

STAFF REPORT: Recreation Department



**REPORT TO: Infrastructure and Recreation
Committee**

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2009

REPORT NO.: DOR 09 06

**SUBJECT: Delphi Point Parks Management Plan
Approval**

**PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt, Director of
Recreation**

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive staff report DOR 09 06 "Delphi Point Parks Management Plan Approval" for information purposes.

B. Background

In 2003 The Blue Mountains in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources purchased the 3 hectare property for the purpose of parkland that was previously owned by Ontario Hydro. As part of the terms of purchase the Town was required to develop a Parks Management Plan that required approval from the Niagara Escarpment Commission as well as the Ministry of Natural Resources, prior to any development of the property.

In 2006 Town Planning Staff submitted a Parks Management Plan to the Ministry of Natural Resources, however the 2006 submission was not approved and required significant changes and additional inventories of wildlife, flora, fauna, and amphibians. In 2007, the newly formed Recreation Department reviewed the 2006 Delphi Point Management Plan submissions and the recommendations contained therein. It was determined that outside services were required to ensure the Delphi Point Parks Management Plan received its required approvals.

Recreation Department Staff created a Terms of Reference for the development of the Delphi Point Parks Management Plan. In 2008 the Town hired Envision Tatham to develop a Parks Management Plan to allow development of a park on Town Parkland. Through the process public consultation in the form of a public open house was held which consisted of 15 participants and a public meeting that had 9 participants.

The Request for proposals outlined the following:

1. Background:

The Town of The Blue Mountains (the "Town") has in its Parkland Inventory a 3 hectare Waterfront property that is located in close proximity to the Delphi Point Earth Science ANSI and across the road from a 347 hectare property owned by the Ministry of Natural Resources containing the Loree Forest and The Blue Mountains Slopes Earth ANSI that is designated as Public Open Space within the Town of The Blue Mountains Official Plan (2007). The purpose of this designation is to allocate recreational open space lands for parks and trails while protecting an inventory of fossils that are located along the Shale Beach on the water's edge. The location was formerly owned by Ontario Power Generation and is one of the few remaining fragments of natural environment along waterfront in the Town.

The Town drafted a Park Management Plan in July 2006. This draft was sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources as well as the Niagara Escarpment Commission: feedback has been received. A Property Inventory and Preliminary Land Use Report were also completed in May 2004, by the Envision Network.

The Town is seeking a Parks Use and Planning Consultant to complete the Delphi Point Parks Management Plan and obtain approval under the Niagara Escarpment Public Open Space System (NEPOSS) to develop Park land and trails on this property.

2. Purpose:

The purpose of the Delphi Point Parks Management Plan is to obtain approval to develop Park land and trails on this property.

3. Objectives:

- Review and revise the Draft Delphi Point Parks Management Plan prepared by Town of The Blue Mountains staff;
- Complete a Final Delphi Point Parks Management Plan for approval that is deemed to be in conformity with the Niagara Escarpment Plan;
- Development of resource management, stewardship and monitoring procedures;
- Development of a land management plan including park design;
- Development of a landscaping, park development financial plan and budget;

- Identification of all required development permits;
- Determine best access opportunities within the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) regulations;
- Explore innovative solutions for access and parking, and review parking needs for trails and park use;
- Provide signage and branding initiatives for interpretive sign development;
- Explore private public partnership opportunities with financial management options;
- Work with Town Departments and major stakeholders within the Town, and other applicable parties.

4. Public Consultation:

The Technical Proposal must include a program of public consultation with a minimum of one public open house and one public meeting.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community

D. Environmental Impacts

The development of the Delphi point Parks Management Plan specifically highlights practices that ensure environmental sustainability as well as the promotional education of environmental significance of the property.

E. Budget Impact

\$190,000.00 over 3 years as described in attached capital project sheet

\$ 17,500.00 from Capital Reserves

\$157,500.00 from Development Charges

\$ 15,000.00 for parking lot construction from Georgian Peaks for easement of snow making line

F. Attached

- 1.) Letter of Approval
- 2.) 2009 Capital Project Budget Sheet.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

Signature

For more information, please contact:

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519-599-3131 ext 281

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Corporate Management Division
Policy and Planning Coordination Branch
Land Use and Environmental Planning Section
Robinson Place, 5th Floor North
300 Water Street, PO Box 7000
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5
Telephone: 705-755-2560
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RECEIVED

FEB 12 2008

TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Mr. Shawn Everitt
Director of Recreation
Town of Blue Mountains
Box 310, 26 Bridge Street E.,
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Dear Mr. Everitt,

**RE: DELPHI POINT PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN
(November 2008 version)**

For the purposes of Section 3.1.6 of the Niagara Escarpment Plan, the Ministry of Natural Resources has determined that the draft management plan for the Delphi Point Park is in conformity with the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Delphi Point Park Management Plan.

I have attached a signed conformity statement to be inserted into the approved management plan document.

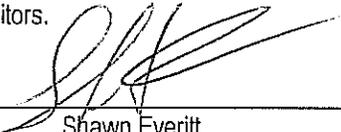
for  acting

Ray Pichette
Director
Corporate Policy and Planning Branch

c: Mark Frawley, Director, Niagara Escarpment Commission
Valerie Stankiewicz, A/Manager, Land Use and Environmental Planning

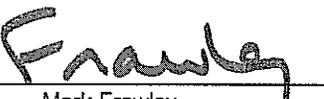
APPROVAL STATEMENT

I am pleased to approve the Delphi Point Park Management Plan as the official policy for the management and development of this park. The plan reflects the Town of The Blue Mountain's intent to protect the natural environment of the Niagara Escarpment and the natural features of Delphi Point Park and to maintain high quality opportunities for natural interpretation, recreation, discovery and enjoyment of the Niagara Escarpment by Ontario's residents and visitors.


Shawn Everitt
Director of Recreation
Town of The Blue Mountains

Date: Jan 6, 2009

I am pleased to deem this Park Management Plan in conformity with the general intent and purpose of the Niagara Escarpment Plan pursuant to S.13-(1) of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.


Mark Frawley
Director
Niagara Escarpment Commission

Date: Jan 8 / 2009


acting for Ray Pichette
Director
Policy and Planning Coordination Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources

Date: Jan 29/2009



PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT FORM

Department: Recreation
 Proposal: **Delphi Point Park and Trail Development**
 Year of Initiation: 2009
 Year of Completion: 2012
 Submission Date: September 2 2008
 Submitted by: Terry Green

A Description

In 2009 begin construction of the trails at Delphi Point Waterfront Park; and removal of small trees. Rough grading and applying of limestone screenings; Construct a parking lot for 30 vehicles.

B Purpose

To construct projects proposed by Envision Tat ham consulting firm to ensure that all MNR concerns are addressed in a timely fashion so to proceed with this project

C The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and culture heritage of the community

D Environmental Impacts

E Expected Staff Resources/Key Personnel

Project Manager Terry Green

F Expected Capital Resource Requirements

YEAR	Studies	Land Acquisition	Engineering	Construction	Contingencies	Equipment	Interim Financing	Miscellaneous
2009				60,000		10,000		
2010				95,000		5,000		
2011				15,000		5,000		
2012								
2013								