

2018

Jurisdictional Scan: Climate Change in Management Plans

Have you been involved in or know of any park management plans recently developed in your jurisdiction that have content around climate change?

JURISDICTION	REPLIED	YES/NO	CONTACT NAME
B.C PARKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	Jennifer Grant

COMMENTS:

Hi folks, our [Mount Assiniboine](#) park plan has probably the most extensive discussion on climate change related impacts. However, for the past few years every single management plan we create references climate change... you can search for the more recent ones [here](#).

ALBERTA PARKS	Inquiring Jurisdiction		Laura Graham
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Original Email:

Hi there

I am providing input to a park management plan (for a specific site). It has a short section on "climate change". Have any of you have been involved in, or know of , any park management plans recently developed in your jurisdiction that have content around climate change? If so then could you send me a copy? I would be curious to see how the wording is framed in terms of a park management plan even if it is very site specific.

Thanks

Laura

SASKATCHEWAN PARKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	Thuan Chu
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COMMENTS:

We have included climate change scenarios in ecosystem-based management plan for Meadow Lake Provincial Park and come up with recommendations to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Climate change seems to be a big issue in MLPP as it's located in the edge between boreal transition and mid-boreal upland ecoregions of SK.

The draft plan can be found here <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=92021>

MANITOBA PARKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SOMEWHAT	Jenny Harms
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COMMENTS:

Only a passing reference to CC in one management plan in Manitoba. I've linked to Spruce Woods Provincial Park management plan below – While there isn't a section dedicated to climate change, there is mention as per the two sentences from p. 13 excerpted below.

Please see plan for full details.

https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/pdf/planning/2013/spruce_woods_management_plan.pdf (link no longer active)

"As isolated spruce forests, they may also have biological and genetic significance in terms

of their response to a changing climate."

"They may also have research value for the adaptations of these species to a relatively hot, dry climate."

(Resource no longer available)

ONTARIO PARKS	<input type="checkbox"/>		
SEPAQ (QUEBEC)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR PARKS	<input type="checkbox"/>		
NOVA SCOTIA PARKS	<input type="checkbox"/>		
PARKS NEW BRUNSWICK	<input type="checkbox"/>		
P.E.I PARKS	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES PARKS	<input type="checkbox"/>		
NUNAVUT PARKS	<input type="checkbox"/>		
YUKON PARKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	Cameron Eckert

COMMENTS:

There is no park in the Yukon system that is more of a focal point for climate change than Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk. Here is the draft management plan put out for public review which is expected to be adopted shortly. Do a word search for "climate change" to see where it's referenced in the plan.

<https://yukon.ca/en/herschel-island-qikiqtaruk-territorial-park-management-plan>

(New link, original link no longer active)

"Historically, the changes to the island have been fairly gradual and subtle. However, as the northern climate warms, the physical changes to the island are happening at an unprecedented rate. Climate change is shifting the ecological forces that shape the island"

PARKS CANADA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	Elizabeth Nelson
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COMMENTS:

Hi all – for Parks Canada it's not consistent – no formal inclusion, but mentions in some park plan, if deemed particularly relevant (publicly available reports here

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/agence-agency/bib-lib/docs2bi>)(link no longer active).

It is included a bit more comprehensively in the latest "State of Heritage Places" report (which covers all heritage places managed by Parks Canada):

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/docs/pc/rpts/elnhc-scnhp/2016/index>

We are working on a more formal inclusion in individual park plans and reports... work in progress!

Response Rate: 5/13 for 38%

Key Findings:

- B.C Parks has been increasingly focused on Climate Change in their management plans over the past few years.
- Responding Jurisdictions generally had one park in particular that focused more on Climate Change than others due to factors like biodiversity and ecosystem management.
- Focus on Climate Change varies wildly throughout Jurisdictions and between individual Parks.
- The Yukon Example is a good example of highlighting, acknowledging, and then planning for the impacts of climate change. The plan seems to have been updated partially (perhaps fully) due to the changing arctic environment caused by climate change.
- An ecosystem-based monitoring plan seems more likely to have a focal point of climate change

Future Questions to Ask:

- How is this change to the way we plan parks being communicated across jurisdictions?
- How many park management plans are being revisited due to the impacts that climate change is having on the park environment/to plan for the future impacts of climate change?
- Should all park plans be revisited to account for the impacts of climate change? What support would park managers require to accomplish this task?

Links to Resources:

- [B.C Parks Mount Assiniboine Park](#)
- [B.C Parks Approved Management Plans](#)
- [Saskatchewan MLPP Ecosystem Based Management Plan](#)
- [Yukon Herschel Island-Qikiqtauk Territorial Park Management Plan](#)
- [State of Canada's Natural and Cultural Heritage Places 2016](#)