



# Six Mile Lake

## Terms of Reference

## APPROVAL STATEMENT

I am pleased to approve the following terms of reference to guide the review of the **Six Mile Lake Provincial Park** management plan.

Approval of the terms of reference is the first step in a multi-stage process for establishing an approved management plan. In identifying the tasks to be completed, roles and responsibilities, and a tentative work schedule, it provides staff and stakeholders with an outline of the planning and public consultation process that is required to review and approve the management plan.

I encourage all interested parties to participate in the management plan review process for Six Mile Lake Provincial Park.

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Adair Ireland-Smith  
Managing Director  
Ontario Parks

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Date

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## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

These terms of reference will provide staff, stakeholders and the general public with an outline of the management plan review process proposed for Six Mile Lake Provincial Park. It establishes a rationale for the review, and identifies the staff, resources and key steps required for the production of a new management plan.

## 2.0 RATIONALE

Six Mile Lake Provincial Park is a 94 ha recreation class provincial park, located adjacent to Highway 400 on the northwest shore of Six Mile Lake in the Township of Georgian Bay, District of Muskoka. The park, originally placed under regulation in 1958, provides quality camping, swimming and picnicking facilities. Six Mile Lake Provincial Park is a popular destination, in part due to its proximity to the Greater Toronto Area and location on a heavily utilized transportation corridor. The park is currently managed according to the *Six Mile Lake Provincial Park Management Plan* produced in 1990.

A plan review entails a reassessment of all aspects of the original plan, including zoning, objectives and policies relating to resource stewardship, operations and development. More specifically, the *Six Mile Lake Provincial Park Management Plan* review has been initiated for the following reasons:

- To incorporate approved additions totaling 126 ha to the plan area, and to establish zoning and policy direction for the additions based on park objectives and recently completed life science research;
- To incorporate minor amendments to the park boundary resulting from expansion of Highway 400;
- To amend park policies in light of revisions made to the *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies* in 1992, and to ensure that the plan is consistent with Ontario Parks' Business Plan;
- To reflect that the park falls within the Great Lakes Heritage Coast planning area; and
- To review a request for the authorization of a snowmobile trail through the park and new park addition.

A new park management plan is being prepared to accommodate significant anticipated changes, and will replace the 1990 edition.

## 3.0 PLANNING AREA

The area covered in this plan review process will include Six Mile Lake Provincial Park as described in Ontario Regulation 821/80, Schedule 26, Appendix B under the *Provincial Parks Act*. Two parcels of land totaling 126 ha approved for addition to the park in the *Huron District Crown Land Management Plan* (1987) will also be included in the planning area. The parcels are described as Lots 23, 24 and part of Lot 25, Concession 13 and part of Lot 25, Concession 12, Township of Georgian Bay, Baxter Ward. To be removed from the planning area described in Regulation 821/80

are approximately 10 ha of park land that were used to accommodate the expansion of Highway 400 in the mid-1990s.

#### **4.0 PLANNING TEAM & RESPONSIBILITIES**

The planning team is responsible for directing the management plan review process. The project planner will prepare, review and distribute all planning documents during the review process. Other team members will assist in reviewing draft documents, resolving issues and making recommendations regarding the plan's content. The planning team is also responsible for guiding the public consultation process associated with the plan review, and must have regard for the range of interests and concerns expressed when preparing the management plan. The project planner will, with support from the planning team, prepare media notices and mailings, liaison with Communications Services Branch and respond to public inquiries.

The planning team will consist of:

- Mike Stone, Assistant Park Planner, Ontario Parks, Central Zone (Project Planner)
- Scott Thomas, Superintendent, Six Mile Lake Provincial Park
- Laura Heidman, Area Lands Technician, MNR Parry Sound
- Dave Parks, Planner, Township of Georgian Bay

Technical advice will be sought as required from specialists within and/or outside of Ontario Parks and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Advisors may include:

- Hank van Luit, Zone Park Planner, Ontario Parks, Central Zone
- Burke Korol, Zone Ecologist, Ontario Parks, Central Zone
- Dorothy Shaver, District Planner, MNR Parry Sound
- Andy Heerschap, Georgian Bay Area Supervisor, MNR Parry Sound
- Bill Crins, Senior Conservation Ecologist, Ontario Parks
- Phil Kor, Senior Conservation Geologist, Ontario Parks
- Monique Kuyvenhoven, GIS Analyst, Ontario Parks

#### **5.0 PLAN REVIEW PROCESS & SCHEDULE**

The park management planning process used by Ontario Parks is outlined in the *Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual* (1994). The manual details the required components of each stage in the planning process. The proposed plan review process for Six Mile Lake Provincial Park will include the following stages:

- Stage 1 – Terms of Reference
- Stage 2 – Background Information, Issues and Options
- Stage 3 – Preliminary Park Management Plan
- Stage 4 – Approved Park Management Plan

Table 1 describes each stage, and its associated products, public consultation process and proposed timetable.

**Table 1: Summary of Proposed Six Mile Lake Provincial Park Plan Review Process**

<b>Stage In Planning Process</b>	<b>Topics To Address</b>	<b>Products &amp; Proposed Schedule</b>	<b>Consultation &amp; Communications Strategies</b>
Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rationale for review</li> <li>• Planning area</li> <li>• Planning team</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Schedule &amp; budget</li> <li>• Public consultation</li> </ul>	Approved Terms of Reference  Summer 2003	Invitation to Participate (45 days)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media notice</li> <li>• Direct mailing</li> <li>• EBR policy proposal posting</li> </ul>
Background Information, Issues & Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference list of relevant natural, cultural &amp; recreational information</li> <li>• Identification of key issues &amp; options for their resolution</li> </ul>	Background Information, Issues & Options File  Fall 2003	Opportunity to Inspect Background File (45 days)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media notice</li> <li>• Direct mailing</li> <li>• Posted notices at park</li> <li>• EBR posting</li> </ul>
Preliminary Park Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classification, objectives, boundaries &amp; zoning</li> <li>• Draft resource stewardship, development &amp; operations policies</li> <li>• Implementation priorities</li> <li>• Summary of key issues</li> <li>• Summary of consultation</li> </ul>	Preliminary Park Management Plan  Spring 2004	Invitation to Review & Comment on the Preliminary Plan (45 days)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media notice</li> <li>• Direct Mailing</li> <li>• Posted notices at park</li> <li>• EBR posting</li> <li>• Information Centre</li> </ul>
Approved Park Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public input incorporated</li> <li>• Classification, objectives, boundaries &amp; zoning</li> <li>• Resource stewardship, development &amp; operations policies</li> <li>• Implementation priorities</li> <li>• Summary of consultation</li> </ul>	Approved Park Management Plan  Summer 2004	Opportunity to Inspect Approved Plan (45 days)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media notice</li> <li>• Direct Mailing</li> <li>• EBR decision notice</li> </ul>

## 6.0 INTEGRATION

Six Mile Lake Provincial Park does not exist or operate in isolation. Park boundaries are an administrative mechanism, and should not be viewed as a physical barrier when considering the management of natural resources in the park. Municipal government, private landowners and other Crown agencies may have jurisdiction over, or an interest in, lands surrounding the park. These groups must be consulted during the planning process in order to ensure that their interests and all relevant resource planning and management programs are considered when establishing policy direction for Six Mile Lake Provincial Park.

Integration will be promoted by employing the following strategies:

- MNR Parry Sound District representation on the planning team;
- Consultation with other ministries during the planning process;
- Consultation with the District Municipality of Muskoka; and
- Review of the *Crown Land Use Atlas, Huronia District Crown Lands Plan* (1987), *Huronia DLUG* and other relevant resource planning and management-related documents from various jurisdictions.

## 7.0 CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

The management plan review process for Six Mile Lake Provincial Park is considered to be non-complex, as outlined in the *Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual* (1994). The public consultation process has been designed accordingly, and will include the following:

- **Invitation to Participate** will be issued to identify the commencement of the planning process once the terms of reference have been approved;
- **Opportunity to Inspect the Background Information, Issues & Options File** will be provided once the file has been compiled;
- **Invitation to Review & Comment on the Preliminary Park Management Plan** will be distributed upon approval of the Preliminary Plan. This phase of the consultation program will also include a public **Information Centre**; and
- **Opportunity to Inspect the Approved Park Management Plan** will be provided once the final management plan has received approval.

The consultation process will be directed towards interested and affected parties, including park users, interest groups, adjacent landowners and businesses, the municipality, and other provincial ministries. The following communications strategies will be used to ensure that interested and affected parties are made aware of the opportunities to provide input throughout the planning process.

### Public Notices

Each stage in the consultation process outlined above will be announced in newspapers that have regional circulation, which may include the Parry Sound Beacon Star, Barrie Examiner and the Midland Mirror.

### Direct Mail

Ontario Parks policy directive PM 11.02.02 identifies a number of mandatory contacts who are to receive direct notification of participation opportunities and copies of all publicly released documents. At their request, other groups and individuals will be added to this contact list as the planning process progresses.

### EBR Registry

The plan review will be posted on the *Environmental Bill of Rights* Environmental Registry as a policy proposal at the terms of reference stage, and will be updated at each subsequent stage. A final

policy decision notice will be posted upon approval of the management plan. The registry is an important tool for ensuring that interest groups, government agencies and the general public are aware of the opportunities for public input.

Park Notices

Where it coincides with the operating season, notices announcing the current stage of the planning and consultation process will be posted at Six Mile Lake Provincial Park to inform park visitors of opportunities to participate.

Information Centre

An Information Centre will be hosted following the release of the Preliminary Park Management Plan. This one-day event will provide interested parties the opportunity to review the current planning document, view maps and discuss issues with planning team members.

Internal Distribution

Standard Information Briefing Notes will be used to advise senior officials at Ontario Parks and Ministry of Natural Resources of major developments in the plan review process.

At a minimum, all notices, postings and mailings will identify the current stage in the planning process, opportunities and deadlines for providing input, and a contact person(s). Table 1 summarizes the public consultation process and associated communications strategies for each stage of the plan review.

**8.0 BUDGET REQUIREMENTS**

Stage 1 – Terms of Reference

Media Notice in Newspapers	\$1,000
Direct Mailing	\$100

Stage 2 – Background Information, Issues & Options

Media Notice in Newspapers	\$1,000
Document Production (in-house)	\$500
Direct Mailing of Document	\$200
Information Centre	\$500

Stage 3 – Preliminary Management Plan

Media Notice in Newspapers	\$1,000
Plan Production (in-house)	\$1,500
Direct Mailing of Plan	\$250
Information Centre	\$500

Stage 4 – Approved Management Plan

Media Notice in Newspapers	\$1,000
Plan Production (contracted)	\$2,000
Direct Mailing of Plan	<u>\$250</u>

Sub-Total \$9,800

Contingency (5%) \$490

**TOTAL**

**\$10,290**