

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE MANIGOTAGAN RIVER CORRIDOR

Proposed Classification: Natural Park

Proposed Boundaries:

The Corridor is proposed to be enlarged to a 750 metre buffer on each bank from its present width of 250 metres from each bank, begin at the Nopiming Park boundary, and to end upstream of the existing Community interest area and Hydro Water Power Reserve boundaries at its Western limit.

Proposed Land Use Categories: Backcountry, Recreational Development

A **Backcountry Land Use** Category is proposed for the majority of the proposed park in order to protect water quality and maintain the range of natural, cultural and recreational values along the river.

A **Recreational Development Land Use** Category is proposed for the area of the mining claim at Turtle Lake.

Proposed Primary Park Purpose Statements:

Park Purpose:

To maintain the backcountry canoeing experience along the Manigotagan River, preserve the river's water quality and protect the intact natural condition of areas representative of the Lac Seul Upland portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region.

The park will:

- Provide a backcountry setting for activities such as canoeing and traditional and cultural activities that depend on a largely undisturbed environment;
- Preserve the Manigotagan River's aquatic and shoreline habitats;
- Promote public appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the Manigotagan River corridor and emphasize the need to respect and maintain the river's values and water quality;
- Be managed in a manner which will recognise and respect treaty rights and the goals and values of regional communities through a meaningful consultation process to be developed between government and a committee of residents of the Manigotagan, Seymourville and Hollow Water area.

The Park Reserve - Purpose and Process

A Park Reserve is established to provide an interim designation on a piece of land so that all interested parties may consider the implications of such a designation in advance of more permanent land use allocation.

The public consultation process for Park Reserves is intended to assist in

- Establishing a Primary Purpose for the area;
- Determining the most appropriate Provincial Designation for the subject land;
- Reviewing proposed boundaries, and;
- Establishing overall Land Use Categories for the area.

What Happens After this Round of Public Consultation?

Parks and Natural Areas Branch will use the results of this second round of public consultation in the development of recommendations to the provincial Cabinet for a permanent designation for the subject area. Once a designation decision has been made, a summary of the second round process will be provided to all participants.

What do you think??

You are invited to review the results of the consultation to date, and comment on the draft boundary, designation, classification and primary purpose statements. The recommendation to Cabinet will be based on the responses received from these public consultations, so let us know your thoughts.

Please feel free to pass this brochure on to anyone you feel may also be interested in this area. If you would like to make your comments in person, or wish at any time to contact someone directly involved in the process, see the contact information below.

Thank you for your assistance in determining the future of the Manigotagan River Park Reserve!

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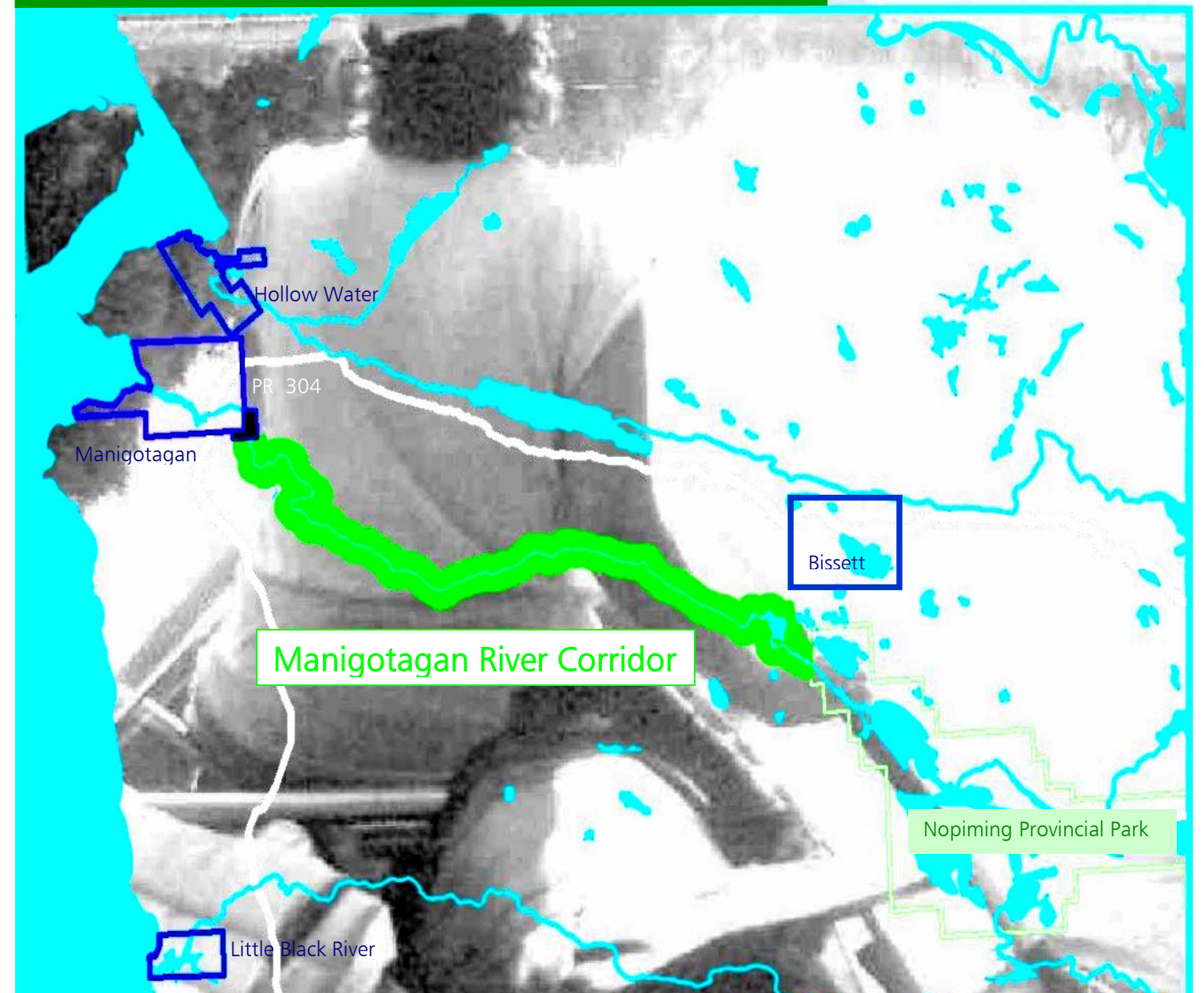
Web site: www.manitobaparks.com

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Manigotagan River Park Reserve

Proposed Provincial Park



Protecting
& Managing
our Future

Manitoba
Conservation



This second Manigotagan River Park Reserve Consultation Newsletter includes a complete summary of comments made to date, as well as the draft park management and classification statements developed from a review of the information and responses received so far. This phase of the consultation process offers the opportunity for respondents to provide comments on the proposed management framework for the Manigotagan River corridor. The results of this second round of public review will assist in the development of the final park management recommendations to Cabinet. A summary of the second round process and the final result will be provided to all participants once the decision on the future of this area has been made.

Manigotagan River Park Reserve Public Consultation - Round 1 Process Summary

The Manigotagan River corridor was established in 1997 as a Park Reserve to recognize the high recreational values and use occurring along this scenic stretch of the Manigotagan River. The Provincial Parks Act requires that all Park Reserves be reviewed by the public in order to determine the most appropriate provincial designation, boundaries and land use classification(s) for the area, and provides an initial six-month, then five-year, time period in which to undertake this consultation.

The first round of public consultation on a vision for the park reserve began in late 2001, and included public drop-in sessions in Lac Du Bonnet and Winnipeg, two community meetings in Manigotagan, and meetings with the Manitoba Recreational Canoe Association, the Manitoba Prospectors and Developers Association and in Hollow Water First Nation. Those attending presented their views on the future of the Park Reserve and contributed to the development of an appreciation of the range of factors involved in river use and management. In September, 2002, a quick canvass of participants revealed a consensus that more time was needed to review the future of this Park Reserve. The Province subsequently extended Park Reserve status for a further five years.

Summary of the Responses to the Specific Questions Asked in Newsletter # 1:

What activities \experiences does your vision for the future of this area include?

All respondents supported maintaining the present range of natural, recreational and archaeological values found in the Park Reserve, as well as respecting First Nations traditional activities there. The maintaining of an unpolluted, intact natural setting on the corridor was also highly valued, as was the opportunity the corridor presently offers for backcountry travel and a wilderness experience. Some respondents felt that mining activity, present in the area for roughly a century with little obvious impact, should continue.

What related issues need to be addressed to ensure your concept for this area can be maintained over time?

Comments emphasized the need for regional community involvement in monitoring and management, the need to minimize noise \built intrusions, and the need to limit impacts on natural processes and water quality.

Where should the boundary end as the Corridor nears PR 304?

Many respondents felt the Highway 304 bridge over Wood Falls was a logical end point, but community expansion plans and the identification of a Manitoba Hydro Water Power Reserve during the consultation to date has confirmed the need to consider an alternative boundary for the Western limit of the corridor to the East of P. R. 304.

How wide should the corridor be?

Respondents generally wished to maintain the intact natural condition of the Corridor. There was considerable support for placing a wider corridor in protected status.

Should the river corridor be included in Nopiming Provincial Park?

Placing the River in park status was seen by respondents as a means of extending a measure of permanent protection to the river. A means of combining this perceived protection with a designation responsive to community input was also desired.

What type of park classification or Land Use Category best suits the values and commitments found in the Corridor?

Many respondents suggested a park classification that allowed for both protected Land Use Categories and for categories that permitted extraction where needed to recognise mining claims, while some recommended non-protection categories which included an intent to maintain the river's present recreational experience.

The information gathered and the submissions received during the public consultation process to date have suggested the following future direction for the Manigotagan River Park Reserve:

Proposed Management Framework for the Manigotagan River Corridor:

Proposed Designation: Provincial Park

The vision for the area expressed by most respondents involved specific management of corridor lands at a provincial level. The designation that was seen to best enable both use and protection of the River while providing the most opportunity for public involvement in management was that of a provincial park.

Proposed Park Classification: Natural

While respondents shared a concern to protect the river's water quality, natural values and backcountry experience, it was also recognised by many that the accessibility of the route, the size of the corridor and the length of trip possible all argue against wilderness designation. Natural Park designation also provides the flexibility to recognise the existing mining claim at Turtle Lake.

Proposed Boundaries:

The present Western boundary of the Park Reserve was seen as conflicting with present Municipal community limits, the existing Manitoba Hydro Water Power Reserve and the need to accommodate future major power line routings if a protected status was established for the corridor. The park is now proposed to end upstream of the existing community interest area and Hydro Power Reserve boundaries at its western limit. Several suggested options for expansion of the corridor were also received, including comments in an extensive mail-in campaign. A wider corridor, having a width of 750 metres from each bank (except where it skirts a mining claim at its eastern end) has now been identified for review. This width corresponds to that presently in place on the Bloodvein River.

Proposed Land Use Categories: Backcountry, Recreational Development

A Backcountry Land Use Category is proposed for the majority of the park in order to properly reflect the need to protect water quality and maintain the range of natural, cultural and recreational values found in this corridor into the future. This designation would enable the corridor lands to be part of the Protected Areas Initiative, as logging, mining and hydro-electric development are not permitted in this Land Use Category. Tembec agreed to suspend logging in the original 250 metre corridor several years ago in recognition of the high recreational value of the corridor. Manitoba Conservation has commenced an analysis to update the wood supply for the area, and will work closely with Tembec to ensure that increasing the corridor to 750 metres does not negatively affect the Pine Falls operation. The proposed protected designation would not disrupt any existing mining activity. Over the past century, less than a dozen claims have occurred wholly or partly within the portion of the corridor proposed for protection, and none of these claims were renewed. The portion of the gneissic belt that underlies the river in the east has few mineral showings relative to the Rice Lake Greenstone belt (location of the Bissett gold mine). For this reason the gneissic belt is considered to have a lower potential to host economic mineral deposits. The corridor is proposed to be revised to avoid the Manitoba Hydro Water Power Reserve near the Manigotagan community. This revision offers some opportunity for routing future transmission lines outside the proposed protected corridor. If new transmission line development which crosses the corridor is proposed, further public review of the implications for the corridor under either the Parks Act or through the provincial Environmental Impact Assessment process will be required.

A Recreational Development Land Use Category is proposed for an existing mining claim at Turtle Lake to confirm the importance of managing the overall corridor for primary park purposes while recognising the ongoing legal commitment to the claimholder.

Proposed Primary Park Purpose Statements:

In order to provide overall direction to land use management in the corridor and to guide decision-making in advance of the completion of a management plan, the following vision, or primary park purpose, statements are proposed:

Park Purpose:

To maintain the backcountry canoeing experience along the Manigotagan River, preserve the river's water quality and protect the intact natural condition of areas representative of the Lac Seul Upland portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region.

The park will:

- Provide a backcountry setting for activities such as canoeing and traditional and cultural activities that depend on a largely undisturbed environment;
- Preserve the Manigotagan River's aquatic and shoreline habitats;
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- Be managed in a manner which will recognise and respect treaty rights and the goals and values of regional communities through a meaningful consultation process to be developed between government and a committee of residents of the Manigotagan, Seymourville and Hollow Water area.

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE INITIAL DRAFT IDEAS PRESENTED ABOVE ARE REQUESTED! See Back Page for details