

Prince Edward Island Public Land Atlas Introduction

Prince Edward Island (PEI) has the least amount of public land of any province in Canada: a mere 7.2 per cent of PEI's 568,000 hectares (1.4 million acres) is owned by the provincial government. With so much of PEI under private ownership, these lands are important for public access, long term research, high quality wood products, nature education, and other outdoor pursuits.

Years ago, these areas were sometimes described as being "the Island's best-kept secret" but efforts such as the Public Land Atlas and the public land signage program have encouraged more and more Islanders to visit and use their lands. This atlas includes the 36,263 hectares (89,607 acres) of public land that has been assigned to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for management, as well as Provincial Parks managed by the Department of Tourism, and selected provincially owned properties that are managed by other departments. It also includes the Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada, and areas of public interest such as public golf courses and freshwater fishing spots. All public lands are open for activities that are compatible with their designations, as outlined below.

Public Land refers to land owned by the Province of Prince Edward Island. All public lands are open for recreational uses such as hiking, birdwatching and photography - activities which do not remove anything from the property. Many categories of public land are also open to limited consumptive uses for personal uses such as plant collecting, berry picking, and hunting and fishing. Commercial activities such as tree harvesting, or the collection of ground hemlock and balsam fir tips are conducted through public tenders to ensure fair access to all and fair market value return for the Province. Please refer to the categories below for additional information, and always follow the Public Land Code of Ethics.

Categories of Public Land in this atlas include:

Confederation Trail - lands designated under the *Trails Act*. The Confederation Trail runs along some 350 kilometres of abandoned rail line across the province and represents PEI's section of the TransCanada Trail system. From spring to fall, the Trail's rolled stonedust surface accommodates walking, cycling, strollers and wheelchairs. During the winter months, the PEI Snowmobile Association has exclusive use of most of the trail. Hunting and motorized vehicles are not permitted on the Confederation Trail. For more information, visit: www.tourismpei.com/pei-confederation-trail

Demonstration Woodlots - lands designated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to provide private landowners and others with visible evidence of the results of forest management and to help increase public awareness of Island forests. There are six Demonstration Woodlots located at Foxley River, Camp Tamawaby, Brookvale, Auburn, Valleyfield and New Harmony. Each has an interpretive trail which is open for recreational uses and special tours can be scheduled for schools and community groups upon request. For more information, contact the appropriate Forest District Office or visit: www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/demowoodlots

Natural Areas - lands designated under the *Natural Areas Protection Act* to protect natural ecosystems, rare plants and animals, unusual natural features or exceptional scenery. Natural Areas may also provide havens for seasonal concentrations of animals and offer opportunities for scientific research and educational programs. Although some private owners have voluntarily protected their lands as Natural Areas, only publicly owned properties are included in this atlas. Public Natural areas are open for limited consumptive and recreational uses, but motorized vehicles are not allowed. For more information, visit: www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/NAPA

Provincial Forests - lands designated under the *Forest Management Act* for the management and/or production of wood production, wildlife conservation, biodiversity, training, education, forest research, job creation and other societal benefits. Unless posted to indicate otherwise, Provincial Forest lands are open for limited consumptive and recreational uses. Commercial activities such as tree harvesting, or the sale of harvested wood, ground hemlock and balsam fir tips are offered by public tender. For more information, visit: www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/provincialforests

Provincial Parks - lands designated under the *Recreational Development Act* to be maintained for the benefit, advantage and enjoyment of the general public. Some Provincial Parks are open for camping, while others are day-use areas only. Many have trails and some offer interpretive programs. All Provincial Parks are open to the public for recreational uses and fishing, but hunting and trapping are not permitted. For more information, visit: www.tourismpei.com/pei-provincial-parks

Scenic Heritage Roads - lands designated under the *Roads Act* to preserve and enhance the scenic, environmental and cultural qualities of the Island's unique red clay roads. Scenic Heritage Roads are open for driving, cycling, walking, skiing or snowshoeing. Many are used by farm vehicles and machinery in summer and snowmobiles in winter. Scenic Heritage Roads are narrow and can be quite muddy in spring. Many are not plowed during the winter months so drivers are advised to use caution. For more information, visit: www.tourismpei.com/pei-scenic-heritage-roads

Wildlife Management Areas - lands designated under the *Wildlife Conservation Act* to be maintained for the protection, management and conservation of wildlife species and wildlife habitats. Unless posted with signs to indicate otherwise, all Wildlife Management Areas included in this atlas are open for both consumptive and recreational uses. For more information, visit: www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/wildlifeareas

Public Land Code of Ethics

To ensure Public Lands continue to be open for public enjoyment, as well as for those who come after you, please review and follow the Code of Ethics:

- Use vehicles only in areas designated for this purpose and do not block parking sites, laneways, trails or other access points.
- Stay on Public Land and do not trespass on private property.
- Respect posted signs and keep to trails where they exist.
- Keep pets under close control.
- Take out whatever you take in. Please pick up and properly dispose of litter.
- Leave signs, fences, gates and other structures as you found them.
- While berry picking and plant collecting for personal use is permitted on most public properties, take only what you will use, use only what is abundant and leave enough for wildlife or to renew the species. Many plants in Island forests can be poisonous or hazardous to human and pet health, so be sure to know what you are harvesting and how to use it.
- When fishing, hunting or trapping, be sure you know and obey all of the laws that pertain to these activities by reviewing the annual summaries. Summaries are available free-of-charge at all license retail outlets or online at the addresses listed below.
- Guard against fire. Always ensure that matches, cigarette butts and other ignition sources are completely out. In case of fire, call 911.
- Avoid making excessive or unnecessary noise.
- Respect the land, wildlife, and other visitors to the area.
- Report any illegal activities or uses of Public Land by calling 1-902-368-5000, or the appropriate Forests, Fish and Wildlife District Office.

Emergency Numbers

Environmental Emergency.....1-800-565-1633
Forest Fire Emergency.....911

Other Numbers

For more information about Public Land, or to report illegal activity, contact:
Department of Agriculture and Forestry.....(902) 368-4880
Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division.....(902) 368-4700
Eastern Forest District Office.....(902) 961-7296
Western Forest District Office.....(902) 854-7260

For further information:

Angling: www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/summary
Hunting: www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/summary
Trapping: www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/summary
Birds of PEI: www.gov.pe.ca/birds/index.php3
Fire Weather Index: www.gov.pe.ca/forestry/fwi
Frogs and Toads of PEI: www.naturewatch.ca/english/frogwatch
Trails: www.tourismpei.com/pei-confederation-trail