



PINERY

Provincial Park Management Plan

Proposed Amendment

2026

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Opportunity to comment

Pinery Provincial Park Proposed Management Plan Amendment

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is amending the management plan for Pinery Provincial Park.

After careful consideration of related planning information and review of input received thus far, this proposed amendment outlines proposed changes to site-specific management policies for the park. Proposed changes include amendment to support necessary improvements to the park's sewage treatment infrastructure that will reduce visitor wait times and enhance visitors recreational experience through the creation of a multiuse recreational trail. Administrative updates were made including new values information, current and relevant legislation and policy references and the outcomes of completed park projects. Sections have been reordered and new sections added to align with current park management plan format and content standards. For ease of review, this document is worded in the style of an approved management plan.

The release of this proposed amendment provides an opportunity for Indigenous communities, members of the public and stakeholders to be involved and provide comment. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will carefully consider all comments received and make changes as appropriate. Any revisions will be reflected in the approved management plan amendment. The approved management plan amendment will guide the management of the provincial park over a 10-year period.

The proposed amendment is available through the Environmental Registry of Ontario at ero.ontario.ca (026-0675) for 45 days to allow opportunity to review and provide input. Communities, groups, organizations and individuals on the project mailing list have been notified.

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 proposed/preliminary management plan amendment or the planning process, please contact:

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Comments should be submitted by August 17, 2026 through the Environmental Registry of Ontario at ero.ontario.ca (026-0675). Comments can also be sent to the individual identified above.

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

Jason Travers,

Director, Ontario Parks Operations Branch

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of section 29 of the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* for the purpose of public consultation on management planning. Your comments (not including personal information) will become part of the record of consultation and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by MECP to follow-up with you upon request or when required, and to send you information about future initiatives involving this park. Please indicate in your response if you do not wish to be notified of new initiatives. 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: www.ontario.ca/page/privacy-statement. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact the individual identified above.

Amendment ~~a~~Approval ~~S~~Statement

July 2, 2014

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am pleased to approve this amendment to The Pinery Provincial Park Management Plan. The amendment provides direction around managing the water level within the lower portion of the Old Ausable Channel (~~OAC~~). Specifically, the water level within the lower portion of the ~~channel~~~~OAC~~ will be managed, via installation of a water control structure within the Burley Causeway culvert, to maintain habitat for a number of species, including species at risk, and to enhance recreation opportunities.

I would like to express my appreciation to all those who participated in the planning process.

Sincerely,
Bradley Fauteux
Managing Director
Ontario Parks

Approval ~~s~~Statement

Pinery Provincial Park is set in one of the largest remaining forests in southwestern Ontario. It is full of contrasts, from its lush oak-pine forest to the undulating sand dunes which sweep down to the shore of Lake Huron. A park for all seasons, Pinery Provincial Park offers a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities ~~year-round~~year-round in a unique natural setting.

We are pleased to approve the Pinery Provincial Park Management Plan, as official policy for the management and development of this park. The plan reflects this ministry's intent to protect the natural and cultural features of Pinery Provincial Park and maintain high quality opportunities for outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation for both the residents of Ontario and visitors to the province.

Dennis W. Schafer
Regional Director
Southwestern Region
Norm R. Richards
Director
Parks & Recreational Areas Branch

Table of contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Boundary.....	0
1.2	Indigenous communities	0
1.3	Planning context	1
1.4	Ecological integrity	1
2	Classification	1
3	Purpose, vision and objectives.....	1
3.1	Purpose.....	2
3.2	Vision	2
3.3	Objectives	2
4	Values	4
4.1	Natural heritage	4
4.2	Cultural heritage.....	4
4.3	Recreation.....	4
5	Summary of pressures	5
6	Zoning	5
6.1	Development zone	8
6.2	Nature reserve zones.....	8
6.3	Natural environment zones	10
7	Resource management policies	10
7.1	Resource management.....	11
7.1.1	Industrial activities	11
7.1.2	Fisheries	11
7.1.3	Wildlife	11
7.1.3.1	Hyper-abundant species	12
7.2	Water management	12
7.3	Land management	12
7.4	Vegetation.....	13
7.4.1	Vegetation management principles.....	13
7.4.2	Flora extraction.....	14

7.4.3	Vegetative monitoring	14
7.4.4	Species at risk and rare species	14
7.4.5	Other vegetation management issues	14
7.4.5.1	Hazardous trees	14
7.4.5.2	Vegetative planting	15
7.4.5.3	Alien and invasive species.....	15
7.4.5.4	Noxious species control.....	15
7.4.5.5	Insects and disease.....	15
7.4.5.6	Fire management.....	16
7.5	Cultural heritage.....	16
7.6	Science and research	16
8	Recreation management policies	17
8.1	Recreation facilities	17
8.1.1	Campgrounds	17
8.1.2	Group campgrounds	17
8.1.3	Day-use areas	17
8.1.4	Trails.....	18
8.1.5	Boat access	18
8.1.6	Roads	18
8.1.7	Special summer and winter facilities.....	18
8.1.8	Concessions	19
9	Operations and development policies	22
9.1	Communications	22
9.2	Interpretation.....	22
9.3	Outdoor recreation.....	22
9.4	Research.....	23
9.5	Law enforcement	23
10	Implementation priorities	23
11	Examination of the management plan.....	24
12	References.....	26
	Appendix I: Management planning history	0

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Boundary.....	2
1.2	Indigenous Communities	3
1.3	Planning Context.....	3
1.4	Ecological Integrity.....	4
2	Classification	4
3	Purpose, Vision and Objectives	4
3.1	Purpose.....	4
3.2	Vision	4
3.3	Objectives	5
3.3.1	Protection	5
3.3.2	Heritage appreciation	5
3.3.3	Recreation	5
3.3.4	Scientific Research	5
4	Values	6
4.1	Natural Heritage	6
4.2	Cultural Heritage	6
4.3	Recreation.....	6
5	Summary of Pressures.....	7
6	Zoning.....	7
6.1	Development zone	10
6.2	Nature reserve zones.....	10
6.3	Natural environment zones	13
7	Resource Management Policies.....	13
7.1	Resource management.....	13
7.1.1	Industrial activities	13
7.1.2	Fisheries	14
7.1.3	Wildlife.....	14
7.1.3.1	Hyper-abundant species	14
7.2	Water Management	14
7.3	Land Management.....	15

7.4	Vegetation	15
7.4.1	Vegetation management principles	15
7.4.2	Flora extraction	16
7.4.3	Vegetative monitoring	16
7.4.4	Species at risk and rare species	17
7.4.5	Other vegetation management issues	17
7.4.5.1	Hazardous trees	17
7.4.5.2	Vegetative planting	17
7.4.5.3	Non-native and invasive species	17
7.4.5.4	Noxious species control	18
7.4.5.5	Insects and disease	18
7.4.5.6	Fire management	18
7.5	Cultural Heritage	18
7.6	Science and research	19
8	Recreation management policies	19
8.1	Recreation facilities	19
8.1.1	Campgrounds	19
8.1.2	Group campgrounds	19
8.1.3	Day-use areas	19
8.1.4	Trails	20
8.1.5	Boat access	20
8.1.6	Roads	20
8.1.7	Special summer and winter facilities	21
8.1.8	Concessions	21
9	Operations and Development Policies	21
9.1	Communications	21
9.2	Interpretation	21
9.3	Outdoor recreation	22
9.4	Research	23
9.5	Law enforcement	24
10	Implementation Priorities	24

11	Examination of the management plan.....	25
12	References.....	25
	Appendix I: Management planning history.....	29

Table of Figures

Figure 1 - Regional Context	<u>Error! Bookmark not defined.</u>	<u>92</u>
Figure 2 - Summary of Zoning for Nature Reserve, Natural Environment and Development.....		<u>5447</u>
Figure 34 – Zoning	<u>Error! Bookmark not defined.</u>	<u>458</u>
Figure 5-4 – Existing Recreation Development (<u>Summer Facilities</u>)	<u>Error! Bookmark not defined.</u>	<u>2719</u>
Figure 5 – Existing Development (<u>Winter Facilities</u>).....	<u>Error! Bookmark not defined.</u>	<u>2720</u>

1 Introduction

Pinery Provincial Park is a 2532.5 ~~hectare~~ (ha) natural environment class park ([Figure 1](#)). It is located on the southeast shore of Lake Huron in the Municipality of Lambton Shores, Lambton County. Established on October 11, 1957, followed by several years of development, the park was officially opened in 1959.

Many natural features that are significant on a provincial and national level, are represented in [Pinerythe park](#). The landscape of the area is dominated by a series of sand dune ridges and interdunal depressions with the entire site being bisected by the Old Ausable Channel ([OAC](#)) and floodplain. An active process of dune building still occurs today in areas adjacent to Lake Huron. The undulating sand slopes are typical of coastal dune systems with thin, poorly developed soils. Extremely dry conditions usually persist. The park is located in the Southern Deciduous Forest Region. Many species of flora with prairie and shoreline affinities are present.

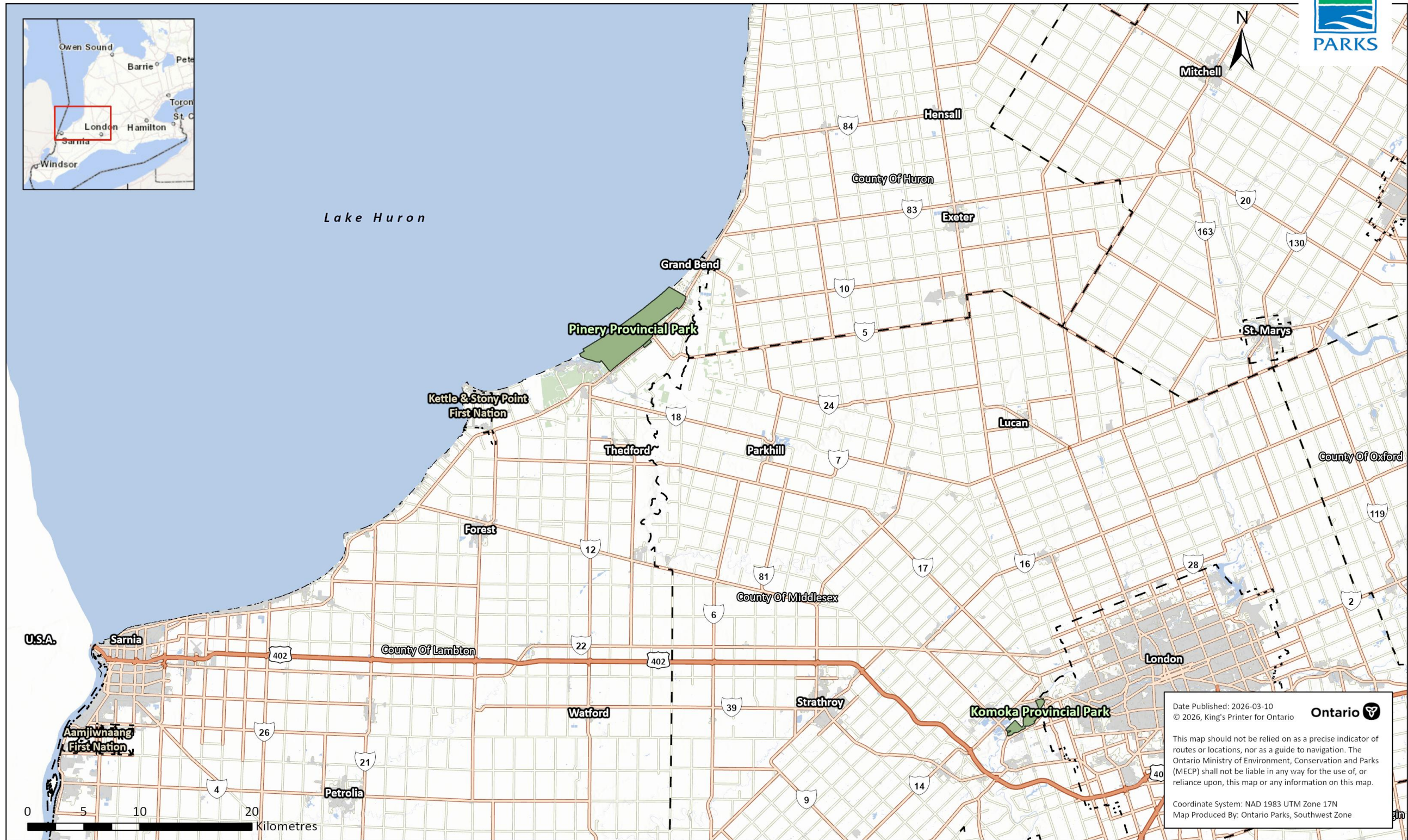
Pinery [Provincial Park](#), with its significant natural environment and 9 ~~kilometres~~ km of beach is part of the valued recreational corridor from the Sarnia area to Grand Bend. This corridor has a concentration of ~~year-round~~ [year-round](#) facilities and draws heavy use by residents of both Ontario and the United States.

[PineryThe park](#) is a popular spot as a vacation destination and as a local day-use area. The park provides a significant contribution to southwestern Ontario's recreational day-use and camping needs, as well as making important contributions to the objectives for Ontario's provincial park system.

The planning process for Pinery [Provincial Park](#) was initiated in 1967. The first preliminary plan for the park, prepared in 1971, suggested that [Pinerythe park](#) should be managed as a recreation class park. Public review and input, a growing awareness of [the parks](#) [Pinery's](#) natural features and ~~the park's~~ popularity with the public led the ministry to conclude that the 1971 plan was not suitable. Between 1971 and 1977, the park, its features and its recreational potential were restudied in detail. This resulted in publishing the 1977 Revised Master Plan Draft which suggested Pinery [Provincial Park](#) should remain a natural environment park and which provided the basis for management between 1977 and 1985. The Pinery Provincial Park Management Plan was approved in 1986 and has since gone through several policy amendments. [The current plan amendment supports improvements to the parks trailer sanitation station that will enhance visitor services and the creation of a multiuse trail to support outdoor recreation within the park.](#)

Pinery Provincial Park - Regional Setting

Figure 1



1.1 Boundary

Pinery Provincial Park is located in the Municipality of Lambton Shores in Lambton County, approximately ~~six-6 kilometres~~ south of Grand Bend on Highway No. 21 (Figure 1). The majority of the park is bounded ~~in-to the~~ north by Lake Huron and by Highway 21.

The map above is of southern Ontario showing Pinery Provincial Park, on the southeast shore of Lake Huron.

1.2 Indigenous ~~c~~Communities

Indigenous communities have lived on and relied upon the lands and waters within their traditional territories and treaty areas long before Pinery Provincial Park was established in 1959, and they continue to rely on these lands and waters to exercise their constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights which includes various practices, customs, and traditions integral to Indigenous communities' distinctive cultures and ways of life. Some examples of these practices, customs and traditions may include hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering food for personal, social and ceremonial purposes; traditional teachings; and ceremonial and spiritual activities.

Many Aboriginal and treaty rights are connected to the natural environment and are primarily exercised on Crown lands in Ontario, including within provincial parks and conservation reserves. The ~~M~~inistry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is committed to meeting its constitutional obligations that may be owed to Indigenous communities, including the duty to consult, ~~and, where appropriate, accommodate.~~

Further, Ontario Parks is working to rebuild and renew relationships with Indigenous peoples based on trust and respect and to seek opportunities to protect, study and enjoy provincial parks and conservation reserves together with Indigenous communities while educating Ontarians and provincial park and conservation reserve visitors.

Pinery Provincial Park is located within Treaty 29 (Huron Tract Purchase, ~~1827~~) ~~of 1827~~ and within Ontario's understanding of the Nanfan Deed (1701). Indigenous communities that ~~have known or potential interests, and/or asserted or established~~ may have interest or section 35 rights associated with the lands within, and surrounding Pinery Provincial Park include the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation related to this region of southwestern Ontario include; Aamjiwnaang First Nation, ~~Chippewas of the Thames First Nation,~~ Bkejwanong Territory (Walpole Island), Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Caldwell First Nation, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation and

Oneida Nation of the Thames, ~~Munsee-Delaware Nation, and Delaware Nation (Moravian of the Thames).~~

1.3 Planning ~~c~~Context

The *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* (PPCRA) states that a management plan must be prepared for each provincial park in Ontario. The preparation of this management plan meets that requirement. Ontario's Protected Areas Planning Manual and Guidelines: 2014 Edition (MNR 2014) were used to guide park management planning.

This management plan has been developed consistent with all relevant legislation and provincial policies including the PPCRA, Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies, 1992 Update (MNR 1992) and Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (MNR 1999). It is intended to guide park management for the next 20 years.

1.4 Ecological ~~i~~ntegrity

Planning and management principles in the PPCRA establish that:

- maintenance of ecological integrity shall be the first priority, and restoration of ecological integrity shall be considered

Ecosystems have integrity when:

- they have all the parts (both living and non-living) that you would expect to find
- natural functions and rates of change are happening normally

This management plan identifies site-specific management policies and actions intended to maintain or, where possible, restore ecological integrity.

2 Classification

Pinery is ~~classified as~~ a ~~N~~natural ~~E~~environment ~~Park-class park~~ in recognition of its provincially significant landforms and associated natural, cultural and recreational resources.

3 Purpose, ~~V~~ision and ~~O~~bjectives

3.1 Purpose

The purpose of Pinery Provincial Park is to protect an extensive, provincially significant, freshwater dune system with associated representative floral, faunal and cultural features and to provide high quality educational and recreational experiences.

3.2 Vision

The vision for Pinery Provincial Park is for the park to be a place that provides long-term protection of the unique life science, earth science, and cultural heritage values, while allowing ecosystem functions to be preserved and facilitating sustainable outdoor recreation and education opportunities.

~~3.2.3~~ Objectives

Protection

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

Features will be protected by appropriate zoning and management.

Heritage appreciation

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

In Pinery Provincial Park, opportunities for individual exploration and appreciation of the park's unique environment will be provided by a series of access routes, including interpretive and hiking trails. Opportunities to gain an appreciation of the natural and cultural environments of Pinery the park will be provided through visitor services programming based on the character and significance of the park.

Recreation

To provide a variety of ecologically sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities in areas of outstanding recreational potential associated with the natural environment of Ontario.

Pinery Provincial Park offers a diverse range of recreational opportunities. Summer season activities include camping, swimming, boating, canoeing, hiking, biking, fishing and picnicking. Other seasonal activities include cross-country skiing, skating and tobogganing.

Camping opportunities provided will be facility based, car camping, and roofed accommodations.

Scientific Research

Research will be undertaken to support the scientific understanding and management of both the natural and cultural heritage resources of the park, including species at risk, other significant species and habitats, significant earth science features, and human history.

4 Values

4.1 Natural ~~H~~eritage

The land base of Pinery Provincial Park is one of the largest remaining, intact coastal dune systems on the Great Lakes with an extensive floral component that includes over 50 species considered rare in Ontario or Canada. ~~Pinery~~The park supports many different vegetation communities including oak savanna, open dune, wet meadow, and river communities. Some of these communities are rare in Ontario and supports many rare and ~~at-risk~~at-risk species.

Pinery Provincial Park is located in ecodistrict 7E-2 and is part of the Carolinian Life Zone. The dominant natural vegetation in this zone is composed of deciduous, broad-leaved trees. Many tree species that occur in this zone are at their northerly limit in Canada, thus making this area the only habitat for certain species in Canada. Unfortunately, due to vegetation clearing for agriculture, industrial, and residential development, only small pockets exist in the area. Pinery Provincial Park is one of the few remaining large tracts in the Carolinian Life Zone.

4.2 Cultural ~~H~~eritage

Numerous regionally significant archaeological sites have been found along the ~~OACI~~Ausable Channel. A Stage 2 archeological assessment conducted in 2018 identifies that there is evidence of pre- and early-post contact in the Ausable River Drainage area, where Pinery Provincial Park is located. Several archeological assessments have been carried out in the park and have found numerous sites that have recovered artifacts.

4.3 Recreation

Pinery Provincial Park has significant recreation values that support the park's goal to facilitate ecologically sustainable recreation. A sample of recreation features include:

- ~~W~~walking trails and a bike trail in the park to provide visitors with an opportunity to experience the different natural features ~~Pinery~~the park has to offer
- ~~the~~the Day Use beach areas provide visitors with the opportunity to access the sandy beaches of Lake Huron
- ~~y~~year-round camping opportunities and roofed accommodations
- ~~c~~cross country skiing, skating, tobogganing, and snowshoeing are offered to provide winter recreation activities to visitors

5 Summary of Pressures

There are different pressures within and outside of the park that are negatively impacting park values. Unauthorized trail creation, especially on the sand dunes for beach access, contributes to significant erosion and trampling of a highly sensitive ecological feature. Increased visitation leads to human created pressures, including littering, road mortality, and the spread of invasive species.

~~Pressures to values identified within the park will be addressed through actions and policies identified in the management plan, examples include such as restoring disturbed areas and developing infrastructure to support and limit or avoid the potential or known impact(s) to values. of increased recreational use.~~

Pressures that originate outside of the park boundary such as non-native and invasive species, climate change and changing water levels will be addressed through mitigation and adaptation and may be supported where possible through actions or policies within the management plan. An example includes invasive species management.

~~Pressures within the park will be addressed through actions, such as restoring disturbed areas and developing infrastructure to support and limit the impact of increased recreational use.~~

6 Zoning

Zones are established in provincial parks to guide policy development and management decisions based on the sensitivity of natural and cultural values, potential for recreational uses and desired degree of development. Distinct policies are applied to each zone to balance use and protection. Digital mapping has resulted in some variation between the regulated area under the PPCRA and the total area of the zones calculated for the management plan.

Pinery Provincial Park has ~~three-3~~ types of zones: ~~N~~nature ~~R~~reserve, ~~N~~natural ~~E~~environment, and ~~D~~development. These zones have been designed to guide the management of the park. These zones are summarized in Figure 2 and illustrated in Figure 3.-

~~Figure 2 – Summary of Zoning for Nature Reserve, Natural Environment and Development~~

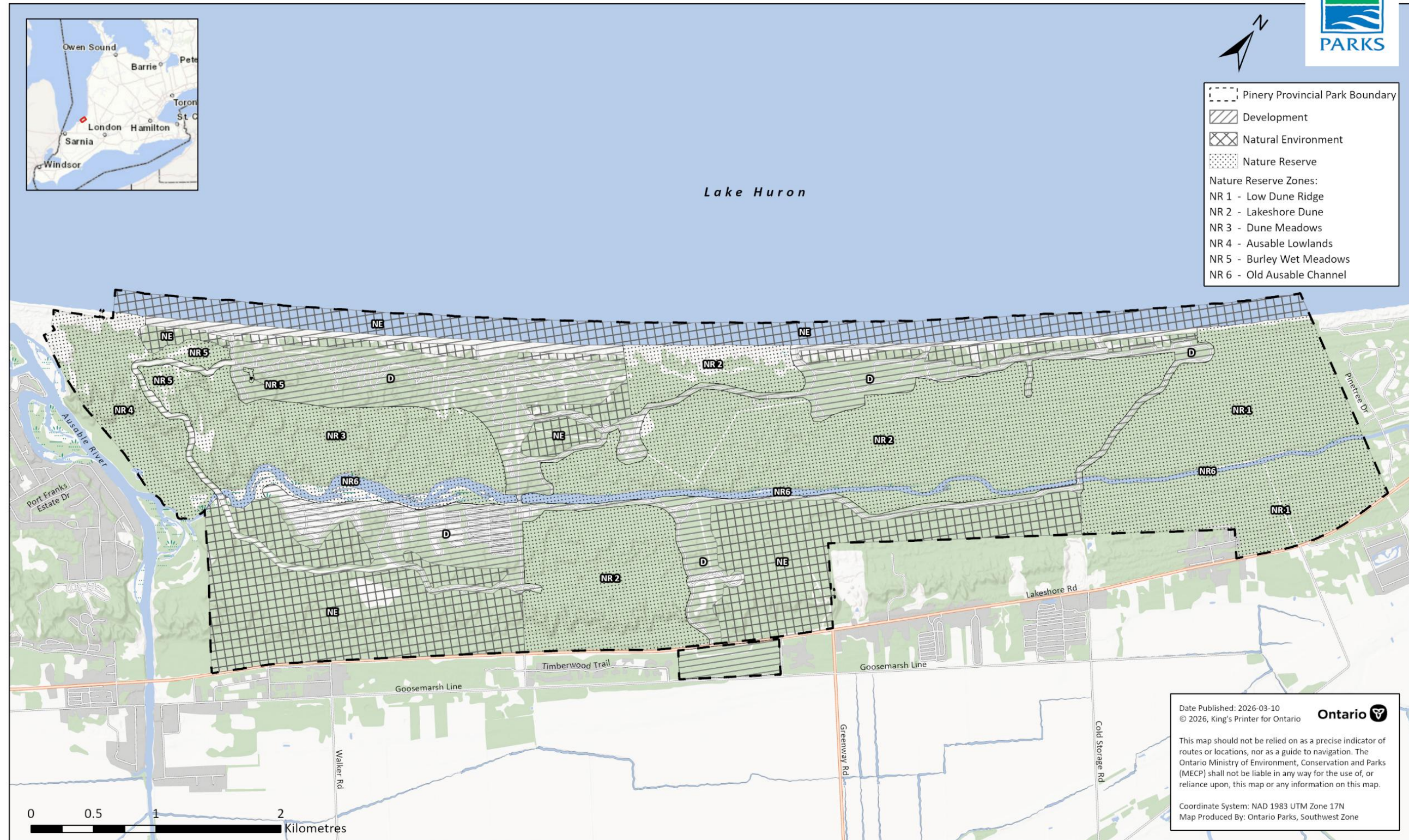
-	Hectares	Percent of total area
Development Zones	684	27%
Nature Reserve Zones	1342	53%
Natural Environment Zones	506.5	20%

Figure 2 – Summary of zoning for development, nature reserve, and natural environment

	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percent of Total Area</u>
<u>Development zone</u>	<u>468</u>	<u>21%</u>
<u>Nature reserve zones</u>	<u>1182</u>	<u>52%</u>
<u>Natural environment zone</u>	<u>6243</u>	<u>27%</u>

Pinery Provincial Park - Zoning

Figure 3



6.1 Development zone

Description: This zone applies to all areas of the park that have existing facilities and includes but is not limited to campgrounds, three group camping areas, all roadway corridors defined by a 25 metre strip each side of all roads, all parking lots, the nine day-use areas, the park store, bicycle rental building, the wood-yard, the winter activity area, the outdoor theatre, trailer sanitation stations, and all administrative and maintenance facilities.

Management intent: All intensive facility development will be confined to this zone.

6.2 Nature reserve zones

Description: In Pinery Provincial Park, the best and most significant and representative landscapes have been designated as nature reserves. Five of these zones provide complete representation from the Lake Huron shoreline through a series of parallel dune ridges, to Highway No. 21. This series of coastal dune ridges and interdunal meadows with their associated flora and fauna are the best remaining examples of this system in the province. The sixth zone protects significant wetland and habitat associated with the OAC.

Management intent: To identify and provide long-term stewardship of specific natural areas and features. Natural evolutionary cycles will be allowed to occur. However, in the past, the elimination of fire and the creation of large plantations have severely disrupted these processes. Management will be required to reduce the effects of these disruptions before some of the communities can be returned to their more natural cycles. Many of the rare species will benefit from a return to natural cycles. The manipulation of habitat for a particular rare species can be considered in small portions of these zones after careful study.

Each of the nature reserve zones are described in greater detail bellow.

Nature reserve 1 - Low dune ridge zone

Description: This area is made up of a provincially significant sequential series of low dune ridges (ranging from two-2 to 4 m in height to four metres) covered with an upland dune ridge vegetation complex. These dune ridges range in age from the oldest and most inland which was formed about 6000 years ago to the youngest adjacent to the Lake Huron shoreline where the process of dune building is still occurring. This zone is bisected by the OAC Id Ausable Channel. The lakeward section is covered by a complex of communities with the dominant community being the best representative example of mature oak-pine forest found in this area of Ontario. The inland portion of this zone is covered by a low dune ridge complex of communities with the dominant community

being the best representative example of open oak-pine forest that has been exposed to burning. Such fires have played a major role in shaping the development of most of the vegetative communities in Pinery Provincial Park. This zone also provides habitat for several species of flora and fauna considered rare in Ontario.

Nature reserve 2 – Lakeshore dune zone

Description: This area is made up of a provincially significant sequential series of high, dune ridges (ranging from three-3 to to 30 m in heightetres) which includes a geomorphological cross section of dune development for the last 6000 years along this section of Lake Huron shoreline. The cross section includes active dune development in the open dune complex adjacent to Lake Huron as well as five parallel, stable dune ridges proceeding inland to Highway No. 21. This area is the best representative cross section of progressive dune community development in the province and includes an unforested shore dune complex, upland interdunal complex, upland dune ridge complex and unforested dune ridge complex. This nature reserve also demonstrates the dramatic effect of topography with many well-developedwell-developed microclimates being found throughout. Numerous species of flora and fauna considered rare in Ontario are found in this zone.

Nature reserve 3 – Dune meadows zone

Description: This area is made up of a provincially significant series of open dune ridges separated by extensive interdunal meadows. It is located in the central section of the park and contains dramatic variations both in microclimate and habitat types. This area is particularly noted for the large expanses of open interdunal meadows, open dune ridges, sheltered interdunal pockets and open red cedar/dwarf oak communities to name a few. This area is one of the best remaining examples of these communities in Ontario. Numerous species of flora and fauna considered rare in Ontario are found throughout this zone.

Nature reserve 4 – Ausable lowlands zone

Description: This area is made up of a provincially significant complex of communities that are the result of an extensive variety of topographic relief and moisture regimes. The highest (30 metres) actively forming dunes in the park are located adjacent to the shore of Lake Huron in this zone. Immediately inland from this ridge, the landscape plunges into a low, moist interdunal cedar complex that is one of Lambton County's best deer wintering habitats. Next, is a series of high stable dune ridges (35 metres) and deep interdunal valleys, both heavily forested. To the west of this zone is a broad area of Ausable River floodplain covered with a mature hardwood forest containing many examples of southern species.

Nature reserve 5 – Burley wet meadows zone

Description: Within and adjacent to the Burley Campground area are a small group of interdunal wet meadows that are of provincial and national significance. These meadows, which are scattered between the dune ridges, are influenced by a localized microclimate, the adjacent dune slopes and ground water conditions. This habitat is very uncommon in North America and found only in Canada on the section of Lake Huron shoreline between Grand Bend and Kettle Point.

Nature reserve 6 – Old Ausable Channel zone

Description: Upon approval of this management plan, the Old Ausable Channel (OAC) OAC will be zoned as a distinct nNature rReserve zone.- The OAC runs from Port Franks to Grand Bend and bisects the park. It is a provincially significant wetland that provides pristine habitat to a variety of rare and at-risk species.

6.3 Natural environment zones

Description: The remaining areas within the park have been are designated as natural environment zone. This zone includes but is not limited to the portion of Lake Huron lakebed which is regulated under the PPCRA and s. They include the aesthetic landscapes with significant natural features where minimal developments are required to supports low-intensity recreational activities. In Pinery, Some these zones areas within this zone have been extensively planted with conifers. Many of the planted areas now contain pines of sufficient age and numbers to have a pronounced effect on natural processes.

Management intent: ~~These a~~ Forested areas will be managed recognizing that eventual removal of the white pine is desirable (see Section Vegetation management principles).

Natural Environment – Crown lake bed zone

Description: Upon approval of this management plan, the portion of the Lake Huron lakebed which is regulated under the PPCRA will be included in this zone.

7 Resource Mmanagement Ppolicies

7.1 Resource management

The park's natural and cultural resources will be managed in accordance with the general planning and management policies for Ontario's natural environment class parks.

~~Resource management~~ Secondary plans ~~are may be prepared required to recommend specific address complex topic(s) and provide direction regarding~~ management techniques or ~~_~~practices for vegetation (see Section Vegetation Management) and dune management (see Section Land Management). In addition, monitoring of vegetative changes over time will be necessary (see Section Vegetative monitoring); and surveying of faunal populations to identify habitats of significant species is needed (see Section Wildlife).

These planning, surveying and monitoring needs are interrelated. This will be recognized when undertaking these activities. Additional direction to meet the special requirements of Pinery Provincial Park is as follows:

7.1.1 Industrial activities

The following activities are prohibited in Pinery Provincial Park:

- commercial timber harvest
- generation of electricity (except for in-park use)
- extracting aggregate, topsoil or peat
- prospecting, staking mining claims, developing mineral interests or working mines
- other industrial uses

7.1.2 Fisheries

The Ministry of Natural Resources ~~and Forestry (MNRF)~~ and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will continue to work collaboratively to maintain and enhance native self-sustaining fish populations in the park.

7.1.3 Wildlife

Consistent with the principles for vegetation management, the objective is to ensure that Pinery the park continues to harbour the richest possible variety of naturally occurring fauna. A comprehensive survey of faunal populations must be undertaken to identify significant species and habitats in the park.

Hunting will not be permitted as it conflicts with the existing year-round use of the park. Trapping will not be permitted.

Nuisance animals will be managed under the supervision of the ministry.

7.1.3.1 ~~White-tailed deer~~Hyper-abundant species

~~White-tailed deer herd~~ Hyper-abundant species management reductions will be undertaken when required to protect and preserve the biodiversity of the park Oak Savanna ecosystem, including but not limited to white-tailed deer herd reduction. Partnerships may be sought and used to complete these management actions. ~~herd reduction~~.

7.2 Water ~~M~~management

To enhance recreation opportunities, part of the ~~Old Ausable Channel~~ OAC is dammed to maintain water at higher-~~than~~-normal levels. This dam is located at the causeway adjacent to the park store. A second water control structure has been constructed at the Burley Bridge to maintain ~~higher~~ higher-than ~~than~~-normal water levels upstream in order to perpetuate natural values, including habitat for species at risk. Habitat connectivity will be improved, when possible, which may include the installation of a fish ladder or other similar enhancements. This will also minimize the opportunity for invasive species to travel upstream and will further enhance recreation opportunities. The channel downstream from the Burley Bridge will be allowed to maintain its natural level. The use of motors will not be permitted on any section of the ~~Old Ausable Channel~~ OAC within the boundaries of the park.

Water levels may be managed to address flooding as a result of impacts such as climate related weather events, or beaver damming. -These management actions would be subject to review and approval by applicable regulatory bodies.

All drinking water will continue to be supplied from the Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant in Grand Bend.

The need to ensure the maintenance of good water quality for the many visitors requires that drinking and bathing water in the park be monitored on a regular basis.

7.3 Land ~~M~~management

Due to the sensitive nature of sand dunes, the stabilization and rehabilitation program will continue. The program will focus on sites in areas subject to heavy use, along road cuts and adjacent to facilities, in development and natural environment zones as well as sites where visitors or park development have disturbed landforms. All sand dunes in ~~Nature-nature Reserve-reserve~~ Zones-zones will be allowed to evolve naturally.

An extensive evaluation of dune protection and rehabilitation techniques is underway to determine the best methods of accommodating pedestrian traffic across dunes while minimizing impact. A sand dune management plan ~~will~~may be prepared.

The ~~Ministry~~ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks supports the acquisition of land through sale or donation to enhance protection or park management. Inholdings, or adjacent lands with similar values, would be of highest priority. If lands are offered for sale or donation, they will be evaluated for their potential contribution to park objectives. The acquisition of suitable properties would be subject to the availability of financial and human resources.

7.4 Vegetation

7.4.1 Vegetation management principles

The primary vegetation management objective in the dune ecosystem is to ensure that ~~Pinery~~the park continues to harbour the richest possible variety of naturally occurring communities inherent to its unique microclimate and topography. The emphasis will be on allowing ~~Pinery's~~the parks flora to evolve naturally through time.

~~The portion of Pinery's vegetation complex that will be allowed to evolve without man's direct influence is zoned nature reserve (Figure 3).~~ Within the nature reserves, the extensive conifer plantations of the 1960's must be thinned or removed. This will eliminate their potentially dominant role in the communities, thus allowing natural succession to continue.

The large conifer plantations in the natural environment zone adjacent to the Riverside Campground will be managed for their eventual removal. ~~Removal and salvage will be subject to a vegetation management plan.~~

In both nature reserve and natural environment zones, special management techniques may be required for the perpetuation of rare or threatened flora and fauna. In these specific situations, emphasis will be on creating conditions favourable within the community for their continued existence. The use of fire should be considered for those species and communities that rely on it for their renewal as well as for the removal of undesirable communities such as those which are being formed by the conifer plantations.

Red Cedar, Dwarf Oak, and Interdunal Cedar complex communities will be managed to protect these values, which may include the re-alignment or removal of recreational infrastructure.

A secondary vegetation management plan titled Pinery Provincial Park Resource Management Strategy (1988) ~~will be prepared~~was prepared to and recommend provides specific management techniques for fulfilling these vegetation management principles.

7.4.2 Flora extraction

The extensive conifer plantations throughout the park are a special management issue. In accordance with the vegetation management principles (see Section Vegetation management principles); ~~the vegetation management plan may specify areas in plantations where~~ trees may need to be removed to enhance the regeneration of particular habitats or plant communities. ~~In these areas, the trees being removed may be salvaged rather than left to decompose providing their removal from the site does not adversely affect the remaining vegetation.~~

Removal of plants by the general public is prohibited. Collections for ministry approved botanical or research purposes may be carried out by ministry staff or with ministry approval provided that such collections do not threaten a population's viability.

7.4.3 Vegetative monitoring

Vegetative inventories will be conducted to map and quantify vegetative changes over time within both Nature-nature Reserve-reserve and Natural-natural Environment environment Zoneszones.

7.4.4 Species at risk and rare species

The park will be managed to protect at-risk and rare species. Species at risk and their habitats will be protected in a manner consistent with Species Conservation Act, 2025 and other applicable legislation, associated regulations, relevant policies guidelines and/or best practices. ~~the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA), regulations and guidelines, and other relevant policy or best practices.~~ The park may undertake management actions for species at risk and rare species, 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.

7.4.5 Other vegetation management issues

7.4.5.1 Hazardous trees

Hazardous trees will be managed as follows:

- ~~Public Roads and Parking Lots~~—Hazardous trees within 25 metres from the edge of a public road or the edge of a parking lot may be felled and salvaged.
- ~~Trails~~—Hazardous trees that threaten the safety of trail users will be felled.
- ~~Campgrounds~~—Hazardous trees in campgrounds will be felled and salvaged.

7.4.5.2 Vegetative planting

Only species native to Pinery Provincial Park will be planted. Planting generally will be restricted to the heavily used portions of the Development Zone where natural regeneration methods are too slow or uncertain. Examples include buffers, shade trees, erosion control plots and ground cover in the day-use and campground areas.

~~The vegetation management plan will provide guidelines for planting in all zones.~~

7.4.5.3 ~~Non-native~~Alien and invasive species

~~Non-native~~Alien species are plants, animals and microorganisms introduced by human actions outside their natural past or present distribution. These species may originate from other continents, countries, provinces, or from other parts of Ontario.

Invasive species are ~~non-native~~alien species that are harming, or likely to harm, the natural environment. ~~Non-native~~Alien and invasive species will be addressed in a manner consistent with the *Invasive Species Act, 2015*, regulations and guidelines, the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan (MNR 2012), and other relevant guidance or best practices.

Where possible, invasive species will be eradicated or controlled in Pinery Provincial Park. Invasive species control will aim to reduce or prevent impacts to native species, biodiversity, ecosystem function and recreational opportunities. Control activities will be adapted based on the best available information.

7.4.5.4 ~~Poison Ivy~~Noxious species control

~~Poison ivy~~Noxious species may be controlled as required in the Development Zone or along trails for public protection. ~~Species not native to Pinery may be controlled or eliminated where feasible by the most environmentally sound method available.~~

7.4.5.5 Insects and disease

Insects and disease that attack the vegetation in the park are considered a natural element and generally are not to be controlled. However, there may be exceptions. ~~Native~~insects and diseases threatening values for which the Nature Reserve and Natural Environment Zones have been established or aesthetic values of the Development Zone will be controlled where feasible. Where control is desirable, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect so as to have minimal effects on the other components of the park's environment. Attempts will be made to prevent

insect introduction into the park and to eliminate them before they become established. Biological control will be used wherever feasible.

~~7.4.5.6 Chemicals~~

~~The use of chemicals will be minimized and direction for their use will be provided in a vegetation management plan.~~

~~7.4.5.7~~ ~~7.4.5.6~~ -Fire management

Fire management in provincial parks is guided by the Fire Management Policy for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (MECP and MNDMNR 2021b) and the associated guideline. The goal of fire management in provincial parks is to protect public safety and promote and encourage the use of fire as a natural ecological process for the maintenance and restoration of ecological integrity.

Prescribed burns for management and educational purposes may be considered (see Section Vegetation management principles). All other fires will be suppressed.

7.5 Cultural ~~H~~eritage

Cultural heritage values will be assessed and managed in accordance with applicable legislation and policies.

7.6 Science and research

Inventories and monitoring may be carried out to inform park management decisions.

Any government agency or external party who wishes to carry out research in Pinery Provincial Park must obtain a research authorization letter from the park superintendent. Researchers may also need to obtain additional permits or approvals (~~e.g. ESA permits~~).

8 Recreation management policies

8.1 Recreation facilities

8.1.1 Campgrounds

Pinery Provincial Park currently operates approximately 10705 campsites with 75-a portion of sites that are closed on a rotating basis as part of a rehabilitation program which includes top dressing and seeding to restore the quality of the sites. The sites are divided among three-3 campgrounds: Riverside, Dunes, and Burley. -Riverside campground also provides roofed accommodations, including yurts and cabins. -All campgrounds are serviced with comfort stations, vault toilets, showers, laundromats, centralized garbage pick up, central water supply and a registration office. Services in these campgrounds may be altered from time to time to reflect the needs of park users.

Additional campsites or roofed accommodations may be considered in disturbed areas, subject to an approved business case, and legislative and policy requirements.
Campsites, roofed accommodations, -campgrounds and associated infrastructure may be closed, decommissioned, removed and rehabilitated if use is impacting the park's ability to maintain ecological integrity.

8.1.2 Group campgrounds

Three group campgrounds will be maintained adjacent to the day-use picnic areas. The users of these campgrounds will be encouraged to reduce their activities in the foredune areas to minimize the trampling that is occurring there.

8.1.3 Day-use areas

The day-use areas and parking facilities require site evaluation and planning to improve public facilities and pedestrian access to the beach and, to reduce visitor impact on the vegetation. The fragile nature of the dunes in the Natural Environment zZone between the beach and parking facilities will be the subject of a sand dune management plan (see Section: Land Management). managed to minimize impacts.

The day-use area of the park cannot be expanded without destroying portions of the dune system. This area is heavily used, sometimes to full capacity on peak weekends during the summer. The parking capacity of the day-use area is estimated to be 1100 vehicles. If the parking lots are filled to capacity, the sale of daily vehicle permits will temporarily cease until parking space becomes available.

8.1.4 Trails

An extensive system of trails has been developed at Pinery Provincial Park (Figure 4 and Figure 5). ~~These trails~~ are heavily used by visitors from May to October. ~~While seasonal, with a focus on cross-country skiing trails are used by visitors in the winter months.~~ Due to the sensitive nature of the dune system and its susceptibility to erosion, intensive annual trail maintenance is required to sustain the current level of usage.

~~A trail management plan dealing with design guidelines, rehabilitation (dune crossings in particular) and management will be required.~~

~~Trail management, including permitted use, seasonal closure, and re-routing will be undertaken with the consideration for design, site rehabilitation, safety and to protect park values and maintain ecological integrity.~~

~~Cross-country skiing has become a focus of the Pinery winter program. Upgrading of certain sections of the trail is required.~~

~~Designated ski trails will be closed during the summer season. Mountain biking on designated ski trails is prohibited.~~

8.1.5 Boat access

The existing access points will be maintained for the launching of small motorless craft (canoes and car top boats). Motorboats are not permitted in the OAC due to the sensitive ecological features of the channel. Due to the exposed nature of the Lake Huron shoreline, boaters requiring substantial launching facilities will be encouraged to use the existing facilities at both Port Franks and Grand Bend.

Upgraded access for motorless craft to the OAC, including floating docks, will be considered to minimize access in unauthorized locations.

8.1.6 Roads

Roads will be realigned where necessary to ensure safe movement of vehicles including bicycles, and to enhance the enjoyment of the park by visitors. The main areas of concern are the main gate area, the traffic circle, the park store area and several curves along the day-use road.

8.1.7 Special summer and winter facilities

These special facilities include the information and display centre and the outdoor theatre, both of which provide locations for programed activities and events for park visitors.

The downhill ski operation was discontinued in 1978 as a result of low use. ~~and t~~The site is now being allowed to return to its natural state.

The outdoor theatre, built in the early 1960's, needs to be upgraded.

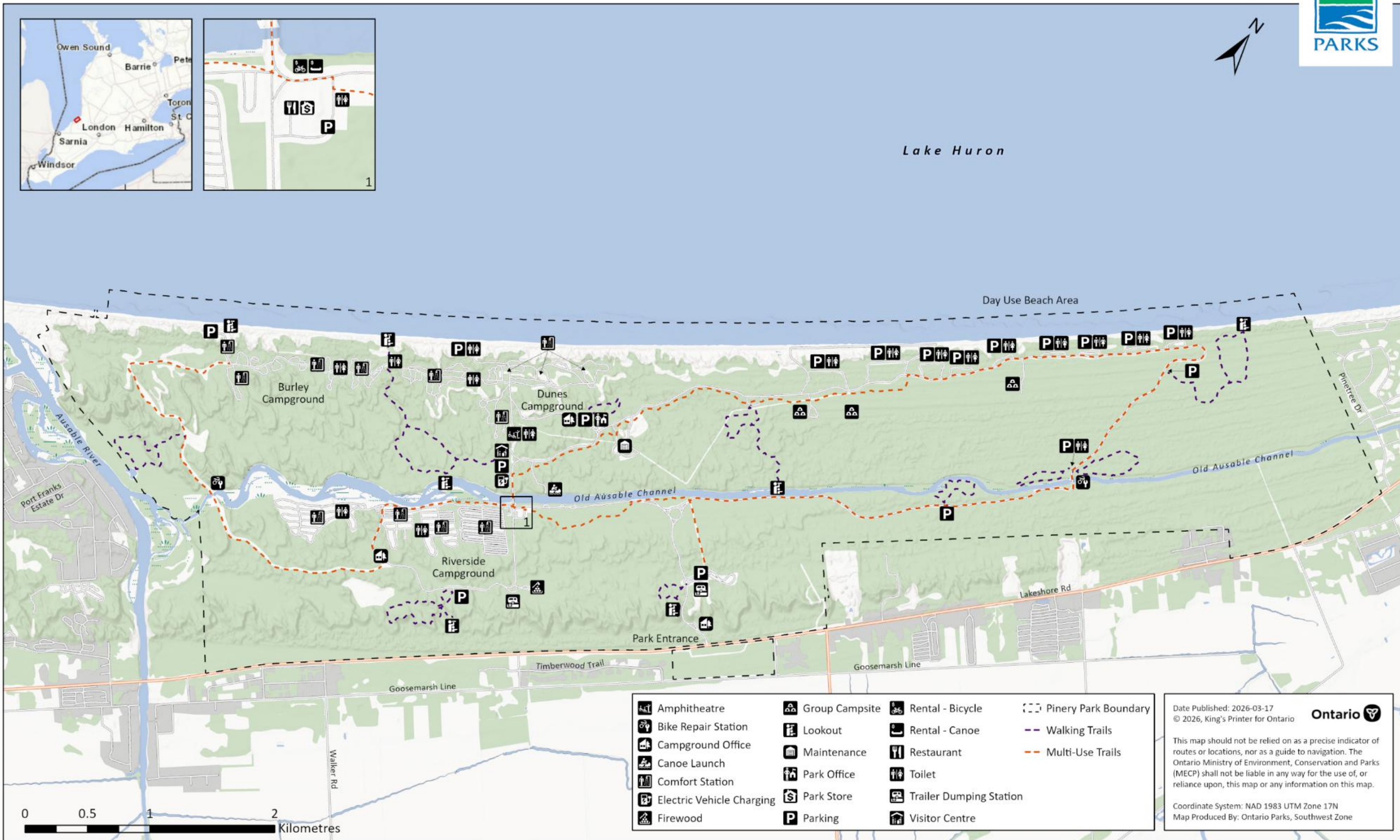
8.1.8 Concessions

There are two concession areas currently in the park. The park store offers groceries, basic camping supplies, light lunches and canoe and bicycle rentals. The woodyard provides firewood for sale. These concessions will remain in their present locations.

Additional concessions may be established if required and appropriate.

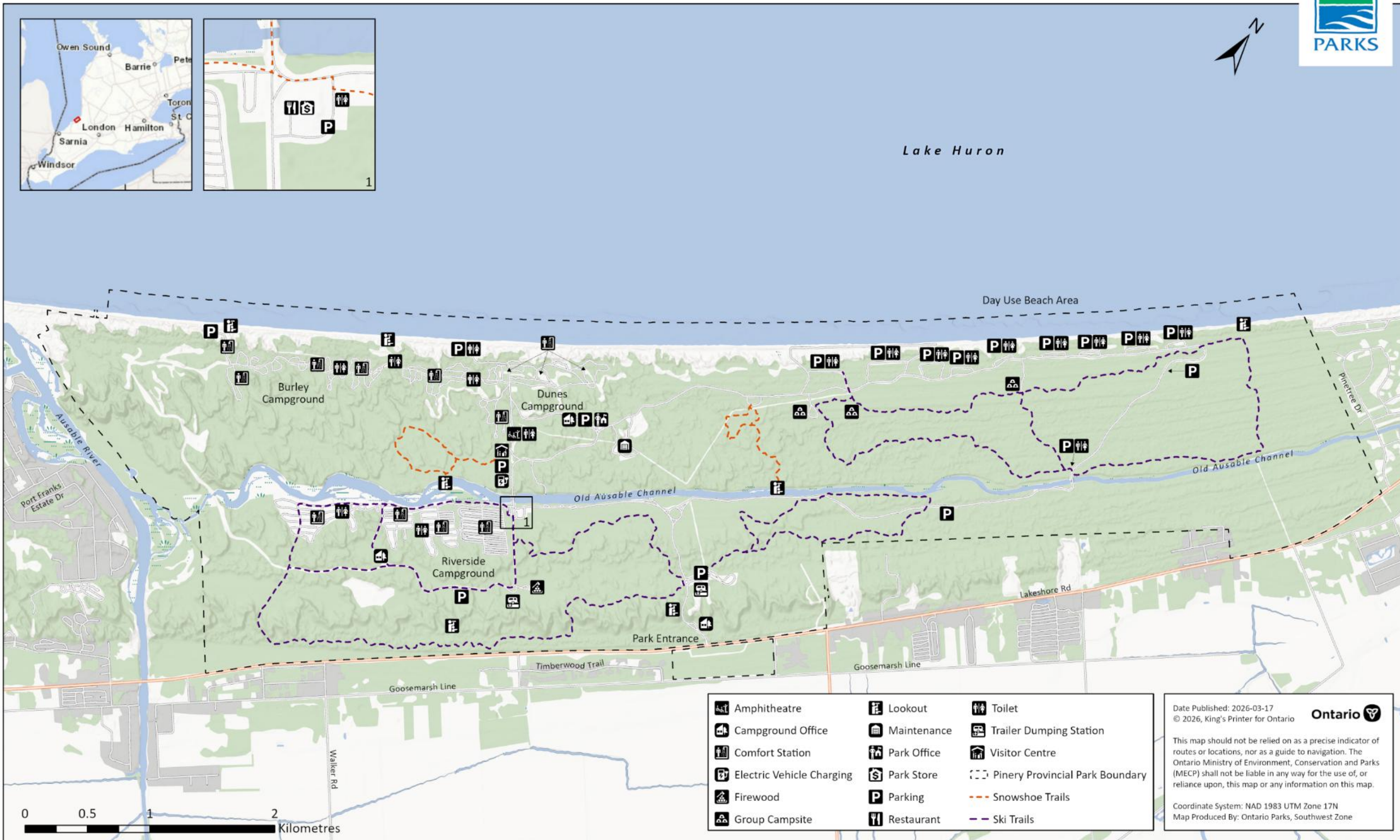
Pinery Provincial Park - Existing Development (Summer Facilities)

Figure 4



Pinery Provincial Park- Existing Development (Winter Facilities)

Figure 5



9 Operations and ~~D~~development ~~P~~policies

A park operations plan to provide staff with the necessary direction to manage the park on a day-to-day basis. The park operations plan will include such topics as budget, staffing, maintenance schedules, enforcement and emergency management.

The provisions of the park operations plan will be consistent with park policy and Ontario Parks Operating Standards.

9.1 Communications

Information concerning the park resources, management, facilities, ~~and~~ programs, and nearby points of interest will be available at key points throughout the park. Information will be provided by printed and visual material as required. The focus will continue to be on personal contact.

9.2 Interpretation

During the summer months, Pinery Provincial Park offers Discovery programming that includes guided ~~and~~ drop-in style “Exploration Stations” for children and families to spark curiosity and encourage exploration in young park visitors. The programs focus on various ecological themes and features found in the park. These programs provide visitors with an opportunity to explore and appreciate the values and natural heritage of Pinery Provincial Park.

The outdoor education program at ~~Pinery the park~~ will encourage school and other groups to make the best use of the park’s resources and facilities for outdoor education. Emphasis will be placed on providing the leaders with the information necessary to conduct successful outings in the park and to take an active role in park management programs.

9.3 Outdoor recreation

Outdoor recreation programming will focus on year-~~r~~ound activities. Park staff will endeavour to inform visitors of the recreational opportunities in the park as well as in the surrounding areas. Outdoor activities could include human powered watersports on the OAC, camping, hiking, day use and nature appreciation. ~~Special activities, such as cross-country ski lappets during the winter season and the swan viewing weekend during the spring season, will be encouraged to increase use year round.~~

9.4 Research

Research will be encouraged to gain a greater understanding of the natural and cultural values of the park. Recreation research will also be encouraged to evaluate the suitability of present programs, the satisfaction of park visitors and visitor activity patterns. All research will require the approval of the ministry.

Some research priorities are:

- geomorphological analysis of the landforms and their development in Pinery Provincial Park
- quantitative inventory of the fauna of Pinery Provincial Park
- analysis of visitor use in the day-use area of Pinery the park to determine the most appropriate means of transporting people across sand dunes with minimal impact
- analysis and interpretation of archaeological data
- analysis of the role of fire in the natural evolution of Pinery Provincial Park
- surveys of visitor perceptions and expectations

~~9.5 — Emergency services~~

~~A park emergency plan has been prepared which provides direction regarding human safety and evacuation. This plan is reviewed yearly and updated as required.~~

~~9.69.5~~ -Law enforcement

~~The focus will be on providing a pleasurable experience for all park users and protecting the natural environment of Pinery. The emphasis therefore will be on encouraging park visitors to respect park values and other users.~~ The enforcement program will be carried out in accordance with Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks policy, and the park enforcement plan.

10 Implementation ~~P~~riorities

There are a number of existing facilities that require upgrading or relocation in order to maintain park standards, enhance visitor services and sustainable recreational opportunities. These include the main gate area, the park office including the reservation office, the area around the park store, trailer sanitation station, and the outdoor theatre. These matters will be reviewed according to the following principles:

- wherever possible, functions should be served by a common facility
- locations should be close to existing water and hydro corridors
- ease of access and space for parking must be considered ~~and~~

- facilities must be visible to visitors

The following list summarizes and prioritizes actions identified in the management plan. Implementation may be subject to:

- applicable legislation and policies (e.g. *Constitution Act, 1982*, *ESA*, *Ontario Heritage Act, 1990*, Project Evaluation Policy)
- site planning
- the availability of financial and human resources

Implementation may include further opportunities for Indigenous, stakeholder, and public consultation, as required.

Actions identified in management the plan	Section
Short-term priorities	
Trailer sanitation station upgrading	10
Comfort station and utility upgrading	8.1.1
<u>Burley Campground – restoration of campsite areas and associated infrastructure, conversion of 4 km of roadway to single lane multiuse trail to support sustainable recreation opportunities</u>	<u>8.1.1</u>
<u>Trailer sanitation station upgrading to enhance visitor services</u>	<u>10</u>
Medium-term priorities	
<u>Burley Bridge water control structure upgrading</u>	<u>8.1.1</u>
Long-term priorities	
Administration O office U upgrading	10

Future requirements identified in this plan include:

- ~~administration office upgrading~~
- ~~road re-alignment~~
- ~~vegetation management plan~~
- ~~sand dune management plan~~
- ~~trail management plan~~

11 Examination of the management plan

This management plan will be examined in accordance with the provisions of the PPCRA to determine whether it is still relevant, effective and current, or if adjustments or a plan replacement is needed. In circumstances where the plan is not providing sufficient direction, or to address specific issues or pressures, it can be examined, prior to the next scheduled examination, and adjusted or replaced as necessary.

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Appendix I: Management planning history

Approval Date	Type of document and/or type of change	Document name
1971	Preliminary plan	The Pinery Provincial Park Master Plan
1979	Revision	The Pinery Provincial Park Revised Master Plan
1986	Rewrite	The Pinery Provincial Park Management Plan
March 25, 1994	Minor Amendment	Minor Amendment – Pinery Provincial Park Management Plan
May, 1998	Minor Amendment	Minor Amendment for Pinery Bicycle Rental Building
June 8, 2012	Examination – Outcome: Administrative Update and Amendment	<u>Piney Provincial Park Confirmation Statement (2012)</u> <u>Pinery Provincial Park Protected Areas Examination Report (2012)</u>
July 2, 2014	Amendment	The Pinery Provincial Park Management Plan
July 28, 2023	Examination – Outcome: Administrative Update and Amendment	<u>Piney Provincial Park Confirmation Statement (2023)</u> <u>Pinery Provincial Park Protected Areas Examination Report (2023)</u>
December 18, 2023	Administrative Update	Pinery Provincial Park Management Plan
April 26, 2024	Administrative Update	Pinery Provincial Park Management Plan
XXXX 2026	<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Pinery Provincial Park Management Plan</u>