



# Duck Mountain Provincial Park

## Management Plan



This Management Plan for Duck Mountain Provincial Park was prepared in consultation with park users under the authority of The Provincial Parks Act.

Manitoba Conservation  
Parks and Natural Areas Branch  
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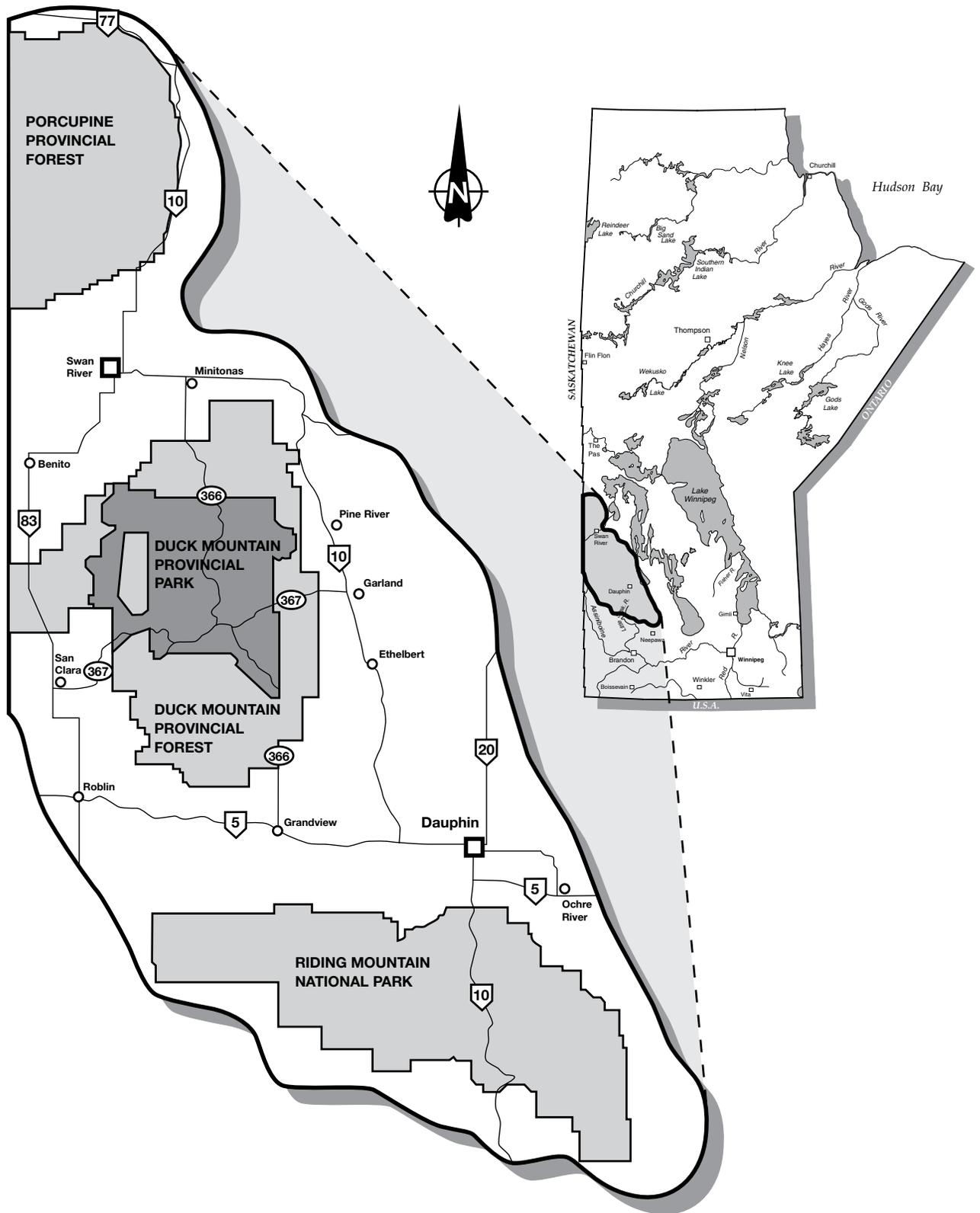
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## Part 1: Duck Mountain's Role in Manitoba's Provincial Park System

### 1.1 Park Description

Duck Mountain Provincial Park is an area of forested hills and interspersed lakes, encompassing over 1,424 km<sup>2</sup>. River valleys, wetlands and streams are characteristic of the region's glacial origins.

The park is part of a long series of highlands in western Manitoba, known collectively as the Western Upland Natural Region. The eastern edges of these hills form the Manitoba Escarpment. The escarpment separates the rolling western plateau from the lowlands of central Manitoba.

Duck Mountain's many lakes and ponds are remnant of glacial times, when meltwater filled depressions in the land forming many pothole lakes. Some of these lakes have since filled in with vegetation to become black spruce bogs. Other lakes, fed by springs and spring run-off, have remained clear.

Due to the varying altitudes and soil conditions, there are three distinct plant communities in the park: boreal forests, deciduous forests and upland meadows. These communities provide a diversity of habitats for large and small mammals, fish, insects and birds, and have made the park a favorite destination for hunters, sport fishers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Some of the wildlife found in the park includes elk, moose, white-tailed deer, black bear, fox, lynx, coyote and timber wolf. A variety of raptors, waterfowl and songbirds nest in the marshes and forests, while the meadows are important elk habitat. Duck Mountain supports a wide range of native and stocked fish species,

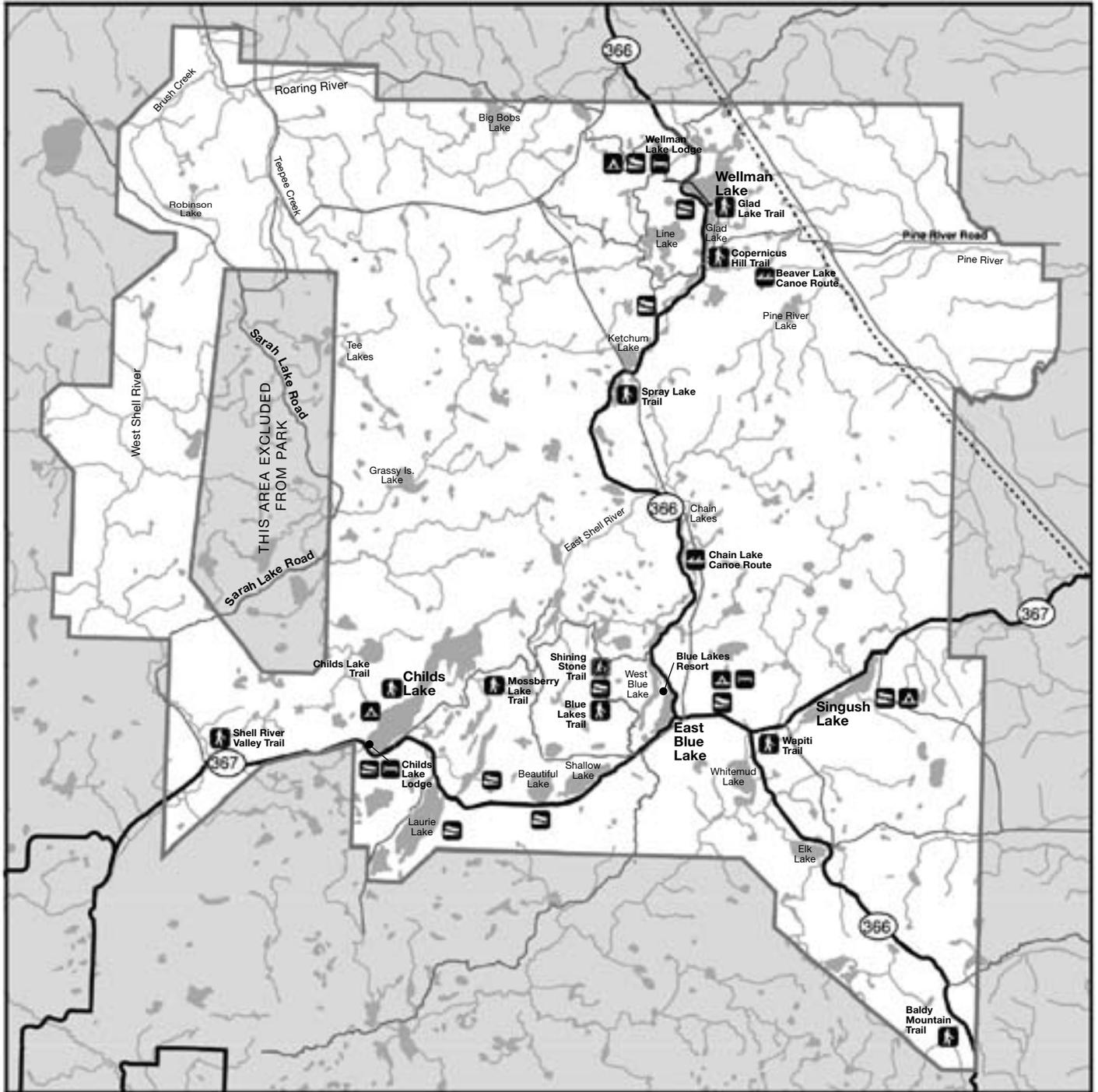


*Baldy Mountain Viewing Tower*

including walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, bass, lake whitefish, lake trout, brown, brook and rainbow trout, splake, smallmouth bass, muskellunge and Arctic char.

Initially part of the Duck Mountain Forest Reserve, Duck Mountain was one of four original provincial parks established in Manitoba in 1961. In 1997, a park boundary adjustment added 325 km<sup>2</sup> of land in the Shell, Roaring and Pine river areas, and removed 200 km<sup>2</sup> of park land in the southern portion of the park. Today, campgrounds, cottage subdivisions, visitor amenities, lakes, trails, hunting and fishing opportunities are popular attractions. Accessible backcountry areas provide opportunities to recreate in an unspoiled environment.





**Legend**

- |   |               |   |                    |   |                   |
|---|---------------|---|--------------------|---|-------------------|
|  | Accommodation |  | Canoe Route        |  | Road              |
|  | Boat Launch   |  | Hiking Trail       |  | Trail             |
|  | Campground    |  | Self-Guiding Trail |  | Transmission Line |

## 1.2 Park Purpose

The main purpose of Duck Mountain Provincial Park is to preserve areas that are representative of the Western Upland Natural Region and to accommodate a diversity of recreational opportunities and resource uses. The park will:

- Provide nature-oriented recreational opportunities such as hiking, canoeing and other trail-based activities in a largely undisturbed environment;
- Provide high-quality camping, cottaging, hunting and fishing opportunities, and accommodate associated facilities and services;
- Promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural features and cultural heritage;
- Accommodate commercial resource uses such as forest harvest, where such activities do not compromise other park purposes.

## 1.3 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. Provincial parks are classified as Wilderness, Natural, Recreation or Heritage depending on their main purpose in the provincial park system.

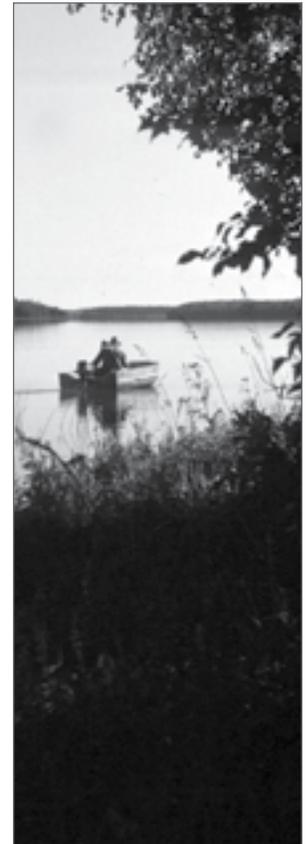
Duck Mountain is classified as a Natural Park. The main purpose of a Natural Park is to both preserve portions of a natural region and to accommodate a diversity of recreational opportunities and resource uses.

### PURPOSES OF PROVINCIAL PARKS

In accordance with park classifications and land use categories, the purposes of a provincial park system include the following:

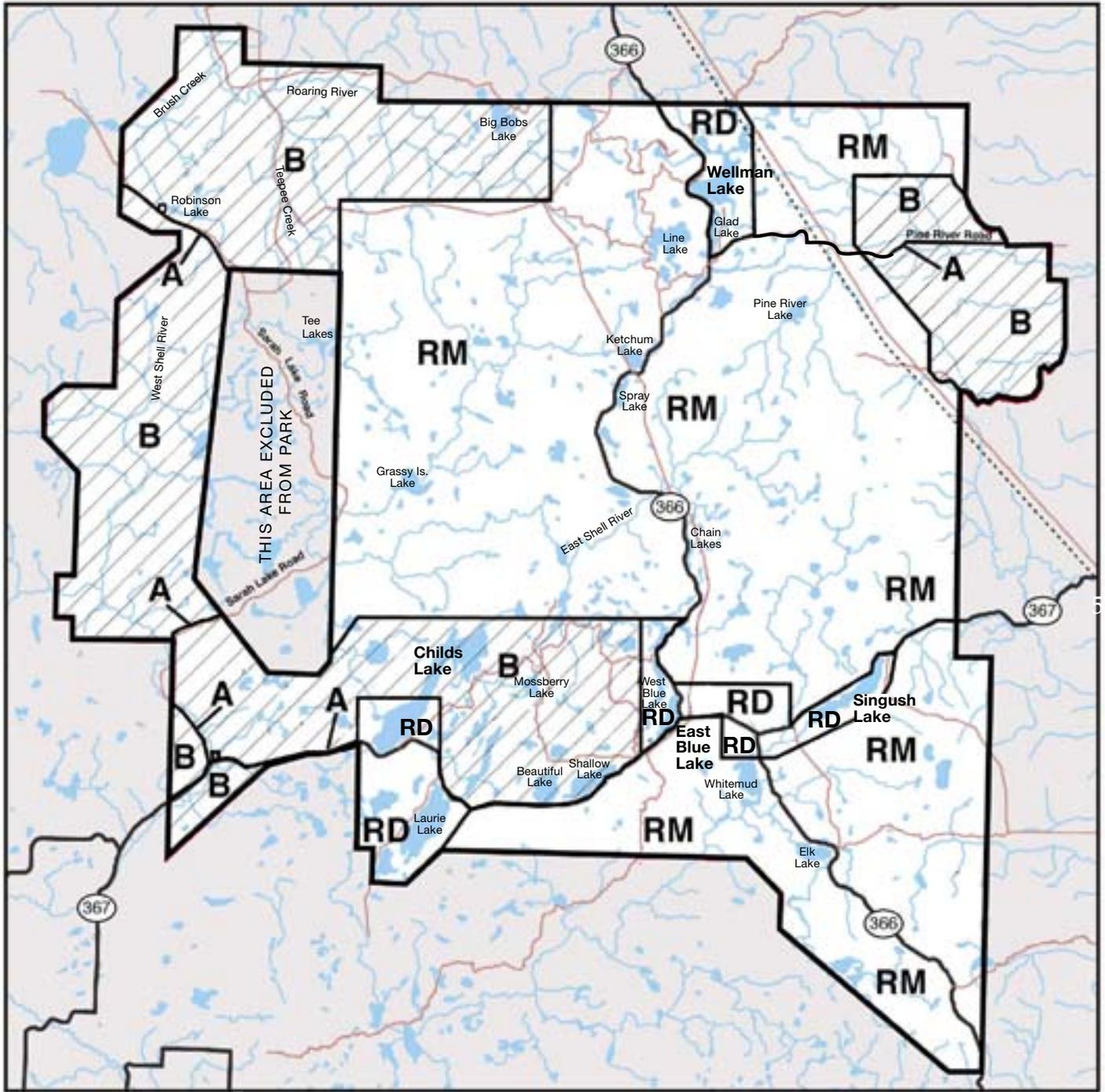
- (a) to conserve ecosystems and maintain bioiversity;
- (b) to preserve unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources; and
- (c) to provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting.

*Source: The Provincial Parks Act  
(Chapter P20).*



## 1.4 Traditional Use

Duck Mountain has been and continues to be used by a number of First Nation communities for physical, spiritual, cultural and economic well being. Traditional uses include spiritual, social and recreational activities, as well as hunting, fishing and gathering. The management plan acknowledges and respects the treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples to pursue traditional uses and activities within Duck Mountain Provincial Park.



Legend

- |          |   |             |           |                          |          |        |
|----------|---|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------|--------|
| <b>B</b> |  | Backcountry | <b>RD</b> | Recreational Development | <b>A</b> | Access |
|          |   |             | <b>RM</b> | Resource Management      |          |        |

## 1.5 Land Use Categories (LUCs)

In 1997, Land Use Categories were established in all of Manitoba's provincial parks. These categories identify the main purpose of broad areas within a park. Duck Mountain Provincial Park contains four of six possible land use categories (Backcountry, Recreational Development, Resource Management and Access). The two remaining LUC designations (Wilderness and Heritage) are not represented at Duck Mountain.

### 1.5.1 BACKCOUNTRY LUC

This forested 46,851 hectare area is protected from logging, mining or the development of oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric power. It is a generally unmodified natural environment, managed to preserve its natural, undeveloped character and provide a remote recreational experience. Three distinct backcountry areas can be identified:

- The Roaring & Shell rivers areas in the western portion of the park are characterized by glacial spillways, moraines and prairie meadows, of which Jumper Plains is the best known. Other features include mineral licks, travertine deposits and mineral springs.
- The scenic Pine River area is situated on the eastern edge of the Manitoba escarpment. Several tributaries merge into the Pine River, carrying water to the surrounding lowlands and providing important trout habitat.

- The mid-boreal forests to the south contain the popular Mossberry Trails. Recreational use is more intensive due to the proximity of cottages and campgrounds.

### 1.5.2 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LUC

The Recreational Development LUC is represented by several blocks of land totaling 8,750 hectares in the Wellman, Singush, East Blue and Childs lake areas. This LUC provides a range of activities including camping, swimming, day use, hiking, cottaging and fishing, and contains recreational services and facilities such as commercial lodges and concessions.

The Laurie Lake area is reserved to provide future public-use options for the park, beyond the scope of this management plan.

### 1.5.3 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LUC

This 86,719 hectare area accommodates both backcountry recreation and managed forest harvest activities. Recreation trails, interpretive trails and canoe routes are located in road-accessible areas (near PTH 366 and 367). In more remote areas, fishers, hunters, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts are the primary users.

### 1.5.4 ACCESS LUC

Road access through the Backcountry LUC and access to adjoining gravel pits is provided by this LUC. The Access LUC accounts for only 110 hectares of the park.

**Table 1: General Land Use Framework**  
(See Map on page 6).

	Backcountry LUC	Resource Management LUC	Recreational Development LUC	Access LUC
<b>Natural Values</b>				
<b>Environment</b>	Predominantly unmodified natural environment.	Predominately natural environment except in active forest harvest areas.	Predominately natural environment except in developed areas.	Provides a route of access for road allowances and gravel pits.
<b>Landscape Manipulation</b>	Not permitted except to maintain natural vegetation regimes and trails.	Some as required for recreational development and resource harvest.	Some as required for recreational development.	Site modification as required to provide access.
<b>Protection Status</b>	No logging, mining, gas, petroleum, oil, or hydro development.	Managed commercial resource harvest may be permitted.	Managed resource harvest for park management purposes only.	Managed resource harvest may be permitted.
<b>Recreation Values</b>				
<b>Recreational Experience</b>	High to moderate opportunity for solitude, tranquility and closeness to nature.	Moderate opportunity for solitude, tranquility and closeness to nature.	Opportunity to get away from others but with easy access.	Low importance.
<b>Reliance on Outdoor Skills</b>	High degree of self-reliance, challenge and risk.	High degree of self-reliance, challenge and risk.	Self-reliance of low to moderate importance. Little challenge or risk.	Self-reliance of low importance. Little challenge or risk.
<b>Incidence of Use</b>	Low interaction between users and little evidence of other users except on trails.	Low concentration of users but evidence of other users on trails.	Moderate concentration of users and evidence of other users.	Moderate to high evidence of other users
<b>Trails</b>	Low trail density. Moderate in Mossberry trails area.	Low to moderate trail density.	Low to moderate trail density. Higher use at selected sites.	As required to facilitate access.
<b>Facility Development</b>	Limited facilities for sanitation, safety and convenience.	Limited facilities for sanitation, safety and convenience.	Moderate facilities for public use (eg. campgrounds, lodges), sanitation, safety and convenience.	Moderate facilities for sanitation, safety and convenience.

## Part 2: Management Plan Overview

This overview provides direction for future park initiatives and can assist in resolving issues not specifically addressed in the management plan. The park vision, below, is a description of Duck Mountain Provincial Park, projected 10-15 years in the future. As a planning tool it can be used to ensure that management decisions are made to promote and sustain these core values. Table 1 provides a general framework for land use in the park's four land use categories.

### 2.1 A Vision for the Future

Duck Mountain Provincial Park offers park visitors a sense of freedom and well-being in a natural setting. Duck Mountain embraces a wide range of park users. People are attracted to the park because of its extensive undeveloped landscapes and abundant opportunities for exploration, quiet and solitude.

Duck Mountain offers camping, fishing, hunting, swimming, cottaging and a variety of trail-based activities. It is one of the few parks in Manitoba with recreational ATV trails. The park provides a range of accommodations and services, focused in several development nodes. Recreational use is centered in the Wellman, Singush, Blue and Childs lake areas.

The presence of Duck Mountain Provincial Park enhances the lives of people from the surrounding communities, First Nations and beyond. Nearby residents enjoy a close relationship with the park, and there is a well-developed sense of environmental awareness.

#### PROTECTED AREAS FACT

The glacial spillway that includes the Shell River Valley is an important feature in Manitoba's protected areas network. On the West Shell River, a unique combination of glacial deposits, regosolic soils and hummocky stagnation moraine can be found, the only one of its type in the Western Upland Natural Region of Manitoba.

Visitors quickly come to appreciate the unique social, recreational and educational opportunities that the park provides. The park serves as a hands-on classroom for scientific and environmental research and education.

Park managers work with local park users, First Nations, government and non-government organizations to ensure the health and viability of the park and surrounding areas. The park is managed to maintain viable populations of all native species in natural patterns of abundance and distribution within normal ranges of variation. Sound wildlife and vegetation management practices are employed to protect the park's natural communities.

Duck Mountain reflects and celebrates the settlement history of the western parkland area of Manitoba. Selected





historic trails and buildings are preserved as reminders of a resource-based history that was dependent on hunting, trapping and timber harvest.

Duck Mountain showcases the boreal and deciduous forest communities that represent the Western Upland Natural Region. It also protects several unique natural features, including a glacial spillway, prairies, meadows, salt licks, travertine deposits and mineral springs. Interpretive trails with signs or brochures provide opportunities for park visitors to learn about the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

## Part 3: Management Objectives & Guidelines

### 3.1 Natural and Cultural Values

Manitoba's Provincial Parks protect and preserve natural values while providing opportunities for recreational and educational use. In this complex relationship, park management decisions must consider both ecological integrity and sustainable human use.

#### 3.1.1 NATURAL LANDSCAPES

##### OBJECTIVE:

Maintain ecological integrity and minimize impacts of human activity in undeveloped areas.

##### GUIDELINES:

##### Monitoring

Strategies to monitor environmental health will be implemented within existing programs and resources. These may evolve over time but will include:

- Water quality monitoring (see section 3.1.2).
- Road and trail data as an indicator of habitat fragmentation.

##### Park Database

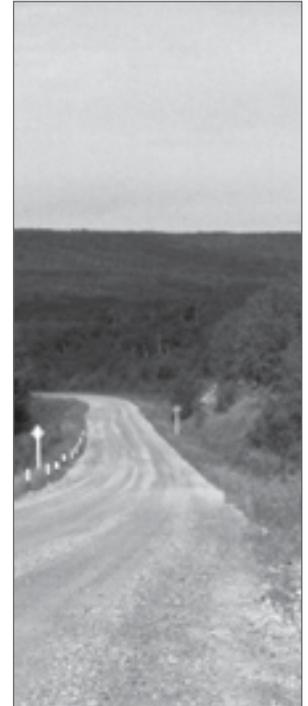
Key natural and cultural areas will be identified on a Duck Mountain Provincial Park database. Recreational and resource use activities in significant areas will be managed to avoid excessive disturbances and fragmentation of park landscapes.

#### DEFINITIONS

##### Ecological Integrity:

An ecosystem has integrity when it is deemed characteristic for its natural region including the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities, rates of change, and supporting processes.

*Ontario Ecological Integrity  
subcommittee January 2005.*



##### Vegetation Management

Vegetation management strategies such as controlled burns, vegetation removal or planting, and pesticide use may be implemented to maintain or preserve significant natural features such as rare or unique plant species, vegetation communities and natural landscapes. Initial focus will be on selected prairie sites in the Shell and Roaring River areas.

##### Control of Natural Disturbances

Disturbances that are part of a landscape's evolutionary process (e.g. drought, insects and fire) can have a positive role in maintaining park landscapes.

- Where there is no threat to adjacent forestry or property values, management intervention will generally not be initiated.
- Wildfires will be suppressed as per Manitoba Conservation's Fire Program Primary Protection Zone guidelines.
- Strategies for fire management in sensitive areas of the park will be developed.

### 3.1.2 AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS

The waters of Duck Mountain Provincial Park are one of the park's most valued features. Its lakes and streams host a variety of aquatic species, both native and introduced. The protection of water quality, both within the park and downstream, is a priority.

Many of the recreational angling opportunities in the park are the result of stocking programs. Stocking is an important part of this fishery, which is managed to both provide recreational opportunities and to support the protection of natural aquatic ecosystems.

#### OBJECTIVE:

Preserve the integrity of aquatic ecosystems, water quality and natural patterns of stream flow.

#### GUIDELINES:

##### **Water Quality Monitoring**

Sampling will be conducted at selected water bodies within the park to establish baseline water quality data. Initial testing will focus on lakes with cottage or recreational development. Monitoring to assess the impacts of other activities such

as forest harvest may be conducted as needed.

##### **Fish Stocking**

Prior to implementing new stocking initiatives (i.e. lakes that have not been stocked for five years or more), resource managers will review the potential impact of stocking on factors such as wildlife, vegetation, historic sites, access, recreational and commercial use. No new stocking initiatives will be permitted in the Backcountry Land Use Category.

##### **Fish Toxicants**

Use of fish toxicants for fisheries management purposes will not be permitted, except in exceptional circumstances (e.g. to control an undesirable foreign species).

##### **Water Level Management**

Structures and developments for manipulating water levels for recreational purposes will not be permitted. Water levels will be allowed to fluctuate naturally, except as noted:

- Control structures for fisheries management enhancement purposes must be approved and may not alter water quantities (flows and lake-levels) such that water quality or other uses of the lake or stream are impaired. Water level manipulation will not be permitted in the Backcountry LUC.
- Manitoba Water Stewardship control structures at Beaver Lake, Pine River Lake, Shanty Lake and Pine River may continue to be operated for flood control purposes.

### 3.1.3 HISTORIC SITES

Duck Mountain Provincial Park has a long history of human use by indigenous people and later by trappers, hunters, loggers and recreationists. This history is evident in the remains of tent rings, arrowheads and campsites, as well as historic buildings, logging and work camps, fire towers and historic trails. Many of these sites are unmarked. Park managers are responsible for ensuring that historically significant areas are not inadvertently damaged by recreational or resource use.

#### OBJECTIVE:

Avoid disturbance of culturally and historically significant areas of the park.

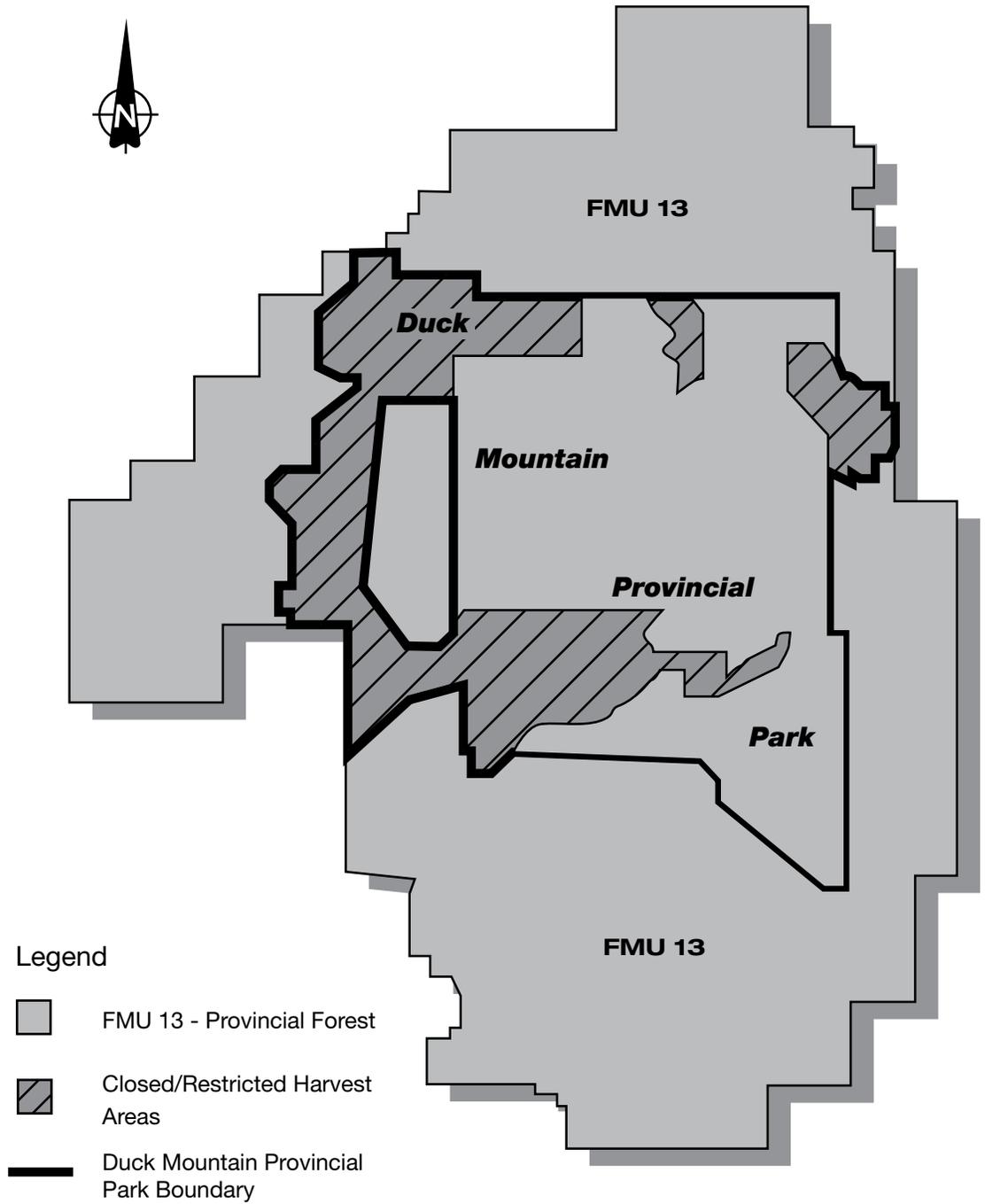
#### GUIDELINES:

##### **Identify Key Historic Sites**

Key historic sites and culturally significant areas will be identified on the Duck Mountain Provincial Park database (section 3.1.1). The database will be coordinated with archaeological site information compiled by Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism and will be updated as new information is obtained.



*Ranger Sinclair Cabin*



## 3.2 Commercial Activities

Commercial activities such as forest harvest, trapping and outfitting are generally permitted in the park. The park management plan ensures that Duck Mountain Provincial Park's specific goals for conservation, nature appreciation, recreation and resource use are recognized when allocations and harvesting strategies are developed. The following park-specific guidelines are directed at forestry operations and other commercial activities.

### 3.2.1 FORESTRY

Duck Mountain Provincial Park is part of a larger forestry unit known as Forest Management Unit (FMU) 13, which is located in Forest Management License Area (FML) 3. Commercial logging occurs in the park in the Resource Management LUC, with less than one percent of the LUC harvested in a typical year.

Manitoba Conservation oversees forestry operations in the park. Cut blocks are allocated annually to private quota holders who carry out the harvest. Planning and implementation of forest harvest activities in approved areas is conducted by Louisiana Pacific Canada Ltd., under licence from the Province of Manitoba.

Forest harvest activities operate within a framework of sustainable forest management, and forests are managed to conserve ecological integrity, long-term forest productivity and biological diversity. Forestry activities are determined through processes such as Forest Management and Environmental Licensing, with public input in Forest Management Plan and Annual Operating Plan reviews.

### FOREST CLASSIFICATION

Manitoba's Forest Resource Inventory classifies Duck Mountain Provincial Park as follows:

- Resource Mgmt LUC-OPEN
- Backcountry LUC-CLOSED
- Recreational Development LUC- RESTRICTED (park management purposes only)



#### OBJECTIVE:

Ensure ecologically sound forest harvest practices in the Resource Management LUC.

#### GUIDELINES:

##### Forest Planning

In cooperation with the forestry sector, Manitoba will develop and implement stand and landscape level forest management measures that promote habitat diversity, conserve wildlife habitat, and protect unique sites and features.

##### Special Conditions for Cutting in Park

Special conditions may be applied to cutting plans within Provincial Parks including, but not limited to:

- Hauling and operation restrictions.
- Access road limitations.
- Road closure and stream crossing provisions.
- Distances from identified natural features and recreation areas.

### Buffers

In addition to standard buffer requirements, management strategies or conditions may be utilized to protect recreational and natural park values such as:

- Recreation areas and facilities.
- Viewscapes from park roadways, trails, recreation areas, campgrounds, cottage subdivisions, viewing towers and viewpoints, including views which extend beyond the park (e.g. Baldy Mountain).
- Significant natural or cultural sites or features.
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat, in consultation with the Wildlife and Ecosystems Protection Branch.

### Forest Access Roads

Strategies will be employed to minimize habitat fragmentation associated with new road construction and duration of operation. Existing routes of access will be utilized where possible. Access roads will generally be gated to facilitate regeneration of vegetation and to reduce the impact of roads on wildlife populations. Entire roads, portions of roads or water crossings will generally be decommissioned when forestry access beyond these points is no longer required.

### Non-Timber Forest Products

Harvest of non-timber forest products in Duck Mountain Provincial Park will be considered in the Resource Management and Access LUCs only in accordance with Parks and Natural Areas Branch policy directives for harvest of non-timber products.

### 3.2.2 COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Commercial development nodes (rental cabins, stores, restaurants and gas stations) are located at Wellman, East Blue and Childs lakes. This level of development is considered appropriate and no additional development centres have been identified.

There are two portable hunting camps in the park, incorporated into the park as a result of a boundary adjustment in 1997. Special permit conditions apply to these two operations. Commercial hunting outfitters are managed in cooperation with The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch, and outfitters are subject to applicable regulations and guidelines.

#### OBJECTIVE:

Focus commercial development and services in existing development nodes and ensure that new development is appropriate for the park.

#### GUIDELINES:

##### General Development Criteria

Proposals for additional development within existing development nodes will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Development proposals must be presented as part of an integrated overall development plan for the site and must demonstrate suitability for a park setting.
- Proposals must be consistent with the natural and cultural values of the park.
- Proposals must demonstrate a direct benefit to the park and park users, and

must be compatible with existing and adjacent site use.

- Proposals must demonstrate economic viability, and will be subject to appropriate review and applicable environmental assessment.

### Outcamps and Portable Camps

Outcamps will not be permitted in the park, and no new commercial portable camps may be established. Existing portable camps, consisting of tents only, will continue to be permitted on an annual basis for non-resident hunting purposes. The relocation of existing portable camps to areas outside of the park will be encouraged.

## 3.3 Outdoor Recreation

Management strategies are established to provide continued high-quality recreational experiences now and in the future. Planning ensures that growing numbers of park visitors and an expanding variety of recreational pursuits do not gradually erode the recreational experience for park users.

### 3.3.1 TRAILS

Duck Mountain Provincial Park has trails or routes for hiking, canoeing, interpretation, cross-country skiing, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and snowmobile riding. Other compatible activities are permitted on these trails unless specifically prohibited (for example, signs may be posted to restrict motorized use on popular hiking trails). Recreational trails provide social and economic benefits and are an important part of the park experience.

### VEHICLE OPERATION IN PARKS

Except under the authority of a permit issued by the minister, no person shall operate a vehicle in a provincial park unless it is operated:

- a) on roadway;
- b) in a place approved for that purpose by the director;
- c) on a designated route prescribed (for hunting purposes) under the Wildlife Act.

*Source: Manitoba Regulation 141/96 (section 32(2)).*



Recreational ATV riding has become widespread beyond the Mossberry Trails, which were the first trails specifically designated in the park for this use. Concerns about habitat degradation, exotic weed dispersal, air and noise pollution, soil compaction, erosion and siltation of streams have been raised. There is an opportunity to better protect the environment while improving and expanding the system of ATV trails to better reflect the needs of park users.

#### OBJECTIVE:

Enhance recreational trail opportunities and minimize negative impacts on wildlife, habitat and other park users.



## DEFINITIONS

**ORV** - An off-road vehicle (ORV) means any wheeled or tracked motorized vehicle designed or adapted for cross-country travel on land, water, ice, snow, marsh or swamp land or other natural terrain and ... includes:

- Four-wheel drive motor vehicle (not registered);
- An all-terrain vehicle
- A mini-bike, dirt-bike and trail bike
- A dune sport buggy and off-road maintenance machine;
- An amphibious vehicle
- A snowmobile

**ATV** - An all-terrain vehicle (ATV) is defined as an off-road vehicle that operates or travels on three or more low-pressure tires; has a seat designed to be straddled by the operator of the vehicle; and has handlebars for steering the vehicle.

*Source: The Off-Road Vehicles Act (Statutes of Manitoba c. 031).*

## GUIDELINES:

### Trail System Review

The park trail system will be reviewed and guidelines for ATV use developed in accordance with park regulations and relevant legislation. A Working Group involving local trail users will be established to provide advice to Manitoba Conservation. The group will:

1. Identify existing trails used by all-terrain vehicles.
2. Review scientific information on potential ATV impact.
3. Evaluate suitability of specific park environments for ATV use.
4. Determine objectives for ATV use in the park. (i.e. touring, hunting or other).
5. Examine trail user requirements and potential user conflicts.
6. Assess the suitability of trails for off-road vehicles other than ATVs.
7. Determine the need for additional public consultation.
8. Recommend future trail development, maintenance, monitoring and public education strategies.

### Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs)

Off-road vehicles other than ATVs and snowmobiles will not be permitted to operate in the park unless specifically authorized by Manitoba Conservation. Guidelines for recreational ORVs will be developed in consultation with the Trails Working Group.

### Special Vehicle Use Permits

Manitoba Conservation may permit travel off of trails and permit the use of vehicles other than ATVs as follows:

- For park operation and maintenance purposes;
- For work purposes by commercial harvesters, outfitters, tour operators and registered trapline holders;
- For educational purposes, scientific research or reasons deemed in the public interest.

### ATV & Snowmobile Derbies

Permits for snowmobile derbies may be issued, subject to prior assessment of potential environmental impact and disturbance to wildlife and other park users. ATV derbies will not be permitted in the park.

### Interpretive Trails

Park interpretation will focus on self-guiding trails and related publications. Trails will explore themes such as geology, geomorphology, the boreal forest, elk, the First People, transportation, political history, domestic life, forestry, sand and gravel use and water resources. Natural and cultural sites and artifacts will be incorporated into trail design as possible. Interpretive trails will be closed to vehicles unless specifically identified for motorized use.

### 3.3.2 BOATING

Boating and fishing are popular activities in the park. This has resulted in the establishment of boat caches on a number of non-road accessible lakes. Boat caches are sites where boats have been stored or left by their owners for private use. If left unmanaged, private boat caches can crowd portages, impede access and detract shoreline views. (Commercial boat caches are managed through an existing licencing process.)

#### OBJECTIVE:

Protect shoreline integrity and provide ease of access for fishing on remote lakes.

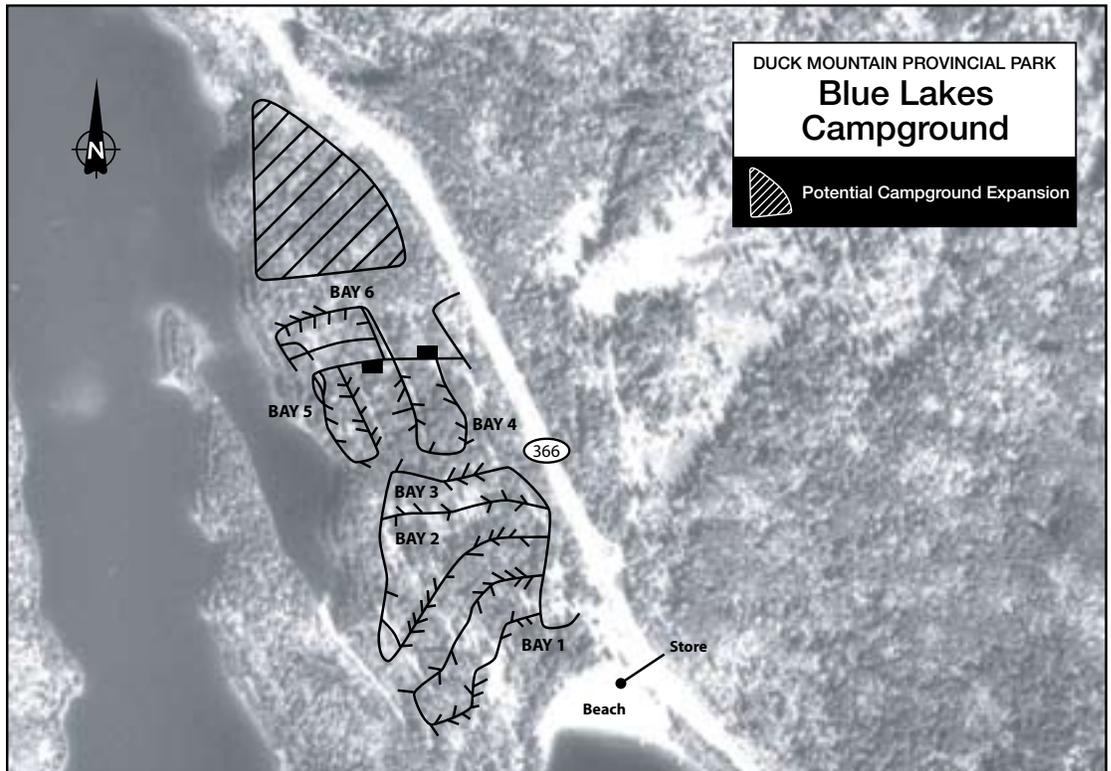
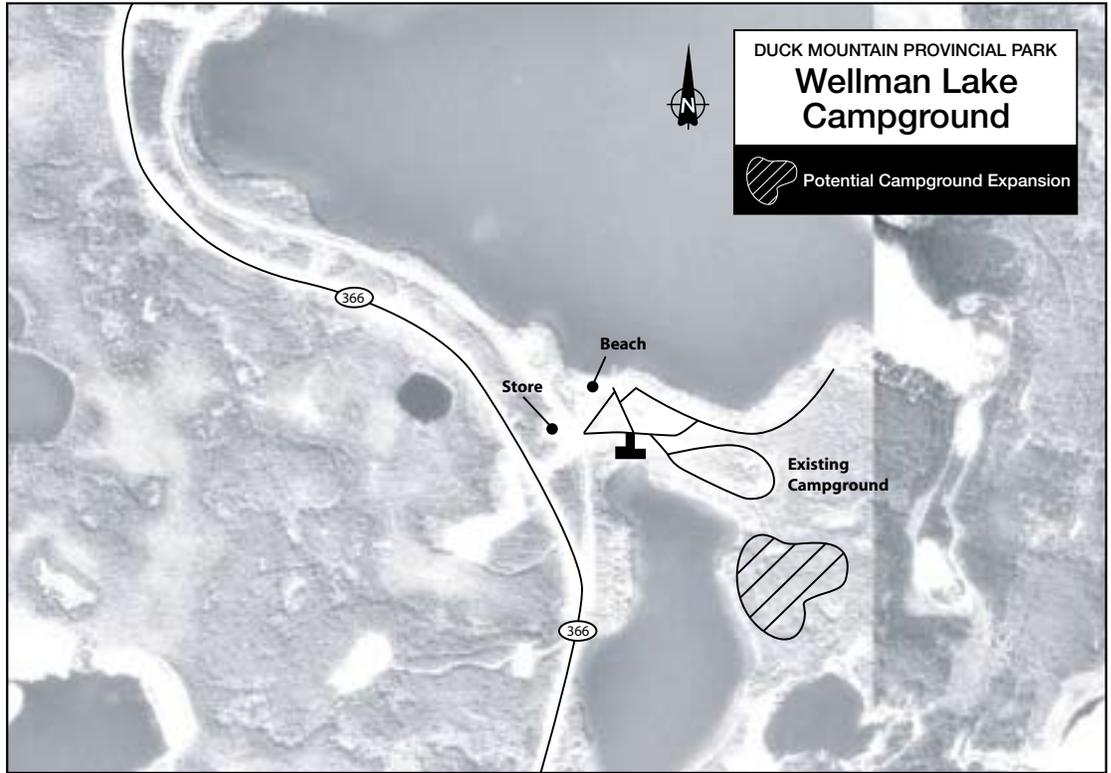
#### GUIDELINES:

##### Boat Caches

Private caching of boats will be permitted in accordance with Parks and Natural Areas Branch policy on boat caching.

##### Implementation

An inventory of lakes will be conducted to identify cached boats. Designated sites for caching boats will be established on selected lakes. Boats stored improperly will be removed.



### 3.3.3 CAMPING

Duck Mountain Provincial Park offers transient, seasonal and backcountry camping opportunities. Campgrounds are located at Wellman, East Blue, Singush and Childs lakes. Campground occupancy rates from 1991 to 2001 were generally high, with average weekend occupancy at Wellman Lake campground in the 50-80% range. Occupancy at Blue Lake campground was also high and is projected to increase. There are also several designated backcountry campsites on the Mossberry Trail and Chain Lakes canoe route.

#### OBJECTIVE:

Provide an adequate number of camping sites and offer a range of camping experiences and opportunities.

#### GUIDELINES:

##### Campground Expansion

Sites for future campground expansions are identified at the following two locations (see maps):

- Wellman Lake (near northeast shore of Glad Lake)
- Blue Lake (north of existing campground)

##### Group Use Area

A site for a new group camping area will be investigated at Wellman Lake (east of existing campground). Development of expanded facilities is subject to annual budget allotments and will proceed when feasible.

#### CAMPING IN DESIGNATED AREAS

No person shall camp in a provincial park except in an area designated for that purpose by the minister.

*Source: Manitoba Regulation 141/96, (section 37).*

#### Backcountry Camping

Designated backcountry campsites will continue to be made available for general use in the Mossberry Trails area at George, Mossberry, Ralph lakes, and on the Beaver Lake and Chain Lakes canoe routes. Additional backcountry campsites may be designated in other areas of the park based on demand and resources for developing for such sites.

#### Camping by Licenced Hunters

Backcountry camping by persons in possession of a big game hunting licence that is valid in the park will be permitted in accordance with Parks and Natural Areas Branch policy directives for Backcountry Camping.



### 3.3.4 COTTAGING

Cottage subdivisions are located at Singush, Wellman, East Blue and Childs lakes. Cottage development will be limited to these areas in order to preserve opportunities on accessible, undeveloped lakes and to maintain the generally unmodified character of the park.

Environmental concerns such as nutrient loading and shoreline development are also addressed.

#### OBJECTIVE:

Focus cottage development existing development nodes and promote responsible shoreline development.

#### GUIDELINES:

##### **New Cottage Development**

New cottage development will be permitted only on existing developed lakes in accordance with current park guidelines, policies and regulations respecting cottage development.

##### **Sewage Disposal:**

Pump-out sewage holding tanks generally provide the highest level of protection to surface water and groundwater. Conversion to pump-out sewage holding tanks in cottage subdivisions is planned as follows:

- New cottages serviced by a pressurized water system will be required to install a pump-out holding tank for all sewage and grey-water.

- Cottages with an existing system installed and approved prior to implementation of this guideline will continue to be permitted until such time as upgrading is required.
- New installations and upgrades to existing systems will require a pump-out sewage holding tank. No new septic fields or field upgrades will be permitted.

##### **Public Education:**

Manitoba Conservation will work with local cottaging associations and other partners to facilitate environmental stewardship in cottaging areas.

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