



# Island Lake Conservation Area Management Plan

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Purpose	3
1.2	Location and Context	3
2	MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT	6
2.1	Background	6
2.2	Planning Process	6
3	GOAL AND OBJECTIVES	7
3.1	GOAL STATEMENT	7
4	NATURAL HERITAGE OVERVIEW	9
4.1	AQUATIC	9
4.2	WETLAND	10
4.3	TERRESTRIAL	13
4.4	CONCLUSIONS	14
5	MARKET OVERVIEW AND TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES	15
5.1	THE LOCAL MARKET	15
5.2	THE REGIONAL MARKET	16
6	GUIDING PRINCIPLES	18
6.1	PROTECTION OBJECTIVE	18
6.2	APPRECIATION OBJECTIVE	19
6.3	RECREATION OBJECTIVE	20
6.4	TOURISM OBJECTIVE	20
7	CONSERVATION AREA ZONES	21
7.1	NATURAL RESERVE	21
7.2	NATURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION	21
7.3	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	23

7.4	DEVELOPMENT ZONES	23
8	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT APPROACHES	23
8.1	AQUATIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	24
8.2	WETLAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	25
8.3	TERRESTRIAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	25
9	ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT AREAS	28
9.1	AQUATIC RECREATION AREA	30
9.2	SPECIAL EVENT AREA	30
9.3	SMALL GROUP PICNIC AREA	32
9.4	EDUCATIONAL FACILITY AREA	32
9.5	COMMUNITY SERVICE AREA	33
9.6	PRIVATE SECTOR COMMERCIAL AREA	33
9.7	AQUATIC CLUB FACILITY AREA	33
9.8	TRAIL CORRIDOR AREA	33
9.9	ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONAL AREA	34
10	IMPLEMENTATION	35
	APPENDIX A	37

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Management Plan is to provide a detailed policy guide for conservation and management of Island Lake Conservation Area as a valued natural heritage and recreational resource within the Credit River Watershed. The Plan has been prepared within the context of the report "A Conservation Areas Strategy for the Credit River Watershed". This report was approved in 1993 as the document to guide planning, management and development of Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) owned land in a systematic and integrated approach.

## 1.2 LOCATION AND CONTEXT

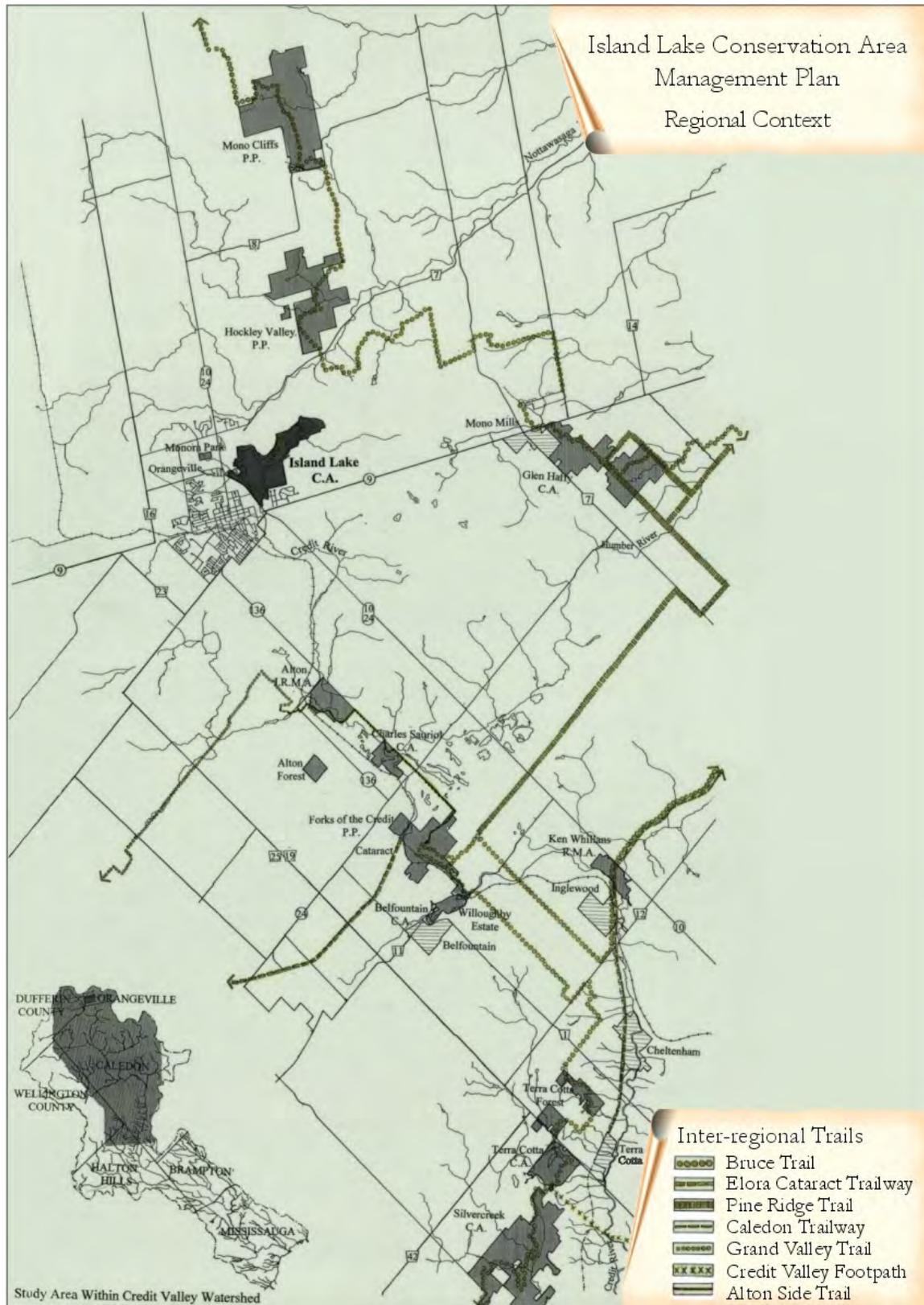
Island Lake Conservation Area, originally named Orangeville Reservoir Conservation Area, is 332 hectares of water and land resources located east of the Town of Orangeville. The area occupies parts of the Town of Orangeville and Township of Mono, both located in the County of Dufferin (see the Regional Context Illustration, page 4).

Island Lake is the second largest of CVC's 53 land holdings and was acquired from private land owners between 1957 and 1990. In 1967 two dams were constructed and a 180 hectare area of cedar swamp, deciduous thicket, farm land and a small lake (called Island Lake) was flooded to create a reservoir for augmenting and improving water quality in the upper Credit River. This function was made more critical with the opening of the new Orangeville Sewage Treatment Plant in 1984. As such, CVC's first priority is the continued management of the reservoir system for protection of the Credit River's water quality. This is achieved by providing a consistent flow of water to the river for the purpose of diluting effluent from the Sewage Treatment Plant. All other functions served by the reservoir including recreational and educational uses are of secondary priority.

The reservoir's north dam forms the northern extent of the Credit Valley Watershed, beyond this point surface water flows into the Nottawasaga River. From its outlet at the south dam the Credit River flows southeast approximately 85 kilometers to Lake Ontario. In the 28 year period since flooding, a diverse mix of natural heritage and recreational resources has evolved at Island Lake. Wetland, lake, old field, upland forest and plantation environments have provided a quality setting for both outdoor recreation and education experiences. Traditionally, most visitor activity in the conservation area has been centered on the day use area (see the 1996 Natural and Cultural Setting Illustration, page 5).

During this same period the watershed community has continued to change as a result of growth related to the Greater Toronto Area. With this change has been increasing recognition by people inside and outside of the "headwaters" region that one of the region's greatest assets is its high quality and distinct natural and cultural resources. Island Lake Conservation Area is viewed as one of these assets that can, with appropriate management, contribute to the quality of life in the headwaters.

Island Lake Conservation Area  
 Management Plan  
 Regional Context



**Regional Context: The Headwaters**

Island Lake Conservation Area  
 Management Plan  
 1996 Natural and  
 Cultural Setting



## **2 MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

### **2.1 BACKGROUND**

At the June 1995 Board Meeting of Credit Valley Conservation, staff were directed through resolution 22/95 to develop a management plan for Island Lake Conservation Area for early 1997. In part, the planning process was initiated because staff and members have recognized that there has been increased use and pressure to create new uses within the conservation area in recent years. This pressure has largely resulted from the perception, by many, that the property has been under utilized.

Visitation has been rising steadily and the population of the headwaters has been growing. Increasingly, Island Lake has become a destination for visitors from outside the immediate region. Both of these trends have been seen as positive developments, but it has also been recognized that without careful planning the full potential of the conservation area, from a natural heritage and recreation perspective, would not be realized. The Management Plan has been prepared to provide Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) the context within which to consider emerging opportunities on the property.

In addition, Island Lake has been recognized as both a significant asset to the local community and to the watershed as a whole. It fulfills to varying degrees objectives for environmental protection, appreciation and recreation for conservation areas in the Credit Valley watershed. The primary function of the Management Plan will be to maintain and where appropriate enhance these objectives.

### **2.2 PLANNING PROCESS**

To undertake this work a Steering Committee of stakeholders was formed and has been involved in the planning process from project start up to completion. Credit Valley Conservation's role has been to lead, facilitate and coordinate the planning process. The plan has been developed within the context of the report "A Conservation Areas Strategy for the Credit River Watershed" which sets out broad goals, objectives and guiding principles for management of CVC's land. This report was approved by the Board of Credit Valley Conservation in November of 1993.

The committee's role in the planning process has been to identify information requirements, evaluate factors influencing programming and recommend a management program. To perform this task a cross section of community members were solicited for membership on the committee including: municipal representatives each from Caledon, Orangeville, and Mono; adjacent landowners; a passive and active recreationist; a member of the local naturalist club; an upper watershed business representative; a Dufferin County School Board representative; and CVC board members.

The steering committee's work program has been as follows:

- 1) Review of the direction provided by the Conservation Areas Strategy and its implications for Island Lake Conservation Area (ILCA).
- 2) Initial development of a long list of ideas, concepts and visions for ILCA.
- 3) A review of the Natural Heritage Background Report prepared by CVC and the University of Guelph and identification of data gaps.

- 4) Identification of resource management issues, potential solutions and resulting constraints to both natural functions and public use of the conservation area.
- 5) A review of tourism and recreational opportunities including identification of existing and potential visitor groups.
- 6) Development of a preliminary Goal Statement, Supporting Objectives and Guiding Principles for management of the area.
- 7) A review of existing operating programs, visitation patterns and budget for the area.
- 8) A review of financial constraints to implementing program changes including opportunities for alternative funding mechanisms.
- 9) Prepare a resource and recreational use management framework for the Conservation Area within the context of identified programming constraints and opportunities.
- 10) Preparation of a draft Management Plan for public and stakeholder review and comment.
- 11) Based on comments received, recommend for approval a Management Plan for the area.

The Island Lake Conservation Area Management Plan has been prepared to guide management and use of the conservation area for the next twenty years. The plan will be reviewed, including public consultation, every five years following its approval or as the need arises. Any proposal to deviate from this plan will be reviewed by a Management Committee that will be established to guide the Plan's implementation. This review may include public consultation and will result in a recommendation to the CVC Board on the merits of proposals. The Management Committee will also coordinate and make recommendations with respect to the five year review. Section 10 of this Plan provides additional information on the role of the Management Committee.

### **3 GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

To provide direction to programming, development and resource management activities it is critical that clear statements setting performance targets and expectations are adopted for the conservation area. These statements apply to all types of activity in the conservation area, including those that are developed and programmed by partnering agencies. In part, the following goal statement and supporting objectives provide that direction.

#### **3.1 GOAL STATEMENT**

***Island Lake is a recreation class conservation area that will be managed cooperatively as a financially self sustaining site that protects, enhances and promotes understanding of the conservation area's natural systems; provides appropriate outdoor recreation opportunities; and adds to the local economy of the headwaters through tourism initiatives.***

Credit Valley Conservation has adopted a policy of classifying its conservation areas as part of the management planning process. One of five approved classifications is to be applied to each conservation area in recognition of its predominant characteristics and intended use. Based on the Steering Committee's and CVC's best understanding of Island Lake's features and potential for recreational uses, the conservation area has been classified as recreational.

Recreation class conservation areas provide the best of the Authority's recreational environments. In general, they are suitable for moderate to high intensity outdoor recreation activities that are linked

to a conservation area's natural setting. Management will be directed toward developing and operating sustainable outdoor recreation programs.

While ambitious in its requirements for self-financing and partnering with other tourism providers in the headwaters, there is consensus that this goal should be actively pursued. It is recognized that the goal statement is a target to be reached over the life of the plan and that a period of time will be required to meet these standards.

Self-financing is defined as funding cost of developing, managing and operating the conservation area with no draw on general municipal levy. Funds such as user fees and other forms of generated revenue must cover expenses.

### 3.2 SUPPORTING OBJECTIVES

The goal statement is reinforced by four supporting objectives for management of the conservation area. In order of priority, the following are the conservation area objectives.

#### **PROTECTION OBJECTIVE:**

*To protect and enhance the significant and representative values of the conservation area's natural features and functions through an active program of selective monitoring and resource management.*

#### **APPRECIATION OBJECTIVE:**

*To create opportunities for and promote an understanding of the conservation area's natural features and function including the relationship they have with the watershed's ecosystem, the stresses placed on them by natural and human processes and the resource management programs implemented to protect and enhance them.*

#### **RECREATION OBJECTIVE:**

*To provide opportunities and facilities for a variety of outdoor recreational pursuits that are accessible to all genders, ages and abilities; high in quality; financially self-sufficient; environmentally sustainable; promote four season use; and link with local initiatives.*

#### **TOURISM OBJECTIVE:**

*To support and actively participate in local economic development by encouraging tourism use of the conservation area; promoting local goods, services and facilities; and encouraging development of the tourism infrastructure for the headwaters.*

The priority ranking of objectives recognizes that without protection, there will be diminishing quantities and qualities of natural heritage features to appreciate. It further recognizes that without public awareness of natural features and functions it will be difficult for CVC and others to maintain the conservation area and permit sustainable use. Finally, it recognizes that Island Lake provides a unique setting and has the capacity for selected outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities.

## 4 NATURAL HERITAGE OVERVIEW

As part of the data collection and analysis phase of the management planning process, students from the University of Guelph's fourth year Environmental Science Program were solicited to prepare the background report "Site Description and Management Issue for Island Lake Conservation Area", 1996. Based on CVC in-house data, wetland data records from the Ministry of Natural Resources, data collected as part of the Sub-watershed 19 Study and general field observations, the students were able to document natural processes and patterns occurring at the conservation area. Their findings have assisted in summarizing the critical management issues to be addressed in the plan.

The environmental resources of the conservation area are discussed in the following section as separate components. However, it must be recognized that they are highly interrelated and that this relationship extends to areas outside of the conservation area. Map One, Natural Heritage Community Overview, page 11, illustrates the distribution of community types in the conservation area.

### 4.1 AQUATIC

The aquatic system of the lake is the dominant feature of the property encompassing over 50% of its total area. As a shallow reservoir there is a close relationship between the lake system and the area's wetland environment. Large sections of the lake are in fact open water marsh less than 2 metres in depth. In some locations the lake substrate is covered by extensive fields of stumps left over from clearing the land prior to flooding.

Recent survey data indicates that the lake is biologically very productive and as such is described as an eutrophic lake. Evidence of this productivity is found in the proliferation of submerged aquatic plants and the substantial population of top predators such as northern pike, largemouth bass and a nesting pair of Osprey (first occurrence in 1996). Water quality data collected as part of the Subwatershed 19 Study indicates that the lake system is at the high end, but within acceptable limits, of provincial standards for several chemical and biological indicators.

Three tributaries feed the lake system. Monora Creek is the largest entering the lake from the west. In its mid to lower reaches Monora passes through the developing urban area of Orangeville. There is some evidence that urban runoff is passing through the creek system and is entering the lake system. At this time impacts from urban runoff do not appear to be a critical problem as there is a self-sustaining population of brook trout in the creek system. Two unnamed tributaries enter the east arm of the lake on the south shore. Both pass through agricultural lands, the eastern tributary also has a self-sustaining population of brook trout.

As noted in the Introduction, the lake is in fact a reservoir constructed to release water into the Credit River during low flow periods. After the initial flooding of the reservoir basin, the newly formed aquatic environment was low in biological diversity and subject to rapid fluctuations in plant and animal populations. Over time these population "swings" have become more stable and the aquatic system is more diverse. This gain in aquatic value has resulted in such benefits as: a) enhanced natural systems and associated species such as osprey, largemouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch and migratory waterfowl and, b) expanded recreation opportunities such as bird

watching, fishing, canoeing, windsurfing and swimming. The lake is considered to be relatively resilient to recreational activities.

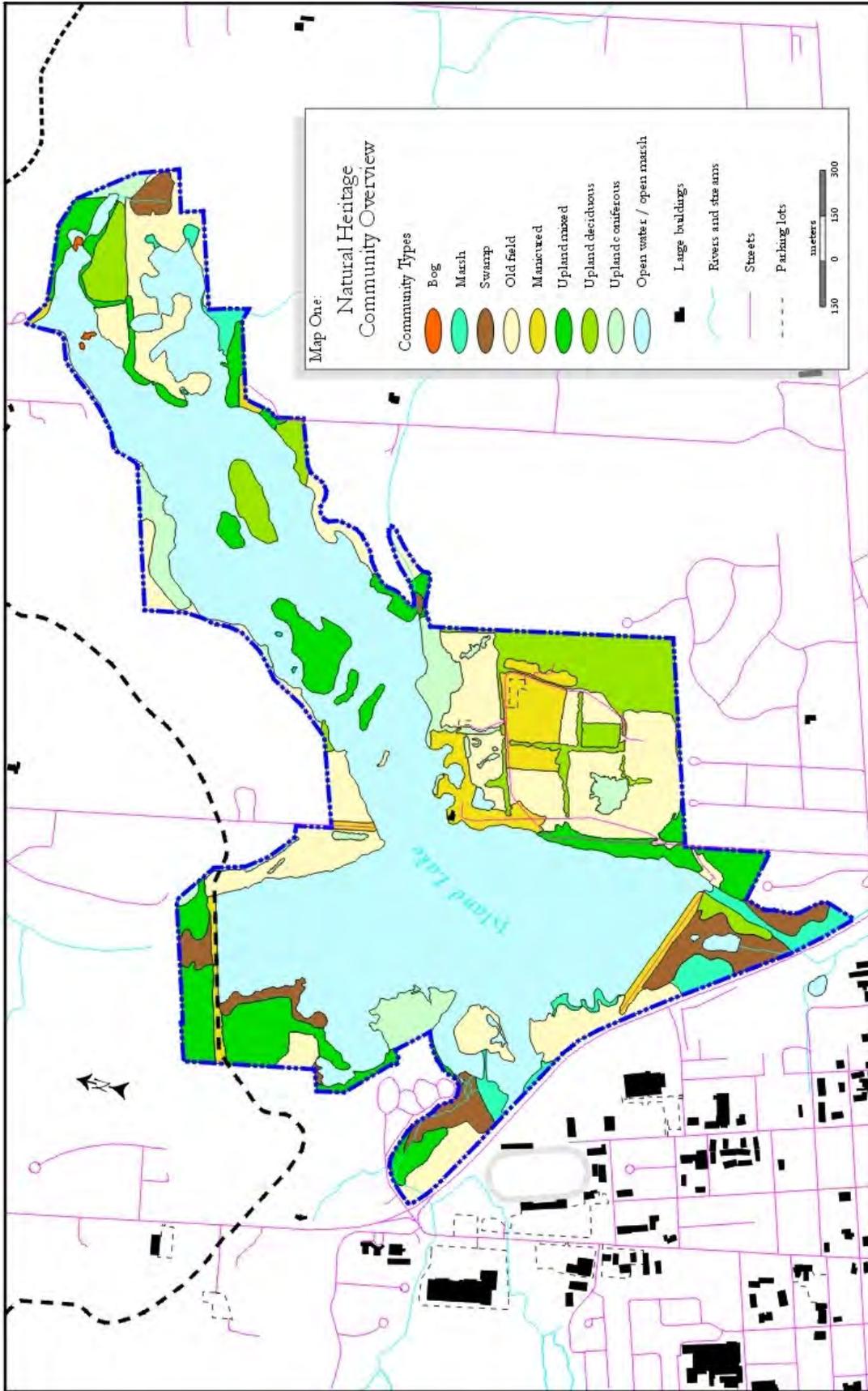
The quality and quantity of water contained in the reservoir is not only essential for the biological systems that rely on it, but is critical to the operation of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) downstream in Orangeville. Half of the Credit River's base flow at the STP's outlet is contributed by water from the reservoir. In part, the STP relies on effluent dilution to protect natural and cultural systems downstream. As such, the maintenance of base flows from the reservoir is critical to the treatment of Orangeville's sewage and tied to provincial regulation for operation of the STP.

Issues:

- 1) There is some concern that a future increase in chemical and biological inputs to the lake may negatively impact on the lake's aquatic systems. As noted, the lake is within provincial water quality objectives and as such is considered to have good water quality. However, there is some evidence that the lake is nearing its capacity to cope with existing inputs. The lake may not be able to sustain its water quality if further increases in inputs occur. A decrease in water quality could result in a loss of swimming, fishing and other water based activities. In addition, increased discharge of chemicals from the lake into the Credit River could impact on the ability of the Sewage Treatment Plant to effectively dilute effluent entering the river.
- 2) There is evidence that the northern pike population is negatively impacting largemouth bass and yellow perch fishery of the lake and the downstream trout fishery. The northern pike is a top predator and feeds heavily on other fish species including largemouth bass, yellow perch and brook trout. If left uncontrolled the northern pike population will decrease fishing opportunities for other desirable species.
- 3) At present, water quality in the lake is considered good. However, the high productivity of the lake promotes proliferation of submerged aquatic plants which periodically results in oxygen depletion and high nutrient release. This occurs most commonly during periods of annual decay. This process can cause localized fish kills and decreased water quality within the lake and downstream in the Credit River.
- 4) The proliferation of submerged aquatic plants and submerged stumps hinders some aquatic recreation activities particularly boating, windsurfing and swimming.
- 5) The sensitive brook trout populations in the lake tributaries are isolated and highly susceptible to negative impacts from either habitat changes (ie. alterations to creeks) or water quality changes due to urban runoff.
- 6) As a new breeding resident, Osprey and their nesting territory may be sensitive to disturbances.

#### 4.2 WETLAND

The wetland communities contained in the conservation area are part of the larger Class 1, Orangeville Wetland Complex that extends both upstream and downstream of the property. Class 1 Wetlands are considered to be of provincial significance. As noted above, the wetland system of the lake is dominated by open marsh communities found within the lake system. Other community types



found at the conservation area include shallow marsh, swamp and bog. The wetlands of Island Lake function as nutrient traps and water purifiers, and provide considerable diversity in habitat for a range of plant and animal species.

Of particular note is the presence of several small floating bogs in the east arm of the lake. Bogs are not common within the Credit Valley Watershed. It is likely that these communities were part of the original wetland habitat of the area prior to flooding of the reservoir.

The lake and its associated wetland habitat also functions as habitat for a variety of waterfowl and shore birds. Many species such as great blue heron use the lake as a foraging area and breed elsewhere. Other species such as common merganser, mallard and blue-winged teal are spring and fall migratory visitors. In the 1970's the lake was used as a site for the introduction of great Canada geese as part of a program to re-establish the species into southern Ontario. Over time, the geese have no longer found it necessary to migrate to their southern wintering grounds and the population has multiplied rapidly. The geese have become a nuisance at the conservation area beach, in adjacent farmlands and at Rotary Park across Highway #10, as they feed and defecate.

Some relief to these problems has been provided through a fall waterfowl hunt. Established to control geese populations in the 1970's and as a recreational activity, the future of the hunt is doubtful with increased use of the conservation area.

In general, Island Lake's wetlands are healthy and will continue to be integral in maintaining the health of the sub-watershed's ecosystem.

Issues:

- 1) There is some concern that the floating bog communities are not stable and may be experiencing a slow decline. Prior to flooding of the reservoir these bog communities would have been associated with shallow waters surrounded by swamp communities. There is some evidence that the increase in water depth has affected the long-term stability of these communities by altering both water and nutrient availability. One of the more obvious impacts being observed is erosion from wave action of the peat that supports these communities.
- 2) Purple loosestrife is invading the wetland system from the Highway 10/24 corridor to the west. A loss of biodiversity and wetland function is of concern if this continues. To date, management options to control purple loosestrife in the province have been limited to manually pulling, cutting or digging out the plant, and biological control through the release of a European beetle that feeds on the plant. Provincially, the release program is in its early stages and the success of the program will not be fully known for some time. At present, no control program exists at Island Lake Conservation Area.
- 3) Canada geese have become a nuisance species impacting on recreational activities inside and outside of the conservation area. As noted previously, the waterfowl hunt which has been used as a control technique may be eliminated due to increased visitation to the property. Other control options should be explored.

It should be noted that both Purple Loosestrife and Canada Geese are southern Ontario issues that have limited management solutions at this time. Research is taking place by the province and others to find effective control programs.

### 4.3 TERRESTRIAL

The terrestrial system of Island Lake is typical of land with a history of past agricultural activity. Forested hedgerows, successional old fields and narrow lakeshore communities dominate the landscape. Many of the old fields and some sections of shoreline have been planted with a variety of coniferous tree species. Several pockets of deciduous or missed woodland are present on the property. The most significant of these are found on the three large islands, in the northwest corner of the property and within the day use area. In general, these woodlands are not large enough to contain core areas for wildlife species requiring forest habitat.

There are a wide variety of deciduous and coniferous tree species within the area. Maple-beech forest is the single most common forest type. The maple forest in the east half of the day use area has been selectively harvested and managed as a sugar maple bush. Eastern white cedar, white spruce and balsam fir are common and naturally occurring coniferous tree species. Black cherry, ironwood, white birch, balsam poplar and trembling aspen are common deciduous tree species.

Plantation communities are common in the conservation area and include coniferous species such as jack pine, red pine, white pine, white spruce, eastern white cedar and Scots pine. Selective harvesting of maturing plantations in uplands areas is occurring. One experimental plantation of 14 nut tree species including black walnut, Persian walnut and hickory is located in the south central section the day use area.

The open areas within the conservation area are composed of lawns, roadsides and old fields. Common species include goldenrod, red fescue and canary-reed grass. Nodding ladies' tresses, an orchid of regional rarity, has been found on the island situated near the mouth of Monora Creek. The water table on the island is close to the surface.

The following table summarizes terrestrial community types as a percentage of the total land base of the conservation area.

*Table 1: Terrestrial Vegetative Communities Table*

<b><u>Vegetative Community Area</u></b>	<b><u>Percentage of Total Land</u></b>
<b>Recently Planted Fields</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Upland Mixed Forest</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Upland Deciduous Forest</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Upland Coniferous Forest</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Recreation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Succession, Lawn, Pastures and Roadside</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Plantation</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Grassland</b>	<b>4%</b>

In general, the conservation area's terrestrial communities are variable in their composition; characterized by both natural communities, old fields and plantation; and located on stable soils with high infiltration rates. Although rehabilitation efforts are enhancing ecological function in the conservation area, past land use practices are evident to varying degrees in all community types. Use of some old field communities for recreational and educational benefits would be compatible with efforts to protect and enhance ecological values in the conservation area.

Issues:

- 1) In some locations shoreline terrestrial communities are narrow, fragmented and unforested. Functionally these areas are poor at trapping run off from adjacent lands, as shoreline habitat and wildlife travel corridors.
- 2) The "natural" experience being offered to visitors is diminished by the lack of shoreline forests to screen out adjacent land use. In some locations the view from the lake is upon large agricultural fields. In the future the view will be of residential development on adjacent uplands.
- 3) In general, the property limits to the conservation area are close to the waters edge thereby limiting opportunities to develop recreational facilities for use by area visitors.
- 4) Although many old fields have been recently planted in trees, there is a general lack of forest cover in some locations of the conservation area. Some natural linkages between upland terrestrial communities are weak because of past agricultural practices. In addition, the success rate for tree planting in some old fields is marginal due to thin soil and wind exposure.
- 5) Plantation communities are and will increasingly be a significant community type in the conservation area. The ecology of plantations are not diverse and are also functionally limiting.
- 6) Past reforestation efforts have included the planting of non-native tree and shrub species. Recent research has found that some of these non-native plants are invasive, can spread into other native communities and harm the plant and animal diversity of the conservation area. Of particular concern are autumn olive, European mountain ash and Scots pine.

#### 4.4 CONCLUSIONS

In general, the natural heritage system of the conservation area is diverse, healthy and relatively stable. Rehabilitation efforts such as wildlife planting, osprey nesting platforms, tree planting, forest management and fishery improvement activities are enhancing the conservation area's natural systems, particularly with respect to terrestrial communities. Several conclusions can be drawn from the analysis of recently collected natural heritage data:

- 1) The aquatic, wetland and terrestrial components of the conservation area provide a mix of habitat types that are important to a range of plant and wildlife species in the headwaters.
- 2) The conservation area's natural system has a great deal of influence over the quality of the natural systems found outside of the area.

- 3) The identification of issues affecting the natural heritage system must lead to resource management activities to resolve them.
- 4) Some locations in the conservation area are capable of, and suitable for, enhanced programming and associated development for recreational and educational benefits.

## **5 MARKET OVERVIEW AND TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES**

Critical to the design and support of recreational programming initiatives for the next 20 years has been the researching and defining of the market place Island Lake is to service. Three main sources of information were relied on by the committee to undertake this task:

- 1) The working knowledge of committee members in tourism related businesses, as providers of outdoor recreation programs and as participants in outdoor recreation activities.
- 2) Tourism and related studies. The most recent of these was commissioned by the five golden horseshoe conservation authorities and prepared by the Tourism Company. This report titled "A Joint Tourism Marketing Strategy", December 1995, built and expanded on data collected in previous studies with an emphasis toward conservation area development by the golden horseshoe conservation authorities. Island Lake formed an integral part of this study.
- 3) A Tourism Marketing Specialist. To build on the data contained in the studies noted above, the Tourism Company was retained to provide additional information on the potential market of the conservation area including a matching of potential products with defined market segments.

This research has resulted in an understanding that Island Lake Conservation Area is situated in a distinct region of Ontario influenced by both the form of its landscape and the patterns of its settlement. This unique rural character is what generates the majority of the region's tourism activity. In addition, Island Lake is viewed, and used, locally for open space recreation and leisure. As such, development and use of the conservation area in the future must be directed toward meeting the needs of both local and regional visitors. While having many needs in common, each of these market segments have requirements for specialized facilities and services.

### **5.1 THE LOCAL MARKET**

By virtue of its unique position in the watershed, Island Lake Conservation Area serves the residents of the three local municipalities of Caledon, Orangeville and Mono. Collectively, these communities are the local market place for the conservation area. Their combined population in 1997 is approaching 62,000 residents.

To varying degrees, all three are growth communities that are experiencing residential development pressures because of their proximity to the urban fringe of the Greater Toronto Area. As expected, this growth has resulted in a local trend toward young families being the dominant socio-demographic group in the population. If this trend continues as projected, local community service providers will be required to expand on youth and family related activities.

This trend will have implications for the type of services and facilities to be developed over the twenty year life of this plan. While it is important to remember that conservation areas are to be

accessible to all people, it is also important to direct programming activity to defined market segments. Given the trend the local market is experiencing, some emphasis should be directed toward providing a range of facilities and services for youth and their parents. Safety, comfort, interactive facilities and diversity will be important for this group.

## 5.2 THE REGIONAL MARKET

The region has been shaped extensively by prehistoric events that have resulted in the formation of the Niagara Escarpment, glacial ground moraines and glacial spillways. The height of land created by these formations is the source or "headwaters" of four major river systems in south central Ontario. The Credit, Humber, Nottawasaga, and Grand Rivers flow outwardly from the region to their mouths at Lake Ontario, Georgian Bay and Lake Erie respectively. Small rural communities each with its own mix of turn of the century architecture and small businesses blend with this landscape.

The private sector has recognized the special character of the region by forming the Headwaters Country Tourism Association to create and tap into tourism related economic growth. Collectively, this modest group of businesses have successfully marketed the region and their unique mix of rural products and services. In many respects the group sells rural and small town experiences as much as tangible products.

Where feasible, conservation area programming should add value to this private sector initiative. Island Lake is strategically placed as an accessible public open space asset in the hub of the "Headwaters". Its value as a destination for outdoor recreational pursuits or centre for headwaters learning has not yet been fully realized. Neither has its potential as a site to promote visitation to other parklands, communities or tourism facilities been realized.

Island Lake's regional or tourism market place includes the watershed municipalities of Brampton and Mississauga as well as other municipalities within the Greater Toronto Area. In contrast to the local market, visitors from the regional market are often somewhat older, they tend to be looking for packaged experiences and are diverse in cultural background.

An analysis of recent trends in regional tourism coupled with an understanding of the potential opportunities for product development at Island Lake has resulted in the targeting of the following four tourism market segments:

### 1) Ethnic/Urban Visitors

This market segment is growing and traditionally has been under serviced by public open space managers. In the Greater Toronto market there are over 1.5 million people that fall into one of the five ethnic groups: South Asian; East and South East Asian; Eastern European; West Asian and African; and Italian and Portuguese. Of these groups the Chinese and Portuguese communities may be the most predisposed to travel. Sightseeing, discovering small towns, visiting historical sights and participating in outdoor activities rank highly amongst many ethnic groups, particularly the Portuguese. Getting away from the stresses of the city and participating in family activities is important to all ethnic groups.

All ethnic groups need more travel information. They can be reached through specialized cultural TV programming and community newspapers.

Ethnic/Urban visitors are often well prepared day trippers and the majority of their needs can be met by facilities and services found within the conservation area.

## 2) Specialty Outdoor Recreationist

This market segment is represented by a broad range of people from the Greater Toronto Area with average to higher than average income. They tend to be somewhat higher in education level and are seeking rest/relaxation, scenic landscapes and new experiences. Recent research has found that the most important activities for this market segment are:

- Casual walking
- Wildlife viewing
- Learning about other cultures
- Visiting parks and other protected places
- Enjoying wilderness settings
- Hiking/trekking

Specialty Outdoor Recreationists are often looking for multiple vacation experiences, including a variety of accommodations. It is unlikely that this market segment would be drawn to Island Lake alone as a destination. A successful approach to attracting this market will be the formal packaging of Headwaters activities and experiences with other tourism operators in the region. Many of these operators are presently doing this and are not aware of the facilities and services available for packaging at Island Lake.

## 3) Special Event Consumers

People attending special events can cover the full range of demographic types, depending on the event. The geographic draw of an event will depend on the scale, uniqueness, image and perceived quality. Festivals, concerts, large corporate picnics, fishing derbies and scout/guide jamborees all fall into this market segment.

Most forms of special event programming require a high degree of client service and an outside promoter or event organizer. To reach potential special event organizers a promotional fact sheet summarizing the facilities and services offered and the types of events held in the past should be developed. Collectively CVC staff, the municipalities and local businesses should start to promote this type of programming for the conservation area. This market segment can be hard to target and continued research into potential event organizers will be required to make this approach successful. The return on time invested can be high.

## 4) Independent Touring Visitors

This market segment is made up of individuals that are explorers who like to try new destinations and show an interest in sightseeing with a trend to participating in soft adventure activities (mild physical exercise and comfortable support services) with an interpretive focus. Shopping is an

important activity and food appears to play a major role in their choice of destination. Visiting local fairs or festivals adds value to the experience.

As suggested by their grouping, these visitors tend to arrange their own excursions. Increasingly, these are 2 to 4 day getaways rather than extended vacations. Linking with local tourism operators, particularly accommodation providers, to package a range of experiences will be important in attracting this market segment.

## **6 GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

To further illustrate the intent of Island Lake Conservation Area's goal statement and supporting objectives the following set of guiding principles have been adopted for management and use of the property.

### **6.1 PROTECTION OBJECTIVE**

With respect to the protection and enhancement of the conservation area's significant and representative natural features, functions and processes the following shall apply:

- 1) Conservation area management practices will be based on ecosystem principles and the concept of sustainability and as such, will include collection of base data, monitoring and ongoing analysis.
- 2) The following natural features and functions are considered to be significant to the Credit River watershed or are integral to the health of the conservation area's natural environment:
  - Rare or uncommon wetland species or communities including swamps and bogs.
  - Island forest communities functioning as a refuge habitat for wildlife.
  - Lake perimeter forest communities that function as a buffer to adjacent land uses.
  - The East Arm and Monora Creek tributaries that provide indicators of water quality entering the lake system and habitat for brook trout.
  - Lake water quality and quantity.
  - Habitat of uncommon and rare wildlife including osprey, migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, forest birds and river otter (non-resident visitor).
  - Fish habitat of largemouth bass as a desired game species.

In general, these features and functions are sensitive to natural and human impacts and as such, activities in the conservation area must be compatible with objectives to maintain or enhance their natural values.

- 3) The following natural features and functions are considered to be representative of the Credit River watershed or add to the diversity of the conservation area's natural environment:
  - Marsh and open water marsh species or communities
  - Native upland forest communities.
  - Natural corridors connecting significant natural features
  - Lands of high groundwater recharge

In general, these features and functions are high in quality and as such must be maintained or enhanced by management activities. These features and functions are more resilient to natural and human processes and as such are potential sites of selective activities.

- 4) Protection of significant and representative natural values extends to areas outside of the conservation area and as such, activities within the conservation area should not diminish the value of resources outside the conservation area. This includes the Credit River corridor downstream, tributary corridors feeding the lake, adjacent woodlands and wetland communities forming part of the larger wetland complex.
- 5) Resource management programs will be selective to achieve specific protection objectives. Resource management is defined as any decision by the managing agency that results in a use or nonuse of a natural resource.
- 6) Protection will include programs to maintain and enhance the aesthetic quality and scenic landscape of the conservation area.

## 6.2 APPRECIATION OBJECTIVE

With respect to appreciation of Island Lake Conservation Area's natural features and functions; role in the larger watershed; and programs to protect and enhance the environment the following guiding principles shall apply:

- 1) The target audiences for appreciation programming will be as follows:
  - a. Educational audiences including school boards, scouts and guides, naturalist clubs and others that have structured programming suitable for Island Lake.
  - b. Conservation area visitors that would benefit from interpretive programs of varying complexity.
  - c. Adjacent land users that would benefit from selective educational material that will lead to sound land stewardship practices and protection of natural systems internal and external to Island Lake.
- 2) Appreciation programming should be specific to the features and functions of Island Lake Conservation Area and relate to the watershed as a whole.
- 3) Appreciation programs should describe the stresses placed on natural systems by natural and human processes and discuss management activities undertaken to lessen the impact from these stresses.
- 4) When possible, Island Lake should serve as a demonstration site for "state of the art" resource management practices being implemented in the watershed.
- 5) Island Lake will be used as a staging area for promoting the role of Credit Valley Conservation as a manager of public open space for protection, appreciation and recreation objectives.

### 6.3 RECREATION OBJECTIVE

With respect to outdoor recreation activities in Island Lake Conservation Area the following guiding principles shall apply.

- 1) As a recreation class conservation area, Island Lake will be a four season area suitable for both passive and active recreational uses at a regional scale.
- 2) Recreational activities must link with the natural character of the conservation area. As such, activities that can be supplied by others independent of the conservation area's setting should be left for others to supply.
- 3) Recreational activities will only be developed for defined target audiences that will sustain use over time.
- 4) As a whole, recreational activities must meet the test of being financially self-sufficient through user fees or non-traditional sources of funding.
- 5) Recreational development of the conservation area will be encouraged by private operators and links with business initiatives of the surrounding communities.
- 6) At a minimum, recreational development and use of the conservation area will be deemed appropriate if it creates no negative impact to significant or representative natural features and functions.
- 7) While individual activities may be exclusive to specific market segments, as a whole the conservation area's recreation programs must be accessible to all genders, ages and abilities.

### 6.4 TOURISM OBJECTIVE

With respect to Island Lake Conservation Area's tourism role the following guiding principles shall apply.

- 1) As well as serving watershed needs for recreation and appreciation programming, Island Lake Conservation Area will provide packaged programs that will promote tourism in the headwaters. It has been determined that the following tourist segments will be the target markets for Island Lake:
  - a. Ethnic/Urban Visitors
  - b. Specialty Outdoor Recreationists
  - c. Special Event Consumers
  - d. Independent Touring Visitors
- 2) The packaging of outdoor experience for tourists will require program operators to link externally with others in the headwaters to provide a full range of services.
- 3) Island Lake can serve as an information and orientation centre for tourism activities in the headwaters.

- 4) When appropriate, the planning, design and construction of outdoor recreation and appreciation facilities will support enhancement of tourism activity in the headwaters.

## **7 CONSERVATION AREA ZONES**

To provide some "on the ground context" to the management direction provided by the goal statement, supporting objectives and guiding principles of the plan, Credit Valley Conservation has adopted a policy of zoning all lands within conservation areas. The zones are based on the Steering Committee's best understanding of the significant and representative features of the conservation area. At the same time the zoning also recognizes where the best opportunities for appreciation programs and recreational activities exist.

Each zone designation has been determined by considering the highest and best use for a defined area of the conservation area. As such, zoning recognizes not only the existing dominant characteristics of sites within the conservation area, but also recognizes and weighs the potential value of a site meeting conservation area protection, appreciation, recreation and tourism objectives. Additional consideration was given to the interrelationship between sites. (i.e. the potential impact of development zone activities on natural features and functions). Less dominant features that serve important ecological functions and require protection may be found within some zones. Therefore, zoning does not remove the responsibility of designing and undertaking site specific planning when undertaking development. Hedgerows, swales and shoreline communities are some of the features that fall into this category. Island Lake Conservation Area's zones are as follows (refer to Map Two, Conservation Area Zones, page 22):

### **7.1 NATURE RESERVE**

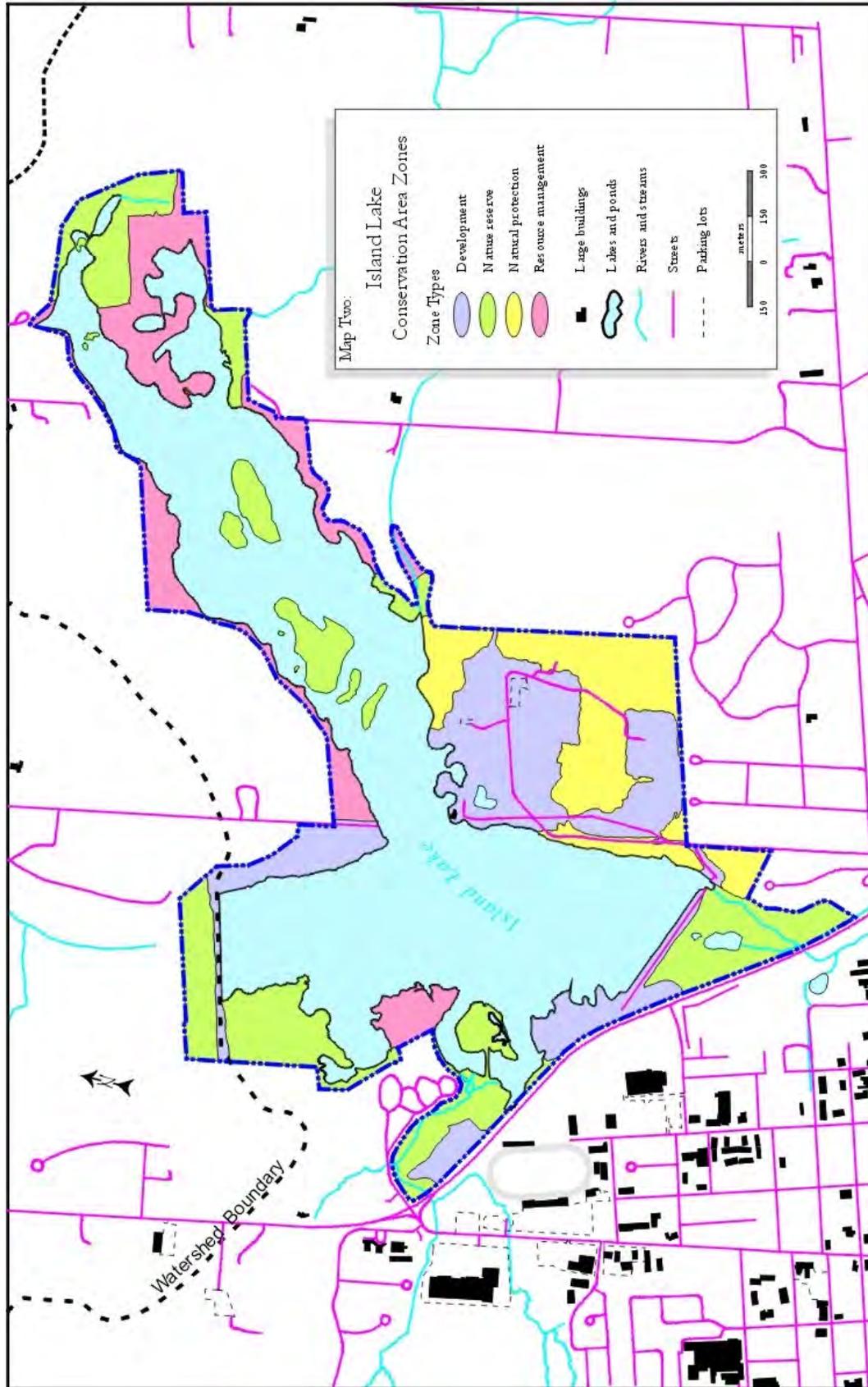
These zones are designated to contain relatively undisturbed natural features which are as a minimum considered to be regionally significant or are sites containing highly sensitive natural features that are integral in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Nature Reserve Zones only permit use that is non-intensive and compatible with the natural values of the resource. Management activities are limited to those that ensure the long range protection of these natural values.

At Island Lake these features include wetland bog, swamp and large marsh communities; cold water tributaries; relatively undisturbed woodlands; critical wildlife habitat; and sites containing significant species.

### **7.2 NATURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION**

These zones are designated to include aesthetic natural landscape and regionally representative natural features. A minimum of development is permitted to support environmentally based educational programming or recreational activities that are in keeping with the natural character of the site. Resource management is permitted to the extent that it rehabilitates sites disturbed by human activity, enhances the natural character of the landscape and does not interfere with other permitted uses.

At Island Lake these features include managed woodlots, areas providing buffers to other features, wildlife corridors and naturalized old fields containing young woodlands.



### 7.3 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

These zones are designated to recognize the need for intensive resource management of agricultural land, woodlots, plantations, fish, wildlife and water. Resource management activities are permitted to support sustainable consumption of resources, protect significant natural values through intervention and rehabilitate disturbed sites.

At Island Lake these zones include mature conifer plantation, recently planted old fields, small fragmented woodlands and poorly vegetated shorelines. Resource management programs are to be established for lands in this zone.

### 7.4 DEVELOPMENT ZONES

These zones are designated to recognize the need for access and support facilities for approved recreation, appreciation, tourism and resource management activities in the conservation area.

Development zones are located in areas of least environmental sensitivity and where environmental impact can be controlled and managed. At Island Lake these zones have been located only in established development areas and old field communities required for enhanced public access and services. Each development zone will serve a specific function as described in this plan under Section 9.0, Activity Development Areas.

## **8 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT APPROACHES**

Resource management activities at Island Lake will be a key component of the overall management of the conservation area. As mentioned in Section 3.0, Island Lake is composed of a mosaic of interrelated aquatic, wetland and terrestrial systems. To varying degrees these systems have been affected by human activity and as a result, a series of issues to be resolved through resource management activities have been identified. A wide range of management alternatives are at the disposal of both CVC and its partners. A review of management alternatives in consultation with resource professionals and user groups will take place and result in a "Resource Management Implementation Plan" for Island Lake.

In general, resource management activity at the conservation area will be undertaken to meet the following objectives:

- 1) To rehabilitate or restore degraded, threatened or unstable environments and create diverse habitat for a range of plant and animal species.
- 2) To control invasive or naturally occurring populations of species that threaten the function of natural systems or individuals within the system.
- 3) To improve recreational benefits through selective management of species and habitats after demonstrating no net loss to the natural systems of the conservation will occur.
- 4) For selective research and monitoring purposes, provided no net loss to the natural systems of the conservation area can be demonstrated.

More specifically, the following approaches will provide a framework for completion of the implementation plan noted above and will guide resource management activities in the interim.

## 8.1 AQUATIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Aquatic resource management will be guided by the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) Game and Fish Act; Fishery Regulations and the "Strategic Plan for Ontario Fisheries"; and the Federal Fisheries Act and the "No Net Loss of Habitat" Policy. In addition, the policy for Provincially Significant Wetlands and Provincial Water Quality Objectives protects aquatic resources at Island Lake. At a more local level, aquatic resource management will be guided by the MNR District Fisheries Management Plans (Huron District), the Credit River Fisheries Management Plan, the Credit River Water Management Strategy and the Sub-watershed 19 Plan.

Section 4.1 of the plan identified a series of aquatic resource management issues for consideration. In summary, these issues centered on concerns over water quality and quantity, the potential for recreational use of the lake, the impact of northern pike on the lake and downstream fisheries, the high productivity of the lake, the sensitivity of brook trout in the tributaries and the presence of a nesting pair of Osprey. The following approaches are to be implemented to focus aquatic resource management efforts on these issues:

- 1) Monitoring of biological and chemical inputs into the lake system will occur to meet provincial water quality objectives and to assist in identifying source areas for contaminants. Programs to eliminate the cause of contaminants above provincial water quality objectives will be encouraged.
- 2) Water quantity in the lake will be monitored and regulated in accordance with provincial sewage treatment plant requirements for base flow augmentation to the Credit River.
- 3) Control of submerged aquatic plants by means of harvesting will be permitted in selective locations of the lake for water chemistry, habitat and recreational benefits.
- 4) The relocation and removal of submerged stumps to create safe passage of watercraft in the main body of the lake (between the dams) and between the south shore and islands will be permitted.
- 5) The use of gas powered watercraft will be restricted to selected activities as determined by CVC. In general, no recreational use of gas powered engines will occur in the lake.
- 6) Any portion of the lake system identified as being over stressed from use or requiring protection of significant species or communities will be closed for use.
- 7) The stocking of new fish species will not occur unless it can be demonstrated that a clear net gain to the environment will be achieved.
- 8) Control of the northern pike population to protect the Credit River trout fishery and game species found within the lake such as largemouth bass, pumpkinseed and yellow perch will be undertaken.
- 9) Catch and release of game fish species other than northern pike will be encouraged.

- 10) Management of fishery resources will centre on habitat protection and restoration on the principle that a healthy fishery is the result of a healthy environment.
- 11) While not identified as a specific issue at Island Lake, research has found that some waterfowl die from ingesting lead sinkers or fishing tackle as they feed. A voluntary program of restricting the use of lead tackle will be implemented.
- 12) Brook trout populations in the lake tributaries are of great value as indicators of the quality of water entering the lake. The mouths of these tributaries are within the conservation area, but the streams themselves are largely on private lands. Landowner cooperation, stewardship initiatives and municipal assistance will be encouraged to protect these streams.
- 13) Creel and lake surveys will be undertaken as part of an ongoing program of monitoring and managing the health of the aquatic systems of the conservation area.

## 8.2 WETLAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Wetland management will be guided by the Provincial Policy on Significant Wetlands, Provincial Policy Statement developed in support of the Planning Act, Credit River Water Management Strategy, Sub-watershed 19 Plan, Environmentally Significant Areas Policy, and Watercourse and Valley Land Protection Policy.

Section 4.2 of the plan has identified a series of wetland resource management issues for consideration including concern over the long term stability of the bog communities, purple loosestrife invasion, Canada goose nuisance and the compatibility of the waterfowl hunt with other uses. The following approaches are to be implemented to focus wetland resource management efforts on these issues.

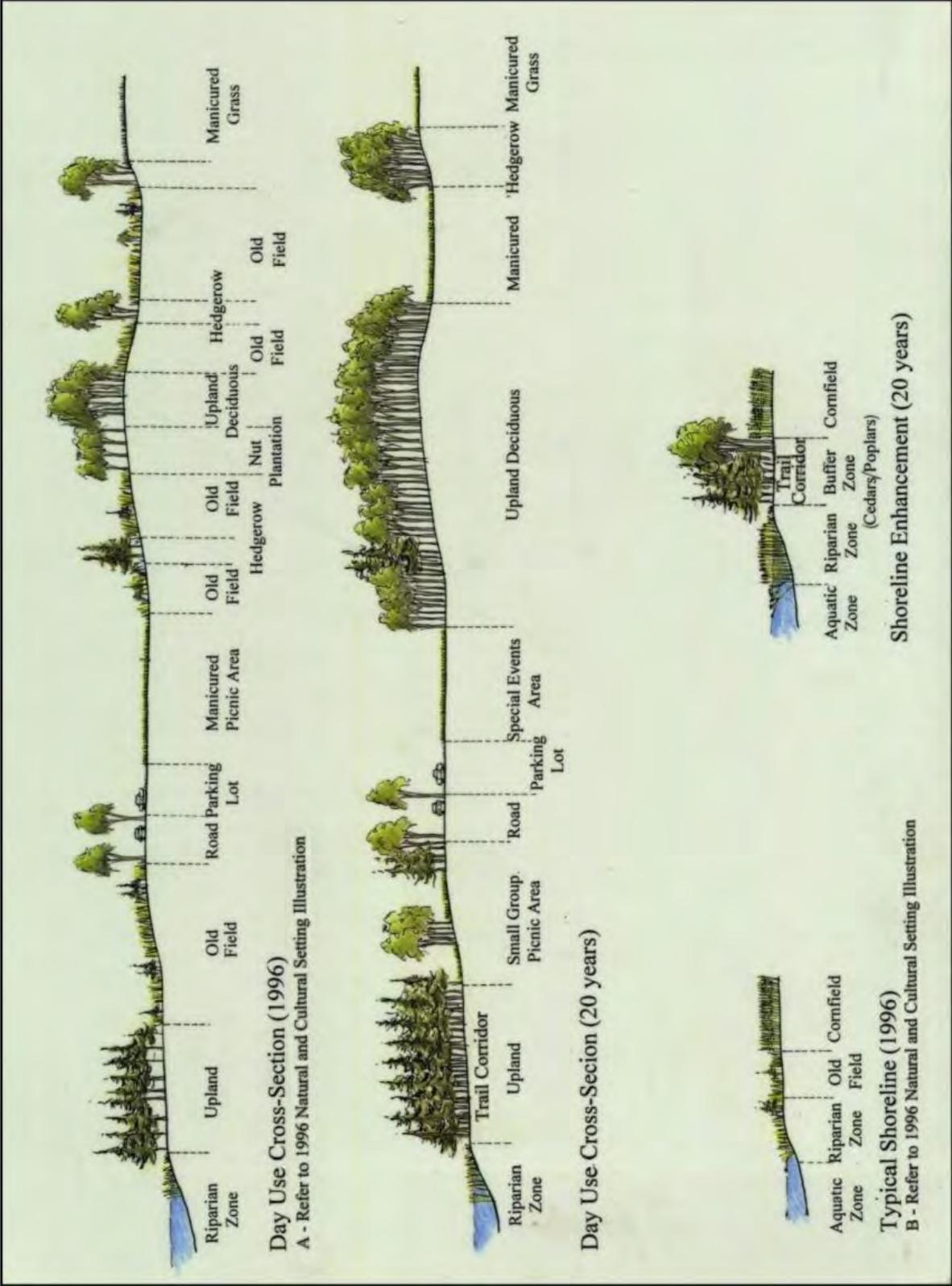
- 1) Programs to control invasive non-native wetland species such as purple loosestrife will be researched and implemented.
- 2) The wetland bog communities will be monitored to assess their stability. Measures to protect these communities will be implemented as required.
- 3) The Fall waterfowl hunt will be phased out as other uses recommended in the plan are implemented. In the interim, the ban on lead shot will be continued.
- 4) Measures to control nuisance animal species such as Canada geese will be implemented only when it is demonstrated that a significant impact to facilities, programs or other natural systems is occurring.

## 8.3 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Terrestrial resource management activities will be guided by the Provincial Policy Statement developed in support of the Planning Act, Credit River Water Management Strategy, Sub-watershed 19 Plan, Environmentally Significant Areas Policy, and Watercourse and Valley Land Protection Policy.

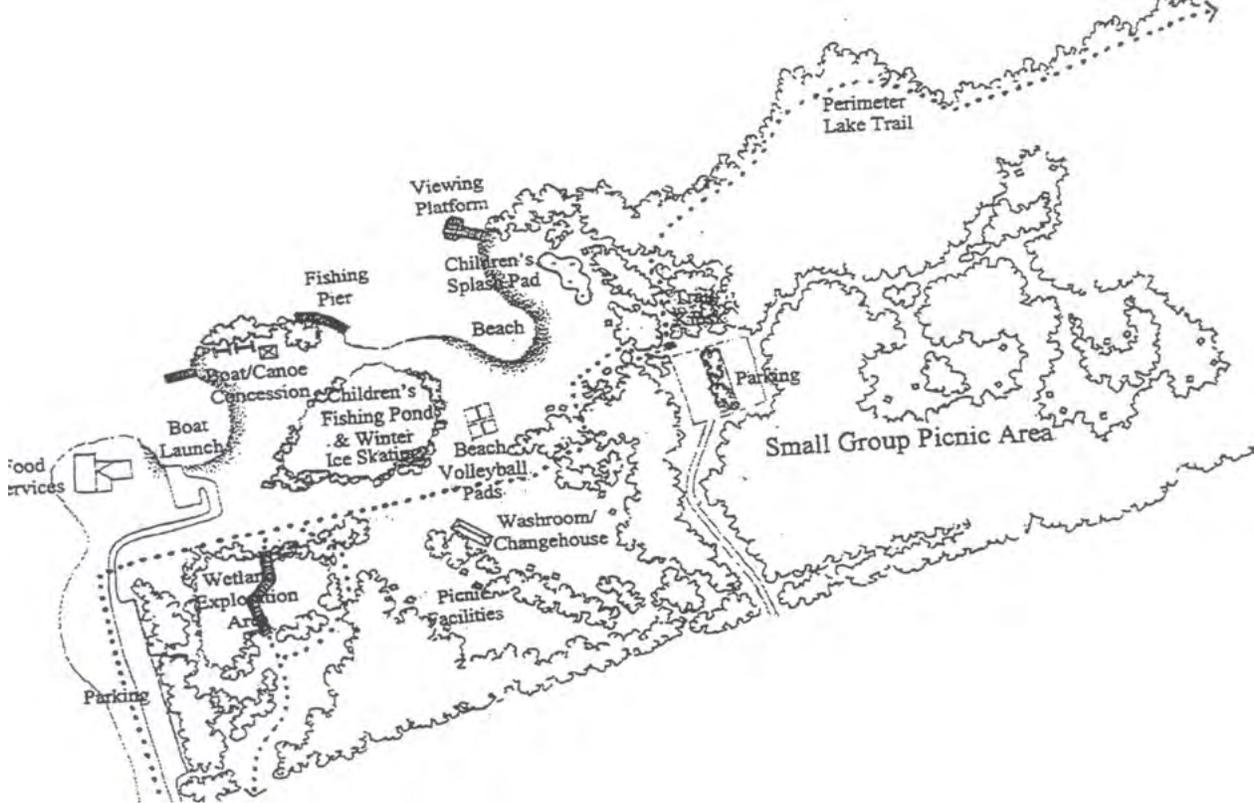
Section 4.3 of the plan identified a series of issues related to the health and function of terrestrial communities for consideration. In summary, these issues centered on concerns over inadequate forest cover, lack of buffer, levels of past disturbance, high plantation representation, lack of significant community linkages and the invasive character of non-native tree and shrub plantings. The following approaches are to be implemented to focus resource management efforts on these issues:

- 1) The maple woodland located in the east side of the day use area will continue to be managed as a maple sugar bush in support of educational programming.
- 2) To meet objectives for rehabilitating and enhancing forest communities impacted by past human activity, a woodlot management program will be established as part of the "Resource Management Implementation Plan".
- 3) A program of shoreline planting will be implemented to enhance wildlife habitat, create linkages between larger natural communities, provide a visual buffer to developed adjacent lands and protect aquatic resources (see the Shoreline Cross Section, page 27).
- 4) Enhancement or creation of terrestrial corridors will be actively pursued in all locations of the conservation area including development zones (see the Day Use Cross Section, Page 27).
- 5) Mature plantation communities will be selectively harvested to promote vigorous growth within the plantation and in the long term, allow for the establishment of natural forest communities.
- 6) Planting of non-native plant species will not be permitted except in highly manicured sections of development zones or locations where native stock will not survive. These plantings will be limited to non-invasive species.
- 7) Programs to control invasive non-native species such as autumn olive, European mountain ash and Scots pine will be researched and implemented.
- 8) All planting and harvesting activities will have regard to ecosystem processes including the protection and creation of wildlife habitat.



## 9 ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Early in the planning process and through consultation with user groups, municipal partners, community service providers and local businesses an extensive list of potential activities and uses



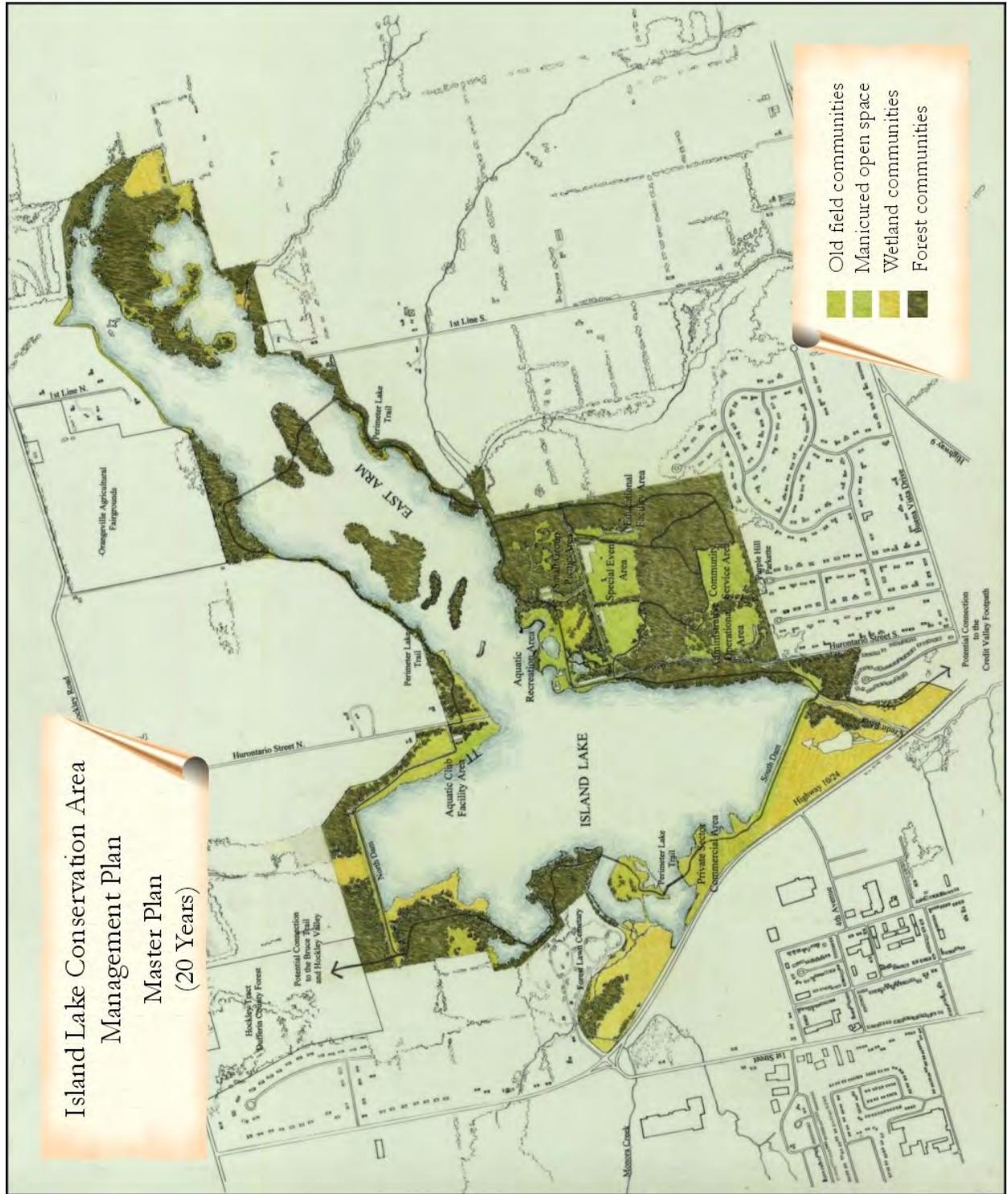
### *Aquatic Recreation and Small Group Picnic Concept and Plan*

for the conservation area was developed. After a review of environmental, cultural and economic factors at play in the region a better understanding of both opportunities for and constraints to use of the area has emerged. The end result has been a re-worked and narrowed opportunities list that has been further refined into a series of recommended activity areas for the site. It has been determined that with proper design these activities areas when developed will be consistent with the plan's goal statement, supporting objectives and guiding principles.

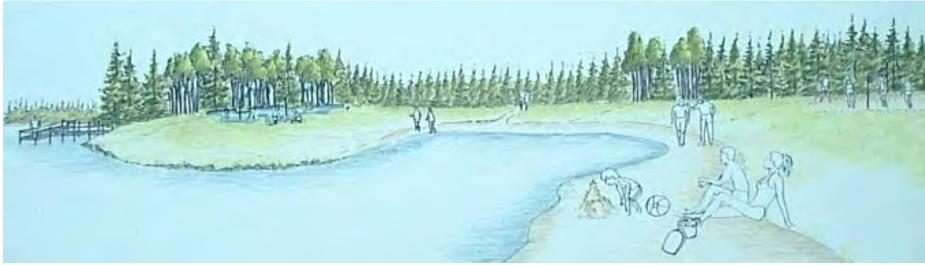
Proper design includes addressing concerns expressed over continued use of Hurontario Street South as the main public access way to the conservation area. While it is understood by those expressing this concern that the street remains the only viable alternative for public entry into the conservation area, it has been made clear that the street also serves as residential road. Foremost are concerns expressed for the residents safety. For this reason, traffic calming measures will be investigated by the management committee and a plan to address these concerns will be implemented.

The following highlights each of the activity areas as highlighted in the Master Plan Illustration, (page 29):

Island Lake Conservation Area  
 Management Plan  
 Master Plan  
 (20 Years)



## 9.1 AQUATIC RECREATION AREA



*Aquatic recreation: Waterfront play*



*Promoting appreciation of Island Lake's resources: Wetland exploration area*

People are drawn to water and have a need to interact, explore and play with aquatic settings. This is certainly the case at Island Lake. Survey data and visitation patterns have consistently shown that the greatest reason for visiting the conservation area is to participate in water based activities. To facilitate this need, an aquatic recreation area will be developed to provide interaction with lake through a series of waterfront facilities. The area will serve as a

staging area for visitor access to the water for lake-based activities such as summer and winter fishing, non-motorized boating and canoeing, and windsurfing. It will also be a staging area for waterplay, swimming, aquatic learning, shoreline fishing, picnicking and in the winter ice skating (see the Aquatic Recreation/Small Group Picnic Concept Plan, page 28).

Given the Steering Committee's understanding of the natural, cultural and market conditions, the following range of possible facilities for this area should be investigated further:

<b>Improved Beach</b>	<b>Boat/Canoe Concession</b>
<b>Children's Splash Pad</b>	<b>Boat Launch</b>
<b>Piers and Docks</b>	<b>Food Services</b>
<b>Beach Volleyball Pads</b>	<b>Washroom/Changehouse</b>
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	<b>Wetland Exploration Area</b>
<b>Natural Ice Skating Area</b>	<b>Children's Fishing Pond</b>

## 9.2 SPECIAL EVENT AREA

The regional tourism market analysis found that there was opportunity to expand on special event programming. The existing upland day use area is under utilized and efforts should be made to attract Ethnic/Urban Visitors and Special Event Programs by offering facilities for festivals, concerts, large recreational events, large group picnics and specialty group camping.

While the overall character and setting of Island Lake assists in marketing the area for this type of visitor, more important is the provision of open space, basic facilities and support services. From an operating standpoint the flexibility provided by a large area of open space to meet the needs of a wide range of groups is important. Most groups of this type are prepared to provide event specific services and facilities such as marquis tents, food services and event equipment.



*An intimate setting for small group picnicking*



*Promoting use of the Conservation Area for larger special events*

Given the Steering Committee's understanding of the natural, cultural and market conditions, the following range of possible facilities for this area should be investigated further:

**Level Open Grassed Areas**

**Picnic Tables**

**Parking Areas**

**Washroom Facilities**

**Water and Electricity**

**Picnic Shelter**

### 9.3 SMALL GROUP PICNIC AREA



#### *Shoreline fishing opportunities*

small groups, have been encouraged to use the upland day use area for their activities. Development and increased use of the area during event days will displace this group and little opportunity exists elsewhere in the conservation area to accommodate them.

Second, it is projected that overall day use activity will continue to increase. To meet this demand, additional area is required to segregate activities, remove conflict and service an identified market segment.

Third, it has been recognized for some time that the existing upland day use area (now the Special Event Area) is far too open and removed from the waterfront to be attractive to smaller groups. There are times when smaller groups require a more intimate setting where they feel comfortable and can undertake activities with little impact on other visitors. Ease of access to the lake (and in the future the children's splash pad) is an issue with this group.

Given the Steering Committee's understanding of the natural, cultural and market conditions, the following range of possible facilities for this area should be investigated further:

**Open Play Areas**

**Picnic Tables**

**Barbecues**

**Water**

**Parking**

**Playground**

### 9.4 EDUCATIONAL FACILITY AREA

Essential in meeting objectives for appreciation programming is the promoting and supporting of others who have an interest in environmental education. The educational facility area will function as a staging area for Board led activities, classroom education, maple syrup programming, field studies, hiking/ walking and when possible public education programs.

Currently the Dufferin County Board of Education leases three CVC owned buildings in support of their outdoor education programming. The interpretive centre is located north of the day use road and between the special event and aquatic recreation areas and is used as a classroom. The old train

station and sugar shack located within the adjacent to the maple forest on the east side of the day use area support field programming.

Discussions with the Board will take place to explore the feasibility of consolidating their activities in the education facility area by relocating the classroom. Access to environmental features of the conservation area for the purposes of outdoor education will remain. Building and new support facility requirements will be determined by the Board in consultation with the Management Committee.

#### 9.5 COMMUNITY SERVICE AREA

Several associations and community groups have made inquiries for access to the property for community activities considered to be outside of traditional conservation area recreation programming. The old field vegetation community located in south central section of the day use area has been set aside for this use. This location is removed from other activity areas to be developed and is adjacent to existing municipal parkland. A determination on the type of uses this area will facilitate will be determined by the Management Committee in consultation with local service providers.

#### 9.6 PRIVATE SECTOR COMMERCIAL AREA

It has been determined that the area along the Highway 10/24 corridor is relatively unconstrained and suitable for compatible commercial private sector development. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued to the private sector for development that is compatible with the objectives for tourism activity in the headwaters, complementary with the adjacent parkland and yield significant revenues to CVC. Ideally, this area would offer opportunities for combined tourism, recreation and commercial activities. It is believed from a marketplace and locational perspective the site rates highly. The issuing of an RFP will assist in determining if the market place also has this belief.

#### 9.7 AQUATIC CLUB FACILITY AREA

There has been some interest expressed by residents of the local community to promote use of the lake for a variety of aquatic club activities. The benefits of having this use in the conservation area are considered high. An area of old field on the north-east shore has been dedicated for private non-profit aquatic club facilities. This location is ideal in that it segregates this use from other uses in the active part of the conservation area, provides separate road access from Huontario Street North, provides a stable shore line for lake access and is capable of sustaining support facility development. As such, use of this area will be considered only by groups that are capable and willing to make a long-term commitment to developing and maintaining their presence on site. Requirements for approving use include an approved site plan, business plan and negotiated site management agreement. Potential uses include club facilities for rowing, canoeing, sailing and windsurfing.

#### 9.8 TRAIL CORRIDOR AREA

To link with the regional trail systems of the headwaters and to provide opportunities to appreciate the diversity and scenery of Island Lake a Perimeter Lake Trail is to be developed.

Extending southward to mile "0" of the proposed Credit Valley Trail, and into the surrounding community, the Perimeter Lake Trail will provide attractive recreational linkages to the Melville Marshes and Great Pine Ridge Trail.



***Access to natural wetland communities using the Lake Perimeter Trail***

Future efforts will be made to link the Trail northward into the Nottawasaga watershed and the Niagara Escarpment to connect the conservation area to the Bruce Trail, and Mono Cliffs and Hockley Valley Provincial Parks.

Potentially the trail would offer opportunities for hiking, walking, cross country skiing, horseback riding, bicycling and nature study.



**9.9 ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONAL AREA**

To segregate use, and allow for enhanced recreational opportunities, the existing maintenance and administrative area will be removed from the aquatic recreation area.

***The Lake Perimeter Trail along the northwest shore***

The administrative operational area will be located in the old field east of the entrance to the conservation area and permit development of facilities that support maintenance and operational functions in the area including fee collection, administration, work areas, equipment and supply storage.

## 10 IMPLEMENTATION

The Management Plan has been prepared as a document to guide development and use of the conservation area over the next twenty years. It is recognized that the uncertainty of future funding sources is an issue when attempting to implement new programs in the public sector. As such, it is recommended that to implement this plan a Management Committee be established. The committee membership would consist of representatives from:

**Credit Valley Conservation:** As property owners, environmental experts, resource managers, on-site operators and program approvers, CVC will appoint 2 members to the committee.

**The Municipalities of Orangeville, Mono and Caledon:** As communities that recognize the benefit of complimentary recreation and tourism related development for residents and visitors, each municipality will be asked to appoint 2 members to the committee.

**The Dufferin County Board of Education:** As a significant on-site user that fulfills objectives for appreciation, the Board of Education will be asked to appoint 1 committee member.

**The Headwaters Country Tourism Association:** As a private sector group interested in coordinating and expanding tourism activity in the headwaters, the Association will be asked to appoint 1 member to the committee.

**Adjacent Landowners:** As residents and property owners with a stake in future use and development, an adjacent landowner (1) will be appointed to the committee.

Appointments to the committee will be requested for a period of not less than two years. A Committee Chair will be elected from the membership and serve a two year term. A Fact Sheet outlining the role of the committee, member responsibilities, frequency of meetings and desired skills will be developed to assist in appointing members.

The primary responsibility of the Management Committee will be to facilitate and coordinate the efforts of others to implement plan components. As such, it will be the committee's role to:

- 1) Confirm a Management Committee Terms of Reference as it relates to directing ongoing management of the conservation area.
- 2) Develop priorities for new activities and programming initiatives recommended in this plan.
- 3) Identify partnerships and funding opportunities for implementing and operating new activities and funding initiatives.
- 4) Coordinate and carry out the five year periodic review of the plan.
- 5) Report back to their respective organizations regarding the management of the conservation area.
- 6) Review and provide recommendations on suggested plan amendments, private sector initiatives and public sector development for the conservation area.

- 7) Provide Bi-annual Reports to the Board of Directors of the CVC on the activities of the committee.
- 8) Review and recommend responses to CVC staff or Board members to resolve recurring user conflict issues.
- 9) Create and appoint members to sub-committees or working groups to undertake specific tasks including review of development proposals, fund raising activities, conflict resolution or plan review. The membership to the subcommittees may be drawn from outside of the management committee.

**APPENDIX A**

**ISLAND LAKE CONSERVATION AREA - MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Town of Orangeville:**

Mayor Mary Rose  
Rick Schwarzer  
Wendy Gross

**Adjacent Landowners:**

Chris Stranc  
Marc Darby

**Town of Caledon:**

Ian Sinclair  
Lucy Kristan

**Dufferin County Board of Education:**

Bruce Haw

**Township of Mono:**

John Creelman  
Keith McNenly  
Kim Lemke

**Outdoor Recreationist:**

Wayne Martin\*  
Jeff Ellis  
Julie Swift

**Business Community:**

Sheila Duncan

**CVC Board Members:**

Sandra Crane  
Marolyn Morrison

**Upper Credit Naturalist Club:**

Joan Donnelly

**CVC Staff:**

Vicki Barron  
Brian Tayler

**\*Committee Chair**