

Public Review – Boundary Adjustments to Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve

The Province and Poplar River First Nation are together proposing the creation of two Resource Management Land Use Categories, as well as the removal of a one-hectare wharf site, within Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve.

Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve was established in 1999. The Park Reserve included most of the Poplar River First Nation traditional territory, and the land base of the Park Reserve was placed in a Backcountry Land Use Category (LUC) to provide interim protection from logging, mining and hydro-electric development, while government and the First Nation discussed final boundaries, designation and management prior to public review of a final proposal. The Park Reserve was renewed on October 1, 2004, for a further five years to enable the community to complete their management plan.

In the interim since Park Reserve renewal, joint community/government consensus on two long-term land uses critical to the community's future within the overall Park Reserve area have been reached; on an existing and a new long-term gravel source for ongoing community road and airport needs, and on the location for a new wharf for the community's commercial fishermen.

Gravel extraction cannot take place within a protected LUC, so the new and the existing gravel pits have to be identified in a Land Use Category that permits gravel extraction. Although only a small portion of the new gravel extraction area will be used at any one time, all of this 1035 hectare site and the 130 hectare existing pit sites are proposed to be reclassified to Resource Management for gravel extraction only. The new site will be accessed via the winter road corridor. As for the wharf development, Federal and provincial regulations combine to require that land under the wharf development be removed from the Park Reserve and transferred to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The size of the water lot under the wharf proposed for removal from the Park Reserve is about one hectare.

After extensive review, both these developments and their locations have been approved by the community, and are supported by Parks and Natural Areas. Such boundary changes, however, require public review. The public review is meant to enable everyone with an interest in the area to review/provide current information respecting implications of changing existing boundaries or land use practices, or comments respecting highest and best use for the Park Reserve land base.

Your comments respecting the above proposals are requested. Please do not hesitate to forward additional information on specific uses and values along with your point of view respecting the future of these areas. If you would prefer to respond electronically, or to speak directly to someone respecting any aspect of this process, please call Rick Wilson at (204) 945-4365 or email parksystem@gov.mb.ca. Your response before January 31st, 2007, would be appreciated.

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