



STATE OF ONTARIO'S PROTECTED AREAS

Management Planning

2021

State of Ontario's Protected Areas Indicator Report

Management Planning

This indicator provides an overview of provincial park and conservation reserve management planning.

Status



Status: Fair



Trend (Long-range): No Change

Why it's important

Management planning is an important tool with which Ontario Parks, through Indigenous and public consultation:

- applies legislation, strategic direction and broader policy to individual provincial parks and conservation reserves;
- guides development of facilities and programs in a provincial park or conservation reserve;
- guides management of human activities in a provincial park or conservation reserve; and
- guides protection and management of natural and cultural heritage within a provincial park or conservation reserve.

The management planning process results in an approved document called either a management plan or a management statement. Management plans are written for sites with complex issues and/or substantial infrastructure, while management statements are produced for sites with less complex issues and minimal infrastructure.

Both types of documents provide direction for permitted uses and management activities over a 20-year time frame. Management activities include activities to conserve natural and cultural heritage, provide outdoor recreation opportunities, promote heritage appreciation and education, and research and monitoring. Management direction is developed as part of a flexible adaptive management approach that includes planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and adjusting.

How we monitor

A management plan or management statement must be developed for every provincial park and conservation reserve in Ontario. After 20 years, management plans and statements are examined to determine whether they are current, relevant and effective.

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An examination could conclude that a document: 1) needs no changes (status quo), 2) requires administrative updates, 3) needs to be amended, or 4) needs to be replaced.

Data

Out of 340 regulated provincial parks, 332 have approved management direction in place. Management planning has been initiated for the remaining eight parks, which were all regulated between 2011 and 2017.

Of 295 regulated conservation reserves, 292 have approved management direction in place. Management planning is not currently underway for the remaining three conservation reserves, which were regulated between 2003 and 2012.

What's happening

Ontario Parks has a standard process for prioritizing management planning needs. A prioritization exercise was completed for provincial parks in each administrative park zone in 2018, and planning activities are being carried out based on the results.

During the 2019 transition from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, responsibilities for administration of conservation reserves came to Ontario Parks. As part of program transition, Ontario Parks is currently developing management planning prioritization for conservation reserves.

Indicator last updated:

September 2020

Data source:

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Related links

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-parks-and-conservation-reserves-planning>