route through the park along the hydro right-of-way and the ditch alongside the highway.

## 2.4 Commercial Operations

The campground is leased to a private operator.

# 3. Park Purpose and Role

## 3.1 Park Classification and Purpose

Manitoba's provincial park system is made up of almost 100 different parks and park reserves. The role of each park within this system is identified by its classification. Parks may be classified as one of five types: wilderness, natural, recreation, heritage or Indigenous traditional use.

Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park is classified as a recreation park. The main purpose of a recreation park, as defined in The Provincial Parks Act, is to provide recreational opportunities.

The objectives of Manitoba's provincial park system are to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity; to preserve unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources; and to provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities in a natural setting. The purpose of each park within the system is to contribute to these overarching objectives while fully recognizing and incorporating local considerations.

The purpose of Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park is to provide outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting in northern Manitoba. In doing so, the park will:

- provide opportunities for camping and day use activities
- provide fishing access to Setting Lake and the Grass River

## 3.2 Land Use Categories

Land use categories (LUCs) are used to designate lands within provincial parks for various purposes. There are eight LUCs in which land may be categorized: wilderness, backcountry, resource management, recreational development, heritage, access, winter road access or Indigenous heritage.

Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park is categorized under the recreational development (RD) LUC. The main purpose of this category is to accommodate recreational development. Within Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park, this includes:

- providing camping facilities and a canoe portage path



Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park

## 4. Park Management Guidelines

The following guidelines will direct management decisions in Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park over the life of the management plan.

### 4.1 Natural Features

Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park provides opportunities for natural heritage appreciation that should be maintained as part of the day use and camping experiences offered by the park.

#### Guidelines

1. The park will be maintained as a natural-looking area that is characteristic of the surrounding landscape.
2. Development of the forested area in the northwest section of the park will not be permitted.
3. If species of conservation concern are identified in the park, any negative impacts on those species associated with park use will be minimized or avoided. Any sightings of rare species will be tracked and shared with the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre.
4. Parks and Protected Spaces Branch will participate in departmental efforts to prevent aquatic and terrestrial invasive species from spreading within the park and in Setting and Brostrom lakes. This may include but not be limited to the promotion of proper decontamination procedures for watercraft and water-related equipment, and educating park visitors on how they can stop the spread of invasive species.

### 4.2 Recreation

Camping facilities in Sasagiu Rapids Provincial Park are provided by a private operator. Aside from these services, it is important that access to the Setting Lake shoreline be maintained and that a portage path within the park remains available for use by Grass River canoeists passing through the area.

#### Guidelines

1. Public access to the shoreline for fishing and day use will be provided. Services will not be provided at the shorelines other than basic garbage collection.
2. The operation of the seasonal campground will continue to be managed through a commercial lease agreement. The campground may be expanded in the northeast portion of the park in accordance with the standard proposal approval process.
3. A portage route over the rapids will remain accessible for use by canoeists and others travelling the Grass River. Manitoba Sustainable Development will improve the signage at the access and egress points to clarify the location of the portage and prevent conflicts between portage users and the private campground.



## Bibliography

Penziwol, S. and Blahut, P. "From Asessippi to Zed Lake: A guide to Manitoba's provincial parks." Winnipeg: Great Plains Publications. 2011.

Province of Manitoba. Parks and Natural Areas Branch. A System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks. Winnipeg, Manitoba. 1997.

The Provincial Parks Act. C.C.S.M., c. P20. 1993.

