

# Long Point Ecological Reserve

## Backgrounder

### Land Designation

Ecological reserves play a key role in Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative by protecting unique, rare and representative examples of plants, animals, geological features and ecosystems. They are the most protected of the provincially designated sites within Manitoba's network of protected areas.

### Landscape Description

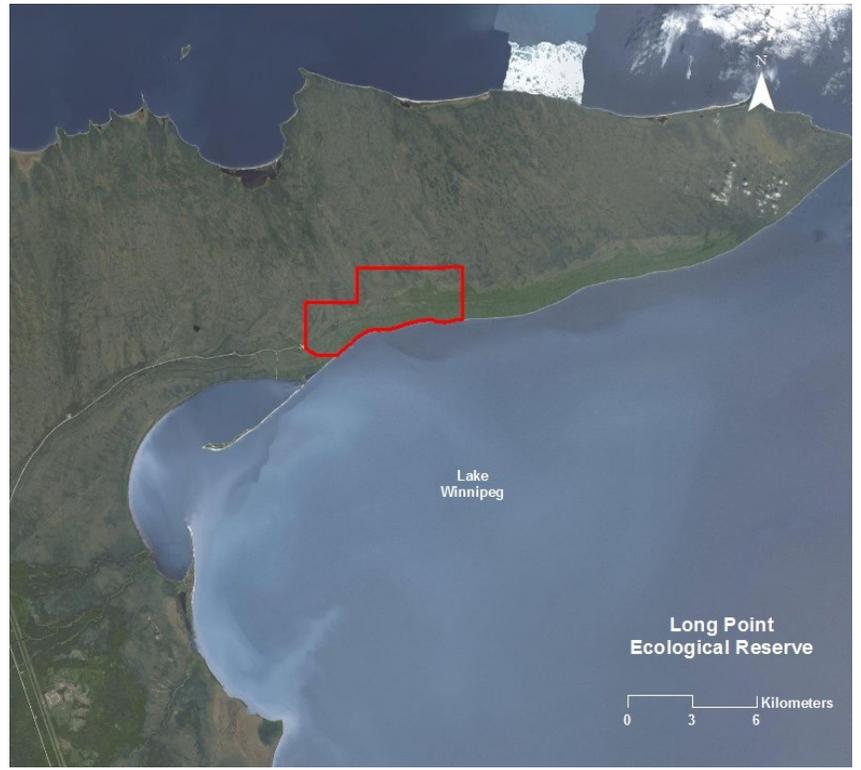
The 1,600 hectare Long Point Ecological Reserve, located on a spit of land that juts into the western side of Lake Winnipeg, is approximately 30 kilometres southeast of Grand Rapids First Nation. Situated in the Mid Boreal Lowland subregion of the Manitoba Lowlands Natural Region, this noticeably elevated site consists of beach ridges and bogs.



### Outstanding Features

The Long Point Ecological Reserve is dominated by black spruce and treed muskeg. In some places the peat is more than one metre deep. Beach ridge vegetation is sometimes composed of mixed hardwoods. An exceptional stand of white cedar also exists in this ecological reserve. These cedars are exceptional by Manitoba standards as they are unusually tall, straight and vigorous.

The oldest white cedar found in the ecological reserve was dated back to 1715, while the oldest white spruce dated back to 1750. In 1988, a wildfire went through the ecological reserve, but these old growth trees survived.



The Long Point Ecological Reserve will be maintained for the preservation and protection of a stand of mature white cedar at the northwestern fringe of its natural range as well as Lake Winnipeg beach ridge and bog plant communities. Passive non-consumptive recreation on foot is permitted. Indigenous people are permitted to carry out their treaty and aboriginal rights within the ecological reserve. All other activities will require prior ministerial approval.

This area is categorized by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a protected area under the management category Ia – a protected area managed for strict nature protection available primarily for scientific research and/or environmental monitoring. These protected lands are free from logging, mining, hydroelectric development, oil and gas development, and any other activities that could harm habitat.