



O'Donnell Point

Preliminary Park Management Plan





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**Park Superintendent
Oastler Lake Provincial Park
380 Oastler Park Drive, RR #2
Parry Sound, ON
P2A 2W8**

Dear Sir/Madam:

Ontario Parks is presently undertaking the development of a management plan for O'Donnell Point Provincial Nature Reserve. As part of the planning process I am pleased to present the O'Donnell Point Preliminary Park Management Plan.

The preliminary plan contains proposed policies relating to resource stewardship, operations and development that will guide the management of O'Donnell Point Provincial Nature Reserve over the next 20 years. After careful consideration of the background information collected and review of comments received, this document represents Ontario Parks' preferred policy for the nature reserve.

You are invited to review and comment on the preliminary management plan. As part of the fourth of five planning stages, two public information centres will be held on October 15, 2005 from 9AM – 3PM at Moose Deer Point First Nation Community Centre and October 22, 2005 in Toronto at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre – Don Valley from 9AM – 3PM to allow interested individuals and parties the opportunity to inspect the plan, view maps and discuss issues with members of the planning team. All comments regarding the preliminary management plan should be submitted by December 13, 2005 to the attention of:

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Information is being collected as part of the management planning process for O'Donnell Point Provincial Nature Reserve. All input received will become part of the public record for this planning process, unless privacy is requested, pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Your participation in this public consultation process is encouraged. All written comments will be carefully considered during preparation of the final management plan.

Yours truly,



Adair Ireland-Smith
Managing Director
Ontario Parks

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STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

The Ministry of Natural Resources' Statement of Environmental Values (SEV) was prepared in accordance with the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR). It describes how the purposes of the EBR are to be considered whenever decisions are made which might significantly affect the environment.

The primary purpose of the EBR is to protect, conserve and, where reasonable, restore the integrity of the environment. From the Ministry's perspective, that broad statement of purpose translates into four objectives in its SEV:

- To ensure the long-term health of ecosystems by protecting and conserving our valuable soil, aquatic resources, forest and wildlife resources as well as their biological foundations;
- To ensure the continuing availability of natural resources for the long-term benefit of the people of Ontario;
- To protect natural heritage and biological features of provincial significance; and
- To protect human life, the resource base and physical property from the threats of forest fires, floods and erosion.

The Ministry's SEV has been considered during the preparation of this preliminary management plan. The O'Donnell Point Park Management Plan is intended to reflect the direction set in the SEV and to further the objectives of managing Ontario's resources on an ecologically sustainable basis.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

O'Donnell Point Provincial Nature Reserve (OPPNR) is an 875 ha nature reserve class park, located on a peninsula along the eastern shoreline of Georgian Bay, 50 km south of Parry Sound and 27 km north of Port Severn (Figure 1). The Park was regulated under the Provincial Parks Act in 1985 (O. Reg. 81/85 Schedule 176, Appendix B). An interim management statement, approved in 1999, currently provides management direction for the park.

OPPNR is in Ecodistrict 5E-7, the Georgian Bay Littoral Biosphere Reserve and the Great Lakes Heritage Coast. The nature reserve contains biological features of national and provincial significance, and provincially significant examples of earth science features. The OPPNR area has 473 vascular plant taxa, of which 34 are considered to be provincially or regionally significant (i.e. provincially rare species, species at risk and Atlantic Coastal Plain species); 95 species of birds; and 31 species of herpetofauna, of which 10 are listed as species at risk (i.e. endangered, threatened, or special concern).

The park lies in the Grenville Province of the Canadian Precambrian Shield. This rocky point is dominated by low ridges of Go Home Domain gneissic rocks of the Central Gneiss Belt. The most outstanding feature of the nature reserve is its wide variety of wetlands.

There are no visitor facilities. Camping is prohibited and recreational day-use for walking and nature appreciation is discouraged due to the sensitivity of the nature reserve's natural values.

Lands immediately adjacent to the eastern boundaries of OPPNR (i.e. lots 50 to 53 in concession 7) receive protection under *Moose Deer Point First Nation's Land Use Plan* (2004) as environmental protection and nature interpretation zones. Private property and several islands, which comprise part of Georgian Bay Islands National Park, lie adjacent to the nature reserve peninsula.

This preliminary park management plan was developed following the policies and guidelines in the Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies (1992), Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999) and the Provincial Park Management Planning Manual (1994). This management plan for OPPNR will be the official policy for the protection, development and management of the park over the next 20 years. In accordance with this plan, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) will amend the affected area-specific land use policies and mapping found in the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas.

2.0 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

2.1 Proposed Deregulation and Disposition

The MNR is considering a request for nature reserve and Crown land disposition to the Moose Deer Point First Nation (MDPFN) (Section 6.0). Options under consideration range from no boundary change to the disposition of 160 ha of nature reserve for MDPFN and the addition of 180 ha of Crown land to the nature reserve.

A proposed decision on the disposition request will be made considering public consultation input during this planning phase and will be reflected in the nature reserve's park management plan.

2.2 Access

There was an old MNR boat access site with a crib-dock, two vault privies, fire pits and picnic tables located on the south shore of OPPNR at the mouth of Moose Bay. The site was built prior to the establishment of the nature reserve and was in disrepair. This site has been decommissioned (e.g. removal of structures) because it had not seen much use in the past few years due to its poor condition and location. It would have been too costly to repair and maintain. Only the two privies have yet to be removed.

Figure 1: Regional Context

At the request of a boating organization, it is proposed that a formal access zone be established on the north side of OPPNR in a sheltered bay approximately 1,600 m from the most western point (Section 7.2) (Figure 4).

3.0 CLASSIFICATION

Ontario's provincial parks are classified into six categories which define an individual park's contributions to the park system. OPPNR is a nature reserve class park.

Nature reserves are areas selected to represent the distinctive natural communities and landforms of the province. They are protected for educational and research purposes and for their intrinsic values. Permitted activities and management practices are directed solely toward the achievement of protection and heritage appreciation objectives as outlined in policy and objectives of the provincial parks system.

OPPNR is designated as a nature reserve class park recognizing its undeveloped Georgian Bay shoreline with coastal bedrock; upland and lowland forests; wetlands; and its 31 species of reptiles and amphibians, some of which are near the northern limit of their range.

4.0 GOAL

The goal of OPPNR is:

To protect the provincially significant natural heritage of OPPNR and to provide educational and research opportunities to benefit future and present generations.

In fulfilling this goal, the park contributes to the achievement of protection targets for the provincial park system.

5.0 OBJECTIVES

There are four distinct objectives that provide specific direction for the management of

Ontario's park system: *protection, recreation, heritage appreciation and tourism*. As a nature reserve class park, OPPNR contributes primarily to the protection and heritage appreciation objectives.

5.1 Protection

To protect the significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of OPPNR.

The reserve provides excellent representation of the gneissic units of Pine Island Migmatites, part of the Upper Go Home Domain of the Grenville Province. Due to the relatively undisturbed condition of the area, this representation is considered to be provincially significant. This area is also representative of the Grenville Province Supergroup basement rocks within the environmental theme known as Helikian Grenvillian Island Arcs, Sedimentary Basins, and Continental Drift Environment.

The mineral exploration potential of the area is minimal and there is no identified potential for the occurrence of economic concentrations of gold or base metals. There are no active mineral claims in the area and the reserve is entirely withdrawn from mineral exploration.

The geology and soils of the region have given rise to a variety of plant community types and species within the reserve that are representative of the Georgian Bay shoreline, broken bedrock uplands, transition forests and wetlands found throughout Ecodistrict 5E-7.

OPPNR occupies a rocky peninsula in Georgian Bay, dominated by a series of parallel bedrock ridges that are thinly vegetated by many poor fens, swamps and beaver ponds in the lowlands. The shore is dominated by barren, windswept rock that is characteristic of eastern Georgian Bay, with occasional small sandy beaches. Its undisturbed mature upland and lowland forest, shrubby bedrock openings and many small wetlands of different types contain a remarkable diversity of flora and herpetofaunal species.

Approximately 473 taxa of vascular plants have been documented in the area, including 2 species

with Atlantic Coastal Plain affinities and at least 10 provincially significant vascular plants. The Atlantic Coastal Plain species are of interest because of their disjunct distribution on Georgian Bay. These species are particularly sensitive to shoreline recreation activities. The vegetation of the reserve is in excellent condition, with relatively few non-native species. Extensive peatland complexes in and adjacent to the nature reserve provide habitat for several significant species of vascular plants.

At least 31 taxa of amphibians and reptiles have been found in the reserve, of which 10 are classified as species at risk in Ontario, making this one of the richest herpetofaunal protected areas in Ontario.

Nearly 100 species of birds have been documented in the reserve and suitable breeding habitat for many species is also present. The provincially rare Prairie Warbler has been observed within the reserve. In addition, 17 species of mammals (e.g., Black Bear, Fisher and River Otter) are known to inhabit the area, including the Eastern Wolf, which has been deemed special concern nationally and provincially.

5.2 Heritage Appreciation

To provide opportunities for appreciation of the natural heritage of OPPNR.

Considering the region's natural features and history, a number of interpretive themes have been identified for OPPNR. These include the ecology and geology of the Canadian Shield and the Georgian Bay shoreline, and species at risk. Off-site structured opportunities will be provided to allow park visitors to explore these themes (Section 9.1). On-site exploration will be discouraged.

6.0 BOUNDARY

OPPNR was originally regulated under the *Provincial Parks Act* in 1985, and is currently described in Ontario Regulation 81/85 schedule 176 Appendix B. The area of the park is 875 ha

(Figure 2). There is a proposed disposition of and addition to the nature reserve.

In 2001, the MDPFN requested the disposition of a portion of nature reserve for addition to MDPFN reserve to address social, economic and land use planning concerns associated with their small, disjointed land base. Three parcels of First Nation Reserve lands are bordered and partly surrounded by the OPPNR.

Three alternatives for disposition were evaluated in the *Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Study Report for O'Donnell Point* (2005), including the preferred alternative. The supplement fulfills part of the public consultation requirements for amendments to MNR land use direction. As a supplement to the *Final ESR*, it also addresses the *Environmental Assessment Act* requirements as set out in *Exemption Order MNR-59/2* and *Exemption Order MNR-26/7* under the transition provisions of the *Class Environmental Assessment for MNR Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects* and *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*, respectively. The supplement document is considered draft and is undergoing public consultation concurrent with the consultation period for this OPPNR Preliminary Park Management Plan.

The following three alternatives are currently being considered (Figure 3):

- no disposition of Crown or provincial park lands (i.e. no change in regulated park boundary);
- disposition of three individual parcels of provincial nature reserve comprising approximately 160 ha and three parcels of Crown land of approximately 280 ha; and
- disposition of three parcels of provincial nature reserve of approximately 160 ha and three parcels of Crown land of approximately 100 ha and the addition of one parcel of Crown land of approximately 180 ha to the provincial nature reserve.

As detailed in the *Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Study Report for O'Donnell Point* (2005), MNR's preferred option is the

Figure 2. Park Boundary

Figure 3. Preferred Boundary Alternative

third alternative (i.e. disposition of 160 ha of nature reserve and 100 ha of Crown Land and adding a separate 180 ha parcel of Crown land to the nature reserve). In the second and third alternatives, the lands proposed for disposition and addition were evaluated and deemed to provide similar natural features and would contribute positively to the nature reserve's and greater ecosystem's protection objective. In fact, the change in regulated lands may increase the value of the park because the majority of significant vascular plant species known from OPPNR are dependent on wetland, shoreline or moist habitats. In addition, almost all of the significant herpetofauna found in the nature reserve are wetland dependent for most of their life. Wetland areas are a critical natural value at OPPNR. The parcel of Crown land identified for potential addition to the provincial nature reserve contains these habitat types, and should provide a net benefit to these species in the provincial nature reserve. The requests for disposition of lands do not include the 20 m (i.e. 66') shore road allowance along Twelve Mile Bay.

As shown in Figure 3, the third or preferred alternative would produce a nature reserve with two separated parcels. The land between the two proposed parcels of nature reserve (i.e. lots 50 to 53 in concession 7) is owned by MDPFN. The *Moose Deer Point First Nation's Land Use Plan* (2004) states the intervening land is protected as environmental protection and nature interpretation zones. The purpose of the environmental protection zone is to protect species diversity and geological, ecological, and cultural functions. The purpose of the nature interpretation zone is to allow ecosystem education based eco-tourism, recreation and cultural activities.

A decision on the requested land disposition will be made considering public consultation input on the preliminary park management plan and the *Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Study Report for O'Donnell Point* (2005).

7.0 ZONING

The *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies* (1992) defines six zone types – *development, access, nature reserve, wilderness, natural environment* and *historical*. Zones are established to identify permissible development, use and management practices considering resource significance and recreation potential. It is used to help ensure that a park's stated goal and objectives are met. Nature reserve parks may only contain access, nature reserve and historical zones.

Lands and waters contained within OPPNR are zoned in accordance with significant features and level of protection required. The two zoning categories designated for OPPNR are a nature reserve zone and an access zone (Figure 4).

The proposed zoning of this preliminary management plan reflects the preferred boundary alternative in Figure 3.

7.1 Nature Reserve Zone

Nature reserve zones provide the highest level of protection. Development within this zone is generally restricted to trails, necessary signs and temporary facilities for research and management.

The 894 ha nature reserve zone, which encompasses most of the park area, will protect the significant natural features of the nature reserve. The representation of the gneissic units of Pine Island Migmatites, part of the Upper Go Home Domain of the Grenville Province is considered to be provincially significant. The barren, windswept shoreline and occasional small sandy beaches are characteristic of eastern Georgian Bay. Its undisturbed mature upland and lowland forest, many peatlands, swamps and beaver ponds, shrubby bedrock openings and small wetlands of different types contain a remarkable diversity of flora and herpetofaunal species. Of which sixteen species in the reserve are ranked as S1, S2, S3 (i.e. significant) by the Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre. Over 60% of Ontario's amphibian and reptile species have been recorded in the nature reserve.

Figure 4. Proposed Zoning

7.2 Access Zone

One access zone will serve as a rest area where minimal facilities may be established. The access zones may include visitor control structures, appropriate signage, and a small floating dock (Section 10.1).

The proposed approximately 0.1 ha access zone is located approximately 1,600 m from the western tip on the north side of the nature reserve on barren rock.

Entry into the surrounding nature reserve zone will be discouraged and may be restricted through the use of signage or by means of delineation (e.g. fence).

The use of this zone and any impact on the adjacent nature reserve zone may be periodically monitored.

8.0 RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP POLICIES

OPPNR will be managed in accordance with the nature reserve class policies as set out in the *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies (1992)*, *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999)*, the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the approved park management plan, and minimum operating standards. Resource stewardship initiatives may be accomplished through partnerships and sponsorships. A resource stewardship plan may be prepared to provide specific prescriptions for the proper stewardship and management of park resources. An operating plan required for park infrastructure may be prepared and would reflect provincial operating standards and would be kept current to implement and guide specific operational aspects of managing the park (Section 11.0). Supplementary policy direction is provided in the following sections.

Species at risk recovery strategies and implementation plans may be prepared in the future by a recovery team for species found in the nature reserve (e.g. Eastern Hog-nosed

Snake, Eastern Fox snake and Branched Bartonian) A recovery strategy sets out recovery goals, objectives and methods; and recovery implementation plans provides specific details for implementing the strategy.

Recommendations from recovery strategies or implementation plans may be implemented if addressed in a resource stewardship plan or vegetation management plan.

The Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA) is MNR's repository of existing local land use policies for Crown lands in the central part of Ontario, including provincial parks.

Amendments to the policy reports and mapping of the CLUPA will be completed to reflect the direction of this park management plan.

Although the policies herein are presented in separate categories, planning and management recognizes that the components are interrelated and that operations, management and protection will ensure that overall park objectives are achieved.

8.1 Land and Water Management

The significant landforms that occur within OPPNR may be periodically monitored to ensure their continued undisturbed existence. As many of these features are sensitive to disturbance, access to these areas will be discouraged, and may be done through appropriate signage.

Water control structures will not be allowed in OPPNR.

Appropriate mitigation measures will be taken to ensure that all activities occurring within OPPNR do not have a negative impact on water quality.

8.2 Fisheries Management

Fishing in Ontario is regulated by the federal *Fisheries Act* and provincial *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. These regulations apply to OPPNR. Sport fishing within the nature reserve boundaries will not be encouraged to avoid potential negative impacts associated with access for fishing purposes. Information on

regulations, conservation, exotic species, and safe fishing and boating practices may be made available in the access zone.

Commercial fishing, bait fishing and collection of amphibians or reptiles for bait are prohibited at OPPNR.

Fish habitat management may be undertaken in OPPNR.

8.3 Wildlife Management

Wildlife management will be directed to the maintenance of evolving natural succession, unless alternative strategies are desirable. Adaptive management strategies may be addressed in a future resource stewardship plan, especially for provincially and regionally significant species such as species at risk.

Hunting and commercial trapping are not permitted at OPPNR. Collection of amphibians and reptiles for personal consumption is prohibited. On occasion, the presence or behaviour of animals may conflict with park management objectives. The control of nuisance animals will be carried out as required and according to provincial policies and regulations.

Species inventories and research will be encouraged and pursued as opportunities arise. Significant species may be periodically monitored to document their continued existence within the park.

The Central Zone has identified three high and three low priority research needs for the nature reserve for 2004 – 2009 (Section 9.3).

8.4 Vegetation Management

Significant species that occur within OPPNR will be protected. Specific enhancement and reintroduction programs will occur as deemed necessary. All significant species may be periodically monitored to document their continued existence.

Management of the park's vegetation communities will generally involve a 'hands-off'

approach, allowing natural processes and succession to proceed unhindered. However, all fires in all zones will be suppressed because of private development adjacent to the park. Sensitive communities will be protected from development and human traffic. Control of invasive and non-native species may occur. Insect and disease infestations which threaten the park's vegetation communities may also be controlled in accordance with provincial policies. Chemical control will only occur where no other means of control is feasible.

Large scale efforts to control non-native and invasive species, or rehabilitate or alter vegetation communities will require the preparation of a detailed vegetation management plan. Further inventory and study will be encouraged and pursued as opportunities arise.

8.5 Fire Management

OPPNR is located in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Fire Management Zone under the *Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario* (2004).

Given the degree of private development adjacent to the park, fires in all zones will be suppressed.

No fires will be permitted in OPPNR.

Fire management objectives for OPPNR are to prevent loss of life, personal injury and socio-economic disruption; to minimize loss or damage to park property and infrastructure; and to allow natural processes to proceed when possible.

Fire response will be conducted in accordance with the *Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario* (2004) and the *Fire Management Policy for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* (2004). Fires that threaten park visitor safety or park infrastructure will receive full response and sustained action until extinguished. Other fires may be considered for modified response, in consultation between the park superintendent and the fire executive officer.

Response for structural fires and forest fires is guided by a municipal forest fire management agreement between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Township of Georgian Bay.

Fire response activities will be conducted in a manner that minimizes ecological damage whenever feasible. This can occur through the use of “light on the land” techniques, which do not unduly disturb the landscape, whenever feasible.

The use of fire through prescribed burning may be considered to achieve ecological or hazard reduction objectives. Plans for any prescribed burns will be developed in accordance with the *Prescribed Burn Planning Manual* (1997), and applicable policies and legislation.

8.6 Cultural Resources

A stage 1 cultural heritage assessment was conducted for OPPNR in 2001. No cultural resources within the nature reserve were identified during the assessment. However, the potential for the existence of cultural resources is high for some areas of the nature reserve. A site-specific study will be completed prior to any future development involving significant ground disturbance.

9.0 OPERATIONS POLICIES

Operational policies deal with topics such as natural heritage education, recreation management, and research. OPPNR is a non-operating park. The park has no operating budget, nor additional staff, beyond the Park Superintendent.

9.1 Natural Heritage Education

The Natural Heritage Education (NHE) program at The Massasauga Provincial Park may provide visitors with opportunities to learn about and interact with the natural environment of OPPNR through off-site information and interpretation. A Natural Heritage Education Plan outlining off-site interpretive programming for the nature reserve may be prepared. The NHE program, if prepared, would be reviewed on an annual basis.

9.1.1 Information

Information concerning the nature reserve, facilities and services, and points of interest in the greater region may be provided to visitors of The Massasauga Provincial Park and OPPNR. A variety of media may be used to convey this information, including the Ontario Parks’ internet website, annual park information guide, signs, bulletin boards or displays, and personal contact. Information may be available at The Massasauga Provincial Park gate house. Information may only be provided in the access zone of the nature reserve.

9.1.2 Interpretation

Interpretive themes identified for OPPNR may include:

- Canadian Shield ecology;
- Georgian Bay shoreline geology; and
- species at risk and their habitat.

Messages developed around these themes will be conveyed to visitors through publications and structured programs at The Massasauga Provincial Park. On-site natural heritage education will be will not occur.

An information leaflet may be developed for the reserve and available in the access zone, containing information on the sensitivity of the site and its unique biotic and abiotic features. For example, the excellent and extensive shoreline exposures of the area could be showcased in a geological guide to be used offshore by boaters that would emphasize Grenville geology, tectonism, recognition of gneiss types, tectonite fabrics and structural elements of such foliation, lineation and folding.

9.2 Recreation Management

Recreational use of OPPNR will be actively discouraged. Recreation will be limited to low intensity day-use activities. This may include limited walking, painting, photography, backcountry cross-country skiing and nature appreciation. No trails will be developed.

Activities not permitted in OPPNR include shoreline boat mooring, camping, campfires, scuba and skin diving, all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs) use, snowmobiling and hunting.

The access zone may be monitored for erosion and degradation, and may be temporarily closed for rehabilitation as required. Closures and rehabilitation will comply with Ontario Park's standards and guidelines governing capital development.

Permanent signs may be erected to indicate which activities are not permitted. Additional regulatory signage may be erected as necessary.

All domestic pets must be on a leash.

Geocaching will be generally discouraged in order to protect the nature reserve's values. Geocaching is defined as an outdoor activity in which participants use a global positioning system (GPS) to find a predetermined location.

High risk activities such as adventure racing will be generally discouraged. Adventure racing is defined as a multi-sport team racing challenge.

Any activity found to have significant adverse effects on the park's natural features will be controlled. Appropriate actions might include temporary or complete suspension of an activity, spatial relocation, mitigation and rehabilitation.

Information may be provided at the access zone to anglers and boaters to promote responsible practices.

9.3 Research

Research by qualified individuals and groups will be encouraged. All research must be approved and conducted in accordance with provincial park policy on research activities in parks and the *Central Zone Research and Information Strategy (2004)*.

The Central Zone has identified priority research needs for future projects for 2004 – 2009. The high priorities include determining populations, trends and distributions of turtles and snakes in

all parks in the Central Zone, and determining locations and populations of Branched Bartonnia (a small and inconspicuous threatened plant) in OPPNR. The low research priorities for the zone, which may apply to the reserve, include determining populations, trends and distribution of Common Five-lined Skinks, occurrence and relative numbers of Southern Flying Squirrel, and updating inventories and maps of Atlantic coastal plain communities. However, research may deal with all aspects of the reserve's earth and life science resources, cultural resources, history, recreational activities, and visitor groups.

Records will be kept of all research that occurs in the nature reserve in order to avoid duplication. Any samples taken from the nature reserve are to remain the property of the Crown and will be stored appropriately. These samples will be made available to other qualified researchers where appropriate.

10.0 DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

As a nature reserve class park, most development will be limited to the access zone. Decisions regarding development will consider research and information on the park's valued features. Development will be carried out in accordance with approved site plans, utilizing appropriate standards and in conformity with relevant legislation and policy. The following sections identify the development projects presently identified for the park.

Unnecessary undirected light pollution will not be allowed in any future development. Outdoor lighting will be limited to basic safety requirements and will be shielded when possible. This commitment recognizes the natural values provided by a pristine night sky.

10.1 Access

Limited access will only be provided at the designated access point on the northern side of the peninsula in a sheltered bay locally known as Whanee Bay, southeast of Bowes Island approximately 1,600 m from the western tip

(Figure 4). The access zone will serve as a limited landing site. Entry into the nature reserve zone will be discouraged.

All dogs must be kept on a leash at all times. Users are encouraged to stoop and scoop their animal's waste.

No major facilities will be available. A small floating dock may be erected to facilitate docking at the access zone.

Overnight mooring or camping is prohibited.

Aircraft landings within the nature reserve will not be permitted except in emergencies with prior permission from the superintendent.

Depending on use, the area may delineated (e.g. fence).

10.2 Interpretive Facilities

There will be limited interpretive facilities provided within OPPNR. Interpretive facilities will be restricted to signage, interpretive panels and/or leaflets within the access zone only. An interpretive panel describing the significant features and their sensitivity to disturbance may be erected in the access zone.

10.3 Research Facilities

No permanent research or management facilities will be permitted within OPPNR. Temporary facilities may be erected with the superintendent's permission. Clearing of vegetation will not be permitted. Any such facility should not disturb the area's environment and must be removed upon completion of the research.

10.4 Operational and Maintenance Facilities

There will be no maintenance facilities provided within the OPPNR Provincial Nature Preserve.

Custodial management of the access zone will be through the staff of The Massasauga Provincial Park.

Custodial management may include floating dock maintenance, and garbage pick-up. The use of this zone and any impact on the adjacent nature reserve zone may also be periodically monitored.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The resource stewardship activities and development projects identified in the OPPNR Park Management Plan will be implemented according to annual funding allocations and the priorities established by this plan. Where required by provincial park policy and the *Environmental Assessment Act*, Ontario Parks will undertake additional evaluation and consultation prior to the implementation of a project. The following list summarizes the main initiatives and activities proposed for the reserve at this time.

Resource Stewardship

- Completion of more detailed reptile inventories, which is a priority for all parks in Central Zone
- Inventory of Branched Bartonina
- Updated inventory of Atlantic coastal plains communities, which is a priority for all parks in Central Zone
- Determining populations, trends and distribution of Common Five-lined Skinks, which is a priority for all parks in Central Zone
- Survey of the occurrence of Southern Flying Squirrel, which is a priority for all parks in Central Zone

Facility Development

- Establish facilities in the proposed new access zone, which may include the erection of a small floating dock to facilitate docking.

Operational

- Preparation of a natural heritage education plan.
- Ensuring appropriate signage and visitor information is kept available and up to date

- Preparation of an operating plan for the access zone

12.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public consultation is an important part of the park management plan review process. The four phases of the process consist of:

- Phase 1 - Terms of Reference
- Phase 2 - Background Information
- Phase 3 - Preliminary Park Management Plan
- Phase 4 - Approved Park Management Plan

An information session was held in August 2001 with identified key stakeholder groups in advance of the start of the park management planning process.

An Invitation to Participate (i.e. Phase 1) was issued in September 2001 to announce the beginning of the management plan review process for OPPNR and to solicit input on the terms of reference. The invitation was sent to adjacent landowners, parties with a known interest in the park and to those on Ontario Parks' mandatory contact list. The OPPNR mailing list consisted of 206 individuals and organizations. Prior to the Invitation to Participate, the management plan review was announced through local newspaper notices, and an internet posting on the Ministry of Environment's Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry. A 45-day period was provided to allow interested individuals and parties to submit comments. The comment period was extended to 65 days to provide new information regarding a potential Crown land disposition. During this phase, a meeting was held in Toronto in October 2001 at the request of a cottage association. A total of 85 correspondences via telephone, email, mail, and fax were received at this stage.

Phase 2 involved the preparation of a background information file which contained a compilation of a variety of reports and reference

materials. A Background Information, Issues and Options document was prepared that contained a summary of MDPFN's land disposition proposal and a brief summary of the reports and reference materials describing the park. Most importantly, the document included a survey on issues surrounding water access and facilities, and the potential land disposition. In December 2001, the public was invited to review and provide comment on the background information and asked to provide any additional information that was not on file. The invitation to comment was announced to those on the OPPNR mailing list (408 individuals and organizations) by letter, through notices in local newspapers, and an internet posting on the Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry. The file was available for viewing at the offices of the Ontario Park's Planning and Research Section in Peterborough, and Ontario Parks' Central Zone in Huntsville. A 60-day review and comment period was provided.

During the Background Information phase (January 2002), meetings were held with provincial environmental non-government organizations and open houses were held in Moose Deer Point and Toronto. The open houses were well attended with 70 and 400 persons appearing at Moose Deer Point and Toronto, respectively.

The 60-day comment period of the Background Information Phase was extended to 73 days due the high volume of comments and because of requests by the public for more time to review the information. The individuals and organizations on the OPPNR mailing list (495 individuals and organizations) were advised of the extension and the Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry was updated. A total of 220 correspondences via telephone, email, mail, and fax were received at this stage.

During this consultation period the majority of concerns were related to the proposed disposition and its potential impacts. The public cited concerns with shoreline development, decrease in the size of the nature reserve, protected natural values, uncontrolled

development, quality of life, water quality, and boat traffic and safety.

In July 2002, an update was posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry (30 days) and mailed to individuals and organizations on the OPPNR mailing list (485 individuals and organizations) to indicate an environmental study report was being initiated by a team of independent consultants for MDPFN. A *Draft ESR* was published in November 2002. Comments were solicited through the Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry and the OPPNR mailing list (512 individuals and organizations). During the 60-day comment period, the *Draft ESR* was available for viewing at the offices of the Ontario Park's Planning and Research Section in Peterborough, Ontario Parks' Central Zone in Huntsville, and Ministry of Natural Resources Parry Sound District Office in Parry Sound. In March 2003, the *Final ESR*, which incorporated comments received during the consultation period, was released. Individuals and organizations on the OPPNR mailing list (534 individuals and organizations) were advised of the completion of the *Final ESR* in April 2003.

In June 2004 an update was mailed to the OPPNR mailing list (541 individuals and organizations). The letter stated that the planning process was continuing and that an information package containing various documents (i.e. Phase 3) will be available within the next twelve months for public review and comments.

Phase 3, started on October 14, 2005, included the release of this document (i.e. *OPPNR Preliminary Park Management Plan*) and the *Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Study Report for OPPNR*. The release of the preliminary park management plan gives interested individuals and parties the opportunity to review and comment on the recommended land dispositions and additions, management policies and activities being put forward for OPPNR.

A public notice was placed in the local newspaper to invite written comments and advise of open houses to comment and discuss

issues would be held at Moose Deer Point and in Toronto on October 15 and 22 respectively. An updated policy proposal file on the 60-day review and comment opportunity was posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry. A notification of the consultation opportunity was sent to the OPPNR mailing list (542 individuals and organizations). Copies of *O'Donnell Point Preliminary Park Management Plan* and other pertinent information were mailed upon request.

The supplement document, which is undergoing public consultation in conjunction with the preliminary park management plan, details MNR's preferred alternative regarding nature reserve and Crown land disposition and addition to the nature reserve. The supplement document is consistent with MNR's coverage under the *Environmental Assessment Act* as set out in *Exemption Order MNR-59/2* and *Exemption Order MNR-26/7* under the transition provisions of the *Class Environmental Assessment for MNR Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects* and *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*, respectively. This report is also intended to fulfill part of the public consultation requirements for amendments to MNR land use direction. As a supplement to the *Final ESR*, it also contributes to the requirements set out in Ontario Parks' policy for the Preparation of Implementation Plans (PM 11.03.01).

Phase 4 will involve the release of the approved park management plan. All comments received during the previous phases of the process will be fully considered in the preparation of the document. Once it receives final approval, the park management plan will be published and released. A policy decision file will be posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry. Mandatory contacts and all those persons who directly contributed to the planning process will receive a copy of the final document.

The public will be provided with a final opportunity to inspect the *O'Donnell Point Park Management Plan*.

Reference copies of the terms of reference, preliminary park management plan, approved park management plan and other supporting documentation will be retained on file at Oastler Lake Provincial Park.

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