

Neso Lake Provincial Park

Draft Management Plan

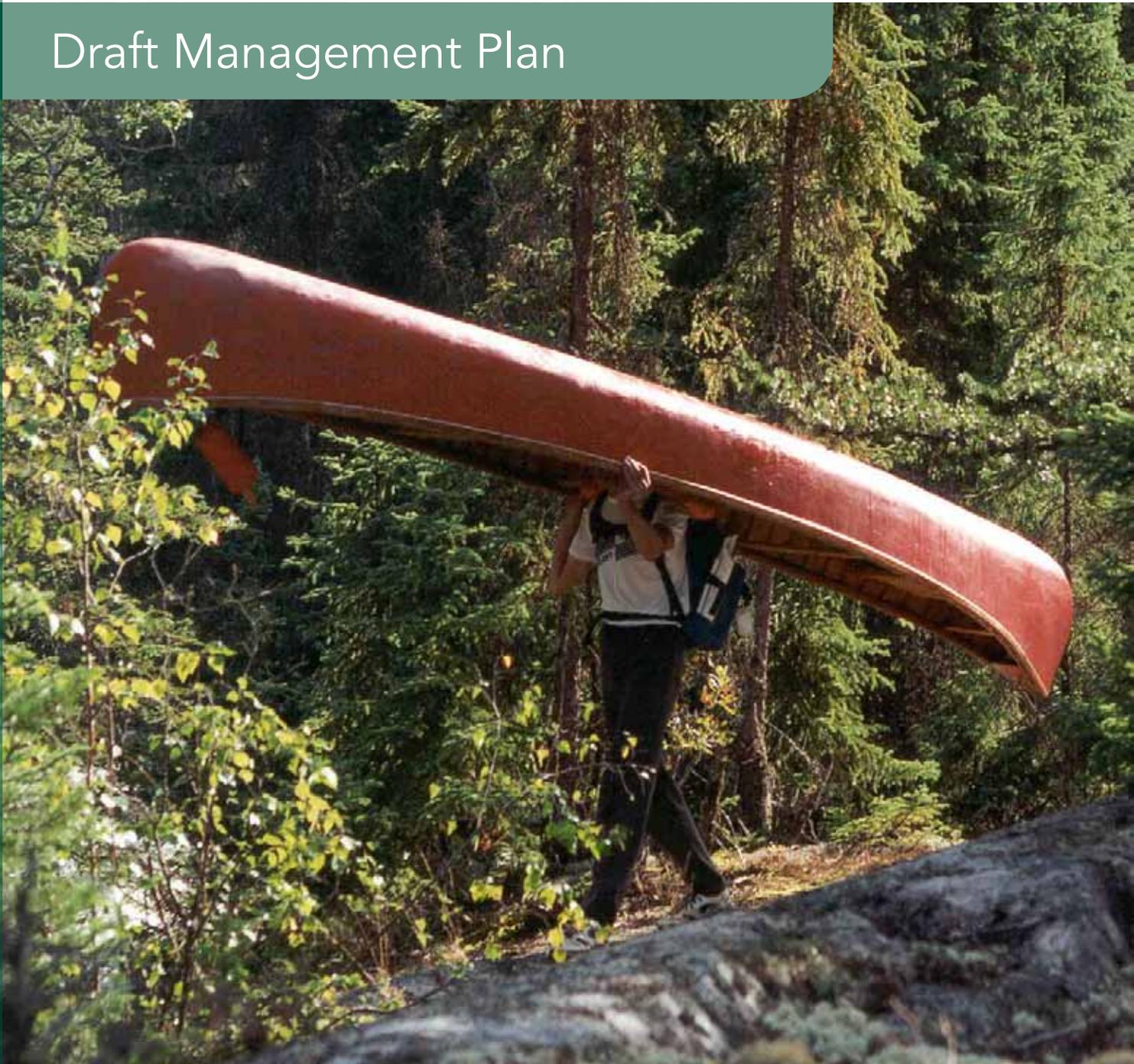


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1. Introduction

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. The plans are prepared with public input. The process of preparing the management plan and co-ordinating the public involvement process for Neso Lake Provincial Park was the responsibility of a team involving staff from 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 Neso Lake Provincial Park is based on its role in Manitoba's system of parks and 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 Neso Lake Provincial Park are acknowledged and respected.

2. Park History

In 1958, a small area along the shores of Neso Lake in northwestern Manitoba was established as a scenic highway rest stop and picnic area. The name "Neso" is a Cree word for the number "two", and Neso Lake is the second in a series of 14 numerically named lakes along the Mistik Creek chain. The Neso Lake site became a provincial park in 1974 and today serves primarily as a water access point.

3. Park Attributes

3.1 Location/Access

The park is 1.33 hectares in size and lies on the southwest shore of Neso Lake. It is situated 110 kilometres north of The Pas, just north of PTH 10.

3.2 Natural

The park is within the Churchill River Upland portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region which is predominately mixed forest. The park landscape is comprised of a jack pine ridge with open areas of grass and moss.

3.3 Recreational

The park provides access to Neso Lake and the Mistik Creek canoe route. It is a small scenic day-use and picnic area with a non-modern washroom, picnic table and fire pit.

4. Park Management Framework

4.1 Park Classification

Manitoba's provincial park system is made up of almost 100 different parks and park reserves. Each of these areas plays a role in conserving ecosystems, preserving natural, cultural or heritage resources and providing outdoor recreation or educational experiences. Classification descriptions can be found in Appendix A.

Neso Lake Provincial Park is classified as a Recreation Park. The main purpose of a Recreation Park is to provide recreational opportunities in accordance with *The Provincial Parks Act*.

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.

The System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks states that the purpose of Neso Lake Provincial Park is to provide outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting in northwestern Manitoba. The park will:

- provide access to Neso Lake for fishing and water-based recreational activities
- serve as a staging area for the Mistik Creek canoe route

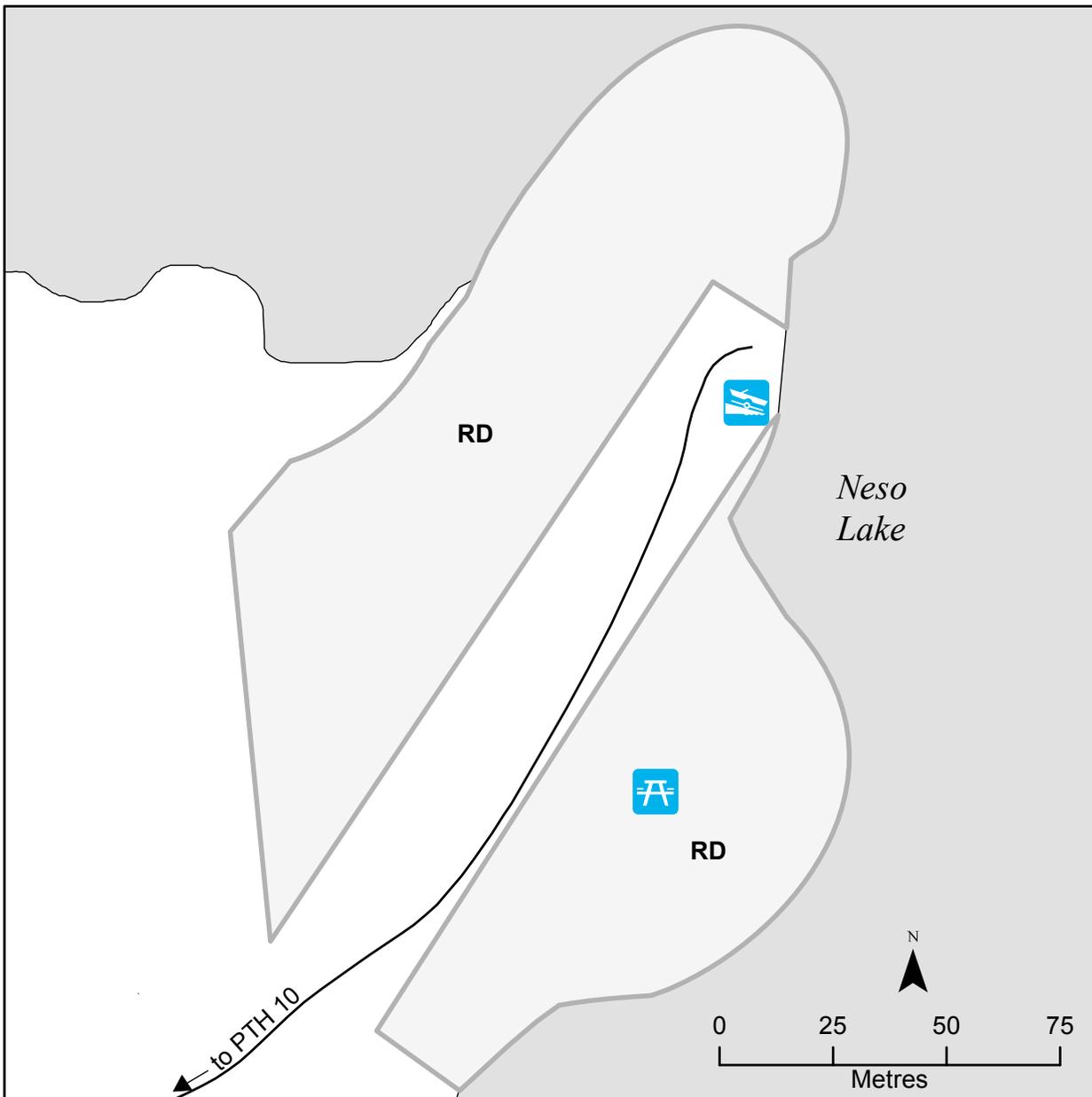
4.3 Land Use Categories

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.

All of the land comprising Neso Lake Provincial Park, or 1.33 hectares, has been categorized as a Recreational Development LUC (RD). The main purpose of this categorization is to accommodate recreational development. *The System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks* states that the park's Recreational Development LUC:

- provides access for water based recreation activities
- includes a picnic area and a boat launching site

Neso Lake Provincial Park



5. Management Guidelines

The park is well used as a site to access Neso Lake. There have been moderate site modifications to allow boats to be launched into the lake.

5.1 Recreation

Guideline

- Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will continue to maintain the park for day-use as a water access site with a minimal level of service.

Appendix A – Park Classification and Land Use Categories

Park Classifications

In accordance with section 7(2) of *The Provincial Parks Act*, 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*, 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 or associated facilities;
- (g) any other category that may be specified in the regulation.