

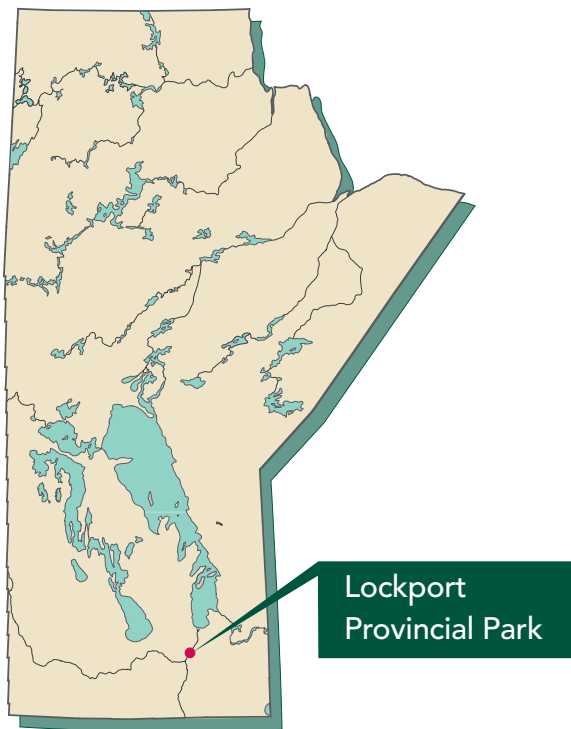
Lockport Provincial Park

Draft Management Plan



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1. Introduction

The *Provincial Parks Act* (1993) requires that a management plan be prepared for each provincial park. Management plans establish long-term direction for parks and address issues pertaining to resource protection, land use and development. They are to be used in conjunction with park regulations, directives and other departmental and government legislation and policies. The process of preparing the management plan for Lockport Provincial Park and co-ordinating the public involvement process is the responsibility of a team involving staff from the Parks and Natural Areas branch, regional staff of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, and a consultant contracted to work on the project.

The management plan for Lockport Provincial Park is based on its role in Manitoba's system of parks and on the participation of those who use and care about the park.

The treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples to pursue traditional uses and activities within Lockport Provincial Park are acknowledged and respected.

2. Park History

Lockport Provincial Park and the surrounding area have a long and rich history of human occupation and is one of Manitoba's most important archeological sites. The recreational and interpretive use of the site began in the 1970's and 1980's when the site was developed under the Agreements for Recreation and Conservation (ARC) program as part of the Red River Corridor. It was designated a provincial park in 1997.

The site's archaeological significance was reflected in its original development plans. The northern section of what is now Lockport Provincial Park was a working archaeological site and an existing building on the site was converted into a museum and laboratory – the Kenosewun Centre – where artifacts found on site were conserved and cataloged.

3. Park Attributes

Lockport Provincial Park is 2.26 hectares in size, and is situated on the east bank of the Red River near the junction of Highway 44 and Provincial Road 238 in the community of Lockport. It is adjacent to the Lockport dam. It is 18 kilometres north of Winnipeg and accessed from Highway 44. The southwest section of the pathway and picnic area, the fish ladder and much of the riverbank are outside the park on federally owned lands. These areas, however, function as part of the park and are maintained by the province through an agreement with Public Works Canada.

3.1 Natural

Much of the park is mowed lawn with scattered shade trees. None of the park is in a natural state due to thousands of years of nearly continuous occupation. Adjacent to the park the Red River contains a large diversity of fish including walleye, sauger and catfish. A fish ladder located on the east side of the dam allows fish to circumnavigate the dam. Large flocks of the once endangered American white pelican can be seen gathering here in the summer along with other shore and water birds.

3.2 Cultural

Archaeological studies at the Lockport site have revealed 3000 years of human occupation by four distinct aboriginal cultures. The early cultures were nomadic plains hunters, but later cultures settled in the Lockport area. From approximately 1000 B.C. to 200 B.C., the nomadic Larter culture hunted bison on the prairies, occupying the land in fall and winter when the bison were at the northern edge of the plains (Penziwol & Blahut, 2011). From 200 B.C. to 1000 A.D., the Laurel culture found sustenance in the rivers, lakes and forests, hunting a wide range of animals, from bison and moose to smaller mammals and birds. The site was occupied from 800 A.D. to 1700 A.D. by the Blackduck and Selkirk cultures who established the first agricultural practices in Manitoba.

The site's natural history and significance as a place of aboriginal occupation is explained on interpretive signs. The Gift of the Red interpretive trail is 700 metres long and provides visitors with the opportunity to learn about the site's history.

The Kenosewun Museum was subject to repeated water damage over many years. This resulted in severe structural damage to the building. It was closed in 2010 due to health and safety concerns and is slated for removal to allow for redevelopment of the site.

3.3 Recreational

The park is a popular site for picnicking and bird watching and as an access point to the shoreline for fishing. Picnicking facilities are located away from the shoreline on higher ground and include open green space, picnic tables, benches, barbeque pits and a non-modern washroom. The higher ground is separated from the riverbank by a chain link fence. Stairs provide access to the lower portion of the site. Access to the water is via informal trails.

4. Park Management Framework

4.1 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.

Lockport Provincial Park is classified as a Heritage Park. The main purpose of a Heritage Park is to protect a unique or representative site containing a resource or resources of cultural or heritage value 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 Lockport Provincial Park is to protect and promote public awareness and appreciation of the Lockport site, an area of historical and archaeological significance. The park will:

- Interpret the archaeological history, Aboriginal use and cultural heritage of the Lockport area
- Provide an open green space for picnicking and public use
- Protect the archeological resources of the site

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.

Lockport Provincial Park has a Heritage (H) LUC. The main purpose of this category is to protect a unique or representative site containing a resource or resources of cultural or heritage value. Lockport Provincial Park:

- Provides a day-use area, walking paths, parking lot and interpretive facilities
- Protects a site of archaeological significance

Lockport Provincial Park Map



5. Park Management Guidelines

5.1 Natural Values

The shore of the Red River is subject to considerable erosion due to high water levels, ice and wave action. Although only a portion of the park's boundary includes the river's shore, erosion can impact the park and the archaeological resources there.

Guideline

1. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will work with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, and with federal agencies to monitor the condition of the shoreline in order to mitigate shoreline erosion and the associated impact on archaeological resources.

5.2 Cultural Values

Lockport Provincial Park is one of the most significant archaeological sites in Manitoba. Developments or activities involving disturbance to the ground or artifacts buried there can result in the loss of a very valuable historical record.

Providing outdoor educational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting is one of the purposes of provincial parks as stated in *The Provincial Parks Act*. Lockport has an outstanding story of aboriginal use to be told. The removal of the Kenosewun Centre presents an opportunity to utilize new features and methods to tell this story.

Guidelines

1. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will work with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism to ensure the site's archaeological value is not compromised.
2. New interpretive facilities and programs will be developed that will:
 - Tell the story of the Lockport site with an emphasis on the First Nations use, and especially

their agricultural use, of the area over the past 3,000 years;

- Create a strong sense with visitors of the importance of the setting for understanding the site's history;
 - Coordinate with the interpretive messages of other related sites such as River Road Provincial Park and Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site;
 - Be available to visitors year round;
 - Function without on-site staff but will facilitate supplementary live interpretation.
3. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will work with First Nations and other partners to develop the new interpretive facilities and programs and to explore additional interpretive opportunities.

5.3 Recreation

The park is a developed recreational area offering a basic level of service and facilities to accommodate high levels of use consistent with the park purpose. The RM of St. Clement and the local business community have a keen interest in the site as part of the RM's Destination Lockport Strategy. That strategy describes the important role Lockport Provincial Park can play in the tourism economy of the area.

Guidelines

1. The park will focus on providing high quality, universally accessible facilities for day use and interpretation. Day-use facilities will include picnic areas, washrooms and pathways.
2. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will work with partners to provide additional recreation opportunities consistent with the overall park purpose.

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.

Penziwol, S. and Blahut, P. "From Asessippi to Zed Lake: A guide to Manitoba's provincial parks." Winnipeg: Great Plains Publications. 2011.

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