



# Welcome

Welcome to the Duck Mountain Provincial Park – ATV Trails Working Group Open House.

## Why are we here?

The **purpose** of this Open House is to ask for your feedback on ATV trail planning work prepared by the Trails Working Group (TWG). The TWG consists of community volunteers and government representatives and has been meeting since May 2008. This is their second Open House.

Please feel free to view the information presented here. Several TWG representatives are in attendance to answer questions and record your comments. Your written feedback is important to the group – please fill out a feedback form before you leave.



# The Trails Working Group (TWG)

## What has the TWG been working on?

The TWG has prepared a Draft Vision and ATV Trails Concept for Duck Mountain Provincial Park. When they are finalized, the TWG will begin preparing Recommendations for consideration by Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas.

## Who is on the TWG?

Participants represent a variety of organizations as shown on the table to the right.

Group	Representative	Contact
Government	1 MB Conservation - Parks Branch	Cathy Hummelt
	2 MB Conservation - NRO	Chad Ducheck
	3 Recreation and Regional Services MB Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport Parkland Region	Jacqueline Crone Garry Dixon (alt)
First Nations	4 Western Region Tribal Council	Thomas Nepinak
Recreation - Sport/ATV	5 Swan Valley Sport Fish Enhancement	Duane Whyte
	6 Dauphin Game and Fish Association	Richard Burdeniuk
	7 Roblin Snowmobile Association	Dale Rands
	8 Parkland Wildlife Group	Brent Ash
	9 Manitoba Wildlife Federation	John Williams
Recreation - Passive	10 Manitoba Recreational Trails Association	Hugh Skinner
	11 Tread the Thunder Bike Club	Dave Johnston
	12 Mixedwood Forest Society	Lindy Clubb
Business and Tourism	13 Duck Mountain Trappers Association	Glen Roberts
	14 Blue Lakes Resort	Al Adducci
	15 Childs Lake Lodge and Outfitters	Brian Forbes
	16 Outfitter - MWMLOA Pine River	Debbie Soloway
	17 Parkland Tourism	Kathy Swann
Cottaging	18 Wellman Lake Cottagers Association	Duane Whyte
	19 Singush Lake Cottagers Association	Brian Brownlie
	20 Childs Lake Cottagers Association	Ken Kennedy
Forestry	21 Mountain Quota Holders Association	Aaron Goethe
	22 Louisiana Pacific	Vern Bauman





# Background

## Why is this project important?

- The Management Plan for Duck Mountain Provincial Park determined that meaningful community involvement in the management of off-road vehicle use is needed.
- Trails in Duck Mountain Provincial Park are beginning to show signs of over-use by ATVs.
- The number of ATVs registered in Manitoba has increased by 700% in the past 10 years (from 3,150 in 1998 to 22,111 in 2008). These numbers suggest that planning for ATVs is becoming increasingly important.
- There are many activities occurring on or near the trails in Duck Mountain Provincial Park. For all of these activities to continue in a sustainable way, the Trails Working Group believes that planning is needed. Examples include:

Hunting  
ATV Riding  
Snowmobiling

Trapping  
Hiking  
Horse Riding

Outfitting  
Angling  
Cross-country Skiing

Logging  
Cycling





# Draft Vision Statement

**Development of a sustainable, high-quality, planned ATV trail system, where:**

**Sustainable** means ecologically sound and economically affordable;

**High-Quality** means offering a compelling, satisfying, challenging experience requiring minimal maintenance; and

**Planned** means designed for responsible recreational and commercial users, and supported by maintenance and enforcement measures.

## General Approach

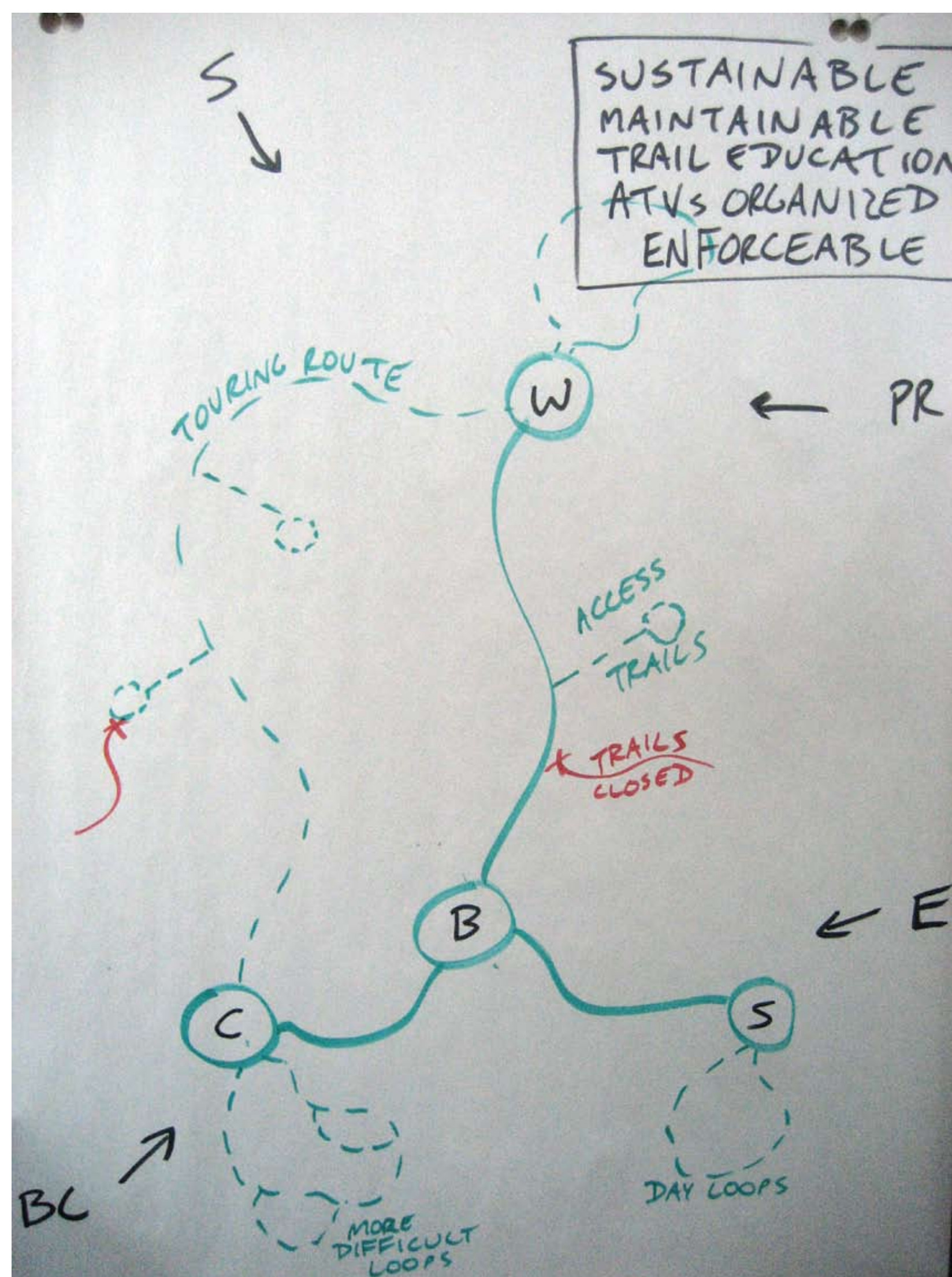
- The **key concept** for ATV Trails Planning by the TWG is to work with existing trails, to create a more sustainable system for those who want or need access to DMPP. Currently, many trails in the park cannot withstand increasing use by ATVs.
- The **proposed direction** will allow ATVs to access areas in a more sustainable, maintainable way, while directing ATVs onto trails and away from areas that cannot accommodate ATVs in a sustainable, maintainable way.



# Draft ATV Trails Concept

**Note: Diagram is for illustrative purposes only - no specific trails are shown.**

- Illustrates links between major centers (Childs Lake, East Blue Lake, Wellman Lake, Singuish Lake)
- Acknowledges existing local access from outlying communities (Swan River, Pine River, Ethelbert, San Clara, Grandview etc.)
- Provides series of loop trails at major centers, with varying levels of difficulty/challenge
- Provides short links to popular destinations (angling lakes, points of interest)
- Includes signage at trail heads
- Incorporates ATV rider education, ATV organization, ATV trail maintenance and enforcement
- Uses existing trails in areas where they will be sustainable and 'self-maintaining'
- Requires trails to be designed and routed to protect sensitive areas
- Closes unsustainable portions of trails







## Q&A

### **Are these plans final?**

No, the information being shown today is a general concept that has not yet been approved by Manitoba Conservation. Next steps involve preparing more detailed plans for trails, and identifying budget and funding mechanisms. Further public input will be required when preparing those plans.

### **Will I still be able to access lakes for fishing?**

The draft ATV Trail Planning Concept would allow for ATV access on sustainable, planned trails that lead to fishing lakes. In the next phase of planning, further public input will be needed to identify popular destinations in the park.

### **Are ATVs going to be banned from DMPP?**

While recreational ATV use in most Provincial Parks is not permitted, ATV use in Duck Mountain is well established. Manitoba Conservation needs to ensure that ATV use in DMPP can be accommodated in a sustainable way, so that ATV use can continue.





# Next Steps

- The TWG will compile and review feedback from the Open House events, and mail-in feedback forms.
- The TWG will continue meeting over the next few months to prepare recommendations for Manitoba Conservation.
- Manitoba Conservation will review the recommendations and determine next steps, which may include trail planning and eventually trail implementation.





# ATV Trail Planning Objectives

Prepared by Manitoba Conservation - adapted from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources "Trail Planning, Design and Development Guidelines":

- To promote best practices to help ensure that trail experiences are enjoyable, safe and sustainable with minimal impacts to the natural landscape.
- To convey that access to trails is a privilege and each trail user has a responsibility to preserve that access through proper use.
- To embrace trail development in a sustainable manner, striking a reasonable balance between resource protection and human access and enjoyment.
- To develop physically and ecologically sustainable trails while preserving the sense of place and protecting the surrounding environment.
- To minimize operational costs through the use of practical and proven methods for developing and maintaining trails.