

Manigotagan River Park Reserve Public Consultation - Round 1 Comments

(Edited for length so all opinions could be included)

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

Maintain traditional activities (trapping, hunting, plant\medicine gathering) opportunities in Corridor
Maintain Manigotagan as an accessible wilderness experience canoeing\camping river
Maintain Ecotourism opportunities for area residents
Preserve natural and cultural values in the Corridor
Maintain existing uses in the area, including mineral exploration
Maintain present relatively pristine condition
Non-motorized recreation, summer and winter
Opportunity for scientific study where human impacts are minimal
Maintain sport hunting, fishing, but not commercial development
Canoeing, fishing, camping and native interpretive events

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

Manigotagan, Hollow Water should be given a majority say\role in management\stewardship of the area
No cottage or lodge development, canoe access campsites only
Ban resource extraction activities close to the river; they diminish recreational and natural values
Place Park Reserve corridor - except for existing claims - in protected status,
Pack in, pack out; leave only tracks
No limitations on FN treaty rights; grandfathering of all Aboriginal traditional uses
No motorized boats
Implement minimum overflight altitude of 1,000 feet
Continue current guidelines concerning control of development and resource extraction
Economic potential of low-impact resource users is not to be negatively affected
In making decisions, err on the side of conservation
Limit river uses, including recreation, to those appropriate to maintain the natural values of the river and to protect the water quality for downstream uses including drinking water; the Manigotagan community must be part of the process that determines these limits
Exclude mining claims from corridor
Have a minimum number of rules, so travel and use of the corridor is not restricted
Keep fish stocks at their original level; no net fishing on the river system
Area affected should be the river corridor\canoe route only

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

End corridor at 304
Manigotagan community should have a say in where corridor ends, three-mile meadow and old homesteads seem to be included in corridor, and this is not appropriate
End corridor at Manigotagan community boundary; eastward expansion is being considered
Include falls at 304 in park

How wide should the corridor be?

Enlarge to 2.5 km. from each bank
Proposed 250 meter corridor seems reasonable
1 km each side of the river, 1 km. buffer each side of this; 4 km total width
Extend park North to S. side of claims at Wanipigow L.
Minimum 1 km each side at NE and NW ends of the corridor; 2.5 +km each side in the middle section
Extend park north to 304 ROW at Wanipigow L.
Place 500-meter buffer on corridor right up to 304
As wide as possible to prevent logging\mining from polluting the river, destroying natural wildlife habitat

Should the river corridor be included in Nopiming Provincial Park?

Designate as a separate area to facilitate management in concert with communities

Yes, to bring the corridor under the auspices of the Parks Act

Extend Protected Corridor E. to include Gem L., BC except for RD lodge\cottage areas

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

Wilderness park \ Backcountry (BC) near 304, rest Wilderness (W)

Natural Park, BC LUC; Backcountry is a category that permits expansion of ecotourism business

Natural Park, maximize both economic opportunities and options for LUC establishment in the corridor

Recreation, to ensure more people can use the park

Natural Park, with Wilderness and Recreational Development (RD) LUC

Should be Wilderness, but gets too much use; needs facilities like fire boxes, so BC more realistic

RD with mandate to protect integrity of backcountry experience

Resource Management (RM) at Turtle Lake area, rest BC

Recognise transmission lines as an acceptable future land use in the park reserve area, show as Access LUC

Comments and concerns received:

Garbage dumping and insanitary uses of the river by non-resident recreationalists has left residents frustrated, and negative to recreational use of their source of drinking water

Only development: existing structures, and minimal campsites with bear-proof lockers\pole & outhouses

Park should include a campsite about 1 km from 304 at Manigotagan (West) end

Bridges for resource extraction should not be allowed over River

Area is too fragile to recover from severe disruption

Manigotagan is a Metis community, Metis history, contribution and people should be recognised

Put plaques at historical sites along the river

Complete Manigotagan Waterway Trail project

Give TEMBEC, Conservation and First Nations adjacent areas to manage, and view the results

Park management plans should not adversely affect existing trapping policies

Accessibility of area means need for a lot of monitoring, serious patrol by conservation officers

Do not allow mining, logging; degree of damage is too far reaching and irreversible

Allow mining, just control activities in the corridor

Does the river have the backcountry user capacity to justify withdrawing it from logging, mining use

Keep as pristine as possible; this is our role as caretakers

Monitor river usage; educate users to the need to maintain river values and water quality

Gneissic belts have mineral potential too; many discoveries are made in previously-unexplored areas

Just control Forestry, as mining is not a problem for the corridor

Protection of the corridor will inhibit mining investment in the region

Leave area alone; park designation will attract use, and destroy wilderness atmosphere through overuse

River was a primary access route for mining activity for many years; part of heritage, permit mining

Manigotagan community elders were trying to show values and pass on information, not necessarily supporting a park when they went down the river with the government staff several years ago.

Gneissic belt under river has much less potential than Greenstone on Wanipigow or same belt E. of corridor

Establish a kiosk at the falls by the 304 bridge to provide tourism information and to educate tourists about the need to respect and protect the river water and surroundings.

Afford corridor the highest degree of protection; riparian area has high biodiversity, e.g.: Prickly Pear Cactus

Community residents feel they have been losing control of natural resources in the area over time.

Hunting, trapping and other traditional pursuits are seen as being the heritage of area residents.

Consider this area in overall East Side plan, not separately

Few opportunities for wilderness tripping exist – this area provides several, protect this opportunity
