



Land Conservation Strategy

Policy & Planning Committee, June 2024

Conservation Area Strategy

Per O. Reg. 686/21, the strategy is to address the following matters:

- Policies governing the acquisition and disposition of MVCA lands.
- Programs and services on those lands.
- Where needed, an assessment of how those lands:
 - augment any natural heritage.
 - integrate with other provincially or municipally owned lands.

Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy

Per O. Reg. 686/21, the strategy is to address the following matters:

- Guiding principles and objectives that inform the design and delivery of the programs and services.
- A summary of existing technical studies that informs and supports the delivery of programs and services.
- Review programs and services for regulatory compliance.
- Identify and analyze issues and risks of programs and services, and
- Identify actions and cost estimates to address issues and mitigate risks.

MVCA Inventory

MVCA's current inventory of land, easements, and other properties with legal agreements include:

- Dams and other water control structures
- Conservation Areas
- Lands acquired due to historic flooding
- Land used to support flood control infrastructure
- Land under natural heritage management trust agreements
- Land with erosion control structures

Key Questions

Questions posed by the Discussion Paper:

1. What role should MVCA play in land conservation within its jurisdiction?
2. Should MVCA acquire more land for conservation purposes?
3. What type of facilities should MVCA operate?
4. What type of uses should MVCA permit at its Conservation Areas?
5. How should MVCA approach the acquisition and use of water control structures?

Conservation Vs. Preservation?

Questions posed by the Discussion Paper:

1. Preserving land to protect hydrological or ecological functions, with limited public use.
2. Conserving land to protect its hydrological or ecological functions, while providing for some public use.
3. A mix of conservation and preservation properties is appropriate.

Portfolio Focus/Size

Should MVCA acquire more land or enter into other agreements over the next 20 years to:

- a) increase public access to natural heritage areas?
- b) protect ecological values and functions?
- c) maintain hydrologic functions in the watershed?

Facility Types

- Natural Heritage Parks (Purdon, Palmerston Canonto, Morris Island, Carp River CAs)
 - Cultural Heritage Sites (Mill of Kintail Museum, Gate House, Education Centre and Cloister)
 - Linear Parks (K&P CA)
 - Beaches (Palmerston Canonto CA)
 - Managed forests
 - Portage routes
 - Scenic Lookouts/Rest-stops
 - Camp sites and campgrounds
 - Boat Launches
 - Marinas
 - Other?
- a) What type of facilities do you think MVCA should develop over the next 10-20 years?
 - b) Do you think MVCA should transfer the museum collection and its management to a heritage organization?
 - c) Do you think there is a role for MVCA in managing portage routes?

Passive vs. Active Recreation & Other Uses

Mill of Kintail CA:

- Fred P. Lossing Observatory
- Men's Shed and Ramsay Women's Institute
Mississippi Field Naturalist Clubs
- Local Scouts and Guides groups
- Summer camps
- Orienteering races, festivals, filming movies

Other conservation authorities:

- Ice rinks and groomed cross-country ski trails
- Dedicated mountain bike trails
- Tree top trekking and zip-lining
- Watercraft rentals
- Music and related entertainment
- Native tree and plant nurseries

- a) Are you supportive of the current mix of passive and active recreational activities at MVCA sites?
- b) Are there specific passive or active recreational activities you think MVCA should investigate at one or more of its existing sites?
- c) Do you think MVCA should consider acquiring one or more properties where a broader range of active recreational activities could be provided?

Dam Functions

- Carleton Place Dam (1973): primarily function is to maintain recreational water levels on Mississippi Lake and secondarily for flood control and maintaining levels for the Town's and private surface water intakes.
- Widow Lake Dam (1974): primarily for flood mitigation and secondarily to provide fish spawning habitat.
- Bennett Lake Dam (1975): built at the request of Tay Valley Township and the local cottage association to maintain recreational water levels.
- Farm Lake Dam (1976): rebuilt at the request of North Frontenac Township to maintain recreational water levels on Farm Lake.
- Lanark Dam (1977): primary function of the dam is for flood mitigation and secondarily to maintain recreational water levels on Kerr Lake.
- Glen Cairn Flood Control Facility (1979): flood control of Glen Cairn subdivision.
- Pine Lake Dam (1990): primary function is to maintain recreational water levels on the lake, and secondarily for flood mitigation.
- MRIC Dams (1991) Shabomeka, Mazinaw, Kashwakamak, Mississagagon, and Big Gull, primary function is flood mitigation and secondarily to maintain recreational water levels on the lakes.

Dam Properties

- a) Should MVCA permit hydro development at a dam where feasible and cost effective?
- b) Should MVCA build or assume ownership of facilities whose primary purpose is hydro power generation?
- c) Should MVCA build or assume ownership of facilities whose primary purpose is to maintain recreational water levels?
- d) Should MVCA have different management and cost recovery approaches depending on the primary function of a dam?

Public Consultation

- Municipal and County Briefings (ongoing)
- Key Stakeholder outreach: Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Woodlot Association, Climate Network Lanark, and Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust.
- Post approval from the Board:
 - Formal circulation to all member municipalities and counties, Indigenous Communities, hydro producers, lake associations and community associations within the watershed for comment, and other key stakeholders
- Post the attached documents on the website.
- Promote using our email distribution list and through social media.
- Post notices at all conservation areas and dams accessed by the public.
- Prepare and issue articles and press release for local print media.
- Engage with local radio stations (Lake 88.1 and Valley Heritage Radio).
- Host an on-line presentation and Q&A session in July, and post recording to website.
- Meet with MVCA's Mississippi River Watershed Plan Public Advisory Committee (PAC) and Museum Advisory Committee (MAC).