



Manitoba Provincial Parks Infrastructure Renewal Strategy

Creating extraordinary visitor experiences



Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that Manitoba is on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishinewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk peoples. We acknowledge Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis. We acknowledge northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We respect the spirit and intent of Treaties and Treaty Making and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.

Ministers' Message

We know Manitobans care deeply about our provincial parks.

Manitobans have continuously shared how important it is to protect and preserve our beautiful provincial parks for future generations. You treasure these public spaces.

That is why we are taking historic action.

The Manitoba Parks Infrastructure Renewal Strategy is a new 10-year plan that prioritizes capital projects to enhance and modernize our provincial parks while protecting the diversity of our precious ecosystems. This strategy makes a historic investment in our parks, with more than \$220 million in funding that will provide Manitobans unforgettable experiences for generations to come. This significant investment is a clear demonstration of our commitment to advance our shared priorities for parks.

This bold, new strategy will focus on enhancing extraordinary visitor experiences and conserving the delicate diversity of our ecosystems.

As we move forward, we will report back to Manitobans on our collective progress and continue to engage with all park stakeholders to confirm existing priorities and identify emerging needs.

We invite you to come and see for yourself the majesty and beauty of all that Manitoba provincial parks have to offer!



Honourable Greg Nesbitt
Minister
Natural Resources and
Northern Development



Honourable Doyle Pivniuk
Minister
Infrastructure and
Transportation

1.0 Introduction

Manitoba's provincial parks are special places. They play an important role in the protection of natural lands and the quality of life of Manitobans.

Manitoba's parks:

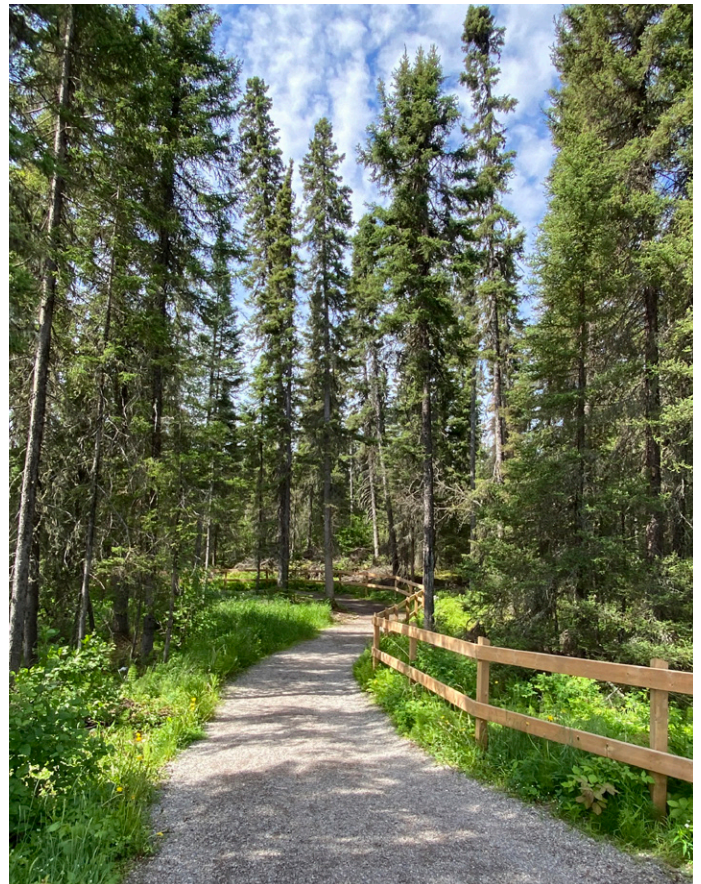
- conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity
- preserve unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources
- provide outdoor recreational and educational experiences in natural settings

Manitobans have told us how much they value our provincial parks and the importance of preserving them for future generations. With an increasing demand for park experiences and evolving visitor expectations for unique adventures, aging infrastructure must be renewed.

Manitoba is taking action and making a multi-year strategic and historic capital investment of more than \$220 million in our provincial parks.

This document is a roadmap for how these record level investments will be made across Manitoba to maximize the enjoyment and long-term sustainability of our provincial parks. These investments will support infrastructure renewal, build climate resiliency, support conservation and biodiversity efforts and complement the existing Provincial Parks Endowment Funds.

This new infrastructure renewal strategy considers investment opportunities over the short, medium and long-term and will be flexible and responsive to address visitor expectations and emerging needs. In sharing this strategy, Manitobans can gain a line of sight into our shared strategic investment priorities.



The funding outlined in this strategy represents levels of annual investments in our parks not seen in recent memory. In its first two years, the Manitoba government will have invested \$42.5 million in roadways and other parks infrastructure.

This 10-year plan charts a path forward for long-term capital investments and identifies critical infrastructure projects needed to enhance recreational opportunities, conserve ecosystems and ensure public health in parks across Manitoba.

Given the decade-long duration of the plan, it is essential it remain a living document to help guide ongoing planning of infrastructure projects.

2.0 Manitoba Provincial Parks Profile

Manitoba's first Provincial Parks Act was proclaimed in 1960 under then Premier Duff Roblin. In June 1961, Manitoba's first four provincial parks - Duck Mountain, Grand Beach, Turtle Mountain and Whiteshell Provincial Parks - were established.

The role and mandate for provincial parks was to offer unique destinations that preserved natural environments, offered recreational and educational opportunities, and conserved areas of geological, cultural and ecological significance. Premier Roblin's vision of Manitoba's very first parks has ensured recreational and cultural opportunities for Manitobans over many decades.

Today, Manitoba has 92 provincial parks. Of these, 76 parks offer programming and developed infrastructure, including 4,500 nightly campsites and 1,500 seasonal campsites.

In addition, Manitoba has the largest cottaging community within provincial parks in Canada with nearly 6,200 dwellings. To support exceptional visitor experiences, Manitoba Parks works with 180 commercial operators to provide unique lodgings and other offerings to parks users that complement provincial campsites and services.

Manitoba's parks offer something for everyone, regardless of the experience or adventure you are looking for.



3.0 Listening to Manitobans

Engaging with Manitobans has been key to successfully driving innovation and change for a renewed vision for parks.

There is increased interest in our provincial parks. More people recognize the benefits of our beautiful landscapes and are seeking opportunities to camp, hike and enjoy other recreational opportunities in these areas.

Recent engagements through EngageMB show that Manitobans value our park system. There is a strong call to modernize park assets and infrastructure by increasing capital investments to meet visitor expectations. Manitobans have identified enhancing recreation infrastructure as a priority, with a particular focus on improving the supply of serviced campsites, yurts, docks and boat launches, playgrounds, access to WiFi and motorized and non-motorized trails.

Manitobans have shared that parks should remain as a public good – and this message has been heard loud and clear. This historic investment in parks clearly demonstrates we are preserving these priceless assets for the future.

As we move forward, it will be essential to continue engaging with people and park stakeholders in Manitoba throughout the life of this strategy to ensure that investments continue to reflect the priorities of Manitobans.

Detailed reports are available that help to shed light on the perspectives of Manitobans. Learn more at manitobaparks.com

Provincial Parks Endowment Funds

Whether we are drawn to parks by their natural beauty and recreational opportunities, or we value their role in protecting ecosystems, our provincial parks are an important asset for all people of Manitoba. That's why the Manitoba government established the Provincial Parks Endowment Funds to compliment other capital investments made in parks and support park improvements and programming in perpetuity. The funds are a way to support private philanthropic contributions and enable the province to follow the wishes of donors who want to give back to provincial parks.

With an initial contribution from government of \$20 million, these funds collectively generate around \$1 million in annual revenue for projects such as improving trails, making beaches more accessible, new playground equipment, funding habitat restoration, investing in important cultural sites, and other critical park infrastructure. Priority areas for investment are determined through public engagement and identified critical needs.

For more information about Manitoba's Provincial Parks Endowment Funds: manitobaparks.com

4.0 The Infrastructure Renewal Strategy

An investment in parks is a direct investment in the people of Manitoba.

Manitoba recognizes the potential negative long-term implications to visitor experiences and natural environments from the growing infrastructure deficit in our provincial parks. Immediate action to mitigate the growing deficit and implement a long-term strategy began in 2022/23.

The strategy will focus funding through two streams:

- **Park infrastructure projects**
 - *park infrastructure projects*, including campground improvements, new trails and boardwalks, accessibility initiatives, parking lots, access roads and trailheads
- **Roadway renewal projects**
 - *roadway renewal projects* that improve access to and within provincial parks



The funding streams complement and support each other by improving existing infrastructure and supporting new investments to augment the supply of services in high demand parks.

Improving Existing Infrastructure	Investments in New Infrastructure/ Augmenting Supply
Improving washroom and shower facilities	Installing electric vehicle charging technology as a pilot project
Expand parking lots at trails and key destinations	Adding electrical service to a number of new campsites
Enhancing existing trails	Adding new yurts
Replacing sewage systems	Developing new picnic areas
Gravel/resurfacing roads in parks	Developing new trails
Fixing highways into parks	Creating modern destination centres
Replace playgrounds with modern equipment	Building new interpretive facilities
	Building new pit privies in back country areas

There are competing infrastructure needs across the provincial park system, given the level of aging equipment and services.

Manitoba has developed a process to prioritize and assess activities against a number of criteria to align with key strategic objectives for Manitobans including:

- priorities identified by Manitobans
- strategic need/ high visitation and high potential parks
- geography
- accessibility and inclusivity
- climate resiliency and green Infrastructure
- Indigenous economic reconciliation

Based on the outcome of these assessments, Manitobans can expect this plan to support projects that enhance visitor access and experiences.

Funding Plan

In 2022/23, capital expenditures were \$7.1 million which advanced key roadway, sewer and water, and interpretive initiatives. In addition, \$12.7 million in funding was targeted to provincial park roadway projects.

In 2023/24, Manitoba Parks will invest \$12.7 million directly in park infrastructure, which is a significant increase in parks' capital spending over the previous year, with an additional \$10 million from Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) for roadways.

In total, more than \$220 million over 10 years will be invested in the future of the treasured provincial park system. The table below provides a high-level investment timeline of the planned investments over the short, medium and long-term

Investment Plan: Short, Medium, Long-term from Manitoba Natural Resources and Northern Development and Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure

	Short Term (0-2 years) 22/23 - 24/25 (\$millions)	Medium Term (3-5 years) 25/26 - 27/28 (\$millions)	Long Term (6 years +) 28/29 - 31/32 (\$millions)	TOTAL (\$millions)
Manitoba Natural Resources and Northern Development Park Infrastructure Projects	\$32.4	\$38.0	\$50.7	\$121.1
Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure Provincial Roadways Roadway Renewal Projects	\$32.7	\$30.0	\$40.0	\$102.7
Total	\$65.1	\$68.0	\$90.7	\$223.8

4.1 Natural Resources and Northern Development Investments

The infrastructure needs in Manitoba’s provincial parks are as diverse as the parks themselves.

Investments in park infrastructure projects led by Manitoba Natural Resources and Northern Development will be just over \$120 million.

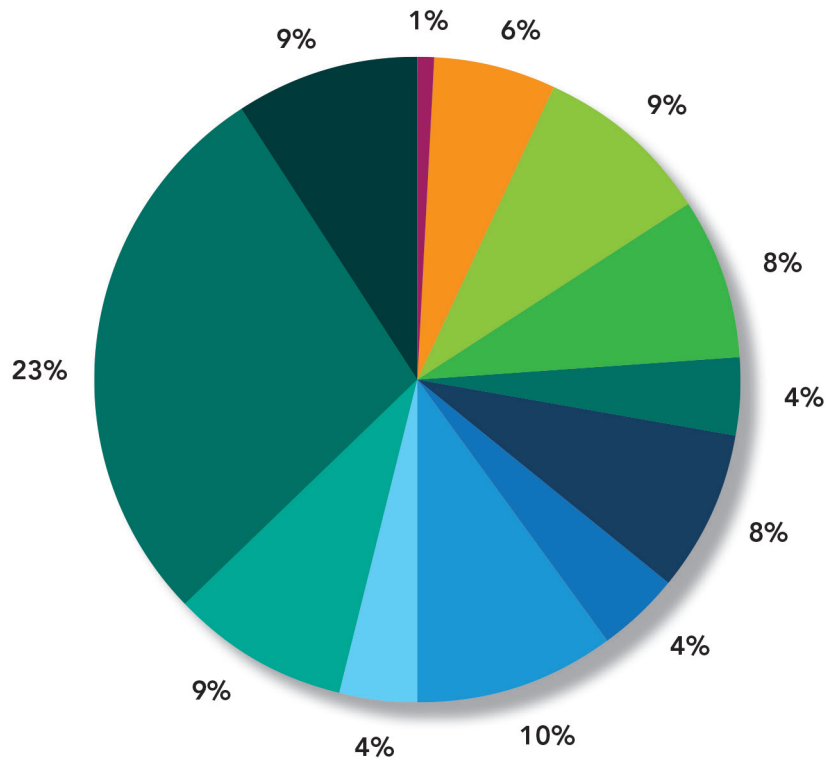
Based on Manitobans’ feedback about priorities, investments have been categorized into 12 thematic areas of investment:

1. major new initiatives
2. camping improvements
3. yurts/comfort camping
4. washroom/shower facilities
5. trails and signage
6. historic sites and interpretive facilities
7. beaches
8. day use and boat launches
9. playgrounds
10. accessibility improvements
11. water, wastewater and waste management
12. equipment and road improvements

Over the life of the plan, this represents more than 245 individual projects.

Capital Spending by Category of Work

- Accessibility Improvements **1%**
- Beaches, Day Use and Boat Launches **6%**
- Camping Improvements **9%**
- Equipment **8%**
- Historic Sites and Interpretive Facilities **4%**
- Major New Initiatives **8%**
- Playgrounds **4%**
- Road Improvements **10%**
- Trails and Signage **4%**
- Washroom and Shower Facilities **9%**
- Water, Wastewater and Waste Management **23%**
- Yurts/Comfort Camping **9%**



Manitobans have been clear about their collective priorities and desired outcomes for our provincial parks. Based on this, the actions in the strategy will result in greater access to the services and sites in demand. This includes providing modern environmental protection by ensuring sufficient systems and compliant water and wastewater capacity, and creating leading edge experiences such as new interactive and guided trail experiences and unique accommodation options, and more.

Some specific outcomes include:

- 50 per cent increase in capacity for yurts/ comfort camping options = approximately 4,500 more nights stays available annually
- six per cent increase (150) in campsites with improved electrical service from 15/30 amp service to 15/30/50 amp service
- nine per cent increase (225) new campsites with electrical service

This plan will make strategic park infrastructure investments of at least \$1 million in each of the busiest 20 provincial parks.

The balance of funding will be used for strategic upgrades and new capital projects within parks across Manitoba.



Planned Investment by Park or Category of Expenditure in other Parks by Manitoba Natural Resources and Northern Development (2022-2032)

(planned cumulative investment greater than \$1 million in each park over duration of strategy)

Park or Category with Major Expenditures (various Parks)	Estimated Planned Investment (\$millions)
Whiteshell Provincial Park	\$10.0
Birds Hill Provincial Park	\$9.5
Clearwater Lake Provincial Park	\$5.9
Assessippi Provincial Park	\$5.1
Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park	\$5.0
Spruce Woods Provincial Park	\$4.1
Paint Lake Provincial Park	\$3.9
Camp Morton Provincial Park	\$3.5
Duck Mountain Provincial Park	\$3.5
Bakers Narrows Provincial Park	\$3.1
Rivers Provincial Park	\$3.0
Turtle Mountain Provincial Park	\$2.9
Little Limestone Provincial Park	\$1.8
Lockport Provincial Park	\$1.6
Duff Roblin Provincial Park	\$1.6
Nopiming Provincial Park	\$1.5
Grand Beach Provincial Park	\$1.5
Beaudry Provincial Park	\$1.5
River Road Provincial Park	\$1.5
St. Malo Provincial Park	\$1.0
Various Provincial Parks	
Wastewater Facilities	\$14.3
Roadways and Parking Lots	\$9.4
Equipment	\$9.4
Yurts/Comfort Camping	\$4.5
Playgrounds	\$3.5
Accessibility Improvements	\$1.6
Other Miscellaneous Projects	\$6.9
Total	\$121.1

The following specific infrastructure projects that range across the entire provincial park system are just a few highlights of the projects that are planned and budgeted for as we work to modernize and rejuvenate our provincial park system for Manitobans and all park users.

Current (22/23 – 24/25) park infrastructure projects include:

- **Nutimik Museum replacement** in Whiteshell Provincial Park - \$879,000 investment
- **West Hawk Lake Seawall reconstruction** in Whiteshell Provincial Park - \$1.5 million investment
- **Fox Bay Campsite upgrades** in Birds Hill Provincial Park - \$667,000 investment
- **Gull Harbour Campsite electrification** in Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park - \$512,000 investment
- **Campsite electrical upgrades** in Stephenfield Provincial Park - \$370,000 investment
- **Group use area campsite electrification** in Spruce Woods Provincial Park - \$500,000 investment
- **Childs Lake yurt expansion** in Duck Mountain Provincial Park - \$650,000 investment
- **Washroom and shower building replacement** in Bakers Narrows Provincial Park - \$1.29 million investment
- **Pisew Falls Rotary Bridge upgrades** in Pisew Falls Provincial Park - \$150,000 investment
- **Wastewater lagoon assessment and upgrade** in Paint Lake Provincial Park - \$3.3 million investment

Upcoming (25/26 – 31/32) park infrastructure projects include:

- **Mantario Trail amenity upgrades** in Whiteshell Provincial Park - \$150,000 investment.
- **East Beach washroom replacement** in Grand Beach Provincial Park - \$900,000 investment
- **Lakeview Trail upgrades** in Birds Hill Provincial Park - \$1.5 million investment
- **Beach accessibility upgrades** in Camp Morton Provincial Park - \$2.0 million investment
- **New campground bay development** in Spruce Woods Provincial Park - \$2.5 million investment
- **Beach washroom replacement** in William Lake Provincial Park - \$600,000 investment
- **New yurt village** in Asessippi Provincial Park - \$1.8 million investment
- **New electrically serviced camping bay** in Clearwater Lake Provincial Park - \$2.75 million investment
- **New washroom and shower building** in Wekusko Falls Provincial Park campground - \$450,000 investment
- **Campground washroom building replacement** in Paint Lake Provincial Park - \$550,000 investment

To learn more about Manitoba's strategic direction for provincial parks, go to manitobaparks.com

4.2 Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure Investment

Strategic investments from Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) in our provincial parks is a critical component of enhancing visitor experiences. Providing a welcoming arrival to parks users is the best way for any visitor to embark on a provincial parks adventure.

As part of the strategy, MTI is prioritizing renewal projects in the Provincial Road (PR) and Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) system that improve access to, around and within provincial parks.

Strong economic opportunities for Manitoba include robust, strategic investments in infrastructure in communities across the province, including our vast network of provincial parks.

Current MTI projects that directly support the Manitoba Provincial Parks Infrastructure Renewal Strategy include:

- surface upgrades to PTH 5 from PTH 2 to 15 km North of PTH 2 through Spruce Woods Provincial Park a \$11.6M investment



- surface upgrades to PTH 1 from 0.7 km West of Ontario Boundary to Ontario Boundary through Whiteshell Provincial Park a \$3.0M investment
- structure rehabilitation on PTH 1 at PR 301 Falcon Lake Access, PR301 Overpass Falcon Lake Road and PTH 44 West Hawk Lake in Whiteshell Provincial Park a \$10.4M investment

Although all investments for provincial roadways in and around Manitoba parks has not been finalized for the full 10-year term at this time, the total current planned MTI investments in and around specific parks is detailed in the following table.

Park	Estimated Planned Investment (\$millions)
Spruce Woods Provincial Park	\$51.3
Whiteshell Provincial Park	\$19.7
Clearwater Lake Provincial Park	\$5.6
Paint Lake Provincial Park	\$3.4
Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park	\$3.3
Duck Mountain Provincial Park	\$2.5
Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park	\$0.9
Birds Hill Provincial Park	\$0.8
Other Strategic Projects	\$15.2
Total	\$102.7

Manitoba has also announced significant annual strategic investments in roads, highways, bridges and other infrastructure priorities that go beyond the targeted investments in the parks shared here. It is important to highlight that while these investments may primarily support other priority areas, they can have ancillary benefits to provincial parks, such as Manitoba's commitment to twin the Trans-Canada Highway (PTH 1) through Whiteshell Provincial Park to the Ontario border.

Many of these MTI investments will ensure continuous year-round access to remote communities and seasonal cottage settlements and accommodate increased traffic amounts in high use areas. The unprecedented flooding that occurred across Manitoba in the spring of 2022 has also demonstrated the need to adapt to a changing climate and ensure Manitoba's provincial parks are resilient in the face of future climate events.

Upcoming MTI projects on provincial roadways that support the protection and maintenance of year-round access to provincial parks include:

- culvert replacement on PR 367 at Garland Creek in Duck Mountain Provincial Park a \$2.5M investment
- structure replacement on PTH 5 at the Assiniboine River in Spruce Woods Provincial Park a \$24.1M investment
- surface upgrades to PR 375 from PTH 6 to Paint Lake in Paint Lake Provincial Park a \$3.4M investment
- minor structure rehabilitation on PTH 8 at the Hecla Causeway in Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park a \$0.9M investment



Additional information on planned Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure capital projects can be found in the 2023 Multi-year Infrastructure Investment Strategy at www.manitoba.ca/mit/myhis/index.html or by viewing the Manitoba Infrastructure Projects Map at www.manitoba.ca/mit/mipmap/map.html.

This comprehensive strategy addresses the priorities of Manitobans, improves visitor experiences and changes the future course of our treasured provincial parks for a more sustainable path forward ensuring these special places will be enjoyed by Manitobans and our visitors for generations to come.

