

PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

SECOND LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK RESERVE
LOWER SACKVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Second Lake Provincial Park Reserve is approximately 305 hectares (754 acres) in size and is situated in the center of a large suburban area of north metro-Halifax. The Park is nestled in a valley between Sackville and Windsor Junction and includes a majority of lands surrounding Second Lake as well as a portion of lands on First Lake.

The management plan focuses primarily on lands adjoining Second Lake as they formed the original park property, encompass a majority of the lake frontage, are in a relatively natural condition and provide opportunities for complementary outdoor recreation and nature-based education. However, the recent addition of 60 acres (24 hectares) of land to the park, much of which is on First Lake, means that the management plan could also make an important contribution to the maintenance or enhancement of First Lake's natural and aesthetic values.

The communities adjacent to the Park Reserve have a population base of almost 50,000 people. The vision for Second Lake Provincial Park Reserve is to maintain a natural setting while providing passive recreation trails that, where feasible, are accessible to all segments of society.

This Park Management Plan provides a framework for the conservation and protection of significant environmental features, the provision of opportunities for compatible outdoor recreation activities and interpretive programs, the development of facilities, and the ongoing management and operation of the Park. The key components of the Management Plan are:

1. Protection of important natural and cultural heritage values
2. Development of a trail network
3. Provision of public access
4. Participation in the municipal regional trail network
5. Opportunities for interpretation and outdoor education
6. Watershed management
7. Stewardship opportunities
8. An implementation strategy

The Park Management Plan has been developed jointly by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who manages the property on behalf of the Province, and the Second Lake Regional Park Association (SLRPA) in consultation with the Friends of First Lake. The SLRPA is a community group that has been working with DNR since 1998 to create a provincial park at Second Lake.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Second Lake Provincial Park Reserve is situated in the north-metro area of Halifax County, nestled in the drumlins surrounding Second Lake. The park also includes frontage on First Lake. This document summarizes the history of the land base, the move to create a park, the natural features, park zoning and plans for development. The Department of Natural Resources and the Second Lake Regional Park Association are the principal partners in this park management plan.

Vision for the Park: To maintain a natural setting while providing passive recreation trails that, where feasible, are accessible to all segments of society. Park objectives will be consistent with protection of the natural environment and the water quality of First and Second lakes.

1.1 Historical Overview

Second Lake and its watershed might well be called “Hidden Lake.” It remained isolated from major settlement and development through most of its history and since the coming of permanent settlement to the area with the arrival of Edward Cornwallis in 1749. The watersheds of First and Second lakes were originally encompassed in five grants of land. The first and southernmost area, nearest the Cobequid Road, was located in the large grant of approximately 2,226 hectares (5,500 acres) made to Colonel Joseph Scott in 1765. Scott was a Cornwallis settler in 1749 and would become Sackville’s first entrepreneur and proprietor of the Sackville Estate. Before his death in 1800, he would build the first saw and grist mills on the Sackville River, and also his residence, the Scott Manor House, which still stands today.

The Sackville grants north of the Scott grant, which came after the settlement of the Seven Years War in 1763, were long, narrow, two-hundred hectare (five-hundred-acre) grants of land that extended several kilometres inland from the grant line that was the old road to Windsor, now the Old Sackville Road. The first four of these grants, with the Scott grant, encompass most of the First and Second Lake watersheds.

Second Lake, referred to on some early maps as “Middle Lake” or “Double Lake,” was even more isolated than First Lake in the early years after 1749. From the Windsor Junction side of the lake, to the north, this body of water was often referred to as “Kehoe’s Lake,” after a family by that name who held property in the area. This lake of many names was protected by geography and the positioning of roads and settlement patterns from the rapid development of the 1970s and 1980s.

Unlike Second Lake, First Lake was heavily developed in the 1970s under the provincial government’s land assembly project which created a satellite community for the Halifax and Dartmouth area. The result of this rapid development was a serious degradation of the water quality of the First Lake watershed.

A more detailed history of land use around the Second Lake area is provided in Appendix I.

1.2 Second Lake: The Move to Create a Park

The community first expressed an interest in a large green space to serve as a park as early as the 1970s. The Province had obtained land in the “Sackville Lakes District” in the 1960s for the development of affordable housing. The value of the land for use as a park had long been recognized because of the landscape type, forest cover, clear lakes, and proximity to large-scale planned developments.

The collective actions of several regional community groups finally resulted in the formation of the Second Lake Regional Park Association in 1998. The mandate of the new group was the protection of the Second Lake lands for use as a regional green space. In 1999, approximately 281 hectares (694 acres) of the Second Lake land assembly was transferred from the provincial Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs (now Community Services) to the Department of Natural Resources and assigned to the Provincial Parks program for management as provincial park reserve. In December, 2004, an additional 24 hectares (60 acres) of Provincially-owned land was added to the park. A majority of this parcel is located within the First Lake watershed.

A detailed summary of the land planning and actions to protect the land can be found in Appendix II.

1.3 Stakeholders

Second Lake Provincial Park has the potential to provide quality passive recreation and outdoor educational opportunities in a natural setting to the communities that surround the Park. The communities include: Sackville, Fall River, Windsor Junction, Bedford, Waverley, and Beaver Bank.

Stakeholder groups may include: sports associations, nature conservation organizations, schools, economic development associations, community development associations, and tourist associations.

The Park will be a day-use park that provides users with a range of nature-based outdoor recreational activities and access to a relatively undisturbed ecological area located within the heart of an urban development.

2.0 PARK DESCRIPTION

2.1 Natural History

Second Lake Provincial Park Reserve is approximately 305 hectares (754 acres) in size and is situated in the center of a large suburban area of Halifax Northwest (Figure 1). The Park is located north of the communities of Lower Sackville and Bedford, south of the community of

Fall River and east of the communities along Beaver Bank Road. The Park includes approximately 6 kilometres (70 percent) of the shoreline of Second Lake and approximately 1 kilometre (15 percent) of the frontage on First Lake.

The Department of Natural Resources uses an Ecological Land Classification (ELC) system to group geographic areas based on similar ecological criteria, including both biotic and abiotic components.¹ Nova Scotia has been divided into 39 ecodistricts that have been judged distinctive on the basis of broad-scale elevation, macro climate as influenced by elevation, coastal proximity, geology and landforms. Ecodistricts are generally mapped at a 1:250,000 scale and are used by DNR to evaluate ecological representivity. Ecological representivity is important in parks and protected areas planning as a measure of the extent to which those areas encompass ecological variety or biodiversity.

Second Lake Provincial Park Reserve falls within two ecodistricts: the Eastern Drumlins and Eastern Interior ecodistricts. The former is underlain by resistant Meguma Group greywacke and slate, blanketed by fine-textured tills derived from these underlying and adjacent rocks. The drumlins were formed by glacial movement and are derived from carboniferous rocks from the north as well as materials from the Cobequid Hills and Pictou-Antigonish Highlands. The soils are predominantly fine textured loams over sandy clay loams. This ecodistrict is characterized by a concentration of drumlins and also includes a significant number of freshwater lakes. Within the park it extends along the steep slope from the Armcrest subdivision to the recently-acquired 24 hectares of parkland along First Lake Drive.

In this ecodistrict, the well-drained drumlins and hummocks provide an opportunity for pure stands of tolerant hardwoods, such as yellow birch, sugar maple and beech, to thrive on the crests and upper slopes. On the lower slopes, pure stands of red spruce, hemlock and pine may ring the drumlins to varying degrees. Between drumlins, black spruce occupy the wetter, imperfectly drained soils. White pine will occur on sites with dry, coarse, shallow soil.

The Eastern Interior ecodistrict is one of the largest in the province. The underlying resistant Meguma Group quartzite and slate is highly visible in those areas where the glacial till is very thin, exposing the ridge topography. Where the till is thicker, the ridged topography is masked and thick softwood forests occur. This ecodistrict is heavily covered with freshwater lakes.

The composition of the forests in this ecodistrict strongly reflect the depth of soil profile. On the shallow soils repeated fires have reduced forest cover to scrub hardwoods such as red maple and white birch, with scattered white pine and black spruce underlain by a dense layer of ericaceous vegetation. However, on the deeper, well drained soils stands of red spruce will be found. On the crests and upper slopes of hills, drumlins and some hummocks, stands of tolerant hardwoods occur. This ecodistrict occupies the southeastern and northern areas of the park.

¹ . Ecological Land Classification for Nova Scotia. Vol. 1 – Mapping Nova Scotia's Terrestrial Ecosystems. Report DNR 2003-2. N.S. Department of Natural Resources, 2003.

Ecodistricts are, in turn, comprised of ecosections. These units are the building blocks of the ELC and describe the enduring physical features - topographic pattern, soil texture and soil drainage. At this level biological processes such as climax forest associations and natural disturbance regimes can be determined. Together, the physical and biological attributes of the ecosection determines the ecological process and structures affecting biodiversity. Four ecosections are found within the park.

The Eastern Drumlin ecodistrict includes one ecosection - the well drained, finely textured soils on drumlins. This ecosection encompasses the steep slopes between Second Lake and the adjoining residential neighbourhood on Cavalier Drive. The Eastern Interior ecodistrict includes three ecosections within the park. The ecosection characterized by imperfectly drained, fine textured soils on ridges is found at the southeastern end of the lake; the well drained, fine textured soils on drumlins is found along a portion of Cobequid road; and the well drained, fine textured soils on hills is situated at the northwest end of Second Lake.

Although Second Lake provincial park reserve is in a fairly natural condition, its contribution to ecological representation is limited due to the park's small size relative to the size of the ecodistricts. In addition, urban development has compromised the integrity of some ecosections.

2.2 Ecological Values

A preliminary examination of Second Lake Provincial Park Reserve has identified numerous areas of ecological interest including stands of near old-growth forest, several wetlands (plus a large wetland on the north side of the lake not currently within the Park and associated habitats for a variety of species), and two or possibly three drumlins, one of which has the "classic cigar shape," with a longitudinal axis in the northwest-southeast direction.

A detailed inventory of the Park's natural and cultural heritage will be completed by the Province of Nova Scotia in partnership with other organizations that may wish to participate.

2.3 Geology and Soils

Surficial materials are primarily composed of stony and silty glacial tills and are expressed in the types of soils found in this landscape - well drained, fine-textured Wolfville soils on the drumlins and hilly terrain, and poorly drained, medium-textured Mahone soils on flat terrain. Three major types of bedrock underlie the park - greywacke, slate and quartzite.

2.4 Vegetation

Significant forests include immature old-growth Red Spruce and Eastern Hemlock stands and mature tolerant hardwood-dominated deciduous and mixed forests scattered throughout the park. A young pine-dominated forest stand is situated on the peninsula. Other forests of interpretive value include semi-barren stands of early successional species in the easternmost section of the park. Lakeshore wetlands are also significant.

2.5 Cultural Values

The park has a rich cultural heritage that includes early homesteads and forestry and farming activities (Appendix I). Several of these heritage sites are still visible and will be protected from disturbance. As additional work is undertaken within the park, other sites and artifacts may be identified.

2.6 Second Lake

Second Lake is a 121 hectare body of water (exclusive of wetlands) and receives drainage from a watershed approximately 610 hectares in size. The longest axis, roughly east-west, is about 2.4 km. The lake is a headwater lake of the Shubenacadie River system into which drain several small intermittent streams. There is a single outflowing stream into Third Lake. The lake has a relatively long undulating shoreline that provides multiple features for Park appeal. Two of the drumlins on the site are associated with peninsulas that subdivide the lake into three basins. Lake depth is variable but maximum depth is approximately equal in the three basins at about 9 to 11 metres.

Water quality is suitable for swimming and other recreational uses. Second Lake was used as the water supply for the community of Sackville prior to the Pockwock water system coming on line.

The lake supports a variety of fish species, the most notable being white sucker, smallmouth bass, brook trout, and brown bullhead.

2.7 First Lake

This management plan focuses primarily on lands adjoining Second Lake as they formed the original park property, encompass a majority of the lake frontage, are in a relatively natural condition and provide opportunities for complementary outdoor recreation and nature-based education. However, the recent addition of 60 acres (24 hectares) of land to the park, much of which is on First Lake, means that the management plan will also have an impact on First Lake. Although much of the lands surrounding First Lake have been developed, over 70 percent of the shoreline is publically owned. Approximately one-half of the lake's 6.5 kilometre (4 mile) shoreline is owned by HRM (3.5 kilometres) while another one kilometre is owned by the Province and managed through the provincial parks program. These publically owned lands on First Lake could make an important contribution to the maintenance or enhancement of the lake's natural and aesthetic values.

2.8 Current Land Use

The park is currently undeveloped. A system of historic woods roads and trails connect access points on all sides of the Park. Residents of the surrounding communities use the existing trail system for hiking and to access the lake for swimming, fishing and water sports. The access road

at the top of Metropolitan Avenue is the only vehicle access and, in the past, has served to provide access for boating. This road is now in poor condition.

2.9 Regional Relationships

Second Lake Provincial Park will provide a common focal point for passive recreation for surrounding communities. Trail linkages will be established to permit Park access through the regional trails network. The principal access point on First Lake Drive is on a bus route and will lead to existing trails around First Lake and to trails along the Sackville River, thereby linking the adjacent communities of Bedford and Beaver Bank to Sackville. This emphasizes a commitment to provide regional access to surrounding communities in order to achieve a common goal of building healthier lifestyles. SLRPA continues to work closely with other regional associations (Friends of First Lake, Sackville Rivers Association and Lake District Recreation Association) to ensure that this objective is met.

The relationship with Friends of First Lake is particularly important given that the 24-hectare parcel of land recently added to the Park lies, for the most part, within the First Lake watershed. In addition, the Friends of First Lake have existing trails within this parcel and plans are already underway for their improvement and connection to the Second Lake trail system. The provincial park reserve lands adjacent to First Lake has been identified as the First Lake “buffer zone.” Friends of First Lake support efforts to ensure that trails within the buffer zone conform to the management principles established in this plan.

3.0 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

3.1 Provincial Parks Act

The Provincial Parks Act stipulates “all provincial parks are dedicated in perpetuity for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations of Nova Scotians.” To this end, the purpose of the Act is to preserve important elements of Nova Scotia’s natural and cultural heritage; provide a range of opportunities for outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation; enable residents and out-of-province visitors to discover, experience and enjoy Nova Scotia’s distinctive outdoor recreational and heritage values; and to assemble and maintain, within a system of provincial parks and park reserves, a land base adequate to meet present and future needs of Nova Scotians for the protection of heritage values and outdoor recreation opportunities.

This park management plan will achieve the objectives of the Provincial Parks Act through a number of initiatives. The plan will place an over-riding emphasis on the protection of significant natural and cultural heritage values. The plan also encourages the development of outdoor recreational and nature-based educational opportunities that are compatible with protection objectives. The plan envisions Second Lake provincial park reserve as a regionally significant attraction. Formal designation of the park under the Provincial Parks Act will help

meet the present and future needs of Nova Scotians and visitors alike for heritage protection and outdoor recreation. The management plan will also form the basis of any partnership agreement that the Department may enter into.

3.2 Provincial Parks Policy

The Parks Policy (DNR, 1988) was adopted after extensive public consultation and provides guidelines and mechanisms that will ensure the continued maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of Nova Scotia's provincial parks system. It also ensures that important heritage values, beaches, trails and waterways will be recognized, preserved, and maintained.

The Policy provides for facilities and services that better meet the needs of park visitors, improved attractions for local residents and tourists, park opportunities and services that recognize the needs of senior citizens and the disabled, and the protection and interpretation of significant natural sites and heritage values.

This management plan complements the Park Policy by placing an emphasis on the protection of heritage features and values while providing for a range of compatible outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation opportunities. The plan proposes that limited facilities and services be provided at Second Lake provincial park reserve through partnerships with consideration to partnership opportunities. These facilities and services will accommodate visitors' basic needs while providing opportunities to understand, appreciate and enjoy the park's heritage values.

3.3 Municipal Land Use Policy and Zoning

Portions of Second Lake Provincial Park are included within two separate Municipal Planning Strategies: the Sackville Plan and District 14/17 Plan, of Halifax Regional Municipality. These planning strategies were adopted as follows: the former Halifax County Municipality adopted the Sackville Municipal Planning Strategy Land Use By-law (MPS/LUB) in 1994; the District 14/17 MPS/LUB was adopted in 1989. Enforcement of these MPS documents became the authority of the Halifax Regional Municipality at the time of amalgamation. The policies of the MPS are implemented through the Land Use By-law (LUB) for the areas.

The designation and zoning which applies to the Second Lake Provincial Park Reserve lands is Urban Residential (R1 or R6 zone). The current Sackville MPS identifies a corridor through the Second Lake Provincial Park for a previously proposed transportation network. Although the Sackville MPS/LUB was amended in 1994 to include policy CF-5 under Community Facility Designation, and a P4 (Park Reserve) zone was established in support of the community interest in the Second Lake area, the P4 zone has not yet been applied to any lands within the plan area. The existing MPS and LUB documents do not reflect the 1999 transfer of the Second Lake lands to DNR for Parkland use.

3.4 Proposed Municipal Zoning for Second Lake Provincial Park

Although provincial lands are not subject to municipal regulation, the residential zoning currently applied to the park property is not compatible with park objectives. This inconsistency has been recognized by Halifax Regional Municipality staff. Consequently HRM's draft Regional Plan has been revised so that the entire property is zoned "Regional Park".

4.0 PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Park Management Plan provides a framework for the conservation and protection of significant environmental features, the provision of opportunities for compatible outdoor recreation activities and interpretive programs, the development of facilities, and the ongoing management and operation of the Park.

The vision for Second Lake Provincial Park Reserve is to maintain a natural setting while providing passive recreation trails that, where feasible, are accessible to all segments of society.

4.1 Park Objectives

Two over-riding objectives will guide the planning, development and management of Second Lake Provincial Park: (1) preservation of important natural and cultural values located within an expanding urban area, and, (2) the promotion of opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation and nature-based outdoor education.

The management plan for this day-use park provides a framework to guide future development, and establishes objectives, which are summarized below.

Protection

To protect important natural and cultural heritage values.

The Park Management Plan places a priority on the protection of the ecosystem, wildlife habitat, water quality, and nesting areas that are significant on both a local and regional context. The original 694 acre Park area is considered core green space and will be treated as an area not to be intruded upon by any form of development other than trails.

Outdoor Recreation

To provide a high quality trail system within the park with links to the regional system of trails within Halifax Regional Municipality.

The Park will provide surrounding communities with access to hiking trails. The trail system will form the central recreational component of the Park. The trail system will facilitate lake access and accommodate hiking and bicycle travel. The latter will be directed to the regional trail(s) with such use monitored to determine conflict with pedestrians and impact to the site.

If deemed appropriate and compatible with Park objectives and management guidelines, other use types may be permitted.

Heritage Appreciation

To provide opportunities for exploration, appreciation and understanding of the park's heritage values.

The Park will provide an opportunity for schools, nature groups, other organizations, and individuals to access a relatively large undisturbed natural area within the city limits. Facilitating access to, and appreciation of, the interpretive opportunities within the Park is a key objective of park development. Identification of those features and creation of interpretive signage or an appropriate brochure will occur as the Park is developed.

A cornerstone of the Park will be its value and use for education and promotion of the natural environment and wise use of our public green spaces for health and education purposes. Every effort will be undertaken throughout the planning exercise to incorporate an education element. (To be developed in consultation with education related stakeholders, i.e. local schools, Dept. of Education, etc.)

Volunteer stewardship, activities by youth groups such as Girl Guides and Scouts Canada, and school student projects, will be encouraged for park education and to promote wise use and nature appreciation.

Wellness

To provide opportunities for increased health and wellness.

Wellness is an active process of becoming aware of, and making choices toward, a more healthy existence. Wellness is multidimensional. There is resounding agreement among experts in many fields that recreation is a key component of wellness promotion and that access to varied recreation facilities increases the rate of community participation with resultant health benefits.

Wellness is a theme to be promoted within the community, and this plan strives to connect health and wellness initiatives with the Park planning process and, ultimately, park use.

4.2 Park Classification

Second Lake Provincial Park will be managed as a Natural Environmental Park as defined by the Provincial Parks Regulations. Natural Environmental Parks incorporate representative natural features with recreation opportunities. This classification emphasizes the protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritage values. Passive outdoor recreational infrastructure will occur within the context of maintaining the natural character and quality of the environment.

4.3 Provincial Park Zoning

Park zoning, as provided in the Provincial Parks Act and Regulations, defines permitted land use based upon the importance attached to protection of ecological and heritage values. The park zones as defined by the Province are not “municipal zones” as may be prescribed by municipal planning strategies. Park zones define the relative suitability for recreational use and associated development. Zoning will define the degree of protection to be incorporated in the development planning. The Provincial Parks Regulations defines three park zones: environmental protection, resource conservation, and recreational development. The first two are conservation based and the third allows for more intensive development. The latter two zones will be applied to Second Lake Provincial Park Reserve.

Resource Conservation Zones

The resource conservation zones include those areas within the Park that contain significant natural, cultural, and recreational features and require a high standard of conservation. These features may include trails, scenic views, beaches, historic resources, and archaeological sites. This zone permits activities that do not conflict with these resources.

The resource conservation zones may also incorporate and protect relatively small sites with highly significant or sensitive natural or cultural heritage values. Due to their small size, these values may not warrant being zoned under the environmental protection zoning. Examples include the wetlands on the shores of Second Lake. Consistent with this plan’s emphasis on protecting natural and cultural heritage values, the vast majority of Second Lake provincial park reserve is zoned Resource Conservation (Figure 2).

Recreational Development Zones

The recreational development zones within the Park include areas capable of supporting the development of facilities and services associated with outdoor passive recreation and more intense traffic (Figure 2). Prior to development occurring within this zone, the ecological inventory, park access plan and trail development plan will need to be completed.

In light of the plan’s intent to maintain as much of the park in a natural condition, three relatively small areas are zoned Recreation Development.

4.4 Park Development

Public Access

Public access to the Park will be sensitive to the ecology but provided at sufficient locations to accommodate its “urban” setting. The principal public access location will be off First Lake Drive. The secondary entrance will be located at the top of Metropolitan Avenue. A third location may be developed to accommodate visitors from the northwest end of the park, once

trails are in place and use patterns are observed. It will likely be off the Beaver Bank Road or the Beaver Bank –Windsor Junction Crossroad. Neighborhood access will be provided in the Armcrest subdivision at the end of Victoria, Armcrest and Karoline streets with a single trail head linking the three cul-de-sacs.

Additional pedestrian access points are being considered to provide neighborhood access at right-of-ways into the Park. Several of these locations will be designed to direct traffic to collector trails. These trails are intended to prevent the use or making of “homemade” trails, which could destroy the Park ecology or negate the experience users will expect from a Natural Environment park.

The first priority for development is access points that link to the primary trails.

Where possible, access will be designed to be inclusive. There will be trails in the Park to accommodate all users from backcountry hikers to those that are physically challenged.

Metro Transit bus routes lie adjacent to the Park along First Lake Drive and Metropolitan Avenue. Appropriately located bus stops at key access points, such as the main park entry node on First Lake Drive, would greatly improve public access. An active commercial rail line runs along the northern border of the Park. If this is ever abandoned, the former rail corridor may eventually be useful for public transportation with a “beside the rail” trail.

Parking

Parking will be an important component of the public access plan and will be provided through two principal Park entrances: First Lake Drive and Metropolitan Avenue. Further planning will establish the priority and timing for the design and construction of these park entry nodes. Neighbourhood trail access locations will not have formal parking areas developed.

Trails Systems

Outdoor recreation activities are dependent upon the natural environment. At the same time, the environment is dependent upon the standards we set in pursuing our interests. What we do while participating in hiking, picnicking, canoeing and other outdoor activities will determine how the Park will look in the future.

A key objective of park development will be the protection of the ecology while providing access via trails to unique ecological and interpretive opportunities.

The Park will include a trails system suitable to accommodate the needs of people with various abilities. The system is under development and will be designed using the Nova Scotia Trails Federation Standards as a guide. The trail development plan will attempt to upgrade existing trails where possible, rather than construct new trails.

The trail system will be developed to a high standard in expectation of a relatively high level of use (Figure 3). The trail system will connect two major Park access locations (at First Lake Drive and Metropolitan) and extend to Armcrest Drive. Motorized vehicles other than off-road park service and maintenance vehicles will not be permitted. Where possible, the trails will be approximately 2-3 metres wide with a well-prepared surface and mostly gentle slopes to permit easy access for all Park users including the elderly, those in wheelchairs, and those with strollers.

Different standard trails may be considered at a future time to provide a range of user experiences (i.e. “active” transportation versus wilderness trails).

Trail Development

Trail development will occur as resources permit. Initial plans for trail development include seven principal projects to complete about 9 kilometres (5.7 miles) of trail. Additional trails may be identified after further planning. Completion of the regional trail components of Second Lake's trail system will be a priority.

Regional Trails

Regional trails will be constructed to facilitate use by all park users and to accommodate active transportation linkages. Hence these trails will be wider in most cases than other trails in the park. Completion of these three regional trail components will result in a high quality trail that will form a key connection to HRM's regional trail system.

Project One is a trail that begins at First Lake Drive and extends to the shore of Second Lake. It is called the Great Oak Trail after a rather large oak tree that is alongside and is known to exceed 100 years in age (Figure 3). This 1.8 kilometre (1.1 mile) trail is essentially an upgrading of a former roadway to the lake. The two branches of the Great Oak Trail, in combination with a portion of the Lakeshore Trail, provide a looped trail opportunity. Almost 1.3 kilometres (0.8 miles) of this trail was completed in 2004.

At a future time the Great Oak Trail will connect with the Eastern Ridge Trail and Crimson Drive.

Project Two involves construction of the 1.8 kilometre (1.1 mile) Lakeside Trail (temporary name) which will connect the Great Oak Trail and Metropolitan Drive. A section of this trail measuring 418 metres (0.25 miles) was completed in 2004 and it is hoped that the balance can be finished in the near future.

Management of the roadway from the top of Metropolitan Drive to the lake will be a challenge because of erosion and aesthetic issues. The roadway was closed in 2004 and will be restored as a component of the walking trail that would also serve as a service entrance for trail maintenance.

Project Three will involve building a trail from Armcrest Drive to Metropolitan Avenue (to the foundation of the old pump-house). This 1.3 kilometre (0.8 mile) trail, tentatively called the Canopy Creek Trail, is an upgrade to a former woods road and will provide direct access from First Lake Drive and Crimson Drive to Armcrest Estates.

Local Trails

Local trails will provide access to various areas of the park and will also provide opportunities for return loops. Intended as secondary trails, they will be built to a different standard (width, accessibility, etc.) than the regional trails.

Project Four will be the Eastern Ridge Trail, a 1.1 kilometre (0.7 mile) trail that will involve upgrading an existing road as well as constructing a short section of new trail, extending the trail a short distance beyond that point, and directing it down-slope to connect to the westward arm of the Great Oak trail to form a loop.

Project Five will be the 2.4 kilometre (1.5 mile) Hardwood Trail which will connect the Eastern Ridge Trail with Armcrest Estates. It will serve as a collector trail while also directing visitors to a unique ecological unit within the Park.

Project Six is a short (91 metre (100 yard)) trail that connects the pathway from Cavalier Drive near the school to the Lakeside Trail. This trail has been created by Park users and is in need of remedial work to prevent erosion. It will be modified to create a switchback trail to prevent erosion and an easier walking experience.

Construction of a limited number of other trails is proposed in order to provide access to exceptional viewpoints or areas of significant natural history. These trails will be constructed as the needs and resources permit; however further planning detail is required.

The 24-hectare parcel recently added to the park falls for the most part within the First Lake watershed. Within this parcel, an existing trail extends from the boat launch area westward to the ball fields and through HRM lands. Development of trails within this area will be undertaken with the participation and cooperation of the Friends of First Lake.

Regional Linkages and Public Transportation

Once the trail system is complete it will provide a corridor between the north and south end of the Park property and a link with the trails at First Lake. The principal trail linkages will come at the southeast end of the Park where the Great Oak trail will meet the trails around First Lake and from there along Cobequid Road. The westernmost trails will be designed to link with the Little Sackville River trail and the community of Beaver Bank. Cooperation with other community groups for the purpose of forging trail linkages with Second Lake provincial park reserve is important. In addition, the park should complement Halifax Regional Municipality's "active transportation" plan. Park access is critical to provide public safety and interest and our phased

approach is designed to take advantage of public transportation. The Great Oak trail will be completed first because of access off First Lake Drive, local bus service, and because of the link with the First Lake trails. The western trails will be constructed as resources permit to expedite community trail links and access.

Linking Communities

Linkages with the regional trail system can be achieved through cooperative work with the municipality and local community groups. Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) coordinates trail development and planning through the Halifax Regional Trails Advisory Team, of which SLRPA is a member. A recent initiative with HRM, the Sackville Rivers Association, Friends of First Lake, Springfield Lake Watch, and a new community group at Sandy Lake is aimed at formalizing regional trail linkages and planning future trail locations.

Lake Access

The trail system will provide pedestrian access to First and Second lakes. The pre-existing access road at Metropolitan Avenue will be restored as a walking trail. Vehicle access to Second Lake is not supported by this plan.

Boaters in the past have gained access to Second Lake over trails and roadways. However, it is not the objective of the Park Management Plan to facilitate motorized access to the lake through the Park. Non-motorized boats may be carried or portaged through the Park by hand or on wheeled dollies. The Park Management Plan does not include the development of a wharf or boat launch.

There are locations that have traditionally been used for swimming. Visitors can continue to visit those areas, but they will not be maintained or supervised.

The old concrete foundation at the beach (former pump-house) will be in filled and covered.

Access to the area at the head of Sucker Brook on First Lake that is used as a boat launch is currently managed by the Friends of First Lake through a lockable gate on First Lake Drive and a purchase-key program. This system is intended to allow access by responsible boat owners while preventing dumping and other inappropriate uses of the access road. It is the intent of this plan to continue to manage this site for boat access to First Lake in cooperation with the Friends of First Lake.

Viewpoints

There are a number of scenic shoreline viewpoints throughout the park. Future plans will consider how to best utilize these areas.

Visitor Services

The Management Plan proposes a basic level of visitor services including a trail system and parking areas. Park visitors will be strongly encouraged to adopt the “pack it in, pack it out” philosophy and to bring all waste out of the Park. Garbage cans will not be provided within the Park. Future development may consider additional infrastructure and services designed to foster wellness, nature education, and a multi-focused Park entrance experience.

Pedestrian access to the Park will not be restricted; however the primary parking areas will be gated and locked after daylight hours.

4.5 Special Management Strategies

Protection of Water Quality

First and Second lakes are important elements within the Sackville area. Second Lake has relatively pristine waters suitable for a range of water activities (i.e., swimming, canoeing), provides important aquatic habitat and has significant aesthetic value. As such, Second Lake is integral to the ecology of the park and the protection of the lake and water quality is a high priority. Although somewhat impaired by surrounding urban development, First Lake also includes important values.

As the drainage area for both lakes extends beyond the park boundary, the Department will work with HRM and other stakeholders to maintain the quality of Second Lake. For example, planning on a watershed basis is necessary to minimize the potential negative impacts adjoining land uses may have on Second Lake.

Given the Province’s fairly extensive land holdings within the Second Lake watershed, and the relatively pristine quality of the lake, the primary emphasis of water protection strategies outlined in this plan remain focused on Second Lake. Nonetheless, as Second Lake Provincial Park Reserve includes frontage on First Lake, the Department is also prepared to work with other parties to maintain or enhance that lake’s water quality.

In an effort to protect the water quality of First and Second lakes, this management plan acknowledges the importance of partnering in the development of a watershed management plan that encompasses the entire drainage areas of these lakes. The plan described by United States Marine Corp of Engineers - State of Maryland, Environmental Protection Agency, Watershed Management Plan - Implementation Plan 1993 (USEPA) could be adapted to serve as a template for the Second Lake watershed.

The focus of a Watershed Management Plan is to protect the watershed’s natural values. The plan targets these values as a means of focusing on improving water quality.

Goals of a watershed management plan include:

1. Establishing a database for the community;

2. Maintaining or enhancing existing water quality (surface and groundwater);
3. Providing a process for identifying appropriate and effective best management practices;
4. Supporting education initiatives within the region;
5. Acquiring land within the watershed that will provide protection to the wetlands, streams and lakes;
6. Protecting and restoring the watershed as appropriate;
7. Working with partners to eliminate sanitary sewer discharges into adjacent water bodies.

The Park has several small streams that drain into Second Lake, most of which originate from natural springs and surface water runoff. The Park also receives storm water overflow from two major municipal outfalls: Cavalier Drive and Armcrest Estates. There are likely other municipal storm water discharges that have not been documented.

As one of the key objectives of this management plan is to protect the water quality of Second Lake, there is a need to work with HRM to develop and implement a source control strategy², including monitoring of storm water overflows and water quality.

SLRPA currently collects water samples from the several sites within the watershed. Monitoring of inorganic (including metals) and organic (coliforms) parameters should be continued. Work should also be initiated to study the eutrophication conditions in the lake.

The Department will partner with others to monitor water quality in streams and lakes within the park. Where problems with water quality are identified, efforts will be made to ensure park objectives are achieved.

In a similar manner, the water quality of First Lake and any impacts from park development within that watershed will be monitored and managed by the Friends of First Lake.

Storm Water Management

Site inspections have identified several areas where storm water runoff has resulted in significant damage to the soils and undergrowth within the Park. The most serious location relates to the municipal discharge at Cavalier Drive. Significant erosion and sedimentation has resulted from

² Source control – Terminology used to define the reduction, prevention or elimination of contamination discharges at the point “source” of generation.

this storm water drainage. A program to manage this situation will need to involve several partners, including HRM.

An objective of the Park Management Plan is to maintain natural drainage patterns wherever possible. The trail system will include the installation of culverts and bridges, where required, to facilitate storm water flow.

Ecological Protection

An expanded ecological inventory is recommended to focus on vascular plants, land-based animal life, aquatic species, and heritage features and values. The inventories will help ensure the property's heritage values are adequately documented and protected. Wetlands, unique or rare stands of vegetation, watercourses, and natural land features such as beaches, large areas of exposed bedrock, or any special features such as unique landscape areas will also be identified. Where possible, the Department will partner with other groups (e.g., SLRPA) to complete the resource inventory and document results.

The Park Management Plan will consider these ecological values during trail and facility development. Park development activities will be designed to avoid sensitive ecological areas. Additional efforts that will help ensure protection of ecological values include assigning most of the park to the Resource Conservation Zone. In addition, with the exception of some lands near Armcrest Estates, the original 694 hectare park land base is considered core green space that is not to be intruded upon by any form of development other than trails.

Prior to the creation of Second Lake provincial park reserve, a portion of what is now park was cleared for residential housing. Ecological restoration of some of this area, located at the end of Armcrest, Karoline and Victoria drives, is proposed. Some of the area may be maintained as open space and limited parking provided. Additional planning is required to determine the most appropriate use of this portion of Second Lake provincial park reserve.

Encroachment Management

The Park is surrounded by residential development and, in some cases, this development has encroached upon the Park. In several instances adjacent residential property owners have cleared Park property. The goal of the Park Management Plan will be to work with adjacent property owners to maintain the park's ecological integrity. Where damage has already occurred, restoration measures will be encouraged. An information program will be developed to educate adjacent property owners.

Enforcement

Until designated under the Parks Act, the Park will be administered under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act. Enforcement will be the responsibility of the Province of Nova Scotia in conjunction with other municipal and federal agencies.

Visitor Impacts

It is acknowledged that some impacts (trampling, erosion, littering, etc.) are unavoidable and must be minimized. Facility design and programming will reflect provincial park standards and consider education and information requirements. DNR and/or its partners will provide information to visitors through literature, signage, and park programs.

The Park Management Plan defines areas where public access will be restricted in an effort to minimize potential damage to sensitive ecological features or to areas prone to erosion. These areas have been defined under a park zoning plan. A program that will provide ongoing monitoring of this situation should be established.

Stewardship

Park development and use will be accomplished according to stewardship guidelines derived from the park vision and objectives as outlined in Section 4.1.

Stewardship Guidelines:

Each Park visitor will be encouraged to be a “park steward” using the following stewardship guidelines.

Plan Ahead

- § Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- § Travel in small groups to minimize congestion and impact on nature.
- § Comfortable hiking boots or other sturdy footwear is required on the trail.

Be Considerate of Others

- § Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- § Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- § Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.
- § Portable stereos (boom boxes) are not recommended in the Park. You are here to get away from civilization.

Respect Wildlife

- § Dogs and pets are permitted but must be kept on a leash 2m (6 feet) or less.
- § Owners must clean up after their dog and use doggie bags to take home with them (municipal by-law).

- § Dogs are not to be allowed to scare wildlife, defecate in or near water sources, or harass other Park users.
- § Control pets at all times or leave them at home.
- § Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- § Never feed the animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviours and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- § Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.
- § For public safety and protection of wildlife, hunting is not permitted.

Leave What You Find

- § Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- § Berries and plants are best left to feed resident wildlife.
- § Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- § Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- § Do not build structures, or furniture, or dig trenches.

Fires and Trash

- § Open fires are not permitted in the park.
- § Leave cans and bottles at home and repackage your food in reusable containers. Pack out all garbage. Pack it in – pack it out.

Vehicular Access

- § Motor vehicle access is prohibited - except for motorized wheelchairs, strollers, Park maintenance and emergency access vehicles.
- § Bicycle use is restricted to specially designated trails.

Wetlands and Sensitive Areas Access

- § Public access to wetlands and sensitive ecological areas must be avoided due to the likelihood of significant ecological damage.

Trail Usage

- § Stay on designated trails to minimize intrusion on the natural environment.

Public Consultation

The park planning and development process will provide information to the public. Ongoing public input and feedback on park issues will be encouraged through SLRPA, Friends of First Lake, Lake District Recreation Association, Sackville Rivers Association and/or DNR staff.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Survey

The park area has a rich history that includes early homesteads and forestry and farming activities. Appendix I provides an overview of the history of the region and gives some idea of what historic resources may be found on the Park property. Several heritage sites are still visible and will be protected from disturbance. As the Park is developed there may be other sites and artifacts discovered. Park development, including trail development, will account for known or potential heritage sites.

Cultural heritage sites may not be actively managed except for public safety reasons. Regardless of the degree of active management, all heritage sites will be protected by Provincial legislation and provisions of this management plan.

Fire Prevention

The forested lands surrounding Second Lake have a history of illicit fires. There are many fire pits and campsites around the lake and open fires represent a real threat to the ecology of the Park and to surrounding residential properties. Local fire departments have responded to fires within the Park. In the interests of public safety, and to protect the Park's heritage values, fires will not be permitted within the Park boundary.

Public Safety

Public safety measures will be addressed through the following measures:

- § provision of dedicated parking;
- § inspection, monitoring and maintenance of park facilities, sites and public use areas (i.e., trail corridors);
- § user advisories or notices;
- § adoption of emergency plans;
- § coordination of emergency services with other agencies (e.g., Halifax Regional Municipality, RCMP, and Department of Natural Resources).

Organized events require prior approval by DNR. Ultimately, the public will use the park at their own risk.

Trail Maintenance

DNR will provide trail construction standards, assist in the design of trail systems and inspect and approve trail construction prior to trails being opened for public use. All trails will be

designed and constructed in accordance with provincial trails standards and good engineering practice. Where, through formal agreement with DNR, a community group or other entity assumes management or operational responsibility for Second Lake provincial park reserve, responsibility for trail maintenance may be negotiated. Partnerships with local organizations and the municipality will be sought to assist in the trail maintenance.

Visitor Information

Park information literature and signage will be used to provide visitor information. An interpretive centre is planned in the longer term and will be used to educate and inform visitors. Special events will be advertised and information for the public made available through the media or special information circulars.

Partnerships

Park development and ongoing management will be supported through partnerships with interested organizations. To date, the Department has worked successfully with a number of groups including Second Lake Regional Park Association, Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Regional Trails Advisory Team, Friends of First Lake and the Lake District Recreation Association.

It is DNR's intent to explore partnerships with one or more groups to further the objectives of this management plan.

Land Acquisition

DNR will consider acquisition of key properties inside the Second Lake watershed that have a contiguous connection to the park and/or which would enhance management of the property. In addition, consideration may be given to wetlands and environmentally sensitive areas that directly influence the water quality of Second Lake.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

1. Continue trail construction, with a priority on completing the regional trail components (Great Oak Trail, Lakeshore Trail and Canopy Creek Trail) (First Lake Drive to Metropolitan Drive to the Armcrest subdivision). In conjunction with HRM, integrate the Second Lake provincial park reserve trail system into the regional trail system.
2. Inspect the trail system on a regular basis.
3. Develop public access to the park, with a priority on an access node off First Lake Drive.
4. Work with Metro Transit to ensure public transit bus stops are located in close proximity to key park entry nodes.
5. Develop a more detailed inventory of the park's natural and cultural heritage values.
6. Review and schedule a survey of the park boundary, with the priority on the shared boundary with residential properties between Crimson Drive and the Armcrest subdivision.
7. Designate under the Provincial Parks Act.
8. Monitor and evaluate opportunities to acquire key properties that will enhance park management objectives.
9. Prepare an emergency response plan to reflect park use and facilities.
10. Develop a program to monitor use and remediate negative impacts as necessary and, in particular, to remediate parkland in the Armcrest subdivision that had been previously cleared for residential development.
11. Enforce park rules, provide for public safety and ensure park values are appropriately managed.
12. Work with HRM and other interested parties to protect the water quality of Second Lake by preparing a watershed management plan for lands draining into Second Lake.
13. Remediate the former pumphouse site at the bottom of Metropolitan Drive.
14. Develop an interpretive plan.
15. Prepare a park development plan that includes a visitor information kiosk near the visitor access node off First Lake Drive.

APPENDIX I – HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF PARK

History of Land Use in the Greater Second Lake Area

Second Lake and its watershed might well be called “Hidden Lake.” It remained isolated from major settlement and development through most of its history, since the coming of permanent settlement to the area with the arrival of Edward Cornwallis in 1749. In September of that year, two months after the founding of the town of Halifax, Cornwallis sent a company of Mohawk Rangers under the command of John Gorham to build a fort at the ‘head of the bay where the road to Minas begins’ to protect the so called ‘backdoor’ to Halifax from French and/or Mi’kmaq attack. The fort never fired a shot in anger and, in the end, ironically was used more as a security post to intercept runaway British soldiers.

Passing by the fort was the road to Windsor, which met the Cobequid Road to Truro, several miles beyond the Fort at what is now Fultz Corner in Sackville. To the east of the Windsor Road and to the north of the Cobequid Road lay the watersheds of the Sackville Lakes. The watershed of First Lake, or as it was sometimes called on old maps, “Crooked” or “Sandy” Lake, remained largely undeveloped until the late 1960s and 1970s. It was used for logging, from time to time, and supported small subsistence farming in some areas closest to the Cobequid Road. It was this land, about two hundred fifty acres, that was acquired by the Reverend Benjamin Gerrish Gray in the early 1800s from the Sackville Estate of the late Colonel Joseph Scott.

Gray was the first resident clergyman in Sackville and the first minister of St. John the Evangelist (Anglican) Church. Gray sold the lower portion of his land, nearer the Windsor Road, to William Fultz, soon to be proprietor of the Twelve Mile House in 1812. The upper part of Gray’s property, which ran to the western shore of First Lake, was known as the “wood lot,” “wherein William Henry, a man of colour, now lives.” Gray mortgaged the “wood lot” in 1825. In later years, Thomas Caudle had a barn on the property and, from time to time, logged the land. The part of the property nearest the Cobequid Road became the Caudle Park Subdivision in the late 1960s.

First Lake was used for fishing and casual recreation, and several families had camps on the shores of the lake. Ice was cut on the lake in winter for refrigeration purposes later in the year, and Baxter’s Nursery in the 1950s piped water from it to its business on the Windsor Highway (now Sackville Drive). This watershed would be heavily developed in the 1970s under the provincial government’s land assembly project, which created a satellite community for the Halifax and Dartmouth area. The result of this rapid development was a serious degradation of the water quality of the First Lake watershed. Beyond the eastern shore of First Lake and over the ridge lay the largely undisturbed Second Lake and its watershed.

Second Lake, referred to on some early maps as “Middle Lake” or “Double Lake,” was even more isolated than First Lake in the early years after 1749. From the Windsor Junction side of

the lake, to the north, this body of water was often referred to as “Kehoe’s Lake,” after a family by that name who held property in the area. This lake of many names was protected by geography and the positioning of roads and settlement patterns from the rapid development of the 1970s and 1980s, which impacted so greatly on its neighbour, First Lake, just over the ridge. Even now, many Sackville residents have not taken the trek over the ridge and have therefore not seen Second Lake.

Ironically, Second Lake contributed unwittingly to the neighbouring First Lake development by being the source of water for early central services in Sackville and Bedford. A pumping station was located at the western end of the lake and capacity was believed to be sufficient to support a community of more than twenty thousand people. Plans included a daily output of up to just over two million imperial gallons. This was never required as the area came to be served by the Halifax Pockwock system by the end of the 1970s.

The watershed of Second Lake was originally encompassed in five grants of land. The first and southernmost area, nearest the Cobequid Road, was located in the large grant of approximately 2,226 hectares (5,500 acres) made to Colonel Joseph Scott in 1765. Scott had been a Cornwallis settler in 1749 and would become Sackville’s first entrepreneur and proprietor of the Sackville Estate. Before his death in 1800, he would build the first saw and grist mills on the Sackville River, and also his residence, the Scott Manor House, which still stands today.

The Sackville grants, north of the Scott grant, which came after the settlement of the Seven Years War in 1763, were long narrow five-hundred-acre grants of land that extended several miles inland from the grant line that was the old road to Windsor, now the Old Sackville Road. The first four of these grants, with the Scott grant, comprised most of the Second Lake watershed. In all, there would be thirty-two grants, known as the “farm lots,” running to what became the Hants County line. Lots one to four, which were north of the Scott property, were those of Andrew Bower, Daniel Miller, John Triter, and Johann (John) Fultz. The latter grant was made in 1773 and was located in the area included in the watershed just north of the lake. These lands were at the extreme ends of the long lots, far from the grant line road on which most people lived in the early years. They were also quite far back from the “new road” (Sackville Drive) constructed through the floor of the valley of the Little Sackville River in the mid 1820s. In this “hinterland,” early and latecomers hunted and fished, and at times logged, but, for the most part, the area was left undisturbed.

The north side of the Second Lake watershed was eventually affected by development, the most significant being the construction of what became the Dominion Atlantic Railway line and the Beaver Bank-Windsor Junction Cross Road. On the south side, an early map indicates that at least one homestead was located, at least in part, in the Second Lake watershed in the mid 1860s, near the crest of the ridge which separates the watersheds of First and Second Lakes. The Ambrose F. Church map for Halifax County, with information current to about 1865, shows a “J. Robinson” located in this area. Today, in the woods, one can still pick out the remains of stone walls and fields, apple trees, a well, and an old rock foundation. The census of 1871 identifies a “Robertson” family in this general area near the Cobequid Road. It consisted of John, a farmer,

born in Nova Scotia but claiming Scottish ancestry and age forty-five, as well as his wife, Margaret, age fifty, with three teenage children: Elizabeth, age nineteen; John, age seventeen; and Agnes, fourteen. Further research may well reconcile the two names as being one and the same family. A further clue that the name may be Robinson comes from the fact that an early reference point for property descriptions in the general area of the lakes is referred to as the 'old Robinson line.' In much later times, just after 1920, we know from first-hand family accounts that a West family lived in the same location. However, children of this family recall that the old rock foundation and walls were already there eighty years ago and were the remains of an earlier homestead, most likely that of the "Robinsons."

Garland West, who died in 1965 at age seventy-six, and his wife Amelia Jane (1892-1968) lived in this somewhat remote location, for a time, after the Great War of 1914-1918 in which Garland had served in the 1st Newfoundland Regiment as a private. Later they would move their house on rollers to a site on McIntyre Lane closer to Cobequid Road. Their daughter, Mary (West) Kemp, still recalls the pleasant natural surroundings in the watershed of Second Lake near her home. She recalls particularly how Mi'kmaq people would camp near the Windsor Junction Station and come to collect ash saplings in the homestead area with which to make baskets, axe handles and other items characteristic of their culture. As well, a prominent natural feature was an old white pine tree, thought to be 200 years old, which is still standing now near the original homestead site. Hazelnuts could be found growing along the stone wall in the area of the pasture where the West family kept a cow.

In all, the Wests would make three land purchases in the area between 1921 and 1935. The first was property including the old homestead acquired from John and Alice Smith. The second, in 1923, was the lot near the United Baptist Church on Cobequid Road, from John Smith, to which the Wests moved their house. The third lot was a 20 hectare (50 acre) parcel of woodland between First and Second Lakes, purchased in 1935, which had at one time been the property of George Smith. The Church Map (1865) shows a "Mrs. George Smith" and a "J. Smith" in this general watershed area. The property descriptions in the West's deeds included references to the "old wood road" running through the watersheds of First and Second Lakes. In addition, there was a reference to a road locally called a "stagecoach road" running between the two lakes from Cobequid Road, past the West property, to Beaver Bank. Certainly residents of Sackville as early as the 1860s petitioned for a road link through to Beaver Bank in this area. It is unclear if such a public road was ever built or if the roadway, parts of which may still be seen in the First and Second Lake watersheds, served that local purpose as well as a logging road.

The settlement that did occur from the south side of Second Lake pushed in from the Cobequid Road. Here, during the War of 1812, were settled a number of African American families who were escaped slaves and therefore refugees from the United States. Most of these people, who came from the states located near Chesapeake Bay, were resettled in Preston and Hammonds Plains, but several smaller settlements were developed including the one on the Cobequid Road. The census of 1871 reveals that several families of "African" origin were living in this area between the First and Second lakes and Cobequid Road. They had family names that included: Williams, Butler, Clarke and Smith. The oldest, in 1871, was "Aimy Smith," who was born

eighty-eight years before in the United States, almost certainly as a slave. The Lieutenant Governor in 1817, Lord Dalhousie, visited the refugee settlements and reported that he found that “almost every man had one or more acres cleared and ready for seed and working with an industry which astonished me.” Dalhousie, who took a great interest in these settlements, provided seed potatoes along with cabbage and turnip seeds. However, hard work would not be enough in many cases as the refugees had been settled on marginal land and their arrival coincided with two natural disasters, the ‘year of no summer’ in 1816, and the ‘year of the mice’ in 1817.

The most prominent natural feature on this section of the Cobequid Road was and is the ‘Great Beech Hill’ which rises nearly three hundred feet and affords spectacular views of the surrounding watersheds, including those of First and Second lakes. Although many travellers and residents alike have passed by along the “road to Truro,” and in the nineteenth century used a stagecoach diversion to the north of the hill to avoid the steep grade, few penetrated very far into the watershed of Second Lake. Thus, cultural intrusions were minimized into what is still a largely pristine natural area, hidden away from, but now close to, tens of thousands of people.

APPENDIX II – THE MOVE TO CREATE A PARK

During the late 1960s the Nova Scotia Department of Housing acquired much of the land surrounding the Sackville lakes for future residential development. In 1970, Murray V. Jones and Associates prepared the *Sackville Lakes Development Plan* for the Nova Scotia Department of Housing. Although the Plan was for continued urban housing development, it recognized the "tremendous potential for a variety of recreational opportunities." The Metropolitan Planning Advisory Committee (MAPC) further supported this opportunity in 1971, when they identified the area as having important ecological, aesthetic and recreational potential. In 1971, during his assessment of the intrinsic values of the natural environment around greater Halifax-Dartmouth, P. B. Dean, Wildlife Biologist, Department of Indian Affairs and Wildlife Development, in his *Natural Environment Survey*, included the lands around Second Lake. He noted a variety of deep rich soils, and streams and marshes that introduce variety into the landscape and support special habitats for a large number of plant and wildlife species.

The Sackville Chamber of Commerce, during the 1987 Sackville Civic Status Review, conducted a survey where residents identified their important long-range plan for more parks and recreational areas and environmental planning. The Department of Lands and Forests' *Preliminary Report, Provincial Park Proposal for Second Lake*, (1987), identified "a remnant old growth forest stand which represents an excellent interpretive opportunity for the Metro area." Their preliminary review concluded, "a provincial park at that location could provide a wide range of outdoor recreational and outdoor educational opportunities" for the Metro area. In 1988, Lake District Recreation Association prepared a submission for the Municipal Plan review for Sackville, supporting a provincial park at Second Lake. The 1990 study, *Examination of Sources of Bacterial and Chemical Contamination: First Lake, Halifax County, N.S.*, W. C. Hart and D.H. Waller, from The Centre for Water Resources of the Technical University of Nova Scotia, found Second Lake as being "typical of an undisturbed lake in Nova Scotia." In 1992 the Department of Housing tasked environmental planning students, of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, with a study of future development potential of Second Lake lands. The students concluded that a highway and housing development had environmental limitations and consequences, and that the area would provide education as well as aesthetic opportunities.

Efforts to protect the Second Lake lands for parkland became anchored in the community in 1990 with the establishment of a Second Lake subcommittee by the Sackville Rivers Association. In response to the focused community efforts, the Sackville Community Committee of Halifax County Council passed a motion in December 1991 supporting the transfer of all provincially held Second Lake watershed lands to DNR for designation as a park reserve. In February 1992, the N. S. Department of Transportation hosted a community open house on plans for a highway in the area. The resultant evaluation of 226 questionnaires indicated 80% of the respondents opposed highway construction at Second Lake and identified their main concern as environmental protection. Acknowledging that "the community had significant and legitimate concerns," the Provincial Government established the Second Lake Land Use Committee (SLLUC) in 1992. This committee, ten senior provincial staff and the five elected Sackville

Municipal Councillors, met intermittently over a period of sixteen months, “with a mandate to include housing, highway and parkland” and released their report, *Land Use Around Second Lake*, in 1993. Although the SLLUC Report proposed a plan for 158 hectares (390 acres) of parkland and 162 hectares (400 acres) for housing and highway construction, the Province took no action to transfer parkland or change the land use designation. In 1994 the Sackville Community Council of Halifax County Council formed the Second Lake Advisory Subcommittee “to review the SLLUC report for accuracy and completeness and examine the issues as they related to a park at Second Lake.” In effect, municipal representatives wanted to determine the level of support for the SLLUC report within the local community. Conclusions from that review were presented at a public meeting prior to the merger of the Halifax Regional Municipality in 1996. The subcommittee concluded that housing, a four-lane collector highway and park were not compatible uses for the land, given its configuration and features. They also described the park type desired as a large-scale “passive recreation” park.

During 1993 and 1994, the Halifax County Municipality prepared amendments to the Sackville Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), pertaining to the 158 hectares (390 acres) identified for parkland, which referenced the “strong community support for reserving lands in the Second Lake watershed for a park.” These amendments recognized the "significant community resource" and the long-term preservation through passive parkland development. To address the known environmental sensitivities, the Halifax County Planning Department developed a Park Conservation Designation for the Sackville MPS. Although the municipality endorsed the amendments, the province that acted to retain the 1982 residential zoning did not approve them.

Community groups, residents and elected officials continued to press for preservation of the Second Lake lands as parkland. Additional support came in 1995 when Sackville Recreation, a committee of Lake District Recreation Association, and Halifax County Municipality, presented the Recreation Implementation Strategy for Recreation in Beaver Bank-Sackville, prepared by Environova and UMA Group. The strategy identified the Second Lake lands as a top priority in future planning considerations for passive recreational open space.

In the spring of 1998 SLRPA was formed representing the surrounding communities of Sackville, Beaver Bank, Windsor Junction, Fall River, Waverley and Bedford. The membership has and continues to act on behalf of the community to provide leadership on issues related to Second Lake Park, including environmental protection, promotion of the development and management of passive recreation opportunities, public participation, and community stewardship.

In February 1999, the Government of Nova Scotia, under Premier Russell McLellan, announced the transfer of approximately 267 hectares (660 acres) of land at Second Lake, from the Department of Housing to the Department of Natural Resources, for designation as park reserve. In December 1999 an additional 12 hectares (29 acres) was transferred to bring the Parkland acreage to 283 hectares (700 acres). Between 1999 and 2000 a series of meetings organized by SLRPA led to that organization adopting a “park realization strategy” which has since guided their park planning and management initiatives.

In December 2004, an additional 24 hectares was added to the Park by the Government of Nova Scotia. The land is bisected by First Lake Drive and will be the location for the main Park entrance.

FIGURES

Figure 1 Regional Location

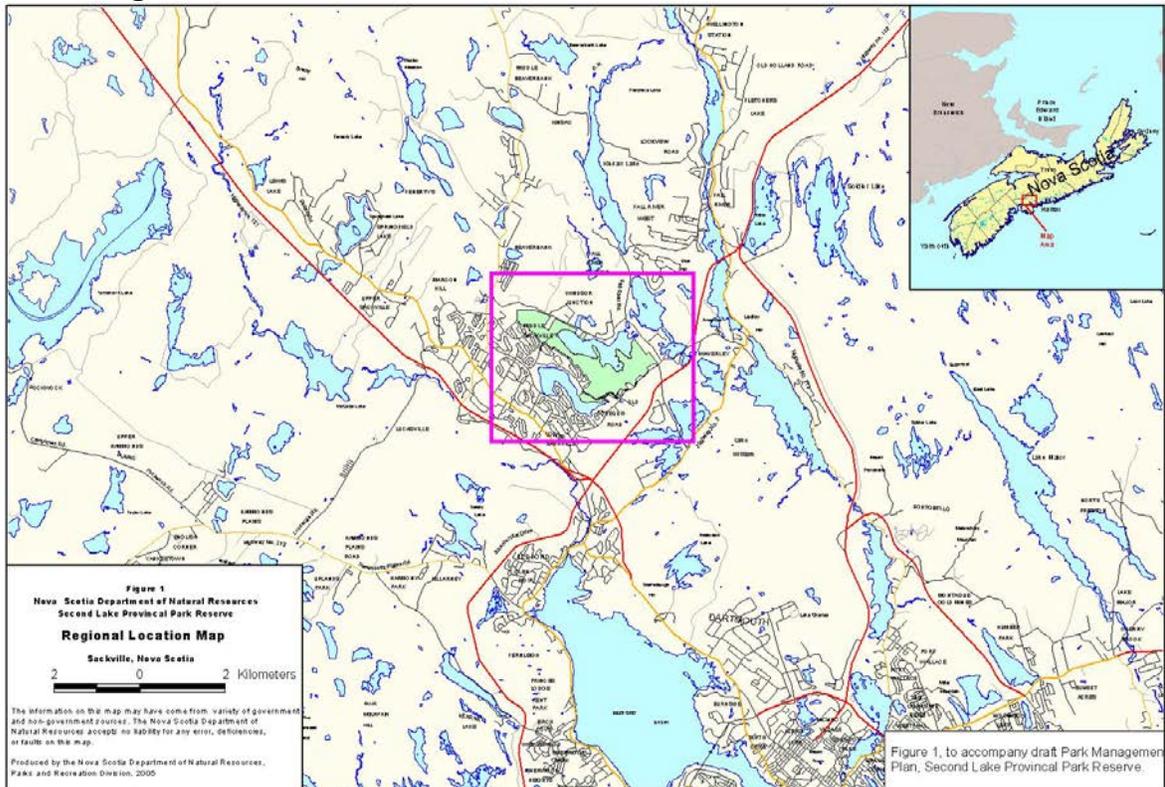


Figure 2 Park Zoning

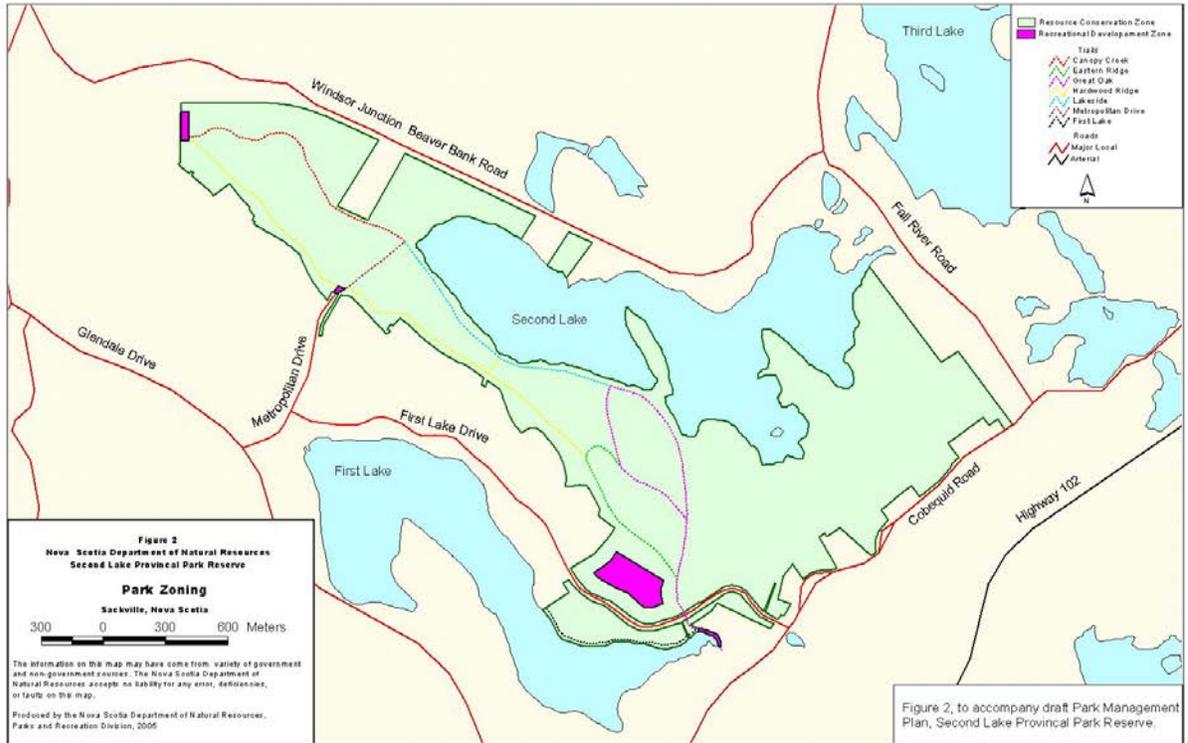


Figure 3 Development Concept

