



DuPont

Background Information

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Prepared by ESG International and Ontario Parks

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Approval Statement

I am pleased to approve the DuPont Background Information document as part of the second stage of the management planning process for the park. The information outlined in this document reflects the intent of Ontario Parks to protect the natural and cultural features of the recommended DuPont Provincial Park. Following public review of this document, draft policies will be refined and a Preliminary Management Plan will be prepared for the park as Stage 3 of this management planning process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Immerseel', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Immerseel
Zone Manager
Ontario Parks, South Eastern Zone

January 2002

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1.0 Introduction

Nature reserves, like the recommended DuPont Provincial Park, are areas selected to represent the distinctive natural habitats and landforms of the province and are protected for educational and research purposes. The land encompassed by the park was acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) from DuPont Canada, through a combination of purchases and donations in 1997 and 1998, in order to establish the site as a nature reserve. It is intended that DuPont Provincial Park will be regulated under the *Provincial Parks Act* in 2002. Although not yet regulated, the area is managed as a nature reserve class provincial park by Ontario Parks, through an agreement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC).

The NCC acquired the property in order to protect its outstanding natural features. The 612 ha area has one of the few remaining natural creeks in southeastern Ontario. Hoasic Creek provides spawning and nursery habitat for a variety of fish species. The creek, its associated mature hardwood forest, and Riverside Marsh are the prominent landscape features on the property and are considered candidate Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). The site also supports a great diversity of plant and animal species. The hardwood forest supports one of the largest nesting areas for great blue heron in southeastern Ontario.

This property will be referred to as DuPont Provincial Park, with the understanding that it will be regulated as a provincial park in the near future. In 1996, administration of provincial parks was assumed by Ontario Parks, a new organization within the Ministry of Natural Resources. Ontario Parks plans,

develops, and manages the provincial parks system. The goal of Ontario Parks is to protect provincially significant natural, cultural and recreational environments, and to provide a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, in a system of provincial parks.

1.1. Why a Management Plan?

Ontario Parks prepares management plans for individual provincial parks to indicate how it proposes to develop, manage, and operate them. Management plans show how individual parks will contribute to achieving the objectives of the provincial parks system, and set out policies that will maintain or enhance that contribution over a 20 year period.

DuPont Provincial Park is a new protected area, and does not yet have a management plan. Management direction currently comes from the 1999 Interim Management Statement, a document intended to provide short-term direction until a management plan is completed. The preparation of a management plan provides the opportunity to address management issues, consult with the public, and establish management policies.

1.2. Planning Issues

Several issues have been identified to date that require public input. Further background to the issues is provided in subsequent sections.

Hoasic Creek

While Hoasic Creek is one of the least disturbed watercourses in southeastern Ontario, DuPont Provincial Park will only provide protection for the lower 2 km of its 19 km length. Water quality in Hoasic Creek is significantly degraded due to high levels of nutrients and bacteria from upstream sources.

Rohmax Lands

DuPont Provincial Park surrounds the 100 ha Rohmax industrial property on three of its four sides. The actual plant only occupies a small part of the property and much of the rest is indistinguishable from the adjacent parklands. In particular, the lands to the north of the plant play an important ecological role as they encompass a wetland and a small section of Hoasic Creek.

Motorized trail activity

Motorized trail activities are not permitted within nature class provincial parks. At the present time a snowmobile trail crosses the reserve. In summer ATVs and motorbikes occasionally use this trail or leave it for off-trail riding.

Riverside Marsh

The Riverside Marsh is essentially a cattail marsh with limited vegetation diversity. The relative impacts of various disturbances are unknown and may be hindering the establishment of a more diverse ecosystem.

Heritage Appreciation

At the present time DuPont Provincial Park provides very limited opportunities for heritage appreciation. There are no parking facilities or developed hiking trails and the thick vegetation and poor drainage discourages access.

Community Participation

A key factor in establishing long-term support for a protected area is involving the local community in the decision-making and management processes.

Invasive Species

Most of the park area has had significant impact from human activity including farming and the flooding of the shoreline by the St. Lawrence Seaway. The park is also surrounded by areas where native plants and animal species have been displaced by development (e.g.

roads, urbanization) or by land management practices (e.g. farming, gravel pits). As a result, many invasive non-native plant and animal species have established themselves (e.g. carp, buckthorn, purple loosestrife).

Inappropriate Access and Dumping

The long period of time during which there was no ownership presence in the park (DuPont purchased the property in the 1960s) allowed the establishment of inappropriate activities including garbage dumping and bush parties. There is now a need to change this perspective towards the park.

1.3. Planning Process

In the spring of 2001, funds were secured for management planning and ESG International was retained to carry out the work on behalf of and in consultation with Ontario Parks. In October 2001 the public was advised that management planning was beginning through a letter to interested parties, local area newspaper advertisements, and notification on the internet (via the Environmental Registry established under the *Environmental Bill of Rights*).

Production and public review of this Background Information document will complete the second stage of the planning process. After Ontario Parks and its consultant have reviewed your responses to this document, a Preliminary Management Plan will be prepared. This proposed plan will include preferred policy alternatives and detailed park management policies. The preliminary plan will be distributed for public review and comment. Based on the input received, Ontario Parks will prepare, approve and distribute the Management Plan for DuPont Provincial Park.

2.0 The Park And Its Region

2.1. Why is DuPont Provincial Park Special?

Mature hardwood forests

Situated in an area of the province where less than 20% of the land surface is forested, DuPont Provincial Park supports a mature forest with a rich diversity of tree species including oak, ash, basswood, birch, beech, white pine and hemlock. Some of these trees are over 150 years old.

Heronry

A heronry in the northwest corner of the park is home to over 200 nesting pairs of great blue herons every year. Located primarily in living trees within a forested wetland and buffered from surrounding development, the heronry provides nesting sites for herons that feed in the rich marshlands along the St. Lawrence River.

Hoasic Creek

Hoasic Creek is a winding, slow moving, 19 km watercourse whose lower two kilometres flow through the park. It drains a watershed of 67 km² of flat wetlands, farms and forested land. It provides spawning habitat for a variety of fish.

Riverside Marsh

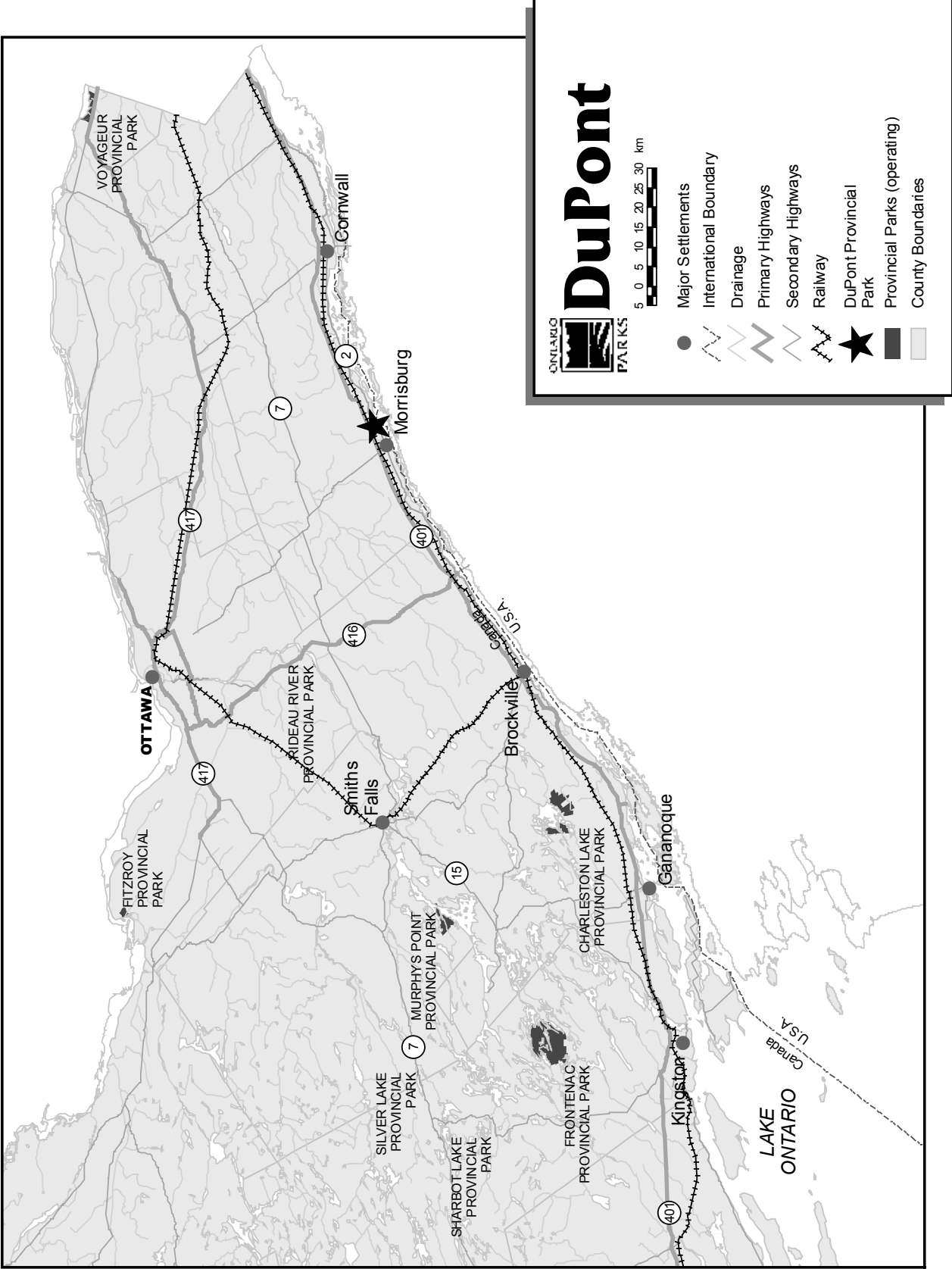
Riverside Marsh, a provincially significant coastal wetland complex, was created by the development of the St. Lawrence Seaway in the late 1950s. The raised water level flooded the shoreline, creating MacDonald Island in the process. The marsh extends to the east onto St. Lawrence Parks Commission property. It provides habitat for a variety of shorebirds as well as fish spawning sites.

2.2. DuPont's setting

DuPont Provincial Park is located in the Township of South Dundas, in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, one kilometre east of the village of Morrisburg. The Park is 80 km south of downtown Ottawa, 35 km west of Cornwall and 120 km east of Kingston (Figure 1, Regional Context).

The Township of South Dundas has a population of 11,000 with a quarter of the population residing in the village of Morrisburg. Tourism, farming and small industry form the basis of the local economy. Attractions include Upper Canada Village, the Chrysler Battlefield and the Iroquois Locks on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Figure 1. DuPont Provincial Park Regional Context



The park is administered by the South Eastern Zone of Ontario Parks. The closest nearby provincial parks are Rideau River near Kemptville and Voyageur on the Ottawa River east of Hawkesbury. To the east of the park there is a series of parks and nature reserves, managed by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, located along the shores and on islands within the St. Lawrence River. These include the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Situated in a region that has had significant impact from human activities, DuPont Provincial Park demonstrates the ability of nature to regenerate and thrive under challenging circumstances. Within the proposed park there are areas that are representative of the landscape of southeastern Ontario

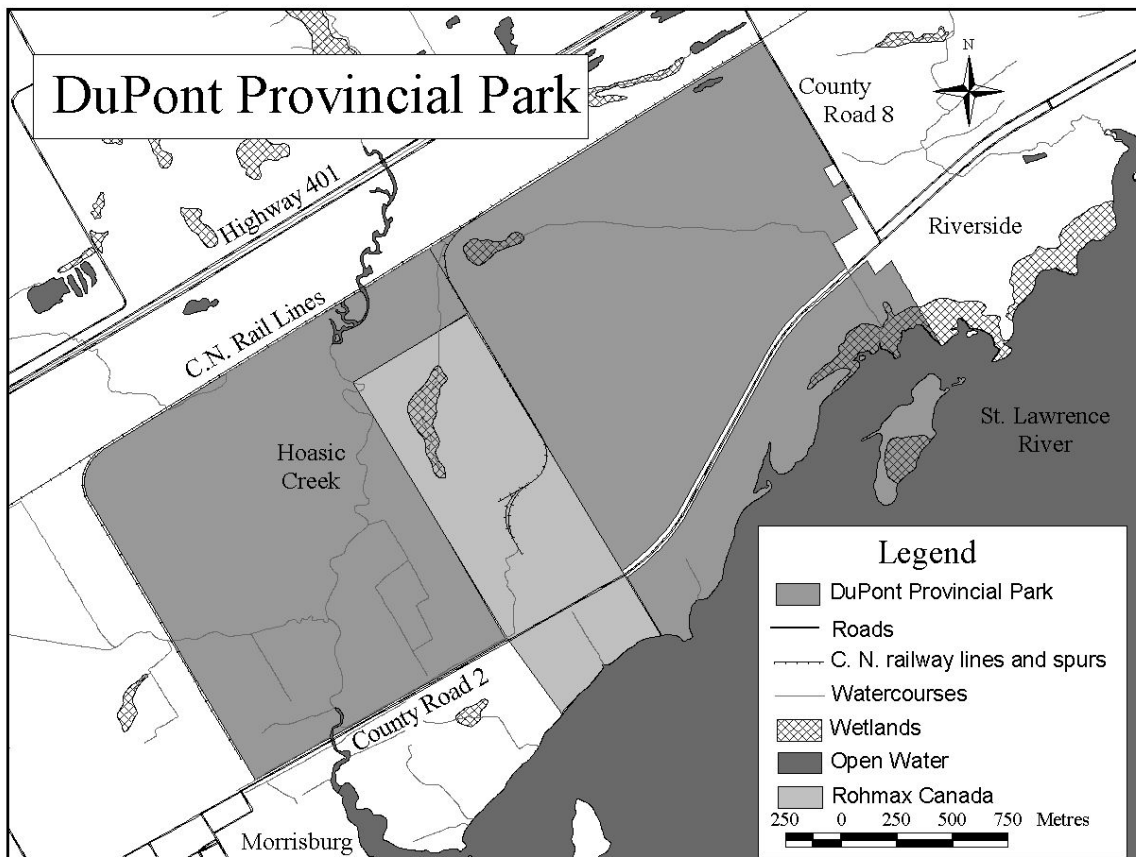
before it was colonized over 200 years ago. Other parts of the park include abandoned farmland that is gradually being reclaimed by nature through forest succession, and the wetlands created by the flooding of the shoreline following construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

2.3. Access/Transportation Routes

County Road 2 is the primary access road to the park and forms the southern boundary of the western half of the property. In the eastern half it splits the main body of the park from the St. Lawrence River waterfront portion (Figure 2, Access and Boundaries). County Road 2 provides paved bicycle lanes.

County Road 8, situated on the eastern

Figure 2. DuPont Provincial Park Access and Boundaries



boundary of the park, provides access to the Riverside Marsh and St. Lawrence River. There are no designated parking areas or visitor facilities within the park.

The main line of the Canadian National Railway (CNR) forms the northern boundary of the property. There are also two spur lines, one that forms the western boundary, and another that crosses the park.. Rohmax Canada has an easement with the Crown for use of the land along the latter railway spur line. The spur lines service two industrial complexes – the adjacent industrial park in Morrisburg to the west of the park and Rohmax Canada, a chemical plant which is surrounded by the reserve.

Access to the park is also possible by watercraft on the St. Lawrence River. Water levels and flows of the St. Lawrence River are regulated for shipping and power generation purposes. The Canadian Coast Guard (Prescott) identifies the waters between the river shoreline and MacDonal Island as “Drawing in Low Water” or essentially being non-navigable.

2.4. Land Use Designations and Activities

Most land surrounding the park is privately owned. Surrounding land uses include residential, commercial and industrial activity in the village of Morrisburg to the immediate west of the park. The park bounds three sides of the Rohmax chemical plant. Much of the land to the north is a combination of forest, farmland and wetland, but is separated from the park by the Canadian National Railway and Highway 401 corridors. There is some residential land use on the eastern side of the park as well as the Riverside-Cedar campground of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. Ontario Hydro holds an easement on the St. Lawrence River

portion of the property giving it authority to manipulate the levels of the river.

The industrial use of lands adjacent to the park has the potential to affect the natural heritage values of the park. With respect to DuPont Provincial Park, the municipality will be encouraged to apply the provincial policy regarding the protection of natural heritage features and areas from incompatible development on adjacent lands. So, the municipality will be encouraged to have its official plans appropriately identify the park's lands and waters so that new development near the park is assessed with regard to any potential impacts on the park's natural heritage values.

At the present time a new official plan for the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry is being prepared. Once this plan is completed the Township of South Dundas will update its local plan. Ontario Parks is currently seeking to have the zoning designation of the park updated to reflect its use as conservation lands.

Currently, the channel of Hoasic Creek has a *Conservation (Hazard Lands)* designation which is intended to preserve the creek and restrict development. The land lying immediately north and to the east of the park is zoned *Industrial*.

3.0 Natural and Cultural Heritage

3.1. Climate

The climate for the area is typical of southeastern Ontario with the St. Lawrence River having little moderating effect. The daily mean temperatures are -10.2°C in January and 20.3°C in July. On average 194 cm of snow falls annually and the ground is generally covered from mid-December till early

April. Summers are warm and humid with monthly average rainfalls ranging from 67.6 mm in April to 96.8 mm in August.

3.2. Earth Science Features

The surficial geology of DuPont Provincial Park consists of a till plain, composed of sandy to silty, dense, calcium-based till. The till plain has a low relief (generally less than 5 m) and is estimated to be 17 m to 30 m in thickness. The underlying bedrock consists of fine-grained limestone of the Gull River Formation (Middle Ordovician Age). The till is poorly drained, as evidenced by numerous bogs and swamps. Occasional glacial erratic boulders, up to a metre in size, are present.

A deposit of fine-to-medium-grained sand has been mapped near the north boundary of the park, between the CNR right-of-way and extending approximately 500 m south into the park along Hoasic Creek.

3.3. Water

The headwaters of Hoasic Creek are located approximately 19 km north of the confluence with the St. Lawrence River. The Hoasic Creek watershed is approximately 67 km² of which 13.1 km² (19.4%) is wetland.

While the park does not represent a significant groundwater recharge area, the sand deposits in the vicinity of Hoasic Creek at the northern extremity of the park are an area of local groundwater recharge and discharge.

Numerous agricultural drains supplement the flow in Hoasic Creek. The most prominent drains are located in the downstream half of the creek (south of the community of Hoasic) and comprise the Beckstead and Mattice

Drains. There is an unnamed tributary and drain system extending from Morrisburg Station whose confluence with Hoasic Creek is in the park.

Most of the flow in Hoasic Creek through the park is derived from the large wetland areas north of Highway 401. The flow is supplemented by spring runoff and shallow flow from swampy areas within the park. During dry periods the flow of the creek virtually stops and the creek becomes a series of stagnant pools.

Hoasic Creek has a stable channel with well-vegetated banks. Approximately 150 m of the creek on the upper reach (south of the CNR right-of-way) have been dredged to provide better drainage.

The floodplain of Hoasic Creek within the park is fragmented into a series of low-lying swamps. In springtime there is evidence that Hoasic Creek seldom overflows its banks. This suggests that wetland areas upstream play an important role in preventing flooding.

Water quality in Hoasic Creek is significantly degraded due to high levels of nutrients and bacteria from upstream sources. Water tests in 2001 revealed concentrations of phosphorus that are ten times the Provincial Water Quality Objective. Concentrations of organic nitrogen and bacteria were also elevated. These results were likely a combination of low flows, high water temperatures and contamination from agricultural sources upstream.

The raising of water levels for the St. Lawrence Seaway in the late 1950s created the shoreline of the park on the St. Lawrence River. Water depths are between 0.5 m and 1.5 m in the area between the shoreline and MacDonald Island. Water levels in the Riverside Marsh fluctuate according to hydro and

shipping needs and can vary by up to 1.5 m. The shallow depths, the silty bed and wave action often combine to affect water clarity.

3.4. Life Science Features

Several life science inventories have been undertaken in the park; the most recent was completed in 2001.

3.4.1. Vegetation

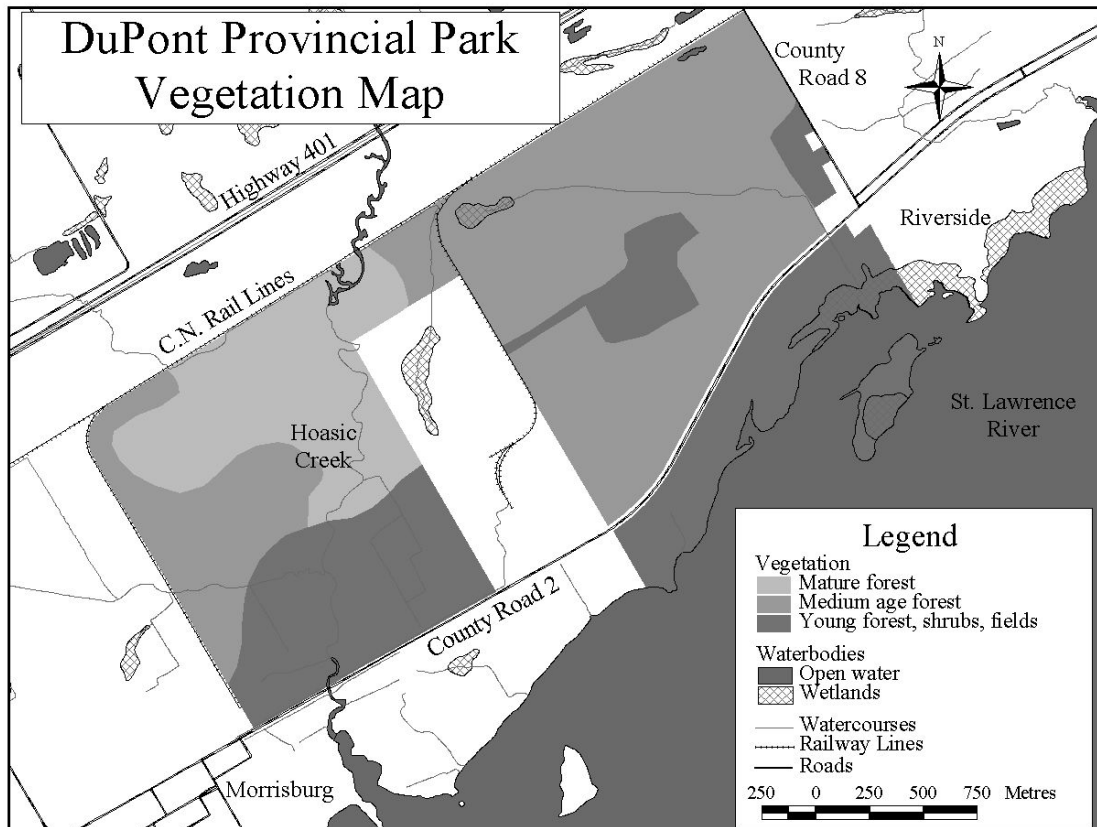
Surface drainage has a significant influence on the vegetation in DuPont Provincial Park (Figure 3. Vegetation Patterns of DuPont Provincial Park). The mature forest is concentrated on the western side of the park. It consists of a wide variety of species: pine and sugar maple on the drier upland parts and eastern hemlock, ash and red and silver maple in seasonally flooded areas. To the south, along County Road 2 the vegetation is a mixture of shrubs and

pioneer species such as poplar and birch.

On the east side of the park most of the land is covered with a second growth poplar and birch forest interspersed with white cedar swamps and several stands of mature pine. There are also remnant bits of field that are slowly being colonized by hawthorn and willow. South of County Road 2 the vegetation consists of hawthorn and willow thickets with open grasslands. Cattle grazing has inhibited vegetation diversity in this area.

Riverside Marsh, located in the southeast corner of the park, is a reed and canary grass marshland with limited vegetation diversity. The relative impacts of different phenomena, including the fluctuating water levels within the St. Lawrence River, wave action from large freighters, and the destruction of waterborne vegetation by carp are unknown and may be hindering

Figure 3. Vegetation patterns of DuPont Provincial Park



the establishment of a more diverse ecosystem. MacDonald Island is a mixture of marshland and second growth poplar, birch and white elm forest.

3.4.2. Birds

The park supports a high population density of forest birds, especially in the mature white pine, sugar maple, eastern hemlock forest in the north end of the park. Particularly notable are species that require mature forest habitat, such as the pine warbler and pileated woodpecker. The younger forest which surrounds the mature forest acts as a buffer, allowing the mature forest to attract birds that depend on the forest interior for successful breeding. The presence of the large nesting colony of great blue heron indicates that the forested wetlands in the northwest of the park are relatively free from human disturbance during the breeding season. The park is less than 11 km from the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

The shoreline along the St. Lawrence River provides nesting and feeding habitat for a variety of shore and seabirds, including cormorants, terns, killdeer, and gulls. The population of Canada geese is significant in this area.

Some other notable observations in the summer of 2001 included wild turkey, black-throated green warbler, scarlet tanager and red-breasted nuthatch.

3.4.3. Mammals

The park supports a wide range of mammal species including white-tailed deer, coyote, beaver, muskrat, racoon and porcupine. The mature coniferous forest of hemlock, white pine and cedar in the north end of the park supports a deer-wintering area.

3.4.4. Amphibians and reptiles

Despite the impacts of past cultivation, cattle grazing and the local heron population the park supports a population of salamanders, chorus, leopard, and wood frogs as well as the map turtle. The substantial amount of forested wetlands and the many isolated small areas with poor drainage provide significant habitat.

3.4.5. Fish

Hoasic Creek is a warm-water fish stream. The habitat consists of slow-moving water with deep pools and short sections of shallow riffle habitat. Boulders, deep pools, large woody debris, algae and sparse aquatic vegetation provide in-stream cover. In some areas, overhanging Manitoba maples and alders, which assist in lowering the water temperature, cover the entire width of the stream.

The high water marks observed along the bank indicate that the water level greatly increases during the spring runoff. This increase in water depth may allow northern pike and/or muskellunge to use the creek as a migratory pathway to the wetlands found in the headwaters. The increased depth and water velocity during the spring runoff may also create walleye spawning habitat near the County Road 2 bridge. The rocky streambed provides smallmouth bass spawning habitat.

In the Riverside Marsh area on the St. Lawrence River gravel riverbed provides spawning habitats for smallmouth bass. In addition, the cattails and willow marshes may provide spawning habitat for northern pike and muskellunge. Carp are known to use the shallow areas between MacDonald Island and the marsh to spawn.

3.4.6. Butterflies

The habitat and plant diversity within the park supports a wide range of butterfly and moth species. In particular the patchy forest and meadow areas along the County Road 2 corridor and in the northeastern part of the park provide good butterfly habitat. Forest succession may cause changes in this community.

3.4.7. Species at Risk

Several provincially significant animal and plant species have been observed in DuPont Provincial Park in the past: red shouldered hawk and eastern flying squirrel are designated as Special Concern by the federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada; greater redhorse, lake cress, and lizard's tail are designated as S3 or uncommon in Ontario. The creation and management of DuPont Provincial Park will support the perpetuation of these species by protecting their habitat.

3.5. Cultural Heritage

There has been no cultural resource inventory or assessment conducted on the property. There is no documented evidence of aboriginal use of the site.

The area in which the property is located is rural in character and was settled by the United Empire Loyalists in the late 1700s. Agrarian activity has dominated this landscape for the past two centuries and it has been used extensively for crops and cattle pastures. The site was also influenced by the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway in the 1950s. The natural shoreline was completely altered, creating Riverside Marsh and MacDonald Island.

A historical cemetery is located on the property north of County Road 2. There

are no grave markers or other features to indicate this past use.

4.0 Benefits, Markets, and Uses

4.1. Social and Economic Benefits

There are many benefits that provincial parks and protected areas provide to local communities, the province, and society in general that are not easily measured in economic terms. The following are a number of important benefits that demonstrate how nature reserve parks like DuPont support our quality of life:

- protect and contribute to ecological functions
- protect resource integrity as some of the last green spaces in Ontario
- provide mental, physical, and spiritual health benefits
- provide educational benefits, allowing all to learn about our environment
- provide scientific benefits by serving as study sites for research
- contribute to international responsibilities to protect natural settings, features, and wildlife
- play a role in business location decisions and community cohesion

Along with these benefits, the park is likely to provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors as well as increased tourism revenues. DuPont Provincial Park has the potential to act as a complementary opportunity to the existing attractions in the region.

In addition, communities with attractive waterfronts, varied recreational activities, and healthy environments are sought out by residents, businesses, and tourists. The municipality will receive a payment in lieu of taxes on an annual basis for all lands within the park.

4.2. Position within the local market

The park is located in the Seaway Valley tourism region. There are over 3 million Canadians living within a 300 km (3 to 4 hour) drive. The market area includes Ottawa and the Outaouais (population 1 million), Montreal (population 2.5 million) and the smaller cities along the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario including Cornwall and Kingston. The park is easily accessible - an exit from Highway 401 is located less than two kilometres away and Highway 31 provides a direct route to Ottawa 80 km to the north. Access from the United States is also good, with bridges at Prescott and Cornwall located within a 30 km radius.

The Seaway Valley area boasts many well-known historical, cultural and recreational attractions. Six kilometres east of the park is Upper Canada Village and the Chrysler Battlefield which together draw over 150,000 visitors annually. Morrisburg is well known for its summer theatre and the Historic World theme park. It also provides a variety of accommodation and services. Parks of the St. Lawrence offers camping (300 sites), boating, and beach activities at the Riverside-Cedar campground one kilometre east of the park in Riverside. Several golf courses are nearby.

4.3. Existing Use

A snowmobile trail connecting Morrisburg to the provincial network crosses the park; its relocation is currently being discussed with the local snowmobile club. All terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-road motorcycles use trails in the park on an informal basis. The presence of deer stands suggests that sport hunting has taken place in recent years. Sport fishing occurs on the St. Lawrence River in the vicinity of MacDonald Island and Riverside Marsh.

This same location has been used for hunting waterfowl. Neither motorized activities nor hunting are permitted in nature reserve class provincial parks.

4.4. Potential activities

A Recreation Inventory Report completed in 2000 suggests that both the existing and potential level of recreational activity are limited by a number of factors, including thick vegetation and the lack of scenic attractions. The recreational activities that are permitted in nature reserve class parks are limited. The park may have a role in the future as a destination for naturalists who wish to experience its diverse wildlife and vegetation. Appropriate recreational activities may include hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Water-based activities may include canoeing, kayaking, and fishing on Hoasic Creek and the St. Lawrence River. Nature observation will likely be an intrinsic component of the experience for those taking part in these activities.

While DuPont Provincial Park will not become a primary tourism destination, it will broaden the range of opportunities in the area and provide a complementary attraction to those that already exist.

4.5. Education and Research

Within the park a diversity of flora exists in markedly different conditions, providing excellent research and education potential. Dry mature forest communities, wetland forest communities, fields covered with thickets of willow and hawthorn, and a coastal marsh on the St. Lawrence River all exist in an area just over 600 ha, surrounded by railway lines, roads and industrial activity. Of particular research interest are the ongoing processes of forest and wetland succession.

The educational value of the reserve is significant because it provides an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of protecting small areas, especially areas whose ecological value exceeds their recreational value. The reserve shows how nature can recover and thrive in seemingly disturbed areas, and how such areas can contribute to the greater ecosystem.

5.0 A Proposed Policy for DuPont

5.1. Goal and Classification

The property was acquired from DuPont Canada by The Nature Conservancy of Canada *for the protection of the biological diversity, special beauty and educational interest of the property as part of the heritage of Ontario.* In order to meet this objective, the site will be regulated as a nature reserve class provincial park.

Management of nature reserve class parks focuses on protection and heritage appreciation objectives. Many recreation activities including camping, hunting and snowmobiling are not permitted and park facilities are limited to basic services such as parking and trails. Ontario Parks Policy states: *The nature and level of services for each nature reserve is based on the significance of the resources, accessibility, use, and visitor needs and profiles. Where compatible with park values, low-intensity day-use activities and facilities which enhance the appreciation of the park will be encouraged.*

Ecosystem Approach

Ontario Parks is committed to an ecosystem approach to park planning and management. Activities on lands adjacent to the park will be considered throughout the management planning

process. Given that DuPont Provincial Park will only protect a small part of the Hoasic creek watershed this approach will be essential to improving water quality in the creek. This ecosystem management approach is cooperative and participatory, and is not intended to affect private property rights. This approach may include working in partnership with a number of agencies such as:

- The Township of South Dundas to ensure that future development of land surrounding the park will be compatible with the park's objectives
- St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, Parks of the St. Lawrence and possibly Ducks Unlimited to enhance the natural qualities of the Riverside Marsh
- Naturalists clubs, the local stewardship council, and others to protect the wetlands in the headwaters of Hoasic Creek.

The acquisition of the property for the purposes of establishing a provincial park fulfils the MNRs objective of protecting provincially significant life science features in the eastern-most ecological unit of Ontario(6E-12.).

5.2. Objectives

The Ontario provincial parks system has four objectives: protection (which remains the park system's paramount objective), heritage appreciation, recreation and tourism. As a nature reserve class provincial park, DuPont will contribute to all four objectives with the emphasis on protection and heritage appreciation.

5.2.1. Protection

To protect the outstanding natural heritage of the park and to allow it to evolve naturally over time

Ontario Parks will provide a high level of protection to the park by limiting the type, range, and intensity of recreational activities and by controlling access to the park. Only very basic visitor services will be provided and these will be in areas that are least sensitive to impact. The vast majority of the park will be allowed to evolve naturally over time.

5.2.2. Heritage appreciation

To provide opportunities for the appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of the park through the provision of appropriate educational and recreational activities

All activities permitted and encouraged within the park will be oriented towards the appreciation of the park's natural and cultural heritage.

5.2.3. Recreation

To provide opportunities for recreational day use that are compatible with the nature reserve classification of the park and the maintenance of its ecological integrity

All acknowledged uses of the park will be low-impact, day-use activities. Supported terrestrial activities may include walking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on a limited trail network. Water based activities may include boating and fishing on the St. Lawrence River portion of the Park.

5.2.4. Tourism

To provide opportunities for Ontario residents and visitors to discover and experience the park's environment

The park will offer opportunities for self-directed nature appreciation. The existence of the park may be promoted to naturalists, researchers, and environmental educators. The park will

offer opportunities that are complementary to existing tourism attractions such as the Parks of the St. Lawrence.

5.3. Zoning policy

Zoning is a tool that is used to plan and manage areas within provincial parks. Each zone type permits specific activities and management practices. The proposed zoning for DuPont Provincial Park is based on the following principles:

- Protection of provincially significant natural and cultural heritage will be the first priority
- Appropriate and sustainable opportunities for appreciating and enjoying the park's heritage will be identified
- Zone boundaries will follow easily identifiable features (shorelines, roads, trails, rail lines) wherever possible

Provincial nature reserve class parks allow only three types of zones:

Access

Access zones in provincial nature reserve class parks serve as staging areas and as locations for self-directed orientation, interpretation or education facilities.

Historical

Historical zones encompass the provincially significant cultural resources of a park. They generally focus on a specific site (e.g. building, occupation site) and that site's relationship to the surrounding landscape.

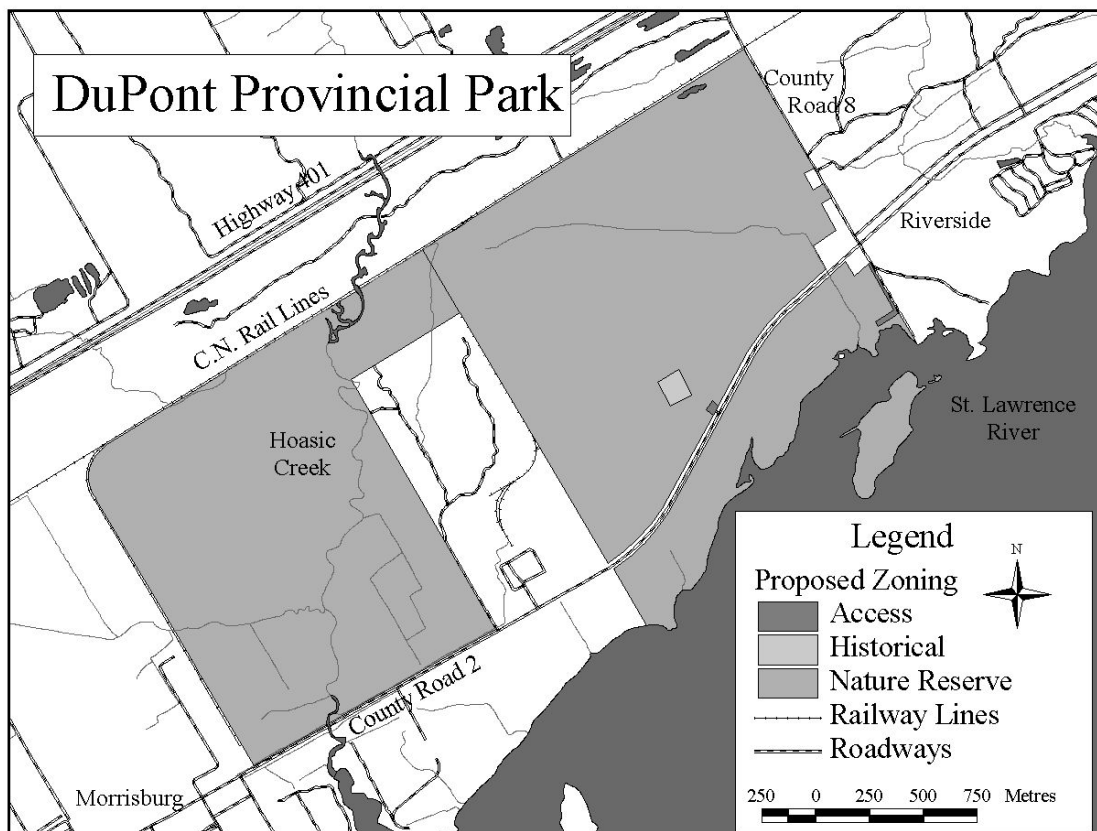
Nature Reserve

Nature reserve zones protect the provincially significant earth and/or life science features in a park and may include a protective buffer area in which development is permitted. This

development is restricted to trails, necessary signs and interpretive facilities.

The majority of the area within DuPont Provincial Park is proposed as a *nature reserve zone* (Figure 4 – Proposed Zoning). The *access zone* consists of a staging area for trail activities and an access point to the St. Lawrence River. The *historical zone* is limited to the site of an abandoned cemetery.

Figure 4. Proposed Zoning for DuPont Provincial Park



6.0 Key References

All documents were prepared by and for MNR except as noted.

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