

# **Green Hill Provincial Park**

## **Planning Process Terms of Reference**



July 17, 2014

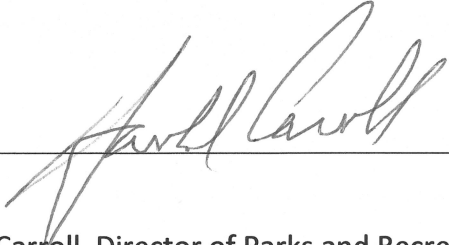
Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

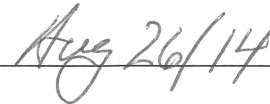
Parks and Recreation Division



## Approval Statement

I am pleased to approve the terms of reference for the Green Hill park management planning process. These terms of reference will guide the management planning process through to the completion of the approved management statement.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Harold Carroll, Director of Parks and Recreation

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0 PLANNING TEAM.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3.0 PLANNING CONTEXT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 Rationale for planning .....	3
3.2 Planning area .....	3
3.3 Planning complexity .....	6
3.4 Purpose of the park .....	6
3.5 Planning topics .....	6
3.6 Other site considerations.....	6
<b>4.0 ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>8</b>



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Green Hill Provincial Park is a 9.64 hectare wayside class park, located off Highway 104, approximately 9km east of West River. Green Hill is a popular day use picnic area with panoramic views of the Pictou County countryside.

The government of Nova Scotia acquired the property in 1959 and it was formally designated as a provincial park in 1984 (under Nova Scotia regulation 39/84).

Green Hill is located within the [Cobequid Hills Ecodistrict](#) (DNR) and the [Pictou River Hills Natural Landscape](#) (NSE). The park is serviced by the DNR district office in McLellan's Brook (central region).

These Terms of Reference outline the background and planning approach to be taken by the planning team to effectively guide the planning process through to the completion of a statement of management direction for Green Hill Provincial Park. These terms of reference will address subjects such as: rationale for initiating planning; description of the planning area; staff resources required; and an engagement strategy.

## 2.0 PLANNING TEAM

The roles and responsibilities of the planning team are outlined below.

Position	Name	Duties
Planner, Project Lead  Parks Division	Carrie Drake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assembles and leads the project team</li><li>• Leads project planning and schedule</li><li>• Works with team members to identify and delegate tasks</li><li>• Acts as primary contact for stakeholders and develops opportunities for public engagement</li><li>• Prepares planning documents</li><li>• Chairs all planning team and public meetings</li></ul>
Senior Planner  Parks Division	Brian Kinsman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Works with team members to identify and delegate tasks</li><li>• Provides direction and advice regarding park policy, legislation, etc.</li><li>• Prepares planning documents</li><li>• Attends all planning team and public meetings</li></ul>
Ecologist  Parks Division	Art Lynds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leads collection and analysis of natural heritage information</li><li>• Provides advice, information and direction with regards to wildlife, habitat, flora, species at risk, etc.</li><li>• Develops management strategies to address issues/threats relating to natural heritage values as</li></ul>

		<p>needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists in determining needs/priorities for background information collection</li> <li>• Assists planners in the preparation and review of planning documents</li> <li>• Attends all planning team meetings, and public meetings as required</li> </ul>
<p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>Parks Division</p>	Clinton Pinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepares park development and redevelopment concept plans</li> <li>• Leads the implementation stage of the planning cycle (Stage 6)</li> <li>• Leads on-the-ground implementation of park development plans</li> <li>• Communicates with project lead during implementation stage to ensure consistency with management direction and resolve unexpected issues as they arise (e.g., unanticipated site constraints)</li> </ul>
<p>Planning Technician</p> <p>Parks Division</p>	Scott LeBlanc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides technical support to the planning team</li> <li>• Maintains and updates the GIS database for the park</li> <li>• Assists in the summarization and analysis of data</li> <li>• Prepares maps and spatial data for public meetings and planning documents</li> <li>• Attends planning team and public meetings as required</li> </ul>
<p>Area Supervisor</p> <p>Regional Services, McLellans Brook</p>	Steve Delorey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison between DNR Parks Division and Regional Services Branch</li> <li>• Assists in preparing Implementation Strategy for the Management Direction document</li> <li>• Leads preparation of Operational Plan for the Management Direction document</li> <li>• Attends public meetings and planning team meetings as required</li> </ul>
<p>Park Technician</p> <p>Regional Services, McLellans Brook</p>	Matt Reid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents Regional Services on the planning team</li> <li>• Provides advice, information and local knowledge with regards to the park</li> <li>• Attends public meetings and planning team meetings as required</li> </ul>

## 3.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

### 3.1 Rationale for planning

A local community group expressed interest in the future direction of the park and initiated dialog with Parks Division to undergo a management planning process. Green Hill Provincial Park does not currently have a Management Direction document.

### 3.2 Planning area

Green Hill Provincial park is located in Pictou County, Nova Scotia. The park lies north of the Trans Canada Highway (HWY 104). The civic address is 209 Dan Fraser Road, Green Hill. The rural villages of Green Hill and Alma occur on the travel routes leading to the provincial park (Map 1: Regional Context).

The extent of the planning area will include the area within park boundaries, and neighbouring properties where there may be opportunities to enhance the visitor experience (Map 2: Park boundaries).

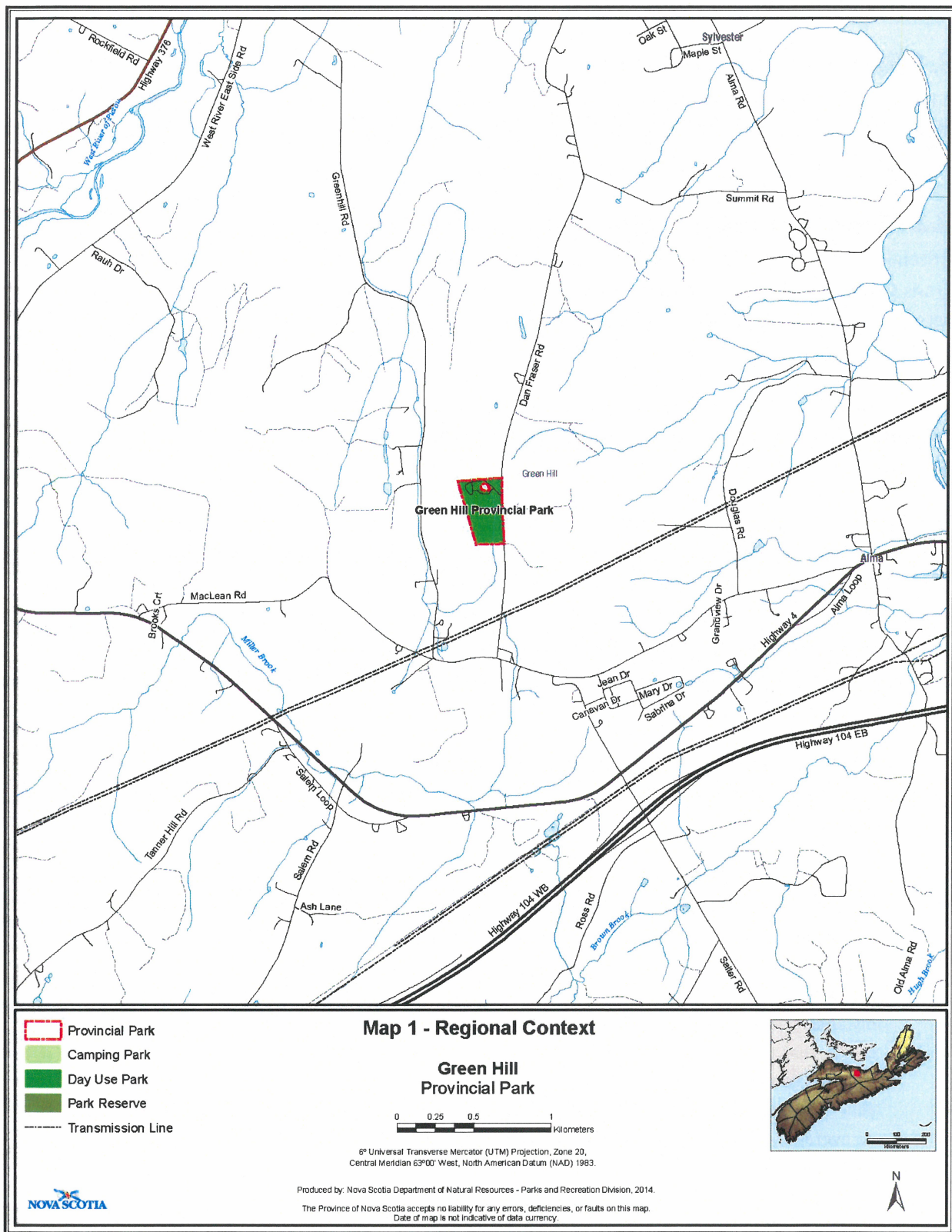
This 9.63 ha provincial park occurs within in the the [Pictou River Hills Natural Landscape](#), which is a 52,856 hectare, rolling landscape characterized by Acadian mixed forest hills and undulating terrain. Drainage is dendritic and consists, in the west, of the upper reaches of few large rivers and in the east, middle to lower reaches of some smaller rivers that drain into Northumberland Strait. Eastern areas include a low, erodible coastline. (Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour, 2002). Approximately 0.08 percent of the natural landscape is reserved in parks and protected areas, a total 44 hectares.

Using the DNR Ecological Land Classification system, Green Hill provincial park lies within the [Cobequid Hills Ecodistrict](#) (340). This Ecodistrict is approximately 190,295 hectares and is described as follows:

Webb and Marshall (1999) describe the 150 km long Cobequid Mountains as a cigar-shaped block running just west of Pictou to Cape Chignecto. These hills separate the two lowland ecodistricts, the Minas Lowlands (620) to the south and the Northumberland Lowlands (530) to the north. The highest points on the mainland are found on the Cobequids at Nuttby Mountain and Dalhousie Mountain which rise to 335 m above sea level. As Roland (1982) noted, the Cobequids from a distance give an appearance of a more irregular skyline than other uplands, an appearance he credits due to the narrowness of the upland surface. Of the ecodistricts within the Nova Scotia Upland Ecoregion (300), the Cobequids are the driest with only 1182 mm of precipitation per year. However, they receive the greatest snowfall on the mainland with over 300 cm of snow in an average year. The total area of the ecodistrict is 2,132 km<sup>2</sup> or 22% of the ecoregion (Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, 2003).

Approximately 8.4 percent of the Cobequid Hills Ecodistrict is reserved in parks and protected areas.



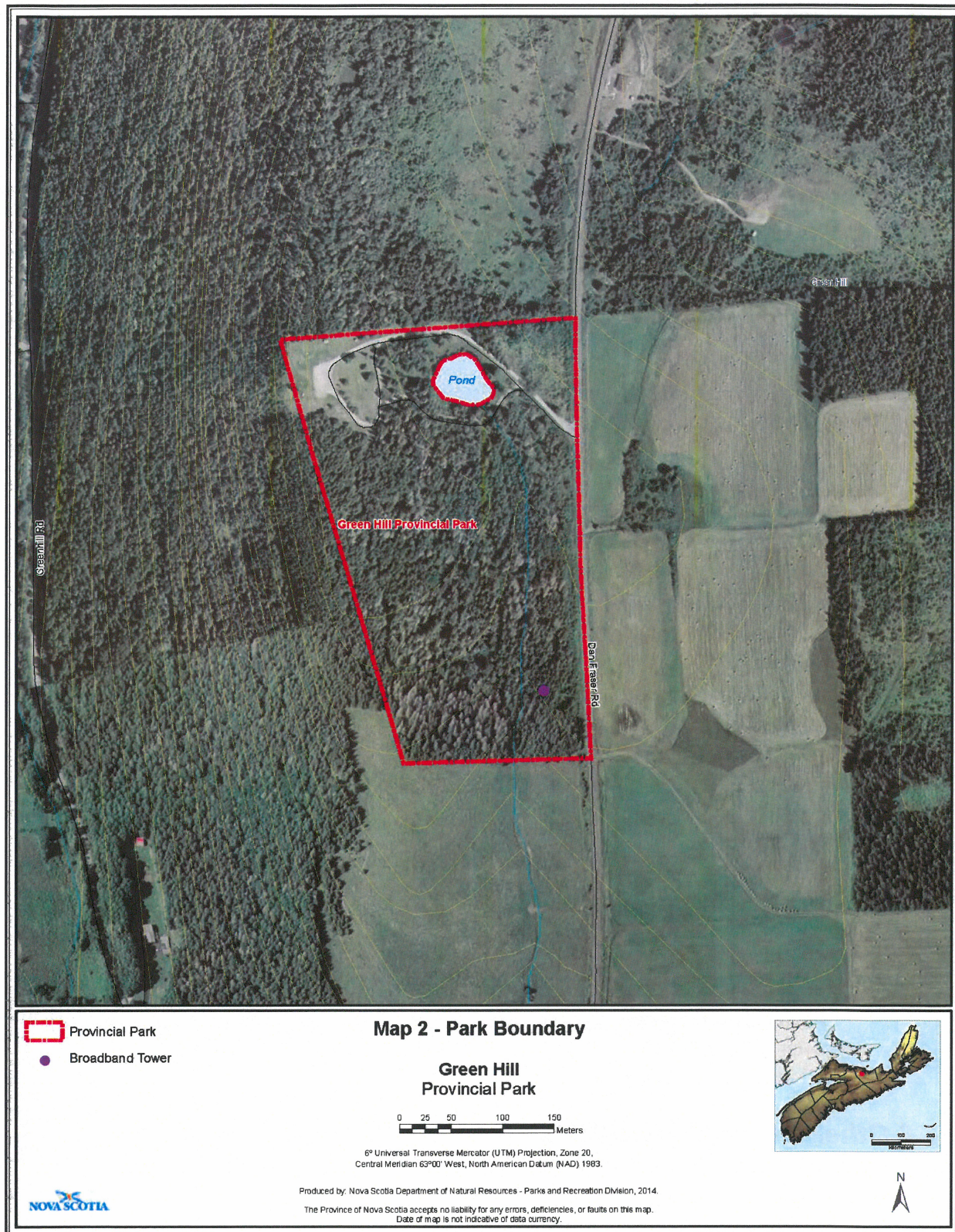


G:\NDR\On\NDR\Stair1\_PPIR1\_Park-info-files\GreenHill\Map1 - Regional Context.mxd (SML)

June 16, 2014

Map 1: Regional Context





G:\DNR\Ons\DNRStaff\1\_FPIR\1\_Park-info-files\GreenHillMaps\Map 2 - Park Boundary.mxd (SML)

June 16, 2014

Map 2: Park Boundary

### ***3.3 Planning complexity***

Based on the factors used to consider the level of planning complexity established in the *Management Planning Guideline*, management direction for Green Hill Provincial is determined to be non-complex. Therefore, a management statement is the most appropriate type of management direction.

### ***3.4 Purpose of the park***

The purpose statement will be drafted in Stage 4 of the planning process. The main component of the purpose statement will be the look-off experience, with opportunities for picnicking and walking.

### ***3.5 Planning topics***

Below is a list of planning topics that will be addressed in the management planning process for Green Hill Provincial Park:

- Ecological integrity
  - Condition of site values
  - Existing/anticipated threats
  - Strategies to avoid, mitigate, and/or remedy threats
  - Potential ecological restoration
- Cultural heritage
  - Cultural heritage values
  - Condition of values
  - Threats
- Recreation and heritage appreciation
  - Recreation values (e.g., picnicking, hang gliding, paragliding, hiking, etc)
  - Condition of values
  - Threats
  - Hiking trail connection to the Cape to Cape trail initiative
  - Interpretive themes
- Operations and development
  - Look-off area
  - Potential trail system
  - Roads and parking
- Research and monitoring
  - Watershed Evaluation

### ***3.6 Other site considerations***

A portion of the park (approximately one acre) not located in the lookoff area is leased for broadband internet tower (Map 2).



## 4.0 ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Item	Description	Engagement	Dates
Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rationale</li> <li>• Planning area</li> <li>• Schedule</li> <li>• Engagement Strategy</li> <li>• Approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with Community Advisory Group</li> </ul>	June 2014
Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect background information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Natural values</li> <li>○ Cultural values</li> <li>○ Recreation values</li> <li>○ Threats</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with Community Advisory Group</li> <li>• Public Open House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public opportunity to review background information</li> <li>○ Collect data on values and vision</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Internet-based opportunity to submit comments</li> </ul>	Sept 2014
Develop Preliminary Management Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary Management Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preferred policies and approach considering public input</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with Community Advisory Group</li> <li>• Public opportunity to review preliminary management statement</li> <li>• Internet-based opportunity to submit comments</li> </ul>	October 2014
Final Management Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Management Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Incorporating public feedback</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Final Management Statement submitted to Minister for approval</li> </ul>		End of December 2014
Approved Management Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministerial Approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Notice of approved Management Statement</li> </ul>	Spring 2015



## References

Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour. (2002). *Natural landscapes of Nova Scotia: summary descriptions*. Available online at:

[https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/docs/landscapes\\_report.pdf](https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/docs/landscapes_report.pdf)

Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. (2003). *Ecological Land Classification for Nova Scotia: volume 1 – mapping Nova Scotia's terrestrial ecosystems*. Available online at:

<http://novascotia.ca/natr/forestry/reports/ELCrevised.pdf>