

East Paint Lake Park Reserve

Public Review: June 2007

Summary

The results of previous consultation processes regarding the establishment and renewal of the East Paint Lake Park Reserve suggest that maintaining a natural environment, protecting the water quality and recreational values, and maintaining options for mineral exploration are highly desired for this area.



As a result, Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas is proposing that the boundary of Paint Lake Provincial Park be extended to include East Paint Lake Park Reserve, and that the combined park be classified as a Natural Park. It is also proposed that a Recreational Development land use category (LUC) be applied to the entire area.

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Park Reserve History

Paint Lake Provincial Park was established in 1971. East Paint Lake Park Reserve was originally part of Paint Lake, but in 1997 it was established under the new Provincial Parks Act as a separate, temporary designation with protected status. This protected status gave the lake and its associated islands protection from logging, mining or hydro-electric activities.

The Park Reserve was established in order to provide the public and industry an opportunity to review the results of the CAMIRO study in advance of permanent protected designation of this area. The need to take the time and to determine whether this area is part of the Thompson Nickel Belt was requested by the local community and the mining industry because of the importance of mining to the future of Thompson.

The initial East Paint Lake Park Reserve was extended for a further five years in 2002, to allow the CAMIRO study to be completed and the study results to be reviewed. The results: the same types of rocks found in the Thompson Nickel Belt are found under East Paint Lake Park Reserve.

Cultural and Natural Values

The Paint Lake area was first used commercially for the transport of furs along the Grass River, and during this time two fur trade posts were built in the Paint Lake area by the Hudson's Bay Company (Chatham House) and its rival, the Northwest Company (McKay House).



The name *Paint Lake* comes from the Native name manuminan sakahigan, translated as Red Paint Lake.

The name may derive from painted navigation markers that guided First Nation peoples through the labyrinthine reaches of the lake.

Over time, more and more people came to Paint Lake, drawn by its natural beauty and its recreational potential, until the province decided to make the Lake a park in order to protect it for its recreational values. Because of this, Paint Lake makes up 47% of the entire park area.

Recreational Values

Less than half an hour south of Thompson, Paint Lake is one of the top ten parks in Manitoba in terms of total visitation.

Paint Lake Provincial Park provides numerous recreational opportunities for people from all backgrounds and fitness levels. In the summer it boasts boating, cottaging, camping, beaches, playgrounds and guided nature tours. In the winter recreational activities include snowmobiling and cross country skiing.

Throughout the year a four season resort with a restaurant and convenience store operates within the park. Rental opportunities for cottages, boats and canoes are available as well, to allow all visitors the opportunity to enjoy the park to the fullest.

The Park Reserve area has been valued for its natural condition since its initial designation as park land. The area provides a regionally-significant setting for high-quality boating, fishing and remote cottaging recreation experiences.



Public Review Permanent Designation of East Paint Lake Park Reserve

The purpose of Park Reserve Designation is to conserve an area's natural, cultural and recreational values while public views on the future of the land, including a final designation, are discussed in a public consultation process.



This public review is meant to enable everyone with an interest in the area to review/provide current information respecting present area use and allocations, compatibility of uses, user expectations, implications of changing existing boundaries or land use practices. Manitobans are encouraged to provide comments respecting highest and best use for the Park Reserve land base, and contribute to the process of developing a framework for long-term area management.

What Happens After the Public Consultation?

The provincial government reviews the process input and then determines a permanent designation for the subject area.

The appropriate Crown agency (ie: Parks) will then work through a site-specific management planning process to set out in detail the policies and regulations necessary to achieve the primary purpose statements for the area.

Your comments respecting a permanent designation for the East Paint Lake Park Reserve area, are requested by June 29, 2007.

Thank you for your interest in Manitoba's provincial park system.



Manitoba Provincial Park Establishment and Classification Provincial Park System

The Provincial Park System Purpose:

- Conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity.
- Preserve unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources.
- Provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting.

Classification of Provincial Parks

Park classifications provide management direction to an overall park area.

Wilderness Park: Preserve representative areas of a natural region.

Natural Park: Preserve areas of a natural region and accommodate a diversity of recreational opportunities and resource uses.

Recreation Park: Provide recreational opportunities.

Heritage Park: Preserve an area of land containing a resource or resources of cultural or heritage value.

To discuss the project in
more detail, please call:
Cara Gill (204) 945-4874

You may respond to
parksystem@gov.mb.ca
or by mail to

East Paint Lake Park Reserve
Parks and Natural Areas
Box 53, 200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 3W3

You are invited to drop in at one of the following
Open house meetings and share your ideas.

Manitoba Conservation - Boardroom A
200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg
Monday, June 18, 2007 11 a.m to 7:00 p.m

Thompson Provincial Building - Main Boardroom
59 Elizabeth Drive, Thompson
Wednesday, June 20 11 a.m to 7:00 p.m

Land Use Categories

provide management direction to specific areas within a park.

Recreational Development:

Accommodate recreational development.

Heritage:

Protect a unique or representative site containing a resource or resources of cultural or heritage value.

Access:

Provide a point or route of access in a provincial park or a location for a lodge and associated facilities.

Wilderness:

Protect representative or unique natural landscapes in an undisturbed state and provide recreational opportunities that depend on a pristine environment.

Backcountry:

Protect examples of natural landscapes and provide basic facilities and trails for nature-oriented recreation in a largely undisturbed environment.

Resource Management:

Permit commercial resource development or extraction in a manner that does not compromise the main purpose of the park classification.