

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.

The **System Plan** sets out the boundaries, classifications and land use categories of provincial parks.

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.

Land Use Categories

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.

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

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.

Protected Area Considerations

In a **Wilderness park** or in an area of any other provincial park that is categorized as **Wilderness**, **Backcountry** or **Heritage** land use, no person shall engage in logging, mining or the development of oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydro-electric power.

For More Information Please Contact Us:

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Or call Maureen Peniuk at (204) 945-4363 or 1(800)214-6497 ext. 4363 (toll free)

Rivers Provincial Park

Proposed Boundary Adjustment

Context for the Review

The *Provincial Parks Act* requires public consultation prior to cabinet approval on any modification of provincial park boundaries. Manitoba Conservation is seeking public input on the proposed addition of a quarter-section of mixed grass prairie to Rivers Provincial Park. This land lies directly north of the existing park.



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Rivers Provincial Park: Proposed Boundary Adjustment

Background

Rivers Provincial Park is a Recreation Park, 38 ha in size. The park is located just east of the Town of Rivers, along the north shore of Lake Wahtopanah, a reservoir on the Little Saskatchewan River in the Souris Till Plain Natural Region. Construction of the reservoir and development of recreational facilities has resulted in moderate disturbance to the park's natural landscape. It is in the Rural Municipality of Daly and within the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District.

This Recreation Park contains a day use area with an unsupervised beach, boat launch as well as a campground with 30 camping sites and 19 seasonal camping sites. Visitation in 1992 during the summer operating season was estimated at 20,000. The park recorded 983 transient camping unit nights in 2001.

The Park Purpose is to provide outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting.

The park:

- Provides camping, fishing, picnicking and beach opportunities;
- Serves as an important regional park for residents of southwestern Manitoba and visitors to the area;
- Provides boat access to Lake Wahtopanah.

Proposed Addition

Directly north of the park is a quarter-section of Crown land, SE 30-12-20 WPM. A mixed grass prairie, this site is often referred to as the "Rivers Prairie". A site inspection conducted in 1995, ranked it a "C" Grade prairie, meaning that there is an increased abundance of exotic species but proper management, including prescribed burning, would help decrease the abundance of non-native species and improve the quality of the whole site. Kentucky blue grass was found throughout the site and a small portion of the quarter was dominated by smooth brome; both are non-native grasses.

Significance of the Proposed Boundary Adjustment

Through the Protected Areas Initiative's increased focus in Agro-Manitoba, the provincial government is seeking to protect remaining pockets of near natural habitat. Although small in size, these sites have value because of their scarcity.

The quarter-section of mixed grass prairie is located in the Souris Till Plain Natural Region and is representative of the Alluvial Deposits/Regosol / Glacial Spillway enduring feature. Glacial spillway features in this region are scarce. Only a tiny fraction remains that has not been impacted by agriculture.

If the Crown mineral rights can be withdrawn from the quarter-section it would be classified as Backcountry Land Use Category and would contribute to the Network of Protected Areas.

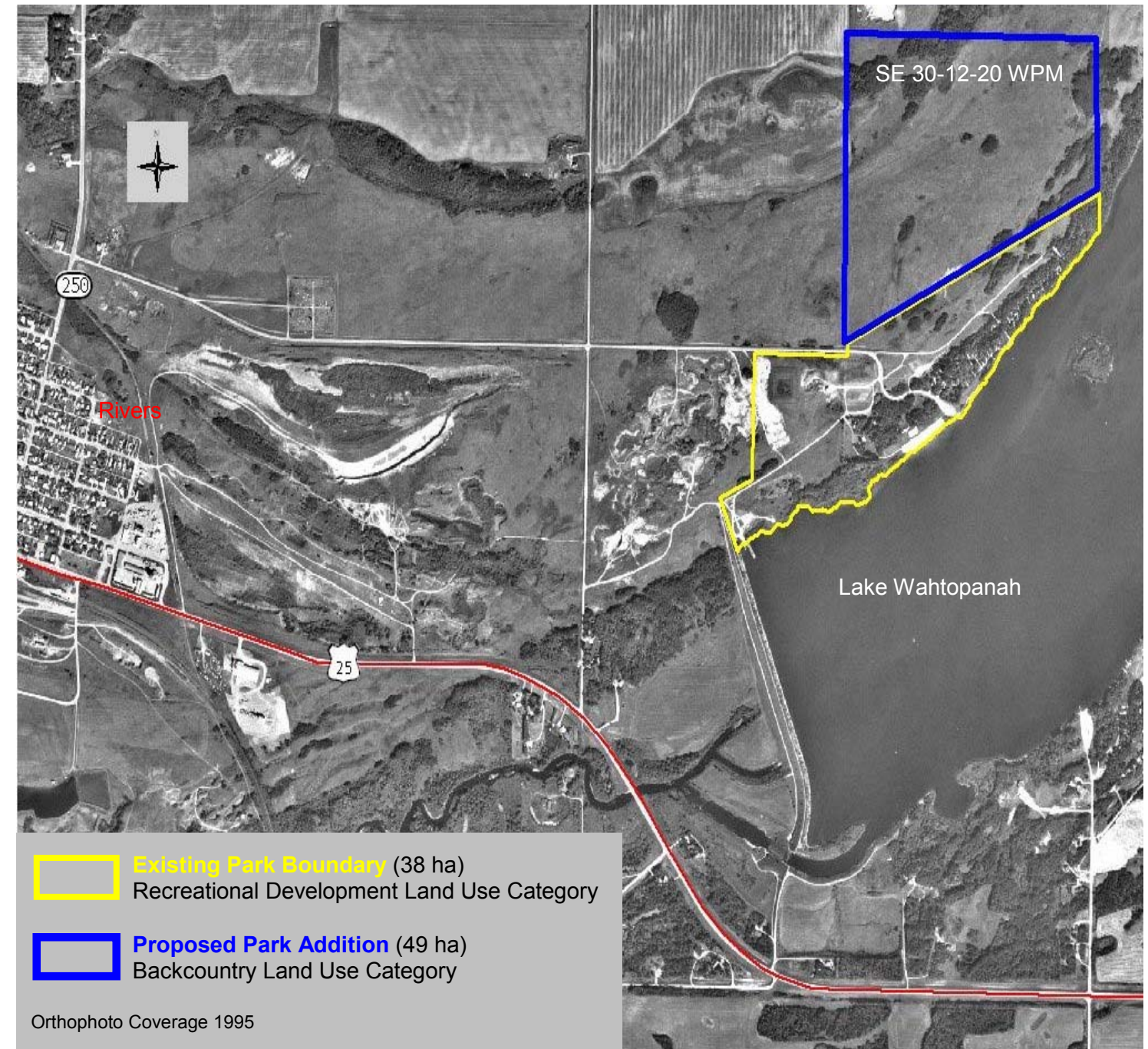


Public Review

The purpose of this public review is to share information and obtain your comments about the proposed change to the boundary of Rivers Provincial Park. Please review the background material supplied and complete and return the enclosed comment form. Help shape the future of Rivers Provincial Park!



New growth after a prairie burn



Land Use Categories

Recreational Development (38 ha)

Facilities include campgrounds, beach, playgrounds, boat launch, concession and picnic areas.

Backcountry (49 ha)

Protects the mixed grass prairie natural landscape and provides nature-oriented recreation in a largely undisturbed environment.

This prohibits, logging, mining, hydro-electric and oil and gas development, as well as other activities that would significantly or adversely affect natural habitat.