

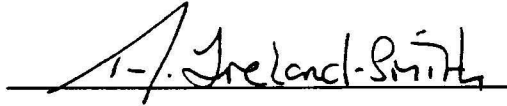


DuPont

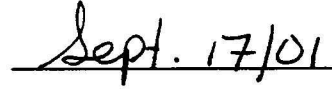
Terms of Reference

Approval Statement

I am pleased to approve the Terms of Reference for the DuPont Provincial Park (Nature Reserve) management planning process. These Terms of Reference meet all requirements as set out in the Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual and will effectively guide the process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Ireland-Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Adair Ireland-Smith
Managing Director
Ontario Parks

A handwritten date "Sept. 17/01" written in black ink over a horizontal line.

Date

1. Background

DuPont Provincial Park (Nature Reserve) protects 612 ha of land immediately east of the village of Morrisburg on the St. Lawrence River. The site is recommended to be regulated as a provincial park under the *Provincial Parks Act* and will be referred to as DuPont Provincial Park throughout this and subsequent planning documents. Included in the protected area are two provincially significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest: Hoasic Creek Hardwoods and Riverside Marsh, a coastal wetland complex. This Nature Reserve supports more than 365 plant taxa and provides protection for one of the largest nesting colonies of Great Blue Heron in southeastern Ontario.

The property was acquired from DuPont Canada Inc. by The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) for the purpose of protecting its biological diversity and promoting the understanding of ecological processes of the area. In 1997, DuPont Canada donated 227 ha of property in the Hoasic Creek Hardwoods. In the second phase of this co-operative project, DuPont Canada sold 229 ha adjacent to their original donation and donated a further 156 ha along the St. Lawrence River to the NCC.

The NCC and Ontario Parks entered into a custodianship agreement as part of the Ontario Parks Legacy 2000 program. This agreement sees Ontario Parks manage the property, with the intention to develop a Land Holding Agreement and to regulate the site under the *Provincial Parks Act*. In accordance with the Custodianship Agreement, the site is recognized as having interim Provincial Nature Reserve status until it is regulated. An Interim Management Statement (IMS) was prepared and approved in 1999.

A Park Management Plan is now needed to provide long term direction for the protection, development, management, and use of the park's resources. The management planning process should address rehabilitation of disturbed areas, protection of natural values, permitted activities, and trails and access.

2. Planning Area

The planning area includes the entire 612 ha currently owned by the NCC.

Ontario Parks is committed to an ecosystem approach during park planning and management. The property boundary is not a physical barrier separating the site from the surrounding landscape; therefore, adjacent land management has the potential to influence the resource management and stewardship of the park. Of special concern is Hoasic Creek, which flows into the park from the north. Activities on lands adjacent to the park and the creek will be considered throughout the management planning process. This ecosystem management approach is a cooperative and participatory one, and does not imply provincial control over private property rights. Ontario Parks will not consider acquiring private land unless property that would enhance the values of the park is offered for sale by willing vendors.

3. Planning Team and Responsibilities

The planning team will consist of:

- Consultants (ESG International)
- OLL Park Planner, Ontario Parks, South Eastern Zone, Kingston
- Park Superintendent, Voyageur Provincial Park

- A representative from the Kemptville District Office, Ministry of Natural Resources.

In addition to preparing the park management plan and its various components, the planning team will be responsible for direct consultation with interest groups, municipalities, First Nations, and the general public. Specific team member responsibilities will be as follows:

The OLL Park Planner, Ontario Parks, South Eastern Zone, will provide planning and project administration support for the consultants. The Park Superintendent will provide the consultants with information. Both the OLL Planner and the Park Superintendent will act as representatives of Ontario Parks during public consultation. The Consultants will be the lead in organizing and completing all stages in the management planning process, and providing necessary documentation. Kemptville District staff will provide advisory or technical support as needed.

Final drafts of planning materials will be reviewed by the Manager, Ontario Parks South Eastern Zone, and then recommended to the Managing Director of Ontario Parks for approval.

4. Integration of Interests and Information

Internal

Integration of the various resource management and stewardship interests will be addressed during the planning process. Various Ministry interests are represented by the members of the planning team. In addition, the planning team may call on other MNR staff, agencies, or organizations for input and information as needed throughout the planning project.

The following internal documents and reports, and any updates to them, will be used to guide the planning project and provide information:

- Ontario Provincial Parks Management Planning Manual (1992) and planning directives
- Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies (1992)
- Exemption Order MNR 59/2 made under the Environmental Assessment Act
- Coordinated Program Strategy for the Ministry of Natural Resources in Southern Ontario (1982)
- Beyond 2000, Ministry of Natural Resources Strategic Directions (2000)
- Custodianship Agreement between the NCC and Ontario Parks (1998)
- DuPont Provincial Park Interim Management Statement (1999)
- DuPont Provincial Park Life Science Checksheet (2001)
- DuPont Provincial Park Earth Science Checksheet (2001)
- DuPont Provincial Park Recreation Checksheet (2001)
- Heronry Assessment and Mapping at DuPont Provincial Park (2001)
- Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest in Site District 6-12. Draft.
- Cornwall District Land Use Guidelines (1983)
- Brockville District Land Use Guidelines (1983)

External

External integration may include, but is not limited to:

- The Township of South Dundas
- The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry
- South Dundas Chamber of Commerce
- The Nature Conservancy of Canada

- Members of key interest groups (FASTLINE, Thousand Islands Heritage Conservatory, St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences, DIAMONDS Conservation Land Trust, Parks Canada)
- Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (and local affiliates)
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (and local affiliates)
- Akwesasne Tribal Council

The following external documents will be used to guide and provide information for the planning project:

- Official Plan of the Township of Williamsburg (1985)
- Official Plan of the Village of Morrisburg (1985)

5. Planning Process and Schedule

The following tasks and schedule, summarized in Table 1, are intended to guide the project to completion of the approved management plan for DuPont Provincial Park.

5.1. Phase One – Terms of Reference

- Terms of reference for planning project are prepared, and approved by the Managing Director, Ontario Parks
- Planning team to guide the project is selected and briefed on issues and concerns
- Planning team consolidates background information files for use in planning project
- Mailing list for public consultation is compiled. This list will be reviewed and updated before each mailing
- Planning team prepares and distributes materials for public notice and invitation to participate in the planning project

5.2. Phase Two – Background Information, Issues, and Plan Alternatives

- Background information is reviewed and analyzed by the planning team
- Planning team prepares background information, issues, & plan alternatives document summarizing resource information, development, use, and management issues
- Background information, issues, and plan alternatives document is published and distributed for public review
- Planning team summarizes and analyzes public input, and prepares a summary of public input

5.3. Phase Three – Preliminary Management Plan

- Planning team reviews draft policies and develops preliminary management plan for approval by Ontario Parks
- Planning team prepares, prints, and distributes preliminary management plan
- Public input is solicited on draft policies in preliminary management plan, and input is summarized

5.4. Phase Four – Approved Management Plan

- Planning team acts on input, revising plan as needed
- Planning team prepares final management plan for Ontario Parks approval
- Upon approval, DuPont Provincial Park Management Plan is printed and distributed with final notice of opportunity to inspect the approved plan

6. Public Consultation/Communications

Consultation will occur at all stages of the planning process, as noted in Table 1. The public, First Nations, interest groups, and other stakeholders will be notified of the following:

- invitation to participate in the planning process and review the Terms of Reference
- opportunity to review the Background Information, Issues, and Plan Alternatives document
- opportunity to review the Preliminary Park Management Plan
- opportunity to inspect the Approved Park Management Plan

At the start of the project, a public notice will be issued announcing that a Park Management Plan will be prepared and inviting interested parties to take part in the planning process. The public notice will be in the form of direct written invitations to local and regional offices of relevant government ministries, municipalities, interest groups and First Nations, adjacent landowners, and individual members of the public on the mailing list that will be compiled. Proposal and decision file notices will be posted on the Electronic Registry as required under the Environmental Bill of Rights. General notice will include advertisements in local media and will advise the general public of the opportunity to be involved.

Public open houses, meetings, and presentations may be held as required throughout the process. If optional planning steps are necessary, additional public consultation opportunities will be provided to address them.

7. Budget

Five thousand dollars was allocated towards the project in the 2000/2001 fiscal year to cover expenses for the initiation of Phase 1. Additional funding of \$33,000 was allocated for 2001/2002 to complete the remainder of the management planning process. Further funding may be required in the 2002/2003 fiscal year to complete the final stage of the project.

Table 1: DuPont Provincial Park Management Planning Schedule Summary

Planning Process Stage	Description	Consultation / Communications	Proposed Timetable
Phase 1 Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify scope of planning project; prepare Terms of Reference Prepare invitation to participate Prepare contact database (mandatory contact list, adjacent landowners, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An invitation to participate and review the approved Terms of Reference mailed out Public notices placed in local media Posting of proposal on EBR registry 	Feb – Sept 2001
Phase 2 Background Information: Issues and Plan Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather and review background information Publish and distribute Background Information, Issues, and Plan Alternatives document Evaluate and summarize public input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings and presentations as required A notice of opportunity to review background information and provide input mailed out Public notices placed in local media Posting of proposal on EBR registry 	Oct – Nov 2001
Phase 3 Preliminary Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and review draft policies Prepare Preliminary Park Management Plan for review and approval Solicit and summarize public input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Park Management Plan distributed Meetings and presentations as required Public notices mailed and placed in local media Posting of proposal on EBR registry 	Jan – Feb 2002
Phase 4 Approved Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare final Management Plan for approval (content requirements defined by Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report distributed to key groups and individuals Open house, meetings, and presentations Public notices mailed and placed in local media Posting of final decision on EBR registry 	April 2002