



# Mantario Trail Restoration Plan Whiteshell Provincial Park

*Update May 22, 2026*

Over the past two weeks, crews have made remarkable progress in clearing and restoring the Mantario Trail. Manitoba Parks extends sincere thanks and appreciation to the dedicated volunteers and support from the South Whiteshell Trail Association. Their commitment, long hours, and hands-on effort are helping bring Manitoba's signature backcountry long-distance trail back to life.

Progress to date:

- 500+ volunteer hours contributed, with approximately 748 km of cumulative trail travelled by foot and paddle
- Nearly 60 km of trail cleared of deadfall, brush and overgrowth pruned
- 8 helipads established near campsites
- 6 portages cleared, totalling 5.25 km
- Approximately 100 m of new connector trail established to West Caribou
- 3 campsites cleared of hazardous trees

Planned work in the coming weeks:

- Complete trail clearing and brushing, including removal of dangerous trees at campsites
- Complete the establishment of one remaining helipad
- Install new directional signage along the full length of the trail
- Replace the bridge at Olive Lake with a new wooden structure
- Install new boardwalk south of the tower junction at a creek/beaver dam crossing

Although significant progress is being made, the Mantario Trail remains closed at this time. If weather conditions remain favourable, reopening is anticipated in late June. The public is asked to respect the current closure and stay off the trail until it is officially reopened.

Ongoing updates on the restoration project will be shared at [manitobaparks.com](https://manitobaparks.com) and on Manitoba Parks' social media channels.

---

## Previous Updates:

**April 17, 2026:** The Mantario Trail remains closed at this time, as significant work and cleanup are required to address safety risks in wildfire-damaged areas and heavy overgrowth in sections not impacted by the 2025 wildfire.

Following the 2025 wildfire season, Manitoba Parks has focused on completing detailed safety assessments across multiple affected parks and prioritizing work needed to ensure public safety before reopening trails and facilities. Information is shared once it is complete and verifiable, particularly where public safety is concerned.

An assessment of the Mantario Trail was completed in the fall. The wildfire burned approximately 27.6 km of the 62 km trail (about 45%). While the fire burned inconsistently across the landscape, five of the 11 backcountry campsites were damaged, including sites at Marion, Peggy, Alice, Olive, and Mantario lakes. A technical assessment report was prepared and is being used to inform planning, safety decisions, and procurement for remediation work.

Manitoba Parks has developed a phased plan to restore and enhance the entire length of the Mantario Trail, with the goal of reopening it for the summer 2026 season. This work will include clearing and brushing the full trail corridor, replacing damaged campsite infrastructure, and installing new wayfinding signage.

In the coming weeks, Manitoba Parks will work with local community groups in Whiteshell Provincial Park to complete an initial phase of trail clearing. The goal of this first phase is to make the trail passable so it can be safely reopened to hikers for the summer season. Updated trail mapping is also being prepared and will be shared publicly later this summer.

Trail users will also benefit from a new bridge across the Whiteshell River at the south end of the Mantario Trail. Constructed over the past winter, the bridge is substantially complete, with only minor site cleanup remaining this spring. This significant investment was initiated in response to damage from the 2022 flood and will help ensure safe and reliable trail access during high water events. While the new metal bridge may be an unexpected sight along a wilderness trail, it is designed to improve long-term safety and resilience.

A second phase of work will involve more extensive cleanup and hazardous tree removal using specialized equipment and trained personnel to ensure both safety and efficiency. This phase is expected to start in fall 2026 through a tendered contract, ensuring that qualified contractors are engaged for the task. Temporary trail closures may be needed to safely facilitate this work.

A third phase will focus on future enhancements, including additional wayfinding and lake signage, kilometre distance markers, and new campsite furniture such as picnic tables, fire pits, and throne toilets.

Once complete, the enhanced Mantario Trail will rival other iconic long-distance wilderness trails in Canada, such as British Columbia's West Coast Trail, Ontario's La Cloche Silhouette Trail, and Newfoundland's East Coast Trail. With its rugged terrain, remote lakes, and immersive backcountry experience, Mantario will offer a uniquely Manitoban adventure for hikers seeking a true wilderness challenge.

The public is asked to respect the trail closure and stay off the Mantario Trail until it is officially reopened this coming summer. Progress updates on the restoration project will be shared at [manitobaparks.com](https://manitobaparks.com) and on the Manitoba Parks social media channels.