

# East Paint Lake Park Reserve Public Consultation

The East Paint Lake Park Reserve Public Consultation process is intended to:

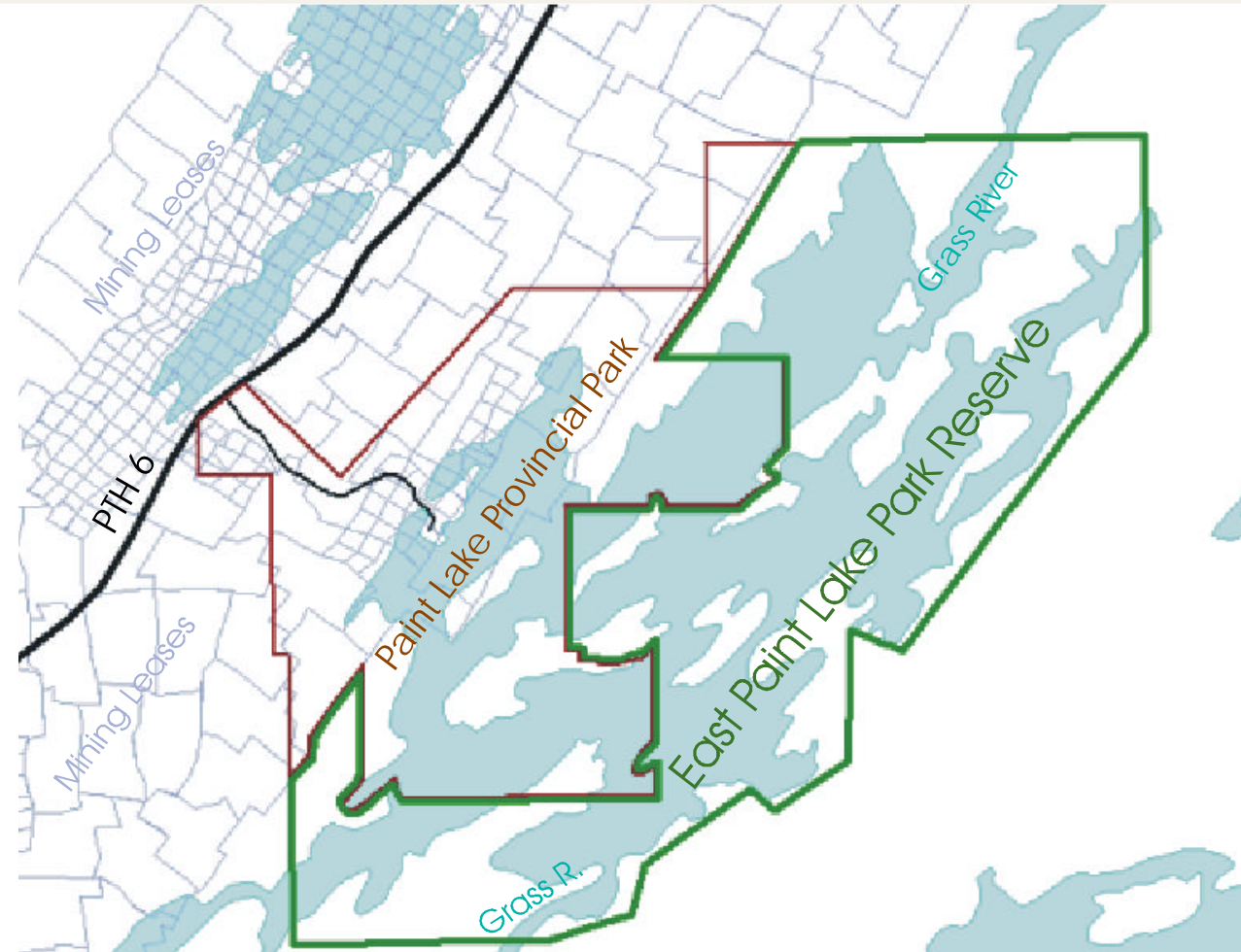
- Consider the reestablishment of the Park Reserve as part of Paint Lake Provincial Park;
- Review the existing primary purpose statements for the Park Reserve area;
- Determine appropriate Land Use Categories for the Park Reserve (see insert for details)

The information presented here is intended to supplement your personal knowledge of the Park Reserve area, and assist you in your response.

## Primary Purpose Statements

The purpose of the East Paint Lake Park Reserve area is to preserve areas that are representative of the Hayes River Upland portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region. Other functions of the Park Reserve include:

- Preservation of riparian habitats to maintain water quality and the natural character of the Paint Lake area;
- Provision of nature-oriented recreational opportunities in a largely undisturbed environment;
- Promotion of public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural features;
- Protection of natural areas in an undisturbed state; and
- Provision of nature-oriented recreational opportunities including canoeing, fishing, boating, hunting and snowmobiling.



## Natural and Cultural Values

The Park Reserve and area has a long cultural history. Archaeological evidence of this in the form of Laurel and Blackduck ceramics and a variety of stone tools has been found along Liz Creek and on the east side of the lake. Adjacent to the east side site are the remains of McKay House, an early North-West Company post established in 1790. These remains provide a tangible link between the users of today and some of the central themes of Canada's past. While the area's virtually unaltered Boreal Forest - or "Shield Country" landscape - is prized by recreationists, this landscape is also important in the context of the provincial Protected Areas Initiative. At present, Paint Lake Park Reserve is the only portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region 4B presently in protected status in Manitoba. Confirming this protected status in a permanent park designation would confirm this provincially-significant landscape representation, as well as retain the scenic values of the area for the present range of recreation and traditional pursuits.

## Recreational Values

Less than half an hour south of Manitoba's third-largest city, Paint Lake is one of the top ten parks in Manitoba in terms of total visitation. The Park itself provides a four season lodge, marina, camping, day-use and road-access cottaging opportunities, while the Park Reserve area has since its initial designation as park land in 1972 been valued for its intact natural condition. This natural state, desired as the setting for the area's high-quality fishing, remote cottaging and backcountry recreation experiences, is particularly important to area users. The accessibility of this site, and the high regard in

## History of the Park Reserve

The East Paint Lake Park Reserve was part of the original Paint Lake Provincial Park designated in 1972. In 1997, the new Provincial Parks Act was applied to the park. While the portion of Paint Lake that was underlain by mineral leases was classified as a Recreation Park, a Park Reserve with a Backcountry classification was placed on the lake and its associated islands to provide ongoing protection for this portion of the park from logging, mining or hydro-electric activities.

The Park Reserve was established as a separate area at that time to provide the opportunity for additional public and industry review of the impact of protected status on this area of the park. This additional time for review was requested by the mining sector in order to enable results from the CAMIRO

a Land Use Category for this area. This level of concern arose from the fact that the Park Reserve lies immediately adjacent to a block of long-standing mineral leases on the Thompson Nickel Belt, host of two operational nickel mines. No additional claims have been identified adjacent to or in the immediate area of the park since completion of the research initiative. The Park Reserve area was closed to forestry upon Park Reserve designation as the nature of the park land base is one of islands and shoreline.

## History of Resource Use

The Paint Lake area was first used commercially for the transport of furs along the Grass River, and two fur trade posts were built in the Paint Lake area. Commercial forestry has not occurred in the area since its designation as park land in 1972. While much of the Park Reserve area has been staked over the years, only a few claims were