



Time for Nature



A Third National Park for Manitoba?

The proposal to protect the Northern Interlake Region

What's so special about Limestone Point? It is probably Canada's longest sandspit! Very few Canadians know of the Manitoba Lowlands, and its very rich resources – both natural and cultural.

In the Manitoba Lowlands, one can find the majestic limestone cliffs of Howell's Point and its karst landscapes - a spectacular geographic region of sinkholes, caves and shoreline cliffs. The Lowlands include sweeping sand beaches, broad shallow lakes and some of the most productive freshwater marshes in North America.



The area's many attractions include scenic limestone cliffs and karst geological features. © Parks Canada.

Filling a gap in the park system

The Manitoba Lowlands is one of twelve natural regions not yet represented in the national park system. Parks Canada wants to fill this gap in the system.

Parks Canada began working on this park proposal in 1992. They have been studying its resources and talking to local people, the provincial government and other interested Canadians to set boundaries for a park and a shared vision of what it might look like. But much remains to be done.



Aboriginal people have strong economic and cultural ties to the Manitoba Lowlands. © Parks Canada.

A working landscape

Agriculture transformed the land in the southern part of the region once European immigrants arrived in the 19th century. Farther north, forestry, mining, fishing, trapping, outfitting and hunting have remained the primary economic activities.

Aboriginal people have lived in the Manitoba Lowlands for thousands of years. They were active partners in the fur trade with Europeans and continue to hunt fish and trap there today. Their culture and traditions are powerfully connected to the land and its resources.



A well-designed and managed park would maintain this working landscape while conserving the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

Despite the many changes that time and industry have brought, the area is rich in animal life such as little brown and Keen's bats, black garter snakes, grouse and black bear. This is the only place in North America where moose, elk, deer, woodland caribou, and wood bison ranges overlap. Birds of special importance include nesting bald eagles, sandhill cranes and the endangered piping plover, plus plenty of pelicans.



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A turquoise jewel

There are hidden jewels everywhere to discover, such as Limestone Lake, which changes color from a brilliant turquoise to a milky blue, a result of a chemical process occurring on hot sunny days. Parks Canada would like to designate this globally unique site as a national park and help complete Canada's national parks system.

For more information visit www.pc.gc.ca