

Conservation Area Management Statement

Brookwood Wildlife Area



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1. Purpose

This Management Statement describes the long-term ownership objectives for the Brookwood Wildlife Area and sets out the broad management policies for the property.

2. Property Description

2.1 Legal Description

Township	Lot(s)	Concession	Roll Number	Size (ha)
Douro-Dummer	777 Eighth Line Road S. Lot 11, Pt Lot 12, Pt Lot 11 Less BLK E Lot 12	8	152202000206500	155.7
Douro-Dummer	Pt Lots 11 & 12 RP 45R11184 Parts 1 & 3	9	152202000211400	40.1
Total hectares:				195.8

2.2 Biophysical Description

Brookwood Wildlife Areas unique natural characteristics are what make the property ecologically significant. The property contains open water, marsh, swamp and wooded areas. Rotten Lake Wetland Complex is located primarily on swamp and muck deposits and is an important water storage area. The lake and the surrounding wetlands also help to maintain surface and groundwater levels. Rotten Lake is a shallow lake, ranging from 0.5 metre to 1 metre in depth. The shallow waters of Rotten Lake do not provide sufficient habitat for sport fish, however smaller minnow species are present.

Some significant plant species including Pitcher Plant and Dwarf Birch, can be found on the property. The property also contains a variety of important habitat types. The wetland provides feeding, breeding, staging and a migratory stopover area for many species of waterfowl. Significant birds species observed on the property include Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) and Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*). The forested land within Brookwood Wildlife Area provides habitat to species such as Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) and White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). In addition various species of reptiles and amphibians are dependent on the habitat provided on this property.

The ecological value of Brookwood Wildlife Area has led to its designation as a significant area. In 1991, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) completed a wetland evaluation of Rotten Lake. This led to the area being designated as a Class 2 Provincially Significant Wetland. At the time of its designation, Brookwood Wildlife Area received the highest possible score on the evaluation for providing habitat to rare, endangered and significant species. Otonabee Conservation designated the wetland as an “Environmentally Sensitive Area” and a primary wildlife habitat. These classifications show that the Brookwood Wildlife Area is ecologically valuable. By maintaining ownership of the property, ORCA can ensure that the environmentally sensitive areas and habitats that are within Brookwood Wildlife Area are protected.

2.3 Cultural Description

The area in which Brookwood Wildlife Area is located was first settled in the early 1830s and used for agricultural purposes. It was later found that the land was not suitable for agricultural production. In 1925, the land was used as a fur farming operation.

Otonabee Conservation acquired Brookwood Wildlife Area in 1984. The property was acquired to ensure the protection of its diverse habitats and unique ecology. The area was also acquired as there was potential to provide opportunities for passive recreational activities and environmental education. Since 1984 the Peterborough District Council of Scouts of Canada has been engaged in a lease agreement for the use of Brookwood Wildlife Area.

2.4 Additional Background Information

Brookwood Wildlife Area was acquired by Otonabee Conservation through two separate transactions. The first was in 1984 and the second was in 1998. A portion of the funding used to purchase the property was provided by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Otonabee Conservation Foundation. The entire property is enrolled in the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) and part of the property is enrolled in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). The property is located within the Otonabee Conservation regulated area and is therefore subject to Regulation 167.

3. Ownership Objectives

There are several objectives associated with the continued ownership of Brookwood Wildlife Area. These objectives align with ORCA's **Management of Authority Owned Lands Policy**. Through the continued ownership of the property by ORCA, these objectives will continue to be met.

The primary objective is to protect and conserve the natural heritage of the area. A portion of the property is designated as a Class 2 Provincially Significant Wetland and it is considered an environmentally sensitive area. The property also contains a wide range of habitat types that support a diverse variety of wildlife.

The secondary objective is to provide public access and outdoor recreation. Scouts Canada through an ongoing lease agreement can access the property for recreational purposes. Members of the public are permitted to access the eastern portion of the property on Rotten Lake to participate in recreational activities while experiencing the natural environment.

4. Management Policies

4.1 Land Acquisition

Additional land acquisition will be considered for property's directly adjacent to the existing Brookwood Wildlife Area boundary. The acquisition of the adjacent wetland parcels would more completely capture the wetland boundaries.

4.2 Property Tax Incentive Programs

The Brookwood Wildlife Area is currently enrolled in the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) and the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP).

The MFTIP for Brookwood Wildlife Area is due for renewal in 2018. Otonabee Conservation will review the objectives and requirements of the MFTIP and determine the feasibility for continued participation of this program at Brookwood Wildlife Area.

Otonabee Conservation will review the requirements of the CLTIP and consider registering additional sections of Brookwood Wildlife Area in this program.

4.3 Third Party Agreements

A third party agreement is in place between Otonabee Conservation and the Peterborough District Council of Scouts Canada since 1984. The lease agreement permits Scouts Canada to use the property and is responsible for general property and building maintenance. The lease agreement is renewed on a 5 year term and Scouts Canada is required to pay an annual property rental fee.

Otonabee Conservation will review the current agreement to ensure it meets all land lease legal requirements.

4.4 Permitted Activities

Activities at Brookwood Wildlife Area are restricted to Scouts Canada through a lease agreement. Permitted activities include camping, hiking, snowshoeing, nordic skiing, and nature and wildlife viewing.

Public access is permitted to Rotten Lake via a boardwalk located on the west side of County Road 40. Permitted activities on rotten lake include non-motorized boating, and nature and wildlife viewing. Trapping and fishing are also permitted however these activities require an authorized permit from Otonabee Conservation.

4.5 Stewardship Activities

Ongoing risk management inspections and monitoring for invasive species will continue to be undertaken on this property.

5. Infrastructure and Services

5.1 Infrastructure

Infrastructure at Brookwood Wildlife Area includes 2 cabins, vault toilet, gates, entry signage, boardwalk and trails. Scouts Canada originally installed the vault toilet. These facilities are part of the lease arrangement with Scouts Canada.

Otonabee Conservation will assess the cabins to determine if they meet current building code requirements and will take appropriate action in response to the findings of the inspections. This could include the removal of these buildings.

5.2 Services

Otonabee Conservation will not provide any services on this property.

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Appendix A: Property Management Summary

Property Management Summary: Brookwood Wildlife Area	
Property Description	
Legal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Township/Municipality – Township of Douro-Dummer - Total size- 195.8 hectares - Acquisition Date – 1984 and 1998
Biophysical Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated as a Class 2 Provincially Significant Wetland. - Considered an ecologically sensitive area. - Habitat for several species of rare migratory birds.
Cultural Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Settled in the 1830s for agricultural purposes. - Acquired in 1984 to be used for outdoor recreation and nature and wildlife viewing. - Leased by the Peterborough District Council of Scouts of Canada since 1984.
Additional Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Property is subject to Regulation 167. - Otonabee Conservation Foundation and the Nature Conservancy of Canada provided a portion of the funding to purchase the property.
Ownership Objectives	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect and conserve the natural heritage of the area - Provide public access for outdoor recreation purposes.
Management Policies	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, potential to expand the wetland outside existing property boundary.
Property Tax Incentive Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to be enrolled in Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) and Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). - Review MFTIP and CLTIP to determine their feasibility for this property.
Third Party Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lease agreement between Otonabee Conservation and Scouts Canada, due for renewal 2018
Permitted Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hiking, snowshoeing, nordic skiing, nature and wildlife viewing. - Trapping of fur bearing animals and minnows with authorized permit.
Stewardship Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be managed for land conservation, protection of water quality, forest resources, and wildlife habitat. -
Infrastructure & Services	
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 cabins, vault toilet, gates, entry signage, boardwalk, and trails - Cabins to be assessed for safety concerns in 2018
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No services offered on this property.

Appendix B: Property Map

