



Duck Mountain Provincial Park Trails Working Group

Introduction

A management plan for Duck Mountain Provincial Park was released in January of 2007, following extensive park-user consultation and review.

One of the key outcomes of the plan was the desire for community-based dialogue on park trails and off-road vehicle (ORV) use, primarily all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

The plan recommends that a Trails Working Group be established to engage local park users in developing a strategy for managing vehicle use in the park.

This newsletter introduces the Trails Working Group and outlines the planning process that has been developed.

Why Manage Vehicle Use?

Trail-based recreation, including ATV use, is an important part of the park experience at Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

As ATV use increases, it is important to ensure that ATV riders can continue to enjoy the park, while at the same time minimizing environmental impacts and potential user conflicts.

The results of the park management planning process indicated that a majority of park users supported the continued use of ATVs in the park, but many also had concerns about the long-term impact of vehicle use.

The Trails Working Group was created to provide meaningful community involvement in the development of strategies for managing vehicle use in the park.

Trails Working Group

The Trails Working Group is comprised of twenty-five representatives from government, First Nation, ATV users, cottagers, recreation groups and other stakeholder interests. Most of the participants are local park users.



The role of the Trails Working Group is to coordinate the trails planning process and provide opportunities for general public participation into planning activities throughout the process.

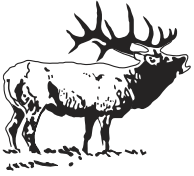
The intent of the Trails Working Group is to enable continued recreational ATV use in the park by adopting a user-based and environmentally-sustainable approach to vehicle use.

Public Participation

One of the important tasks of the Trails Working Group is to ensure that all park users have an opportunity to be actively involved in providing information and developing recommendations for vehicle use.

Through the course of this process, the Trails Working Group will be hosting several community meetings and will be distributing questionnaires and information materials.

Please watch your local newspaper for announcements regarding upcoming meeting dates and locations.



Provincial Trends In ATV Use

Recreational ATV use is growing. The number of all-terrain vehicles registered in Manitoba has grown by over 650% in the past ten years.

In 1997, there were 2,824 registered ATVs in Manitoba. By 2002, this number had grown to 8,057 vehicles. In 2007, the number of registrations jumped to 18,518 registered ATVs in Manitoba.

Some of this trend information can likely be attributed to increased compliance with registration requirements. However, it does indicate that ATV use is growing and continuing to grow on a provincial basis.

ATV Use In Duck Mountain

The management planning process for Duck Mountain Provincial Park provided much “food for thought” and demonstrated the need for additional planning related to off-road vehicle use in the park.

During the management planning process, parks users stated that ATVs provide legitimate recreational and economic opportunities. In some cases, ATVs enable people who could not otherwise get into remote areas to access and enjoy the park. Park visitors who cannot walk great distances told us that they appreciate the opportunity to use their ATV in the park.

Some ATV enthusiasts said that they want to operate in the park and on other Crown lands without any restrictions. Local tourism and business representatives expressed fears about loss of income potential if ATV use is managed.

At the same time, many park users had concerns about trail damage and the presence of unwanted vehicles on trails and in sensitive areas. Trappers and hunters raised concerns about damage to trails and disturbances at hunting and trapping sites.

There is also significant scientific literature related to vehicle use and the environment, on topics such as erosion, soil compaction, pollution, habitat fragmentation, invasive vegetation and disturbances to wildlife.

The Management Plan for Duck Mountain Provincial Park concluded that the majority of park users support the continued use of ATVs in the park, are concerned about preserving the park environment, and would support community-based decision-making respecting vehicle use.

Summary

The Trails Working Group was created to examine vehicle use in the park and to develop recommendations aimed at both maintaining recreational opportunities and protecting the park for future generations.

Documents related to the Trails Working Group and the Management Plan for Duck Mountain Provincial Park can be found on-line by following the Parks Planning and Park Management Plan links at manitobaparks.com, or by contacting the address below.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact:

Duck Mountain Provincial Park

Parks and Natural Areas Branch

Box 53 - 200 Saulteaux Crescent

Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3

Tel: (204) 945-3697 or 1-800-214-6497 (toll free)

Fax: (204) 945-0012

email: mgmtplan@gov.mb.ca

***Thank-You for Your Interest in Duck Mountain
Provincial Park!***