



Spanish River Valley

Terms of Reference

Signature Site Strategy

Provincial Parks

Spanish River

Biscotasi Lake

Biscotasi Lake Addition

Enhanced Management Areas

Sinaminda and Kennedy Lake

Acheson Lake

Swann Lake

APPROVAL STATEMENT

We are pleased to approve these Terms of Reference for the development of the Spanish River Valley Signature Site Strategy.

The Strategy will encompass the following land use designations:

- Spanish River Provincial Park
- Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park
- Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park Addition
- Sinaminda and Kennedy Lake Enhanced Management Area
- Acheson Lake Enhanced Management Area
- Swann Lake Enhanced Management Area

The Terms of Reference identify the tasks to be accomplished, the roles and responsibilities of the people involved, and the milestones and schedule for the completion of the Signature Site Strategy. The planning process will follow the management planning requirements for provincial parks to create an integrated management strategy for the above areas.



Managing Director
Ontario Parks



Northeast Regional Director
Ministry of Natural Resources

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Spanish River Valley Signature Site Terms of Reference

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Living Legacy and Signature Sites

The Spanish River Valley Signature Site has been identified as one of nine Featured Areas within the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (LUS). The Spanish River Valley is recognized as having a range of natural and recreational values that warrant special attention. The Spanish River Valley Signature Site is noted for its outstanding scenery, waterways and wildlife habitat. Due to its significant tourism and recreation potential, the area merits increased planning and management.

The initiative flows from the previous Lands for Life planning process that took place from February 1997 to May 1999 and involved extensive public consultation and input. Lands for Life resulted in the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*, released July 1999, which provides direction on land designations, permitted uses and future planning and consultation needs for 378 new parks and protected areas in the Province.

The geographically dispersed Signature Sites support the overall strategic directions of the Ministry of Natural Resource's vision to develop Ontario's natural resources in a sustainable way to meet today's needs and to ensure these resources are available for future generations. It is through the sustainable development of natural resources that MNR contributes to the environmental, social, and economic well being of the people of Ontario.

1.2 Spanish River Valley Signature Site

The Spanish River Valley Signature Site is composed of an array of land use designations including an existing provincial park with an Ontario's Living Legacy (OLL) park addition, a new provincial park, enhanced management areas, a forest reserve and general use areas (Figure 1).

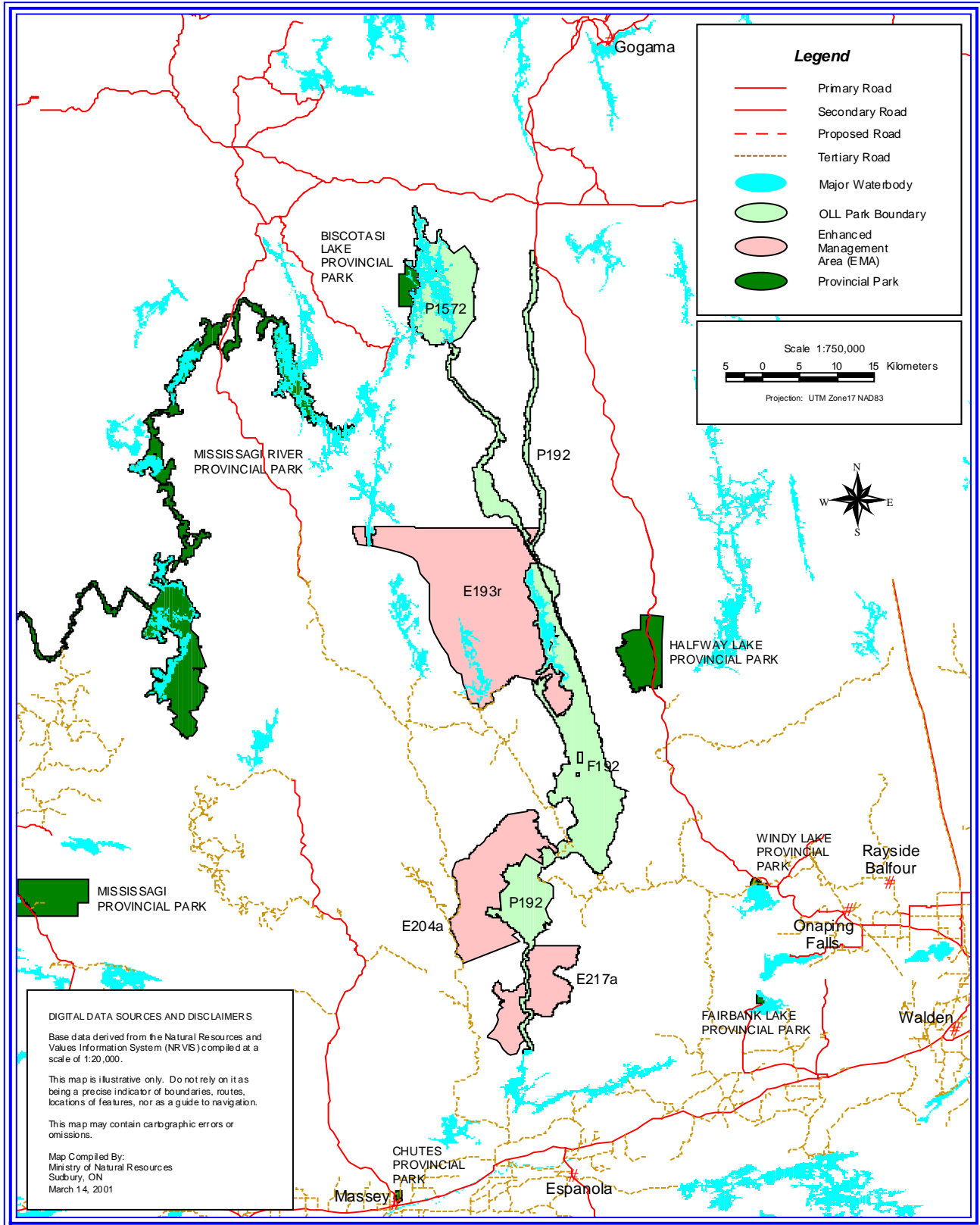
Inclusive in the Spanish River Valley Signature Site are the following core protected areas: the Spanish River Provincial Park, the addition to Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park, along with the previously regulated Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park.

Part of OLL is a new land use category known as an Enhanced Management Area (EMA), which was established to provide more detailed land use direction in areas of special features or values. Inclusive to the Spanish River Valley Signature Site are three EMAs – the Sinaminda & Kennedy Lake EMA, the Acheson Lake EMA and the Swann Lake EMA.

Lastly, a Forest Reserve (composed of a number of parcels) associated with existing mining claims and leases are included in the Spanish River Valley Signature Site. A Forest Reserve is presently excluded from provincial park landbase but are contiguous, meaning that it is the intent that these areas will be added to protected areas as claims or leases are retired through normal processes.

A key component to sound planning for the future of this Signature Site is public input, stakeholder involvement and First Nation participation. The planning process is designed to encourage and incorporate input, review and comment throughout the process from a wide cross-section of people such as First Nations and community representatives, environmentalists, business and industry representation and recreational users.

Figure 1: Spanish River Valley Signature Site Land Use Designations



An Interim Management Statement (IMS), based on the general direction in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* will be prepared for the immediate planning needs of the associated parks within the Spanish River Valley Signature Site. Major decisions, particularly those that may be considered long term, will be addressed in the development of the Signature Site Strategy.

1.2.1 Spanish River Provincial Park

Spanish River Provincial Park (P192), a 35,386 hectares protected area, was established as part of *Ontario's Living Legacy*. It is designated a waterway class park in recognition of its representative natural features and high quality recreational water route. The park designation includes the East Branch from Eastsand River and the West Branch at the outlet from Biscotasi Lake to their confluence at the Forks where the river system continues south to Agnew Lake. The maximum linear distance of the canoe route within the park designation is approximately 140 kilometres. The varied landscape of rolling hills, vertical cliffs and rock prominences, along with moving water and few major portages make this one of Ontario's popular wilderness paddling rivers.

The provincial park includes an array of significant natural heritage areas including the Spanish River Ice Contact Delta, the Path Creek Delta and the Spanish River Valley geological fault, along with a number of Old Growth Pine Forests: the Agnes River, the Craig/Toflemire, the Spanish River Valley and Old Pine. Significant cultural heritage history includes ancient Aboriginal pictographs and sacred cliff sites, early logging history (log drive), and the establishment of the railway in 1880.

1.2.2 Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park and OLL Addition

The existing Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park is a 1,238 hectares recreation class park that was regulated in 1989. As a non-operating park, it has remained undeveloped and is not widely known. With the OLL addition (P1572), a further 11,045 hectares will be added to the park, which will be reclassified as a natural environment park. The islands in Biscotasi Lake are part of the addition due to their historical significance in the region. Grey Owl (Archey Belaney) trapped and guided in the Biscotasing area in the 1900s and was a seasonal ranger with the then Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. His early contribution to wildlife conservation began here.

1.2.3 Enhanced Management Areas

Three Enhanced Management Areas (EMAs) covering 50,965 hectares are associated with the Spanish River Valley Signature Site. Management of these areas will give careful consideration to the protected area's remote access, tourism and recreation values. Land use direction and resource management activities within EMAs will be compatible with protecting the recreational values of the Spanish River Provincial Park.

Sinaminda and Kennedy Lakes EMA (E193r), at approximately 34,461 hectares, is a high quality recreational area providing a variety of Crown land activities that include canoeing, boating, fishing, hunting, along with a number of outpost and recreational camps. Forestry activity is prominent in the area.

Acheson Lake EMA (E204r), at approximately 8,627 hectares, is a relatively remote area containing old growth red and white pine. Forestry, recreational camps, hunting and trapping are the main activities.

Swann Lake EMA (E217a), at approximately 7,877 hectares, provides for good quality remote hunting and fishing opportunities. Forestry, mining and tourism are important activities.

1.2.4 Forest Reserves

A Forest Reserve is an area where protection of natural heritage and special landscapes is a priority, but some resource use can take place with appropriate conditions. This designation has been applied to several parcels within the Spanish River Valley Signature Site where detailed examination determined that there are existing mining claims or leases within recommended Provincial Parks. The intention is that these lands will be added to the park as a claim or lease is retired through normal processes. Commercial forest harvesting, new hydroelectric power development, and peat extraction will not be allowed in these areas, but most other resource and recreational uses will be permitted, provided they are consistent with the values that are being protected.

1.2.5 General Use Areas

This designation includes all Crown Lands immediately adjacent to the provincial park boundaries, which are not in one of the above categories. A full range of resource and recreational uses can occur in General Use Areas. Management of General Use Areas will occur in the context of maintaining ecological sustainability and will be managed primarily through the forest management planning process.

2.0 Rationale for a Signature Site Strategy

The intent of this initiative is to develop a resource management strategy that will provide for the protection of the Spanish River Valley Signature Site ecosystem and its significant attributes while allowing for compatible and appropriate tourism, recreation, and resource sector development. The core protected area of the Spanish River Valley Signature Site is comprised of lands and waters to be regulated as provincial parks. The Signature Site also includes Enhanced Management Areas and a Forest Reserve. These areas are physically connected to each other, share related resources and values, experience similar patterns of use and will be managed together. Planning will be undertaken for all the protected areas at the same time.

One document; the “Spanish River Valley Signature Site Strategy”, will be developed as the management document for the entire site. The strategy will include sufficient information upon which to support sound management decisions within the Signature Site. It will build on the Land Use Strategy, the District Land Use Guidelines, the Spanish River Special Area Plan and the Biscotasi Local Area Land Use Strategy. It will work in concert with the Spanish River Watershed Water Management Plan. Once approved, the Signature Site Strategy will provide the management direction for the entire site. The Strategy will be approved as a Park Management Plan for the regulated Provincial Parks within the Signature Site.

Planning discussions will recognize Aboriginal values and treaty rights.

While this strategy will set the overall direction for management, specific actions needed to implement the strategy will be provided in subsequent plans; these *Implementation Plans* will provide further detailed guidance for the operation, management and protection of the Signature Site’s resources.

The Spanish River Valley Signature Site Strategy is not an end in itself but rather is a dynamic ongoing process. Once the Strategy is approved, it can stand for a 20-year period, with a review of the Strategy every 10 years, or as necessary.

The Signature Site Strategy will provide:

- A definition of the role of each of the protected areas within the Spanish River Valley Signature Site;
- The designation of zones for the protection, planning, development and management of the Site's natural, cultural and recreational resources;
- Direction in planning, management and development of the Signature Site to provide assurance that the environment will be protected and also that the Strategy will be responsive to public interests;
- Guidance for the preparation of subsequent plans required to implement protected area policies and to achieve program objectives;
- A rationale and priorities for the funding of capital development and park operations;
- A record of public consultation and input into the planning process;
- A basis for the ongoing monitoring of the development and management of the Signature Site.

The Signature Site Strategy will include, but not be limited to:

- An overall vision, goal and objectives;
- Zoning;
- Policies for resource stewardship, operations and development:
 - Natural resources (e.g. Lands and waters, vegetation, wildlife and fisheries);
 - Cultural resources (e.g. First Nation values, historical sites);
 - Operations (e.g. recreation management, natural heritage education, tourism services, marketing and research);
 - Development (e.g. roads and other access points, trails, parking, other infrastructure);
- Implementation priorities for stewardship, operations and development;
- Social and economic impact analysis; and
- Summaries of all public consultation.

The authority and direction for management planning is based upon legislation and policies that govern Ontario Parks and Crown Land within the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Some of the documents that provide this authority and direction include (and will be referred to):

- *Ontario's Living Legacy – Land Use Strategy*. OMNR 1999
- *Nature's Best - Ontario's Parks and Protected Areas: A Framework and Action Plan*. OMNR 1997
- *Ontario's Approach to Wilderness: A Policy*. OMNR, 1997
- *Environmental Assessment Act*. R.S.O.1990, Chapter E.18
- *Environmental Bill of Rights*. R.S.O.1993, Chapter 28
- *Declaration Order MNR-59/2*
- *Provincial Parks Act*. R.S.O.1990, Chapter P.34
- *Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual*. OMNR, 1994
- *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies, 1992 Update*. OMNR, 1992
- *Provincial Parks Policy PM 1.00—Implementation Details*. OMNR, 1989
- *Public Lands Act*. R.S.O. 1990
- *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. R.S.O. 1994
- *Sudbury District Land Use Guidelines*. OMNR 1983
- *Gogama District Land Use Plan*. OMNR 1983
- *Chapleau District Land Use Guidelines*. OMNR 1983
- *District Fisheries Management Plans 1988-2000*. OMNR 1988
- *The Spanish River Special Area Plan*. OMNR 1990
- *The Biscotasi Local Area Land Use Strategy*. OMNR 1992
- *Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park, Interim Management Statement*. OMNR 1991

3.0 Signature Site Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Spanish River Valley Signature Site is:

To protect, enhance and manage the natural ecosystems, populations and wilderness quality of the Spanish River Valley while allowing for tourism, recreational and industrial development that will not compromise the integrity and environmental values of the Valley ecosystem.

Five objectives will guide planning for the Spanish River Valley Signature Site:

- To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape.
- To recognize existing recreational and tourism opportunities and to promote and manage future recreational opportunities including canoeing, ecotourism, camping, fishing and hunting.
- To provide opportunities for educational exploration, research and appreciation of significant natural and cultural heritage features.
- To provide Ontario residents and out of province visitors with tourism services and opportunities to discover and experience a diverse part of Northern Ontario.
- To maintain current resource use levels as appropriate to the various land use designations and policies through an integrated planning process in and adjacent to the Signature Site.

4.0 Plan Area

The plan area for the Spanish River Valley Signature Site includes the associated provincial parks of Spanish River and Biscotasi Lake, and three adjacent EMAs (Table 1 and Figure 1). Due to the interconnecting nature of the two Parks and the three EMAs, and given their significance on the local and provincial level, planning for all these areas will be undertaken in an integrated manner.

Planning will deal specifically with lands and waters within the existing Signature Site's boundaries, however it will take into account those activities on adjacent Crown Lands outside of the protected areas that may affect ecosystems or impact upon Signature Site management or operations.

The plan area for the Park Management Plan will include all the lands and waters regulated under the *Provincial Parks Act* as Spanish River and Biscotasi Lake Provincial Parks.

The need for minor boundary amendments for the Signature Site may be identified as the planning process progresses, as stated in the *Land Use Strategy*.

The Parks and the EMAs in the planning area are accessed from many directions by a variety of means; by road, by rail, by air or water. There are currently eleven commonly used access locations.

Table 1: Provincial Parks and EMAs within Spanish River Valley Signature Site

TITLE	CLASSIFICATION	AREA (HA)	YEAR REGULATED	PLANNING TO DATE
Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park	Recreation	1,204	1989	IMS (1991) Revised (2002)
Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park Addition	Natural Environment	11,079	2001	IMS (2002)
Spanish River Provincial Park	Waterway	35,386	2001	IMS (2002)
Sinaminda and Kennedy Lake EMA	Recreation	34,461	N/A	N/A
Archeson Lake EMA	Remote Access	8,627	N/A	N/A
Swann Lake EMA	Remote Access	7,877	N/A	N/A

5.0 Planning Organization

Due to the complexity of the Spanish River Valley Signature Site and its significance on a local and provincial level, a project team approach will be taken. The project team, supported by a significant public consultation process, will develop the Spanish River Valley Signature Site Strategy. The planning process will also receive guidance and assistance from various advisors and technical support people / groups. Table 2 outlines the Spanish River Valley Project Team.

5.1 Steering Committee and Project Team

A Regional Steering Committee will ensure recommendations generated within the project are consistent with OLL and government vision for Signature Sites. The steering committee will review all final recommendations prior to approval.

A project team consisting of MNR and Ontario Parks staff will have an array of responsibilities, including: gathering and analyzing resource information; managing the planning process; overseeing contractors and consultants; developing planning options for review and consultation; and preparing planning documents. The planning team will deliver the products associated with the completion of the Signature Site Strategy.

Table 2: Spanish River Valley Signature Site Team

STEERING COMMITTEE	AFFILIATION / LOCATION
Paul Bewick	Northeast Zone Manager, Ontario Parks
Cindy Blancher-Smith	District Manager, Sudbury
Dianne Corbett	District Manager, Timmins
Wayne Fiset	District Manager, Chapleau
Dave Scott	District Manager, Hearst
Serge Tenaglia	District Manager, Sault Ste. Marie
Will Kershaw	NE Zone Management Planner, Ontario Parks
Grant Ritchie	Manager, Northeast Region Planning Unit
John Thompson	Natural Heritage Specialist, Ontario Parks

PROJECT TEAM		AFFILIATION / LOCATION
David Coulas	Project Manager & Park Superintendent, Ontario Parks	
Karen Mikoliew	Park Planner, Ontario Parks	
Bruce Richard	District Information & Resource Management Supervisor, Sudbury	
Carole Trepanier	District Information Specialist, Sudbury	
Bruce Richard (assigned)	Resource Liaison Officer, Sudbury	
Joel Holder	District Planner, Timmins	
Richard Phillips	A/District Planner, Chapleau	
Paul Leale	Area Forester, Espanola	
Jeff Brinsmead	Planning Biologist, Sudbury	
Natalie Avoledo	District OLL Planner, Sudbury	
SUPPORT STAFF		AFFILIATION / LOCATION
Phil Kor	Sr. Conservation Geologist, Ontario Parks	
Bill Crins	Sr. Conservation Ecologist, Ontario Parks	
Dan Mulrooney	Research Analyst, Ontario Parks	
Christine Staddon	Communications Services Branch, Peterborough	
Bruce King	Signature Site – MNR Provincial Network, Peterborough	
Ed Morris	OLL Biologist Intern, Ontario Parks	
Steven Pianosi	GIS Database Management Analyst, Ontario Parks	

5.1.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Under the direction of the project manager, project team members will use their technical and professional expertise to address issues that arise during the planning process and to produce planning documents leading to an approved Signature Site Strategy. The collective responsibilities of the team members are as follows:

- function as a Team through regular contact at planning team meetings;
- ensure that appropriate planning guidelines are followed and that all requirements are met;
- collect, review and update Signature Site background information;
- encourage integration of park planning and District program objectives with the *Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* and District Land Use Guidelines;
- organize and implement effective public consultation;
- attend related meetings and information centers as required;
- assist in reviewing and responding to public input;
- prepare and review various management planning products/documents; make appropriate modifications as required in light of public input and internal/external reviews.

Individual member responsibilities are outlined below.

5.1.2 Project Manager

- Project lead and chair of planning team meetings
- Main contact for planning team on concerns and issues, and for media relations
- Provide background on issues and operational matters
- Maintain communications with the Aboriginal communities, the planning team, local communications, stakeholders and interested parties

- Encourage First Nations and stakeholders to create and maintain a common long-term vision for the Signature Site
- Ensure adherence to the *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Environmental Bill of Rights*, and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*
- Coordinate planning process between Ontario Parks Northeast Zone and NE Regional Office
- Coordinate / implement planning schedule; arrange / facilitate meetings as required
- In consultation with the planning team, determine planning priorities
- Maintain public relations on matters pertaining to planning process and provide liaison with interested individuals, groups and organizations
- Provide technical direction on planning and park operations
- Provide coordination with provincial planning initiatives
- Provide the lead on natural and cultural heritage interest
- Complete work planning, coordinate communications and prepare funding proposals for Ontario Parks Northeast Zone Manager
- Maintain regular communications among other signature site project managers to coordinate resolution of common issues and report to the Steering Committee

5.1.3 Project Team Member

- Provide support documents following all planning stages to summarize public comment
- Arrange for technical or professional guidance as required
- Coordinate all consultation / communication requirements, including media, translation; requirements under *French Language Services Act*, preparation of ads, open house displays, visual aids and comment forms
- Compile mailing lists for all interested public, organizations and individuals
- Coordinate map production with MNR GIS staff
- Contacts for management activities on adjacent Crown lands in Sudbury, Timmins, and Chapleau Districts
- Seek district input and provide advice on district initiatives, opportunities and issues
- Coordinate project priorities with district priorities
- Interpret management intent of adjacent land use designations in *Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*

5.2 Advisors and Technical Support

Additional staff from the Sudbury, Chapleau and Timmins Districts, the Northeast Region, Ontario Parks and other government agencies will provide support and assistance to the Spanish River Valley Planning Team as required.

6.0 Integration and Support

This Strategy cannot be prepared in isolation, if it is to be relevant and effective. Surrounding landscapes may contain Signature Site related values; similarly, Signature Site planning, management and operations can have impacts on surrounding private and public lands. This initiative will build on existing resource management direction found in the Spanish River Special Area Plan, the Spanish River Watershed Water Management Plan, the Spanish River & Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park Interim Management Statement, and the Biscotasi Local Area Land Use Strategy (an amendment to the Chapleau and Espanola District Land Use Guidelines). It will also take into consideration District Fisheries Management Plans, the Spanish Forest 2000-2020 Forest Management Plan, the OLL Land Use Strategy, and the Ontario Forestry Accord.

To assist in the above, other MNR staff will be consulted to ensure a strong link between Signature Site objectives and the management of adjacent Crown lands within Sudbury, Chapleau, and Timmins Districts. In addition, the project team will undertake meaningful liaison with park users,

adjacent landowners, residents of the nearby communities, First Nations, and other interested parties and stakeholders.

7.0 Planning Process and Schedule

There are a number of planning requirements for the Spanish River Valley Signature Site that will result in an integrated Strategy. These being: a Park Management Plan, management direction for the Enhanced Management Areas, management direction for the Forest Reserves, implications for the Spanish River Watershed Water Management Plan (under review) and impact on adjacent general use areas.

The park management planning process, as dictated by the *Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual*, will lead the Signature Site process including associated public consultation.

The following planning schedule reflects the goal of project completion by March 2004. While these timelines may be advanced, the proposed schedule is cautious in recognition of:

- the significance of the resource;
- the complexity of the issues to be addressed;
- the magnitude of the area involved;
- the number of communities and stakeholders who will be participating in the process;
- the desire for comprehensive public participation

The major steps in the process* and their completion dates, along with the public consultation components, are outlined below:

*per *Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual* (OMNR, 1994).

EBR = *Environmental Bill of Rights*

Table 3: Signature Site Planning Schedule

STAGE	REQUIREMENTS	TIMETABLE	CONSULTATION
Terms of Reference (TOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approval by Managing Director, Ontario Parks and Regional Director, NER • Document summarizing: rationale, plan area, planning team, communications, project schedule and budget • Invitation to Participate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov. 2001 – Jul. 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBR Notice (45 day review period) • newspaper ads • mailing list • Release of newsletter
Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assemble & assess files from Sudbury, Timmins & Chapleau District Offices, Parks Zone office • preparation of report summarizing: natural, cultural & recreational values; social / economic impact & market analysis • identification of issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 2001- Sept. 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal review: planning team, advisors & steering committee • EBR Notice (45 day review period) • newspaper ads, website, other media • mailings • meetings
Issues and Plan Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 day notice prior to public workshop; assess public input inclusion to report • preparation of report summarizing: issue(s) identification, developing alternatives & evaluation criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct. 2002 – Jan. 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal review: planning team, advisors & steering committee • EBR Notice (45 day review period) • newspaper ads,

STAGE	REQUIREMENTS	TIMETABLE	CONSULTATION
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> website, other media mailings workshop
Preliminary Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise policy relative to issues / alternatives & public review Preparation of document summarizing: classification, goal, objectives, zoning; draft operations & resource development policies; identify immediate priorities; summary of consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 2003- May 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> internal review by MNR district & Ontario Parks main office staff EBR Notice (45 day review period) newspaper ads, website, other media mailings meetings
Recommended Signature Site Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> additional summary of public comments plan production, printing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aug. 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> internal reviews & approval
Approved Signature Site Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 day public notice to inspect final plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec. 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBR Notice of Decision media ads distribution & mailing of final document

8.0 Public Consultation

Public consultation is key in the success of the Spanish River Valley Signature Site Strategy process. To ensure that public consultation requirements are met, public involvement shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following input opportunities: Invitation to Participate; Opportunity to Review Background Information; Opportunity to Review Issues and Alternatives; Opportunity to Review the Preliminary Strategy; and Opportunity to Inspect the Approved Signature Site Strategy. Specifics on communications will be described in a communications plan for this initiative.

In addition, solicitation of public input may occur in the following manner:

- one-on-one meetings and discussions with interested parties, stakeholders and First Nations; arranging meetings with representatives of communities adjacent to the planning area. These communities may include, but are not limited to, First Nations communities, Sudbury, Chapleau, Timmins, Espanola and Gogama;
- conducting workshops involving stakeholders, First Nations, community representatives and interested parties;
- making pertinent documents available for review through MNR Offices in Sudbury, Chapleau, Timmins, Peterborough and Toronto;
- soliciting involvement, information and comment from the public through notices and mailings;
- conducting additional informal presentations, meetings and discussions with groups, agencies and individuals as required.

A key component of the consultation will be to find opportunities for partnership and cooperation between MNR and local communities and stakeholders in the protection, management and operation of the Signature Site. The First Nations community, for example, will be invited to identify traditional heritage uses and sites and to work in cooperation with MNR in protecting aboriginal heritage. Similarly, other communities, interest groups and users will be invited to assist in identifying and protecting park values and resources.

8.1 First Nations

Establishing communications with First Nation's communities on the Spanish River Valley Signature Site planning is paramount to the success of complete public consultation. In conjunction, community-specific First Nation consultation will take place to seek input directly. The key is to initially seek First Nation input on how they would like to be engaged in the process.

8.2 One-on-One Information Meetings

Meetings are proposed to present and exchange information with communities adjacent to the planning area. These may include, but are not limited to, the First Nations and the communities of Sudbury, Cartier, Gogama, Timmins, Chapleau, Biscotasing, Webwood, and Espanola, as listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Possible Contacts for Meetings / Workshops

Interest/Area	Representatives
First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union of Ontario Indians • Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation • Mattagami First Nation • Brunswick House First Nation • Others as identified
Local Municipalities / Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater City of Sudbury • Local Communities • Local Chambers of Commerce • Local Economic Development Consultants / Committees
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domtar Inc.
Mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INCO Ltd.
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters (NOTO) • Local lodges and outfitters
Canoeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canoe Ontario • Ontario Recreational Canoe Association (ORCA)
General Parks Use/Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) • Wildlands League • Partnership for Public Lands • Sudbury Naturalists
Hunting/Angling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)
Snowmobile Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC)
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of the Spanish River
Affected Land Use Permits / Landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective individual LUP/patent land owners
Citizens-at-Large	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • selected representative to provide unbiased overview to area needs/concerns
Land Use Permits and Patent Lands in/or near Signature Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual LUP / Patent land owners

8.3 Plan Contact List

Park Policy PM 11.02.02 prescribes mandatory contacts to receive public notices and any planning documents associated with the planning process. These mandatory contacts are primarily stakeholder or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with provincial interests. This list is

supplemented by recommendations from Park and District Office staff, and augmented by a contact list of local individuals, groups, and park users that will evolve in the course of consultation.

Since the Signature Site is within a designated bilingual area, summaries of the Background Report, Issues and Alternatives Report and Preliminary Strategy will be available in French. The approved Signature Site Strategy will be provided in French as well as English.

All public input will be treated in accordance with the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (1987) to ensure confidentiality of personal information.

Beyond the formal avenues and opportunities built into the planning process, planning team members will be available for informal discussions, meetings and presentations on Signature Site-related issues involving interested individuals and groups.

Comments from the public should be sent to:

Mr. David Coulas
Park Superintendent / Project Manager
Spanish River Valley Signature Site
199 Larch St., Suite 404
Sudbury, ON P3E 5P9

Comments may also be sent via e-mail to the following address: david.coulas@mnr.gov.on.ca

8.4 Use of Media

All formal public notices will be included in the local newspapers associated with both the English and French language in Sudbury, Espanola, Chapleau and Timmins along with postings in other communities, such as Biscotasing, Cartier, and Gogama.

8.5 EBR Registry

The *Environmental Bill of Rights* (EBR) is legislation that is built on the principle that residents of Ontario may participate in the making of environmentally significant decisions of the government. Under *Environmental Assessment (EA) Act* Declaration Order 59/2, park management planning will incorporate EBR public consultation. The EBR electronic registry will be used to post the Registry Proposal File associated with all the stages of planning for the Spanish River Valley Signature Site. The Registry Decision File will be posted when the final document is approved and released. These postings provide opportunities for public input into the planning process. In addition, a Statement of Environmental Values (SEV) will be prepared to document how the purposes of the EBR have been considered and incorporated into the Spanish River Valley Signature Site management planning process.

Information pertaining to the planning process will also be made available for public access on the Internet through the Environmental Bill of Rights electronic registry at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/ebr/>.

8.6 Internal Distribution

Standard briefing notes will be used to inform / advise Area, District, Zone, Regional and Main Office staff of significant developments (e.g. release of public documents) in the planning process.

9.0 Budget Requirements

Table 5: Signature Site Planning - Projected Budget 2001 to 2003

PLANNING STAGE	REQUIREMENTS	COST (\$000)	DETAILS
Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • core planning team orientation 	23.0	
Invitation to Participate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public notice • newspaper ads • mailing list 	8.0	
Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one-on-one advisory meetings • data collection • GIS analysis/development 	25.0	travel/meeting expenses printing costs
Public Review of Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • newspaper ads, other media • mailings • information centers • workshops 	18.0	
Issues and Plan Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one-on-one advisory meetings • newspaper ads, other media • mailings • information centers 	17.0	travel/meeting expenses printing costs
Draft Preliminary Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS product development • computer graphics 	9.5	
Preliminary Signature Site Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS/graphics • newspaper ads, other media • mailings • information centers 	27.0	travel/meeting expenses printing costs
Public Review of Preliminary Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possible advisory workshop to present and analyze findings 	8.0	travel/meeting expenses
Recommended Signature Site Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finalize graphic products 	6.0	
Approved Signature Site Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • media ads • printing/production • distribution of final document 	30.0	*partial cost recovery through sale of final document
Ongoing/Additional Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • telephone/fax • office supplies/postage • photocopier rental • utilities • field research/surveys • Planner travel/expenses • photographic/graphic/computer supplies and equipment • facilitator • planning team expenses • French translation requirements 	37.0	
Total Estimated Cost**		208.5	

** Funds are available and allocated as per approved OLL Project Plan.