

Feedback Received & Management Policies

Over the course of this year, we received a lot of great feedback regarding a wide variety of topics. Many of these topics directly relate to CVC's operational policies about how we manage Belfountain Conservation Area. Below are some of the key topics that we have received feedback on, and how we are proposing to address these concerns.

Traffic Congestion & Parking

Over the past year we have received several comments concerning traffic congestion in the Belfountain area. Traffic congestion is of special concern during the fall colour season and on long weekends in the summer. To help address this issue, a Committee made up of representatives from several organizations was created to develop parking and traffic related solutions for the Belfountain area. CVC is committed to implementing the recommendations of this Committee, which are expected in mid 2016. In addition, CVC is proposing the following changes to help alleviate traffic congestion in the Belfountain area:

- Increase parking capacity on-site
- Develop an off-site parking lot and coordinate a shuttle service during the fall colours season
- Encourage off-peak visitation (week-days, shoulder-season), through incentives and program development
- Develop a new entrance fee schedule that rewards carpooling (e.g. reduced fee for 3 or more in a vehicle)
- Reservations for buses will be encouraged or required; off-site parking may be mandatory
- Encourage visitors to go to other venues (e.g. Terra Cotta) when parking lot is full
- Advise, through timely web page updates and social media, of current traffic / parking conditions

Community Relations & Connectivity

Several comments received from the community, local organizations and our Stakeholder Advisory Committee related to the relationship between Belfountain Conservation Area and the Belfountain Hamlet, and how it could be improved and enhanced. The following policies and opportunities are proposed to help improve this relationship:

- Belfountain Conservation Area can now be accessed free of charge for local residents who use active transportation to arrive
- Opportunities for additional pedestrian access to Belfountain Conservation Area are being explored
- Opportunities to host community events and activities will be explored and encouraged

Conservation Area Capacity

Crowding and the number of visitors that Belfountain Conservation Area receives each year was the subject of a few comments received. CVC is proposing the following to alleviate concerns about visitor crowding and improve the visitor experience:

- Encourage off-peak visitation (week days, shoulder season) by offering incentives and programming
- Promote and direct picnicking activities to other CVC conservation areas
- Require reservations for all large picnics and events
- Undertake ongoing environmental and property monitoring to assess and mitigate use impacts
- Require advance reservations for all buses
- Enforce capacity limits for picnics and events

Conservation Area Activities & Events

Input regarding community events as well as large private events was received, and indicated that clarification was needed about what may be proposed. While the opportunity to hold private functions will continue to be offered at Belfountain Conservation Area, their size and scale need to meet CVC's requirements. The policies and opportunities below are proposed for the management plan:

- Limits and restrictions will be placed on special events and private functions, for example: the size of events will be limited; the event season will be limited (e.g. reservations will not be taken during fall colours); the length of an event (and time of day it is held) will be restricted
- A Belfountain Conservation Area "signature event" will be developed in conjunction with the local community; smaller community events and activities will be explored and encouraged

Working with our Partners

We received some great feedback about the importance of working with our partner agencies (Region of Peel, Town of Caledon, Ontario Heritage Trust, etc..) to ensure that all of the projects occurring in or near the Hamlet of Belfountain are managed and implemented cohesively. CVC is working with our partners to collaborate and deliver on:

- Solutions to address traffic congestion issues
- Development of strategies related to tourism and active transportation
- Public works and local construction projects, such as the reconstruction of the Terrace and the repair of Victory (Belfountain) Bridge

