

Round Lake Provincial Nature Reserve

Interim Management Statement

**Ontario Parks
Central Zone, Huntsville
February, 1998**

Approval Statement

I am pleased to approve this Interim Management Statement for Round Lake Provincial Nature Reserve. This Nature Reserve contains biological features of provincial significance. The shores of Round and Wiwassasegen lakes support one of the largest associations of relict Atlantic Coastal Plain flora found in Ontario. An uncommon plant Coreopsis lanceolata is found within the Park. A significant inland population of the nationally threatened Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake and possibly the largest great blue heronry in the region also occurs here.

This Interim Management Statement will provide direction for the custodial management of Round Lake Provincial Nature Reserve until a comprehensive Management Plan is prepared. The Park is operated under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Grundy Lake Provincial Park.

Brian Pfrimmer
Central Zone Manager
Ontario Parks

Management Guidelines

Interim management statements identify: park values; guidelines to protect those values; and, restrictions on use.

The policies in this interim management statement are consistent with provincial policies for park planning and management, and reaffirm the priority on the protection objective of Round Lake Provincial Nature Reserve while having regard for the other three park objectives: heritage appreciation, recreation and tourism.

Land Uses

The Park boundary is delineated by the following plan: Ontario Regulation 256 / 89 Schedule 227. Figure 2 illustrates the approximate boundary of this 2,585 hectare Nature Reserve.

There are no patented lands within the Nature Reserve. One hunt camp, authorized under a Land Use Permit (L.U.P.) is located on Lot 30, Concession 8, Ferguson Township. The hunt camp will be phased out as soon as possible. **The disposition of real property or rights to Crown resources will not be permitted within the Park.** Existing dispositions will not be expanded and will be dealt with further at the management planning stage.

Access is limited on the west side of the Nature Reserve to a road leading to Wiwassasegen lake, and on the south side to a gated trail leading to Upper Marsh Lake.

When the extension of the four-lane section of Highway 69 proceeds north of Nobel, the Ministry of Natural Resources will identify Park values along the southwest boundary for the Ministry of Transportation. The access trail to Wiwassasegen Lake will be addressed at this time as part of the management planning process.

There are no existing facilities in the Reserve. The management of this large Nature Reserve will depend on the results of planning studies on natural heritage values, and the determination of how best to protect these values.

Recreation Activities

Recreation uses (e.g. walking, hiking, canoeing, fishing, etc.) are not managed Back country recreation will be encouraged; however, no formal trails exist. Management planning will determine if additional recreational uses are compatible with the objectives of the Nature Reserve.

Camping is not a permitted use in the Nature Reserve. Campsites and related trails will be closed and allowed to regenerate naturally.

Hunting is not permitted in the Nature Reserve by regulation under the Game and Fish Act (R.R.O. 502, O.Reg. 49/95, s.1) and by provincial park policy.

Mechanized travel in the Park is not permitted.

Commercial Activities

Commercial uses are not permitted (e.g. trapping, bait fishing, mineral resources exploration/development, forestry, commercial tourism services, hydro

development, etc.) within the Nature Reserve.

The following traplines, PST 77, PS 78, PS 79, small portions of PS 76 and PS 86 are located within the original park boundary.

Only those commercial traplines operated by Status Indians protected by treaty rights will be permitted. Non-native trapline licenses will be phased out by 2010, or when the trapper(s) retire, whichever is sooner. Once a non-native trapper retires, the line may be transferred to a native trapper, or the line may be surrendered with no transfer taking place. An amendment to existing traplines would restrict trapping along the portion of the line that is situated within park boundaries.

Aboriginal Interests

There are no land claims that have a bearing on the Park.

Geological and Biological Features

Initial work for the natural heritage values of the Park was completed in the 1970's. Understanding of the complex geology of this part of the Central Gneiss Belt has advanced greatly in the last decade. The Nature Reserve is located within the southern Britt Domain and is possibly underlain in part by the Bolger Pluton. The life science values of the Park are better (Simpson, R. 1976 and Simpson, H. 1979 and Brunton, 1991). The emergent silty shores on Round and Wiwassasegen Lakes support one of the largest associations of disjunct Atlantic coastal plain flora found in Ontario. An uncommon plant, Coreopsis lanceolata, occurs on Wiwassasegen Lake. Significant fauna include: a large inland population of the nationally threatened Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (Sistrurus catenatus catenatus),

a northern population of the uncommon five-lined skink (Eumeces fasciatus), the largest known heronry in the former Algonquin Region (now part of the South Central Region) and two uncommon butterflies.

Management would ideally allow natural processes to continue to shape the ecology of the forest and non-forest communities. Given the large size of the Park, the presence of an uncommon species, a sizable number of provincially significant flora dependent on natural fluctuations in lake levels and a large population of Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes, management planning will need to minimize disturbance to the area. Further inventory is required to support management.

Natural fires will be suppressed. Fire management through natural or prescribed burning will be considered during the park management plan and fire management planning process.

Cultural Resources

No cultural resources were located during reconnaissance studies in the 1970's. The area was logged for white pine during the Georgian Bay lumbering era.

Visitor Services

Given that the most significant natural heritage values of the Park are sensitive to disturbance, no increased access will be provided until an approved management plan has been completed. Management planning will assess potential impacts of increased use of the Nature Reserve.

Visitor services will consist of information from Parry Sound District (M.N.R.) and nearby provincial parks promoting the

protection of such sensitive areas as Round Lake Provincial Nature Reserve. Information on the area should identify: park boundary, natural heritage target achievement and research objectives.

Research

Research will deal with all aspects of scientific study, inventory or surveys such as studies of vegetation and ecological processes, cultural resource inventories or special studies, and user surveys. It will be consistent with Ontario Parks Research and Information Strategy. An approved research application is required in order to conduct research in Provincial Parks.

As in the past biological and geological research will be encouraged. Research will develop a data base on the geological and biological features in this large Park and related areas. Comparative studies will be encouraged to understand the features and processes in the Nature Reserve in relation to similar areas in Site District 5E-7. Studies of the significant fauna populations will also be encouraged.

Updating of the Regional Earth Science Systems Plan and completion of an earth science theme study for the Central Gneiss Belt will provide a more complete context to assess the significance of the Park's geological features.

Marketing

Marketing is not a priority in the Park. A marketing strategy may be considered when further information on park values is obtained and access developed.

Simpson, H. 1979. *Round Lake Park Reserve, Life Science Checklist*, OMNR, 7p.

Simpson, R.C. 1976. **A Rapid Life Science Inventory of Round Lake Park Reserve**, OMNR.

References

Brunton, D.F. 1991. **Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest in Site District 5-7**, OMNR, Parks and Recreational Areas Section, Huntsville, 112p.

Brunton, D.F. 1991. *Round Lake Provincial Nature Reserve Park, Area of Natural and Scientific Interest - Life Science Checksheet*, OMNR.

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COSEWIC, *Canadian Species at Risk*, April 1997

Keddy, C.J. and Sharp, M.J. 1989. **Atlantic Coastal Plain Vegetation Conservation in Ontario**, World Wildlife Fund, Toronto.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1992. **Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies**, 1992 Update, 90 p.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1983, **Parry Sound District Land Use Guidelines**, 51p.