

which are areas of outstanding scenic beauty or have natural, physical or historic features of special local interest.

There are 10 provincial parks in Manitoba. Birds Hill Provincial Park comprises 8,400 acres and an 80-acre man-made lake within easy reach of the Manitoba capital. In south-central Manitoba, Spruce Woods Provincial Park is in the valley of the Assiniboine River and features lookouts over the sand dunes of the Bald Head Hills, the province's only truly desert area. Near the western boundary, Asessippi Provincial Park is under development on the southern end of a lake behind the Shellmouth Dam on the Assiniboine. Hecla Provincial Park with an area of 333 sq miles in the southern section of Lake Winnipeg includes a group of islands of which Hecla is the largest. Grindstone Point, adjacent to Hecla Provincial Park, is also being developed as a recreation area in conjunction with the park. Park developments offer resort facilities for water sports, hiking, snowmobiling, hunting and fishing and include marinas and interpretative centres. Hecla village will be developed as an historic Icelandic fishing site.

Manitoba provincial parks have a total area of about 3,385 sq miles. In addition, there are 44 recreation areas ranging in size from four to 2,364 acres and more than 109 roadside facilities. The park system contains 59 campgrounds. Hunting and fishing lodges are common and accommodation in some of the parks ranges from modern resorts and motels to hotels and cabins. Golf, tennis, boating, swimming, fishing, riding and hiking facilities are available, as well as children's playgrounds. A major ski area and a system of snowmobile trails provide for growing participation in winter outdoor activities. Development is continuing in the heritage-area program to preserve and interpret sites, large and small, illustrating the natural and human history of the province. Surveys have been conducted to study potentials along the shores of Lake Winnipeg, along the rivers flowing into Lake Winnipeg from the east and to provide guidance for future development of recreational facilities in Manitoba's Interlake area. In northern Manitoba studies are being made along the Nelson and Churchill rivers.

Popularity of the Manitoba provincial parks and recreation areas is indicated by impressive annual increases in the number of park visitors, estimated at over 4 million for the year ended March 31, 1974. An estimated 126,000 families and groups in tents, trailers and truck campers utilized campground facilities across the province in the 1973-74 fiscal year. The admission fee to Manitoba's provincial parks is \$1 a day or \$5 for the season.

**Saskatchewan.** Saskatchewan's 15 provincial parks, comprising 1,821 sq miles of recreation land, range from forested parklands in the prairies and valley parks in the Qu'Appelle Valley to rugged northland settings. Each park offers camping, picnicking, boating and swimming facilities and a variety of recreational activities. Eleven of the parks operate a supervised recreation program of regularly scheduled activities for all ages — arts and crafts, hikes along park nature trails, social functions and numerous team sports. Moose Mountain has a split-fieldstone chalet and modern cabin accommodation. Cabin facilities are also available at Cypress Hills, Duck Mountain and Greenwater Lake parks. Golf courses are found at Cypress Hills, Greenwater Lake, Moose Mountain and Duck Mountain parks. The forest of lodgepole pine and white spruce in Cypress Hills Park provides cover for elk, deer, beaver, sharp-tailed grouse; antelope range on the plains nearby. In Duck Mountain, Moose Mountain and Greenwater Lake parks, moose, elk, and bear appear randomly; deer and beaver are common to all, as are several varieties of grouse and many species of waterfowl and smaller land birds. Pike, pickerel and perch abound in almost all park lakes; brook, lake and rainbow trout are found in northern waters. Canoe routes and commercially operated fishing and hunting camps are in the province's three semi-wilderness parks — La Ronge, Nipawin and Meadow Lake. Roadside camp and picnic grounds are in operation and four official campgrounds and several other camping areas are available along the province's 406-mile stretch of Trans-Canada Highway. Saskatchewan also operates 86 regional parks which, although designed primarily with local patrons in mind, attract large numbers of tourists. Danielson Park has a modern visitors' centre with cafeteria and interpretative displays. A 40,000-acre wilderness area in east-central Saskatchewan is appropriately named Wildcat Hill. Marked sites of historic interest total 143 and include the Wood Mountain NWMP Post, Last Mountain House, Touchwood Hills, Cannington Manor, Steele Narrows, Fort Carlton, Cumberland House and Duck Lake historic parks. With the increasing trend to winter recreation, ski resorts are in operation at White Track in Buffalo Pound Provincial Park and at Mount Blackstrap in the Blackstrap Recreation