



# EGAN CHUTES

Provincial Park Preliminary Management Plan

2022

© 2022, Queen's Printer for Ontario

Cover photo: Egan Chutes Provincial Park  
Photo taken by: Staff

Additional copies of this publication can be obtained from:

Environmental Registry of Ontario  
[ero.ontario.ca](http://ero.ontario.ca)

and

Silent Lake Provincial Park  
1589 Silent Lake Park Road  
P.O. Box 219  
Bancroft, Ontario  
K0L 1C0  
(613) 339-2807

ISBN 978-1-4868-0063-6 (Print)  
ISBN 978-1-4868-0064-3 (PDF)

## **Opportunity to Comment**

### Egan Chutes Provincial Park Preliminary Management Plan

Ontario Parks is preparing a management plan for Egan Chutes Provincial Park.

After careful consideration of related planning information and review of input received thus far, this preliminary management plan outlines Ontario Parks' proposed site-specific management policies for the park. For ease of review, this document is worded in the style of an approved management plan. The release of this preliminary management plan provides an opportunity for Indigenous communities, members of the public and stakeholders to be involved and provide comment. Ontario Parks will carefully consider all comments received and make changes as appropriate. Any revisions will be reflected in the approved management plan. The approved management plan will guide the management of the provincial park over a 20-year period.

You are invited to review and comment on the preliminary management plan for a period of 45 days following its release.

To assist with our review of your comments, list the topic(s) you wish to discuss and briefly state your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the proposed management direction. You may also make suggestions or comments on other topics that are important to you.

For further information on the preliminary management plan or the planning process, please contact:

Brent Stewart, Park Superintendent  
Silent Lake Provincial Park  
P.O. Box 219, Bancroft, Ontario K0L 1C0  
Tel: (613) 339-2807 / Fax: (613) 339-1895 / E-mail: [planning.sez@ontario.ca](mailto:planning.sez@ontario.ca)

Comments should be submitted by April 30, 2022 through the Environmental Registry of Ontario at [ero.ontario.ca](http://ero.ontario.ca) (number 019-5072). Where unable to do so, comments should be sent to the individual identified above.

Thank you for your interest in the future management of this provincial park.

Jason Travers  
Director, Ontario Parks

Ontario Parks is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of section 29 of the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006*. The personal information is being collected and used for the purpose of public consultation(s) on provincial park and conservation reserve management planning. Your comments will become part of the record of consultation and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used to send you information about future projects involving this provincial park. Any personal information you provide will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be handled in accordance with the government of Ontario's Privacy Statement, which can be found at [www.ontario.ca/page/privacy-statement](http://www.ontario.ca/page/privacy-statement). If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact the individual identified above.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.0</b>	Introduction.....	1
<b>2.0</b>	Planning context.....	1
<b>2.1</b>	Ecological integrity .....	3
<b>3.0</b>	Indigenous communities.....	3
<b>4.0</b>	Boundary .....	4
<b>5.0</b>	Park classification.....	6
<b>6.0</b>	Purpose.....	7
<b>7.0</b>	Objectives and values .....	7
<b>7.1</b>	Protection.....	7
<b>7.1.1</b>	Earth sciences .....	7
<b>7.1.2</b>	Life sciences.....	8
<b>7.1.3</b>	Cultural heritage resources.....	9
<b>7.2</b>	Recreation.....	9
<b>7.3</b>	Heritage appreciation .....	10
<b>7.4</b>	Scientific research.....	10
<b>8.0</b>	Zoning and zone management policies.....	10
<b>8.1</b>	Nature reserve zone.....	11
<b>8.2</b>	Natural environment zones .....	11
<b>8.3</b>	Access zone.....	12
<b>9.0</b>	Park policies.....	13
<b>9.1</b>	Industrial and commercial uses.....	13
<b>9.2</b>	Adaptive management .....	14
<b>9.3</b>	Resource management policies.....	15
<b>9.3.1</b>	Land management.....	15
<b>9.3.2</b>	Water management .....	16
<b>9.3.3</b>	Alien and invasive species.....	16
<b>9.3.4</b>	Insects and diseases .....	16
<b>9.3.5</b>	Fire management .....	16
<b>9.3.6</b>	Species at risk .....	17
<b>9.3.7</b>	Vegetation management.....	18
<b>9.3.8</b>	Wildlife management.....	18
<b>9.3.9</b>	Fisheries management .....	19
<b>9.3.10</b>	Cultural heritage resources management .....	19

<b>9.3.11</b>	Scientific collecting .....	19
<b>9.3.12</b>	Research, inventory and monitoring.....	19
<b>9.4</b>	Recreation management policies .....	20
<b>9.4.1</b>	Services for visitors .....	20
<b>9.4.2</b>	Hunting .....	20
<b>9.4.3</b>	Recreational fishing .....	21
<b>9.4.4</b>	Backcountry uses .....	21
<b>9.4.5</b>	Mechanized travel .....	21
<b>9.4.6</b>	Other recreational uses .....	22
<b>9.5</b>	Operations policies.....	23
<b>9.5.1</b>	Education.....	23
<b>9.5.2</b>	Partnerships .....	24
<b>9.6</b>	Development policies .....	25
<b>9.6.1</b>	Internal roads and trails .....	25
<b>9.6.2</b>	Parking areas .....	26
<b>9.6.3</b>	Day-use areas .....	26
<b>9.6.4</b>	Campgrounds .....	26
<b>9.6.5</b>	Interior campsites .....	26
<b>9.6.6</b>	Roofed accommodation.....	27
<b>9.6.7</b>	Portages .....	27
<b>9.6.8</b>	Maintenance and administrative areas .....	27
<b>10.0</b>	Implementation priorities .....	27
<b>10.1</b>	Stage one .....	27
<b>10.2</b>	Stage two.....	28
<b>10.3</b>	Stage three .....	28
<b>11.0</b>	Plan examination and adjustment .....	28
<b>12.0</b>	References.....	29
<b>13.0</b>	Appendix 1 – Summary of involvement.....	31
<b>13.1</b>	Summary and results of Indigenous community consultation .....	31
<b>13.1.1</b>	Egan Chutes addition .....	31
<b>13.1.2</b>	Egan Chutes Provincial Park management planning .....	31
<b>13.2</b>	Summary and results of public and stakeholder involvement .....	32
<b>13.2.1</b>	Egan Chutes addition .....	32
<b>13.2.2</b>	Egan Chutes Provincial Park management planning .....	32

13.3	Summary of significant management concerns .....	33
14.0	Appendix 2 – Species list .....	35

### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Regional setting .....	2
Figure 2: Park boundary, zoning and development.....	5

## 1.0 Introduction

Egan Chutes Provincial Park is located in eastern Ontario, in Hastings County, 16 kilometres (km) east of the Town of Bancroft along Highway 28 (Figure 1). The 1100 hectare (ha) protected area consists of a 322 ha nature reserve class park (regulated in 1989) and a 778 ha waterway class park (regulated in 2005), extending along, and connected by, the York River.

The park stretches approximately 30 km along the north-easterly flowing York River. This stretch of the river includes three picturesque waterfalls, or chutes, for which the park is named. The park contains a typical Canadian Shield topography dominated by bare bedrock and glacial landforms, and contains a variety of significant rare and exotic minerals. In addition, it contains outstanding life science values, such as provincially significant riparian wetland complexes. The park offers a variety of low-intensity day-use and backcountry experiences to park visitors (e.g. canoeing, kayaking, hiking, angling and backcountry camping).

## 2.0 Planning context

Under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* (PPCRA), a management plan must be prepared for each provincial park in Ontario. This management plan fulfils this requirement, and provides direction for managing Egan Chutes Provincial Park, including the park's purpose, objectives, zoning, policies and implementation priorities. This management plan is written with a 20-year time horizon in mind.

The PPCRA has two guiding principles for park planning and management:

1. Maintenance of ecological integrity shall be the first priority and the restoration of ecological integrity shall be considered.
2. Opportunities for consultation shall be provided.

Other legislation (e.g. *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA), *Ontario Heritage Act, 2005*), policies, initiatives (e.g. climate change adaptation, invasive species management) and best practices (e.g. adaptive management, landscape level planning) also provide additional direction for protecting Ontario's biodiversity and contribute to guiding protected area planning and management.

This park management plan has been prepared consistent with all relevant legislation and provincial policies. The implementation of projects in this provincial park will comply with environmental assessment requirements. This may include further opportunities for consultation, as required.





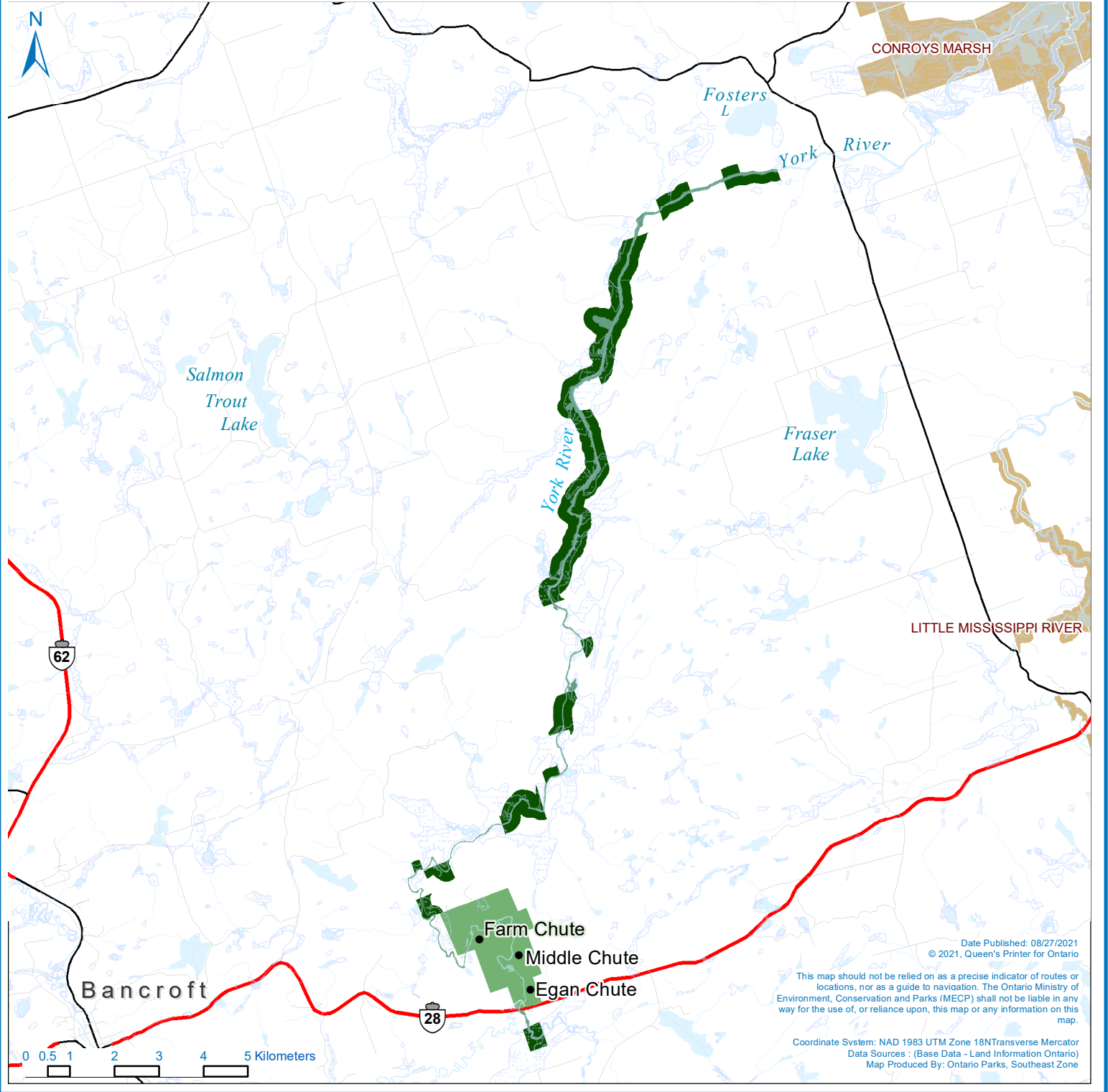
EGAN CHUTES

Area Features

- Provincial Park (original nature reserve class park)
- Provincial Park (waterway class park addition)
- Conservation Reserve

Base Features

- Expressway/Highway/Freeway
- Arterial Roads
- All Other Roads
- Lakes
- Wetland



Date Published: 08/27/2021  
© 2021, Queen's Printer for Ontario

This map should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes or locations, nor as a guide to navigation. The Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) shall not be liable in any way for the use of, or reliance upon, this map or any information on this map.

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N Transverse Mercator  
Data Sources: (Base Data - Land Information Ontario)  
Map Produced By: Ontario Parks, Southeast Zone

## **2.1 Ecological integrity**

Ecological integrity is a concept that addresses three ecosystem attributes – composition, structure and function. This concept is based on the idea that the composition and structure of the protected area should be characteristic for the natural region and that ecosystem functions should proceed normally. Simply stated, ecosystems have integrity when their lands, waters, native species and natural processes are intact.

Ontario Parks will consider ecological integrity first and foremost in the implementation of all planning and management activities for Egan Chutes Provincial Park.

## **3.0 Indigenous communities**

Egan Chutes Provincial Park is located within the proposed Algonquins of Ontario Settlement Area. The park is also adjacent to or within an area of overlap with the traditional territory of the Williams Treaties First Nations.

Egan Chutes is indicated as Level 3 engagement as per Chapter 9.1.15 of the Algonquins of Ontario Agreement-in-Principle.

Stage 1 archaeological assessments were completed in 2010 for Egan Chutes Provincial Park (Paauw and McRae 2010a, b). The reports concluded moderate to high potential for the discovery of First Nations archaeological resources, given the presence of numerous primary and secondary water sources, including the York River (Section 7.1.3).

Examples of Aboriginal rights, values or areas of interest along the York River and throughout Egan Chutes Provincial Park may include: hunting, gathering and fishing; chutes/fast water locations (Egan Chute, Middle Chute, Farm Chute); medicinal and sacred plant locations; bat hibernaculum; cranberries and wild rice (important food sources); high promontories (viewsapes); portages; trails; and campsites.

Opportunities for Indigenous involvement in the planning process have been provided and the content of this document has been influenced as a result.

Additional Indigenous related content can be found in:

- Section 7.1.3, Cultural heritage resources
- Section 9.3.10, Cultural heritage resources management
- Section 9.5.1, Education
- Section 13.0, Appendix 1 - Summary of involvement

The PPCRA provides for the disposition of park lands as part of a settlement of a claim in respect of Aboriginal rights (c. 12, s. 9 (5)).

Nothing in this plan shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the protection provided for the existing Aboriginal or treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The Algonquins of Ontario have informed Ontario Parks of the intention to assert and exercise Aboriginal rights to hunting, gathering and fishing within Egan Chutes Provincial Park.

## **4.0 Boundary**

Egan Chutes Provincial Park is located within Hastings County and is situated within the boundaries of three municipalities:

- Municipality of Hastings Highlands (within the geographic Township of Monteaagle)
- Town of Bancroft (within the geographic Township of Dungannon)
- Municipality of Carlow Mayo (within the geographic Township of Carlow)

Egan Chutes Provincial Park consists of two separately regulated provincial parks: 1) a nature reserve class park (the original Egan Chutes Provincial Nature Reserve) that was established in 1989, and 2) a waterway class park (Egan Chutes Provincial Park Addition) that was regulated in 2005. The combined regulated park area is 1100 ha.

In order to simplify and complete the park boundary, Ontario Parks intends to propose the following amendments to Ontario Regulation 316/07 under the PPCRA (illustrated in Figure 2):

- Combination of the original nature reserve class park and waterway class park addition into one waterway class park (Section 5.0).
- Addition of the provincial road allowance (approximately 0.2 ha) north of Highway 28 and east of the river, for use as a designated parking area (Section 9.6.2).
- Addition of four parcels of land (totaling approximately 8.2 ha) that front the York River adjacent to the park, which were acquired by donation in 2012 for addition to the park.
- Addition of 10 parcels of Crown land (about 38.5 ha in total) abutting the west (8 parcels) and east (2 parcels) boundaries of the park, to further protect sensitive riverine wetland communities.

The original park boundary of the waterway park addition was not sufficient to protect the full extent of sensitive riverine wetland communities along the river. Extending the park boundary to incorporate these 10 parcels of Crown land provides further protection for those wetland communities.

FIGURE 2

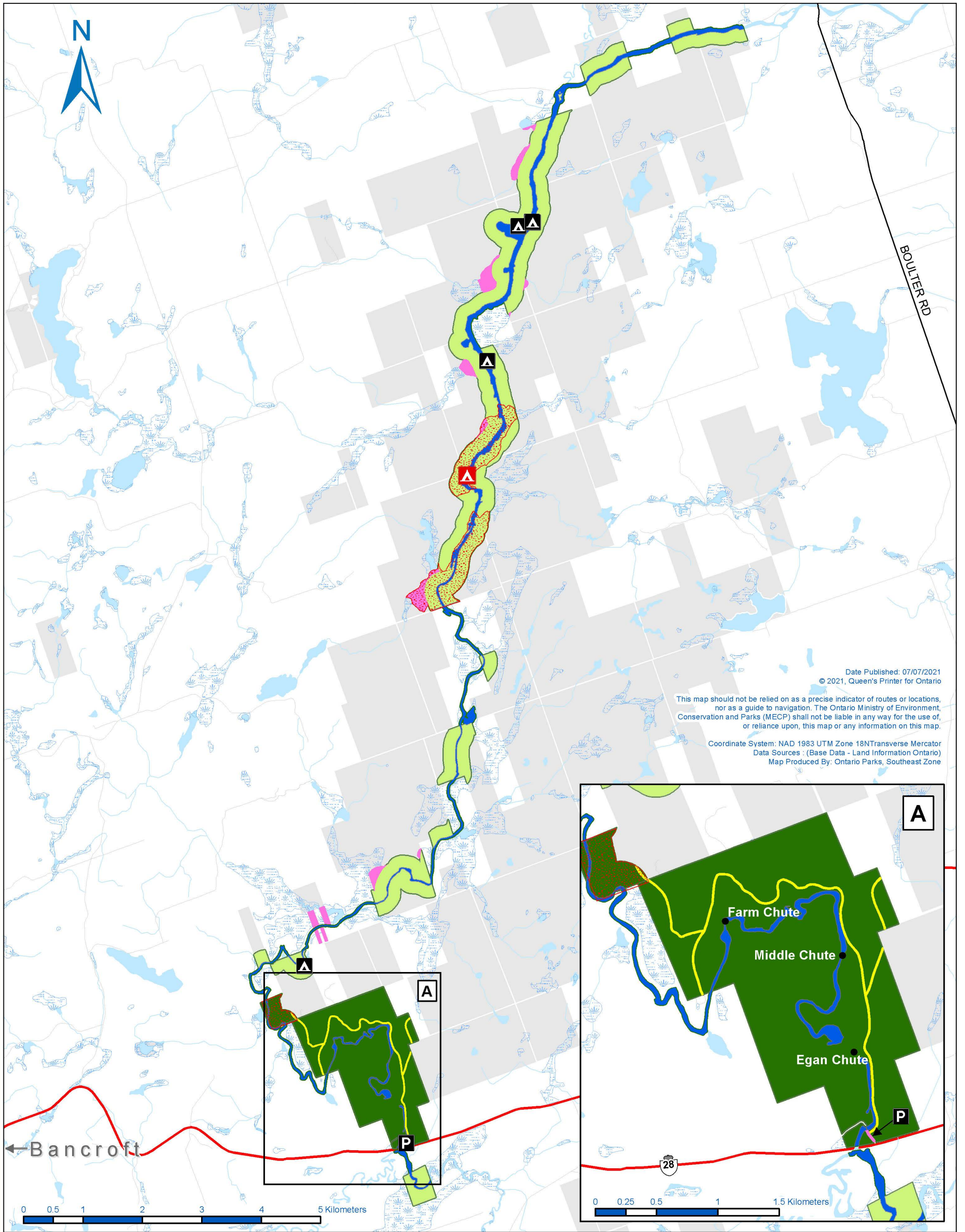
PARK BOUNDARY, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT



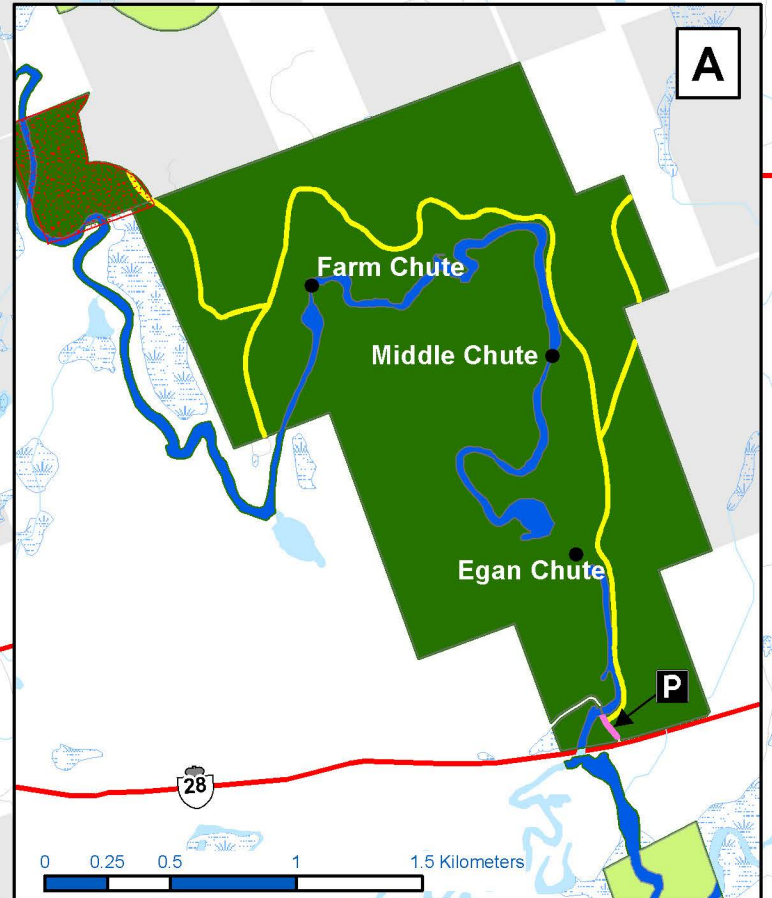
Egan Chute

Legend

- Campsites
- Campsite (to be closed)
- Parking
- Park Boundary
- Expressway/Highway/Freeway
- Arterial Roads
- All Other Roads
- Crown Land
- Sensitive Fen Communities
- Park Addition (Proposed)
- Wetland
- Water
- Park\_Zone**
- A1 - Access
- NE1 - Natural Environment
- NE2 - Natural Environment
- NR1 - Nature Reserve



Date Published: 07/07/2021  
 © 2021, Queen's Printer for Ontario  
 This map should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes or locations, nor as a guide to navigation. The Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) shall not be liable in any way for the use of, or reliance upon, this map or any information on this map.  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N Transverse Mercator  
 Data Sources: (Base Data - Land Information Ontario)  
 Map Produced By: Ontario Parks, Southeast Zone



Ontario Parks will work with the Town of Bancroft to formalize parking in a municipal road allowance (0.5 ha) west of the York River (Section 9.6.2). This may include acquiring a section of the road allowance, in which the roadbed of the former Highway 28 is located, and adding it to the park.

Lands along the York River are a mixture of Crown and private lands. Adjacent land uses include forestry, tourism operations, seasonal and permanent residential dwellings, and recreation camps. There is a deeded unrestricted right of access through the original park area to an adjacent private lot.

Ontario Parks is committed to an ecosystem approach to park planning and management. The PPCRA, which governs activities within provincial parks, pertains only to lands and waters within the regulated park boundary. An ecosystem approach allows park managers to consider the relationship between the park and the surrounding environment.

Within the park boundary, the protection of park values and features will be achieved through appropriate zoning, management of land use and activities, education, and monitoring of ecological impacts.

Ontario Parks supports the acquisition of land through sale or donation to enhance protection or park management. Adjacent lands with similar values would be of highest priority. If lands are offered for sale or donation, Ontario Parks will evaluate how they contribute to park objectives. The acquisition of suitable properties would be subject to the availability of financial and human resources. Properties of interest include private parcels along the York River shoreline adjacent to the park boundary.

## **5.0 Park classification**

Through park classification, Ontario's provincial parks are organized into broad categories, each of which has particular objectives and characteristics.

The original park area was classified as a nature reserve class park. The addition was classified as a waterway class park. Nature reserve class parks are areas selected to protect representative ecosystems and provincially significant elements of Ontario's natural heritage, including distinctive natural habitats and landforms, for their intrinsic value, to support scientific research, and to maintain biodiversity. Waterway class parks protect recreational water routes and representative and significant terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and associated natural and cultural features, and provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

In addition to recommending the Egan Chutes Provincial Park Addition, Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy provided direction to consider reclassifying the nature reserve class park as a waterway class park. Classifying the entire park as waterway would reflect the values and objectives of the park most appropriately. The sensitive features that originally led to the nature reserve classification would continue to be

protected through legislation and policy, including nature reserve zoning for the original park area (Section 8.1).

Ontario Parks intends to reclassify the original nature reserve class park, and combine the two parks into a single waterway class park (Section 4.0). The waterway classification highlights the importance of the York River water route.

## **6.0 Purpose**

The purpose of Egan Chutes Provincial Park is: *to protect the park's unique natural and geological features, and to provide day users and backcountry visitors with quality recreational experiences along the York River.*

## **7.0 Objectives and values**

Ontario's protected areas system has four objectives for establishing and managing provincial parks, as stated in Ontario's PPCRA:

- Protection objective: To permanently protect representative ecosystems, biodiversity and provincially significant elements of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage and to manage these areas to ensure that ecological integrity is maintained.
- Recreation objective: To provide opportunities for ecologically sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities and encourage associated economic benefits.
- Heritage appreciation objective: To provide opportunities for residents of Ontario and visitors to increase their knowledge and appreciation of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage.
- Scientific research objective: To facilitate scientific research and to provide points of reference to support monitoring of ecological change on the broader landscape.

### **7.1 Protection**

Egan Chutes' protection objective is: to protect the park's significant mineral, cultural and ecological (including riverine) values.

Ontario's provincial parks play an important role in representing and conserving the diversity of Ontario's natural features and ecosystems across the broader landscape. Egan Chutes protects provincially significant examples of life science and earth science features.

#### **7.1.1 Earth sciences**

The park is located on the Canadian Shield and its bedrock is a part of the Bancroft Terrane, in the Central Metasedimentary Belt of the Grenville Province. This area is defined by complex, highly metamorphosed rocks formed when crust from the northwest collided with a continental landmass to the southeast over 1.1 billion years

ago. The crystalline rock was subject to volcanic activity, extreme heat and pressure, and intense folding and faulting, which produced the complex metamorphosed and deformed rocks found in this region (Easton 1992). Glacial erosion and deposition over the last 2 million years created the surficial geology we see today.

An earth science evaluation of the park was completed in 2001 (Duba and Frey 2002). The park's mineral resources were described as being provincially significant because of a large variety and quantity of very rare and exotic minerals related to the calcareous metasedimentary and nepheline syenite suite of rocks associated with the Bancroft Terrane. This is the only known example of this type of mineral suite within the provincial park system and contributes to Ontario Parks' geological protection objectives. The park's bedrock geology is regionally significant within the Ontario Parks system because it contains representations of supracrustal, felsic alkalic and intermediate plutonic components of the Bancroft Terrane (Duba and Frey 2002). The surficial geology of the area is locally significant, consisting of till, glaciolacustrine and glaciofluvial deposits that are typical of the Wisconsin Episode of the Quaternary Period in southeastern Ontario (Duba and Frey 2002).

The earth science features found in the area have shaped the landscape of the park. During glacial times, which ended some 10,000 years ago in the region of the park, the park was covered by glacial ice. The York River is the remnant of a major spillway for glacial meltwater. Today's river flows through a valley comprised of diverse wetland complexes, as well as large areas dominated by outwash and alluvial landforms in the north, and through ground moraine and bedrock outcrops in the south (Duba and Frey 2002).

### **7.1.2 Life sciences**

A life science evaluation of the park was completed in 2001 (White 2002). The upland area of the park is dominated by mixed forest composed of white pine, red pine, large-toothed aspen, balsam fir, white spruce and white birch. Additionally, the park supports scrubby red oak forests in dry, rocky, upland areas and sugar maple dominated deciduous forests in deep soiled, mesic sites. The lowland areas of the York River valley contain riverine wetlands with deciduous swamps dominated by silver maple and red maple and thicket swamps containing speckled alder and other shrubs.

The park was previously part of the larger Egan Chutes Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). This area was designated an ANSI by the Ontario government in recognition, in part, of its provincially significant life science features. The park is located in Ecodistrict 5E-11. Hills (1959) defined this ecodistrict as having a mid-humid, warm-boreal climate with rolling terrain of primarily Precambrian granitic bedrock. The ecodistrict has exposed marble bedrock that affects the types of flora and fauna present. Characteristic of this ecodistrict are thin-soiled, forested rock ridges separated by trough-like valleys with mesic forests and wetlands. The valley wetlands and the mesic valley forests are regarded as provincially significant because they provide the best representation of these communities in the ecodistrict (White 2002). The park helps

connect natural heritage features north and south of the park between Algonquin Provincial Park and Lake Ontario, facilitating wildlife movement.

The park's wetland complexes are described as provincially significant because they developed on lacustrine and alluvial sand, and glaciofluvial sand outwash within the York River valley as a result of glacial and postglacial processes in the region. The extensive lacustrine sands associated with the riverine wetlands are unusual in the ecodistrict (Noble 1983).

At the time of writing this plan, recent information on species at risk within the park was not available; however, the park is likely to provide habitat for several species at risk and significant species.

### **7.1.3 Cultural heritage resources**

Although currently there are no registered archaeological sites within the park, Stage 1 archaeological assessment reports completed in 2010 for the park area concluded that there is moderate to high potential for the discovery of First Nations archaeological resources (Paauw and McRae, 2010a, b).

The York River was an important transportation route for Indigenous peoples travelling between the Ottawa River and Georgian Bay. The numerous secondary water sources within the park (e.g. swamp and marsh areas), and the resources within would have provided First Nations peoples with opportunities to hunt and gather (Paauw and McRae, 2010a, b).

The river later became an important route for transporting timber and fur from the Bancroft area to markets as far away as Quebec City (OMNR 2004). Mining was carried out in the area between 1880 and 1935, prior to the park's establishment. There are at least four abandoned quarries and prospects within the park: the Golding Keene Quarry, Egan Chute Occurrences, York River Tactite Occurrences and Morrison Quarry (Duba and Frey 2002).

With the presence of numerous primary and secondary water sources, including the York River, various chutes and two promontories, there is a moderate to high potential for the discovery of First Nations and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources (Paauw and McRae, 2010a, b).

## **7.2 Recreation**

Egan Chutes' recreation objective is: to provide Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors with the opportunity to experience compatible low-intensity day-use and backcountry experiences along the York River.

Egan Chutes Provincial Park is a non-operating park that includes about 30 km of the York River. It is the only waterway class park in the Ontario Parks Southeast Zone.



Stretches of white-water are associated with three rock chutes (Farm, Middle and Egan Chutes) and each chute has an established portage. Downstream of Farm Chute, the river is slow-moving, meandering, wide and portage-free for 31.5 km to the northernmost boundary of the park and beyond to Conroys Marsh Conservation Reserve. Backcountry canoeists and anglers can camp at designated campsites situated downstream of the chutes (Figure 2; Section 9.4.4).

The three picturesque rock chutes can be viewed by visitors by way of a short walk along an unmaintained road on the east side of the river or unmaintained trail on the west side of the river, both accessed from the park's main access points at the south end of the park (OMNR 2004). Visitors can experience backcountry activities such as canoeing, kayaking, hiking, camping and angling. Winter recreational activities available to visitors in the park include snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Tourism in the Bancroft area is a significant part of the local economy. Recreational opportunities within the park contribute to the economic health of the local community.

### **7.3 Heritage appreciation**

Egan Chutes' heritage appreciation objective is: to foster visitor appreciation for the ecological, geological and cultural heritage of the park and Bancroft region.

The park includes several points of educational interest, such as historic mining sites and three rock chutes along the York River.

### **7.4 Scientific research**

Egan Chutes' scientific research objective is: to support research in relation to both the natural and cultural heritage resources of the park, including species at risk, other significant species and habitats, significant earth sciences features, and human history, so that a balance between recreational use and ecological integrity will be maintained.

The results of scientific research and monitoring can be used to help maintain and restore the ecological integrity of the park by allowing park staff to use the best available scientific information and technology to support planning and management decisions.

## **8.0 Zoning and zone management policies**

Three zoning categories (nature reserve, natural environment and access; Figure 2) have been designated for Egan Chutes Provincial Park based on the Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies (1992).

Zones differentiate the sensitivity of the natural and cultural values, and the degree of development, recreational uses and management practices permitted within the park. The proposed zoning is intended to maintain the ecological integrity of the park.

The following policies are specific to the particular zone.

## **8.1 Nature reserve zone**

Nature reserve zones protect the provincially significant earth and/or life science features within a park, and may include a protective buffer area in which a minimum of development is permitted. That development is generally restricted to trails, necessary signs, interpretive facilities (where warranted) and temporary facilities for research and management (OMNR 1992). According to provincial policies, hunting is not permitted in nature reserve zones (Section 9.4.2).

The park contains one nature reserve zone, which includes approximately 30% of the park's total area (Figure 2).

### **Zone NR1 (approximately 325 ha)**

- This zone contains relatively undisturbed coniferous, mixed and deciduous forests on granitic and marble bedrock, and extensive sandy and rocky shorelines along the York River (White 2002). The zone includes mineral resources described as being provincially significant (Duba and Frey 2002). The purpose of this zone is to recognize and protect its provincially significant resources and the relatively pristine character of its habitats. The zone is comprised primarily of the original nature reserve class park area.
- A small area of the waterway class addition that is contiguous with the original park area is also included within this zone. The area consists of sensitive fen and riverine swamp communities, as well as some upland forest, and supports diverse communities and a number of significant species.
- Existing low-intensity recreational facilities in this zone are limited to hiking trails and portages at each of the chutes locations. Camping is not compatible with nature reserve zones; camping is not permitted at two former campsites in this zone, which will remain closed (Section 9.6.5).
- New development in this zone will be limited to signage and displays that promote protection or support self-use and interpretation, as well as temporary facilities for research and management.

## **8.2 Natural environment zones**

Natural environment zones include natural landscapes which permit the minimum level of development required to support low-intensity recreational activities while protecting the park's natural and cultural values. Development is generally limited to interior campsites, portages, necessary signs and minimal interpretive facilities (OMNR 1992).

The park contains two natural environment zones which include approximately 70% of the park's total area (Figure 2).

### **Zone NE1 (approximately 600 ha)**

- This zone contains shoreline portions of the park along the York River from just north of the original nature reserve park north towards Conroys Marsh Conservation Reserve. A block of land south of Highway 28 is also included in this zone. These lands contain provincially significant riparian wetland complex and associated rare species (White 2002).
- Natural environment zoning reflects the existing recreational uses that are permitted in this part of the park (e.g. hunting, backcountry camping).
- Two areas of sensitive riverine fen community have been identified within this zone. These sensitive areas will be managed in order to ensure they are adequately protected. Recreational use in these areas will be discouraged through signage, and park staff will monitor these areas to ensure they are being adequately protected.
- Once regulated as part of the park, acquired and Crown land additions will be included in this zone.
- Existing low-intensity recreational facilities in this zone include backcountry campsites and trails. Pre-existing unauthorized trails in this zone may be closed (Section 9.6.1). Trails and one established campsite located in sensitive fen areas will be closed (Figure 2; Section 9.6.5).
- New development will be limited to structures (e.g. signage and displays) that support self-use, interpretive day-use programs and facilities for research and management.

### **Zone NE2 (approximately 170 ha)**

- This zone contains the riverbed of the York River and Egan Creek between the northern and southernmost extents of the park.
- Natural environment zoning reflects existing recreational uses that are permitted along the river.
- There are no existing recreational facilities in this zone. Low-intensity recreational opportunities include boating, canoeing, kayaking and fishing.
- Landowners wishing to carry out activities that affect the bed of the York River (e.g. moor floating docks) will require Ontario Parks' permission through an authorization under the PPCRA. Activities will be subject to the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*.

### **8.3 Access zone**

Access zones serve as staging areas, a means of both providing and regulating use in areas of a park geared towards extensive recreation. Generally, development is limited to roads and visitor control structures. Provisions may be made for limited orientation, interpretive, or educational facilities, though generally more for self-use rather than through structured personal service. Limited facilities for research and park management may also be present (OMNR 1992).

The park includes one access zone, which contains less than 1% of the park's total area (Figure 2).

In addition to defined access zones, there are points of access to the York River that lie outside of the park boundary. Currently, the public accesses the York River immediately to the north of the park boundary where Boulter Road crosses the river at Slabtown Bridge.

There are a number of access points on private land adjacent to the park boundary along the York River, which originate outside of the park and are not for public use.

No new access points will be created within the park.

### **Zone A1 (approximately 6 ha)**

- Egan Chutes has one access zone, north of Highway 28. This zone will serve as a staging area for the park. It includes existing single lane dirt bush roads within a 10 m wide road right-of-way that allow access to Crown land and private properties adjacent to the park. It will also include park entrances and parking areas located on the roadbed of the former Highway 28 on the east and west sides of the York River. Zoning of the parking area on the west side of the river is subject to acquisition and addition of those lands to the park. This zone includes the existing disturbed area adjacent to the parking area on the east side of the York River, in order to accommodate an expansion of that parking area.
- Existing recreational facilities in this zone include interpretive signage and the roads and trails, which may be used for hiking.
- Use of motorized vehicles in this zone is subject to policies for mechanized travel (Section 9.4.5) and internal roads and trails (Section 9.6.1).

## **9.0 Park policies**

This section provides site specific management policies and associated actions required to effectively manage Egan Chutes Provincial Park in accordance with applicable legislation and provincial policies. The following policies are intended to achieve the purpose and objectives for the park as set out in Sections 6.0 and 7.0, respectively. These policies are intended to be consistent with direction for waterway class parks, to support the proposal to combine the park areas into one waterway class park (Sections 4.0 and 5.0).

### **9.1 Industrial and commercial uses**

- **Forestry operations:** Commercial forestry is not permitted.
- **Mining:** Prospecting, staking of mining claims, developing mineral interests and working mines are not permitted within the park.
- **Aggregate and peat:** Extraction of sand, gravel, topsoil or peat is not permitted.

- **Power generation:** Commercial electric power development (e.g. hydroelectric and wind power) is not permitted.
- **Commercial wild rice harvesting:** There is no existing commercial wild rice harvesting operation within the park. No new operations will be permitted.
- **Commercial trapping:**
  - Three registered trapline areas and one Crown land trapping agreement area overlap the park.
  - Existing commercial trapping may continue within the park in areas outside of the nature reserve zone, as authorized by the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997* (FWCA). Transfer of existing traplines, and any associated trap cabins, is permitted in these areas, subject to established allocation procedures (e.g. Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) approval is required).
  - Existing trapping may continue within the nature reserve zone for the lifetime of the current head trapper. At the end of the lifetime of the current head trapper, or if a license is revoked or surrendered or an application for transfer is received prior to that time, all portions of the trapline or trapping agreement within the nature reserve zone will be rescinded from its legal description.
  - New commercial trapping operations, including cabins and trails, are not permitted in the park.
  - Use of motorized vehicles for commercial trapping purposes is subject to policies for mechanized travel (Section 9.4.5) and internal roads and trails (Section 9.6.1).
- **Commercial fishing:** There are no existing commercial fishing operations in the park. No new operations will be permitted.
- **Commercial bait harvesting:** There are four existing bait harvest areas (BHAs) that include areas within the natural environment zones and the nature reserve zone. In the natural environment zones, commercial bait harvesting will continue to be permitted and licenses may be transferred, subject to review and approval by the NDMNRF. In the nature reserve zone, commercial bait harvesting will continue to be permitted for the lifetime of the current licensee or until the license is surrendered or an application for transfer is received, following which the nature reserve zone will be removed from the BHA's legal description. No new operations will be permitted in the park. The harvest, use and movement of bait must be consistent with Ontario's Sustainable Bait Management Strategy (OMNRF 2020).
- **Commercial bear management areas (BMAs):** There are three existing BMA licences that include areas in the natural environment zones. These licences may be renewed or transferred. If a commercial license is revoked or surrendered, all portions of the BMA within the park will be rescinded from the BMA's legal description. No new operations are permitted.

## 9.2 Adaptive management

- An adaptive management approach will be applied to resource management activities within Egan Chutes Provincial Park.
- Adaptive management allows for the modification of management strategies in response to monitoring and analysis of the results of past actions and experiences.
- Adaptive management is a systematic, practical approach to improving resource management.

### **9.3 Resource management policies**

- Egan Chutes Provincial Park will be managed in accordance with the PPCRA, provincial park policies and all other relevant legislation and policies.

#### **9.3.1 Land management**

- The park's shorelines, wetlands and forests will be managed in order to protect ecological communities and maintain the natural state of the waterway.
- Mineral collecting within the park has negatively impacted many of the mineral outcrops. Collecting minerals within the park will not be permitted, consistent with the PPCRA. Visitors will be encouraged to appreciate the park's rich earth science features in a non-consumptive manner (Section 9.5.1).
- Aggregate for park purposes (e.g. to develop a parking lot in the park) will be acquired from sources outside the park.
- New energy transmission and communication corridors will be discouraged within the park boundary.
- Parks visitors are required to 'pack-in/pack-out' to address the issue of garbage accumulation within the interior of Egan Chutes Provincial Park.

##### **9.3.1.1 Private recreation camps**

- There is one recreation camp (hunt camp) within the nature reserve zone. This camp is under the authority of a Land Use Permit (LUP) issued on a yearly basis, with conditions applied. Continuance of this LUP will be carried out according to the PPCRA and applicable provincial policies and is subject to the outcome of regulatory and policy changes proposed at the time of writing this plan. According to existing legislation and policy at the time of writing this plan, this recreation camp may continue for the lifetime of the current permit holder. Transfers or changes in trustee will not be permitted. Only limited improvements will be allowed to the camp through the authorization of the park superintendent; following the passing of the permit holder, the estate will have up to one year to remove improvements.
- No new private recreation camps or other forms of private land tenure will be permitted within the park.

### **9.3.1.2 Commercial tourist operations**

- There are no commercial tourist operations, lodges, or outpost camps within the park. These activities will not be permitted.

### **9.3.2 Water management**

- No water control structures (e.g. dams or weirs) will be built in the park.
- The park will be managed in a manner that does not contribute to significant detrimental impacts on the river (e.g. shoreline erosion or hardening).

### **9.3.3 Alien and invasive species**

- Alien species are plants, animals and micro-organisms that have been accidentally or deliberately introduced by human activity into areas beyond their natural past or present distribution. Alien species will not be deliberately introduced.
- Invasive species are those alien species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy and/or society, including human health.
- Where possible, actions will be taken to eliminate or reduce the threat of invasive species which may be affecting the diversity of naturally occurring populations.
- Where alien species are already established and threaten natural or cultural values, a program of control may be undertaken, if feasible and practical.
- The park will keep records on the status of invasive species in the area. Park staff will assist in monitoring efforts related to invasive species within Egan Chutes Provincial Park.

### **9.3.4 Insects and diseases**

- Native insects and diseases affecting vegetation will be allowed to progress naturally, except where they threaten significant natural heritage values, park biodiversity or park features, in which case they may be controlled.
- The control of non-native insect and disease species may occur where there is a threat to the park's features or adjoining Crown or private lands.
- Where control is undertaken, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease, so as to have minimal effects on the rest of the park's environment.
- Non-chemical and species-specific controls will be used whenever possible.

### **9.3.5 Fire management**

Ontario Parks recognizes fire as an essential ecosystem process, fundamental to restoring and maintaining the ecological integrity of protected areas in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Forest Region.

Forest fires played a complex role in shaping communities in this region. Low intensity surface fires occurred at relatively short intervals and high intensity stand-replacing fires occurred less commonly. Stand-replacing fires are usually associated with prolonged drought, wind and ice storms, and insect outbreaks (Van Sleeuwen 2006).

- Fire management in the park will be in accordance with provincial policies and procedures. Egan Chutes Provincial Park is located in the Northeast Fire Region. Inside the fire region, NDMNRF has the lead in fire protection and management activities, subject to any municipal forest fire management agreements between NDMNRF and the local municipalities. The park is located within fire management agreement areas for the three adjacent municipalities (Municipality of Hastings Highlands, Town of Bancroft and Municipality of Carlow Mayo) and fire response and management within the park is subject to these agreements. The majority of the park is within Crown Protection Areas, and fire response and management are therefore responsibilities of the NDMNRF, as coordinated by Haliburton Fire Management Headquarters. The southernmost portion of the park is within a Municipal Protection Area, and fire response in that area is subject to a Municipal Forest Fire Agreement between the Town of Bancroft and the Crown.
- Fires within Egan Chutes Provincial Park will be managed to achieve ecological benefits and reduce fire hazards where appropriate, as well as to prevent personal injury, value loss, or social disruption.
- In addition, fire management techniques may be used to perpetuate naturally occurring vegetation communities and to help restore and maintain ecological integrity.

Wildland fire response in the park will be carried out in keeping with Ontario's Wildland Fire Management Strategy by:

- Providing a full response and sustained action to fires that pose a threat to public health and safety, property and infrastructure, or other values. Sustained action, if required, will be directed through an approved Fire Assessment Report that is developed in consultation between the park superintendent and authorized fire management personnel.
- Exploring opportunities for modified response and monitoring to achieve ecological or hazard reduction objectives in consultation between the park superintendent and authorized fire management personnel.

### **9.3.6 Species at risk**

- Species at risk and their habitats will be protected consistent with the ESA and associated regulations. All projects undertaken within the park, including work



permits, must be screened for potential impacts to species at risk to ensure compliance with the ESA.

- The park may undertake management actions for species at risk, as supported by research and directed through approved recovery strategies and government response statements or other species-specific management plans.
- Existing populations may be augmented, and extirpated native species may be reintroduced, if biologically feasible and desirable for perpetuating park values and maintaining or enhancing ecological integrity.

### **9.3.7 Vegetation management**

- Due to the long history of human activities in the park, some areas may require restoration in order to enhance and protect natural values. For example, in areas that have been or will be closed to camping (e.g. Middle Chute, Farm Chute and within a sensitive riverine wetland area; Sections 8.1 and 9.6.5), active restoration efforts may be required to rehabilitate the areas back to their natural state.
- Plants and seeds may not be collected in the park by anyone other than Ontario Parks staff, unless they receive written authorization (Section 9.3.11).
- Where planting or seeding is necessary, use will be made of species native to the park, from sources that originate in or near the park.
- Management of invasive plant species will follow existing best management practices and provincial guidelines and policies.
- Alternatives to chemical herbicides (e.g. mechanical removal) will be preferred and will be used where feasible. All herbicide use must be in compliance with legislation and policy directives for use of pesticides and herbicides in provincial parks. Herbicide spraying will be kept to a minimum. Localized applications may be used to control invasive species in all areas of the park. Only herbicides that biodegrade quickly, have low or no soil activity, and for which environmental impacts have been tested and shown to be minimal will be used.

### **9.3.8 Wildlife management**

- Animal populations or individual nuisance or displaced animals may be controlled or removed from the park when essential to human health and safety, the health of the species outside the park, or the values for which the park has been established.
- Where control is necessary, techniques having minimal effects on other components of the park's environment will be used.
- Appropriate methods of population control may be undertaken directly by Ontario Parks, or through partnerships under the strict supervision of Ontario Parks.
- The park is situated within Wildlife Management Units (WMU) 57 and 61. Wildlife management decisions for these WMUs are led by the NDMNRF Regional

Operations Division (ROD). Ontario Parks will work with ROD to manage wildlife in the park in the context of the surrounding landscape.

### **9.3.9 Fisheries management**

- Fisheries management decisions for the York River are led by the NDMNRF ROD. Wherever possible, park management will seek to maintain and/or enhance native, self-sustaining fish populations and their habitats within the park boundary.
- Ontario Parks will work cooperatively with the NDMNRF ROD to address fisheries management objectives and concerns within Egan Chutes, as required.

### **9.3.10 Cultural heritage resources management**

- Ontario Parks will work with the Algonquins of Ontario and other Indigenous communities to identify and map Indigenous values within the regulated and proposed park boundary area.
- Cultural heritage resources will be protected, maintained, used and disposed of in accordance with existing applicable legislation and policies. If cultural heritage resources are discovered, Ontario Parks will follow relevant cultural heritage policy.
- The removal of artifacts or the disturbance of historical features is illegal and prohibited.

### **9.3.11 Scientific collecting**

- The collection of fossils, rocks, minerals, archaeological/cultural artifacts, plants, seeds and other natural objects may be considered and, if appropriate, authorized through a research permit and/or scientific collector permit.

### **9.3.12 Research, inventory and monitoring**

- Scientific research by qualified individuals contributing to the knowledge of natural or cultural values and to environmental management will be encouraged where appropriate. All research will be conducted, or authorized, by Ontario Parks.
- Research activities that are not conducted by Ontario Parks require authorization issued under the PPCRA, consistent with relevant policies. Research must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation, and may require additional permits or approval (e.g. Wildlife Scientific Collector authorization or ESA permits).
- Ontario Parks will ensure that these decisions are made with the best available information. Where this information is lacking, Ontario Parks may conduct inventories and monitoring to provide this information. Such efforts will be undertaken based on established methodologies and best practices. This will help foster an adaptive management approach to protected areas management.

- Partnerships may be formed in order to implement research, inventory and monitoring within the park.
- Temporary facilities in support of approved research, inventory and monitoring activities may be considered.
- Motor vehicles for research, inventory and monitoring purposes may be used as outlined in Section 9.4.5, where permitted through a research authorization issued by Ontario Parks.
- Approved activities and facilities will be compatible with the protection of natural and cultural values and/or recreational uses in the park.
- Sites altered by activities will be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible.
- Data collected on species at risk will be provided to the NDMNRF's Natural Heritage Information Centre.
- Priority research projects include:
  - monitoring the rehabilitation of closed campsites
  - updating knowledge of bedrock geology and mineral interpretation for three historic quarry sites
  - updating knowledge of animal and plant populations within the park, consistent with park needs and provincial initiatives, with particular focus on:
    - assessing the presence of species at risk in the park, such as surveys for species at risk turtles and birds along the York River
    - additional floral and faunal studies concentrating on times of year missed during previous studies (spring and fall)
    - fish surveys of the York River and its back bay environments via the broad scale fisheries monitoring program component of the NDMNRF's Ecological Framework for Fisheries Management

## **9.4 Recreation management policies**

### **9.4.1 Services for visitors**

- There are no services available to the public at the park.
- New self-use facilities and/or services may be considered only if they are consistent with the purpose and objectives of the park (e.g. interpretive information).

### **9.4.2 Hunting**

- Hunting of game birds, migratory game birds and game mammals will be permitted in specific areas of Egan Chutes Provincial Park in accordance with regulations under the FWCA and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

- Hunting is permitted in the park's natural environment zones (Section 8.2). In some areas of the park, this is subject to reclassification of the original nature reserve park to waterway class and an amendment to the hunting area description in the existing regulation (O. Reg. 663/98, Schedule 115) under the FWCA. This permitted hunting area largely reflects the part of the park where hunting has historically been permitted, and the total park area in which hunting is permitted has not changed significantly.
- Hunting is prohibited by regulation in the nature reserve and access zones. In the small addition to the nature reserve zone, this is subject to an amendment to the hunting area description in the existing regulation under the FWCA.
- Use of motorized vehicles for hunting purposes is subject to policies for mechanized travel (Section 9.4.5) and internal roads and trails (Section 9.6.1).
- See Section 3.0 for information regarding Aboriginal rights-based activities.

#### **9.4.3 Recreational fishing**

- Recreational fishing is permitted in accordance with provincial and federal fisheries regulations (e.g. the FWCA and the *Fisheries Act*).
- The harvest, use and movement of bait by anglers must be consistent with Ontario's Sustainable Bait Management Strategy (OMNRF 2020).

#### **9.4.4 Backcountry uses**

- Boating, canoeing, kayaking, hiking and cross-country skiing will be permitted in the park. Horseback riding is not permitted.
- Interior camping will be permitted on designated, water-access campsites only (Figure 2). Camping is not permitted in the nature reserve zone, which includes the chutes locations.
- Interior users will be required to carry out and remove their garbage.
- Park users will be encouraged to use portable refillable camp stoves in the interior as a means of reducing the incidence of recreational fires. The use of portable stoves will also reduce site degradation caused by the removal of vegetation for campfires, and will lessen the demands on the natural dead wood supply adjacent to heavily-used campsites.

#### **9.4.5 Mechanized travel**

##### **9.4.5.1 Power boats**

- Power boating will be permitted in the park. Boating is subject to federal boating regulations, which generally limit power boat speeds to 10 km/hour within 30 m of shore.

- Boat caches may be permitted in specific locations for access to tenured land, subject to approval by the park superintendent.

#### **9.4.5.2 Motor vehicles (including all-terrain vehicles) and motorized snow vehicles**

- Authorization from the park superintendent is required for all motor vehicle and motorized snow vehicle use beyond the identified public parking areas (Figure 2; Section 9.6.2).
- Authorization may be provided for the use of motor vehicles and motorized snow vehicles within the access zone and on approved existing roads and trails outside of the access zone in the following circumstances:
  - for required access to private property or tenured Crown land (e.g. recreation camp; Sections 9.3.1.1 and 9.6.1)
  - for required access to Crown land for the purpose of timber harvest under a Sustainable Forest License (SFL)
  - for access to permitted areas of the park for hunting purposes during designated hunting seasons (Section 9.4.2)
  - for access by a person who holds a license or agreement for a permitted commercial use (e.g. trapping, bait harvest, BMA) that is situated in the park, or a person authorized by that license holder, only to the extent that is necessary to gain access to the area associated with the license for the purpose of exercising the licensed activity (Section 9.1)
- An operational Internal Roads and Trails Plan will be developed to identify and describe the locations of approved existing roads and trails in the park and their authorized uses according to the policies in this plan (Section 9.6.1).
- In the interim, until an Internal Roads and Trails Plan has been completed, the use of only all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorized snow vehicles may continue on existing roads and trails outside of the access zone in accordance with the policies in this section.
- Motor vehicles may be operated by park staff or park partners on any existing roads and trails within the park for the purpose of carrying out park management activities, operations, or resource stewardship.
- Motor vehicles may be operated on any existing roads and trails within the park to the extent necessary to conduct research safely and efficiently, where permitted through a research authorization issued by Ontario Parks (Section 9.3.12).
- Any other public agency may use any craft or vehicle anywhere in the park in order to provide emergency services.

#### **9.4.6 Other recreational uses**

- The following activities are permitted in the park:

- photography
- hiking
- cross-country skiing
- snowshoeing
- boating
- mountain biking on roads within the access zone
- The following activities are prohibited in the park:
  - adventure racing
  - war games
  - horseback riding
  - collection of fossils, rocks and minerals (i.e. rock hounding)
- Virtual geocaching may be considered within natural environment and access zones, subject to approval by the park superintendent. Virtual geocaching is not permitted within the nature reserve zone. Physical geocaching will not be permitted in the park.
- New or emerging recreational activities will be considered on a case by case basis, provided they are consistent with maintaining the values of the park and comply with policies on permitted activities.

## **9.5 Operations policies**

- Egan Chutes will remain a non-operating provincial park. Wherever necessary, implementation of the policies stated below will be consistent with the Ontario Parks Operating Standards.
- Both Ontario Parks staff and approved researchers will conform wherever possible to the limitations applicable to recreational users, and will travel through the park on foot wherever practical.

### **9.5.1 Education**

- Provincial parks have a role in supporting the heritage appreciation objective in the PPCRA. The manner in which that objective is met will vary for each park and may be adapted based on the park's resources and provincial direction and priorities at that time.
- In keeping with the park's non-operational status, only basic visitor services will be provided to foster heritage appreciation within the park. These may include self-use facilities and educational signage at points of interest, such as mineral sites and the chutes. Indigenous communities and local and provincial partners will be important resources in the development of interpretive programming.

#### **9.5.1.1 Information**

- The education program will be developed around a self-use system. Visitors will be encouraged to explore and experience the area without organized programming. Information, interpretation and outdoor recreation may be relayed through interpretive signage that highlights the natural and cultural heritage of the area and the recreational opportunities available.
- Emphasis will be on providing information on the importance of the York River to the development of the Bancroft region, the backcountry camping opportunities available at the park, and the significance of the minerals present at the park. In addition to indicating the prohibition of mineral collection in the park (Section 9.3.1), reference may be made to areas outside of the park where mineral prospecting is permitted. Information about other nearby provincial protected areas, such as Conroys Marsh and Little Mississippi River conservation reserves, may be provided as appropriate.
- A park map indicating the location of authorized campsites may be established in the park's access zone (Section 8.3).

#### **9.5.1.2 Park interpretation**

- Interpretive signage or promotional material recognizing Indigenous history and culture will be developed to enhance appreciation and understanding of the park's cultural heritage. Ontario Parks may work with local Indigenous communities to prepare mutually acceptable interpretive information (e.g. information kiosk within access zone to recognize Algonquin history and culture).
- Ontario Parks may seek partnerships with other levels of government and with non-governmental organizations to help interpret some of the significant features at the park. Partnership with NDMNRF would assist with the development of mineral interpretive materials. Partners that could help develop the message of how the York River helped shape the region include the Town of Bancroft, Municipality of Carlow Mayo, Municipality of Hastings Highlands and Hastings County.
- Working with these partners will be vital to developing interpretive messages and assisting with the funding for these projects. Methods such as signage, printed materials and trail guides may be used.

#### **9.5.2 Partnerships**

- In the implementation of the park management plan, Ontario Parks may pursue opportunities for partnerships involving Indigenous communities, agencies and groups.
- Partnerships will be encouraged for resource management and operations projects.
- Ontario Parks will continue building relationships with the Algonquins of Ontario, through identification and interpretation of Indigenous values and continued engagement during implementation of the management plan.

## **9.6 Development policies**

- All development undertaken by Ontario Parks, or by partners on its behalf, will comply with environmental assessment requirements, the ESA and other applicable provincial legislation and policies. Development will be carried out in accordance with approved site and development plans that meet development standards for provincial parks.
- Areas proposed for development will require prior assessment for significant cultural heritage features and natural values, such as species at risk, to ensure that these values are identified and protected.
- Easily accessible outcrops, abandoned quarries and prospects at the south end of the park have a history of aggressive mineral collecting causing them to be a significant hazard to public safety. Appropriate cautionary warnings and controls (e.g. fencing) will be erected.

### **9.6.1 Internal roads and trails**

- No new roads, bridges, motorized trails, or non-motorized trails will be constructed in or through the park.
- An operational Internal Roads and Trails Plan will be created to map which existing trails outside of the access zone will be approved to continue for authorized motorized use (subject to policies in Section 9.4.5.2) and which trails will be closed or re-routed. Development of the plan will include scoped consultation with the Algonquins of Ontario as well as LUP holders, licence holders (e.g. trapping, bait harvest, BMAs and SFL) and adjacent private landowners, and will not require an amendment to the park management plan.
- There are two sections of road allowance containing the former Highway 28 roadbed that abut the park. Both originate from the current Highway 28. The roadway on the west side of the York River ends where it meets the river within the park. Access to the park from this western roadway will be formalized for parking, subject to acquisition or an agreement with the Town of Bancroft (Sections 4.0 and 9.6.2). The road allowance east of the York River will be added to the park, and will continue to remain open as the designated access point to the park.
- Motorized access to the roadway that runs east of the York River within the access zone will be restricted to authorized users only (Section 9.4.5.2). A gate may be installed across this roadway to control motorized access beyond the parking area. Access on this roadway to private property outside the park, the recreation camp in the park, and for licence holders (e.g. trapping, BMAs, bait harvest and SFL) will continue to be permitted through approval by the park superintendent. The roadway will be accessible to the public for non-motorized use, and travel by foot on the roadway will be promoted and encouraged for all park users.



- The park superintendent may close roads or trails temporarily or permanently to ensure public safety (e.g. emergency situations) and/or prevent environmental damage.
- Trails located in sensitive fen communities (Figure 2) will be closed and/or re-routed.
- Trails that have been closed, re-routed, or abandoned will be left to regenerate.
- Existing roads and trails within the park that provide access to private properties will continue to be maintained by the individuals or groups who are currently responsible for the road maintenance, unless otherwise agreed to. Existing roads within the access zone may be improved or maintained when necessary to provide access, subject to the policies within this plan. Authorization must be obtained by the park superintendent prior to conducting any road maintenance.
- Ontario Parks may enter into an agreement regarding maintenance with individuals or groups requiring access through the park to private properties.
- Road or trail improvements required for access to Crown timber or minerals outside of the park are subject to Section 20 of the PPCRA.
- The park superintendent may authorize a change in the location of a trail or road providing a right of access, if the change is required for reasons of public safety, or in order to protect the park's ecological integrity.
- Partnerships may be established in order to assist with the maintenance of existing trails.

### **9.6.2 Parking areas**

- Parking has occurred along the eastern and western road allowances north of Highway 28, which contain the roadbed of the former Highway 28. Sections of these road allowances where parking occurs have been identified as possible park additions (Section 4.0).
- If added to the park, the eastern and western road allowances will be used as designated parking areas. The existing parking areas may be upgraded and reconfigured and/or enlarged within the access zone.

### **9.6.3 Day-use areas**

- No day-use areas (e.g. picnic areas) or beaches will be developed in the park.

### **9.6.4 Campgrounds**

- No campgrounds will be developed in the park.

### **9.6.5 Interior campsites**

- There are five authorized pre-existing, interior campsites in the park, along the York River.
- Two former campsites (one at Middle Chute and one at Farm Chute) will remain closed. One existing campsite located in a sensitive fen community will be closed and may be signed to indicate that camping is not permitted. The remaining four sites will continue, unless they must be temporarily or permanently closed for health and safety reasons, operational purposes, or to maintain ecological integrity, at the discretion of the park superintendent (Figure 2).
- No new interior campsites will be established in the park. Signs will be erected to indicate sites where camping is permitted.

#### **9.6.6 Roofed accommodation**

- Roofed accommodation will not be developed in the park.

#### **9.6.7 Portages**

- There are three un-maintained portages in the park around the three rock chutes. The rugged topography found in the park creates conditions favourable to erosion. The portages are in poor condition and may be managed in order to minimize erosion concerns.
- Partnerships may be established for the maintenance of portages.

#### **9.6.8 Maintenance and administrative areas**

- There are no maintenance or administrative areas within the park. These are located at Silent Lake Provincial Park.

### **10.0 Implementation priorities**

- Park development, operations and resource management will be contingent upon the availability of funding and resources, as well as changes in priorities and policy.
- Park management, development and operations proposals will be phased in as follows:

#### **10.1 Stage one**

- Work with the Town of Bancroft to formalize parking west of the York River, through acquisition of that section of municipal road allowance or by forming an agreement (Section 4.0).
- Initiate a park boundary amendment to formalize proposed changes (Sections 4.0 and 5.0) and amendment to the hunting regulation under the FWCA (Section 9.4.2).
- GPS existing roads, trails and other infrastructure within the park (Section 9.6.1).

- Close one campsite within a sensitive fen community (Section 9.6.5).
- Develop and place signage for designated campsites (Section 9.6.5).
- Place prohibition and educational signs, cautionary warnings and controls at areas at risk from mineral collecting (Section 9.6).

## **10.2 Stage two**

- Install access restrictions (e.g. gates) across the roadway that runs east along the York River just beyond the parking area within the park access zone (Section 9.6.1).
- Prepare an operational Internal Roads and Trails Plan (Section 9.6.1).
- Create educational interpretive signage to develop visitor awareness and appreciation of the park's natural and cultural heritage (Section 9.5.1).

## **10.3 Stage three**

- Develop education and heritage appreciation partnerships with local Indigenous communities, municipalities and stakeholders (Section 9.5.1).
- Improve the parking area in the access zone near the park entrance (Section 9.6.2).

## **11.0 Plan examination and adjustment**

- This management plan will be examined in accordance with the provisions of the PPCRA to determine whether the management direction is still relevant, effective and current, or if an adjustment is required. In circumstances where this plan is not providing sufficient direction, it can be examined prior to the next scheduled examination.

## 12.0 References

Agreement in Principle Among the Algonquins of Ontario, Ontario, and Canada. 2016. Available at: [https://files.ontario.ca/algonquins\\_of\\_ontario\\_agreement\\_in\\_principle.pdf](https://files.ontario.ca/algonquins_of_ontario_agreement_in_principle.pdf).

Brunton, D.F. 1990. Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest in Site District 5-11 – A Review and Assessment of Significant Natural Areas. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Eastern Region, Kemptville, 160 pp.

Consultation Process Interim Measures Agreement among the Algonquins of Ontario, Her Majesty in Right of Ontario, and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada. 2009. Available at: <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100032101/1100100032102>.

Duba, D. and Frey, E.D. 2002. Geology, Geomorphology and Planning Considerations: Egan Chutes Provincial Park and Egan Chutes Addition. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Parks. 2002-x, 17pp.

Easton, R.M. 1992. Tectonic Evolution of Ontario. Part 3: Mesoproterozoic Evolution of the Southeast Margin of Laurentia; in Geology of Ontario, Ontario Geological Survey, Special Volume 4, Part 2, 1302-1314pp.

Hills, G.A. 1959. A ready reference to the description of the Land of Ontario and its productivity. Department of Lands and Forests.

Noble, T.W. 1983. Biophysiological Analysis, Site Region 5E, Algonquin Regional Office. Ministry of Natural Resources, Huntsville.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 1992. Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 1999. Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto, 136 pp.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. 2014. Ontario's Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto, 22 pp.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. 2020. Ontario's Sustainable Bait Management Strategy. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Peterborough, 18 pp.

Paauw, D. and McRae, L. 2010a. Stage 1 Archaeological Background Study, Egan Chutes Provincial Nature Reserve, Geographic Township of Dungannon, Hastings County. Unpublished Report for Ministry of Natural Resources. 26 pp.

Paauw, D. and McRae, L. 2010b. Stage 1 Archaeological Background Study, Egan Chutes Provincial Park Addition, Geographic Township of Carlow, Geographic Township of Dungannon and Geographic Township of Monteagle, Hastings County. Unpublished Report for Ministry of Natural Resources. 30 pp.

Van Sleeuwen, M. 2006. Natural Fire Regimes in Ontario. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Queen's Printer for Ontario, Toronto, 143 pp.

White, D.J. 2002. Life Science Survey and Evaluation of Egan Chutes Provincial Nature Reserve. Ontario Parks, South Eastern Zone, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Kingston, 33 pp + Appendices.

## **13.0 Appendix 1 – Summary of involvement**

### **13.1 Summary and results of Indigenous community consultation**

Indigenous community involvement is a very important part of the Egan Chutes Provincial Park management planning process.

#### **13.1.1 Egan Chutes addition**

Egan Chutes Provincial Park Addition (P56) was one of 378 new protected areas identified in Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (OLL LUS; OMNR 1999). Consultation on the regulation of Egan Chutes Provincial Park Addition occurred between 2000 and 2003. Consultation consisted of newspaper advertisements in nine local papers, meetings, and information letters and package mail outs to local Indigenous communities.

Although the Ministry of Natural Resources (now NDMNRF) had discussion with the Algonquins throughout the OLL LUS process, no written response was received. The Algonquins expressed concern with effects of regulation on land claim negotiations and traditional Aboriginal rights and requested to be kept informed of any planning decisions for OLL sites.

#### **13.1.2 Egan Chutes Provincial Park management planning**

- An invitation to participate and review the terms of reference was released on November 18, 2005. A second invitation to participate to review an amended terms of reference along with a background information file was released on November 21, 2006.
- A representative for the Algonquins of Ontario responded to the second invitation to participate. The Algonquins of Ontario requested additions to the mailing list.
- In July of 2007, Ontario Parks staff attended a public stakeholder meeting held in Bancroft regarding Egan Chutes. Subsequent to the meeting, written comments were received from the Algonquins of Ontario representative, asking about the status of management planning.
- Under the Consultation Process Interim Measures Agreement (2009) Ontario Parks consulted with the Algonquins of Ontario in 2010 regarding the management planning process. Representatives of the Algonquins of Ontario met with Ontario Parks staff in 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2018 during preparation of the preliminary management plan. The Algonquins of Ontario reviewed a draft preliminary management plan and provided written comments in 2011, 2013 and 2018. Those comments were considered, and changes made to address the comments are reflected in this document.

## **13.2 Summary and results of public and stakeholder involvement**

Public and stakeholder involvement is a very important part of the Egan Chutes Provincial Park management planning process.

### **13.2.1 Egan Chutes addition**

Egan Chutes Provincial Park Addition (P56) was one of 378 new protected areas identified in Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (OMNR 1999). Consultation on the regulation of Egan Chutes Provincial Park Addition occurred between 2000 and 2003. Consultation consisted of newspaper advertisements in nine local papers, meetings, and information letters and package mail outs to adjacent landowners, municipalities, non-governmental agencies, for-profit organizations, conservation authorities, and provincial and federal governmental agencies that had an interest in the area.

- There were ten (10) individuals/groups who responded to the mailings and newspaper advertisements seeking input on the proposed addition (6 written, 4 verbal).
- In summary, the public comments received included: strong opposition to hunting in the park; suggestion that the proposed park addition be classified as a nature reserve class provincial park as opposed to waterway class park; concern about maintaining access through the park addition; suggestion that shoreline buffers should be increased from the established 200 m setback to include nearest heights of land; and, suggestion that rock and mineral collection should be permitted in the park/concern about rock collecting in the park.

### **13.2.2 Egan Chutes Provincial Park management planning**

#### **13.2.2.1 Phase 1: Invitation to participate, terms of reference and background information file**

- An invitation to participate and review the terms of reference was released on November 18, 2005. There were eight (8) individuals/groups who responded to the initial Invitation to Participate. Of these, two (2) requested to be added to the mailing list, one (1) requested to be removed from the mailing list, two (2) provided general comments (expressing support for the project) and three (3) provided comments of a more detailed nature.
- Of the detailed comments, one (1) highlighted concerns with accessing their property through the park; two (2) were interested in continuing hunting and fishing within the park; two (2) were interested in ATV, motorized snow vehicle and boating use within the park; and one (1) expressed interest in gem and mineral collecting within the park.

- A second Invitation to Participate to review an amended terms of reference along with a background information file was released on November 21, 2006.
- Fifteen (15) agencies/individuals/groups responded to the second Invitation to Participate. Of these responses, three (3) requested to be added to the mailing list or to be kept informed, four (4) provided general interest comments (policy clarification) and nine (9) provided comments of a more detailed nature.
- Of the detailed comments, four (4) would like mineral collecting permitted; three (3) supported maintaining the park as a pristine place; two (2) suggested the development of a mineral museum; two (2) supported hunting, trapping and fishing in the park; two (2) suggested enhancing recreational opportunities available at the park including cross country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking trails; one (1) supported the development of parking lots and upgrading hiking trails in order to make them more accessible to less agile individuals; one (1) commented on phasing out hunting and trapping within the park, as well as developing an eco-building in order to protect the natural state of the parks ecosystem; and one (1) commented on using the mineral sites for demonstration and education purposes.
- In July of 2007, Ontario Parks staff attended a public stakeholder meeting held in Bancroft regarding Egan Chutes. Subsequent to the meeting an additional five (5) written comments were received from two (2) local municipalities passing resolutions opposed to restricting access and recreational use; one (1) individual supportive of restricting recreational use in the park; and two (2) individuals opposed to restrictions generally (one included a signed petition).

#### **13.2.2.2 Phase 2: Preliminary management plan**

- The public will have an opportunity to review the preliminary management plan for a minimum period of forty-five (45) days after its formal release. This will allow interested participants to comment on proposals in the plan.

### **13.3 Summary of significant management concerns**

Following the invitation to participate, questions arose from individuals and stakeholders regarding the following activities within the park. These activities have been addressed in the plan and proposed policies are summarized below.

- **Hunting:** It is proposed that the area where hunting is permitted will include the park's natural environment zones (Sections 8.2 and 9.4.2). In some areas of the park, this proposal is subject to reclassification of the original park from nature reserve class to waterway class park and an amendment to the hunting area description in the FWCA regulation (Sections 5.0 and 9.4.2). This permitted hunting area largely reflects the part of the park where hunting has historically been permitted, and the total park area in which hunting is permitted has not changed significantly. Hunting will continue to be prohibited within the upland portion of the original park area and will also be prohibited in a small area of the waterway class park addition (about 16 ha), which together make up the park's nature reserve zone.



- Fishing: will continue to be permitted within the park (Section 9.4.3).
- Commercial trapping: Existing commercial trapping may continue within the park, except within the nature reserve zone (Section 9.1). Existing commercial trapping may continue within the nature reserve zone for the lifetime of the current head trapper (Section 9.1).
- Mechanized travel (Section 9.4.5)
  - Power boats: will be permitted on the York River within the park and are subject to federal boating regulations.
  - Motor vehicles (e.g. ATVs, motorcycles, motorized bikes, scooters) and motorized snow vehicles: may be permitted for access purposes on roads within the access zone and approved existing roads and trails outside of the access zone.
- Mineral collection: is prohibited within all provincial parks in Ontario under the PPCRA and regulations. The policies in the preliminary management plan are consistent with legislation (Sections 9.3.1, 9.3.11).

The riverbed between Conroys Marsh Conservation Reserve and the park was considered for addition to the park boundary but, because of local concerns regarding access to the river in this area, it is not being proposed (Figure 1).

## 14.0 Appendix 2 – Species list

Scientific names for the species listed by common name in Section 7.1.2 of the document are indicated in parenthesis below.

Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*)

White spruce (*Picea glauca*)

Red pine (*Pinus resinosa*)

White pine (*Pinus strobus*)

Red oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Speckled alder (*Alnus rugosa*)

White birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

Large-toothed aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)

Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)

Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)