



**Gatineau Park
Master Plan**
May 2005

Gatineau
PARK

GATINEAU PARK MASTER PLAN

May 2005

NOTE TO READERS

This document is the result of the work of the NCC and Del Degan, Massé & Associés Inc. following numerous internal and external consultations over the last four years.

PREAMBLE

It is with both pride and pleasure that I present the new Gatineau Park Master Plan, which serves to replace the 1990 Plan. After four years of hard work, including an assessment of the last fifteen years of work in the Park, an analysis of current issues, the preparation of strategic options, and finally the writing of the final document, this new Plan will guide the decisions of the next decade in a way that ensures the preservation of the Park.

This Master Plan would not be as thorough without the extensive participation of the general public and of interest groups throughout the planning process. Three series of workshops with interest groups and two series of public consultations permitted more than 1,000 people to participate, to provide their opinions, and to influence the plan's content. Comments and suggestions from the NCC's Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty, and those of the NCC Board of Directors have also strengthened the Plan.

It is important for me to recognize and thank all of those, especially NCC employees that have worked on the realization of this important document. It is due to their knowledge, their visionary thinking, and their professionalism that we have a document of such rigor.

This Master Plan clearly emphasizes the conservation of the Park's natural and cultural heritage, as set out in the 1999 *Plan for Canada's Capital*. With this as a priority, Gatineau Park will continue to be the "Capital's Conservation Park" for today and for future generations, in welcoming Canadians and visitors to the Capital to a unique experience of discovering a natural environment representative of the nation, of Canadian heritage sites, and of an exceptional setting where outdoor recreational activities fully respect the park's natural ecosystems. Gatineau Park is an intrinsic part of Canada's Capital, and the NCC will continue to play its role of protecting and preserving the Park. Canada's leading role in environmental protection will be showcased through the development of innovative ways to manage a conservation park in which recreational activities that are respectful of the natural environment continue to be an important part of Gatineau Park.

By approving this Plan, the NCC is making a commitment to continue to plan and manage the Park with great care, and to take actions that are essential to ensure the Park's long term protection. This precautionary principle and new trends in managing natural protected areas in Canada will guide our actions. The NCC will continue the dialogue with Canadians to ensure that, together, we work to safeguard these practices.

I thank you for your interest in the planning and the preservation of Gatineau Park, a treasure of Canada's Capital, and wish you good reading.



Marcel Beaudry
Chairman

PLAN PRODUCTION TEAM

DEL DEGAN, MASSÉ & ASSOCIÉS

PROJECT LEADER:	Bruno Del Degan, F.Eng., M.Sc.
PROJECT OFFICER:	Claude Gagné, Urban Planner
TECHNICAL TEAM:	René Nault, Biologist, M.Sc., M.G.P., Environment Hervé Pelletier, F.Eng., M.Sc., Natural Environment Conservation Specialist Jocelyn Guimont, B.Sc. M.Sc., Recreation Science Bernard Massé, F.Eng., Geomatics Denis Sundström, Gr.Tech., Graphics and Mapping

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

PLANNING DIRECTOR	François Lapointe, Director, Planning
PROJECT MANAGER	Lucie Bureau, Principal Regional Planner
TEAM	Michel Viens, Principal Manager, Senior Manager, Natural Resources and Land Management Michel Charbonneau, Senior Manager, Visitor Services and Operations Michel Dallaire, Manager, Recreational Services François Cyr, Senior Planner, Federal Land Use Domitien Mugemana, Senior Planner Environment Michel Céré, Graphic Designer
STEERING COMMITTEE	Jean-René Doyon, Director, Gatineau Park & Greenbelt Michelle Comeau, Vice-President, Environment, Capital Lands and Parks Branch Curry Wood, Vice-President, Capital Planning and Real Asset Management Branch John Abel, Director, Design and Land Use Gisèle Kelly, Director, Property Strategy and Leasing Peter McCourt, Director, Property Development and Planning Sandra Pecek, Manager, Public Consultations
COMMUNICATION TEAM	Élisabeth Lacoursière, Officer, Public consultations Lucie Caron, Media Relations Advisor

The following were also involved in the project: Isabelle Beaudoin-Roy, Renée Bellehumeur, Daniel Blais, Jennifer Burke, Sandra Cook, Velva Craig, Pierre Dubé (Project Manager from February 2001 to March 2002), Johanne Fortier, Jocelyne Jacob, François Leduc, Mario Leduc, David Maitland, Denis Messier, Robert Parent, Jean-Pierre Rochon, Richard Scott, Eva Schacherl, Kirsty Stansel, Gabrielle Simonyi, Lori Thornton, Lynda Villeneuve.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2005 *Gatineau Park Master Plan* replaces the 1990 Plan. The Master Plan, a significant planning document for the NCC, expands upon and refines the policies set out in the *Plan for Canada's Capital, 1999*. It explains the vision, strategic orientations and objectives regarding the long-term planning, use and management for the area situated within the Park's boundaries. The revised Master Plan takes into account past achievements, new issues and international trends in management of natural environments. The review process comprised three major phases: an assessment of the existing situation or context of the Park; public consultations on the proposed strategic proposals and on the draft proposal; and the finalization of the updated Plan itself. In parallel, a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) was carried out to ensure the environmental effectiveness of the Plan's proposals.

CONTEXT

Gatineau Park covers an area of 36,131 hectares and is the National Capital Region's principal green space. The entire Park extends over more than fifty kilometres in length, between the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers. Its southern extremity connects with the urbanized area of the City of Gatineau, near the Ottawa River. Meech Lake, Mousseau Lake, Philippe Lake and La Pêche Lake together represent 80% of the total surface area of the Park's waterbodies. The Park contains three major physiographical features representative of the Canadian Shield, namely the Gatineau Hills, the Eardley Escarpment and the Eardley Plateau, along with exceptional and fragile forests and a concentration of endangered species. The Park is visited 1,700,000 times per year, and 85% of these visits are made by residents of the National Capital Region. Numerous outdoor recreational activities take place in the Park, including hiking and rambling, nature observation and cross-country skiing; other activities range from those that are tolerated, while some are practised informally. Important recreational events taking place in the Park attract more than 250,000 people every year.

The *Plan for Canada's Capital, 1999* designates the Park as a Category II natural heritage area¹ that is protected and managed primarily to preserve its ecosystems and then as a place of recreation where natural processes must be allowed to take precedence and restoration of the natural heritage is encouraged. An analysis of conditions in the Park during the last decade raised a number of concerns:

- The Park appears more fragmented and ecologically isolated;
- There is a real risk of habitat loss and interruption of natural processes;
- User numbers are growing, and this has increased conflicts and risks depreciating the recreational experience;
- The Park is easily accessible and peripheral areas are becoming increasingly urbanized;
- In the past, budget cutbacks have slowed down conservation and interpretation efforts;

¹ As defined by the World Conservation Union.

- Some issues, such as user fees and the Park's legal status, remain unresolved;
- The Park's overall health is difficult to assess using current monitoring indicators.

This situation demonstrates the need for a shift towards conservation, in order to satisfy the orientations set out in the *Plan for Canada's Capital, 1999* and to protect the Park for the benefit of future generations.

In the last four years, two public consultations were held where nearly 1,000 people were able to state their opinions regarding the Plan proposals put forward. Several workshops with interest groups were also held.

The new Plan proposes to make Gatineau Park the Capital's conservation park with a vision focused on conservation, on welcoming Canadians and on recreational activities that are respectful of the environment, for the benefit of present and future generations.

The principal objectives of the new Plan are:

- the conservation of significant ecosystems:
 - by preparing a conservation plan;
 - by preserving ecological links;
 - by restoring significant ecosystems;
 - by reducing human presence in significant ecosystems;
 - by gradually relocating incompatible recreational activities;
 - a respectful recreational experience:
 - by maintaining recreational activities that are compatible;
 - by enhancing the quality of the recreational experience;
 - by maintaining the quality of existing tourist attractions;
 - by reducing the development of activities;
 - by eliminating off-road motorized activities;
 - the Capital's Conservation Park:
 - by contributing to the sustainable development of the Capital;
 - by promoting a space devoted to nature, complementary to the development of the region;
 - by encouraging partnerships that are consistent with the mission;
 - by participating in regional planning roundtables;
 - by working more regularly and consistently with Park users;
 - the enhancement of the Capital's heritage resources related to the Capital:
 - by enhancing cultural landscapes and view corridors;
 - by creating a cultural experience using historic symbols;
 - by preparing a heritage conservation plan;
 - by restoring and maintaining the Park's designated symbols;
-

- a Canadian commitment to environmental conservation:
 - by encouraging Canadians and visitors to become more aware of conservation;
 - by communicating the key ideas regarding conservation of natural environments;
 - by developing virtual interpretation experiences;
 - by communicating the results of research;
- a management approach focussed on conservation:
 - by taking the necessary steps to identify the potential options to enhance the NCC's authority over all aspects of the Park, within the next year;
 - by bringing together groups of experts on particular issues;
 - by adopting an access and control strategy;
 - by analysing and putting in place a fee structure applicable to a majority of Park users;
 - by preparing a "green" transportation plan;
 - by pursuing the acquisition of private properties.

To achieve this vision, designated conservation areas have been expanded by 25%, and protected green ecological corridors have been proposed along the Park's boundaries. Areas used for environmentally respectful recreational activities are located preferably near the populated areas adjacent to the Park, and the Park's natural heritage and cultural landscapes have been maintained and enhanced. Improved visitor services are consolidated in the visitor reception areas, and partnerships are encouraged in areas close to the Park boundary.

All lands in the Park are now assigned to nine separate zones, each zone having its own functions and objectives. In addition, the Plan contains policies concerning privately-owned properties, leases, energy transmission lines and the road network.

Gatineau Park is divided into five distinct sectors (Gateway, Parkway, Philippe Lake Crescent, Heart of the Park and La Pêche Lake), and the Plan presents specific proposals for each sector. The Plan also contains monitoring and implementation measures.

The strategic environmental assessment (SEA) evaluated the impacts of the Plan's proposals on the environment. The SEA determined that 78% of the proposals will have a positive or neutral impact, while 22% will have minor negative impacts that can be addressed through mitigation measures. This leads to the conclusion that the quality of the natural environment will be improved, and the Plan therefore meets its conservation objectives.

In short, the Plan significantly improves habitat and natural ecosystem conservation in the Park, while continuing to promote recreational activities that are respectful of the environment. The Park will also make a complementary contribution to the regional recreational supply. The Park will be the National Capital's showcase for Canada's leadership in the field of environmental protection, through a series of

innovative activities and programs. Park management will be improved considerably, and will be focused on conservation to ensure that this natural treasure truly becomes the Capital's conservation park. Implementation of the new Plan will require changes in the actions and behaviours of everyone concerned, including the NCC, its partners and Park visitors, and the fostering of new attitudes focused on ecosystem conservation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE PLANNING PROCESS

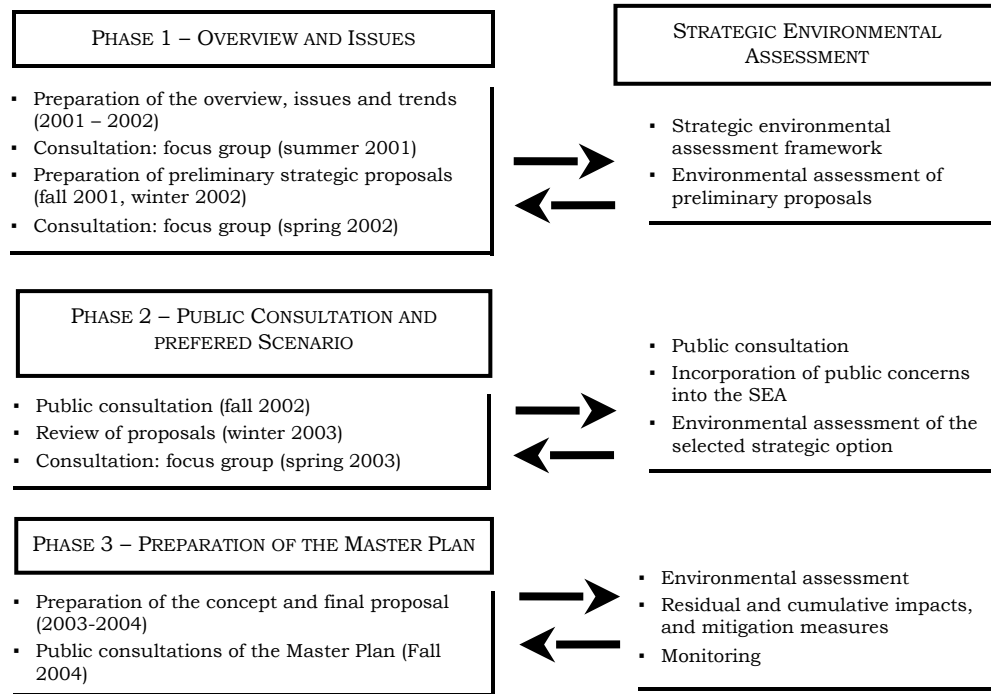
The Gatineau Park Master Plan is a planning tool that sets out the Park’s long-term vision, strategic orientations and objectives for planning, land use, and management. The National Capital Commission (NCC) is responsible for preparing, implementing and monitoring the plan. The Plan forms part of the NCC’s planning framework, and refines the general strategic orientations set out in the *Plan for Canada’s Capital*, which addresses the planning and management of federally-owned lands throughout the National Capital Region (NCR). The following diagram presents the NCC’s hierarchy of plans.

FIGURE 1
NCC PLANNING FRAMEWORK



Although the Master Plan sets out a vision of Gatineau Park for several decades to come, the Plan will cover the ten-year period from 2005 to 2015. The review process began in the spring of 2001, as shown in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2
REVIEW PROCESS



Preparation of the Master Plan has encompassed two main areas of effort throughout the review process, namely the development of proposals and the strategic environmental assessment.

The Master Plan is divided into eight sections. The first presents a short history of the Park, along with an overview of its natural and human components. This is followed by a description of the context in which the review took place and the main concerns that have emerged in the last decade. Subsequent sections examine the consultation process, the planning approach and its spatial breakdown, specific proposals for each sector of the Park, and lastly, the plan’s implementation mechanisms and administrative requirements.

1.1.1 BASIC PREMISES UNDERLYING THE PLAN

A number of basic premises were established to provide direction and structure for the revised plan. Their purpose is to ensure continuity in the planning and development of the Capital, matters for which the NCC has been responsible for nearly 50 years. The premises selected are as follows:

- Under the National Capital Act, the NCC is responsible for planning, developing and managing federally-owned land in the Park, and for its utilization.
- Gatineau Park is an assembly of federally, provincially and privately owned lands forming part of the *National Interest Land Mass (NILM)*, and contributes to the realization of the NCC’s mission².

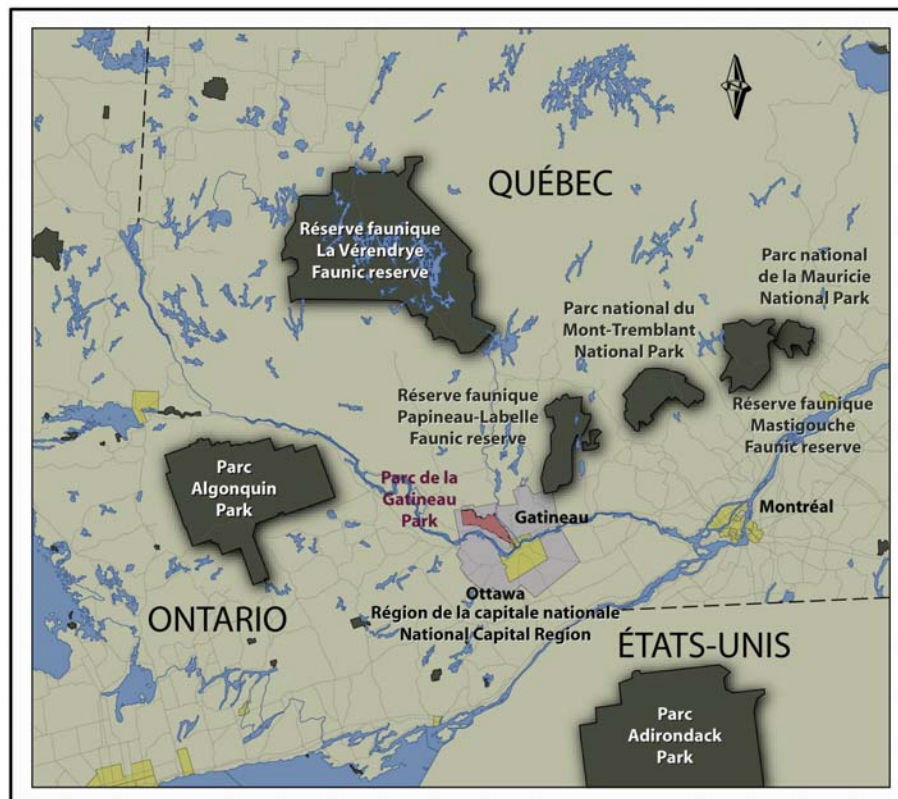
² Since 1988, the NCC’s mandate has been to develop the Capital as a meeting place for Canadians, to communicate Canada to Canadians and to preserve and safeguard the Capital.

- The Master Plan is based on the sustainable development and Capital planning principles set out in the *Plan for Canada's Capital*, 1999.
- The Master Plan must promote and communicate the Canadian government's environmental commitments.
- Gatineau Park forms part of Canada's network of natural protected areas, and is therefore subject to the Canadian government's policies for protected areas.
- The Park's functions of conservation, recreation and cultural and political interpretation, identified in the 1990 Master Plan, continue to apply but may be translated differently.
- The Park sectors identified in the 1990 Master Plan are still appropriate and will be used in the revised Master Plan.
- Gatineau Park is used extensively by Canadians, and a major element in the Capital's image, history and the quality of its environment.

1.2 LOCATION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF GATINEAU PARK

Gatineau Park is located in Eastern Canada, near the capital city of Ottawa, in the extreme south-western part of the province of Québec. Other major natural protected areas located less than 150 km from the Capital include Adirondack Park in New York State, Algonquin Park in Ontario, and the La Vérendrye and Papineau-Labelle wildlife sanctuaries in Québec.

FIGURE 3
GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT OF GATINEAU PARK



Gatineau Park lies between the Ottawa and Gatineau Rivers, extending over approximately fifty kilometres north-west of the Gatineau-Ottawa metropolitan area, as shown in Figure 4. It covers an area of 36,131 ha, and accounts for 7.7% of the total area of the NCR, where more than a million people live. Three-quarters of the neighbouring land is farmland, and the Park lies almost entirely within the boundaries of the Collines-de-l'Outaouais Regional County Municipality (RCM). The southernmost portion, however, protrudes into the urban area of Gatineau, a feature that distinguishes Gatineau Park from National Parks and other Eastern Canada's natural parks.

FIGURE 4
GATINEAU PARK'S POSITION IN THE NCR



The Park is the principal green space in the National Capital, and is also the largest capital asset owned by the NCC. Federal lands within the Park are governed by the *National Capital Act*, and other federal, provincial and municipal legislation, regulations and by-laws also apply to specific aspects of its operations. Capital residents and visitors alike use it for a wide variety of recreational activities. It constitutes a representative sample of the majority of the Canadian Shield's rich and diversified natural landscapes, and plays a major role in maintaining the biodiversity and vitality of regional ecosystems by providing habitat for many wildlife and plant species, some of which are considered to be endangered.

1.3 A BRIEF HISTORY

Over the centuries, the Ottawa Hills were a source of hunting, fishing and berry gathering resources for the nomadic Algonquin peoples who lived the region. The junction of the Gatineau and Ottawa Rivers became a trading post, a meeting point and even a battleground for the peoples living in the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes basin. In the period from the 17th to the 19th centuries, French explorers and woodsmen also came to trade furs. The first settlers, followed by a number of Irish

and French-speaking families, came to the Park in the 19th century. Mining activities emerged towards the end of the 19th century, and by the early 20th century vacationers had begun to use the shores of Meech Lake and Kingsmere Lake. In 1903, Frederick Todd approached the NCC's predecessor, the Ottawa Improvement Commission, with a general plan for the region, including a series of urban and peri-urban parks, one of which would be a reserve around Meech Lake, and recommended that land be purchased to implement the plan. In 1915, the Holt report recommended the creation of an extended commission to implement the plan, and also floated the notion of a national park. Between 1903 and 1927, Prime Minister Mackenzie King purchased 231 hectares of land at Kingsmere Lake. In 1927, the King government created the Federal District Commission (FDC) and gave it the power to purchase land for the park. The new Commission reported directly to the Cabinet. The Federal Woodland Preservation League was created in 1934, and in 1935 it persuaded the Minister of the Interior to study the situation of woodlots in the Gatineau Hills. At the time, Roderick Percy Sparks was the League's primary campaigner against deforestation. In 1937 he became President of the League, and pressured the government to purchase land. Pressure to halt deforestation also came from the general public. In 1938, the King government voted the FDC's first-ever budget: "Parliament, in the fiscal year 1938-1939, appropriated \$100,000 as an initial vote to purchase the more important woodlands from the point of view of forest conservation and provide funds for surveys to determine the feasibility and cost of constructing a scenic driveway through the park and connecting with the present terminus of the driveway system at the Aylmer Road" (FDC, Annual Report – 1938-1939). In 1947, the FDC created an advisory subcommittee for Gatineau Park. The subcommittee, chaired by Roderick Percy Sparks until 1954, issued numerous opinions and reports, including a report on the master plan for the development of Gatineau Park (1952), which took up development proposals from previous reports, including parking lots, buildings, trails, reception areas and parkways. It also addressed the issue of privately owned properties in the Park.

Recreational facilities and activities developed gradually between the 1930s and the 1950s. During that period, the Federal District Commission increased the Park's federal landholding to 20,100 hectares. The Gréber Plan, adopted in 1950, proposed a 33,000-hectare park to make the Capital more attractive and provide a site for outdoor recreation.

Acquisition of land for the Park continued under the initiative of the National Capital Commission, created in 1958. A Development Plan, completed in 1968, laid down some guidelines for the use of the Park, with emphasis on its leisure and recreation functions, symbolic qualities and natural beauty. Development work continued to improve access and leisure facilities for Capital residents and visitors.

In the early 1970s, 4,000 hectares of Québec Crown land were added to the Park under an agreement with Québec's Ministry of Natural Resources. In 1974, the Québec government granted the Park status as a wildlife refuge where hunting was prohibited. By the late 1970s, the Park covered an area of 35,650 hectares. A number of studies were carried out prior



to preparation of the first Master Plan, adopted in 1980. The Plan divided the Park into five sectors, each with a dominant function, and introduced conservation zones extending over 70% of the Park's area, along with interpretation and recreation zones for the remainder. When the NCC's mission was extended in 1988, the 1980 Plan was replaced by the 1990 Plan, which introduced a number of strategic objectives designed to enhance the Park's visibility and recreational contribution. In 1994, the NCC acquired the Meech Creek Valley, bringing the Park's total area to 36,131 hectares.

2. CURRENT STATUS OF THE PARK

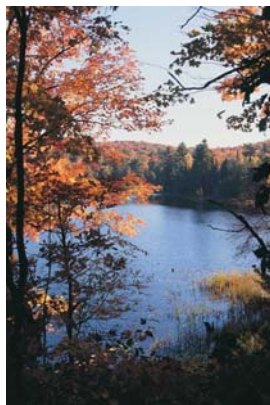
The following pages summarize the Park's natural features and human elements.

2.1 NATURAL ELEMENTS

The Park hosts a range of natural ecosystems within three principal physiographic zones, including:

- The Gatineau Hills, with a temperate climate, whose rounded summits and slopes are home to hardwood forests dominated by maple, beech and oak stands, along with varying percentages of white pine trees;
- The Eardley Escarpment, a geological fault marking the south-eastern boundary of the Canadian Shield, with its hot, dry micro-climate conducive to rare southerly plant species (e.g. white oak);
- The Eardley Plateau, a large area with little topographical variation and a cool, damp climate, located in the heart of the Park and sheltering mixed boreal forests along with a concentration of wetlands, swamps and peat bogs.

The Park boasts 50 lakes and several hundred ponds. More than half of these bodies of water, especially those on the Eardley Plateau, are intermittent in nature or were created by beavers. La Pêche Lake, Philippe Lake, Mousseau Lake and Meech Lake, which flow into the Gatineau River, account for 80% of the Park's expanses of water. Pink Lake is a rare example of a "meromictic" lake³. The Park's principal watersheds are centred on La Pêche, Philippe, Mousseau and Meech Lakes. The latter three are located entirely in the centre of the Park and drained by Meech Creek.

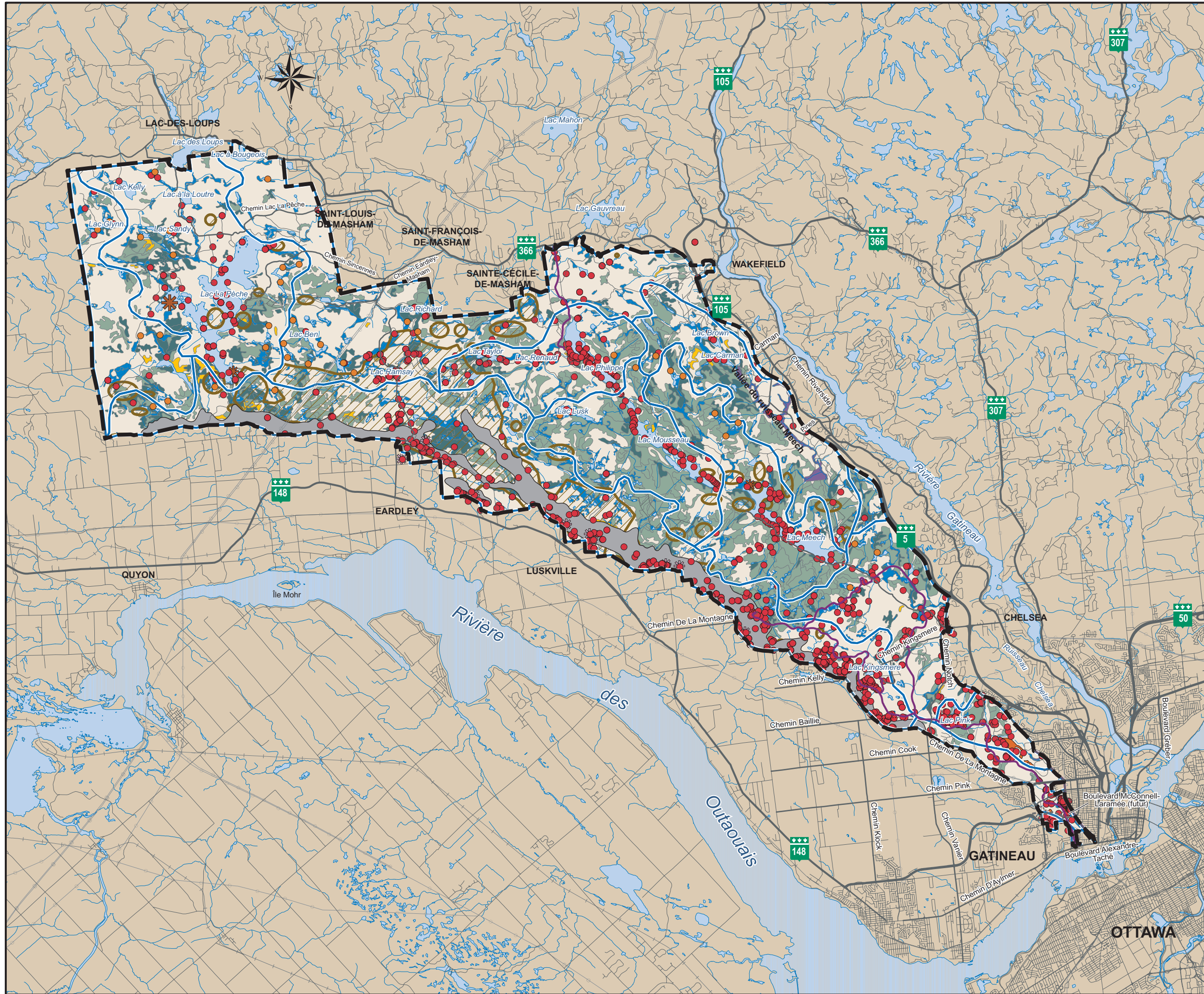


The Park's location at the junction of the Canadian Shield and the St. Lawrence Lowlands is conducive to a range of natural habitats and a rich biodiversity. Many plant species at risk have been identified in the southern sectors of the Park and along the Eardley Escarpment, as well as a number of exceptional forests (e.g. pine/black maple forests). Thanks to its wealth of natural habitats, the Park is able to support a broad diversity of wildlife, including more than 50 mammal species such as the white-tailed deer, beaver, black bear, lynx, fisher and wolf, some of which are classified as endangered (e.g. the Canadian lynx and the wolf). Certain species with large home ranges (over 10 km²) are vital to the ecosystem food web and are extremely sensitive to habitat changes. Nearly 230 species of birds have been observed in the Park, many living exclusively in the forests. During nesting season, some 350,000 birds nest in the Park.

Figure 5 presents an environmental summary map showing the significant environmental elements of Gatineau Park.

³ Meromictic: Used to describe a body of water whose upper and lower water layers never mix, resulting in an oxygen-deprived bottom environment.

FIGURE 5
ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY



CCN NCC Canada

COMPOSANTES ENVIRONNEMENTALES ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS

PARC DE LA GATINEAU	GATINEAU PARK
Lac Lake	Chemin de fer Railway
Cours d'eau Stream	Ligne de transport d'énergie Power transmission line
Route Road	Promenade Parkway
Limite de parc Park's limit	Ravage de cerf de Virginie Deer's winter habitat
Limite de bassin versant Watershed's limit	
Espèce rare (faune et flore) Rare specie (fauna and flora)	
Héronnière observée ou potentielle Observed or potential heronries	
Milieu humide Wetland	
Zone de mouvement de terrain Unstable soil zone	
Escarpement d'Eardley Eardley's escarpment	
Génévrier de Virginie Eastern Redcedar	
Nid de plongeon huard Common loon nest	
Forêt significative de la Capitale Capital's significance forest	
BOISÉS D'INTÉRÊT SIGNIFIANCE FOREST	
Vieille érablière et feuillu noble Old maple and hardwood stand	
Vieille forêt mélangée Old mixed stand	
Vieille pessière noire à mélèze Old black spruce and tamarac stand	
Vieille pinède ou prucheraie Old pine or Eastern hemlock stand	

SOURCES
Information géographique de référence provenant des bases de données de la Commission de la Capitale nationale.
Geographic information provided by NCC databases.

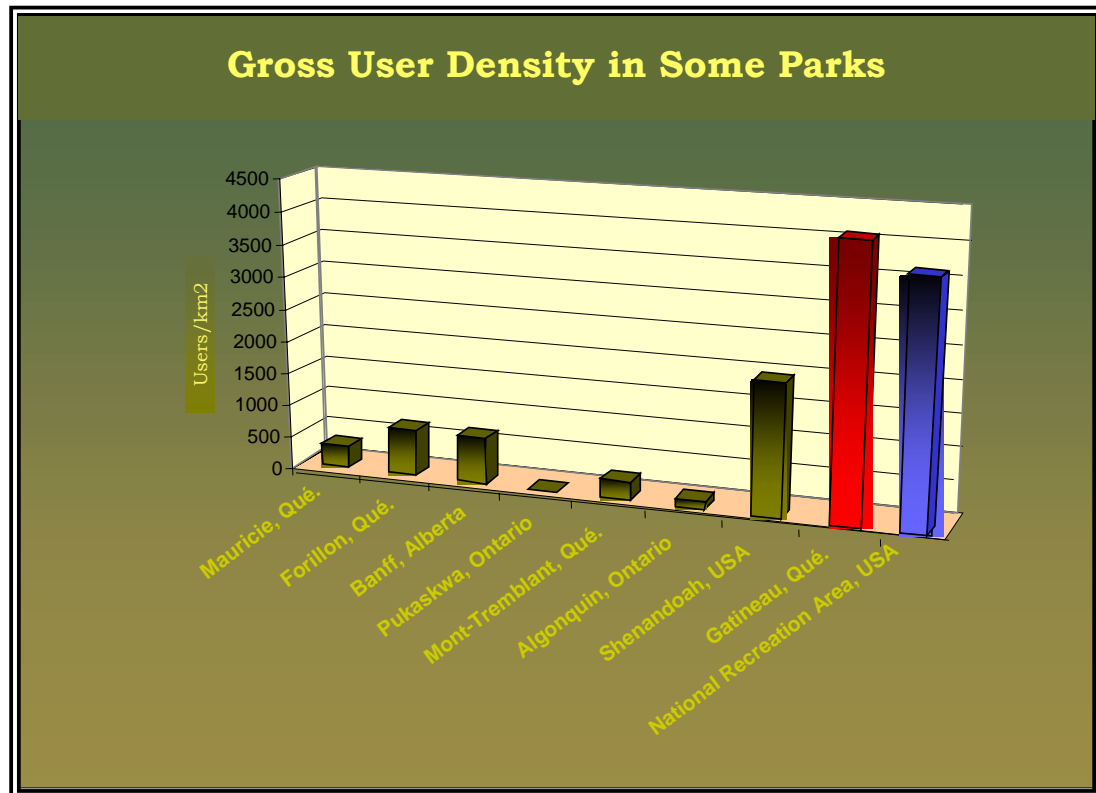
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Projection MTM, Fuseau 9, NAD 83.
MTM, Zone 9, NAD 83 projection

DEL DEGAN, MASSÉ
A ASSOCIÉS INC.
Mai 2005
May 2005

2.2 HUMAN ELEMENTS

For nearly a century, the present area of Gatineau Park has been used by visitors (Capital residents and tourists) for outdoor leisure activities. It is a favourite year-round destination for nature-based day trips, and welcomes some 1.7 million visitors per year. Of these, 85% are from the National Capital Region and most arrive by car. The graph below presents a comparison of visitor numbers per square kilometre for Gatineau Park (in red) and several other public parks in both Canada and the United States.



In recent years, Park visitor numbers have increased proportionally to regional population growth. From May to October, the Parkway sector is the most popular among regular visitors and day-trippers, who mainly visit the Mackenzie King Estate, Pink Lake and the Champlain Lookout. Philippe Lake is used extensively during the summer season.⁴

The Park’s recreational infrastructure includes, in the summer, six public beaches, 200 km of hiking trails (90 km of which are also used by cyclists), six day relays, several outdoor relays, 20 km of paved recreational pathways, and a network of approximately 40 km of Parkways providing vehicular access to the Park and its features, including lookouts. In addition, the Park offers canoeing and canoe-camping facilities, seven self-guided interpretation trails and 14 picnic areas. During heat waves in the summer vacation period, the capacity of the Park’s beaches is sometimes exceeded. In winter, its main recreational attractions include 200 km of

⁴ For further details of visitor numbers, please consult Chapter 3.4 of the working paper entitled *Gatineau Park Master Plan Review, Working Paper, Overview, Issues and Trends, General Orientations 2004-2014 and Preliminary Strategies*, produced by the NCC in November 2002.

cross-country ski trails, 25 km of snowshoe trails, 10 km of winter hiking trails, a downhill ski centre and a biathlon training centre, the last two both located at Camp Fortune.

The Mackenzie King Estate, with an estimated 60,000 visitors per year⁵, is the Park's most important cultural attraction. The 201-hectare Estate, located in Kingsmere, comprises historical gardens and historical buildings. William Lyon Mackenzie King, Canada's tenth Prime Minister, lived on and developed the Estate from 1903 until his death in 1950. Other heritage elements in the Park include the Carbide Willson ruins, the Willson House (which hosts significant government meetings throughout the year), the O'Brien house, a number of old farms (e.g. Herridge, Healy) and the old Wakefield Mill, all of which bear witness to the Park's history. The Park also has a national historical site, namely the survey point at King Mountain. The Park's heritage attractions include cultural landscapes such as the Meech Creek Valley. Two official residences – the Prime Minister's summer residence and the Speaker's residence on the Mackenzie King Estate – contribute to the Park's national and political symbolism.

The Park receives a smaller number of overnight visitors, who have access to more than 300 organized campsites at Philippe Lake, La Pêche Lake and Taylor Lake, along with 6 winter shelters offering more than 50 accommodation units, and the Wakefield Mill and Camp Gatineau, each serving its own specific client base. There are also a certain number of activities offered via management agreements, such as hang gliding, parasailing, orienteering, horse riding and snowmobiling. Some activities are practised without formal supervision. They include climbing and geocaching. Prohibited activities such as nudism and quad biking also take place in the Park, and may have a negative impact on environmental preservation and visitor appreciation.



The Gatineau Park Visitor Centre in Chelsea is the Park's only multi-service centre that is open year-round. More than 30 parking lots, accessible via the Parkways as well as from regional roads, are available to visitors wishing to use the Park's recreational and tourism facilities. Fees are charged for some activities, and are payable mainly at the parking lots. In some places, municipal trail networks, especially the City of Gatineau network, connect to the Park's networks. In the Gateway sector, the Park experience is affected by the proximity of urban communities. Other sectors of the Park are bordered by countryside and farmlands.

The Park's main access roads connect to Alexandre-Taché Boulevard in Gatineau, to Chelsea and to Route 366 at Philippe Lake. Local and regional roads (e.g. the Eardley-Masham road, St-Raymond Boulevard) and public utility corridors cut through the Park's natural environments, especially in the south. There are also a number of private residential pockets in the Parkway and Heart of the Park sectors. The future McConnell-Laramée Boulevard, which will run across the Park's Gateway

⁵ Visitors at the museum and tea house. Source: *Gatineau Park, Parkway Sector Plan*, National Capital Commission, 2000, page 24.

sector, will provide direct access to the Gatineau Parkway from Confederation Boulevard, in the heart of the Capital.



The Park also hosts a number of special events attracting nearly 265,000 people every year. They include Fall Rhapsody, the Keskinada Loppet, Ski-Fest, the National Bicycle Race, the OAC Triathlon and others. Of these, the sporting events require a high level of services, while the popular tourism-oriented events, such as Fall Rhapsody (which attracts 90% of all event visitors), cause occasional congestion and overloading of the Parkways.

The annual economic spin-offs from the Park are estimated at more than \$25 million, and the Park is responsible for 420 person-years of direct employment in the region⁶. Rationalization of the Park's operations in the 1990s reduced the level of services and investments in the Park, a phenomenon similar to that observed in most federal departments and agencies. A number of users' and residents' associations are and would like to be more involved in the conservation and recreational aspects of the Park. Management agreements and leases governing the use of certain lands have been signed with public (e.g. the City of Gatineau) and private (e.g. Camp Fortune) partners for certain sections of the Park.

⁶ *Gatineau Park, Economic Impacts of Visitors Spending*, The Outspan Group, Amherst Island, NCC, 1998.

3. CONTEXT OF THE REVIEW

A number of factors have made it necessary for the NCC to update the 1990 Master Plan and adapt it to the present context. These include social and demographic changes, new trends in the management of natural parks and recreational activities, and certain strategic issues affecting the Park itself. In addition, the *Plan for Canada's Capital, 1999* introduced some new strategic orientations for the Park that need to be integrated into the revised Master Plan. The local government context has also changed significantly following the recent municipal amalgamations in both Ottawa and Gatineau, affecting the dynamic of planning and development in the NCR.

The southern portion of the Park is surrounded increasingly by urban neighbourhoods. Population growth in the National Capital Region has increased the pressure exerted on the Park. Visitor numbers have grown and new activities are taking place in the Park. The aging of the population and the relative increase in demographic diversity have had a significant impact on leisure and recreational demand. The notion of quality of life has evolved, and now embraces indicators such as heritage, culture and services relating to individual health and welfare. The technology sector jobs created in the NCR have brought with them a more educated population seeking outdoor activities in its leisure time.

In the environmental sector, ecosystem preservation, biodiversity preservation and resource protection have become major concerns and key elements in government policy. National park management has been reoriented to focus more on ecological integrity and the preservation of natural environments.

All these factors together have generated a need to think seriously about the future of the Park, within the context of the NCR and Canadian society as a whole.

3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE 1990 MASTER PLAN

The previous Master Plan was adopted in 1990. The mission it defines for the Park consists of contributing to the “green image” and functions of the Capital, and increasing the range of experiences available to visitors. The Park is presented as the “Capital’s natural park”, maintaining a balance between conservation and recreation. Six general principles guide its planning, management and development, namely:

- *Sustainability*, a heritage to be safeguarded;
- *National symbol*, the image of the Capital and the country in general;
- *Regional context*, harmonize with and contribute to the regional fabric;
- *Park management*, offer a high quality experience while preserving the resource;
- *Visitors*, reinforce the Park’s role as a prime destination for visitors; and
- *Communication*, emphasize and promote the role played by the natural environment in the lives of Canadians.

The review of the 1990 Master Plan shows that close to 80% of the original proposals have been either partially or fully implemented (e.g. the new visitor centre at Chelsea, the Gateway and Parkway Sector Plans, the Lac-des-Fées Area Plan, protection and enhancement of the Wakefield Mill, and restoration of the Pink Lake ecosystem). However, 20% of the proposals have yet to be completed, including some strategic issues of significance to the future of the Park, such as its legal status, user fees, financing and others⁷.



3.2 PLAN FOR CANADA'S CAPITAL, 1999

The *Plan for Canada's Capital, 1999* contains the federal government's strategic orientations for the management and development of Canada's National Capital Region over the next fifty years. The Plan, produced by the NCC, sets out the management principles and guidelines for the various components of the Capital, including Gatineau Park. The Plan states that the Park must be protected as a representative element of the Canadian Shield, and that recreational activities, interpretation of conservation and historical sites, commercial facilities and events must be compatible with the preservation of the Park. The Park is designated as a natural heritage area, and the principal policy statements relating to it are as follows:

- Designate the Park as a natural heritage area managed and protected first for ecosystem preservation and then for recreation⁸.
- Allow natural processes to predominate to the greatest extent possible.
- Develop management methods for natural heritage areas belonging to the federal government, based on globally recognized standards and practices, and respect the inherent capacity of the land.
- Facilitate the restoration of degraded natural heritage on federal lands.
- Protect federal lands that function as natural links between natural heritage areas and waterways.
- Protect ecological links and significant environmental components in green corridors.

⁷ For further details of the 1990 Master Plan, please consult Chapter 2.4 of the working paper entitled *Gatineau Park Master Plan Review, Working Paper, Overview, Issues and Trends, General Orientation 2004-2014 and Preliminary Strategies*, produced by the NCC in November 2002.

⁸ Gatineau Park should be managed as a World Conservation Union (IUCN) Category II area.

- Introduce visitors to the built and landscape heritage of the Capital in ways that will enhance their experience of these cultural resources, while protecting the resources from undue exploitation.
- Ensure that all properties, sites and landscapes with heritage value located on lands of importance to the Capital are correctly identified and classified, with a view to setting priorities for action.

3.3 SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL CONCERNS TO EMERGE FROM THE LAST DECADE

In recent years, a number of specific circumstances have added to concerns about conservation of the Park's natural elements and their links with the surrounding natural environment. Human activities have had tangible impacts on some natural areas, especially in the southern sector of the Park. The growing demand for recreational and urban uses has changed and fragmented the Park's natural habitats, and incomplete knowledge of natural processes, as well as deficiencies in ecosystem monitoring procedures, have hindered the goal of environmental sustainability. Around its periphery, the Park is surrounded increasingly by farmland and, further south, by urban development, and is thus deprived of its links with contiguous natural environments. These factors raise a number of concerns relating to the environment, including:

- The risk of habitat loss;
- The risk of disrupting natural processes;
- The risk of colonization by invasive species;
- The risk of ecological isolation; and
- The risk of loss of diversity and rare species.

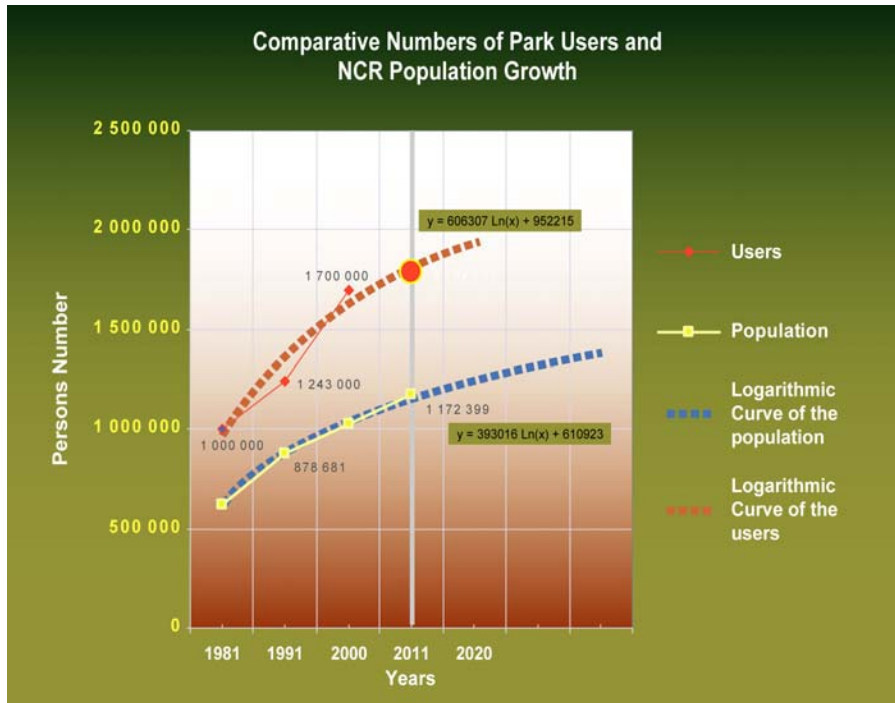
In terms of recreation, despite the fact that the quality of its facilities is generally acknowledged, the quality of the recreational experience in the Park is likely to be adversely affected by increasing visitor numbers and the broader range of uses. Both these elements generate conflicts between uses and lead to overuse of certain areas, thus reducing the quality of both the experience and the natural environment. The wilderness experience is becoming less possible. The Park has remained a destination primarily for NCR residents seeking outdoor activities or excursions of a few hours. Concerns raised about the recreation aspect can be summarized as follows:

- The risk of a decline in the recreational experience;
- An increase in visitor numbers and overuse;
- An increase in the number of conflicts between users; and
- An increase in informal recreational use conflicting with authorized activities and conservation aims.

With regard to the regional context, the Park is strongly anchored in its community and is the NCR's principal green space, although it also has a national dimension. Because of its ease of access and proximity to the peripheral urban communities, it is often requested for public utility purposes (roads, energy transmission lines, transmission towers), community uses (urban park, sports facilities, etc.) and tourist uses that interfere with its mission and its future. At the same time,

unsupervised commercial activities, failures to comply with the code of ethics and informal uses⁹ of Park land are also becoming more common.

Intensive urban development around the edges of the Gateway sector (20,000 additional residents by 2020) will tighten the circle of urban development surrounding the Park’s southern sector and increase the pressure on the Park’s facilities. As shown in the graph below, the growth in visitor numbers (orange line) is strongly correlated to population growth, and visitor numbers are expected to rise to as many as 2,000,000 by 2020 – in other words, an increase of 11% in less than fifteen years.



Concerns raised by the Park’s regional situation can be summarized as follows:

- A danger that the Park will be encircled by urban development and farmland.
- General, uncontrolled access.
- A demand for urban uses (roads, public utilities, sports fields) that conflict with the Park’s conservation mission.
- The need to reinforce the Park’s national dimension.

⁹ Types of use not authorized by the NCC.

In the last decade, the achievement of some of the objectives set for the Park has been hindered by certain constraints. The following two elements have been key factors in this situation:

- Rationalization of human resources and financial cutbacks (limited resources for control, conservation and interpretation).
- A lack of guidelines and knowledge for monitoring the natural environment and Park use.

Following on from the *Plan for Canada's Capital, 1999*, the Gatineau Park Master Plan for the coming decade provides an opportunity to address these issues through an informed and responsible planning approach.

4. CONSULTATIONS DURING THE REVISION PROCESS

A number of basic principles must be applied in order to achieve sustainable development, including consideration of the host community's opinions. The NCC has therefore involved the National Capital Region's population in the preparation of the 2005-2015 Master Plan, and also gave all Canadians an opportunity to submit their views. Throughout the review process, from 2001 to 2005, focus groups and public consultations were held to obtain comments from interest groups and the general public before formulating proposals.

Approximately forty community groups and organizations attended five separate consultation workshops held at different stages of the process. Four public consultation sessions were held during fall of 2002 and 2004, at which close to 1,000 individuals were able to express their views, comment on the preliminary proposals and the draft plan, and submit recommendations.

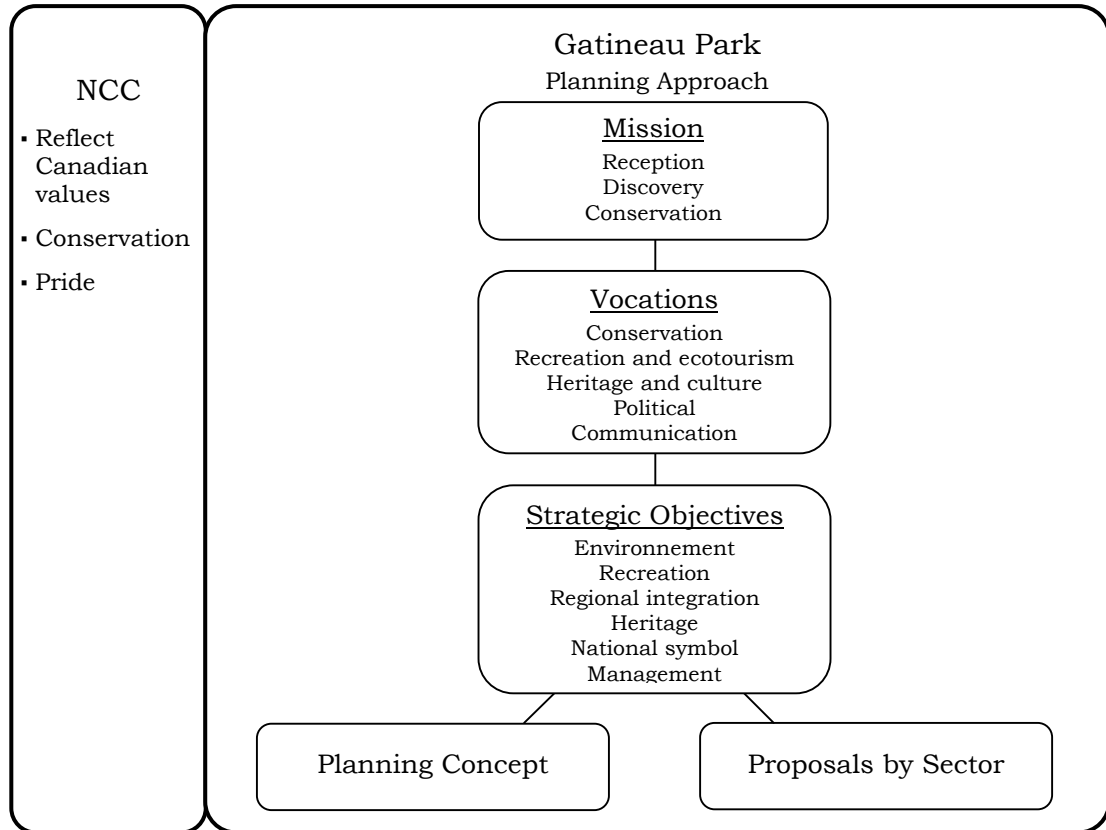
Two principal trends emerged from the broad range of opinions expressed. The first of these was for a greater focus on recreational development of the Park's natural resources to better meet the needs of the community, and the second was for more stringent conservation of natural ecosystems in order to maintain high quality, nationally representative natural habitats in the National Capital Region. Although these views appear to be contradictory, all participants nevertheless agreed on the need to maintain conditions that would allow the Park's natural ecosystems to be protected and sustained. In spite of the clear divergence of opinion as to the general orientation to be taken, it was this consensus, combined with previous research, that ultimately confirmed the focus of Gatineau Park's planning concept for the next decade.

Readers should consult the report¹⁰ (summary attached) for full details of the results of the public consultations held during the Plan revision process.

¹⁰ DDM, 2005. *Public Consultation Report, Gatineau Park Master Plan Review*. 57 pages.

5. PLANNING APPROACH

The planning approach for the Gatineau Park Master Plan takes into account the mission, principal functions and strategic objectives that the NCC intends to pursue in the Park in the coming decade. Based on these elements, a planning concept has been devised for the Park as a whole, along with specific proposals for each sector. The diagram below shows the components of the planning approach, based on the NCC's global mission.



5.1 MISSION

The Park's mission is to welcome Canadians and other visitors, to allow them to discover Canada's natural environment, to visit sites that bear witness to the country's history, and to engage in outdoor activities. The Park's natural environment must therefore be preserved as an element of Canada's culture and heritage within the National Capital. Based on an analysis of the condition of the Park, the current context, public concerns and the orientations proposed in the *Plan for Canada's Capital, 1999*¹¹, the Park's vision for the coming decades¹² will focus on the conservation of its natural and cultural environment. Accordingly, Gatineau

¹¹ The *Plan for Canada's Capital 1999* describes the Park as a natural protected area managed primarily for ecosystem preservation and then for recreational use (chap. 4.1, page 33).

¹² Although the planning concept for the Park covers the next ten years, the vision is much longer term.

Park will become a natural protected area, managed primarily for conservation and then for recreational use. In other words, it will be the “Capital’s Conservation Park”. This vision will ensure the presence of a conservation park in the National Capital for the benefit of all Canadians and for future generations.

The following priority orientations flow from the Park’s mission:

- To preserve and develop the unique natural and cultural heritage making up the Park: the rich ecosystems of the Canadian Shield, the region’s agricultural, mining and forestry heritage, the Park’s historic role in the development and planning of the National Capital, and the political presence in the Park which bears witness to its importance at the national level;
- To offer high quality recreational experiences that are respectful of the natural environment. Through these recreational activities, visitors to the Park will be better able to appreciate the close relationship between Canadians and their natural environment;
- To inspire all Canadians, Capital visitors and residents to respect conservation values and the need to resolve issues related to the protection of natural areas in order to ensure the survival of the Park. Gatineau Park will become an example of the Capital’s leadership in the field of sustainable environmental management and innovation.



5.2 PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

Gatineau Park’s principal functions for the early decades of the 21st century are derived from its mission, and are based on its principal attributes as a natural protected area of national importance, expressed with varying intensity throughout its different sectors. The following three functions are of central importance to the Park’s components and history.

- A “conservation” function, involving the maintenance and restoration of natural ecosystems in order to preserve natural environments within the National Capital that are representative of the country as a whole.
- A “recreation and ecotourism” function, involving the supply of a range of quality attractions and activities, and a demonstration of the close and respectful relationship that exists between Canadians and their natural environment.
- A “heritage and culture” function that bears witness to the builders, inhabitants, history and cultural environment of both the country and the region.

The following two functions are also essential to the Park’s mission.

- A “political” function, expressed through the Park’s national dimension, Canada’s environmental commitments and the sites at which political duties are performed.

- A “communication” function, through which Canadians and other visitors are informed of the NCC’s achievements and leadership in the areas of conservation, outdoor recreation, ecotourism and cultural heritage, and of Canada’s commitment to environmental protection.

5.3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

A total of six strategic objectives were derived from the Park’s mission and functions, and form the basis of the general proposals contained in the Plan. They are:

- Environment: Conservation of significant ecosystems and natural environments.
- Recreation: A respectful recreational experience within a preserved natural environment.
- Regional Integration: The Capital’s conservation park.
- Heritage: Enhancement of heritage resources relating to the capital
- National Symbol and Communication: A Canadian commitment to conservation, interpretation and communication of the environment
- Management
 - A Strategic Tool: Conservation-oriented management of all activities.

The Master Plan’s general proposals are presented in accordance with these six strategic objectives.

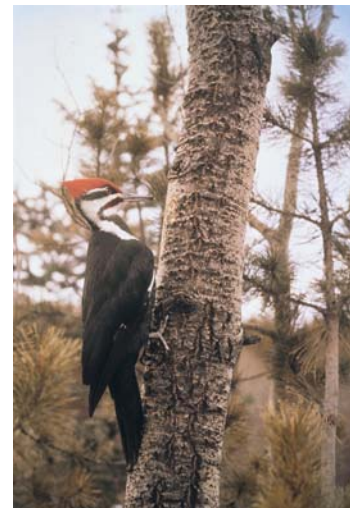
5.3.1 ENVIRONMENT – CONSERVATION OF SIGNIFICANT ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

The NCC must devise a realistic conservation strategy for the Park that is consistent with current trends in natural park management. It is difficult to guarantee intrinsic conservation of the entire Park because of the presence of external factors such as acid rain, air pollution and global warming. However, every available action must be taken to preserve the Park’s significant ecosystems and environments. To do this, it will be necessary to establish the current condition of the Park and compare it to the desired situation, taking the precautionary principle and responsible management as the basis.

Accordingly, the NCC intends to take the following actions.

CONSERVATION PLAN

1. In the three years following adoption of the Master Plan, the NCC will produce a conservation plan for the Park’s natural environments and significant ecosystems, and gradually implement the conservation measures identified.



The conservation plan will provide additional information on the Park's ecosystems through a variety of methods, for example:

- By completing the characterization of the Park's ecosystems and their functioning;
- By finalizing the inventory of significant natural components and producing a summary for reference purposes;
- By establishing conservation priorities for the Park that will highlight the significant ecosystems, and illustrating the results on maps; and
- By identifying and testing indicators of the condition of significant natural environments, for monitoring purposes.

ECOLOGICAL LINKS

2. Establish and preserve ecological links both inside and beyond the Park, along with buffer zones around the Park's habitats and natural environments. To do this, the NCC will:
 - Identify and assess the quality of green corridors having wildlife migration potential;
 - Work with neighbouring landowners or nature protection agencies to establish voluntary protection measures for peripheral woodlots and green corridors;
 - Preserve all existing public green corridors; and
 - Work with the municipalities to identify recreational uses that are respectful of natural habitat ecology in the green corridors.
3. Ensure that plans for federal lands adjacent to the Park, especially the Urban Lands Master Plan, take into account the protection of green corridors required to maintain natural exchanges. Property acquisition and disposal priorities should be devised accordingly.

RESEARCH STRATEGY

4. Direct the NCC's biophysical research strategy towards ecosystems and significant environments, to support selection of the best conservation options.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

5. Restore significant ecosystems that have changed from their natural condition, provided it is possible to reverse the process.
6. Complete a study on the fragmentation of the Park's natural environments to establish the impacts and any mitigation measures required. Begin restoration work in damaged natural habitats identified as priorities in the study.

RECREATIONAL RELOCATION

7. Gradually relocate recreational activities (the activities themselves along with recreational infrastructure and access points) that have an impact on significant ecosystems and natural environments to less sensitive locations. If no suitable sites are available, terminate the activities.

8. Limit the human presence in significant ecosystems designated for integral conservation, to ensure that habitats are protected. This will be achieved, for example, by eliminating unofficial access points and trails.
9. Limit the development of new infrastructure and activities to projects that contribute positively to resource conservation.

5.3.2 RECREATION – A RESPECTFUL RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Outdoor recreation is one of the principal functions of the Park and contributes to its national profile. Recreational activities are of benefit to the physical and mental health of the Canadian population, and it is important to maintain recreational experiences that are respectful of the environment. However, the scope, number of recreational activities in the Park and the failure of Park users to comply with codes of ethics have triggered certain environmental problems that are likely to diminish the quality of the Park experience.



A recreational experience focused on the discovery of nature, respectful of and faithful to Canadian nature-related values, will have priority in the Park. The notion of respect also extends to other visitors seeking experiences compatible with the natural environment. The type of experience offered by the Park calls for tranquility and observation. The Park is a sanctuary from city life, located in the heart of the Capital region, and priority is given to activities that involve learning about the natural environment. “Self-powered” activities such as hiking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, cycling and so on, will continue to be encouraged. The activities offered will be aimed primarily at excursionists who wish to discover the Park’s attractions and heritage. Outdoor enthusiasts will also be able to practise their activities at specially designated sites. The Park, as a natural protected area of national importance, will also receive visitors from Canada and abroad for ecotourist activities consistent with its mission and carried out in accordance with a recognized code of ethics. Visitor numbers will be controlled to maintain the quality of the recreational experience and the natural environment.

Recreational activities in Gatineau Park have in some cases transcended the Park’s regulatory framework, causing negative impacts that are difficult to reconcile with the Park’s mission. The following proposals are therefore based on the precautionary principle and responsible management.

MAINTENANCE OF ACTIVITIES THAT ARE RESPECTFUL OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Maintain current recreational activities that are compatible with and respectful of the natural environment (hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, cycling) that foster the discovery of nature and are performed in areas managed for those purposes.

2. Enhance the quality of the recreational experience:
 - By minimizing conflicts between different uses and overuse of specific areas;
 - By improving interpretation programs, including the possibility for visitors to contribute to the Park's mission through volunteer work (individually or in groups) or environmental activities, and thus experience a sense of commitment.
3. Maintain the quality of existing tourist attractions, such as the Mackenzie King Estate (MKE), Pink Lake, etc.
4. Using existing programs, formalize a recreational, educational and interpretive circuit for mobility-impaired visitors (Mackenzie King Estate, Pioneer Trails, Mulvihill Lake, visitor centre, Pink Lake, etc.) to enhance universality of access.
5. During the period required to prepare the conservation plan, estimated at three years, significantly limit new recreational development and new activities in the Park, unless they have no impact on the natural environment. A decision-making framework will be applied to review all new activities and ensure their compatibility with the natural environment.

RECEPTION INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE POINTS

6. Rationalize reception and service infrastructure so as to create more efficient service delivery, locating it wherever possible close to the Park's boundary (inside and outside). For example, some parking lots may be eliminated; others may be improved where visitor reception, transportation and other services exist.
7. Prepare a plan identifying recreational activities /sites ("the recreational services plan") following the completion of the conservation plan, that takes into account such factors as the Park's conservation goals, the quality of the recreational experience, rationalization of visitor reception areas, new control and management measures (e.g. user fees) and standards for the Park experience.
8. Review and improve the range of available winter recreational services, to reflect user numbers and needs (e.g. showshoeing, winter hiking, the cross-country ski network). The winter capacity of some visitor reception areas – for example, the Philippe Lake area – will have to be improved to allow for the diversification of winter activities.

NON-COMPATIBLE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

9. Avoid the development of new infrastructure intended specifically for competitive sporting activities.
10. Prohibit extreme recreational activities, such as survivor type activities requiring special infrastructure and safety measures.
11. Confine municipal and community recreational sites to the institutional zone.
12. Gradually eliminate off-road motorized activities by 2010, (e.g. motor boats, snowmobiles, remote controlled model aircraft, etc.).

CONSOLIDATION OF THE TRAIL NETWORK

13. Improve the trail network in specific locations by making minor adjustments to routes (e.g. by skirting wetlands), creating new links and introducing environmental mitigation measures (e.g. run-off control infrastructure).

RESEARCH PROGRAM

14. Develop a research program on recreation in the natural environment, focusing on health benefits, the notion of quality of life and the compatibility of recreational activities with the host environment.

5.3.3 REGIONAL INTEGRATION – THE CAPITAL’S CONSERVATION PARK

The Park contributes to the sustainable development of the Capital. This contribution should take place more within the framework of the Park’s mission – in other words, using means that do not compromise the sustainability of the Park and that highlight its conservation, recreation and nature/Canadian heritage educational functions.

The Park must not only be a meeting place and a source of discovery for Canadians and visitors to the Capital, it must also contribute to the goals of environmental protection, natural diversity and the quality of life and pride of local residents. It is both a destination and a landscape component that is representative of the country as a whole, and its situation in the heart of the National Capital confers a level of regional and national visibility that is ideal for the promotion, discovery and preservation of Canada’s natural environment.

Based on the above, the NCC intends to promote an approach to regional integration of the Park that will encourage local support for its mission while fostering the following actions.

GATINEAU PARK, A COMPLEMENT TO THE REGION’S RECREATIONAL SUPPLY

1. Complement regional development by offering the NCR community a range of recreational and tourist activities that are respectful of the environment and compatible with the Park’s natural and cultural resources.
2. Promote the Park regionally as a space devoted to nature, composed of significant ecosystems that are available to the public for interpretation, relaxation and recreational activities that are respectful of the natural environment.

PARTNERSHIPS

3. Encourage business partnerships that are consistent with the Park’s mission and orientations while fostering spin-offs for the community, for example in the areas of ecotourism, scientific research, heritage and sustainable transportation.
4. Foster partnerships to promote recreational sites outside the Park, thus transferring recreational pressures beyond the Park’s boundaries (e.g. beaches and camping).

5. Participate in regional recreational planning exercises to position the Park as one of several available facilities in the NCR and to promote other recreational sites, allowing the NCC to maintain activities in the Park that are compatible with its mandate.

PARTICIPATION BY ASSOCIATIONS AND USERS

6. Work with interest group and park user representatives to solve issues relating to Park access, protection of heritage and conservation zones, user control, safety, maintenance and the promotion of Park services.
7. Increase cooperative initiatives with community groups in order to build a sense of belonging and responsibility among users in the Park planning and management process.

5.3.4 HERITAGE – ENHANCEMENT OF HERITAGE RESOURCES RELATED TO THE CAPITAL



Gatineau Park is home to a number of heritage resources including cultural landscapes, architectural elements of local, regional and national importance, archaeological resources and historical gardens, along with the related intangible heritage – legends, oral tradition and place names. The Park contributes to the NCC’s mission by increasing public awareness of the value and beauty of the Capital’s heritage resources among all Canadians. Over the years, the NCC

has enhanced some notable heritage elements. The extent of the Park’s heritage wealth must now be identified, preserved and developed by means of the actions listed below.

CONSERVATION PLAN

1. Complete the inventory and classification of Gatineau Park’s heritage resources.
2. Prepare a heritage conservation plan in order to establish objectives, criteria and priorities for conservation and cultural development, focusing first on the elements of historical value (e.g. the Mackenzie King Estate, Meech Creek Valley, the Carbide Willson ruins and the Herridge cottage, Healy farm).

HERITAGE WEALTH

3. Enhance the cultural landscapes, archaeological resources, built structures and other heritage components that fulfill the Park’s conservation, interpretation and communication functions and allow for the interpretation of local and national history.
4. Create a cultural experience of national importance by highlighting certain historic symbols, respecting the current Canadian heritage conservation

- policies, e.g. an experience related to an historic farm in the Meech Creek Valley.
5. Focus the interpretation message on the conservation, development and communication of the tangible and intangible heritage, with a view to educating the public.
 6. Maintain and enhance view corridors – for example, along the Parkways – to allow for the interpretation and observation of cultural landscapes and national symbols, and establish links between the natural areas of the Park and the Capital’s built environment.
 7. Promote the historical value of certain trails by erecting panels and creating interpretation sites, and by using place names that are based on the area’s heritage.

OFFICIAL RESIDENCES

8. Preserve the Park’s political function by maintaining the official residences that form part of the Capital’s significant architectural heritage and bear witness to Canada’s political system.

RESEARCH

9. Encourage research aimed at understanding the Park’s various heritage elements.

5.3.5 NATIONAL SYMBOL AND COMMUNICATION – A CANADIAN COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Gatineau Park contributes to national symbolism through the wealth of its natural and cultural heritage. By welcoming and reaching out to Canadians and visitors, it conveys environmental, conservation and heritage protection values, and illustrates Canada’s environmental protection undertakings. The presence of official residences and elements bearing witness to political events also enhances its national impact.



The Park has long made a contribution to the quality of life and pride of Canadians and to the protection of the Capital’s natural environment. One of the principal challenges of the Master Plan is to convey the importance of preserving natural environments. The Park’s strategic location in the heart of the National Capital, combined with its natural and cultural heritage, enables it to face this challenge.

The NCC will continue to implement goals relating to the national symbol and communication elements by means of initiatives aimed at fostering the reception, promotion and awareness of users and visitors.

COMMUNICATION

1. Encourage all Canadians, whether visitors or residents, to become more aware and have a better understanding of issues relating to the conservation of ecological functions in the Capital by focusing on themes related to nature and ecosystems in the content of the messages and images conveyed.
2. Incorporate the notion of Park conservation into awareness messages, and include a reference to the importance of natural environments in Canadian values (e.g. by enhancing knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural environment and developing appropriate communication tools).
3. Develop virtual interpretation experiences at the Park's Visitor Centre and on the NCC website (e.g. plant and animal life on the Eardley Escarpment, at the Carbide Willson ruins, etc.) to present certain unique and fragile features of the Park that would otherwise be difficult to observe.
4. Update the Interpretation Plan by including all the functions set out in the Master Plan.
5. Develop interpretation programs specifically for target client groups and promote the creation of a flexible, versatile interpretation service able to provide guided tours for Park visitors according to a predetermined timetable.
6. Communicate the results of research into the Park's natural environment, in order to promote the leading role played in Canada by the NCC in the field of environmental conservation.
7. Develop more interpretation content for outdoor enthusiasts, including booths, interpretation boards and interpretation guides along the Park's trails.
8. Improve signage in the Park, paying special attention to the Park's identity and the identities of the Capital and the NCC, as well as the nature of the messages.
9. Consider the possibility of promoting Canadian environmental values of relevance to the Park using pilot initiatives.

USER PARTICIPATION

10. Continue to promote the participation of the general public, residents and interest groups in the Park's planning and management by holding regular meetings and introducing mechanisms to foster continuing dialogue that will allow to pursue the conservation of the Park.

PARTNERSHIPS

11. Establish priority partnerships for the development and delivery of interpretation and event programming at Park attractions. The NCC should oversee the interpretation content of any messages delivered by its partners.

5.3.6 MANAGEMENT – CONSERVATION-ORIENTED MANAGEMENT

Managing the Capital's Conservation Park involves incorporating new standards for the conservation of natural protected areas. Resource conservation, the maintenance of compatible and respectful recreational and cultural activities, an improvement in the quality of the Park experience, the creation of new partnerships

and heritage restoration all require a type of management directed first towards conservation of natural environments and then towards recreation. The *Plan for Canada's Capital, 1999* encourages the development and use of modern natural area management tools and methods for the Capital's natural areas.

The NCC intends to carry out the following actions.

MONITORING OF THE PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

1. Pursue the acquisition of private properties, subject to the availability of resources.
2. Prepare a commissioning plan for the Master Plan covering all aspects of the Park.
3. In the year following the approval of the Master Plan, take the necessary steps to identify the potential options to enhance the NCC's authority over all aspects of the Park in order to preserve the Park's sustainability mission for all Canadians and future generations.
4. Develop and apply a "project acceptability matrix", composed of relevant criteria, as a decision support tool. The matrix will help ensure that proposed projects are respectful of the Park's mission and strategic objectives.
5. Create committees that bring together groups of individuals with a range of relevant expertise to make recommendations on strategic or specific issues in order to improve the implementation of the Master Plan and management of the Park (e.g. conservation plan, recreational supply services plan, heritage conservation plan).
6. Review the strategy for scientific research into ecosystems and significant natural environments following completion of the conservation plan, in order to extend current knowledge and understanding of various phenomena and identify the best conservation choices. The research strategy will be used to:
 - Adjust and develop management policies for natural environments, including the preparation of environmental capacity indicators;
 - Constantly update the ecosystem database;
 - Raise public awareness by publishing research results; and
 - Prepare interpretation programs.

ACCESS AND CONTROL

7. Adopt an access and control strategy that enhances the visibility of official entrance points and allows for better management of visitor numbers (signage, gatehouses, patrols and layout).
8. Examine and introduce a fee structure applicable to a majority of users. Currently, only 30% of users must pay to do specific activities in the Park. The purpose of the new fees would be to provide equitable access for users and ensure better control over recreational use. Some of the funds collected by the Park will be used specifically for conservation programs.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

9. Prepare a “green” transportation plan in line with the Canadian government’s greenhouse gas reduction policies and commitments. Among other things, the plan will present alternative ways of gaining access to the Park’s various zones and recreational facilities. Furthermore, the transportation plan will aim at reducing fragmentation caused by the road network.

FUND-RAISING RELEVANCE

10. Examine the opportunity of establishing relevant fundraising programs targeting individual Canadians and corporations that will enhance the Park’s mission, in order to carry out some of the recommendations outlined in the Master Plan (e.g. green transportation, research, etc.).

RESEARCH

11. Continue research aimed at updating information on user numbers, satisfaction levels and economic aspects.

5.4 PLANNING CONCEPT

The planning concept, in accordance with the Park’s mission and strategic objectives, focuses on preservation of natural environments, reception, and discovery.

Many of the strategic objectives will be achieved through spatial interventions. The most significant of these involves an expansion of the lands designated as conservation areas in the 1990 Master Plan. The new Plan increases the size of zones where conservation is the priority by 25%. The concept also proposes a better visitor services structure and a concentration of activities in areas along the Park’s periphery, closer to adjacent communities.

The main elements of the concept are:

- Environment:
 - An extended central, unbroken conservation area extending across all Park sectors to the extreme south, near the Capital Core.
 - Ecological corridors to open up the Park, enabling the conservation area to be extended outwards.
- Recreation:
 - Outdoor recreational activities taking place, where possible, outside the conservation areas.
 - A range of recreational activities close to the Park’s boundaries, neighbouring communities and public transit.
 - Better structured visitor reception areas offering more basic services.
- Regional integration:
 - Maintenance of existing or approved regional roads.
 - Reception areas accessible by public transit.
 - Partnerships for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.

- Heritage:
 - The Mackenzie King Estate as the principal Canadian symbol in the Park.
 - A well known network of visitor lookouts which highlight cultural landscapes.
 - A significant cultural experience in the Meech Creek Valley, focused on cultural landscapes and farming heritage.
- National symbolism and communication:
 - More visible Park entrances.
 - Recognition of the presence of official residences as part of the Park's national symbolism.
 - Interpretation themes relating to protection and restoration of natural environment.
- Management:
 - Control and payment mechanisms at entrance gates.
 - Better signage of Park boundaries, especially in the conservation areas.

5.4.1 EXPANSION OF CONSERVATION AREAS

The planning concept protects a central, homogenous block of conservation lands joining all sectors of the Park from east to west and north to south. The concept also provides for an extension of the Park's natural areas outside its boundaries, to avoid ecological isolation of its ecosystems. Key measures include:

- Consolidation, within the Park, of the natural corridors forming an expansion of the central conservation block towards peripheral areas;
- The use of natural environments outside the Park, including unstable lands, riparian areas, or others, as ecological corridors, permitting the extension of the Park's natural habitats beyond the Park limits.

Areas set aside for conservation will be used for conservation purposes, the restoration of significant ecosystems, habitat research and the protection of biodiversity. Some low intensity extensive recreational uses such as nature observation may, however, be permitted.

5.4.2 VISITOR RECEPTION HIERARCHY

In association with the conservation effort, a hierarchy of Park visitor reception facilities will also be devised. The facilities are sporadically distributed along the Park's boundaries to preserve the central conservation zones, and are located near communities and road access networks such as routes 148, 366, 105 and Highway 5, so as to:

- Reduce the pressure on Park ecosystems and significant natural environments set aside for conservation;
- Locate the recreational facilities closer to inhabited areas and public transit routes, so as to improve their accessibility and proximity, reduce the amount of travel within the Park and preserve the conservation areas.

Each visitor reception facility is associated with a principal or secondary entrance, depending on its context and service level.

MAIN RECEPTION POINTS

The Park's three existing main visitor reception points are located at Gamelin, Chelsea and Philippe Lake and offer all Park's visitor services. These reception areas include facilities and signage of a significance corresponding to the reception point's importance, including reception buildings, information and interpretation centres, parking lots, public transit and shuttle services, full restroom facilities and links to recreational networks, inside and outside the Park. The Park's general user fee installations are also located at these three reception points.

SECONDARY RECEPTION POINTS

Six secondary visitor reception points are proposed. They provide additional services for visitors, and feature specific attractions. Five are already in existence: in the institutional zone, in the Meech Creek Valley, at Wakefield, at La Pêche Lake and, near the Luskville Falls. The sixth point is proposed at the extreme south-western end of the Park (Quyon), and would be created if a project that enhances the tourism potential of the mine is developed.

The secondary reception points may include parking lots, signage, sanitary services, information and interpretation booths and access to the trail network and other attractions.

TERTIARY ENTRANCES

The reception network around the periphery of the Park is completed by a series of tertiary entrances, most of which are parking lots close to the Park's boundary, offering few services but providing access to the trail network from local or regional roads. They include the parking lots at Church Hill, Luskville Falls, near Des Fées Lake, at Asticou, in the Meech Creek Valley, near the Carman Road Inn, in Wakefield, and at Ramsey Lake. User fee installations may also be located at these sites.

5.4.3 DIVERSIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

The Master Plan favours a concentration of recreational activities and attractions in existing recreational areas located close to the Park's boundary. These areas can support activities of different intensities and offer a range of services. The most intensively used areas are Gamelin, Chelsea (Meech Lake, Kingsmere, Camp Fortune) and Philippe Lake, hosting a number of outdoor, cultural and sporting activities, including:

- Outdoor recreation activities in natural areas (e.g. hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, swimming, fishing, water sports, group sporting activities, caving);
- Natural areas and heritage observation and interpretation activities (ecotourism);
- Research and educational activities.

The recreational areas associated with the secondary visitor reception points provide additional but less intensive activities and services. They comprise specific attractions and uses including:

- Non-motorized watersports, swimming, fishing, interpretation at La Pêche Lake;
- Cultural landscapes, rural history, ecofarming, and inn-based accommodation in the Meech Creek Valley;
- Industrial history, the Maclaren family, the life of the early settlers around Brown and Carman Lakes, the historic cemetery in the Wakefield area;
- The Luskville Falls, the history of forest fire surveillance and the fire tower, horseback riding at the Luskville site;
- Potential development of the former molybdenum mine, as a heritage site, and of agricultural and rural heritage in the extreme south-west (Quyon).

In the conservation areas, isolated low-impact observation activities and research projects will be permitted. The zoning description and proposals for each sector present the permitted activities in further detail.

5.4.3.1 HERITAGE

Visitors are aware of and actively seek, more and more, to experience the Park's cultural heritage¹³. The Plan aims to consolidate the Park's existing cultural attractions and enhance its lesser-known components. For example, restoration and enhancement of the Mackenzie King Estate¹⁴ will enable visitors to recognize the Estate's national value. Actions aimed at strengthening the Park's cultural heritage will be continued and enhanced.

With the support of a network of existing visitor lookouts, the Plan highlights the cultural landscapes of the Meech Creek Valley and the Ottawa River Valley.

In addition to the Mackenzie King Estate and the Champlain lookout, the Park's cultural attractions could also include:

- The Carbide Willson ruins;
- The Willson and O'Brien houses;
- The Meech Creek Valley;
- The Healey farm and other early settlement sites;
- The Wakefield Mill site;
- The Herridge cottage (history and politics);
- Mining history (molybdenum at Quyon, Forsyth);
- The Meech Lake area heritage (Hope House, Capuchin Chapel).

¹³ "Cultural" tourism has progressed significantly in recent years, and the trend is expected to continue.

¹⁴ In 1983, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended that the NCC should take action to ensure that the Estate's features and historical values be safeguarded in order to reflect William Mackenzie King's personality, interests and picturesque vision of nature. The NCC subsequently restored the Kingswood and Moorside buildings and gardens in the period 1984 to 1987.

The integration of different heritage elements including historic, agricultural, ethnological, archaeological, mining, political and landscape adds to the value associated with Park's conservation mandate, which favours greater attention to enhancement and appreciation of the Park's heritage assets.

5.4.4 SYMBOLISM AND COMMUNICATION

The planning concept communicates Canadian values relating to nature, conservation, integration and tolerance. In this vein, an installation or initiative intended to showcase the contributions made by Canadians in the field of nature conservation should be situated at the Gamelin main Park entrance.

5.4.5 ACCESS AND TRAFFIC CONTROLS

With respect to access and traffic, the main objectives of the Master Plan are:

- To reduce vehicular traffic and travel in the central portions of the Park that are set aside for conservation;
- To concentrate traffic and travel in the most intensely used sectors; and
- To achieve better supervision and integration of access points in order to better control the uses in the Park.

Tighter controls are needed in particular on the road and trail networks. Actions in these areas have a direct impact on access to the Park and on vehicular and self-propelled travel in the various zones. The more intense the traffic, the greater the impact of human activity is likely to be. Improved visibility for official entrance points and Park boundaries, along with better signage, should help channel visitors towards identified reception areas, thus reducing the volume of uncontrolled use of the Park.

The planning concept examines vehicular and self-propelled traffic separately. With regard to vehicular traffic, the planning approach recognizes two levels of intervention based on the fact that responsibility for managing road infrastructure is shared with neighbouring municipalities.

5.4.5.1 VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ROADS CONTROLLED BY THE NCC

The roads in the Park that belong to the NCC are the Gatineau, Champlain, Fortune, Philippe Lake and Mackenzie King Estate parkways. The parkways are considered as limited access, scenic roads leading to Capital destinations. They provide for vehicular and non-vehicular access to the Park's attractions and infrastructure, and enable visitors to discover the natural environment in compliance with the rules set out in the Plan and in the NCC's regulations.

Connection of the parkways to the regional and local road network is of strategic importance in providing access to the Park and controlling the volume of vehicular traffic. These connections (e.g. intersections with Alexandre-Taché Boulevard, the Meech Lake road, Dunlop Road and route 366) are located in the sectors of the Park that are among the most heavily used recreational facilities (Gateway, Parkway, Philippe Lake Crescent). The planning concept maintains the main connections of the Gatineau, Fortune and Philippe Lake parkways with the local and regional road network in order to carry on the Park's visitor reception function. In addition, it

proposes to create an additional intersection at the junction of the Gatineau Parkway and the future McConnell-Laramée Boulevard to provide access to the Park from the Capital Core area. When the Boulevard is built in the Gateway sector, the relevance of maintaining the Parkway/Gamelin Road junction will be examined, to avoid having too many access points in the sector, and also to formalize the main entrance point planned at the Boulevard/Parkway junction.

To reduce the volume of vehicular traffic, especially in the conservation zones, the planning concept proposes the implementation of a number of management measures that will favour non-vehicular traffic on the parkways (e.g. closure to motor vehicles during certain periods), discourage motorized transit (e.g. severe control over speed and uses), and reduce the number of motor vehicles (e.g. introduction of shuttles). In addition, the planning concept promotes the maintenance of rights-of-way in a ecological way (e.g. less deforestation, more natural native vegetation) in order to reduce the environmental impact of the road network.

VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ROADS NOT CONTROLLED BY THE NCC

The planning concept recognizes that provincial, regional and local roads, including Highway 5, routes 148, 105 and 366, the Eardley-Masham road, the future McConnell-Laramée Boulevard, Scott Road and the Old Chelsea Road, in addition to being major transit routes, are also the primary vehicular access routes to the Park for residents and visitors of the Capital alike. All these roads are managed by the NCC's public sector partners (MTQ, the municipalities). The concept proposes to improve Park's entrances by a visible, high quality signage.

The concept advocates for a better integration of the roads in the Park that carry local transit traffic while also providing access to Park attractions:

- The Meech Lake, Kingsmere and Notch roads;
- The Wakefield Mill Inn road;
- Schnob Road;
- The Meech Creek Valley roads (des Pins, Cross Loop);

Cooperative initiatives with the municipalities that own these roads should, where applicable, address road design and signage as well as use of the road and control of the uses adjacent to the roads.

Roads located in the Park that provide vehicular access to Park attractions and facilities, and to the facilities of leaseholders (e.g. Camp Gatineau) should be examined and rigorously controlled to avoid informal and unnecessary traffic. They include Sincennes Road (La Pêche Lake) and Cafferty Road (Meech Creek Valley). A review of the design of roads essentially providing access to residential areas (e.g. Skyridge, Kingsmere) could be undertaken, with the goal of better integrating them with the Park context, thus reducing their impact on the natural environment.

OFF-ROAD VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

The use of off-road motor vehicles on Park land and waters is not desirable, given their incompatibility with the Park's mission. The Plan makes provision for a certain number of the off-road vehicles currently used in the Park, with the goal of gradually eliminating them, especially from the conservation areas, or of specifically controlling their use. Better supervision will be required to ensure that the provisions are respected.

5.4.5.2 NON-VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Non-vehicular traffic occurs mainly on the Park's trails and parkways. It includes cycling, in-line (roller) skating, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and winter hiking.

The concept proposes to give priority to non-vehicular modes of movement in the intensive and semi-intensive recreation and reception zones, to avoid dispersal of access points and users. The parking lots giving access to these zones are maintained. Parking lots located elsewhere in the Park should be moved in the intensive, semi-intensive or visitor reception zones. Connections between the Park's trail network and the recreational trail networks of neighbouring municipalities are encouraged to favour access of non-vehicular traffic. However, such connections should not be located in conservations zones or in ecological corridors with exceptional habitats, in order to protect natural ecosystems in these Park's buffer zones. Trails located between the Park's main activity zones are maintained to encourage the use of long hiking circuits.

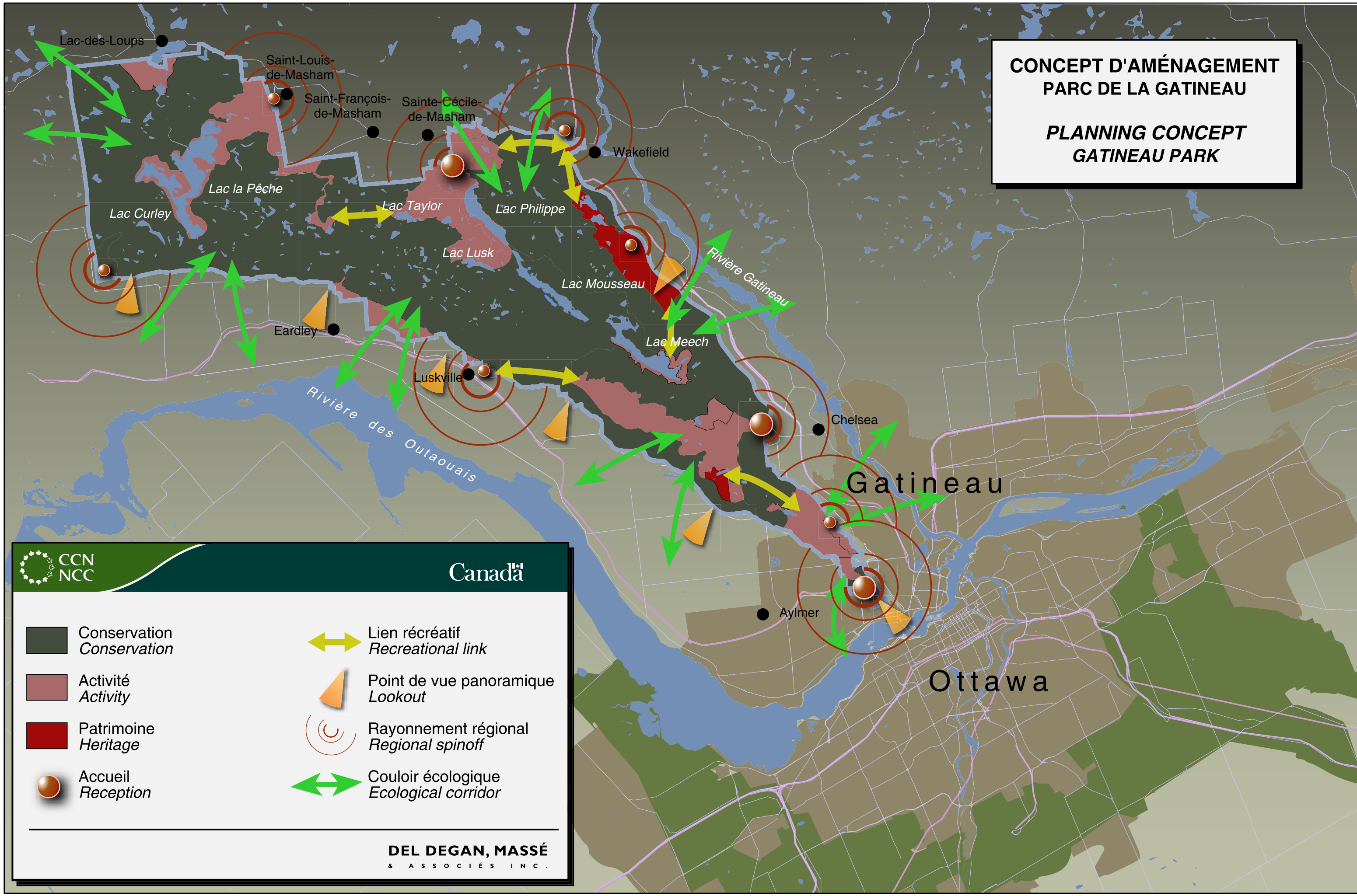
Some self-powered activities such as mountain biking must be managed more stringently in order to reduce their environmental impacts and their negative effects for other user groups. The Plan contains special provisions which apply to mountain biking and restrict the spread of this activity to areas of the Park where the activity is not permitted.

Mobility impaired Park users will have access to the Park's major facilities, to main reception points and to those Park's dedicated trails (e.g. the Pioneer trails) that can be accessed by the Park's road network.

FIGURE 6
PARK PLANNING CONCEPT









**CONCEPT D'AMÉNAGEMENT
PARC DE LA GATINEAU**

**PLANNING CONCEPT
GATINEAU PARK**



CCN
NCC

Canada

	Conservation <i>Conservation</i>		Lien récréatif <i>Recreational link</i>
	Activité <i>Activity</i>		Point de vue panoramique <i>Lookout</i>
	Patrimoine <i>Heritage</i>		Rayonnement régional <i>Regional spinoff</i>
	Accueil <i>Reception</i>		Couloir écologique <i>Ecological corridor</i>

**DEL DEGAN, MASSÉ
& ASSOCIÉS INC.**

6. IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

The implementation tools are the means available to the NCC to achieve the Plan's intentions and manage Park initiatives in an efficient and consistent way. The proposed tools include zoning and a range of policies designed for the management of specific problems.

6.1 ZONING

Zoning defines the Park's dominant functions and the corresponding land uses and land use intensities permitted in the Park's various sectors. Zoning supports the implementation of some of the Plan's objectives and also helps ensure that actions and activities are spatially and functionally consistent.

The zoning system (Map 1, page 51) divides the Park into nine zones, each having its own functions and dominant objectives:

C1	Integral conservation
C2	Conservation and extensive recreation
R1	Extensive recreation
R2	Semi-intensive recreation
R3	Intensive recreation
A/VR1	Visitor reception zone
AC1	Agro-tourism and conservation
P/H1	Heritage
I1	Institution

6.1.1 CONSERVATION ZONES – C1 AND C2

Through the conservation zones C1 and C2, the Park's zoning system confirms conservation as the dominant function of a large section of the Park's central area. In fact, 76% of the Park's total area lies in these two conservation zones, and is thereby dedicated to the conservation of natural environments. This function extends to every sector of the Park, including Park entrances and ecological corridors. The principal objective of these zones is the preservation of the natural ecosystems of the Canadian Shield, and the maintenance of biodiversity and of a sample of representative Canadian natural landscapes in the heart of the National Capital Region. The conservation of natural areas will be achieved, in these two conservation zones C1 and C2 that assure two levels of protection:

C1 – INTEGRAL CONSERVATION

The integral conservation zone permits only those activities involving the conservation or restoration of and scientific research into natural environments, along with certain very low-intensity observation activities consistent with contemplative experiences. This zone accounts for the largest portion of the Park, covering some 200 km² or 54 % of the total area.

C2 – CONSERVATION AND EXTENSIVE RECREATION

This is a conservation zone in which conservation of the natural environment takes priority, but where low-intensity, extensive recreational activities, observation and interpretation of natural and cultural environments are permitted.

This designation applies to:

- most of the land located between Meech, Mousseau and Philippe Lakes and Highway 5;
- lands near a potential new secondary visitor reception area in Quyon;
- lands in the area south of the future McConnell-Laramée Boulevard and around Lac des Fées, near the Capital Core.

A total of 78,6 km², or nearly 22% of the Park's land mass, has been designated for conservation and extensive recreation.

6.1.2 RECREATION ZONES – R1, R2 AND R3

The recreation zones are areas where recreation is the dominant function. They are concentrated as far as possible in recreational areas along the edges of the Park (outside the conservation zones) and can be accessed from the parkways or from regional and local road networks. The recreation function is assigned to three different zones, based on the type of recreational experience, the calibre and intensity of use and existing infrastructure.

R1 – EXTENSIVE RECREATION

The extensive recreation zone allows for low-intensity, scattered activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, cycling and interpretation requiring unobtrusive support structures such as natural trails, observation platforms and shelters. These zones surround the semi-intensive and intensive recreation zones, acting as a transition between the conservation zones and the intensive and semi-intensive recreation zones. Extensive recreation is defined as an outdoor experience in a wilderness environment where the conservation function is clearly visible.

The extensive recreation zones cover an area of 58.1 km², mostly around La Pêche Lake, in the Parkway sector and around Philippe Lake, Taylor Lake¹⁵, Lusk Lake and Pink Lake. They account for 18% of the Park's total area.

R2 – SEMI-INTENSIVE RECREATION

The semi-intensive recreation zone allows for a range of diversified recreational uses and reception services involving high concentrations of visitors and requiring significant permanent infrastructure such as campsites, interpretation centres, parking lots, visitor reception buildings and sanitary facilities. These uses involve a significant level of alteration to the host site with due respect for environmental conservation. The Park's main recreational areas are within this zone, where ecotourism experiences are encouraged.

This zone also comprises recognised heritage buildings (the Wakefield Mil, Willson and O'Brien houses). Conservation and enhancement of these buildings is an

¹⁵ Now known as Valiquette Lake according to the Toponymic Commission.

objective of this zone. In order to achieve these objectives, reuse of the buildings in a way to enhance the heritage value will be pursued.

Semi-intensive recreation zones cover 9.5 km² of the Park, situated around Philippe Lake and Meech Lake, near Wakefield and at Quyon. These zones represent 2.5 % of the total area of the Park.

R3 – INTENSIVE RECREATION

The intensive recreation zone allows for specialized recreational and sporting uses that attract large numbers of visitors to a small area and require significant infrastructure that have a marked impact on the environment, thus triggering a need for mitigation measures. The only area of the Park to receive this designation is the Camp Fortune site. Competitive skiing and mountain biking activities within the Park are directed to this zone. The zone's primary objective is to allow for a performance experience for authorized, self-propelled sporting outdoor activities (cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, mountain biking and biathlon).

The intensive recreation zone covers an area of 1.7 km² or 0.5 % of the Park.

6.1.3 PRINCIPAL VISITOR RECEPTION ZONE – A/VR1

The principal visitor reception zone designation applies to areas along the Park's boundaries used mainly for user and visitor reception purposes, and includes land around the three main entrances – Gamelin, Chelsea and Lac Philippe. These visitor reception areas provide formal access to the Park and fulfill much of the Park's communication function. The zone's objective is to welcome users, distribute administrative and interpretive information, control access to the network and recreational attractions, and charge fees. Numerous services (e.g. service buildings, parking lots), infrastructure and activities consistent with the Park's mission are based in the visitor reception zones, for the benefit of visitors and local communities. The principal reception zone is used intensively, and significant modifications to the natural state of these sites are required.

The principal reception zones account for 3.5 km² or nearly 1 % of the Park's total area.

6.1.4 AGRO-TOURISM AND CONSERVATION ZONE – AC1

The agrotourism and conservation designation applies to the Meech Creek Valley, where the dominant function is the restoration and enhancement of the agricultural, landscape and the natural and cultural heritage of the Valley. A planning exercise relevant to this zone was undertaken in concert with the municipality of Chelsea. Its results have been taken into account in the Park Master Plan, and continue to apply to lands within the Park¹⁶. The objectives of the zone include the conservation of natural and cultural landscapes and the implementation of recreational and tourist projects (agro-tourism, ecotourism, cultural tourism). The zone is located in the eastern section of the Park, between Chelsea and Wakefield. It covers a total area of 9.2 km² or 2.5% of the Park's total area.

¹⁶ *The Meech Creek Valley, Planning Concept, Joint Plan, Final Report*, National Capital Commission, Municipality of Chelsea, October 1998.

Based on the objectives and provisions of the jointly prepared Meech Creek Valley Concept plan, a number of uses are authorized in this zone, including reception activities, inn-based accommodation, agricultural and pasture activities, commercial uses related to recreation and tourism (e.g. retail sale of local products), preservation of cultural landscapes, conservation of natural areas, watercourses and biodiversity, environmental activities (recycling, composting, planting, shore stabilization), hiking, observation and interpretation. The Plan allows for three main types of land use, namely:

- Natural spaces for preservation, where intensity of use varies from low to very low. They include sensitive riparian areas, unimproved farmland and woodland, and their purpose is to allow for the restoration of natural processes. They account for 50% of the Valley's total area;
- Open spaces (fields and fallow land), where intensity of use varies from moderate to low, hosting farming or related activities in accordance with the Plan's guidelines, in order to safeguard the valley's countryside features. These spaces account for 20% of the Valley's total area; and
- Recreation and tourism development spaces (inns, stores, restaurants), concentrated in the northern sector and accessible by car via Cross Loop and Pine roads, to allow for the development of recreation and tourism activities in the Valley. Intensity of use is high and significant alteration of the natural environment is required. These spaces account for 20% of the Valley's total area.

6.1.5 HERITAGE ZONE – P/H1

The heritage designation applies to areas where the dominant function is the preservation and enhancement of the Park's most valuable heritage components, namely those located at the Mackenzie King Estate. The heritage zone covers an area of 1.2 km² or 0.3% of the Park's total area, and includes that part of the Mackenzie King Estate located east of the Champlain Parkway. The objectives of the zone are the conservation and restoration of elements representing the Park's architectural heritage, cultural landscapes and natural environment and their enhancement for tourism purposes. Intensity of use is high, and the level of any site intervention and alteration must be consistent with the layout and historical value of the host cultural landscape.

This zone hosts numerous museological and interpretation activities (political and social life, cultural landscapes, natural environments) offering a full range of visitor reception and information services, sanitary facilities, and complementary food services. The function of the zone allows for a tourist experience focused on the discovery of the area's heritage. Nature conservation and restoration activities are also permitted in order to maintain landscape features.

6.1.6 INSTITUTIONAL ZONE – I1

The institutional designation applies to the land located along Boulevard Cité-des-Jeunes in the City of Gatineau that is occupied by Asticou Centre, Heritage College, the College de l'Outaouais, Mont-Bleu secondary School and the Mont-Bleu municipal sports centre. Some of this land is covered by the 1973 Agreement, under which the NCC transferred management responsibility to the Québec government to allow for the construction of educational institutions, in exchange for the transfer to the NCC of responsibility for the management of other lands located in the La Pêche Lake sector. The zone's dominant function is to offer educational, cultural and

recreational activities. Although the land in the institutional zone is still situated within the Park's boundaries, its function is peripheral to the Park's mission. However, the Park's network of trails, which begins here, contains the reception area Relais Plein Air, and parking is available. The zone covers an area of 1.1 km² or 0.3% of the Park 's total area.

In addition to the educational and cultural uses, other recreational uses (e.g. community leisure, soccer, football, and baseball fields) and non-motorized excursions are authorized. These are all high-intensity activities requiring significant alterations to the natural environment, for the provision of buildings and facilities. Conservation activities are also permitted, to preserve components of the site's ecosystems and natural landscapes.

6.1.7 ZONE OBJECTIVES AND MANAGEMENT PARAMETERS

The zoning tables or charts which follow set out, for each zone:

- the objectives and dominant vocations or functions,
- the permitted activities as well as those specifically prohibited,
- the intensity of use and type/degree of conservation effort desired,
- the type of infrastructure and facilities authorized, as well as guidelines for visitor reception, access, traffic and circulation permitted, and other pertinent management parameters.

ZONE C1 – INTEGRAL CONSERVATION

Total area: 200 km²

OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve the integrity of natural ecosystems and biodiversity in the Park ▪ Maintain a sample of Canadian Shield landscapes within the National Capital, for the benefit of present and future generations ▪ Maintain a diversity of sustainable natural habitats near the National Capital ▪ Provide quality natural environments for research purposes, in the vicinity of the institutions concerned 	INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No new interventions ▪ No sanitary facilities ▪ Ratios Existing occupation ratio¹: 3% of the zone’s area Authorized occupation ratio: Less than 2.5% of the zone’s area
EXPERIENCE SOUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An isolated, contemplative experience 	RECEPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No on-site reception ▪ Conservation and safety signs only
DOMINANT FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation and restoration of natural environments and trails ▪ Scientific research 	ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prohibited unless authorized, except for individual observation or along official trails ▪ Access controlled in a variety of ways
AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehabilitation and preservation of ecosystems, including renaturalization of trails ▪ Research projects ▪ Individual observation of natural environments 	SERVICES AND CONTROLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring of conservation areas ▪ Signage indicating the area’s boundaries where necessary ▪ Supervision of applied research initiatives
SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All types of recreation, except for isolated individual observation and hiking in natural environment (footnotes 1 and 2) ▪ All other resource harvesting activities except fishing 	MOBILITY AND TRAFFIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very low and scattered, pedestrian only ▪ Research teams ▪ Ratios Existing trail and road ratio²: 0.99 km/km² Maximum trail and road ratio: 0.75 km/km²
INTENSITY OF USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nil to very low 		
LEVEL AND TYPE OF CONSERVATION EFFORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intensive monitoring of ecosystems throughout the zone, and with the links to regional ecosystems 		

COMMENTS

Footnotes: 1 Motor vehicles authorized for maintenance teams and for rehabilitation and renaturalization work.
2 Motorboats authorized for travel by residents living on the north shore of Meech Lake.

* The list of expressly prohibited activities is not exhaustive. Other uses may be prohibited if they are not consistent with the Plan’s objectives, the zone’s management parameters and the acceptability matrix.

1. The occupation ratio calculation is presented in the “Glossary and Definition” section.
2. The trail and road ratio calculation is presented in the “Glossary and Definition” section.

ZONE C2 – CONSERVATION AND EXTENSIVE RECREATION

Total area: 78.6 km²

Gatineau Park

Master Plan

OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pursue the objective of preserving natural ecosystems, especially for those that are natural extensions of zone C1 ecosystems ▪ Contribute to the maintenance of vast open spaces and the sustainability of natural components of the Canadian Shield landscape within the National Capital Region ▪ Allow for extensive use of large natural environments located close to communities ▪ Provide a showcase for interpretation and environmental conservation efforts 	INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No new trails, except the Trans-Canada Trail and short inter-trail connections ▪ Lightweight facilities only, not resulting in major disturbances to natural ecosystems ▪ Viewing and interpretation platforms for natural and cultural landscapes ▪ Parking lots at the start of official trails and existing facilities ▪ Existing buildings ▪ Ratios Existing occupation ratio: 5% of the zone's area Authorized occupation ratio: Less than 5% of the zone's area
EXPERIENCE SOUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individual or small group interpretive experience 	RECEPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reception of visitors via the main entrance gates ▪ Reception mainly at the Wakefield and Meech Creek Valley gates ▪ Signage at trail entrances and attractions
DOMINANT FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation ▪ Extensive recreation ▪ Observation of natural environments ▪ Interpretation/education ▪ Scientific research 	ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prohibited unless authorized for individual observation or along existing authorized trails ▪ Controlled access
AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecosystem restoration and preservation ▪ Research projects ▪ Observation of natural environments ▪ All-season hiking ▪ Cycling ▪ Snowshoeing ▪ Cross-country skiing ▪ Interpretation (signage, light infrastructure, guides) ▪ Shelter and cabin ▪ Heritage conservation and enhancement through the reuse of heritage buildings as shelters, interpretation centres or complementary service sites ▪ Motorized excursions along the parkways (footnote 1) 	SERVICES AND CONTROLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring of conservation areas ▪ Trail patrols ▪ Signage indicating the boundaries of conservation areas and recreational corridors where necessary ▪ Supervision of applied research initiatives ▪ Maintenance of trails, buildings and observation platforms ▪ Signage and markers ▪ Interpretation
SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motorized recreation ▪ All resource harvesting activities except fishing 	MOBILITY AND TRAFFIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low and scattered, official trails ▪ Concentrated in the hiking and landscape observation corridors ▪ Research teams ▪ Ratios Existing trail and road network: 2.2 km/km² Maximum trail and road ratio: 2.2 km/km²
INTENSITY OF USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very low to low 		
LEVEL AND TYPE OF CONSERVATION EFFORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intensive monitoring of ecosystems and of the impacts of regional ecosystems ▪ Monitoring of the impacts of recreational uses 		

COMMENTS

Footnote: 1 Motorized excursions exclude the use of off-road vehicles and other similar vehicles.

* The list of expressly prohibited activities is not exhaustive. Other uses may be prohibited if they are not consistent with the Plan's objectives, the zone's management parameters and the acceptability matrix.

ZONE R1 – EXTENSIVE RECREATION

Total area: 58.1 km²

OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allow extensive recreational use of natural environments located near communities ▪ Provide an interpretation showcase for environmental conservation ▪ Allow for rustic recreational attractions and facilities ▪ Ensure the survival of natural ecosystems forming extensions of the conservation zones 	INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multiuse trails ▪ Existing rustic campsites ▪ Observation platforms for cultural landscapes and natural environments, and interpretation facilities ▪ Compatible recreational infrastructure and equipment ▪ Signage ▪ Ratios Existing occupation ratio: 10% of the zone’s area Authorized occupation ratio: less than 10.5% of the zone’s area
EXPERIENCE SOUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A rustic outdoor experience, alone or in groups 		
DOMINANT FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extensive recreation ▪ Observation of natural environments and cultural landscapes ▪ Interpretation ▪ Conservation ▪ Scientific research 	RECEPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reception of visitors via the main entrance gates ▪ Reception via the secondary entrance gates at La Pêche, Relais Plein air, and Luskville Falls ▪ Signage at trail entrances and attractions
AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-motorized excursions (hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing) ▪ Motorized excursions along the parkways (footnote 1) ▪ Swimming ▪ Non-motorized boating (footnote 2) ▪ Fishing ▪ Rustic camping at specific sites ▪ Nature observation ▪ Interpretation (signage, light infrastructure, guides) ▪ Ecosystem rehabilitation and preservation ▪ Research projects ▪ Outdoor recreational activities and complementary services at Camp Gatineau 	ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motorized and non-motorized access are authorized and controlled from the parkways, the official trail network and local and regional roads ▪ Non-motorized and motorized access to certain existing recreational attractions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring of trails, parkways and recreational facilities ▪ Maintenance of trails, buildings and recreational infrastructure ▪ Supervision of applied research initiatives ▪ Signage and markers ▪ Interpretation 	SERVICES AND CONTROLS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low to moderate, limited to the official trails and facilities ▪ Research teams ▪ Ratios Existing trail and road ratio: 3.4 km/km² Maximum trail and road ratio: 5 km/km² 	MOBILITY AND TRAFFIC	
SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motorized recreation ▪ All resource harvesting activities except fishing ▪ Community leisure activities 		
INTENSITY OF USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low to moderate 		
LEVEL AND TYPE OF CONSERVATION EFFORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intensive monitoring of ecosystems forming extensions of conservation areas ▪ Monitoring of the impacts of recreational use 		

COMMENTS

Footnotes: 1 Motorized excursions exclude the use of off-road vehicles and other similar vehicles.
2 The campsites around La Pêche Lake may be accessed using an electric motorboat.

* The list of expressly prohibited activities is not exhaustive. Other uses may be prohibited if they are not consistent with the Plan’s objectives, the zone’s management parameters and the acceptability matrix.

ZONE R2 – SEMI-INTENSIVE RECREATION

Total area: 9.4 km²

OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate recreational use of natural attractions close to the Park’s boundaries Provide access to interpretation activities for as many users as possible Allow for the introduction of recreational attractions and equipment able to host a high volume of users Preserve significant natural ecosystems 	<p>INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES</p> <p>RECEPTION</p> <p>ACCESS</p> <p>SERVICES AND CONTROLS</p> <p>MOBILITY AND TRAFFIC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiuse trails Existing campsites Compatible infrastructure and recreational facilities Observation and interpretation platforms for natural environments and cultural attractions Signage Interpretation centre Service and sanitary buildings Access roads for motor vehicles Parking lots Accessory public utilities Ratios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing occupation ratio: 24% of the zone’s area Authorized occupation ratio: 30% of the zone’s area
EXPERIENCE SOUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized outdoor experience, alone or in groups Cultural experience 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception of visitors via the main entrance gates and sites
DOMINANT FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor recreational activities Observation of natural environments and cultural attractions Interpretation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized and non-motorized access authorized and controlled from the parkways, the official trail network and local and regional roads
AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-motorized excursions (hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing) Swimming in designated areas at beaches Non-motorized boating Fishing Camping with services at existing sites Nature observation Interpretation (signage, infrastructure, guides) Conservation and restoration of significant ecosystems Conservation and enhancement of heritage by the reuse of heritage buildings as accommodation units, conference centres or other uses that facilitates saving the building, in the framework of the general mission of the Park, including food services and rental of sporting goods (e.g. Wakefield Mill, the Willson and O’Brien houses) (footnote 1) Research projects Events 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision of attractions and recreational activities Delineation of sensitive ecosystems and significant ecosystems Control of visitor numbers Health and safety Improvements and intensive maintenance of official trails, buildings and recreational infrastructure
SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized recreation All resource harvesting activities except fishing Community leisure activities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate to high at recreational sites Ratios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing trail and road ratio: 5.8 km/km² Maximum trail and road ratio: 6.0 km/km²
INTENSITY OF USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate to high 		
LEVEL AND TYPE OF CONSERVATION EFFORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive monitoring of sensitive ecosystems or significant ecosystems Mitigation measures Monitoring of the environmental impacts of recreational use, and of the mitigation measures Restoration of heritage assets 		

COMMENTS

Footnote: 1 The enhancement of heritage attractions in this zone may involve the creation of new visitor reception infrastructures, for example for the Quyon mining site, the O’Brien and Willson houses, the Carbide Willson ruins and Wakefield.

* The list of expressly prohibited activities is not exhaustive. Other uses may be prohibited if they are not consistent with the Plan’s objectives, the zone’s management parameters and the acceptability matrix.

ZONE R3 – INTENSIVE RECREATION

Total area: 1.7 km²

Gatineau Park

Master Plan

OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognize the contribution of Camp Fortune to the Park’s history, and acknowledge its importance to the Park’s supply of outdoor recreational activities (footnote 1) ▪ Permit outdoor recreational and sporting activities in a sector of the Ottawa Hills ▪ Permit the development of recreational attractions and facilities on a given site that are able to receive a high volume of users and to host competitions ▪ Concentrate and control recreational uses having impacts on the environment 	INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Downhill and cross-country skiing trails, mountain biking ▪ Multiuse trails ▪ Nature observation and interpretation platforms ▪ Signage and markers ▪ Access road for motor vehicles ▪ Temporary bleachers for competitions ▪ Parking lots ▪ Service and sanitary buildings ▪ Public utility and other infrastructure ▪ Ratios Existing occupation ratio: 59 % of the zone’s area Authorized occupation ratio: 70 % of the zone’s area
EXPERIENCE SOUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-motorized outdoor sports performance activities, alone or in small groups, or at major sporting events 	RECEPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On-site visitor reception
DOMINANT FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outdoor recreational and sporting activities ▪ Reception of visitors 	ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motorized access authorized from local and regional roads and the parkways ▪ Non-motorized access from the official trail networks and parkways
AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Downhill skiing ▪ Cross-country skiing ▪ Mountain biking ▪ Ski, mountain bike and biathlon competitions ▪ Non-motorized excursions ▪ Nature observation ▪ Interpretation (signage, infrastructure, guides) ▪ Conservation and restoration of significant ecosystems ▪ Services related to authorized recreational and sporting activities, including rental of sporting goods and food services ▪ Telecommunications 	SERVICES AND CONTROLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patrols and instructors ▪ Improvements and intensive maintenance of surfaces, buildings and recreational infrastructure ▪ Marking of recreational and sporting areas ▪ Delineation of significant ecosystems, sensitive ecosystems and environments undergoing restoration ▪ Health and safety
SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motorized recreation ▪ All resource harvesting activities 	MOBILITY AND TRAFFIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High to very high in season ▪ Ratios Existing trail and road ratio: 8.2 km/km² Maximum trail and road ratio: 9.5 km/km²
INTENSITY OF USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High to very high in season 		
LEVEL AND TYPE OF CONSERVATION EFFORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intensive monitoring of environmental impacts ▪ Mitigation measures and environmental restoration ▪ Monitoring of the environmental impacts of recreational uses and of the mitigation measures 		

COMMENTS

Footnote: 1 Management of the Fortune ski centre is the responsibility of an operator under a long-term lease.

* The list of expressly prohibited activities is not exhaustive. Other uses may be prohibited if they are not consistent with the Plan’s objectives, the zone’s management parameters and the acceptability matrix.

ZONE A/VR1 – VISITOR RECEPTION

Total area: 3.5 km²

OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide national visibility for the main entrances Exercise control over access to the Park Offer structured, effective and informative services Group facilities together for general entrance fees Distribute administrative, promotional and interpretation information 	INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multituse trails Observation and interpretation platforms for natural environments and cultural landscapes Signage Access road for motor vehicles Control gate Parking lots Service and sanitary buildings, information booths Interpretation centre Public utility/infrastructure Ratios Existing occupation ratio (footnote 3): 32% of the zone's area Authorized occupation ratio: 35 % of the zone's area
EXPERIENCE SOUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation, initiation, learning and interpretation 		
DOMINANT FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception Interpretation Extensive and semi-intensive recreation Conservation 		
AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized excursions along the parkways and on designated local and regional roads (footnote 1) Non-motorized excursions Observation of natural environments and cultural landscapes Interpretation (signage, infrastructure, guides) Conservation and restoration of significant ecosystems Services related to the reception function Complementary services, including rental of sporting goods and food services 		RECEPTION
		ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized access authorized from local and regional roads and the parkways Non-motorized access from the official trail networks and parkways
SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All resource harvesting activities Community leisure activities (footnote 2) 	SERVICES AND CONTROLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four-season reception staff Patrol Improvements and intensive maintenance of surfaces, buildings and infrastructure Delineation of significant or sensitive ecosystems and environments undergoing restoration Health and safety
INTENSITY OF USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High to very high 		
LEVEL AND TYPE OF CONSERVATION EFFORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive monitoring of environmental impacts Mitigation and environmental restoration measures Monitoring of the environmental effects of recreational uses and mitigation measures Improvement of landscapes at the entrances to the Park 	MOBILITY AND TRAFFIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very high Ratios Existing trail and road ratio (footnote 3): 5.4 km/km² Maximum trail and road ratio: 6.5 km/km²

COMMENTS

- Footnotes: 1 Motorized excursions exclude the use of off-road vehicles and other similar vehicles
 2 The current agreement with the Municipality of Chelsea regarding the use of lands for soccer will not be renewed when it expires
 3 The calculated ratio does not include the McConnell-Laramée Boulevard

* The list of expressly prohibited activities is not exhaustive. Other uses may be prohibited if they are not consistent with the Plan's objectives, the zone's management parameters and the acceptability matrix.

ZONE AC1 – AGRO-TOURISM AND CONSERVATION

Total area: 9.2 km²

Gatineau Park

Master Plan

OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve the cultural landscapes and historical elements of national and regional interest Maintain areas of farmland for their heritage value Contribute to the tourism development effort in the Gatineau River corridor Preserve the valley’s riparian environments and sensitive zones Offer visitor services, lodging and restaurant services that are consistent with the preservation of the rural heritage 	INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiuse trails Observation and interpretation platforms for natural environments and cultural landscapes Outdoor shelters Accessory environmental infrastructure (e.g. composting) Signage and markers Interpretation and promotional booths Access road for motor vehicles Parking lot Rural inn consistent with the 1998 Meech Creek Valley Land Use Concept Farm houses and buildings consistent with the 1998 Land Use Concept, for interpretation purposes Heritage-type infrastructure Public utility/infrastructure Ratios (footnote 3) Existing occupation ratio: 30% of the zone’s area Authorized occupation ratio: 32% of the zone’s area
EXPERIENCE SOUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ecotourist, agro-tourist or heritage experience, alone or in small groups 	RECEPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor reception at the inns Signage at trail entrances and attractions
DOMINANT FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agro-tourism and heritage Reception Extensive recreation Agriculture and grazing 	ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorized motorized access from local roads (Cross, Loop, Pine and Cafferty) Non-motorized access from the official trail network and local roads
AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All uses consistent with the 1998 Land Use Concept Non-motorized excursions Observation of natural environments and cultural landscapes Interpretation (signage, infrastructure, guides) Farming activities (footnote 1) Conservation and restoration of significant ecosystems Motorized excursions (footnote 2) Conservation and enhancement of the rural heritage Lodging services and accessory uses Services related to the visitor reception function, including rental of sporting goods and food services, attached to the accommodation building 	SERVICES AND CONTROLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception staff combined with lodging services Patrol Improvement and intensive maintenance of surfaces, buildings and infrastructure Delineation of significant ecosystems and sensitive areas set aside for conservation and rehabilitation
SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized recreation All resource harvesting activities not consistent with the Land Use Concept, 1998 	MOBILITY AND TRAFFIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate to high in season Ratios Existing trail and road ratio: 3.6 km/km² Maximum trail and road ratio: 4.5 km/km²
INTENSITY OF USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate to high 	LEVEL AND TYPE OF CONSERVATION EFFORT	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive monitoring of the environmental impacts of agricultural and tourism uses Mitigation and environmental restoration measures Maintenance and restoration of cultural landscapes Improvement of the Valley entrances 	

COMMENTS

- Footnotes: 1 Authorized farming activities are described in the Land Use Concept of 1998
 2 Motorized excursions exclude the use of off-road vehicles and other similar vehicles.
 3 In this zone, agricultural areas and open spaces (fields) are included in the occupation ratio.

* The list of expressly prohibited activities is not exhaustive. Other uses may be prohibited if they are not consistent with the Plan’s objectives, the zone’s management parameters and the acceptability matrix.

ZONE P/H1 – HERITAGE

Total area: 1.2 km²

OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve the landscapes and buildings of heritage and historical interest ▪ Contribute to the development of the Capital’s tourist attractions ▪ Enhance the Park’s national, historical and political heritage ▪ Extend the Park’s museological function 	INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hiking trails ▪ Observation and interpretation platforms for natural environments and cultural landscapes ▪ Signage and markers ▪ Access road for motor vehicles ▪ Parking lot ▪ Heritage buildings and artefacts ▪ On-site sanitary facilities ▪ Public utility/infrastructure ▪ Ratios Existing occupation ratio: 6% of the zone’s area Authorized occupation ratio: 10% of the zone’s area 	
EXPERIENCE SOUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural and learning experience 			
DOMINANT FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Heritage ▪ Reception ▪ Museology ▪ Tourism 			
AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hiking ▪ Observation of natural environments and cultural landscapes 	RECEPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reception of visitors via the main entrances at Chelsea and Gamelin, and at the MKE site 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpretation (signage, infrastructure, guides) ▪ Conservation and restoration of significant ecosystems ▪ Conservation and enhancement of the architectural heritage ▪ Events ▪ Expositions of artefacts and objects ▪ Services related to the visitor reception and museological functions, such as food services and the sale of souvenirs ▪ Motorized excursions on the Champlain Parkway (footnote 1) 	ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Authorized motorized access from the Champlain Parkway ▪ Non-motorized access from the official trail network and parkway 	
	SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motorized recreation ▪ All resource harvesting activities 	SERVICES AND CONTROLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Permanent reception staff in season ▪ Patrol ▪ Improvements and intensive maintenance of surfaces, buildings and infrastructure ▪ Delineation of significant ecosystems and sensitive ecosystems set aside for conservation ▪ Health and safety
INTENSITY OF USE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High to very high 	MOBILITY AND TRAFFIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High in season ▪ Ratios Existing trail and road ratio: 3.3 km/km² Maximum trail and road ratio: 4 km/km²
LEVEL AND TYPE OF CONSERVATION EFFORT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intensive monitoring of the environmental impacts of recreational and tourist activities ▪ Mitigation and environmental restoration measures 		

COMMENTS

Footnote: 1 Motorized excursions exclude the use of off-road vehicles and other similar vehicles.

* The list of expressly prohibited activities is not exhaustive. Other uses may be prohibited if they are not consistent with the Plan’s objectives, the zone’s management parameters and the acceptability matrix.

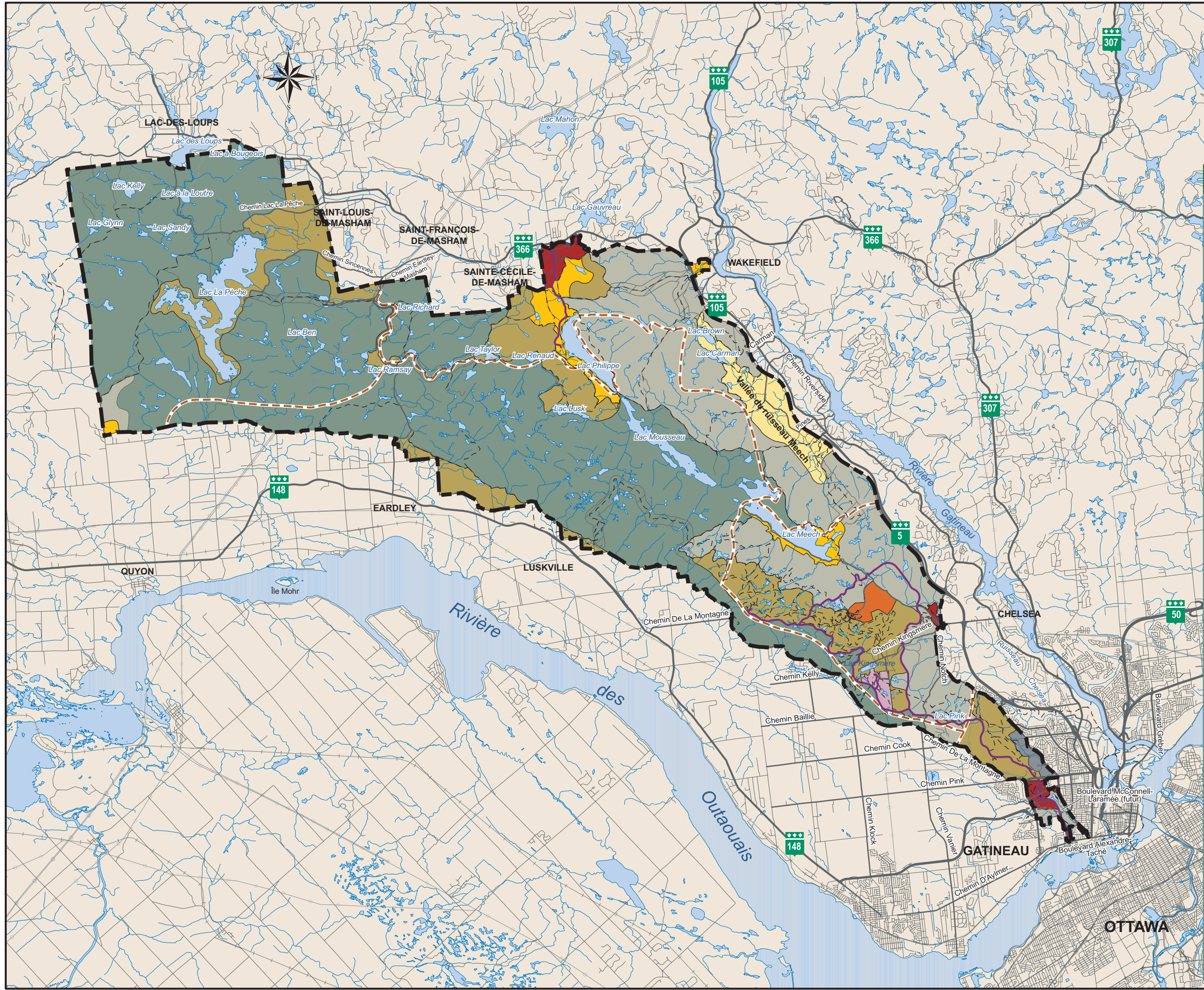
ZONE I1 – INSTITUTIONAL

Total area: 1.1 km²

OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure compliance with the 1973 agreement between the NCC and the Gouvernement du Québec (footnote 1) ▪ Concentrate public educational facilities and community leisure activities into a specific sector ▪ Ensure that the development of any institutional facilities respect the natural ecosystems to be preserved in the zone 	INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multiuse trails ▪ Community leisure fields (e.g. soccer, baseball) ▪ Nature observation platforms ▪ Signage and markers ▪ Parking lot and vehicular access on site ▪ Public utility ▪ School buildings
EXPERIENCE SOUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training, learning and leisure experience 	RECEPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secondary reception at the Relais Plein air
DOMINANT FUNCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Community leisure ▪ Extensive and intensive recreation ▪ Research 	ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Authorized motorized access from the local road network and the Lac-des-Fées Parkway ▪ Non-motorized access from the official trail network
AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extensive outdoor recreational activities ▪ Community leisure and sporting activities ▪ Educational, pedagogical and extracurricular activities ▪ Uses stipulated in the NCC-Gouvernement du Québec agreement ▪ Nature observation ▪ Interpretation (signage, infrastructure, guides) ▪ Conservation and restoration of significant ecosystems ▪ Cultural activities ▪ Events ▪ Additional services related to the authorized recreational activities, such as rental of sporting goods and food services 	SERVICES AND CONTROLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvements and intensive maintenance of surfaces, buildings and infrastructure by the school staff ▪ Delineation of significant ecosystems and sensitive ecosystems dedicated to conservation ▪ Health and safety
SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motorized recreation ▪ All resource harvesting activities 	MOBILITY AND TRAFFIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very high in season ▪ Ratios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing trail and road ratio: 4.5 km/km² Maximum trail and road ratio: 5 km/km²
INTENSITY OF USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High to very high 		
LEVEL AND TYPE OF CONSERVATION EFFORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intensive monitoring of the environmental impacts of recreational use ▪ Mitigation and environmental restoration measures 		

* The list of expressly prohibited activities is not exhaustive. Other uses may be prohibited if they are not consistent with the Plan’s objectives, the zone’s management parameters and the acceptability matrix.

MAP 1
ZONING



ZONAGE / ZONING

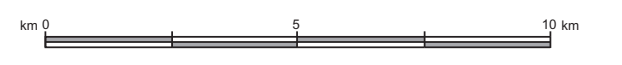
PARC DE LA GATINEAU **GATINEAU PARK**

- Lac Lake
- Cours d'eau Stream
- Route Road
- Chemin de fer Railway
- Ligne de transport d'énergie Power transmission line
- Sentier Trail
- Lien récréatif extensif Extensive recreational link
- Promenade Parkway
- Limite de secteur Sector limit

ZONES

- CONSERVATION**
- Conservation intégrale Integral conservation C1
 - Conservation et récréation extensive Conservation and extensive recreation C2
- RÉCRÉATION**
- Récréation extensive Extensive recreation R1
 - Récréation semi-intensive Semi-intensive recreation R2
 - Récréation intensive Intensive recreation R3
- ACCUEIL**
- Accueil principal Principal reception A / VR1
- AGROTOURISME ET CONSERVATION**
- Agrotourisme et Conservation Agrotourism and Conservation AC1
- PATRIMOINE**
- Patrimoine Heritage P / H1
- INSTITUTION**
- Institution Institution I1

SOURCES
 Information géographique de référence provenant des bases de données de la Commission de la Capitale nationale.
 Geographic information provided by NCC databases



Projection MTM, Fuseau 9, NAD 83.
 MTM, Zone 9, NAD 83 projection

6.2 POLICIES

The following paragraphs set out the six policies that address specific Park issues, as follows:

6.2.1 PRIVATE PROPERTIES AND RESIDENTIAL USES

More than 200 private properties used for a variety of purposes still exist in the Park. Most serve as permanent residences and are concentrated in three areas, namely Meech Lake and Kingsmere Lake (both located in the Parkway sector) and Skyridge (located in the Heart of the Park sector). The presence of privately owned properties makes it difficult to control Park use, since the properties are subject to municipal by-laws authorizing the sites in question to be used for residential purposes, rather than to Park zoning regulations. The privately owned sites in the Park form part of the Capital's *National Interest Land Mass (NILM)*, even though they are not owned by the federal government. The Park has been created since the 1930s through the continuous and gradual acquisition of private properties within Park boundaries. This continues to be the NCC's long-term objective.

POLICIES

1. Pursue the acquisition of private properties in the Park, wherever possible by mutual agreement and subject to the availability of resources. Prioritize acquisitions according to the strategic importance of the sites for significant ecosystems, beginning with:
 - a) properties of 4 or more hectares in area, located near riparian or significant habitats (e.g. bog, escarpment, wildlife habitat);
 - b) properties less than 4 hectares in area, located near riparian or significant habitats (e.g. bog, escarpment, wildlife habitat);
 - c) other properties of 4 or more hectares in area, located in conservation zones;
 - d) properties less than 4 hectares in area, located in conservation zones;
 - e) enclosed properties that fragment an ecosystem or hinder authorized recreational use;
 - f) properties that hinder the development of Park facilities, attractions or visitor reception areas;
 - g) properties located in residential enclaves.

This prioritization could differ according to acquisition opportunities that could arise.

2. Explore methods or means sufficient to protect the Park's ecosystems, other than fee-simple acquisition of private properties (e.g. right of first refusal, donation, conservation easements).
3. Continue discussions between the NCC and the municipalities that surround the Park in order to encourage the greatest possible compatibility of municipal plans and regulations with Master Plan's objectives and zoning for private properties located within the Park, close to its boundary or close to significant ecosystems (particularly in riparian areas). The NCC will strive to conclude agreements to ensure that:

- Municipal by-laws limit the subdivision of large privately owned properties and give priority to the land use designations set out in the Master Plan.
 - The uses made of sites around the Park's boundaries, especially in designated ecological corridors, are consistent with the objectives of the Master Plan.
4. Encourage and limit the subdivision of large private properties (over 4 hectares) and promote improved municipal design and architectural standards for private development.
 5. Examine any encroachment by private residential or other uses onto NCC lands with a view to regularizing the situation and limiting damage to surrounding natural environments.
 6. Encourage the municipalities to introduce or enforce monitoring programs applicable to the sanitary facilities of residences located in riparian environments, in order to improve or maintain their environmental performance and protect water quality in lakes, streams and other bodies of water.
 7. Continue to work with the municipalities to ensure that the NCC is able to review applications for minor variances that have an impact on the Park's natural environments.

6.2.2 RESIDENTIAL LEASES

Over the years, the NCC has acquired a certain number of former private residential properties in the Park. This has increased the amount of land in public ownership within the Park. Because of its budgetary situation, the NCC has continued to lease certain properties that are still in good condition, with the result that some are still occupied by tenants.

POLICIES

1. Pursue the long-term goal of eliminating residential leasing of buildings located in the Park. In the meantime, where buildings are in good condition, residential leases will be maintained. However, when major work is required to maintain the quality of buildings as dwellings, their use for residential purposes should cease and the benefit of demolishing them or using them for purposes consistent with the Park's mission should be assessed.
2. Preserve buildings that are most representative of local and Canadian heritage and those recognized by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO), and, to the extent possible, plan their use in a manner that conforms to the Park's mission and respects the heritage character of the buildings and its landscape.
3. For buildings which are located in significant natural ecosystems, identify alternate locations outside of these ecosystems for the uses which occupy these buildings, taking into account their heritage character and life cycle status; this recognizes the primary objective of restoring natural habitats.

6.2.3 LEASES FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES

Some of the Park's activities and services are provided by partners under short-term or long-term leases with the NCC (Wakefield Mill Inn, Camp Fortune, Camp Gatineau). In these cases, the lease activities and services must contribute to the achievement of the Park's mission.

POLICIES

1. Ensure that all new leases or renewals are in conformity with the Plan's orientations and objectives.

6.2.4 HYDRO-ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES

A number of hydro-electric transmission and distribution lines run across the Park. These corridors, especially those occupied by energy transmission lines, fragment environments and trigger significant changes in natural habitat ecology.

POLICIES

1. All proposals for transmission or distribution lines and all requests for new public utilities (e.g. natural gas, sewers and water supply systems, telephone line or others) should be located in existing public utility or road corridors. If the creation of a new corridor or expansion of an existing corridor is unavoidable, the expansion should not enlarge the area of the existing corridor by more than a specified maximum amount (maximum of 10% in the integral conservation zone and 30% in all other zones).

6.2.5 TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Telecommunications infrastructure has been built on summits located within the Park. Most public and private infrastructure have been built on one particular site, owned by a State agency. Two other towers have been installed to serve the Park's operational needs, one at Camp Fortune and the other at the fire tower. The location of such facilities will be controlled in future, in order to safeguard natural landscapes and avoid environmental fragmentation.

POLICIES

1. Telecommunications infrastructure should be grouped together, within the existing perimeter of the CBC site or on the tower located on the Skyline slope of Camp Fortune. Facilities on the fire tower should be limited to those required for the Park's operations, including public safety. Buffer landscaping (e.g. dense bush plantations) and safety features should be introduced to avoid break-ins and vandalism. The landscaping around telecommunications infrastructure should be harmonized, as much as possible, with the surrounding natural landscape by minimizing deforestation and selecting plants and layouts that are consistent with surrounding woodlands.

6.2.6 ROAD NETWORK

The local road network cuts across the Park in several places; examples include the Eardley-Masham, Notch, Kingsmere, Meech, Cross Loop, Pine, Sincennes, du Lac-La Pêche and Camp Gatineau roads, Saint-Raymond Boulevard and, in the near future, McConnell-Laramée Boulevard. These roads will be maintained even though they break up natural habitats, increase ecosystem fragility, diminish the wilderness aspect of certain sections of the Park and enhance the difficulty of controlling Park use, because they fulfill an essential role for local communities and provide access, in some cases, to Park sites and activities.

The road network providing access to Park activities will be rationalized in the conservation zones. Where necessary, at least those roads serving regional needs will be maintained.

POLICIES

1. Avoid further fragmentation of the Park caused by the creation of new local or regional roads. The only new road to be permitted is the McConnell-Laramée Boulevard, which has already been approved. The proposed Highway 50 will be permitted on Park lands provided it does not fragment the natural environment.
2. Rationalize the current road network in the Park, including:
 - The closure of old roads in the La Pêche Lake sector, in order to optimize the formal access routes and reduce causes of disturbance to natural ecosystems
 - The section of Gamelin Street, between the Gatineau and Lac-des-Fées parkways, while still maintaining an open right-of-way for public security purposes/access. This section of the street could be closed after the opening of McConnell-Laramée Boulevard and the completion of a specific study, done in cooperation with the City of Gatineau, on the effect of the closure on regional traffic. This closure will complete the undertaking which initially saw the closure of the section of Gamelin between the old Mountain Road and the Gatineau Parkway.
3. Where roads are no longer required to serve the needs of the Park, close or eliminate the roads and carry out renaturalization work within these former rights-of-way.
4. Examine options for improving road intersections and junctions in the Park, so that the visitor has an improved perception or sense of a park experience; pay particular attention to the intersection of Scott, Kingsmere and Meech Lake roads.

6.3 PROJECT ACCEPTABILITY MATRIX

The project acceptability matrix is a tool to support decision-making; it supplements the zoning parameters and other management policies. The matrix, which will be developed in the two years following approval of the Plan, will allow NCC managers to review and assess the merit of new land use requests within the federal approval process pursuant to section 12 of the *National Capital Act* or new activities not specifically addressed by the zoning regulations, using criteria to establish their compatibility with the Park's mission and strategic objectives.

7. SPECIFIC PROPOSALS BY SECTOR

The Master Plan divides the Park into five sectors (Map 2):

- The Gateway sector;
- The Parkway sector;
- The Philippe Lake Crescent sector;
- The Heart of the Park sector;
- The La Pêche Lake sector.

The names and boundaries of the sectors are unchanged from the 1990 plan, with two exceptions:

- The Philippe Lake Crescent sector, which now encompasses the Meech Creek Valley, purchased by the NCC in 1994; and
- The Parkway sector, which now includes the Carbide Willson ruins and the lands located between Chelsea Creek and Highway 5.

Specific proposals have been developed for each sector, to clarify proposed orientations and strategic objectives.

7.1 GATEWAY SECTOR

The Gateway sector, in the most southerly portion of the Park, forms a narrow natural strip that extends into the urban portion of the Capital. Surrounded for the most part by urban areas of the City of Gatineau, it comprises some interesting natural environments that reflect the wealth of Eastern Canada's biodiversity. This is particularly true of the area located south of the hydro-electric transmission line and the future McConnell-Laramée Boulevard (e.g. Lac des Fées and stream, Wolffie and bulrush marshlands, white pine-black maple forest, hemlock-red maple forest, etc.). The sector's location means that it plays a strategic role in bringing the Park's natural environment into the Capital's green space network. The Gamelin visitor reception area also becomes the main entrance to Gatineau Park and a starting point for visitors wishing to discover the Park's heritage, using the Parkway and path networks.

Based on the issues identified for the Gateway Sector, the proposed strategic objectives are as follows:

- Favour land uses and initiatives that support the consolidation of natural ecosystems by limiting habitat fragmentation.
- Maintain the official trail network in order to promote the discovery and recognition of natural environments.
- Close informal points of access to the sector, to better control visitor movement and reduce the impact on natural environments.

MAP 2
SECTORS

CCN NCC Canada

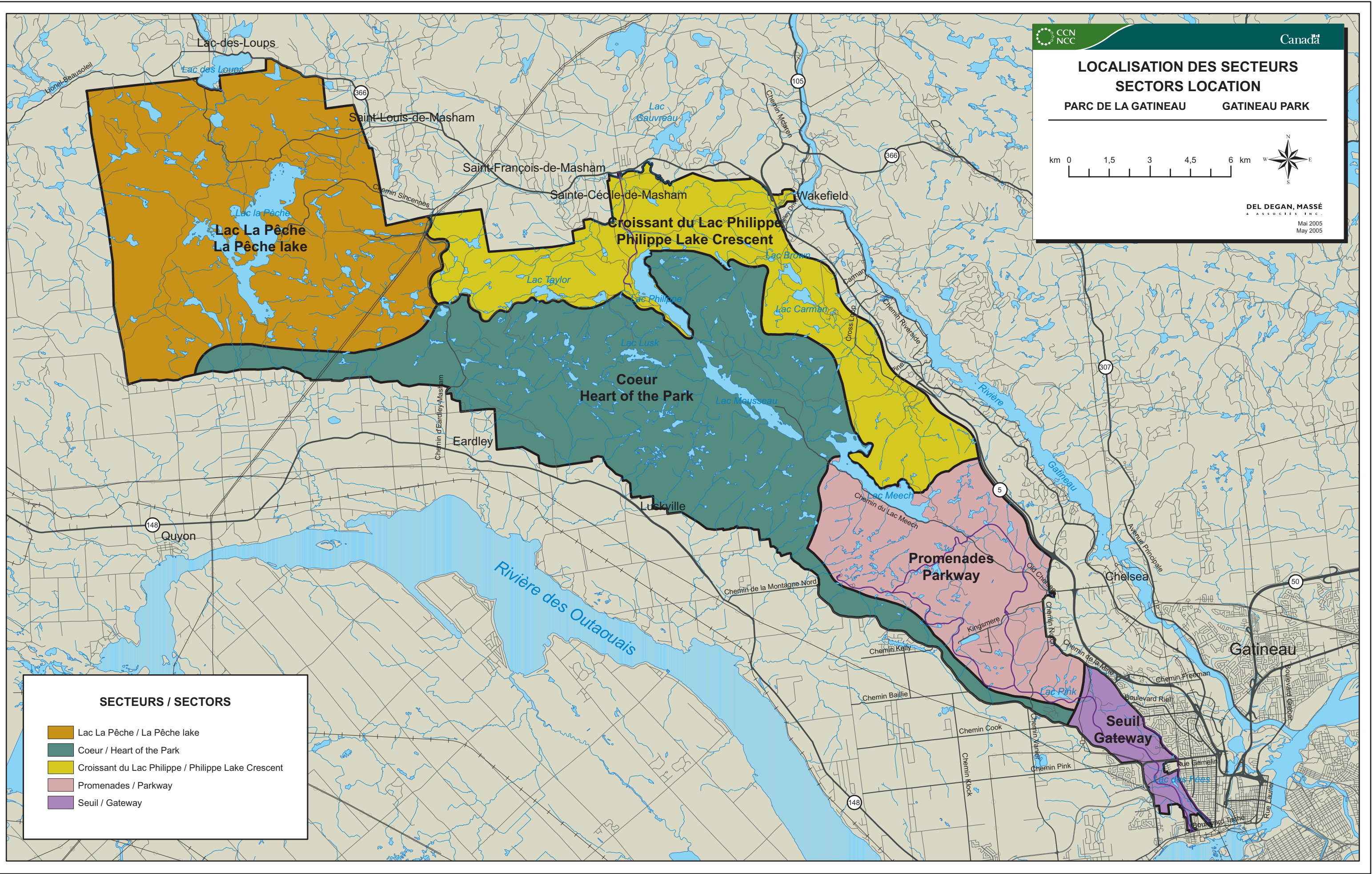
LOCALISATION DES SECTEURS SECTORS LOCATION

PARC DE LA GATINEAU GATINEAU PARK

km 0 1,5 3 4,5 6 km

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May 2005



SECTEURS / SECTORS

- Lac La Pêche / La Pêche lake
- Coeur / Heart of the Park
- Croissant du Lac Philippe / Philippe Lake Crescent
- Promenades / Parkway
- Seuil / Gateway

- Encourage the holding of events in the sector that provide visibility for the mission of conservation and preservation the Park's natural environment.

Four principal functions have been identified for the sector:

- Reception of Park users and visitors.
- A reflection of the importance of preserving a natural heritage area in the lives of Canadians.
- A gateway to the Park's hiking trail system and recreational pathway network.
- Promotion of natural conservation areas close to the Capital.

Map 3 presents the Master Plan proposals specific to the Gateway sector.

7.2 PARKWAY SECTOR

The Parkway sector is the gateway to the natural ecosystems of the Canadian Shield. With its representative samples of the Park's three physiographic zones, including the spectacular Eardley Escarpment, it hosts a rich variety of natural ecosystems having considerable potential for outdoor recreational and ecotourism experiences. Extending from Pink Lake at its southernmost point to the northern tip of Meech Lake, the sector encompasses the slopes of the Gatineau Hills located around the Gatineau, Champlain and Fortune Parkways. The principal access points close to Highway 5 are via local roads from Old Chelsea, and via the Gatineau Parkway. The Gatineau Park Visitor Centre in Chelsea is one of the Park's main entrances and the site of its administrative offices.

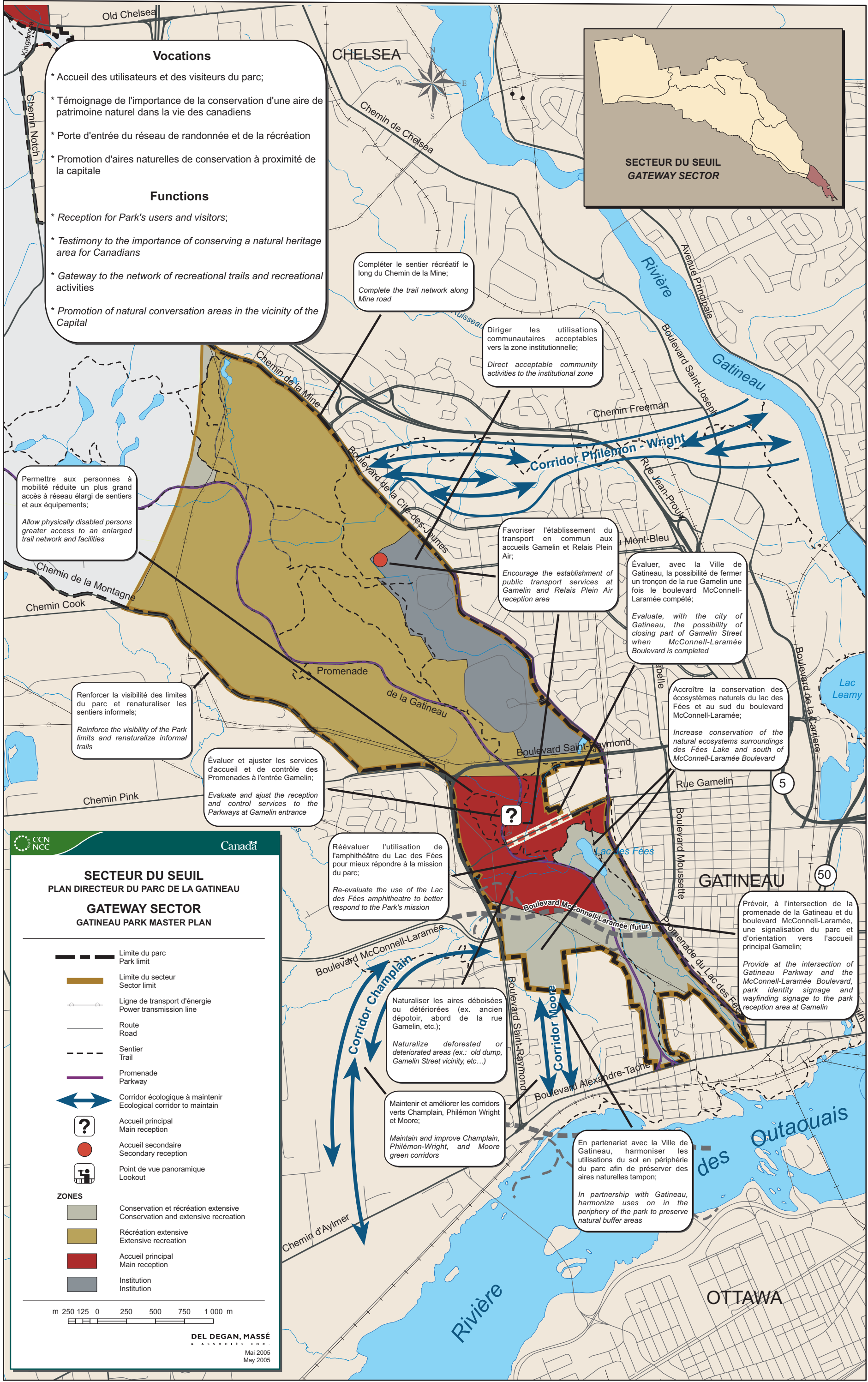
Large numbers of visitors come to the sector to enjoy motorized and non-motorized excursions (driving along the parkways, hiking, cross-country skiing) and outdoor recreational activities, including downhill skiing. Major attractions and well-known cultural landscapes, including the Mackenzie King Estate, Pink Lake and the Champlain Lookout, add to the range of available recreational experiences but occasionally lead to overuse of the parkways and certain recreational sites.

The sector features the Park's political and historical functions primarily through the presence of the official residences and the Willson House. The Mackenzie King Estate, for its part, offers a number of landscape features of an "historical garden" variety as defined by the Florence Charter¹⁷. Its historical and architectural components, "recognized" by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office, strengthen the Park's national and political heritage. Near Meech Lake, the Carbide Willson ruins exhibit some original heritage and historical attributes and offer a potential for tourism that has not, as yet, been fully explored. The O'Brien House is another important heritage element of this sector. Cultural components such as these must be protected and developed. A conservation strategy should be established as part of the heritage conservation plan¹⁸.

¹⁷ The Florence Charter was adopted on December 15, 1982, by the ICOMOS-IFLA International Committee for Historic Gardens to define and direct the preservation of historic gardens. A historic garden is defined as "an architectural and horticultural composition of interest to the public from the historical or artistic point of view. As such, it is to be considered as a monument." ICOMOS-Canada website: <http://canada.icomos.org/>.

¹⁸ Parks Canada standards for the preservation of Canada's heritage sites include three types of conservation, namely preservation, rehabilitation and restoration. Restoration is intended to reveal a heritage site or component as faithfully as possible, based on its history.

MAP 3
GATEWAY SECTOR



- Vocations**
- * Accueil des utilisateurs et des visiteurs du parc;
 - * Témoignage de l'importance de la conservation d'une aire de patrimoine naturel dans la vie des canadiens
 - * Porte d'entrée du réseau de randonnée et de la récréation
 - * Promotion d'aires naturelles de conservation à proximité de la capitale
- Fonctions**
- * Reception for Park's users and visitors;
 - * Testimony to the importance of conserving a natural heritage area for Canadians
 - * Gateway to the network of recreational trails and recreational activities
 - * Promotion of natural conversation areas in the vicinity of the Capital



Compléter le sentier récréatif le long du Chemin de la Mine;
Complete the trail network along Mine road

Diriger les utilisations communautaires acceptables vers la zone institutionnelle;
Direct acceptable community activities to the institutional zone

Permettre aux personnes à mobilité réduite un plus grand accès à réseau élargi de sentiers et aux équipements;
Allow physically disabled persons greater access to an enlarged trail network and facilities

Favoriser l'établissement du transport en commun aux accueils Gamelin et Relais Plein Air;
Encourage the establishment of public transport services at Gamelin and Relais Plein Air reception area

Évaluer, avec la Ville de Gatineau, la possibilité de fermer un tronçon de la rue Gamelin une fois le boulevard McConnell-Laramée complété;
Evaluate, with the city of Gatineau, the possibility of closing part of Gamelin Street when McConnell-Laramée Boulevard is completed

Renforcer la visibilité des limites du parc et renaturaliser les sentiers informels;
Reinforce the visibility of the Park limits and renaturalize informal trails

Évaluer et ajuster les services d'accueil et de contrôle des Promenades à l'entrée Gamelin;
Evaluate and adjust the reception and control services to the Parkways at Gamelin entrance

Accroître la conservation des écosystèmes naturels du lac des Fées et au sud du boulevard McConnell-Laramée;
Increase conservation of the natural ecosystems surroundings des Fées Lake and south of McConnell-Laramée Boulevard

Réévaluer l'utilisation de l'amphithéâtre du Lac des Fées pour mieux répondre à la mission du parc;
Re-evaluate the use of the Lac des Fées amphitheatre to better respond to the Park's mission

Prévoir, à l'intersection de la promenade de la Gatineau et du boulevard McConnell-Laramée, une signalisation du parc et d'orientation vers l'accueil principal Gamelin;
Provide at the intersection of Gatineau Parkway and the McConnell-Laramée Boulevard, park identity signage and wayfinding signage to the park reception area at Gamelin

Naturaliser les aires déboisées ou détériorées (ex. ancien dépôt, abord de la rue Gamelin, etc.);
Naturalize deforested or deteriorated areas (ex.: old dump, Gamelin Street vicinity, etc...)

Maintenir et améliorer les corridors verts Champlain, Philémon Wright et Moore;
Maintain and improve Champlain, Philémon-Wright, and Moore green corridors

En partenariat avec la Ville de Gatineau, harmoniser les utilisations du sol en périphérie du parc afin de préserver des aires naturelles tampon;
In partnership with Gatineau, harmonize uses on in the periphery of the park to preserve natural buffer areas

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**SECTEUR DU SEUIL
PLAN DIRECTEUR DU PARC DE LA GATINEAU
GATEWAY SECTOR
GATINEAU PARK MASTER PLAN**

- Limite du parc
Park limit
- Limite du secteur
Sector limit
- Ligne de transport d'énergie
Power transmission line
- Route
Road
- Sentier
Trail
- Promenade
Parkway
- ↔ Corridor écologique à maintenir
Ecological corridor to maintain
- ? Accueil principal
Main reception
- Accueil secondaire
Secondary reception
- 👁 Point de vue panoramique
Lookout

ZONES

- Conservation et récréation extensive
Conservation and extensive recreation
- Récréation extensive
Extensive recreation
- Accueil principal
Main reception
- Institution
Institution

m 250 125 0 250 500 750 1 000 m

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May 2005

The Parkway sector is used intensively, and the impacts of this use must be managed rigorously in order to preserve both the significant natural ecosystems and the quality of the recreational and tourist experience. The sector is the one that best expresses all the Park's functions (conservation, recreation, heritage, communication and politics) within the same territory. Due to the demands of preserving natural ecosystems, combined with the need to offer a range of recreational activities and an opportunity to discover the Park's historical, cultural and political heritage, the sector's orientations and priorities must promote the Park's mission of preserving and enhancing its heritage in the long term.

Based on the issues set out in the Parkway Sector Plan¹⁹ produced by the NCC in 2000, the following strategic objectives have been confirmed:

- First and foremost, preserve the significant ecosystems and natural habitats that are representative of the Canadian Shield;
- Favour the preservation, promotion and discovery of the sector's cultural, historical and political heritage through visitor reception, interpretation activities and appropriate conservation approaches, and other similar measures;
- Encourage partnerships for the development of recreational sites in the Park and for sites outside the Park, to reduce pressure on the Park and promote the region's recreational and tourism economy; and
- Improve the quality of the recreational experience by encouraging learning about the Park's natural and cultural heritage, within the framework of the Park's conservation mission.

Four principal functions have been identified for the sector:

- The conservation of natural ecosystems that are representative of the Canadian Shield;
- The provision of recreational experiences and excursions based in nature;
- The preservation and discovery of cultural landscapes and the Park's political and historic heritage; and
- Raising public awareness of the need to preserve natural ecosystems in the Capital, by interpretation programs.

The Master Plan's proposals for the Parkway sector are presented on Map 4.

7.2.1 SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE MACKENZIE KING ESTATE

The Conservation Management Strategy²⁰ prepared for the Mackenzie King Estate in 2003 describes the importance of the Estate for some of the Park's strategic objectives, including heritage, national symbolism and communication. This strategy is based on a Commemorative Integrity Statement (a summary is in Appendix 4. Its main recommendations are as follows:

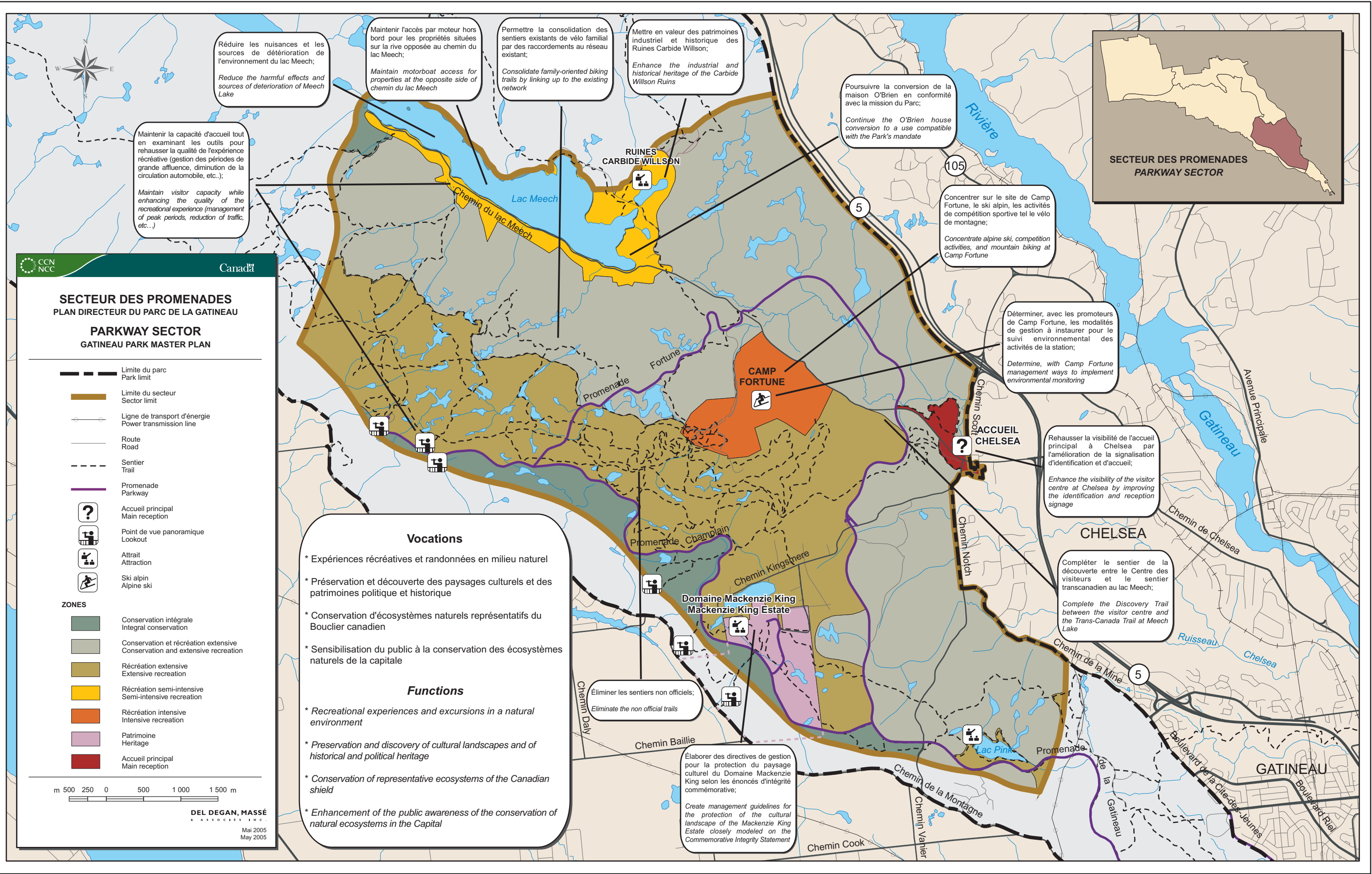
- Using the results of the study, manage the portion of the Estate located in zone P/H1 (Heritage) as a cultural landscape.

¹⁹ *Gatineau Park, Parkway Sector Plan*, National Capital Commission, 2000.

²⁰ *A Cultural Landscape Conservation Management Strategy for the Mackenzie King Estate*, Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited, NCC, 2003.

- Intervene on the site in accordance with the Commemorative Integrity Statements in the study. The statement sets out a hierarchy of values, objectives and messages that guide management priorities and actions.
- Focus the site's management strategy on restoration. For Kingswood, the restoration period is the 1920s, while for Moorside, a composite restoration consistent with the period 1930-1950 should be performed.
- Interventions made and uses introduced to the Estate subsequent to these periods may be preserved if they are consistent with and complementary to the site's principal function. Inappropriate architectural and landscape elements should be removed. All new architectural or landscape interventions not consistent with the periods in question should, in principle, be avoided unless their primary purpose is to comply with health safety and universal access standards.
- Complete a tree management plan based on documentation of the plant material of the period, including a landscape maintenance approach that takes into account transition zones between the natural forest and lawns.
- Refit the visitor reception area. A special study should be carried out on the following elements, among others:
 - Improvement of the aesthetic and functional aspects of the parking lot;
 - Relocation of the toilets; and
 - Improvement of basic visitor services by creating a reception area near the parking lot.
- Update the interpretation plan to incorporate messages consistent with the Commemorative Integrity Statement.

MAP 4
PARKWAY SECTOR



Réduire les nuisances et les sources de détérioration de l'environnement du lac Meech;
Reduce the harmful effects and sources of deterioration of Meech Lake

Maintenir l'accès par moteur hors bord pour les propriétés situées sur la rive opposée au chemin du lac Meech;
Maintain motorboat access for properties at the opposite side of chemin du lac Meech

Permettre la consolidation des sentiers existants de vélo familial par des raccordements au réseau existant;
Consolidate family-oriented biking trails by linking up to the existing network

Mettre en valeur des patrimoines industriel et historique des Ruines Carbide Willson;
Enhance the industrial and historical heritage of the Carbide Willson Ruins

Poursuivre la conversion de la maison O'Brien en conformité avec la mission du Parc;
Continue the O'Brien house conversion to a use compatible with the Park's mandate

Concentrer sur le site de Camp Fortune, le ski alpin, les activités de compétition sportive tel le vélo de montagne;
Concentrate alpine ski, competition activities, and mountain biking at Camp Fortune

Déterminer, avec les promoteurs de Camp Fortune, les modalités de gestion à instaurer pour le suivi environnemental des activités de la station;
Determine, with Camp Fortune management ways to implement environmental monitoring

Rehausser la visibilité de l'accueil principal à Chelsea par l'amélioration de la signalisation d'identification et d'accueil;
Enhance the visibility of the visitor centre at Chelsea by improving the identification and reception signage

Compléter le sentier de la découverte entre le Centre des visiteurs et le sentier transcanadien au lac Meech;
Complete the Discovery Trail between the visitor centre and the Trans-Canada Trail at Meech Lake

Maintenir la capacité d'accueil tout en examinant les outils pour rehausser la qualité de l'expérience récréative (gestion des périodes de grande affluence, diminution de la circulation automobile, etc.);
Maintain visitor capacity while enhancing the quality of the recreational experience (management of peak periods, reduction of traffic, etc...)

- Vocations**
- * Expériences récréatives et randonnées en milieu naturel
 - * Préservation et découverte des paysages culturels et des patrimoines politique et historique
 - * Conservation d'écosystèmes naturels représentatifs du Bouclier canadien
 - * Sensibilisation du public à la conservation des écosystèmes naturels de la capitale
- Fonctions**
- * Recreational experiences and excursions in a natural environment
 - * Preservation and discovery of cultural landscapes and of historical and political heritage
 - * Conservation of representative ecosystems of the Canadian shield
 - * Enhancement of the public awareness of the conservation of natural ecosystems in the Capital

Éliminer les sentiers non officiels;
Eliminate the non official trails

Élaborer des directives de gestion pour la protection du paysage culturel du Domaine Mackenzie King selon les énoncés d'intégrité commémorative;
Create management guidelines for the protection of the cultural landscape of the Mackenzie King Estate closely modeled on the Commemorative Integrity Statement

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SECTEUR DES PROMENADES
PLAN DIRECTEUR DU PARC DE LA GATINEAU
PARKWAY SECTOR
GATINEAU PARK MASTER PLAN

--- Limite du parc
Park limit

— Limite du secteur
Sector limit

— Ligne de transport d'énergie
Power transmission line

— Route
Road

- - - Sentier
Trail

— Promenade
Parkway

? Accueil principal
Main reception

Point de vue panoramique
Lookout

Attrait
Attraction

Ski alpin
Alpine ski

ZONES

Conservation intégrale
Integral conservation

Conservation et récréation extensive
Conservation and extensive recreation

Récréation extensive
Extensive recreation

Récréation semi-intensive
Semi-intensive recreation

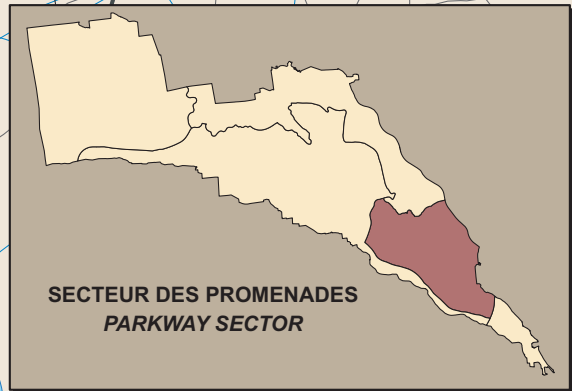
Récréation intensive
Intensive recreation

Patrimoine
Heritage

Accueil principal
Main reception

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May 2005



7.3 PHILIPPE LAKE CRESCENT SECTOR

Beginning in Chelsea, this sector forms a crescent joining Richard Lake to the west shore of Philippe Lake, including Wakefield and the Meech Creek Valley. It shares a common boundary with the Park's three largest sectors, namely the Parkway, Heart of the Park and La Pêche sectors. Bordering on the agro-forest areas of the La Pêche and Chelsea municipalities, the Philippe Lake Crescent sector is composed of parklands located along Highway 5 and route 366. It also provides an unbroken interface with the Gatineau River recreational and tourism corridor to the east, and ecological links to the north. Its principal access point is via the Philippe Lake Parkway (which is one of the Park's main entrances). Secondary entrances are at Wakefield, and at Pine and Cross Road in the Meech Creek Valley.

This sector presents numerous examples of the use made by Canadians of the Shield's natural resources throughout the region's history (e.g. Wakefield Mill, McLaren House, covered bridge, old dam, etc.). The sector also offers many opportunities for outdoor recreation (swimming, light water sports, hiking, cycling, observation, camping, caves, etc.) and the discovery of natural and cultural environments. The Meech Creek Valley offers cultural landscapes, an interesting historical heritage, good quality farmland and natural ecosystems typical of Eastern Canada's rural areas. The sector's recreational and tourist sites are extremely popular (Philippe Lake, Wakefield), and intensity of use varies from moderate to high in the recreational areas. Less-used conservation areas, linked to ecological corridors outside the Park, are also present in the Crescent sector.

The sector has three principal recreational areas, namely:

- Philippe Lake;
- Wakefield;
- The Meech Creek Valley.

Philippe Lake, the main visitor reception area for the sector, near Sainte-Cécile-de-Masham, offers camping, food service facilities and recreational activities, mainly around Philippe Lake, Renaud Lake and Taylor Lake. There is a recreational link (path) between Philippe Lake and La Pêche Lake. The area around the lake is used intensively for camping and swimming during summer, but is little used in the winter months. The large volume of visitors using Philippe Lake during the summer creates pressure that at times affects the quality of the Park's recreational experience. Over time, commercial services (e.g. restaurants) have developed at the junction of the Philippe Lake Parkway and route 366 at Sainte-Cécile-de-Masham.

The Wakefield recreational area extends west and south into the Park from the Wakefield Mill Inn (formerly the Wakefield Mill). The region's industrial history, its entrepreneurial families (the Maclarens, for example), a historic cemetery, Brown Lake, Carman Lake and the Wakefield tourist village offer significant tourism potential in this area. The Trans-Canada Trail (no. 50) also passes through this area, adding to the area's potential. A secondary access point in this sector could be formalized.

The Meech Creek Valley recreational area comprises the land surrounding Meech Creek, along Highway 5, between Chelsea and Wakefield. The southern part of the Valley is composed of rural farmland and offers a cultural landscape typical of the region's history. A joint planning exercise was undertaken with the municipality of Chelsea in 1998, resulting in a document entitled "The Meech Creek Valley Land

Use Concept- Joint Planning Project”, which is still in force. Parking lots at the end of Pine Road and further north, near Cafferty Road, provide access to the Park’s trail network. The valley is one of the secondary access points.

Based on the sector’s context and its potential for outdoor recreation and interpretation, the following strategic objectives have been identified:

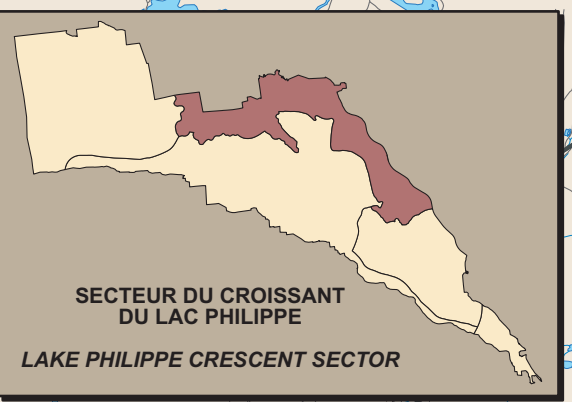
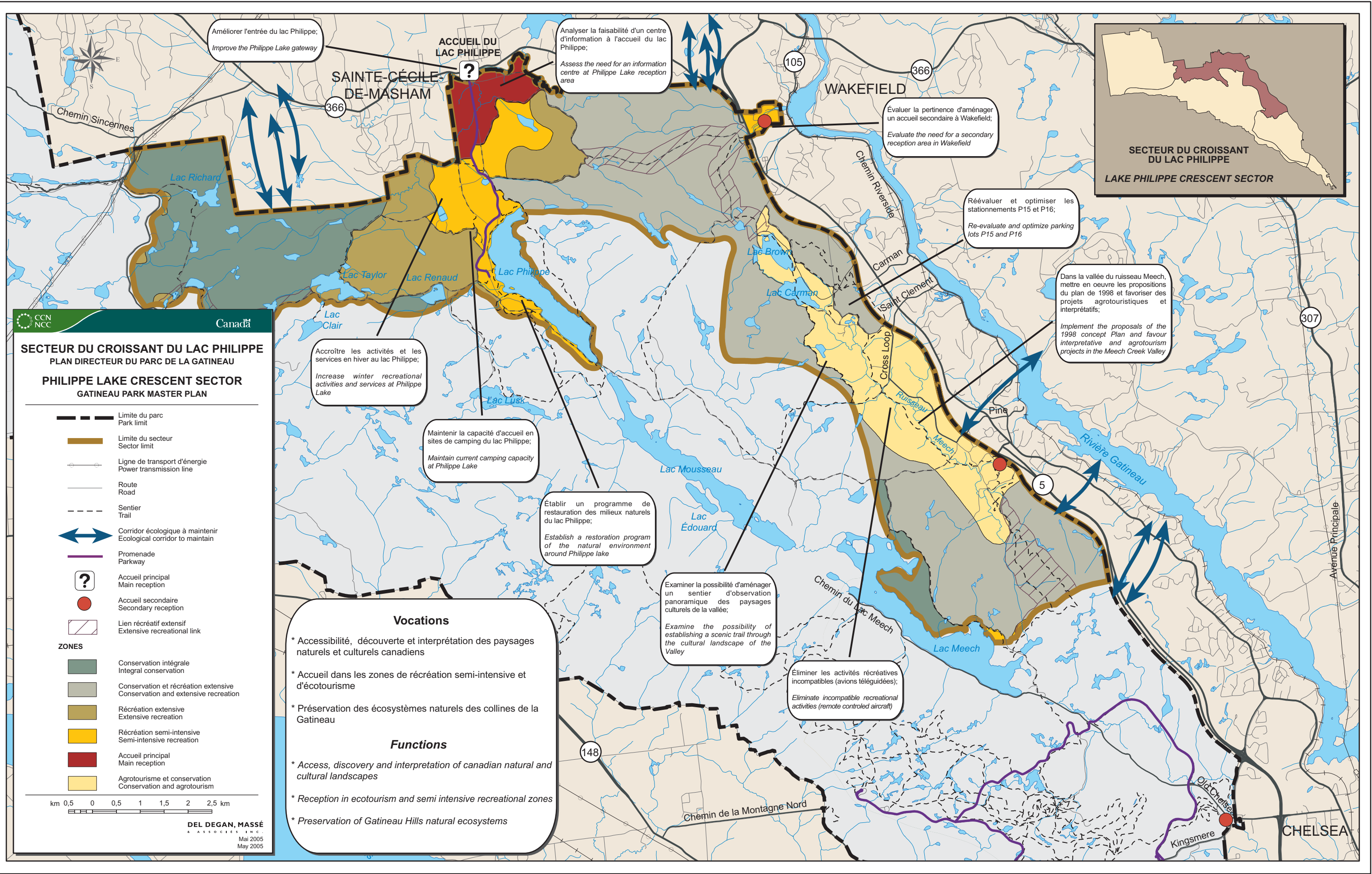
- Preserve or restore the significant natural ecosystems and ecosystems located in the ecological linkage corridors inside the Park and along its periphery;
- Promote recreational and ecotourism experiences in natural environments located near populated areas just outside the Park boundary, with a concentration of semi-intensive recreation at Philippe Lake and Wakefield;
- Conserve, promote and enhance, for tourism purposes, the sector’s cultural landscapes and its historic, agricultural, industrial and political heritage as a reflection of the role played by the natural environment in Canada’s rural economy and society; and
- Improve management strategies and measures during heavy usage periods.

The sector’s three dominant functions are:

- Preservation of the natural ecosystems in the Gatineau Hills and ecological corridors;
- Visitor reception and activities in the semi-intensive recreation and ecotourist zones; and
- Access to, discovery of and interpretation of Canada’s natural and cultural landscapes.

Map 5 presents the proposals that are specific to the Philippe Lake Crescent Sector.

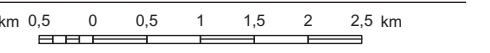
MAP 5
PHILIPPE LAKE CRESCENT SECTOR



CCN NCC Canada
SECTEUR DU CROISSANT DU LAC PHILIPPE
PLAN DIRECTEUR DU PARC DE LA GATINEAU
PHILIPPE LAKE CRESCENT SECTOR
GATINEAU PARK MASTER PLAN

- Limite du parc
Park limit
- Limite du secteur
Sector limit
- Ligne de transport d'énergie
Power transmission line
- Route
Road
- Sentier
Trail
- Corridor écologique à maintenir
Ecological corridor to maintain
- Promenade
Parkway
- Accueil principal
Main reception
- Accueil secondaire
Secondary reception
- Lien récréatif extensif
Extensive recreational link

- ZONES**
- Conservation intégrale
Integral conservation
 - Conservation et récréation extensive
Conservation and extensive recreation
 - Récréation extensive
Extensive recreation
 - Récréation semi-intensive
Semi-intensive recreation
 - Accueil principal
Main reception
 - Agrotourisme et conservation
Conservation and agrotourism



DEL DEGAN, MASSÉ & ASSOCIÉS INC.
 Mai 2005
 May 2005

- Vocations**
- * Accessibilité, découverte et interprétation des paysages naturels et culturels canadiens
 - * Accueil dans les zones de récréation semi-intensive et d'écotourisme
 - * Préservation des écosystèmes naturels des collines de la Gattineau
- Fonctions**
- * Access, discovery and interpretation of canadian natural and cultural landscapes
 - * Reception in ecotourism and semi intensive recreational zones
 - * Preservation of Gattineau Hills natural ecosystems

Améliorer l'entrée du lac Philippe;
 Improve the Philippe Lake gateway

ACCUEIL DU LAC PHILIPPE
 Analyser la faisabilité d'un centre d'information à l'accueil du lac Philippe;
 Assess the need for an information centre at Philippe Lake reception area

Évaluer la pertinence d'aménager un accueil secondaire à Wakefield;
 Evaluate the need for a secondary reception area in Wakefield

Réévaluer et optimiser les stationnements P15 et P16;
 Re-evaluate and optimize parking lots P15 and P16

Dans la vallée du ruisseau Meech, mettre en oeuvre les propositions du plan de 1998 et favoriser des projets agrotouristiques et interprétatifs;
 Implement the proposals of the 1998 concept Plan and favour interpretative and agrotourism projects in the Meech Creek Valley

Accroître les activités et les services en hiver au lac Philippe;
 Increase winter recreational activities and services at Philippe Lake

Maintenir la capacité d'accueil en sites de camping du lac Philippe;
 Maintain current camping capacity at Philippe Lake

Établir un programme de restauration des milieux naturels du lac Philippe;
 Establish a restoration program of the natural environment around Philippe lake

Examiner la possibilité d'aménager un sentier d'observation panoramique des paysages culturels de la vallée;
 Examine the possibility of establishing a scenic trail through the cultural landscape of the Valley

Éliminer les activités récréatives incompatibles (avions téléguidés);
 Eliminate incompatible recreational activities (remote controlled aircraft)

CHELSEA

7.4 HEART OF THE PARK SECTOR

The Heart of the Park Sector includes significant portions of the three physiographic zones, namely the Eardley Escarpment, the Eardly Plateau and the Gatineau Hills. Over the years, it has been possible to preserve numerous natural ecosystems and attractions, mainly due to their relative distance from urban sectors. Because this sector is more difficult to access, it offers the possibility of outdoor isolated recreational activities and close contact with the natural habitats of the Canadian Shield.

Given the quality of the natural resources (plant life, wildlife and geology), the Park's conservation mission takes on a special meaning in this sector. The Eardley Escarpment is home to a number of interesting southern ecosystems and species, some of which have been identified as "species at risk" and given legal protection under Canadian and Provincial laws respecting endangered species. It is also an impressive natural and cultural attraction for the Capital. The Eardley Plateau hosts a concentration of wetlands typical of the Canadian Shield, where wildlife can find good quality undisturbed habitats. The Gatineau Hills feature forested landscapes characteristic of southern Québec ecosystems, including deciduous forests (sugar maple, red oak, etc.) and white pine forests forming natural settings that are much sought-after by wildlife species as shelter, and by humans pursuing outdoor recreational activities.

The Canadian Prime Minister's summer residence is located in this sector, near Mousseau Lake, along with several other historic elements (the summer cottage used by the Prime Minister's guests, Herridge shelter, the Healey Farm) reflecting the close relationship between the natural environment, the Canadian population and the country as a whole. Through its rich ecological, cultural, historical and political heritage, the Heart of the Park sector reinforces the importance and symbolism of Canada's natural environment in the National Capital.

The quality, diversity and extent of the sector's natural, cultural and political heritage, demands an approach focused on conservation and on recognizing the value of the historical components, resulting in the following strategic objectives:

- Develop mechanisms to control access to conservation zones and introduce patrol teams in order to preserve natural habitats by limiting visitor numbers; and
- Enhance the natural and cultural landscapes by maintaining the existing panoramic views.

The following four dominant functions have been identified for the sector:

- Conservation of the Canadian Shield's natural ecosystems and geological boundary;
- Communication of the vastness of natural and cultural landscapes in the Capital area;
- Observation of natural environments and cultural landscapes; and
- A contribution to the knowledge of natural protected areas in Canada.

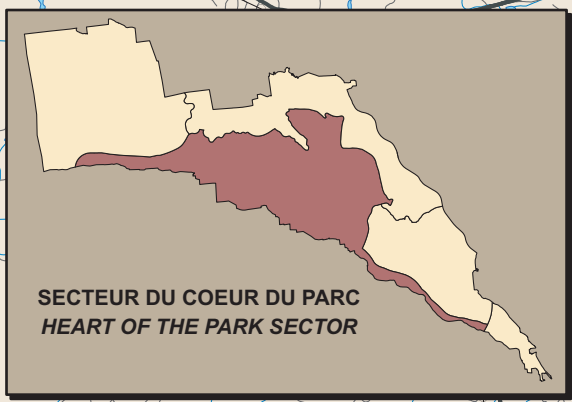
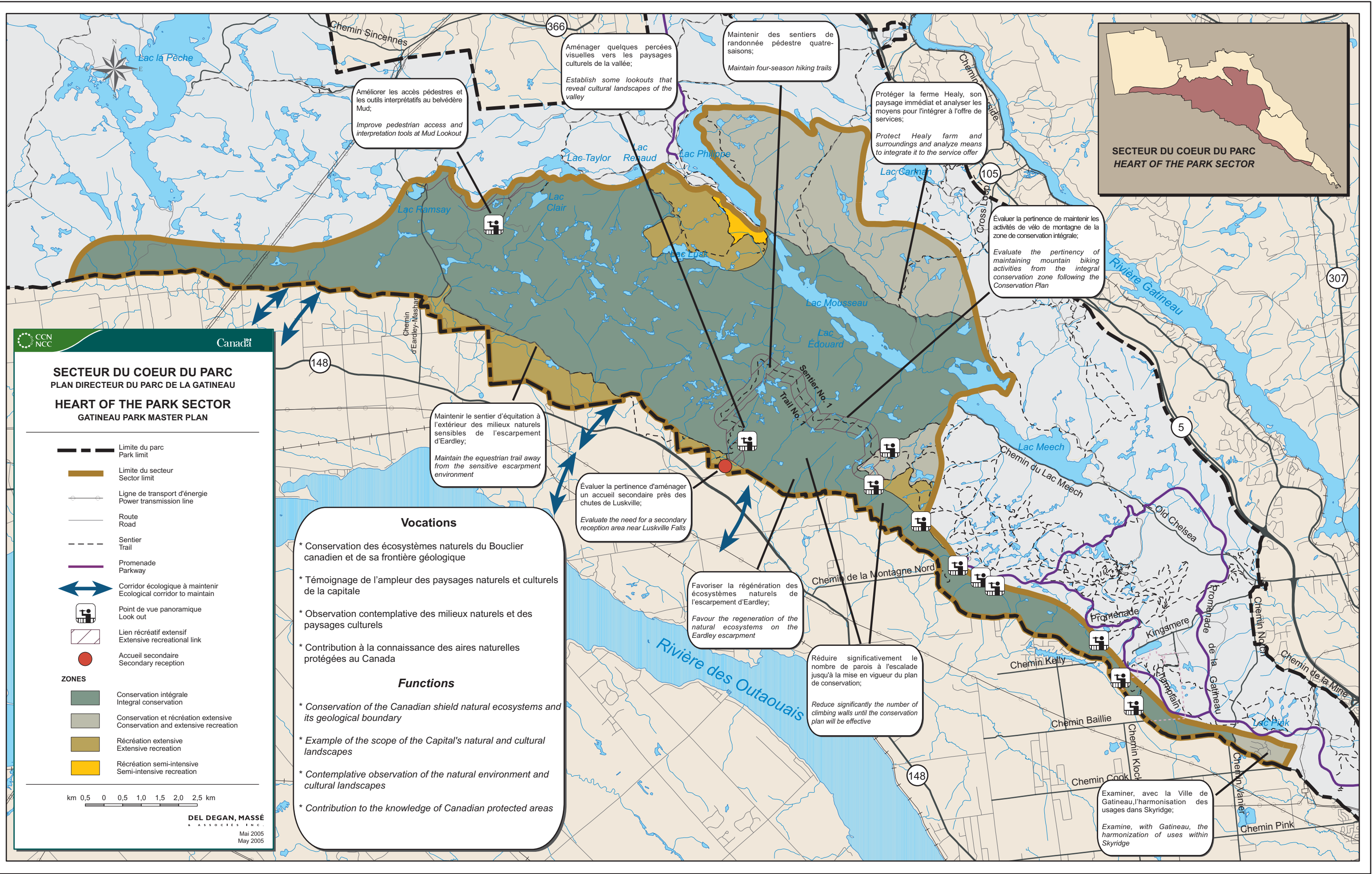
7.4.1 SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR ROCK CLIMBING

Rock climbing is an activity that has been taking place on the Eardley Escarpment for a number of years, informally and outside of any Park established parameters or supervision. The fragile nature of the ecosystems on the Escarpment requires a cautionary approach. This activity could continue to take place, on a reduced number of walls or cliffs of the Escarpment while the Conservation plan is being prepared, in order to minimize the environmental impacts on the fragile ecosystems of the Escarpment. To achieve this objective, the following steps will be taken:

- Immediately following the approval of the Master Plan, the NCC wishes to pursue a partnership arrangement with representatives of recognised interest groups to reach an agreement by September 2005. This agreement will include parameters determining the way the activity should be practised on the Escarpment, including the reduction of the number of walls or cliffs designated for the activity, access to the walls, the period during which the activity is permitted, control measures, and any other provisions determined to be necessary. This agreement would govern rock climbing until the Conservation Plan comes into effect.
- If no agreement can be reached on a reduction in the level of and locations for rock climbing, the NCC will impose temporarily a stop to the activity, starting in September 2005, and will maintain this prohibition until the Conservation Plan is in effect.
- Under both of these scenarios, the Master Plan will be amended to incorporate the conclusions of the Conservation Plan.

Map 6 presents the proposals specific to the Heart of the Park sector.

MAP 6
HEART OF THE PARK SECTOR



CCN NCC Canada

SECTEUR DU COEUR DU PARC PLAN DIRECTEUR DU PARC DE LA GATINEAU HEART OF THE PARK SECTOR GATINEAU PARK MASTER PLAN

- Limite du parc / Park limit
- Limite du secteur / Sector limit
- Ligne de transport d'énergie / Power transmission line
- Route / Road
- Sentier / Trail
- Promenade / Parkway
- ↔ Corridor écologique à maintenir / Ecological corridor to maintain
- 🏠 Point de vue panoramique / Look out
- 🏠 Lien récréatif extensif / Extensive recreational link
- Accueil secondaire / Secondary reception

ZONES

- Conservation intégrale / Integral conservation
- Conservation et récréation extensive / Conservation and extensive recreation
- Récréation extensive / Extensive recreation
- Récréation semi-intensive / Semi-intensive recreation

km 0,5 0 0,5 1,0 1,5 2,0 2,5 km

DEL DEGAN, MASSÉ & ASSOCIÉS INC.
Mai 2005 / May 2005

- Vocations**
- * Conservation des écosystèmes naturels du Bouclier canadien et de sa frontière géologique
 - * Témoignage de l'ampleur des paysages naturels et culturels de la capitale
 - * Observation contemplative des milieux naturels et des paysages culturels
 - * Contribution à la connaissance des aires naturelles protégées au Canada
- Fonctions**
- * Conservation of the Canadian shield natural ecosystems and its geological boundary
 - * Example of the scope of the Capital's natural and cultural landscapes
 - * Contemplative observation of the natural environment and cultural landscapes
 - * Contribution to the knowledge of Canadian protected areas

Améliorer les accès pédestres et les outils interprétatifs au belvédère Mud;
Improve pedestrian access and interpretation tools at Mud Lookout

Aménager quelques percées visuelles vers les paysages culturels de la vallée;
Establish some lookouts that reveal cultural landscapes of the valley

Maintenir des sentiers de randonnée pédestre quatre-saisons;
Maintain four-season hiking trails

Protéger la ferme Healy, son paysage immédiat et analyser les moyens pour l'intégrer à l'offre de services;
Protect Healy farm and surroundings and analyze means to integrate it to the service offer

Évaluer la pertinence de maintenir les activités de vélo de montagne de la zone de conservation intégrale;
Evaluate the pertinency of maintaining mountain biking activities from the integral conservation zone following the Conservation Plan

Maintenir le sentier d'équitation à l'extérieur des milieux naturels sensibles de l'escarpement d'Eardley;
Maintain the equestrian trail away from the sensitive escarpment environment

Évaluer la pertinence d'aménager un accueil secondaire près des chutes de Luskville;
Evaluate the need for a secondary reception area near Luskville Falls

Favoriser la régénération des écosystèmes naturels de l'escarpement d'Eardley;
Favour the regeneration of the natural ecosystems on the Eardley escarpment

Réduire significativement le nombre de parois à l'escalade jusqu'à la mise en vigueur du plan de conservation;
Reduce significantly the number of climbing walls until the conservation plan will be effective

Examiner, avec la Ville de Gatineau, l'harmonisation des usages dans Skyridge;
Examine, with Gatineau, the harmonization of uses within Skyridge

7.5 LA PÊCHE LAKE SECTOR

The La Pêche Lake sector comprises the western extremity of the Eardley Escarpment and a portion of the Gatineau Hills. Surrounded by the rural farmlands and forests of the Pontiac municipality, it provides a link for the Park's natural habitats to the forest ecosystems located to the north and west of the Park.

La Pêche Lake, with its shallow bodies of water and marshlands, numerous secondary lakes, a broad range of topography and forested areas, and its history of farming and logging, offers a variety of natural habitats suitable for wildlife and bird species such as the white-tailed deer, the beaver, the heron and others. Its potential cultural attractions include evidence of past farming, forestry, mining and scientific activities, such as the molybdenum mine at Quyon, several old farms and the former Haven Centre.

Recreational activities take place at La Pêche Lake during the summer months, when visitors are able to enjoy swimming, light water sports and canoe-camping. The main access point is via Sincennes Road, which takes users from the Eardley-Masham road to the beach and recreational facilities along the eastern shores of the lake. Leblanc Lake, which can be accessed from the same road, hosts activities organized at Camp Gatineau, serving a specialized client base. Old roads on the western shores of La Pêche Lake are still used by snowmobiles in the winter months.

The sector is in a remote location, surrounded by a rural environment and having limited points of access. These factors have all been conducive to the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity. However, they have also increased the difficulties associated with controlling unauthorized activities in the sector. Historically, the sector has been considered as a natural preserve for the protection of habitat biodiversity. The orientation of the sector is to maintain the vitality of the Park's natural ecosystems and preserve its ecological links while allowing for controlled use of some of its natural and cultural attractions. Accordingly, the existing recreational facilities will be maintained at La Pêche Lake. Elsewhere in the sector, priority will be given to extensive use related to the observation and interpretation of natural resources.

In addition to the general proposals set out in the Plan, the following strategic objectives have been identified for the sector:

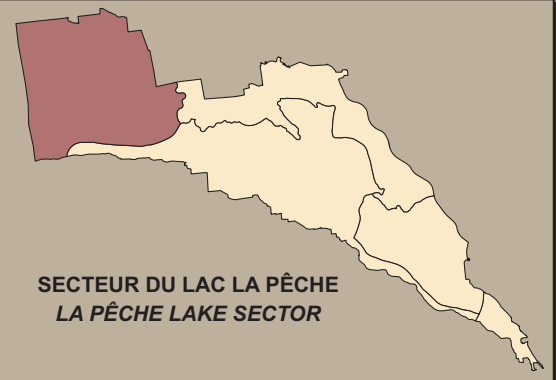
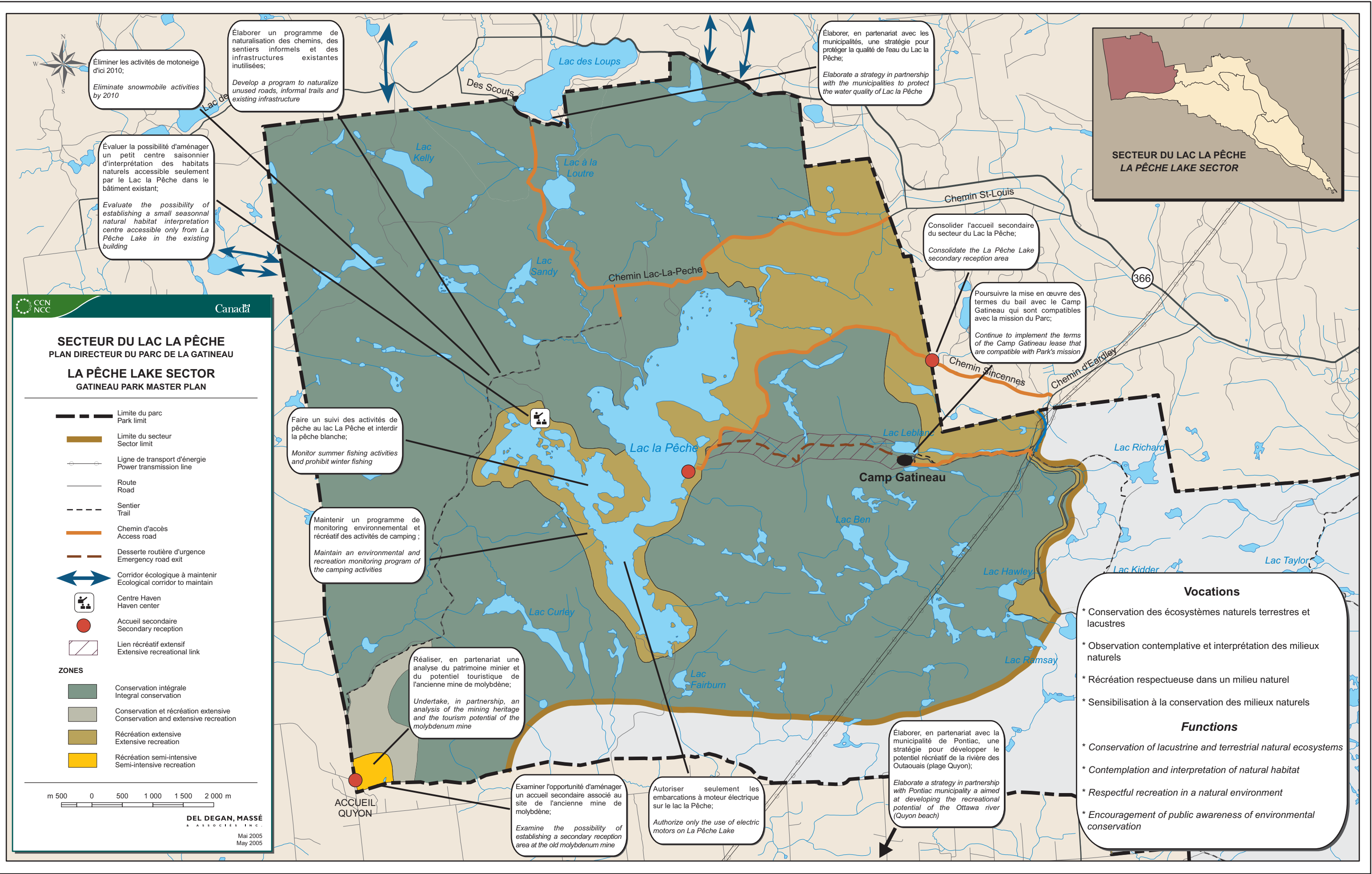
- Accurately identify the natural ecological linkage and wildlife migration corridors, and examine the available options to ensure their preservation; and
- Introduce patrol teams to control access to and use of conservation zones.

The following dominant functions have also been identified:

- Conservation of natural land-based and lake ecosystems;
- Observation and interpretation of natural environments;
- Recreational activities that are respectful of the natural environment; and
- Public awareness of nature conservation.

Map 7 presents the proposals specific to the La Pêche Lake sector.

MAP 7
LA PÊCHE LAKE SECTOR



CCN NCC Canada

SECTEUR DU LAC LA PÊCHE PLAN DIRECTEUR DU PARC DE LA GATINEAU LA PÊCHE LAKE SECTOR GATINEAU PARK MASTER PLAN

- Limite du parc
Park limit
- Limite du secteur
Sector limit
- Ligne de transport d'énergie
Power transmission line
- Route
Road
- Sentier
Trail
- Chemin d'accès
Access road
- Desserte routière d'urgence
Emergency road exit
- ↔ Corridor écologique à maintenir
Ecological corridor to maintain
- Centre Haven
Haven center
- Accueil secondaire
Secondary reception
- Lien récréatif extensif
Extensive recreational link

ZONES

- Conservation intégrale
Integral conservation
- Conservation et récréation extensive
Conservation and extensive recreation
- Récréation extensive
Extensive recreation
- Récréation semi-intensive
Semi-intensive recreation

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DEL DEGAN, MASSÉ & ASSOCIÉS INC.
Mai 2005
May 2005

- Vocations**
- * Conservation des écosystèmes naturels terrestres et lacustres
 - * Observation contemplative et interprétation des milieux naturels
 - * Récréation respectueuse dans un milieu naturel
 - * Sensibilisation à la conservation des milieux naturels
- Functions**
- * Conservation of lacustrine and terrestrial natural ecosystems
 - * Contemplation and interpretation of natural habitat
 - * Respectful recreation in a natural environment
 - * Encouragement of public awareness of environmental conservation

Éliminer les activités de motoneige d'ici 2010;
Eliminate snowmobile activities by 2010

Élaborer un programme de naturalisation des chemins, des sentiers informels et des infrastructures existantes inutilisées;
Develop a program to naturalize unused roads, informal trails and existing infrastructure

Évaluer la possibilité d'aménager un petit centre saisonnier d'interprétation des habitats naturels accessible seulement par le Lac la Pêche dans le bâtiment existant;
Evaluate the possibility of establishing a small seasonal natural habitat interpretation centre accessible only from La Pêche Lake in the existing building

Élaborer, en partenariat avec les municipalités, une stratégie pour protéger la qualité de l'eau du Lac la Pêche;
Elaborate a strategy in partnership with the municipalities to protect the water quality of Lac la Pêche

Consolider l'accueil secondaire du secteur du Lac la Pêche;
Consolidate the La Pêche Lake secondary reception area

Poursuivre la mise en œuvre des termes du bail avec le Camp Gatineau qui sont compatibles avec la mission du Parc;
Continue to implement the terms of the Camp Gatineau lease that are compatible with Park's mission

Faire un suivi des activités de pêche au lac La Pêche et interdire la pêche blanche;
Monitor summer fishing activities and prohibit winter fishing

Maintenir un programme de monitoring environnemental et récréatif des activités de camping;
Maintain an environmental and recreation monitoring program of the camping activities

Réaliser, en partenariat une analyse du patrimoine minier et du potentiel touristique de l'ancienne mine de molybdène;
Undertake, in partnership, an analysis of the mining heritage and the tourism potential of the molybdenum mine

Examiner l'opportunité d'aménager un accueil secondaire associé au site de l'ancienne mine de molybdène;
Examine the possibility of establishing a secondary reception area at the old molybdenum mine

Autoriser seulement les embarcations à moteur électrique sur le lac la Pêche;
Authorize only the use of electric motors on La Pêche Lake

Élaborer, en partenariat avec la municipalité de Pontiac, une stratégie pour développer le potentiel récréatif de la rivière des Outaouais (plage Quyon);
Elaborate a strategy in partnership with Pontiac municipality aimed at developing the recreational potential of the Ottawa river (Quyon beach)

8. PLAN ADMINISTRATION AND MONITORING

This chapter describes how the major thrust and proposals of the Plan will be implemented in a manner consistent with the *National Capital Act*. A number of processes and tools will serve to achieve this, including the following:

- Approval of the Master Plan and its impacts on existing plans;
- Commissioning of the Master Plan;
- Land use, design and transaction;
- Modifications and revisions;
- Existing agreements; and
- Special implementation studies.

8.1 APPROVAL OF THE MASTER PLAN AND ITS IMPACTS ON EXISTING PLANS

The Gatineau Park Master Plan will come into force upon approval by the NCC Board of Directors. A Federal Land Use Approval, granted by the NCC, confirms the coming into force of the Plan and establishes conditions accompanying the Plan's approval (see Appendix 3).

The Master Plan is a planning tool that provides general guidelines to help managers implement the long-term mission for the Park. It occupies the second level in the NCC's Planning framework, after the *Plan for Canada's Capital*, and has a planning horizon of ten years. Not all the proposals will be realized during that period; some will require more time. Budget availability will also have an impact on the speed of realization, depending on the priorities set out in the Master Plan and the Commissioning Plan.

In the wake of the 1990 Master Plan, a number of more detailed plans were produced which gave more details on the orientations and proposals applicable to some sectors of the Park. As a result of the new orientations, however, the following will be superseded and replaced by the Master Plan:

- The *Gatineau Park Master Plan*, 1990.
- The *Gatineau Park Gateway Sector Plan*, 1992.
- The *Lac des Fées Zone Plan*, 1994.

On the other hand, some plans from the last decade will remain in force and effect, since their orientation is still relevant:

- The *Parkway Sector Plan*, 2000.
- The *Meech Creek Valley Land Use Concept 1998*, an area plan produced jointly by the NCC and the Chelsea municipality.

Although they will continue to apply, these two plans will be subject to the new Master Plan, and the texts, plans, diagrams and other contents of the Master Plan will take precedence where contradictions occur between the documents.

The Director, Gatineau Park and Greenbelt, will be responsible for implementing the Master Plan. While some aspects of the Plan's proposals will fall under the authority of other divisions, the Director, Gatineau Park and Greenbelt will be responsible for the general coordination of all initiatives.

The Director, Design and Land Use Division, will be responsible for interpreting the Master Plan in accordance with internal policies.

8.2 COMMISSIONING OF THE MASTER PLAN

The implementation of the Plan begins with the delivery of a Commissioning Plan to the Park Director. The Commissioning Plan falls under the responsibility of the Director of Planning, and will be prepared in cooperation with Gatineau Park Division.

COMMISSIONING PLAN

The Commissioning Plan is an important step that includes official transfer of the Master Plan to the Park's managers. It identifies the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in implementing the Master Plan, along with priorities, an implementation schedule and allocation of the resources required for the various projects. It also clarifies certain aspects of the Master Plan, thus enabling the implementation process to proceed as smoothly as possible.

To monitor the progress of the Master Plan and allow for an evaluation process in the fifth year of implementation, as stipulated in the administrative policy, to see whether or not a review is required, it is recommended that the Planning and Gatineau Park divisions should work together to identify progress indicators.

8.3 APPROVAL OF LAND USE AND DESIGN PROJECTS

All the proposals in the Master Plan must be implemented in accordance with the procedures established by the NCC. Federal land use, design or transaction approval must be obtained for any new land use, work or transaction on Crown buildings or properties, in accordance with Sections 12 and 12.1 of the *National Capital Act*. The approval process, under the authority of the Design and Land Use Division, ensures that proposals comply with:

- Federal policies and guidelines, including those of the NCC;
- The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*;
- The *Plan for Canada's Capital*;
- The Master Plan, including its strategic objectives, zoning system, policies and the project acceptability matrix;
- Applicable sector or area plans, if any;
- All planning components, including the natural environment, heritage, archaeology, economic and social factors and an environmental impact assessment, in accordance with NCC policies; and

- Any other element stipulated in the NCC's regulations and policies.

Proposals for the use of lands in the Park not specifically identified in the Master Plan may well be put forward during the period covered by the Plan, either by the NCC or by other parties including municipalities, private enterprises, non-profit organizations and individuals. All such applications must be reviewed within the federal land use approval process outlined above, in order to establish their feasibility and conformity with the Plan's objectives.

8.4 MODIFICATION AND REVISION OF THE PLAN

The Master Plan establishes the orientations, objectives and means required to fulfill the Park's mission and ensure its sustainability. It may, however, be necessary to modify certain provisions of the Plan as a result of:

- Additional special studies that clarify certain basic elements (e.g. identification of significant ecosystems in the conservation plan), thus requiring adjustments to the Master Plan;
- Updates to the *Plan for Canada's Capital* that require modifications to the Master Plan;
- The production of more detailed plans for parts of the Park itself;
- Land use requests by third parties or by the NCC that are inconsistent with the Plan.

In the first two instances outlined above, the new information is likely to trigger beneficial changes to the Master Plan that will help in achieving the Park's mission and orientations. Given the Plan's progressive nature, it is anticipated that modifications will be the exception rather than the rule.

In cases where modifications to the Plan would be required in order to approve special projects, NCC staff, under the authority of the Director, Design and Land Use Division, will be responsible for the review process. The project proponent will be required to prove the acceptability of the application, based on the following criteria:

- The project's relevance to the Park's mission and strategic objectives, and its positive and negative impacts;
- Compliance of the project with the strategic aims and planning concept;
- The project's compatibility with other implementation mechanisms (zoning, policies and acceptability matrix);
- The project's compatibility with and repercussions on existing and proposed adjacent uses and designations in the Park;
- The precedent to be set in the Park and for the management of the Park, if the application is approved;
- The financial repercussions for the NCC and the Capital; and
- Any other relevant factor.

If a modification is considered necessary, it must be approved by the NCC's Board of Directors (or in certain cases by its subset, the Executive Committee). The modification review and approval process provides for public consultation in line

with the scope of the proposed modification. The Director of Design and Land Use is responsible for recommending the level of consultation required.

The Park's zoning system was established using zone boundaries drawn up to the best of the NCC's knowledge using data from the geographic information system. Minor adjustments to certain zone boundaries may be required during the life of the Plan, to better reflect zoning objectives and specifications. Minor boundary changes would not require a plan amendment. The Director, Design and Land Use, is responsible for making the final decision in this respect.

Five years after approval of the Plan, the Director, Planning Division, in collaboration with Director, Gatineau Park, will assess whether or not there is a need for a review of the Master Plan. An update or full Plan review will in any case be undertaken ten years after the Plan's approval, under the responsibility of the Director of Planning.

8.5 EXISTING AGREEMENTS

A number of formal agreements have been signed with partners (municipalities, promoters, agencies, etc.) concerning the use of NCC-owned sites within the Park's boundaries. The agreements include leases and service contracts. Currently, some of these agreements are not entirely consistent with the orientations and objectives set out in the Master Plan.

Gradually, over time, the NCC intends to harmonize all existing service contracts, leases and other agreements with the Plan's orientations and objectives. When an agreement is eligible for renewal or renegotiation, its content will be examined and adjusted where necessary to bring it into line with the Plan. This is done as part of the federal immovable transaction approval process where applicable, or by the Park Director in the case of service contracts.

8.6 SPECIAL STUDIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MASTER PLAN

Although this aspect is addressed in more detail in the Commissioning Plan, this chapter provides guidelines for special studies. The Master Plan identifies some of the most important studies required in the coming years, including the conservation plan, research respecting the Park's legal status, the green transportation plan and the recreational services plan. These studies will help improve the proposals contained in the Master Plan and will ensure that future actions are consistent with the Plan. They will also provide additional, more detailed information for managers to facilitate the everyday decision-making process.

8.6.1 CONSERVATION PLAN

The conservation plan, to be prepared in the next three years, will contain in-depth information on the Park's natural environments and their functions, and will also describe the locations and components of significant natural ecosystems. The following actions will be required:

- Complete the characterization of the Park's ecosystems and their functions;
- Produce a digital geographical reference map of the Park's conservation priorities, based on the significant ecosystems and their components – e.g.

representative portions of the Park (Eardley Escarpment) and the watersheds of lakes (Philippe, Mousseau, Meech) – in order to improve the database on Gatineau Park’s significant natural environments;

- Based on the lists of biodiversity and natural ecosystem indicators, establish and list the indicators that can be used to monitor the behaviour of and changes to the Park’s natural environments (e.g. “umbrella” variables)²¹.
- Based on the new knowledge acquired, prepare and implement a conservation plan applicable to the Park’s resources and habitats that highlights conservation priorities for the significant ecosystems along with their span and inherent processes. Monitoring indicators and conservation activities should also be identified.
- Incorporate the conservation plan’s content into the Master Plan by making any necessary modifications.

8.6.2 LEGAL STATUS

The *National Capital Act* and regulations grant certain powers in respect of managing and protecting federal lands. Additional legislative authority could give the NCC greater breadth of responsibility and power to act. Approximately 81% of Gatineau Park is owned directly by the NCC, 17% is owned by the Province of Québec and is managed by the NCC under the terms of an existing agreement, and less than 2% of the lands within the Gatineau Park boundary are under the ownership of private or municipal bodies. The legal framework which takes into consideration this ownership and authority structure is complex and therefore, within the year following the approval of the Master Plan, the NCC will:

- take the necessary steps to identify the potential options to enhance its authority over all the aspects of the Park and the activities taking place within, in a way that will provide for the long term protection and integrity of the Park’s boundary and ecosystems;
- pursue the dialogue with the Province concerning the status of the Park; and,
- continue the dialogue with the stakeholders.

8.6.3 GREEN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The green transportation plan will describe the NCC’s vision for traffic management within the Park. It earns the “green” descriptor because its aim is to identify a vision and associated strategies that are consistent with Canada’s international commitments on environmental quality and the leading environmental role of the Park in the Capital Region. The preparation of the green transportation plan may include the following activities:

- Assess travel demand along roadways and parkways in the Park, according to origins and destinations, recreational sites and attractions, periods of the year and methods of transport.
- Establish goals and objectives based on travel demand and other transportation issues, within the context of Park’s mission and on the

²¹ An umbrella variable provides information on the behaviour of various parameters and natural resources in an environment.

basis of accepted best practices in environmental transportation guidelines.

- Examine alternatives methods of transport other than cars, including feasibility, costs and benefits.
- Recommend a preferred transport method that will optimize public access and travel while conforming to the mission of the Park and Canada's international and national commitments in the field of environmental quality.

8.6.4 RECREATIONAL SERVICES PLAN

Recreational use is part of Gatineau Park's history and mission. The recreational services plan will stipulate the desired levels and types of recreational services in the Park, based primarily on conservation objectives, the role and capacity of the recreational areas, and the underlying management principles. The plan will establish the type and extent of the recreational experience available in the Park, and will identify potential partnerships for the supply or monitoring of related services. It will also set out the supply of services for certain specific activities, based on needs and suitability. The plan will be coordinated with the conservation and transportation plans, since the recreational service supply will need to take into account both conservation and transportation objectives. It will include, among other things:

- A list of recreational activities compatible with the Park's mission;
- The designation, type and location of necessary, surplus, temporary and informal infrastructure and equipment, according to different timelines and different priorities;
- Identification of tourism initiatives associated with the Park;
- Identification of a method to determine the capacity of recreational and tourist sites, based on environmental and experience quality criteria;
- Identification of the partnerships and procedures required to enhance the Park's natural and cultural attractions for recreational and tourism purposes;
- An estimate of the resources (human, financial, etc.) and investments required;
- The efforts to be made by the NCC to promote an increase in recreational opportunities and facilities outside the Park, in order to decrease demand within the Park.

8.6.5 HERITAGE CONSERVATION PLAN

The Gatineau Park Master Plan recognizes the importance of the conservation and enhancement of the Park's existing historical, cultural, social and natural features. Generally speaking, heritage and cultural elements are increasingly associated with conservation and enhancement objectives of Canada's public parks. The NCC has taken steps to ensure that the National Capital Region's heritage resources are safeguarded. The NCC has adopted heritage policies: one for the protection of the architectural heritage and one for the management of archaeological resources. The NCC also adheres to the conservation principles of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and has adopted the code of practice of the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) for federal "recognized" and

“classified” buildings. It also follows the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, of Parks Canada, 2003*, and finally NCC just completed a study that will permit in the future to identify and assess cultural landscapes with heritage value on NCC lands²².

The purpose of the heritage conservation plan is to convey information on and further the recognition of the Park’s heritage features, including buildings, archaeology, cultural landscapes, gardens and intangible heritage, in order to establish the principles and objectives for their conservation and enhancement, to identify actions and priorities, and to establish the resources and partnerships required to achieve those objectives. It will also support the interpretation plan by offering leads on themes that will enable visitors to better understand and appreciate the Park’s heritage.

The heritage conservation plan should make the following proposals:

- All stabilization, preservation, rehabilitation or restoration work on a heritage resource should be supported by prior in-depth research based on written documents and oral tradition and on physical investigations of the resource itself, in order to identify the heritage values and attributes to be preserved.
- The national importance and the role of the heritage resource in the history of the Capital should be put forward and put into context with its local significance.
- All interventions on a heritage resource should take into account all factors that could influence the future of this resource, including financial requirements and external constraints, and at the same time respecting the value and the attributes of this resource.
- In the conservation approach, preference should be given to the minimal level of action where it is preferable to preserve rather repair, repair rather restore, and restore rather than rebuild.
- Fakes and imitations should be avoided in heritage projects.
- A maintenance plan should be drawn up, identifying the aspects to be considered, the treatments to be applied and the inspection and work schedules required, to ensure that all heritage elements are properly conserved²³.

8.6.6 INTERPRETATION PLAN

An interpretation plan is currently in force²⁴. It is based on the priorities identified in the 1990 Master Plan, and will have to be reviewed in light of the changes to the Park’s orientations in the new Master Plan. The review should be based on the following principles:

- Adapt interpretation objectives to natural environment and heritage conservation priorities. Interpretation will be an excellent management tool to communicate specific conservation issues to Park visitors.

²² National Capital Commission, *Definition and Assessment of Cultural Landscapes of Heritage Value on NCC Lands*, 2004.

²³ Principles based on the report entitled *Cultural Landscape Conservation Management Strategy for the Mackenzie King Estate, Draft Report*, NCC, 2003.

²⁴ National Capital Commission, *Gatineau Park Interpretation Plan*, (December 1998).

- Review the themes by sector and adapt them to the priority functions of each sector. They should also be linked to national issues, to highlight the Park's contribution to Canadian environmental values.
- Base the new interpretation plan on the national symbol and communication strategic objectives (Canada's commitment to environmental conservation).

8.6.7 SECTOR AND AREA PLANS

Following approval and implementation of the Master Plan, additional planning exercises will be carried out, addressing issues specific to certain sectors or zones within the Park in order to identify the actions required. These additional plans will be consistent with the guidelines set out in the Master Plan. In particular, an area plan is required for the Philippe Lake area.

9. CONCLUSION

With this Master Plan, Gatineau Park has taken a new step forward in its evolution. From the environmental standpoint, the Plan has emphasized the preservation of significant ecosystems and environments by proposing a natural resource conservation plan in which conservation priorities will be established. This extensive undertaking, which is entirely consistent with new management practices for natural protected areas in Canada and elsewhere in the world, will require three years of intensive work. It will eventually ensure that the Park is better connected to its surroundings, and will help maintain natural ecological processes.

With this enhanced focus of conservation comes a corresponding emphasis on recreational activities and experiences that are respectful of the conservation mission, requiring care and precaution in their exercise. Thus, for a period of three years, the expansion of existing activities and the introduction of new activities will be limited.

In accordance with the conservation plan, recreational experiences will be allowed in appropriate locations in the Park. In other instances, however, some activities will have to be moved or possibly eliminated because they cause environmental impacts that are incompatible with the Park's conservation mission.

With regard to regional integration, the Park's contribution will complement regional development by generating partnerships and fostering economic spin-offs, especially in areas along the Park boundary. With regard to heritage, the criteria for restoration and enhancement must be made more stringent, so as to develop authentic experiences of a calibre appropriate to Canada's Capital.

The NCC plays a leading role in Canada in the field of natural and cultural heritage conservation while still allowing for respectful recreational activities. Innovative approaches will be taken, and the Park will be an excellent laboratory setting.

It is in the field of Park management that the most important advances in support of the Park mission can be achieved. These advances include:

- Determining the best way to enhance its authority over all aspects of the Park and the activities taking place within, in a way that will ensure the Park's mission and protection;
- Revising the Park's private property acquisition strategy;
- Introducing a fee structure for a majority of users, as is the case in national parks;
- Rationalizing and improving existing infrastructure in order to improve visitor services.

This Plan differs from the 1990 Master Plan in that it focuses first on the conservation of natural and cultural resources in the Park, and then on the pursuit of respectful recreational activities and experiences, as set out in the 1999 *Plan for Canada's Capital*.

Bruno Del Degan, F. Eng., M. Sc.

Claude Gagné, Urban Planner

10. GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS

ACCEPTABILITY MATRIX FOR PARK USE

A grid using a range of criteria to establish permissible uses in the Park.

BIODIVERSITY

Variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species (genetic diversity), between species and of ecosystems (International Convention of Rio de Janeiro, 1992).

COMPATIBLE RECREATION

Used to describe a recreational use that has little or no impact on the resources with which it interacts.

CONSERVATION

The implementation of measures aimed at rational use and the maintenance or preservation of natural or cultural resources (Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks)

DEVELOPMENT

Interventions or activities aimed at enhancing the enjoyment, understanding and discovery of natural and cultural heritage resources

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

The condition of an ecosystem considered characteristic of the natural region of which it forms part, in particular through the composition and abundance of its indigenous species and biological communities and through the rate of change and maintenance of ecological processes. An ecosystem is considered to be integrated when its indigenous components and processes (e.g. growth and reproduction) are intact. (Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks).

ECOSYSTEM

A functional biological system composed of a set of living beings and their physical environment. Ecosystems can be defined on several perceptual scales (Ministère des Ressources naturelles du Québec).

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Endangered species include all species facing imminent extirpation or extinction, and all threatened or vulnerable species identified in the territory of Gatineau Park and entered on the lists of Québec and of Canada (COSEPAC/COSEWIC, 2001).

EXTENSIVE RECREATION

Term used to describe a recreational use that does not require infrastructures or heavy equipment, that results in minimal alteration to environmental conditions, and that is generally practised by a small number of users.

EXTREME SPORTS

A sport practised in particularly difficult and dangerous conditions. Extreme sports are practiced individually and seek for.

FRAGMENTATION

Conversion of a large area of habitat into smaller parcels separated by a different set of habitats (Ministère des Ressources naturelles du Québec).

HABITAT

The ecological framework to which a living species has adapted (Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks).

HERITAGE

Heritage includes the notions of landscape, historic unit, natural site and architectural site, along with the concepts of biodiversity, collection, traditional or modern cultural practice, knowledge and experiment. (ICOMOS).

The concept of "heritage integrity" refers to the restoration of heritage resources to their original condition. The term "heritage landscape" refers to a set of natural or other landscape units having an acknowledged importance in the history of the country and the Capital.

INDICATOR

A quantitative or qualitative variable that can be measured or described and that is used to observe a trend, if it is verified periodically (Ministère des Ressources naturelles du Québec).

INTERPRETATION

An educational activity that involves informing the general public of the meaning of an element and its links, using specimens, artefacts, illustrations or other means requiring apprehension, i.e. leading to an experiential and descriptive form of knowledge rather than a strictly didactic form. (Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks).

MOBILITY

Vehicular and non-vehicular circulation.

MONITORING

A set of activities and programs used to oversee the evolution and operation of natural systems and natural or cultural resources.

MOTORIZED ACCESS

Includes provincial and municipal roads, the Parkways and snowmobile trails.

NATURAL PROCESSES

Vital ecological processes, such as solar energy, climate processes, geological and geomorphological processes, water circulation, fire cycles, wildlife population dynamics, etc. (Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks).

NATURAL PROTECTED AREA

An area defined by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) (1994) as an expanse of land or sea dedicated to the protection and preservation of biological diversity and the associated natural and cultural resources, managed by legal or other effective means (Plan for Canada's Capital, 1999).

NON-MOTORIZED ACCESS

Includes all recreational pathway and networks (except snowmobile networks) providing access to the Park.

OCCUPATION RATIO CALCULATION

The existing ratio was calculated from the available maps and digital databases, based on the surface currently occupied in each zone of the Park by road, recreational and hydro-electric infrastructures and privately owned properties. The agricultural areas were estimated from the ecoforest map and incorporated into the calculus. In some cases (look-outs, picnic sites), soil use hypotheses have been applied because no area sizes were available from the datasets. The digital databases used are as follows: park_road.shp, park_trail.shp, parwayfeatures.shp, piquenique.shp, gpbelvedere.shp, recreational paths and trails.shp, recreational facilities.shp, plages.shp, site_camping.shp, MCVhouses.shp, MCVspecialfeatures.shp, oldroads.shp, campfortune.shp, cftrails.shp, potential dev.shp, futuretrails.shp, powerline.shp, hydro lines.shp, parking.shp, atlas.shp, Gatineau Park Forest Cover.shp.

OFFICIAL TRAIL

A numbered trail, maintained and protected by the NCC, which appears on the NCC's maps of summer and winter trails

PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary principle shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. Principle 15, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992).

RESPECTFUL RECREATION

Used to describe a recreational use that is consistent with rules imposed to avoid harming environmental integrity.

RESTORATION

Re-establishment to its original condition, using natural means, of a site, natural resource or ecosystem that has been altered by human activity (Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks).

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A systematic, iterative process used to assess the environmental consequences of proposed policies, plans or programs (Plan for Canada's Capital, 1999).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Development that meets present needs without compromising the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs (Plan for Canada's Capital, 1999).

The principles of sustainable development include:

- Achieving human needs for safety, air and water quality, food, education and employment, in a useful and satisfactory way;
- Maintaining ecological integrity through careful management, rehabilitation of damaged environments, reduction of waste, protection of species and preservation of natural ecosystem diversity;
- Seeking equity by means of the fairest possible division of limited resources among present-day citizens and between our generation and our descendants;
- Public participation in the definition and preparation of local solutions to environmental and development problems.

TRAIL, PARKWAY AND ROAD RATIO CALCULATION

This ratio is established by dividing the total length of the trails, parkways and roads by the total surface area of the zone.

UMBRELLA SPECIES

A species that, by its nature, provides information on the behaviour of several parameters or natural resources in an environment.

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APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF THE SEA

SUMMARY OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

1. FRAMEWORK AND PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) was to establish the environmental impacts of the Master Plan, improve its positive impacts and eliminate or mitigate its potential negative impacts. The SEA ensured that environmental considerations were included in the planning process, based on the Canadian government's environmental legislation and policies including the *1990 Cabinet Directive* on the Environmental Assessment of Draft Policies, Plans and Programs (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency), which was updated in 1999 and amended in January 2004. The SEA also took into account information from administrative policies and NCC planning documents.

The spatial and temporal boundaries of the SEA (the Sinclair Lake landscape unit, Lower Gatineau ecological region, 1,120 km²) encompassed an ecological influence territory between the Park and neighbouring environments and a time period extending from 1850 to 2015, thus ensuring that the assessment covered the environmental factors impacting upon the Park. A number of natural components of importance to ecology and scientific research were used as reference indicators of ecosystem health. In the SEA, these components are the fundamental ecological values of the Park; they are described in further detail in the full and abridged versions of the SEA.

The SEA was an iterative process forming part of the Master Plan preparation process. It focused on the principal environmental concerns in terms of stress factors, issues and fundamental ecological values for the Park. Among other things, it considered problems related to ecosystem preservation by identifying the positive and negative impacts of the proposals on ecological values, as well as their cumulative and residual impacts, and set out a number of mitigation and monitoring measures.

1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The SEA report shows that, in the Park, the use (urban development, roads, recreation), alteration and fragmentation of natural environments have a negative impact on ecosystem health. At the regional level, factors such as ecological isolation, landscape fragmentation and expanding urban development are increasing the pressure on both species and natural habitats, causing the latter to shrink and become altered over time. The balance of the Park's natural ecosystems is also being modified, threatening the survival and behaviour of certain species and causing loss of biodiversity. At the same time, the shift away from natural ecosystem conditions in certain areas of the Park is likely to have a negative impact on the quality of the recreational experience.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The analyses carried out as part of the Master Plan review and SEA preparation process led to the identification of certain environmental issues affecting the future of the Park. The issues in question concern the environment, natural resource sustainability and the value and authenticity of the Park's resources. A number of challenges must be met in order to deal effectively with these challenges, including:

- Completing the Park's green report card, to allow for permanent, effective monitoring.

- Maintaining the natural functions of the Park’s ecosystems and its fundamental ecological values, despite constraints arising from its use (recreation, urban development, etc.).
- Blending the Park’s ecological needs with those of neighbouring areas in order to mitigate or counter the effects of external disturbance factors.
- Proposing an ecosystem-directed management strategy based on the organization’s existing resources and the regional context.
- Limiting or mitigating pressures on natural environments caused by human activities.
- Maintaining or improving populations, natural habitats and biodiversity.
- Preventing fragmentation of wilderness areas.
- Maintaining or improving the visibility of the Park’s natural components and their meaning to Canada’s Capital.

The Park’s main environmental orientations are derived from these environmental issues and policies:

- Priority to ecosystem preservation.
- Ecosystem sustainability.
- Protection of biodiversity.
- Environmental ethics and a scientific approach.
- Integrated management with due consideration for adjacent lands.
- Ecological rehabilitation of damaged environments.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The environmental assessment began with an analysis of the proposed preliminary strategic solutions, and continued with an in-depth analysis of the impacts of the final draft of the Plan.

The environmental assessment of the final draft also included a description of the general and cumulative impacts of the proposals, along with their residual impacts and consequences, including:

- A mitigation strategy;
- An assessment of the residual impacts of the Plan following the application of the proposed mitigation measures;
- Indications of the monitoring actions required.

2.1 PRELIMINARY STRATEGIES

During the Master Plan Review, three sets of preliminary strategies (A, B and C) were proposed. Each set was based on different assumptions and involved different conservation and usage intensities²⁵ in the Park for five recognized strategic priorities,

²⁵ The “A” strategies offered a maximum level of conservation for the Park, while the “B” strategies offered maximum protection for certain sectors, and the “C” strategies were designed to maintain the current condition of the Park.

namely the environment, recreation, regional integration, heritage and management. For the purposes of the SEA, these preliminary strategies were examined using a sensor parameter grid to assess their behaviour in terms of the Park's strategic objectives. The process revealed that all the solutions proposed were consistent with the orientations set out in the *Plan for Canada's Capital*. However, the "A" and "B" strategies were more consistent with the general guidelines for the Park. They had positive impacts on the environment, in that they reduced certain stress factors, but they also required both the NCC and the region as a whole to make some significant choices. Under the "C" strategy, it would have been more difficult to preserve the Park's fundamental ecological values.

2.2 THE FINAL DRAFT OPTION

Following this initial assessment and the subsequent consultations, the team continued with the Master Plan Review by drawing up an option for the final draft of the Plan that met the Park's strategic objectives and reflected the comments received during the consultations. The selected option, which was closer in terms of its content to the "B" preliminary strategy, included general proposals for each of the Plan's six strategic objectives²⁶ (environment, recreation, regional integration, heritage, national symbolism/communication and management), along with specific proposals for the Park's five geographical sectors.

2.2.1 GENERAL IMPACTS

An assessment grid was used to produce a detailed analysis of the final draft option's general impacts. Their contribution to the cumulative impacts was calculated by identifying their the nature, scope and direction, along with potential mitigation and improvement measures, and any residual impacts, their scope and acceptability.

In all, 59 general proposals and 74 sector-specific proposals were examined, with 76% being found to have positive or neutral environmental impacts and 24% to have minor or moderate negative impacts. After application of the proposed mitigation measures, it was found that all the proposals would produce an acceptable low to moderate residual impact.

Overall, 81% of the general proposals were found to produce positive or neutral potential impacts by encouraging ecosystem consolidation, rationalizing use (transferring certain uses away from sensitive zones), improving management (conservation plan), preserving ecological links, controlling access points, improving supervision, and so on. Some of the proposals relating to recreation (maintenance of recreational activities) and heritage (development of cultural landscapes) were found to produce negative impacts, in that they may hinder natural ecosystem dynamics (riparian environments) or cause damage to natural areas.

The assessment showed that 72% of the sector-specific proposals would have positive or neutral impacts on the Park's environment. For example, measures such as restoring disturbed natural environments, enhancing or consolidating the visibility of the Park's boundaries and conservation zones by creating new reception points, maintaining and improving green corridors and applying a strategy aimed at purchasing privately-owned land in the Park based on the value

²⁶ Following the consultations, a National Symbol and Communication strategic objective was added to the five strategic objectives retained in the preceding phases.

of the natural environment are all likely to improve the Park's environmental standing. On the other hand, maintaining the leisure activity and service supply at its current level and developing cultural landscapes are likely to increase both the spread of activities and their impacts on natural environments. However, rigorous application and monitoring of the mitigation strategy may help reduce the residual impact of these proposals.

Only 20% of the proposals, both general and specific, would be likely to have negative impacts on recreation, regional integration, heritage, management and national symbolism/communication. These include the proposals concerning limits on access to the natural environment, the range of recreational experiences, potential economic diversification in the region and the habits of certain groups of residents.

2.2.2 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The cumulative impacts of the general and sector-based proposals were assessed by identifying their consequences for certain target components (key species, umbrella species). The "target components" are significant ecological values generating a higher level of concern about their role in maintaining the ecological intensity of the Park and the functional structure of its ecosystems. The target components can therefore be used as indicators of the cumulative impacts of natural ecosystem disturbances.

The existing uses and factors making the greatest contribution to the cumulative impacts include certain recreational activities in sensitive areas (e.g. climbing), recreational spread, road corridors and vehicular traffic, the absence of buffer zones around the Park, the ecological isolation of the Park, private occupation of certain areas of the Park, adjacent urban development, riparian vacation development, landscape fragmentation, wildlife harvesting (fishing) and farming.

Overall, 76% of the Plan's proposals were found to make little or no contribution to the cumulative impacts since they involve actions with positive consequences for the environment. However, most of the proposals with negative impacts on the natural environment (24%) would contribute to the cumulative impacts on one or more of the target components. The cumulative impacts are derived mainly from proposals that would increase the spread and intensity of use in a Park already fragmented by roads, recreational trails, access points and infrastructure, whose overall size is shrinking.

2.2.3 IMPACT MITIGATION STRATEGY

The SEA includes an impact mitigation strategy to ensure that the Plan addresses the Park's major concerns adequately and maximizes its environmental performance while reducing the general and cumulative impacts. The mitigation strategy is based first on the proposals set out in the Plan, which:

- are designed to implement ecosystem-directed management (creation of a conservation plan, legal tools, etc.) and to make the Park less environmentally vulnerable;
- would limit or reduce the impact of recreational activities (transfer of activities to less sensitive zones, gradual elimination of motorized activities, etc.) in order to provide better protection for fragile environments and reduce pressure on the Park's ecosystems;

- would blend the Park's ecological needs with those of its region, among other things by rationalizing the road network and maintaining or creating ecological links and buffer zones.

Improvement measures such as the setting of benchmarks for the environmental objectives, the periodic production of a green report card and the preparation of protection strategies for regional biodiversity and watersheds would support these measures.

Second, mitigation measures are suggested for proposals with negative general impacts, to reduce the scope and importance of those impacts. The measures include better management (establishing usage thresholds, using indicators, subjecting the recreational supply to the conditions set out in the conservation plan) and the introduction of environmental assessments.

2.2.4 RESIDUAL IMPACTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE PLAN

The SEA then examines the nature and importance of the Plan's residual impacts and determines their acceptability based on the target components. Generally speaking, once mitigation measures have been applied, very few of the proposals will generate significant negative residual impacts. The impacts that do persist are derived mainly from the proposals that maintain or increase habitat fragmentation (maintenance of the trail network, creation of visual outlooks, etc.) or may hinder natural ecosystem dynamics, as mentioned earlier. However, the nature of the Plan and the proposed mitigation measures should help keep residual impacts at a low to moderate level, within acceptable limits.

On the other hand, some of the proposals, although favourable to the environment, are likely to alter the range of acceptable recreational experiences in the Park and limit access to certain sectors. These residual impacts on strategic priorities other than the environment may have impacts of varying levels on the region, and especially on user habits. Public awareness and partnerships with community organizations should help reduce the scope of these impacts and offer a new perspective.

The revised Plan consolidates and adds to the gains made by the 1990 Master Plan. Most of the proposals are effective in addressing environmental issues and ensuring ecosystem preservation. Taking the proposed mitigation measures into account, the proposed Master Plan will have a significant positive impact on the environment, including its cumulative environmental effects, and will also foster a quality recreational experience in keeping with the Park's mission.

2.2.5 MONITORING

The SEA provides for monitoring measures in order to clarify the available data and provide structure for those proposals whose cumulative and residual impacts are difficult to estimate in advance. By establishing monitoring indicators for the target components and documenting the environmental issues, it should be possible to establish firm management criteria and place acceptable limits on Park use. The SEA also proposes a feedback process designed to maintain a permanent Park database on target component trends, so that the information can be incorporated into the Park's ecosystem management plan and other planning mechanisms. A permanent application and monitoring framework is proposed for the Master Plan, to structure this process and make it easier to harmonize information and action.

2.2.6 2004 CONSULTATION

The final draft of the Plan and the results of the SEA were presented to the public in the last round of public consultations, held in the fall of 2004. Although some interest groups were openly opposed to the proposals concerning a restructuring of certain activities (e.g. climbing and snowmobiling), the vast majority of the strategic orientations and proposals were not questioned. Accordingly, the results of the SEA and the mitigation strategy set out in the final draft of the Plan remain entirely relevant. The overall consequences of the Master Plan are positive, in that it maintains ecosystem-directed management and fosters a quality, non-motorized recreational experience focused on discovering and learning about the natural environment. However, the positions adopted by the NCC with regard to certain activities in the Park will have a slight impact on the results of the SEA.

3. CONCLUSION

Clearly, the 2005-2015 Master Plan, by moving towards a form of ecosystem-directed management, consolidates the Park's ecological values and adds to the gains made by its predecessor. Alongside the Park's mission, purpose and orientations, the Plan contains clear statements concerning the conservation and sustainable use of natural environments.

Nearly 80% of the proposals in the Plan were found to be effective in addressing the environmental issues. When the Plan is brought into force, it will help limit ecosystem fragmentation, halt the loss of species and natural habitats and reduce human stressors. At the same time, it should foster enjoyment of and learning about the natural environment and help preserve the quality of the Park's recreational experience. Given the nature of its proposals and the mitigation measures to be applied, the Plan should not result in any major negative residual impact on the environment. A number of challenges concerning knowledge of the Park, Park management and regional involvement will nevertheless have to be faced.

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The National Capital Commission (NCC) is currently finalising the review of the *Gatineau Park Master Plan*. The Park's current Master Plan was approved in 1990. The review process is designed to update the Park's planning framework, to confirm the long term mission and direct its management for the period 2005 to 2015. The objectives of the review are to establish a long-term vision, to protect the park's natural and cultural resources, and to consolidate the Park's gains. The process was divided into three phases, and consultation sessions were organized at each phase for community organizations, interest groups and user groups, residents, and municipalities. NCC Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty and the staff were also consulted. The goal of this was to involve the population in the process and to ensure that the final document takes into account opinions of the people and communities that are interested. The review of the current *Gatineau Park Master Plan* is guided by the new strategic orientations for Gatineau Park set out in the *Plan for Canada's Capital* (NCC, 1999), which is the federal government lead policy statement on the planning and development in the National Capital Region.

In the first phase (2001-2002), the documentation was examined and 11 workshops were attended by more than 50 interest groups and organizations. The workshops helped refine the diagnosis of the Park's current status and identify the main issues to be considered in the review. A number of new concerns have emerged in the last decade, including an increase in the number of users, growing pressure on natural resources, urban development around the Park, and the lack of financial and human resources. Preliminary strategies addressing the problems identified, each with different conservation objectives, were elaborated and submitted to groups that participated and to NCC staff and committee members.

In the second phase of the process (2002-2003), consultations were organized enabling the general public to obtain a detailed understanding of the issues, trends and proposed solutions relating to the priorities identified for the Park, namely environment, recreation, regional integration, heritage, management and communication. At the consultation session organized on November 26 and 27, 2002, the NCC presented an overview of the situation and a series of proposed solutions. This session generated a great deal of interest. Nearly 120 people attended, and the NCC received approximately one hundred comments, including briefs, letters and completed questionnaires. All Canadians also had an opportunity to express their views via the NCC's corporate website.

Generally speaking, the public want Gatineau Park to be protected, even though there was a difference of opinions on the strategies that should be put forward. Some asked for protection to be increased at the expense of recreational activities, while others suggested maintaining the status quo or even increasing recreational use. A clear consensus emerged in favour of a better control of access to the Park, the elimination of recreational uses that damage the environment, rigorous enforcement of Park's regulations, the imposition of equitable user fees, an appropriate legal status for the Park, a clearer definition of compatible and respectful recreation, conservation and development of cultural landscapes and heritage, greater awareness of the Park's values, and greater involvement by user groups, associations and municipalities.

Following the public consultations, two workshops were held in June 2003 to examine and improve the content of the preferred preliminary proposal. They were attended by interest groups and organizations.

In the third phase (2003-2004), a final public consultation on the final draft of the Master Plan was held on October 27 and 28, 2004, and was attended by nearly 500 people. More than 240 documents, including letters, e-mails and completed questionnaires, were received from roughly forty agencies and organizations, four municipalities, and numerous NCR residents. A survey of more than 500 NCR residents was also carried out in November of the same year, to obtain their opinions. The general orientation of the proposed plan, based on the conservation of natural environments, was well received overall. However, some user groups objected to the bans, or limitations proposed over varying timeframes, on activities considered harmful to the Park, such as rock climbing, snowmobiling and mountain biking, on the basis that it would be unrealistic to adopt a mission focused on conservation, given that the Park is located in the Capital. Others, however, felt the Park should be treated as a natural protected area within the national network. Some participants objected to the developments that are implied in the Plan and the presence of a to large number of roads, which they felt hindered the Park's conservation mission. Many of the proposals, including the preparation of a Conservation Plan, a Recreational Service Plan and a Green Transportation Plan, were considered useful despite certain reservations about the methods used and some of the specific ideas put forward, which were felt to be inappropriate (e.g. Gamelin Tower).

Many people felt non-motorized "compatible" or "respectful" recreation (terms to be defined) that is not harmful to the environment, and that is focused on education, would be the best solution. In all cases there was general agreement on the need for more partnerships between the NCC and interest groups, municipalities and scientists (research) to implement and develop the Park's mission. Elements such as equitable, flexible user fees that would not penalize low-income families, a legal status tailored to the Park's mission, and sufficient human and financial resources to control uses, were all well received, although some clarifications and changes were requested to the terminology used in the proposed plan and the implementation mechanisms (e.g. zoning, acceptability matrix).

The consultations held throughout the Master Plan review process have helped refine knowledge and perceptions by both the NCC and the general public concerning the problems and issues facing the Park. The comments received have helped clarify and improve the orientations and content of the proposed Plan. Following a final round of corrections, the 2005-2015 Master Plan will be finalized in the spring of 2005 and come into force upon approval in the summer of 2005.

APPENDIX 3

FEDERAL LAND USE APPROVAL

File CP2110-73

Dossier CP2110-73

**FEDERAL LAND USE
APPROVAL**

**2005
GATINEAU PARK
MASTER PLAN**

The 2005 *Gatineau Park Master Plan* replaces the *Gatineau Park Master Plan* which was approved by the NCC in 1990. Building upon the policies of the 1999 *Plan for Canada's Capital*, the *Master Plan* is a planning tool that sets out the Park's long-term vision, strategic orientations and objectives for planning, land use, and management within the limits of Gatineau Park.

Of a total area of 36 131 ha, the Park hosts a range of natural ecosystems within three principal physiographic zones:

1. The Gatineau Hills, dominated by hardwood forests under a temperate climate ;
2. The Eardley Escarpment, a geologic fault marking the south-eastern boundary of the Canadian Shield, with its hot and dry micro-climate ; and
3. The Eardley Plateau, which shelters mixed boreal forests, wetlands, swamps and peat bogs under a cool and damp climate.

The 2005 *Gatineau Park Master Plan* presents the current status of the Park, gives an overview of the 1990 *Master Plan*, explains the strategic orientations of the 1999 *Plan for Canada's Capital* and summarizes the major issues that emerge from the past ten years, including: concerns about conservation of the Park's natural elements and their links with the surrounding natural environment, increasing recreational use and a broad range of uses which may adversely affect the recreational experience within the Park, given its ease of access and proximity to the urban communities of the National Capital Region, along with the need to reinforce the Park's national dimension.

The 2005 *Gatineau Park Master Plan* reiterates the Park's mission, which is to welcome Canadians and other visitors, to allow them to discover Canada's natural environment, to visit sites that bear witness to the country's history, and to engage in outdoor activities.

**APPROBATION FÉDÉRALE
D'UTILISATION DU SOL**

**PLAN DIRECTEUR DU
PARC DE LA GATINEAU
DE 2005**

Le *Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau* de 2005 remplace le *Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau* approuvé par la Commission en 1990. Précisant les énoncés de politiques du *Plan de la capitale du Canada* de 1999, le *plan directeur* est un outil de planification qui expose la vision, les orientations stratégiques et les objectifs d'aménagement, d'utilisation et de gestion à long terme du territoire compris dans les limites du parc de la Gatineau.

D'une superficie de 36 131 ha, le Parc abrite une diversité d'écosystèmes naturels compris dans trois ensembles physiographiques principaux :

1. les collines de la Gatineau où les forêts feuillues prédominent sous un climat tempéré ;
2. l'escarpement d'Eardley qui correspond à une faille géologique marquant la limite sud-est du Bouclier canadien associée à un micro-climat sec et chaud ; et
3. le plateau d'Eardley qui abrite des forêts boréales mixtes, des marais, marécages et tourbières sous un climat frais et humide.

Le *Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau* de 2005 dresse un portrait de l'état actuel du Parc, fait un bilan du *plan directeur* de 1990, expose les orientations stratégiques du *Plan de la capitale du Canada* de 1999, et résume les principaux enjeux émergeant depuis 10 ans, soit : les préoccupations à l'égard de la conservation des milieux naturels du Parc et leurs liens avec les espaces naturels environnants, l'utilisation récréative accrue et l'éventail élargi des usages risquant d'affecter l'utilisation récréative du Parc, la grande accessibilité du Parc résultant en un fort achalandage dû à sa proximité avec les milieux urbains de la région de la capitale nationale, ainsi qu'une dimension nationale à renforcer.

Le *Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau* de 2005 réitère la mission du Parc qui est d'accueillir les Canadiens et les visiteurs afin de leur permettre de découvrir le milieu naturel canadien, de visiter des sites témoignant de l'histoire du pays et de pratiquer des activités de plein air.

Three priority orientations are defined :

1. To preserve and develop the unique natural and cultural heritage making up the Park ;
2. To offer high quality recreational experiences that are respectful to the natural environment ;
3. To inspire all Canadians, Capital visitors and residents to respect conservation values and the need to resolve issues related to the protection of natural areas in order to ensure the survival of the Park.

Five principal functions are identified :

1. « conservation », to preserve natural environments within the National Capital that are representative of the country as a whole ;
2. « recreation and tourism », to supply a range of quality attractions and activities to demonstrate the respectful relationship between Canadians and the natural environment ;
3. « heritage and culture », to bear witness to the history of the country and region, through its builders, inhabitants at different times and cultural environments ;
4. « political », expressed through the Park's national dimension, Canada's environmental commitments and the sites at which political duties are performed ;
5. « communication », to inform Canadians and visitors of the NCC's achievements and leadership in the areas of conservation, ecotourism and cultural heritage, and of Canada's commitment to environmental protection.

Six strategic objectives are derived from the Park's mission and functions:

1. Environment : Conservation of significant ecosystems and natural environments ;
2. Recreation : A respectful recreational experience within a preserved natural environment ;
3. Regional integration : The Capital's conservation park ;
4. Heritage : Enhancement of heritage resources relating to the capital ;
5. National Symbol and communication : A Canadian commitment to conservation, interpretation and communication to the environment ;
6. Management – A Strategic Tool : Conservation-oriented management of all activities.

A total of 61 general proposals are grouped under each of the strategic objectives : environment (9), recreation (14), regional integration (7), heritage (9), national symbol and communication (11), management – a strategic tool (11).

Trois orientations prioritaires y sont définies :

1. Préserver et valoriser les patrimoines naturels et culturels uniques qui composent le Parc ;
2. Offrir des expériences récréatives de qualité en respect avec l'environnement naturel ;
3. Inspirer tous les Canadiens, les visiteurs de la capitale et les résidents au respect des valeurs de conservation et à la résolution d'enjeux de protection d'espaces naturels afin d'assurer la pérennité des milieux naturels du Parc.

Cinq vocations principales sont identifiées :

1. « conservation » afin de préserver, dans la capitale, des milieux naturels représentatifs du pays ;
2. « récréation et tourisme » afin d'offrir une diversité d'attraites et d'activités de qualité et d'approfondir la relation respectueuse entre le milieu naturel et les Canadiens ;
3. « patrimoine et culture » rappelant l'histoire du pays et de la région, par ses bâtisseurs et ses habitants aux diverses époques et les environnements culturels ;
4. « politique » exprimée par le caractère national du Parc et des engagements canadiens envers l'environnement et des lieux où s'exercent des fonctions politiques;
5. « communication » afin de transmettre aux Canadiens et visiteurs les réalisations et le leadership de la CCN en matière de conservation, de récréation de plein air, d'écotourisme, de patrimoine culturel et d'engagement du Canada envers la protection de l'environnement.

Six objectifs stratégiques découlent de la mission et des vocations principales du Parc :

1. Environnement : La conservation des écosystèmes et des milieux naturels significatifs ;
2. Récréation : Une expérience récréative respectueuse dans un milieu naturel ;
3. Intégration régionale : Le parc de conservation de la capitale ;
4. Patrimoine : La mise en valeur des ressources patrimoniales liées à la capitale ;
5. Symbolique nationale et communication : Un engagement canadien de préservation, d'interprétation et de communication de l'environnement ;
6. Gestion – outil stratégique : Une gestion de l'ensemble des activités orientée vers la conservation.

Un total de 61 propositions générales sont regroupées sous chacun des objectifs stratégiques : environnement (9), récréation (14), intégration régionale (7), patrimoine (9), symbolique nationale et communication (11), Gestion – outil stratégique (11).

The Planning Concept translates the strategic objectives through spatial interventions. It focuses on natural environments, reception and discovery. In comparison to the 1990 *Master Plan*, the new plan increases the areas where conservation is the priority by 25%.

The Plan establishes implementation tools to achieve the Plan's intentions and to manage Park initiatives in an efficient and consistent way: zoning, policies and project acceptability matrix.

The Park's territory has been divided into nine zones :

C1 – Integral Conservation
 C2 - Conservation and Extensive Recreation
 R1 - Extensive Recreation
 R2 - Semi-Intensive Recreation
 R3 - Intensive Recreation
 A/VR1 – Principal Visitor Reception
 AC1 – Agro-tourism and conservation
 P/H1 - Heritage
 I1 – Institutional

A total of 17 policies address specific Park issues :

- Private properties and residential uses (7) ;
- Residential leases (3) ;
- Leases for non-residential purposes (1) ;
- Hydro-electric transmission lines (1) ;
- Telecommunication infrastructure (1) ;
- Road network (4).

The project acceptability matrix will be developed in the two years following approval of the Plan.

Specific proposals have been developed for each of the five Park's sectors :

- Gateway sector;
- Parkway sector;
- Philippe Lake Crescent sector;
- Heart of the Park sector;
- La Pêche Lake sector.

Plan administration and monitoring will be ensured through :

- The approval of the Master Plan and its impacts on existing plans ;
- The implementation of the Master Plan with the delivery of a Commissioning Plan to the client and the evaluation of the Master Plan in the fifth year of its implementation ;
- The approval of land use, design and transactions in accordance with sections 12 et 12.1 of the *National Capital Act* ;
- The modifications and revision to the Plan ;
- The Existing agreements ;

Le concept d'aménagement traduit les objectifs stratégiques par des interventions spatiales. Il est centré sur la conservation des milieux naturels ainsi que l'accueil et la découverte. Comparativement au *Plan directeur* de 1990, le nouveau plan majore de 25% les superficies vouées en priorité à la conservation.

Le plan détermine des outils de mise en œuvre dont disposent la CCN pour réaliser les intentions du plan et gérer de façon efficiente et conséquente les diverses initiatives touchant le Parc : le zonage, les politiques et la grille d'acceptabilité des projets.

Le territoire du parc de la Gatineau est divisé en neuf zones :

C1 - Conservation intégrale
 C2 - Conservation et récréation extensive
 R1 - Récréation extensive
 R2 - Récréation semi-intensive
 R3 - Récréation intensive
 A/PR1 - Accueil Principal
 AC1 – Agrotourisme et conservation
 P/H1 - Patrimoine
 I1 – Institution

Un total de 17 politiques sont applicables à six problématiques particulières du Parc :

- Propriétés privées et usages résidentiels (7) ;
- Baux résidentiels (3) ;
- Baux autres que résidentiels (1) ;
- Lignes de transport d'énergie hydroélectrique et tour de télécommunication (1) ;
- Infrastructure de télécommunication (1) ;
- Réseau routier (4).

La grille d'acceptabilité des projets sera développée dans les deux années suivant l'approbation du Plan.

Des propositions spécifiques sont formulées pour chacun des cinq secteurs du Parc :

- Secteur du seuil;
- Secteur des Promenades;
- Secteur du Croissant du lac Philippe;
- Secteur du Coeur;
- Secteur du Lac la Pêche.

L'administration et le suivi du plan seront assurés par :

- L'approbation du plan directeur et ses effets sur les plans déjà approuvés ;
- La mise en œuvre du plan directeur par le dépôt du plan de remise au client et l'évaluation de l'avancement du plan directeur à la cinquième année de son entrée en vigueur ;
- L'approbation des projets d'utilisation du sol et de design, et les transactions immobilières en vertu des articles 12 et 12.1 de la *Loi sur la capitale nationale* ;
- Les modifications et la révision du plan ;
- Les ententes existantes ;

- The specific studies for implementation of the Master Plan, such as: conservation plan, legal status analysis, green transportation plan, recreational services plan, heritage conservation plan, interpretation plan, sector and area plans.
- Les études spécifiques pour la mise en œuvre du plan directeur, telles que : le plan de conservation, l'examen du statut légal, le plan de transport vert, le plan de l'offre de services récréatifs, le plan de conservation du patrimoine, le plan d'interprétation, et les plans de secteur ou de zone.

As required by the Commission, a Strategic Environmental Assessment process has been completed and concludes that the Plan should not result in any major negative residual impact on the environment, given the nature of the proposal and the mitigation measures to be applied.

Le processus d'Évaluation environnementale stratégique a été suivi conformément à la politique de la Commission et a conclu que par la nature des propositions du plan et l'application des mesures d'atténuation, la réalisation du plan ne devrait entraîner aucun impact résiduel négatif majeur sur son environnement.

A public consultation process, initiated in fall 2001 and divided in three phases, gave the opportunity to consider the concerns of community organizations, interest or user groups, residents, municipalities, the NCC's Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty (ACPDR) and staff.

Un processus de consultations publiques, entrepris en 2001 et réparti en trois phases, a permis de tenir compte des préoccupations des organismes du milieu, des groupes d'intérêt ou d'usagers, des résidents, des municipalités ainsi que du personnel et du Comité consultatif d'urbanisme, de design et de l'immobilier (CCUDI) de la CCN.

The NCC's Board of Directors approved the 2005 *Gatineau Park Master Plan* on May 4, 2005, following the comments and recommendations by the NCC's Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty (ACPDR) on April 7, 2005.

Le 4 mai 2005, le Conseil d'administration de la CCN a approuvé le *Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau* de 2005, suite aux commentaires et recommandations du Comité consultatif d'urbanisme, de design et de l'immobilier (CCUDI) de la CCN du 7 avril 2005.

In its analysis, the NCC took into account that :

Dans son examen de la proposition, la Commission a tenu compte de ce qui suit :

- The 2005 *Gatineau Park Master Plan* complies with the 1999 *Plan for Canada's Capital* and with the designation of Gatineau Park as a protected area managed first for ecosystem protection and then for recreation. This corresponds to a Category II Area, as defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
- The 2005 *Gatineau Park Master Plan* builds upon and updates the policies of the 1999 *Plan for Canada's Capital*;
- The comments received as part of the public consultation process.
- Le *Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau* de 2005 est conforme au *Plan de la capitale du Canada* de 1999 en désignant le parc de la Gatineau comme une aire naturelle protégée et gérée d'abord pour préserver les écosystèmes et ensuite servir à la récréation, correspondant à une *aire de catégorie II*, telle que définie par l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature et de ses ressources (UICN) ;
- Le *Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau* de 2005 précise les énoncés de politiques du *Plan de la capitale du Canada* de 1999 ,
- Les commentaires reçus durant le processus de consultations publiques.

In consequence:

En conséquence,

FEDERAL LAND USE APPROVAL IS HEREBY GRANTED TO THE 2005 GATINEAU PARK MASTER PLAN PURSUANT TO 12 OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL ACT.

L'APPROBATION FÉDÉRALE D'UTILISATION DU SOL EST DONNÉE AU PLAN DIRECTEUR DU PARC DE LA GATINEAU DE 2005, EN VERTU DE L'ARTICLE 12 DE LA LOI SUR LA CAPITALE NATIONALE.

The implementation of the Master Plan will include the following measures:

Land Use:

- The 1990 *Gatineau Park Master Plan*, the 1992 *Gatineau Park Gateway Sector Plan* and the 1994 *Lac des Fées Zone Plan* are hereby repealed and replaced with the 2005 *Gatineau Park Master Plan*;
- The day-to-day administration of requests for the use of Federal lands, and the continuing implementation of the Master Plan will be conducted through the Federal Land Use, Land Transaction and Federal Design Approval processes;
- All proposals will be reviewed for conformity with the policies, concepts and objectives of the 2005 *Gatineau Park Master Plan* prior to any approval being granted;
- All future plans undertaken under the direction of the Master Plan, as well as any proposed modifications to the Master Plan, must also be submitted for separate review and approval.

Design:

- The principles of the Master Plan will guide the assessment and the review of the design of a development or other work, prior to the granting of Federal Design Approval for projects in Gatineau Park.

Environnemental:

- All projects undertaken in the Gatineau Park will be subject to the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) and to the NCC's Corporate Administrative Policies and Procedures regarding environmental assessment and analysis.

Heritage and archaeological :

- Heritage and archaeological issues will be taken into consideration as part of the above federal approval processes.

Monitoring:

- The Director of Planning will complete and deliver a Commissioning Plan to the Director, Gatineau Park and Greenbelt;

La mise en oeuvre du plan directeur comprendra les mesures suivantes :

Utilisation du sol :

- Le *Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau* de 1990, le *Plan du secteur du seuil du parc de la Gatineau* de 1992 ainsi que le *Plan de zone du Lac-des-Fées* de 1994 sont abrogés et remplacés par le *Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau* de 2005 ;
- L'administration quotidienne des demandes relatives à l'utilisation des terrains fédéraux et la mise en oeuvre des propositions du plan directeur seront effectuées selon les processus relatifs aux approbations d'utilisation du sol, de transaction immobilière et de design en vigueur à la CCN ;
- Toutes les propositions seront examinées pour assurer leur conformité à l'orientation, aux concepts et aux objectifs de planification du *Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau* de 2005 avant qu'une approbation ne soit donnée ;
- Tous les plans futurs, complémentaires au plan directeur, ainsi que toute proposition de modification au plan directeur, devront être soumis pour examen préalable et approbation distincte.

Design :

- Les projets découlant de ce plan devront faire l'objet d'un examen préalable et d'une approbation de design selon le processus en vigueur à la Commission, guidés par les principes du plan directeur.

Environnement :

- Tous les projets qui seront entrepris dans le parc de la Gatineau seront assujettis aux exigences de la Loi canadienne sur l'évaluation environnementale ainsi qu'aux politiques et procédures administratives de la Commission en ce qui concerne l'évaluation et l'analyse environnementale

Patrimoine et archéologie :

- Les enjeux relatifs au patrimoine et à l'archéologie seront pris en considération lors de l'examen des demandes d'approbation mentionnées ci-dessus.

Suivi :

- Le Directeur de la planification devra compléter et déposer un plan de remise au client au Directeur, parc de la Gatineau et Ceinture de verdure ;

- Monitoring of the above measures and of the Master Plan will be under the responsibility of the Director, Gatineau Park and Greenbelt.
- Le suivi des mesures énumérées à cette approbation, de même que le suivi du plan directeur et du plan de remise au client seront sous la responsabilité du Directeur, Parc de la Gatineau et Ceinture de verdure.

Realty transactions:

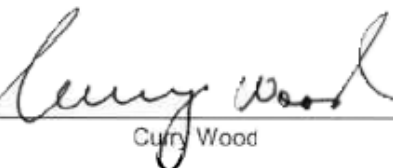
- All proposals for leases, disposals, easements or other realty transactions will be reviewed, through the Federal Land Use or Land Transaction Approval process, in conformity with the policies, concepts and objectives of the Master Plan.

Vice-President
Capital Planning and Real Asset Management


Transactions immobilières :

- Toutes les propositions de location, vente, servitude ou autres types de transaction immobilière feront l'objet d'un examen préalable selon la procédure relative à l'approbation fédérale d'utilisation du sol ou de transaction immobilière, en conformité à l'orientation, aux concepts et aux objectifs de planification du plan directeur.

Le Vice-président exécutif de l'Aménagement de la capitale et de la gestion de l'immobilier



Curry Wood



Date

This approval conforms to NCC's decision taken at its meeting of May 4, 2005.

La présente approbation est conforme à la décision prise par la CCN à sa réunion du 4 mai 2005.

cc. John Abel
François Lapointe
Marie Crevier
Jean-René Doyon
Gisèle Kelly
Roland Thériault

APPENDIX 4

EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDY: A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE
MACKENZIE KING ESTATE

A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE MACKENZIE KING ESTATE

A special study aimed at producing a landscape conservation management strategy for the Mackenzie King Estate was completed in 2003²⁷. The study proposes a management approach for the Mackenzie King Estate based on a Commemorative Integrity Statement setting out the values underlying the Estate's cultural significance. The main values that should guide actions in the Estate, in zone P1 of the Park, are as follows:

- *The estate is distinctive as a designed landscape of historical and architectural significance.*
- *The Estate is one of Canada's most elaborate and intact rustic or rural landscape schemes, complete with romantic ruins.*
- *Value lies in the Estate's association with Canada's longest-serving prime minister, William Lyon Mackenzie King, and its creative role in its evolution. King considered this his "real home".*
- *The Estate also represents a generous gift by King to the people of Canada.*
- *The most outstanding features of the Estate are the grounds, which were developed in the picturesque landscape tradition.*
- *The most important defining features of the Estate are the buildings, the collection and display of ruins at Moorside, the plant material, the trail system, the stone boundary fences, and the views and viewsheds.*
- *The complex of buildings at Kingswood, Moorside and the Farm are valued chiefly as focal elements in the landscape, with each one representing a distinct era in King's life and career.*
- *The heritage value and integration of the Moorside Tea House (Moorside Cottage) and Museum as an attraction within the grounds is very high.*
- *The Estate is important for its associative role in fostering the creation and evolution of Gatineau Park as part of the National Capital Region, and for King's involvement in master planning and championing major architectural and planning projects in the Capital.*
- *The Estate represents the design contributions of some of Canada's leading landscape architects, horticulturalists and planners of the period.*

The heritage importance of the Estate's cultural landscape derives from the relationships between its various elements, including:

- *The composition of the expansive lawn at Moorside, the meadows, ornamental flower beds and tree collections, particularly between the years 1925 and 1950;*
- *The romantic ruins, which make up an important part of the landscape composition;*
- *The collection of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, including a wide selection of indigenous plant material;*
- *The entrance via Old Chelsea;*
- *The elaborate circulation system, overlaid with multiple trail systems;*
- *The sequence of views and viewsheds throughout the grounds, along the trails;*

²⁷ *A Cultural Landscape Conservation Management Strategy for the Mackenzie King Estate*, Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited, 2003.

- *The perimeter stone fences and gates, which served to separate and define the Estate from the surrounding natural forest and which reinforce the sense of place and arrival at the grounds and different sections of the Estate;*
- *The structures and infrastructure, including the complex of buildings at each of the Farm, Moorside, and Kingswood. The buildings contribute to the different landscape character between the three areas;*
- *Archaeological remains, consisting of structures and landscape elements that have been demolished and/or removed;*
- *The Estate is valued for its historic association with a wide variety of friends, associates and dignitaries who have contributed to its mystique, design and ongoing development and character;*
- *The extensive archival records and supporting historical references provide additional value.*

The site and its associated history, values and attributes take on their full meaning in the way they are communicated to the public. The principal messages to be conveyed are as follows:

- *The Estate is a distinctive cultural landscape and part of a unique network of natural heritage areas, identified in the Plan for Canada's Capital 1999, for the National Capital Region.*
- *The Estate is a symbol and the nucleus of the role that Mackenzie King played in master planning for the National Capital.*
- *The 202-hectare site reflects early 20th century romantic notions of nature and incorporates picturesque compositions that correspond to the three ears of the estate's development.*
- *The Estate evokes a mystique associated with King as a political legend and as a designer.*
- *The Estate one of Canada's most elaborate rustic landscape schemes.*

The interpretation program messages should be drawn from these themes.

A management strategy and a landscape and tree management plan should also be completed. The tree management plan will be based on documentation relating to vegetation as it existed in Mackenzie King's era, and will incorporate a landscape maintenance approach that takes into account the transition zones between the natural forest and the lawns, and identifies any specimen trees to be preserved. This will involve:

- Identifying the transitional area between the lawns and forest, based on the situation as it existed in 1950;
- Establishing a transition zone between the lawns and forest approximately ten metres wide and composed of herbaceous plants, followed by a twenty-metre strip of forest in which the undergrowth is maintained. The natural forest beyond this strip will be maintained in accordance with criteria applicable elsewhere in the Park;
- Applying the transitional zone approach along the area's pedestrian trails;
- Also applying the transitional zone approach along the La Chute trail, up to the falls, in the integral conservation zone;
- Restoring certain view sheds by means of pruning or other measures, in order to recreate, as far as possible, the situation that existed in 1950.