

## A Quick Guide to Manitoba Provincial Park Establishment and Classification

### Purpose of a Provincial Park System

*The purposes of a provincial park system include:*

- conservation of ecosystems and maintenance of biodiversity
- preservation of unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources
- provision of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting

### Designation and Management of Provincial Parks

#### **System Plan:**

The minister shall develop a system plan for the management of provincial parks.

The System Plan sets out the boundaries, classifications and land use categories of provincial parks and may contain any other information the minister considers appropriate.

#### **Classification of Provincial Parks**

*The following **classifications** provide management direction to an overall park area:*

**Wilderness park:** to preserve representative areas of a natural region.

**Natural park:** to preserve areas of a natural region and accommodate a diversity of recreational opportunities and resource uses.

**Recreation park:** to provide recreational opportunities.

**Heritage park:** to preserve an area of land containing a resource or resources of cultural or heritage value.

### Manitoba Provincial Park Land Use Categories

*The following **categories** provide management direction to specific areas within a park:*

**Wilderness:** to protect representative or unique natural landscapes in an undisturbed state and provide recreational opportunities that depend on a pristine environment.

**Backcountry:** to protect examples of natural landscapes and provide basic facilities and trails for nature-oriented recreation in a largely undisturbed environment.

**Resource Management:** to permit commercial resource development or extraction in a manner that does not compromise the main purpose of the park classification.

**Recreational Development:** to accommodate recreational development.

**Heritage:** to protect a unique or representative site containing a resource or resources of cultural or heritage value.

**Access:** to provide a point or route of access in a provincial park or a location for a lodge and associated facilities.

*Application Specifics for Park Classification and Land Use Categories:*

- Land in a **Wilderness park** may be categorized as Wilderness, Heritage or Access only.
- In a **Wilderness park** or in an area of any other provincial park that is categorized as **Wilderness, Backcountry** or **Heritage** land use, no person shall engage in logging, mining or the development of oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydro-electric power.