



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

AND

DALVAY-BY-THE-SEA

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Management Plan



FEBRUARY 2007

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Foreword



Canada's national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas offer Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast unique opportunities to experience and understand our wonderful country. They are places of learning, recreation and fun where Canadians can connect with our past and appreciate the natural, cultural and social forces that shaped Canada.

From our smallest national park to our most visited national historic site to our largest national marine conservation area, each of these places offers Canadians and visitors unique opportunities to experience Canada. These places of beauty, wonder and learning are valued by Canadians - they are part of our past, our present and our future.

Our Government's goal is to ensure that each of these special places is conserved.

We see a future in which these special places will further Canadians' appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of Canada, the economic well-being of communities, and the vitality of our society.

Our Government's vision is to build a culture of heritage conservation in Canada by offering Canadians exceptional opportunities to experience our natural and cultural heritage.

These values form the foundation of the new management plan for Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada and Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site of Canada. I offer my appreciation to the many thoughtful Canadians who helped to develop this plan, particularly to our dedicated team from Parks Canada, and to all those local organizations and individuals who have demonstrated their good will, hard work, spirit of co-operation and extraordinary sense of stewardship.

In this same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada and Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan.

John Baird

Minister of the Environment

Recommendations

Recommended by:

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Chief Executive Officer
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Executive Summary

This new management plan for Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada and Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site of Canada provides strategic direction for the protection of ecological and commemorative integrity, the provision of meaningful visitor experiences, and the delivery of public education and awareness programs. The plan includes a 15 year vision for the park and site. It also incorporates performance measures to allow Parks Canada to gauge progress over time. The plan was developed with the input of First Nations, stakeholders, visitors and the general public. This plan will be the primary accountability document for the park and site over the next five years.

Some of the key actions that will be taken during the life of this management plan include:

Ecological Integrity

Parks Canada is responsible for maintaining and restoring the ecological integrity of Prince Edward Island National Park.

Key actions that will contribute to this goal include:

- Complete the development of a comprehensive ecological monitoring program;
- Complete a vegetation inventory and vegetation management plan;
- Complete a restoration plan for disturbed sites and implement priority restoration projects;
- Conduct an ecological evaluation of federal Crown lands and incorporate strategic parcels into the national park;
- Complete an aquatic restoration plan; and,
- Declare a wilderness area under Section 14 of the *Canada National Parks Act* (2000).

Cultural Resource Management

Cultural resources found within the park include historical buildings such as Green Gables and the Simpson House, archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes found at Greenwich and Stanhope. Key actions in this plan include:

- Examine feasibility of establishing more flexible off-season hours at Green Gables;
- Develop, with partners, a commemorative integrity statement and management plan for the new L. M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site; and
- Conduct research with others to increase knowledge of cultural resources.

Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site

A separate management plan for this site is included as Chapter 8 in this document. The plan is based on the commemorative integrity statement for the site and includes the following key actions:

- Prepare a conservation maintenance plan for the site;
- Develop landscape standards for the grounds;
- Conduct regular inspections to ensure the commemorative integrity of the site is being maintained;
- Evaluate the impact on the building's heritage character of any proposed adjacent developments;
- Enhance the existing interpretive materials for the site; and
- Conduct additional visitor surveys to gauge the effectiveness of interpretation.

Public Education

Promoting public awareness and understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of the park is a critical part of Parks Canada's mandate. The park provides a range of interpretation programs that contribute to meaningful visitor experiences, and outreach learning opportunities that deliver key messages beyond park boundaries. Key actions include:

- Increase the number of visitors participating in personalized interpretive programs;
- Enhance the interpretation of Aboriginal heritage in the park;
- Develop opportunities to deliver resource protection messages at high-use recreational areas in the park;
- Review the interpretation programs at Green Gables to ensure they reflect the national significance of the new L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site; and,
- Develop strategies to deliver key messages more effectively to residents of Prince Edward Island.

Visitor Experience

Parks Canada strives to facilitate meaningful visitor experiences that connect Canadians and other park visitors to the natural and cultural heritage of the park. Key actions that will contribute to this goal include:

- Prepare a park trail plan to maximize trail opportunities, including a multi-use trail along the Gulf Shore Parkway corridor, and a new trail and boardwalk to provide continued access to Cavendish Sandspit beach;
- Collaborate with others to develop public transit options where feasible;
- Continue the upgrade of Cavendish Campground;
- Engage stakeholders in a discussion of the future of Robinsons Island Campground;
- Upgrade the Green Gables Golf Course.

Working With the Mi'kmaq

Parks Canada worked closely with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island during the preparation of this management plan. Parks Canada wishes to maintain a strong working relationship with the Island's Mi'kmaq and plans to implement the following actions:

- Enhance presentation of Aboriginal heritage in the park and surrounding area;
- Pursue research of mutual interest;
- Develop skills training and information to prepare Mi'kmaq people for careers with Parks Canada;
- Improve communication regarding employment competitions;
- Explore opportunities to establish a Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal cultural centre;
- Develop an agreement on the use of the park for traditional spiritual and ceremonial purposes.

Collaboration and Public Engagement

Collaboration and community involvement are critical to achieving the shared vision outlined in the plan. Some key actions to support this involvement include:

- Review and update the established Advisory Board process to ensure it is effective;
- Enhance communication opportunities with park user groups and other stakeholders;
- Prepare annual management plan implementation reports with the involvement of the public;
- Continue to participate in the PEI Model Forest; and,
- Establish a Greater Ecosystem Working Group.

Administration and Operations

Parks Canada will continue to operate Prince Edward Island National Park in an environmentally and fiscally sustainable manner in support of the Parks Canada mandate. Key actions include:

- Correct deficiencies in the water distribution system;
- Prepare a potable water management plan;
- Prepare a mowing plan that reduces, where feasible, the area mowed along park roadways and around facilities;
- Incorporate environmental technologies into new or upgraded facilities to maximize energy efficiency and water conservation.

An environmental assessment of this management plan was conducted to ensure that no significant environmental impacts will result from its implementation. Strategic and project-specific environmental assessments will be required for a number of proposed plans and projects identified in this management plan. Implementation of the management plan should result in an improvement in the ecological integrity of Prince Edward Island National Park.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

On behalf of the people of Canada, Parks Canada protects nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage and fosters public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations.

The *Canada National Parks Act* (2000) and the *Parks Canada Agency Act* (1998) require each national park and national historic site administered by Parks Canada to develop management plans. These plans reflect the legislation and policies of the Agency, and are developed with public consultation. Management plans are approved by the Minister, and are tabled in Parliament. Management plans are reviewed every five years, to ensure that they remain relevant and responsive.

The last management plan for Prince Edward Island National Park was tabled in Parliament in 1998. Many of the priorities in that plan have been addressed, and many changes have occurred that affect the management and operation of the park. In the fall of 2001, a management plan review

was initiated to ensure that the management plan continues to provide sound direction for the protection of park resources and the provision of meaningful visitor experiences and effective learning programs.

This plan review also addressed the need for a management plan for Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site, which is contained within the boundaries of the national park. For ease of reference, the management plan for this historic site is included in its entirety as Chapter 8.

The revised management plan provides Parks Canada staff with a framework for decision-making. It will guide the development of the Prince Edward Island Field Unit Business Plan, and the park work planning processes. The plan includes a vision of the park and site, and clear management objectives and actions for resource conservation, visitor experience, public awareness and understanding, and cultural resource management.

All of the commitments outlined in this plan are achievable within the existing financial capacity of the field unit. This plan will remain valid until the completion of the next management plan review.

2.0 Role of Prince Edward Island National Park in the Canadian National Park System



Cavendish Beach. Todd Keith

The National Parks System Plan is based on a landscape framework that includes 39 distinct natural regions as defined by their unique combination of physical and biological characteristics. One of the goals of Parks Canada is to establish at least one national park in each of these 39 natural regions.

Prince Edward Island National Park represents the Maritime Plain Natural Region within the National Parks System. This region is characterised by an undulating, landscape of low elevation, underlain by relatively soft sandstone, conglomerate, and shale. Sandy beaches, sandspits, barrier islands, and shifting sand dunes are common along the coastal margins. River estuaries are often bordered by salt marshes. Native forest types found in this region are part of the Acadian Forest biome, and range from hardwood forests of sugar maple, yellow birch, and beech on rich

uplands and slopes, to black spruce bogs on low, poorly drained flats, and white spruce stands in exposed coastal locations. Prince Edward Island National Park provides excellent representation of the geology and coastal features of this natural region, and also protects a variety of upland forested vegetation communities.

The *Canada National Parks Act* states that the maintenance and restoration of ecological integrity is the first priority of national park management. At Prince Edward Island National Park this means protecting the biological and physical features, biodiversity, and ecological processes that are characteristic of the Maritime Plain Natural Region on the north shore of the island. Landscapes protected in the park include coastal beaches and dunes, sandstone headlands, salt-marshes, freshwater and brackish ponds,



MacNeills Pond. Todd Keith

small streams, and upland till habitats that support a range of vegetation types, including old agricultural fields in various stages of ecological succession. The ecosystems of the park support a variety of plant and animal species, including six species at risk. These include the piping plover and the Gulf of St. Lawrence aster, both listed under

the federal *Species at Risk Act* (2003). Prince Edward Island National Park provides a key protected area for these species. The park also plays an important role as a benchmark for scientific research and monitoring of natural ecosystems and processes such as coastal dynamics.

Protecting and presenting Canada's cultural heritage are also important priorities for Prince Edward Island National Park. In addition to Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site, the park protects a variety of cultural resources reflecting a long history of human use by First Nations, and by Acadian, French and British settlers.

The public is encouraged to appreciate, understand, and enjoy the natural and cultural heritage of the park, in ways that leave it unimpaired for this and future generations. Park visitors have opportunities to experience dynamic coastal landscapes, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and cultural resources through a variety of recreational opportunities, and guided and self-guided learning opportunities.

3.0 Planning Context



Blooming Point. Barrett and MacKay

3.1 PARK SETTING AND REGIONAL LAND USE

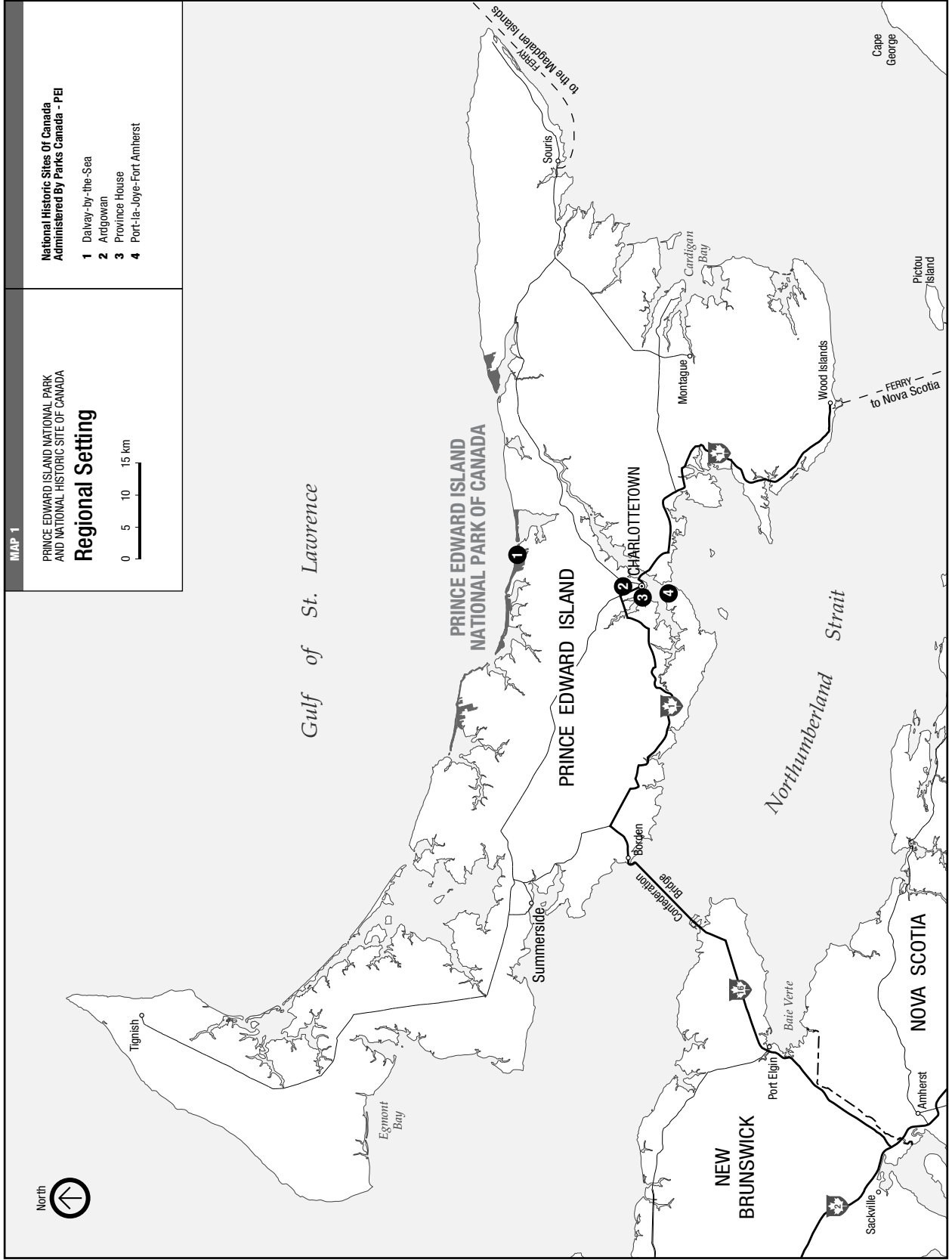
Prince Edward Island National Park was established in 1937. The original park area extended for approximately 40 kilometres along the north shore of Prince Edward Island from the Cavendish Sandspit in New London Bay to Blooming Point in Tracadie Bay. In 1998, the national park was expanded with the addition of a portion of the Greenwich Peninsula on St. Peters Bay (MAP 1).

The park is one of the smallest in Canada, encompassing an area of approximately 24.7 km². Parks Canada also manages an additional 12.5 km² of federal Crown land adjacent to the park that has been acquired since 1974. The most recent acquisition was a 16 hectare property near Cavendish that was purchased in 2005. Some of these Crown lands will eventually be incorporated into the national park.

Prince Edward Island National Park is adjacent to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and occu-

pies a transition zone between land and sea. Throughout its length the park protects some of the most outstanding coastal landscapes along the north shore of Prince Edward Island, including long barrier beaches, barchois ponds, coastal headlands, and rare parabolic dunes. Five large coastal bays and their surrounding upland watersheds border the park on the south. The dominant land uses in the surrounding region are agriculture, tourism and forestry. Commercial fishing is still an important activity for many coastal communities, and aquaculture is a significant industry in the large coastal bays.

The park is bordered by a number of small communities. Cavendish, in the western sector, is a traditional farming community that has also become the main tourist centre for the central north shore. North Rustico is a fishing and farming community with an increasing emphasis on tourism. Brackley Beach, Stanhope, and Dalvay are small tour-



ism communities adjacent to the beaches in the central part of the national park. Covehead is a small fishing community. At the eastern end of the park, St. Peters is a fishing and farming community that has recently begun to develop its tourism potential.

The beaches of Prince Edward Island National Park have been valued as a recreational area for over 100 years. The creation of the park in 1937 played a significant role in developing the province's recreation and tourism industry. Today, it remains the premier tourist attraction on the Island.

Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site of Canada is contained within the borders of the national park. This site was constructed in 1896 as a seaside summer home, and is now operated as an historic inn. Green Gables is also a major heritage attraction within the park, and is part of the recently designated L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada.

Archaeological evidence found at Greenwich indicates that Aboriginal people may have used the area as long ago as 10,000 years before the present. Shell middens found at Robinsons Island demonstrate that aboriginal people were harvesting marine resources from Rustico Bay around 1500 years ago. The existing evidence suggests that Aboriginal use at this site was based on hunting, fishing and gathering. Local archaeological research has not located Aboriginal habitation sites.

Europeans began to settle the island in the early 1700s. First the French, Acadians, and subsequently the British and other Europeans rapidly occupied the island and began exploiting its resources. Throughout the 1800s and early 1900s, much of the land was cleared for agriculture. In the mid-1900s, land abandonment led to an increase in forest cover. White spruce and shade-intolerant hardwoods quickly invaded old fields and now dominate many new forest stands. The existing land cover is a mosaic of old agricultural fields interspersed with remnant woodlands, hedgerows, streams, wetlands, dunes and coastal landscapes.

3.2 VISITATION TRENDS

The beaches and other heritage resources of the park attract large numbers of visitors during the summer months. Visitation in 2004-05 was estimated at more than 887,000, up 2% from the previous year. Green Gables recorded a total of 140,000 visits, down 6% from the previous year. In 2003, visitation to the Greenwich Interpretation Centre, hiking trails, and beach facility was estimated at 46,000 person visits (May-October), a 1.5% increase over the previous year. In 2005, 82% of park visitors were from Canada, 14% were from the United States, and 4% were from other countries.



St. Peters. Todd Keith

Most of the visitation occurs during the two month summer season. According to research conducted in 2005, approximately 89% of visitors are day users, while 11% stay one or more nights in the park or adjacent communities. Beach use is the most popular visitor activity, with 86% of survey respondents indicating they participated in this activity. Sight-seeing, walking, hiking and cycling are also important activities for many visitors.

3.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

This park management plan review commenced in September 2001. The involvement of park employees, stakeholders and the public has contributed greatly throughout the course of the review. Community advisory boards and tourism groups were engaged in discussions during 2002 and 2003. An open house was held in August 2003 for seasonal residents living adjacent to the park. Park visitors were surveyed during the summers of 2003, 2004 and 2005. Discussions were held with a range of park interest groups and

First Nations during the winter and spring of 2004. The results of these discussions were incorporated into planning proposals, and a newsletter was distributed to park employees, stakeholders and the public in the winter of 2005. Seven public open houses were held between February and July 2005 to provide an opportunity for members of the public and seasonal residents to meet with Parks Canada staff and discuss the management of the park and site.

The response was generally positive. There is a wide level of agreement on the park vision. The actions contained in this management plan are supported by the majority of those who participated in the consultations. The issues most often raised during the consultation period were: maintaining visitor access to park beaches; improving the transportation infrastructure in the park; strengthening the protection of park ecosystems; and ensuring the availability of a range of high quality recreational opportunities. Beach use, walking, hiking, cycling, and windsurfing were popular topics of discussion.

4.0 Vision

4.1 VISION FOR PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

Prince Edward Island National Park and Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site will be treasured parts of a national system of protected heritage areas, where Canadians are welcome to experience, enjoy, and learn about the natural and cultural heritage of the island's dynamic north shore coastal environment. The public will recognise and support the park as an integral part of the environmental, social, and economic fabric of the region. It will be known as a park that conveys a genuine sense of place and provides meaningful visitor experiences. Continued public engagement and support will ensure the natural and cultural resources of the park are sustained for the use and enjoyment of this and future generations.

In 15 years, park management efforts will achieve the following objectives and results:

Native Species and Ecological Processes:

The park will be a valued protected area of dynamic, naturally evolving coastal ecosystems, freshwater pond and stream ecosystems, wetland ecosystems, and upland forest ecosystems. Park populations of species at risk, including the piping plover, the Gulf of St. Lawrence aster, and other provincially or regionally rare species, will be stable or increasing and their habitat will be securely protected. Visitors will understand and support the need to strongly protect the park's most sensitive habitats. Active ecological restoration efforts will continue to re-establish elements of native Acadian forest biodiversity, and restore disturbed areas associated with former park facilities.

Recognition of the Cultural Significance

of the Area: Park visitors will recognise and understand the need to ensure the commemorative integrity of Dalvay-by-the-Sea as a national historic site. They will understand the significance of other cultural resources that provide a link to our past and offer evidence of the changing human use of the land and water. These include Aboriginal/Mi'kmaq, Acadian, French and British archaeological sites and Green Gables. The knowledge of cultural resources will be enhanced through collaborative research efforts with Mi'kmaq, Acadian, and other community partners.

Meaningful Visitor Experiences: Visitors will experience the diversity of natural and cultural heritage resources in the park by taking advantage of a variety of recreational opportunities that meet their needs and expectations. Beach use and camping, supported by environmentally sustainable park facilities, will remain the focal point of the visitor experience, while hiking and cycling will play a greater complementary role. The park hiking trail system will offer visitors a diversity of forest and coastal habitats, and cultural sites to explore. Improved infrastructure will ensure that active transportation becomes a viable means of experiencing the park.

Engaging Learning Opportunities: Through participation in heritage presentation opportunities, park visitors will be engaged in learning about and understanding this special place and the challenge of protecting it for future generations. Telling the park stories will foster a sense of environmental stewardship among Canadians. External communications by Parks Canada and partners will build awareness and understanding beyond the park boundary.

5.0 Maintaining and Restoring Ecological Integrity



Acadian hardwood forest. Parks Canada

The *Canada National Parks Act* states that the “maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity, through the protection of natural resources and natural processes, shall be the first priority ...” in all aspects of park management. This responsibility is shared among all staff of Parks Canada, with the Resource Conservation section taking the lead role in ecosystem protection, research and monitoring.

5.1 OVERVIEW OF PARK ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

5.1.1 Biophysical Context

The park is found within the Prince Edward Island Ecozone of the Atlantic Maritime Ecozone. This area is underlain by gently dipping strata of late Palaeozoic sandstones, conglomerates, and shales. The sedimentary rocks are mantled with loamy glacial till. Marine beach deposits and aeolian sand dunes occur in most low-lying coastal locations. The park contains four principal ecosystem types: coastal systems consisting of beaches, dunes, sandstone headlands, saltmarshes and bays; wetlands consisting of freshwater marshes, bogs and fens; aquatic ecosystems consisting of ponds and streams; and forest ecosystems.

The coastal terrestrial environment is dominated by fine sand beaches and dune complexes. Sand is derived from the relatively soft sandstone cliffs, and from offshore sandbars. Littoral drift and aeolian processes transport the sand along the coast and deposit it on long sandy beaches and in a series of shifting dunes. Primary dunes are vegetated mainly with marram grass and continue to shift over time. Secondary and tertiary dunes represent progressively older, more vegetated and stable dune forms. Baymouth bars extend from the mainland across most of Tracadie Bay and New London Bay.

The coastal environment provides specialized habitat for a number of wildlife species. The park beaches provide important nesting and foraging habitat for several species of shorebird, including the endangered piping plover. Black guillemots, cormorants, and gulls nest on the sandstone cliffs in the Cavendish area. The dunes provide excellent denning sites for red fox, and also serve as foraging habitat for short-eared owls, a species of special concern.

The till uplands were cleared for agriculture, and are in various stages of forest succession. It is predicted that the typical late successional ecosystems would consist predominantly of tolerant hardwood and mixed wood Acadian forest, with black spruce and larch in wet areas, and white spruce in coastal locations. Most of this ecosystem type within the park is still in various stages of old field regeneration and is dominated by white spruce or a mixture of shrubs, white spruce and other pioneer species such as white birch, pin cherry, and red maple. Some mixed wood forest consisting of red maple, yellow and white birch, balsam fir and white spruce exists at Greenwich, and a few other locations in the park. Some small remnants of mixed



Crown lands, Cavendish. Todd Keith

tolerant hardwood stands with sugar maple, American beech, yellow birch, and ironwood (only one known location) survive in isolated pockets. The best example of this native forest type is found on Crown lands in the Cavendish area. There are also several plantations of native and non-native conifers that were established on old fields in the park.

Wetlands and freshwater ecosystems provide habitat for several fish species, and aquatic invertebrates. Brook trout occur in several park streams and waterbodies, and gaspereau are found seasonally within Schooner Pond.

The most important natural processes in the coastal zone are erosion and sedimentation. In addition to reworking the coastal geomorphology, these processes also affect many of the park aquatic habitats, by altering fresh and saline water inputs, and infilling basins and dune slacks. Within forested ecosystems, the natural disturbance processes are not well understood, owing to the long history

of land clearing on the Island. It is suspected that fire did not play a significant role in shaping forest ecosystems, however the fire disturbance regime will be determined in the near future. Forest ecosystem succession was probably initiated by wind disturbance, and periodic population eruptions of defoliating and wood boring insects.

5.1.2 Species at Risk

There are six species at risk that occur within the park (TABLE 1). The piping plover, a small shorebird that nests on the beaches of the park, is internationally endangered, and is listed on Schedule 1 of the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The Gulf of St. Lawrence aster is a small annual plant that grows in wet sandy habitat found in dune slacks and along sandy streams. It has been identified at several locations in the park, but because it is an annual and not a perennial, its distribution and abundance vary from year to year.

The other four species at risk are not known to breed in the park, although they may use specific habitats for feeding or staging at different times of the year.

5.1.3 Managing for Ecological Integrity

The *Canada National Parks Act* defines ecological integrity as "... a condition that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and likely to persist, including abiotic components and the composition and abundance of native species, biological communities, rates of change and supporting processes." In other words, all of the ecological parts are present and healthy, natural processes are operating properly and the trends suggest that this situation will continue.

Table 1: Species at Risk Occurring in Prince Edward Island National Park.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus melodus</i>	Endangered
Gulf of St. Lawrence aster	<i>Symphotrichum laurentianum</i>	Threatened
Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Special Concern
Barrow's goldeneye (eastern pop.)	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	Special Concern
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Special Concern
Striped bass (Southern Gulf pop.)	<i>Morone saxatilis</i>	Threatened



Freshwater pond. John Sylvester

The *Ecological Integrity Statement* contained in the 1998 Ecosystem Conservation Plan for Prince Edward Island National Park describes the state of health of the key park ecosystems. Preliminary results of park research and monitoring has further refined the understanding of the park's ecosystem health. TABLE 2 presents a preliminary evaluation of the state of health of the park ecosystems and the trend in their condition.

In order to manage for ecological integrity, additional research and monitoring will

be required. An ecosystem working group will be established to support these research needs. Strong partnerships will be developed with the Parks Canada Bioregional Network, partners in the greater ecosystem, and the proposed Parks Canada Atlantic Cooperative Study Unit. The remainder of this chapter provides details on the priorities for the park ecological integrity program.

5.2 ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH, MONITORING AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Prince Edward Island National Park plays an important role as a site for ecological research and monitoring. Partners in these activities include several universities and colleges from the region and across Canada, independent researchers, and other government agencies such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Geological Survey of Canada, and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

5.2.1 Ecological Research

Research plays a vital role in helping Parks Canada understand how ecosystems function, what role different habitats play in the life history of species, and how human

Table 2: Preliminary Ecosystem Assessment, Prince Edward Island National Park.

Indicator Ecosystems	Ecosystem Condition and Trend *	Percentage of Park Area **	Rationale for Rating
<i>Forests (includes regenerating old fields)</i>	Poor ↑	45	Forests are regenerating following land clearing and agriculture, although representation of native Acadian forest species is poor. There is increasing fragmentation outside of the park boundaries related to agriculture, tourism, residential and recreational development. Some forest restoration work has been initiated and partnerships have been created with others in the greater ecosystem.
<i>Wetlands</i>	Fair ↔	5	Wetlands are in fair health. Purple loosestrife, an invasive non-native plant, is a stressor in some wetland areas. Rising sea levels related in part to global climate change may inundate coastal wetlands.
<i>Freshwater</i>	Fair ↓	4	Increased fragmentation and land use activities such as agriculture and residential development outside of the park boundary can affect freshwater ecosystems through nutrient loading, siltation, increased water temperature, decrease in buffer protection, and aquatic fragmentation. Within the park boundary stressors include land use practises such as road salt application, mowing and turf management adjacent to watercourses, park infrastructure and lack of adequate riparian buffer zones in some areas.
<i>Coastal</i>	Fair ↔	30	Trampling has affected some dune areas. Some areas have been restored. Strong recovery effort for piping plover. Rising sea levels related in part to global climate change may increase coastal erosion and inundate low-lying areas in the park.

* Arrows indicate whether the condition of an ecosystem is thought to be improving, declining, or remaining stable. These assessments are based on limited data, and therefore take a precautionary approach.

** The remaining 16% of the park is classified as park facilities and roads.

influences affect ecosystems and ecological processes. Parks Canada will continue to encourage and participate in research initiatives that will support better ecosystem management within the park and surrounding region.

Some important research topics that will be investigated over the next five years include: the natural dynamics of sand dune ecosystems; the potential impact of climate change on the physical and biological components of the four indicator ecosystems; the effectiveness of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem restoration; the diversity, abundance and habitat requirements of amphibians in the park and greater ecosystem; and, the ecological role of corridors, connectivity and forest patch size in the park and the greater ecosystem.

5.2.2 Ecological Monitoring and Performance Indicators

Ecological monitoring aims to detect and understand changes in the health of park ecosystems. The efforts of individual national

parks are being integrated into a bioregional approach that will strengthen Parks Canada's ability to identify and report on regional trends. This approach focuses on a suite of composite ecosystem indicators. The results of monitoring programs will be used to report on the condition of ecological integrity in State of the Park Reports that will be prepared on a five-year cycle. Monitoring results will also be used in the preparation of national State of Protected Heritage Area Reports.

The Atlantic-Quebec Bioregion has identified six ecosystem indicators that will be the focus of monitoring and reporting. Four of these indicator ecosystems are represented in Prince Edward Island National Park and a number of measures have been identified for each indicator (see TABLE 3). Over the next several years specific targets and thresholds will be developed for each of the measures in collaboration with bioregional partners and the ecosystem working group. The measures will be refined and targets developed by 2008. Implementation of this monitoring program

Table 3: Ecological Integrity Indicators and Measures for Prince Edward Island National Park

Ecological Integrity Indicators	Measures		
	Biodiversity	Ecosystem Processes	Ecosystem Structure and Function
<i>Forest Ecosystems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Songbirds • Birds of Prey • Lichens • Bryophytes • Vascular plants • Garlic mustard • Salamanders • Gypsy moth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regeneration plots (white pine, red oak, ironwood) • Decomposition • Nutrient cycling (dead wood) • Climate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest plots • Park landscape composition • Landscape fragmentation • Trampling
<i>Wetland Ecosystems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphibians • Waterfowl • Purple loosestrife • Birds of prey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate • Ice watch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality
<i>Freshwater Ecosystems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish populations • Benthos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brook trout spawning • Chlorophyll a (eutrophication) • Hydrology • Climate • Stream temperature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality • Riparian cover • Turbidity • Aquatic fragmentation
<i>Coastal Ecosystems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank nesting birds • Cliff nesting birds • Shore birds • Coastal songbirds • Saltmarsh birds • Piping plover • Terns • Gulf of St. Lawrence aster • Birds of prey • Red fox 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dune migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation plots • Unauthorized trails

will provide data to support a more comprehensive evaluation of the health of park ecosystems. These results will be described in a State of the Park Report prior to the next management plan review.

Management Actions:

- Continue to refine measures and develop targets and thresholds by 2008-2009.
- Prepare a State of the Park Report in 2011 based on the results of the monitoring program.

5.3 FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

5.3.1 Inventory and Planning

Forest ecosystem management and conservation planning is constrained by a lack of recent data on vegetation cover for the park and federal Crown lands. The existing vegetation inventory for the park dates from 1978. Crown land vegetation was mapped in 1988. A vascular plant survey was conducted by the Island Nature Trust on Crown lands in Cavendish in 2001 and 2002. As a first step to improving ecological integrity Parks Canada will obtain an updated vegetation inventory for the entire park and Crown lands.

The new inventory will be used to develop a Vegetation Management Plan for the park and Crown lands. This plan will identify targets for improving the distribution of native Acadian forest vegetation through the use of various silvicultural techniques, such as thinning, planting, and creation of gaps in areas of single-species (i.e. white spruce) forest cover to allow regeneration of a diversity of native tree species. The *Vegetation Management Plan* will also address the fire history of park forests and outline forest fuel modification strategies consistent with the *Fire Management Plan*.

5.3.2 Acadian Forest Restoration

Prince Edward Island National Park lies within the Acadian forest region. Native forest types that were found in this region included late successional shade-tolerant hardwoods and mixed wood forests that dominated the upland areas. The extant forests within the park consist primarily of early

successional white spruce, balsam fir and shade-intolerant hardwoods. Some old fields are covered primarily in shrubs and herbaceous plants. Several conifer tree plantations have also been established in the park. These vegetation types do not adequately represent native biodiversity, nor do they support the native ecological processes characteristic of the Acadian forest.

Parks Canada has begun to conduct restoration activities on several old fields. This program aims to enhance the representation of Acadian forest species in the park. Forest restoration has been initiated on 16.6 hectares of former agricultural land, with the planting of over 54,000 seedlings during the summers of 2002 and 2003. An additional 21 hectares of former agricultural land is slated for restoration. There are many additional areas of the park that provide opportunities for active restoration, including the old fields and conifer plantations.

The Greenwich sector includes old fields and an area of mixedwood forest. A portion of the old fields has been identified for re-forestation, primarily through natural regeneration. Active restoration may be considered if warranted in order to achieve the desired ecosystem succession. The remainder of the old fields at Greenwich will be maintained in a non-forested condition as part of a cultural landscape (see section 7.3.3 for details).

5.3.3 Fire Management

Parks Canada's national Fire Management Directive requires national parks to develop 10-year Fire Management Plans in consultation with stakeholders in local communities, surrounding jurisdictions and fire management specialists. The plan must include a 5-year schedule for forest fuel management, and it must be approved by the Field Unit Superintendent before any fuel reduction actions are undertaken.

The regeneration of dense white spruce stands on abandoned agricultural fields within the park has led to an accumulation of dry, dead wood on the forest floor. This has led to concerns about the forest fire risk among local residents and Parks Canada managers. In response to these concerns Parks Canada has completed a fuel mapping



Federal Crown Lands. *Todd Keith*

program that will help to assess the fire risk in key areas of the park. These data will be used to develop a Fire Management Plan for the park in accordance with the national Fire Management Directive. Over the next several years Parks Canada will implement fuel reduction efforts in the high priority areas identified through this program. A community consultation on this project was held in February 2005.

5.3.4 Ecological Integrity Theme Project

Prince Edward Island National Park is undertaking one of eleven ecological integrity theme projects that were funded through a national Parks Canada competitive process. Referred to as the visitor experience renewal initiative, the focus of the initiative is to promote healthy ecosystems, healthy communities and active living by investing in environmentally sound, economically viable visitor experience opportunities that enhance protection of natural areas while contributing to public education and healthy lifestyles. Active transportation and public transit options may be developed in the park and linked to adjacent communities. Successful implementation of this project will result in a decrease in motor vehicles and parking spaces in the park, an improvement in the park's ecological integrity and increased participation in active living. Consultations with industry and community interests were initiated in 2006 to assist in the prioritization of activities to be undertaken within this specific initiative. More details on this project are provided in Chapter 10.

5.3.5 Restoration of Disturbed Sites

The development footprint within the park will be reduced through the restoration of disturbed sites that are no longer required for park purposes. Visitor facilities that have reached the end of their serviceable life, or no longer meet the needs of park visitors include the kitchen shelter overlooking North Rustico Beach, the western portion of the Brackley day use area including the tennis court and washroom building, the abandoned Robinsons Island day use area, and a paved driveway loop west of the Cape Turner picnic area. These facilities will be removed and the areas restored to natural conditions. A reduction in the size of parking areas is anticipated as a result of the visitor experience renewal initiative, and this will yield additional areas for restoration. An updated Restoration Plan will be developed. Restoration actions will be initiated over the next five years on priority sites such as the abandoned Robinsons Island day use area.

5.3.6 Federal Crown Lands Administered by Parks Canada

The federal government has acquired more than 12.5 km² of lands adjacent to the national park since 1974. These lands are intended to serve as a buffer between the park and adjacent development, and as a means to compensate for erosion losses along the shoreline. Some of these lands are presently leased to local farmers for agricultural production. Other parcels of Crown land contain significant natural areas that contribute to the ecological integrity of the park.

Several hiking trails that enhance the park visitor experience have been developed on these lands. Some of these Crown lands will be incorporated into the park during the life of this management plan.

The vegetation inventory that will be commissioned for the park will also include the federal Crown lands. This inventory, in combination with a landscape analysis that examines existing fragmentation patterns and habitat requirements, will assist in defining which Crown lands should be incorporated into the national park.

Crown lands that are leased to local farmers may contain patches of natural areas, or may be critical to establishing and maintaining connectivity between larger habitat patches on Crown or park land. In these cases, discussions will be held with farmers to determine the most appropriate way to protect these values. Where Crown lands remain under agricultural production, Parks Canada will review management practices with the farmers to work toward a continual reduction in the use of chemical inputs.

5.3.7 Biodiversity Issues

Garlic mustard has recently been discovered in the park. It is an invasive plant that has the ability to rapidly displace most native flora in the understory of hardwood-dominated forests. Efforts are underway to determine its distribution in the park and to investigate methods of control. Parks Canada will work with partners to determine the distribution of this plant on private lands adjacent to the park.

The gypsy moth is a non-native insect that could potentially threaten the park's hardwood trees. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has monitored it on the island for many years. Prince Edward Island National Park has joined this effort using the CFIA protocols.

Forest Ecosystem Management Objective:

To maintain a healthy and diverse array of native vegetation communities through active management that increasingly provides representation of Acadian forest ecosystems.

Management Actions:

- Complete a new vegetation inventory for the national park and adjacent federal Crown lands.
- Develop a Vegetation Management Plan for the national park and Crown lands.
- Accelerate Acadian forest restoration activities based on the Vegetation Management Plan.
- Monitor natural regeneration at Greenwich to assess need for active intervention.
- Develop a Fire Management Plan to address wildfire risk, and implement fuel reduction actions at priority sites.
- Implement the ecological integrity theme project to reduce motor vehicles and parking areas.
- Prepare a restoration plan for disturbed sites and implement priority actions.
- Conduct an evaluation of Crown lands, and a landscape fragmentation analysis, to determine which areas should be incorporated into an expanded national park boundary.
- Evaluate management practices on those areas of Crown land that are leased for agriculture. Work with farmers to improve the environmental sustainability of this activity by reducing chemical inputs over time, and protecting key biodiversity values on these lands.
- Monitor the occurrence and distribution of garlic mustard and gypsy moth, and implement control actions, based on the principles of integrated pest management, to minimize impacts on native flora and ecosystems.

5.4 WETLANDS AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

The park's wetlands include freshwater marshes, bogs, and fens. The park's aquatic ecosystems consist of numerous small streams and ponds. These ecosystems provide habitat for a diversity of plants, invertebrates, fish and bird species. The park encompasses only a small portion of the watersheds. Since all of the headwaters are located outside park boundaries, the park waterways are susceptible to sedimentation and nutrient loading from activities such as



Great blue heron. Parks Canada

agriculture, forestry, and tourism development. Restoration of healthy aquatic ecosystems is a priority.

Recreational fishing in the park has been declining in popularity, although Schooner Pond is still used by a number of fishers. Parks Canada is interested in improving the conservation of fish populations in the park. During the next five years Parks Canada will review, with public involvement, the level of fishing pressure and investigate the feasibility of reducing or eliminating recreational fishing in the park.

5.4.1 Biodiversity Issues

Two non-native invasive plant species are a threat to biodiversity in the wetlands and aquatic ecosystems of the park. Purple loosestrife is a wetland plant species that displaces native vegetation in marshes and riparian areas. It has been known in the park for numerous years, and efforts to eradicate it have been only moderately successful. Eurasian water milfoil is a non-native aquatic plant that was first recorded on Prince Edward Island from Schooner Pond in 1999. It is highly invasive and can be spread easily to other water bodies by boaters.

Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystem Management Objective: To improve the health of aquatic ecosystems through watershed management initiatives.

Management Actions:

- Develop an aquatic restoration plan for the park, with initial emphasis on the restoration of Balsam Hollow Stream where it crosses the Green Gables Golf Course. This will include a plan to assess, restore and maintain riparian zones along stream courses and ponds, and maintain or increase aquatic buffer zones adjacent to park infrastructure.
- Review recreational fishing activity.
- Implement a quarantine policy for Schooner Pond to prevent the spread of Eurasian water milfoil to other water bodies. The aquatic restoration plan will address management of this invasive species within Schooner Pond using the principles of integrated pest management.
- Monitor the occurrence and distribution of purple loosestrife and implement control actions, based on the principles of integrated pest management, to minimize the impacts on wetlands and aquatic ecosystems.

5.5 COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

The coastal landscape of the national park consists of beach-dune complexes, rocky headlands, saltmarshes and barachois ponds. It harbours several rare species and important breeding and staging areas. It is a dynamic environment that is constantly changing. It is also the focus of visitor use, and is an iconic symbol of the visitor experience.

5.5.1 Sand Dune Management

Sand dunes are sensitive habitats anchored by vegetation that can be easily damaged by foot traffic. Degraded dune areas create weaknesses that accelerate erosion during strong winds or storm events. Parks Canada provides appropriate dune crossing structures such as boardwalks and stairways at all main beaches and most secondary beaches in order to facilitate visitor access and reduce human impacts on the dunes.

In recent years Parks Canada has increased efforts to educate visitors about the sensitivity of dune ecosystems, and to encourage visitors to use only the official crossing structures. In some areas where this approach has proved ineffective, a Superintendent's

order has been issued to close damaged areas. Signage and low-visibility fencing has been erected in these areas to discourage people from using the unauthorized paths. This approach has led to significant recovery of dune vegetation and stabilization of dune structures. Parks Canada will continue to use this approach to address any areas of concern in the sand dunes of the park. The use and rehabilitation of these paths will be used as a monitoring measure.

On the seaward side of the dunes some beachgoers climb the dunes to play or to gain a vantage point from which to view the seaside. Educational efforts to curb this activity have met with moderate success, but the problem persists. Visitors who understand the impact of this activity have requested that Parks Canada take more stringent action to protect the dunes.

Parks Canada will continue to maintain existing crossing structures, and will evaluate the need for additional boardwalks or stairways to support visitor access to the beaches. Efforts will continue to educate visitors about the fragility of dune environments, and to improve compliance with dune closures.

5.5.2 Coastal Erosion

Erosion is a natural process that continually reshapes the coastline along the national park, reducing sandstone to grains of sand that replenish beaches and dunes. Along the north shore of Prince Edward Island, sea level is still rising due to lingering effects of the last glaciation. Additional sea level rise is occurring as a result of global climate warming. These forces will continue to influence the rate of erosion and the distribution of sand deposits along the coastline. A significant portion of Robinsons Island has eroded and been re-deposited further landward in Rustico Bay outside of the park boundaries. Similar changes could occur in the future in other areas of the park such as Blooming Point and Cavendish Sandspit. Parks Canada will need to collaborate with the province of Prince Edward Island to ensure that these mobile sand landforms remain protected as they evolve and shift locations.



Sand dunes, Greenwich. Parks Canada

Efforts to protect the coast using armour stone, breakwaters and other structures have proven to be costly and ineffective over the long-term. Parks Canada policy now focuses on allowing natural processes, including erosion, to proceed with minimal interference wherever possible. Much of the park infrastructure, including roads, beach facilities and campgrounds, is located in close proximity to the coast where erosion will present challenges in the years ahead. Parks Canada has established a series of erosion monitoring sites in order to determine average rates of coastal erosion and to identify trends. Results indicate that several areas of the coastline are receding at rates of more than one metre per year. A powerful storm surge in December 2004 produced anomalously high rates of erosion for that year, with extreme values of up to 9.50 m of shoreline loss recorded at Covehead, and 5.65 m at Dalvay Beach in a single year.

5.5.3 Saltmarshes and Barchois Ponds

Saltmarshes are very productive habitats at the interface of land and sea. Significant marshes are found within the park along the shore of Brackley and Covehead Bays, and on the inside of Cavendish Sandspit. These marshes provide rearing habitat for juvenile fish, and are important feeding and staging areas for many species of birds.

A small gravel road leading to the Cavendish Sandspit has segregated a portion of a saltmarsh and impeded the tidal seawater interchange to the upper marsh. Parks Canada intends to convert this portion of the road to a trail with a boardwalk bridge in order to restore the hydrologic connection and ecological processes in this saltmarsh. This will also create a new visitor experience in this sector of the park (see section 10.4.1 for more details).

The sandy outflow streams of several ponds are regularly dredged to avoid impacts on existing park infrastructure. Efforts will be undertaken during the next several years to restore the outflow of Dalvay Pond and Long Pond in order to re-establish a natural flow regime and avoid the requirement for future dredging. A restoration plan will be developed to guide this project.

5.5.4 Biodiversity Issues

The coastal ecosystems are important for two species at risk – the piping plover and the Gulf of St. Lawrence aster. Closure of plover nesting areas on park beaches during the breeding season, and participation in the piping plover guardian program has helped keep the park population relatively stable over the last number of years. Parks Canada's actions are part of an international recovery effort and these measures will continue in the coming years.

Long-term persistence of the Gulf of St. Lawrence aster in the park requires the protection of key wet, sandy habitat in dune slacks and along sandy streams. Parks Canada will prepare a management plan for this species that identifies the protection requirements to ensure its survival in the park.



Piping plover. Parks Canada

Coastal Ecosystem Management Objective:

To maintain healthy and dynamic coastal landscapes governed by natural disturbance processes that support a full range of native biodiversity and provide meaningful visitor experiences.

Management Actions:

- Continue to monitor dune vegetation cover and deploy fencing or other measures, such as the placement of additional crossing structures, to address any problem areas.
- Investigate options to increase compliance with dune protection strategies.
- Collaborate with the Province of PEI to develop protocols to address the ownership and conservation of mobile sand landforms that may shift outside of established park boundaries.
- Continue to monitor coastal erosion, and identify potential problem areas to allow time to consult the public on potential changes in location of infrastructure.
- Restore the tidal interchange in the Cavendish Sandspit saltmarsh.
- Develop and implement a restoration plan for the stream outflow of Dalvay and Long ponds.
- Continue to participate in the Atlantic Canada Recovery Strategy for piping plover.
- Actively participate in the regional Gulf of St. Lawrence aster management program.

5.6 PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Prince Edward Island National Park completed a Public Safety Plan in 1999 to promote accident prevention, preparedness and response. The plan identifies safety concerns and outlines a strategy to resolve them in order to reduce the risk of public safety incidents. The plan was prepared before Greenwich was added to the national park. An addendum is being prepared to cover the Greenwich area, and a revision to the entire plan is scheduled for 2008.

Parks Canada is responsible for ensuring the protection of ecological and cultural resources through compliance with relevant legislation and regulations. The Agency is also responsible, through collaboration with the RCMP, for maintaining the public peace on lands it administers. The law enforcement program places strong emphasis on attaining compliance through prevention, education, and awareness.

A *Law Enforcement Plan* for Prince Edward Island National Park was prepared in 2005. The strategic direction outlined in the plan will:

- Ensure an adequate level of protection and public peace enforcement within the park;
- Place an emphasis on resource protection enforcement with appropriate risk mitigation based on national standards and procedures; and
- Promote multi-disciplinary approaches utilizing wardens, non-warden compliance staff and police officers.

Management Actions:

- Add Greenwich to the *Public Safety Plan*, and review the whole plan in 2008.
- Implement the *Law Enforcement Plan* and cooperate with other law enforcement agencies to ensure the protection of park resources and maintenance of the peace.

6.0 Park Zoning and Wilderness Area Declaration

Parks Canada utilises a resource-based zoning system to allocate land use within national parks. Zoning is an important management tool that helps to support the park vision by directing compatible visitor use to appropriate areas of the park, and ensuring that rare, or sensitive ecological or cultural areas are protected strongly.

The zoning plan for the park is illustrated on MAPS 2A, 2B and 2C. This plan incorporates a number of changes that were made to the previous zoning plan. These changes are designed to provide greater ecological protection and to reflect changes in visitor use. At Greenwich, protection has been increased by expanding the Zone I area and adding a Zone II area to protect significant Acadian forest habitat on the south side of the major dune complexes. The Zone II also includes the floating boardwalk on Bowley Pond and part of the beach.

In the remainder of the park, only one small zoning change has been made, where a small area that was previously designated a Zone IV to accommodate the former Rustico (Robinsons) Island day-use area and outdoor theatre, has been changed to a Zone III. This day use area has been closed since 1988. The new zoning is consistent with the surrounding lands, and reflects the intention to restore this area to natural habitat.

A portion of the park has also been identified for designation as a wilderness area in accordance with Section 14 of the *Canada National Parks Act*. The designated wilderness area and the zoning categories used in Prince Edward Island National Park are described below. Zoning has been applied to both national park lands and federal Crown lands.

6.1 ZONE I - SPECIAL PRESERVATION AREA

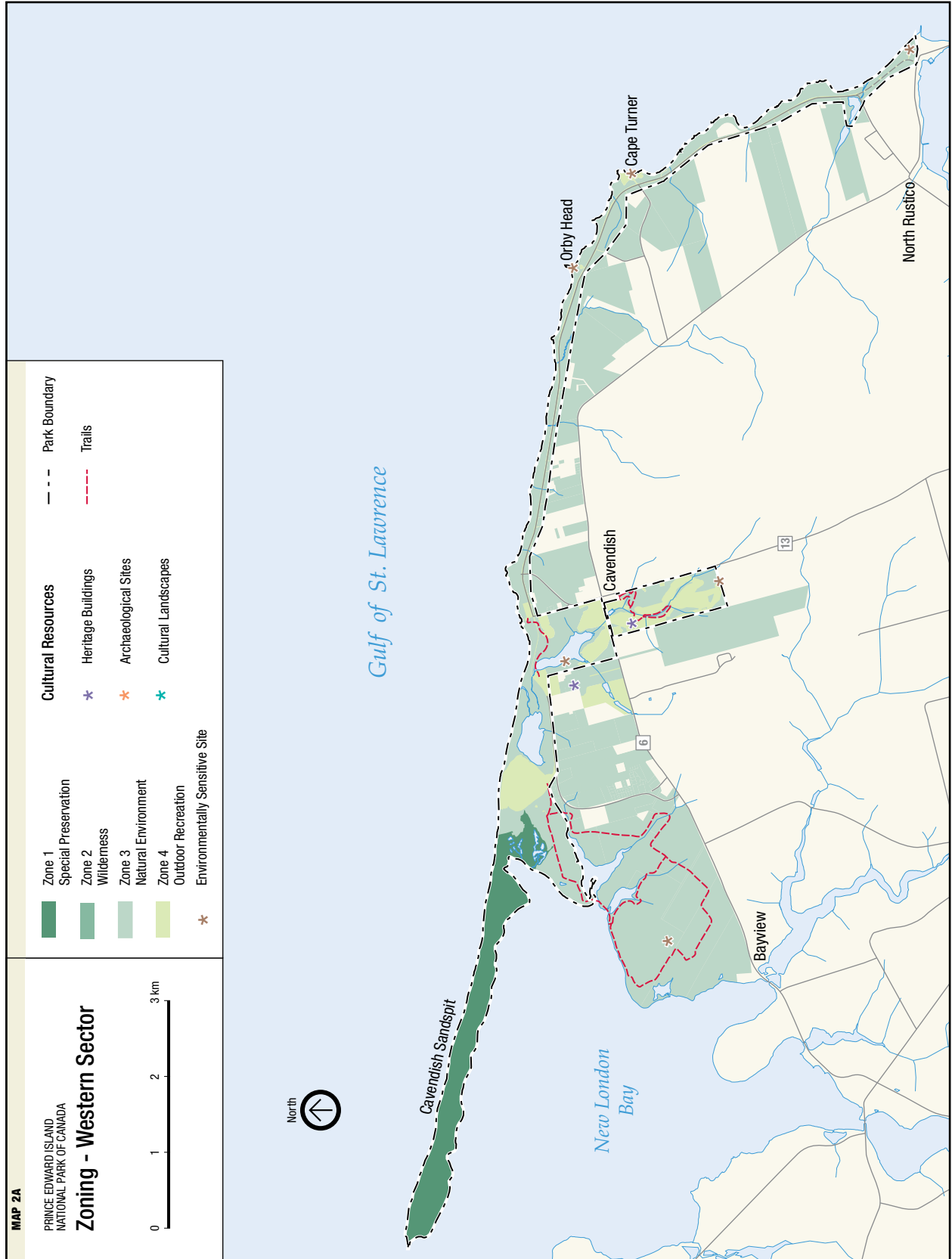
Zone I is the most protective category in the Parks Canada zoning system. This zone is applied to areas of the park that are among the best examples of the features that represent the natural region, or that support outstanding or rare natural or cultural features. This zone may also be used to protect areas that are too sensitive to accommodate facility development or large numbers of visitors. Within Zone I areas, preservation is the primary management concern. Motorized access and circulation is not permitted. Natural features may be interpreted off-site.

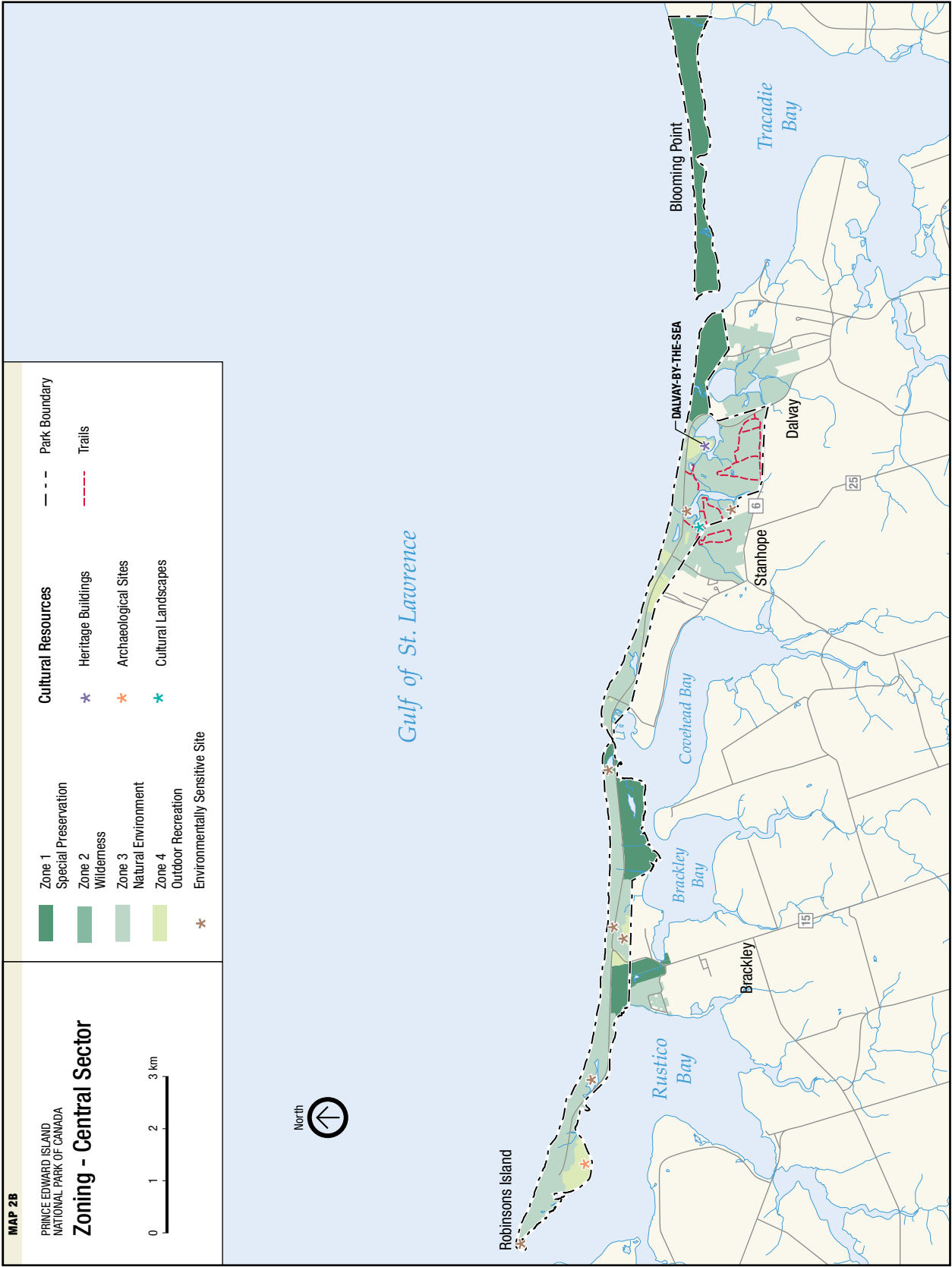
There are eight Zone I areas encompassing a total area of 834.9 hectares representing 22.7 % of park and Crown lands. These areas provide a high level of protection for sensitive and representative features such as barrier beach-dune systems on Cavendish and Blooming Point sandspits, complex parabolic dunes and counter-ridges at Greenwich, saltmarsh and brackish wetlands in New London Bay, Brackley Bay, and Covehead Bay, freshwater wetlands at Greenwich, forested tertiary dunes at Greenwich and Brackley, and excellent primary and secondary dune systems at Dalvay. Several of these Zone I areas include significant habitat for the piping plover and Gulf of St. Lawrence aster.

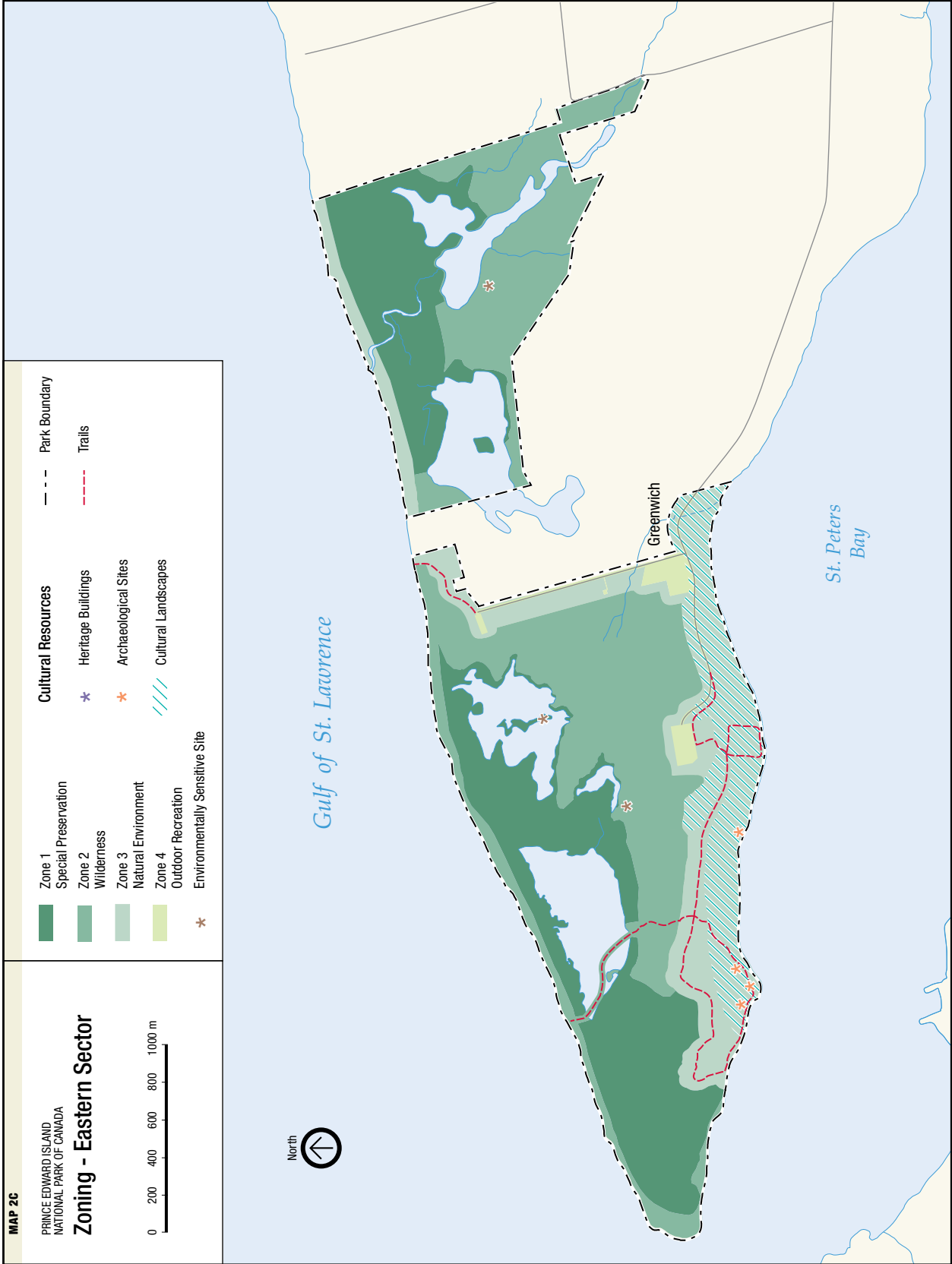
6.2 ZONE II - WILDERNESS AREA

Zone II wilderness areas are meant to protect representative natural landscapes where visitors can experience nature with minimal human intrusion or facilities. The visitor experience in these areas is focussed on self-propelled activities. No motorised access or circulation is permitted.

Zone II wilderness areas totalling 246.9 hectares, or 6.7% of all park and Crown lands, have been established around the Zone I areas







at Greenwich. These Zone II areas encompass forested habitat on the margins of the main dune complexes, and the beach area extending from the Greenwich day-use area around the tip of the peninsula to the Tlaqatik trail. This Zone II area also includes some former agricultural fields that will be returned to a forested condition. The Zone II areas provide a buffer between the Zone I dune and wetland areas and the Zone III and IV areas where the majority of the visitor infrastructure is located.

6.3 ZONE III - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREA

Zone III areas are managed as natural environments that are capable of supporting a range of visitor experiences. These areas enable visitors to enjoy and learn about the park's natural and cultural features through outdoor recreational and educational activities requiring minimal facilities and services.

The Zone III areas in Prince Edward Island National Park encompass a total area of 2352.9 hectares, or 64.1% of park and Crown lands. Most of the park hiking trails, many of the interpretive exhibits, and many of the park beaches are located within these Zone III areas. Almost all of the federal Crown lands are included in this zoning category.

6.4 ZONE IV - OUTDOOR RECREATION

The Zone IV designation is applied to limited areas that are capable of supporting more intensive visitor use and major facilities. These zones provide direct access by motorized vehicles.

The Zone IV areas in Prince Edward Island National Park include all paved roads, parking lots and beach facilities, campgrounds, Green Gables and the Green Gables golf course, Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site, Greenwich Interpretation Centre, and the Brackley and Cavendish East day use areas. Collectively, these areas encompass 235.6 hectares, or 6.4 % of all park and Crown lands.

The parcel of Crown lands that was acquired near Cavendish in 2005 has been placed mainly in the Zone IV category. A development plan is still being drafted for

this property and flexibility is required until decisions are made. Following completion of the development of this property a review of the zoning will be undertaken and a new zoning proposal will be put forward if necessary during the next management plan review.

6.5 ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE SITE DESIGNATIONS

In some cases, environmentally sensitive sites that deserve special protection are not adequately captured in the zoning system. This situation usually arises because the sites are either too small to be effectively designated as discrete Zone I areas, or because the sites themselves may be variable from one year to the next, as with bird nesting locations.

There are eleven specific locations that are designated as environmentally sensitive sites. These include several rare plant locations, a palaeontological site, bird nesting areas, and a freshwater spring. In addition, all piping plover nesting sites in the park are included in this designation on a seasonal basis. Recognition as an environmentally sensitive site ensures that the values for which these sites have been designated are protected and accommodated in any park management decisions or actions.

6.6 DECLARED WILDERNESS AREAS

Lands within national parks may be declared as wilderness areas under section 14 of the *Canada National Parks Act*. These wilderness areas provide strong legal protection because they are established in law, by regulation under the Act. Establishing a declared wilderness area demonstrates Parks Canada's commitment to Canadians that these areas will be protected for the long-term.

Within a wilderness area, no activity can be authorised that would alter the wilderness character of the place. Any infrastructure would be of a rudimentary nature, such as hiking trails and boardwalks. No motorised activity would be permitted, except as may be required for park management purposes.

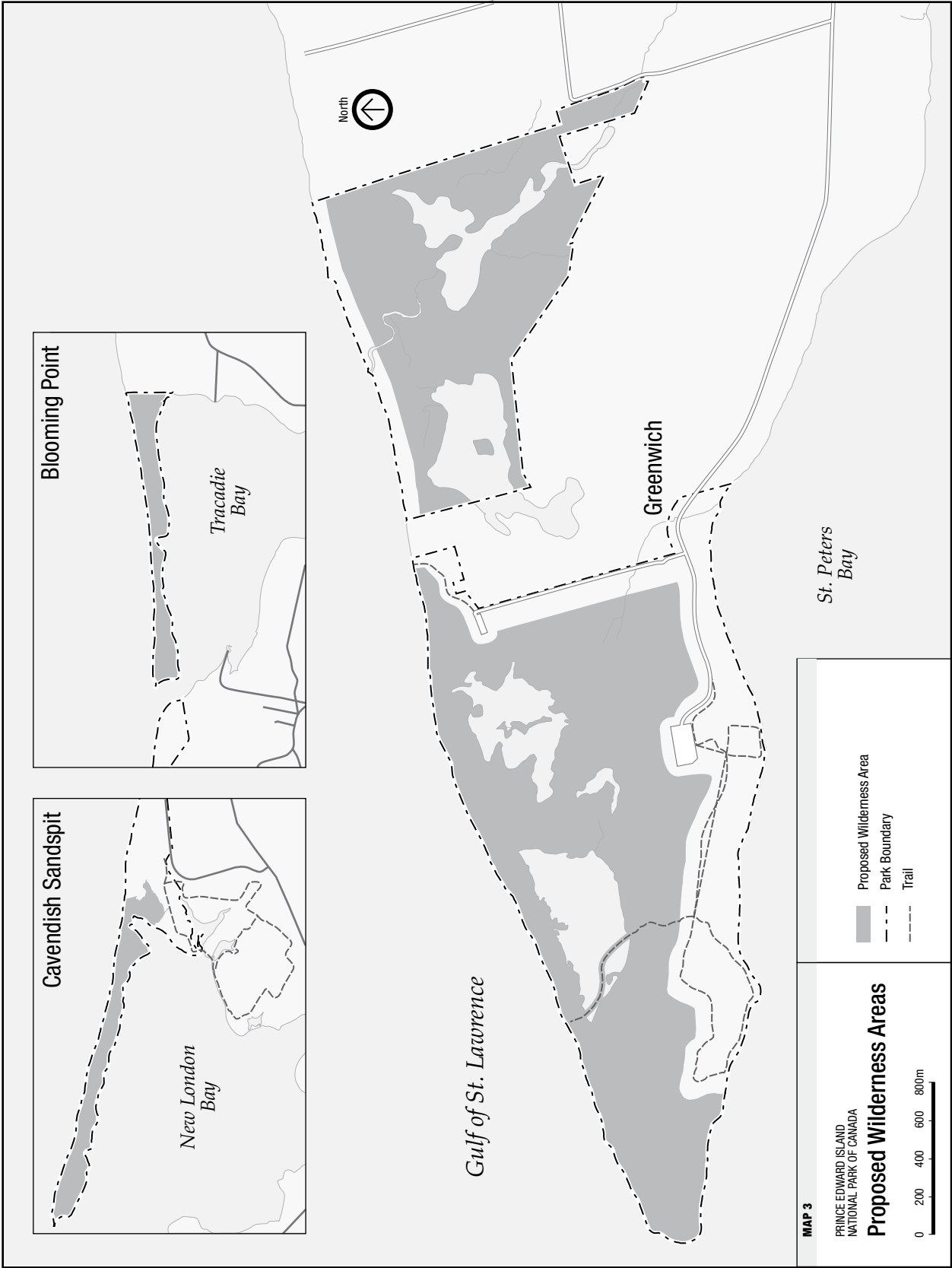
The park contains some of the most outstanding examples of coastal beach-dune ecosystems that are representative of

the Maritime Plain natural region. The best examples of these are protected as Zone I areas. The park also protects exceptional coastal sand dune and wetland ecosystems at Greenwich, including rare parabolic dunes with associated counter ridges known as *Gegenwälle*. In order to ensure the long-term protection of these areas, Parks Canada will establish a wilderness area that encompasses both the Cavendish Sandspit and Blooming Point sandspit Zone I areas, and the Zone I and Zone II areas in the Greenwich sector (see MAP 3). This wilderness area encompasses approximately 835 hectares. This is equivalent to 23% of all park and Crown lands.

In order to complete the wilderness area declaration process, an administrative map plan must be prepared and approved by the Surveyor General for Canada, and regulations prepared and tabled under the *Canada National Parks Act*. The official map describing the wilderness area may differ slightly from that presented in this plan, due to survey map requirements.

Management Actions:

- Work with Natural Resources Canada to prepare administrative map plans for the proposed wilderness areas.
- Declare a wilderness area in the park by 2008.



7.0 Managing Cultural Resources



Green Gables. John Sylvester

Prince Edward Island National Park protects a variety of Level I and Level II cultural resources that reflect the long history of land use by Aboriginal people, Acadian, French and British settlers. These resources are described below and illustrated on MAPS 2A, 2B and 2C.

7.1 LEVEL I CULTURAL RESOURCES

Level I cultural resources are those that are deemed to be of national significance, based on the recommendations of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC). Prince Edward Island National Park protects two Level I cultural resources: Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site of Canada, and Green Gables which is part of L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada. The management plan for Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site is presented in Chapter 8. Green Gables is described briefly below.

7.1.1 Green Gables

Green Gables and the surrounding landscape was the inspiration for L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*, and its sequel *Anne of Avonlea*. Montgomery is recognized as a Person of National Historic Significance. The house has been protected as an important cultural resource because of its association with the author. The house was also "recognized" as a federal heritage building in 1985.

The nearby landscape features, particularly Balsam Hollow, the "Haunted Wood" and "Lover's Lane" are important elements of the literary landscape described by Montgomery. These features will be maintained and interpreted so that visitors understand the significance of this setting to the author and her works of fiction.

An extensive redevelopment of the Green Gables site has been completed since the last park management plan was prepared. This development has allowed the site to accommodate more visitors and to better present the story of Montgomery. Visitation to the site has averaged approximately 168,000 person visits annually over the past five years. In recent years there has been increasing interest from visitors in exploring the site during shoulder seasons.

L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site was designated by the Minister of the Environment in March 2005. The site consists of two main components: the site of Montgomery's Cavendish home (privately owned), and Green Gables. This new site may present new opportunities to enhance visitor experiences and learning initiatives in collaboration with partners. A separate Commemorative Integrity Statement and Management Plan will be prepared for this national historic site.



Archaeological excavation at Greenwich. Scott Buchanan

Management Actions:

- Examine with partners the feasibility of establishing more flexible operating hours for Green Gables in the off-season.
- Explore opportunities to develop new visitor experiences and learning opportunities in collaboration with others.
- Work with the other owners to prepare a Commemorative Integrity Statement and Management Plan for the national historic site within the next five years.

7.2 LEVEL II CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

Level II cultural resources are those that are deemed to be of historic value because of their regional or local significance, or for their utility in interpreting historical patterns of settlement and land use. Parks Canada places a high priority on protecting these cultural resources within national parks.

Level II resources are subject to the *Parks Canada Cultural Resource Management Policy* (1994). This policy outlines a set of five principles that govern the management of cultural resources in national parks. These principles of *Value, Public Benefit, Understanding, Respect, and Integrity* must be considered in any decisions affecting cultural resources. Periodic monitoring and review ensures that cultural resource management objectives are achieved.

A Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation of all potential cultural resources in the park was conducted during the management plan review in order to determine which sites or features should be recognized as Level II cultural resources. A number of Level II cultural resources were identified in the following categories:

- **Archaeological Resources:** these include aboriginal sites at Greenwich, Robinsons Island, and Blooming Point; and French, Acadian and British settlement sites at Greenwich.
- **Buildings Recognized by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office:** Simpson House.
- **Cultural Landscapes or Features:** Greenwich farm fields cultural landscape, Old Covehead Road and Stanhope Pioneer Cemetery.

7.3 CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

7.3.1 Archaeological Resources

The aboriginal site at Robinsons Island has been fully investigated. Artifacts that were excavated before the park was established are stored at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Subsequent collections are

maintained in the Parks Canada collection in Halifax. This site provides evidence of Aboriginal use during two distinct periods. The excavations reveal that around the year 400 Aboriginal people were using the area to hunt sea mammals, and around 1500 it had become a significant shellfish harvesting area.

The Blooming Point site included a number of Aboriginal gravesites that became exposed by natural erosion. Although the known remains were removed, the Blooming Point site retains spiritual significance for the Mi'kmaq.

One of the most significant archaeological sites at Greenwich is the Jones Site, a 10,000 year old Palaeo-Indian site. During the time of occupation by Palaeo-Indians, relative sea level was lower than at present and a wooded river valley existed in the depression that is occupied by St. Peters Bay today. The Jones site appears to have been a low promontory from which people hunted or observed the surrounding valley. Other archaeological finds at Greenwich include more recent Mi'kmaq artifacts, and early French, Acadian and British house sites. The French settlement sites, dating from the period 1720-1758, are the subjects of ongoing archaeological research. The artifacts collected before the park was established are housed in the Canadian Museum of Civilization and in a private collection. All artifacts recovered since Greenwich became part of the national park are housed in the Parks Canada collection in Halifax.

The archaeological resources of the park provide evidence of how people used the land historically. In addition to their important scientific and educational value, some are also places of spiritual significance. Park management efforts will strive to ensure that the story and significance of these sites is communicated to the public, and that the sites and artifacts are respected in all park management activities.

7.3.2 Historic Buildings

Simpson House - The main house on the Simpson farm in Cavendish was recognized as a federal heritage building in 1998. This house was constructed in 1921 as a farmhouse and tourist home. The house is histori-

cally significant because it is the first house in the area known to be designed deliberately to accommodate visitors, and hence marks the beginning of the tourism era in Cavendish. The house is also recognized for its representation of the Classical Revival Style in architecture, evidenced by its solid rectangular shape, symmetrical front façade and other details.

In recent years, the Simpson House has been used as a small museum for Home Children, and as office space for park interpreters. The future use of this house is still under consideration. The Parks Canada Cultural Resource Management Policy will be applied to ensure that the cultural value of this Level II resource is protected.

7.3.3 Cultural Landscapes or Features

Cultural landscapes or features encompass large areas that maintain a resemblance to a previous period of land use. They are valued because they evoke a historical sense of place and time. The Greenwich cultural landscape, and the Old Covehead Road and Stanhope Pioneer Cemetery have been recognized in this category.

The Greenwich cultural landscape includes a portion of the old fields along St. Peters Bay. Archaeological and historical evidence related to this landscape demonstrates a continuity of settlement over a long period of time. The cultural landscape encompasses old fields that also include a cluster of old Acadian house foundations and an aboriginal archaeological site. Vestiges of the Sanderson farm, the last farm to oper-



Greenwich cultural landscape. Todd Keith



Stanhope pioneer cemetery. Todd Keith

ate in the area, can also be discerned in these fields. Management of this site will be designed to maintain a non-forested vegetation mosaic of herbaceous plants and small shrubs throughout much of this area. The fields will not be mowed annually. Vegetation management techniques will be described in the park Vegetation Management Plan and will be conducted as necessary to maintain a non-forested condition within the prescribed cultural landscape.

The Old Covehead Road was the first road linking the north shore with the city of Charlottetown. The cultural landscape encompasses the old road right-of-way within the park, and the adjacent cemetery. On either side of the road, low parallel hummocks with occasional protruding boulders are all that remain of the stone walls that once bordered the road and fields. The cemetery includes a number of pioneer gravesites dating from the late 18th century. The cemetery also includes the graves of sailors who perished during the 1851 “Yankee Gale”. Self-guided interpretation of these features is provided on the Farmlands and Bubbling Springs trail.

Management Actions:

- Parks Canada will collaborate with others to increase knowledge of the cultural resources of the park, and will seek opportunities for partners to contribute to cultural heritage education and awareness programs;
- The Greenwich cultural landscape will be maintained in a non-forested condition, that will be described in the park *Vegetation Management Plan*.

8.0 Dalvey-by-the-Sea National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan



Dalvey-by-the-Sea. J. Butterill

8.1 INTRODUCTION

Canada's family of national historic sites protects and presents outstanding examples of the nation's cultural heritage. They are special places recognised as being of national significance to the history of Canada.

The Minister of the Environment has the honour of recognising and commemorating places, persons and events of national historic significance in Canada. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC), established pursuant to the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* (1985) makes recommendations to the Minister regarding the sites, people, and events that deserve recognition.

The objectives of Canada's national historic sites program, as set out in the *National Historic Sites Policy* (1994) are:

- "To foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national program of historical commemoration.
- To ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada by protecting and present-

ing them for the benefit, education and enjoyment of this and future generations, in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented by these places and their associated resources.

- To encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada."

The *Parks Canada Agency Act* (1998) stipulates that Parks Canada will produce management plans for each of the national historic sites it administers. This management plan has been developed by the same multi-disciplinary team that conducted the review of the national park plan, and it includes the involvement of the private sector operator of the site. Public participation was also part of the planning process, and was carried out in conjunction with public involvement exercises on the national park management plan.

This is the first formal management plan prepared for Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site. It sets the strategic direction for the operation and management of the site over the next five years, and provides guidance for visitor use and heritage presentation in ways that respect the commemorative integrity of the site.

Dalvay-by-the-Sea was constructed between 1896-99. It was the summer residence of the American industrialist Alexander McDonald. The property remained in the hands of a number of private owners until it was transferred to the federal government in 1937 when Prince Edward Island National Park was created. Shortly thereafter it was converted to a resort hotel. Dalvay-by-the-Sea is managed by a private sector operator under a long-term lease with Parks Canada.

The *Federal Heritage Buildings Policy* (1994) requires that all federal buildings more than 40 years old be evaluated to determine their potential heritage value. A heritage building can either be designated as “classified”, or “recognized”. Dalvay-by-the-Sea was designated a classified federal heritage building in 1988 because it is an “excellent example of an opulent summer house of wealthy and prominent Americans situated in a rural setting”.

In 1990 the HSMBC recommended that Dalvay-by-the-Sea be commemorated as a national historic site because of its architectural significance as an example of the Queen Anne Revival Style. A commemorative plaque was unveiled at the site in 1994. The plaque text is as follows:

Built between 1896 and 1899 by Alexander McDonald of Cincinnati, Dalvay-by-the-Sea is a fine example of a summer house in the Queen Anne Revival style. Its picturesque form is animated by a profusion of bays, gables and dormers, by contrasting colours and textures, and by the use of local materials. Typical also of the style is the welcoming central hall with its large fireplace, wood paneling and second-floor gallery. Dalvay highlights the stylishness of the Queen Anne Revival, which was favoured for Canadian domestic architecture in the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

8.2 ROLE OF DALVAY-BY-THE-SEA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN THE NATIONAL SYSTEM

Parks Canada strives to protect Canada’s cultural legacy for this and future generations through the development of a system of national historic sites that reflects the diverse nature of our past. This system currently consists of more than 900 commemorations nation-wide. Collectively they represent thousands of years of human history, and reflect a rich variety of cultural themes. These nationally significant examples of Canada’s cultural heritage reflect the country’s values, identity, and pride, and are part of the inheritance of all Canadians.

The National Historic Sites of Canada System Plan provides the framework for the family of historic sites, built around five broad historical themes. Within this context, Dalvay-by-the-Sea is an important element of the *Architecture and Design* sub-theme of the *Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life* historical theme. More specifically, Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site commemorates the Queen Anne Revival Style in domestic Canadian architectural design. Several other domestic, commercial and institutional examples of this style have also been designated as national historic sites.

Each national historic site contributes to Canadians’ sense of identity, and awareness of our shared heritage. Dalvay-by-the-Sea plays an important role in the national family of protected heritage places. The site attests to the attraction the beautiful seaside had for the late 19th century upper class, and of the design features, opulence and attention to detail characteristic of their summer homes. The unique nature of Dalvay-by-the-Sea contributes its own sense of place and time to the understanding of an important part of Canada’s cultural heritage.

8.3 COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY

Parks Canada is responsible for ensuring that the national historic sites it administers are protected for all Canadians, for all time. Accordingly, Parks Canada’s primary responsibility at Dalvay-by-the-Sea is to ensure its commemorative integrity is maintained.

Commemorative integrity is a concept that refers to the health or wholeness of a national historic site. A site has commemorative integrity when the resources that represent its importance are not impaired or under threat, when the reasons for the site’s national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public, and when the site’s heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

A commemorative integrity statement articulates what this fundamental concept means at a given national historic site. It identifies what is commemorated and why, and what resources are of national significance. It also defines the messages of national significance that should be communicated to the public and identifies other cultural resources that are not deemed to be of national historic significance but still have historic value (Level II cultural resources).

The Commemorative Integrity Statement for Dalvay-by-the-Sea, prepared in 2000, is the foundation of this management plan. It confirms that the commemorative intent of the Dalvay-by-the-Sea designation is to protect and present a fine domestic example of the Queen Anne Revival Style in Canadian architecture.

8.3.1 The Designated Place

The designated place refers to the area defined to be of national historic significance by the Minister, following the advice of the NSMBC. The designated place for Dalvay-by-the-Sea is confined to the footprint of the building (MAP 4). The surrounding grounds, viewplanes, and the building’s relationship to Dalvay Lake resemble the historical appearance of the site, and are also of important historical value but are not considered part of the designated place. The site and surrounding grounds are entirely contained within the boundaries of Prince Edward Island National Park.

8.4 CURRENT SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Commemorative Integrity Statement outlines the cultural values of national significance as well as other cultural values embodied in the site. It also provides direction for

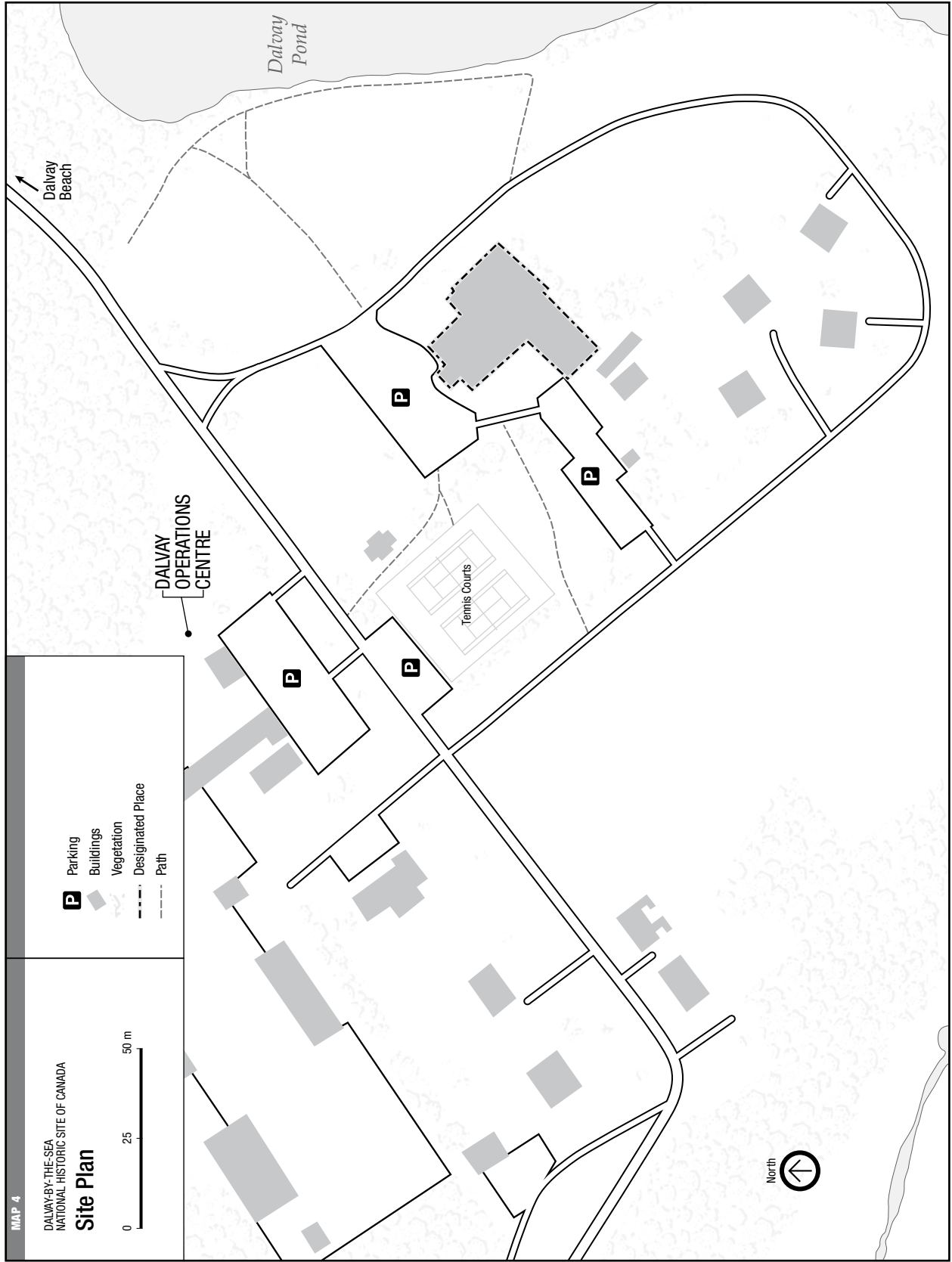
management of the site so as to ensure that commemorative integrity is maintained. The following section discusses the current state of commemorative integrity at Dalvay-by-the-Sea based on a Commemorative Integrity Evaluation conducted in August 2005. The following table presents three overall indicators and evaluation results for the site. The report of this evaluation indicates a combined overall rating of 4 out of 10.

Performance Indicators	Results
Resource Condition (Overall)	FAIR +
Effectiveness of Communications (Overall)	FAIR
Selected Management Practices (Overall)	POOR

8.4.1 Resources of National Significance

The *in situ* resources of national significance consist of Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site, which displays all of the characteristic external and internal elements of the Queen Anne Revival Style. The external features include steeply pitched gabled roofs, overall asymmetrical design, an encircling veranda, and a profusion of secondary elements, such as bay windows, dormers, balconies, grouped windows, spindlework, and surfaces of contrasting colour and texture. Internal characteristics include the overall configuration of the major rooms on the first and second floors. This layout includes a main entry hall with a large staircase, fireplace and a surrounding second floor gallery, a main floor smoking room and library. Wooden finishes include wainscoting and window mouldings. The generous use of local materials, both inside and out, is also a characteristic feature. Island sandstone is used on the exterior. Island lumber, primarily spruce and cedar, is used throughout the structure.

To provide input to the management plan process, an asset condition assessment of Dalvay-by-the-Sea was conducted in 2002. The overall rating of the site was assessed to be good, and no significant maintenance issues were identified at that time. Maintenance deficiencies that had been identified in the 1995 Maintenance Plan have been



addressed. Stone pedestals on the veranda that had been leaning were replaced in 1998. On-going maintenance being conducted by the operators of the hotel was deemed to be of good quality and appropriate to the character of the building. The 2005 evaluation confirmed this assessment, with the exception that the front porch requires additional repairs to correct slumping, and portions of the roof tiles need replacing. The main roofing of the building was re-shingled in 2006.

8.4.2 Messages of National Historic Significance

Raising public awareness and understanding of the reasons for a site's designation is a critical element of commemorative integrity. This is achieved through effectively delivering messages of national significance that reflect the commemorative intent of the site designation. The principal message that conveys the national significance of Dalvay-by-the-Sea is that this historical structure is a fine domestic example of the Queen Anne Revival Style. This message is conveyed to park visitors through an interpretive brochure prepared by Parks Canada in both French and English, and a nearby exhibit panel at Stanhope. The hotel operators also provide personal guided tours for hotel guests that focus on the history of the site and the McDonald family. These tours also include messages of national significance. Currently they are only provided in the English language. Additional heritage presentation material is available in the Prince Edward Island National Park Visitor Guide, and on the websites of the Parks Canada Agency, and Dalvay-by-the-Sea Hotel.

Messages about national significance also include those related to the general values and mandate that apply to all national historic sites administered by Parks Canada. The 2005 commemorative integrity evaluation found that the communication of these messages is weak.

8.4.3 Additional Heritage Resources and Messages

A number of Level II cultural resources are associated with Dalvay-by-the-Sea. These resources are not deemed to be of national significance, but are nevertheless important for their association with the national historic site. Level II resources at the site include a

structure known as the industrial building, a collection of artifacts, and the HSMBC plaque.

The industrial building is thought to be the only survivor of a number of service buildings that once surrounded Dalvay-by-the-Sea. The industrial building is a wood frame structure that is thought to have originally served as a wagon shed and garage. It has been altered considerably over the years, and most recently has been converted for use as a plumbing and electrical workshop. Offices for hotel maintenance staff are also housed in the building. This building is of historic value because it is the only remainder of a larger collection of outlying buildings that were constructed in the 1890s. Today the industrial building maintains its original location and structural footprint, and is considered in good condition.

Parks Canada owns and maintains a curatorial collection of approximately 100 objects associated with Dalvay-by-the-Sea. Approximately 25% of these objects, based on visual appearance and tradition, date to the period when the McDonalds owned the property. These items are designated as Level II cultural resources. Clauses in the long-term lease require that the hotel operator maintain these artifacts in the same condition as they were received. Any conservation work that is required must be undertaken at the operator's expense.

The HSMBC plaque commemorating Dalvay-by-the-Sea is located on the grounds adjacent to the building. It is of historical importance because it reflects the federal government's commitment to recognizing important features of Canada's history. It is in good condition.

8.4.4 Visitor Use and Operations

Dalvay-by-the-Sea is operated as a resort hotel, and is open from early June until the end of September. The main floor entrance hall, sitting rooms, and dining room are open to the public. Park visitors are welcomed for lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner, and are also welcome to stroll the grounds. These opportunities allow visitors to appreciate the materials and workmanship of the building, and the grandeur of its design. Only paying hotel guests are permitted on the upper floors.



Dalvay entrance hall. J. Butterill

8.4.5 Site Management Practices

The site management practices earned the poorest ratings in the 2005 commemorative integrity evaluation. The evaluators pointed out that the wording of the current lease lacks appropriate references to Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy. No written strategy for conservation maintenance of the building has been developed. Finally, the evaluation concluded that no formal, systematic and multi-disciplinary review process exists for any work that may affect the cultural resources of the national historic site.

8.5 VISION STATEMENT FOR DALVAY-BY-THE-SEA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site is protected as a fine example of a late 19th century seaside vacation home constructed in the Queen Anne Revival Style. It continues to operate as one of the most distinctive seaside hotels in the Maritime Provinces. With the passage of time, the architecture of this unique building becomes an increasingly valuable link to our past. The focus of this vision is on ensuring the commemorative integrity of this site, while maintaining the role of the building as an outstanding seaside resort hotel.

Parks Canada, in collaboration with the operators of the hotel, continue to work together to maintain the commemorative integrity of the building, artifacts, and site,

and to ensure the ecological integrity of the surrounding grounds is maintained. Regular monitoring and maintenance ensures that the condition of the hotel and outbuildings does not deteriorate.

The park heritage presentation programs communicate effectively the importance and value of the historic site to a wide range of park visitors. The site continues to be an appealing attraction for visitors because of the building's grandeur, and its picturesque setting on the shores of Dalvay Lake, in the heart of Prince Edward Island National Park. Heritage presentation efforts will reach a greater number of park visitors while continuing to respect the privacy of hotel guests.

8.6 MANAGING FOR COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY

The following section outlines the management objectives and actions that will be undertaken by Parks Canada over the course of this management plan. Successful implementation will help to ensure that both the commemorative integrity of Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site, and the ecological integrity of the surrounding lands are maintained.

8.6.1 Cultural Resources of National Significance

The protection of Level I cultural resources and the designated place is vital to the commemorative integrity of the site. The Parks Canada Cultural Resource Management Policy will be applied to any activities or decisions affecting these resources. Any interventions to the building will be compatible with its heritage character. Developments adjacent to the designated place will be compatible with and sensitive to its heritage character in location, design, material, and scale. All main elements of the Queen Anne Revival Style will be carefully maintained, and the open vistas to and from the house will be preserved.

Management objective:

All Level I resources will be protected and managed in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy so that they remain intact for future generations.

Management actions:

- Parks Canada will prepare a written conservation maintenance plan for the site, and will conduct annual maintenance inspections to ensure that the site is being properly maintained and is not under threat.
- Any developments that may be proposed adjacent to the site will be evaluated for their potential impact on the heritage character of the site. This will be done as part of the environmental assessment process and will involve the site operator.
- Parks Canada, in cooperation with the site operator, will develop landscape standards for the surrounding grounds, to ensure that the culturally significant landscape features are maintained, while impacts to ecological integrity are minimized or eliminated. Vegetation management techniques could be formulated in the park Vegetation Management Plan.

8.6.2 Messages of National Significance

The presentation of messages of national significance will be effectively communicated when as many Canadians as possible understand the significance and historic value of Dalvay-by-the-Sea, and when these primary messages are not obscured by secondary messages. Currently there are no data on the effectiveness of the interpretive programs. Parks Canada will address this deficiency by periodically measuring the satisfaction and understanding of key messages of hotel guests and park visitors.

Since Dalvay-by-the-Sea is operated as an active hotel, on-site interpretation opportunities for the general public are limited. As noted above, the main floor is open to the general public, but organized heritage presentation activities for park visitors are not provided within the building in order to preserve private vacation experiences for the hotel guests. Improving the delivery of key messages will require enhanced off-site interpretation through such venues as the park visitor guide and the Cavendish or Green Gables visitor centres.

Management objective:

To increase the number of Canadians that understands that Dalvay-by-the-Sea is a fine example of the Queen Anne Revival Style of architecture, and is part of a national family of historic sites.

Management actions:

- Parks Canada will enhance existing interpretive products to include more explicit messages about the national significance of the site, the mandate and values of the national historic sites system, and to target park visitors who do not actually visit the site.
- Parks Canada will conduct periodic visitor surveys to determine the effectiveness of heritage presentation products and programs offered at the site.

8.6.3 Additional Heritage Resources and Messages

All of the remaining cultural resources that do not meet the criteria for national significance are still important to the commemorative integrity of the site. The Level II resources identified above will be managed in accordance with the Parks Canada Cultural Resource Management Policy. In order to preserve the commemorative integrity of the industrial building it will retain its original size and configuration and will remain in its present location.

A number of Level II messages have also been developed to communicate the historical value of these resources, and the role of Dalvay-by-the-Sea in Canada's family of national historic sites. These messages are delivered as part of the heritage presentation program. The effectiveness of delivery of these messages will be measured and monitored along with Level I messages.

Management objective:

Level II cultural resources will be protected in accordance with Cultural Resource Management Policy, and messages will be effectively delivered to park visitors.

Management actions:

- Continue to incorporate Level II messages into the existing heritage presentation programs.
- Ensure through regular inspections that the curatorial collection in the possession of the hotel operator remains in good condition.

8.6.4 Visitor Use and Operations

Visitor access to the grounds and first floor of the hotel, including the restaurant, will be maintained. However, in order to minimize unnecessary disturbance for hotel guests Parks Canada will continue to focus primarily on providing off-site opportunities for park visitors to learn about Dalvay-by-the-Sea.

The operators have enrolled the hotel in the Audubon Green Leaf Eco-rating program, which assesses the environmental performance of hotel operations. They have received an initial rating of 3 out of a possible 5 green leaves. The 3-leaf rating is given to a hotel that pursues “eco-efficiency results by demonstrating current best practices in all areas of its operations and management”. The operators intend to pursue additional improvements in an effort to achieve a higher rating in the future.

In addition to protecting cultural resources Parks Canada must also maintain the ecological integrity of the surrounding landscape, including the shoreline area of Dalvay Lake. Most of the area between the hotel and lake is maintained as lawns in order to preserve the historically important viewplanes. Changes to the shoreline of Dalvay Lake may occur as a result of the planned restoration of the outflow, and mitigation measures may be required.

Management objective:

Ensure that Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site is operated in a manner that respects both commemorative and ecological integrity, and continues to welcome park visitors to experience this protected heritage.

Management actions:

- Continue to provide visitor access to the grounds and first floor rooms.
- Ensure, through regular inspections, that operation of the hotel respects the commemorative integrity of the site and maintains the buildings and grounds in acceptable condition.
- Support, where appropriate, the efforts of the hotel operator to improve the environmental performance of the facility.
- Involve the hotel operator in planning for the restoration of the Dalvay and Long Pond outflows.

8.7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This plan will guide the management of Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site for the next 5 years. Annual implementation reports will be prepared beginning one year after the plan is tabled in Parliament. These reports, together with the results of maintenance inspections and visitor surveys, will be used to prepare a *State of Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site Report* in 2011. This report will support the next management plan review scheduled for 2012.

The priority actions for this management plan are focused on responding to the issues raised in the 2005 commemorative integrity evaluation. These include building maintenance on the porch and roof, enhancement of interpretive programming to include national messages and reach a greater audience, monitoring the effectiveness of interpretive programs, and improving the application of cultural resource management principles to the operation of the site and surrounding area of the national park. All of the actions identified in this management plan are achievable within the existing financial and human resource capacity of the field unit.

9.0 Public Education



Guided interpretive walk. Barrett and MacKay

Fostering understanding and appreciation of the significance of Prince Edward Island National Park and its natural and cultural heritage is an essential component of Parks Canada's mandate. To achieve this mandate the park has established a range of heritage presentation and outreach activities designed to meet the needs and expectations of park visitors, Canadians and other stakeholders. Learning opportunities contribute to meaningful visitor experiences and also help to build public awareness and support for the mandate of Parks Canada.

9.1 HERITAGE PRESENTATION

The park offers a variety of heritage presentation programs that allow park visitors to learn about and understand the natural and cultural features of the park. These include printed publications such as the park guide

and interpretive pamphlets, guided interpretive hikes and programs, and self-guided exhibits located throughout the park, and in the Greenwich Interpretation Centre and the Cavendish Visitor Information Centre.

Desired Outcomes

In addition to the broad theme of developing understanding and appreciation of the park's significance, the following specific educational outcomes have also been identified for Prince Edward Island National Park:

- Reduce through education the impact of visitors on the dunes and piping plover;
- Increase visitors' regard for the relevance of the park through their participation in heritage presentation programming;
- Increase the sense of stewardship that Islanders feel toward the park.

Target Audiences

The priority target audiences that have been identified are as follows: beach users and other recreational users, educational groups, adjacent communities, the tourism industry, Island residents and seasonal residents.

Heritage Presentation Plan and Strategies

The *Heritage Presentation Plan* (2001) has guided the renewal of educational programming in the park during the past five years. At the forefront of this plan is the premise that increased understanding and appreciation will help develop a sense of stewardship and an increased desire to protect the park. Many of the issues identified in the plan have been addressed. For example, a new portable outdoor theatre has been installed at Cavendish Campground, portable interpretive exhibits have been developed, and Mi'kmaq history and culture has been presented within the park and in schools.

The current *Heritage Presentation Plan* is based around four themes: ecological integrity; understanding park ecosystems; the effect of natural disturbances and other stressors; and human interactions with the environment through time. There are 43 key messages related to these themes that guide the delivery of education programs. APPENDIX 1 provides an outline of desired outcomes in terms of what park visitors will know, feel and do.

During the life of this management plan, the current *Heritage Presentation Plan* will be

reviewed and updated based on research designed to understand current and evolving visitor needs and expectations, and identify new learning opportunities, both inside and outside of the park. All new heritage presentation media and programs will be designed to reach target markets in ways that they will find interesting, entertaining and informative.

9.2 OUTREACH EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Parks Canada offers a variety of educational programs and resources that are linked to the provincial science and social studies/history curriculum for both primary and secondary grade levels. Classroom presentations, videos or DVDs, website resources and printed materials help students discover the natural and cultural resources of the park. Field trips for school groups are also offered in the spring and fall for a variety of grade levels. These trips provide students with an active learning experience that can later be shared with family and friends, thus extending the reach of the interpretive programs.

One area that has not received adequate attention is the delivery of park messages and programs to youth (ages 13-18 years), Island residents and other external interest groups that Parks Canada wishes to engage. The delivery of key park messages to these audiences beyond park boundaries requires clear and consistent external communications delivered through innovative media



Interpretive exhibits, Greenwich. John Sylvester

and programming options. These communication activities are essential to informing Canadians about Parks Canada’s mandate and resource stewardship issues within and beyond park boundaries, and to promoting the visitor experience offer within the park.

Parks Canada will develop and explore new options to enhance delivery of park messages and programs through external communications activities. The park will focus on expanding its capacity for internal and external program delivery, by building and coordinating a network of volunteer and community partner resources to assist in the development and delivery of heritage presentation programs and projects.

As an important component of the provincial tourism industry, numerous partners are involved in promoting the national park locally and internationally. Parks Canada continues to be an active member of the tourism industry on the island, and is collaborating with the industry to research and develop appropriate visitor experience products, including promotional messages and communication tools. Parks Canada will continue to assert its leadership and collaboration with tourism partners such as the Tourism Advisory Council, Tourism PEI, the Tourism Industry Association of PEI, the Cavendish Beaches and Dune Shores Tourism Association and other industry partners to ensure the delivery of consistent Parks Canada messages to a wider audience.

9.3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

The performance indicators for public awareness and understanding programs are presented in the table below. Parks Canada has established a target of 50% visitor participation in heritage presentation programs. A visitor satisfaction target of 85%, including a target of 50% for “very satisfied” has also been established. The level of understanding conveyed by these programs is measured by posing 6 simple questions related to key park messages. Parks Canada has set a visitor understanding target of 75% based on a visitor’s ability to correctly answer at least 4 of the 6 questions. Social science research conducted in 2005 indicates that Prince

Edward Island National Park is meeting the participation and satisfaction targets, but is falling short in conveying understanding to many visitors. Additional social science research is required to evaluate the effectiveness of public education programs aimed at specific target audiences so that we can adjust our methods to reach these audiences more effectively.

Performance Indicators	Target	2005 Results
Participation in Learning Program	50%	53%
Overall Satisfaction with Learning Experience (Satisfied or Very Satisfied)	85%	90%
“Top Box” Satisfaction with Learning Experience (Very Satisfied)	50%	53%
Level of Visitor Understanding (at least 4 of 6 key messages understood)	75%	42%

Nearly 30% of those who did not participate in heritage presentation programs indicated that they were unaware of the opportunities. Almost all of these visitors were non-campers, and 32% of them were Islanders. Visitors also indicated that their preferred locations for interpretive programs were the beaches, interpretive centres, trails and day use areas. The topics of most interest to visitors are nature and culture, including Aboriginal heritage. Parks Canada will use these results to adjust the promotion and delivery of heritage presentation programs in an effort to increase visitor participation and maintain high levels of visitor satisfaction.

Management Objective for Public Education:

To engage and involve visitors, Canadians and others in a variety of experiential learning opportunities, programs and activities that communicate the national significance of the park in ways that are personally relevant in order to foster understanding and appreciation of key natural and cultural heritage themes, and cultivate environmental stewardship and support for park management programs.



Interpretive program for school groups. John Sylvester

Management Actions:

- Review and update the existing heritage presentation plan for Prince Edward Island National Park.
- Develop and explore new options to enhance delivery of external communications activities in ways that respond to target market preferences and expectations.
- Expand the park's capacity for internal and external program delivery, by building and coordinating a network of volunteer and community partner resources to assist in the development and delivery of presentation programs and external communications.
- Continue to work with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island to enhance interpretation of Aboriginal heritage within the park.
- Develop external promotion tools and opportunities to raise the level of awareness among target audiences of heritage presentation programs and learning experiences within the park.
- Present resource protection messages and aggressively pursue other learning opportunities at high use recreational areas, and locations preferred by target audiences (ex: beach users and other recreational users).
- Continue to refine and conduct research to gauge visitor satisfaction and allow the park to adjust learning programs to respond to visitor motivations and expectations.
- Review the heritage presentation program at Green Gables to ensure that it communicates the national significance of L. M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site and fosters understanding and appreciation of key cultural heritage themes.
- Explore and develop opportunities to effectively inform and deliver key messages to Prince Edward Island residents.
- Work collaboratively with tourism partners, and various media outlets to influence the way the park is promoted by others.

10.0 Visitor Experience



Cavendish Beach. Parks Canada

Prince Edward Island National Park offers a broad range of experience opportunities for visitors to enjoy, and learn about its dynamic natural and cultural heritage. Parks Canada is committed to ensuring that these park programs engage the hearts and minds of visitors, and provide memorable experiences that are relevant to all Canadians. To achieve this Parks Canada must focus on understanding and responding to the needs and expectations of visitors, and on finding new and engaging ways to provide relevant natural and cultural experiences. Social science research will continue to be a key component of this strategy.

The target audiences for visitor experience are the same as those identified for public education: Beach and other recreational users, Educational groups, Adjacent Communities, Tourism Industry, Island residents and seasonal residents.

10.1 EXPERIENCE RELEVANCE

Beginning in 2007, Prince Edward National Park will begin implementing a renewal initiative for visitor experience opportunities. This initiative will support and foster the principle of creating relevancy through a sense of attachment with the park experience, and will reposition Prince Edward Island National Park as the province's premier venue for promoting health and wellbeing in a natural setting.

The strategic objectives of the visitor experience renewal are as follows:

- Promote the role and involvement of the community, Park visitors and collaborators in protecting and sustaining the Park environment;
- Create new, high quality visitor experience options that promote and support healthy lifestyles and a healthy environment;

- Offer new opportunities for active transportation inside the National Park; and
- Increase public awareness, understanding and support for Parks Canada's role and leadership in developing sustainable tourism initiatives.

In order to achieve these objectives Parks Canada will:

- Develop and implement a new visitor experience concept for Prince Edward Island National Park;
- Develop community, industry and government collaborations to guide the renewal of the visitor experience offer in the park;
- Develop and implement new visitor access and activity options within a market-responsive framework to address issues related to patterns of visitor use;
- Deliver Park educational programs through the involvement of volunteers and partners, including the medium of professional performing artists;
- Develop and implement Mi'kmaq culture and heritage experience options within the park; and,
- Ensure existing monitoring mechanisms are used to assess and report on changes to the quality of the visitor experience and the enhancement of natural habitat.

The national park is dedicated to protecting and improving the wonderful and dynamic natural environment of the Prince Edward Island coastline. Our understanding of the link between the protected area experience and a passion for conservation is key to creating relevant visitor experience opportunities. Our new visitor experience offer will connect people with the conservation of Canada's natural and cultural heritage. Visitors will consciously recognize and value this unique and special place, a natural and cultural heritage which they hold as part of their Canadian identity, and will feel a commitment to its ongoing conservation.

Parks Canada will also continue to demonstrate fiscal prudence by investing wisely in economically and environmentally sustain-

able infrastructure that supports these experiences. The existing park facilities and visitor opportunities are illustrated on MAPS 5A, 5B and 5C.

Over the next five years the park visitor experience program will focus on the following areas.

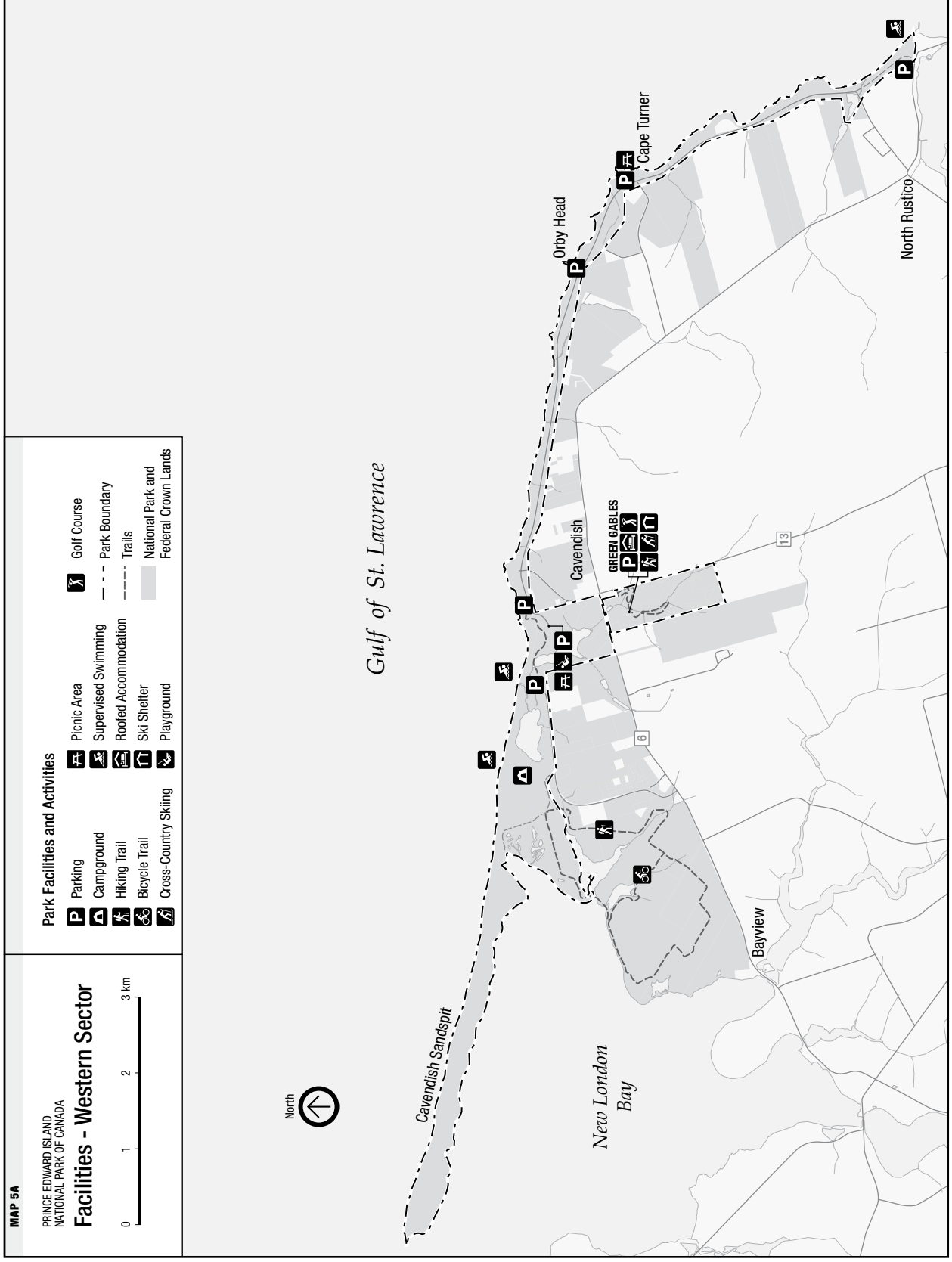
10.2 THE PARK TRAIL SYSTEM

The park currently offers visitors a range of walking, hiking and limited cycling opportunities on eleven trails. These range from a short 0.5 km wetland interpretive trail to the 8 km Homestead trail and the 10.25 km combined trail network at Greenwich. Off-road cycling is permitted on the Woodlands and Homestead trails. In addition to these trails, there are many kilometres of beaches available for walking and hiking.

In recent years Parks Canada has observed an increasing number of park visitors using the Gulf Shore Parkway for cycling, hiking/walking and running. Video monitoring was conducted along the Covehead section of the parkway in 2004, 2005 and 2006 to provide a sense of visitor use patterns. Between late June and October 2005, 14,851 person-trips were recorded with an average of 128 person-trips per day. Data from 2004 and 2005 indicate that approximately 64% of the users are cyclists, 31% are walkers, 4% are runners and 1% are in-line skaters. The Parkway is not properly designed or maintained for these uses, and this has led to concerns regarding public safety and a poor quality visitor experience.

Most of the park's hiking trails are constructed to a high standard, with smooth, level surfaces that make for easy walking. Some park trail users have expressed a desire to experience more rugged, challenging, natural surface trails within the park.

The visitor experience renewal initiative will work toward the development of a high quality multi-use trail system that promotes active transportation. This trail system will provide a variety of opportunities for cyclists, joggers, hikers, and others to experience the diverse habitats of the park, and to travel between key park facilities such



MAP 5A

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
 NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA
Facilities - Western Sector



- Park Facilities and Activities**
- Parking
 - Campground
 - Hiking Trail
 - Bicycle Trail
 - Cross-Country Skiing
 - Picnic Area
 - Supervised Swimming
 - Roofed Accommodation
 - Ski Shelter
 - Playground
 - Golf Course

- Park Boundary
- Trails
- National Park and Federal Crown Lands



Gulf of St. Lawrence

Cavendish Sandspit

New London Bay

Cavendish

GREEN GABLES

Orby Head

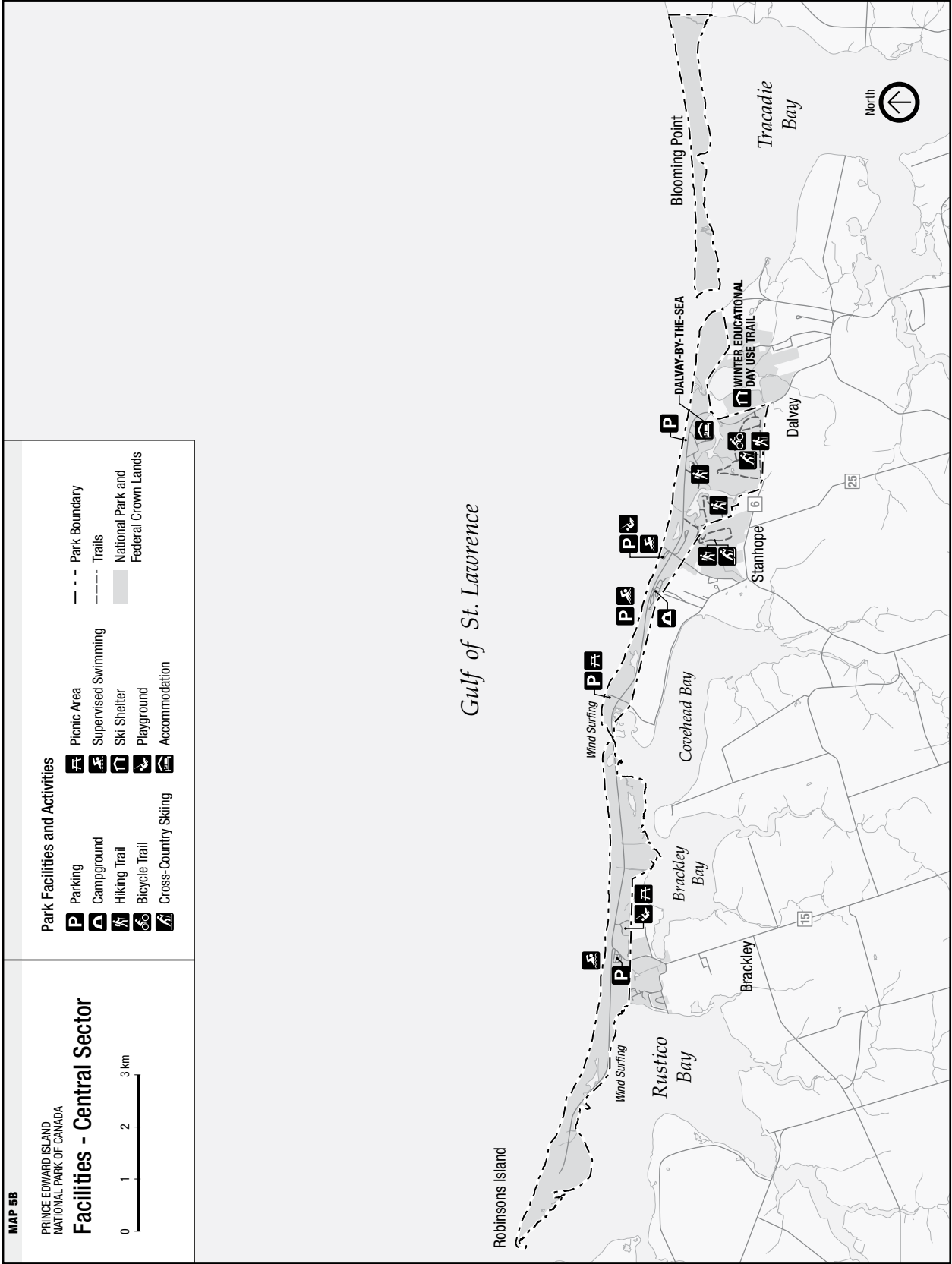
Cape Turner

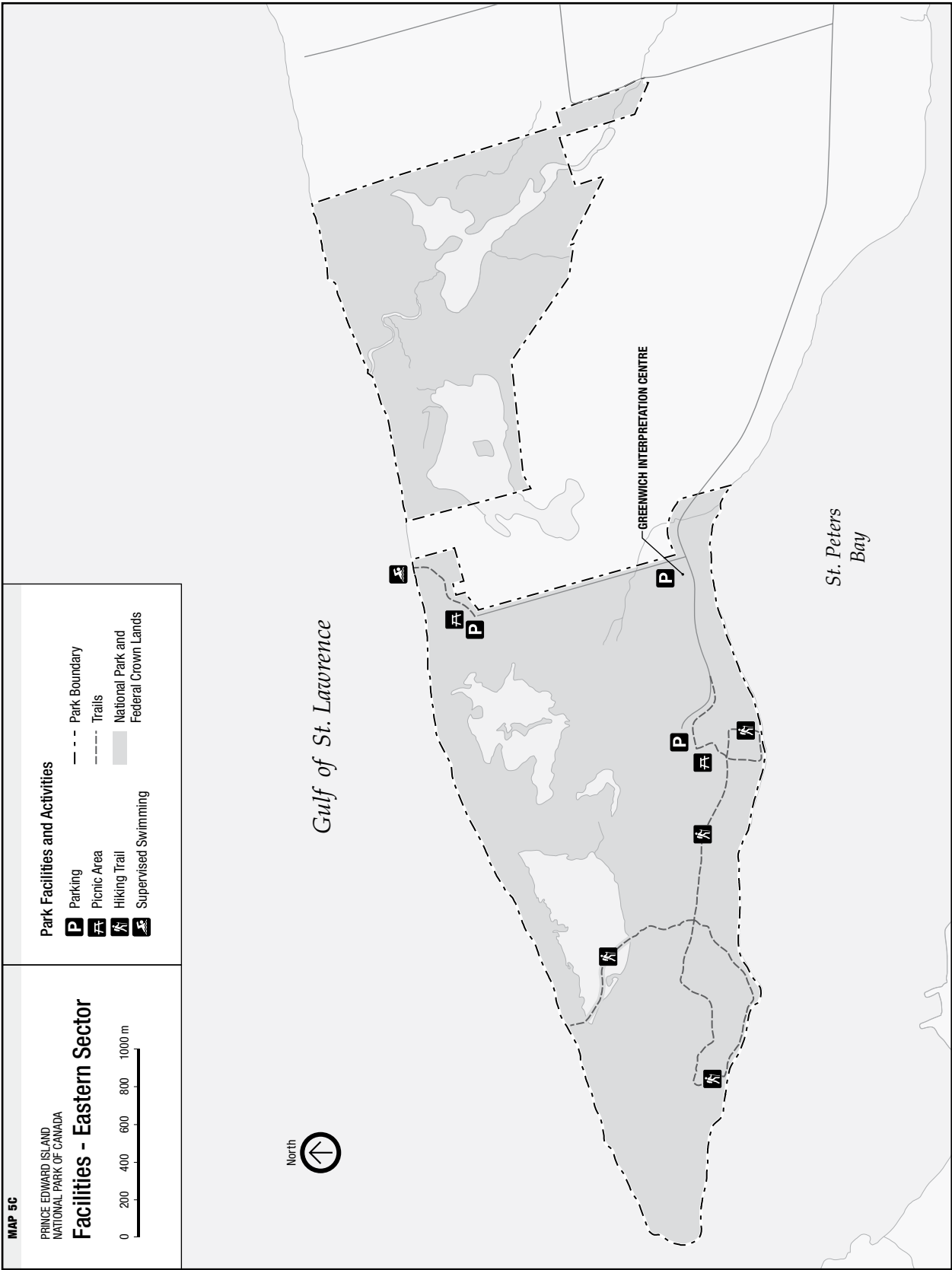
Bayview

North Rustico

13

6





MAP 5C

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
 NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

Facilities - Eastern Sector

0 200 400 600 800 1000 m



Park Facilities and Activities

- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Hiking Trail
- Supervised Swimming
- Park Boundary
- Trails
- National Park and Federal Crown Lands



Boardwalk, Greenwich beach. John Sylvester

as campgrounds, beaches and other day-use areas. Efforts will be made to enhance the trail system by including an active transportation route along the coastal section of the park within the existing Gulf Shore Parkway transportation corridor. The full trail system will also utilize existing hiking trails, and will ideally link with external trails in adjacent communities. The feasibility of establishing additional, natural-surface footpaths to provide more challenging hiking opportunities will also be explored. The trail plan will be developed in collaboration with adjacent community interests, and will respond to visitor needs and interests.

Management Actions:

- A comprehensive *Park Trail Plan* will be prepared to review trail needs and opportunities in order to determine what types of trail use can be supported on existing trails, and where enhancements to the trail system can be made.
- Parks Canada will work with partners to support compatible community initiatives to extend the trail system beyond the park boundaries, and to develop linkages, where feasible, with existing routes such as the Confederation Trail.

10.3 THE GULF SHORE PARKWAY, VEHICLE CIRCULATION AND PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Gulf Shore Parkway was constructed during the late 1950s to provide sightseeing opportunities, and to facilitate public access to the park. The highway was originally envisioned as a continuous seaside drive that would run from Dalvay to Cavendish. A causeway was constructed across Little Harbour to Robinsons Island, but the completion of the continuous road proved to be technically unfeasible, due to challenges encountered in bridging the channel between Robinsons Island and North Rustico.

Dynamic coastal processes have continued to affect this roadway. In 1999 a portion of the parkway was closed and removed at Cavendish Beach due to progressive encroachment of sand dunes. Other sections of the roadway are now threatened by coastal erosion. These challenges will likely become exacerbated in future years due to the effects of climate change and ongoing sea-level rise. Armour stone and other coastal protection measures have been used in the past. These have proven to be expensive and ineffective over the long term. Parks Canada now attempts to minimize interference with natural coastal processes.

The Gulf Shore Parkway cannot be maintained in its current form over the long term. Three areas that are currently under greatest threat from erosion are Dalvay, Stanhope, and the MacKenzies Brook area near Cavendish. In addition, the future of the Robinsons Island (Little Harbour) Causeway, the subject of continuing study, will affect future access options.

Realigning portions of the parkway is technically feasible, but will be expensive and will only provide a relatively short-term solution. Closing portions of the parkway is another option, although this would present some challenges for vehicle circulation in the park. Parks Canada will continue to evaluate options with community involvement over the next five years.

Numerous parking areas have been established throughout the park to accommodate motor vehicle access to many of the park attractions and facilities. The small parking lot at Dalvay Beach is beginning to collapse due to coastal erosion. This lot has

been reduced in size, and will eventually be removed. The paved shoulders of the parkway have also been used as parking areas for beach users and hikers throughout many sections of the park. This pattern of use has led to safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists who also use the road shoulders. Most roadside parking will be eliminated in conjunction with the development of a multi-use trail. Limited parking will be maintained within the existing right-of-way where it is required to provide access to beaches, trailheads and interpretive nodes.

Parks Canada will work with local communities and other partners to develop new options for visitor access and transportation throughout the park. The goal of these efforts will be to develop new visitor experience opportunities that will increase the park's capacity to accommodate more visitors, while also improving the health of the park by reducing traffic congestion, reducing parking areas, and reducing pollution from motor vehicles.

Management Actions:

- Parks Canada will consult with local communities, park users, and other stakeholders to develop preferred options to address the potential loss of highway segments due to continuing coastal erosion.
- Parking along the Gulf Shore Parkway road shoulders will be phased out, in conjunction with the development of the multi-use trail. Parking areas will be provided within the road corridor where required to facilitate access to trailheads, secondary beach facilities and interpretive nodes.
- Parks Canada will involve and collaborate with local communities and stakeholders to assess the feasibility of public transportation options for park visitors, including future needs for external parking.

10.4 BEACHES

The many fine sandy beaches within the park are the most popular attraction for visitors, with 86% of park visitors identifying themselves as beach users in the 2005 survey. Parks Canada will continue to facilitate

responsible use of these special places by maintaining an array of access opportunities and beach facilities. Some main beach facilities will continue to accommodate large numbers of automobiles. Other beaches are accessible primarily by walking or cycling. In the coming years, the potential for providing a convenient public transportation alternative for beach users will be assessed.

Beach supervision by qualified surf-guards is provided at seven beaches. This is an important service in providing comfortable and safe experiences for families. Parks Canada will continue to deliver these services through arrangements with private sector providers. However, in order to ensure the sustainability of supervised swimming, some adjustments to the level of service, such as the number of supervised beaches and a reduction in hours, may be required in future years.

10.4.1 Cavendish Sandspit Beach

The Cavendish Sandspit is a long undeveloped beach west of Cavendish campground that provides a quiet, undeveloped alternative to the more popular Cavendish Main Beach. It has traditionally been popular with some local residents, and is becoming increasingly popular with other park visitors. It is currently accessible by hiking or cycling from the Homestead Trail, walking from the campground or Main Beach, or driving down the Cavendish Sandspit Road, a small, unmarked gravel road that leads from the Homestead Trailhead to a small parking lot at the base of the dunes.

The sandspit and a small adjacent salt marsh are within a Zone I Special Preservation Area. The sandspit includes important breeding habitat for the endangered piping plover and other shorebirds. The road is a non-conforming use that enters the Zone I area and bisects a portion of the saltmarsh, restricting tidal flow to the upper portion of the marsh. The dunes have begun to encroach on the parking area, with sand accumulating on all sides. Several footpaths lead from the road and parking area over the dunes where they have created vegetation damage.

The 1998 *Park Management Plan* indicated that this road would be closed pending the development of an alternative access. A

suitable alternative road access could not be found, and the road has remained open. During this plan review differing opinions were expressed on this issue. Several local residents argued for continued motor vehicle access to the base of the dunes, while others indicated their support for withdrawing motor vehicle access as long as pedestrian access to the beach was still permitted.

Parks Canada wishes to preserve the valuable visitor experience provided by this beach, while also addressing ecological integrity concerns. New access options will require that the parking lot be relocated from its present location, and an appropriate trail developed leading from the new parking area to the beach. This will help to maintain the quiet experience sought by many of the current users and low levels of use that are critical to maintaining this visitor experience as distinct from that at the nearby Cavendish Main Beach. It will also maintain the integrity of the Zone I area, reduce impacts on the dunes, and allow the restoration of tidal flows to the saltmarsh that is bisected by the existing road.

10.4.2 Dalvay Beach

The removal of day use facilities at Dalvay Beach began approximately 15 years ago as a response to coastal erosion. Since that time Dalvay Beach has been maintained as a beach access point. It is used by guests of Dalvay-by-the-Sea, and by other visitors who use the small parking area or park on the shoulder of the Gulf Shore Parkway. Significant erosion continues to affect Dalvay Beach. The parking area is being undermined and has been reduced in size. Parks Canada no longer promotes this beach, but encourages visitors to use the nearby Stanhope Beach Complex which provides a full range of services for beach users.

Parks Canada will maintain existing access to Dalvay Beach as long as possible, but will not construct a new parking area due to the impacts of ongoing erosion. Once the parking area is no longer serviceable, the beach will continue to be accessible to pedestrians, cyclists, paddlers, and possibly by public transit service if feasible.

Management Actions:

- A new parking area and trail will be created to allow continued visitor access to Cavendish Sandspit beach. The existing parking area will be relocated to a location outside the Zone I area.
- Promote Dalvay Beach to cyclists and hikers, and continue to promote the use of Stanhope Main Beach for motorists in this sector of the park.
- Continue to assess the potential for providing convenient public transportation alternatives for beach users in all sectors of the park.

10.5 CAMPING

Camping is also a primary focus of the visitor experience, with serviced and un-serviced camping provided at Cavendish and Stanhope. A group camping site is located adjacent to the Brackley day use area. These sites will continue to offer a full range of camping services. A major redevelopment of the Cavendish campground was initiated in 2003. This project will continue as funding permits. Additional efforts to enhance the camping experience, such as introducing a campground host program, will be explored with partners.

10.5.1 Robinsons Island Campground

A third campground has historically provided un-serviced camping at Robinsons Island. A sandy beach that used to exist on the north side of the island provided a natural attraction for campers. This beach has been lost to coastal erosion and the associated day use area has been closed and removed. The campground has been closed since 2005 due to declining visitor use and high operating costs.

The future accessibility of this site is dependent on the future of the Robinsons Island causeway. Options for the visitor experience at Robinsons Island will be developed in consultation with park stakeholders.



Cavendish campground. Parks Canada

Management Actions:

- Continue to upgrade Cavendish Campground during this plan, as funding permits.
- Engage stakeholders in addressing and developing the future visitor experience offer at Robinsons Island.
- Explore and implement viable options to enhance and sustain the national park camping experience through cooperation with partners and visitors.

10.6 WINTER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Prince Edward Island National Park maintains groomed cross country ski trails, snowshoeing trails, and a cleared ice skating surface on Dalvay Pond in order to support winter recreational use of the park. A warm-up hut is located at the Dalvay Activity Centre, near the start of the Woodlands and Campbells Pond trails. Parks Canada will continue to promote winter activities and collaborate with partners to increase visitor participation during the winter months.

Management Actions:

- Parks Canada will consider requirements of winter use when developing the Park Trail Plan.
- Parks Canada will collaborate with partners to enhance and promote winter activities in the park.

10.7 RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ASSESSMENT

Parks Canada focuses on promoting high quality visitor experiences that are consistent with the Agency's mandate. During this management plan review, all potential recreational activities were systematically evaluated to determine which ones were compatible with the mandate, the local natural environment and the visitor experience goals of the park. The vast majority of activities currently enjoyed by park visitors were determined to be suitable and appropriate.

Several potential recreational activities pose unacceptable risks to ecological integrity, public safety, or are incompatible with other established visitor activities. For these reasons, the following activities will not be permitted within the park:

- use of motor boats on ponds;
- landing of motor boats on park beaches (only applies to Greenwich where Parks Canada has jurisdiction to the mean low water mark);
- snowmobiling;
- use of radio-controlled toy vehicles;
- land sailing; and
- ice boating.

Parks Canada will endeavour to maintain and facilitate access to trails, beaches and the seaside for compatible recreational activities. Parks Canada will also seek the involvement of user groups when considering any changes in infrastructure that might affect access. Evaluation of new recreational activities

will be conducted as they become evident to park management, and will use the guidance of Parks Canada's Recreational Activities Assessment Framework.

10.8 GREEN GABLES GOLF COURSE

The Green Gables Golf Course was designed by the renowned golf course architect Stanley Thompson and was opened in 1939. A portion of the course was realigned in 1982 in order to accommodate shifting sand dunes near MacNeills Pond. There has been only minimal upgrades to the course, and it does not currently meet the standards expected by most golfers.

Parks Canada has retained the services of a golf course architect to review the course and recommend improvements that will include an irrigation system. Environmental impacts of course irrigation will be reduced by collaborating with the Resort municipality to utilize treated effluent from the Cavendish sewage system. Once completed the golf course will be operated by the private sector under a lease agreement with Parks Canada. The terms of the new lease will include environmental performance targets to ensure that the course operation has a minimal impact on the ecological integrity of the park.

Management Actions:

- Implement and complete the renewal and upgrade of the Stanley Thompson course by 2008.
- Negotiate a new lease incorporating environmental management performance measures to ensure that the impact of golf course operation and management is minimized.

10.9 VISITOR EXPERIENCE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The following table outlines the performance indicators for visitor experience. These include indicators from the Agency's *Corporate Plan* as well as additional indicators in key performance areas that are being developed by the Parks Canada national Visitor Experience team. Results obtained from 2005 social science research indicate that the park is meeting visitor expectations and satisfaction targets. Some of the other indicators are still being refined, and targets are still under development for some indicators. When completed these will be used to further evaluate the success of the visitor experience program at Prince Edward Island National Park.

Performance Indicators	Target	2005 Results
Visitor Recognition of Parks Canada Leadership in Heritage Protection and Recreation	TBD*	
Visitors' Needs and Expectations Are Being Met	70%	90%
Visitors' Needs and Expectations Are Exceeded	10%	N/A
Visitor Satisfaction With Quality of Facilities and Services	TBD	90%
Visitors Have Had a Meaningful Visitor Experience	TBD	87%
Visitor Satisfaction With Overall Park Experience	85%	94%
Management Decisions Based on Relevant Research Data	TBD*	

* TBD – to be determined

11.0 Working with the Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island



Students of the Abegweit First Nation working on an archaeological excavation at Greenwich. *John Sylvester*

11.1 BACKGROUND

Improving relationships with First Nations communities is a priority for Parks Canada. Section 354(1) of the *Constitution Act* (1982) recognises and affirms the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The Act defines the “aboriginal peoples of Canada” as the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. The indigenous Aboriginal peoples in Prince Edward Island are the Mi'kmaq “Indians”.

There are two Mi'kmaq First Nations in Prince Edward Island – the Lennox Island Band, and the Abegweit Band. The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI represents the Lennox Island and Abegweit Bands on issues of common interest and, in particular, serves as the First Nations' forum for Aboriginal and Treaty rights issues. In order to fulfil the

fiduciary responsibility of the federal government, Parks Canada's PEI field unit has been working with Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to foster and strengthen the consultative and working relationship, and to develop programs of mutual interest and benefit.

11.2 MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATIONS AND COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

In the *Haida Nation* and *Taku River Tlingit First Nation* cases, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed the duty of Governments to consult with First Nations on matters that could affect Aboriginal and Treaty rights. The management plan review for Prince Edward Island National Park provided an opportunity for Parks Canada and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to fulfil this obligation

to consult and collaborate. A senior staff member of the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI participated on the planning team during the development of the management plan. In early 2005 Parks Canada held open house sessions at Lennox Island and Scotchfort, the two largest Mi'kmaq communities in the province, to seek the input of both the Lennox Island and Abegweit Bands and communities. Key issues raised during these sessions were: Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal employment opportunities within Parks Canada; access to park lands for traditional uses; protection of Aboriginal cultural resources; establishment of a Mi'kmaq Cultural Centre; increased interpretation of Mi'kmaq culture and history; and park fees.

As a result of these discussions Parks Canada and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on July 29, 2005. This MOU deals with several areas of cooperation, but perhaps most importantly it establishes the *Parks Canada – Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI Partnership Process*. This process provides a forum for cooperation and collaboration in enhancing the protection and presentation of Mi'kmaq history and culture in the national park and national historic sites of Prince Edward Island. The MOU also includes a *Strategic Employment Plan* designed to foster the development of the Aboriginal workforce. This employment initiative is being facilitated through the *Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement*, an employment and training program serving the entire PEI Aboriginal community which is housed at the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI.

One of the collaborative projects that is underway is the *Mi'kmaq Place Names Cultural Preservation Project*. This project, funded by Parks Canada through the Marshall Funding program, will document traditional Mi'kmaq place names on Prince Edward Island and will help interpret how those names reflect

the traditional Mi'kmaq lifestyles from which they originate. This information will be made available to Parks Canada by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to assist in the presentation of Prince Edward Island's Mi'kmaq heritage.

Another cooperative project has been funded through the Parks Canada Aboriginal Heritage Presentation Innovation Fund. The goal of this project is to conduct research into Mi'kmaq history that can be integrated into heritage presentation programs at the national park, and at Port LaJoye – Fort Amherst National Historic Site of Canada near Charlottetown, in accordance with established protocols.

Management Actions:

Over the next several years Parks Canada will collaborate with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI on the following initiatives.

- Enhance heritage presentation of the Aboriginal history and culture of the park and surrounding area.
- Develop skills training and information to enable Mi'kmaq people to prepare for careers with Parks Canada.
- Improve communication regarding career opportunities within the national park.
- Pursue additional research projects of mutual interest.
- Explore with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and other partners opportunities to establish a Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal cultural centre within a portion of federal Crown lands or within an adjacent community.
- Develop an agreement to facilitate traditional spiritual and ceremonial use of park lands by Mi'kmaq people. This agreement will be consistent with the Parks Canada policy on *Use of National Parks by Aboriginal People for Traditional Spiritual and Ceremonial Purposes* (2003).

12.0 Collaboration and Public Engagement

As part of the national family of protected areas, Prince Edward Island National Park and Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site belong to all Canadians. All citizens should feel they have an opportunity to participate in the stewardship of these heritage places. Parks Canada will strive to offer individuals and interested parties timely, open and fair opportunities for involvement in planning and management activities. Collaboration and community involvement will be critical to achieving the shared vision outlined in this plan.

12.1 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Neighbouring communities play a vital role in providing essential products and services that complement the visitor experience and enable visitors to more fully enjoy the park. Similarly, opportunities available within the national park significantly enhance the quality of life and amenity values of the adjacent communities. Maintaining and enhancing this symbiotic relationship is an important objective of Parks Canada.

Several mechanisms have been employed to secure community involvement in park issues and Parks Canada involvement in community development. Two community advisory boards have been established. The Community Advisory Board West includes representatives of the Resort Municipality of Cavendish and the community of North Rustico. The Community Advisory Board East includes representatives of St Peters and the St Peters Bay area. Parks Canada participated in the development of the Sustainable Community Plan for the Resort Municipality of Cavendish. The park participates on the provincial Tourism Advisory Council, and maintains a dialogue with the local Cavendish Beaches and Dune Shore

Tourism Association. Parks Canada has also established an Advisory Council to assist in the planning and development of new visitor experience options that include a potential new gateway development in the Cavendish area. Parks Canada will also seek community and public input when conducting annual implementation reviews of this management plan.

Some key issues where Parks Canada will continue to seek strong ongoing collaborative relationships include: securing regional trail linkages between the national park trail system, the Confederation Trail, and other community trail projects; working to improve watershed protection and enhance drinking water quality for the park and surrounding communities; and enhancing sustainable tourism products within the north shore region.

Management Actions:

- Review and update the established Advisory Board process to ensure effective public engagement.
- Collaborate with local communities, trail groups, and the provincial government to improve the connectivity and diversity of trail systems within the region.
- Enhance communication opportunities with park user groups and other stakeholders.
- Produce annual management plan implementation reports, with opportunities for public input, beginning one year following the tabling of the plan.

12.2 COLLABORATION WITH ADJACENT LAND OWNERS AND MANAGERS

Prince Edward Island National Park comprises a small, coastal land base surrounded by a much larger heavily developed watershed. Parks Canada cannot effectively manage for

ecological integrity inside the park without considering the influence of land use and conservation initiatives occurring beyond park boundaries. Ecosystem management recognises the connections that exist within the landscape, and attempts to address important issues within the park by collaborating with others beyond park boundaries.

In 2002 the PEI Model Forest Network Partnership was formed. Parks Canada is a partner in this initiative, and is represented on both the management and partnership committees. The vision of the partnership is of "a diverse group working co-operatively to develop forest communities based on sound ecological, social and economic principles." Parks Canada also has a long-standing col-

laborative relationship with the Island Nature Trust to conduct ecological research, monitoring and outreach projects.

Parks Canada will also seek to establish a Greater Ecosystem Working Group in order to augment these existing initiatives and enhance environmental quality in the surrounding watersheds. This could include establishing a collaborative working relationship with the agricultural community in the north shore area.

Management Actions:

- Continue to participate as an active partner in the PEI Model Forest program, and with the Island Nature Trust.

13.0 Administration and Operations

Prince Edward Island National Park is administered under the provisions of the *Canada National Parks Act* and the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, and in accordance with the *Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*. Within this legislative and policy framework, Parks Canada strives to deliver the mandate of protection, visitor experience and public education while demonstrating sound environmental stewardship and prudent fiscal management.

13.1 PARK ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

The old Dalvay Administration office was closed in 2001. Temporary alternative office space was until recently provided in Charlottetown. Park offices have now been consolidated at two primary locations: the Ardgowan Administration Office in Charlottetown, and the new Dalvay Operations Centre. The Dalvay Operations Centre, completed in June 2006, houses all management functions for the park, including Resource Conservation, Heritage Presentation, General Works, and Visitor Services.

13.2 MAINTENANCE COMPOUNDS

There are three maintenance compounds located in the park, one in each sector. A number of Canada Labour Code concerns have been identified in these maintenance compounds. These will be addressed over the next few years.

Both the Cavendish and Dalvay compounds were found to contain small contaminated sites. These have been assessed and remedial action has been taken. One small, low-priority site at Dalvay still requires some remediation. Parks Canada will continue to take action as necessary to address any residual effects.

13.3 WATER QUALITY

In recent years, there have been a number of drinking water boil orders required due to problems related to the aging water distribution system in the older sectors of the park. Parks Canada has been making steady progress at addressing these issues with the installation of chlorination and uv disinfection systems at most of the park facilities. The Green Gables Pro Shop is the only remaining facility to be addressed. These water disinfection systems eliminate the human health risk, but they do not address the underlying problem, which is a deteriorating water distribution system. Parks Canada also remains concerned about water quality issues related to land use in the surrounding watershed.

Prince Edward Island National Park follows the *Parks Canada Agency Water Quality Guidelines*. These provide direction on the appropriate sampling regime and on drinking water procedures should any future deficiency in water quality be detected. All of the park staff responsible for the drinking water systems have received their water and wastewater certifications from the provincial government as required by the guidelines.

Management Actions:

- Parks Canada will correct the problems related to the water distribution system over the life of this management plan.
- During the next five years, Parks Canada will develop a potable water management plan, including the necessary measures to address wellfield and watershed protection.

13.4 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Prince Edward Island National Park will continue to promote environmental stewardship by integrating sound environmental practices and technologies into park opera-

tions. This approach has been demonstrated with the installation of wind generators at the Greenwich beach facility and the Cavendish campground. The Cavendish generator will reduce the park's greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 20 tonnes annually. During the winter months, power will be sold into the provincial energy grid. Parks Canada will continue to develop components of the field unit Environmental Management System Action Plan to further promote environmental stewardship.

Parks Canada will also examine the potential to reduce mowing along roadways and around park facilities, and replace some areas of existing turf with low-growing native plants. This would improve protection of biodiversity and help to reduce fuel consumption and pollution emissions associated with lawn mower use. The frequency of mowing

may be reduced to assist this effort. Better fleet management will also yield a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Management Actions:

- Prepare a mowing plan that reduces the area mowed along park roadways and around park facilities. Efforts will be made to manage the Gulf Shore Parkway as an ecological roadway corridor, utilizing native species wherever possible.
- New facilities or upgrades will incorporate environmental technologies and "green" building design that maximizes energy efficiency and water conservation.
- Work to develop components of the field unit Environmental Management System Action Plan.

14.0 Environmental Assessment Summary

Parks Canada is responsible for assessing and mitigating the impact of its actions on ecosystems and cultural resources. The *Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals* prepared by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, requires an environmental assessment of all plans and policies submitted to the federal Cabinet or to a Minister for approval, including management plans for national parks.

Accordingly, a strategic environmental assessment of the objectives, programs, and management actions outlined in this management plan was carried out. The objectives of the environmental assessment were:

- to ensure that the strategic directions, objectives, and specific proposals contained within the plan respect and support the ecological integrity goals and objectives for the national park, and the commemorative integrity goals and objectives for the national historic site;
- to ensure that the plan adequately addresses the ecosystem stressors and major concerns relating to the cumulative effects that are affecting park ecosystems;
- to assess the implications of proposals included in the plan to ensure that they enhance positive environmental effects, and avoid or mitigate potential negative effects.

The assessment included evaluation of cumulative environmental effects from all proposals. It also considered the full range of potential impacts on the natural and cultural resources of the park, both from ongoing operations and from proposed projects.

Relevant federal environmental policies, including those of Parks Canada, were

considered in a policy review. The proposed strategic directions outlined in the management plan are consistent with these policies. Implementation of the management direction and the specific actions that are proposed should result in progress towards greater ecological integrity for Prince Edward Island National Park.

The environmental challenges facing the park are recognized in the direction and initiatives outlined in the plan. Opportunities for stakeholder and public review were provided throughout the planning process between 2002 and 2005. Public views and comments, including environmental concerns, are reflected in the plan.

The plan proposes several management actions that could result in some adverse environmental impact. However, it is expected that these impacts can be mitigated once they are examined more closely during project-specific environmental assessments.

A strategic environmental assessment will be required for the proposed development of a management plan for L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada.

The following initiatives will be subject to project-specific environmental assessments:

- Changes in location of infrastructure due to coastal erosion;
- Restoration of outflow stream of Dalvay and Long Ponds;
- Enhancements to trail system and development of multi-use trail;
- Provision of parking areas along the Gulf Shore Parkway;
- Construction of new facilities, and possibly upgrades to existing facilities;

- Remedy problems with the water distribution system;
- Potential use of pesticides to control invasive species;
- Restoration of the tidal flow to the Cavendish Sandspit saltmarsh;
- Relocation of the Cavendish Sandspit parking lot, and create new trail and boardwalk to Cavendish Sandspit beach;
- Green Gables Golf Course upgrade

Several changes were made to the plan in response to recommendations in the environmental assessment. These changes were made to clarify proposed actions, incorporate mitigation measures and maximize the envi-

ronmental benefits of this management plan. These changes, along with the above listed strategic and project specific environmental assessments will ensure that the implementation of this management plan does not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. Collectively, the strategic direction and management actions outlined in this plan will contribute to an overall improvement in the ecological integrity of Prince Edward Island National Park and the commemorative integrity of Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site.

15.0 Implementation Strategy

Implementation of this management plan is the responsibility of the Prince Edward Island Field Unit Superintendent. The management actions proposed in this management plan will be implemented through the Field Unit's annual Sustainable Business Plan, and are dependent on the availability of sufficient financial resources. The Sustainable Business Plan identifies the management plan actions that will be implemented annually, along with the costs and specific timing.

A summary of the planned projects or actions is presented in the table below. The table does not include ongoing, routine management activities. Priorities have been assigned to indicate which projects and actions will proceed immediately, and which projects will be implemented over the mid- to long-term of the plan. Reporting on progress will occur through the annual management plan implementation reports. The management plan will be reviewed in five years time.

ACTIONS	PRIORITIES		
	Immediate 2007-2008	Mid-Term 2008-2011	Long-Term 2011-2016
Ecological Integrity			
Refine ecological monitoring measures and Targets		•	
Prepare State of the Park Report			•
Vegetation Inventory		•	
Vegetation Management Plan		•	
Fire Management Plan	•		
Restoration Plan for Disturbed Sites		•	
Implement the Visitor Experience Renewal Initiative	•	•	
Crown Lands Evaluation and Fragmentation Analysis		•	
Evaluate Management Practices on Agricultural Lands			•
Aquatic Restoration Plan			•
Evaluate Fishing Pressure and Role of Recreational Fishing			•
Implement a Quarantine Policy for Schooner Pond (Eurasian water milfoil)	•		
Develop (with the Province) Protocols on Ownership of Emergent Sand Bars			•
Restore tidal flow in Cavendish Saltmarsh		•	
Restoration Plan for Dalvay and Long Pond Outflows		•	
Add Greenwich to Public Safety Plan	•		
Review and Update Public Safety Plan		•	
Prepare Wilderness Area Administrative Map Plans (with NRCAN)	•		
Declare Wilderness Area		•	

ACTIONS	PRIORITIES		
	Immediate 2007-2008	Mid-Term 2008-2011	Long-Term 2011-2016
Cultural Resource Management			
Examine feasibility of establishing more flexible operating hours for Green Gables in the off-season	•		
Develop with partners a CIS and Management Plan for L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish NHS			•
Work With Others to Increase Knowledge of Resources		•	•
Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site			
Prepare Conservation Maintenance Plan		•	
Develop Landscape Standards for the Grounds			•
Enhance Existing Interpretive Products			•
Conduct Visitor Surveys			•
Public Education			
Develop volunteer and community partner network		•	•
Enhance Interpretation of Aboriginal Heritage			•
Increase Promotion of Interpretation Programs		•	
Present Resource Protection Messages at High-Use Areas		•	
Refine and Conduct Visitor Surveys			•
Review Heritage Presentation at Green Gables (Ensure reflects new NHS)			•
Review and Update Heritage Presentation Plan		•	
Visitor Experience			
Prepare Park Trail Plan		•	
Collaborate to Link Park Trails to External Trails			•
Consult With Stakeholders on Potential Changes to Gulf Shore Parkway			•
Phase-out Roadside parking		•	
Collaborate with others to explore Public Transportation Options		•	
Develop New Trail and Boardwalk to Cavendish Sandspit Beach and Relocate Parking		•	
Continue Cavendish Campground Upgrade		•	
Engage Stakeholders in Discussion of Future of Robinsons Island Visitor Experience		•	
Upgrade Green Gables Golf Course		•	

ACTIONS	PRIORITIES		
	Immediate 2007-2008	Mid-Term 2008-2011	Long-Term 2011-2016
Working With Mi'kmaq			
Develop Skills Training and Information for Mi'kmaq Communities		•	
Improve Communication of Employment Opportunities	•		
Explore Opportunities to establish a Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Cultural Centre			•
Work With MCPEI to Develop an Agreement on Traditional Spiritual and Ceremonial Use of the National Park		•	
Collaboration and Public Engagement			
Review and Update the Advisory Board Process		•	
Prepare annual Management Plan Implementation Reports with Public Input	•	•	•
Establish a Greater Ecosystem Working Group		•	
Administration and Operations			
Correct Deficiencies in Water Distribution System			•
Prepare a Potable Water Management Plan		•	
Prepare a Mowing Plan		•	

16.0 References

- Apropos Planning. *Heritage Presentation Plan*, Prince Edward Island Field Unit 2001-2006. Parks Canada, 107p. 2001.
- Keith, Todd. *Prince Edward Island National Park Ecosystem Conservation Plan*. Consultant's report prepared for Parks Canada. 79p. 1998.
- Parks Canada. *Covehead Lighthouse Video Monitoring Study, Executive Summary of Results from 2004 and 2005*. Internal report, Parks Canada, Atlantic Service Centre. 2006.
- . *Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site Evaluation of the State of Commemorative Integrity – 2005/06*. 29p. 2005.
- . *Parks Canada Agency Corporate Plan 2005/06 – 2009/10*. Parks Canada, 87p. 2005.
- . *Prince Edward Island National Park of Canada Visitor Information Program Final Report*. Internal report, Parks Canada, Atlantic Service Centre, 23p. 2005.

APPENDIX 1:

Heritage Presentation Visitor Goals

After participating in interpretive programs, park visitors...

...will know:

- Beaches and dune systems at Prince Edward Island National Park are unique in Eastern Canada.
- Prince Edward Island National Park protects a representative example of the Maritime Plain Natural Region of Canada.
- Prince Edward Island National Park is part of Canada's system of national parks and sites.
- The natural environment of Prince Edward Island National Park is at risk, due to natural and human factors.
- The primary goal of Parks Canada is to protect the ecological integrity in its parks.
- Prince Edward Island National Park is home to an internationally endangered species – the piping plover.
- There are various regulations (governed by the *Canada National Parks Act*) which help to protect resources in the park.
- People from different cultures have interacted with the natural environment of the park throughout time.
- Green Gables and its natural and cultural surroundings were the partial setting and inspiration for Lucy Maud Montgomery's fictional work *Anne of Green Gables*.
- Island author, L.M. Montgomery, achieved national and international fame with her novels and her work remains one of the most enduring contributions to Canadian literature.
- Green Gables is part of L. M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada.

...will feel:

- A sense of pride and identity with the heritage features of Prince Edward Island National Park.
- Concerned about the fragility of the ecosystems in Prince Edward Island National Park and the threats to them.
- Determined to keep their impact, and that of everyone in their family or other visiting groups, to a minimum in the park.
- Reassured that Parks Canada's management activities are helping to maintain and even restore the ecosystems of Prince Edward Island.
- That park presentations were educational as well as enjoyable and entertaining.
- That national parks are valuable as special places that protect and present Canada's heritage.
- Proud that the Canadian author who was inspired by this place has had such international impact with her story.
- A sense of fulfillment and connection with a story they love.
- Enchanted by the beauty of the site and the quality of the period presentation.
- Supportive of the need to preserve natural and cultural landscapes of national significance.

...will:

- Make a concerted effort to pay attention to all signs and other instructions with regard to where visitors can go, and what they can do in various park zones.
- Support projects to protect endangered and threatened species and habitats in the park.
- Learn more about Parks Canada and the park's efforts at restoring and maintaining ecological integrity.
- Become environmental stewards.