

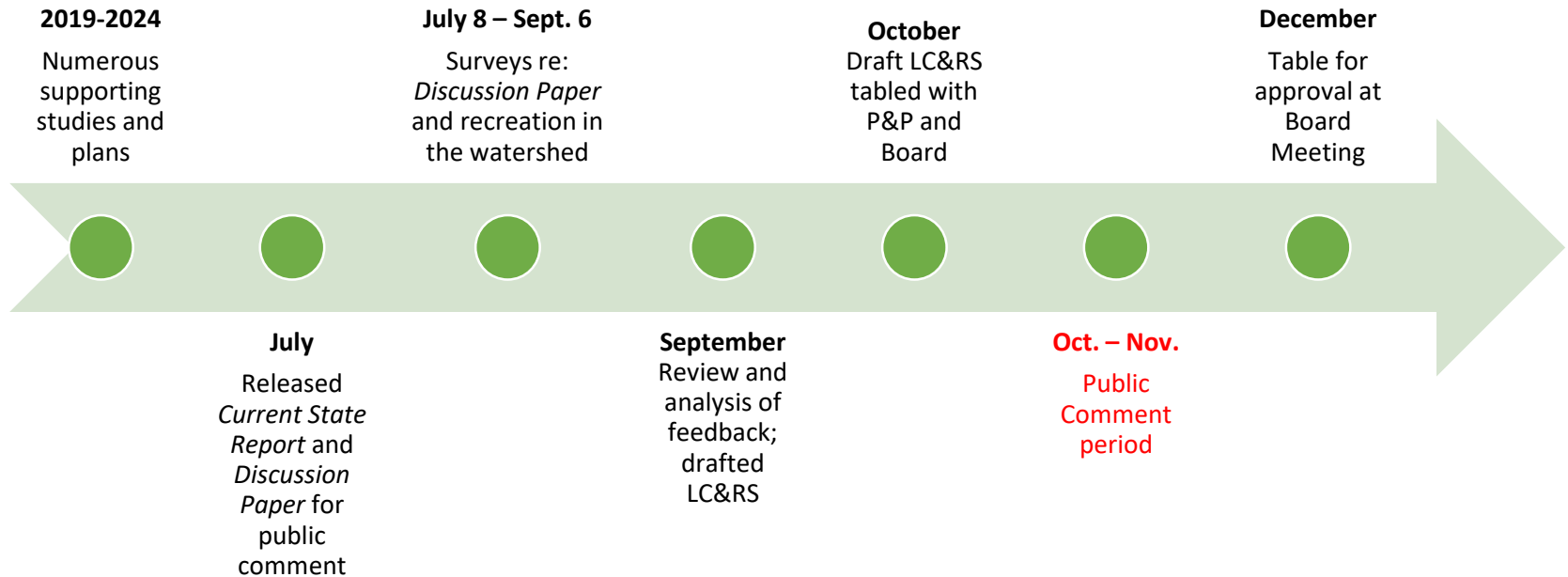


Land Conservation & Resource Strategy

Virtual Information Session

October 29, 2024

Land Conservation & Resource Strategy Process



Mandatory Elements

1. Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy must contain:

- Guiding principles
- Objectives
- List of studies, monitoring and other information used
- Compliance review of existing programs and services (business lines)
- Risk analysis and mitigation plan
- List of services with cost estimates

Mandatory Elements

2. Conservation Area Strategy must have policies that address:

- the “**acquisition**” and disposition of CA lands
- the programs and services offered on those lands
- how CA lands “**augment any natural heritage** in its jurisdiction”, and
- how they “**integrate with other** provincially or municipally-owned lands”

Per *O.Reg. 686/21* **acquisition** means:
“owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title” and may include license and lease agreements

Document Summary

LC&RS is a Policy Document that:

- States our legislative/regulatory mandate
- Provides context for mandate within MVCA's jurisdiction
- Outlines primary business lines / programs and services:
 - Goals,
 - Objectives
 - Gaps/issues
 - How to address them
 - Policies to guide implementation

LC&RS will inform:

- update of MVCA's 5-year *Corporate Strategic Plan*
- annual priority setting and budgeting

Public Consultation: 2 Surveys

Discussion Paper Survey

Focus: natural heritage land, facilities, uses, museum, portages, dams.

- 84 responses/ submissions
- Mainly from Mississippi Mills, Ottawa*, and North Frontenac

Recreation Facility Survey

Focus: walking and hiking trails, boat launches, tent camping.

- 198 responses
- Mainly from Mississippi Mills, Carleton Place and Beckwith
- 47% born between 1946-1964

Links

DRAFT Land Conservation & Resource Strategy >

Information Brochure >

Portage Routes of MVCA: Their History and Use >

Discussion Paper Survey Results >

Recreational Facilities Study: Summary Report >

<https://mvc.on.ca/current-initiatives/land-conservation-resource-management-strategy/>

Discussion Paper Feedback

1. Most respondents support a mix of passive and active recreation but respondents were split regarding acquiring new land for active recreation.
2. More respondents are interested in land acquired for passive use than for preservation purposes.
3. Some expressed concerns regarding the financial viability of acquiring and maintaining new sites, and emphasized the need to collaborate.
4. Some expressed the need to collaborate more with First Nations on land and heritage matters.
5. A majority believe museum management should be transferred to a heritage organization.
6. A majority think MVCA should have a role in managing portage routes.
7. While most support hydro development they do not think that MVCA should be acquiring dams for that purpose.
8. Most feel that MVCA should continue to manage dams that serve recreational purposes AND that an alternative cost recovery approach should be used for those assets.

Recreation Study/Survey Findings

1. Population growth in the watershed was ~228% over 35 years, or an average of 5% per year.
2. There has not been an equivalent growth in large conservation area-like parks, hiking/walking trails, and tent camping sites.
3. Intensity of use of MVCA conservation areas has increased from ~300 to ~900 persons/ha over the period 1982 to 2023.
4. The availability of camp sites in the watershed has gone from ~70 to ~190 persons/campsite over the same period.
5. 53% of respondents agreed and 35% disagree that more facilities are needed to support walking/hiking activities.
6. Respondents were split 50/50 on whether more facilities are needed to support boating and other watercraft activities.
7. 57% of respondents agreed and 28% disagreed that more facilities are needed in the watershed to support tent camping.
8. The most used walking trails are those that people use on a regular basis in their own neighbourhoods.
9. Amongst respondents, the top 3 sites for walking and hiking were: the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area, Ottawa Valley Rail Trail and the Riverwalk Trail in Carleton Place.

Features people value at their top sites

1. Drive from home less than 30 minutes
2. Easy parking access
3. Quiet/seclusion/privacy
4. Variety of trail routes and distances
5. Trails with challenging terrain
6. Presence of water features
7. Wildlife viewing opportunities
8. One or more vistas/look-outs
9. Dogs on leash permitted on the trails

Programs & Services

Cat. 1



Hazard Management

Flood Forecasting & Warning
Mapping & Regulations
Assets & Operations

Cat. 1



Land & Resource Conservation

General
Conservation Areas
Conservation Preserves
WECI Infrastructure
Administrative Land

Cat. 1 & 2



Source Water Protection & Monitoring

Cat. 1 & 3



Other Services

Education & Outreach
Stewardship
Mill of Kintail Visitor Services

Hazard Mgt: Flood Forecasting & Warning

Goal

1. Watershed users receive timely and accurate information and warnings regarding watershed conditions and how to protect themselves and their property.

Objectives

2. The gauge network is reliable and provides accurate real-time data regarding conditions at key locations across MVCA's jurisdiction.
3. Data meets industry quality standards, allows for short and long-term analysis, and is easy to access, use, and share.
4. Watershed models allow for reliable predictive analysis and optimal system operation.
5. Municipalities receive quality drought response coordination and emergency planning support.
6. Local communities understand how their watershed functions, systemic risks, how they can be mitigated, and how to prepare for and respond to natural hazards including drought.
7. Queries are responded to in accordance with MVCA's Customer Service policy.

Hazard Mgt: Mapping & Regulations

Goals

1. Development does not occur in regulated areas unless properly assessed and permitted.
2. MVCA is considered to be a fair and responsive regulator.

Objectives

3. Regulatory maps are prepared in accordance with provincial requirements and updated in response to development pressures, changes in regulations, land use and the impacts of climate change.
4. Regulatory maps are updated annually and published on MVCA's website.
5. Historical data is readily available to support discussions with applicants and decision-making.
6. Site specific information and permits are used to adjust regulatory mapping where warranted.
7. The review of planning and permit applications consistently meet regulated timelines and industry standards.
8. Policy guidelines are kept current to address regulatory changes, and evolving watershed conditions and industry practices.
9. Queries are responded to in accordance with MVCA's Customer Service policy.
10. Complaints and reports of infractions are managed in a fair and transparent manner.
11. Compliance promotion and enforcement activities are timely, effective, and affordable.

Hazard Mgt: Assets & Operations

Goals

1. Water management activities consistently mitigate the impacts of natural hazards.
2. MVCA is a trusted asset manager and operator of the Mississippi River system.

Objectives

3. Water management assets are operated and maintained in accordance with provincial and federal regulations, the Mississippi River Water Management Plan, and MVCA's Asset Management Plan and Operations, Maintenance & Surveillance (OMS) manuals.
4. The 10-year Capital Plan, municipal levies, and upper-tier government grants allow for timely development, renewal and replacement of water management assets, and the development and update of watershed models.
5. Asset renewal considers the impacts of development, climate change, environmental, social and financial impacts, and the historical rights and the current and future needs of First Nations and others.
6. MNR and OPG view MVCA as the operator of choice for their assets within the Mississippi River watershed.

Land & Res. Mgt: General

Goals

1. The natural resources of the Mississippi, Carp, and Ottawa river watersheds are managed sustainably for the enjoyment and welfare of current and future generations.
2. Land ownership and management are used as tools for reconciliation with First Nations.

Objectives

3. MVCA's *Land Inventory* is current and meets regulatory requirements.
4. MVCA's land holdings meet the evolving mandate and needs of the organization.
5. MVCA has free and clear title or legal agreements for all properties owned or used by the Authority for the delivery of programs and services.
6. Every property owned by or under agreement with MVCA has a board-approved plan.
7. The influence and participation of First Nations is evident at all MVCA properties.

Land & Res. Mgt: Conservation Areas

Goals

1. Conservation areas provide opportunities for walking, hiking, and solitude in a natural setting and contribute to the quality of life and sustainability of the watershed.
2. Conservation areas are accessible to all.

Objectives

3. MVCA conservation areas:
 - a) are large natural spaces with walking/hiking trails of varying length and difficulty that allow for **at least 1-hour's passive** recreation.
 - b) are attractive, affordable and safe.
 - c) provide parking, comfort stations, rest spots/shelters, and waste facilities.
 - d) provide **at least one wheelchair accessible trail and comfort station**.
 - e) provide excellent directional and interpretive signage that includes local cultural, Indigenous, and scientific information.
 - f) **reserve at least 90% of the property** as a natural area.
4. A **conservation area-type park** is available within a 30-minute drive of all watershed residents.
5. There is 15 ha of conservation area-type parkland for every 1,000 residents in the watershed.
6. Other conservation trails:
 - a) Walking/hiking trails on conservation lands within the watershed are maintained to a high standard.
 - b) MVCA optimizes use of know how and equipment by supporting municipal, county, and conservation organizations for the maintenance of walking/hiking trails in the watershed.

Land & Res. Mgt: Cons. Preserves

Goals

1. Eliminate risk of future losses in areas at high risk of natural hazards.
2. No net loss of ecological and hydrological services in the watershed.

Objectives

1. MVCA conservation preserves:
 - a) Sterilize undevelopable land to mitigate future flood and erosion damage and losses; or
 - b) Manage an area of natural heritage value on behalf of a third-party; or
 - c) Mitigate the impacts of land development elsewhere in the watershed; or
 - d) Protect or develop natural carbon sinks using GHG-reduction funding mechanisms.

Land & Res. Mgt: WECl sites

Objectives

1. Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECl) lands allow for:
 - a) The construction, maintenance, operation, and renewal of water and erosion control structures such as dams and weirs and include parking and materials storage.
 - b) The installation and maintenance of booms, fencing, signage and other safety measures.
 - c) Safe passage around a structure, which may include a portage route.
 - d) The installation and maintenance of monitoring and communication devices to support weather, soil, snow and ice, and riverine system monitoring and remote data access.
 - e) Unfettered legal access to all the above.

Source Water Protection & Monitoring

Goals

1. MVCA demonstrates value for money in delivering system monitoring and resource management services to the province and municipalities.

Objectives

2. Samples are collected, handled, and shipped in accordance with required procedures.
3. Provincial monitoring activities are leveraged to support local municipal monitoring objectives.
4. Provincial resource management work is leveraged to support local municipal watershed management objectives.
5. The Board of Directors understands its separate and distinct role as a Source Protection Authority.

Other: Education & Outreach

Goals

1. Watershed residents and users:
 - a) understand how the watershed functions and their role and MVCA's role in it.
 - b) make informed decisions that mitigate risks and support resource sustainability.
2. MVCA is a partner of choice for education and community engagement.

Objectives

3. Locally relevant, useful, and accessible by all.
4. Targeted by audience and location.
5. Engaging, hands-on, and fun.

Other: Stewardship

Goals

1. The protection of water quality, wetland cover, forest cover, and other environmental features by working with watershed landowners to make meaningful improvements to their properties and practices.

Objectives

2. Shoreline habitat enhancement
3. Stream and river restoration
4. Wetland protection and recovery
5. Enhanced forest management
6. Increased public knowledge of land management practices for watershed health
7. Community engagement in ecosystem monitoring and reporting
8. Invasive species identification and removal

Other: Visitor Services (MOK)

Goals

1. Sustainable management of the property and buildings for current and future generations.
2. A top-10 destination in Lanark County.

Objectives

3. Increase all-season level of service, including education, cultural appreciation, and both guided and self-guided outdoor recreation opportunities for local residents and visitors to the region.
4. Encourage the appreciation of local cultural history through programming and activities.
5. Broaden the sources and amounts of revenue from activities that complement the primary functions of the site to financially support core programs.
6. Strengthen relationships with the community at large.

Next Steps

- **Commenting Period closes November 22, 2024**
- Comments reviewed and document amended
- Final draft LC&RS will go to MVCA's Board of Directors December 9, 2024 for approval

Providing input

- For topics of interest, review draft goals, objectives, gaps, actions, and policies
- Provide comments/suggestions
- Comments on other sections are welcome

Submit to info@mvc.on.ca

Q & A

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