



Public Consultation Chitek Lake Park Reserve

Welcome to the first phase of the public consultation process for the Chitek Lake Park Reserve. A park reserve is a time-limited designation established to encourage public consultation on provincial park establishment options in advance of any decision. A park reserve was placed on the Chitek Lake area in 1998 after discussions with Skownan First Nation and representatives of the forestry and mining sectors showed that the potential for park designation existed.

The intent of the public consultation process for this Park Reserve is to enable everyone with an interest in the area to present their views. Comments are encouraged on everything from present use/allocations, user expectations and the implications of existing boundaries and surrounding land use, to comments respecting highest and best uses of the area's land base. Ongoing consultation with Skownan First Nation is a central feature of the consideration of park establishment in this area.

A first set of Public Open House drop-in sessions have been arranged at the following locations to enable Manitobans to become familiar with the area and provide initial comments to the process:

Portage la Prairie – Monday, Nov. 24th 11am - 8pm West End Hall (8th St. W. & Saskatchewan Ave.)

Waterhen – Thursday, Nov. 27th 1pm - 8pm Waterhen Community Hall

Winnipeg - Friday, Nov. 28th Noon - 8pm 200 Saulteaux Crescent

If you cannot attend one of these informal sessions, please either forward your comments to the address on the back of the attached brochure, or contact me directly. I would be happy to arrange an alternative means to ensure that you or your organization's comments are included in this process.

The public comments received will be used to help review the idea of park designation and will, if public support for park designation is confirmed, form the basis for the drafting of park purpose statements and proposals for a park Classification, Land Use Categories and final boundary for this important area. The resulting draft proposals, along with a summary of all comment received, will be made available in advance of a second round of public review meetings proposed for the spring of 2004.

Your review and comment on this matter is welcomed. Please do not hesitate to forward additional information along with your point of view respecting the future of the area. If you would like to further discuss any aspect of this process, please call me directly at (204) 945-4365.

Thank you for your interest in Manitoba's provincial park system. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Rick Wilson
Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas