



Chitek Lake Park Reserve Renewal

Land Designation

Park Reserve

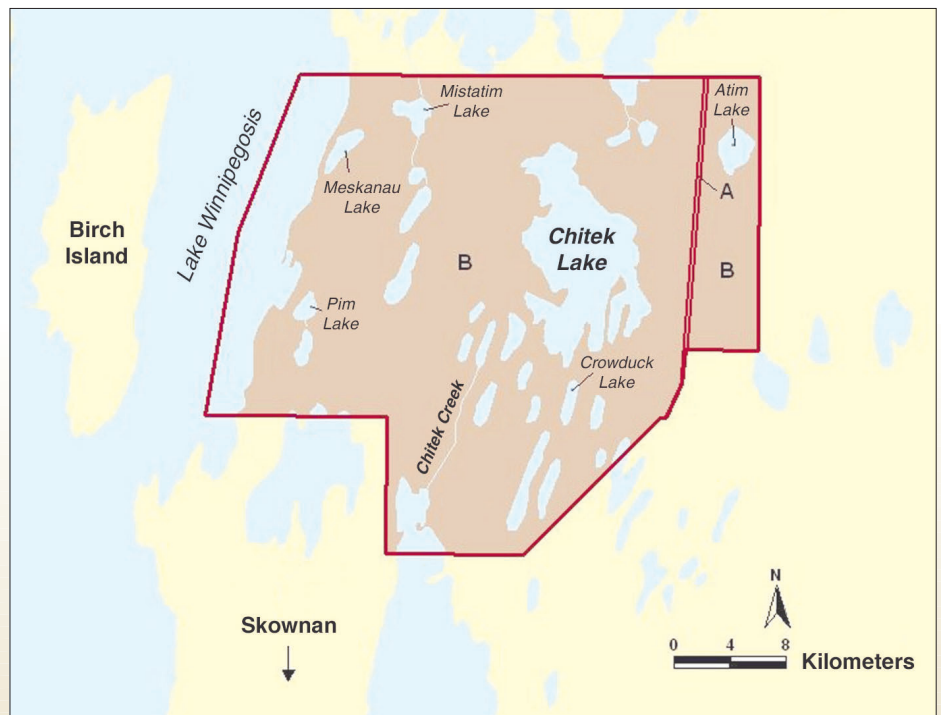
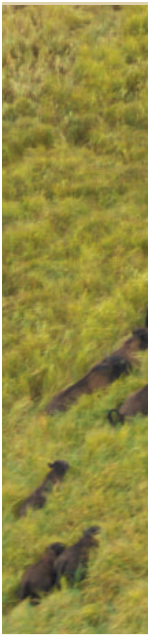
Landscape Description

The 100,300 ha Chitek Lake Park Reserve is located in the central Interlake region along the eastern shore of Lake Winnipegosis about 350 km northwest of Winnipeg. The park reserve straddles two provincial natural regions, the Precambrian Boreal Forest and the Aspen Parkland Natural Regions. The area contains a complex intermingling of glacial till and organic deposits with many different soil types where strips of raised ridges alternate with low, wet areas called swales.

Outstanding Features

The park reserve recognizes the high natural values and cultural significance of the intact natural condition of the lands surrounding Chitek Lake. The diversity of soils and topography in the Chitek Lake Park Reserve results in a rich and diverse range of plant and animal habitats. These lands form the primary range of Manitoba's only herd of free ranging wood bison, and are at the heart of the only area in the province where moose, white-tailed deer, elk, woodland caribou and wood bison share the same area. Both wood bison and woodland caribou are listed as threatened species under federal legislation.

The Chitek Lake area has been identified by Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative as having the potential to represent several enduring features (unique combinations of soils, landforms and climate) that are presently not adequately



represented in the provincial network of Protected Areas, in their intact natural condition.

The Chitek Lake Park Reserve was designated in 1999 at the suggestion of, and in co-operation with, Skownan First Nation. The park reserve includes the central portion of this community's traditional area of use. The area also contains several archaeological sites of cultural importance to this community.

After undertaking a public review of the future of the Chitek Lake Park Reserve in association with Skownan First Nation, Manitoba Conservation is extending this park reserve designation for a further five years so that the results of a more in-depth review within this community can be included in the overall consultations on the long-term future of this area.