

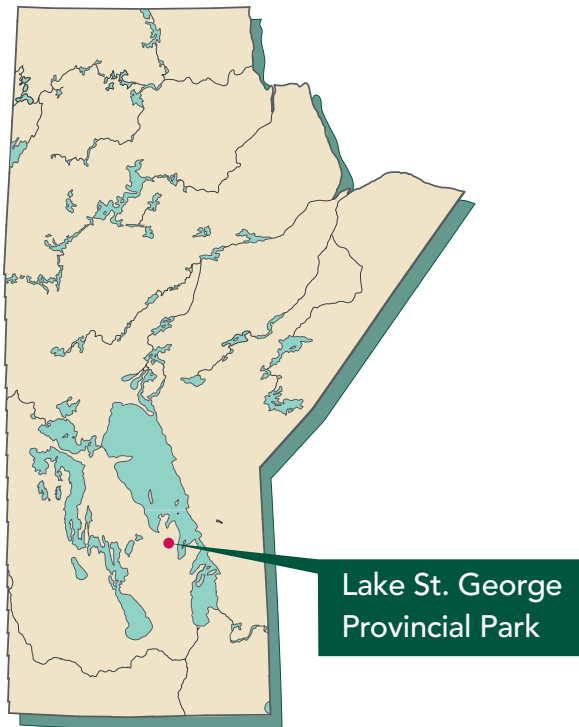
Lake St. George Provincial Park

Management Plan



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1. Introduction

The Provincial Parks Act (1993) requires that a management plan be prepared for each of Manitoba's provincial parks. Management plans establish long-term direction for parks and address issues pertaining to resource protection, land use and development. The management plan for Lake St. George Provincial Park is based on its role in Manitoba's system of parks and the participation of those who use and care about the park. The plan is to be used in conjunction with park regulations, directives, and other departmental and government policies and legislation.

The process of preparing the management plan and co-ordinating the public involvement process was the responsibility of a team involving staff from Parks and Protected Spaces branch, regional staff of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, and a consultant contracted to work on the project.

Preparation of the management plan involved a number of steps. The first step was to review the current operation of the park, its attributes, and history of use. Information collected was then used to prepare a draft plan. Public input on the draft plan was collected primarily through the Manitoba Parks website. Once the public consultation process was completed in August of 2013, the plan was finalized based on planning objectives and any new information received through the consultation process.

This management plan will guide the work of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship for a minimum of 10 to 15 years. In this context the plan will be utilized and examined on an ongoing basis. Where an update or new direction on any matters described in this management plan may be needed, a process for publicly reviewing and updating the plan will be undertaken.

The treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples to pursue traditional uses and activities within Lake St. George Provincial Park are acknowledged and respected within the context of this management plan.

2. Park History

Appreciated for its good fishing and rustic setting, Lake St. George has long been a popular fishing lake. Commercially fished into the mid-1980s, it is currently a site for sport fishing. The park was the site of a fire tower and forestry office, and conservation officer housing. Over time it evolved into a camping area. Along with nearby Lake St. Andrew, it became a provincial park in 1974.

3. Park Attributes

Lake St. George Provincial Park is 21.48 hectares in size and is situated on the east shore of Lake St. George. It is located 235 kilometres north of Winnipeg and is accessed from Provincial Road 224.

3.1 Natural

Lake St. George is in the Mid-Boreal Lowland portion of the Manitoba Lowlands Natural Region. It is one of many shallow, north-south oriented lakes formed by glacial movement.

About half of the park is an open, grassed campground while the northern half of the park is in a natural state. Native vegetation in the park includes mixed stands of aspen, poplar, birch, black spruce, white spruce, jack pine, red-osier dogwood and willow. The area includes stands of old growth forest containing large spruce and poplar trees that survived a significant forest fire in the region in 1989. Fish in the lake include northern pike, perch, and walleye. Bald eagles and common loons are frequently seen in the area.

3.2 Recreational

The campground has 28 basic campsites and non-modern washrooms. The park also has picnic tables, a fish cleaning area, a boat launch and dock. It is a popular site for sport fishing and fishing derbies. It is also a good spot for bird watching, especially for eagles and loons.

3.3 Additional Features

A commercially operated hunting and fishing lodge is located within the park. There is a cottage subdivision adjacent to the park.

4. Park Management Framework

4.1 Park Classification

Manitoba's provincial park system is made up of almost 100 different parks and park reserves. The role of an individual park within this system is identified by its classification. Classification descriptions can be found in Appendix A.

Lake St. George Provincial Park is classified as a Recreation Park. The main purpose of a Recreation Park is to provide recreational opportunities in accordance with *The Provincial Parks Act* (1993).

4.2 Park Purpose

Manitoba's provincial park system was established to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity; to preserve unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources; and to provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities in a natural setting. Within this larger framework, individual parks contribute towards the overall objective of the provincial park system.

A System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks (1997) states that the purpose of Lake St. George Provincial Park is to provide outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting in Manitoba's Interlake. The park will:

- offer camping, fishing, picnicking, wildlife viewing and day-use opportunities
- provide water access to Lake St. George

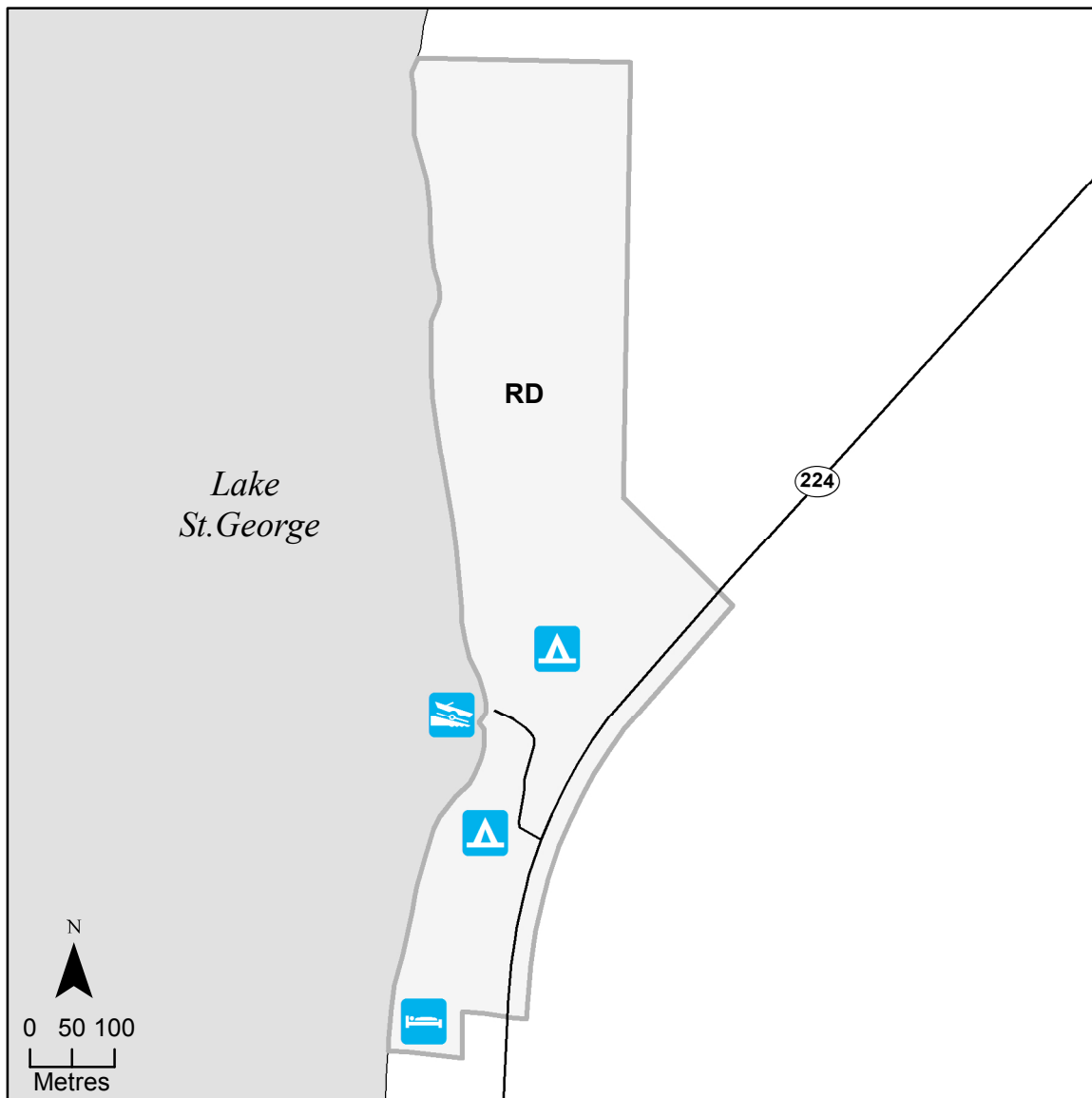
4.3 Land Use Categories

Land Use Categories (LUCs) identify the important attributes of broad areas within a provincial park. Land may be categorized in Wilderness, Backcountry, Resource Management, Recreational Development, Heritage or Access LUCs. LUC descriptions can be found in Appendix A.

Lake St. George Provincial Park has a Recreational Development (RD) LUC. The main purpose of this category is to accommodate recreational development.

- Facilities include a boat launch, picnic areas, camping areas, snowmobile trails and a privately run lodge
- The park is a popular regional day-use destination

Lake St. George Provincial Park Map



Map shown for illustration purposes only

5. Park Management Guidelines

5.1 Natural Values

Lake St. George Provincial Park is a developed site within a largely natural area that provides valuable habitat for wildlife. The old growth forest in the park and surrounding area is of particular value.

Guideline

1. The natural setting throughout the park will be maintained with special emphasis on maintaining the forest cover in the northern portion of the park. Minimal disturbance to the northern area of the park may be considered acceptable for campground expansion purposes.

5.2 Recreation

Lake St. George Provincial Park offers a basic level of recreational development and visitors can expect a high level of interaction with other park users at times.

Guidelines

1. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will maintain the current level of development in the park, offering a campground with basic campsites and facilities for day-use.
2. The northern section of the park will be retained for possible campground expansion.

5.3 Commercial Operations

Commercial operations in a park have the ability to enhance or detract from the park experience and must be managed to best suit the park environment and user needs.

Guideline

1. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will manage the lease for continued operation of the lodge to provide fixed roof accommodation only.

Appendix A – Park Classification and Land Use Categories

Park Classifications

In accordance with section 7(2) of *The Provincial Parks Act* (1993), all provincial parks are classified as one of the following types:

- (a) a wilderness park, if the main purpose of the designation is to preserve representative areas of a natural region;
- (b) a natural park, if the main purpose of the designation is both to preserve areas of a natural region and to accommodate a diversity of recreational opportunities and resource uses;
- (c) a recreation park, if the main purpose of the designation is to provide recreational opportunities;
- (d) a heritage park, if the main purpose of the designation is to preserve an area of land containing a resource or resources of cultural or heritage value;
- (e) any other type of provincial park that may be specified in the regulation.

Land Use Categories

In accordance with section 7(3) of *The Provincial Parks Act* (1993), all provincial parks are categorized into one or more of the following land use categories:

- (a) a wilderness category, if the main purpose of the categorization is to protect representative or unique natural landscapes in an undisturbed state and provide recreational opportunities that depend on a pristine environment;
- (b) a backcountry category, if the main purpose of the categorization is to protect examples of natural landscapes and provide basic facilities and trails for nature-oriented recreation in a largely undisturbed environment;
- (c) a resource management category, if the main purpose of the categorization is to permit commercial resource development or extraction in a manner that does not compromise the main purpose of the park classification;
- (d) a recreational development category, if the main purpose of the categorization is to accommodate recreational development;
- (e) a heritage category, if the main purpose of the categorization is to protect a unique or representative site containing a resource or resources of cultural or heritage value;
- (f) an access category, if the main purpose of the categorization is to provide a point or route of access in a provincial park or a location for a lodge and associated facilities;
- (g) any other category that may be specified in the regulation.

Bibliography

Manitoba Natural Resources. "A System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks." 1997.

The Provincial Parks Act. C.C.S.M., c. P20. 1993.