



# Little Limestone Lake Provincial Park



## Land Designation

Little Limestone Lake Provincial Park is located in north central Manitoba adjacent to Provincial Trunk Highway 6, approximately 450 kilometres north of Winnipeg and 65 kilometres north of the community of Grand Rapids. The park is 4,810 hectares in size including lands directly adjacent to Little Limestone Lake, Islands in the lake, and the beds of the lake and waterbodies in the park area.

Little Limestone Lake Provincial Park is designated under *The Provincial Parks Act* as a Natural Park, with Backcountry land use category (LUC). As a Natural Park, Little Limestone Lake Provincial Park's purpose is to preserve landscape within the mid boreal lowlands portion of the province's Manitoba Lowlands Natural Region. The Backcountry LUC provides full legal protection to the entire park area, prohibiting forest harvesting, mining, hydroelectric development, oil and gas exploration or development, and any other activities that could harm habitats.

Manitoba Conservation will manage Little Limestone Lake as a non-operational park, with no intentions for developments or investments in park related programming and infrastructure, such as roads, trails, campgrounds and support buildings. The park designation is intended to conserve and protect the outstanding natural features identified for the park area and Little Limestone Lake.

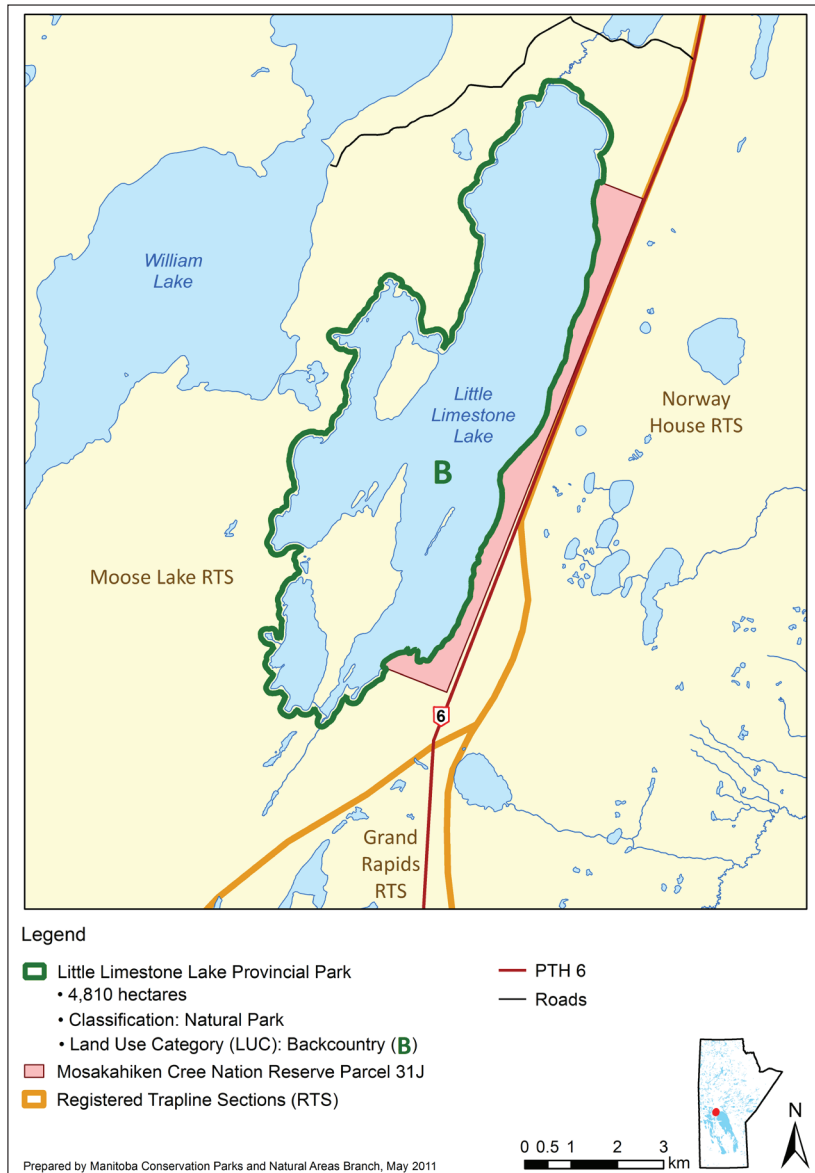


## Landscape Description

The park area supports mixedwood forests of jack pine, trembling aspen, black spruce, tamarack and swamp birch over upland and lowland areas. Forest understories include alder, willow, and various herbs and mosses. Wildlife populations in the park area include moose, bear, wolf, lynx, beaver, muskrat, spruce grouse, double-crested cormorant, ring-billed gull, common tern, various ducks and geese and numerous songbirds.

The lake supports populations of fish species including walleye, whitefish, perch and pike. A managed bi-annual commercial fishery for walleye and whitefish exists on the lake.

The park is located within the Mosakahiken Cree Nation Resource Management Area (RMA) and Moose Lake Registered Trapline Section



controlled by Mosakahiken Cree Nation. Mosakahiken Cree Nation Reserve land parcel 31J is adjacent to Little Limestone Lake and the park area. The Cree Nation and other Aboriginal people continue to use the park area for hunting, trapping and fishing and will continue to exercise their Aboriginal and treaty rights in the park.

## Outstanding Features

The park overlies unique karst landscapes within near surface limestone bedrock found north of the Grand Rapids community. The landscapes feature sinkholes, caves and other features shaped by the dissolving action of water on limestone. Ground waters flowing out of limestone into Little Limestone Lake contain concentrations of the mineral calcite.

Little Limestone Lake is considered by experts to be the largest and most outstanding example of a marl lake in the world. A marl lake changes colour as its water temperature rises in the summer months and calcite in the water separates, forming tiny crystals. In this state, the lake's waters turns from clear to a striking opaque turquoise colour or even a milky blue-white in warm summer weather.