

Proposal to Renew the Amisk Park Reserve Designation

Project Overview

The purpose of this engagement process was to seek public comments regarding the proposal to renew the Amisk Park Reserve designation for an additional five-year term.

Engagement Overview

A survey was open on EngageMB from February 27, 2023 to March 30, 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 renew Amisk Park Reserve?		
Yes	77	92%
No	7	8%
TOTAL	84	

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

- Should allow exploration and development for mining industry.
- Because you need to Consult [and] Consent from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
- We should be allowed to hunt and fish and build. (*Note: Hunting and fishing is allowed in the park reserve.*)
- It restricts Indigenous ability to make a living. Not everything should be a park.
- The permanent sterilization of prospective mining ground will leave the next generation economically handcuffed.

Survey respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments, and 20 participants did so. The vast majority of these comments were regarding the importance of protecting the lands/forests/ecosystems within Amisk Park Reserve, and the importance of protected areas in general. Some respondents also commented on the importance of working with Indigenous communities on the future of the area, and ensuring their rights are respected in this process and in terms of their ability to practice traditional uses in the area. Two comments were in favour of allowing natural resource development and extraction in Amisk (either by

removing the designation, or having a designation that allows those activities). One respondent felt more information was required regarding what discussions have taken place about a potential permanent designation, and a couple of comments received were out of scope of the subject of the survey.

Manitoba Parks engaged with local Indigenous communities on the proposal. Tataskweyak Cree Nation responded in support, while a response was not received from Nisichawayasihk or O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nations. Notifications were also sent to the Nelson House and Split Lake Resource Management Boards (representing Nisichawayasihk and Tataskweyak Cree Nations, respectively). The Nelson House Resource Management Board expressed support for renewal of the park reserve.

Manitoba Parks also received comments on the proposal directly from certain stakeholder organizations. Organizations that expressed support for the proposal included Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Manitoba) and the Wilderness Committee (Manitoba Office). The Manitoba Prospectors and Developers Association indicated they would support an Indigenous Protected Area designation for Amisk, and that mineral exploration should be allowed in the area with approval from Indigenous communities. The Manitoba Saskatchewan Prospectors and Developers Association indicated they did not support the renewal and felt the area should be opened for exploration.

Next Steps

Manitoba Parks has proceeded with the renewal of the park reserve designation. The new designation period is effective June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2028. In the coming months, Parks will continue to engage in discussions with local Indigenous communities, industry and stakeholders on the potential permanent designation of the area, or portions of it.

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