

North Saskatchewan River Provincial Park

To conserve the landscape and better manage social and economic activity in Bighorn Country, the government is proposing new, expanded or amended parks, recreation areas and public land use zones.

The area for the proposed North Saskatchewan River Provincial Park currently overlaps with the existing Kiska/Willson Public Land Use Zone and the Eastern Slopes Policy's Critical Wildlife Zone. Current management permits a wide variety of commercial activities and industrial uses and development.

The proposed provincial park would help to protect Lower Foothills, Upper Foothills and Montane Natural Subregions. Although the total area of the Lower Foothills themes included in this proposed park are relatively small, they would be significant additions to Alberta's protected areas network and would include the largest of the major river themes within protected areas anywhere in the province.

The proposed management intent for the North Saskatchewan River Provincial Park is the conservation of biodiversity and cultural features, while providing compatible nature-based recreation, tourism and education opportunities. Public access to the area is limited to river and trail access as there are no roads into the site.

Further recreation planning would focus on water-based activities and continued support for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trail uses. These activities are dependent on, and compatible with, the protection of the natural values found here, and would be managed in a way that does not compromise the integrity of the natural environment.



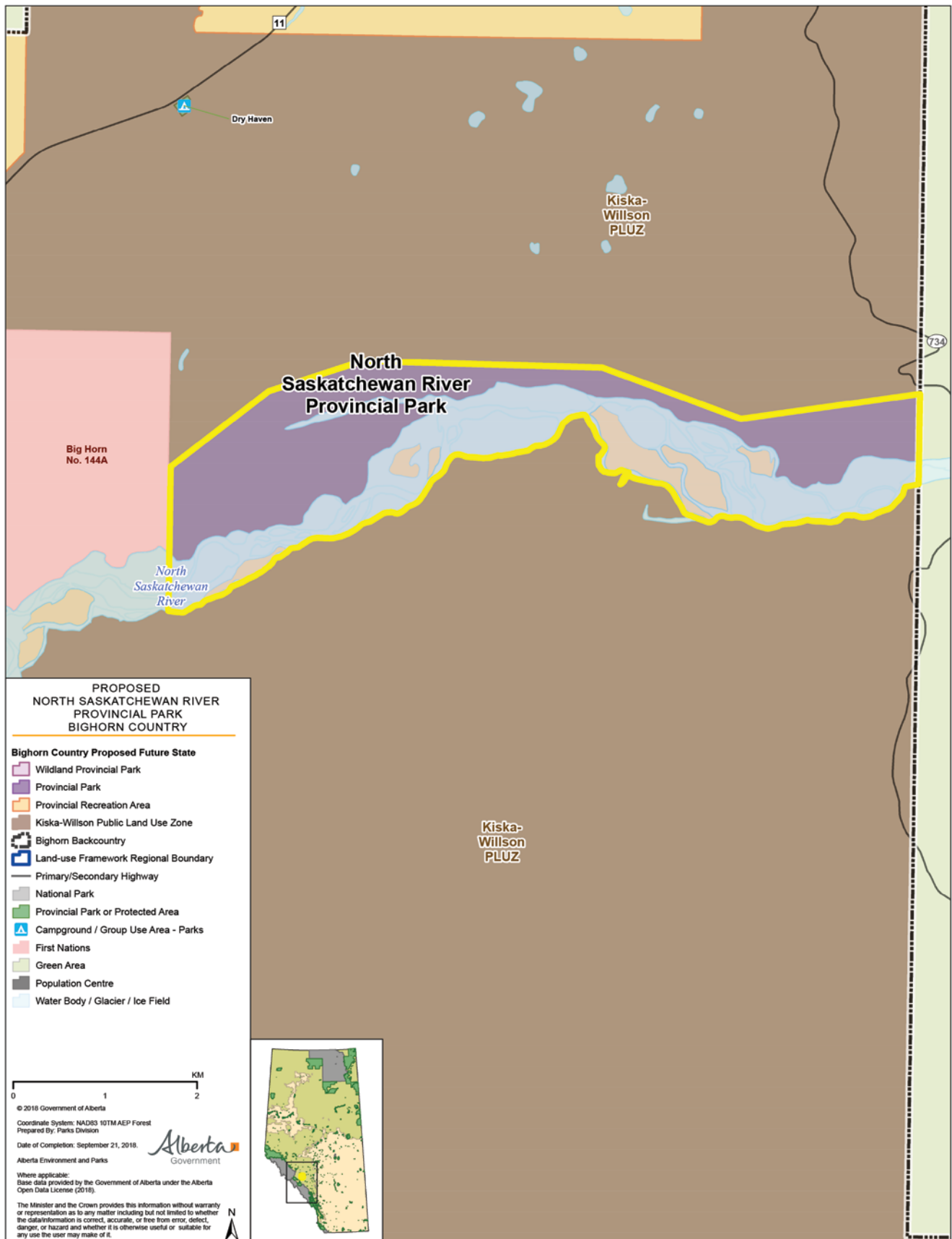
Proposed Management Direction

Resource Management

Type of Use	Current State	Proposed Management Direction
Existing Petroleum and Natural Gas	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no existing petroleum and natural gas agreements in this site. 		
New Petroleum and Natural Gas	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New petroleum and natural gas agreements would be sold with a “no surface access” addendum, in accordance with existing policy. 		
Metallic and Industrial Minerals (MIM) and Coal	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no metallic and industrial minerals or coal agreements in this site. Coal lease applications would be amended. 		
Freehold Minerals	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no freehold minerals in this site. 		
Surface Materials (Sand and Gravel)	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extraction of surface materials would not be permitted in this site. 		
Commercial Forestry	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no existing commercial forestry tenure in this site. 		
Livestock Grazing	Permitted in allocated areas only	Existing grazing would be Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no existing livestock grazing commitments in this site. 		
Registered Trapping	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing trap lines would be honoured. Trapping would adhere to the <i>Wildlife Act</i>, the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i> and their associated regulations and Policies. Motorized access permits and Firearms Discharge Permits (when required to carrying out trapping) may be required. 		

Nature-Based Recreation & Tourism Development

Type of Use	Current State	Proposed Management Direction
Motorized Recreation (OHV)	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OHV use would be permitted on the existing designated trail only. 		
Undesignated Backcountry Camping	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backcountry camping would be allowed only in designated camping areas. Canoe accessible campgrounds are a possibility given the management intent and nature of access of this park. 		
Auto Access Camping (front country, vehicle accessible)	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The intent in this site would not be to host vehicle accessible zones, but instead to direct facility development and upgrades to the adjacent Aylmer Provincial Recreation Area. 		
Equestrian Use	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equestrian use would be permitted on all trails unless otherwise indicated by sign, notice or advisory. Timing restrictions may be applied to manage environmental impacts (e.g. wet trail conditions). Tethering must be 100 metres away from water bodies. 		
Cycling / Mountain Biking	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain biking would be permitted on all trails unless otherwise indicated by sign, notice or advisory. 		
Foot Access	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foot access would be permitted throughout and on all trails. 		
Recreational Unmanned Aerial Vehicles / Drones	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use for research or commercial filming/photography may be considered under the authority of the appropriate permit. 		
Hunting	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunters would require a Parks Discharge Permit that would outline site specific conditions and area restrictions on discharge (e.g. around infrastructure). 		
Fishing	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial regulations apply. Alberta Regulations 		
Guiding, Outfitting (non-Hunting) and Instructing	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would be supported through the existing permitting process for provincial parks. Existing commitments for permits under the Public Land Administration Regulation (PLAR) would be honoured until expiry. Upon expiry permitting would transition to a Parks permitting process. 		
Helicopter Tours	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no existing commitments in this site. 		
Tourism Facilities and Visitor Attractions	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This type of development is not compatible with the classification and experience for this smaller, riparian area focused park. 		



For information and to provide input on these proposals, visit TalkAEP.alberta.ca