



CEDAR CREEK

Preliminary Park Management Plan

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Provincial park management direction website
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-park-management-direction>

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Opportunity to Comment: Cedar Creek Preliminary Park Management Plan
February 10, 2018

Ontario Parks is preparing a management plan for Cedar Creek Provincial Park as part of a multi-staged planning process. The preliminary park management plan contains proposed policies relating to resource management, operations and development that will guide the management of Cedar Creek over the next 20 years.

After careful consideration of the background information collected and review of comments received, this document represents Ontario Parks' preferred policy for the park. For ease of review, this preliminary management plan is worded in the style of an approved management plan.

You are invited to review and comment on the preliminary park management plan for a period of 45 days following its release. To make your submission effective, list the topic(s) you wish to discuss and briefly state your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the proposed management direction. You may also make suggestions or comments on other topics that are important to you.

Further information regarding the management planning process, including the deadline for submitting comments, can be found on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO Registry #019-0061). Comments should be provided through the Environmental Registry or may be submitted to:

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Your participation in planning for this provincial park is appreciated. All comments received will be considered during the preparation of the final Cedar Creek Park Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Jason Travers
Director, Ontario Parks

Ontario Parks is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of Ontario's *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006*. Your comments (not including personal information) will become part of the record of consultation and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by Ontario Parks to follow-up with you upon request or when required. It will also be used to send you information about future Ontario Parks initiatives involving this protected area. Please indicate in your response if you do not wish to be notified of new initiatives. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact the individual listed above.

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1.0 Introduction

Cedar Creek Provincial Park is a 70 hectare nature reserve class park located in southwestern Ontario within Essex County, approximately 35 kilometres southeast of the City of Windsor (Figure 1: Regional Setting). Cedar Creek Provincial Park protects significant natural heritage features, such as a portion of the Cedar Creek Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interestⁱ (ANSI), Provincially Significant Wetland, diverse Carolinian communities, and habitat for species at riskⁱⁱ and provincially rare species.

Cedar Creek Provincial Park is one of several properties protected as part of the *Ontario Parks Legacy 2000* partnership between Ontario Parks and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), and through local community-based efforts. Ontario Parks is responsible for planning, managing and protecting the site as a nature reserve class provincial park under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* (PPCRA), and in accordance with a long-term lease agreement with NCC endorsed in March 2006.

2.0 Planning context

The PPCRA requires that management direction is approved for each provincial park in Ontario. This management plan fulfils this requirement, and provides long term direction for managing the park, including the purpose and vision, objectives, zoning, policies and implementation priorities. This management plan is written with a 20 year time horizon in mind.

The PPCRA has two principles that guide all aspects of planning and management of Ontario's system of provincial parks and conservation reserves:

- Maintenance of ecological integrity shall be the first priority and the restoration of ecological integrity shall be considered.
- Opportunities for consultation shall be provided.

This management plan has been prepared consistent with all relevant legislation and provincial policies. The implementation of projects in this provincial park will comply with the requirements of A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (Class EA-PPCR). This may include further opportunities for consultation, as required.

2.1 Ecological integrity

The PPCRA defines ecological integrity as follows:

“Ecological integrity refers to a condition in which biotic and abiotic components of ecosystems and the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities are characteristic of their natural regions and rates of change and ecosystem processes are unimpeded.”

Ecological integrity addresses three ecosystem attributes – composition, structure and function. Ecological integrity is based on the idea that the composition and structure of the provincial park should be characteristic for the natural region and that ecosystem

functions should proceed normally. In other words, ecosystems have integrity when they have a mixture of native living components (plants, animals and other organisms), non-living components (such as rock, water and soil), and processes (such as reproduction and population growth) and the interactions between these parts are not disturbed (by human activity).

This management plan describes the contribution that Cedar Creek Provincial Park makes to achieve the objectives and principles set out in the PPCRA, and identifies site-specific management policies intended to maintain, or where possible, restore ecological integrity.

3.0 Indigenous communities

Local Indigenous communities include the Caldwell First Nation and Bkejwanong First Nation (Walpole Island). These communities were invited to engage in the park management planning process for Cedar Creek. A summary of Indigenous community involvement can be found in Appendix II: A Summary of Indigenous Community Involvement and Public and Stakeholder Involvement.

The park is located on lands within Treaty 2, 1790 and the traditional territory of the Chippewa and Attawandaron. Additionally, the park falls within the Haudenosaunee traditional territory referred to as The Beaver Hunting Grounds in the 1701 Albany Deed. The closest Haudenosaunee communities to the park are Oneida Nation of the Thames and Six Nations of the Grand River.

4.0 Location and boundary

Cedar Creek is located in southern Ontario, approximately 35 kilometres southeast of the City of Windsor, 15 kilometres south of the Town of Essex, and 8 kilometres east of the community of Harrow (Figure 2: Local Setting). The property is bordered by 3rd Concession Road to the north, the Chrysler Canada Greenway (a segment of the Trans Canada Trail formerly utilized as a railway) to the south and private properties to both the east and west. The boundary of Cedar Creek Provincial Park was established through an amendment to Ontario Regulation 316/07 under the PPCRA in 2014.

This 70 hectare provincial park occurs entirely within Ecodistrict 7E-1ⁱⁱⁱ which is the southernmost Ecodistrict in the province. The majority of the park contains a portion of the provincially significant Cedar Creek Life Science ANSI. The Cedar Creek Life Science ANSI was designated in 1984 as providing the best representation of a creek valley system with adjoining uplands in Ecodistrict 7E-1.

Adjacent land uses consist of agriculture, estate residential, and a recreational trail on conservation lands (Chrysler Canada Greenway/Trans Canada Trail). Parks and other protected areas in the region include Wheatley Provincial Park, Ojibway Prairie Provincial Park, East Sister Island Provincial Park, Point Pelee National Park, Fort Malden National Historic Site, Bois Blanc Island Lighthouse National Historic Site, and a number of conservation areas managed by Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA).

5.0 Provincial park classification

Classification organizes Ontario's provincial parks into broad categories and determines the general policy basis for park management. Each park class has an objective and particular characteristics which contribute to the overall provincial park and conservation reserve system and in turn direct the type and extent of activities that may take place in a particular park.

Cedar Creek Provincial Park is classified as a nature reserve class park. Nature reserve class parks are areas selected to protect representative ecosystems and provincially significant elements of Ontario's natural heritage, including distinctive natural habitats and landforms, for their intrinsic value, to support scientific research and to maintain biodiversity.

6.0 Purpose and vision statements

6.1 Purpose statement

The purpose of Cedar Creek Provincial Park is:

To protect the park's environment, which contains provincially and regionally significant biological features and cultural heritage values, and to provide ecologically sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities.

6.2 Vision statement

The vision for the park is a healthy environment where natural features and native habitat communities persist free of degradation to the greatest extent possible and ecosystem functions continue unimpaired.

7.0 Provincial park objectives

Ontario's provincial park system has four objectives, as stated in the PPCRA: protection, ecologically sustainable recreation, heritage appreciation, and scientific research.

7.1 Protection

Cedar Creek Provincial Park's protection objective is to permanently protect a representative sample of Ontario's provincially significant natural features, while maintaining the park's natural and cultural heritage. Protection will be achieved through appropriate zoning, control of land use and activities, education, and monitoring of ecological impacts. Appropriate mitigation of potential impacts will ensure continued protection of significant features.

7.2 Recreation

The park's recreation objective is to offer ecologically sustainable, low-impact day-use recreation, such as hiking, to a range of Ontario residents and visitors. Recreation will be

encouraged in a manner which fosters appreciation for the natural and cultural heritage values of the park, while ensuring the level of protection granted to nature reserve class parks.

7.3 Heritage appreciation

Cedar Creek's natural and cultural heritage appreciation objective is to enable exploration and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of Cedar Creek in a manner that is not destructive or intrusive to the park's features and landforms.

7.4 Scientific research

The park's scientific research objective is to encourage scientific research that enhances knowledge of the park's ecology and community distribution, and contributes to understanding and maintaining landscape-level function.

8.0 Provincial park values

8.1 Earth science values

Bedrock Geology:

Bedrock is not exposed on site. The bedrock surface lies beneath more than 150 metres of glacial deposits (Morris and Cousineau 1994) and consists of limestone and dolostone of the Detroit River Group (Hewitt 1972).

Surficial Geology:

Cedar Creek Provincial Park is a complex of relatively flat, upland, well drained forests intersected by steeper slopes that lead down to flat lowland creek valleys carved by Cedar Creek and its tributaries. The flat upland topography consists of till plains overlain with shallow clay deposits, as is characteristic of the Essex clay plain portion of the St. Clair Plains Physiographic Region, in which the park exists (Allen and Oldham 1989). The prevailing soil type is Brookstone clay loam with undifferentiated sand, silt, clay and muck soils occupying creek valleys (Cowell 2006).

The park provides a good representation of the Essex clay plain portion of the St. Clair Clay Plain Physiographic Region. Landforms include the silty clay to discontinuous sand/gravel glaciolacustrine plain (Late Wisconsinan/Early Holocene); two post-glacial lake abandoned beach ridges (Early Holocene); and the alluvial valley and deposits of Cedar Creek (Holocene- Present) (Cowell 2006).

Two abandoned beach ridges in the northeast corner of the park provide representation of early Holocene post-glacial lake action in the Lake Erie basin. As these features are not otherwise represented in parks or reserves on the St. Clair clay plains, they are ranked as regionally significant.

The most striking physical feature of the park is the Cedar Creek valley which bisects the park from north to south. This valley began to form during glacial retreat about 11,500 years ago, when Lake Erie would have been lower than the present lake level by about 30 metres. This low lake level allowed the flowing glacial meltwater to cut through the previously deposited glacial till and glaciolacustrine material resulting in the formation of the creek valley at its lowest elevation. Once the lake level rose, the creek was backed-up resulting in the formation of meanders and floodplains along the valley floor, and subsequently, the deposition of the present alluvial deposits in the valley (Cowell 2006). In addition, two tributaries converge with Cedar Creek proper in the park. One tributary enters the park from the southeast and the other from the northwest, both only travel a short distance to join up with Cedar Creek.

8.2 Life science values

Cedar Creek lies within Ecodistrict 7E-1 and the diverse Carolinian Life Zone^{iv}. It is within this zone that the highest frequencies of species at risk are found in Canada. Positioned on the relatively level Essex clay plain, Cedar Creek Provincial Park is predominantly a mature upland hardwood forest community of sugar maple, red maple, red oak, white elm and black walnut with lowland communities adjacent to Cedar Creek that traverse the site dominated by American elm, shagbark hickory, and red ash forests and thickets containing dogwood, hawthorn, and staghorn sumac. These predominantly swamp communities comprise a portion of the Cedar Creek Provincially Significant Wetland Complex. An old field forest community and interspersed shrub communities are also located within Cedar Creek Provincial Park. Approximately two-thirds of the park is forested and the remaining portion is former agricultural land that has been planted with native tree species. The size of the property, its location within the Cedar Creek Life Science ANSI and proximity to the creek are important to the overall quality and integrity of the ANSI.

The park contains habitat for numerous species at risk and provincially rare species, including reptiles, birds, plants and mosses, such as spoon-leaved moss (ranked as endangered), round-leaved greenbrier (ranked as threatened), dense blazing star (ranked as threatened), and green dragon (ranked as special concern).

The park provides interior woodland and meadow habitat that supports birds and other species during migration as well as species at risk breeding birds, including past breeding occurrences of Bald Eagle. The Eastern Mole (special concern species) has been documented in the vicinity of the park.

Cedar Creek Provincial Park protects a portion of Cedar Creek and its associated riparian and floodplain habitats, and the creek contains a warm-water community that provides habitat for fish and mussels.

8.3 Cultural heritage values

A Stage 1 archaeological assessment was completed for the park in 2018 (Beaudoin and Gostick 2018). The report concluded there is potential for pre-contact and historic First

Nations archaeological resources within the park, based on ancient and contemporary water courses, including Cedar Creek. Before European settlement, it is believed that the area served as hunting grounds for the Indigenous people of the region. No pre or post-European settlement cultural resources have been identified in the park.

8.4 Outdoor recreational values

The diverse habitats within Cedar Creek present an opportunity for a range of visitors, such as nearby residents, school groups and hikers, to explore outstanding recreational landscapes through low-intensity day-use activities such as hiking.

9.0 Summary of pressures

Unauthorized trail creation and all-terrain vehicle use in Cedar Creek Provincial Park have resulted in damage to vegetation, sensitive habitats and wetlands, and rutting and increased litter. Alien and invasive species (e.g. garlic mustard) have been identified in the park and threaten the viability of the park's native species. Effects associated with climate change, such as increased risk and spread of disease in wildlife, more intense wind and rain events, and more frequent and severe wildfires, may negatively impact park values in the future.

10.0 Zoning

Zoning is a tool used to delineate areas within a provincial park that have common management objectives, intentions, values, operations and/or uses. Values and uses in a specific portion of the provincial park with common management needs and intent are typically addressed under one zone through specific policies.

Lands and waters contained within Cedar Creek are zoned in accordance with their natural heritage values along with their sensitivity to development and requirement for protection. The two zoning categories designated for Cedar Creek (access zone and nature reserve zone) are based on the Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies (1992). The access and nature reserve zones differentiate the sensitivity of natural values and the permissible degree of management practices within the park. Zoning for Cedar Creek Provincial Park is described below and shown in Figure 3: Zoning and Proposed Development.

10.1 Access zone

Access zones serve as staging areas, a means of both providing and regulating use and access to other areas of the park. Generally development is limited to roads, management facilities and visitor structures. Provisions may be made for limited orientation, interpretive or educational facilities, though generally more for self-use rather than through structured guided services. Limited facilities for research and park management may also be present.

Zone Number and Name (size): A1 – Park Entrance (approximately 1.0 ha)

Description: Zone A1 will encompass the park entrance in the northeast corner of the park. It will utilize an existing driveway and a portion of the former agricultural field off of 3rd Concession.

Management Intent: Zone A1 will provide entrance to the park's proposed trail system.

10.2 Nature reserve zone

Nature reserve zones protect the provincially significant earth and life science features within a park, and may include a protective buffer area. Development in nature reserve zones is generally restricted to trails, necessary signs, and temporary facilities for research and management.

Zone Number and Name (size): NR1 – Natural Area (approximately 69 ha)

Description: The 69 hectare nature reserve zone protects the provincially significant life science features within the park and includes former agricultural fields that are being restored to more natural conditions.

Management Intent: This zone will ensure the protection and continued existence of the significant features and landforms found within the nature reserve area. This zone will provide low-impact ecologically sustainable recreational activities.

11.0 Partnerships

Partnerships will be essential to achieving park objectives. Ontario Parks may explore and pursue opportunities for new or continuing partnerships, involving other agencies and groups, through formal and informal partnership agreements. Partners may represent the local community, local and provincial interests or the private sector. Partners may work with Ontario Parks to assist with implementing the park management plan, per provincial park policies and regulations.

The site of Cedar Creek Provincial Park was acquired through a joint initiative between NCC and Ontario Parks under the *Ontario Parks Legacy 2000* partnership. Acquisition funding raised by NCC included a significant contribution from the ERCA. Ontario Parks will continue to engage with the NCC and ERCA as the Cedar Creek Park Management Plan is implemented.

11.1 Agricultural field restoration

Restoration of the former agricultural field was completed through a partnership with the ERCA. Pit-and-mound techniques and tree planting were used to restore approximately 10 hectares in 2013 and approximately 7 hectares in 2015. The site was planted with a diverse group of native species, appropriate to the soil and moisture regimes and the existing, mature forest community directly adjacent to the agricultural field. The majority of the remaining unrestored portion of the agricultural field was turned into a 0.8 hectare wetland pond by ERCA in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada in 2016.

12.0 Policies

This section provides site specific management policies and any associated actions required to effectively manage this provincial park in accordance with applicable legislation and provincial policies. Section 13 provides a summarized list of priority actions identified for this provincial park.

An adaptive management approach will be applied to resource and other management activities within Cedar Creek. Adaptive management allows for modification of management strategies in response to monitoring and analysing the results of past actions to improve resource stewardship.

All projects undertaken by Ontario Parks, or by partners on its behalf, will comply with A Class EA-PPCR and other applicable provincial legislation and policies.

12.1 Industrial and commercial activities

The following activities are not permitted in Cedar Creek Provincial Park:

- commercial timber harvesting;
- generation of electricity;
- aggregate, topsoil and peat extraction;
- prospecting, staking mining claims and developing mineral interests;
- mining (including but not limited to oil, gas and salt resources);
- commercial bait harvesting;
- commercial trapping.

12.2 Fisheries

Cedar Creek Provincial Park contains Cedar Creek and two tributaries within Fisheries Management Zone 16^v. Fish stocking is not permitted within nature reserve class parks; however, actions associated with fisheries management, including habitat improvements are permitted in Cedar Creek Provincial Park. Wherever possible, the park will support efforts to maintain and/or enhance native self-sustaining fish populations and their habitat. Park management activities, including fisheries management actions, will consider potential impacts on fish and fish habitat and occur in accordance with applicable provincial and federal legislation, policy, guidelines, and best practices.

12.3 Wildlife

12.3.1 Wildlife population management

Wildlife (e.g., white-tailed deer, beaver, turkey and raccoon) may be controlled when essential to human health and safety, the health of the species, or the values for which the park has been established. The reduction of hyper-abundant populations (e.g., white-tailed deer) may be undertaken. Control methods, including lethal methods, will be undertaken directly by Ontario Parks or through partnerships. Where control is necessary,

techniques will be used that avoid or minimize negative effects on other components of the park's environment.

Native wildlife species may be reintroduced, and existing populations enhanced, if feasible and acceptable, and desirable for perpetuating park values.

12.3.2 Wildlife habitat management

Habitat management will be directed toward promoting healthy and diverse native populations and communities, and may be carried out as funding and/or partnerships are available. Where planting or seeding is necessary, species native to the park will be used, from sources that originate in or near the park wherever possible. Mowing, vegetation thinning and removal, mechanized excavation, limited pesticide application, and/or other appropriate techniques may be used to restore and maintain natural values for which the park was established to protect.

The remaining foundations of demolished buildings on the property may be retained as potential snake hibernacula (overwintering sites) and thermoregulation features.

12.4 Vegetation

12.4.1 Vegetation management

Native species may be reintroduced, and existing populations enhanced, if feasible and acceptable, and desirable for perpetuating park values. Vegetation may also be replenished where necessary to rehabilitate disturbed areas expected to sustain continuing heavy use (e.g., adjacent to trails).

12.4.2 Agricultural practices

A portion of Cedar Creek Provincial Park was farmed before it was acquired to become a provincial park. Active farming has been phased out and the former agricultural field has been naturalized. Agricultural use of the park will not be permitted.

12.4.3 Hazard tree trimming and removal

Except where there is threat to public safety, dead trees and tree limbs will be left standing to serve as habitat for resident cavity nesting birds and mammals. Dead tree falls and tip-ups will also be left in place to serve as sites for mosses and fungi, germination areas for tree species requiring rotting wood as a rooting medium, and moist shelters for small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and a variety of invertebrates.

12.4.4 Vegetative insect and disease control

The occurrence of insects and diseases native to the forest region in which the park is situated is recognized as an integral component of the ecology of the park. Native insect infestations and diseases will be allowed to progress naturally. If such outbreaks threaten

values for which the park was established to protect, they may be controlled where feasible, and may include the use of biological controls.

12.5 Forest fire management

Fire management within Cedar Creek will focus on protecting public health and safety, and preventing personal injury, property value loss and social disruption.

12.5.1 Prescribed burning

Prescribed burning is the deliberate, planned and knowledgeable application of fire by authorized personnel to a specific land area to accomplish predetermined objectives. To achieve park management objectives and maintain and restore ecological integrity, prescribed burning may be considered where feasible. Plans for any prescribed burning will be developed in accordance with Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) policy in cooperation with MNRF fire management staff and/or the municipal fire department.

Cedar Creek Provincial Park would benefit from prescribed burns as frequent disturbance events would maintain attractive prairie habitat used by songbirds and pollinators for critical life stages. Willowleaf aster, dense blazing star, and butterfly milkweed would benefit from prescribed burns, and the presence of these tallgrass prairie species would also attract insects including monarch butterfly and giant swallowtail butterfly. Prescribed burning can enhance the already restored portion of the park and would simulate natural conditions.

12.6 Species at risk

The park will be managed to protect and recover species at risk and their habitats as feasible. Species at risk will be protected consistent with the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* and associated regulations, policies, and guidance. Species recovery actions may be implemented in accordance with relevant government response statements and Ontario Parks' policies.

Ontario Parks may conduct protective and restorative management projects for species at risk and their habitats, such as installation of habitat structures or features, augmentation or reintroduction of species, and maintaining various habitat types to support species that use those habitats.

12.7 Alien and invasive species

Alien species are plants, animals and micro-organisms that have been unintentionally or deliberately introduced by human activity into areas beyond their normal range. Alien species will not be deliberately introduced into the park unless in accordance with provincial and federal legislation and guidance, and Ontario Parks policy.

Invasive species are alien species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy and/or society, including human health. Where invasive

species threaten natural and cultural values or human health, a control program may be initiated if feasible and practical.

Insects and diseases not native to the park's forest region may be controlled where feasible. When control is undertaken, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease, so as to have minimal effects on the balance of the park's environment.

12.8 Cultural heritage

Cultural heritage values will be protected, maintained, used and disposed of in accordance with existing applicable legislation and policies. If cultural heritage values are discovered in the park, Ontario Parks will follow the requirements as outlined in A Technical Guideline for Cultural Heritage Resources for Projects Planned Under the Class EA-PPCR (2006) or other relevant cultural heritage policy.

12.9 Land

12.9.1 Park additions

In principle, Ontario Parks supports the acquisition of land to enhance protection or park management. Adjacent lands with similar values would be of highest priority. If lands are offered for sale or donation, staff will evaluate how they contribute to park objectives. Suitable properties would only be acquired from willing sellers or donors, and only if there is available funding.

12.9.2 Private land disposition

Disposition of land for private use is not permitted.

12.10 Research, inventory and monitoring

Research provides a better understanding of park environments, and contributes to appropriate management practices and actions.

All research projects require authorization issued under the PPCRA, consistent with relevant policies. Research must meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation, and may require additional permits or approval (e.g., authorizations under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservations Act* or *Endangered Species Act, 2007*). Proposed research will be reviewed by Ontario Parks to ensure adequate consideration of potential impacts on park resources, features, staff and visitors.

Monitoring in Cedar Creek Provincial Park may occur (e.g., through site visits and aerial and/or ground level photographs) to help identify the early presence of disease or invasive plant, animal and insect species; impacts of climate change; and other threats to the park's ecological integrity.

Ontario Parks will encourage efforts by naturalist groups and other partners to document the park's diversity and abundance. Quantitative and qualitative life science inventories will be completed as necessary, and existing inventories, such as ecological land classification^{vi} (ELC) mapping, will be updated to reflect current conditions as feasible.

Ontario Parks may consider allowing temporary facilities in support of approved research and monitoring activities. Sites altered by research activities must be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible, except where the specific intent of the research activities is disturbance for the purpose of ecological enhancement or restoration.

12.11 Recreation

Where compatible with park values, low-intensity day-use recreational activities, such as hiking, will be permitted on designated trails. There will be no winter trail maintenance. Camping, the operation of off-road and all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiling, biking, sport hunting and horseback riding are not permitted in Cedar Creek Provincial Park.

Any recreational use or activity which negatively impacts natural values may be confined or discontinued.

12.12 Infrastructure management and development

Areas proposed for development will require prior assessment for cultural heritage resources and natural values to ensure these values are identified and protected at the site. All projects will be carried out in accordance with approved site and development plans that meet development standards for provincial parks. The location, design and materials of all facilities will, as much as possible, reflect the natural character of the park. Durable, low maintenance and energy efficient designs and materials will be used whenever possible.

Development may include signs, fencing and gates, as required to prevent unauthorized access, rutting from motorized travel, creation of unauthorized trails, destruction of vegetation and damage to sensitive habitats.

There is a water well and an abandoned oil and gas well in the park. The water well, located just north of the foundation of a demolished house, will be sealed in accordance with current standards. Should the abandoned oil and gas well produce fluids at the surface, it will be re-drilled and plugged in accordance with current standards.

12.12.1 Access

Public access to Cedar Creek will be provided in the northeast corner of the park using an existing laneway off of Concession Road 3 (A1; Figure 3). A park sign, gate and small parking lot will be developed. A vault toilet and storage shed may be developed, if required.

12.12.2 Trails

A hiking trail will be developed. Trails may be realigned or re-routed to minimize impacts to sensitive species or features. Any unauthorized trails will be closed and rehabilitated.

12.12.3 Interpretative facilities

Interpretive facilities will be modest. Self-guided interpretive panels may be installed at key locations along the trail to highlight unique or significant park features. Services for visitors will be oriented towards self-guided use.

12.13 Operations

Ontario Parks maintains park operations plans to provide park staff with the necessary direction to manage each park on a day-to-day basis. Park operations plans include such topics as budget, staffing, maintenance schedules, enforcement, and emergency services. Policies governing operations for Cedar Creek will be incorporated into the park operations plan for Wheatley Provincial Park. Operations will be consistent with Ontario Parks Operating Standards (2018) and will be reviewed annually and updated as required. The park will receive no winter maintenance.

Ontario Parks' staff may use or authorize any vehicle to the extent necessary for emergency actions, efficient park operations, and management activities in the park. Where possible, park operations will avoid or minimize negative environmental impacts. Other public agencies may use any vehicle for emergency operations within the park, subject to approval from the park superintendent.

13.0 Implementation priorities

The following table summarizes and prioritizes the actions identified in the policies section above. Implementation of actions is subject to:

- applicable legislation and provincial policy;
- A Class EA-PPCR; and,
- the availability of financial and human resources.

Table 1: Implementation Priorities

Action identified in management plan	Comments
Short Term	
Closure of unauthorized trails	Any unauthorized trails will be closed and rehabilitated as identified in Section 12.12.2.
Install signage, boundary fencing and gates	Install fencing around the perimeter of the park, clearly identify park boundary and access point, and install signs and gates as required as identified in Sections 12.12.

Medium Term	
Seal wells	Two wells are located within the park, both will be sealed in accordance with current standards as identified in Section 12.12.
Long Term	
Develop hiking trail and install interpretative panels	A trail will be developed to encourage nature appreciation and recreation, in accordance with Section 12.12.2. Interpretive panels may be installed along the trail as identified in Section 12.12.3.
Develop a parking lot	A small parking lot will be developed in the former agricultural field on the existing laneway as identified in Section 12.12.1.
Construction of a storage building and/or vault toilet	If required, maintenance and visitor facilities such as a small storage building and/or vault toilet may be constructed at the park entrance in Zone A1, in accordance with Section 12.12.1.

14.0 Examination and adjustment

This management plan will be examined in accordance with the provisions of the PPCRA to determine whether it is still relevant, effective and current or if adjustments are needed. In circumstances where the plan is not providing sufficient direction, or to address specific issues or pressures, it can be examined prior to the next scheduled examination.

15.0 References

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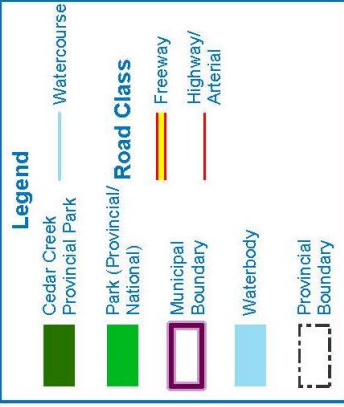
Appendix I: Provincial park maps

Figure 1: Regional Setting

Figure 2: Local Setting and Existing Development

Figure 3: Zoning and Proposed Development

Cedar Creek



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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 Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) shall not be liable in any way for the use of, or reliance upon, this map or any information on this map.

Data Sources: (Base Data - Land Information Ontario)
Date Last Saved: 05/30/2019
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N Transverse Mercator



Figure 1



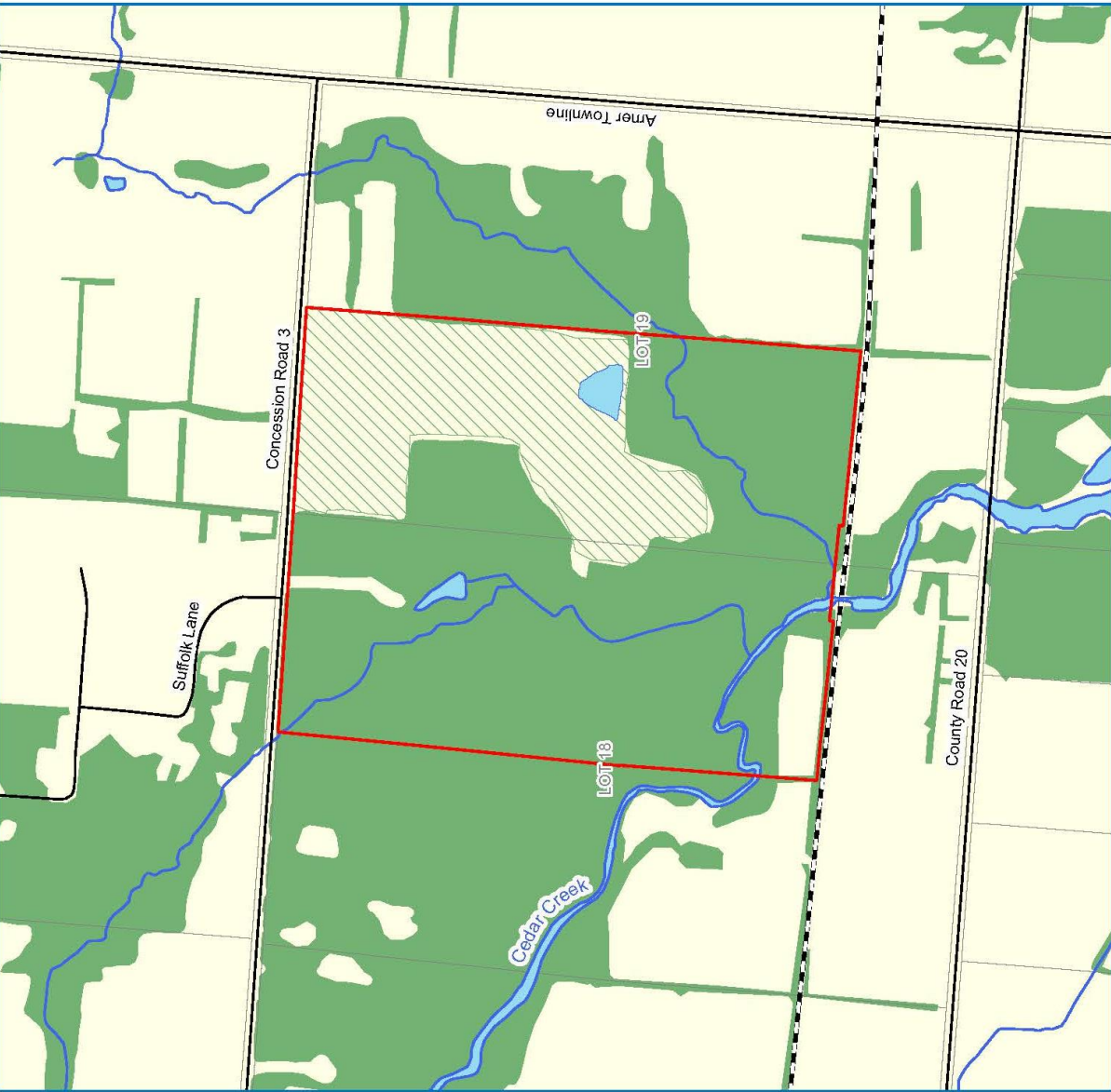
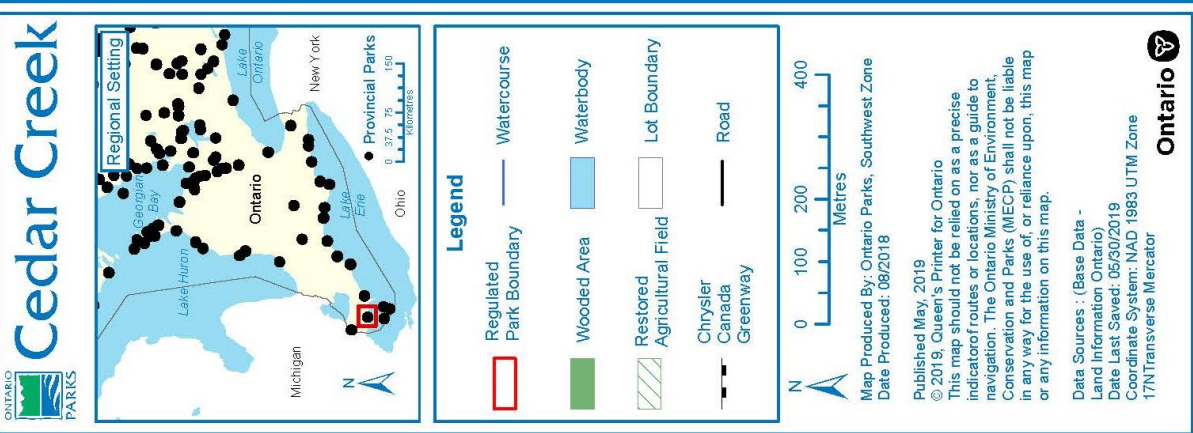
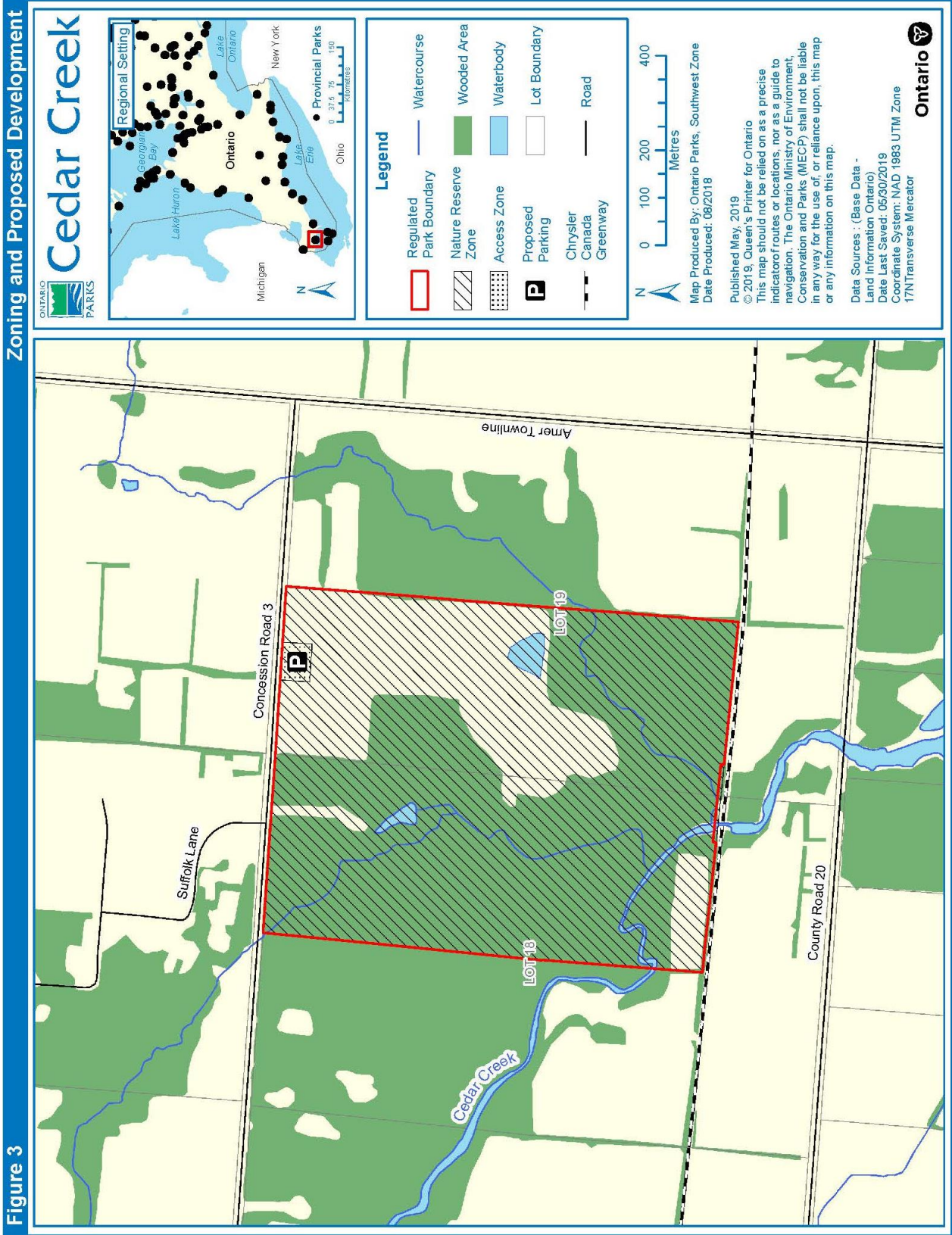


Figure 2

Figure 3



Appendix II: Summary of Indigenous community involvement and public and stakeholder involvement

Public involvement is a very important part of the park management planning process. The three phases of the management planning process are:

- Phase 1 - Terms of Reference & Background Information
- Phase 2 - Preliminary Park Management Plan (current phase)
- Phase 3 - Release of Approved Park Management Plan

Phase 1 – Invitation to Participate; Terms of Reference and Background Information

The invitation to participate and to review the approved terms of reference and background information included Indigenous community, stakeholder and public involvement opportunities. In advance of the formal public consultation process, the terms of reference and background information were distributed to adjacent landowners, key stakeholders, local Indigenous communities, Bkejwanong First Nation (Walpole Island) and Caldwell First Nation in early 2004, and a public open house was held on October 15, 2004.

The formal consultation process began on November 21, 2006 and included:

- local newspaper advertisements,
- direct mailing of notices to local Indigenous communities and known stakeholders,
- an Environment Registry proposal notice (posted for 52 days), and
- notice distribution to park, zone and district offices.

Additional correspondence was subsequently sent to the Chiefs of the Bkejwanong First Nation (Walpole Island) and Caldwell First Nation to provide an update on the status of the planning process and to reiterate that Ontario Parks was interested in speaking directly with their communities about this planning project.

Ontario Parks staff met with representatives of Bkejwanong First Nation (Walpole Island) on May 21, 2009 to discuss the planning, long term management and the proposed boundary of Cedar Creek. At their request, all public comments received during the park management planning process were provided for their review.

A land use amendment was coordinated with the park management planning process, commencing after phase 1. The amendment addressed the establishment of Cedar Creek as a recommended provincial park (nature reserve class). A policy proposal notice for the minor land use amendment was posted to the Environmental Registry and Regulatory Registry on August 31, 2012. In addition, a notice was distributed to local Indigenous communities, municipal government, local residents, stakeholders and other interested parties. Comments on the proposal were accepted until November 19, 2012. Ontario Parks received six responses generally supportive of the proposal. The proposal to

regulate Cedar Creek as a new provincial park was evaluated as a Category B project under A Class EA-PPCR. The consultation requirements for the land use amendment and the Class EA were completed concurrently, and the consultation periods for the Category B project and the Environmental Registry/Regulatory Registry were aligned.

Phase 2 (current phase) – Preliminary Park Management Plan

Local Indigenous communities, the public, stakeholders, and other interested parties will have the opportunity to review the preliminary park management plan for a minimum period of forty-five (45) days. This will allow interested participants to comment on the proposed plan. To initiate the 45-day review period, notices highlighting the availability of the document will be distributed directly to Indigenous communities, stakeholders, adjacent property owners and other interested individuals. A paid advertisement will be placed in local newspapers to invite written comments and an updated policy proposal notice will be posted on the Environmental Registry.

Ontario Parks will ensure Bkejwanong First Nation (Walpole Island) and Caldwell first nations, and other Indigenous communities or organizations as deemed appropriate, are notified of the opportunity to meet with Ontario Parks representatives to review and discuss the preliminary park management plan and planning process.

ⁱ Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs) are areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified as having life science or earth science values related to protection, scientific study or education.

ⁱⁱ Species at Risk or SAR are plants or animals that are in danger of disappearing from their natural range. Species are classified as endangered, threatened, special concern or extirpated based on the various habitat and population indicators.

ⁱⁱⁱ In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry delineates natural regions to enable landscape planning and monitoring. Ontario is divided into 71 Ecodistricts (formerly known as ecological site districts) based on landforms and biological productivity.

^{iv} A zone representing the extreme southwest region of Ontario where the eastern deciduous forest of North America has its most northern limits.

^v As part of MNRF's Ecological Framework for Fisheries Management, Fisheries Management Zones (FMZs) are the main spatial unit for planning and managing fisheries in Ontario. The FMZ approach to fisheries management planning does not preclude applying different management approaches in protected areas in order to achieve fisheries and aquatic ecosystem objectives for the planning area and to meet the objectives of the PPCRA.

^{vi} Ecological land classification (ELC) is used to describe various systems to indicate natural regions based on ecological factors. Ecological units are distinguished from one another on the basis of bedrock, climate (temperature, precipitation), physiography (soils, slope, aspect) and corresponding vegetation.