



Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park

Management Plan



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This management plan for Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park was prepared under the authority of The Provincial Parks Act.

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 use, development of park land, environmental protection, and the preservation of culturally significant areas. They are used in conjunction with park regulations, procedures and other departmental and government policies and legislation.

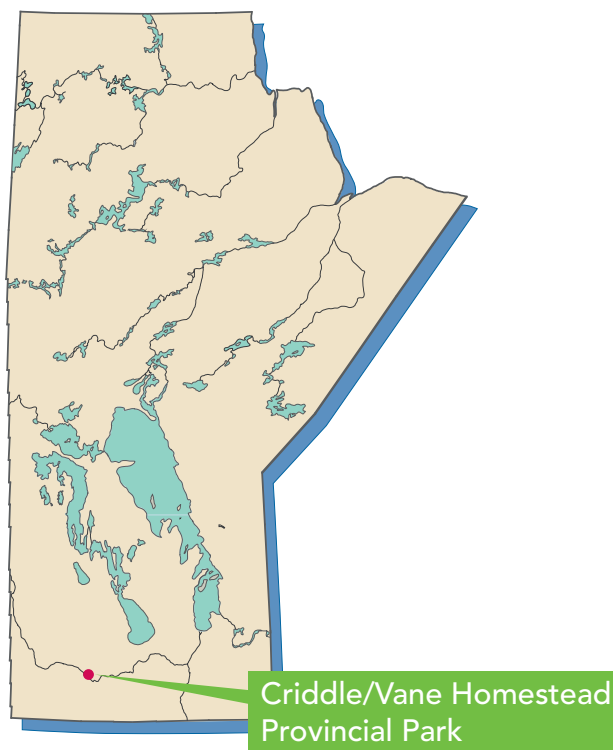
This management plan is based on the role of Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park in Manitoba's system of parks and the participation of those who use and care about the park.

The process of preparing the management plan and coordinating the public involvement process was the responsibility of a team involving staff from Parks and Protected Spaces Branch, and regional staff of Manitoba Sustainable Development. 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 its history of use. Information collected through that process was used to prepare a draft management plan.

The public was then invited to comment on the draft plan. Involving park users and those with an interest in the park was an important part of preparing the management plan. Public input was collected through the Manitoba Parks website and correspondence with departmental staff. The public consultation process was completed in March 2017. The information received during this process was used to revise and finalize the management plan.

This management plan will guide the management of Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park over the next 10 to 15 years. 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 should be undertaken.

The rights of Indigenous Peoples to pursue traditional uses and activities within Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park are acknowledged and respected within the context of this draft management plan.



2. Park History

Criddle /Vane Homestead Provincial Park, Manitoba's 79th provincial park, was designated on February 24, 2004. The park was created to preserve and protect the heritage value of the former homestead of the Criddle/Vane family. The Criddle/Vane family was well-known for its contributions in the fields of science, art, sports, and culture, as well as a somewhat eccentric lifestyle. The family settled in the Aweme district in the Rural Municipality of South Cypress in August of 1882. The last family members left the homestead in 1960. Their original homestead (NE 32-8-16WPM and SE 5-9-16WPM) was acquired by the Province of Manitoba in 1974.

The park is supported by the Criddle/Vane Homestead Heritage Committee of the Friends of Spruce Woods, whose dedication and work helped the homestead gain its designation as a Provincial Heritage Park.

3. Park Attributes

Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park is located in southwestern Manitoba approximately 40 kilometers (km) southeast of Brandon. The park is located adjacent to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Shilo and west of Spruce Woods Provincial Park. The total area of the park is 132 hectares. A municipal road runs through the middle of the park and provides access to private properties located outside of the park.

3.1 Natural

The park is located in the Aspen Parkland Ecoregion. This region is home to the northern prairie skink which is listed as Endangered under Canada's Species at Risk Act and is the only lizard species found in Manitoba. The area contains remnants of mixed-grass prairie interspersed by stands of aspen, oak and spruce. Invasive species such as leafy spurge and baby's breath can be found in the area. The park accommodates nature-oriented recreational and educational opportunities and experiences that are respectful of the natural setting and historic environment.

3.2 Cultural

The Criddle/Vane homestead is known for having the longest history of insect collections in Manitoba and is significant to the entomological research community. Norman Criddle established the first entomological laboratory in Western Canada and collected specimens from the region, many of which can be found in major insect collections throughout the world. The lab building is highlighted in the park's self-guiding interpretive trail and was restored by the Homestead Heritage Committee. The Criddle/Vane family also kept the third longest weather record ever kept by a Canadian family.

The park features buildings and structural remnants of the former homestead including the foundation of the St. Albans house, the first entomological station, a second lab and a log chicken house. The foundation of another house, known as "the palace", lived in by

the family's eldest son also remains on the property along with the weather station and an old well. The property houses a family cemetery which is still in use today through agreements that were made at the time the property was acquired by the province. Some of the other remnant landscape features include a garden, one of the three tennis courts maintained by the Criddle/Vane family during its occupancy and the last hole of a 9-hole golf course.

3.3 Recreation and Interpretation

The park offers day-use facilities including a picnic area and two interpretive trails which depict the life of the Criddle/Vane family. The Homestead Self-guiding Trail is 0.8 km long and the Tent Patch Hiking Trail is a 1.4 km loop.



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 each park within this system is identified by its classification. Parks may be classified as one of five types: wilderness, natural, recreation, heritage or indigenous traditional use.

Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park is classified as a heritage park. The main purpose of a heritage

park, as defined in The Provincial Parks Act, is to protect a unique or representative site containing a resource or resources of cultural or heritage value.

4.2 Park Purpose

The objectives of Manitoba's provincial park system are 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. The purpose of each park within the system is to contribute to these overarching objectives while fully recognizing and incorporating local considerations.

The purpose of Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park is to preserve the heritage value of the former Criddle/Vane Homestead and to promote public awareness and appreciation of one of Manitoba's prominent pioneer families. In doing so, the park will:

- preserve remnants of the former homestead of the Criddle/Vane family and the first entomological field station in western Canada
- protect representative features of the Aspen Parkland Ecoregion including mixed-grass prairie
- provide outdoor educational opportunities focusing on the park's natural and cultural values
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's cultural heritage and natural features
- accommodate nature-oriented recreational opportunities that are respectful of the park's historical environment

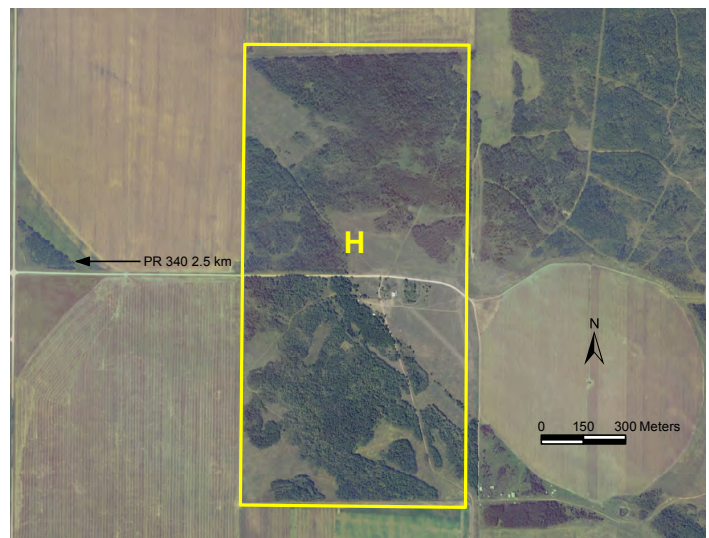
4.3 Land Use Categories

Land use categories (LUCs) are used to designate lands within provincial parks for various purposes. There are eight LUCs in which land may be categorized: wilderness, backcountry, resource management, recreational development, heritage, access, winter road access or indigenous heritage.

Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park has a heritage (H) LUC. The main purpose of this category is to protect a unique or representative site containing

a resource or resources of cultural or heritage value. Within Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park, features include:

- Historic remnants of the first entomological field station in western Canada, the Criddle/Vane homestead, family cemetery and outbuilding foundations
- Interpretive trails and day-use facilities



Map 1: Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park

5. Park Management Guidelines

The following guidelines will direct park management actions in Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park.

5.1 Natural Values

1. The park will be maintained as a natural-looking area that is characteristic of the surrounding landscape.
2. Ecological values in undeveloped portions of the park will be maintained and these areas will remain free of development beyond trails and associated facilities.
3. When species of conservation concern are identified in the park, any negative impacts on those species associated with park use will be minimized or avoided.

4. Parks and Protected Spaces Branch will participate in departmental efforts to prevent invasive species from spreading within the park. This may include but not be limited to following an integrated pest management approach and educating park visitors on how they can stop the spread of invasive species.

5.2 Culture and Heritage

1. As western Canada's first entomological field station, the lab building is a significant structure and was previously restored by the Homestead Heritage Committee. It will be maintained in cooperation with local groups.
2. Further restoration of the buildings for historic value will not be undertaken by Manitoba Sustainable Development. Buildings that are deemed to be unsafe for public access will be secured from entry.



3. If alteration or loss of the buildings occurs due to weather or other causes, the building remains will be documented for the public record and where feasible, the building foundations will be preserved.
4. The private cemetery will continue to be maintained in accordance with the agreement that was entered into between Manitoba and the private landowners prior to the establishment of the park.

5.3 Recreation and Interpretation

1. Basic non-modern facilities for picnicking and day use opportunities will be provided by Manitoba Sustainable Development.
2. The trail system in the park will be reviewed in order to improve non-motorized opportunities for visitors to experience all aspects of the park. Except for the existing roads that service private properties to the east and south of the park, no further roads or trails for motorized vehicles will be developed.
3. The natural and historical aspects of the Criddle/Vane Homestead will continue to be recognized through self-guided interpretation such as signs and brochures. Interpretive programs or special events may be offered in cooperation with local groups.
4. Manitoba Sustainable Development will work with the Criddle/Vane Homestead Heritage Committee and other partners or stakeholders on projects consistent with the park purpose.

Bibliography

Province of Manitoba. Parks and Natural Areas Branch. A System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks. Winnipeg, Manitoba. 1997.

The Provincial Parks Act. C.C.S.M., c. P20. 1993.