

This is your passport to trail adventure. **MRTA** will keep you apprised of special trail events throughout Manitoba, trail building work parties, other volunteer activities & your voting privileges. **Get involved! Be a member!**

Yes! I want to support trails in Manitoba. Sign me up as a member.

_____ name

_____ address

_____ postal code _____ telephone / email address

____ yr X \$15. MRTA Membership = \$ _____

Donation (Receipts issued for donations of \$20 or more) \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Send this form along with a cheque payable to MRTA to:

Manitoba Recreational Trails Assoc., Inc.
MEMBERSHIP
1007 Century Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W4

Yes I would like to help as a volunteer!

- trail building and maintenance
- with office duties
- public education / promotion

Recreational trails are linear parks - strips of land joining communities, history and nature for all to enjoy. Trail users include cyclists, walkers, hikers, joggers, and cross country skiers as well as snowmobilers and horse back riders. Trails improve the quality of life in a community, are a vital component of tourism and can provide habitat for wildlife.

The **Manitoba Recreational Trails Association** (a charitable association managed by a Volunteer Board of Directors) plays a vital role in promoting and coordinating the building of shared use recreational trails throughout our province.



For Up-To-Date Trail Information

Although the Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba is not scheduled for completion for five years, parts of the route will be ready for use in 2001. For the latest information and directions to newly completed portions of the Trail -

- **Contact -**
Manitoba Recreational Trails Assoc., Inc.
1007 Century Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W4
telephone - (204) 786-2688
faxline - (204) 945-1365
email - mрта@mts.net
- **Sign Up with MRTA -**
Your membership is important and entitles you to our quarterly newsletter with the latest information and directions to the Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba.
- **Participate -**
To promote the Trans Canada Trail in our province, **MRTA** is organizing many trail events that run the gamut from day hikes and cycle tours to X-country ski trips, weekend walking festivals and horseriding events.
- **Check Out -**
Our website for trail information, special events, colour photos and maps -
www.mрта.mb.ca

Manitoba
Recreational
Trails
Association

Building
the
Trans
Canada
Trail



in
Manitoba

Manitoba's Proposed Trans Canada Trail

The route of Manitoba's Trans Canada Trail was chosen to offer trekkers a wide range of topography. From the rugged Canadian Shield, the steep ravines of the escarpments, to gently rolling farmland of the Manitoba Uplands, Manitoba's natural wonders, ethnic communities, parks, heritage sites, and aboriginal communities are all well represented along on the route.

West Hawk Lake is the first community link on the Trail west of the Ontario border. The lake was formed by a meteorite, and at 111 metres, is the deepest lake in the province. After skirting the West Hawk shoreline, the Trail winds its way through the cottage country and wilderness outback areas of Whiteshell Provincial Park to Seven Sisters Falls on the mighty Winnipeg River.

A short way up the trail from there is the Town of Pinawa, arguably located in one of the most picturesque riverside settings in Canada. Next along the trail is Pinawa Dam Provincial Heritage Park, where the remains of western Canada's first hydroelectric dam rises out of the Pinawa Channel. The Trail descends off the Precambrian Shield at Pine Falls, crossing swamps and forests heading for Grand Beach Provincial Park on the southeastern shores of Lake Winnipeg. With its expansive powdery-white sand beaches and grass topped dunes, Grand Beach is recognized as one of the ten best beaches in North America.

Farther south, along the Red River, Selkirk is home to the prairie province's only Marine Museum, as well being in close proximity to a National Historic Site, Lower Fort Garry which was the Canadian administrative centre for the vast former holdings of

the Hudson's Bay Company. The junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers is home to Winnipeg, Manitoba's capital and the focal point of much of Manitoba's history and commerce. Trading and bartering at "The Forks" site was a common occurrence predating by a thousand years, the first fur-trade post built at this location by Seur de la Verendrye in 1759. With plans for nearly 80 km. of the Trail running through it, Winnipeg will have one of the longest city trail routes in Canada.

Travelling south through the flats of the Red River Valley, through a series of communities with a strong Francophone history, the Trans Canada Trail here closely follows the route of the historic Crow Wing Trail. This trail, one of the first north-south transportation routes, was used by Metis and their famous Red River ox-carts for transporting furs and supplies between Winnipeg and St. Paul, Minnesota. Near Emerson, at the Canada/US border, the Trail passes through the site of Fort

Dufferin, the staging and embarkation site for the North West Mounted Police's famous trek west in 1874.

The Trail picks up an abandoned rail line between Gretna and Altona, then continues west through an area of flat open prairie where European-style Mennonite farm-villages still feature examples of the traditional Dutch-style connected housebarn structures.

Near Morden the Trail enters a large region where architecture reminiscent of southern Ontario at the turn of the 19th century is still commonly found. Here the Trail turns northwest following the abrupt ridge and wooded rolling hills of the Manitoba Escarpment, the geological remains of the western shoreline of glacial Lake Agassiz, which covered most of Manitoba and Saskatchewan some 10,000 years ago. The Spirit Sands in Spruce Woods Provincial Park, another attraction

along the Trail, are the remnants of a huge river delta created when the Assiniboine Glacial Spillway entered Lake Agassiz in this area. Here, accessed by a short side-trip one can see bald sandhills, thirty meters high, slowly engulfing tall stands of spruce and pine, as well as unusual karst-like landform features such as the Devil's Punchbowl.

North of Carberry, the Trail passes through the beautiful town of Neepawa where again the route takes to an abandoned rail line, the Rossburn Subdivision. The trail passes through the rolling hills and scenic "pothole" countryside of the Manitoba Parklands, much of it settled by groups from eastern Europe, Scandinavia and the British Isles. The silver domed Ukrainian Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches dominate the skyline in this region adding another vestige of early European settlement. Just a short distance north of the Rossburn Subdivision Trail is Riding Mountain National Park, an untouched Boreal wilderness in the middle of the open rolling prairies.

At Russell, the Trail turns north for the last major leg of the westward journey. This section has many attractions including the Inglis Grain Elevators National Historic Site - one of the last rows of vintage wooden grain elevators on the prairies.

Assessippi Provincial Park located at the south end of a large man-made lake is also along the route, and features wildlife viewing, trails, and skiing. The Trail continues north through Roblin, the last major community along the Trail, then reaches up to touch a corner of Duck Mountain Provincial Park before exiting the province just east of Madge Lake, Saskatchewan.

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