

**Long Lake Provincial Park Association
Park Planning**

Long Lake Provincial Park was protected under legislation in 1984, but has not yet been officially opened as a functioning provincial park. In the 1980s a local citizens group was formed for the purpose on involving the community in park planning. This group began in Spryfield and has grown steadily to include citizens from several communities in HRM, both on the peninsula and the mainland. The group is called Long Lake Provincial Park Association (LLPPA).

In the last couple of years, LLPPA has been working actively with the provincial parks department (a division of the Department of Natural Resources) and with HRM recreation and planning staff to draw up a draft management plan for the park. Community-led park planning is currently considered a leading edge process for effective parks management. The province describes the park as a "natural park", meaning that the primary emphasis is on keeping it in its natural state to be used for recreational activities like hiking, canoeing, and nature watching.

There are many challenges in planning for the management of a natural park, and so the LLPPA is first drawing up a rough concept plan. The association then plans to take this rough draft plan to the public in the regions of HRM surrounding the park for comment. The plan will then be modified to take account of public input. This strategy is being presented to Chebucto Community Council on January 6th 2006, and Western Community Council on January 27th 2006 for comment before the LLPPA embarks on public meetings.

Thank you Chris!

Alain Godbout