



Pakwash

Terms of Reference

APPROVAL STATEMENT

These terms of reference provide an outline of Ontario Parks' approach to the development of a Management Plan for Pakwash Provincial Park. The terms of reference identify the tasks to be accomplished, the roles and responsibilities of the project planner and the planning team, budget, as well as the schedule for the completion of the plan review process.

I am pleased to present the terms of reference for the management planning exercise for Pakwash Provincial Park. I encourage you to become involved in the planning process.



Adair Ireland-Smith
Managing Director
Ontario Parks



Date

Pakwash Provincial Park Management Plan

Terms of Reference

1.0 Introduction

Pakwash Provincial Park is a natural environment class park of 3,993 hectares. The park is located 50 kilometers south of Red Lake, adjacent to the highway 105 and the shores of Pakwash Lake (Figure 1). The park is located within the Red Lake Administrative District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). The park provides representation/protection of eco-district 4S-2, specifically the Hartman moraine. Area First Nation communities include Pikangikum, Wabaseemoong and Grassy Narrows (English River). These First Nations are all within the boundary described by the Treaty #3. Other nearby communities include Ear Falls, Vermillion Bay and Balmertown.

The park was originally established in 1967 and expanded in 1989, (under Ontario regulation 290/89). The park is in two parcels. The smaller lies between highway 105 and Pakwash Lake and contains the campground and day use areas. The larger parcel is across the lake and does not contain any infrastructure. The park protects representation of glacial Lake Agassiz features, such as eskers, raised beach ridges and the Hartman moraine. The area features a rich mixed forest of spruce, jack pine, birch and poplar, and several rare plant species. The park is home to boreal forest wildlife, including moose, black bear, deer, otter, mink, bald eagle and osprey.

Pakwash is an operating park. The campground and day-use areas are operated by Friends of Pakwash and the Township of Ear Falls, in partnership with the MNR-Ontario Parks. Pakwash has 69 campsites, 16 of which have electricity. Group camping for up to 50 people can be accommodated and amenities are available from mid-May through to Labour Day. Pakwash is a recreation destination for area residents from Kenora, Red Lake, Ear Falls and other communities.

2.0 Rationale

An interim management statement for Pakwash Provincial Park was completed in 1994. A management plan is required to address the management of an operating park. The fundamental purpose of this management plan is to assess all aspects of park management and to address new park management topics. This will include but not necessarily be limited to:

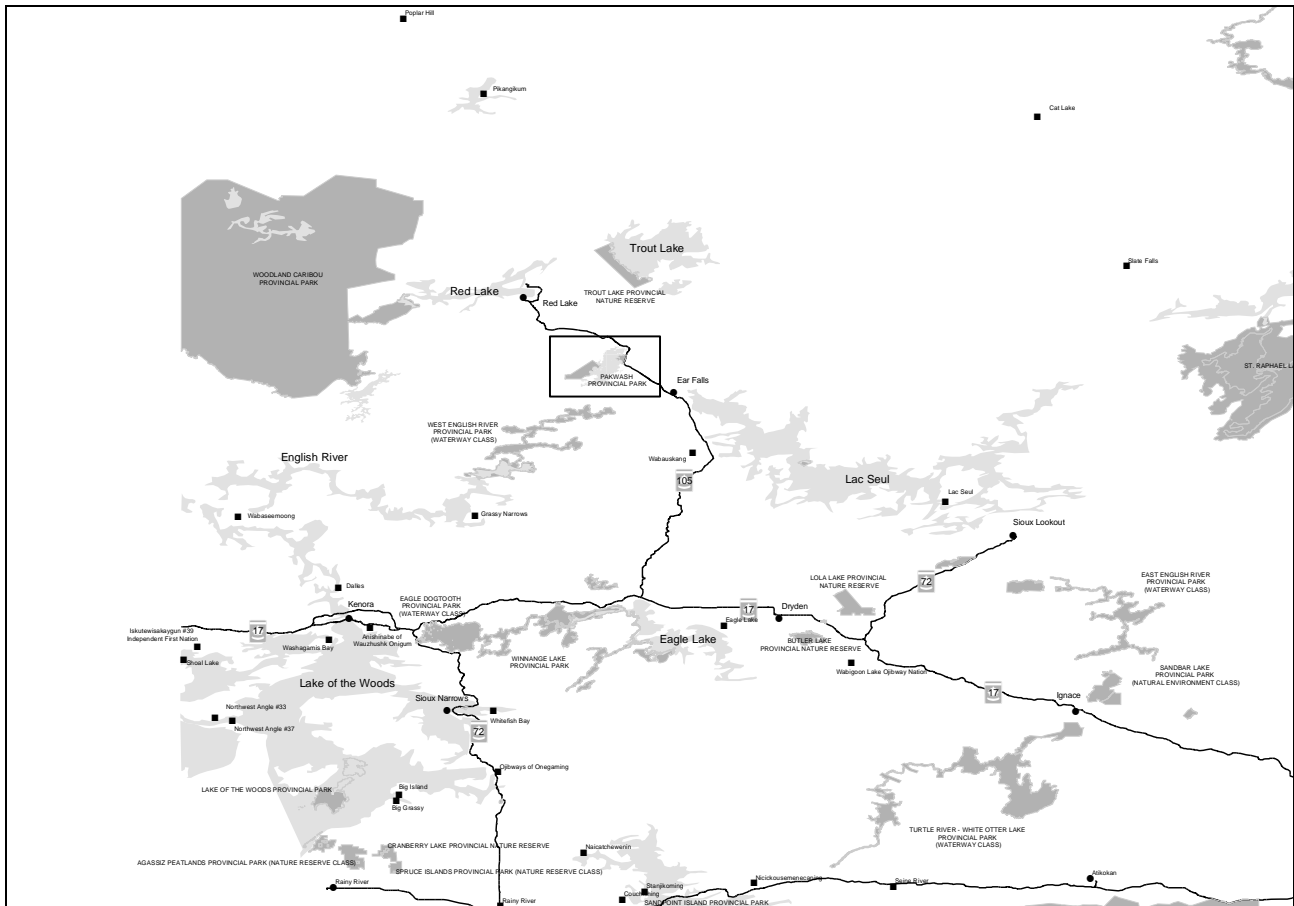
- Environmental management, recreation management, and natural heritage education policies;
- Vegetation and wildlife management (i.e. use of fire as a management tool, protection of species at risk);
- Research potential;
- Visitor origins, user patterns, and shoulder season use;

- Consideration of new approaches to operating the park including the operating partnership with the Township of Ear Falls and the influence of the Ontario Parks' business operating model;
- Cooperating associations (i.e., Friends);
- Any other topics that arise from public consultation.

The outcome will be to adjust and confirm the long-term direction of the park's resource stewardship, development and operations policies.

Provincial policy direction and requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Environmental Bill of Rights* will be followed in the planning process. Public and Aboriginal consultation opportunities for the various stages will be in accordance with existing park policies and procedures.

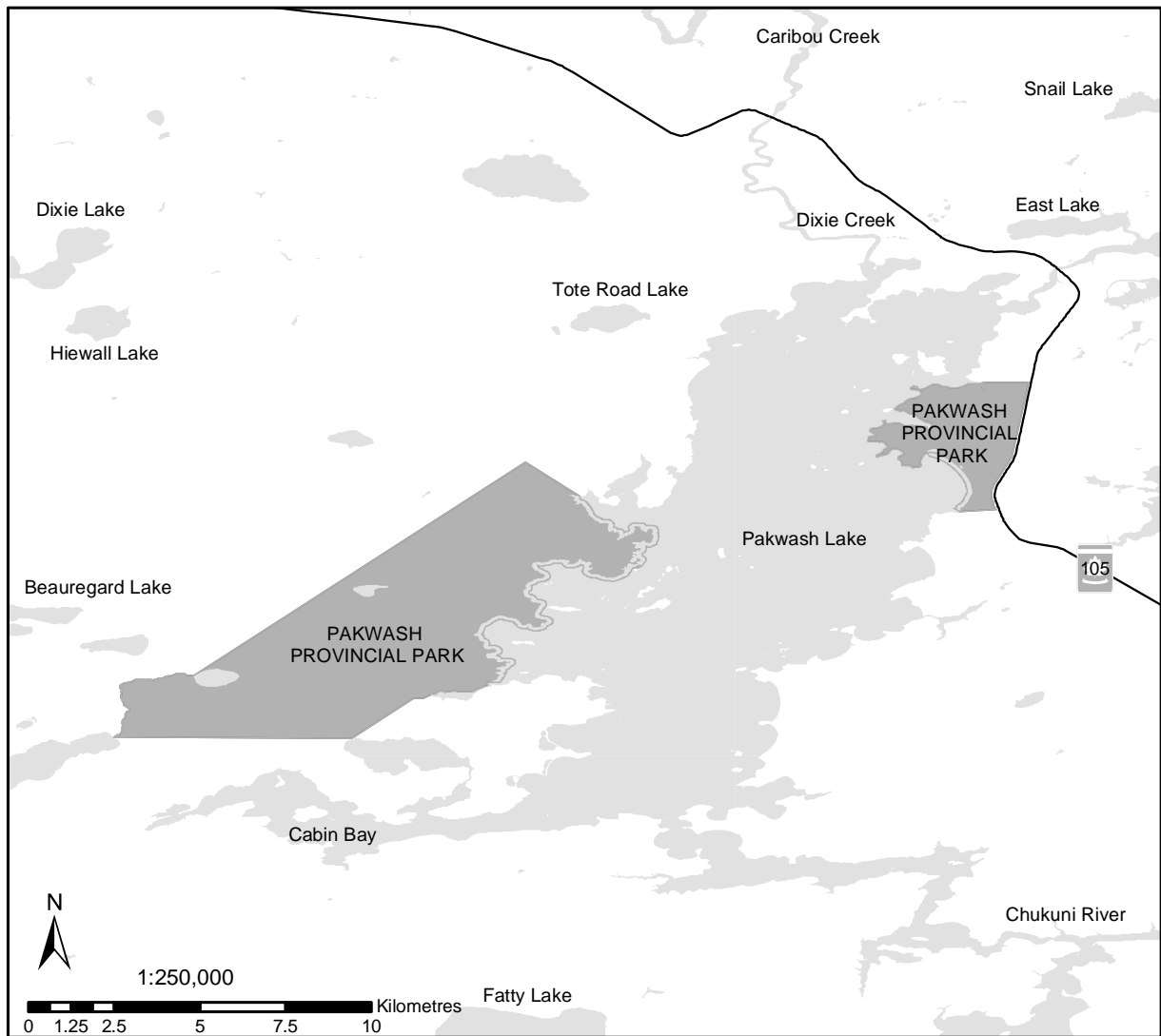
Figure1 Regional Setting



3.0 Plan Area

The plan area for Pakwash will include all the lands and waters regulated under the Provincial Parks Act as Pakwash Provincial Park (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Plan Area



Planning Team

The planning team will be comprised of:

- Scott Ellery, Park Superintendent, Pakwash Provincial Park
- Anne Estabrooks, Assistant Park Superintendent, Pakwash Provincial Park
- Lee Gerrish, Red Lake District Planner (tbc)
- Michèle Proulx, Northwest Zone Park Management Planner
- Thomas Henry, Friends of Pakwash representative

Technical/professional advice will be sought from advisors on an as required basis from the following areas: Ontario Parks northwest zone and main office, MNR Red Lake District, Ministry of Northern Development & Mines, Ministry of Transportation, MNR Regional Engineering and others as required.

The park superintendent will be responsible for leading the planning process and will work with the project planner to ensure that all planning requirements are met including responding to public enquiries, providing logistical support and assisting in the collection of information. The park superintendent will be responsible for implementing decisions made through the park management planning process. The northwest zone park management planner, as the project planner, will be responsible for the preparation, production and distribution of all planning documents, as well as for supervising the planning process. The team will undertake the compilation, evaluation and development of background information, and park management plan and will ensure that public consultation occurs as scheduled. The planning team will review all draft documents, assist in issue resolution, and make recommendations to the Zone Manager as required.

5.0 Integration

To ensure that the plan review is inclusive, and that all resource management interests are addressed, the planning team will consult with First Nations, park users, the local Citizens' Committee (LCC), adjacent landowners, residents of the nearby communities, local outfitters, and other interested parties and stakeholders. The following documents will be referenced for the process:

- *Crown Land Use Policy Atlas 2003.*
- *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies.* MNR 1992.
- *Ontario Provincial Parks Park Management Planning Manual.* MNR 1994.
- *Pakwash Interim Management Statement.* MNR 1994.
- *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* MNR July 1999.

6.0 Planning Process

Stage in Planning Process	Description & Products	Consultation / Communications	Timetable
Terms of Reference	Document summarizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rationale, planning area, planning team, advisory team, communications requirements, project schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation to Participate Public Notice: Opportunity to Inspect Approved Terms of Reference EBR Notice of Proposal 	Autumn 2006
Background Information file And Preliminary Park Management Plan	File summarizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> natural, cultural, recreational values social /economic impact and market analysis Draft document summarizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> classification, goal, objectives, zoning draft resource stewardship, operations and development policies identification of immediate priorities summary of consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Notice: Opportunity to Review Background Information File and Preliminary Management Plan EBR Notice Update 	Spring 2007
Approved Park Management Plan	Final document summarizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> as above, incorporating additional public consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Notice: Opportunity to Inspect Approved Management Plan EBR Decision Notice Distribution of Approved Park Management Plan 	Autumn 2007

7.0 Consultation

To ensure that First Nation and public consultation requirements are met, First Nation and public involvement shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, two formal opportunities to provide input during the plan review process. These opportunities include invitation to participate, and the opportunity to review background information and the preliminary management plan.

Each of these stages has specific consultation and communication requirements identified in the *Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual* (1994). Communications will be accomplished through target group mail-outs, general media postings of the invitation to participate, as well as invitations to review, and by other means if the need arises. These measures will be described in a communications plan for the plan reviews.

Plan Review Contact List

Park Policy PM 11.02.02 prescribes mandatory contacts to receive notices and any planning documents associated with the plan review process. These mandatory contacts include First Nations, stakeholder, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies with provincial interests. This list is supplemented by recommendations from park and district office staff, and augmented by a contact list of

local individuals, groups, and park users that will evolve in the course of consultation. In the case of this management plan, examples of mandatory contacts include area First Nations (Pikangikum, Wabaseemoong and Grassy Narrows), adjacent landowners, boaters, outfitters, the communities of Red Lake, Ear Falls, Balmertown, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Culture, and the Sunset Country Travel Association.

Use of Media

All formal public notices will be included in the Red Lake and Thunder Bay newspapers.

EBR Registry

The *Environmental Bill of Rights* electronic registry will be used to post the registry proposal file and updates associated with the Invitation to participate, the background information and the issues and options, as well as the preliminary park management plan. As well, the registry decision file will be posted when the approved park management plan is released. These postings provide opportunities for input into the planning process.

Internal Distribution

Standard briefing notes will be used to inform / advise area, district, zone and main office staff of significant developments (e.g. release of public documents) in the review process.

8.0 Budget

Funds have been allocated for printing, map making, and public consultation.