

National landmarks. Preservation of specific natural wonders, such as the Chub crater in Northern Quebec, the frozen pingos of the Arctic, semi-desert and eroded hills of the Prairies and mountain caves and seascapes, has been proposed under a program of national landmarks.

Agreements for Recreation and Conservation (ARC). Public agencies, organizations and individuals are actively protecting and preserving heritage resources. To provide Canadians new opportunities to appreciate and understand their natural, cultural and historical heritage, Parks Canada created a co-operative program, agreements for recreation and conservation, which focuses principally on heritage canals and co-operative heritage areas. Initiatives would be established, developed and managed according to terms and conditions of co-operative agreements between Parks Canada and other agencies.

Exemplified by the Rideau-Trent-Severn waterway, the contemporary importance of heritage canals as recreational waterways emphasizes not only navigation but also visitor participation in a diversity of recreational activities. Heritage canals have acquired new significance by illustrating historical development and early engineering technology.

Co-operative heritage areas contain natural and cultural heritage resources which are nationally significant. These resources must exist in a condition and setting permitting continued co-operative protection. Such initiatives may have a concentration of distinctive natural and cultural resources or display examples of one particular type of heritage resource such as historic land and water routes, urban conservation areas, rural cultural landscapes or wild rivers. Each agreement for a co-operative heritage area concentrates on a combination of resources and is designed to achieve the joint objectives of the participants.

World heritage sites. Canada is one of 38 nations that ratified the UNESCO World Heritage Convention to identify and protect cultural and natural properties throughout the world considered to be of outstanding universal value. In September 1978 Nahanni National Park in Northwest Territories and L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland were the first Canadian sites named to the world heritage list.

Gatineau Park. In addition to the national parks a 351 km² recreation area, Gatineau Park north of Ottawa and Hull, is being developed by the federal government as part of the national capital region under the National Capital Commission. It is a wilderness area of great potential, extending northward from Hull for 56 km. With 40 km of parkway, magnificent lookouts, lakes, fishing streams, beaches, picnic areas, camping sites, skiing and walking trails it is one of the finest recreation areas in Canada, enjoyed by 1.8 million visitors each year. A master plan for further development is under way.

Provincial parks

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All provincial governments have established parks within their boundaries. Some are wilderness areas set aside so that portions of the country might be retained in their natural state. Most of them, however, are smaller areas of scenic interest, easily accessible and equipped or slated for future development as recreational parks with camping and picnic facilities.

Newfoundland. In the early 1950s Newfoundland's first organized recreational facilities were roadside picnic sites. The department of tourism currently administers 81 units including camping parks, day-use parks, 17 inland and coastal public beaches, a wilderness area, and internationally significant bird sanctuaries in the North Atlantic. Sir Richard Squires Memorial Park and River of Ponds Park are located on Atlantic salmon rivers while others such as Bellevue Beach Park and Chance Cove Park are on Newfoundland's coastline.

Prince Edward Island. In the provincial park system, 40 areas comprise five classes of parks: nature preserves, natural environment parks, recreation parks, wayside/beach access, and historic parks. The parks, maintained by the tourism, parks and conservation department, enhance the scenic drives which loop coastal areas.