



Caliper Lake Sioux Narrows

Terms of Reference

APPROVAL STATEMENT

I am pleased to approve the Terms of Reference for the preparation of park management plans for Caliper Lake and Sioux Narrows Provincial Parks. These terms of reference meet all requirements as set out in the Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual. They will effectively guide the park planning process through to the completion of the approved park management plans.

Adair Ireland-Smith
Managing Director
Ontario Parks

Date

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1.0 Introduction

Park management plans are documents that contain statements of park goals and objectives and describe the role an individual park plays in the larger provincial parks system. These documents contain direction that reflects specific resource and management needs of the park (e.g. wildlife, fisheries, fire, visitor management, and development) and are developed according to Ontario provincial parks policy. Park management plans are periodically reviewed to ensure the continued relevance of the original plan content. Reviews entail the re-assessment of all aspects of the original plans including classification, zoning, goals and objectives, resource stewardship, development and operational policies.

These terms of reference describe a process which will result in park management plans for Caliper Lake Provincial Park and Sioux Narrows Provincial Camp and Picnic Grounds¹ (Figure 1). This planning initiative will follow the approved park management planning process as outlined in the Ontario Provincial Parks: Management Planning Manual (1994).

2.0 Plan Area and Background

The planning area covers the lands and waters included in Caliper Lake and Sioux Narrows Provincial Parks (Figures 2 & 3). Consideration will be given to the nearby communities of Sioux Narrows, Nestor Falls, Kenora, Whitefish Bay First Nation, Ojibways of Onegaming First Nation, and Anishnabe of Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation as well as to adjacent land users.

Both parks receive moderate use in the summer months and support a wide range of recreational activities including camping, swimming, sport fishing, hiking, picnicking and boating. These parks draw visitors from regional, national and international markets. The majority of visitors to these parks are from Manitoba, northwestern Ontario, and the United States of America.

The following are brief descriptions of the parks in the planning area.

Caliper Lake

The plan area for ***Caliper Lake*** will include all the lands and waters (147.35 hectares) regulated under the Provincial Parks Act (R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 951, O.Reg. 412/91) as Caliper Lake Provincial Park (Recreation Class) (Figure 2).

Caliper Lake Provincial Park is an operating park situated on Caliper Lake within the Geographic Township of Claxton and in the Territorial District of Rainy River (Figure 2). The park is located approximately 140 kilometres southeast of the City of Kenora and 90 kilometres northwest of Fort Frances on Highway 71.

Development within Caliper Lake Provincial Park consists of a campground with 83 sites (27 electrical), a comfort station, a group camping area, hiking trails, two boat launches, docking facilities, a trailer dumping station, a maintenance building, a park office/gatehouse, two staff residences, and two fish cleaning buildings.

Caliper Lake Provincial Park was originally established in 1960 as Caliper Lake Provincial Camp and Picnic Grounds.

¹ The regulated name of Sioux Narrows Provincial Park is Sioux Narrows Provincial Camp and Picnic Grounds. The park is more commonly known as Sioux Narrows Provincial Park. It is the intention of Ontario Parks to have the regulation changed to reflect the common name. Therefore, this park will be referred to as Sioux Narrows Provincial Park during the course of the planning process.

Sioux Narrows

The plan area for ***Sioux Narrows*** will include all the lands and waters (129.50 hectares) regulated under the Provincial Parks Act (R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 951, O.Reg 821/80) as Sioux Narrows Provincial Camp and Picnic Grounds (Figure 3). The area will simply be referred to as Sioux Narrows Provincial Park during the course of this planning process.

Sioux Narrows Provincial Park is an operating park situated on Lake of the Woods within the Geographic Township of Willingdon within the Territorial District of Rainy River (Figure 2). The park is located approximately 80 kilometres southeast of the City of Kenora and 130 kilometers northwest of Fort Frances on Highway 71.

Development within Sioux Narrows Provincial Park consists of a campground with 56 sites (17 electrical), a comfort station, a swimming area, a group camping area, hiking trails, a boat launch, docking facilities, a trailer dumping station, a maintenance building, a staff residence, and a park office/gatehouse.

Sioux Narrows Provincial Park was originally established in 1957 as Sioux Narrows Provincial Camp and Picnic Grounds.

Figure 1 - Regional Context



Sioux Narrows Caliper Lake

Legend

- Provincial Park
- Major Lake
- Major Highway
- Railway
- Major Municipality
- First Nation Community



Base data derived from the Natural Resources and Values Information System (NRVIS) compiled at a scale of 1:20000.
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 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
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 Date: October 13, 2004

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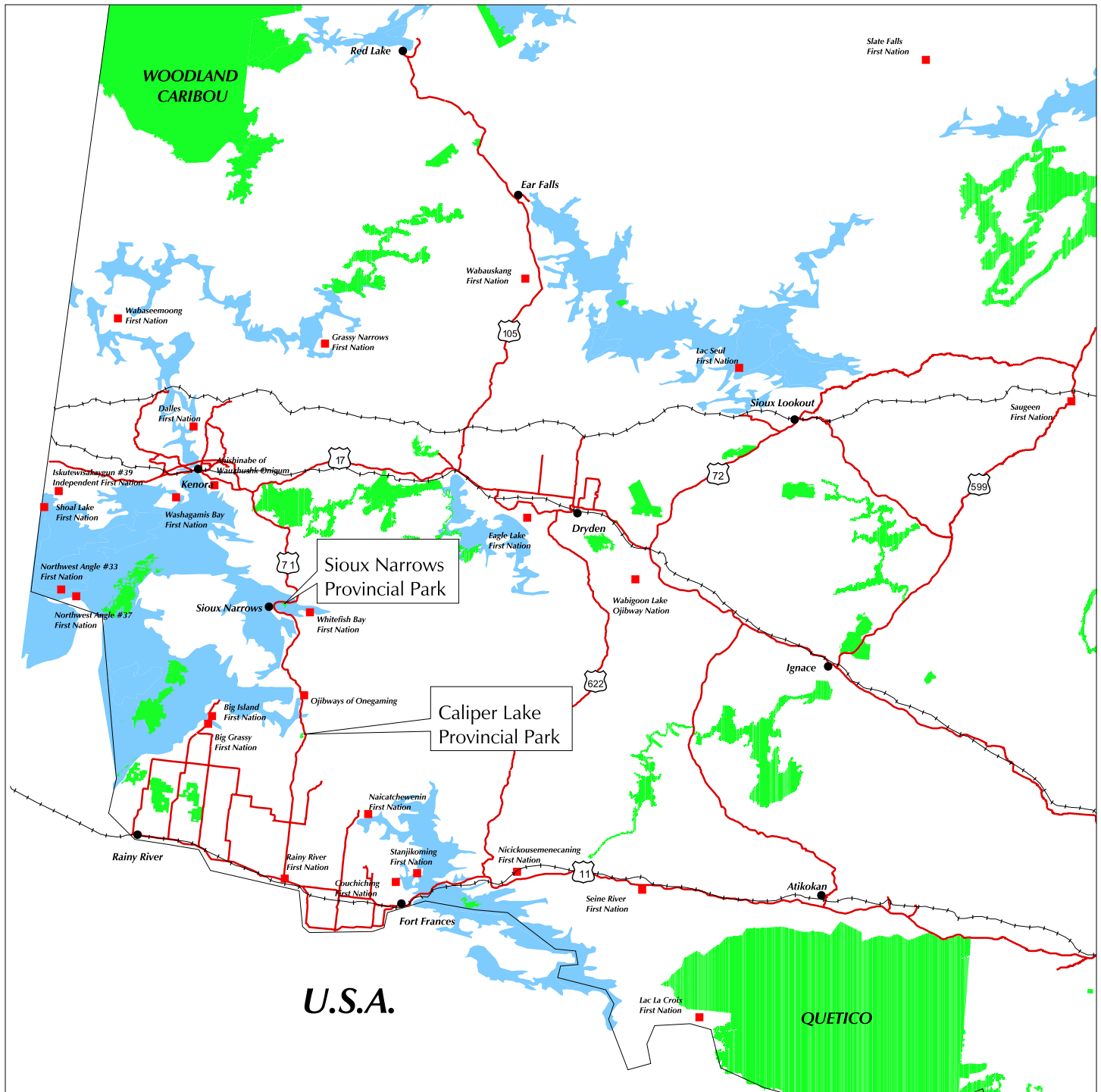


Figure 2 - Plan Area (Caliper Lake Provincial Park)



Caliper Lake

Legend

- Caliper Lake PP
- Water Area, Permanent
- Wetland Area, Permanent
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Park Roads
- Major Centre/Local Towns

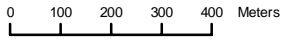


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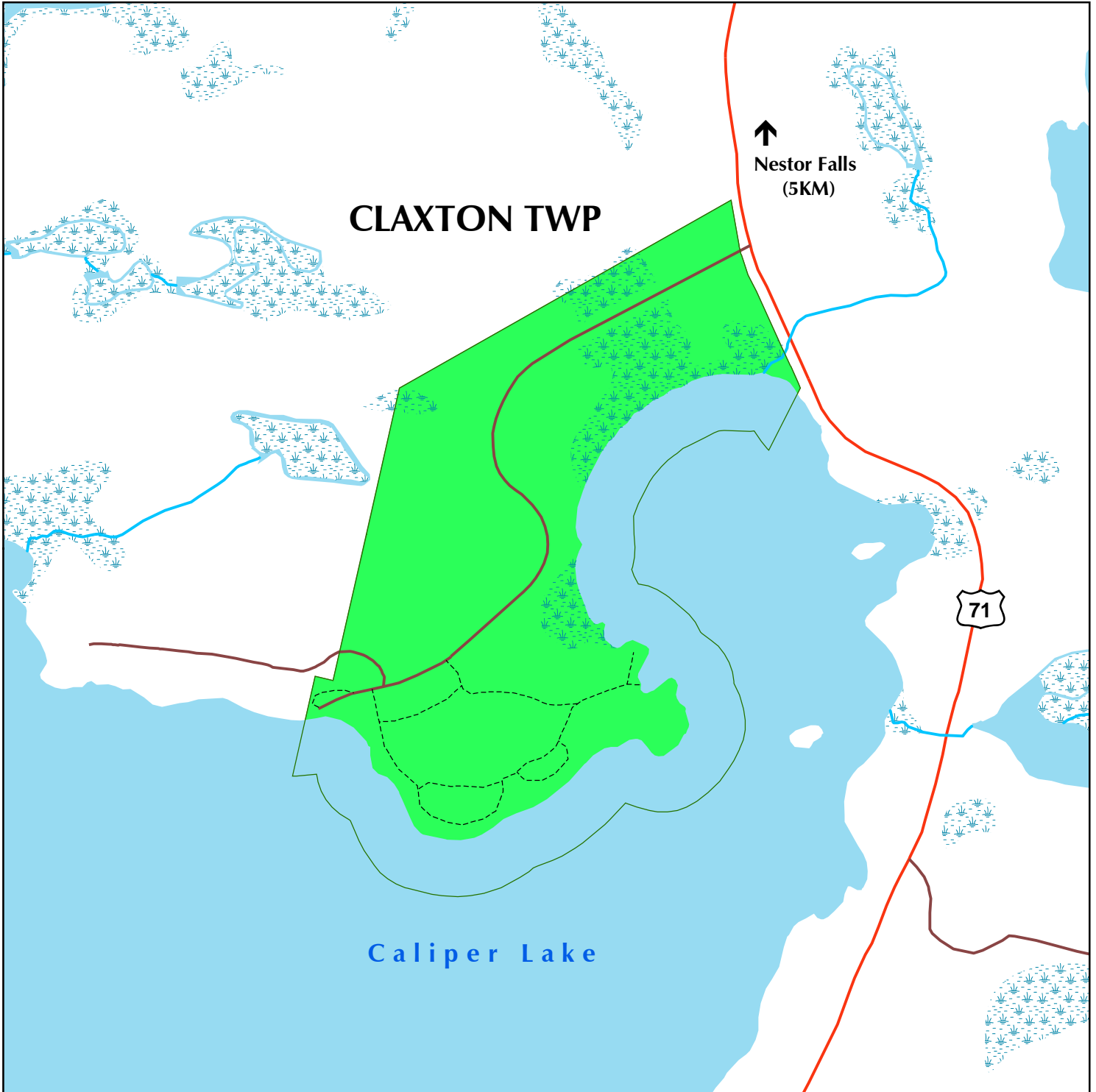
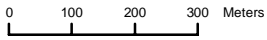


Figure 3 - Plan Area (Sioux Narrows Provincial Park)



Sioux Narrows



Scale: 1:12,000

Legend

- Sioux Narrows PP
- Water Area, Permanent
- Wetland Area, Permanent
- Primary Road
- Tertiary Road
- Park Roads
- Major Centre/Local Towns

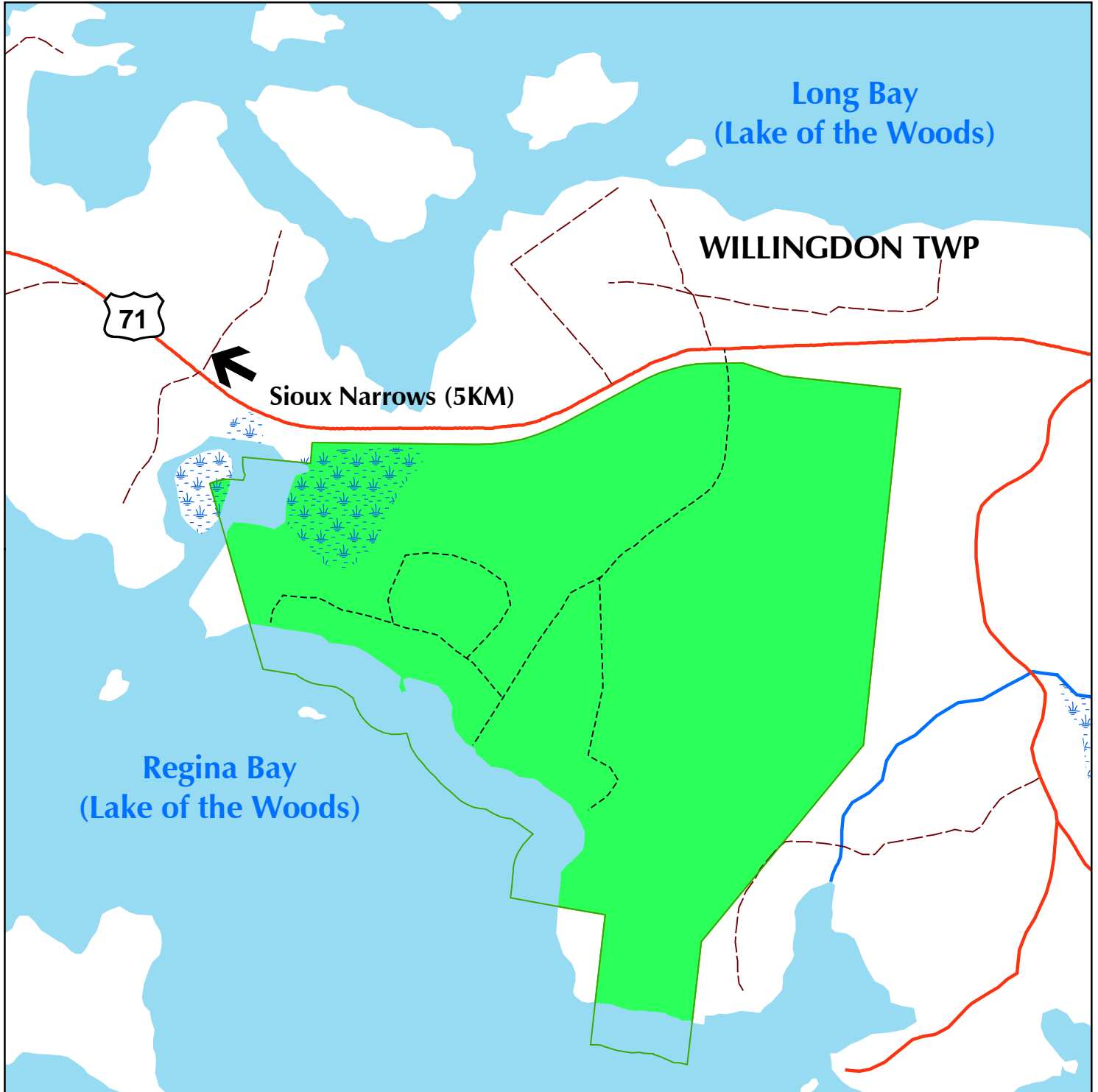


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3.0 Rationale

The preparation of park management plans for Sioux Narrows and Caliper Lake Provincial Park will be carried out through a single park management planning process. These parks are both designated recreation class parks, share similar interest groups, and some staff. Although the planning process will address both parks together, the product will be two separate management plans.

Interim Management Statements for Caliper Lake Provincial Park and Sioux Narrows Provincial Park were completed in 1994 and 1993, respectively. Neither park has a management plan. Park management plans provide policy direction for the protection, management, development, and operation of provincial parks.

Several general topics will be addressed during planning including:

- Zoning
- Operations and Development policies
 - Access to private property through Caliper Lake Provincial Park
 - Recreation Management
 - Natural Heritage Education
 - Research
 - Tourism
- Resource stewardship policies
 - Vegetation Management
 - Fire Management
 - Fisheries Management
 - Water Management
 - Wildlife Management
- Cultural resource management policies
- Implementation priorities

4.0 Planning Team

The planning team will be comprised of:

- Matt Yeo, Park Superintendent, Caliper Lake and Sioux Narrows Provincial Parks
- Tanya Johnson, Assistant Park Superintendent, Caliper Lake
- Rachel Hill, MNR District Planner, Fort Frances District
- Steve Duda, MNR District Planner, Kenora District
- Steve Kingston, Ontario Parks, Zone Ecologist, Northwest Zone
- Nancy Parish, Ontario Parks, Assistant Park Planner, Northwest Zone

The role of the planning team is to prepare all public documents and materials throughout the planning process, review and incorporate comments and input received, and eventually prepare and recommend a management plan for approval by the Managing Director of Ontario Parks. The planning team will meet on an as needed basis throughout the planning process.

All planning team members are expected to provide background information, provide advice and make recommendations for addressing management issues, review all draft documents and public notices, and attend public meetings and open houses as required.

The Park Superintendent will be responsible for leading the planning process and will work with the Project Planner to ensure all planning requirements are met including responding to public inquiries, providing logistical support and assisting in the collection of information. The Park Superintendent will be responsible for implementing decisions made through the park management planning process.

The Assistant Park Planner, as the Project Planner, will coordinate the management planning process. She will be responsible for the preparation of all documents associated with the plan review process, as well as

arranging map work, coordinating public consultation, preparing ads and public notices and liaison with Marketing and Communications Section, Planning and Research Section, and Communications Services Branch (CSB) as required.

Technical/professional advice will be sought from advisors on an as required basis from the following areas: Ontario Parks (Main Office), MNR Kenora and Fort Frances Districts, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Northern Development & Mines, MNR Regional Engineering, and others as required.

5.0 Integration

To ensure that the planning process is inclusive and comprehensive, and that all resource management interests are addressed, the planning team will liaise with park users, adjacent landowners, residents of nearby communities, and other interested parties and stakeholders. The following documents will be references for the process:

- *Caliper Lake Provincial Park Interim Management Statement*. 1994.
- *Sioux Narrows Provincial Park Interim Management Statement*. 1993.
- *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*. MNR July 1999.
- *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies*. MNR 1992.
- *Ontario Provincial Parks Park Management Planning Manual*. MNR 1994.
- *Ontario Parks Business Plan*. MNR 1996 revised 1998.
- *Ontario Provincial Parks Act*

Provincial policy direction and requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act and the Environmental Bill of Rights Act will guide the planning process and will be reflected in the content of the management plans. Public and Aboriginal consultation opportunities for the process will be in accordance with existing park policies and procedures.

6.0 Public Consultation

The public is encouraged to actively participate in the planning process at any stage in the development of the park management plans. Opportunities for public input and involvement will take place during the following phases of the process:

Phase 1: an invitation to participate in the planning process and an invitation to inspect the terms of reference, combined with an opportunity to review the background information file (45 days)

Phase 2: an opportunity to review the preliminary park management plans (45 days)

Phase 3: an opportunity to inspect the approved park management plans (45 days)

Based on park values and known resource and recreation issues, it is not anticipated that a separate planning stage and document will be required to present management options. If such a stage is required, it will occur between Phase 1 and 2.

Each of these stages has specific consultation and communication requirements identified in the Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual (1994). Communications will be accomplished through direct notices (mail outs), newspaper ads, meetings with First Nations and interest groups, and Open Houses as required.

Comments and personal information regarding this planning process will be collected to assist in making decisions and to determine further public consultation needs relating to the park management planning process for Caliper Lake and Sioux Narrows Provincial Parks. Comments and opinions which do not constitute personal information as defined by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, will be shared among OMNR and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained. However,

this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other resource management surveys and projects.

The following is a more detailed description of the consultation methods to be used during this planning process:

Mailing Lists

- Local First Nation Communities (Whitefish Bay First Nation, Ojibways of Onegaming First Nation, Anishnabe of Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation)
- Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Association
- Property owners and Land Use Permit holders within or immediately adjacent to parks.
- Tourism operators
- Area residents and businesses showing interest in the project
- Other individuals who request to be on the mailing list.
- All other organizations/individuals as required by Ontario Parks Policy

Newspaper Notices

All formal public notices will be included in the Kenora, Fort Frances, Thunder Bay, and Winnipeg newspapers.

Meetings with Interest Groups

Meetings with First Nations and interest groups may be scheduled upon request at any stage of the planning process.

Open Houses

Depending upon public interest, Open Houses may be held upon the release of the Preliminary Plan documents.

EBR Registry

The *Environmental Bill of Rights* electronic registry will be used to post the Registry proposal files associated with the Invitation to Participate, the Preliminary Park Management Plans, as well as the Registry Decision File posted when the approved Park Management Plans are released. These postings provide additional opportunities for public input into the planning process.

Document Availability

Park planning documents will be available for public review at the following locations:

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Kenora District Office
808 Robertson Street
Kenora, ON
P9N 3X9

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Fort Frances District Office
922 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 1J4

Ontario Parks Northwest Zone Office
435 James Street S.
Suite 221D
Thunder Bay, ON
P7E 6S8

AND online at: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/invit.html>

Internal Communication

Internal notices will be used to inform / advise Area, District, Zone and Main Office staff of significant developments (e.g. release of public documents) in the review process. Relevant planning documents will be circulated to OMNR, Northwest Zone Office, Main Office, and Communications Services Branch staff. Meetings may be scheduled upon request.

7.0 Planning Schedule Summary

This process is not expected to be contentious or complex; therefore the following steps will be completed.

| Stage in Planning Process | Description | Product(s) | Consultation / Communications | Proposed Timetable |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------|
| <p>Phase 1</p> <p>1a. Preparation of Invitation to Participate and Approved Terms of Reference</p> <p>1b. Background Information</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify scope of the planning program Schedule Costs Responsibilities Public Consultation <p>Gathering and general review of background information</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of Reference Background Information file | <p>Public Notice: Opportunity to Inspect Approved Terms of Reference document, and Background Information file</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBR Notice of Proposal Direct notices to mailing list Paid ads Notice posted in Caliper Lake and Sioux Narrows campgrounds Products posted on Ontario Parks website | Summer 2006 |
| <p>Phase 2</p> <p>Preliminary Park Management Plans</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content requirements defined by <i>Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary park management plan Proposed amendment to land use direction (as required) | <p>Public Notice: Opportunity to Review Preliminary Management Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBR Notice of Proposal Update Display for Park and MNR District Offices Direct notices to mailing list Paid ads Products posted on Ontario Parks website Meetings with interest groups (as required) Open Houses (as required) | Winter 2006 |
| <p>Phase 3</p> <p>Approved Park Management Plans</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content requirements defined by <i>Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved park management plan Approved amendment to land use direction (as required) | <p>Public Notice: Opportunity to Inspect Approved Management Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBR Decision Notice Distribution of Approved Park Management Plans Direct notices to mailing list Paid ads Notice posted in Caliper Lake and Sioux Narrows campground Products posted on the Ontario Parks website | Fall 2007 |