Fisher Bay Provincial Park

Land Designation

Fisher Bay Provincial Park is located on Fisher Bay along the western shore of Lake Winnipeg, approximately 200 kilometres north of Winnipeg. The park is 84,150 hectares (841 km²) in size and is comprised of lands adjacent to Fisher Bay, island areas including Moose, Little Moose and Tamarack Islands, and the beds of Lake Winnipeg, Fisher Bay and waterbodies in the park area.

Fisher Bay Provincial Park is designated under The Provincial Parks Act as a Natural Park, with Backcountry land use category (LUC) applied to the lands and beds of waterbodies inland from Lake Winnipeg and Fisher Bay (23,150 hectares/231 km²). A Recreational Development LUC is applied to the area of Lake Winnipeg and Fisher Bay (61,000 hectares/610 km²).

As a Natural Park, Fisher Bay Provincial Park’s purpose is to protect the physical features and biological communities representative of the Interlake Plain portion of the province’s Manitoba Lowlands Natural Region. The park areas designated as Backcountry LUC are legally protected, prohibiting forest harvesting, mining, hydroelectric development, oil and gas exploration or development, and any other activities that could harm habitats. Areas of Lake Winnipeg and Fisher Bay designated as Recreational Development LUC accommodate a variety of recreational uses and allow for fluctuating water levels resulting from the regulation of Lake Winnipeg by Manitoba Hydro.

Manitoba Conservation will manage Fisher Bay as a non-operational park, with no intentions for development or investment in park related programming and infrastructure, such as roads, trails, campgrounds and support buildings. The park designation is intended to conserve and protect the outstanding natural features identified for the park area.

Landscape Description

Long sandy beaches, treed shorelines, old growth forest stands, muskeg and bog landscapes along with a diversity of wildlife characterize the natural features found at Fisher Bay Provincial Park.

The park area supports mixedwood forests of trembling aspen, balsam poplar, white spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, white birch, black spruce and
tamarack over upland and lowland areas. Forest understories include hazel, alder, willow and various herbs and mosses. The park also includes areas of muskeg, bog and fen peatlands.

Wildlife populations within the park area include moose, white-tailed deer, elk, black bear, timber wolf, lynx, red fox, beaver, muskrat, ruffed grouse, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, piping plover, double-crested cormorant, ring-billed gull, common tern, Canada geese, various ducks and numerous songbirds.

The waters of Fisher Bay and Lake Winnipeg in the park area support populations of fish species including walleye, sauger, yellow perch, burbot, freshwater drum, emerald shiner and goldeye. The waters are commercially fished by residents of Matheson Island, Fisher River Cree Nation and Kinonjeoshtegan First Nation.

Members of Fisher River Cree Nation, Peguis First Nation, Kinonjeoshtegan First Nation and other Aboriginal people continue to use the park area for hunting, trapping and fishing, and will continue to exercise their Aboriginal and treaty rights in the park. The park area will remain available for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) selection.

Photos courtesy of Ron Thiessen