
News Release

DUFF ROBLIN TO BE HONOURED WITH NEW PARK RESERVE

Friday, December 7, 2007

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA – A new Duff Roblin Park Reserve will soon be established, thanks to \$3.2 million in funding, which includes a \$2.1 million contribution from the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba through the Canada-Manitoba Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF). The balance will be provided by the Province of Manitoba.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Gary Doer, Premier of Manitoba; the Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification; the Honourable Duff Roblin, former Premier of Manitoba; and Bill Norrie, Chair of the Floodway Advisory Board.

“At our newest park reserve Manitobans will be able to take advantage of great recreational opportunities including biking, walking and tobogganing while at the same time having a bird's eye view of the impressive landscape of the expanded Floodway,” said Premier Doer. “We feel we have created a destination that all Manitobans can be proud of and will enjoy.”

“Duff Roblin reminds us of what it means to be a visionary,” said Minister Toews. “A man of action, Duff saw what could be and inspired a province. The Government of Canada is proud to recognize his achievements with the new Duff Roblin Park Reserve.”

The existing Duff Roblin Park Reserve, located near Winnipeg's north perimeter, commemorates two important Manitoba milestones: the construction of a flood control system for the City of Winnipeg, and the establishment of a provincial system of parks. Both were created with the foresight of the Honourable Duff Roblin, one of Manitoba's well-respected politicians, who served as premier from 1958 to 1967.

The new Duff Roblin Park Reserve will be relocated to the Floodway Inlet Control Structure in St. Norbert as part of the commitment to support recreational and economic opportunities along an expanded floodway. The development of the new park will focus on infrastructure components such as picnic areas and shelters, walking and cycling trails, washrooms, drinking water, fishing facilities, bike racks, a toboggan run, parking lot, and landscape improvements. Approximately 25,000 Manitoba residents and tourists are expected to visit the expanded park at its new location.

The initial Canada-Manitoba Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) agreement, announced in December 2004, invested a total of \$120 million in communities across Manitoba. This year, an additional \$25 million is being provided to MRIF through matching funds from the governments of Canada, Manitoba and local contributions as part of the commitment to help small communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs. This additional funding will bring the total federal and provincial investment and matching local contribution in MRIF projects to \$145 million.

Of the funds, 80 per cent are earmarked for communities with a population under 250,000, including 198 municipalities and 50 unincorporated Northern Community Councils in rural and northern Manitoba. The remaining 20 per cent of funds are awarded to communities with populations over 250,000.

More information on Canada and Manitoba infrastructure projects are available at: www.infrastructure.gc.ca and www.infrastructure.mb.ca.

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Backgrounder attached

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BACKGROUND

THE NEW DUFF ROBLIN PARK RESERVE

The existing 28 hectare (69 acre) Duff Roblin Park, located just off Winnipeg's north perimeter, was opened on June 4, 1999. The new Duff Roblin Park Reserve will be relocated to the Floodway Inlet Control Structure in St. Norbert, and will be expanded to 56 hectares (138 acres).

The long-term development of the proposed park will be undertaken in phases. The first phase of the park reserve is projected to cost \$3.2 million, and is funded as follows:

- Government of Manitoba \$1.1 million
- Canada-Manitoba Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) \$2.1 million (\$700,000 Government of Canada, \$1.4 million Government of Manitoba)

Phase one will include construction of a parking lot, picnic areas and shelters, walking and bicycling trails, washrooms, drinking water, fishing facilities, bike racks, a toboggan run, and landscape improvements. Future phases may include a boat launch, an interpretive centre, and an observation tower. Trail linkages will exist at the Inlet Control Structure to connect the new park reserve with the Trans-Canada Trail and the Crow Wing Trail.

Due to the isolated and relatively remote location of the current park reserve, few visitors access the facility. Thanks to the new location, it is expected approximately 25,000 Manitoba residents and tourists are expected to visit the expanded park. Visitors will also be able to view and understand the importance of the Floodway Inlet Control Structure as it relates to flood proofing in Winnipeg.

The existing park site along the north perimeter will be maintained and will be incorporated as a staging location for visitors to the floodway as part of the overall recreational plan for the expanded floodway.

In accordance with the *Provincial Parks Act*, Manitoba Conservation will be advertising a public consultation process regarding the proposed relocation and permanent designation of the new site in the upcoming weeks. It is anticipated that the public consultation process will be completed by the spring to allow for improvements to the new site to be undertaken in the summer of 2008.