



Murphys Point

Terms of Reference

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Murphys Point Provincial Park – Terms of Reference

Murphys Point Provincial Park

Terms of Reference

Approval Statement

I am pleased to approve the terms of reference for the Murphys Point Provincial Park (Natural Environment Class) management plan. This management plan will reflect Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) intent to meet the objectives of our protected areas.

These terms of reference will effectively guide the park planning process through to the completion of the approved park management plan as required by the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* and the *Ontario Protected Areas Planning Manual*.



Bruce Bateman
A/Director
Ontario Parks

October 13, 2011

Date

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Murphys Point Provincial Park is a natural environment class park located within Ontario Parks Southeast Zone. The park was created in 1977 and opened to the public in 1979. The park was established with the goal of providing a wide range of low to medium intensity recreational opportunities, to protect earth and life science features and to offer interpretive opportunities of natural and cultural themes and sub-themes.

Since the preparation of the 1984 park management plan, there have been policy and legislative changes to Ontario's protected areas planning system. In addition, new data and information have been attained over the years, and new pressures on park values have emerged. These and additional park-specific factors necessitate new management direction for Murphys Point Provincial Park.

This document is part of the first of three stages in the management direction planning process as outlined in the Protected Areas Planning Manual (2009).

2.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

This section provides context for the planning effort by outlining the rationale to initiate management planning and the purposes for the protected area.

2.1 Rationale for Planning

The *Provincial Parks and Conservations Reserve Act, 2006* (PPCRA) requires that management direction be in place for all protected areas in Ontario. As noted, the original management plan for Murphys Point Provincial Park was completed in 1984. Minor amendments to this plan were made in 1995. The PPCRA requires that the MNR formally examine management direction that has been in place for 10 years or more in terms of its relevance, effectiveness and currency. In accordance with this requirement, Ontario Parks Southeast Zone staff and park staff conducted a plan examination in the spring of 2011. The outcome of the examination was a recommendation for a plan re-write.

A new management plan is required in order to address a variety of issues, challenges and changes that are not addressed within the original management plan. The language, structure and content of the 1984 management plan require updating to be consistent with the PPCRA and Protected Areas Planning Manual. New management direction will also allow for public consultation as required in the PPCRA and will enable future development projects. A complete re-write of the management plan is considered the most effective means of achieving these objectives.

The new park management plan will define the protected area's vision, purpose, objectives and long-term direction for the protection, development and management of the park's natural, cultural and recreational values for the next 20 years.

The purpose of this terms of reference is to outline a proposed planning approach for the preparation of the management plan and to identify planning topics, the planning team, schedule, consultation details and other resources required for the planning process.

2.2 Purpose Statement

Murphys Point Provincial Park was established to provide a range of recreational opportunities in a natural setting along the Rideau Canal waterway. The park provides representation of the southern Canadian Shield, part of the larger Precambrian Shield Ecozone in Ontario. The park also contains some representative features of the Mixedwood Plains Ecozone due to its proximity to the St. Lawrence Lowlands.

Over time, the role that the park plays within Ontario's protected areas system has evolved from a focus on recreational opportunities to the maintenance and enhancement of ecological integrity. The park protects important earth and life science features including: complex Precambrian geologic structure and petrology; relatively undisturbed vegetative communities and habitat (deciduous, mixed and conifer forests, swamps, marshes, bogs, dry woodlands and old fields); a number of species at risk; and other provincially and regionally rare species. The park also protects important cultural heritage features and offers interpretation opportunities and programs for both natural and cultural features. Murphys Point continues to provide ecologically sustainable recreation opportunities for visitors. Further description of these features is provided in section 3.0.

A new park management plan for Murphys Point will ensure that sufficient direction is provided for the protection of park values in accordance with the PPCRA. This will ensure Murphys Point continues to play an important ecological, historical and recreational role in Ontario's protected areas system over the next 20 years.

3.0 BACKGROUND

Murphys Point Provincial Park is located in eastern Ontario approximately 19 km south of the town of Perth in the geographic township of Burgess and the municipality of Tay Valley (see Figure 1). The park is situated along the north shore of Big Rideau Lake, a waterbody that forms part of the Rideau Canal Waterway system. At present, the total size of the park is approximately 1239 ha. Murphys Point is an operating, natural environment class park.

The park consists primarily of a large peninsula extending into Big Rideau Lake bounded by Hogg Bay and Noble Bay, with rugged shoreline south of the peninsula and a large inland portion extending to the northwest. The park includes two inland lakes, Round Lake and Loon Lake, as well as a number of smaller waterbodies including perennial and intermittent watercourses, beaver ponds and wetland areas. Black Creek flows through the park in a roughly southwest to northeast direction, draining into the west end of Hogg Bay.

The park is located on the southern Canadian Shield near the junction of two major physiographic units: the Grenville Province (part of the Canadian Shield) and the St. Lawrence Lowlands. The topography of the park is generally typical of the south shield, with a system of parallel rock ridges and valleys, shallow soil and exposed bedrock throughout the park.

Murphys Point is located within Ecodistrict 5E-11 (Bancroft) and is just north of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve (a UNESCO-designated World Biosphere Reserve). In general, the park's biological features, much like its topography, are representative of the southern Canadian Shield. A variety of vegetation types are found throughout the park, including second growth coniferous and deciduous woodlands, scrubland, old fields, and wetlands (swamps, marshes, fens).

The park provides habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna common to the shield environment as well as species common to more southerly environments. The park's biodiversity includes 557 vascular plants, 21 non-vascular plants, 186 bird species, 31 mammal species, 61 odonata, 23 reptile and amphibian species and 21 species of fish (McIntosh, 2011). At present, 17 species have been identified as at-risk through either the provincial *Endangered Species Act* or the federal *Species at Risk Act*. Natural heritage features including heronries, loon nests and other sensitive species and their habitats. The park was identified as a regionally significant life science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) based on its mature mesic deciduous forests, rare species habitat and low level of disturbance.

Murphys Point contains a number of cultural heritage features relating to several historical themes, namely small scale mining, pioneer settlement, early agriculture and forestry. The most significant features include the Silver Queen and Baby Mines, Lally Homestead, McParlan House and Burgess Mill. These features contribute to the strong interpretive and educational value of the park. In 2007, the Rideau Canal was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, adding a new cultural/historical component to the park. Potential cultural heritage features relating to pre-European contact have not been confirmed within the park. Further study, including archaeological assessment, may identify evidence of Aboriginal uses and values.

Since the opening of the park in 1979, Murphys Point has served as a recreational destination for the population of eastern Ontario, including centres such as Perth, Ottawa and Kingston. According to Ontario Parks' statistics, 48,884 people visited the park in 2010. Murphys Point offers a variety of experiences to users ranging from self-guided hikes to natural heritage education programs. At present, the park's recreational infrastructure includes: 174 campsites (including serviced, boat-in and group camping sites), 13 trails, two maintained beaches, two day use areas, a boat launch, a visitor centre and an amphitheatre.

4.0 PLANNING AREA

The planning area will include the entire 1239 ha property established in 1977 as Murphys Point Provincial Park. An additional 5.2 ha inholding parcel was acquired in 2010 and has yet to be incorporated into the regulated boundary of Murphys Point. An update to the regulated boundary will occur concurrently with the management planning process, in accordance with the PPCRA. This addition will be included in the planning area.

Within the protected area boundary, the protection of values and features will be achieved through appropriate zoning, the control of land use and activities, education and monitoring of ecological impacts.

At present, there are approximately 20 privately owned parcels surrounded by Murphys Point Provincial Park. These properties are located along the southern portion of the park, and most have frontage on Big Rideau Lake. A number of these properties are developed with seasonal cottages. Access to the cottages is provided by an easement on Black Ance Road, which traverses the park. Access is also provided via a small private road (Bass Bay Road) that extends into the south of the park.

The major land uses adjacent to Murphys Point are seasonal residential and small-scale agriculture. County Road 21, also known as Elmgrove Road, traverses the park providing access to Murphys Point and the private properties adjacent to the park. This road is assumed and maintained by the municipality.

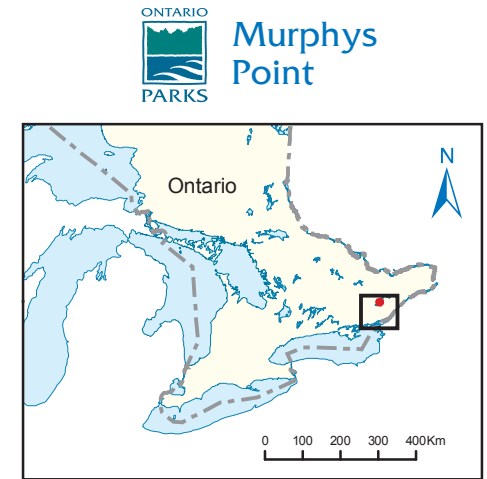
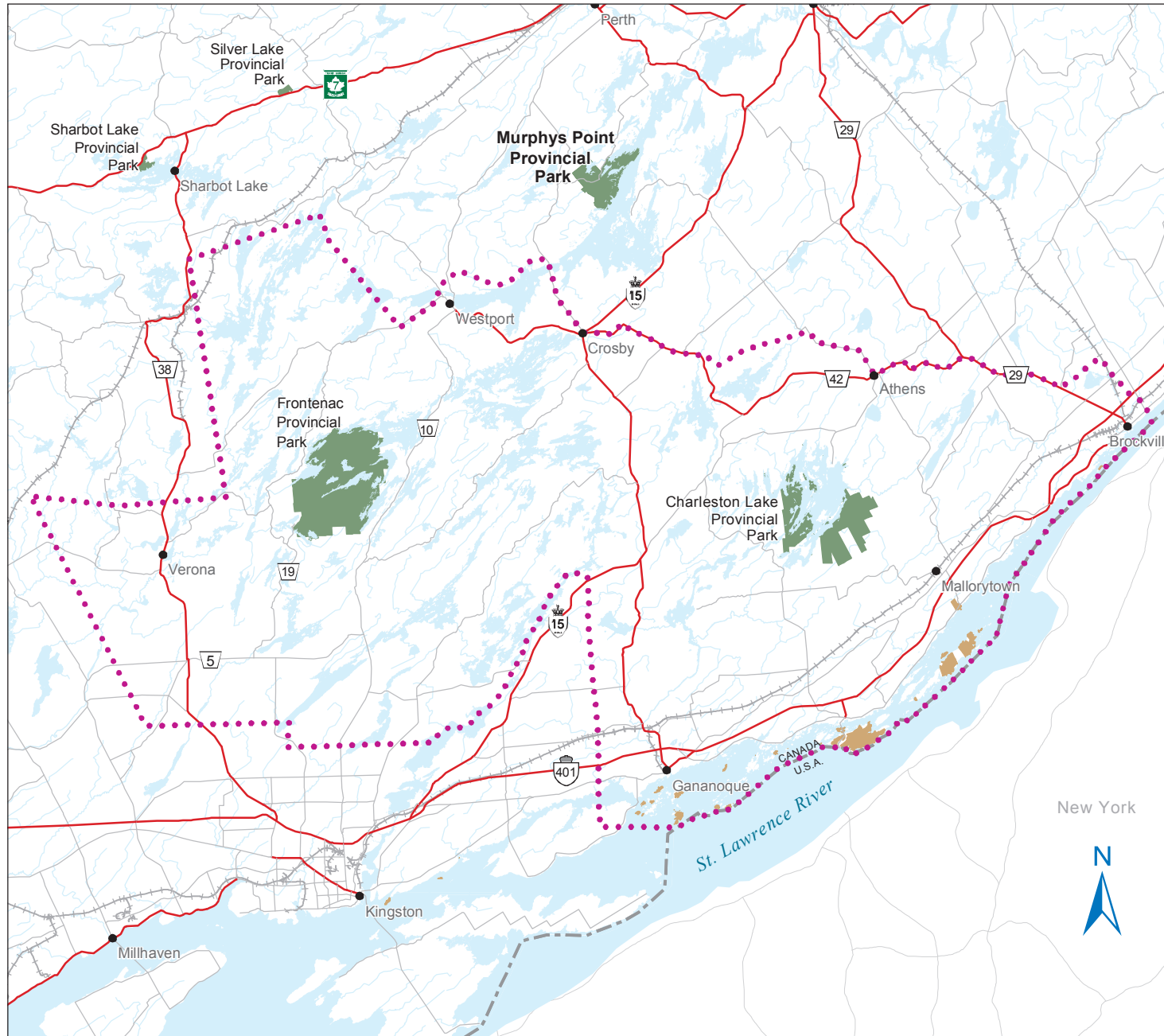
Protected area management plan policies apply only to the area within the regulated boundary of the protected area. However, the park management plan may consider potential effects that

activities occurring on adjacent areas could have on park values and, conversely, the plan may also consider the effects of park activities on adjacent land and water uses.

Murphys Point Provincial Park is located within the area of the Algonquin land claim that is currently being negotiated by the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Algonquin Nation of Ontario. Direct involvement will occur with the Algonquins of Ontario throughout the management planning process for Murphys Point Provincial Park.

FIGURE 1

REGIONAL SETTING



Area Features

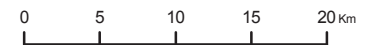
- Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve
- St. Lawrence Islands National Park Lands
- Operating Provincial Parks
- Murphys Point Provincial Park

Transportation Features

- Major Autoroutes
- Roads
- Railway

Base Features

- Rivers
- Waterbodies
- Ontario / International Boundary



New York



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This map should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes or locations, nor as a guide to navigation. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) shall not be liable in any way for the use of, or reliance upon, this map or any information on this map.

Projection: UTM Zone 18
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base derived from: NRVIS (Natural Resource Value Information System)
Produced by: Ontario Parks, Southeast Zone

5.0 TYPE OF MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Murphys Point is an operating park with moderate to high public use and moderate resource management concerns with proposed new development and infrastructure. The new management direction will be a re-write of an existing management plan. Based on the criteria in the Protected Areas Planning Manual, management direction for Murphys Point is deemed to be “moderately complex”. Therefore, a management plan is the most appropriate type of new management direction for the park.

6.0 PLANNING TOPICS

The following list of preliminary planning topics has been compiled in accordance with the Protected Areas Planning Manual. These topics will be the focus of the management planning process. Specific policies relating to the topics will be produced in the plan. This list may be modified as required throughout the planning process.

- Ecological Integrity
 - Significant and sensitive values (life science, earth science)
 - Condition of values
 - Pressures (existing and anticipated)
 - Strategies to mitigate, remedy and avoid pressures
 - Species at risk
 - Invasive species
- Cultural Heritage
 - Cultural values
 - Condition of values
 - Pressures (existing and anticipated)
 - Assessment and protection
- Resource Management
 - Fish and wildlife management
 - Vegetation management
 - Fire management
 - Water management
- Operations / Infrastructure Development
 - Buildings and structures
 - Campgrounds / campsites
 - Trail system (including portages)
 - Roads, bridges and parking
 - Day use areas
 - Beaches
 - Boat launches
 - Docks
 - Utilities
 - Land or resource disposition
 - Waste management
 - Access management
- Protected Area Boundary Management

- Land securement
- Boundary refinement
- Aboriginal Involvement
- Research
- Monitoring

7.0 PLANNING TEAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary responsibility of the planning team is the preparation of the management plan and its various components. The team will also be responsible for direct involvement with Aboriginal people and communities, stakeholders, municipalities and the general public. Specific planning team roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- *Park Management Planner, Southeast Zone, Ontario Parks*, will be the primary contact and project coordinator for the planning team and will provide specific guidance and advice regarding Ontario Parks' planning process and Aboriginal, public and stakeholder involvement. The Planner will also ensure that all *Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR)*, *Environmental Assessment Act (EAA)*, PPCRA and Ontario Parks' policy requirements are fulfilled.
- *Park Superintendent, Murphys Point Provincial Park*, will co-chair the planning team and will offer ongoing assistance to the project by providing information about current operations, facilities, resource management issues and community concerns at Murphys Point Provincial Park. The superintendent will also serve as a liaison to Aboriginal people and communities, stakeholders and the public.
- *Natural Heritage Education (NHE) Leader, Murphys Point Provincial Park*, will co-chair the planning team and will offer ongoing assistance to the project by providing information on the park's natural and cultural heritage features, resources and programs. The NHE leader will also serve as a liaison to Aboriginal people and communities, stakeholders and the public.
- *Assistant Park Planner, Southeast Zone, Ontario Parks*, will conduct research and background information collection and prepare public consultation, communications and planning documents.
- *Assistant Park Superintendent, Murphys Point Provincial Park*, will provide information about current operations, facilities, resource management issues and community concerns.
- *Zone Ecologist and Assistant Zone Ecologist, Southeast Zone, Ontario Parks*, will provide input in the areas of ecology, resource management and monitoring. The ecologist and assistant ecologist will provide expertise relating to the *Endangered Species Act* and will ensure that ecological integrity is given primary consideration throughout the planning process.
- *District Ecologist, Kemptville District, MNR*, may provide input regarding resource management values, activities and existing policies for areas adjacent to the park.
- *Representative, Algonquins of Ontario*, has been invited to participate as a planning team member and may provide input on Aboriginal interests, values and traditional and ceremonial uses of the park throughout the planning process.

In addition to the planning team, secondary contacts and external advisors may be consulted to provide specific expertise or support as required. These will include:

- *GIS Database Technician, Southeast Zone, Ontario Parks*, will produce mapping products and will provide technical support.
- *Resource Liaison Specialist, MNR Kemptville / Peterborough Districts*, will liaise with Aboriginal people and communities.
- *Parks Canada – Rideau Canal Office Representative*
- *Friends of Murphys Point Park Representative*
- *Tay Valley Township Staff*
- *Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Staff*

8.0 CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PROJECTS

Consideration will be given to both external and internal projects during the management planning process. This will support good communication and collaboration between the Ministry of Natural Resources and project proponents.

8.1 External Projects

The following is a list of ongoing projects and programs outside of the park boundary that may directly or indirectly affect the use, operation or management of the provincial park and the resources within it. This list is not comprehensive as new external projects and programs may emerge over the course of the planning process.

Rideau Canal Waterway System (UNESCO World Heritage Site, designated 2007)

Murphys Point Provincial Park is located on the Rideau Canal, approximately midway along the waterway that extends from Ottawa to Kingston. The Rideau Canal, managed by Parks Canada and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007, preserves natural and historic features and provides a navigable channel for recreational boaters. The planning team will build a strong partnership with Parks Canada and will work towards integrating park management direction with the goals and objectives of the canal for a coordinated approach of protecting and enhancing the canal's natural and cultural features. The planning team will also focus on how to improve Rideau Canal users' awareness of Murphys Point and will identify ways to improve accessibility between the park and the waterway.

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Projects and Properties

Murphys Point Provincial Park is located within the Rideau Watershed and thereby in the jurisdiction of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). The RVCA owns conservation lands near Murphys Point, including Mill Pond Conservation Area as well as the Mica Mines and Bula properties. The RVCA is also engaged in a number of environmental planning and management programs and projects relevant to Murphys Point, including the creation of the Rideau Lakes Watershed Plan and ongoing water quality reporting for individual lakes (e.g. Round Lake, Loon Lake). By including a representative from the RVCA as an external advisor, the planning team

will identify ways to create a mutually beneficial relationship with the conservation authority and work together on current and future resource management initiatives.

Private Development

Southeast Zone and park staff will continue to review municipal development applications for private lands near the park and provide comments when necessary to the appropriate approval authority (e.g. Tay Valley and Rideau Lakes townships)

The planning team will liaise with the external project proponents to minimize any potential external pressures on the protected area, while integrating their concerns into the decision-making. This may be accomplished by:

- distributing management planning materials as they are developed in order to meet public consultation requirements associated with the *PPCRA*, the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) and the *Environmental Bill of Rights* (EBR), as directed by Ontario Parks Bulletin PM 11.02.02, the Protected Areas Planning Manual and its associated planning guidelines;
- consulting with Aboriginal people and communities in advance of each stage of the planning process and on an ongoing basis;
- circulating draft planning documents to external proponents prior to final approval, as appropriate for review; and
- meeting with external proponents to discuss the process, issues, management proposals, etc., as required.

8.2 Non-ministry Programs

Proponents of non-Ministry programs involving private organizations and groups (e.g. Friends of Murphys Point Park, Tay Valley Ski Club) will also be consulted throughout the management planning process. Non-ministry programs and partnerships benefit the park by providing resources and enhancing recreational and educational experiences for park users. The planning team will make an effort to identify new opportunities and ways to strengthen existing partnerships and programs.

8.3 Internal Programs

Ministry of Natural Resources program areas may have a vested interest in the management planning process and outcomes at Murphys Point Provincial Park. Conversely, it is in the interest of the planning team to be informed of MNR programs (e.g. fish stocking) to make effective resource management decisions and policies. Coordination strategies are outlined below:

- Management direction will be circulated for review to appropriate MNR program areas prior to approval;
- at the preliminary management plan development stage, MNR programs will be consulted regarding significant resource values within the protected areas and their surroundings, management options which could be considered within the existing policy framework, and consistency of proposed protected area policies with policy direction for other MNR programs;

- if mutually desirable, a meeting regarding the planning process, issues, options, etc. could be held with Ontario Parks, Parks and Protected Areas Policy Section, District and/or Regional staff;
- staff from other Ministry programs may be asked to serve as resource contacts during public consultation; and,
- advance copies of all communications products will be shared with the local MNR communications/information officer prior to approval by Ontario Parks.

8.4 Coordination of Related Processes

In order to improve process efficiency, it is beneficial to coordinate consultation requirements. The Protected Areas Planning Manual provides direction for the coordination of planning processes, such as environmental assessment and Crown land use amendments, with the park management planning process.

In particular, consultation requirements (e.g. Environmental Registry notices, mail-outs) for a boundary regulation change to add the recently acquired private inholding will occur in conjunction with those for the management planning process. This will occur at Stage 2: Preliminary Management Plan.

Aboriginal, public and stakeholder involvement requirements will also be undertaken concurrently for any Category B or C projects under A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (2005) that are proposed during the management planning process.

Explicit notice will be provided in consultation documents whenever process coordination is proposed.

9.0 PLANNING SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

A proposed schedule for completion of the planning milestones and deliverables associated with this management planning process is shown in Appendix A

9.1 Involvement

The planning process will be conducted in an open and transparent manner. During the term of the planning process, Aboriginal people and communities (including the Algonquins of Ontario), the public and various stakeholders will be involved.

The management planning process for Murphys Point Provincial Park is considered moderately-complex and will occur in three stages. Each stage involves mandatory involvement requirements as identified in the Protected Areas Planning Manual and the Involvement Guideline. Involvement approaches for each stage are described in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Involvement Strategy for Murphys Point Planning Process

Management Plan Stages (moderately-complex)	Involvement Approaches
<u>Stage I</u> Terms of Reference, Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • early Aboriginal involvement (terms of reference circulated to Algonquins of Ontario) • notification of when background information is available for review and invitation to participate to adjacent landowners and mandatory contacts (mailed or e-mailed notices) • Environmental Registry policy proposal notice (45 days) • notices posted on-site (gatehouse, park office, bulletin boards throughout park) • paid advertisements inserted in local newspapers (Perth Courier, Westport Review-Mirror) • information posted on the Ontario Parks website • store background information in PAPIR
<u>Stage II</u> Preliminary Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal involvement (meeting with Algonquins of Ontario and early circulation of preliminary management plan) • meetings with stakeholders (Friends of Murphys Point, adjacent landowners, Tay Valley Ski Club, etc) as required • Environmental Registry policy proposal notice (update to initial notice – 45 days) • notification that the preliminary plan document is available to mandatory contact list (mailed or e-mailed notices) • public open house • notices posted on-site (gatehouse, park office, bulletin boards throughout park) • paid advertisements inserted in local newspapers (Perth Courier, Westport Review-Mirror) • posting of preliminary management plan on the Ontario Parks website
<u>Stage III</u> Approved Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Registry policy decision notice • notification of approved management plan distributed to mandatory contact list (mailed or e-mailed) • posting of approved management plan on the Ontario Parks website • paid advertisements inserted in local newspapers (Perth Courier, Westport Review-Mirror)

APPENDIX A: PLANNING SCHEDULE SUMMARY

STAGE IN PLANNING PROCESS	DESCRIPTION	PRODUCT(S)	PROPOSED BUDGET	PROPOSED TIMETABLE
1a. Preparation of Invitation to Participate and Approved Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify scope of planning program Prepare draft terms of reference Main Office review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of Reference 	\$500 (ads)	<i>Spring/Summer 2011</i>
1b. Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering and general review of background information Prepare file Aboriginal, public and stakeholder involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background Information File 		
2. Preliminary Park Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content requirements defined by the <i>Ontario Protected Areas Planning Manual</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Park Management Plan 	\$2,300 (printing, ads, open house)	<i>Spring 2012</i>
3. Approved Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content requirements defined by the <i>Ontario Protected Areas Planning Manual</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved Management Plan 	\$1,900 (printing, ads)	<i>2014</i>