

# Management Plan Update: Point Pelee National Park

This newsletter provides an update on consultation and an overview of what shaped the vision and key strategies that can be found in the draft management plan for Point Pelee National Park.



## Point Pelee National Park

Point Pelee National Park (PPNP) was established in 1918 to protect nationally and internationally significant natural resources and processes representative of the Carolinian ecozone of the St. Lawrence Lowlands natural region. It was the very first national park established for conservation purposes. PPNP has a rich cultural history dating back at least 6,000 years and is part of the traditional territory of Caldwell First Nation and Walpole Island First Nation. Both Nations are important partners in land management. In 2000, Middle Island was added to the park and remains an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. The park welcomed 390,000 visitors in 2019 who came to enjoy the long sandy beaches, hiking and biking trails, bird and butterfly migration events, and overnight stays at the oTENTik village.

## Management Planning at Parks Canada

Management planning is undertaken for places under Parks Canada's management on a 10-year cycle. A management plan provides strategic direction to managers of a national park, outlining a vision, key strategies, and measurable objectives. The PPNP Management Plan is being reviewed and updated for submission in 2021.

## We want to hear from you!

We invite you to review this newsletter and/or the full [Draft Management Plan](#) available on our website.

- Email your feedback and comments to [pc.pelee.consultation.pc@canada.ca](mailto:pc.pelee.consultation.pc@canada.ca)
- Complete an online feedback survey [here](#)
- Or attend a virtual information session on June 23, 2021 – see our planning [webpage](#) for details

**Please send any comments or feedback by July 12, 2021**  
Paper copies and mail-in options are available – contact the park for details.

**Please Note:** Parks Canada acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic may have unforeseeable impacts on management plans. Parks Canada will inform Indigenous partners, stakeholders and the public of any such impacts through its annual update on the implementation of this plan.

## What we heard

### Consultations to date

During the first phase of consultation, a management plan overview for PPNP was available on the park website and distributed to Indigenous partners and key stakeholders. Notifications were sent to elected officials and meetings were held with Indigenous partners, Non-Governmental Organizations, and public sector organizations.

Proposed vision elements were well received with partners and stakeholders emphasizing landscape scale issues (such as climate change, erosion, and regional conservation efforts) and marsh health as top priorities. Key issues and opportunities for the park were evaluated and further developed in the draft plan with a focus on:

- **Landscape scale stressors:** Challenges such as erosion and climate change are complex and require an integrated approach.
- **Indigenous relations:** Increased Indigenous involvement in visitor experience and resource conservation.
- **Marsh health:** A priority ecosystem from both an ecological and visitor experience perspective.
- **Visitation trends:** Increasing diversity in visitor experiences for both existing and new audiences must be balanced with conservation objectives.
- **Active management:** Recognition of the importance of ecological health and the challenges associated with invasive and hyper-abundant species.
- **Asset sustainability:** Accessibility and infrastructure maintenance are priorities for long term asset planning.

Overall, participants shared a wide variety of ideas and issues, and the feedback we heard helped shape the vision, key strategies and objectives on what we want to achieve over the next 10 years at PPNP.



## A Vision for Point Pelee

Celebrating over 100 years as a national park, Point Pelee protects and presents the rich diversity of Carolinian plants and animals at the southern-most point of Canada. The next century of park management rests heavily on the ability of Point Pelee to adapt and respond to the significant impacts of climate change, erosion, and invasive species. This management plan builds on decades of successful ecosystem management in the park and sets an immediate focus on the urgency of long term landscape scale collaboration to address issues affecting local communities, residents, land managers and Point Pelee National Park.

The desired future of the park is a resilient, healthy mosaic of habitats that supports sustainable levels of visitation, where Point Pelee National Park:

- supports a shared regional approach to the stewardship and conservation of natural and cultural resources;
- develops and implements projects to understand, mitigate, and adapt to the impacts of climate change;
- sustains meaningful collaboration with Indigenous communities in park management;
- protects a restored marsh with a resilient ecosystem that supports a diversity of species at risk and remains a highlight of visitor experience;
- offers diverse, accessible, and inclusive outdoor recreation experiences in all seasons; and
- functions as a key element in an ecologically connected landscape.



## Key Strategies

Key strategies explain how Parks Canada intends to achieve this long-term vision for Point Pelee National Park. The following four key strategies frame the management direction for the next 10 years.

### Key Strategy 1: Resilience Through Regional Collaboration

PPNP is an important refuge for local and migratory species, providing habitat and biodiversity in a landscape that is experiencing significant stress from erosional forces, invasive and hyperabundant species, and limited natural habitat coverage and connectivity. With an accelerated rate of shoreline erosion and the uncertainty associated with climate change - ecosystems, species at risk, cultural resources, and park infrastructure are all vulnerable. This strategy responds to the urgency for long-term solutions requiring collaborative efforts.

#### *What does success look like?*

- PPNP contributes expertise and support as an active participant in regional land use planning initiatives, to address priorities like shoreline erosion, impacts of climate change, and a lack of natural area cover.
- A shared approach to the stewardship of natural and cultural resources provides partners and stakeholders with meaningful opportunities to contribute to and influence park management priorities.
- PPNP inspires local citizens in the region to implement stewardship initiatives related to landscape issues such as climate change, erosion, and invasive species.







## Key Strategy 2: Adapt, Protect and Promote

The intent of this strategy is to continue to improve the condition of the habitats and species at risk in Point Pelee. PPNP will lead by example to identify and implement solutions to reduce, mitigate, and adapt to landscape stressors within the mainland park and on Middle Island. Maintaining a focus on the Lake Erie Sand Spit Savannah and new efforts on improving marsh habitat will be a priority with sustained efforts on reducing invasive and hyperabundant species and improving ecological diversity through active management in collaboration with partners.



### What does success look like?

- Forest and coastal ecosystem health are maintained as part of the national park's diverse, resilient habitat mosaic.
- Point Pelee's marsh shows an improving trend as a result of collaborative active management, which includes a phasing out of sport fishing.
- Species at risk protection, population and distribution objectives and recovery measures are achieved through the implementation of a Multi Species Action Plan, and research and monitoring contribute to the management of species of conservation concern.
- Climate change mitigation, improved waste management, and increased energy efficiency are addressed through the incorporation of green technologies in operations.
- Diverse methods of outreach and promotion extend the reach of PPNP, sharing conservation success stories with a broad audience.

## Key Strategy 3: Working with Indigenous Partners

Strengthening the relationship between PPNP and Indigenous communities through increased collaboration in all aspects of park management is the focus of this strategy. The extent of engagement in park management will be guided by conversations with Caldwell and Walpole Island First Nations, including collaboration with the First Nations Advisory Circle. Building on previous successful initiatives, conservation goals will be achieved through knowledge sharing and Indigenous participation in natural and cultural resource management. Incorporating Indigenous languages and perspectives into visitor experience programming will strengthen cultural connections and improve visitor learning and understanding of the cultural histories and traditions of Caldwell and Walpole Island First Nations.

### What does success look like?

- Indigenous partners and PPNP achieve mutual benefits through increased collaboration.
- Indigenous partners maintain connections to traditionally used lands and waters through park management initiatives.
- Visitors experience Indigenous cultural history, language, and traditions at the park.





### Key Strategy 4: Enhancing Visitor Experience

The intent of this strategy is to maintain the high levels of visitor enjoyment and learning and to enable visitors to connect with the unique natural and cultural heritage of PPNP. Overall visitor satisfaction will be maintained with overnight experience offers, an emphasis on broadening interpretation themes to include Indigenous histories and cultures, science and culture, and climate change, and promotion of shoulder and winter season offers, and increased activities and opportunities for visitors.

#### What does success look like?

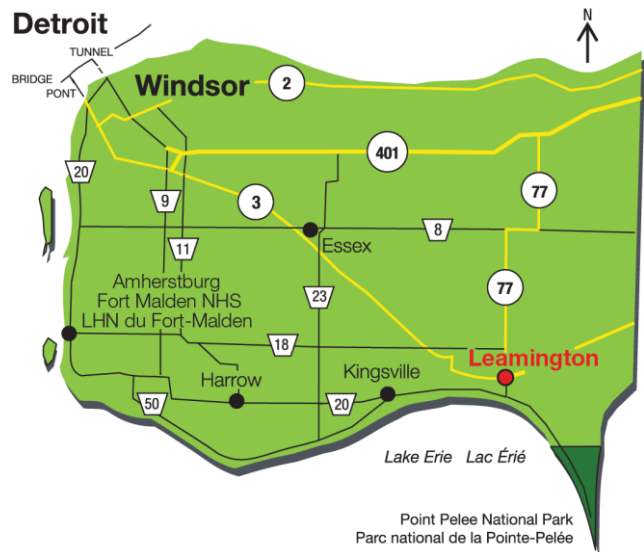
- A sustainable overall increase in visitation is achieved through targeted shoulder and winter season offers.
- New and repeat visitors to PPNP experience renewed, expanded, and evolving visitor offers.
- The park is a venue for regional events, supporting stronger relationships with regional partners.
- Cultural resources are better understood and integrated with visitor experience opportunities.
- Strategic asset management protects natural and cultural heritage and enables visitors to discover and connect with PPNP.

### For more information:

- Please visit our Website: [pc.gc.ca/pelee](http://pc.gc.ca/pelee)
- E-mail us: [pc.pelee.consultation.pc@canada.ca](mailto:pc.pelee.consultation.pc@canada.ca)
- Give us a call at 519 322 2365

The full draft management plan is available [here](#):

- pc.gc.ca/pelee
- ▶ Park Management
- ▶ Management Plan



### Next steps

The management planning team will post a summary of the consultation process on the website. All of the comments received during the consultation period will be considered in the revision of the management plan. The final plan will then be sent for ministerial approval. Once it has been approved, the Point Pelee National Park management plan will be available to the public on our [website](#).