

## PROGRESS UP-DATE

### Our Parks and Protected Areas: A Plan for Nova Scotia Parks and Protected Areas Land Designations 2014-2015

Site #	Name	County	Area	Description	Designation Decision Date	Designation in effect
69	The Stillwaters Wilderness Area  (formerly Gull Lake)	Cape Breton	2,969 ha  (7,334 acres)	<p>Formerly referred to as “Gull Lake” in the Parks and Protected Areas Plan, this area features a diverse mosaic of forest types, wetlands, lakes and stillwaters adjacent to Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site. Forest cover is a mix of young to mature spruce-fir and hardwood. Located at a biogeographic transition zone, protection of this area increases representation of three natural landscapes in our protected areas system.</p> <p>The area is suitable for sport fishing, trapping and backcountry canoeing, but water quality protection is a management priority.</p> <p>This area overlaps with and helps protect most of Louisbourg’s drinking water supply area.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/wa_thestillwaters.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/wa_thestillwaters.asp</a></p>	December 2014	TBA

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76	Humes River Wilderness Area	Inverness, Victoria	3,625 ha (8,954 acres)	<p>This is an exceptionally scenic area of steep and humid river canyons, hardwood forests, and highland barrens. It encompasses one of the last relatively large tracts of intact Acadian forests in the Bras d'Or Lake watershed, and features impressive stands of red spruce, eastern hemlock, and old growth hardwood. The area provides habitat for endangered American marten and lynx, as well as at least three species of rare voles and shrews. Protection of these lands improves representation of Keppoch Mountain Natural Landscape within the provincial protected areas network. Together with the adjacent Trout Brook Wilderness Area, this area creates a protected land corridor between Bras d'Or Lake and Lake Ainslie.</p> <p>An old cart track at Lewis Mountain is currently used for hiking and the Municipality of Victoria County is exploring additional trail opportunities. The area's recreation and nature tourism potential is enhanced by its accessibility immediately off the Trans-Canada Highway. The area is also suitable for hunting, trapping and limited sport fishing.</p> <p>Vehicle passage through the area will be accommodated by excluding a 1.5 km portion of road (SANS route 700). This road originates at Wagmatcook First Nation and is used for off-highway vehicle and truck access, primarily for passage to the highlands.</p> <p>Boundaries have been adjusted to the north side of a NSPI power line near the Trans-Canada Highway to simplify management of the area.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/wa_humesriver.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/wa_humesriver.asp</a></p>	December 2014	TBA

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5	Baddeck River Wilderness Area	Victoria	2,778 ha (6,862 acres)	<p>This scenic area encompasses two steep-sided branches of the Baddeck River, a wetland complex near Bell Lakes, plus some productive lowland and floodplains downstream. It includes over 35 km of river, primarily winding along hardwood slopes. The area also provides a wildlife corridor between the lowlands and the plateau, and habitat for endangered American marten and lynx. The Baddeck River system as an important watershed for brook trout and Atlantic Salmon. A portion of this area borders Usige Ban Falls Provincial Park, just above the falls.</p> <p>This scenic and rugged area offers opportunities for wilderness travel and trail development, as well as sport fishing in Baddeck River and the adjacent Bell Lakes. Portions of the area are suitable for hunting and trapping.</p> <p>Off-highway vehicle use on Route 710, next to North River Wilderness Area, is to be accommodated through one or more trail management agreements.</p> <p>The final boundary has been adjusted slightly along New Glen Brook to remove a tree plantation and add intact hardwood forest on a steep slope. The boundary along the lower reaches of the main branch of Baddeck River has been adjusted to the edge of a road for survey efficiency and to simplify management.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/wa_baddeckriver.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/wa_baddeckriver.asp</a></p>	December 2014	TBA

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153	Ruiss Noir Wilderness Area	Inverness	1,602 ha (3,958 acres)	<p>This area occupies the upper slopes of the transition zone between the Cheticamp coastal plain and the Cape Breton Boreal Plateau. It is characterized by yellow birch - balsam fir transition forests, as well as several kilometres of hardwood ravines in the Margaree River watershed. Habitat is suitable for endangered American marten and lynx. Protection of this area will significantly improve representation of Squirrel Mountain Foothills Natural Landscape in the protected areas network.</p> <p>This area offers opportunities for wilderness travel, hunting and trapping.</p> <p>Boundaries have been adjusted to avoid adjacent, connecting forest access roads.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/wa_ruissnoir.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/wa_ruissnoir.asp</a></p>	December 2014	TBA
12	Lyons Marsh Nature Reserve  (formerly Birch Hill)	Colchester	60 ha (147 acres)	<p>Formerly referred to as "Birch Hill" in the Parks and Protected Areas Plan, this coastal area includes over 2 km of frontage on Minas Basin near Bass River. It contains a rich salt marsh, eroding coastal cliffs, and a large productive forest wetland of white ash, spruce, fir and red maple. It offers coastal bird watching opportunities.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_lyonsmarsh.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_lyonsmarsh.a sp</a></p>	December 2014	December 2014

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15	Blandford Nature Reserve (expansion)	Lunenburg	20 ha (50 acres)	<p>This small forested site is an addition to Blandford Nature Reserve, on the Aspotogan Peninsula. It is separated from the existing nature reserve by lands acquired and protected by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The addition provides additional habitat for rare lichens, including globally endangered boreal felt lichen.</p> <p>Located near the summit of Aspotogan Mountain, the site offers stunning views of St. Margarets Bay and Mahone Bay.  <a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_blandford.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_blandford.asp</a></p>	December 2014	December 2014
26	Caribou Rivers Nature Reserve	Pictou	32 ha (80 acres)	<p>Located where the Big and Little Caribou Rivers meet and flow into Northumberland Strait, this area contains a coastal wetland along a rich river estuary and is home to shorebirds and nesting eagles. The adjacent estuary is a destination for sea kayaking.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_caribourivers.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_caribourivers.asp</a></p>	December 2014	December 2014
37	Cowan Brook Nature Reserve	Halifax	56 ha (139 acres)	<p>The Cowan Brook area is a small remnant of mature coastal rain forest on the Eastern Shore. It is a refuge for globally endangered boreal felt lichen.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_cowanbrook.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_cowanbrook.asp</a></p>	December 2014	December 2014

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46	Drug Brook Nature Reserve	Pictou	34 ha (85 acres)	<p>This is a small tract of old red spruce and hardwood forest in the interior of Pictou County, next to Highway 374. Boundaries avoid a small gravel pit next to the highway.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_drugbrook.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_drugbrook.asp</a></p>	December 2014	December 2014
48	Eagles Nest Nature Reserve	Hants	188 ha (464 acres)	<p>This area encompasses the fens and forest slopes along Piney Stream in the interior of former Bowater Mersey lands, north of St. Margarets Bay. Old red spruce, yellow birch and sugar maple forests form a refuge and wildlife corridor in the midst of a landscape extensively used for forest harvesting.</p> <p>Scenic stillwaters and old forest slopes along Piney Stream offer wildlife viewing opportunities. This is part of a traditional Mi'kmaq canoe route.</p> <p>Final boundaries have been straightened and also adjusted to an adjacent road for survey efficiency and to simplify management.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_eaglesnest.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_eaglesnest.asp</a></p>	December 2014	December 2014

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81	Irish Cove Nature Reserve	Richmond	159 ha (393 acres)	<p>This is an old growth, mixed Acadian forest near Bras d'Or Lake. Protection of this area improves representation of East Bay Hills Natural Landscape within the protected areas network. The area has a long history of eagle nesting and is a long-term ecological research site for Cape Breton University.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_irishcove.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_irishcove.asp</a></p>	December 2014	December 2014
83	Janvrin Island Nature Reserve	Richmond	121 ha (299 acres)	<p>This area encompasses a collection of small undisturbed islands and spits off Isle Madame, featuring a variety of coastal habitats, such as barrier beaches and ponds, coastal spruce/fir forest, low cliffs, dunes, sand spits and tidal flats. It provides nesting and staging habitat for shore birds and is an important area for seabird colonies.</p> <p>Sea duck hunting is permitted below the mean high water mark. The area is used for kayaking, including commercial operators. Designated camping sites will be considered.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_janvrinisland.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_janvrinisland.asp</a></p>	December 2014	December 2014

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101	MacKay Brook Nature Reserve	Pictou	20 ha (50 acres)	<p>The MacKay Brook area is a small remnant of old hemlock, spruce and hardwood forest in the heavily fragmented Northumberland Strait Plain of Pictou County. The site offers opportunities for nature appreciation and education in association with adjacent conservation lands recently acquired by Friends of Redtail Society.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_mackaybrook.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_mackaybrook.asp</a></p>	December 2014	December 2014
108	Masons Mountain Nature Reserve	Inverness	831 ha (2,052 acres)	<p>Located near South West Margaree, this relatively large natural forest patch is a mix of mature and old hardwood forest stands on steep slopes and canyons, and spruce-fir forest on narrow plateau ridges. Protection of the area helps represent Mason's Mountain Natural Landscape in the protected areas network.</p> <p>This area has potential for backcountry hiking/exploring.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_masonsmountain.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_masonsmountain.asp</a></p>	December 2014	December 2014
117	Montrose Nature Reserve	Colchester	26 ha (63 acres)	<p>This is a small hemlock ravine in the lowlands between the Cobequid Mountains and Cobequid Bay. An easily accessible site, it offers opportunities for old forest viewing and education.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_montrose.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_montrose.asp</a></p>	December 2014	December 2014

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132	Petite Bog Nature Reserve	Hants	799 ha (1,973 acres)	The Petite Bog area is representative of the bogs of the low-lying Walton River Clay Plain Natural Landscape, and provides habitat for some rare sedges and grasses. Primarily bog, it also contains some black spruce and red pine forest. Petite bog has been used for climate change research.  <a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_petitebog.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_petitebog.asp</a>	December 2014	December 2014
154	Rush Lake Nature Reserve	Guysborough	307 ha (758 acres)	The Rush Lake area features one of the last remnants of mature Acadian forest in Liscomb Game Sanctuary. It is a "stepping stone" for wildlife movement in a region extensively used for forest harvesting and contains habitat for endangered mainland moose. This site features an impressive mix of mature red spruce, sugar maple, and yellow birch forest, as well as healthy and mature American beech trees. Rush Lake is a scenic and remote area on the upper reaches of the Liscomb River canoe route.  <a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_rushlake.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_rushlake.asp</a>	December 2014	December 2014
158	Seven Falls Nature Reserve	Inverness and Victoria	693 ha (1,712 acres)	Situated along the Cabot Trail, this area is characterized steep river canyons with mature yellow birch and sugar maple forest. It contains at least seven waterfalls. This is a highly scenic and rugged landscape.  <a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_sevenfalls.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_sevenfalls.asp</a>	December 2014	December 2014

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167	Slade Lake Nature Reserve	Cumberland	25 ha (61 acres)	The Slade Lake area is a small ecological "hot spot" outside of Oxford, consisting of a small forest patch with karst features such as sink holes and vernal pools. It is home to several rare plant species and is a refuge for eastern white cedar, a listed species-at-risk in Nova Scotia.  <a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_sladelake.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_sladelake.asp</a>	December 2014	December 2014
186	Tennycapc River Nature Reserve	Hants	346 ha (855 acres)	This area consists of two mixed forest patches at the headwaters of Tennycapc River. The patches contain karst features such as sinkholes and have potential for bat hibernacula. Forests include a mix of young and old hardwoods and red spruce.  <a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_tennycapc.asp">http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/nr_tennycapc.asp</a>	December 2014	December 2014