

# Hardy Lake Provincial Park

## Management Plan



Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

Hon. Vincent G. Kerrio  
Minister  
Mary Mogford  
Deputy Minister

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3646

0—7729—1484—2

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Printed in Ontario, Canada

Limited copies of this publication are obtainable at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Algonquin Regional Office, Box 9000, Huntsville, Ontario P0A 1K0 (705/789—9611); or at the District Office at Bracebridge, Box 1138, Bracebridge, Ontario POB 1C0 (705/645—8747).

## Approval Statement

Hardy Lake Provincial Park provides access to Hardy Lake and Lake Muskoka, two of the most picturesque and rugged shorelines characteristic of the lake-studded Precambrian rock landscapes of the Muskoka Region. Originally settled in the 1870's by homesteaders, the Park now supports exceptional life science values, forming a valuable addition to the provincial park system.

“We are pleased to approve the Hardy Lake Provincial Park Management Plan, as official policy for the management and development of this park. The plan reflects this Ministry's intent to protect natural and cultural features of Hardy Lake and maintain and develop low—intensity opportunities for outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation for both residents and visitors to the Province.”

Regional Director  
Algonquin Region

Director, Parks and  
Recreational Areas Branch

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Hardy Lake Provincial Park is located on Highway 169, 19 kilometres west of Gravenhurst in the District Municipality of Muskoka. The property includes 684 hectares of land surrounding Hardy Lake (98 hectares) and 6,480 metres of shoreline on East Bay of Lake Muskoka.

This area, initially examined for a provincial park and recommended for acquisition by the Ontario Parks Integration Board in 1961, was acquired in 1980 by the Ministry of Natural Resources in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. In 1985, an additional 40 hectares of land was purchased jointly by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources and added to the Park. The property was put into regulation in December 1985 as Hardy Lake Provincial Park; a Natural Environment classed park.

The Hardy Lake Provincial Park property was originally settled in the 1870's by free grant homesteaders. Subsequently, it was used as a private recreation property and since its acquisition by the Province, has been used for day use Crown land recreation activities such as hunting, fishing, swimming and picnicking. Remnants of past uses of the land include a homestead foundation, field stone piles and fences, the remains of a log structure, and surviving vegetative cultivars of historical botanical interest.

Hardy Lake Park is located in the "Muskoka Domain" of the Ontario Gneiss Segment of the Precambrian Shield (Davidson, 1980). Most of the rocks underlying the Park appear to be of Late Precambrian age, although, the geological history of the area is not completely known. The barren rock ridges of the eastern side of the Park were possibly wave-washed by glacial lakes Algonquin and Nipissing. The ice push ridges (Figure 2) on the west shore are related to recent ice levels in Hardy Lake and are locally significant.

The topography of Hardy Lake Park can be attributed to the last ice age and the large glacial lakes which covered the present area. The Park is comprised of two distinct areas. The western half of the Park is an expanse of deep ground moraine, typical of this area. The eastern half has barren rock ridges and swampy depressions. It is more typical of the wave washed bedrock along Georgian

Bay.

Hardy Lake Park is located within the Georgian Bay Section of the Great Lakes —St. Lawrence Forest Region. Three forest communities have been identified. Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) characterize the deeper soils to the west of Hardy Lake and red oak (*Quercus rubra*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) dominate the thin-soiled bedrock ridges to the east. White oak (*Quercus alba*), in the eastern ridge area is atypical, being more characteristic of the Huron-Ontario Section which covers the limestone bedrock immediately south of the Park (Rowe, 1972).

## 2.0 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Hardy Lake Provincial Park is at present posted to prohibit motorized vehicles from entering the Park's sensitive areas. Barricades have proven futile as makeshift campsites on Hardy Lake continue to be used by people, which gain entry via an old access road.

Visitors recognize the recreation attributes of the Park, even though day use and camping facilities one would expect to find in a Natural Environment classed park do not exist. The Park is virtually in a natural state and lacks sanitary facilities, picnic tables, refuse disposal, parking spaces and a road access system necessary to accommodate visitors and protect significant features.

Management guidelines are necessary to implement an appropriate development scheme.

## 3.0 CLASSIFICATION

Hardy Lake is classified as a Natural Environment park under the Provincial Park Classification System.

Natural Environment parks are units of land and water of particular recreational, historical and natural interest. They are attractive and diverse landscapes. While these parks may include developed recreation areas, their rich and varied environments are the main reasons for their establishment. Recreation based on interaction with natural environment, and appreciation of natural and cultural values, is emphasized.

Figure 1

REGIONAL CONTEXT

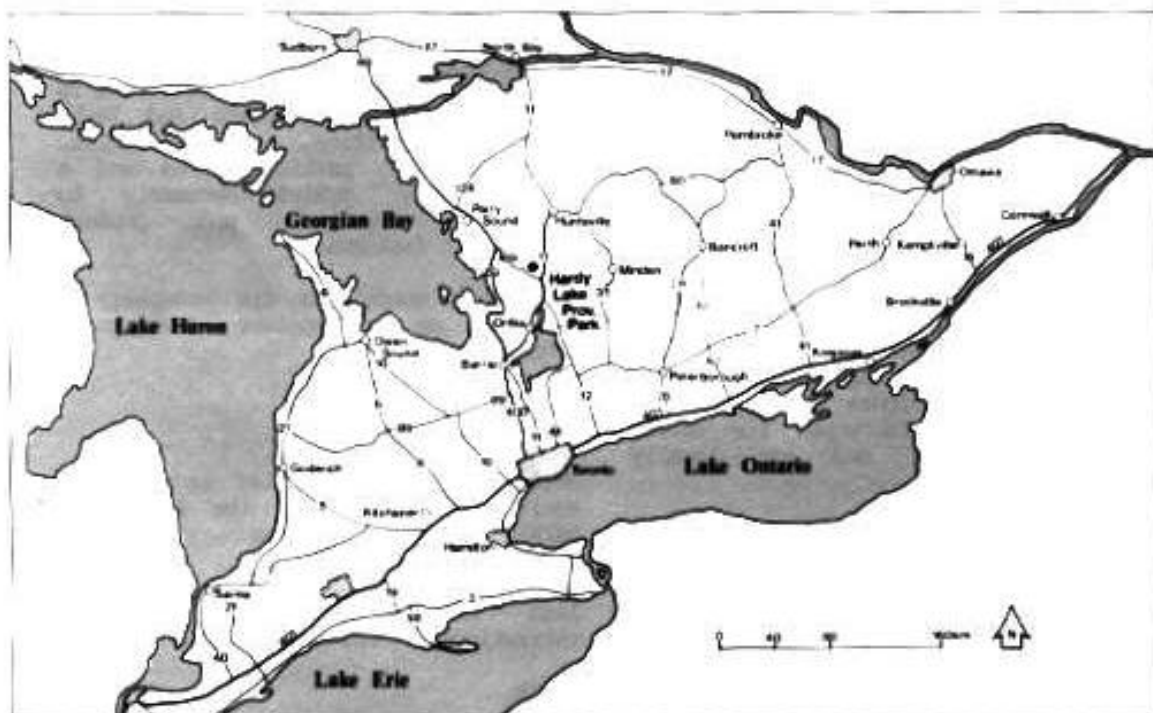
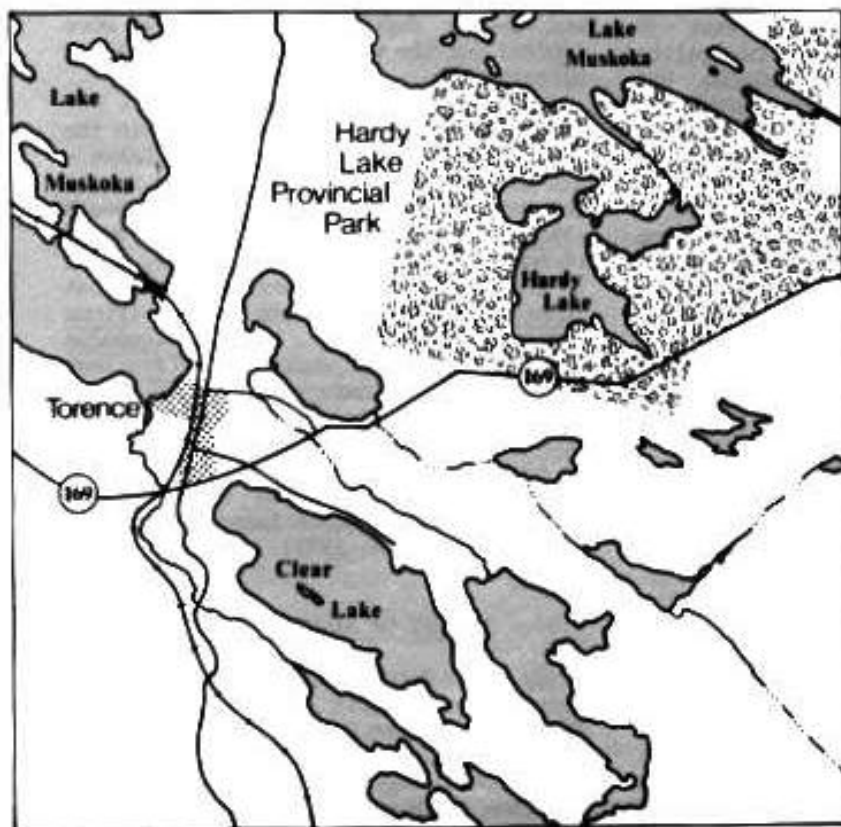
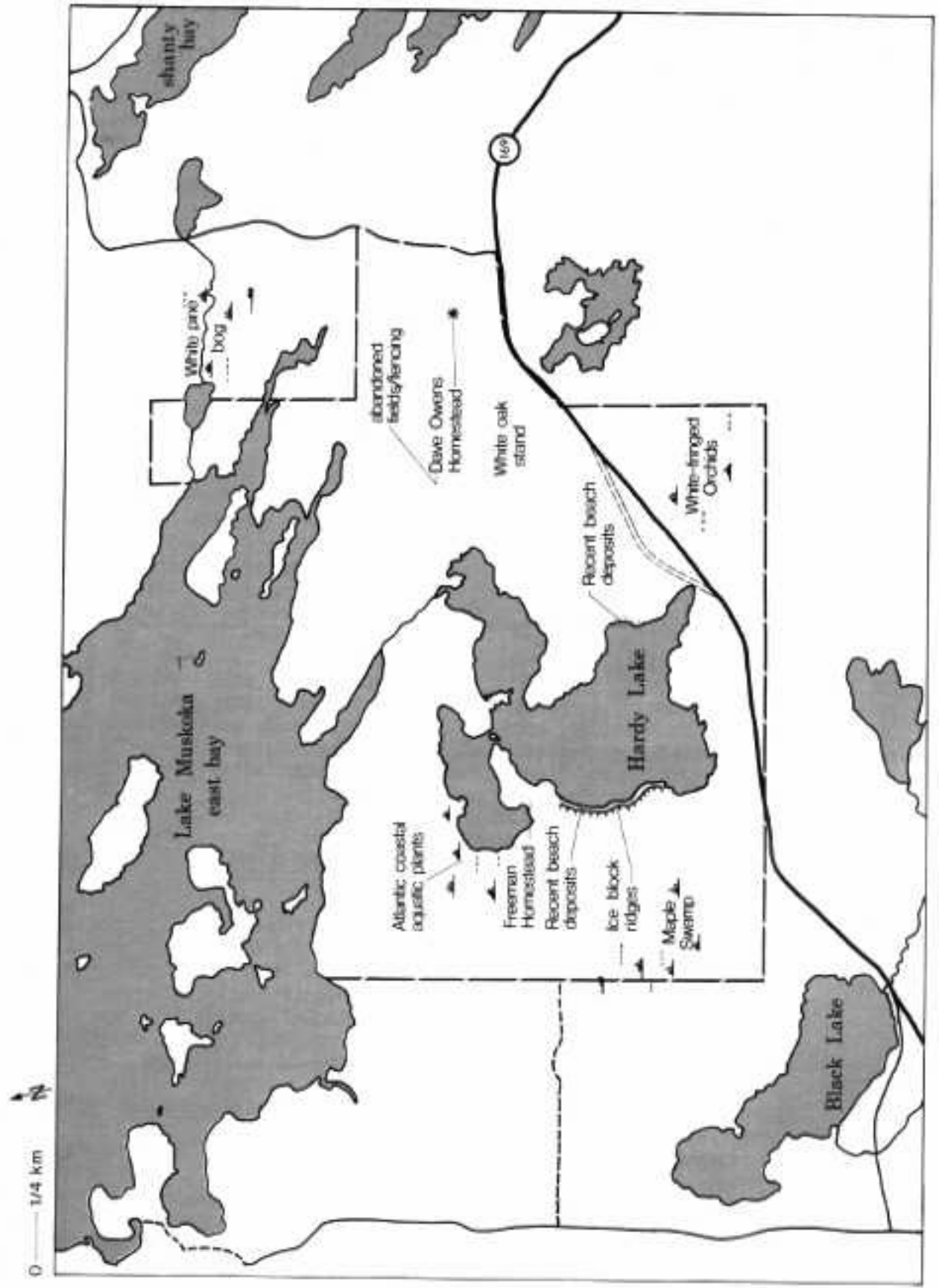


Figure 2  
SIGNIFICANT FEATURES





#### 4.0 GOAL

The goal of Hardy Lake Provincial Park is to preserve a distinctive natural landscape and to provide opportunities for low intensity seasonal day use recreational experiences.

#### 5.0 OBJECTIVES

Hardy Lake will contribute to the achievement of the four objectives of the Ontario Provincial Parks System.

##### 5.1 Protection Objective

To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.

For park system planning purposes, the Ontario landscape is divided into 65 site districts based on criteria of biological productivity and landform. Hardy Lake is situated on the border of site districts 7 and 8, and contains provincially significant life science features that represent major themes in Ontario's history.

##### 5.2 Recreation Objective

To provide day use opportunities in a natural environment with excellent potential for low intensity recreational experiences.

Hardy Lake will provide day use hiking, cross-country skiing, picnicking, swimming, canoeing and fishing opportunities on a seasonal basis. Individuals, families and groups will have every opportunity for social interaction with fellow recreationists.

Hardy Lake will offer an annual total of 32,200 swimming opportunities and 4,250 picnicking opportunities, contributing to the achievement of provincial park targets in Bracebridge District Land Use Guidelines.

##### 5.3 Heritage Appreciation Objective

To provide opportunities for the exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.

Hardy Lake Provincial Park will provide the opportunity for the exploration and appreciation of its natural and cultural resources by way of self-use facilities and information.

A full range of interpretive programs directed to a

wide variety of user groups will reflect the diversity of features in the Park.

##### 5.4 Tourism Objective

To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors an opportunity to discover a distinctive region of the province.

Hardy Lake will provide day use opportunities for Muskoka residents, cottagers and passing travelers. They will be encouraged to explore the Park as well as other sites and attractions in Muskoka.

#### 6.0 PARK BOUNDARY

The park boundary will over time, be extended (Figure 3) as properties become available and funds permit. The extensions will facilitate management, and significantly enhance the Park's recreational potential, as well as achieving its protection and recreation objectives.




##### 6.1 Proposed Private Land Acquisitions

The top priority is to acquire, if available for sale, part of Lot 19, Concession VII, north of Highway 169 to establish an easily recognizable boundary and to preserve the natural appearance of the eastern approach to the park entrance.

Lots 12 and 13 in Concession IV are second in priority and should be acquired if they are offered for sale in order to consolidate the park boundary. Lots 12 and 13 have no great recreational value, but do contain a proposed Nature Reserve Zone (NR—2).

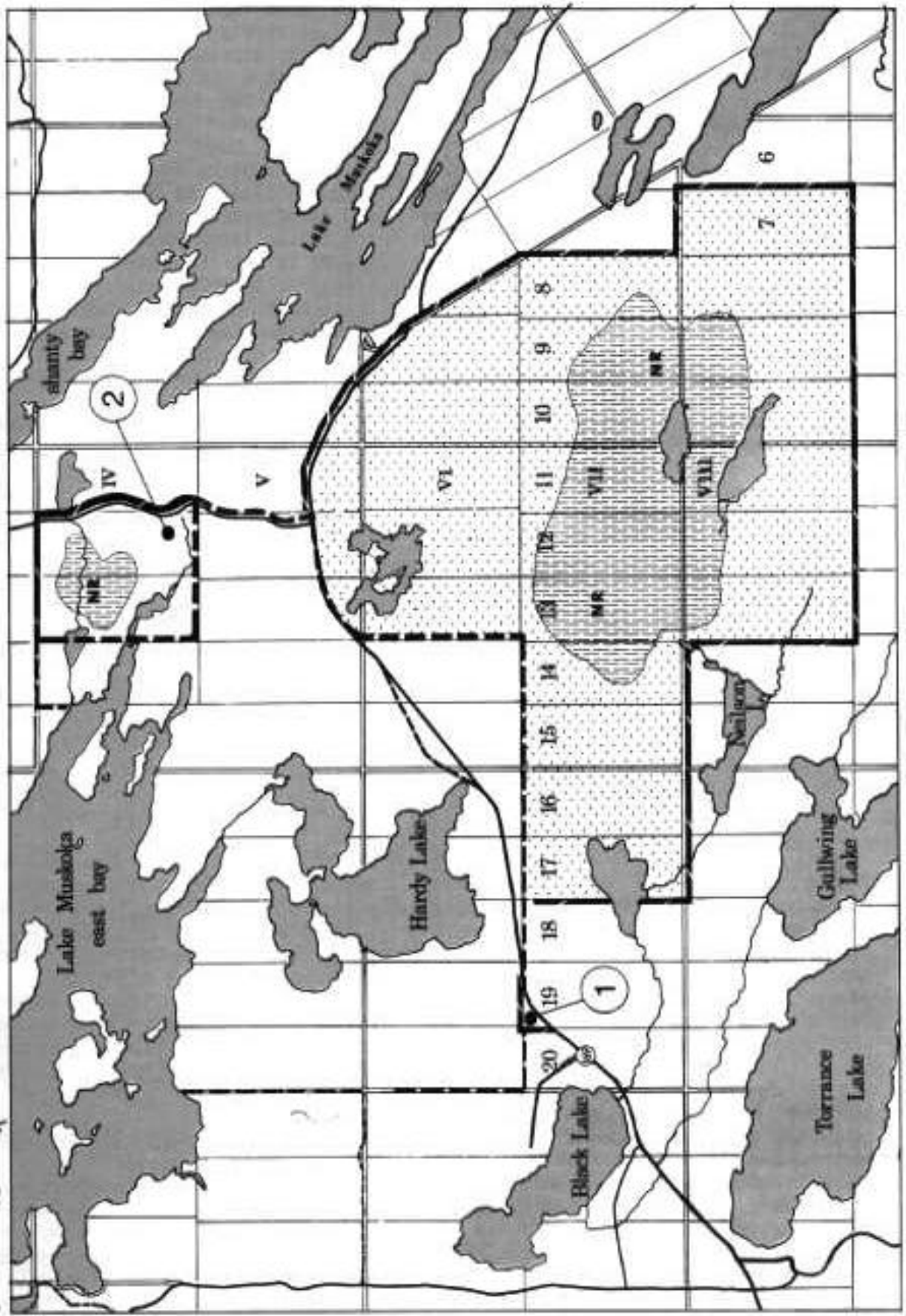
Figure 3

**PARK BOUNDARY**

-  Present Boundary
-  Proposed Acquisitions
-  Proposed Zoning Expansion

-  Acquisition Priorities
-  Crown Land

0 — 1/2 km 



## 6.2 Crown Land Addition

An area of Crown land (Figure 3), approximately 800 hectares in size, located south of Highway 169 was recognized in the Bracebridge District Land Use Guidelines as being part of Hardy Lake Provincial Park. It was viewed as an area where any needed expansion of walking and cross-country ski trails could occur. It also contains a proposed nature reserve zone (NR—6) which has the potential, based on reconnaissance inventory work, of superseding nature reserve zones NR—1 and NR—2.

A detailed study will be done to determine more fully the values, extent and the need of the proposed nature reserve along with an assessment of the recreation potential of this Crown land. The results of such a study will determine appropriate boundaries of this addition, which may not need to incorporate all 800 hectares as identified in the Bracebridge District Land Use Guidelines.

## 7.0 ZONING

Zoning is employed as a management technique. Lands and waters within each park are zoned so that they may be allocated their most appropriate use on the basis of their significance for protection and their potential for recreation within the context of the park's classification.

Natural Environment parks always include Natural Environment and development zones and may also include Wilderness, Nature Reserve, Historical and Access zones. Hardy Lake will include Natural Environment, development, Nature Reserve and Historical zones.

### 7.1 Nature Reserve Zones

The Nature Reserve zones include the following significant life science features.

#### 7.1.1 NR—1: Oak Ridges Zone (85 ha)

This zone contains an extensive area of the extremely dry; red oak arid pine forested granite ridges, which typify the eastern side of the Hardy Lake area. Representative wetlands associated with this habitat include beaver ponds, chainfern bogs and meadows. The five-lined skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*), an uncommon lizard in Ontario is found here and is of biogeographic significance. So too is the large population of white oak, which is at the northern

limit of its range. Introduction of fire as a management tool for maintaining these associations may be required.

#### 7.1.2 NR—2: Pine Bog Zone (32 ha)

The primary feature of this zone is the white pine bog association. White pine is found growing abundantly on logs and old stumps on a saturated organic mat complete with typical bog species including the virginia chainfern (*Woodwardia virginica*). The common occurrence of white pine in such a wet, boggy site appears to be unique in the region. These bogs are heavily utilized for winter shelter by white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). Squawroot americana, a plant rare in Canada, is found in the dry oak-maple forest surrounding the bogs. No special management requirements are proposed.

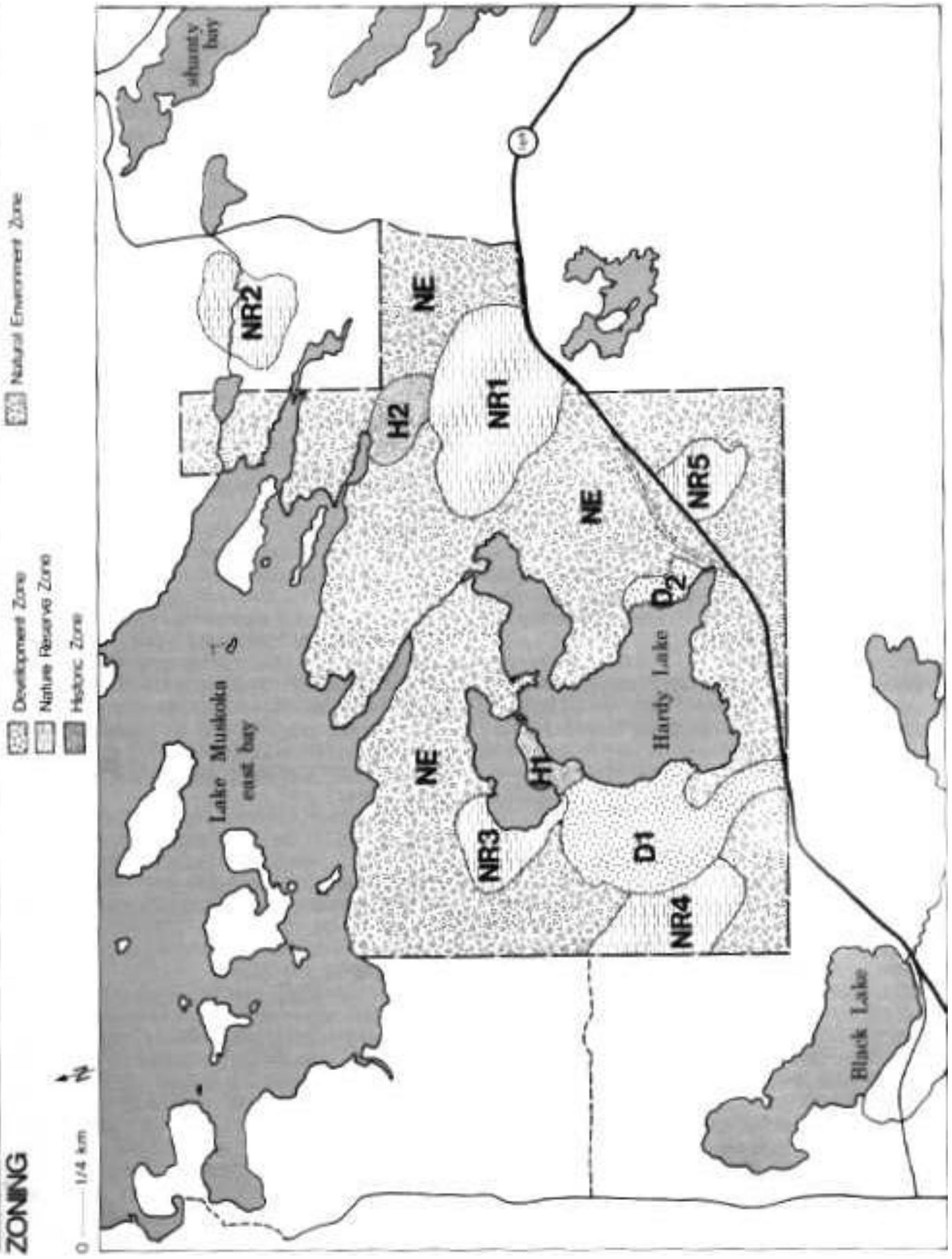
#### 7.1.3 NR—3: Rare Aquatics Zone (22 ha)

A rich association of rare aquatic plants normally found along the Atlantic coastal plain of eastern North America dominates this site. No site in this region is known to exceed the populations found here. A large area of buttonbush swamp, a rare association in this region, where buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) is at the northern end of its range, is also included. No special management is required.

#### 7.1.4 NR—4: Maple Swamp Zone (44.5 ha)

Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and hemlock dominate extensive swamp zone situated among drier bedrock ridges of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and hemlock. Such swamps are more typical of the Georgian Bay shore, but are probably not found in larger stands than those at Hardy Lake and are rare this far inland. The unusual chainfern is locally abundant here. The zone is heavily utilized by white-tailed deer for feeding and shelter. No special management is required.

**Figure 4**  
**ZONING**



#### 7.1.5 NR—5: Fringed Orchid Zone (19.4 ha)

The extensive open bog and black spruce—larch forest in this zone support a number of rare and biogeographically important plant species, including the nationally rare white-fringed orchid (*Habenaria bleriglottis*), the provincially rare yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris* spp.) and regionally rare sedge and arethusa. It also supports populations of two rare insects (ground beetles) and contains potential habitat for rare reptiles such as the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*).

#### 7.2 Historical Zones (25.1 ha)

Examples of pioneer farming, including original structures, foundations and remaining vegetative cultivars are located in these two zones. They will be zoned “historical” and will receive further study to determine their historic significance.

The homestead building, proposed to be reconstructed on its original foundations, will also be located in a Historical zone.

#### 7.3 Development Zones (79.3 ha)

The development zones at the west and east beaches will contain shoreline recreation facilities, including swimming beaches, picnic areas, and sanitary facilities. Change houses, parking areas and a maintenance area will be located in the west Development zone.

#### 7.4 Natural Environment Zones (376.1 ha)

The remainder of the Park will be zoned Natural Environment. This zone type includes areas in which there is minimum development required to support recreational activity. Most of the trail system is located within the Natural Environment zone.

### 8.0 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

#### 8.1 Vegetation

A Vegetation Management Plan will be written for the Park. The goal of the plan will be to retain the natural character and appeal of the site while providing an interesting and enjoyable recreational experience. This plan will describe the type and mix of vegetative communities desired and will consider succession changes in the Park. In general terms, the different zone types will be managed in the following ways.

The Nature Reserve zones will be allowed to follow their natural succession. No cutting will take place in these zones except for trail purposes.

In Development, Historical and Natural Environment zones, vegetation may be cut for purposes of safety, wildlife management, interpretation, road, trail, beach and public site development, creating scenic vistas and for the construction of park buildings, as required by the management plan.

The greatest disturbance will occur in the Development zone. At the west and east beaches a strip 30 metres wide by 60 metres long will be cleared along the length of each shore so that dry beaches may be created. In the backshore areas, the vegetation will be managed so as to perpetuate shaded grassed areas for picnic use.

Parking will be distributed to a series of lots, each with an island configuration, so as to retain the protection of the overstory.

Commercial forest operations will not be permitted in the Park.

Trees that are removed for development or management purposes (Development or Historical zones) may be marketed or used for park purposes such as boardwalks, firewood, etc.

Non—native plant species will not be deliberately introduced except for historically authentic species in Historical zones where these will not have a detrimental impact on native plant communities elsewhere within the Park.

Fertilizers may not be used except in development zones.

## 8.2 Wildlife

In Natural Environment, development and Historical zones, efforts will be made to increase the wildlife viewing opportunities. Consistent with the direction of the 'Backgrounder — Land Use Guidelines', no hunting will be permitted within the boundaries of the Park as regulated under the Provincial Parks Act.

The "Backgrounder" also identifies the removal of any existing commercial traplines. However, trapping may be used as a management tool to protect park values. The Wildlife Management Plan will provide general guidelines to determine where and when trapping should be undertaken.

## 8.3 Fisheries

A Fisheries Management Plan will be written to improve the fishery and increase the satisfaction level for anglers visiting the Park. The yield of fish at the present time in Hardy Lake is low. The Fisheries Management Plan will address ways to improve the existing smallmouth bass fishery and to determine the potential introduction of a suitable trout species.

## 8.4 Mining and Mineral Aggregates

No mining or mineral exploration will be allowed within the Park.

When sand or gravel is required for maintenance and capital improvements, it will be brought in from an external source.

## 8.5 Water Quality and Control

Tests were conducted six times during the summer months of 1986 to determine the trophic status of Hardy Lake. When analyzed using the methodology in the Provincial Parks Management Planning Manual, Hardy Lake scored a Water Quality Index rating of 5 which would categorize the waterbody as mid-mesotrophic. Hardy Lake would be capable of supporting varying degrees of development, as the total use capacity would be 3,720 total user days. The Dillon Methodology technique was used to calculate the capacity of Hardy Lake for future park

development based on natural and manmade nutrient inputs and water quality parameters reflecting lake trophic status. The permissible total phosphorus supply was calculated to be 378 kg per year. The present status of natural phosphorus supply is 8.8 kg per year. This low figure is largely due to Hardy Lake's minute catchment, the diminutive inflow from its six intermittent streams naturally filtered by their swampy origins and the spring fed nature of the lake.

A more concise approach to be introduced in the near future, the Ontario Lakeshore Capacity Simulation Model (OLCSM) can simulate and forecast the probable effects on Hardy Lake. The latter study will consider human activity and land use, wildlife and habitat, water quality, fisheries and the impact of future development within the watershed.

These preliminary assessments suggest that the scale of development described within the development section of this plan will not have an adverse effect on the water quality of Hardy Lake.

A water control structure will be constructed at the outlet of Hardy Lake to stabilize the lake level. This will replace the present structure, which is disintegrating, and would incorporate a pedestrian walkway to link the trail system.

## 8.6 Fire

In park policy, natural fires occurring in Nature Reserve zones would normally be allowed to burn unless they threaten human life, other zones, or lands outside the park. However, in the case of Hardy Lake, due to its size and proximity to development areas outside the Park, normal methods of fire detection and suppression will be carried out to protect the whole park area including Nature Reserve zones. Fire suppression techniques used will have as minimum an effect as possible on the environment. Such means of suppression as bulldozing and water bombing with chemical additives will not be permitted except in critical situations determined by the Superintendent or District Manager in cooperation with the Regional Fire Coordinator.

## 8.7 Insects and Disease

Native forest and vegetative insects and diseases in Nature Reserve zones normally will be allowed to develop undisturbed. Native insects and diseases threatening the values for which Nature Reserve or Historical zones have been established, or the aesthetic values of development and Natural Environment zones, or values outside of the Park, will be controlled where possible. Insects and diseases not native to the forest region will be controlled where feasible. Where control is desirable, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease so as to have minimal effects on other components of the park's environment. Biological control will be used wherever feasible.

## 9.0 OPERATIONS

### 9.1 Visitor Services

Hardy Lake Provincial Park will offer a 'Seasonal Activity' Visitor Services Program. This program will entail a high degree of contact between visitor services staff and park visitors during the summer season. Facilities will consist of a visitor centre (reconstruction of the old homestead) and a walking/cross-country ski trail system to aid visitors in exploring and appreciating both the cultural and natural history of this part of Ontario.

A Visitor Services Plan will be written to provide the program details. The following will provide the direction for each of the three components comprising the Visitor Services Program.

The visitor services facilities (visitor centre and trail system) will be made available to local boards of education for natural and cultural and outdoor recreation uses. The Park's staff, when available, will provide assistance as resource persons to regular classroom teachers of visiting school groups.

#### 9.1.1 Information

A public information service using print and display media and personal contact will be developed.

This service will describe the Park and its surroundings, and explain the role of Hardy Lake in the Provincial Park System. It will include a park map, descriptions of points of interest, accommodation, other recreation facilities in Muskoka, and a park newsletter.

### 9.1.2 Interpretation

Interpretive programs will provide visitors with the opportunity to learn and experience the character of Hardy Lake Provincial Park and the area of Ontario where it is located. The park contains natural and cultural features of provincial and regional significance. These features will be interpreted through the following themes by visitor services staff, self-guiding trail brochures and displays located at the proposed visitor centre:

- The Park's and Muskoka Lakes' Recreational History
- The Park's Earth and Life Science Features
- The Park's Role in the Provincial Park System

### 9.1.3 Outdoor Recreation

Programs may be offered by interested groups and agencies (local ski club, Canoe Ontario) to develop the outdoor skills of park visitors. The skills to be promoted would be limited to those appropriate to the character of the Park and could include canoeing, hiking, swimming, angling and cross-country skiing.

### 9.2 Volunteers

The Ministry of Natural Resources will be receptive to volunteer services offered by groups or individuals to carry out projects that would not otherwise be undertaken and that contribute to the goal of the Park. It is recognized that a wide variety of interests, skills and knowledge are available which could benefit the Park's management and operation. Volunteer projects will be approved and directed by the superintendent.

### 9.3 Research

Research by qualified individuals which contributes to the knowledge of our natural and cultural history will be permitted in Hardy Lake Park under applicable federal and provincial legislation and policies (e.g. P.P.P. 03.01- Research Activities in Provincial Parks and Park Reserves

#### 9.4 Marketing

In order to more closely match the recreation potential of Hardy Lake Park and complement the local tourist economy, a Marketing Plan will be written for the Park through its operating seasons. The plan will be prepared with the following objectives:

to attract day visitors staying at local commercial establishments or using local services; to attract day visitors from local urban centres and private cottages; to attract visitors during low use periods in the mid-week and shoulder seasons (i.e. fall cavalcade photography), to augment involvement with the commercial sector by encouraging park users to utilize and take advantage of local tourist services and attractions; to generally stimulate interaction between the Park and the private tourist and commercial sector in the vicinity.

#### 10.0 DEVELOPMENT

Development will proceed in accordance with Figures 5 and 6 and the following guidelines. In all instances, detailed site plans will be completed and approved in advance of the development of new facilities. development projects will be phased according to the Implementation Strategy (Section 11) as needed and funding permits. The requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act will be adhered to.

##### 10.1 Access and Parking

Vehicle access will be provided from Highway 169 in the southwest part of Lot 18, Concession VI on the west side of Hardy Lake at a location approved by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. A 1.5 km two-way paved access road will join this entrance point to the parking lots to be located near the north end of Hardy Lake.

Access to the Park by water will be made possible by the provision of a dock on Lake Muskoka where an existing portage trail exists between Lake Muskoka and Hardy Lake.

Parking facilities will be provided in conjunction with the access road. Two parking lots, with a total capacity of 150 cars will be provided in the

development zone D1. A turnaround loop and parking for buses and large recreation vehicles will be located on the main access road. Because of Hardy Lake's fragility, care will be taken in the design and construction of these parking lots to control runoff.

Ministry of Transportation and Communications will be asked to remove the pull-out on Highway 169 at the southwest end of Hardy Lake, closing this access point.

The access road from the west on the road allowance, between Concessions V and VI, Lot 20 will be gated.

##### 10.1.1 Motorized Vehicles

Motor vehicles as defined in the Highway Traffic Act will be allowed in the park only on designated roads except where required for park development or management purposes, or emergency purposes as determined by the Superintendent or District Manager. Motorized snow vehicles will not be allowed in the park except for management purposes (e.g. trail grooming).

##### 10.2 Shoreline development

###### 10.2.1 Hardy Lake

Picnic and swimming facilities including tables, drinking water, a 30 metre wide dry sand beach and change house will be provided at the west beach on Hardy Lake. Picnic and swimming facilities at the east beach will include tables, a small dry sand beach and vault privies only.

Good swimming opportunities may also be found at bedrock outcrops on the Hardy Lake and Lake Muskoka shorelines.

###### 10.2.2 Lake Muskoka

Development along the Lake Muskoka shoreline will consist of a maximum of twelve individual picnic sites in assemblages of three. Each group will have individual docks and vault privies. Each site will contain one picnic table.

One large dock will be located at the Hardy Lake access point on Lake Muskoka to encourage boaters to utilize Hardy Lake's recreation attributes.



Figure 5

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

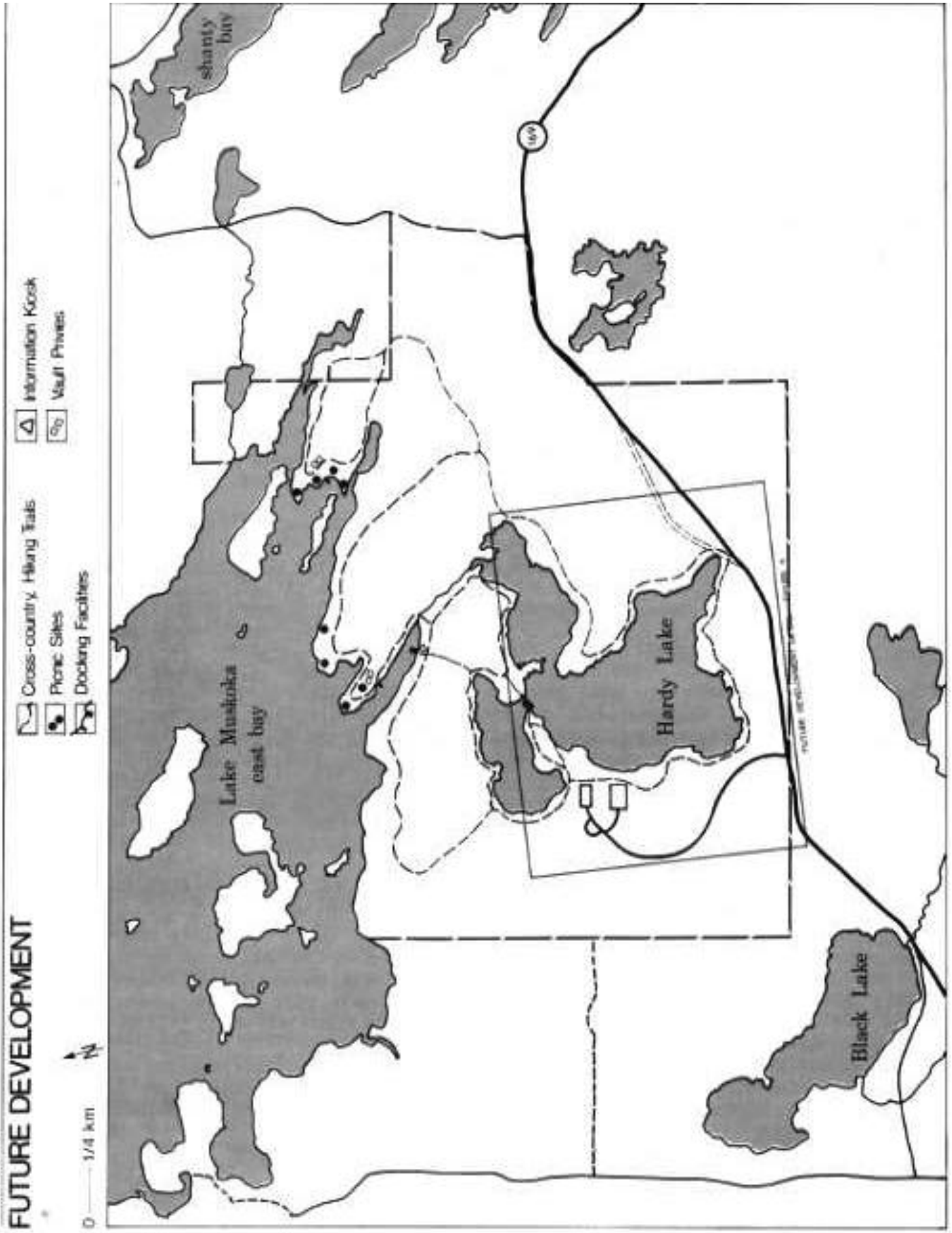
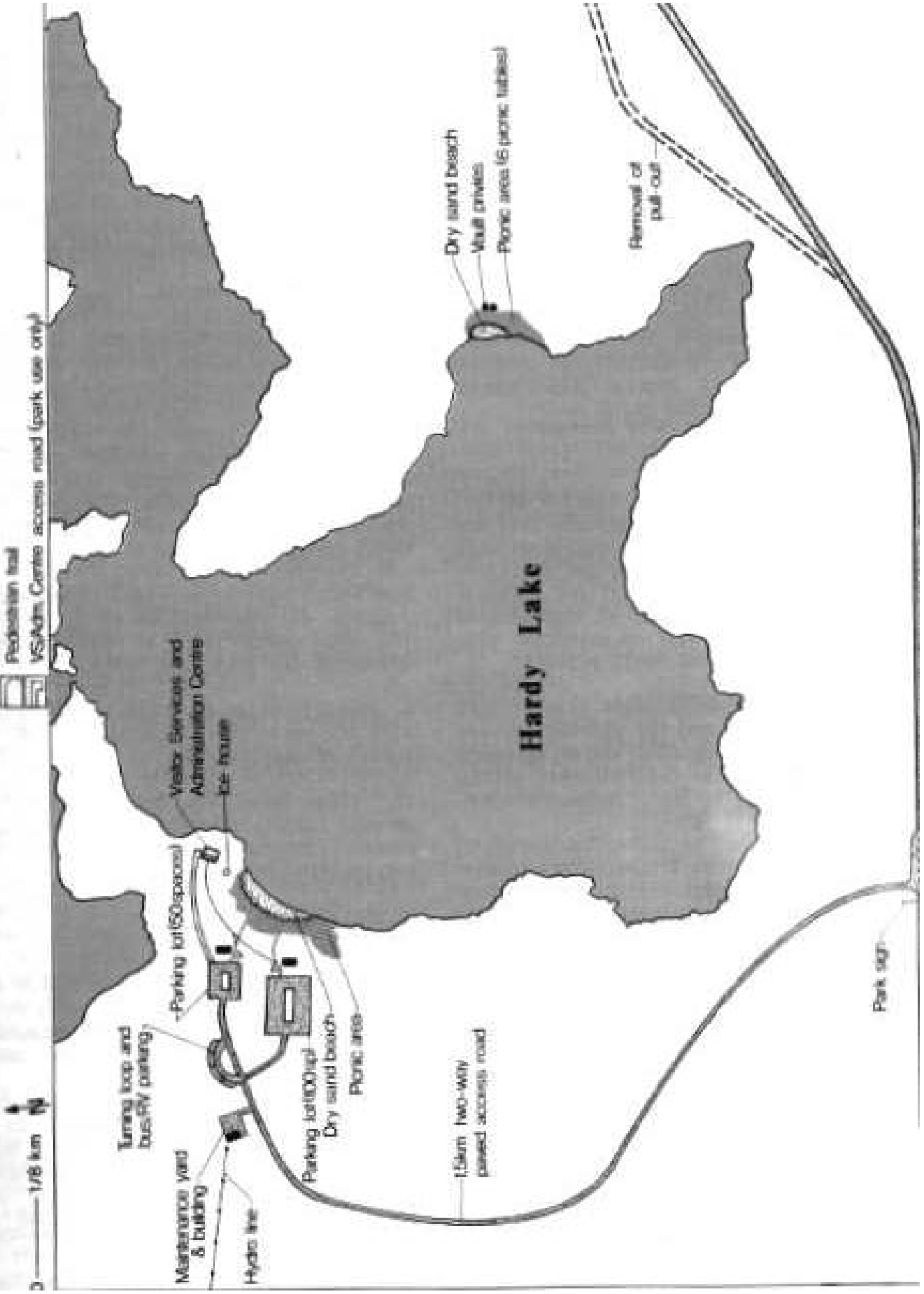


Figure 6

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (detailed)**



### 10.3 Service Easements

Electrical power to adequately supply Hardy Lake Park's facilities will be attained via a hydro line built originating from the cottage hydro service on Lake Muskoka. Overhead lines will be installed to the maintenance yard, avoiding interference with any trail development. A control meter will be located at the maintenance yard and the service will branch and travel underground from this point on.

### 10.4 Sanitary Services

Two small comfort stations (Model 20) will be built and coincide with the day use parking lots. The buildings will include four flush toilets and vanities, drinking fountain, utility and storage space. The east beach and Muskoka Lake picnic site areas will be serviced with strategically placed vault privies.

Park sewage and solid waste from the two comfort stations and the visitor service centre will be handled via an approved pump system to tile beds situated within close proximity to the maintenance area.

One approach that is being considered to help keep the Park clean is to issue garbage bags to park visitors upon entry to the Park and Lake Muskoka entrances, and depositing all garbage at central refuse containers.

Visitors to boat—in picnic sites on Lake Muskoka will be responsible for removing their own garbage.

### 10.5 Maintenance

A small maintenance building and yard will be built consisting of an office area and a single bay garage/workshop. The building will be located on the day use access road adjacent to the vehicle turning loop.

### 10.6 Day Use Traffic and Fee Control

A self—serve fee collection system administered for those utilizing the facilities located on Muskoka Lake side of the park will be located at the Lake Muskoka entrance point.

Provision will be made in the design of the parking lots for the construction of a self—serve fee station or types of an automatic fee collection system such as coin operated electric gates.

Information kiosks introducing visitors to the Park and its facilities will be located at both locations.

### 10.7 Trails

Both walking and cross—country ski trails will be established. The trails are illustrated schematically on Figure 5.

Detailed trail design will determine the exact alignments of trails, taking in areas of special appeal and avoiding areas that are sensitive. Such detailed design will also determine where the two trail types can utilize the same pathway.

Boardwalks will be provided to bridge the outlets of the wetlands at the south of the main basin and at the northwest corner of the northwest basin.

A walkway will be built in conjunction with the water control structure at the outlet of Hardy Lake.

At this level of development, 3,700 annual hiking opportunities and 5,700 annual cross—country ski opportunities can be provided.

### 10.8 Visitor Services and Administration Centre

An all—season visitor service centre will be built in the day use area on the existing foundation of the old homestead, destroyed by fire in 1975. The centre will be used year-round.

The exterior will be designed in the Park's architectural theme, yet blend with the natural surroundings. Washrooms incorporated inside the centre will provide sanitary facilities required for the building.

A short, single lane road for park vehicles will join this building with the maintenance and parking lots. Visitor access to this centre will normally be gained by walking the short trail from the parking lot.

The visitor centre will serve as the park administration headquarters, housing the superintendent and clerks' offices, as well as the information and interpretive and display centre. The building will also act as a disembarkment point and warm-up centre for cross—country skiing and other possible winter activities.

### 10.9 Architectural Theme

An architectural theme will be chosen for the park to help interpret the history of the site and of the Muskoka Lakes. The story of Hardy Lake is one of transition from south shield agriculture pursuits in the late 1800's to recreational use in the 1900's. Evidence clearly exists in the vegetation communities and in the remnants of human habitation on the site of this transition.

The homestead will be reconstructed as close as possible to the original style, and the other park buildings (e.g. change houses, washrooms) will be constructed in this characteristic 'Muskoka Lakes style'.

Following this theme will provide an effective way of interpreting the site and reflecting its distinctive history and character.

#### 10.10 Boating

Due to the sensitivity of Hardy Lake, motorboats will not be permitted. Because of this, a boat launch ramp will not be required. However, four docks will be provided on Lake Muskoka, one at each of the three picnic clusters and a larger one at the access point to Hardy Lake.

#### 10.11 Camping

During initial stages of development, campgrounds will not be developed. If in the future, demand warrants camping and land and water capability permits campground development, a public review Of the Management Plan will be undertaken to determine the appropriateness and size of the development.

### 11.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The following is a list of interrelated projects, studies and resource management plans that will be carried out in accordance with approved site and development plans. Although the projects are listed in chronological order according to individual project priority, Hardy Lake Provincial Park will be completed in one major phase when the necessary funds are allocated. The location, design and materials of all facilities constructed within Hardy Lake Park will, to the greatest extent possible, reflect its 'Muskoka Lakes style' architectural theme. When all major development is complete, it will be managed in accordance with the Park operating plan.

This management plan will be reviewed at least every ten years following its approval and as the need arises. Data collection and environmental monitoring will be conducted regularly.

Specific design requirements may be found in Hardy Lake Provincial Park West Day Use Area Development Report.

#### Priority Rating

#### Project Description

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Highway Entrance & Road System<br>a) turning lane from Highway 169<br>b) 1.5 km two-way paved road including turning loop |
| 2 | Hydro Service into Park   |
| 3 | Park Entrance<br>a) park sign on highway entrance   |
| 4 | Parking<br>a) 2 car lots totaling 150 spaces<br>b) one 125 metre bus and trailer parking/pull-out lane                    |
- 5 Beach and Picnic Area (west)
- a) develop 30m x 60m dry beach, wet beach 9.6m or 1.5 m water depth (whichever comes first)
  - b) develop 1.6 hectare backshore picnic area
  - c) picnic tables (14)
  - d) washroom facilities (one comfort station at each parking lot)
  - e) pumphouse and sewage tile bed
  - f) water system

- 6 Beach and Picnic Area (east)
- a) develop 13m x 30m dry beach, wet beach 9.6m or 1.5m water depth (whichever comes first)
  - b) develop 0.7 ha backshore picnic area
  - c) 2 vault privies
  - d) 6 picnic tables
- 7 Trail System
- a) 15 km walking trail
  - b) 13 km cross—country ski trail
  - c) 2 boardwalks
  - d) water control structure — spillover dam incorporating bridge to link walking trails
  - e) 16 picnic tables
- 8 Maintenance Yard
- a) enclose 45m x 30m area (1350 m) on west side with fence for equipment storage
  - b) build small maintenance garage/workshop building
- 9 Visitor Services and Administration Centre
- a) reconstruct homestead building, including public washrooms
  - b) telephone service (private and public)
- 10 Muskoka Lake shoreline
- a) park entrance
    - replace existing dock
    - self-serve fee station with sign
  - b) picnic areas
    - develop 3 picnic sites
    - 12 tables (4 per site)
    - 3 privies (1 per site)
    - 3 docks (1 per site)
  - C) buoys
    - 2 channel markers to mark entrance to the bay containing the main dock and access point to the Park from Lake Muskoka
- 11 Additional Tasks and Equipment
- a) landscaping and finishing
  - b) maintenance equipment
  - c) interpretive equipment
- 12 Management Plans to be Drawn Up
- a) operation
  - b) fire
  - C) emergency measures
  - d) vegetation
  - e) fisheries
  - f) wildlife
  - g) historical resources
  - h) signs
  - l) marketing
  - j) visitor services
- 13 Park Expansion
- a) close all road allowances within park boundary
  - b) acquisition of part Lot 19, Concession VII north of Highway 169 if offered for sale
  - c) extension of park to include Crown land south of Highway 169
  - d) acquisition of Lots 12 and 13 in Concession IV if offered for sale

## 12.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A preliminary management plan was written and made available to local residents, adjacent landowners and local and regional municipal offices for review and comments. Over 200 people attended our open house and more than 70 written documents were received. The majority are in agreement of what was being proposed for Hardy Lake.

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