

### 3.3. LAND USE

The current land uses are described in this section. Note that many different land uses can occur on the same land. For example, provincial forest is simultaneously used for recreational trails, hunting, trapping, outfitting, and timber harvesting.

#### 3.3.1. Traditional Land Use

There are currently five First Nations reserve areas in Forest Management Licence #3. They are Pine Creek, Ebb and Flow, O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi, Wuskwi Sipihk and Tootinaowaziibeeng (Valley River). First Nations Reserves, Treaty Land Entitlements, and Treaty Land Acquisitions are shown in

Figure 3.77. There are also numerous Metis residents in the licence area. The Metis claim traditional use in the entire licence area.

Traditional land use of these Indigenous communities, Treaty 2, and the Metis, are trapping, hunting and fishing, and gathering food, medicines, clothing, tools, and furs. There are also medicinal and spiritual plants used by First Nations that are found throughout the region. No specific information has been provided by these Indigenous communities to date, therefore there are no specific details available.

Indigenous communities within FML #3 and outside FML #3, Treaty 2, and the Metis each consider the entire area as their traditional land use.

Sacred, ceremonial, and burial sites exist in the area, but the location of these very sensitive sites have not been disclosed by Indigenous or Metis communities to the licence holder. However, the licence holder has a place on the Geographic Information System (GIS). This is a confidential GIS layer file where any disclosed sacred, ceremonial, or burial sites would be kept. This GIS layer file has some existing heritage sites, where sensitive information has been passed on to the planning forester. In addition, the Manitoba government has provided the licence holder with some archeological and cultural data on the GIS. Almost all of this information is generalized, non-spatial, and is expected cultural use versus mapped actual finds.

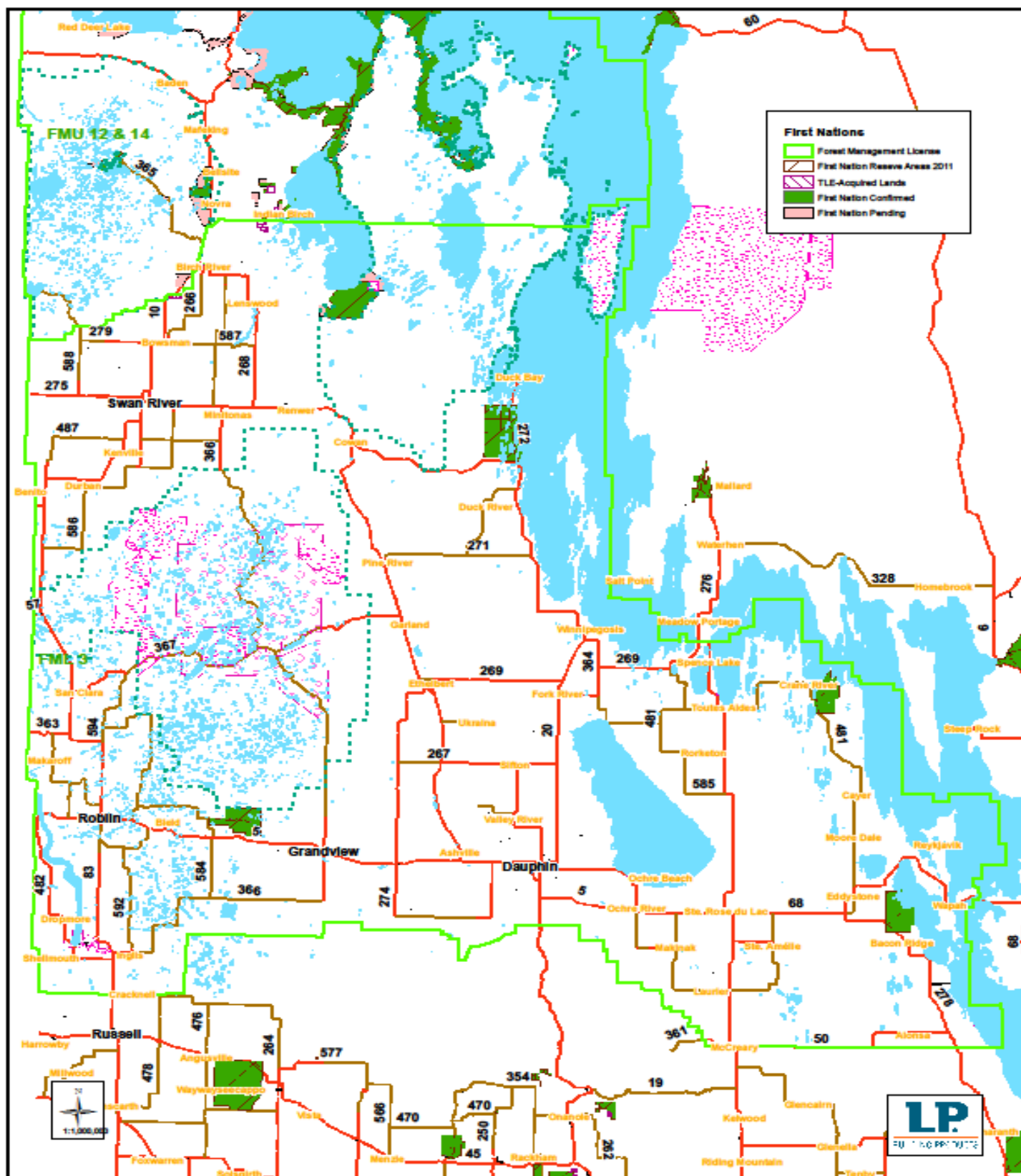


Figure 3.79 First Nations Lands.

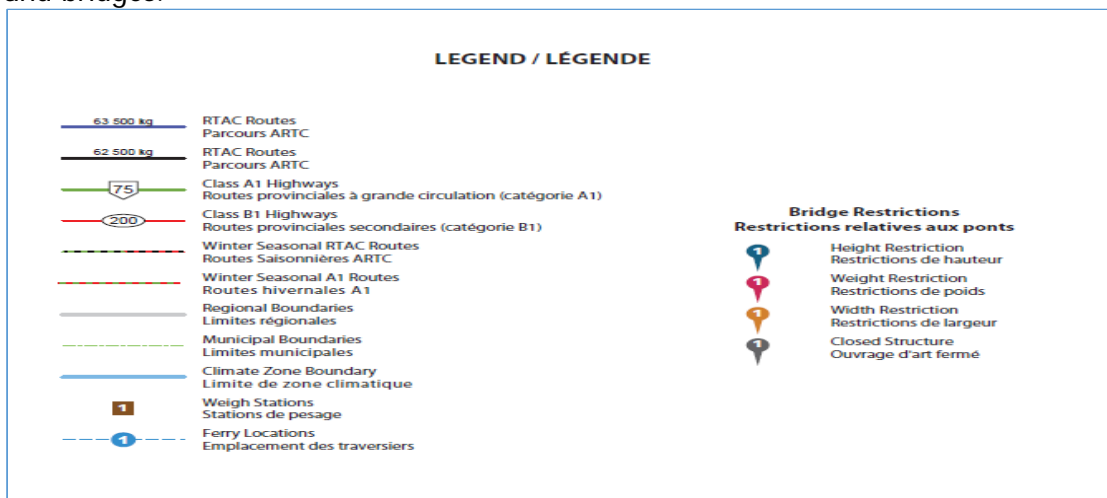
### 3.3.2. Transportation

Most of the licence area is serviced by provincial or municipal road networks. These roads provide access to the Duck Mountain and harvest areas in FMU 10 and 11.

The provincial highways have weight restrictions based on truck configuration, road class, bridge class, and season of use. There are three classes of roads, RTAC, A1, and B1. Each class has specified weight limits. The following website covers all this information.

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/mcd/mcpd/twlm.html>

This legend from the provincial website (Figure 3.78) shows the different classes of highways and bridges.



**Figure 3.80 Classes of roads and bridges.**

There are two regional airstrips in the licence area located at Dauphin and Swan River. There are also four smaller airports located at Roblin, Gilbert Plains, Ste. Rose and McCreary.

Swan Valley and Dauphin are serviced by rail in the area. Canadian National operates the line that goes to the LP mill at Minitonas and the Pioneer grain elevator north of Swan River.

### 3.3.3. Crown and Private Lands

Forest Management Licence # 3 is a combination of crown and private land. FML #3 is 2,585,822 hectares that is divided into three Forest Management Units (FMU's), FMU 10, 11 and 13. FMUs 10 and 11 have a combination of Crown and private lands, with FMU 10 being primarily private land (Table 3.39). FMU 13 contains both the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest and Duck Mountain Provincial Park, and is all Crown land.

**Table 3.40 Crown, Private, and First Nations Land in FMUs 10 and 11.**

Forest Management Unit	Area Water (ha)	Private Land Area (ha)	Crown Land Area (ha)	First Nations Land Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
FMU 10	145,569	937,641	*300,154	12,960	1,396,170
FMU 11	155,952	246,928	393,277	16,860	813,017

*\* area estimate due to the area north of Crane River not being included in the Crown land layer file. There is approximately 32,600 hectares not designated.*

The Crown lands in FMUs 10 and 11 have many different categories. Table 3.40 summarizes of the major categories in FMU's 10 and 11.

**Table 3.41 Crown Land Major Categories.**

Forest Management Unit	Provincial Forest Area (ha)	Provincial Parks Area (ha)	*Protected Areas Area (ha)	Community Pastures Area (ha)	*Wildlife Management Areas Area (ha)	Ag Crown Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
FMU10	0	2,450	4,735	40,017	18,046	125,094	300,154
FMU11	**167,992	58,101	512	8,887	0	157,785	393,277

*\*Both Alonsa and Cayer areas are complex, since they are Wildlife Management Areas first, but contain a protected area within each WMA*

*\*\*The FMU 11 Provincial Forest number includes 18,792 ha of Crown land designated as Ag Crown Land. Also Birch Island is designated as Provincial Forest, Park and Protected Area (15,916 ha) was therefore removed from the Provincial Forest and left in Provincial Parks.*

*\*\*\*Kettle Stones area is classified by the Province as both park and protected area*

In Agro-Manitoba, Crown lands have been assigned operational land use codes intended to guide the type(s) of land use and development allowed on a given parcel of Crown land. For further information on Crown land codes contact the local Provincial Lands Branch office.

The area of FMU 13 totals 376,635 ha. 142,096 hectares of FMU 13 is the Duck Mountain Provincial Park (approximately 38%). The Duck Mountain Park is broken into three classes, Backcountry (46,836 ha), Recreational Development (8,803 ha) and Resource Management (86,422 ha). Each of these categories has specific management objectives.

### 3.3.4. Integrated Watershed Management Plans

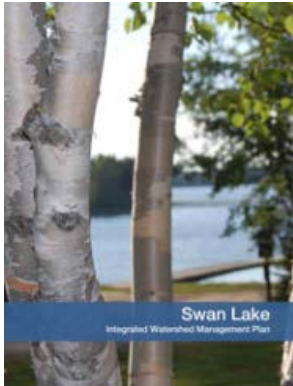
There are five Conservation Districts (CDs) in Forest Management Licence #3 (FML #3): Swan Lake, Intermountain, Alonsa, Turtle River, and Lake of the Prairies. These CDs are a partnership between the Province and local municipalities. The CDs protect, restore, and manage land and water resources on a watershed basis. Currently there are 18 CDs in Manitoba.

Conservation districts can also be designated water planning authorities for integrated watershed management planning in Manitoba (Figure 3.79). There are currently 23 Integrated Management Plans in various stages of completion across the Province. FML #3 has five integrated management plans wholly or partially in its boundaries.



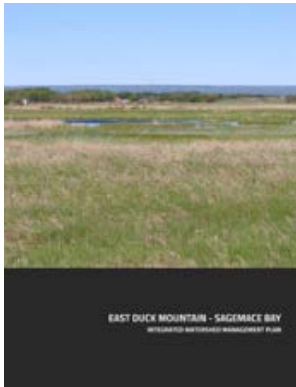
**Figure 3.81 Map of Integrated Watershed Management Plans in Manitoba (Province of Manitoba).**

Integrated Watershed Management Plan uses an inclusive planning process to identify watershed issues and share knowledge. It is presented as a plan of action that combines the needs of people and diverse industries, while being supportive of ecosystems within the watershed. An integrated plan considers all land activities within the watershed that impact water quality and quantity. The following websites are the locations of the five watershed management plans in Forest Management Licence #3.



The Swan River Integrated Watershed Management Plan encompasses the area of land that contributes water to the Swan Lake and includes the Swan and Woody Rivers. The Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District is leading plan development in partnership with the Provincial government and a team of supporting agencies, interest groups, and watershed residents.

[http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/waterstewardship/iwmp/swan\\_lake/swan\\_river.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/waterstewardship/iwmp/swan_lake/swan_river.html)



The East Duck River integrated watershed management plan encompasses the area of land that contributes water to Lake Manitoba, and includes the North, Pine, Garland, Fishing and Mossy Rivers. The Intermountain Conservation District is leading plan development in partnership with, the Provincial government and a team of supporting agencies, interest groups and watershed residents.

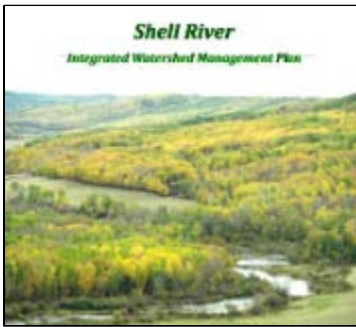
[http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/waterstewardship/iwmp/east\\_duck/east\\_duck.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/waterstewardship/iwmp/east_duck/east_duck.html)



The Dauphin Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan encompasses the area of land that contributes water to the Dauphin Lake and includes the Drifting, Wilson, Vermillion, and Turtle Rivers. The Intermountain Conservation District and Turtle River Watershed Conservation District are leading plan development in partnership with, the provincial government and a team of supporting agencies, interest groups, and watershed residents.

<http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/waterstewardship/iwmp/dauphin/dauphin.html>





The Shell River Integrated Watershed Management Plan encompasses the area of land that contributes water to the Shell River, and includes Lake of the Prairies, Shell River, and Boggy Creek. The Lake of the Prairies Conservation District is leading plan implementation in partnership with the Provincial government and a team of supporting agencies, interest groups and watershed residents.

[http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/waterstewardship/iwmp/shell\\_river/shell\\_river.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/waterstewardship/iwmp/shell_river/shell_river.html)



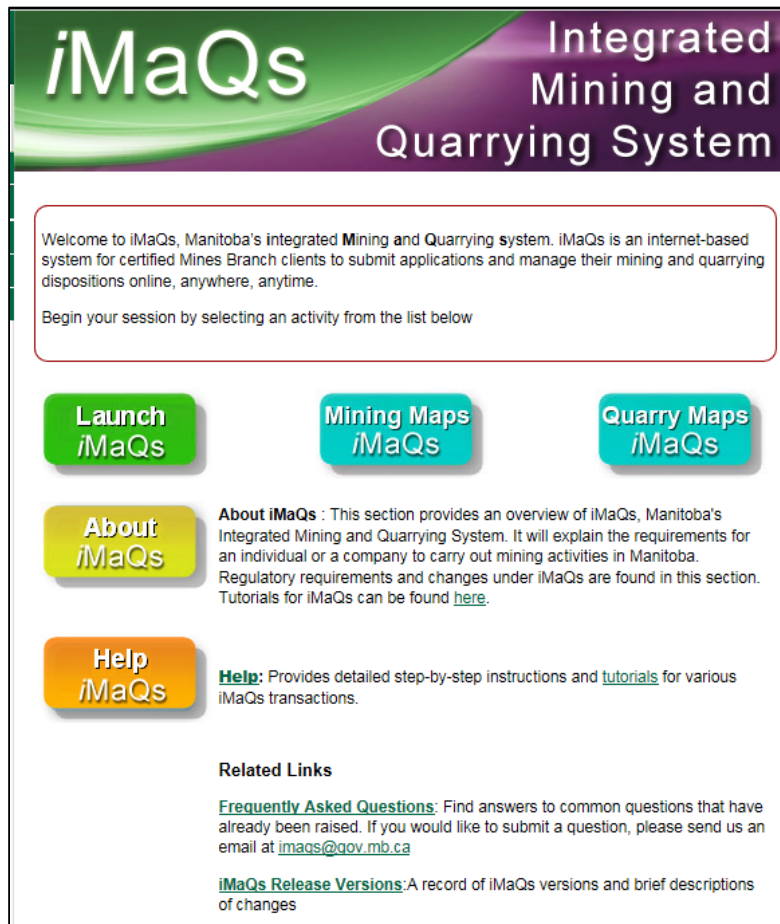
The Westlake Integrated Watershed Management Plan encompasses the area of land that contributes water to west side of Lake Manitoba and includes the Garrioch Creek and the Portia marsh. The Alonsa Conservation District developed the plan in partnership with the provincial government and a team of supporting watershed stakeholders.

[http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/waterstewardship/iwmp/west\\_lake/west\\_lake.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/waterstewardship/iwmp/west_lake/west_lake.html)

### 3.3.5. Mining claims and leases

Forest Management Licence #3 has mining claims, quarry leases, surface leases, exploration permits, and quarry withdrawals. Most of the mining activity consists of quarry withdrawals for gravel extraction. Two websites show the extent of the mining activity.

<https://web33.gov.mb.ca/imaqs/>



<https://web33.gov.mb.ca/mapgallery/mgm-md.html>

### 3.3.6. Commercial trapping

The Duck Mountain Registered Trap Line Section has 31 Registered Trap Lines (RTL's). Four of these trap lines are registered to Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation along the south end of the Section. There are also three large Registered Trapping Blocks, Crane River, Camperduck, and Red Deer Shoal River, located along the east and northeast sides of the licence area. The remainder of the area in Forest Management Units (FMU's) 10 and 11 is classed as open trapping areas.

The trappers in the Duck Mountain are represented by the Duck Mountain Trappers Association. This association meets once a year and LP attends these meetings to provide updates and answer questions. LP provides maps and harvest information to any trappers who request



maps. The trappers are also represented by the Manitoba Trappers Association. The following is a website on trapping in Manitoba:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/wildlife/trapping/index.html>

### **3.3.7. Commercial guiding**

Licensed bear and deer outfitters conduct the commercial guiding in the region. A guide licence is required for hunting purposes. The following website specifies the requirements for a licence:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/wildlife/guidelic/index.html>

Bear outfitters/guides have specific areas they are allowed to bait and hunt bears during the spring and fall bear seasons. Each outfitter has a specific number of bear tags. The deer outfitters/guides have a specific number of tags but no specific area. The following is a website for the Manitoba Lodge and Outfitters Association:

<https://mloa.com/>

### **3.3.8. Commercial fishing**

Commercial fishing occurs on Swan Lake, Lake Winnipegosis, and Lake Manitoba. Fishing is an important source of income for the communities and fishermen. For more information on commercial fishing check the Wildlife and Fisheries Branch website:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/waterstewardship/fisheries/commercial/commercial.html>

### **3.3.9. Tourism**

This tourism section includes recreational trails, ecotourism, camping, fishing, boating, and hunting in the area. A good overview of tourism in the Swan Valley can be found at:

<http://discoverswanvalley.ca/>

#### ***3.3.9.1 Recreational Trails***

There are many trails in the Duck Mountain that are used by hikers, mountain bikers, snowmobiles, ATVs, trappers, cross-country skiers, horse riders, and wagons. LP works cooperatively with the Provincial government and the recreation organizations to maintain and/or enhance the trails that are encountered during harvest activities.

Duck Mountain Provincial Park has hiking trails, cross country ski trails, and one designated ATV trail. LP was a member of the Trails Working Group that worked with Parks staff to establish the ATV trail to Mossberry Lake.

[https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/pdf/public/duck\\_mountain\\_trails\\_working\\_group\\_final\\_report.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/pdf/public/duck_mountain_trails_working_group_final_report.pdf)

There are also a number of hiking and cross country ski trails at the Duck Mountain Forest Center located off highway 366, approximately 16 km south of the Town of Minitonas.

Thunderhill is a multi-use area and its' trails are used by hikers and mountain bikers in the summer and by cross country skiers in the winter. There is also a downhill ski area on Thunderhill.

Settlers and the logging industry established many of the trails used today. Many of these trails are the only access to the backcountry zones. The following website has information on most trails in the licence area: <https://www.alltrails.com/>

#### ***3.3.9.1.1 The Great Trail (Trans-Canada Trail)***

The Great Trail, formerly known as the Trans-Canada Trail, is a cross-Canada recreational trail system that began in 1992. The trail extends over 24,100 kilometers and the network consists of over 400 community trail sections. Each trail section is developed, owned, and managed locally by organizations and all levels of government.

The Crocus Trail is a 138 kilometer portion of The Great Trail, and begins at the Saskatchewan border near Madge Lake. The trail extends south through the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest through the Towns of Roblin and Inglis, and ends in the Town of Russell. The trail surface consists of grass, gravel, dirt, and pavement.

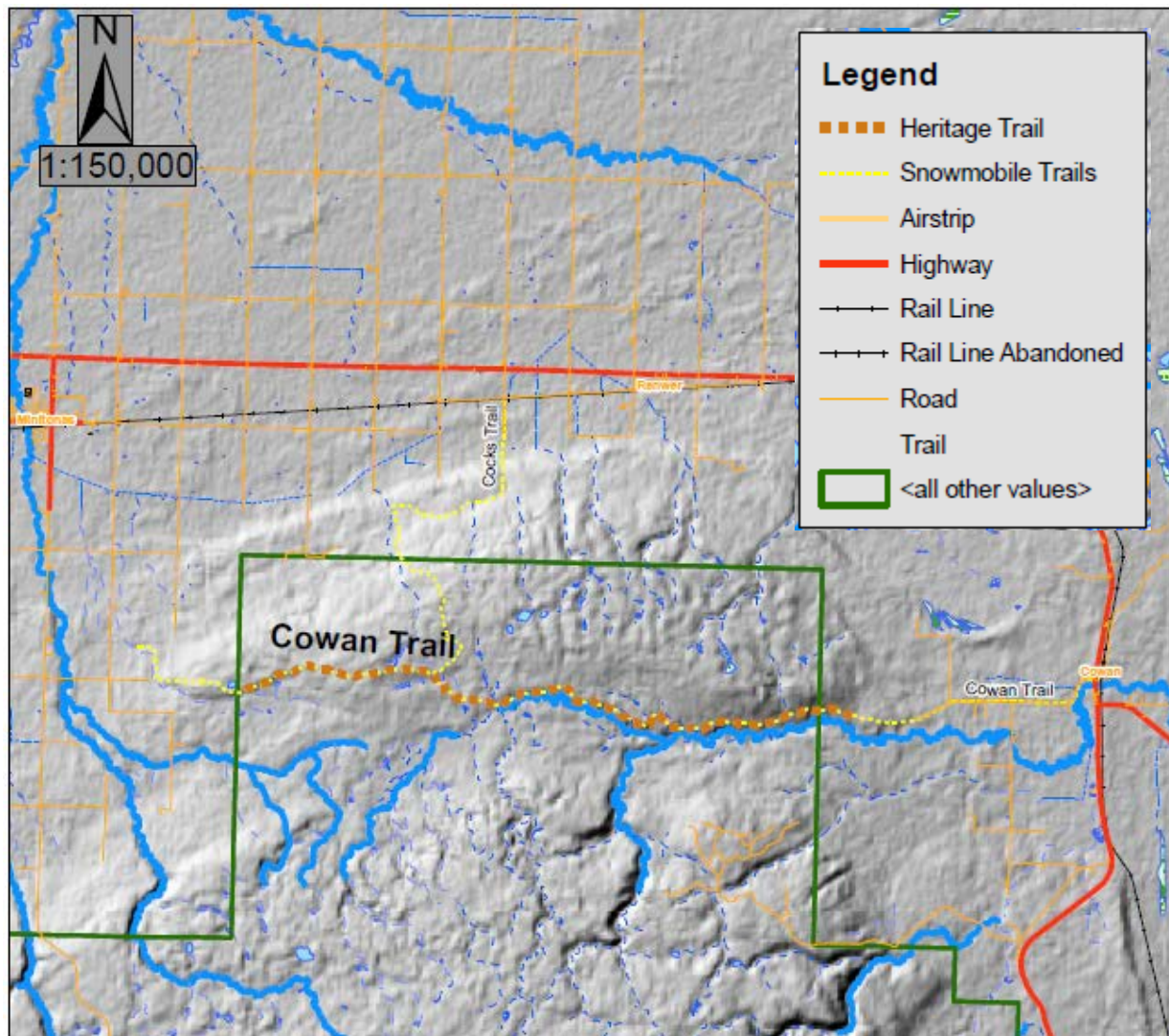
Hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding are popular activities on the trail. Several species of birds, mammals, plants, and other wildlife are commonly encountered. Historical sites accessible from the trail include schools, churches, an arboretum, and two provincial parks (Duck Mountain and Assessippi).

LP assisted with technical support and helped choose the location of the Crocus Trail (The Great Trail) for the portion that is in the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest. LP has also contributed financially to the trail committee to assist with trail development.

[http://www.trailsmanitoba.ca/explore-manitoba-trails\\_trashed/western-uplands-mixed-grass-prairie/crocus-trail/](http://www.trailsmanitoba.ca/explore-manitoba-trails_trashed/western-uplands-mixed-grass-prairie/crocus-trail/)

### 3.3.9.1.2 Historic Cowan Trail

The Cowan trail is a historical trail that starts near the village of Cowan and heads west to the Swan Valley, south of Minitonas (Figure 3.80). The trail is named after James Cowan and was used by the first pioneer settlers that moved into the Swan Valley in 1898. A stone monument was erected and dedicated on August 9, 1998 by the Minitonas and area Sportsmen Club. The monument sits at the start of the trail, where the railroad ended and the first pioneers set out on foot to settle.



**Figure 3.82 Cowan heritage trail.**

The Cowan Trail Celebration is held annually in late summer in Cowan. Festivities include a six hour horse drawn wagon and horse trail ride that begins in the morning after a pancake breakfast. An ATV derby, covering approximately 70 kilometers of trail, begins in the afternoon. The day ends with a BBQ supper and dance.

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/cowantrailmountain.shtml>

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/cowantrail.shtml>

### *3.3.9.1.3 Snowmobile Trails*

An abundance snowmobile trails exist in the Parklands region. There are six clubs registered with Snowman (Snowmobilers of Manitoba Incorporated) in the Parklands Region. These clubs provide signage, grooming, and maintain of snowmobile trail networks in the Parklands Region. The six clubs are the Dauphin Snowmobile Club, Intermountain Snowmobile Club, North Mountain Riders, Ochre River, Roblin Snowmobile Association, and the Swan Valley Snowmobile Association.

These six clubs maintain over 1,500 km of trail that connect to trails in the north (The Pas), Interlake (Ashern), south (Neepawa and Russell) and west to the Saskatchewan trail system. These clubs also erect and maintain warm up shelters along the trails. These shelters have facilities such as wood stoves or fireplaces, pit privies, and tables for snowmobilers to have rest stops as they use the trails.

The Swan Valley Snowmobile Association that looks after three warm up shelters and grooms over 370 kilometers of trails in the Swan Valley area and north Duck Mountain. The Cowan Trail, Wellman Lake Trail, Pretty Valley Trail, and Benito Trail are the main routes. These trails connect to the south with Dauphin, Intermountain, and Roblin snowmobile club routes, and to the west with the Saskatchewan trail system.

The North Mountain Riders Club looks after eight warm up shelters and grooms more than 450 kilometers of trails in the Swan Valley area and Porcupine Mountains. These trails connect north to The Pas, west to Saskatchewan, and south to the Swan Valley Snowmobile Association networks.

The following websites are from some of the Snowman clubs in the licence area:

<https://www.northmountainriders.com/>

<http://svsaa.ca/>

<https://snoman.mb.ca/>

<https://www.northmountainriders.com/sled-town---swsan-river>

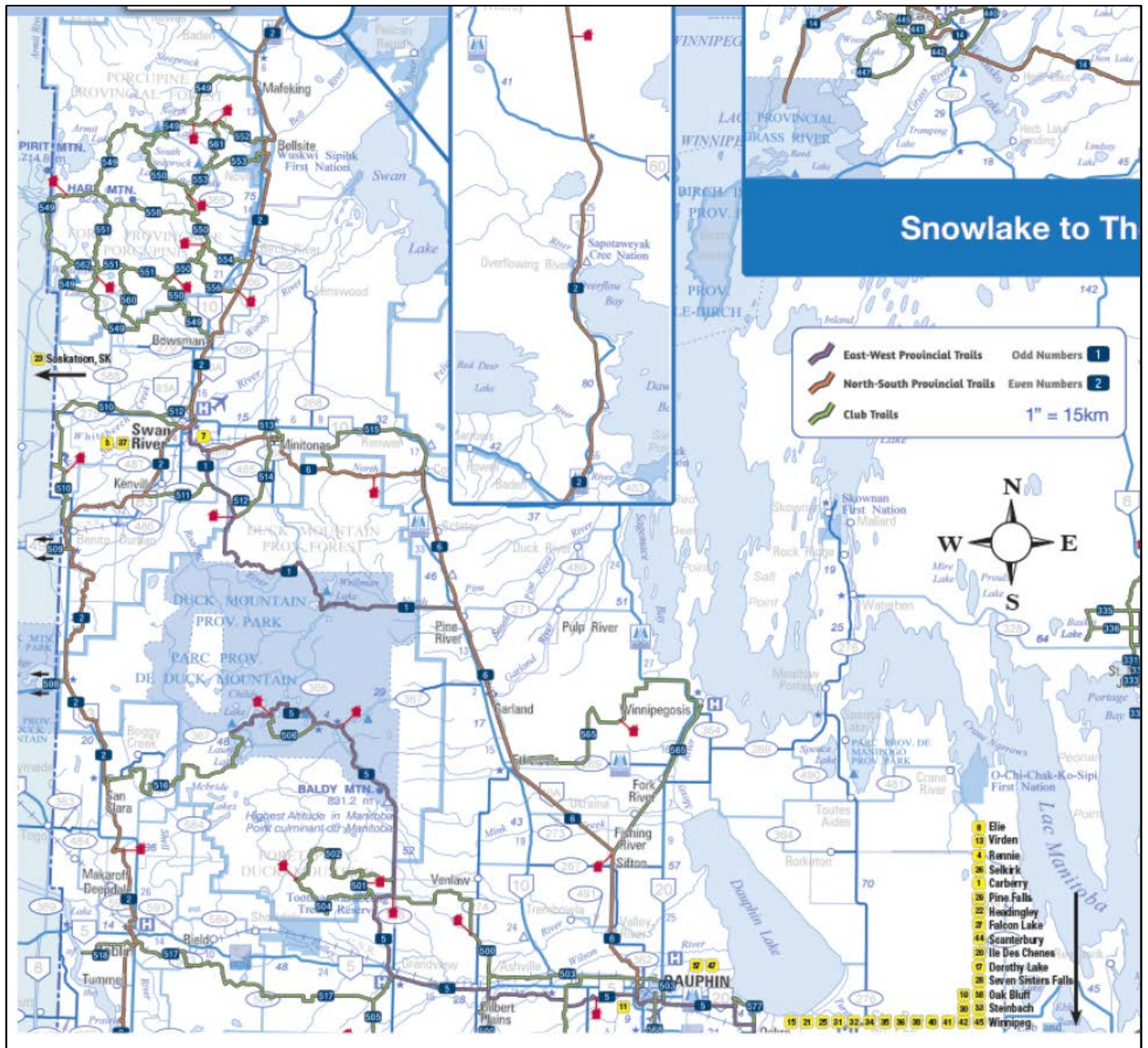
<http://tinyurl.com/y6v8clwp>

<http://www.dauphinsnowmobileclub.com/>

Note that not all snowmobile clubs have websites.



The following two-page map (Figure 3.81) is from the Snowman website (maps Snowman-north and Snowman-west), that shows the trail systems in the licence area.



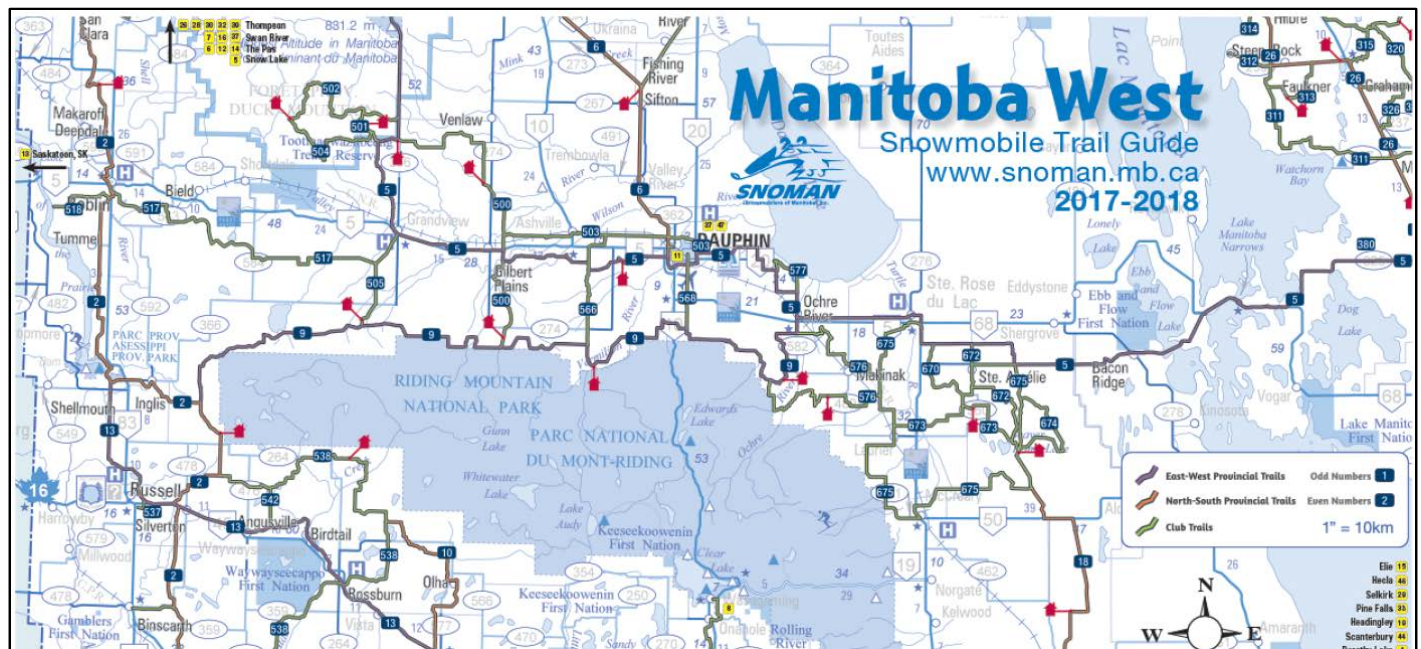
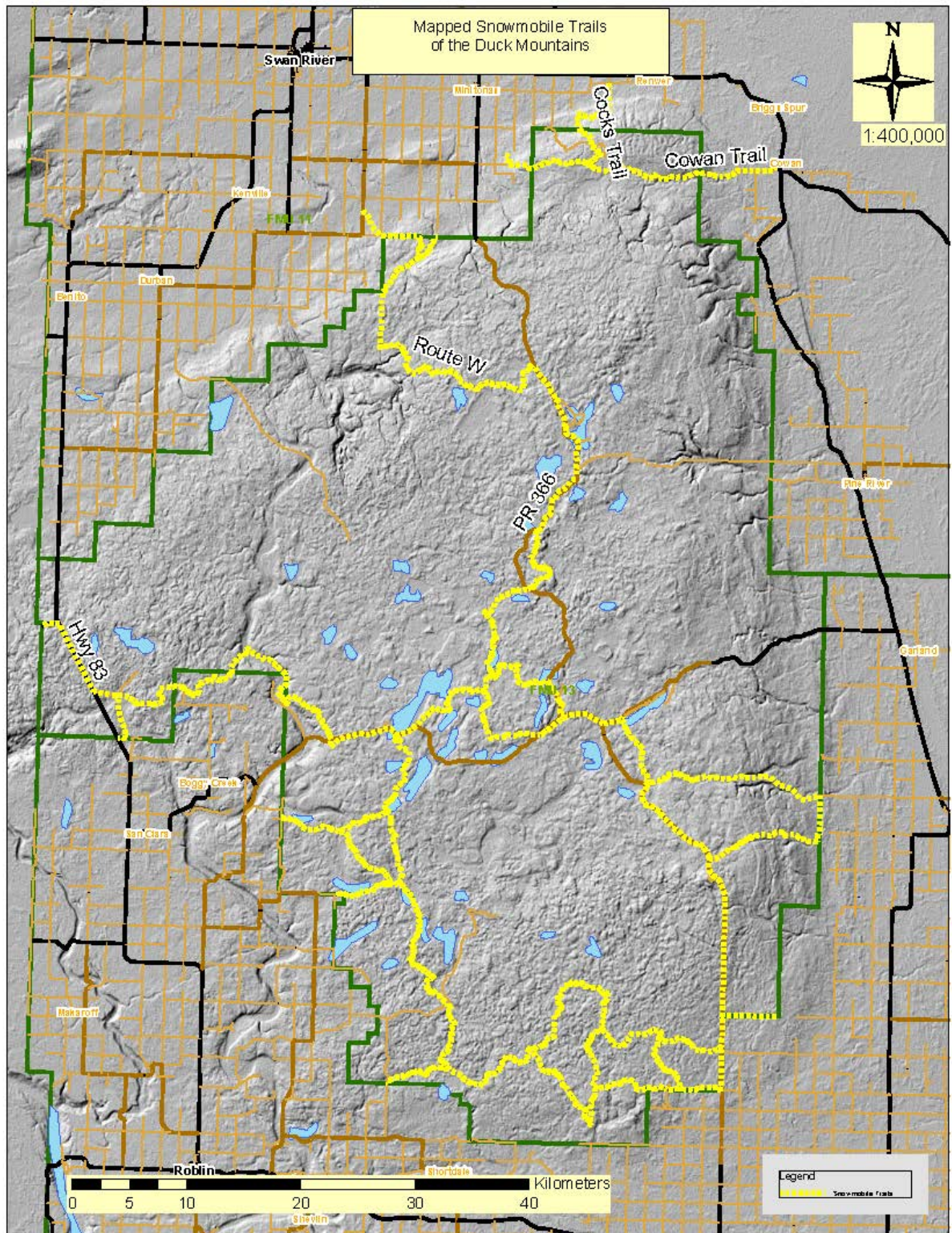


Figure 3.83 Snowmobile maps of the licence area (source: Snowman website).

<https://snoman.evtrails.com/#>



LP works cooperatively with the snowmobile clubs to maintain trails when harvesting is scheduled along existing trails. LP maintains a GIS layer of the snowmobile trails in the Duck Mountain (Figure 3.82) and Porcupine Mountain to assist with planning around the trails. Snowmobile trails are considered when planning future harvest areas.



**Figure 3.84 Mapped snowmobile trails in the Duck Mountain.**

#### *3.3.9.1.4 Horse Trails*

Many of the trails in the Duck and Porcupine Mountains can be used by horses and wagons. There are no designated horse trails in the mountains. However there is a riding club in Birch River that uses the trails in the mountains. The Birch River Riding Club hosts an annual horse trail ride on the second weekend of August. The event runs for two days and follows trails in the Duck Mountain north of Boggy Creek. The horse ride starts on designated route Q, is located south of the Madge Lake turn off on Highway #83.

The Cowan Trail Celebration is another horse and wagon trail ride, and follows the Cowan Trail west of Cowan. The Duck Mountain Park allows horse use on most trails, including the trails in the Backcountry zone.

Wagons West out of Roblin, MB offers trail rides, riding camps for kids and families, and training for 2 one-week periods each year.

#### *3.3.9.1.5 Hiking Trails*

Duck Mountain Provincial Park has numerous trails providing visitors with plenty of opportunities that range from pleasant one-hour walks to rugged overnight camping trips. The trails go through the mountain's boreal forest, lakes, and wetlands. The following are descriptions of some of these trails.

##### **Shining Stone Self-guiding Trail**

Explore a peninsula that juts into West Blue Lake. Brochure is available at the trailhead. Return distance 1.1 km; allow 45 min.

##### **Blue Lakes Hiking Trail**

Terrain varies from level ground to rolling hills, with some steep slopes. Trail surface varies from packed topsoil, to clay and peat moss that may be wet at times. Return distance 5.5 km; allow 2 h 30 min.

##### **Childs Lake Hiking/Ski Trails**

This network of loop trails is on the west shore of Child's Lake. Distances and facilities are shown on the trailhead map and on a site map available from district offices.

##### **Copernicus Hill Hiking Trail**

Path winds to the top of the hill where you'll find a monument to the Polish-born Nicolaus Copernicus (1473- 1543); a plaque describes his work that changed the course of human history. A viewing tower provides a spectacular northward view. From here, hikers can access the Glad Lake trail. Return distance, from the Prieston Lake trailhead, is 1.2 km; allow 1 hour.

### **Glad Lake Hiking/Ski Trail**

Terrain varies from level to rolling, with a few steep slopes. Trail surface varies from packed topsoil to clay and peat moss. Short stretches may be wet in summer. Hikers can connect with the Copernicus Hill trail. Return distance 3.8 km; allow 1 h 30 min. Available for skiing in winter.

### **Shell River Valley Trail**

Situated a few minutes' drive west of Childs Lake campground, the trail leads hikers through forest cover, a meadow, past the Shell River and through a calcium bog. Following a fairly steep incline to the viewpoint is effort well spent, and hikers are rewarded with a spectacular view of the Shell River valley. During the day you may see elk beds in the meadow or hear coyotes near sunset. Return distance 4.5 km; allow 1 h 30 min.

### **Spray Lake Trail**

Terrain varies from level ground to rolling hills, with some steep slopes. Surface varies from packed topsoil, to clay and peat moss. Short loop: return distance 1.9 km; allow 1 h 15 min. Long loop: 3.5 km; allow 2 h.

### **Baldy Mountain Trail**

Trailhead is situated on top of Baldy Mountain along with a picnic site. A short distance along the trail, hikers will find an old cabin and stable that were built in the early forestry days of Duck Mountain. They are located on the old Central Trail that was used for travel from Grandview before PR 366 was constructed. Return distance 0.6 km; allow 30 min. The looped hiking trail leads to a viewpoint above a wetland where you will find waterfowl and beaver activity. Return distance 3 km; allow 2 h. Viewing tower (Figure 3.83) provides a southward view of the Grandview Valley and slope of Riding Mountain beyond it; interpretive signs portray the use of Duck Mountain's resources through the ages.



**Figure 3.85 Baldy Mountain viewing tower (Parks Branch).**



## Mossberry Lake Trails

This multiple-use network of trails between Blue Lake and Childs Lake is available for hiking, cycling, horseback riding, ATV, or horse and wagon. The Mossberry Trail is an approved designated trail that includes snow mobile as an approved travel method. It is the only ATV trail in Park. Further information on distances and regulations is available on a free map that is available from district and campground offices.

[https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/popular\\_parks/western/duck\\_info.html#things](https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/popular_parks/western/duck_info.html#things)

### 3.3.9.1.6 *Pike's Peak Trail*

The Pike's Peak trail is not in the licence area but is a popular trail in the Porcupine Mountains west of Bowsman (Figure 3.84). The trail is 6.1 km long and is rated as moderate difficulty. The Pike's Peak trail is an unmaintained trail that provides multiple views of the Bowsman River Canyon. The outlook faces the southwest from what is called Pike's Peak and provides excellent views of the sunset.



**Figure 3.86** Map of Pike's Peak Trail.

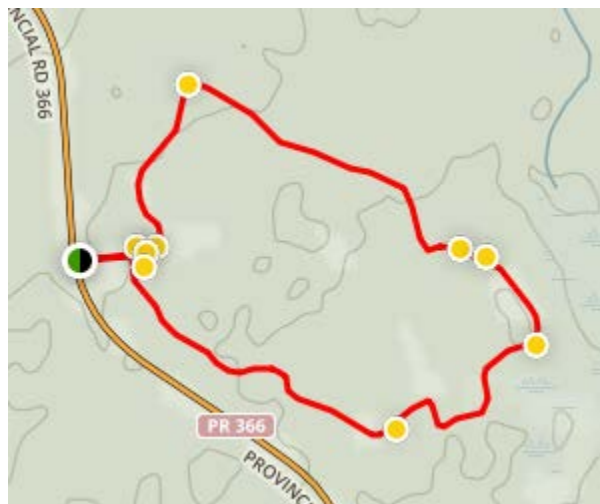
### 3.3.9.1.7 Cross-country Skiing

There are two groomed cross-country ski trails in Duck Mountain Provincial Park. The trails are located at Glad Lake and Childs Lake. The Childs Lake trail has a warm up shelter. These hyperlinks are maps of each trail.

[http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/pdf/maps/winter\\_maps/winter\\_duck\\_mtn\\_glad\\_regatta.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/pdf/maps/winter_maps/winter_duck_mtn_glad_regatta.pdf)

[http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/pdf/maps/winter\\_maps/winter\\_duck\\_mtn\\_child.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/pdf/maps/winter_maps/winter_duck_mtn_child.pdf)

The Duck Mountain Forest Centre trails are also used as cross-country ski trails in the winter. There are three loops that make up 5.3 km of trail. The outside loop trail is shown in Figure 3.85.



**Figure 3.87 Cross-country ski trail at the Duck Mountain Forest Center.**

### 3.3.9.1.8 Mountain Biking

Most of the trails mentioned in the above sections can also be used by mountain bikes. Swan Valley has a cycling club called Tread the Thunder is a volunteer organization promoting and developing mountain biking at Thunder Hill (Figure 3.86), located in the Swan Valley.

Thunderhill is located 23 km west of Hwy 83 on road 487. The bike club uses the downhill ski slopes and other trails on the Thunderhill; this is one of the best mountain biking areas in the Province. Thunderhill also has some unique features such as a diamond shale bank and magnetic hill.

[http://www.skithunderhill.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=47&Itemid=60](http://www.skithunderhill.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=47&Itemid=60)



Figure 3.88 Map of Tread the Thunder Trails (Tread The Thunder website).

### 3.3.9.1.9 Canoe Routes

There are two designated canoe routes in the Duck Mountain Provincial Park, Chain Lakes, and Beaver Lakes. The following link is maps of the canoe routes.

[http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/pdf/park\\_maps/2009\\_trail\\_rec\\_maps/chain\\_blue\\_spray\\_canoeing.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/parks/pdf/park_maps/2009_trail_rec_maps/chain_blue_spray_canoeing.pdf)

There is also a canoe route near Dauphin on the Valley River.



### 3.3.9.2 *Parks and Special Places*

The Parklands area contains a number of large escarpments that rise out of the surrounding plains that are part of the Manitoba Escarpment. Some of these have been set aside as parks and/or provincial forests. Further north are the Porcupine Hills, north of Swan River, which is designated as a provincial forest. Duck Mountain is south of Swan River and is designated as both a provincial forest and park. Riding Mountain, south of Dauphin, is designated as a national park.

Duck Mountain Provincial Park is the largest park in the licence area, with an area of 1,424 km<sup>2</sup>. The park is situated inside the larger Duck Mountain Provincial Forest. It is characterized by forested uplands interspersed with lakes, river valleys, wetlands, and streams, characteristic of the area's glacial origins. Duck Mountain is classified as a Natural Park, its' purpose is to preserve areas that are representative of the Western Upland Natural Region (Manitoba Conservation 2007), and to accommodate a diversity of recreational opportunities and resource uses. The park has two Backcountry zones that encompass the Shell Valley and Pine River Valley and escarpment. Baldy Mountain, in the south end of the park, is the highest point in Manitoba. The park's Resource zone is a major source of timber that flows north to mills in the Swan Valley and south to Roblin Forest Products. Recreation zones are around lake and cottaging areas such as Wellman, Glad, and Child's Lakes.

Duck Mountain Wildlife Refuge is a road-type refuge, meaning a 300 m buffer has been applied along major roads and trails within Game Hunting Area 18 where the harvest of all species and discharge of firearms is not permitted.

Duck Mountain has two unique travertine (calcified) beaver dams, one in the Shell Valley and the other north of Boggy Creek (Figure 3.87).



**Figure 3.89 Unique travertine beaver dams in the Shell Valley (left) and Boggy Creek (right).**

There are also some smaller parks in the region. The Kettle Stones Provincial Park is located northeast of Swan River in the Kettle Hills area. It features large sandstone Kettle Stones left behind when the glaciers retreated. It is generally believed the kettles are so named because

they resemble household kettles or kettle drums. The area also features open meadows that have Manitoba's and possibly Canada's most northwestern patches of big bluestem – a grass associated with the tall grass prairie.

Assessippi Provincial Park is located south of Roblin along the Assiniboine River Valley. This park features the Lake of the Prairies, an impoundment created when the Shellmouth Dam was constructed on the Assiniboine River. Angling is a popular activity associated with the dam. The park also has a small backcountry zone and heritage zone where the original settlement was located. The Assessippi Ski Area and Winter Park is also a popular attraction in the area.

Just to the east of Assessippi is the town of Inglis that has the Inglis Elevators National Historic site. There are five wooden grain elevators that have been restored in the community. These elevators are examples of the wooden elevators that served the prairies throughout most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Manipogo Provincial Park is located north of Ste. Rose on the shores of Lake Manitoba. Manipogo is designated as a recreational development and is primarily a campground and beach.

There are also two very small provincial recreational development parks. The Springwater Provincial Park is located along highway 10 between Cowan and Garland. This location had a spring that provided water and a small rest stop. It has since been closed. The Swan River Provincial Park is a small picnic site located along the Swan River on the northeast side of Swan River.

The Cowan Bog Ecological Reserve is located just north of Cowan and 35 km east of Swan River. This site contains deep peat and black spruce. This site has several species of wild orchids including Dragon's Mouth that is a rare plant in Manitoba.

The Noel Hamm Wildlife Refuge is a land refuge located in Pretty Valley. This is a quarter section which the landowner worked with the government to set aside as a wildlife refuge. It is located along the Roaring River south of Swan River. The Harry Cox Wildlife Refuge was Private Land on the West Favel River, but was donated to the Crown.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada has purchased a number of easements between Riding Mountain and Duck Mountain. The purpose is to provide a corridor for wildlife movement between the two mountains.

There are Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Forest Management Licence 3 area. These are all located in the east and east central portion of the licence. The WMA names are Alonsa, Cayer, Point River, Weiden, and Westlake.

### ***3.3.9.3 Recreational fishing***

Recreational fishing is a popular activity in the Parklands Region. The area has many lakes, rivers, and streams with an abundance of native species such as walleye, northern pike and perch. Many of the lakes and streams have been stocked with not only walleye but various trout species. Pine River is the trout capital of Manitoba and is known for its' brook trout. The Fisheries Branch website has a complete list of species stocked, anglers' guides, and other fisheries related information: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/fish/index.html>

The FML #3 planning team works with the Manitoba government to ensure water quality is maintained on all water bodies. Erosion control on roads and water crossings, buffer zones, season of harvest and other techniques are used to maintain water quality, as per the provincial Riparian Management Stream Crossing Guidelines (MNR 1996).

### ***3.3.9.4 Licenced hunting***

Hunting is a popular activity in the Parklands Region. There are hunting seasons for elk, white tailed deer, black bear, upland game birds and waterfowl in the region. Black bear and deer outfitters provide opportunities for non-residents to hunt these species. There is currently a closure of moose hunting due to a concern over moose populations.

Access for big game hunting in Game Hunting Area 18 is controlled by designated routes. Licenced big game hunters are restricted to vehicle travel on designated routes only. For complete information on hunting, refer to the Manitoba Hunting Guide on the Manitoba government website:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/wildlife/hunting/>

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF) is also active in the region. This group works with government and other stakeholders to ensure wildlife populations are managed sustainably and continue to provide hunting opportunities. More information can be found on their website:

<http://mwf.mb.ca/>

### ***3.3.9.5 Campgrounds***

Duck Mountain Provincial Park has campgrounds at Wellman/Glad Lake, Blue Lakes, Singush Lake, and Childs Lake. These campgrounds provide serviced and unserviced sites for a variety of camping experiences.

There are also provincial campgrounds in Assessippi and Manipogo Provincial Parks. These are small provincial parks primarily classed as recreational development.

Many of the towns in FML #3 have community campgrounds. These provide a variety of sites from full service to unserviced sites.

### 3.3.9.6 *Tourism*

Tourism is an important activity in the Parklands region; there are many opportunities to explore and experience the area. The Parklands Region offers many activities that have already been mentioned. In addition, there are ecotourism companies, geocaching, golf, museums, and other activities. There are tourism guides and websites for many of the communities in the region:

<http://discoverswanvalley.ca/>

<http://www.roblinmanitoba.com/index.php?pageid=VISINT>

<http://parklandtourism.com/>

<http://www.tourismdauphin.ca/>

### 3.3.10. **Non-Timber Forest Products**

The forested lands are also sources of non- timber products. Edibles from the forest include: chokecherries, blueberries, pin cherries, saskatoons, mushrooms, and fiddleheads. These are often eaten fresh, or the berries are processed into jam or jelly.

Craft producers use birch bark and willow for baskets, spruce boughs for wreaths, antlers for art and sculptures. There are also medicinal and spiritual plants used by First Nations that are found throughout the region.

### 3.3.11. **Local Use of Timber**

Most of the harvesting in the licence area is by Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd., Spruce Products Ltd., and Roblin Forest Products. There are a number of small sawmills in the area, such as Riehl's Lumber and Logging.

Fuelwood harvesting is done throughout the area. Many of the Crown wood Quota Holders harvest fuelwood for private sales. Intermountain Contracting is the largest fuelwood processor in the area. The Quota Holder policy is available on the Forestry and Peatlands Branch website: [https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/forestry/manage/cutting\\_right.html](https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/forestry/manage/cutting_right.html)

The Manitoba Metis Federation harvests fuelwood for members who are not able to harvest fuelwood for themselves. There is also a small volume of rails and posts harvested by local landowners.

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