

Bakers Narrows Provincial Park

Management Plan



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This management plan for Bakers Narrows Provincial Park was prepared in consultation with park users under the authority of *The Provincial Parks Act*.



1. Introduction

The Provincial Parks Act (1993) requires that a management plan be prepared for each of Manitoba's provincial parks. Management plans establish long-term direction for parks and address issues pertaining to resource protection, land use and development. The management plan for Bakers Narrows 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 plan is to be used in conjunction with park regulations, directives, and other departmental and government policies and legislation.

The process of preparing this management plan and co-ordinating the public involvement process 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.

Preparation of the management plan involved a number of steps. The first step was to review the current operation of the park, its attributes, and history of use. Information collected was then used to prepare a draft plan. Public input on the draft plan was collected primarily through the Manitoba Parks website, at a public drop-in session in Flin Flon in September of 2012, and in meetings and discussions with park users. Once the public consultation process was completed, the plan was finalized based on planning objectives and any new information received through the consultation process.

This management plan will guide the work of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship for a minimum of 10 to 15 years. In this context the plan will be utilized and examined on an ongoing basis. Where an update or new direction on any matters described in this management plan may be needed, a process for publicly reviewing and updating the plan will be undertaken.

The treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples to pursue traditional uses and activities within Bakers Narrows Provincial Park are acknowledged and respected within the context of this management plan.

2. Park History

The origins of Bakers Narrows Provincial Park can be traced to the discovery of large copper and zinc ore resources in and around the Flin Flon area in the early 1900s. Bakers Narrows, 20 kilometres south of Flin Flon, was the site of a federal boat dock built to serve the mining industry. Excellent fishing and camping opportunities near the dock led to the establishment of Bakers Narrows as a recreation area, and in 1961 the site was designated as Bakers Narrows Provincial Park. A park boundary change occurred in 1996 to remove a small portion of land occupied by a lodge sold to a private operator in 1983.

3. Park Attributes

3.1 Location/Access

Bakers Narrows Provincial Park is comprised of seven parcels of land that occupy 145 hectares on both sides of the narrows and Provincial Trunk Highway 10. It is located 20 kilometres southeast of Flin Flon and 120 kilometres northwest of The Pas. The park lies on the shores of Athapapuskow Lake, with the eastern portion of the park situated on an island.

3.2 Natural

Bakers Narrows is located in the Churchill River Upland portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region, an area that includes a major greenstone belt of intruded metamorphosed volcanic rock that is high in mineral potential. The landscape at Bakers Narrows is dominated by boreal mixed-wood forest. Sightings of blue heron, bald eagles, loons, otters, and beaver are common in the area. Fish including walleye, pike, and lake trout are found in Athapapuskow Lake.

3.3 Recreational

The park provides public access to Athapapuskow Lake, which has excellent boating and year-round angling opportunities. There are three beaches at Bakers Narrows, one on the north side of Provincial Trunk Highway 10 and two near the campground on the south side. There are five cottage subdivisions located near the lakeshore with a total of approximately 150 cottages, many of which are permanent residences.

The campground features waterfront yurts, and basic and electrical campsites offering nightly and seasonal camping. Amenities in the campground include showers, modern washrooms, playgrounds, picnic areas, a boat launch, swimming at the beach areas and a picnic shelter.

A short trail leads to a viewing tower with full 360 degree views of the lake and narrows. The viewing tower provides a focal point for the campground area and provides an opportunity to view the surroundings and learn about the area's history through interpretive signs.

3.4 Cultural

The establishment of Bakers Narrows as a recreation area is closely linked to the development of mining industry in nearby Flin Flon. Interpretive signs on the viewing tower tell the story of Bakers Narrows. Athapapuskow is the Cree word meaning "rocks all around" (Penziwol and Blahut, 2011).

3.5 Additional Features

The Flin Flon Airport is located immediately west of the park campground area and is operated by the City of Flin Flon.

4. Park Management Framework

4.1 Classification

Manitoba's provincial park system is made up of almost 100 different parks and park reserves. The role of an individual park within this system is identified by its classification.. Classification descriptions can be found in Appendix A.

Bakers Narrows 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* (1993).

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.

A System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks (1997) states that the purpose of Bakers Narrows Provincial Park is to provide outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting in northwestern Manitoba. The park will:

- offer camping, boating, fishing, beach and day-use opportunities for residents of nearby communities and visitors to the area
- accommodate an existing cottage subdivision

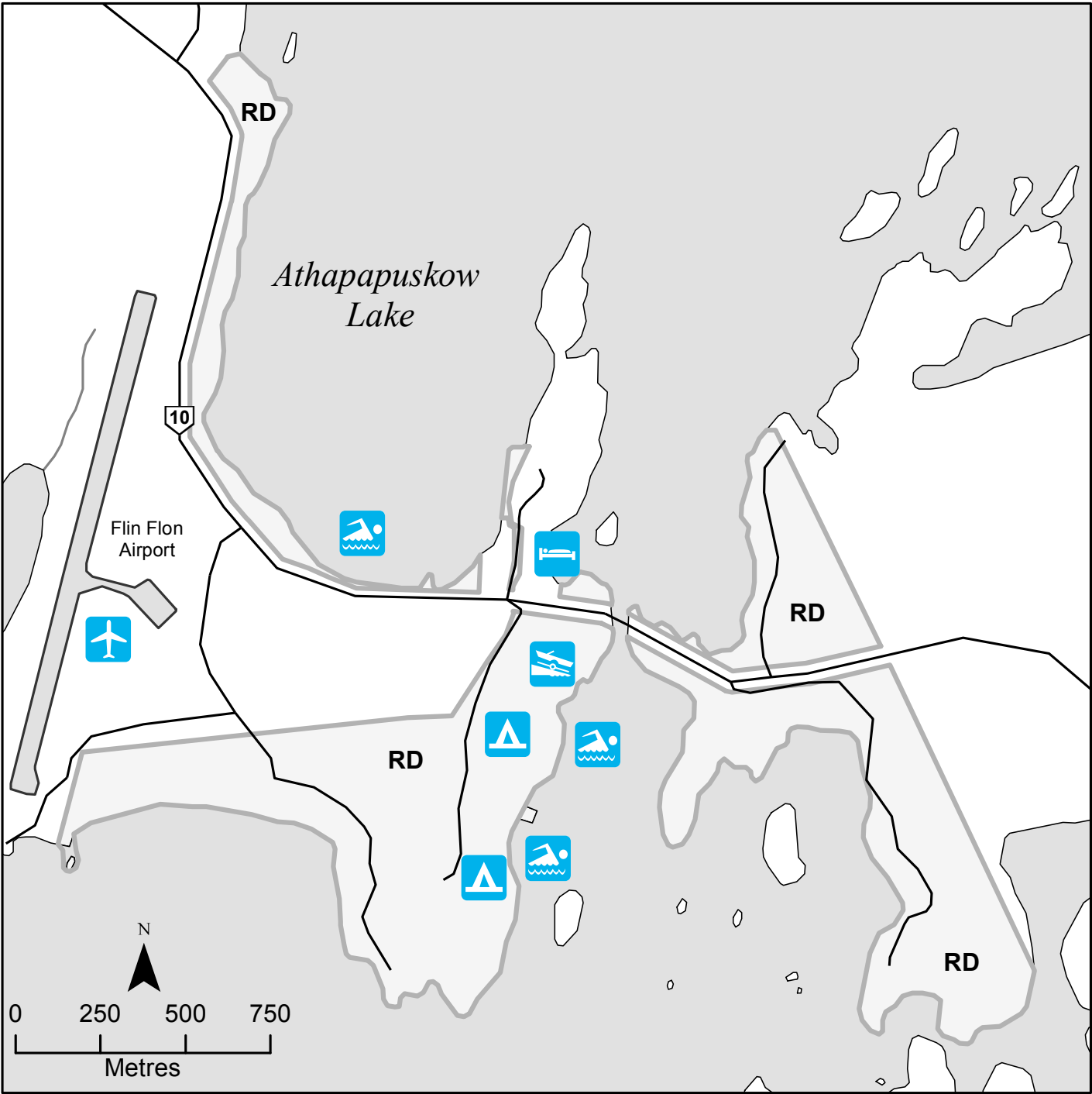
4.3 Land Use Categories

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 Bakers Narrows Provincial Park, 145.12 hectares, has been categorized as a Recreational Development (RD) LUC. The main purpose of this categorization is to accommodate recreational development. *A System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks* (1997) states that within the park's Recreational Development LUC:

- developments include campground, viewing tower with interpretive signs, picnic sites and day-use areas
- waterfront has two beaches, a dock and boat launch
- cottage sub-division contains approximately 150 lots

Bakers Narrows Provincial Park



5. Park Management Guidelines

5.1 Natural Values

The largely natural environment in and around Bakers Narrows Provincial Park is a valuable asset for campers and cottage owners, creating much of the park's character. Most of the land within the park has been allocated for recreational developments such as campgrounds, cottage subdivisions and day-use areas. A five-year planting program to repair the forest cover in areas damaged from a wind storm began in 2011.

Guidelines

1. Forest cover will be monitored to determine annual planting requirements and the planting program continued as appropriate.
2. Undeveloped areas in the park will be retained and site modifications in these areas will be minimal.
3. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship will work in co-operation with local partners on a water quality monitoring program for Athapapuskow Lake.

5.2 Recreation

The campground in Bakers Narrows is well used and provides a range of services including nightly and seasonal campsites and yurts. Although the campground is in high demand, the rocky terrain of the park leaves little room for additional facilities.

Guidelines

1. The campground will provide basic and serviced camping opportunities.
2. Campsites and/or yurt sites may be modified within the existing developed campground area.
3. Development of non-motorized recreational trails will be investigated.

5.3 Interpretation

Providing outdoor educational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting is one of the purposes of provincial parks. At Bakers Narrows Provincial Park, information to promote public awareness, appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural values of the area is provided through non-personal means.

Guidelines

1. Interpretive information will continue to be provided through signage and publications such as maps, brochures, and the Parks and Natural Areas website.
2. Opportunities for interpretation of local mining and natural history will be investigated.
3. Viewing tower signage will be updated.

5.4 Commercial Operations

Commercial activity can enhance or detract from the park experience and must be managed to best suit both the park environment and user needs. Commercial operations in Bakers Narrows Provincial Park are limited in order to preserve the park's natural character.

Guidelines

1. Development of commercial facilities within the park will not be permitted.
2. Proposals for mobile commercial operations in the park will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Appendix A – Park Classification and Land Use Categories

Park Classifications

In accordance with section 7(2) of *The Provincial Parks Act* (1993), 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* (1993), 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 and associated facilities;
- (g) any other category that may be specified in the regulation.

Bibliography

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