

Point Pleasant Park was created to serve as a place of rest, recreation and appreciation for the city's residents.

This chapter outlines the guiding principles that inform the park development plan and the management plan in later chapters. The principles address sustainability, aesthetics, ecology, social and cultural concerns, safety and security, and programming and management issues. They reflect and respond to the values of the community and HRM expressed in the wake of Hurricane Juan.

The following principles aim to tie the Park's raison d'être to its physical expression and management approach. The principles explain and justify design and management decisions in later chapters. They have been grouped into ten categories to address the full spectrum of themes to be addressed by HRM park managers into the future.

3.1 Park Sustainability

To accommodate human activity in the Park and provide the healthy, enduring, and beautiful ecosystem that defines Point Pleasant Park, park managers must make decisions that reflect long-term investments. Management to promote landscape sustainability seeks to accommodate appropriate human use of the Park in a way that allows ecological processes to flourish to their full potential. Our knowledge of the impacts of climate change, as well as catastrophic fires and hurricanes on the Park, also allows us to manage the Park in anticipation of future risks in a manner nature may be unable to do.





Red squirrel



Mallard duck

Principles for Forest Sustainability

Favour Native Species

Native Acadian species will form the backbone of the future forest at Point Pleasant Park. Non-native tree species (those not native to the Acadian forest) must be excluded from Park plantings, with the following exceptions:

- where native Acadian species are highly diseased, such as American beech, consider the occasional use of non-native disease-resistant varieties such as European beech;
- where native species are subject to non-native pests, their numbers in the forest may be under-represented to keep non-native pests in check; and
- consider the limited introduction of native New England northern mixed forest species in the face of climate change. Conditions may favour more temperate non-coniferous species such as those found in New England and southern Ontario.

A strategy for removing the seedlings and saplings of non-native species must be adopted. Similarly, a strategy for removing large non-native trees such as Scots pines or Norway maples must be followed, so long as the removal does not unduly compromise the aesthetic character of its surroundings (European beech and heather are two exceptions).

Encourage a Mixed-Age Structure

A mixed-age forest structure is desirable. This will require efforts to protect the remaining mature stands, encouraging regeneration and occasional infill planting.

Encourage a Diverse Forest Composition

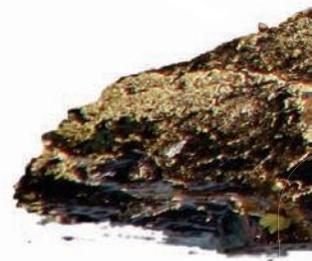
The growth of broadleaved species will be encouraged as their extensive root systems reach deeper into the soil, capturing and cycling nutrients that will benefit the entire forest. The future forest composition will resemble the mixed composition of a natural Acadian forest.

Favour Tolerant Natives

Of the 40-plus Acadian forest species, many are short-lived and shade-intolerant. Park managers will choose a range of native species but will favour long-lived, hardy, shade-tolerant species such as sugar maple, yellow birch, red oak, eastern hemlock, white pine and red spruce.

Foster Natural Tree Regeneration

Natural regeneration will be the main strategy for forest renewal. It will be enhanced by broadleaf plantings on south-facing slopes, particularly near the ocean, and in other areas where natural regeneration does not offer the desired species mix.





Preserve Snags and Fallen Trees

Snags and downed trees will be left alone so long as they do not create a safety hazard. In addition to increasing organic matter on the forest floor, the decaying wood provides a habitat for moss and lichens, insects, birds and young trees. Plant debris on the forest floor helps retain surface water, thus reducing nutrient leaching, soil erosion and fire hazard.

Principles for Habitat Sustainability

Habitat Protection

Significant native habitats will be identified, protected and enhanced through an active habitat strategy. Park regulations will be drafted to reduce the negative impacts of visitors and their dogs on the land and nearby waters. Restrictions may limit activities that harm the Park, restrict access to sensitive areas or limit access at particular times where sensitivity is heightened, such as during bird nesting or following a rainfall, when trampling can lead to soil damage.

Property located next to Park land will be monitored and documented at least once a year. Any areas of concern will be addressed in a timely manner, and a public progress report will be written annually.

The Park will continue to use an integrated pest-management strategy when required.

Improve Bird Habitats

Birds play an important role in regenerating the forest by carrying and dropping seeds. Improving their habitats and ensuring species diversity is a key management strategy. Point Pleasant Park will develop a multi-layered vegetation zone of native plant species, dead and dying trees, mature trees and new saplings to improve bird habitats by providing essential feeding, nesting and breeding grounds.



Cormorant





Crusher dust trail



Principles for Soil Sustainability

Preserving Soil Moisture

Where possible, catch basins and storm sewers will be the last resort for drainage; instead, park managers will use green stormwater-management approaches such as permeable paving, French drains, green roofs, infiltration ponds or created wetlands.

Encouraging regeneration and regrowth on south-facing slopes is one of the best ways to improve soil moisture.

Reducing Erosion of Soil and Gravel

The new construction and excavation of sites of 100 square metres or more will be supported by measures to control sedimentation and erosion. Daily inspection of the construction will ensure that the plans are being carried out properly.

Park regulations, enforcement and physical design will be used to prevent human impacts that lead to soil erosion. Trail design and maintenance procedures will reduce the erosion of stone-dust trail surfaces, include measures to prevent deposition of eroded gravels in natural landscape areas and help reclaim relocated gravel.

Minimizing Soil Compaction

Soil compaction has been caused by people walking, running and cycling. Excessive use of the roads and trails by people and vehicles can damage them and is harmful to tree-root growth because it starves the roots of nutrients, water and oxygen. Throughout the year, soil regeneration will take place in the most vulnerable areas of the Park and may be improved upon by temporarily closing off certain trails. Off-trail travel will be restricted; management will close and restore those paths as quickly as possible.





Wood chip on trail

Principles for Shoreline Sustainability

Erosion of a natural coastline is inevitable, and coastal retreat should be planned for, unless other objectives demand shoreline stabilization. Park managers will order a detailed shoreline investigation to evaluate high-risk areas and consider possible solutions.

Shoreline Stabilization

Stabilization measures will only be put into place where significant archaeological and cultural resources will be threatened by coastal retreat. In particular, the shoreline at Point Pleasant Battery and North West Arm Battery will be stabilized in a way that reduces regular maintenance.

Compromised Cultural Features

Cultural features that are seriously threatened by shoreline erosion or pose a safety hazard should be removed, relocated (such as the Bonaventure Anchor) or entombed (such as the Point Pleasant battery). All resources should be documented before they are removed, relocated or entombed.

Managing Coastal Erosion

At least once a year, Park management will monitor and document the impacts of coastal erosion. Significant cultural or natural features threatened by erosion will be documented to a suitable professional standard in a timely fashion.

Park managers will take the appropriate steps to protect the public from harm where erosion creates potentially dangerous conditions. The managers will do what they can to repair coastal erosion around valued cultural or natural resources while doing their best to preserve those resources. That might take the form of planting vegetation, managing runoff and taking measure to reduce human impacts that contribute to erosion.

Principles for Offshore Sustainability

Creation of Marine Reserve

Point Pleasant Park includes an offshore area that has a collection of pre-Confederation water lots (Category C). This uncommon feature permits the extension of Park management to the offshore area of the Hen and Chickens shoal, to complement onshore efforts to promote the sustainability of the urban landscape. The extension of the Park to the marine environment provides a rare opportunity to highlight the relationship between land and marine environments.

A municipal marine preserve will be created in the offshore area of the Park to manage its use and interpretation.



3.2 Park Aesthetics

Aesthetics are critical reflections on art, culture and nature. Broadly defined, this category deals with managing the visual landscape of the Park. Aesthetic and ecological priorities must be balanced in decision-making, despite the fact that these factors sometimes work against each other. The following principles will be considered.



Fountain at Young Avenue entrance



Tower Road entrance

The Natural Aesthetic

Point Pleasant Park will remain a natural park setting and will continue to be inspired by nature. Natural regeneration will be encouraged, as will the meditative and restorative qualities associated with natural settings. Human intervention will follow natural patterns and processes. For successful reforestation, built elements and structures will be located whenever possible on the Park's perimeter near the main entrances.

Forest Aesthetics

As the forest regenerates, efforts will focus on achieving a variety of tree species, distribution and age. Besides meeting ecological goals, this diverse ecosystem will also shape the way the forest looks and feels. The resulting aesthetic will be closer to native and local Acadian forests, presenting a naturally variable composition, ranging from needleleaved-dominant to broadleaved-dominant areas. Efforts will be made to achieve sustainable forests types that are both rustic and visually pleasing.

In the same way that certain buildings are landmarks within the Park, special forest “rooms” will be unique. In most cases, nature will provide what is needed to make them stand out; however, where needed management may create small forest clearings, stands of special trees, forest glades and groves.



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Cambridge Drive



The Role of Horticulture

Point Pleasant Park takes an ecological approach to vegetation management. In restricted areas such as the Superintendent's Lodge, a more horticultural and ornamental approach to planting is needed; however, even these areas allow such ecological practices as the use of native plants, organic gardening techniques and integrated pest management. Formal tree plantings of cultural significance may also be perpetuated in the spirit of the more ornamental approach common in the Victorian era.

Circulation System

The circulation system will provide strong connections to adjacent streets, roads and trails. Access via public and alternative transportation will be encouraged. Vehicle access will be limited to parking areas and major service roads.

Planning of circulation will include refinements to the alignment of paths in relation to the topography. It will also include the use of visual cues and subtle management of vegetation. These improvements will highlight the subtle differences in the Park's environment, natural features and cultural landmarks.

Most current trail alignments and surface treatments will be maintained, while some historic roads and trails will be revived to re-establish specific views or circulation patterns with historic significance.

As well as preventing damage to the regenerating forest, clearly marked routes will help organize the Park's walking and running trails. Path hierarchy will be defined by width, edge treatment, surface materials, signage and furnishing types. Openings and framed views of landscapes will also help determine path categories. Narrow paths that are off the beaten track will be places to meditate or pursue another quiet activity, while wider paths will better accommodate a larger volume of foot traffic.



Gateways

Gateways and entrances will be redesigned to offer an impressive first view of the Park. These will be spaces for people to get information, orient themselves and park their cars and bikes. Signs at gateway locations will state the rules and regulations for behaviour and activities within the Park.

Improved gateways will enhance existing park features such as historic buildings, site walls, paths and natural features. They will make use of local materials so they will blend in with the Park and surrounding settings.



Young Avenue entrance before Point Pleasant Drive

Managing Views

Park management will identify, define and maintain its rich visual assets by recognizing significant viewplanes. A variety of view types will be maintained or re-established.

Management will eliminate all overhead wiring by burying wires, using technologies that are less visible or by removing them completely. In time, overhead electrical and communications wiring will be removed; no new linear overhead infrastructure such as wiring will be put in the Park.

Management will identify, communicate and implement

ways to minimize the effect of views that are not visually pleasing, such as the parking areas, helipad, maintenance facilities, and the Halterm container pier.

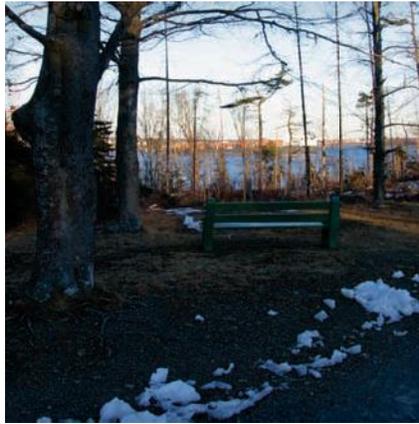
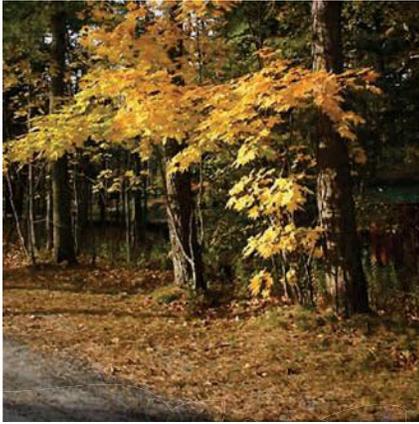
The future renewal of maintenance facilities will minimize their visual impact through a careful assessment of the relationship between public spaces and the works facilities.

Park for all Seasons

The built elements of the Park will be designed and maintained to maximize the Park’s benefit during all seasons. The Park will continue to be a place that people want to visit all year long.



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3.3 Architecture, Structures and Built Elements

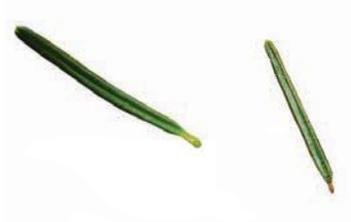
To help foster connections within the Park, when possible the same palette materials will be used for all future furniture, facilities, buildings, walls, lighting and signage. This will help connect the various architectural components and strengthen the Park's unique identity. Most of the built features will not be showy but will play a less noticeable role within the landscape.

High-Quality Design Standards

The many historically and culturally significant military buildings and monuments, including fortifications, earthworks and batteries, add to the romantic feel of the Park and help establish its character. Many of the older structures, such as the lodge, the summerhouses and the gates, were designed and built to a very high standard and have stood the test of time well. Some others were not built with the same

value placed on visual quality and durability, or they may have been built to be temporary. In all cases, however, it's important to have the proper resources to maintain these buildings and monuments so they look their best and are preserved for future generations.





Existing Poor-Quality Built Elements

Existing features that don't meet a set high standard, such as certain washrooms, signage, benches and garbage cans, will be replaced over the next decade. The condition and value of these features will be assessed, along with whether they will be appropriate for the Park in the future. Whether these structures need to be repaired, renovated or rebuilt will be determined.



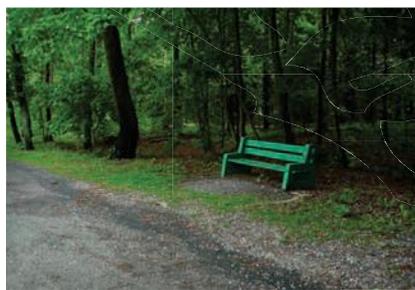
Existing signage

Future Built Elements

Future built elements should be built according to the highest design standards. Existing high-quality built elements will require regular upkeep and maintenance.



Existing canteen



Existing bench



Garbage and recycling centre



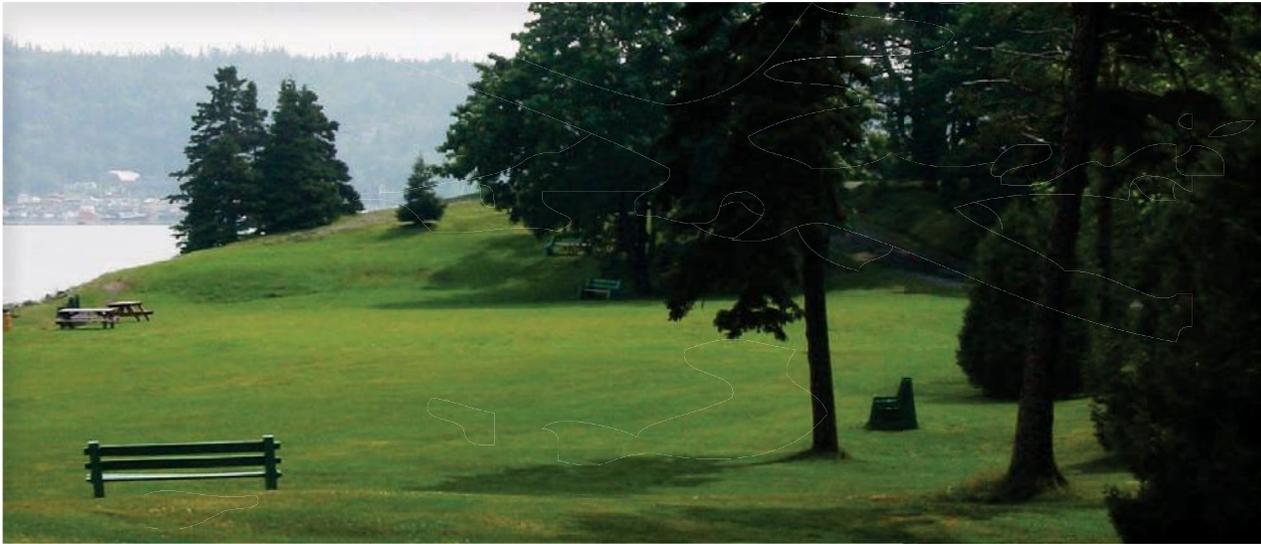
Existing Garbage Can



Existing picnic tables



Existing washrooms



Future Built Elements Considerations

Materials

All architecture and site furnishings introduced into the Park will be built mainly from materials native to the site or used in the Park historically. Stone, wood, glass and metal will help create a strong connection between the Park's historic and modern features. All built elements will be designed so that they are related both in design and material.

Style

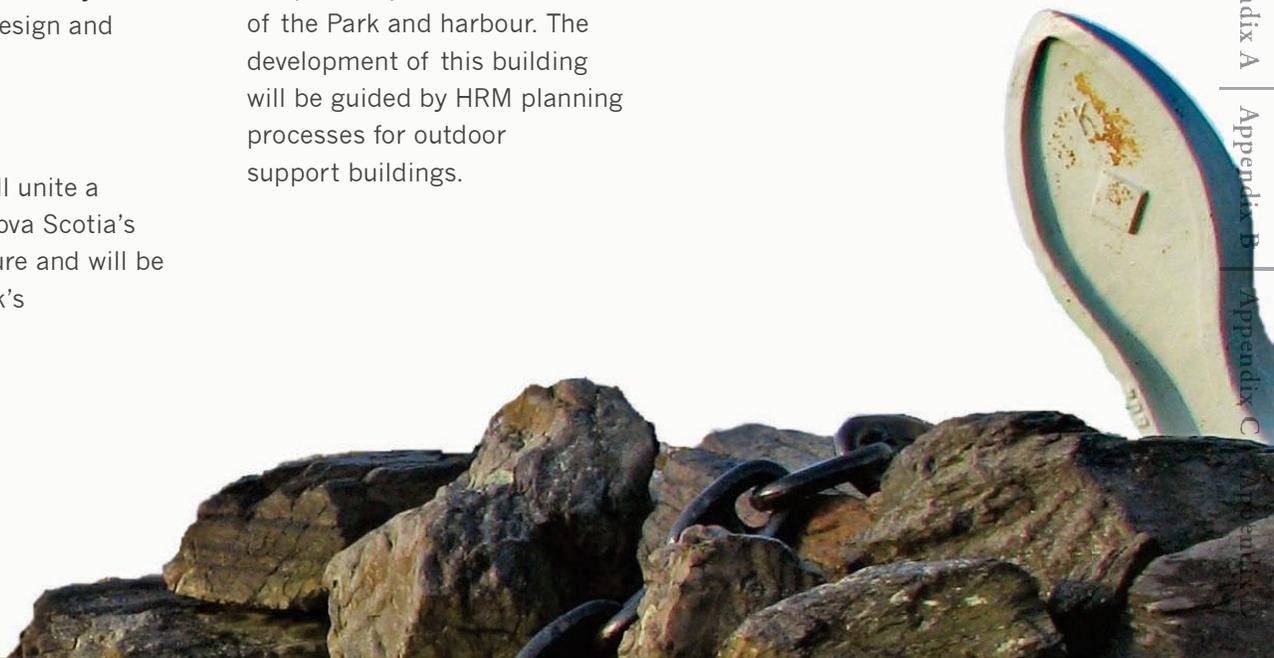
All future designs will unite a modern style with Nova Scotia's traditional architecture and will be aligned with the Park's natural design .

Future Eco-Building

An important architectural addition will be an eco-building, which will be built near the existing canteen. This multipurpose building could house various facilities, including all-season changing rooms, a restroom, a canteen and café and a children's playroom that could be used during bad weather. Visitors could walk out onto an environmentally friendly "green" rooftop that will provide panoramic views of the Park and harbour. The development of this building will be guided by HRM planning processes for outdoor support buildings.

"Point Pleasant Park is a sanctuary, nothing in the park is commercial. I go there to escape, to enjoy nature. The park is Halifax."

Anonymous, 2005 PPP questionnaire response





LEED Green Building Rating Standards

Any major buildings will achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver certification or better, illustrating a commitment to sustainability by meeting higher performance standards in environmental responsibility and energy efficiency. New construction and maintenance will use renewable materials with low negative environmental impacts. Renewable energy sources will be used whenever possible.

Monuments

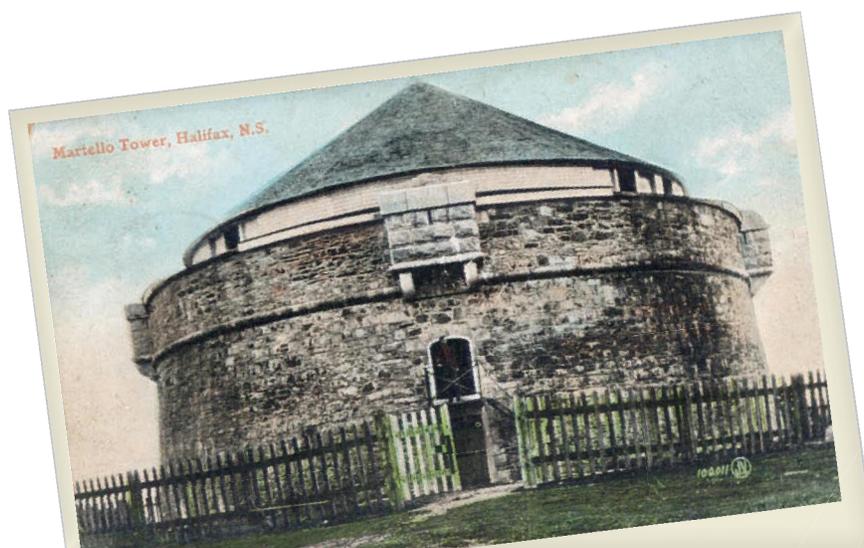
Future monuments must have a strong relation to the built and natural elements of the Park and the space they occupy, as well as show a high standard of design both in themselves and in how they connect with their setting. There will be no conventional “tombstone” monuments. Any monuments that will require regular maintenance will not be approved unless they come with funding that will cover the cost of their future care.

3.4 Cultural Resources

HRM will adapt Parks Canada’s Cultural Resource Management Policy (Parks Canada n.d.) to determine the means and goals of cultural resource management within the Park.

Effective cultural resource management practice is based upon:

- conducting and maintaining a current inventory of resources;
- an evaluation to determine which resources are to be classified as cultural resources, their historic value and how they relate to the commemorative significance of the site or park;
- a clear understanding of the historic and commemorative significance of the site or park;
- a consideration of historic value in actions affecting conservation and presentation; and
- monitoring and review to ensure that conservation and presentation objectives are being met effectively.



In addition to the principles and practice listed above, effective cultural resource management means:

- ensuring that there are no uses or threats that affect long-term conservation and future understanding and appreciation of the cultural resources;
- modifications to the site or its cultural resources are based upon knowledge and respect for the historic values of the resources, always preceded by adequate research, recording and investigation;
- conservation measures are based on direct evidence, are as minimally intrusive as possible and are clearly recorded;
- new work at or near the site is sensitive in form and scale to the Park;
- monitoring and review systems exist to ensure the continued survival of the cultural resources with minimum deterioration;
- reproductions and reconstructions are marked in such a way that they cannot be confused with the originals they are intended to represent; and
- historic value of the resources is fully considered and integrated into planning, conservation, presentation and operational programs.



Superintendent's Lodge - circa 1910

As a result of the UNESCO 1972 World Heritage Convention (the Venice Charter), reconstructing built heritage is discouraged in many countries. Rebuilding on-site destroys the ruins or archaeological site itself in favour of new construction, and historical mistakes or omissions can misrepresent our understanding of the past.

In contrast, stabilizing and preserving ruins—which can then be interpreted by pictures, maps, written, oral and aural means—allows flexibility as our understanding of the resource changes. This allows visitors to have a unique experience of the site and does not destroy or misrepresent the resource that is being presented.



Mi kmaq wigwam

Management Principles

- Cultural resources will be managed with respect for their historic character.
- When the historic value of a resource is derived from its evolution over time, it will be valued and presented for its history as a whole rather than for just one period in its history.
- The symbolic and associative qualities of cultural resources will be valued, as well as their physical and material assets.
- Information about cultural resources will be recorded, and those records will be kept for the future.

Preservation Principles

- Preservation will involve the least-possible intervention, the least amount of destruction and the most reversible means needed to achieve its objectives.
- Replacement is the most radical preservation option; it will be considered as a last resort. It follows that period reconstruction or replication of whole structures or complexes is to be considered only under exceptional circumstances.
- When human or natural forces are destroying a resource and long-term stabilization or



Point Pleasant Battery - circa 1965

salvage is not possible, cultural resources will be recorded and documented to preserve a public record.

- New uses that threaten significant cultural resources will not be considered, and existing uses that threaten them will be stopped or changed to remove the threat.
- Exposing an underlying or previous physical state of an object, structure or site at the expense of later forms and material will be done only under unusual circumstances.
- Reproductions and reconstructions of structures and monuments will not be considered when they damage the commemorative integrity of sites.
- Cultural resources should be distinguishable from and not overwhelmed by efforts to preserve, enhance and present them. New work of all kinds will be sensitive to the historic character of the resource or resources of which it forms a part.
- The historic value of a cultural resource will not be lessened or destroyed to make it accessible, especially when accessibility can be achieved in other ways.



Mi'kmaq encampment - Northwest Arm



Recognition

Point Pleasant Park offers a suitable setting to honour the historic Mi'kmaq presence in the Chebucto area and the specific events throughout the centuries that are linked to the Park.

Areas that are considered sacred or of special significance should be recognized, protected and preserved. For those landmarks that are located in the forest, it may be more appropriate to not call attention to them.

Interpretation

Interpretation that relays the significance of the Park and the broader region for the Mi'kmaq should be given prominence within the site. Mi'kmaq perspectives may be displayed alone or as part of the broader cultural or natural themes.

Commemoration of First Nations' links to the area does not need to be entirely retrospective but rather could be an opportunity to renew Mi'kmaq traditions. This could mean that a celebration of the Feast of St. Aspinquid, for example, could become an important event in future Park programming.

Presentation Principles

- Appropriate uses of cultural resources involve respecting the historic value and physical integrity of the resource and promoting the public understanding and appreciation of the resources. Respect involves care and consultation when using First Nations symbols and religious symbols.
- Information about cultural resources will generally be made available to the public, except when revealing the location of a cultural resource could threaten its existence.
- New structures and buildings should be compatible with the historic character of the site and should not be detailed in such a way that it could be mistaken for a historic structure. Signage should respect the historic character of cultural resources but may be distinctive.

3.5 First Nations' Resource Principles

First Nations have a long-standing relationship to the Halifax region and to Point Pleasant Park. The Park is a repository for First Nations' cultural artifacts, a site of historic events and a touchstone for many other significant cultural Mi'kmaq traditions. Point Pleasant Park provides a suitable location for commemoration of the Mi'kmaq presence in the Halifax region, given its prominence and natural quality.

The enduring Mi'kmaq reverence for Mother Earth may help motivate the management of Park sites that hold a special significance to the Mi'kmaq people, as well as be used as a general guide for the renewal and restoration of the entire Park..

Collaboration

The management of resources that are significant to the First Nations community should be determined through consultations with their members and should respect prevailing norms for managing cultural resources.

Park management and the implementation of the comprehensive plan should include input from First Nations where activities impact the spaces, traditions and cultural resources of their community. First Nations officials should be consulted on the use of their symbols, history and traditions in the Park.

A better understanding of the cultural significance of the Park has developed in the wake of Hurricane Juan. Representatives from HRM and the First Nations community should keep working together to explore and document the Mi'kmaq relationship to the Park.



3.6 Park Management, Administration and Operations

To properly restore and renew the Park will be a daunting challenge. The successful implementation of the Park's comprehensive plan requires an effective organizational structure and a motivated workforce. Park management must also continue to show leadership when handling sensitive operational issues by building on the communication and public-engagement systems created during the hurricane cleanup and the Point Pleasant Park International Design Competition.

Co-ordinate Park Administration

The Park's administrative structure must co-ordinate the overlapping jurisdictional interests of HRM, the Province of Nova Scotia and the federal government to ensure that each group's needs are met in way that contributes to the Park's long-term well-being. It must foster clear communication, accountability, responsibility, transparency, effective leadership, ecological sustainability and fiscal sustainability.

Refine the Operational Plan

From this report, HRM staff will develop an operations plan that will set out guidelines for Park operations, staff responsibilities and maintenance.

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Cultivating Park Staff

The successful management of Point Pleasant Park requires staff to deal with many specialized concerns based in various professional fields, including engineering, cultural resource management, forest management and landscape architecture. Park employees also play an important role as the front-line representatives for the municipality, as well as for everyone responsible for the Park's management and operation.



Management must ensure that staff members have the necessary skills to carry out the recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan. Existing employees have valuable knowledge of the Park, its operations and its regular users that should be built upon; further developing the skills of these staff members through learning and mentoring processes may help. Staff should be familiar with the comprehensive plan and the details of year-to-year implementation of activities in the Park. They must be supported in their role as Park ambassadors.

Outside Assistance

After Hurricane Juan, HRM sought the expertise of a variety of agencies and higher levels of government to support clean-up operations and future planning; this team approach should be encouraged in future management. The commissioning of research on important management issues, and the assembly and review of past studies related to the Park for use by staff and the public, should continue to be part of the management process.

Timely Design Support for Staff

An appropriate HRM authority, such as a park designer or municipal ecologist, should carefully consider all design decisions, from choosing guardrails and benches to plants and paint colour. Staff must be given appropriate and timely support from such experts to guide their actions.

Managing Park Bookings Effectively

Each year several events involving thousands of people are held in Point Pleasant Park; currently park staff handles event bookings. Management will take advantage of the established HRM parks' booking system to help staff authorize, book, organize and manage events in the Park.

3.7 Public Involvement

The overwhelming public interest during the design competition indicates the public’s desire to continue playing a role in the Park’s evolution.

There are many ways in which the public can become involved in the Park’s regeneration process. School and community groups can take part in forest management, fundraising and maintenance. Education, stewardship programs and renewal projects are other ways to include the public. Ecology education seminars and workshops can inform the community over the years about the evolution and success of the reforestation process. Research and education can be part of coursework in local high schools, Nova Scotia community colleges and universities that have programs focusing on forest and coastal ecology, Mi’kmaq heritage, early settlement, military history and the historic development of the Park since 1866.

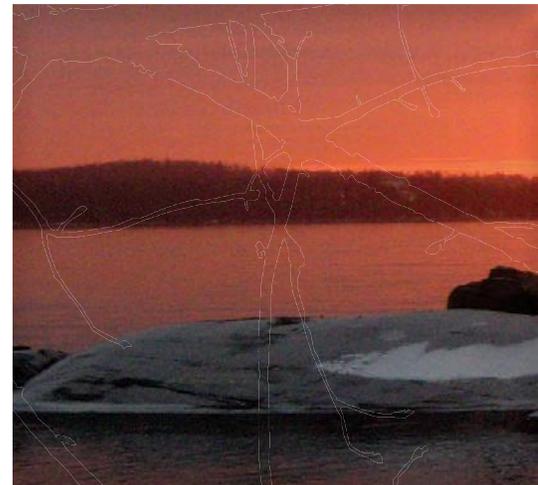


Remembrance Day services

The Park can also help increase and celebrate cultural awareness with such events as the Mi’kmaq Spring Feast, Shakespeare by the Sea, performance art and community events. Throughout the Park’s redevelopment, dedication and renewal ceremonies can help increase public awareness and involvement and serve as an opportunity to acknowledge the work and efforts of community members and local organizations.

Public Involvement Principles:

- Encourage open dialogue with Park users and keep the public informed about continued Park maintenance efforts and site improvements;
- Publicly acknowledge community participation in Park maintenance activities through special events and local media outlets;
- Educate Park users about the potential harm that certain activities can cause to vulnerable forest habitats and maintain persistence in the enforcement of Park rules and regulations;
- Investigate the creation of both a virtual and physical communications centre for the Park that would distribute information, receive public feedback and co-ordinate public events;
- form partnerships with the Nova Scotia Museum and Parks Canada to draw upon visitor services and interpretation programming expertise.



3.8 Education and Interpretation

Communications Hub

Park programming and interpretation will be used to enhance visitors’ appreciation of issues related to landscape sustainability. Creating a communications or interpretation centre to display the Park’s sustainable qualities will be explored.

Park managers will develop benchmarks of landscape sustainability and communicate values to the public annually. Results of annual bird counts and wildlife sightings, along with the number and findings of certain research projects, provide benchmarks of the quality of the Park’s natural habitats. A log of capital and maintenance activities can provide an indication of area disturbance or restoration. The Park’s website, www.pointpleasantpark.ca, is an effective way to pass on information to the public.



Winter solstice - Black Rock Beach

Interpretive Strategy

Signage and interpretive panels will be added to strategic areas to educate about key park themes and topics. An interpretive plan (separate from this document) will be created to investigate the full potential of a comprehensive interpretive strategy.

Wayfinding Signage

Themed wayfinding signage will be created and posted to help visitors find their way around the Park. Current poor-quality signage will be phased out over the next five years, and replacement signage will be standardized and co-ordinated.

3.9 Safety and Security

The safety and security of people visiting the Park is a major concern. Fortunately, it is well monitored by staff and the visitors themselves, which contributes to the low level of crime.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is an approach that can be readily applied to the Park's design and management to lower the likelihood of criminal activity and to encourage the public to be accountable for the space. However, the strict application of many common CPTED principles, such as cutting understorey near trails to increase visibility, would oppose the very foundation of the forest renewal and restoration plan.

Balancing Safety with Cultural, Ecological and Aesthetic Priorities

Cultural resources will be respected for their inherent value; ruins and earthworks should be made as safe as possible for people who decide to investigate them. In some cases, this may be done by highlighting safe viewing stations or by addressing safety concerns in other ways that are consistent with resource conservation, such as stabilizing and/or burying built features (as in the case of Point Pleasant Battery).

CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles have been taken into account in the writing of the Comprehensive Plan, and will be integrated into future projects as they are implemented. CPTED principles seek to create a safer visitor experience in public spaces. Balancing the impacts of safety precautions on the Park's environment with the cultural, ecological and aesthetic qualities will be done by landscape architectural staff trained in the CPTED principles.



Park Security

Strategic lighting in parking lots and on Park buildings will be an added safety feature. A police officer or park ranger patrolling the grounds would increase security, especially during the evening. Emergency telephone stations throughout the Park will be maintained and tested regularly.

Wayfinding Aids

A uniform signage system will use a Park map to delineate circulation routes and help visitors make their way around the Park. Wayfinding signage will also help people locate off leash dog and cycling areas.

High Standard of Park Maintenance

Well-maintained parks tend to discourage vandals and attract responsible Park users. A continued high level of maintenance, garbage collection and inspection will support safety. Emergency and maintenance numbers will be posted throughout the Park so visitors can easily report safety and maintenance concerns.

Emergency Response Plan

The Park’s emergency response plan will be regularly updated and communicated to staff. Shortcomings in Park infrastructure should be addressed to enable the effective management of any potential disasters. Staff training should ensure that the emergency response plan is effectively implemented.



Current emergency phones

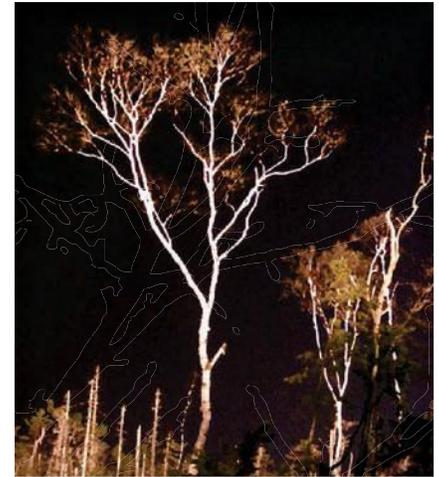
3.10 Human Impacts

Mitigating Impacts of Night Light Levels

Intrusive sound and light pollution interrupts visitors’ enjoyment of the landscape, ruins the natural appearance of the site and may alter natural habitats. Point Pleasant Park will become recognized as a “dark sky compliant park,” which means it will not contribute excess “light pollution” into the sky at night. To help achieve this designation, HRM will seek to work with abutting park neighbours that use significant night lighting to reduce light pollution. The Park’s existing lighting will be retrofitted or replaced to conform to this standard.

Mitigating Noise

Noise from internal Park maintenance facilities, as well as from the Halterm container pier and helipad, will be buffered.



Sustainable Transportation

Park upgrades will promote user access via more sustainable means of transport. As parking areas are upgraded in the future, the net surface area of parking lots will not be increased. Facilities for bicycle and bus access will be enhanced. External links to improve pedestrian and bicycle connections to the Park will be developed further.

Exclusion of uses

Future programming will exclude any activities that conflict with established Park uses and conservation priorities, such as skateboard parks, motorized activities and mountain bike courses. An operational strategy will be developed to address existing uses with a high potential to generate conflict among users.



Wall conditions - Cambridge Battery

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Appendix A
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Appendix D