

## Wekusko Falls Provincial Park

## **Campground Tips**

- Be Wildlife Smart. Do not feed any wildlife, including birds or squirrels. You are in black bear country secure all attractants such as food, cooking equipment and trash in a locked vehicle. Do not store food or attractants in your tent.
- Practice Leave No Trace.
  Pack out all gear and trash to keep the campsites clean for others.
- Keep dogs on leash and clean up after your pet.
- Learn to recognize and avoid poisonous plants such as poison ivy.
- Open fires are prohibited.
  Use portable stoves or fire pits provided.
- Don't Move Firewood -Moving firewood can spread harmful invasive species and destroy our forests.
- Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
   Always clean, drain, dry watercraft and water related equipment. Visit manitoba.ca/stopais for full regulations.
- In case of injury or illness contact a Park Attendant or Park Patrol Officer. They can assist you to reach medical help.
- Full camping regulations are available in the Campers Guide, available from park offices and online at manitobaparks.com.

A true wilderness adventure



In the north, where the Manitoba Lowlands and Precambrian Shield meet, there is a river that runs wild. The Grass River plunges almost 12 metres through a series of falls and rapids known as Wekusko Falls. An area full of natural wonder and cultural heritage, the Wekusko Falls campground flanks the river. In the 1700s, this area was part of the Upper Track fur trade route, while the lure of gold brought people back to the area in the 1900s. Its presence is marked on the maps of great explorers like Samuel Hearne, its role critical to the history of the fur trade. Today, the park is visited by those seeking a true wilderness adventure or looking to get away from it all.

The name Weskusko (English translation = sweet grass or herb) was given to the lake by the native people. In their wake, along the Grass River, explorer, trader, voyager, trapper and prospector followed. An early visitor was the eminent explorer, Samuel Hearne who crossed the old portage on July 20, 1774. Returning from Cumberland House to Hudson Bay the following year, Hearne and his men arrived at "We-Kusqua" Lake on June 7th. The wind was blowing too hard to cross and they put up for the night. Gold was discovered on the east side of the lake in 1914, and in 1917 high-grade ore was shipped to British Columbia. Mining camps sprung up and the settlement of Herb Lake came into being.

While following the walking trails closer to the falls, listen to its impending roar and gaze at the breath-taking scenery. Two suspension bridges take people over the falls and rapids, allowing them to feel the cool mist of the water's fury.

The Grass River, which runs through the park, offers several canoe routes based on your time and ambition. For intermediate canoeists, the Grass River is a 724 km/450 mi. route which gives people the opportunity to cross a spectacular series of northern lakes and rivers. One option to try is Cranberry Portage to Wekusko Lake, a 190 km/118.1 mi. run, involving several portages and lakes. One of the rewards of this route is the chance to see the Tramping Lake rock-painting site, one of the most significant in the province.

Just 27 km/16.8 mi. from Wekusko Falls is Grass River Provincial Park. Discover Karst Spring, the stream of water that surges from solid rock, or watch for signs of wildlife. Your travels on the trails will give you a sensory experience that will be remembered for years to come. After the hike, visit the Snow Lake Mining Museum.

More information on Wekusko Falls Campground and Wekusko Falls Provincial Park is available on request from the park office.



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