Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles
Ontario

November 25, 1992

MEMORANDUM TO:

All MNR Staff

Subject: 1992 Update to *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies*

Since May of 1978, when *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies* was first released, a number of refinements and revisions to the original policies have been approved. Perhaps the most notable example was the release of PM 1.00 (Provincial Parks Policy Implementation Details), better known as the permitted uses policy, effective January 1, 1989.

For park managers, the '90s hold the prospect of being another significant decade in the evolution of Ontario's provincial park system. We have already experienced the reorganization of the Ministry, and the resulting changes in the way each of us approaches our job. Soon, the park system will celebrate its 100th anniversary, a major milestone in its history. We are in the midst of other projects that will see reforms to legislation dealing with parks and protected areas, as well as the development of a class environmental assessment which influence the way we plan and manage park resources. The Endangered Spaces program will result in significant additions to the parks system by the year 2000.

In light of current and anticipated changes, it seemed to be an appropriate time to revisit the original Blue Book. The attached update consolidates approved park planning and management policies, from 1978 to 1992, under one cover. It is a reference manual for MNR staff.

While the material itself is not new, its presentation in one document will make it easier to use for planners and managers. As new policies are approved, and current policies are refined, the loose-leaf format will facilitate changes. During its development, every effort has been made to retain the key concepts of the 1978 document, arid to identify other important references which elaborate on the material presented here.

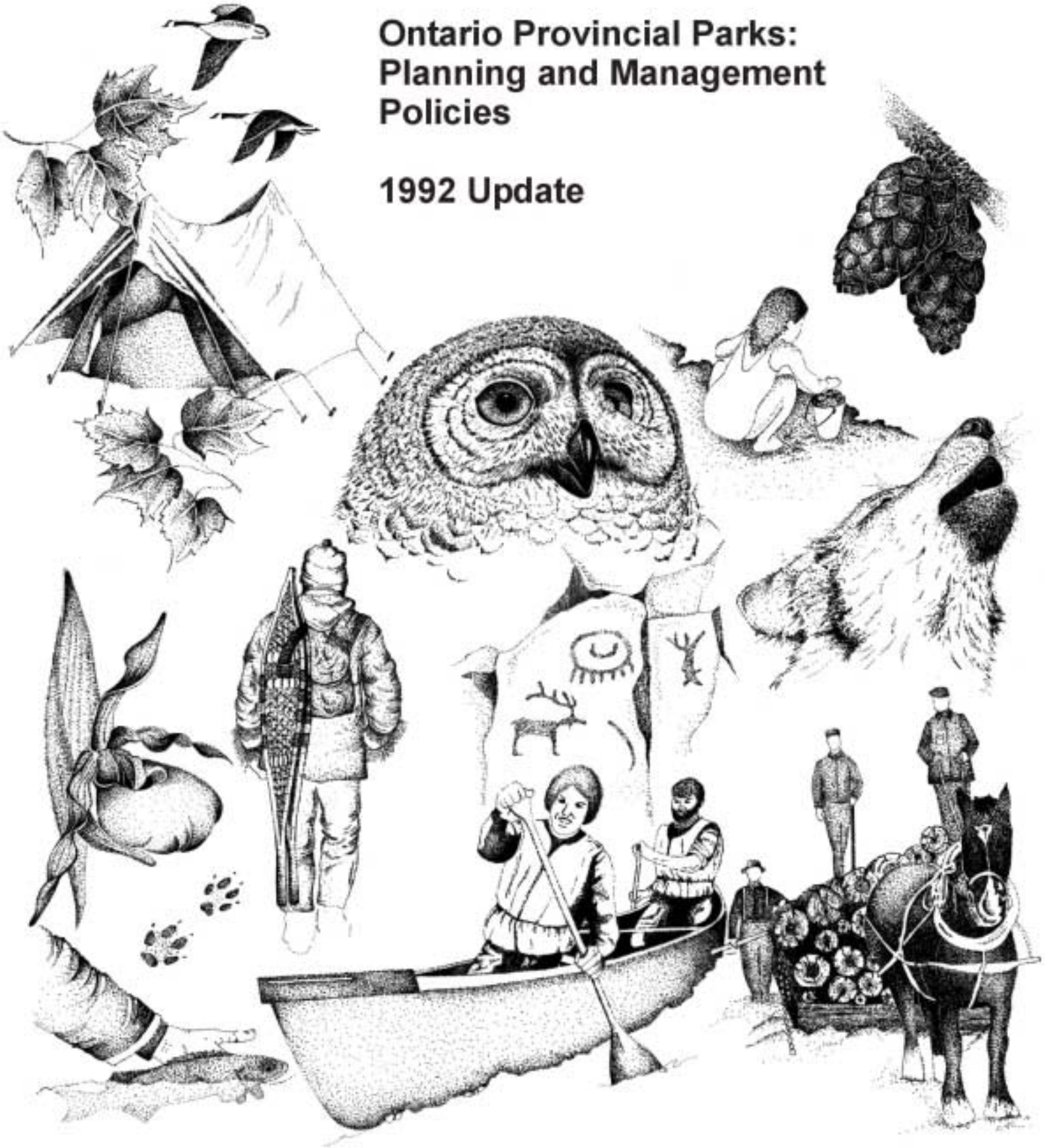
The manual has received extensive review at all levels of the organization, by other public agencies and a variety of external groups and individuals. Thanks to those involved for your assistance throughout the project.

Norm R. Richards, Director

Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch

Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies

1992 Update



Preface

The 1978 *Provincial Parks Policy* statement defined provincial parks, established the goal and objectives for the park system, provided nine basic principles to guide the management of the system, and identified the six classes of parks which comprise the current system. Its companion document, entitled *Ontario Provincial Parks - Planning and Management Policies,* released in September of 1978, quickly became known as the "Blue Book" because of its blue vinyl cover. To draw a simple analogy, the *Provincial Parks Policy* statement was like an architect's concept of a building, while the Blue Book resembled the detailed construction blueprints. It contained a mixture of park philosophy, systems rationale, program targets, and management policies in sections related to each park class.

For the most part, the Blue Book stood the test of time remarkably well. This is particularly true considering the internal and external scrutiny to which it was subjected during the 1980s. The decade began with the Ministry's comprehensive land use planning exercise. An integral part of that program was a review of the Blue Book's direction for the parks system and associated targets, contained in the *Report of the Task Force on Parks Systems Planning* (1981). Those targets were then expressed in the Strategic Land Use Plans for northwestern (NSWLUP) and northeastern (NESLUP) Ontario, and the Co-ordinated Program Strategy (CPS) for southern Ontario (1982). Those regional documents in turn set the policy direction for the District Land Use Guidelines (DLUG) in 1983, which continue to guide MNR's resource management activities at the local level.

Externally, the parks program came under close scrutiny from both advocates and critics. The former felt that MNR was not doing enough to protect a variety of significant areas through provincial park or other protective designation, while the latter believed that there was too much parkland, and that the policies governing resource use were far too restrictive. Nonetheless, *Ontario Provincial Parks—Planning and Management Policies* served as the principle resource for park planners and managers throughout that period, which culminated in the doubling of the number of parks in the system from 131 prior to 1983, to the 260 properties in the system in 1992.

In order to make some candidate parks more acceptable in the 1983 land use plans, compromises were made which diminished their focus on resource protection. A revised set of park policies, released in December of 1988, placed renewed emphasis on environmental protection in parks.

This document is intended to serve as an update to the original *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies.* It is a consolidation of park-related policy from a variety of sources. Much of the "traditional" material will be familiar to park managers. However, other policies, such as those dealing with Aboriginal use of parks, are new and still evolving. In its loose-leaf format, the document is designed to be amended as policy changes.

This condensed statement of current park policy is a **staff manual**. The physical structure of the document has changed from the original. Most notably, material on the history of the provincial park system, and the rationale behind it, have been condensed. Similarly, policies that apply to the whole system are presented in one section, followed by class-specific refinements. A glossary, table of contents and index have been added to assist in easy reference.

Cover Illustration Credit:
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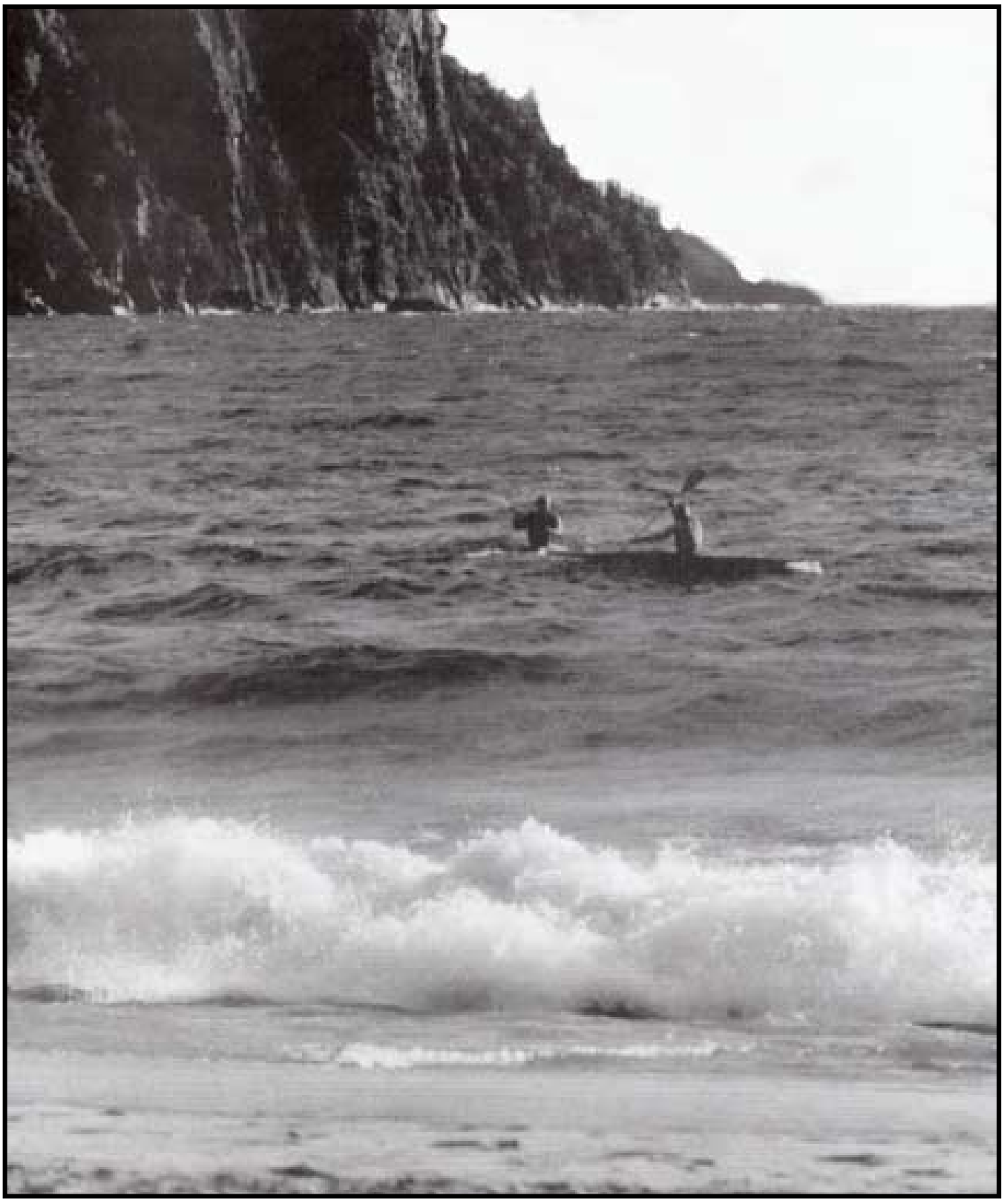

Introduction

The Province of Ontario has a total area of 1,077,111 square kilometres (266 million acres), and stretches over 1500 kilometres (950 miles) in both latitude and longitude. Within its boundaries lies a remarkable diversity of natural features. For example, consider the contrast between the tulip and butternut trees in the Carolinian forest along Lake Erie and the subarctic tundra, black spruce and permafrost along the shore of Hudson's Bay.

Ontario's known history dates back to the Aboriginal people who first entered the province after the last glaciers retreated, around 11,000 BC. In the south, the first contact with Europeans occurred in the mid-1500s, with explorers and traders reaching the northern part of the Province roughly a century later. The province's history is filled with strong, resource-based themes - it was built on the fur trade, mining, logging and agriculture.

Ontario offers a virtually limitless range of possibilities for year-round outdoor recreation. Roughly 15 percent of its area is water, encompassing portions of four Great Lakes, parts of Hudson and James Bays, as well as thousands of inland lakes and rivers. It includes the predominantly developed south, the scenic recreation lands of central Ontario, and the wilderness of the northern boreal forest. Whether the preference is swimming, sailing, canoeing, hiking, camping, photography, wildlife viewing, fishing, skiing or any number of other activities, Ontario has the landscape and climate to support it.

Overlaid on this tapestry of resources are the results of human activity on the land: urban development, agriculture, utility corridors, resource extraction, industrial development, and so on. Their adverse impacts include air, soil and water pollution; the deterioration or loss of fisheries and wildlife habitat; a growing list of endangered plant and animal species; and intense competition for a dwindling supply of land and resources. As Ontario moves towards the twenty-first century, there is a growing understanding that these trends cannot continue.

In response, the Ministry of Natural Resources, which is responsible for managing the Province's Crown lands and resources, has identified a common goal for all of its programs, which is:

> *To contribute to the environmental, social and economic wellbeing of Ontario through the sustainable development of natural resources.*[1]

Simply stated, *sustainable development* means wise, environmentally sensitive use of natural resources so they will be available to future generations. That goal leads to a series of objectives, two of which are key to the Parks and Natural Heritage program in Ontario.

- To ensure the long term health of ecosystems by protecting and conserving our valuable soil, aquatic resources, forests and wildlife resources as well and their biological foundations.[2]
- To protect natural heritage and biological features of provincial significance.[3]

Ontario's land and water base is impressive, but its capacity to supply materials and support development has limits. Due to their significance, some areas warrant special protection to ensure they remain unaffected by development pressures. Society needs to conserve and protect representative and special aspects of Ontario's biological, geological and cultural diversity for their intrinsic value. Parks are one means of providing the land base essential for ensuring the perpetuation of the diversified pool of

species and the links to society's past. Park managers have devised methods of classifying and evaluating natural and cultural values. Toward that end, they have identified sites or features that may range from being nationally significant to being of local interest only. Significance may result from its being the best example of something, or being the only known example.

A network of agencies and programs are devoted to the protection of Ontario's natural heritage. The network includes provincial parks, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), protected wetlands and endangered species habitats, Conservation Authority lands, National Parks, and initiatives on private land by property owners.

This document, *Ontario Provincial Parks—Planning and Management Policies,* focuses on provincial parks' role in protecting key natural, cultural and recreational resources. It explores the concept of a *system* of parks, and traces its historical and philosophical roots. It identifies how individual provincial parks are selected, planned, and managed in order to contribute to the overall system.

Provincial parks are established to ensure that features representing the most significant aspects of Ontario's natural and social history are protected, now and in the future. They offer opportunities for research and education that provide visitors with a better understanding of the natural world. Park visitors have the chance to observe the environment, and often to interact with it.

Outdoor recreation is also a significant component of the park system. Provincial parks contain some of Ontario's most scenic attractions, along with great beaches, trails, whitewater rivers, sport fisheries, wildlife habitat, picnic areas and camp grounds (see the photo). Park designation ensures that the public will always be able to enjoy these areas, protected as they are from the pressures of development.

Each of Ontario's 260 parks (see **Appendix 4**) makes a particular contribution to the system based on the resources which it contains. Each park has individual merit. However, it is their combined value, the sense of context that a provincial park *system* provides, that will be the focus for the balance of this document. *Ontario Provincial Parks—Planning and Management Policies* outlines a plan for the park system. It begins with broad program goals and objectives, and becomes more specific in its description of classification, zoning, planning, development and management. The document takes a system perspective, always considering the relationship of the individual parts to the whole.

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[1] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Direction '90's (Toronto: Queen's Printer for Ontario, 1991).

[2] *Ibid.*

[3] *Ibid.*

Ontario Provincial Park System Planning Rationale

2.0 Historical Perspective

The Europeans who first set out to colonize North America considered the "wilderness" to be vast, unexplored, and forbidding lands that needed to be tamed and cultivated. Their own security and prosperity lay in harvesting the animals, felling the trees, and ploughing the soil. By the mid 19th century, the settlers had approached North America's last frontiers and their impact on the landscape intensified, first in the United States, and then in Canada. In many areas natural conditions were significantly altered, and some habitats and species were approaching extinction.

Public perceptions of the wilderness were affected at that time by thoughtful people such as Henry Thoreau[1] and John Muir[2], who wished to preserve some of nature's beauty, which they felt was gradually being destroyed. Others, such as Gifford Pinchot, saw a need to limit the hasty, wasteful and uneconomical exploitation of forests and wildlife, to conserve these valuable natural resources for the future. The wilderness preservation movement of the late 19th century was, in fact, a curious marriage of aesthetic motives to preserve nature, and economic motives to conserve resources.

Outdoor recreation, originally considered a minor component in this mix, consisted primarily of activities which did not deplete resources, such as sightseeing and the therapeutic use of hot springs. Although some people did hunt and fish, generally the use of North America's significant natural areas was confined to two groups: the relatively few local inhabitants, and the wealthy and privileged who had both the time and means to access remote sites.

In the late 19th century, Canada's first large parks were established in remote areas in the Rocky Mountains. Sightseeing opportunities and the existence of medicinal hot springs were motivating factors in the establishment of such Dominion parks, which included Rocky Mountain (to become Banff), Yoho and Glacier, as these attractions boosted ridership on the newly-built Canadian Pacific Railway.

The views of Muir and Pinchot had a clear impact on the people charged with administrating Canada's first wilderness areas. Howard Douglas, the 1897 superintendent of Rocky Mountain Park, advocated the preservation of wildlife and its habitat as a national resource. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior from 1896 to 1905, was a proponent of Pinchot's wise-use approach to natural resources, and led numerous studies dealing with the commercial value of fisheries and wildlife.

2.0.1 Provincial Parks

The impacts of the preservation versus conservation approach were also felt at the provincial level. At roughly the same time as the impetus began to establish Rocky Mountain Dominion Park, support was growing for a similar type of park in the largest remaining undeveloped tract in southern Ontario, the Algonquin Highlands. The Province of Ontario established Algonquin National Park (under provincial jurisdiction, notwithstanding the name) in 1893. The Act designating Algonquin declared the park to be:

> *a public park and forest reservation, fish and game preserve health resort and pleasure ground for the benefit, advantage and enjoyment of*

the people of the province.[4]

Unlike the United States' Yellowstone National Park, which was established in 1872 primarily to preserve a unique natural landscape, a variety of economic activities were associated with Algonquin National Park. They included railway construction, logging, and later, controlled trapping and property leasing. All of these activities were considered to be consistent with the park's stated goals.

Rondeau Provincial Park was regulated the year after Algonquin, in 1894, as a response to demand for cottaging opportunities by residents of nearby Chatham. Wars, and the Depression limited the amount of attention paid to outdoor recreation, resource preservation and conservation over the next fifty years. This resulted in limited use of wilderness areas.

For the most part, the types of activities that characterized early park use did not appear to be in direct conflict with landscape preservation. Few industrial forces influenced the natural landscapes, and a comparative wealth of untouched natural areas remained. Activities such as forest management or commercial use within a park were acceptable to most of society. Nevertheless, it is significant that the first *Parks Act* was passed in 1913, providing the province with the means to set aside Crown land for park purposes if it was deemed unsuitable for settlement or agriculture.

In addition to Algonquin and Rondeau, six other provincial parks were established prior to 1945: Quetico (1913), Long Point (1921) Presqu'ile (1922), lpperwash (1938), Sibley (now called Sleeping Giant) and Lake Superior (1944). Each of these parks was established to achieve a particular combination of recreation and preservation objectives. Most were located in exceptional natural landscapes; and were still not readily accessible from major urban centres. During the first half-century of park development in Ontario, a total of eight provincial parks were created.

The late 1940s and the 1950s brought increased urbanization and unparalleled prosperity to Ontario. This period also saw the rapid growth of roads and railways, making access to most parts of Ontario easier. The larger and more mobile population placed increased recreational and resource demands on previously natural areas. Long-established environmental interest groups strengthened, and new ones formed, all calling for the establishment of additional parks.

As populations urbanized, the characteristics of outdoor recreation changed. Access to both public and private lands became more restricted, and uniform hours of work and regular vacation periods became part of the time budgets of more Ontario residents. Therefore, outdoor recreation became an activity which took place at specific times and places, separate from other activities. These changes meant increased demands on government to provide more outdoor recreation opportunities, resulting in the establishment of a separate Division of Parks in the Department of Lands and Forests and the passage of a strengthened *Provincial Parks Act* in 1954.

This marked the beginning of a rapid expansion of the Provincial Park system. While the 1913 *Parks Act* had provided for park designation of public lands, the program now had a modest acquisition budget to acquire private lands to supplement new park development. *The Conservation Authorities Act* was also amended to give Conservation Authorities the power to acquire lands for recreational purposes. In 1956, thirty roadside parks were transferred from the administration of the Department of Highways to the Department of Lands and Forests, and they were added to the eight parks already in the Provincial Parks system.

In 1956 the Ontario Parks Integration Board was created by an Act of the Legislature to establish integrated management and development policies, and apportion and distribute funding to the provincial park system and the Ontario-St. Lawrence Development Commission (now the St. Lawrence Parks Commission). Recognizing that its decisions needed the context and consistency of established policy, the Board's Chairman read the first park policy statement in the Provincial Legislature in March 1959. It reaffirmed that recreation and preservation were key objectives for the system, and described nine distinct types of provincial and municipal parks.

To expand the mandate of the Board to the municipal level, the *Parks Assistance Act was* passed in 1960. It allowed the provincial government to assist in municipal park development. Also in the early 1960s, the Agricultural Rural Development Agreement (**ARDA**) series of five-year agreements was negotiated with the federal government. Under this agreement, the province received substantial subsidies for land acquisition and park development. Government policies still aimed for an even distribution of parks across the province, regardless of their proximity to major urban markets.

At roughly the same time, increased attention was being given to historical resources as potential parks or attractions. As early as 1824 a small park had been designated on the former battlefield at Queenston Heights. In 1927 it had been joined with a number of other historic sites associated with the War of 1812, plus lands along the Niagara River, to become part of The Niagara Parks. However, these early historical parks had emphasized preservation and commemoration over recreation.

A few early developments had managed to tap the recreation potential of **cultural heritage** resources. They included restorations at Fort George (1937) and Fort Henry (1938). However, it was during the 1950s and 1960s that interest in historical resources really grew. This era witnessed the boom in pioneer village construction, such as Upper Canada Village, Black Creek Pioneer Village and Sainte-Marie among the Hurons. A number of provincial parks that contained significant historical resources, such as Algonquin, lnverhuron and Serpent Mounds, highlighted them, while others—such as Sibbald Point, Wasaga Beach and Turkey Point—featured strong historical themes in their interpretive programs.

It was also during the '50s and '60s that the **natural heritage** protection movement began to make strides. In 1959, the *Wilderness Areas Act* was passed—an indication that the government was becoming more aware of the need to set aside public lands in their natural state, for research and educational purposes. The Act gave the Minister of Lands and Forests powers to protect both flora and fauna, and to exclude visitors from designated areas except under permit.

A decade earlier (1948), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (l.U.C.N.) had been founded. Its early efforts in the '50s and '60s, along with growing public awareness of disturbing changes in the environment, led to UNESCO's sponsorship of an international biological review.

The United Nations received the cooperation of governments around the world to run the International Biological Programme (l.B.P.), which began with planning and surveys in 1963. The program focused attention on the need for preserving representative habitats, and stimulated many related programs and legislation in participating agencies. In Canada the end result was the development of a systematic approach to the representation and preservation of the country's natural features and communities. Concluding

in 1974, it focused attention on the need to preserve representative habitats. The 1972 U.N. conference on the Human Environment; the World Conservation Strategy published in 1980; and the 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, or “Bruntland Commission”, all reinforced the same need for ecosystem protection. More recently, the “Caracas Declaration”, resulting from the 1992 World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, and the proceedings of the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro have focused on the need for global conservation strategies.

In Ontario the last quarter-century has seen the development of natural resource protection frameworks and related inventories, use of new protective mechanisms such as Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), and increased emphasis on private land stewardship programs (e.g., conservation easements, landowner contact program, Conservation Land Tax Reduction program). However, park designation remains the strongest form of protection available.

2.0.2 Park Classification Systems

By the mid-1960s the momentum of park development was growing. The general population was more involved in outdoor recreation activities ranging from car camping to wilderness canoeing; historical resources were becoming the focus of some recreational developments; and awareness of the need for environmental protection was increasing.

In 1967, the Parks Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests issued *Classification of Provincial Parks in Ontario* - formal recognition that different classes of parks were necessary to protect different types of resources and environments, and to provide different types of recreational experiences. The document identified five park classes: Primitive, Nature Reserve, Wild River, Natural Environment, and Recreation. It also allowed for the designation of Natural, Primitive, Recreational, Historic or Multiple-Use zones within those parks. This early park classification system altered the focus of the park program in Ontario. It represented a more structured approach to the designation, planning and development of parks. At this point the system contained 94 parks comprising 1.52 million hectares.

In 1971 the Parks Integration Board was discontinued. The following year marked the birth of the newly-organized Ministry of Natural Resources. The new Parks Branch continued to use the 1967 system well into the '70s, during a period of unprecedented growth in park use and park development. In 1978, two important documents were released, marking significant advancements in park management in Ontario.

The first was the Cabinet - approved *Ontario Provincial Parks Policy* statement (see Appendix 1) which identified the goal and four objectives (Protection, Heritage Appreciation, Recreation and Tourism) of the provincial system. The policy statement also contained nine principles to guide park management: Permanence, Distinctiveness, Representation, Variety, Accessibility, Co-ordination, System, Classification and Zoning.

The second was *Ontario Provincial Parks - Planning and Management Policies* - the Blue Book. Among the more obvious departures from the 1967 classification system was the switch to six classes of parks: Nature Reserve, Wilderness (formerly Primitive), Natural Environment, Waterway (formerly Wild River), Historical (new) and Recreation. The number and type of potential zones also changed to include: Nature Reserve, Wilderness, Natural Environment, Historical, Access, Development and - in Algonquin

and Lake Superior Parks only - Recreation-Utilization. At this point, approximately 123 parks (4.3 million hectares) were in the system.

Looking to the future, *Ontario Provincial Parks - Planning and Management Policies* also contained statements regarding program targets. Targets were created for the protection of biological, geological and historical features, and for recreational activities including camping and day-use. The establishment of new parks in each of the six classes was necessary to meet those program targets.

The targets were soon to be tested and refined. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Ministry embarked on a strategic land use planning exercise, aimed at co-ordinating the land and resource needs of each MNR program. Park program targets were summarized and evaluated in the *Report of the Task Force on Park System Planning,* completed in September of 1981. It analyzed the existing system, and proposals for additional parks, in the context of their ability to achieve the program objectives and park class targets. The Task Force also considered the impact that the regulation of those properties would have on other programs.

Task Force members recommended that an additional 245 potential parks be reviewed during the strategic land use planning exercises to follow. In 1982, the provincial targets were allocated to the regional level in the Strategic Land Use Plans (SLUP) for northwestern (NWSLUP) and northeastern (NESLUP) Ontario, and the Co-ordinated Program Strategy (CPS) for southern Ontario. Those documents were reviewed by MNR, as well as by other government agencies, municipalities, special interest groups, and Members of the Provincial Parliament.

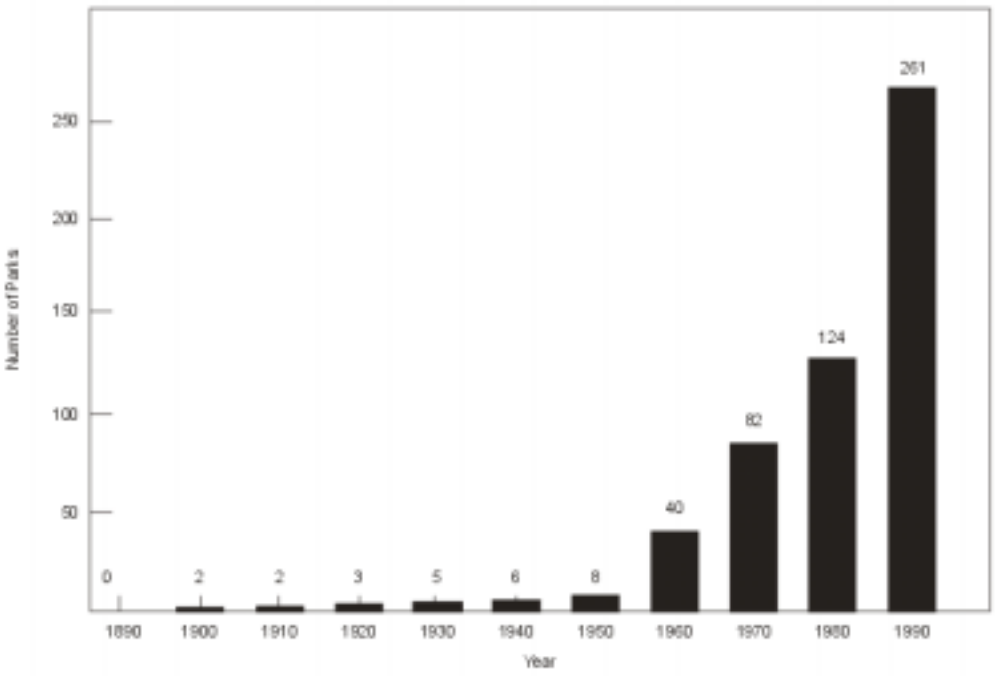
As a result of the review, the number of candidate parks under consideration was reduced from 245 to 155. In 1983, the refined regional targets for parks (and all other programs) were reallocated to the Districts, and presented in the District Land Use Guidelines (DLUG), which proposed the direction for each of the Ministry's programs at the local level. The contents of each DLUG document, including program targets, were reviewed by the public; each DLUG open house contained a display related directly to the provincial park program, and the contents of *Ontario Provincial Parks—Planning and Management Policies.*

The District land use planning programs confirmed a total of 155 candidate parks. The first five to be regulated under the *Provincial Parks Act* in March of 1983 were new wilderness parks (namely Woodland Caribou, Opasquia, Wabakimi, Kesagami and Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater). Over the next five years, the balance of the candidate parks were regulated, the last 53 achieving park status in June of 1989.

Along with the growth of the system, the late 1980s were characterized by further refinements in park policy. May 1988 marked the release of a revised park policy with a renewed emphasis on environmental protection, particularly in wilderness and nature reserve class parks. The new policy prohibited logging, hunting, trapping, mineral exploration, mining and hydroelectric development in wilderness and nature reserve parks and zones. It also contained provisions for the eventual elimination of trapping, hunt camps and land use permits, mining, and hydro development in all other classes.The current (1992) provincial park system consists of 260 parks covering 6.3 million hectares - 6 percent of the land and water base of the province. Polar Bear Provincial Park, at 2.4 million hectares, represents almost 40 percent of that total. More than 80 percent of the lands and waters in the system are wilderness or nature reserve parks or zones, which is consistent with the program's focus on environmental protection.

Figure B illustrates the growth of the provincial park system. In the next Section we will take a close look at the motivation behind the development of what has been described as a “world class” system of parks, and consider the complexity entailed in its planning and management.

Figure B: The Growth of the Ontario Provincial Parks System



2.1 The Need for Provincial Parks

As shown in the preceding, the park program has had two central themes since its beginnings. In the early years, the system was oriented to satisfying public demand for outdoor recreation. Since the 1960s, the focus has changed, with a great deal of attention on the need to protect significant natural, cultural and recreational resources. Looking beyond the year 2000, the themes of environmental protection and outdoor recreation will continue to be important.

2.1.1 Environmental Protection

To understand the need for environmental protection, just consider the landscape of Ontario. Due to its location and size, Ontario abounds in ecological diversity, with considerable variation in geology, soils, climate and other factors. Its flora includes approximately 3,000 species of vascular plants, some 450 mosses and liverworts, and over 1,000 fungi, lichens and algae. About 600 species of vertebrates inhabit the province, including 302 breeding birds, 84 mammals, 24 reptiles, 24 amphibians and 150 fishes.

The bedrock geology of Ontario gives rise to three major physiographic regions, with the rugged Precambrian Shield lying between the Palaeozoic bedrock of the Hudson Bay lowland to the north and the St. Lawrence lowland to the south. Ontario also enjoys a wide range of climatic conditions, ranging from modified continental in the south, to maritime sub-arctic in the north. Four principal ecological regions also occur. From south to north, they include a deciduous forest region marked by many southern and Carolinian species; a rich, transitional deciduous-evergreen forest region; an extensive boreal forest region; and a subarctic region, containing extensive peatlands with stunted conifers in the south and permafrost terrain with tundra communities and many arctic plants and animals in the north.

Given the province's size and diversity, one might mistakenly assume that it has an ample supply of natural areas. However, land use and development pressures increasingly threaten the integrity of natural ecosystems. While localized percentages vary, on average only six percent of the land across Northern Ontario is private. Much of the available Crown land is committed to timber harvesting, mining and tourism. In southern Ontario (average 77% private, 23% Crown)[5], agriculture, urban and industrial development, aggregate extraction, timber harvesting and other activities increasingly fragment the landscape.

Provincial and federal agencies have adopted resource management philosophies based on "sustainable development[6] because they recognize that the supply of natural resources is not inexhaustible. Up to 80 percent of the wetlands, and 95 percent of the original woodlands in parts of southern Ontario have been lost to other uses. A variety of plant and animal species are now threatened or extinct due to loss of habitat or other human-related pressures. Furthermore, projected population growth and associated development represent even more pressure on the environment: the Ministry of Treasury and Economics projects the provincial population will grow to 10.9 million by 2001, and to 11.9 million by 2011[7], from its current 9.6 million. This growth will make provincial parklands even more valuable in the future.

2.1.2 Outdoor Recreation

Recreation can be defined as "activity voluntarily engaged in during leisure time and primarily motivated by the experience or pleasure derived from it".

The need for outdoor recreation is motivated by appreciation of nature, scientific or historical interest, or a desire for physical activity. Due to urbanization, much of today's outdoor recreation substitutes for experiences no longer readily available to the majority of people. Significantly, recreation is widely recognized as being critical to one's emotional well-being, and to the health of society in general.

The type of recreational experience provided in provincial parks is very closely tied to the parks' values. Natural and historical features, protected in attractive outdoor settings, are key to the popularity of most provincial parks.

From 1980 to 1991, total provincial parks visits averaged 7.3 million people per year, with the total number of camper nights averaging 3.7 million annually, or roughly 51 percent of total visitation. The 50-50 split between camping and day-use was relatively constant throughout the 1980s. Almost 80 percent of all provincial park use occurred in the area referred to as "southern" Ontario (south of the French-Mattawa Rivers), which is indicative of the demand generated by major urban markets.

During that same period, park visitation increased by over 30 percent while the provincial population increased by 13 percent, from approximately 8,500,000 in 1979, to the current 9,600,000. This means that general participation rates in provincial park outdoor recreation activities have increased, while the supply of outdoor recreation opportunities has remained relatively constant (number of developed campsites: 1980 = 20,723; 1990 = 19,697).

Variations in park use patterns can be attributed to a variety of factors, including changes in demographics (i.e. ageing population, increased ethnic diversity); fluctuations in the economy affecting employment levels and disposable income; changes in free time, travel and equipment costs/ preferences; and increases in supply available through other sectors, such as private and municipal parks, Conservation Authorities and National Parks. Changes in participation rates point to the need to constantly monitor the "product" to ensure that it evolves along with the market. On average, over seven million people visited parks each year during the last decade. In 1991, the related economic impact from that use was estimated at $655 million. This is quite significant, particularly in light of the declines experienced by many other outdoor recreation agencies in North America during the 1980s.

2.1.3 Summary

Ontario needs a diverse and extensive system of provincial parks for two reasons: to protect representative or unique natural features, thus contributing to the maintenance of biodiversity; and to meet the basic needs of its people for outdoor recreation opportunities. The province's system of protected areas (private, municipal, provincial and federal) needs to grow and change to meet the demands of the future.

2.2 The Ministry of Natural Resources' Mandate

The goal of the Ministry of Natural Resources, as defined in its *Direction '90s* report, is "to contribute to the environmental, social and economic well being of Ontario through the sustainable development of natural resources." That goal provides broad direction for all MNR programs. Flowing from that goal are a number of objectives, two of which have particular importance to the provincial park program. They are:

- 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 protect natural heritage and biological features of provincial significance.

Within the Ministry, the Parks and Natural Heritage program, along with the Fisheries and Wildlife programs, carry the core responsibilities for outdoor recreation and nature conservation through four programs: Provincial Parks, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Wetlands, and Endangered Species.

2.2.1 Provincial Parks Goal and Objectives

According to the Cabinet-approved *Ontario Provincial Parks Policy* statement, the goal of the Provincial Parks system is:

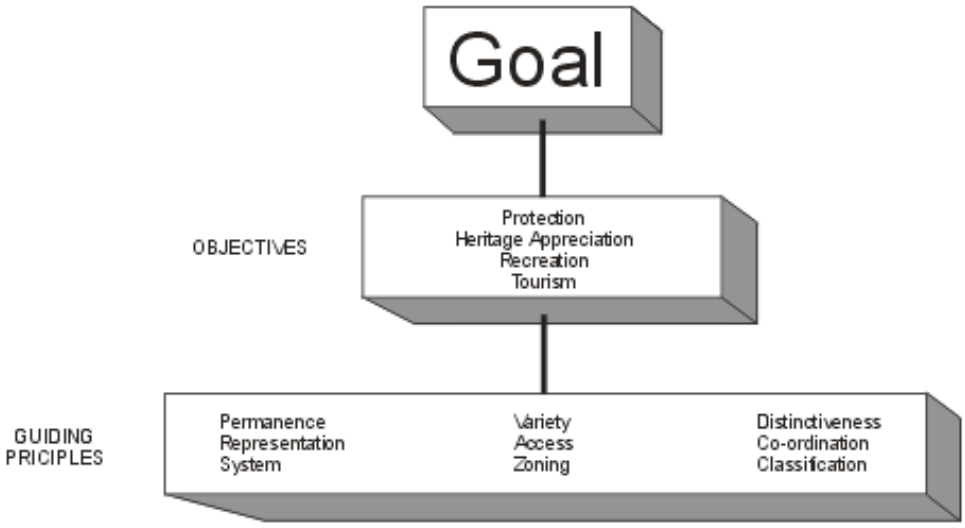
> *To provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural and recreational environments in a system of Provincial Parks.*

Derived from that goal statement are four objectives which provide specific direction for the management of the park system.

1. Protection Objective:	To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.
2. Recreation Objective:	To provide Provincial Park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day-use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.
3. Heritage Appreciation Objective:	To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.
4. Tourism Objective:	To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.

For a summary of the goals, objectives and principles of the park system, see Figure C.

Figure C: Parks System Goal, Objectives and Principles



2.2.2 Guiding Principles

Cabinet also approved a set of nine principles to guide the management of the Ontario Provincial Park System, and to contribute to the achievement of the four program objectives. They are as follows:

a) Permanence *The Provincial Park system is dedicated for all time to the present and future generations of the people of Ontario for their healthful enjoyment and appreciation.*

Establishing a system of over 250 parks encompassing more than six million hectares was never intended to be a short-term event. The park system is meant to permanently protect significant earth and life science, cultural and recreational resources. These areas could conceivably become islands in a landscape that has been altered by development or extraction. As that occurs, existing and future parkland will become increasingly valuable as benchmarks to scientists and educators.

b) Distinctiveness *Provincial Parks provide a distinctive range of quality outdoor recreation experiences, many of which cannot be provided in other types of parks; for example, wilderness travel and appreciation.*

Several agencies offer some form of outdoor recreation to the public. However, with the exception of the national park system, most cater to intensive or high-density activities such as car camping or picnicking. This tends to be especially true in the private and municipal sectors.

Economically, they cannot afford to manage parks geared strictly to resource protection, nor do they have the land base required to permit low-density back-county travel, such as canoeing and backpacking.

By contrast, the Ministry of Natural Resources has a legislated mandate to manage Crown lands across Ontario; no other parks agency has that provincial scope. With some exceptions, provincial parks that provide traditional car camping and day-use facilities offer them in tandem with a

larger, undeveloped land base oriented to resource protection and/or more extensive forms of outdoor recreation.

c) Representation *Provincial Parks are established to secure for posterity representative features of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage. Wherever possible, the best representations of our heritage will be included in the park system.*

The park system is meant to protect a representative sample of Ontario's natural and cultural diversity. To do so, park managers require lists or inventories of the biological, geological and historical features which comprise the province's landscape. Three classification systems—one each for life science, earth science and cultural resources—are used to further categorize and evaluate the significance of those features (see Appendix 2 for more detail). The classification systems form the basis for the park program's representation targets, and the achievement of those targets contributes to the program's protection and heritage appreciation objectives.

The park system should incorporate all of the features necessary to represent the province's natural heritage. However, because of other demands for resources, conflicting land uses, private ownership, and so on, the Ministry cannot always protect the best examples of certain earth and life science features by park status. Consequently, the Ministry, along with a number of co-operating agencies, are investigating other ways to identify, protect and manage such sites. Foremost among the tools used to "flag" sites is the Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) program. It focuses on publicly or privately owned areas of land and water which have important natural heritage, scientific or educational values. They are identified using the same inventory and representation systems used for the park program. However, their protection must be achieved through other means, such as legal agreements with the landholder(s) to protect a site.

d) Variety *The Provincial Park system provides a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and protected natural and cultural landscapes and features.*

The application of the three representation frameworks to Ontario's diverse landscape normally ensures wide variety in the resources (life science, earth science and cultural) that are protected within Provincial Parks. There are parks where the focus is pure protection. In those cases, appropriately, visitor use may be discouraged. However, the mandate to provide a variety of recreational opportunities means that most parks offer some form of outdoor recreation. Opportunities range from relatively passive activities such as nature study or wildlife viewing to physically demanding activities such as extended canoe tripping on a remote northern river or board sailing in a near urban park on Lake Ontario.

e) Accessibility *The benefits of the system will be distributed as widely as possible geographically and as equitably as possible socially so that they are accessible to all Ontario residents*

The majority of developed parks are road accessible, adjacent to primary or secondary highways in the province. Their distribution encourages Ontarians to visit other regions in the province, as well as to explore more closely the area around their homes. The numerous parks also attract tourists from other provinces, the USA, and other countries. Distributing provincial parks across

the province ensures that local economies benefit from direct park program expenditures and from expenditures by tourists.

The benefits of some provincial parks cannot be measured in dollars and cents, but can still be appreciated even by those who have not visited them. Many citizens experience satisfaction simply from knowing that Polar Bear Provincial Park, for example, contains a substantial portion of Ontario's sub-arctic, so a range of fragile ecosystems is protected for future generations. In instances where the protected resources are unique, endangered, or very sensitive, accessibility may not be a consideration - it is more appropriate not to provide visitor access.

Wherever practical, designers have tried to eliminate barriers to make parks accessible to the physically challenged. Similarly, park managers have, through pricing and other means, attempted to encourage park use by non-profit youth and educational groups and seniors. The distribution of parks throughout the province is recognition that the benefits of outdoor recreation must be available to everyone, within a reasonable distance and at a reasonable cost.

f) Co-ordination *The Provincial Parks system will be managed to complement rather than compete with, the private sector and other public agencies.*

Given the focus of the four program objectives, provincial park facilities tend to differ in character from most of their municipal or private counterparts. The Ministry tries to avoid duplicating the types of services and facilities that attract visitors to other jurisdictions. For example, campgrounds offering full-service hook-ups (e.g., sewer, water, hydro and cable) are left to the municipal and private sector suppliers.

Other outdoor recreation agencies offer a combination of environmental protection and outdoor recreation, including the Canadian Parks Service, some Conservation Authorities, and the various Parks Commissions. However, only the national park system has a mandate stretching beyond a regional scope. The provincial park program recognizes the contributions that other public agencies make to environmental protection as complementary to the provincial system.

g) System *Individual Provincial Parks contribute to the overall objectives of the Provincial Parks System; all objectives may not be met in each park. The park system, rather than the individual parks, provides the diversity of experiences and landscapes which are sought.*

For some parks in the system, their sole purpose is to provide recreation opportunities in areas of high demand. Conversely, others are established to protect significant natural features and make no provision for visitor access. For example, Opasquia Provincial Park, located on the Ontario-Manitoba boundary, is virtually inaccessible to the general public. As such, it makes minimal contributions to the tourism and recreation objectives, yet it makes important contributions to environmental protection.

A given park may contribute towards the achievement of one, two, three or all four program objectives. To understand the significance of that park's natural, cultural or recreational resources, they must be evaluated in terms of the contributions which they make to the provincial system.

g) Classification *No individual park can be all things to all people. Park classification organizes Ontario's Provincial*

Parks into broad categories, each of which has particular purposes and characteristics as well as distinctive planning, management and visitor services policies.

Park classification defines an individual park's role in providing opportunities for environmental protection, recreation, heritage appreciation and/or tourism. Each park shares with others in its class particular characteristics, which help determine its specific function. Classification establishes a management framework for individual parks within the provincial system. Provincial Parks are divided into six classes: Wilderness, Nature Reserve, Historical, Natural Environment, Waterway and Recreation. **(see pages 25-36 for full details)**

i) Wilderness Parks

Wilderness parks are substantial areas where the forces of nature are permitted to function freely and where visitors travel by non-mechanized means and experience expansive solitude, challenge and personal integration with nature.

Today, wilderness parks have inestimable value as the last relatively undisturbed large examples of the province's natural heritage. The preservation of these areas is important to the perpetuation and natural evolution of plant and animal species and ecosystems in Ontario, and it is also valuable for recreation, education and research. These areas can support and retain a diversity of plant and animal species, including some, such as caribou or timber wolves, which require large range conditions to survive. In this way, wilderness parks allow for the perpetuation of a diversified gene pool of species. Environmental protection is of ultimate importance; visitor activity is normally confined to extensive, low-impact forms of recreation.

Wilderness parks provide opportunities for exceptional recreational experiences with challenge, solitude and total immersion into our natural and/ or cultural heritage. Wilderness, a central theme in Canadian culture, is an important element of our national identity.

ii) Nature Reserves

Nature Reserves are areas selected to represent the distinctive natural habitats and landforms of the province, and are protected for educational purposes and as gene pools for research to benefit present and future generations.

A system of nature reserves, where significant landscapes, flora and fauna are allowed to exist with minimal human interference, is a key element in protecting Ontario's natural heritage. Nature Reserves maintain ecological diversity and ensure the perpetuation of plant communities and earth science features. As well as assuring their long-term viability, study of these areas can improve existing environmental management and understanding of the functioning of natural processes and their response to human impact.

iii) Historical Parks

Historical parks are areas selected to represent the distinctive historical resources of the province in open space settings, and are protected for interpretive, educational and research purposes.

The resources in historical parks may provide opportunities for archaeological and historical research, or illustrate examples of human

impact on the landscape. With increasing pressure for development and alteration of the Ontario landscape, a systematic program is necessary to protect these resources. Historical parks play a key role in meeting this need.

iv) Natural Environment Parks

Natural Environment parks incorporate outstanding recreational landscapes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

Natural Environment parks protect significant resources in accessible locations, which substantial numbers of people are able to enjoy. These parks provide excellent opportunities for interpretation, outdoor activities and recreation. They make a major contribution to the province's supply of day-use and facility-based camping opportunities and, to a lesser degree, back-country camping opportunities.

v) Waterway Parks

Waterway parks incorporate outstanding recreational water routes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

Watersheds are ecological units, and river systems are the arteries of those units. Many significant natural, cultural and recreational environments are associated with them. River systems contain some of the most biologically productive habitat in the province for fish and wildlife. The range of landscapes includes the settled and rural south; the north, where recent resource and recreational use is evident; and the far north, still largely undisturbed and rich in history. "Wild" rivers appeal to the experienced canoe tripper, turbulent water to the whitewater enthusiast and developed, accessible waterways to the pleasure boater.

The dedication of some of Ontario's most significant waterways to protection and recreation is a key function of the provincial park system.

vi) Recreation Parks

Recreation parks are areas which support a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities for large numbers of people in attractive surroundings.

Recreation parks play a key role in meeting Ontario's demand for outdoor recreational opportunities. They provide opportunities for individual physical activities such as bicycling, swimming and skiing; facilities such as playgrounds and playing fields for group activities and sports; and opportunities for developing outdoor skills such as camping and sailing. Educational opportunities, both informal and organized, are also offered to visitors.

i) Zoning

Ontario's provincial parks are zoned on the basis of resource significance and recreational potential; various types of zones ensure that users get the most out of individual parks. Planning and management policies appropriate to each zone type are applied consistently throughout the parks system.

Within the context of a park's classification, zoning is essential to its orderly and effective management. A park's land and water resources are allocated on the basis of their significance for protection and potential for recreation

and development. Provincial parks may contain the following zones: Nature Reserve, Wilderness, Natural Environment, Historical, Access, Development and (only in Algonquin Park) Recreation-Utilization.

Each of the six park classes may contain a variety of zones, though only two classes, natural environment and waterway, may include all six zones. A brief description of the rationale for each of the possible zones is presented below.

i) Nature Reserve Zones

Nature reserve zones protect the provincially significant earth and/or life science features within a park, and may include a protective buffer area in which a minimum of development is permitted. That development is generally restricted to trails, necessary signs, interpretive facilities (where warranted) and temporary facilities for research and management

Management objectives and policies for individual nature reserves zones fall into two distinct categories. The preferred approach depends on the type of earth and/or life science features the zone was established to protect. Features may be managed to promote either evolution or perpetuation. In instances where nature reserve zones are established to ensure that evolutionary patterns remain intact, natural processes such as fire, insect and disease outbreaks, erosion, and soon may be allowed to take their course. This type of approach is particularly valuable in research, where a nature reserve zone may be used as a benchmark against which the effects of human intervention in a similar area can be evaluated.

If perpetuation of a particular feature or successional stage is desirable, however, then an approach involving *active* management is taken. In some cases, a particular vegetative community is protected from some of the natural processes identified above. In others, natural processes such as fire may be duplicated under controlled conditions to ensure that a feature is maintained (e.g. prescribed burning of a grassland area to perpetuate a prairie ecosystem).

Nature reserve zones may occur wherever natural heritage values exist, but they are normally concentrated in wilderness, natural environment and nature reserve parks.

ii) Wilderness Zones

Wilderness zones include wilderness landscapes of appropriate size and integrity to protect natural and cultural values, and to support extensive types of back-country recreation, such as canoeing or hiking. Development is limited to wilderness (back-country) campsites, portages, trails and signs necessary for route identification. Wilderness campsites are either canoe-in or hike-in; established at a very low density; and offer primitive levels of facility development (designated fireplaces and pit privies), in keeping with the character of the landscape which the zone protects.

Resource management policies are directed wherever possible toward achieving minimum human intervention and the maintenance of evolving natural succession. Wilderness zones may occur only in wilderness, waterway or natural environment class parks.

iii) Natural Environment Zones

Natural environment zones include natural landscapes which permit the minimum level of development required to support low-intensity recreational activities. Development is generally limited to back-country campsites, portages, necessary signs and minimal interpretive facilities.

Resource management policies for natural environment zones may be more permissive than those for wilderness and nature reserve zones in allowing human intervention to maintain or improve aesthetics, wildlife habitat, etc.

Natural environment zones often serve as buffers between development or access zones and the more protection-oriented wilderness, historical or nature reserve zones. Natural environment zones may appear in waterway, recreation, natural environment or historical class parks.

iv) Historical Zones

Historical zones encompass the provincially significant cultural resources of a park. They generally focus on a specific site (e.g., occupation site, building) and that site's relationship to the surrounding landscape, so they may include a protective buffer around the main feature in the zone. Development is limited to trails, necessary signs, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities, and historical restorations or reconstruction where appropriate.

Management policies for individual historical resources may range from allowing cultural landscapes and features to evolve without human interference, to managing them so as to stabilize their present condition, to restoring and reconstructing cultural sites and features to more closely approximate their original condition. Historical zones may occur in all six of the park classes.

v) Access Zones

Access zones serve as staging areas, a means of both providing and regulating use in areas of a park geared towards extensive recreation. Generally development is limited to roads, visitor control structures and group campgrounds. Provisions may be made for limited orientation, interpretive or educational facilities, though generally more for self-use rather than through structured personal service. Limited facilities for research and park management may also be present

Campground development in access zones normally occurs only in those classes of parks where development zones are not permitted, that is, in wilderness, waterway, historical and nature reserve parks. Development is intended to meet the needs of park visitors entering or exiting from the park's interior. As such, only very basic facilities are provided.

Access zones may occur in all six park classes, but are generally found only in those parks with large interior areas (wilderness, waterway and natural environment) used for back-country recreation (e.g. canoeing, back-packing), or in Provincial Nature Reserves.

vi) Development Zones

Development zones contain the area(s) of the park geared towards the support of intensive day-use and car camping activities. They constitute a relatively small portion of most parks. Development may include roads, visitor control structures, beaches, picnic areas, car campgrounds, commercial service facilities, and orientation, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities.

Development zones may appear in waterway, historical, natural environment and recreation class parks, but are most common in the latter two.

No provision for a development zone exists in nature reserve or wilderness park classifications, because of their strong orientation toward protection.

vii) Recreation-Utilization Zones

Recreation-Utilization zones include natural landscapes in which minimum development is required to support low-intensity recreational activities, and which also provide for commercial timber harvesting (Algonquin Park only).

To the greatest extent possible, recreation-utilization zones will be planned, developed and managed in accordance with the policies set out for natural environment zones. They accommodate commercial timber harvesting, an historical activity in Algonquin Park which is not permitted in the rest of the system. Recreation-utilization zones will not be established in any other parks.

2.2.3 Summary

As shown in the preceding sections, classification and zoning are the key elements in determining the type and extent of management activities which may take place in a park. Classification sets the direction for the types of zones a park may contain and the general approach used in formulating management policies. Park zoning permits further refinement in the development of alternative methods by selling limits on the range of management activities that can be considered. This approach is flexible enough that management policies can be tailored to reflect resource significance and management objectives for individual parks. At the same time, it provides for general consistency in approach across the entire system.

The goal, four objectives and nine principles that guide the management of the park system can be expressed very concisely, as they were in the 1978 Provincial Parks Policy statement. However, the preceding shows that some of those seemingly simple concepts become fairly complex on closer scrutiny.

The phrase “provincially significant natural, cultural and recreational environments”, the essence of the park system in Ontario, has meaning on a variety of levels. The words *provincially significant* imply a qualitative measure. The classification systems (biological, geological and cultural resources) not only help “categorize” resources based on their distribution across the province, but they also evaluate the *quality* of a feature or resource as compared with others.

The terms *biological, geological* and *cultural* take in more specialized fields of study such as botany, zoology, limnology, geology, geomorphology, archaeology, anthropology, and history. In an area the size of Ontario, the

array of resources is staggering. Adherence to the representation frameworks allows the Ministry of Natural Resources and parks specialists to constantly expand and refine their knowledge of the province's natural resources, and it ensures that the park system reflects the provincial landscape.

The identification of significant values is important, but identification does not equal protection. Therefore, the principle of *representation* cannot be achieved until protection is assured. The principles of *classification* and *zoning* provide park managers with the means to tailor management policies to suit resource importance. Through the careful application of these, the other principles such as *permanence, distinctiveness, variety* and *co-ordination* can be achieved in a *system* of parks.

Finally, there is the principle of *accessibility.* As noted at the outset, provincial parks are playing an increasingly important role in environmental protection. MNR's function is well-defined, managing parkland for today's society and for future generations. These protected areas would have value if no one ever visited them. However, in many cases that would not be their optimum use. By providing the recreational facilities and services which allow park users to visit these special areas for the day, or longer, parks provide a more complete package. It is important that elements of the park system can be found throughout the Province, and that many are accessible to the general public. They foster an understanding and appreciation of the need to protect important natural and historical resources.

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[1] Author, Philosopher, naturalist.

[2] Founder of the Sierra Club.

[3] First Director, U.S. Forest Service.

[4] *Report of the Royal Commission on Forest Reservation and National Park*, quoted in Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, *A Pictorial History of Algonquin Provincial Park* (Toronto, 1986), p. 16.

[5] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Public Lands Section *Land and Water Areas – MNR Districts – Southern Ontario* (Toronto: unpublished, 1987).

[6] The World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987), pp. 43 – 66.

[7] Ontario Ministry of Treasury and Economics, *Ontario Population Projections to 2011* (Demographic Bulletin, 1989).

Figure D: Photograph from Emily Provincial Park

Ontario Provincial Parks Management Policies

3.0 Introduction

The approved (1992) provincial park policies are found in this section. Though designed to stand alone, it is better understood in the context of the accompanying sections—the *Ontario Provincial Park System Planning Rationale* (Section II) and *Park Program Targets* (Section IV).

Ideally, policy development is a dynamic process. If policy is to accurately reflect current resource needs and social climate, it must continually evolve. Hence, policy can be distinguished from the more static group of acts and regulations known collectively as legislation.

From its beginning in 1893 until 1959, the provincial parks program in Ontario operated with minimal policy direction, although a variety of loosely connected pieces of legislation did provide some guidance. They included the *Parks Act* (1913), the *Provincial Parks Act* and the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1954), and the act to establish the *Ontario Parks Integration Board* (1956).

The first provincial park policy statement was read in the legislature by the Chairman of the Parks Integration Board in March, 1959. The policy identified nine distinct types of parks under provincial or municipal jurisdiction deemed to be worthy of financial support and sanction by the Board. It reaffirmed recreation and preservation as motivating factors leading to the establishment of parks; and suggested for the first time that some parks should be managed for one or the other, but not both. Two other significant pieces of legislation followed quickly: the *Wilderness Areas Act* later in 1959, and the *Parks Assistance Act* in 1960.

Finally, in 1967, the first important policy statement for provincial parks was released, entitled *Classification of Provincial Parks in Ontario.* The next milestone was the release of *Ontario Provincial Parks Policy* and its companion *Ontario Provincial Parks—Planning and Management Policies* in 1978. A number of less formal, but equally important park policy decisions were contained in the District Land Use Guidelines documents, which were released in 1983 to culminate the Ministry of Natural Resources' land use planning program.

In May of 1988, the Ministry released a collection of Cabinet-approved revisions to park policy, with a renewed emphasis on resource protection. The subject of considerable debate, the 1988 policy placed a variety of prohibitions or restrictions on activities such as mining or mineral exploration, logging, hunting, trapping, hydro development and commercial tourism. Park Management Policy Circular PM 1.00, issued in January of 1989, summarizes the revisions.

A policy area that has been constantly changing in recent years involves MNR's, and indeed the government's, relationship with Ontario's Aboriginal peoples. That relationship deserves special mention at this point. It is, and will continue to be, guided by the following basic principles.

a) All decisions related to the identification, planning or disposition of provincial park lands, or other lands set aside to protect significant natural or cultural heritage values, will be the subject of public consultation. Aboriginal peoples who identify traditional ties to those

lands will be integral to the consultation and decision making processes. In some cases there may be a need for separate consultation or negotiation processes to address Aboriginal interest in park lands. If required, some issues regarding how a park is used may also be the subject of negotiation with Aboriginal people.

b) The Government of Ontario will consider all the available options when seeking to determine the land component, if any, during negotiations involving land claim settlements with First Nations. Options for use that involve lands which are not to be considered for provincial park purposes will be preferred

c) As described in the Province's Interim Enforcement Policy (1991), aboriginal people hunting or fishing in provincial parks will be subject to all relevant treaties and laws. However, an agreement reached between the Province and a First Nation may modify the application of those treaties and laws.

3.1 System Planning Policies

The park system comprises six park classes. Presented below are the key statements which constitute the classification system. They are grouped together so that the reader can better appreciate the subtle, yet meaningful differences between them.

Wilderness Parks (WI) are substantial areas where the forces of nature are permitted to function freely and where visitors travel by non-mechanized means and experience expansive solitude, challenge and personal integration with nature.

Nature Reserves (NR) are areas selected to represent the distinctive natural habitats and landforms of the province. They are protected for educational purposes, as gene pools for research to benefit present and future generations and for their intrinsic value to society.

Historical Parks (HI) are areas selected to represent the distinctive historical resources of the province in open space settings, and are protected for interpretive, educational and research purposes.

Natural Environment Parks (NE) incorporate outstanding recreational landscapes with representative natural and historical features to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

Waterway Parks (WA) incorporate outstanding recreational water routes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

Recreation Parks (RE) are areas which support a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for large numbers of people in attractive surroundings.

The six park classes are best understood when evaluated in the context of the four parks program objectives: *protection, heritage appreciation, recreation* and *tourism.* Different classes of parks contribute differently towards the achievement of each of the four objectives. The four objectives are listed in Table 1, along with the contributions made by each class.

Table 1: Fulfilment of Program Objectives by Park Class

Program Objective / Park Class	WI	NR	HI	NE	WA	RE
Protection:						
Protecting a system of provincially significant:						
- wilderness landscapes	H	L	L	M	M	-
- special or representative earth and life science features	H	H	L	M	M	L
- special or representative archaeological and historical resources	L	L	H	M	M	L
- environments which incorporate natural, cultural and recreational features	M	L	M	H	M	L
- waterway corridors which incorporate natural, cultural and recreational features	M	L	L	M	H	L
Heritage Appreciation:						
Providing unstructured opportunities for individuals to explore and appreciate the natural and cultural heritage of Ontario, as depicted through park resources.	H	M	M	H	H	L
Providing structured, resource-based interpretation through publications, displays and/or staffed visitor services programs, capitalizing on the character and significance of park resources.	L	L	H	H	L	H
Recreation:						
Providing day-use (e.g., picnicking, swimming) opportunities in areas of outstanding recreational potential associated with natural resources.	-	L	L	M	L	H
Providing facility-based camping opportunities in areas of outstanding recreational potential, associated with natural resources.	L	-	M	H	L	H
Providing wilderness back-country travel and camping opportunities.	H	-	L	H	H	L
Tourism:						
Providing Ontario's residents, and out-of-province visitors, with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.	M	L	M	H	M	H

(H = High; M = Moderate; L = Low; - = nil)

3.1.1 Wilderness Parks

Ontario is divided into 13 *site regions.* Each site region has fairly uniform climate and therefore has particular biological productivity characteristics - in each site region the soil, climate and living organisms interact in a particular way. For example, Site Region 7E, along the shores of lakes Erie and Ontario has a fairly consistent climate (temperatures, precipitation) and similar soils; so the types of vegetation that occur are predictable. The same holds true in Site Region 1 E, on the shores of Hudson and James Bays; although the result is very different from 7E.

As a general rule, the larger the area set aside, the more effectively plant and/or animal species and communities will be protected. Wilderness parks should be as self-contained as possible, bounded by natural features such as landforms or watersheds. Their boundaries should contain a buffer area large enough to protect the core, large-scale ecosystems.

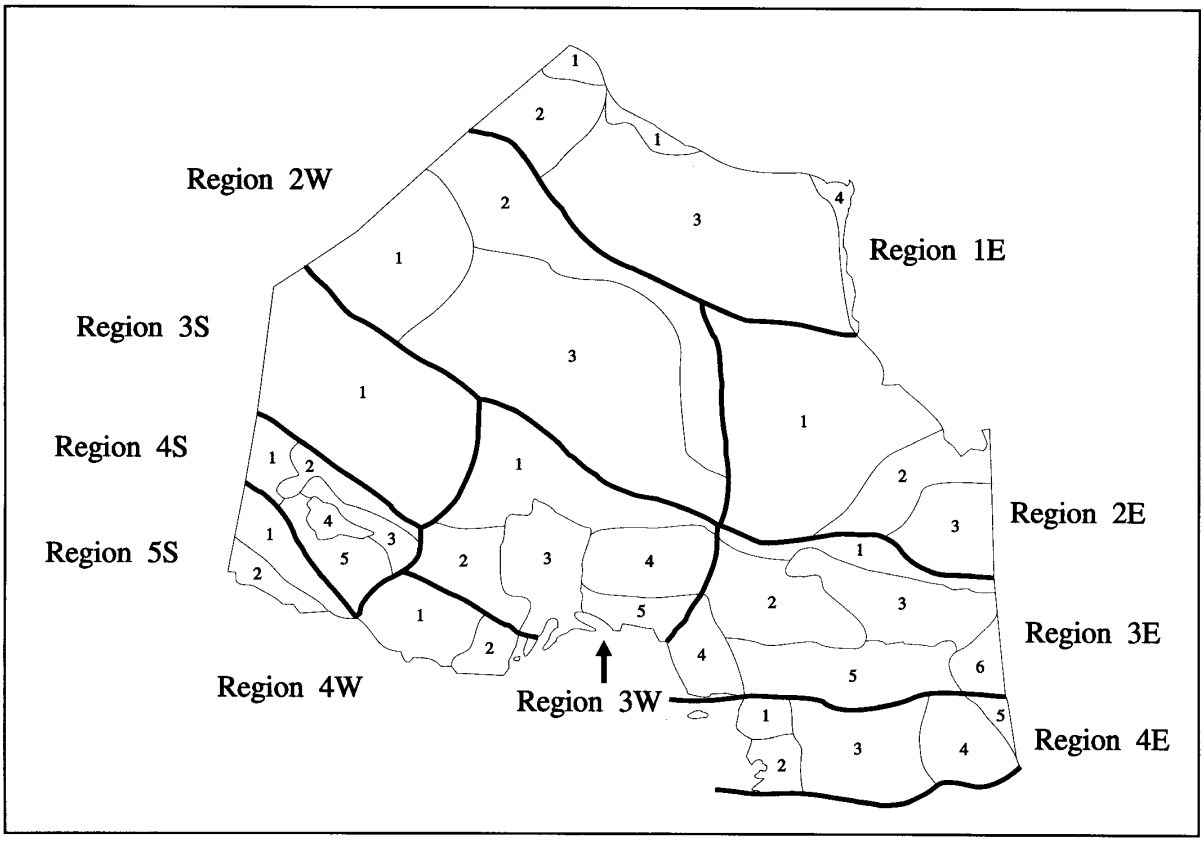
On recreational grounds, a wilderness parks ideal size depends on how people will be travelling (e.g. - canoe vs. hiking), trip type (e.g. - linear vs. loop), distance travelled each day, and length of stay. Potential areas must be evaluated on the basis of their ability to provide low-intensity recreational opportunities. Any study should look at both the quality and quantity of opportunities. The landscape should be suited to non-mechanized activities such as camping, fishing, canoeing, hiking, backpacking, cross country skiing and nature study. Beyond the simple capacity to support such activities, interaction among park users should be minimized, so that they might experience solitude, adventure and self-reliance. Obviously, the areas selected must be little affected by human intrusion or disturbance, be it roads, railways, mining, agriculture, urban settlement, forest operations, utility corridors and/or sources of pollution.

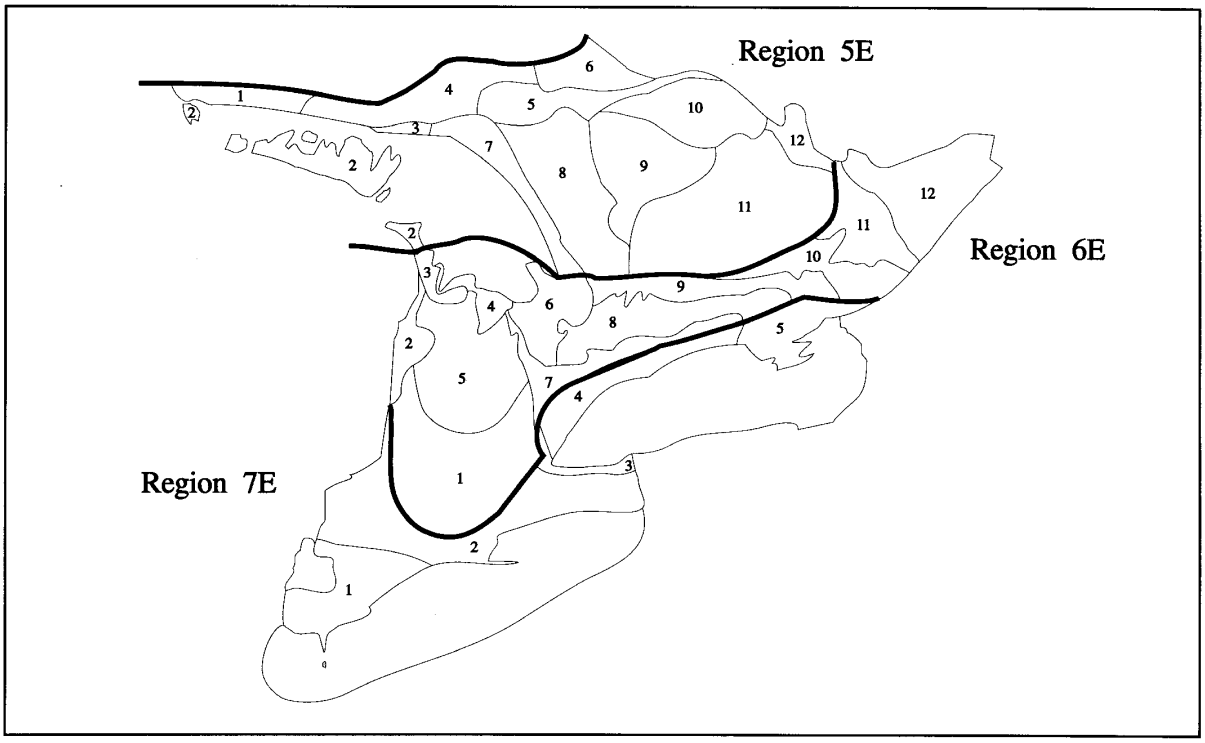
Wilderness parks require a detailed study of their ability to represent the natural features of their site regions, and to support different types of recreation. They should contain the best possible mix of natural, recreational and historical resources.

To ensure that a good example of each site region is protected, one wilderness park and one wilderness zone (in another class of park) will be identified in each site region. Parks should average 100,000 ha in size, and as a minimum should not be less than 50,000 ha. Complementary wilderness zones will be established in natural environment or waterway class parks. These smaller areas will make sure that a range of wilderness environments is protected, and that they are accessible to visitors. Wilderness zones will not be less than 2,000 ha in size, and may range up to 50,000 ha. Since the majority of land in southern Ontario is in private hands, it is unlikely that wilderness parks can be established in Site Regions 6E and 7E (see map).

Large, remote wilderness parks (e.g. - Polar Bear, Woodland - Caribou) will be enjoyed vicariously by most, as relatively few people will actually have the opportunity to visit one. The smaller wilderness zones in parks closer to population centres (e.g. - Algonquin) will be accessible, and thus represent a more viable wilderness experience for most Ontarians.

Figure E: Site Regions and Districts in Northern and Southern Ontario





3.1.2 Nature Reserves

As discussed in *Section II: System Planning Rationale,* nature reserve parks and zones are established to represent and protect Ontario's geological, ecological and species diversity. The target is to represent each of the vegetative site types found in the province's 13 site regions and all of Ontario's past environments, through the nature reserve's earth science features.

a) Life Science

The factors affecting vegetative habitat (microclimate, substrate and moisture regime) vary considerably within a site region. A framework has been developed which incorporates these variables into a matrix of 150 theoretical site types (see Figure E). Any area can then be classified into one of these site types. In a given site region, it is unlikely that all 150 vegetative site types will actually exist. For the example shown, which is Site Region 7E, the Southern Deciduous Forest Region, only 85 of the theoretical 150 site types have been identified through field study. In many other site regions, particularly in the far north, the number of existing site types has not been estimated.

Given that a distinctive site type will possess distinctive vegetation, by extension it also represents a distinctive habitat for animal species. Therefore, certain associations of animal species can be expected on each site type. So if a diversity of site types are protected in nature reserve parks or zones, a diversity of animals will also be protected. In some cases, nature reserves may be identified primarily on a *zoological basis,* in order to protect breeding grounds, migration concentration points, habitats of endangered species, and so on.

The landscape classification system currently in use is oriented towards terrestrial ecosystems and does not lend itself to the classification of the complex wetlands found in the Hudson and James Bay lowlands, nor is it suited to purely aquatic environments. Additional work will be required to integrate it with wetland classification and evaluation systems currently being developed, as well as methodologies addressing forest ecosystems and wildlife habitat.

b) Earth Science

As discussed in *Section II: Systems Planning Rationale,* earth science Nature Reserves represent past environments, and may be classified in terms of their *lithostratigraphy, biostratigraphy, geoclimate* and/or *landforms,* all of which are measures used in the geological time scale (see Figure G). In practice, some classifications are more adaptable than others to specific time periods. For example, *geoclimatic* and *landform* classifications are most useful for the last one million years, a period in which Ontario was dominated by glaciation. Geoclimatic classification distinguishes discrete cold periods of glacial recession, while landform classification distinguishes glacial features such as moraines, eskers, beaches and drumlins. *Lithostratigraphic* and *biostratigraphic classifications* are best for the post Precambrian period, in which rock strata and formations may be readily distinguished.

Figure F: Vegetative Site Types

Temperature	Substrate	Moisture Regime: Arid	Very Dry	Dry	Dry Mesic	Mesic	Wet Mesic	Wet	Very Wet	Saturated	Open Water
Colder	Rock				*		*	*	*		
	Sand		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
	Loam					*	*				
	Clay			*	*	*	*	*			
	Organic						*	*	*	*	
Normal	Rock	*	*						*		
	Sand		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Clay				*	*	*	*	*		*
	Loam			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
	Organic							*	*	*	
Warmer	Rock	*	*	*	*						
	Sand	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Clay			*	*	*	*	*	*		*
	Loam		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Organic						*	*		*	*

	ROCK	BLUEGRASS BARRENS: Poa compressa	LIMESTONE ROCK OUTCROP: Poa compressa PRAIRIE 6047:Cornus racemosa - Danthonia spicata - Lespedeza capitata - Panicum linearifolium - Solidago juncea
	SAND	CACTUS BARRENS: Opuntia humifusa	JUNIPER SCRUB: Juniperis communis - Arctostaphylos uva-ursi - Smilacina stellata - Artemesia caudata - Andropogon scoparius LOW SAND THICKET: Arctostaphylos uva-ursi - Andropogon scoparius - Arenaria stricta - Lithospermum croceum SAND PRAIRIE 6004: Andropogon scoparius - Panicum virgatum - Lupinus perennis....etc.

c) General

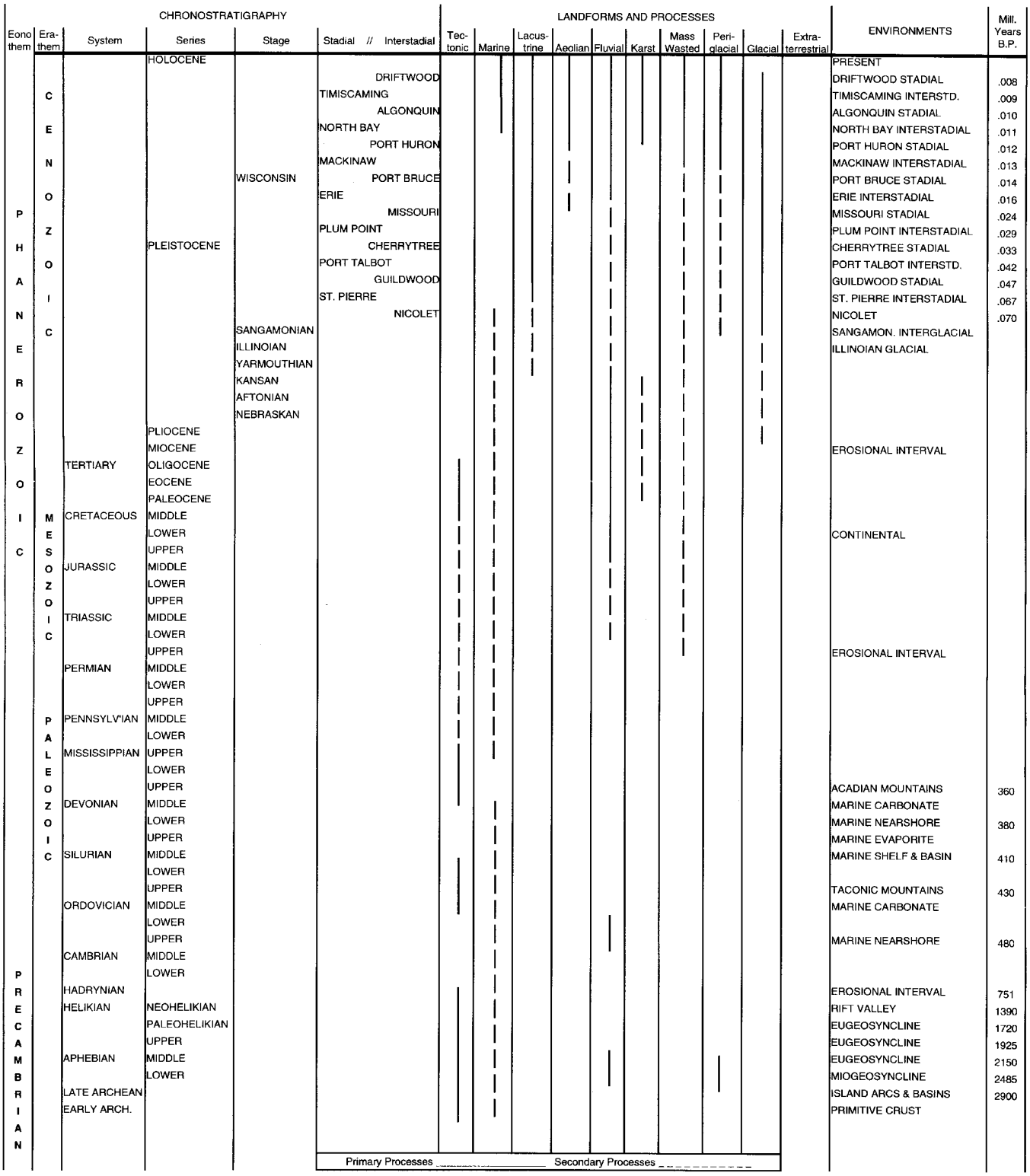
Wherever possible, nature reserve parks or zones will include features representative of both earth and life sciences, and the relationships between the two will be emphasized using a landscape unit approach. Nature reserves will be established wherever possible to include the greatest diversity of representative features to provide settings of maximum ecological integrity, and to minimize the total number of separate nature reserves required. The sensitivity of the features being protected, combined with the likelihood of intrusive outside influences, will determine a nature reserve's optimum size.

As in all parks, resource inventories are required to evaluate the quality and integrity of both earth and life science features, and the ability of those features to represent the province's geological, ecological and species diversity. Prospective sites will also be evaluated for their historical significance and the presence of any landscape-related historical resources.

Except where human disturbance has exposed natural features or enhanced their scientific and educational interest, areas which have evolved in a totally natural context will be given priority for protection over areas that have been subject to varying degrees of human manipulation. Areas will be selected which can best be protected from the influence of external use.

Nature Reserve parks and zones should be as ecologically self-contained as possible, and consequently should be bounded by natural features wherever possible. Potential boundaries should include adequate area to buffer the core ecosystems from intrusive influences. Priority will be given to qualifying areas where nature reserve potential is in danger of deterioration due to lack of protection. Economic activities associated with adjacent land and resource uses will be considered and their potential impacts thoroughly evaluated.

Figure G: The Geological Time Scale



3.1.3 Historical Parks

The target for historical resources is to protect important examples of Ontario's past , especially those related to the land, or natural resources. While historical parks play a major role, historical zones in other classes of parks, as well as features protected by other agencies, are important too.

Thirteen major themes have been identified, each based upon a common activity (e.g. - *Mining and Mining Communities),* involving part of the population, in a specific region of the Province (e.g. - *Thunder Bay Silver)* during a specific time in history (e.g. - *1866 to 1932).* They are themes which can be shown in their original, outdoor setting (e.g. mining, logging, fur trade, agriculture). The thirteen major themes are broken down into 115 theme segments on the basis of time and location. Figure G on the following page illustrates the major themes and theme segments.

Representative features no longer exist for certain theme segments, while others may require more than one park or zone for adequate representation. Sometimes more than one theme segment may be represented by a single park or zone. The size of historical parks will thus vary substantially according to the nature and integrity of the historical resources found within them.

3.1.4 Natural Environment Parks

Natural Environment parks will represent a diverse range of landscapes in Ontario. The target is to represent each of 65 site districts in the province.

In keeping with program philosophy and objectives, parks representative of their site district should be not less than 2,000 ha in size (see Appendix 3). This minimum size allows for the protection of representative natural landscapes and permits low-intensity recreational activities. However, the standard is not inflexible. Due to the predominance of private land in some southern Ontario site districts, the ideal standard may be unattainable, while in others a natural environment park might not be possible at all. In site districts where waterway parks include suitable blocks of land in natural environment zones, or where wilderness parks include representative landscapes, it may not be necessary to establish natural environment parks.

When practical, additional natural environment parks may be established to respond to recreational needs in site districts lying within day or weekend use range of major urban centres. These additional parks may be less than 2,000 ha in size, but should still strive to encompass representative landscapes while providing outdoor recreational opportunities.

Potential natural environment parks will be evaluated for the quality of their natural landscapes, and for the ability of those landscapes to represent the natural environments of their site districts. They should contain the greatest possible diversity of earth and life science features, characterized by physiographic and ecological integrity. Wherever possible, they should be bounded by natural features and should include an area adequate to buffer the core ecosystems from intrusive influences. Prospective areas should also be evaluated for their historical significance and should include the greatest possible diversity of landscape-related features.

Figure H: Themes and Theme Segments of Ontario History

EARLY POST-GLACIAL IMMIGRANTS

Fluted Point Peoples 11,000 - 7,000 BC
Plano Peoples 8,000 - 5,500 BC

ENVIRONMENTAL FRONTIERSMAN

Shield Archaic Peoples 2,000 - 200 BC
Lake Forest Archaic 3,500 - 500 BC

INDIGENOUS SETTLERS, TRADERS & POTTERS

Early Ceramicists 1,000 - 400 BC
Laurel Peoples 200 BC - 500 AD
Trent River Peoples 300 BC - 400 AD
Saugeen Peoples 600 BC - 200 AD

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FARMING SOCIETIES

Southern Horticulturalists 500 - 900 AD
Early Farmers 800 - 1,300 AD
Middle Farmers 1,300 - 1,400 AD
Climax Farmers 1,400 - 1,600 AD

NORTHERN HUNTERS & FISHERS

Peoples of the Black Duck Zone 800 AD - contact
Peoples of the Selkirk Zone 1000 AD - contact
Peoples of the Iroquoian Zone 900 AD - contact
Peoples of the Michigan Zone 1000 AD - contact

POST CONTACT TRIBES AND BANDS

Huron 1560 - 1650
Petun 1560 - 1650
Neutral 1560s - 1653
Iroquois 1666 - 1680s
Mississauga late 18th - early 19th cent.
Northern 17th - 18th cent.

FUR TRADE AND FUR TRADING COMMUNITIES

Ottawa R. - Lk. Nipissing Georgian Bay 1615 - 1763
St. Lawrence - Lower Lakes Area 1670s - 1760
Lake Huron - Lake Superior - Rainy River Area 1690s - 1760
Hudson's Bay - James Bay Drainage Area 1760s - 1820
Ottawa R. - L. Nipissing - Georgian Bay & Ottawa R. - L. Timiskaming 1760s - 1820
St. Lawrence River - Lower Lakes Area 1760s - 1820
North Shore Lake Huron Area 1770s - 1820
Lake Superior Rainy River Area 1770s - 1820
Moose River Drainage Area 1780s - 1820
Albany River Drainage Area 1780s - 1820
Winisk River and Severn River Areas 1790s - 1820
Upper Ottawa R. - Lk. Nipissing - Georgian Bay & Upper Ottawa R. Lake Timiskaming Area 1821 - 1860s
Lake Huron - Lake Superior - Rainy river Area 1821 - 1880s
Moose River Drainage Area 1821 - 1930s
Albany River Drainage Area 1821 - 1930s
Attawapiskat, Winisk and Severn River Areas 1821 - 1930s

AGRICULTURE & AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Pre-conquest French Settlements 1740 - c.1880
Loyalists 1776 -c.1812
Six Nations Iroquois 1784 -
Quakers 1784 -c.1850s
Mennonites, Amish & Tunkers 1786 -
Glengarry Settlements 1784 - 1840s
Talbot Settlements 1805 - c.1840s
Military Settlements 1815 - c.1830s
Peter Robinson Settlement 1825 - c.1840s
Canada Company 1826 - c.1850s
Fugitive Slave Settlement c. 1820 - c. 1870
Ottawa Valley Lumber Community 1815 - c. 1920s
Indian Reserve Communities 1820s - 1930s
Nineteenth Century French Settlement c. 1830 - 1900
Lower Lakes Fisheries 1850s -
Upper Lakes Fisheries 1890s -
South Shield c. 1865 -
Bruce Peninsula 1857 -
Northeastern English c. 1865 -
Northeastern French c. 1870 -
Northwestern Settlements c. 1875 -
Clay Belts c. 1905 -

FOREST INDUSTRY & FOREST INDUSTRY COMMUNITIES

Ottawa Valley Square Timber 1809 - 1860
Trent Valley Square Timber 1820 - 1880
Ottawa Valley Lumber late 1830s -
Trent Valley Lumber 1840 - c.1930s
Southwestern Ontario Lumber 1830s - 1890s
Georgian Bay Lumber 1850s - c.1930s
North Shore Lake Huron Lumber late 1870s -
Huron - Ottawa Tract Lumber 1860s -
Northwestern Ontario Lumber 1870s - 1930s
Temagami Lumber c.1850s -
North Central Ontario Lumber c. 1900 -
Eastern Ontario Pulp and Paper 1890s -
Sault Ste. Marie, Espanola, Sturgeon Falls Pulp and Paper late 1890s -
North Central Ontario Pulp and Paper 1913 -
North Shore Lake Superior Pulp and Paper 1917 -
Northwestern Ontario Pulp and Paper 1911 -

MINING AND MINING COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario Domestic Iron Smelting 1799 - c.1860
Settled Ontario Pits and Quarries c.1800 -
Lakes Huron and Superior Copper 1845 - 1904
Southwestern Ontario Petroleum 1858 -
South Shield Small-Scale Mining 1850s -
South Shield Large Scale Iron Mining 1865 -
Thunder Bay Silver 1896 - 1932
Northwestern Ontario Boundary Waters Gold 1870 - 1922
Sudbury Basin Nickel 1883 -
Algoma Mining and Smelting Complex 1897 -
Cobalt Silver Camp 1903 -
Timiskaming Gold and Silver Deposits 1906 -
Timiskaming Porcupine Major Gold Camps 1906 -
Red Lake and Central Patricia Gold 1925 -
Northern Ontario Depression Gold Outposts 1930s
Northern Ontario Large Scale Mining 1943 -
Elliot Lake 1953 -

TRANSPORTATION AND THE INTEGRATION OF ECONOMIES

St. Lawrence-Great Lakes Shipping Route 1790s -
Lower Lakes Internal Shipping 1790s -
Early Ontario Roads 1790s - 1850s
Rideau-Ottawa Shipping Route 1830s - c.1900
Upper Lakes Internal Shipping 1820s - c.1900
St. Lawrence-Great Lakes Rail route 1850s -
Southwestern Continental Rail Route 1850s -
Toronto Passage Rail Route 1850s - c.1930s
Canadian Transcontinental Rail Route 1885 -
Northern Ontario Access Rail Route 1903 -
Provincial Highway System 1920s -
Air Transport 1920s -

MILITARY

Conflict Among Prehistoric Indigenous Peoples 1100 - 1650
Conflict Among Indigenous and European Peoples 1600 - 1763
American War of Independence and its Aftermath 1776 -1794
War of 1812 1812 - 1815
The Defended Border 1815 - 1871

POLITICAL

The Creation of the Province 1784 - 1815
Political Unrest & Rebellion - Upper Canada 1815 - 1841
Partyism, Political Alignments, Metropolitanism and Confederation 1867 - 1914
Interscene Conflict 1867 - 1914
Modern Ontario 1914 - 1945

3.1.5 Waterway Parks

A watershed is a natural, easily defined ecological unit. The rivers within them are the obvious means by which to travel and observe the surrounding landscape. The Ministry's target is to establish at least one representative waterway in each of Ontario's 65 site districts. In many cases, these significant waterways will cross two or more site districts. Unlike other park classes, the focus of waterways is almost entirely on aquatic and riparian (shoreline) environments.

These linear corridors normally consist of a watercourse and adjacent lands. They present special management problems. As with most other park classes, waterway parks have a dual role - environmental protection and the provision of recreation opportunities. Their boundaries must incorporate sufficient land on either side to: a) constitute a representative "slice" of the surrounding landscape; and b) provide a recreational corridor that is insulated from activity on adjacent lands. As such, boundaries must be at least 200 metres from the shoreline (normally the high water mark), and should take into account lines of sight, proximity of landforms, and ecological integrity. The 200 metres should be treated as a minimum standard - wider corridors where appropriate, or large nodes to protect concentrations of significant features are both real considerations.

Another challenge presented in waterway park management is the potential range in experiences that such parks may provide, depending on location, access, adjacent land uses, etc. A waterway park in the far north may be the linear equivalent of a wilderness park in terms of the users' experiences. In central Ontario, the parallel might be a natural environment park; and in the south, a recreation class park. As a result, the potential management policies for waterway parks must be flexible enough to adapt to local conditions.

In keeping with the philosophy and objectives of the class, parks intended for low-intensity use (i.e. offering few facilities) should not be less than one and one-half days average downstream canoe trip in length; those intended for high-intensity use (i.e. with a high concentration of facilities) should not be less than one-half day average downstream travel in length.

Certain southern Ontario site districts may lack the land base necessary to establish waterway parks. Where possible, additional waterway parks may be established in response to recreational demands in site districts within day or weekend use range of major population centres. In site districts where major waterways are already contained within wilderness or natural environment parks, it may not be necessary to establish a waterway park.

Where waterway park creation is difficult or impossible, appropriate National Parks and waterway corridors covered by federal-provincial agreements for recreation and/or conservation will be considered as contributing to waterway representation. This could include Great Lakes shoreline in other parks.

3.1.6 Recreation Parks

Recreation parks are established to effectively and efficiently satisfy demands for provincial park outdoor recreation opportunities. Their primary role is to provide car camping and day-use opportunities (picnicking, swimming) for Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors. Potential recreation parks will be evaluated for their aesthetic appeal, and their capacity for high-intensity use and development of their landscapes.

Recreation parks should be established in areas with high demand for outdoor recreational opportunities. Therefore, their proximity to major

markets, and the quality of access between the site and those markets are key considerations.

The viability of candidate recreation parks will also be affected by the existing alternate supply of recreation opportunities. Therefore, all parts of the regional recreation infrastructure - private sector, Conservation Authorities, Parks Commissions, municipalities, Crown lands - will be carefully documented and analyzed. Recreation park development should only be undertaken in cases where there is an unmet demand, and where development will compliment, rather than compete with, other sectors.

3.2 Park Management Policies

The following general park management policies are common to all classes of parks. The more detailed, class-specific resource management policies will be described in Sections 3.3 to 3.9.

3.2.1 Planning

System planning, discussed in Section 2.1, is undertaken to determine the number, type, size and distribution of parks across the Province. It forms the basis for the initial selection of park properties. Land identified through this process must be reviewed in the context of the District Land Use Guidelines (DLUG). The DLUGs determine how Crown lands will be administered, based on resource needs and the results of public consultation into resource allocation decisions.

If a property is deemed to be acceptable in the context of the local DLUG, it is designated as a *candidate park.* Candidates may then move directly into regulation and become provincial parks, or they may remain in candidate status for an indefinite period. A park Management plan may be prepared before or after the park is regulated.

The park management plan provides the Minister, Ministry staff and interested citizens with:

- A definition of the role, significance and classification of a park within the provincial system.
- A statement of policy and zoning for the protection, planning development and management of the resources and attributes of the park.
- Assurance that the planning, management and development of the park is compatible with the protection of the environment and is responsive to the public interest.
- Guidance for the preparation of subsequent plans required to implement park policies and achieve program objectives. Plans must be written for natural resources, client services, site development and operations.
- 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 park.

A park management plan will be prepared for each park, in accordance with the *Provincial Park Management Planning Manual* (1992 - in prep).

3.2.2 Zoning

In the management plan, lands and waters will be zoned to allocate them to their most appropriate role in each park. Six[a] possible park zones exist. They are described in detail in Subsection 2.2.2.i. Their general characteristics are listed below:

Natural Environment Zones (NE) include natural and cultural and aesthetic landscapes in which minimum development is required to support low-intensity recreational activities.

Development Zones (D) provide the main access to the park and facilities and services for a wide range of day-use and camping activities. They will constitute a relatively small portion of individual parks.

Wilderness Zones (WI) include wilderness landscapes of appropriate size and integrity which protect significant natural and cultural features and are suitable for wilderness experiences, as well as a protective buffer with an absolute minimum of development.

Nature Reserve Zones (NR) include any significant earth and life science features which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones, as well as a protective buffer with an absolute minimum of development.

Historical Zones (HI) include any significant historical resources which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones; they will support minimum development required for visitor exploration and appreciation and scientific research.

Access Zones (A) serve as staging areas where minimum facilities support the use of nature reserve or wilderness zones and less developed natural environment and historical zones.

The presence or absence of a zone in a particular class of park depends on the philosophy and objectives of that class. The zone possibilities are:

Table 2: Zone Possibilities by Park Class

Park Class // Zone Type	N E	D	W I	N R	HI	A
Wilderness			*	*	*	*
Nature Reserve				*	*	*
Historical	*	*		*	*	*
Natural Environment	*	*	*	*	*	*
Waterway	*	*	*	*	*	*
Recreation	*	*		*	*	*

[a] A seventh zone, Recreation-Utilization, found only in Algonquin Park, includes aesthetic landscapes oriented toward low-intensity recreational activities and also provides for timber harvesting. Management should, wherever possible, approximate the policies for natural zones.

The key to making informed decisions regarding designation, classification, zoning, development and resource management in provincial parks lies in having comprehensive inventories of the property's natural, cultural and recreational resources. Therefore, prior to beginning management planning, detailed inventories of the park's features must be prepared, in conformance with approved Ministry standards[1].

3.2.3 Development Policies

As discussed in the preceding sections, the regulation, planning and management of a provincial park is systematic and focused on provincially significant natural, cultural and recreational resources. To permit park visitors to appreciate those resources, some level of facility development is usually undertaken, although sometimes a feature is so sensitive that it is best-suited to off-site interpretation. In those instances, no development is undertaken.

Facilities required to support use may range from being very basic (e.g., access and a self-guided trail) to very elaborate (e.g. Wasaga Beach or the Hwy 60 corridor in Algonquin). Development principles vary depending on the zone, but regardless of the development level, a common principle will prevail: facility development in provincial parks must epitomize environmentally-sensitive construction techniques. General guidelines for development, by zone, are presented below.

Direction for facility development in provincial parks can be taken from a variety of sources. Broad, reconnaissance level inventories generally yield information sufficient for preliminary decisions regarding park designation and classification. However, detailed inventories of natural, cultural and recreational resources are the basis of informed decisions regarding park zoning, development and environmental management. A thorough market analysis and user profile provide additional direction as to visitor wants and needs. The following principles should be kept in mind:

- All decisions regarding the type, extent and location of facilities must be supported by research in the form of detailed resource inventories.
- All development will be carried out in accordance with approved site and development plans, utilizing approved standards and guidelines[2], and conforming with relevant federal, provincial and municipal statutes.
- The design and materials used for all facilities constructed within provincial parks will, to the maximum extent possible, reflect the natural character of the individual parks. At the same time, facilities should incorporate designs and materials that combine low-maintenance, energy efficiency and durability wherever possible.
- All projects undertaken *must* be supported by one of the following:
  - policies in the approved park management plan
  - policy in a major or minor amendment to the plan
  - an approved Class Environmental Assessment
  - an Individual Environmental Assessment
  - an individual exemption order under the Environmental Assessment Act

Each of the above has its own public consultation requirments

d) Natural Environment Zones

Development will be limited to back-country campsites, portages, trails, signs necessary for route identification, minimal interpretive facilities, and similar simple facilities which support low-intensity recreational use.

e) Development Zones

Development may include roads; visitor control structures; day-use facilities; car campgrounds; basic commercial; service facilities including outfitting, food and beverage, and transportation; and orientation, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities. Day-use and car camping facilities will be developed at the optimum carrying capacity of the land and water.

f) Wilderness Zones

Development will be limited to wilderness campsites, portages, trails and signs necessary for route identification. Wilderness campsites will be limited to facilities such as designated fireplaces and primitive privies.

g) Nature Reserves Zones

Development will be limited to trail, necessary signs, and temporary facilities for research and management. Signs related to back-country travel will be permitted.

h) Historical Zones

Development will be limited to trails; necessary signs; interpretive, educational research and management facilities; means to travel appropriate to the historical resources; and historical restorations or reconstructions, where appropriate. Portages and signs necessary for back-country travel in the park will be also permitted. Any restorations or reconstructions must conform to high standards of historical authenticity and will be complementary to, and not interfere with, the historical resource.

i) Access Zones

Development will be limited to roads; visitor control structures; basic day-use facilities; small car campgrounds; basic commercial services including outfitting for back-country users; and orientation, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities.

3.2.4 Park Regulation

- In order to have legal status, a provincial park's boundary description must be placed in regulation under the *Provincial Parks Act.*
- Newly-regulated parks will be considered as *operating when* the Ministry makes a formal commitment to fund park management activities and formal operating dates are established in policy.

3.2.5 Environmental Management

Environmental management involves lands and waters, flora, and fauna. Policies relating to each of these are detailed below.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, as a public sector agency, is subject to the Environmental Assessment Act. Park management activities are carried out under the authority of one of the following:

a) an Exemption Order (e.g. . MNR 59)
b) an approved Individual Environmental Assessment

c) the approved Class EA for Provincial Park Management (in prep.)

The *Provincial Park Management Planning Manual (1992 - in prep)* describes how environmental assessment requirements will be identified in park management plans, and incorporated into park management projects.

a) Lands and Waters

- Commercial mineral exploration and/or extraction will not be permitted. However, the Ministry of Natural Resources may carry out mining operations in historical zones which depict authentic activities associated with the history of the mining industry in Ontario.
    - All patented (private) lands and waters within the regulated boundaries of provincial parks will be acquired as funds permit, and as owners are willing to sell.
    - All physical improvements on acquired lands will be removed unless they are located and designed in a way valuable for park management or visitor services, or if they are significant in the context of the park's historical themes.
    - In any park, non-conforming land and water, resource or recreational use may exist at the time of the park's designation. Such uses will be identified as non-conforming in the park management plan, and no expansion of those uses will be permitted. However, they will be allowed to continue until lands are acquired, the uses disappear through normal processes, or equal opportunities for such uses are provided elsewhere.
    - No land disposition for the *private use* of individuals or corporations will be permitted in regulated parks. All forms of existing tenure issued by the Crown for private use—land use permits, licences of occupation, leases—will be phased out no later than January 1, 2010, except for patent land and cottage leases in Algonquin and Rondeau Provincial Parks. The latter have a termination date of 2017.
    - In wilderness and nature reserve parks and zones, hunt camps will be phased out immediately after hunting is no longer permitted by regulation.
    - Except for wilderness and nature reserve class parks, hunt camps will be allowed to remain until the park management plan is prepared or reviewed. If hunting *is* not supported through public consultation during the management plan or review, hunt camps will be phased out within one year of the passage of the "no hunting" regulation.
    - While hunting may be supported through the park management plan, existing private camps on leases, licences of occupation, or land use permits must be phased out by January 1, 2010.
    - Land disposition for *commercial* use may occur, under the authority of a land use permit or lease, provided that the proposed commercial use can be demonstrated to be complementary to the park's goal and objectives, and provided that the proposal is subject to public consultation through a park management plan or plan amendment.
    - Where they pre-date park regulation, the inclusion of property or rights-of-way under easement, lease or license of occupation within a park is unavoidable, such as in the case of highways, pipelines, transmission lines, communications towers, and so on.

Wherever possible, tenure documents should stipulate conditions to ensure that these properties are managed in the manner least disruptive to the park's natural integrity. In instances where public utilities are developed after a park is created, they should avoid park lands wherever possible.

- Unauthorized occupations of park lands or waters will be managed in accordance with approved policy, and will be removed at the owner's expense whenever possible.
- The use of park water routes for economically and socially necessary transportation by residents of remote localities in the area may be recognized as a continuing non-conforming use. The Ministry will seek the cooperation of those residents to ensure maximum compatibility between the means of transportation and the management policies for the zones in which it occurs.
- Sewage and solid waste will be disposed of outside the park through local facilities wherever possible. Where no practical alternative exists, sewage lagoons may be located in access or development zones only. Crown or municipal sites operating in accordance with Ministry of the Environment guidelines, having valid Certificates of Approval, will be used for solid waste disposal.
- No new, commercial hydro-electric developments will be permitted in any park.
- Small scale hydro-electric generators may be installed for in-park consumption where this proves more economically and environmentally feasible than other forms of generated electricity.

b) Flora

- Commercial forest operations will not be permitted except in the recreation-utilization zones of Algonquin Provincial Park.
- Trees may be removed from development, access, historical or natural environment zones to facilitate capital construction or for resource management purposes, and may be marketed if economical.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry out forest operations in historical zones which depict authentic activities associated with the history of the forest industry in Ontario.
- Commercial wild rice harvesting will be phased out of all provincial parks, except harvesting by Status Indians enjoying treaty lights.
- The commercial operation of existing wild rice harvesters who are not Status Indians will be phased out by January 1, 2010, or when the harvester retires or dies, whichever is sooner.
- Non-native plant species will not be deliberately introduced. Where they are already established, and threaten park values, management will develop a program for their eradication.
- Missing native plant species may be re-established if biologically feasible and acceptable.
- *Natural* fire is recognized as a process integral to an evolving natural succession in some cases, and to the perpetuation of

specific vegetative conditions in others. Therefore, natural fires in wilderness, historical, or nature reserve zones will normally be allowed to burn, unless they threaten human life or structural values; values in adjacent zones; lands outside the park; or the values which the wilderness, historical or nature reserve zone was established to protect.

- Prescribed burning may be carried out in wilderness, historical or nature reserve zones to simulate natural fire.
- Fires in natural environment, access or development zones will be suppressed, as will all fires resulting from human causes in other zones. Fire suppression techniques which have the least residual impact on the park's environment will be used wherever practical.
- The occurrence of vegetative insects and diseases, native to the forest region in which the park is situated, is recognized as an integral component of the park's ecology. Insect infestations and diseases in wilderness, historical and nature reserve zones will normally be allowed to progress naturally. If such outbreaks threaten values which the zone was defined to protect, they will be controlled where feasible, using biological controls whenever possible.
- Insects and diseases not native to the park's forest region will controlled where feasible. When control is undertaken, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease, so as to have minimal effects on the balance of the park environment. Biological controls will be used whenever possible.

c) Fauna

- Non-native species will not deliberately be introduced. Where they are already established, a management program for their eradication may be developed, if it is practical and feasible for the perpetuation of the values for which the park was established.
- Missing native species may be re-introduced, and existing populations replenished, if this is biologically feasible and acceptable, and if it *is* desirable in terms of perpetuating values for which the park was established.
- Animal populations may be controlled when essential to protect human health and safety, the health of the species outside the park, or the values for which the park was established. When control is desirable, techniques will be used that have minimal effects on the balance of the park's resource base. Any hunting or trapping for management purposes will be carried out under the strict supervision of, or directly by, the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Licensed commercial trapping, *except for trapping by Status Indians enjoying Treaty rights,* will be phased out of all classes of parks no later than January 1, 2010. If a license is revoked, surrendered, or an application for transfer is received prior to that date, all portions of the registered trap-line within the park will be rescinded from the trap-line's legal description.
- Transfers of existing trap-lines inside provincial parks will be permitted only between or to Status Indians. Only Status Indian trappers' helpers are permitted to assist Status Indian trappers.

- Commercial fishing and commercial bait fishing will not be permitted within provincial parks, except in waterway parks (where supported in the park management plan) and in lakes not wholly enclosed within a park's boundary. Licensed operations on park-encompassed water bodies will be phased out by January 1, 2010, when the current licensee dies, or when the license is surrendered—whichever occurs first.
- Sport fishing is permitted in all provincial parks except in areas where fish sanctuaries are established. Sport fishing is subject to provincial and federal fisheries regulations.
- Fisheries management activities will be aimed, wherever possible, at the maintenance and enhancement of native, self-sustaining fish populations. Certain park water bodies may be closed to fishing temporarily or permanently for fisheries research or management purposes.

d) Cultural Environments

- Archaeological and historical artifacts and landscapes will only be removed or altered through approved research projects for the purpose of defining past cultural activities in the park and area.
- Archaeological and historical features and landscapes may be restored or reconstructed in historical zones. Archaeological and historical features and landscapes' restorations and reconstructions must conform to high standards of cultural authenticity and will be complementary to, and not interfere with, the cultural resource.
- Missing archaeological and historical artifacts and landscapes may be re-established in historical zones if this action does not degrade the viability of representative flora and fauna populations.

3.2.6 Recreation Management

- *Tourism operations* include accommodation; food and beverage services; rental or sale of recreational equipment and supplies; and recreational services such as air, land and water transportation. Tourism operations may be owned and operated by either the public or the private sector.
- In all classes of parks, new tourism developments and major expansion of existing facilities will be decided during park management planning.
- Until a park management plan is prepared, existing fly-in operators who have a main base lodge or outpost camp within the parks will be allowed to continue, and other existing fly-in operators may use the parks, subject to agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Fly-in outpost camps may be subject to relocation during park management planning and moved to the periphery of the parks.
- Uses in association with fly-in operations will conform to park policy. Park policy includes management plan policies and provincial Acts and regulations.
- Limits on the size of parties, and the number of parties permitted to use designated areas of a park at any one time may be

established in order to maintain the natural, cultural or recreational values which the park was established to protect.

- Back-country travellers such as canoeists and hikers may be restricted to camping on designated sites in park interiors. They will normally be required to take all non-burnable garbage out of the park with them. As well, the use of non-burnable disposable food and beverage containers may be prohibited.
- As necessary, back-country travel and/or camping may be restricted—or prohibited—in nature reserve or historical zones, in order to maintain the values the zones were established to protect.
- Management systems will be established for garbage clean-up and general maintenance of all back-country campsites, portages and trails, regardless of zone.
- A Park Operating Plan will be prepared for each operating park, in accordance with the park management plan and current Ministry policies, procedures and guidelines. The plan will address the management and operation of all park facilities and activities.

For class-specific policies, refer to Sections 3.3 to 3.9. Under the heading *Recreation Management,* each of these subsections includes a table depicting potential recreational activities and facilities. The left hand column in these tables contains both activities and facilities, while the top row shows the park zones that may occur in that class of park. Please note that zones are subordinate to park class. For example, activities and facilities encouraged or prohibited in an access zone in one class of park may not necessarily be the same as those in an access zone of another class of park. Activities which are not specifically addressed in the tables should be reviewed during park management planning.

3.2.7 Visitor Services

Visitor services are those methods by which park managers aid visitors in recognizing, using and enjoying the recreational and educational potential of the provincial park system. There are three components of Visitor Services:

Information, Interpretation and Recreation (outdoor education is considered to be an element of the Interpretation component).

Broad program direction is provided in regional and provincial standards, guidelines, and policies. They in turn are tailored to individual parks through direction provided in the park management plan, and the park's visitor services plan. The latter addresses the nature and level of visitor services for the park, based on the significance of the resources, accessibility, use, and visitor needs and profiles. Five possible levels of visitor services are offered in provincial parks. They are: basic, self-use, recreational, seasonal activity and major activity.

3.2.8 Research

- Research by qualified individuals which contributes to knowledge of natural and cultural history and to environmental and recreational management will be encouraged in all classes of parks.
    - All research programs will require the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation.

- Approved research activities and facilities will be compatible with protection values and recreational uses in individual parks, and will be subject to the individual park's development and management policies, unless special permission is given. Sites altered by research activities will be rehabilitated as closely as possible to their previous, natural condition.

Figure I: Calypso Orchid

3.3 Wilderness Parks [a]

All of the following policies are in keeping with the intent of wilderness parks, which is to allow nature to function freely and to permit visitors to enjoy the outdoors by experiencing solitude, self-reliance and challenge.

3.3.1 Environmental Management

In wilderness parks, management activities focus on three areas: lands and waters, flora and fauna. The specific policies relating to each of these topics are outlined below. For a summary, please see Table 3.

a) Lands and Waters

- Waters will not be controller. No new water control structures may be built, and existing structures will be removed or allowed to deteriorate, unless they are essential for water control outside the park, or unless their removal would be more environmentally detrimental than their retention. All activities related to the stabilization, maintenance or removal of water control structures will be carried out in accordance with approval Class Environmental Assessment guidelines.
- Hunting and fishing camps will be phased out of wilderness parks immediately following the passage of the no-hunting regulation for the park.

b) Flora

- Agriculture practices will not be permitted.
- The occurrence of natural fire in certain wilderness environments is recognized as a process integral to an evolving natural succession. Each wilderness park will have a fire management plan.

c) Fauna

- Management of fauna will be directed wherever possible to the maintenance of an evolving natural succession.
- Sport hunting is prohibited in wilderness parks and zones.
- Low-intensity sport fishing will be encouraged to the extent compatible with the maintenance of healthy native fish populations. To this end, special seasons and/or size and catch limits may be established. No fish will be stocked for sport fishing purposes. Certain water bodies may be closed to fishing temporarily or permanently for fisheries research or management purposes.
- Owners of tourist operations located within wilderness parks are permitted by license to bait fish in designated water

[a] These class-specific policies should be used in conjunction with the system-wide policies outlined in section 3.2.

Table 3: Resources Management Policies – Wilderness Parks

Resource Management Policies Wilderness Parks	Park Zones A	 W I	 N R	 H I
Lands and Waters				
Mineral exploration and extraction				
Aggregate extraction				
Commercial hydro development				
Water control structures (new)				
Land disposition - private camps				
- commercial outpost camps, lodges	M	M		
Flora				
Vegetation management	M			M
Commercial logging				
Insect/disease suppression: native	M			M
non-native	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fire suppression: natural	Y	M	M	M
man-caused	Y	Y	Y	Y
Prescribed burning		M	M	M
Fauna				
Commercial trapping	Status Indians only			
Wildlife population management	M	M	M	M
Bait fishing	comm. tourism under license			
Fish stocking: native species	see pg. 44 re: re-introductions			
non-native species				
Fish habitat management	M	M	M	M
Recreation Management				
Commercial tourist operations: new	decided through mgm't plan			
existing	M	M		
Restrictions on vehicles, aircraft, motor boats: private	Y	Y	Y	Y
commercial	M	M	Y	Y
Can and bottle restrictions	M	Y	Y	Y
Party size restrictions and access quotas	M	M	M	M

Legend
Y - normally encouraged in this zone.
M - may be encouraged in this zone in certain parks where deemed appropriate.
Blank - not compatible with this zone; if now existing, a non-conforming use to be phased out.

bodies within the park, but only for use in the park.

3.3.2 Recreation Management

- Existing tourism operations in wilderness parks, and related activities (e.g. motor boating, with restrictions) will remain, but may be subject to relocation within the park as a result of park management planning.
- Private use of motorized vehicles, aircraft and watercraft will not be permitted, except for access purposes in access zones. Where possible, vehicles will be parked in the access zones, removed by sight and sound from other zones. The use of motorized transportation by the Ministry of Natural Resources will conform to these standards whenever possible.
- Some motorboat use by commercial tourist operations outside the access zones will be permitted, as determined by the park management plan. In addition, restrictions will be made on the size of motors permitted in wilderness parks.
- Guests at hunt camps which are owned and operated by Status Indians, and which are located within the boundaries of wilderness class parks, may hunt, subject to relevant legislation and regulations.
- Decisions on relocation or expansion of commercial hunting camps owned and operated by Status Indians, and decisions regarding the development of new hunt camps for Status Indians, will be made during park management planning.

- In an effort to protect wilderness values, capacity standards will be developed for wilderness parks. These standards will serve as safeguards against unregulated and indiscriminate use. To this end, limits may be implemented on size of parties, and on the number of parties permitted to use designated areas at any one time.

Table 4 shows the recreational activities and facilities normally approved for wilderness parks, by zone.

3.3.3 Visitor Services

- The provision of a high quality information system will be essential for each park. In addition to user orientation, particular emphasis should be placed on park management messages such as wilderness ethics, can and bottle bans, and so on.
- Interpretation will be an essential element of Visitor Services programs in wilderness parks. It should offer opportunities for people to experience, understand and appreciate the meaning and purpose of “wilderness”.
- Program delivery should be low-key so it does not intrude on the wilderness experience. The prime means of interpretation should be orientation devices in access zones, publications, and informal contact with park staff.
- Recreation programs should focus on wilderness skills training such as low impact camping or canoeing skills.

Activities and Facilities Wilderness Parks	Zones W I	 N R	 H I	 A
All Terrain Vehicle (A.T.V.) Travel				M
Aircraft Landing--(water) - commercial tourism	M			M
- private				M
Boating (powered) - commercial	M			M
- private				
Campgrounds - car				Y
- boat-in/walk-in				M
- group				M
- back-country	Y			
Canoeing/Kayaking	Y	M	M	Y
Demonstration Areas (e.g., logging exhibits, etc.)				
Hiking	Y	M	M	Y
Historical Appreciation -- self-guided	M	M	M	M
Horseback Riding -- trail				
Mountain Biking -- designated trails	M			M
Nature Appreciation -- self-guided	M	M	M	M
Orienteering	M			M
Outfitting Service				M
Outpost Camp (commercial)	M			M
Painting/Photography	Y	M	M	Y
Picnic Grounds				M
Resorts/Lodges				M
Restaurants -- food and beverage				M
Rock Climbing	M			M
Sailing and Sailboarding	M	M	M	M
Scuba and Skin Diving	M	M	M	M
Skiing (cross-country)/Snowshoeing	Y	M	M	Y
Snowmobiling				M
Spelunking (cave exploration)	M			
Sport Hunting				
Sport Fishing	Y	Y	Y	Y
Swimming -- facility-based				

Table 4: Recreation Activities and Facilities – Wilderness Parks

Legend
Y - normally encouraged in this zone.
M - may be encouraged in this zone in certain parks where deemed appropriate.
Blank - not compatible with this zone; if now existing, a non-conforming use to be phased out.

3.4 Nature Reserves [b]

The earth and life science values of individual nature reserve parks and zones require scientifically-based management policies to best contribute to park system objectives. Management objectives and policies fall into two distinct categories. Certain nature reserves protect natural features and conditions in an undisturbed state, allowing for natural succession. Others protect natural features and conditions which require specific resource management to ensure their perpetuation at a particular evolutionary stage.

Whichever type of management is practised, it must be directed solely toward the achievement of protection and heritage appreciation objectives. Monitoring programs will be developed for the systematic review of the impact and effectiveness of management policies, and they will be revised as necessary. Table 5 summarizes the resource management policies for nature reserves.

3.4.1 Environmental Management

Once again, environmental management policies are divided into three categories: lands and waters, flora and fauna.

a) Lands and Waters

- Waters will not be controlled except when the perpetuation of natural features and conditions is a management objective. Otherwise, no new water control structures may be built, and existing structures will be removed or allowed to deteriorate, unless they are essential to water control outside of the park, or their removal would result in an environmental impact more adverse than their retention.
- Private hunting and fishing camps will be phased out of all nature reserve parks and zones immediately after hunting is no longer permitted by regulation.
- Park management planning will address the need to relocate all commercial tourism facilities to areas outside of nature reserve parks and zones.

b) Flora

- Management will be directed towards ongoing natural succession, unless alternative strategies are desirable.
- Agricultural practices, such as the manipulation of the water table, will not be permitted, except where the perpetuation of natural features and conditions is desirable.

c) Fauna

- Management will be directed to the maintenance of an evolving natural succession, unless alternative strategies are desirable.

[b] These class-specific policies should be used in conjunction with the system-wide policies in section 3.2.

Table 5: Resource Management Policies – Provincial Nature Reserves

Resource Management Policies Nature Reserves	Park Zones A	 NR	 HI
Lands and Waters			
Mineral exploration and extraction			
Aggregate extraction			
Commercial hydro development			
Water control structures (new)	M	M	M
Land disposition - private camps - commercial outpost camps, lodges			
Flora			
Vegetation management	M	M	M
Commercial logging			
Insect/disease suppression: native non-native	M Y	M Y	M Y
Fire suppression: natural man-caused	Y Y	M Y	M Y
Prescribed burning		Y	Y
Fauna			
Commercial trapping	Status Indians only		
Wildlife population management		M	M
Bait fishing			
Fish stocking: native species non-native species			
Fish habitat management	M	M	M
Recreation Management			
Commercial tourist operations: new existing			
Restrictions on vehicles, aircraft, motor boats: private commercial	M M	Y Y	Y Y
Can and bottle restrictions	M	M	M
Party size restrictions and access quotas	M	M	M

Legend
Y - normally encouraged in this zone.
M - may be encouraged in this zone in certain parks where deemed appropriate.
Blank - not compatible with this zone; if now existing, a non-conforming use to be phased out.

- Hunting is not permitted in nature reserve parks or zones.
- Sport fishing is permitted except where fish sanctuaries are established.

3.4.2 Recreation Management

- Where compatible with park values, low-intensity day-use activities and facilities which enhance appreciation of the park will be encouraged. It should be recognized that some nature reserve class parks do experience high visitation (e.g. Ouimet Canyon) and consequently require more elaborate facilities and services to accommodate use.
- Motorized land vehicles and watercraft of any kind will not be permitted, except for access purposes in access zones. The use of motorized transportation by the Ministry of Natural Resources will conform to these standards whenever possible.

Table C shows the recreational activities and facilities normally encouraged in nature reserves, by zone.

3.4.3 Visitor Services

The nature and level of Visitor Services for each nature reserve will be based on the significance of the resources, accessibility, use, and visitor needs and profiles.

- The provision of information about a particular nature reserve, and about the provincial system of nature reserves, is essential to visitors. Nature Reserves function primarily to protect a particular resource and many are inaccessible, so few actually visit these sites. All information provided about them must therefore convey the message that visitors have a responsibility to protect these areas. This is often done through park Fact Sheets.
- Interpretation will be non-intrusive and rely primarily on self-use trails, displays, printed materials and informal personal contact. The use of nature reserves by school or other special interest groups must be compatible with the protection needs in individual reserves. Where possible, programs should be led by Ministry staff.
- Recreation programs should not be provided in nature reserve parks.

Table 6: Recreation Activities and Facilities – Provincial Nature Reserves

Activities and Facilities Nature Reserve Parks	Zones		
	NR	HI	A
All Terrain Vehicle (A.T.V.) Travel			M
Aircraft Landing--(water) - commercial tourism - private			
Boating (powered) - commercial - private			
Campgrounds - car - boat-in/walk-in - group - back-country			
Canoeing/Kayaking	M	M	M
Demonstration Areas (e.g., logging exhibits, etc.)			
Hiking	M	M	Y
Historical Appreciation -- self-guided	M	M	M
Horseback Riding -- trail			
Mountain Biking -- designated trails			
Nature Appreciation -- self-guided	M	M	Y
Orienteering	M	M	Y
Outfitting Service			
Outpost Camp (commercial)			
Painting/Photography	Y	Y	Y
Picnic Grounds			M
Playgrounds			
Recreation Programs (organized)			
Resorts/Lodges			
Restaurants -- food and beverage			
Rock Climbing			
Sailing and Sailboarding			
Scuba and Skin Diving	M	M	M
Skiing(cross-country)/Snowshoeing	M	M	Y
Snowmobiling			
Spelunking (cave exploration)			
Sport fishing	Y	Y	Y
Sport Hunting			
Swimming -- facility-based			

Legend
Y - normally encouraged in this zone.
M - may be encouraged in this zone in certain parks where deemed appropriate.
Blank - not compatible with this zone; if now existing, a non-conforming use to be phased out.

3.5 Historical Parks [c]

Management strategies for individual historical resources may range from allowing cultural landscapes and features to evolve without human interference, to managing cultural landscapes and features to stabilize their present condition, to restoring and reconstructing cultural landscapes and features so they more closely resemble their condition in the past time period of concern. All management of historical features and associated landscapes must conform to high standards of historical authenticity. Table 7 summarizes resource management policies for historical parks, by zone.

3.5.1 Environmental Management

a) Lands and Waters

- Waters in historical, natural environment and nature reserve zones will not be controlled except to present authentic activities associated with historical resources, protect historical resources, or perpetuate natural features and conditions where desirable. Waters in development and access zones may be controlled to a limited extent to enhance recreational opportunities, where this does not conflict with management of the park's historical values. Otherwise, no new water control structures may be built, and existing structures will be removed or allowed to deteriorate, unless they are essential for water control outside the park, or unless their removal would be more environmentally detrimental than their retention.
- Private hunting and fishing camps will be phased out of historical parks no later than January 1,2010, if hunting is supported in the management plan. If it is not, existing leases, licences of occupation or land use permits will be phased out within one year after hunting is no longer permitted by regulation.

b) Flora

- The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry on agricultural operations in historical zones which depict activities associated with the history of agriculture in Ontario. Otherwise, agricultural practices will not be permitted, except in nature reserve zones where perpetuation of natural features and conditions is desirable.

c) Fauna

- Decisions on hunting in the natural environment zones of historical parks will be made during park management planning, with public involvement. Proposals for hunting should be evaluated within the context of: the alternative local supply of hunting opportunities of equivalent quality, significance and accessibility; the area's biological productivity; its ability to provide a quality hunting experience without habitat management; and the need to separate

[c] These class-specific policies should be used in conjunction with the system-wide policies outlined in section 3.2.

Table 7: Resource Management Policies – Historical Parks

Resource Management Policies Historical Parks	Park Zones A	WI	NR	HI	NE
Lands and Waters					
Mineral exploration and extraction					
Aggregate extraction					
Commercial hydro development					
Water control structures (new)	Y	Y	M	M	M
Land disposition - private camps					M
- commercial outpost camps, lodges		Ma		Ma	Ma
Flora					
Vegetation management	M	M	M	M	M
Commercial logging					
Insect/disease suppression: native	M	M	M	M	
non-native	Y	Y	Y	Y	M
Fire suppression: natural	Y	Y	M	M	M
man-caused	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Prescribed burning			M	M	M
Fauna					
Commercial trapping	Status Indians only				
Wildlife population management	M	M	M	M	M
Bait fishing	comm. tourism under license				
Fish stocking: native species	M	M	M	M	M
non-native species	M	M			
Fish habitat management	Y	Y	M	Y	Y
Recreation Management					
Commercial tourist operations: new	decided through mgm't plan				
existing		M		Ma	M
Restrictions on vehicles, aircraft, motor boats: private	M	M	Y	M	M
commercial	M	M	Y	M	M
Can and bottle restrictions		M	M	M	M
Party size restrictions and access quotas		M	M	M	M

Legend
Y - normally encouraged in this zone.
M - may be encouraged in this zone in certain parks where deemed appropriate.
Blank - not compatible with this zone; if now existing, a non-conforming use to be phased out.
Ma - may be encouraged if authentic to the historical zone.

- hunting in time and space from other recreational activities in the park.
- Habitats will not be managed to facilitate wildlife viewing or hunting. Areas open to hunting may be closed temporarily or permanently for wildlife research or management purposes.
- Archery or primitive weapons seasons should be considered as hunting proposals in the park management plan.
- Non-native animal species will not be introduced, except for historically authentic species (e.g., wild turkeys) in historical zones, when these species will not have a detrimental impact on the environment of other zones in the park and where their movement can be restricted within the park.

3.5.2 Recreation Management

- Day-use, facility-based camping and back-country camping will be encouraged, where such activities are compatible with and complementary to the values for which the historical park was established.
- Motorized vehicles, aircraft and watercraft of any kind will not be permitted except for access purposes in development and access zones, with some exceptions. In nature reserve zones, the Ministry of Natural Resources may operate a means of public conveyance authentic to the park's historical themes (e.g., alligator boats). Snowmobiles may be permitted on designated roads or trails in development, access and natural environment zones, where compatible with environmental values and other recreational uses.
- The use of motorized transportation by MNR will conform to these standards wherever possible.

Table 8 shows the recreational activities and facilities encouraged in historical parks, by zone.

3.5.3 Visitor Services

- A high quality public information service—using print, audio-visual and display media, organized programs and personal contact—will be essential for each historical park.
- Priority will be given in all historical parks to programs of interpretation which will assist visitors in exploring and appreciating stories of provincial historical significance. These programs may include both personal exploration through literature, self-guiding trails and displays, and group activities such as supervised archaeological excavations or guided historical canoe trips. They will be aimed at promoting an appreciation for heritage conservation, and will encourage personal enjoyment while learning about past ways of life. Where appropriate, specialized programs for school groups may be developed in selected historical parks.
- Recreation programming may occur but will be related to historical resources. Programming may include: canoe trips on a historic river, exploring for archaeological sites, and making pottery or arrowheads using prehistoric techniques. Such programming is highly interpretive in nature.

Table 8: Recreation Activities and Facilities – Historical Parks

Activities and Facilities		Zones				
Historical Parks		NE	D	NR	HI	A
All Terrain Vehicle (A.T.V.) travel			M[p]			M[p]
Aircraft Landing - (water)	commerical tourism	M				M
	private					M
Boating (powered) -	commercial		M		M[a]	M
	private		M			M
Campgrounds -	car		M			M
	boat-in/walk-in		M			M
	group		M			M
	back-country	M				
Canoeing/Kayaking		Y	Y	M	M	Y
Demonstration Areas (e.g. - logging exhibits, etc)					M[a]	
Hiking		Y	Y	M	M	Y
Historical appreciation - self guided					Y	
Horseback riding - trail		M	M		M[a]	M
Mountain biking - designated trails		M	M			M
Nature appreciation - self guided		Y	Y	M	M	Y
Orienteering		Y	Y	M	M	Y
Outfitting services						
Outpost Camp (commercial)		M				
Painting/Photography		Y	Y	M	M	Y
Picnic grounds			Y		M	M
Playgrounds			M			
Recreation programs (organized)			M		M[a]	
Resorts/Lodges			M		M[a]	
Restaurants - food & beverage			Y		M[a]	
Rock climbing		M	M			M
Sailing & sailboarding		M	M	M	M	M
Scuba and skin diving		M	M	M	M	M
Skiing (cross country)/Snowshoeing		M	Y	M	M	Y
Snowmobiling		M	M			M
Spelunking (cave exploration)		M	M			M
Sport fishing		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sport Hunting		M[p]				
Swimming		Y	Y	M	M	Y

Legend
Y - normally encouraged in this zone.
M - may be encouraged in this zone in certain parks where deemed appropriate.
Blank - not compatible with this zone; if now existing, a non-conforming use to be phased out.
M[a] - may be encouraged if authentic to the historical zone.
M[p] – may be permitted if supported in management plan – see pg. 57.

3.6 Natural Environment Parks [d]

In these parks the emphasis is on providing high quality recreational and educational experiences in an attractive outdoor setting. As such, the following management policies apply. The key elements are summarized in tables 9 and 10.

3.6.1 Environmental Management

Environmental management is divided into three areas: lands and waters, flora, and fauna.

a) Lands and Waters

- In wilderness zones, waters will not be controlled. In nature reserve and historical zones, waters may be controlled for the perpetuation of natural or cultural values or features. In natural environment, development and access zones, waters may be controlled to a limited extent to enhance recreational opportunities, where this does not conflict with natural and cultural values.
- No new water control structures will be built in wilderness and natural environment zones, or in nature reserve and historical zones—except where the perpetuation of natural and cultural values is desirable. Where existing water control practices are discontinued, existing structures will be removed or allowed to deteriorate, unless they are essential for water control outside the park, or if their removal would be more environmentally detrimental than their retention.

b) Flora

- Commercial forest operations will not be permitted, except in Algonquin Park. In both, special recreation-utilization zones have been established for the purpose of permitting commercial timber harvesting within areas devoted to recreational activities.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry on agricultural operations - such as clearing with horses - in historical zones which depict authentic activities associated with historical agricultural resources, or in natural environment, nature reserve and access zones where the perpetuation of natural features and conditions is desirable.
- Natural environment parks with large nature reserve or wilderness zones must have a Fire Management Plan on file.

c) Fauna

- Decisions on hunting in the natural environment zone will be made during park management planning, with public involvement. Proposals for hunting should be evaluated within the context of: the alternative local supply of hunting

[d] These class-specific policies should be used in conjunction with the system-wide policies outlined in section 3.2.

Table 9: Resource Management Policies – Natural Environment Parks

Resource Management Policies Natural Environment Parks	Park Zones D	A	W I	N R	H I	N E
Lands and Waters						
Mineral exploration and extraction						
Aggregate extraction						
Commercial hydro development						
Water control structures (new)	Y	Y		M	M	Y
Land disposition - private camps						
- commercial outpost camps, lodges	M	M			Ma	M
Flora						
Vegetation management	Y	Y	M	M	M	Y
Commercial logging						
Insect/disease suppression: native	Y	M			M	M
non-native	Y	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fire suppression: natural	Y	Y				M
man-caused	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Prescribed burning			M	M	M	
Fauna						
Commercial trapping	Status Indians only					
Wildlife population management	M	M	M	M	M	M
Bait fishing						
Fish stocking: native species	Y	Y				Y
non-native species						
Fish habitat management	Y	M	M	M	M	Y
Recreation Management						
Commercial tourist operations: new	decided through management plan					
existing			M			M
Restrictions on vehicles, aircraft, motor boats: private	M	M	Y	Y	Y	M
commercial	M	M	M	Y	Y	M
Can and bottle restrictions			M	M	M	M
Party size restrictions and access quotas		M	M	M	M	M

Legend
Y - normally encouraged in this zone.
M - may be encouraged in this zone in certain parks where deemed appropriate.
Blank - not compatible with this zone; if now existing, a non-conforming use to be phased out.
M[a] - may be encouraged if authentic to the historical zone.

opportunities; the area's biological productivity; patterns of traditional local use; the area's ability to provide a quality hunting experience without habitat management; and the need to separate hunting in time and space from other recreational activities in the park.

- In natural environment parks and zones, the Ministry may stock native fish species from hatcheries into park lakes. Later on the lake would be opened to sport fishermen. This is referred to as *put and delayed* take sport fishing. Stocking programs must avoid actions which would affect native fish populations.
- The use or possession of bait fish will be prohibited. Certain bodies of water may be closed to fishing temporarily or permanently for fisheries research or management purposes.

3.6.2 Recreation Management

- Motorized land vehicles, aircraft and watercraft of any kind will not be permitted except in development and access zones, with the following exceptions
- The Ministry of Natural Resources may, where desirable in historical zones, operate means of public conveyance authentic to those zones.
- Motorboats (private and commercial) may be permitted on designated water bodies in natural environment zones, though power may be restricted.
- Snowmobiles may be permitted on designated trails and road allowances in natural environment and development zones, where compatible with environmental values and other recreational uses.
- The use of motorized transportation by the Ministry of Natural Resources will conform to these standards whenever possible.

Table 10 presents the recreational activities and facilities normally permitted in natural environment parks, by zone.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES Natural Environment Parks		ZONES NE	D	WI	NR	HI	A
All Terrain Vehicle (A.T.V.) travel			M^p				M^p
Aircraft Landing - (water)	commerical tourism private	M	M				M M
Boating (powered) -	commercial private	M M	M M			M^a	M M
Campgrounds -	car boat-in/walk-in group back-country	 M Y	Y M M	 M Y			M M M
Canoeing/Kayaking		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Demonstration Areas (e.g. - logging exhibits, etc)			M			M^a	
Hiking		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Historical appreciation - self guided		Y	Y	Y	M	M	M
Horseback riding - trail		M	M	M		M^a	M
Mountain biking - designated trails		M	M	M			M
Nature appreciation - self guided		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Orienteering		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Outfitting services			M				M
Outpost Camp (commercial)		M		M			
Painting/Photography		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Picnic grounds			Y			M	Y
Playgrounds			M				
Recreation programs (organized)			M			M^a	M
Resorts/Lodges			M			M^a	
Restaurants - food & beverage			M			M^a	
Rock climbing		M	M	M			M
Sailing & sailboarding		Y	Y	M	M	M	M
Scuba and skin diving		M	M	M	M	M	M
Skiing (cross country)/Snowshoeing		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Snowmobiling		M	M				M
Spelunking (cave exploration)		M	M	M			M
Sport fishing		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sport Hunting		M^p					
Swimming - facility based		Y	Y	Y	M	M^a	Y

Table 10: Recreation Activities and Facilities – Natural Environment Parks

Legend
Y - normally encouraged in this zone.
M - may be encouraged in this zone in certain parks where deemed appropriate.
Blank - not compatible with this zone; if now existing, a non-conforming use to be phased out.
M^a - may be encouraged if authentic to the historical zone.
M^p - may be permitted if supported in management plan - see pg. 61.

3.6.3 Visitor Services

- Natural Environment parks will usually offer a seasonal or major-activity level visitor services program. They will provide a comprehensive, high quality information program. Similarly, they will also offer a full range of interpretive programs, including publications, facilities and staff-led programs. Organized and self-use recreation programs will be offered as well. Interpretive and recreation programs should be participatory in nature whenever possible.
- Where necessary, self-use facilities such as trails, playgrounds and flexible open space will likely satisfy the demand for more activity.
- Field trips by organized school groups are particularly appropriate in natural environment parks. The scope and intent of such activities should be carefully defined in the management plan to ensure their compatibility with the resources.

Figure J: Canoeists – Charleston Lake Provincial Park

3.7 Waterway Parks e

Waterway parks are based on outstanding recreational water routes and are meant to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences As such, the following management policies apply. The key elements are summarized, by zone, in Table 11.

3.7.1 Environmental Management

Two areas must be considered: lands and waters, and fauna.

a) Lands and Waters

- Road, rail and utility line crossings may be necessary in many waterway parks to maintain essential public services and commercial forest operations outside park boundaries. The number of existing and future crossings will be minimized where possible and they will be managed to reduce their impact on recreational and aesthetic values. Particular attention should be paid to winter crossings used in commercial forest operations.
- In wilderness zones, waters will not be controlled. In nature reserve and historical zones, waters may be controlled for the perpetuation of natural and cultural values. Waters may also be controlled in natural environment and development zones to enhance recreational opportunities, where this does not conflict with natural or cultural values.
- No new water control structures will be built in wilderness and natural environment zones or in nature reserve and historical zones, except where the perpetuation of natural or cultural values is desirable.
- Water control practices in natural environment zones will be limited to modest channel improvements made to improve recreational navigation that will not substantially alter the flow, morphology or natural values of the watercourse. These improvements will not be made in essentially undisturbed environments within these zones however.
- Where this does not conflict with natural or cultural values, water control in development zones may include dams, locks, and channelization which are designed to enhance recreational water travel in the park.
- Where existing water control practices are discontinued, existing structures will be removed or allowed to deteriorate, unless they are essential for water control outside the park, or unless their removal would be more environmentally detrimental than their retention.

b) Fauna

- Sport fishing will be encouraged in waterway parks. In wilderness zones, low-intensity sport fishing will be

e These class-specific policies should be used in conjunction with the system-wide policies outlined in section 3.2

Table 11: Resource Management Policies – Waterway Parks

Resource Management Policies Waterway Parks	Park Zones D	A	W I	N R	H I	N E
Lands and Waters						
Mineral exploration and extraction						
Aggregate extraction						
Commercial hydro development						
Water control structures (new)	Y	Y		M	M	Y
Land disposition - private camps						
- commercial outpost camps, lodges	M	M			Ma	M
Flora						
Vegetation management	Y	Y	M	M	M	Y
Commercial logging						
Insect/disease suppression: native	Y	M			M	M
non-native	Y	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fire suppression: natural	Y	Y				M
man-caused	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Prescribed burning			M	M	M	M
Fauna						
Commercial trapping	Status Indians only					
Wildlife population management	M	M	M	M	M	M
Bait fishing	M	M	M		M	M
Fish stocking: native species	Y	Y				Y
non-native species						
Fish habitat management	Y	M	M	M	M	Y
Recreation Management						
Commercial tourist operations: new	decided through management plan					
existing			M			M
Restrictions on vehicles, aircraft, motor boats: private	M	M	Y	Y	Y	M
commercial	M	M	M	Y	Y	M
Can and bottle restrictions			M	M	M	M
Party size restrictions and access quotas		M	M	M	M	M

Legend
Y – normally encouraged in this zone.
M – may be encouraged in certain parks where deemed appropriate.
Blank – not compatible with this zone; if now existing , a non-conforming use to be phased out.
M[a] – may be encouraged if authentic to the historical zone.

- encouraged to the extent compatible with maintenance of healthy, native populations. To this end, special seasons, size limits and catch limits may be established.
- Native fish species may be stocked for later ("put and delayed take") sport fishing, except in wilderness and nature reserve zone isolated from the waterway proper.
- The use or possession of bait fish will be prohibited, except in high-intensity use (higher intensity indicates a higher concentration of facilities) waterway parks, where they may be permitted.
- Commercial fishing, including commercial bait fishing, may be permitted on major water bodies within waterway parks, except for those entirely enclosed within wilderness or nature reserve zones. Commercial fishing must be supported via public consultation during the park management planning program.
- Decisions on hunting in natural environment zones of waterway parks will be made during park management planning, with public involvement. Proposals for hunting should be evaluated within the context of: the alternative local supply of hunting opportunities; the area's biological productivity; traditional use patterns; its ability to provide a quality hunting experience without habitat management; and the need to separate hunting in time and space from other recreational activities in the park.
- Except in wilderness, nature reserve and historical zones, habitats may be managed to a modest degree to enhance wildlife viewing and, where permitted, hunting. To be allowed, hunting must be compatible with the park's natural and cultural values and other recreational uses.

3.7.2 Recreation Management

- Day-use, facility-based camping, and back-country camping activities based on interaction with the waterway environment and appreciation of its natural and cultural values will be encouraged in waterway parks. Recreational activities will be low-intensity in nature except in development zones where they may be of moderate to high intensity and may include land-based facilities.
- Motorized land vehicles, aircraft and watercraft of any kind will normally not be permitted except in development and access zones.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources may, where desirable in historical zones, operate means of public conveyance authentic to those zones
- Motorboats (private and commercial) may be permitted on designated water bodies in natural environment zones, and in historical and nature reserve zones where compatible with protection values, and where essential for the provision of a viable water travel experience in the park as a whole. However, power maybe restricted.
- Snowmobiles may be permitted on designated trails and certain roads in natural environment and development zones, where compatible with environmental values and other recreational uses.

- The use of motorized transportation by the Ministry of Natural Resources will conform to these standards whenever possible.
- Capacity standards may be established which will serve as safeguards against unregulated and indiscriminate back-country use which poses a threat to park values.

Table 12, which follows, shows the activities and facilities, by zone, that will normally be encouraged in waterway parks.

3.7.3 Visitor Services

- The nature of these parks demands that an exceptionally effective information system be established to educate would-be visitors about the management of waterway parks generally, and about the individual characteristics of each waterway.
- The information system should also advise them of the skills and precautions required to navigate each waterway safely, as well as the material prerequisites for river travel. Supplementary information should be provided, where appropriate, along the waterway.
- Interpretation of the historical and natural values of these parks will be a high priority, though the intensity and methods will vary greatly according to the nature of the experience the Ministry seeks to provide for visitors.
- Recreation programming will be a low priority, although the development of skills associated with river use may be organized in parks where such activities are appropriate.

Table 12: Recreation Activities and Facilities – Waterways Parks

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES		ZONES					
Waterway Parks		NE	D	WI	NR	HI	A
All Terrain Vehicle (A.T.V.) travel			M[2]				M[2]
Aircraft Landing - (water)	commerical tourism	M	M				M
	private		M				M
Boating (powered) -	commercial	M	M	M	M	M[a]	M
	private	M	M	M	M	M[a]	M
Campgrounds -	car		Y				
	boat-in/walk-in		M				M
	group	M	M				
	back-country	Y		M			
Canoeing/Kayaking		Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y
Demonstration Areas (e.g. - logging exhibits, etc)						M[a]	
Hiking		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Historical appreciation - self guided		Y	Y	Y	M	M	M
Horseback riding - trail		M	M			M[a]	M
Mountain biking - designated trails		M	M	M			M
Nature appreciation - self guided		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Orienteering		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Outfitting services			M				M
Outpost Camp (commercial)		M					M
Painting/Photography		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Picnic grounds			Y			M	Y
Playgrounds			M				
Recreation programs (organized)			M				
Resorts/Lodges			M			M[a]	
Restaurants - food & beverage			Y			M[a]	M
Rock climbing		M	M	M			M
Sailing & sailboarding		Y	Y	M	M	M	M
Scuba and skin diving		M	M	M	M	M	M
Skiing (cross country)/Snowshoeing		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Snowmobiling		M	M				M
Spelunking (cave exploration)		M	M	M			M
Sport fishing		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sport Hunting		M[2]					
Swimming - facility based		Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y

Legend
Y – normally encouraged in this zone.
M – may be encouraged in certain parks where deemed appropriate.
Blank – not compatible with this zone; if now existing, a non-conforming use to be phased out.
Ma – may be encouraged if authentic to the historical zone.

Figure K: Winter Outing – Silent Lake Provincial Park

3.8 Recreation Parks [f]

Recreation parks support a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for large numbers of people. In these parks, the following management policies apply. They are summarized in Tables 13 and 14.

3.8.1 Environmental Management

a) Lands and Waters

- In nature reserve and historical zones, waters may be controlled for perpetuation of natural and cultural values. In natural environment and access zones, waters may be controlled to a limited extent to enhance recreational opportunities, where this does not conflict with natural or cultural values. In development zones, waters may be controlled to enhance recreational opportunities, within an acceptable level of environmental impact.

b) Fauna

- Sport fishing will be encouraged in recreation parks. In development zones, native and non-native fish species may be stocked for immediate sport fishing (put and take), or for later sport fishing (put and delayed take). Native fish species may also be stocked for put and delayed take sport fishing in natural environment, historical and access zones. Fish stocking programs in individual parks must avoid actions that would affect native fish populations protected in nature reserve zones.
- The use or possession of bait fish will be prohibited in water bodies entirely within nature reserve zones, but may be permitted in other zones.
- Decisions on hunting in the natural environment zones of recreation parks will be made during park management planning, with public involvement. Proposals for hunting should be evaluated within the context of: the alternative local supply of hunting opportunities; the area's biological productivity; traditional use patterns; the area's ability to provide a quality hunting experience without habitat management; and the need to separate hunting in time and space from other recreational activities in the park.
- Except in nature reserve zones, habitats may be managed to enhance wildlife viewing, outdoor education and interpretive opportunities and, where permitted, hunting.

3.8.2 Recreation Management

- A wide variety of healthful and enjoyable day-use and facility-based camping activities will be encouraged in recreation parks on a year-round basis. Activities and facilities will be concentrated in development zones where individuals, families, and groups will be able to interact with others. In other zones, recreational activities will be conducted with

[f] These class-specific policies should be used in conjunction with the system-wide policies outlined in section 3.2

Table 13: Resource Management Policies – Recreation Parks

Resource Management Policies Recreation Parks	Park Zones D	 A	 NR	 HI	 NE
Lands and Waters					
Mineral exploration and extraction					
Aggregate extraction					
Commercial hydro development					
Water control structures (new)	M	M	M	M	M
Land disposition - private camps					
- commercial outpost camps, lodges		M			M
Flora					
Vegetation management	Y	M	M	M	Y
Commercial logging					
Insect/disease suppression: native	Y	M	M	M	M
non-native	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fire suppression: natural	Y	Y	M	M	Y
man-caused	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Prescribed burning			M	M	
Fauna					
Commercial trapping	Status Indians only				
Wildlife population management	Y	M	M	M	M
Bait fishing					
Fish stocking: native species	Y	Y		Y	Y
non-native species	Y				
Fish habitat management	Y	M	M		M
Recreation Management					
Commercial tourist operations: new	decided through management plan				
existing		M		Ma	M
Restrictions on vehicles, aircraft, motor boats: private		M		M	M
commercial		M	M	M	M
Can and bottle restrictions			M	M	M
Party size restrictions and access quotas			M	M	M

Legend
Y – normally encouraged in this zone.
M – may be encouraged in this zone in certain parks where deemed appropriate.
Blank – not compatible with this zone; if now existing, a non-conforming use to be phased out.
M^a – may be encouraged if authentic to the historical zone.

fewer facilities.

- Regional differences in recreational behaviour will be reflected in the types of facilities and programs developed for individual recreation parks.
- Where desirable, the Ministry of Natural Resources may operate means of public conveyance appropriate to zone character and values. Motorboats may be permitted on designated water bodies in natural environment zones, though their power may be restricted.
- Where compatible with environmental values and other recreational uses, snowmobiles and trail bikes may be permitted in areas designated by the park superintendent. Otherwise, motorized vehicles or craft of any kind will not be permitted except in development and access zones.

Table 14, which follows, shows the recreational activities and facilities that will normally be encouraged in recreation class parks, by zone.

3.8.3 Visitor Services

- The provision of a basic information system is essential in recreation parks. Recreational activity needs should be met through the provision of self-use facilities such as: playgrounds, flexible open space, trails (self-guided, fitness, cross-country ski, bicycle, etc.), orienteering courses, group campfires and other group meeting places, recreation halls, etc. As well, directing visitors to attractions in the local area may be just as valuable as running park programs.
- Recreation skill programming (i.e., staff-organized activities), is a high priority in parks where strong demand exists and where a significant increase in the quality of the visitor's experience will result. Managers should consider asking volunteers and community groups to organize events.
- Generally, interpretation will not receive heavy emphasis in recreation parks. If necessary, it will be done through self-use facilities and publications. Staff from parks or volunteers may lead interpretive activities. Some recreation class parks may place a greater emphasis on interpretation (e.g. Wasaga Beach includes a provincially significant dune system). Others may choose to interpret area or regional themes (e.g. Earl Rowe).
- Exceptions to the no-interpretation policy are permitted, of course. Field trips by organized school groups should be handled in the manner described for natural environment parks in subsection 3.6.3.
- Recreation programs could have educational side benefits if effectively designed. A canoe trip, a demonstration of camping skills, an orienteering race, or a drama will bring visitors into as close a relationship with their environment as would many interpretive events.

Table 14: Recreation Activities and Facilities – Recreation Parks

Activities and Facilities		Zones				
Recreation Parks		NE	D	NR	HI	A
All Terrain Vehicle (A.T.V.) travel			M^p			M^p
Aircraft Landing - (water)	commerical tourism private	M				M M
Boating (powered) -	commercial private	M	M M			M M
Campgrounds -	car boat-in/walk-in group back-country		M M M			
Canoeing/Kayaking		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Demonstration Areas (e.g. - logging exhibits, etc)			M		M^a	
Hiking		Y	Y	M	M	Y
Historical appreciation - self guided		Y	M	M	Y	M
Mountain biking on designated trails		M	M			M
Nature appreciation		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Orienteering		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Outfitting services						
Outpost Camp (commercial)		M				M
Painting/Photography		Y	Y	M	M	Y
Picnic grounds			Y		M	Y
Playgrounds			Y			
Recreation programs (organized)		M	y	M	M	M
Resorts/Lodges			M		M^a	
Restaurants - food & beverage			Y		M^a	
Rock climbing		M	M			M
Sailing & Sailboarding		Y	Y	M	M	M
Scuba and Skin diving		M	M	M	M	M
Skiing (cross country)/Snowshoeing		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Snowmobiling		M	M			M
Spelunking (cave exploration)		M		M		M
Sport fishing		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sport Hunting		M^p				
Swimming - facility based		Y	Y	M	M	Y

Legend
Y – normally encouraged in this zone.
M – may not be encouraged in certain zones where deemed appropriate.
Blank – not compatible with this zone; if now existing, a non conforming use to be phased out.
M^a – may be encouraged if authentic to the historical zone.
M^p – may be permitted of supported in management plan – see pg. 73.

3.9 Conclusion

The policies presented in this section are a minimum standard or point of departure to be considered in the planning and management of provincial parks in Ontario. They reflect the provincial perspective, considering the park system as a whole. However, they were prepared with full recognition that additional policy direction may be required when managing park resources at the local level. No two parks are the same; therefore, each presents unique management issues.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, through the Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch, acts as a steward of the land base within the parks system, but it is managed on behalf of park users and the general public. provincial park management is thus a joint enterprise. Therefore, when preparing and reviewing individual park management plans, and when this document is periodically reviewed, Ministry employees must consider the views of park users, both advocates and critics. In this way they can be responsive to public needs, and ensure the continued evolution of the parks system in Ontario.

These management policies, along with the program targets presented in the following section, will be reviewed every five years following the release of this document.

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[1] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Division of Parks Planning Branch, *Revised Report Format, Environmental Planning Series* (Toronto, 1976), unpublished.

[2] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Areas Branch*, Development Manual, Development Standards* (Toronto, 1988).

4.0 Ontario Provincial Parks Program Targets

4.1 Introduction

As outlined in the previous sections, the Cabinet-approved *Ontario Provincial Park Policy* includes a goal, four objectives and nine principles that guide the selection and management of a system of provincial parks. The *goal* of this system is:

> *To provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural and recreational environments, in a system of Provincial Parks.*[1]

The four *objectives* are designed to foster protection, recreation, heritage appreciation, and tourism, while the nine *principles* promote the wise use of land and water. They also dedicate parklands to Ontario's present and future generations.

The most important objective outlined in the approved policy is protection:

> *To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.*[2]

This objective, along with the principles of *permanence, representation, variety, classification* and *zoning,* are the basis of the system planning approach used to determine the nature, size and distribution of Ontario's provincial parks. The selection of individual provincial parks to satisfy this objective and its related principles is accomplished by setting specific *park class representation* and *feature protection* targets.

The provincial parks program also has a recreation objective, which is

> *To provide outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.*[3]

This objective, combined with the principles of *distinctiveness, variety accessibility* and *co-ordination,* shows that the regulation of a property under the *Provincial Parks Act* serves a variety of purposes.

Many of the pressures that threaten the long-term viability of the province's natural and cultural features also threaten its recreational landscapes. The supply of areas suitable for car camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking and canoe tripping is finite. In order to assure the future supply of such areas, a number of "indicator" activities have been incorporated into the program's recreation targets.

While environmental protection and outdoor recreation may not be compatible on a specific site, many parks accommodate both types of activity over a broad land base. Furthermore, the two can actually be combined whenever the recreational activity involves learning more about a park's natural or cultural values.

The program's *heritage appreciation* objective is

> *to provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.*[4]

Staffed interpretive programs, organized recreation activities, self-guided trails, static displays and brochures all help contribute to this objective. Program targets are associated with the heritage objective as well.

Finally, because parks do protect significant natural, cultural and recreational resources and provide visitors with opportunities to experience them, parks become attractions in themselves. Tourists target parks as destinations or as stopovers during extended trips, or visit them on one-day outings. The program's tourism objective is:

> *to provide Ontario's residents and out-of-Province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.*[5]

The program's tourism targets are a sub-set of the overall recreation targets.

Obviously the various program targets are inter-related, as are the program objectives. In this section of *Ontario Provincial Parks—Planning and Management Policies,* the targets will be presented in detail. Please note, however, that the targets to be presented were developed in 1978. They were subjected to considerable scrutiny or "testing" during the Ministry's land use planning program in the early 1980s. However, because much has changed in the intervening years, both the protection and recreation targets require re-evaluation.

The late 1980s and early 1990s have been characterized by an increased public awareness of environmental issues and the importance of resource conservation. The need to protect significant ecosystems, maintain biological diversity, and ensure that significant wildlife, waterfowl and fisheries habitats are considered in resource allocation decisions are now major concerns.

Coupled with the increase in environmental awareness has been a significant increase in accumulated inventory data, and a subsequent need for more information storage and retrieval systems so that the data may be accessed for decision-making. The additional information could then be used to develop a more refined set of protection targets along with more precise statements of target achievement.

Refined recreation targets are also required due to changes in population demographics. The late 1970s targets were based on estimated rates of participation in outdoor recreation activities (demand), estimates of the parks program's ability to provide recreation opportunities (supply), population projections to 2001, assumptions about travel behaviour and activity preferences, and a number of other demographic considerations. However, virtually all of those statistics have changed over the course of the 1980s. Therefore, the most recent data must be incorporated into new estimates of recreation demand, even though this cannot be done with absolute precision.

Revised and updated protection and recreation targets, along with associated statements of target achievement, should be developed immediately, and subjected to regularly scheduled review and revision on a five-year cycle.

4.2 Protection Targets

As noted in the Introduction, protection targets are divided into parks class targets and feature protection targets. The differences between the two are outlined below.

4.2.1 Park Class Targets

Park class targets are based on the premise that no individual park can be all things to all people. To this end, the principle of *classification* is used to organize Ontario's provincial parks into broad categories based on their size,

natural character and intended use. These categories are *Wilderness, Natural Environment, Waterway Nature Reserve, Historical* and *Recreation* park classes. Ontario's provincial parks also use the principle of *zoning to* attain the optimum fulfilment of park objectives.

The *representation* principle also plays an important role in determining the nature and extent of park class targets. Wherever possible, the best examples of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage are included in the park system. For natural heritage protection, park class targets have been defined on the basis of a biophysical land classification system (see Appendix 2) that divides the province into 13 site regions and 65 site districts. These biophysical units in turn are used to determine the distribution of wilderness, natural environment and waterway class parks.

a) Wilderness Class Targets

The class target for wilderness parks is to represent the biophysical diversity of the province's 13 site regions. This will require one representative wilderness park and one complementary wilderness zone (or national park equivalent) in each site region. However, in the two southernmost site regions (6E & 7E), a wilderness park cannot be established because of the level of development and distribution of private land, and the pressures of competitive land uses.

b) Natural Environment Class Targets

The class target for natural environment parks is to represent the diverse landscapes of the province by establishing one natural environment park in each of the 65 site districts. Waterway parks with sizeable natural environment zones, wilderness parks with representative natural environments and appropriate National Parks may serve as equivalents in instances where designation of a natural environment class park is not possible.

c) Waterway Park Class Targets

The waterway target is to establish one waterway class park, or an equivalent waterway corridor, in each of Ontario's 65 site districts. However, in southern Ontario it is difficult to consolidate land for regulation as waterway parks in extensive linear corridors. Consequently, alternatives must be considered. These can include the provision of waterway corridors in other park classes; designation of special Crown land management units; or co-operative initiatives with other agencies such as municipalities, regional governments, landowners associations and Conservation Authorities.

4.2.2 Feature Protection Targets

The "elements of the natural and cultural heritage of Ontario" in the parks program's protection objective are made up of earth science features, life science features and landscape-related historical resources. The Ministry of Natural Resources has prepared individual frameworks for earth science, life science and historical resources to aid managers in the identification of representative examples of Ontario's rocks, fossils, landforms, flora, fauna, vegetative communities, landscapes and its archaeological and historical resources.

a) Earth Science Features

In *A Framework for the Conservation of Ontario's Earth Science Resources,*[6] earth science features are defined as the physical elements of the natural landscape, created by geological processes and distinguished by their

stratigraphy and topography. Typical or representative features are identified using lithologic, palaeontological and geomorphic classification systems. These features are then organized into geological themes based on their age and formational environment. In all, some 44 themes, incorporating more than 1200 features, have been identified as earth science protection targets. See Figure J for a summary of earth science targets.

b) Life Science Features

The selection and evaluation of life science, or ecological, resources takes its direction from *A Framework for the Conservation of Ontario's Biological Heritage*[7]*.* The framework is based on a hierarchical approach for organizing ecological diversity that recognizes site regions and site districts as the major ecological divisions in Ontario. Within a particular site region, progressively finer ecological units are recognized, including biophysical patterns or landscapes, site classes, biotic communities and plants and animals. From a systems planning perspective, biophysical patterns (or *landscape units)* constitute the strategic life science targets for ecosystem representation. To date, roughly 350 distinct landscapes units and 1200 associated site types have been identified as targets for representation. See Figure K for a summary of life science features.

c) Cultural Resources

The selection and evaluation of archaeological and historical features in Ontario provincial parks is based on *A Topical Organization of Ontario History.* This system defines 13 significant, landscape-related themes in Ontario's human history. Each theme is based on a common activity that involved a substantial portion of the population, and occurred within a defined time span and geographical area.

The themes have been broken down into theme segments on the basis of time and place. Thus each theme segment represents an important phase of a distinctive activity that took place at a certain time and place within Ontario. Based on current analysis, there are 115 theme segments. The 13 themes, and the number of theme segments within each, are illustrated in Figure L.

Figure L: Summary of Earth Science Targets

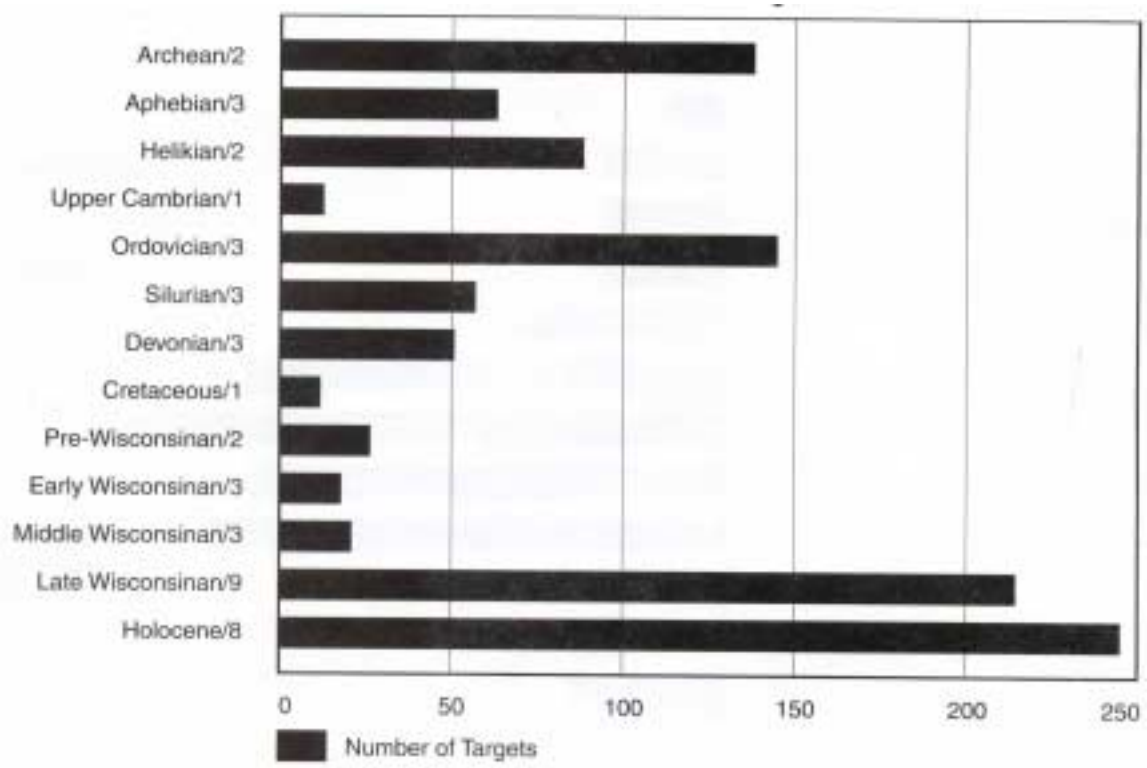
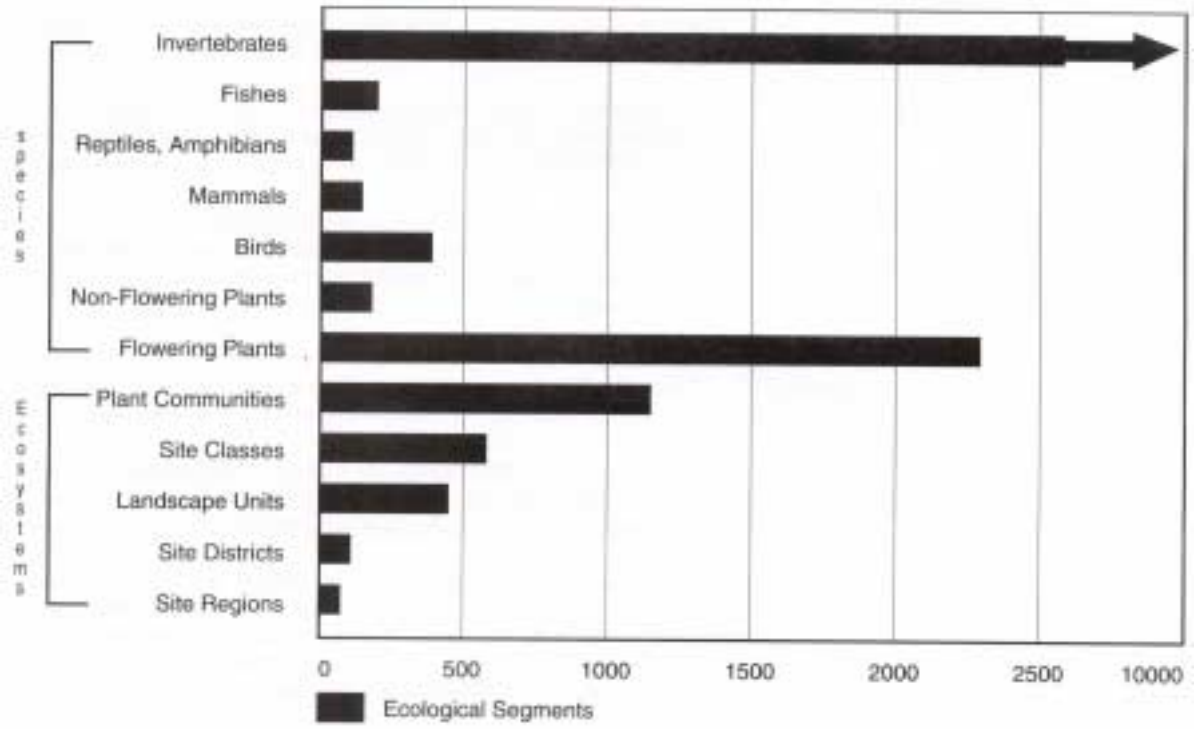


Figure M: Summary of Life Science Targets



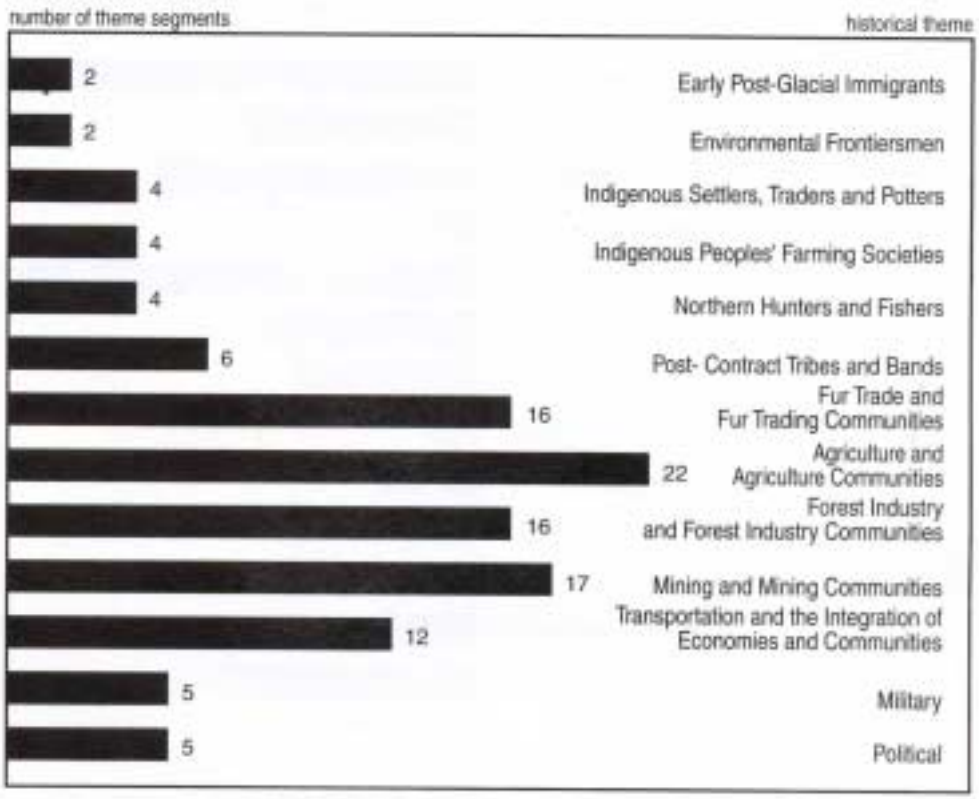


Figure N: Cultural Resources Targets

4.3 Recreation Targets

As stated in *Ontario Provincial Parks—Planning and Management Policies* (1978), the camping and day-use targets for the provincial parks system are:

1. To provide to each population region a level of supply of day-use opportunities comprising 1.3 day visits per person per year [which is the 1976 mean] in provincial parks within a two-hour travel range;
2. To provide to each population region a level of supply of camping opportunities comprising 0.5 camper days per person per year [which is the 1976 mean] in provincial parks, within a three-hour driving range; and
3. To maintain the existing level of supply per person of camping opportunities for travellers passing provincial parks, and for destination campers in northern Ontario provincial parks.

The 1978 targets did not differentiate between high and low density camping (e.g., car campgrounds versus canoe tripping), nor did they break down the day-use target into its traditional components of picnicking and swimming.

Such refinements to the targets were presented in the regional and district land use planning documents issued in the early 1980s. In these documents, the recreation targets had car-camping, picnicking, swimming, and back country travel as components, and the target for each activity contained a resident and non-resident (or tourist) portion.[8]

4.4 Summary

The protection and recreation targets for the provincial parks program, as expressed in the preceding, are at least a decade old. While the protection targets have been refined somewhat during that period, the recreation targets have not.

In both cases, the targets have served park managers well, particularly during the land use planning exercises of the early 1980s. The targets helped to define land requirements, contributing to the unprecedented growth of the parks system between 1980 and 1990.

However, that same period was marked by significant societal changes which warrant a re-examination of the targets and a detailed appraisal of target achievement. Along with the increased pressures for development and resource extraction has come increased environmental awareness on the part of the public, with a heightened emphasis on resource protection and conservation.

Demographic studies indicate that the make-up of Ontario's population will change significantly during the 1990s. The most significant change will be a dramatic increase in the numbers of people in the 44 to 65 age category. The ageing phenomenon could have profound effects on the public's recreation preferences, which in turn will affect participation in the types of outdoor recreation activities currently provided in provincial parks. These changes point to the need to immediately re-examine all of the park program targets, and to conduct regularly scheduled reviews at five-year intervals.

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[1] Ontario Ministry Natural Resources, Provincial Parks Branch, Ontario Provincial Parks Policy (Toronto, 1978).

[2] *Ibid.*

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] *Ibid.*

[5] *Ibid.*

[6] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Park Planning Branch (Toronto, 1981).

[7] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Park Planning Branch (Toronto, 1980).

[8] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Provincial parks Branch, *Recreation and Tourism Targets for Car Camping and Day Use in the Provincial Park System in Southern Ontario* (Toronto, 1978); and *Recreation and Tourism Targets for Car Camping and Day Use in Northern Ontario Provincial Parks* (Toronto, 1980).

Glossary

The words in italics are also defined in this glossary.

A

aggregate extraction: The excavation or removal of gravel, sand, clay, earth, shale, stone, limestone, or rock - other than metallic ores.

Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest: Publicly or privately owned areas of land and associated water, identified on the basis of earth or life science features, that have important natural heritage, scientific or educational values.

B

back-country travel: Non-mechanized travel through remote areas characterized by minimal facilities to support recreational use. Examples include canoeing, kayaking, day hiking and extended backpacking.

biostratigraphy: The classification of earth science history on the basis of the distinctive plant and animal remains found within rock *strata.*

boreal forest: A primarily coniferous forest with black and white spruce as characteristic species, along with balsam fir, jack pine and tamarack and a general mixture of deciduous trees, including white birch and trembling aspen.

C

Carolinian forest: A forest dominated by broad-leaved trees such as beech and sugar maple, and including a variety of oaks, shagbark hickory and butternut. Also includes southern species such as tulip-tree, black cherry, black walnut, blue ash and others.

conservation: The wise use of natural resources to ensure their future availability.

Conservation Authority: A transfer payment agency comprised of representatives appointed by municipalities situated within a watershed; responsible for water management within the watershed and other land uses on authority-owned lands.

Coordinated Program Strategy (CPS): A 1981 publication identifying MNRs program goals for southern Ontario, and how they were to be achieved. It set direction for the more detailed District Land Use Guidelines.

cultural resources: Sites, features or artifacts related to the Province's archeology, anthropology or history, preserved in a natural setting.

cultural heritage: Collective term describing examples of a society's evolution (e.g., history, anthropology, archaeology) worthy of study and preservation.

D

demographics: Statistical data which illustrates the characteristics of a given population (e.g., birth rate, mortality, age, sex, income, education).

E

ecosystem: A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environments.

G

geoclimate: Distinctive climates affecting *geomorphological* and geological processes and the deposition of plant and animal remains.

geomorphology: Study of the physical features of the earth's surface and their relation to its geological structures.

I

interpretation: Any recreational/educational activity by which visitors (actual and potential) gain a greater awareness of the park's natural and cultural history.

L

limnology: The study of the physical phenomena and characteristics of lakes and other fresh waters.

lithology: The science of the nature and composition of rocks.

lithostratigraphy: Classification of earth science history on the basis of the distinct characteristics of layers or *strata* of rocks.

M

microclimate: The climate of a small, local area.

N

natural heritage: Collective term used to describe features of the natural landscape (e.g., botany, zoology, geology, g*eomorphology* worthy of preservation.

O

operating park: An operating park is a park for which operating dates have been established in policy and approved by the Assistant Deputy Minister .

P

palaeontology: The study of life in the geological past.

Palaezoic: From or related to the era of geological time marked by the appearance of marine and terrestrial plants and animals.

physiography: Physical geography, relating to nature or natural phenomena.

S

stewardship: Managing property on someone else's behalf. Private stewardship often involves landowners protecting significant natural resources on their lands for the benefit of society.

strata: Geologically, a set of successive layers of any deposited substance.

Strategic Land Use Plans (SLUP): The 1981 publication identifying MNR's program goals for northeastern (NESLUP) and northwestern (NWSLUP) Ontario, and how they were to be achieved. They set the direction for the preparation of the District Land Use Guidelines reports.

stratigraphy: Study of the order and relative position of *strata.* In geology this is used as a means of historical interpretation.

substrate: An underlying layer of rock or soil beneath the surface.

sustainable development: Integrated management approaches which consider the full range of environmental, social and economic factors when decisions are made regarding the use of natural resources.

T

topography: The natural or artificial features of a land surface.

U

utility corridors: Land alienations in the form of patents, leases or easements for the purposes of roads, railways, transmission lines, pipelines, etc.

V

vascular plants: Plants with woody conducting tissue which conveys sap, etc.

vegetative site type: An association defined by plant communities with *substrate,* soil moisture and *microclimate.*

W

watershed: Line of separation between waters flowing to different rivers, basins or seas

wetlands: Lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, or where the water table is close to the surface. The saturated soils result in a variety of characteristic water tolerant or aquatic plant communities.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Provincial Parks Policy Statement - 1978

This section describes Ontario's Provincial Park Policy. The policy was approved by the provincial government in May 1978 and it provides a basis for planning and management decisions affecting the Provincial Park System.

This section answers four basic questions:

- What are Provincial Parks?
- What do Provincial Parks try to achieve?
- What principles guide their management?
- What is park classification?

What are Provincial Parks?

Provincial Parks are areas of land and water managed for the benefit of present and future generations and dedicated to the people of Ontario and others who may use them for their healthful enjoyment and appreciation.

What do Provincial Parks try to achieve?

The Provincial Parks system has one Goal and four Objectives.

Goal of the Provincial Park system

To provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural and recreational environments, in a system of Provincial Parks.

Objective of the Provincial Park system

Protection	To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario
Recreation	To provide outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day-use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.
Heritage Appreciation	To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario
Tourism	To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the province.

What principles guide the management of the Provincial Park system?

Permanence	The Provincial Park system is dedicated for all time to the present and future generations of the people of Ontario for their healthful enjoyment and appreciation.
Distinctiveness	Provincial Parks provide a distinctive range of quality outdoor recreation experiences, many of which cannot be provided in other types of parks; for example, wilderness travel and appreciation.

Representation	Provincial Parks are established to secure for posterity representative features of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage. Whenever possible the best representations of our heritage will be included in the park system.
Variety	The Provincial Park system provides a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and protected natural and cultural landscapes and features.
Accessibility	The benefits of the Provincial Park system will be distributed as widely as possible geographically and as equitably as possible socially so that they are accessible to all Ontario residents.
Co-ordination System	The Provincial Parks system will be managed in such a way as to be complementary to, rather than competitive with, the private sector and other public agencies.
System	Individual Provincial Parks contribute to the overall objectives of the Provincial Parks system. All objectives may not be met in each park. The park system, rather than individual parks, provides the diversity of experiences and landscapes which are sought.
Classification	No individual park can be all things to all people. Park classification organizes Ontario's Provincial Parks into broad categories, each of which has particular purposes and characteristics as well as distinctive planning, management and visitor services policies.
Zoning	Ontario's Provincial Parks are zoned on the basis of resource significance and recreational potential. Several types of zones ensure that users get the most out of individual parks. Planning and management policies appropriate to each zone type are applied consistently throughout the park system.

What is park classification?

No one park can be all things to all people. Accordingly, to provide a diversity of recreation experiences, different park environments are required. Distinctive recreation experiences and park environments are provided through six classes of parks.

All Provincial Parks in Ontario fall into one of these classes.

Wilderness Parks	Wilderness parks are substantial areas where the forces of nature are permitted to function freely and where visitors travel by non-mechanized means and experience expansive solitude, challenge and personal integration with nature.
Nature Reserves	Nature Reserves are areas selected to represent the distinctive natural habitats and landforms of the Province, and are protected for educational purposes and as gene pools for research to benefit present and future generations.
Historical Parks	Historical parks are areas selected to represent the distinctive historical resources of the Province in open space settings, and are protected for interpretive, educational and research purposes.

Natural Environment Parks	Natural Environment parks incorporate outstanding recreational landscapes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.
Waterway Parks	Waterway parks incorporate outstanding recreational water routes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.
Recreation Parks	Recreation parks are areas which support a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities for large numbers of people in attractive surroundings.

For more information, write:

APPENDIX 2

Classification Systems: Biological, Geological and Cultural Resources

a) Biological Resources

(For a more thorough, technical treatment of this topic, see *A Framework for the Conservation of Ontario's Biological Heritage*).

The distribution of ecosystems is determined by a variety of controls, such as climate (temperature, precipitation) and physiography (soils, slope, aspect). These controls operate at different levels to produce natural regions, that is, broad, similar land units with characteristic plants and animals.

Internationally, various attempts have been made to delineate natural regions that display biological or ecological integrity. An ecological approach delineates natural regions or zones on the basis of climate, physiography and corresponding vegetation. It differs from a biogeographical classification, which delineates large land masses on the basis of plant and animal distribution.

The Nature Reserves Advisory Committee—which had been established by the Minister of Lands and Forests in March, 1 969—considered an ecosystem approach to representation for nature reserves in Ontario during the 1970-1972 period. They concluded that the GA. Hills' 1964 site region framework should be adopted as a basis for dividing the province into distinctive ecological regions. The Ontario site classification system developed by Hills was initially designed for describing, classifying, mapping and evaluating the land in Ontario for forest productivity. However, the scheme has been widely applied to other areas of land use planning and management. Hills' hierarchical system includes six levels: site regions, site districts, land types, physiographic site classes, physiographic site types and site conditions.

Land is defined in terms of its relief, texture, depth to bedrock and drainage conditions. A *site region* is an area of land within which the vegetation responds to the influence of the landform in a consistent pattern. Within a specific site region, such as the Subarctic Forest Region, each specific type of land has a characteristic plant succession.

A *site district* is a subdivision of a site region. It is based on a characteristic pattern of landscape features—for instance, lowland clay plain—which sets one fairly large area apart from another. Individually, site districts do not represent the full range of sites that characterize an entire site region, but they possess enough similar attributes—climate, soils, elevation—to warrant being grouped together within a site region.

Each site region also contains a number of *land types,* or areas with similar soils and rocks. The land types are further subdivided into *physiographic site classes,* which are broad groupings of sites that take in the entire range of ecoclimate, soil moisture and nutrient regimes within a site region. In essence, they are a representative sample of sites from within a site region which can be used to define its general attributes.

In turn, the physiographic site classes contain *physiographic site types,* delineated on the basis of similarities in soil type, depth, moisture content and local climate. The physiographic site types are classified on the basis of *site conditions,* which are variations in the upper soil horizons, particularly organic and mixed organic-mineral horizons. The target for biological

resources is to protect representative examples of each physiographic site type within each site region.

Figures E and F, on pages 28 and 30 respectively, provide graphic depictions of the Site Regions and Site Districts, along with an example of the site type matrix for Site Region 7E.

b) Geological Resources

(Please consult *A Framework for the Conservation of Ontario's Earth Science Features* for a more detailed discussion of this topic.)

Earth science features are defined as the physical elements of the natural landscape. Created by geologic processes, they are distinguished by their stratigraphy - composition, structure and internal layering - and topography - relief, contour and spatial distribution. Earth science features distinguished by stratigraphy include rock strata and fossil assemblages, while those distinguished by topography include all varieties of land and submarine forms.

The representation of earth science features is based upon internationally recognized concepts which have been adapted to Ontario. From the planet's creation to the present day, a succession of environments has shaped what is now Ontario. Each of these past environments was characterized by distinctive geological and geomorphological processes, climate conditions and plant and animal life (or the absence thereof). This succession of past environments is organized into a broad framework commonly called the *geological time scale.*

With each past geological environment are associated specific earth science features which can be classified in several different ways:

1. Lithostratigraphic classification organizes earth science history on the basis of distinctive physical characteristics of layers of rock.
2. Biostratigraphic classification divides earth science history on the basis of the distinctive plant and animal remains found within rock strata.
3. Geoclimatic classification organizes earth science history on the basis of distinctive climates affecting geomorphological and geological processes and the deposition of plant and animal remains.
4. Landform classification divides earth science history on the basis of distinctive types of surface features which were formed in certain past environments and/or are being formed in the present-day environment.

Thus, each past environment is associated with certain distinct lithostratigraphic, biostratigraphic, geoclimatic and land-form features. This earth science framework is continually changing as technology yields new knowledge of the earth and its past. The target for earth science resources is to represent each of the past environments of the province through its earth science features. Figure G, on page 32, is a graphic depiction of the geological time scale referenced above, showing the inter-relationship between the four classification systems.

c) Cultural Resources

(See *A Topical Organization of Ontario History* for more detail).

The 1972 government reorganization gave the Ministry of Natural Resources a mandate to conserve and protect historical resources as part of its programs of outdoor recreation and management of Crown lands. The newly-

formed Historic Sites Branch within the Division of Parks was to work toward the adequate representation of historical resources.

Historical systems planning had four basic components. The first was to describe the history of the province in terms of major structural divisions. These divisions used a multi-tiered system consisting of 13 themes (for example, Fur Trade and Fur Trading Communities). The major themes were then subdivided into subthemes (e.g., Lake Superior—Rainy River Area) which were discussed in terms of significant developments, relevant dates, and ratings, in the context of the province's history.

> e.g.: Development - Intense Competition Period; Relevant Dates – 1770 - 1820; Rating - A

This analysis, contained in *A Topical Organization of Ontario History,* provides the frame work for the entire historical systems planning process.

The second component was the *Historical Resources Research Report Format,* designed to structure archaeological, historical, and historical-architectural research data in a manner that could be used for both systems planning and park management planning purposes. The third component was the *Historical Resources Evaluation Scheme,* aimed at helping users assess historical resources in terms of their suitability for historical parks or zones. Finally, the *Historical Resources Inventory* was an extensive collection of data pertaining to a wide variety of known archaeological and historical resources across Ontario. The target for historical resources is to represent each of the theme segments in the province's human history.

Figure H, on page 34, provides an illustration of the major themes in the *Topical Organization of Ontario History,* along with an indication of the number of theme segments in each grouping.

APPENDIX 3

Evaluation Criteria and Size Standards - Wilderness and Natural Environment Parks and Zones

The size of wilderness parks is of critical importance for both ecological and recreation reasons. However, the application of both ecological and recreational considerations to a particular area will often lead to differing conclusions on desirable size. Also, size requirements for both ecological and recreational viability vary tremendously depending on the landscape in question. No inflexible standard can be adopted, but some approaches to the problem can be outlined.

A considerable amount of research has been done into the size requirements of an ecologically viable wilderness area. This question may be approached by determining a viable area for the protection of a landscape unit or forest complex, or a viable area for the preservation of a community of animal species.

From the landscape viewpoint, the only conclusion which can be drawn is that size requirements vary with the landscape in question. For example, a one hectare island could be viable as wilderness, if it were remote enough and sufficiently well protected from intrusive influences. Such conditions do not exist in Ontario, however, and in any case a unit of such size would hardly be a significant or representative Ontario landscape. Even a small watershed tributary to a river draining into Hudson Bay may be 500,000 ha (1,236,000 acres) or more in size. The area required to protect a viable forest complex also varies substantially. In a very old forest, adequate representation of various age classes would require substantial area; for instance, one proposal recommends a 194,000 ha (480,000 acres) size minimum.

Those who have emphasized the viability of animal communities have studied the species diversity and species extinction rates in various islands and other isolated areas, and the range requirements of various animals. Keep in mind that as resource and recreational development in Northern Ontario gradually approaches the boundaries of wilderness parks, these parks will increasingly become “islands” or refuges of plant and animal species and communities sensitive to such development. Large-bodied carnivores at the top of the food chain, such as polar bears, wolves, and lynx, have enormous area requirements. For example, one study has suggested that one pack of 12 wolves - a minimal population - requires an area of 60,000 to 72,000 ha (148,000 to 178,000 acres) in size.

In order to protect plant or animal species and communities, one general rule can therefore be laid down. The larger the area set aside, the more effectively these features will be protected.

On a recreational basis, desirable size can be related to mode of travel by the interior user, trip configuration, travel distance per day, and duration of stay. Based on known use in Algonquin and Quetico parks, an *average* wilderness canoe trip is about 81 km (50 miles) in duration; that is, 6 days, averaging 8 to 9 miles each day. A *minimum* trip might be 48km (30 miles), or 4 days, averaging 7 to 8 miles each day. If we assume that these trips form the perimeters of complete circles, and that buffers 5km in width are required outside the perimeters to protect resources from intrusive influences, then suitable sizes can be suggested. For the average 81 km trip, this would be 101,000 ha (249,000 acres); for the minimum 48km trip, the size becomes 50,000 ha (124,000 acres).

Another approach involves assuming that wilderness users take a more linear trip and travel into the park interior. If we assume that the user travels from one edge of the park across to another edge in a straight line and returns to the point of origin, then the park must have a minimum width of one-half the trip length. Again assuming a circular dimension, this would require a 129,000 ha (318,000 acres) park for the 81 km trip, or a 45,000 ha (112,000 acres) park for the 48km trip. While wilderness travellers do not in fact follow a straight line, neither do wilderness units conform to the most efficient configuration of a circle.

Clearly, ecologically viable and recreationally valuable wilderness parks require very substantial areas. Notwithstanding the limitations of this approach, some size standards need to be set for land use planning purposes in the province. A minimum and mean are stated below, but considerable variation from the mean will undoubtedly be needed. In a number of cases, the mean size must be substantially exceeded; otherwise the “average” 81 km wilderness trip will become the maximum possible.

In keeping with the philosophy and objectives of wilderness parks, parks representative of their site regions should average not less than 100,000 ha (247,000 acres) in size, with 50,000 ha (124,000 acres) as an absolute minimum. In the two most southerly site regions, 6E and 7E, it is not feasible to establish any wilderness parks.

Complementary wilderness zones in Natural Environment and waterway parks will also be established. These smaller units ensure the widest possible representation of wilderness environments and the greatest possible accessibility to them, particularly in Southern Ontario. These units serve those travelling by foot in particular, as their trips do not require as large a land area to provide a wilderness experience.

Wilderness zones should as an absolute minimum be not less than 2 000 ha (4,000 acres) in size and will generally be considerably larger, ranging up to 50,000 ha. A wilderness zone should be as ecologically viable a unit as possible. It should also afford a wilderness experience appropriate to its recreation capability. An ecologically viable unit of a few thousand hectares of rugged terrain (for example, 5,000 ha, or 10km by 5km), where travel would be primarily by land rather than on water, would allow the hiker to immerse himself in wilderness for a day or overnight. Where water travel is appropriate, a larger area is required to provide a comparable experience.

In preliminary quantitative evaluation, a standard unit of area per user-day, per year, may be used. The area required to provide one back-country user day per year varies tremendously with the physical environment. It is estimated that in Quetico Park, and in the currently designated primitive zones in Algonquin Park, approximately 1.75 acres (0.7 ha) are can provide one back-country user-day per year. In Lake Superior Park, approximately 8 acres (3 ha) are required to provide 1 back-country user-day per year, and in Polar Bear Park, it becomes 100 acres (40 ha). This type of broad approach may thus be used *only* in preliminary investigation.

In keeping with the philosophy and objectives of natural environment parks, parks representative of their site district should be not less than 2,000 ha (4,900 acres) in size. This is a minimum required to protect representative landscapes and provide enough scope for low-intensity recreation activities.

In certain southern Ontario site districts, this size standard may be impossible to attain; in fact, in some areas natural environment parks may not be established at all due to the degree of existing development. Where possible, therefore, additional natural environment parks may be established

to respond to recreational needs in site districts within day or weekend use range of major population centres. These parks may be somewhat less than 2,000 ha in size. In site districts where waterway parks include suitable blocks of land in natural environment zones, or where wilderness parks include representative natural environments, it may not be necessary to establish natural environment parks.

Potential natural environment parks will be evaluated for their suitability as natural environment parks and their consequent ability to contribute to the achievement of parks system objectives, through the incorporation of significant natural, cultural, and recreational values in representative natural environments. The physiographic and ecological integrity of the prospective areas will be evaluated. Where appropriate to enhance ecological self-containment, natural environment parks should be bounded by natural features such as topographic formations, waterways, etc. Potential boundaries for parks, including large-scale ecosystems, should include adequate area to buffer the core ecosystems from intrusive influences.

Prospective areas will also be evaluated for their historical significance. Areas should include the greatest possible diversity of special and representative landscape-related historical resources.

Finally, the ability of the area to provide low-intensity recreational opportunities will also be considered. The landscape should provide a variety of opportunities for non-mechanized recreation activities based on interaction with the natural and cultural values. Units capable of supporting more intensive activities, such as day use and car camping, are desirable complements.

We will give priority to qualifying areas where natural environment park potential is in danger of deterioration due to lack of protection.

Overall, a prime consideration in the establishment of any natural environment park will be its ability to: protect significant natural and cultural resources; and meet significant deficiencies in day or weekend use low - intensity, natural environment-based recreational opportunities. These considerations lie above and beyond those required to complete the basic system.

APPENDIX 4

THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARK SYSTEM			
Park Name	**Class**	**Area (ha)**	**Region**
Aaron	Recreation	116.69	Northwest
Abitibi-DeTroyes	Waterway	11,068.00	Northeast
Adam Creek	Nature Reserve	50.00	Northeast
Agassiz Peatlands	Nature Reserve	2,315.00	Northwest
Albany River	Waterway	95,100.00	Northwest
Albert Lake Mesa	Nature Reserve	130.00	Northwest
Algonquin	Natural Environment	772,300.00	Algonquin Park
Alliston Pinery	Nature Reserve	68.08	Southwest
Arrow Lake	Recreation	430.00	Northwest
Arrowhead	Natural Environment	1,237.00	Central
Arrowhead Peninsula	Nature Reserve	815.30	Northwest
Aubrey Falls	Natural Environment	4,860.00	Northeast
Awenda	Natural Environment	2,915.00	Central
Balsam Lake	Recreation	448.81	Central
Bass Lake	Recreation	65.00	Central
Batchawana Bay	Recreation	169.03	Northeast
Bayview Escarpment	Nature Reserve	439.00	Southwest
Bell Bay	Natural Environment	404.00	Central
Big East River			Central
Bigwind Lake	Natural Environment	1,967.00	Central
Biscotasi Lake	Recreation	1,238.00	Northeast
Black Creek	Natural Environment	335.00	Southwest
Blue Jay Creek	Natural Environment	245.70	Northeast
Blue Lake	Recreation	353.71	Northwest
Bon Echo	Natural Environment	6,643.96	Southeast
Bonheur River Kame	Nature Reserve	800.00	Northwest
Bonnechere	Recreation	162.00	Central
Bonnechere River	Waterway	1,198.00	Central
Boyne Valley	Natural Environment	431.00	Southwest
Brightsand River	Waterway	41,250.00	Northwest
Bronte Creek	Recreation	639.57	Southwest
Butler Lake	Nature Reserve	3,400.00	Northwest
Cabot Head	Nature Reserve	4,514.08	Southwest
Caliper Lake	Recreation	147.35	Northwest
Carson Lake	Recreation	9.53	Central
Castle Creek	Nature Reserve	1,075.00	Northwest
Cavern Lake	Nature Reserve	188.99	Northwest
Centennial Lake	Nature Reserve	530.00	Southeast
Chapleau-Nemegosenda River	Waterway	8,165.00	Northeast
Charleston Lake	Natural Environment	2,333.70	Southeast

Chutes	Recreation	108.32	Northeast
Coral Rapids	Nature Reserve	12.00	Northeast
Craigleith	Recreation	65.69	Central
Craig's Pit	Nature Reserve	530.00	Northwest
Cranberry Lake	Nature Reserve	2,800.00	Northwest
Dana-Jowsey Lakes	Recreation	2,538.30	Northeast
Darlington	Recreation	208.82	Southeast
Devil's Glen	Recreation	59.34	Central
Devon Road Mesa	Nature Reserve	60.00	Northwest
Divide Ridge	Nature Reserve	235.00	Northwest
Dividing Lake	Nature Reserve	350.00	Central
Driftwood	Recreation	422.30	Northeast
Duclos Point	Nature Reserve	111.00	Central
Duncan Escarpment	Nature Reserve	161.00	Central
Earl Rowe	Recreation	312.42	Southwest
East Sister Island	Nature Reserve	53.02	Southwest
Edward Island	Nature Reserve	600.00	Northwest
Egan Chutes	Nature Reserve	322.00	Southeast
Emily	Recreation	83.37	Southeast
Esker Lakes	Natural Environment	3,237.25	Northeast
Fairbank	Recreation	105.22	Northeast
Fawn River	Waterway	12,134.00	Northwest
Ferris	Recreation	198.30	Southeast
Finlayson Point	Recreation	37.00	Northeast
Fish Point	Nature Reserve	109.78	Southwest
Fitzroy	Recreation	184.95	Southeast
Five Mile Lake	Recreation	456.50	Northeast
Forks of the Credit	Natural Environment	282.00	Southwest
Foy Property	Recreation	147.30	Central
Fraleigh Lake	Nature Reserve	825.00	Northwest
Frederick House Lake	Nature Reserve	13.00	Northeast
French River	Waterway	52,740.00	Northeast
Frontenac	Natural Environment	5,214.00	Southeast
Fushimi Lake	Recreation	5,294.00	Northeast
Gibson River	Nature Reserve	167.95	Central
Gravel River	Nature Reserve	763.00	Northwest
Greenwater	Natural Environment	5,350.13	Northeast
Grundy Lake	Natural Environment	2,553.65	Central
Halfway Lake	Natural Environment	4,730.00	Northeast
Hardy Lake	Natural Environment	765.00	Central
Hicks-Oke Bog	Nature Reserve	5,880.00	Northeast
Hockley Valley	Nature Reserve	377.70	Southwest
Holland Landing Prairie	Nature Reserve	34.20	Central
Hope Bay Forest	Nature Reserve	353.00	Southwest
Indian Point	Natural Environment	947.00	Central

Inverhuron	Recreation	288.10	Southwest
Ipperwash	Recreation	55.80	Southwest
Ira Lake	Nature Reserve	30.00	Southwest
Ivanhoe Lake	Natural Environment	1,589.24	Northeast
J. Albert Bauer	Natural Environment	163.00	Central
James N. Allan	Recreation	117.00	Southwest
John E. Pearce	Nature Reserve	67.99	Southwest
Johnston Harbour-Pine Tree Point	Nature Reserve	929.00	Southwest
Kabitotikwia River	Nature Reserve	1,965.00	Northwest
Kaiashk	Nature Reserve	780.00	Northwest
Kakabeka Falls	Natural Environment	500.00	Northwest
Kama Hill	Nature Reserve	1.00	Northwest
Kap-Kig-Iwan	Natural Environment	328.00	Northeast
Kashabowie	Natural Environment	2,055.00	Northwest
Kawartha Highlands	Natural Environment	1,800.00	Southeast
Kenny Forest	Natural Environment	2,200.00	Northeast
Kesagami	Wilderness	55,977.00	Northeast
Kettle Lakes	Recreation	1,260.79	Northeast
Killarney	Wilderness	48,500.00	Northeast
Killbear	Natural Environment	1,756.39	Central
Komoka	Recreation	198.00	Southwest
Kopka River	Waterway	16,200.00	Northwest
La Cloche	Natural Environment	7,448.00	Northeast
La Motte Lake	Recreation	575.00	Northeast
La Verendrye	Waterway	18,280.00	Northwest
Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater	Wilderness	72,400.00	Northeast
Lake Nipigon	Natural Environment	918.96	Northwest
Lake of the Woods	Natural Environment	11,799.75	Northwest
Lake on the Mountain	Recreation	103.60	Southeast
Lake St. Peter	Recreation	478.16	Southeast
Lake Superior	Natural Environment	155,646.98	Northeast
Larder River	Waterway	2,500.00	Northeast
Le Pate	Nature Reserve	250.00	Northwest
Lighthouse Point	Nature Reserve	96.00	Southwest
Limestone Islands	Nature Reserve	450.00	Central
Lion's Head	Nature Reserve	526.00	Southwest
Little Abitibi	Natural Environment	20,000.00	Northeast
Little Cove	Nature Reserve	15.78	Southwest
Little Current River	Waterway	9,930.00	Northwest
Little Greenwater Lake	Nature Reserve	244.00	Northwest
Livingstone Point	Nature Reserve	1,800.00	Northwest
Lola Lake	Nature Reserve	6,572.00	Northwest
Long Point	Recreation	150.00	Southwest
Lower Madawaska River	Waterway	1,200.00	Central
MacGregor Point	Natural Environment	1,204.34	Southwest

MacLeod	Recreation	74.06	Northwest
Makobe-Grays River	Waterway	1,427.00	Northeast
Manitou Islands	Nature Reserve	1,925.80	Northeast
Mara	Recreation	45.25	Central
Mark S. Burnham	Recreation	39.41	Southeast
Marten River	Recreation	400.25	Northeast
Mashkinonje	Recreation	939.70	Northeast
Matawatchan	Nature Reserve	64.75	Southeast
Matawin River	Nature Reserve	2,615.00	Northwest
Mattawa River	Waterway	3,257.80	Northeast
Maynard Lake	Nature Reserve	30.00	Northwest
McRae Point	Recreation	137.60	Central
Menzel Centennial	Nature Reserve	627.00	Southeast
Michipicoten	Historical	289.00	Northeast
Michipicoten Island	Natural Environment	36,740.00	Northeast
Mikisew	Recreation	130.71	Central
Minnitaki Kames	Nature Reserve	4,422.00	Northwest
Misery Bay	Nature Reserve	760.00	Northeast
Missinaibi	Waterway	99,090.00	Northeast
Mississagi	Natural Environment	4,900.00	Northeast
Mississagi Delta	Nature Reserve	2,395.00	Northeast
Mississagi River	Waterway	24,534.00	Northeast
Mono Cliffs	Natural Environment	732.00	Southwest
Montreal River	Nature Reserve	43.70	Northeast
Morris Tract	Nature Reserve	58.70	Southwest
Murphy's Point	Natural Environment	1,238.78	Southeast
Nagagami Lake	Nature Reserve	1,650.00	Northeast
Nagagamisis	Natural Environment	8,131.35	Northeast
Nakina Moraine	Natural Environment	5,319.00	Northwest
Neys	Natural Environment	7,322.8	Northwest
Noisy River	Nature Reserve	378.20	Central
North Beach	Recreation	89.44	Southeast
North Driftwood River	Nature Reserve	3.00	Northeast
Nottawasaga Lookout	Nature Reserve	130.00	Central
Oastler Lake	Recreation	31.57	Central
Obabika River	Waterway	20,520.00	Northeast
Obatanga	Natural Environment	9,409.27	Northeast
O'Donnell Point	Nature Reserve	875.00	Central
Ojibway	Natural Environment	2,630.55	Northwest
Ojibway Prairie	Nature Reserve	65.12	Southwest
Opasquia	Wilderness	473,000.00	Northwest
Opeongo River	Waterway	955.00	Algonquin Park
Otoskwin-Attawapiskat River	Waterway	82,529.00	Northwest
Ottawa River	Waterway	125.05	Central
Ouimet Canyon	Nature Reserve	777.02	Northwest

Oxtongue River-Ragged Falls	Waterway	507.00	Central
Pakwash	Natural Environment	3,993.00	Northwest
Pancake Bay	Recreation	489.70	Northeast
Pantagruel Creek	Nature Reserve	2,685.00	Northwest
Peter's Woods	Nature Reserve	33.43	Southeast
Petroglyphs	Historical	1,643.00	Southeast
Pigeon River	Natural Environment	949.00	Northwest
Pipestone River	Waterway	97,375.00	Northwest
Point Farms	Recreation	307.57	Southwest
Polar Bear	Wilderness	2,355,200.00	Northeast
Porphyry Island	Nature Reserve	106.84	Northwest
Port Bruce	Recreation	5.20	Southwest
Port Burwell	Recreation	231.00	Southwest
Potholes	Nature Reserve	247.00	Northeast
Prairie River Mouth	Nature Reserve	380.00	Northwest
Presqu'ile	Natural Environment	936.83	Southeast
Pretty River Valley	Natural Environment	808.28	Central
Puff Island	Nature Reserve	9.00	Northwest
Pushkin Hills	Nature Reserve	5.00	Northeast
Quackenbush	Historical	40.00	Southeast
Quetico	Wilderness	475,782.49	Northwest
Rainbow Falls	Recreation	575.59	Northwest
Red Sucker Point	Nature Reserve	360.00	Northwest
Rene Brunelle	Recreation	3,015.00	Northeast
Restoule	Natural Environment	1,200.00	Central
Rideau River	Recreation	97.93	Southeast
Rock Point	Recreation	187.00	Southwest
Rondeau	Natural Environment	3,254.00	Southwest
Round Lake	Nature Reserve	2,585.00	Central
Rushing River	Recreation	340.00	Northwest
Sable Islands	Nature Reserve	2,078.00	Northwest
Samuel de Champlain	Natural Environment	2,550.00	Northeast
Sandbanks	Natural Environment	1,509.79	Southeast
Sandbar Lake	Natural Environment	5,083.00	Northwest
Sandpoint Island	Natural Environment	914.00	Northwest
Sauble Falls	Recreation	20.24	Southwest
Schreiber Channel	Nature Reserve	12.91	Northwest
Sedgman Lake	Nature Reserve	5,710.00	Northwest
Selkirk	Recreation	72.64	Southwest
Serpent Mounds	Historical	135.12	Southeast
Severn River	Waterway	82,960.00	Northwest
Sextant Rapids	Nature Reserve	4.00	Northeast
Shallow River	Nature Reserve	2.25	Northeast
Sharbot Lake	Recreation	68.80	Southeast
Shesheeb Bay	Nature Reserve	275.00	Northwest

Short Hills	Natural Environment	660.55	Southwest
Sibbald Point	Recreation	225.01	Central
Silent Lake	Natural Environment	1,788.00	Southeast
Silver Falls	Natural Environment	3,260.77	Northwest
Silver Lake	Recreation	43.23	Southeast
Sioux Narrows	Recreation	129.50	Northwest
Six Mile Lake	Recreation	94.30	Central
Slate Islands	Natural Environment	6,570.00	Northwest
Sleeping Giant	Natural Environment	24,400.00	Northwest
Smokey Head-White Bluff	Nature Reserve	346.70	Southwest
Solace	Waterway	5,943.00	Northeast
South Bay	Recreation	1,525.00	Central
Springwater	Recreation	47.31	Central
Spruce Islands	Nature Reserve	970.00	Northwest
Steel River	Waterway	11,240.00	Northwest
Stoco Fen	Nature Reserve	101.18	Southeast
Sturgeon Bay	Recreation	14.23	Central
Sturgeon River	Waterway	3,350.00	Northeast
Thackeray	Nature Reserve	116.00	Northeast
The Massasauga	Natural Environment	13,105.00	Central
The Pinery	Natural Environment	2,532.19	Southwest
The Shoals	Natural Environment	10,644.00	Northeast
Thompson Island	Nature Reserve	145.00	Northwest
Tide Lake	Nature Reserve	54.00	Northwest
Tidewater	Natural Environment	979.78	Northeast
Timber Island	Nature Reserve	44.00	Southeast
Trillium Woods	Nature Reserve	10.12	Southwest
Trout Lake	Nature Reserve	7,150.00	Northwest
Turkey Point	Recreation	315.63	Southwest
Turtle River	Waterway	40,052.00	Northwest
Upper Madawaska River	Waterway	1,085.00	Algonquin Park
Voyageur	Recreation	1,464.53	Southeast
W.J.B. Greenwood	Recreation	465.00	Northeast
Wabakimi	Wilderness1	892,061.00	Northwest
Wakami Lake	Recreation	8,806.27	Northeast
Wanapitei	Natural Environment	3,412.85	Northeast
Wasaga Beach	Recreation	1,844.30	Central
Waubaushene Beaches	Nature Reserve	33.84	Central
West Bay	Nature Reserve	1,120.00	Northwest
West Sandy Island	Nature Reserve	266.00	Northeast
Westmeath	Natural Environment	610.00	Central
Wheatley	Recreation	241.20	Southwest

White Lake	Natural Environment	1,726.05	Northeast
White Lake Peatlands	Nature Reserve	992.00	Northeast
Williams Island	Nature Reserve	8.00	Northeast
Windigo Bay	Nature Reserve	8,378.00	Northwest
Windigo Point	Nature Reserve	513.00	Northwest
Windy Lake	Recreation	118.45	Northeast
Winisk River	Waterway	141,100.00	Northwest
Winnange Lake	Natural Environment	4,745.00	Northwest
Wolf Island	Natural Environment	223.00	Southeast
Woodland Caribou	Wilderness	450,000.00	Northwest
TOTAL PARKS 271	TOTAL AREA (ha)	7,038,406.37 ha	