



Public Review: Proposed Renewal of Little Limestone Lake Park Reserve

The purpose of Park Reserve designation is to conserve an area's natural, cultural and recreational values while the future of the land, including a final designation, are discussed in a public consultation process. This public review enables everyone with an interest in the area to review and provide current information respecting present area and allocations, compatibility of uses, user expectations, and implications of proposed boundaries or land use practices. Manitobans are encouraged to provide comments respecting the Park Reserve and contribute to the process of developing a framework for its long-term management.

What Happens After the Public Consultation?

Manitoba Conservation reviews the comments and then recommends 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.

Manitoba's 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

Park Reserve: A temporary, protected designation that prohibits mining, forestry or hydro developments from occurring within the park reserve boundaries.

Land Use Categories

Provide management direction to specific areas within a park.

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.

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.

Recreational Development: Accommodate recreational development.

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

Your comments respecting a five year renewal of Little Limestone Lake Park Reserve are requested before November 21, 2007.

For further details and your response contact us at:

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Little Limestone Lake Park Reserve

Proposed Renewal
of Park Reserve Designation



Manitoba Conservation proposes to renew the Park Reserve designation of Little Limestone Lake from six months to five years.

Little Limestone Lake was established as a Park Reserve on July 19, 2007. It is 4,095 hectares in size.

Special protection designation of Little Limestone Lake was a commitment in Manitoba's 2006 *Green and Growing Strategy*.

The initial Park Reserve designation for the Lake has a six month timeframe which expires on January 19, 2008.

Outstanding Features

Little Limestone Lake is known as a marl lake, which is a lake that changes colour as its water temperature rises and calcite dissolved in the water begins to settle out. In warm summer weather, the lake turns from clear to an opaque turquoise or even to a milky blue-white.

It is considered by experts to be the largest and most outstanding example of a marl lake in the world.

The area surrounding the lake contains many unique caves, sinkholes, disappearing streams, underground springs and lakes that can fill and drain in a matter of days.

Background

Little Limestone Lake is a 15 kilometre long lake located in the karst landscape north of Grand Rapids, about 450 kilometres from Winnipeg.

This legally protected area includes the lake and its islands as well as a 100 metre wide strip of shoreline, with the exception of the eastern shore.

Little Limestone Lake lies in the traditional territory of Mosakahiken Cree Nation, with the eastern shoreline of the lake in reserve land.

Mosakahiken Cree Nation has indicated a willingness to work with Manitoba Conservation on joint management and protection of the lake.

Little Limestone Lake overlies the Thompson Nickel

Belt, an area of high mineral potential.

The park reserve was designated in co-operation with the mining industry, which made protection of Little Limestone Lake possible by re-aligning existing mining claims that were under and adjacent to the lake.

This 5 year extension will allow Manitoba Conservation to conduct the necessary consultations with Mosakahiken Cree Nation, adjacent communities, stakeholders and interested citizens on future plans and the final designations for the Park Reserve.

