

There are two recreation parks with major emphasis on golf, tennis, lawn bowling and accommodations: Brudenell River in Kings County and Mill River (under development) in Prince County.

Nova Scotia. The provincial parks system, administered by the lands and forests department, parks and recreation division, started in the late 1950s with roadside sites. This has expanded to 19 overnight campgrounds, 61 day-use picnic and roadside parks, and 20 day-use beach parks. Most of the parks are easily accessible from main highways. Campgrounds contain from 15 to 165 sites in parks of from 11 to 695 ha (hectares). The picnic and beach parks range from 0.5 to more than 596 ha. Picnic and campground facilities are primitive with tables, fire grills, dumping stations, vault privies and water.

New Brunswick. The provincial park system, administered by the tourism department, includes 23 recreational parks ranging from 10 to 567 ha, 21 rest areas, six campground parks, six beach parks, a wildlife park and a resource park. Most are in rural areas adjacent to or easily accessible from main roads.

Several parks have organized activity, lifeguards and interpretation programs. Mactaquac, near Fredericton, one of two year-round parks, boasts a championship 18-hole, 6 428-m golf course and two marinas. There are winter facilities for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, skating, sleigh rides and camping. Sugarloaf, near Campbellton, the other year-round park, features an alpine ski hill with three lifts, cross-country skiing, skating, snowmobiling, tobogganing and tennis. Campobello provincial park on Campobello Island has a nine-hole, 3 008-m golf course, lodge and camping.

Quebec. The new Parks Act proclaimed in December 1977 provides for conservation parks and recreational parks. The Wildlife Conservation Act was amended in 1978 to allow for establishing wilderness preserves, development and conservation areas and controlled management areas.

Management of parks and reserves comes under regional branches, regional operations directorate. The parks branch is responsible for regulating, programming, standardizing, monitoring and evaluating the activities. Parks and reserves are important to tourism. In 1978 the camping record listed 1,247,000 person-days, canoeing 28,900, hiking 196,800, and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing over 800,000. In 1978-79, 7.1 million visitor-days were recorded.

Ontario. There are 128 provincial parks for public use in Ontario and 138 special recreation areas or areas held in reserve for development. The provincial park system, begun in 1893 with Algonquin Park, now comprises 50 069 km².

The provincial park system provides a variety of recreation opportunities and preserves significant natural, cultural and recreational environments. Parks are classified into six categories: wilderness, natural environment, recreation, nature reserve, waterway and historical. Following are examples of each class. Polar Bear park, 24 085 km² in the Hudson Bay lowland bordering Hudson Bay and James Bay, is a wilderness park containing boreal forest, tundra and arctic flora and fauna. Algonquin, a natural environment park, has 17 picnic and camping areas accessible by car and 7 655 km² offering canoeing and hiking opportunities. In Southern Ontario, the Bronte Creek recreational park has tennis courts, man-made swimming lake, outdoor artificial skating rink, toboggan hill and bike paths, hiking and cross-country ski trails. Ouimet Canyon nature reserve park preserves a 150-m wide, 100-m deep canyon in which arctic plants flourish far from their usual habitat. The Mattawa waterway park follows 40 km of an old Indian and voyageur route. The Peterborough petroglyphs, a historical park, contains one of the largest examples of prehistoric rock carving in Canada.

In 1978 there were 10.5 million visitors to provincial parks including 1.5 million campers using 20,000 campsites.

Manitoba. The parks division of the mines, natural resource and environment department is responsible for the 12 provincial natural parks, 45 provincial recreation parks, two provincial heritage parks, 104 provincial wayside parks and numerous special use parks, all comprising over 10 230 km². The parks division constitutes, establishes