

Public Notice for a Category B Project Evaluation Dunes Interpretive Trail

The **Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ontario Parks**, Southeast Zone invites public comment on its proposal to undertake the creation of a self-guided interpretive nature trail. This trail would allow park visitors to experience, learn about and appreciate the dunes while encouraging users to stay on a set trail loop rather than wandering throughout the dunes and impacting these sensitive natural environments.

The 1993 Sandbanks Provincial Park management plan supports this project as it included the development of a new loop trail through the pannes (coastal wetlands) and dunes of the West Lake Dunes. Currently there is a network of unofficial trails throughout this fragile area. The dunes are a sensitive environment, and the existing use is contributing to vegetation loss and sand movement/dune instability. The trail will mainly follow existing trails with approximately 650 metres of new trail being created to complete the 2.4 kilometre loop. The route has been chosen to minimize impacts to the dune and panne environment. Two viewing platforms will be built for the interpretation of the pannes and dunes. The trail will be for non-motorized recreational use.

The proposal is being evaluated as a Category B project under the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. A Notice of Completion will be sent to those who submit comments or request further notice when the project evaluation is finished. The Ministry of Natural Resources may proceed to implement the project without issuing a further general notice.

Comments must be received by the office noted below within the 30-day comment period, which expires on **Monday, June 28, 2010**.

For more information on the project, to submit comments or to request further notice, please contact:

Don Bucholtz
Park Superintendent
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RR#1, Picton, ON K0K 2T0
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Fax: 613-393-3404
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The Ministry of Natural Resources is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act* and *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, however, your comments will become part of the record of consultation and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to send you information about future planning initiatives in the park area. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Lesley Baird, Senior Park Planner at 613-536-7374.