

Ste. Anne Bog

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

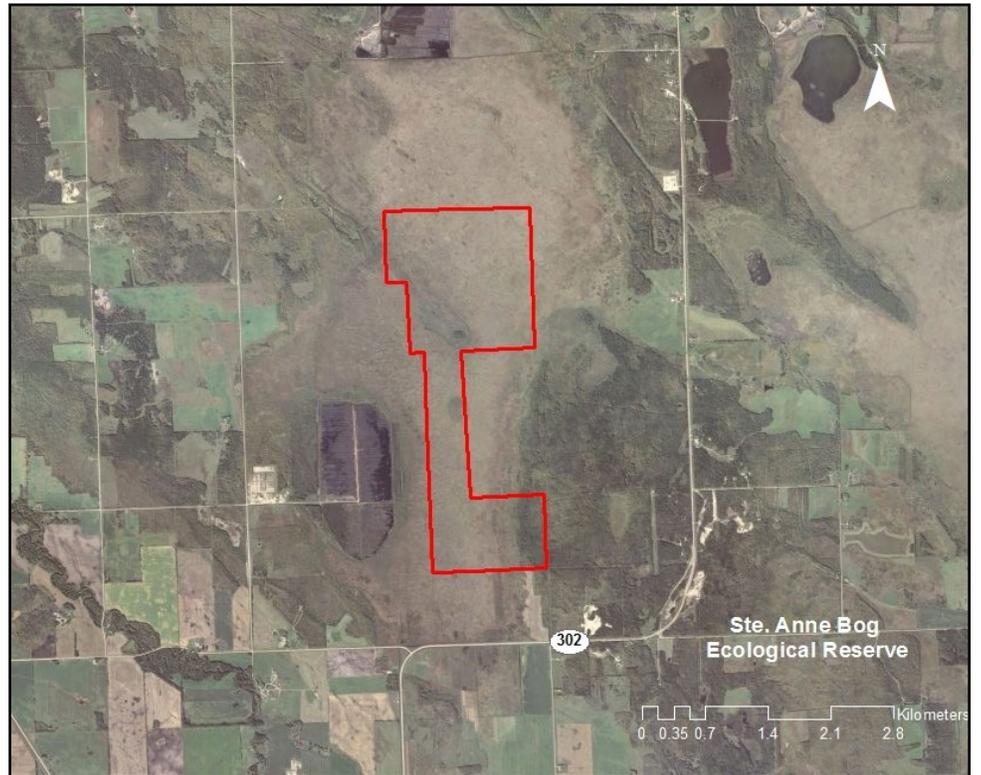
Ste. Anne Bog Ecological Reserve is located approximately 5 km east of Giroux in southeast Manitoba. The site is approximately 415 hectares in size and forms part of Ste. Anne Bog, a large wetland complex with a diversity of wetland vegetation and habitats that extend several kilometres north and west of the site.



Outstanding Features

Ste. Anne Bog Ecological Reserve lies in a low spot bounded by two ridges and water can be heard gurgling underfoot when standing in the floating fen. The main wetland type within the ecological reserve is sedge dominated floating or quaking fen interspersed with patches of dwarf birch and stunted tamarack. The fen complex contains a variety of plant species with at least three species known to be rare in Manitoba: pale false manna grass, bog goldenrod and slender agalinis. A number of plants with highly localized distribution (balsam willow, Glaucus grass-of-Parnassus, swamp milkweed, New England aster and swamp thistle) and four noteworthy bird species (yellow rail, American bittern, short-eared owl, and LeConte's sparrow) are also found at this site. A total of 126 plant species were observed during site inventories.

There are existing and proposed peat harvest operations surrounding the ecological reserve. Although there has been no direct disturbance to the site, this indirect disturbance is having an impact alteration in the drainage patterns of the area due to the adjacent peat harvesting operation has resulted in the loss of water from the wetland complex. Setting aside part of Ste. Anne Bog as an ecological reserve allows future evaluation of the effects of peat mining and recovery processes. In addition, the ecological reserve provides a seed source that would allow for faster recolonization of the adjacent sites, once peat harvest activities are complete.



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.

Ste. Anne Bog 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.