

Conservation Area Management Statement

Squirrel Creek Conservation Area



Resolution #:

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Appendix A: Property Management Summary

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1. Purpose

This Management Statement describes the long-term ownership objectives of Squirrel Creek Conservation 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)
Otonabee-South Monaghan	2445 Wallace Pt Rd, Lots 5, 6 & 7	4	150602001010600	111.4
Total hectares:				111.4

2.2. Biophysical Description

Squirrel Creek Conservation Area features a variety of ecosystem types. A portion of the property is designated as a Provincially Significant Wetland while another section is a Managed Forest Area. The property also has approximately 1000 metres of shoreline along the Otonabee River. Squirrel Creek Conservation Area is a part of the Peterborough Drumlin Field which has been identified as a significant natural heritage feature within the Otonabee Conservation watershed. The property has relatively low topography and primarily consists of wet and wooded areas. Open areas are concentrated along the western boundary. Approximately 1500 metres of Squirrel Creek flows through the property before meeting the Otonabee River at the northeastern corner. The creek is lined with many species of aquatic plants, the most predominant being cattails.

The conditions of Squirrel Creek Conservation Area encourage the growth of trees and other types of vegetation. The predominant tree species on the property are Balsam Poplar, Trembling Aspen, White Ash, Dogwood and Willow. Squirrel Creek Conservation Area's habitat diversity allows the property to support many different species of wildlife including waterfowl and mammals. By maintaining their ownership of Squirrel Creek Conservation Area, Otonabee Conservation can ensure that these ecologically important areas and the habitats they provide continue to be protected.

2.3. Cultural Description

During the mid-1970s to the early 1980s Otonabee Conservation operated Squirrel Creek Conservation Area for public day use and camping. The western portion of the property was operated as a family campground until it was discontinued in the early 1980s. Beginning in the mid-1980s Otonabee Conservation established a management agreement with the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan to operate and maintain Squirrel Creek Conservation Area. Both the Township and Otonabee Conservation share ongoing responsibility in the management of Squirrel Creek Conservation Area. The Township operates the property for day use recreational and Otonabee Conservation manages the property for conservation purposes.

2.4. Additional Background Information

Squirrel Creek Conservation Area was purchased by Otonabee Conservation in 1965 with funding from a provincial grant and a general levy. The entire 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 Squirrel Creek Conservation Area. These objectives align with Otonabee Conservation's **Management of Authority Owned Lands Policy**. Through the continued ownership of the property by Otonabee Conservation, these objectives will continue to be met.

There are two primary objectives for this property. One is to provide public access and outdoor recreation. Squirrel Creek Conservation Area provides Peterborough residents as well as visitors from outside of the city with access to the Otonabee River. The property supports both water and land-based recreational activities.

The other primary objective is to protect and conserve the natural heritage of the area. The property features a variety of vegetation types and provides habitat for many different species. It also contains Squirrel Creek wetland which has been designated as a Provincially Significant Wetland. Through their ongoing ownership of the property, Otonabee Conservation can ensure these natural features are protected.

4. Management Policies

4.1. Land Acquisition

Otonabee Conservation will acquire additional adjacent land as the opportunity presents itself, particularly land that enhances the protection of natural heritage features and/or supports the protection of that portion of the property designated as being a Provincially Significant Wetland.

4.2. Property Tax Incentive Programs

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

The MFTIP for Squirrel Creek Conservation 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..

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

4.3. Third Party Agreements

An agreement is in place between Otonabee Conservation and the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan. This agreement states that the Township will maintain the property and its structures for park, recreational and conservation purposes. The Township is responsible for the overall management and maintenance of the property. Otonabee Conservation is responsible for replacement and removal of infrastructure, risk management and liability, river channels, river protection, and erosion control.

4.4. Permitted Activities

Permitted activities at Squirrel Creek Conservation Area include hiking, nordic skiing, snowshoeing, nature and wildlife viewing, swimming, boating, and fishing.

4.5. Stewardship Activities

The overall goal for the development of the property is to provide the public with the opportunity to participate in day use recreational activities. Squirrel Creek Conservation Area provides public access to the Otonabee River which plays a part in meeting the increasing public demand for water access and outdoor recreation.

Ongoing risk management inspections and monitoring for invasive species will be completed on this property. The property will remain accessible to the public.

5. Infrastructure and Services

5.1. Infrastructure

Infrastructure at Squirrel Creek Conservation Area includes 2 picnic shelters, 2 baseball diamonds, roads, parking lot, fences, gates, entry signage, boat launch, workshop building, vault toilets, pump house and gatehouse.

The workshop building, vault toilets and pump house have been inactive and vacant for several years and will be removed in December 2017. In recent years the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan, Parks and Recreation Department has converted the gatehouse to a sports equipment storage building.

5.2. Services

Otonabee conservation will not provide any services at Squirrel Creek Conservation Area.

Appendix A: Property Management Summary

Property Summary: Squirrel Creek Conservation Area	
Property Description	
Legal Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Township/Municipality – Otonabee-South Monaghan - Total size- 111.4 hectares - Acquisition Date – 1965
Biophysical Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provincially Significant wetland. - Upland mixed forest and lowland mixed forest. - Waterfowl, migratory bird, small game and White-tailed Deer habitat.
Cultural Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management agreement established in mid-1980s with the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan. - Used for day use are with access to the Otonabee River.
Additional Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entire property is subject to Regulation 167.
Ownership Objectives	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide the public with recreational opportunities. - Preserve and protect natural heritage features.
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"> - Agreement between Otonabee Conservation and the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan.
Permitted Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hiking, nordic skiing, snowshoeing, nature and wildlife viewing, swimming, boating, and fishing.
Stewardship Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide a recreational area for public access and preserve the section of undeveloped shoreline.
Infrastructure & Services	
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 picnic shelters, 2 baseball diamonds, roads, parking lot, fences, gates, entry signage, boat launch, workshop building, vault toilets, pump house and gatehouse. - Workshop building, vault toilets and pump house will be removed in December 2017. - Gatehouse has been converted to sports equipment building.
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No services offered on this property.

Appendix B: Property Map

