

Proposal to Designate Pemmican Island a Provincial Park

Project Overview

The purpose of this engagement process was to seek public comments regarding the proposal to designate Pemmican Island a provincial park.

Engagement Overview

A survey was open on EngageMB from May 12th, 2023 to June 25th, 2023. Participation in the survey did not require registration on EngageMB. The survey was publicized via social media. Manitoba Parks also sent notifications by mail and email to several Indigenous communities, and stakeholders in the industry and environment sectors.

What We Heard

Do you agree with the proposal to designate Pemmican Island Provincial Park as a natural park and designate the lands within the park under the backcountry land use category?		
Yes	409	96%
No	17	4%
TOTAL	426	100%

Those who responded “No” to the question above were asked to explain why they did not agree with the proposal. Responses included:

- No further restricted/designated areas in Manitoba.
- The designation as a provincial park is not protective enough.
- There is inadequate funding for existing Manitoba parks.
- Pemmican Island’s location.
- Designation as a provincial park will damage the ecosystem, and will bring more people to the area. (Note: The provincial park designation will not lead to any development on the island as the park is non-operational and the island will remain in its natural state).

Survey respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments, and 172 participants did so. The vast majority of these comments were regarding the importance of preserving ecological integrity, wildlife habitats, and the importance of conserving/protecting as much land in the province as possible. Several respondents also commented on the importance of working with Indigenous communities to ensure their rights are respected and ensure the provincial park designation is supported by the local communities. A few of the comments received were out of scope of the subject of the survey.

Manitoba Parks engaged with local Indigenous communities on the proposal. Three expressed support for the proposed park designation or indicated that protection of Pemmican Island aligns with their goals for the area. None of the communities expressed opposition or concerns about the proposal.

Manitoba Parks did not receive formal responses from any of the non-government organizations contacted; however, two of the environmental non-government organizations shared information about the proposal via social media and encouraged the public to support the proposed park designation. This resulted in 65 emails from the public expressing support for the designation.

Next Steps

Following the review of all feedback received and other relevant information, the Manitoba government approved the designation of Pemmican Island Provincial Park, with the designation announced on July 25, 2023. Manitoba Parks will engage the local Indigenous communities on the development of a management plan for the park.

Active Offer Statement

This information is available in an alternate format on request. Please contact parksystem@gov.mb.ca.

Questions?

Contact: parksystem@gov.mb.ca