

# Manuels River Linear Park Municipal Heritage Site, Mannuels

## Description of Historic Place

Manuels River Linear Park is a natural conservation area which includes a river that runs 14 kilometres within the town boundaries of Conception Bay South, NL and flows into the east side of Conception Bay. The park is a habitat for a great variety of wildlife species, including aquatic invertebrates, insects, plants, animals and over 30 species of wild flowers. The river runs through forest, wetlands and bogs and is an internationally-known fossil site. The designation is limited to the boundaries of the linear park.

## Heritage Value

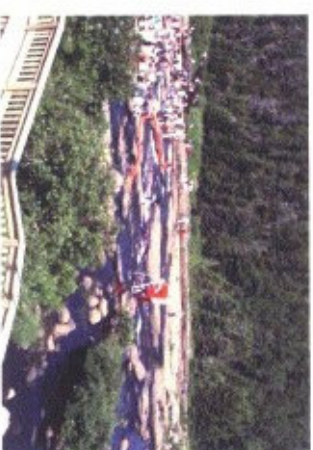
Manuels River was a leisure destination for local residents until 1882, when the community was connected to St. John's by rail. As train excursions became popular with St. John's residents, Mannuels River became a favourite summer resort. People flocked to the area, many staying to camp and fish. In the mid-1980s Mannuels River Natural Heritage Society was formed to conserve and protect the river system. Mannuels River Linear Park now offers more than six kilometres of walking trails, guided walks, special geology and flora tours and family campfires.

Manuels River Linear Park boasts a unique geology. 630 million years ago the Mannuels River lay on the

volcanic fringe of the African continent. The land later subsided below a sea in which sediments accumulated. Rocks buckled as Africa collided with the North America plate 400 million years ago and evidence of these events can be seen in the rocks along the river valley.

The Ice Age changed the appearance of Mannuels River. The valley upstream was moulded by a glacier that formed the broad, straight, shallow valley of today. The upstream of the river features bedrock of conglomerate, granite and volcanic ash. The downstream has many curves and turns and here the river has cut down into the easily eroded shale bedrock to form a gorge. The mouth of the Mannuels River features a beach comprised of large cobbles rounded by wave action.

Manuels River is known for the fossils found in the shale beds, most notably those of trilobites. Trilobites are an extinct class of marine arthropods that inhabited the earth's oceans for more than 300 million years, from the Early Cambrian Period to the Late Permian Period. Resembling sow bugs or crabs, trilobite fossils are found along the Mannuels River, having been first discovered by T. C. Weston of the Geological Survey of Canada in 1874.



Municipal Heritage Designation by  
Town of Conception Bay South  
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