

# Piney

## 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

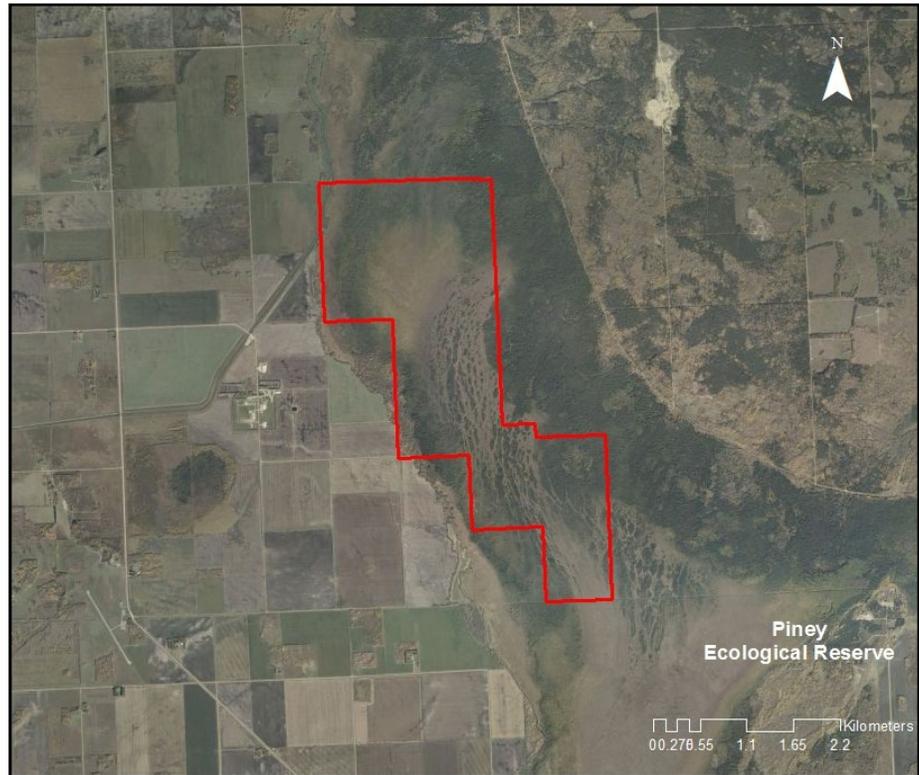
Piney Ecological Reserve is located approximately 6 km southeast of the Town of Piney, and is an estimated 780 hectares in size. This is a large wetland complex with a diversity of habitat types.

### Outstanding Features

There are slight differences in topography at this site which leads to a high diversity of habitats with raised islands of trees with low, wet areas (flarks), and a significant increase in biodiversity. The mottled dusky-wing, a rare skipper butterfly with a highly localized range, is found at this site outside of the wetland areas. This site also provides habitat for the uncommon large white-flowered ground-cherry, and the uncommon wild ginger. A stream running along the western boundary of the ecological reserve provides potential habitat for the ebony jewel-wing damselfly; a species common to southeastern Canada, but at the western limits of its range in Manitoba. Open tamarack stands also provide potential habitat for the great grey owl. Mature cedar bog in this area is prime habitat for five species of shrews, which do not usually occur altogether.

Piney Ecological Reserve supports a variety of habitats, including a diversity of wetland types. Wetlands are one of the most productive and threatened ecosystems; supporting more than one-third of Canada's species at risk. In addition, wetlands provide important ecological goods and services such as carbon sequestration and storage and water filtration. In Manitoba, peat forming habitats, such as those located near the site, are under threat from harvesting pressures.





*The Ecological Reserves Act* specifies that ecological reserves are set aside in the interests of the people of Manitoba to enhance the overall well being of present and future generations of Manitobans. Ecological reserves may be used for research, education, and nature study but they are not set aside as recreational, resource harvest, or multiple use areas.

The rights of Indigenous people to access this area for hunting, trapping, fishing and other traditional pursuits will continue to be respected.

Piney Ecological Reserve is categorized as an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) protected area management category 1a - 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, exploring for or harvesting peat, and any other activities that may significantly or adversely affect habitat.