

Your Comments!

The purpose of this public consultation on Nopiming Provincial Park is to gather feedback for review and consideration in assessing the appropriateness of a LUC change from recreational development to backcountry within the park. A change in classification will result in an increased level of protection of a provincially rare landscape feature and its associated ecosystem. This feature will then be protected from logging and mining, as well as hydro, petroleum, and other activities that significantly and adversely affect habitat.

Please review this background information and use your own experience of the area to provide your comments. Please use the enclosed sheet and retain this information brochure for future reference.

What Happens After this Consultation?

Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative will collect all information received, and use this information to determine the appropriateness of a land use category change. A summary of public comments – and the resulting proposed actions – will then be sent to all participants, and posted on the Parks and Natural Area's website (www.manitobaparks.com).

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:

Nopiming Provincial Park Proposed Land Use Category Change
Protected Areas Initiative, Manitoba Conservation
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Questions/comments? Contact the Protected Areas Initiative at:

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Nopiming Provincial Park

Proposed Land Use Category Change



Protecting
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Nopiming Provincial Park

Nopiming Provincial Park is classified as a Natural Park in Manitoba, meaning that it accommodates diverse recreational opportunities and resource uses while preserving natural areas. The Park totals 1,429 km² in size, and is characterized by the rock outcrops, lakes, and rivers of the Canadian Shield. The landscape is dominated by jack pine trees, with scattered marshes and black spruce/tamarack bogs commonly found.

The park's purpose is to preserve areas that are representative of the Lac Seul Upland portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region, and to accommodate a diversity of recreational opportunities and resource uses.

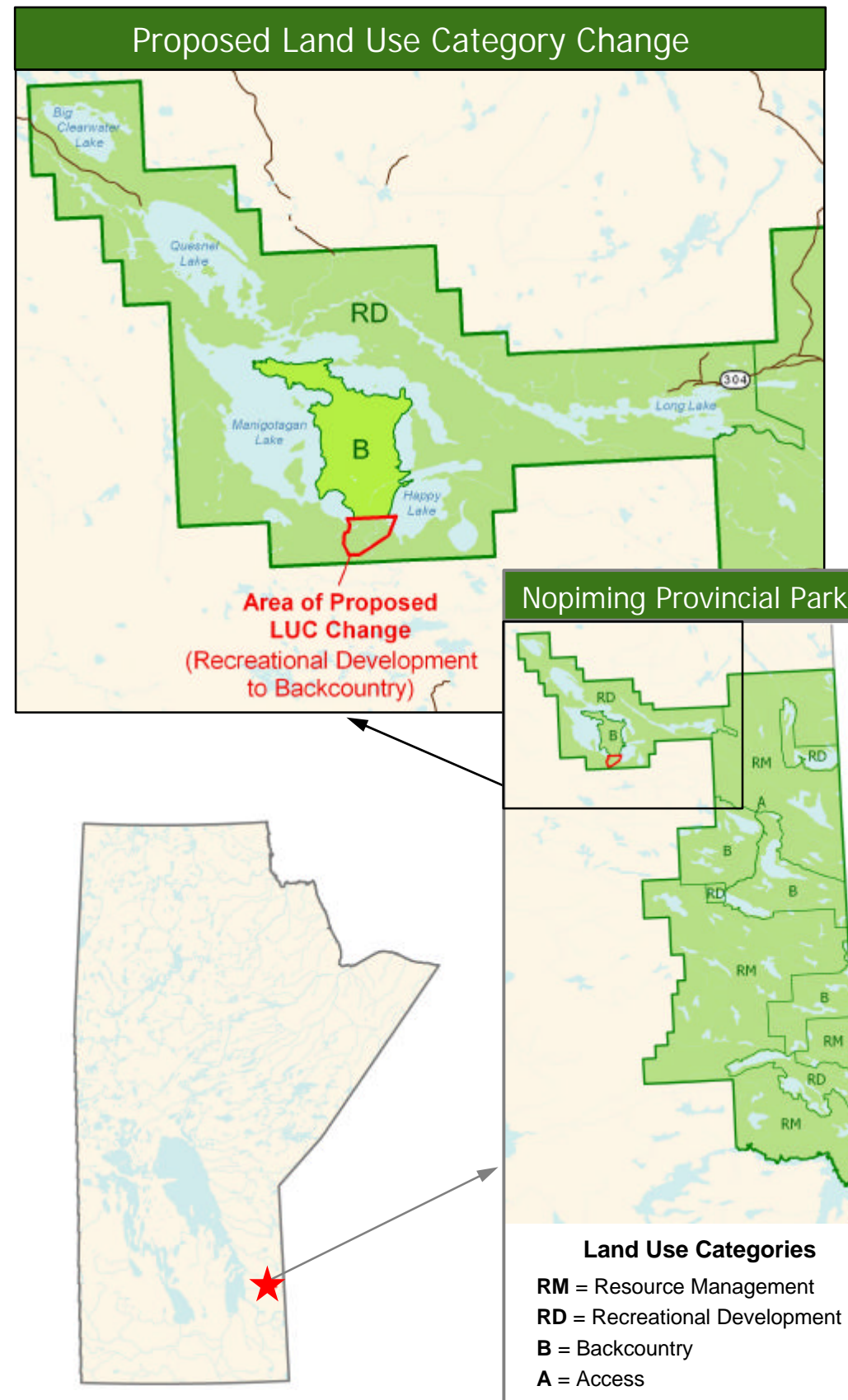
Nopiming Provincial Park:

- Preserves areas of woodland caribou habitat;
- Provides nature-oriented recreational opportunities such as canoeing, hiking and mountain biking in a largely undisturbed environment;
- Provides high quality cottaging, camping, boating and fishing opportunities, and accommodates related facilities and services;
- Promotes public appreciation and understanding of Nopiming's natural and cultural heritage;
- Accommodates commercial resource uses such as forestry and mining where such activities do not compromise other park purposes.

Within provincial parks a number of land use categories (LUC) provide the opportunity for areas within the park to permit or restrict various activities. Nopiming Provincial Park contains the LUCs of recreational development (RD), resource management (RM), backcountry (B) and access (A). The recreational development LUC predominately accommodates intensive recreational development such as camping, cottage development, and commercial facilities with the possibility of commercial resource extraction. The resource management LUC permits commercial resource development or extraction, while only nature-oriented recreational activities such as canoeing, backcountry camping and fishing are permitted within backcountry LUC areas. The access LUC accommodates a pre-existing roadway which crosses through a backcountry LUC area within the park.

Natural, Cultural and Recreational Values

Nopiming is an Anishinabe word meaning "entrance to the wilderness." Built on the remnants of an ancient Precambrian mountain range, the landscape of Nopiming was polished by the last Ice Age. Retreating glacial ice and the now extinct Lake Agassiz left behind clay, silt, sand, gravel and boulders. Over the passing centuries successive populations of lichens, plants and animals built up the fertile forest soil.



The most widespread forests consist of leaf-bearing aspen (poplar) and birch, mixed with evergreens such as jack pine and white spruce, while the underbrush includes hazel, alder and mountain maple. Wildflowers bloom throughout Nopiming, while blueberries are plentiful in the areas struck by fire in 1983.

Larger mammals found within the park include timber wolf, black bear, moose, and woodland caribou, with the occasional cougar sighting reported, a species believed to be extirpated in this area of Manitoba. Walleye (pickereel), northern pike, bass, trout, tulabi, whitefish and perch can be found in Nopiming's lakes of varying sizes and depths.

Nopiming Provincial Park is a popular recreation destination. Canoeing and angling are a must on the park's numerous lakes lined with granite rock. Four main campgrounds exist within the park, with several backcountry campsites available for adventurers. There are two self-guided interpretive trails, as well as several points of interest with interpretive signage. Visitors to Nopiming Provincial Park enjoy a wilderness experience and the beautiful lakes of the boreal forest.

Proposed Land Use Category Change

Manitoba Conservation is proposing to expand a portion of backcountry LUC located in the northwest extension of Nopiming Provincial Park. Surrounded on three sides by the Manigotagan and Happy Lakes, the area is largely secluded from ecological disturbances. The expansion of this backcountry LUC is desired in order to protect a rare enduring feature that occurs in this area.

The current northwest backcountry area of Nopiming Provincial Park encompasses a portion of the rare GD/R2 (glaciofluvial surficial deposits with hardrock/acidic soil) enduring feature. Enduring features are combinations of soil type and surficial geology that are used to represent the biodiversity within Manitoba's natural regions. These enduring features are much easier to define than the complex biodiversity that may occupy an area at any given time. By identifying the different combinations of soils and landforms, as well as their level of representation in Manitoba's network of protected areas, we are able to capture the biodiversity of an area.

The GD/R2 enduring feature landscape was created when glacial materials of gravel, sand and silt were deposited over acidic bedrock to create a slightly elevated landform. The proposed expansion of the northwest backcountry area would completely capture one of two occurrences of this enduring feature within this natural region. Increasing the amount of this enduring feature protected contributes to Manitoba's goal of creating a network of protected areas that represents the biodiversity of each natural region.