

Temagami Crown Land Recreation Plan Executive Summary

The Temagami Integrated Planning (TIP) process combined three planning projects which were identified in the 1997 *Temagami Land Use Plan*. The three components are:

- management planning for five backcountry parks (wilderness and waterway)
- management planning for eight conservation reserves which lie adjacent to the parks
- a recreation plan for unregulated Crown lands in the Temagami administrative area

The Temagami area is located about 100 km north of North Bay, covers approximately 650,000 hectares, and is renowned for its rugged forested landscape as well as its significant natural, cultural and recreational resources. Much of the area is relatively remote, offering solitude and challenge for those seeking a backcountry recreational experience. Temagami has been a tourist destination for over a century, with numerous lakes and rivers which offer excellent boating, canoeing and fishing.

The planning process for the three different planning components—provincial parks, conservation reserves and recreation management on Crown land—was integrated because there is a strong inter-relationship between them. All of the components provide relatively remote recreational experiences and share similar patterns of access and use. By combining all three components, the TIP process considered how management decisions on one land base might affect adjacent areas. While being integrated into one process, each component has distinctive legislation, permitted uses and management requirements.

The overall framework for this integrated planning effort was based upon Ontario's provincial park planning process. This process includes the following stages, with opportunities for public consultation at each stage:

1. Terms of Reference
2. Background Information
3. Management Options
4. Preliminary Management Plans
5. Release of Approved Management Plans

This is the fifth and final stage in the planning process, Release of Approved Management Plans. At this stage, the public is invited to inspect the approved plans prior to their implementation.

Throughout the planning process, a number of important issues have been raised. These are addressed in the final management plans. Some issues are addressed in all three plans, while others apply to only one or two areas or management plans.

With respect to the Crown land recreation plan, the approved management plan includes a description of the primary issues raised or identified during the planning process. These issues include:

1. Maintenance of recreational facilities on Crown land
2. Private and commercial caching of boats on Crown land.
3. Use of existing portage trails by motorized vehicles.
4. Crown Land and Conservation Reserves Visitor Management System
5. Use of Lake Temagami campsites
6. Lack of Research- Use and Impact Analysis Study in the Planning Area

In addition, the approved plan describes management approaches which have been identified and selected to address the identified issues. The plan also includes a section which describes how and when the selected management approaches will implemented.

The following management direction is included in the approved Crown land recreation plan:

- Maintenance of recreational facilities on Crown land will be undertaken by the MNR in cooperation with Ontario Parks and with a maintenance partnership in the future. Maintenance will be implemented in a phased approach, beginning in Zone 1. Implementation zones are shown on the attached map. Maintenance will include maintaining campsites, portages, hiking trails and canoe routes to the same standards as in the adjacent provincial parks.
- Consideration may be given by the Ministry of Natural Resources to undertaking limited maintenance activity on known hiking trails within Implementation Zone 2 on the recommendation of the planned maintenance partnership, provided such effort does not detract unreasonably from maintenance activity undertaken in Zone 1.
- A public education program geared towards sustainable recreational use, proper backcountry ethics and the promotion of under-utilized canoe routes will be developed.
- A boat cache management system will be developed and applied to problem areas only commencing with Driftwood, Iceland and Whitewater Lakes.
- Further use of existing portage trails by ATVs within the implementation area will be prohibited. Consideration will be given to the creation of new ATV trails on Crown land where such use is permitted in accordance with the TLUP and where opportunities for ATV use have been lost due to the preceding prohibition.
- MNR will post all campsites in high use areas such as Ferguson Bay on Lake Temagami to limit camping to not more than two consecutive nights. Other opportunities to address the conflict over use of campsites in some locations are extremely limited due to the fact that all parties enjoy the same free transient use of Crown land.
- Academic research regarding the effects of recreational land use in the planning area will be encouraged whenever possible; resultant information will be used to inform future decisions/direction.

Consultation with stakeholders, the public, and other governments has occurred at all stages of the Temagami Integrated Planning process. The planning team has used the following methods to consult with interested and affected citizens:

1. News releases announcing different stages of the planning process and inviting public participation.
2. Placement of paid media advertisements in relevant news media.
3. Directly mailed notification of different planning stages and upcoming public meetings.
4. Public information meetings in and adjacent to the planning area.
5. Attendance at public meetings in two southern Ontario cities, Ottawa and Toronto.
6. Attendance at private stakeholder meetings by invitation.
7. Detailed discussions with focus groups in Temagami, Temiskaming Shores and Toronto.

Public inspection of the approved Crown land recreation plan will occur over a 45 day period which commences upon its release.

The approved management plans for each of the three planning components may be reviewed or amended over time to address changing issues or conditions. The plans will be reviewed at approximately ten year intervals and the need for amendment assessed. Any amendments to an individual plan will be undertaken with consideration to the adjoining planning documents covered in the Temagami Integrated Planning process.