Riding Mountain National Park

Trail and Backcountry Use Plan

Draft – September, 2009

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This plan sets direction for the trails and backcountry system in the Park and outlines some key actions for Parks Canada over the next five years. It strives to enhance visitor experiences while maintaining operational, ecological and financial sustainability throughout the system. The work plan addresses the highest priorities and uses a phased approach for implementation. There is a proposed trail and backcountry camping classification system that will facilitate setting priorities and implementing this plan.

The history of trail development, trends, public and staff feedback have helped shape this plan. The Parks Canada mandate, vision statement and other documents guide the decision-making process and development of the goals and actions included in this plan.

The trails are intended to showcase RMNP's varied ecosystems, its topography and its cultural landscapes. A focus of planning is to provide opportunities for people to develop a strong connection to RMNP. Memorable visitor experiences and learning encourages visitors to become ambassadors who understand the importance of protecting and presenting National Parks for future generations.

The current trail system of approximately 400 km is extensive. A new approach will look at what we do, what we do with others and what can be done by others through permitted activities. Partnering with others brings many benefits to the Park, our partners and Park visitors.

Three priority areas are protecting, experiencing and connecting. Some goals and key actions in these areas are highlighted below.

Protecting

- Define ecological footprint relating to trail assets Analyse the ecological footprint of trails and backcountry related assets
- Define the ecological indicators to be monitored to ensure ecological integrity
- Monitor the ecological footprint closely over the first three years of the plan.
- Define the overall maximum footprint of the RMNP trail system.

Experiencing

- Goals and key actions will significantly improve the visitor experience and opportunities from the planning, to the visiting, and the remembering.
- Partnering opportunities will be pursued where they can enhance the visitor experience, offer learning opportunities and maintain the ecological integrity of the Park.
- Be responsive to current and future visitor trends and needs.

Connecting

- Promote stewardship of the Park by connecting people to a variety of ecosystems and cultural landscapes.
- Enhanced communications, marketing and new initiatives will offer local communities and visitors more opportunities to discover and treasure the natural resources of RMNP.
- Connecting to our neighbouring communities around RMNP.

Other goals and actions in this plan have been developed for specific sites (e.g. Lake Audy, etc...).

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A. VISION AND MISSION

Vision – Desired Future State in year 2020…

The varied and unique trails and backcountry activities makes Riding Mountain National Park one of the premier destinations of choice in Canada to experience outstanding natural wonders.

Mission
Implement a renewal of the trails and backcountry system to enhance the visitors' experience and connection to the wilderness areas of RMNP while leaving these places unimpaired for future generations.

B. SCOPE

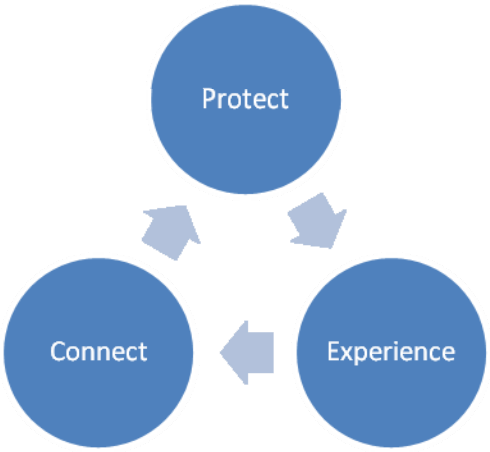
This Trail and Backcountry Plan provides an approach for renewal over the next five years. A five year work plan is included in Appendix 5 and will be updated annually.

This plan refers to the trail and backcountry system which includes all trails in the Park (frontcountry and backcountry), day use areas at trail heads, trailhead access roads, backcountry camping, and other backcountry visitor activities and facilities.

C. GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND DIRECTION

The focus for the trail and backcountry use in RMNP is to **connect** people, regionally and nationally, to a trail or backcountry **experience** in RMNP that inspires them to **protect** these wild areas.

Protect --- Experience --- Connect



Protect

"On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage..." Parks Canada Mandate

Design and maintenance of the trails and backcountry facilities will incorporate best practices that are sustainable and minimize impacts to cultural resources and ecosystems. The threshold for trail development (ecological footprint) in RMNP needs to be determined and monitored to maintain ecological integrity. However, levels of use (demand) and the capacity to maintain trails are other very important considerations. The history and stories of RMNP's trails/backcountry need to be recorded, protected, and used to engage people and enhance learning opportunities.

Experience

This plan is responsive to current needs expressed during public consultations and ongoing feedback from users. Trends in outdoor activities, travel and demographics are taken into account. RMNP wants to provide a quality trail and/or backcountry experience which results in a deeper connection for people to their natural world and this national park. By accessing various parts of RMNP, people experience and learn more about its natural and cultural history.

*"We are **…** opening doors to places of discovery and learning, reflection and recreation." Parks Canada Charter*

"Develop and implement a long-term vision and plan for backcountry camping and the trail system that addresses current and future user market needs and provides a range of opportunities to experience both the natural and cultural heritage of RMNPC."
RMNP Management Plan, 2007

***"**Although Parks Canada will never eliminate all the risks and hazards that our visitors are exposed to, we will continue to practice due diligence, striving to provide as safe a visitor experience as possible...The Park will promote "Self-Reliance" messaging to all visitors ..."*
Public Safety Strategy, RMNPC, 2005

"Parks Canada will continue to engage stakeholders and partners in the protection and presentation of the heritage places it administers."
Corporate Plan 2008-2013

*"The increasing involvement of **First Nations** in decision-making and sharing of traditional knowledge enhances the protection, management and understanding of this special place." RMNP Management Plan, 2007*

Connect

With the natural areas of the park being accessible, people have the opportunity to become connected to their **natural world**; they experience the essence of RMNP ecosystems and landscapes (grasslands, boreal forest, escarpment, lakes, etc…) and with this stronger connection comes a desire to protect.

Parks Canada wants to have stronger connections with the **various communities,** including user groups such as the Outdoor Clubs. The Park will be actively partnering with others who are willing to help implement this plan and contribute as ongoing stewards of the system.

Actions in this plan are designed to give **all Canadians** an opportunity to connect to RMNP via the internet and be inspired to visit, travel the trails and see the backcountry.

The guiding principles and direction for this plan primarily come from the Park Management Plan, Parks Canada's Charter/Mandate and the Corporate Plan.

The capital asset principles from the park management plan (see Appendix 1) have been taken into account. These principles promote an integrated and sustainable approach (e.g. ecological and commemorative integrity, visitor experience and education).

D. CONTEXT

History to Present

First Peoples have occupied the Riding Mountain area for thousands of years; archaeological finds date from approximately 10,000 years ago. Many of Riding Mountain's lakes and streams provided sheltered sites, water sources, and abundant wildlife to support these people. Presently, some people from First Nation communities around the park travel in the backcountry, use trails and organize cultural camps.

Since European settlement, some of the existing transportation routes were enhanced and new trails and roads were developed for timber harvest, haying activities and fire fighting. The major trails that presently exist (e.g. Central, Strathclair Tr.) were once gravel roads and are now most suitable for wagons or family bike trips.

See Figure 2 for a timeline of the Riding Mountain National Park area relating to trails, access and previous plans.

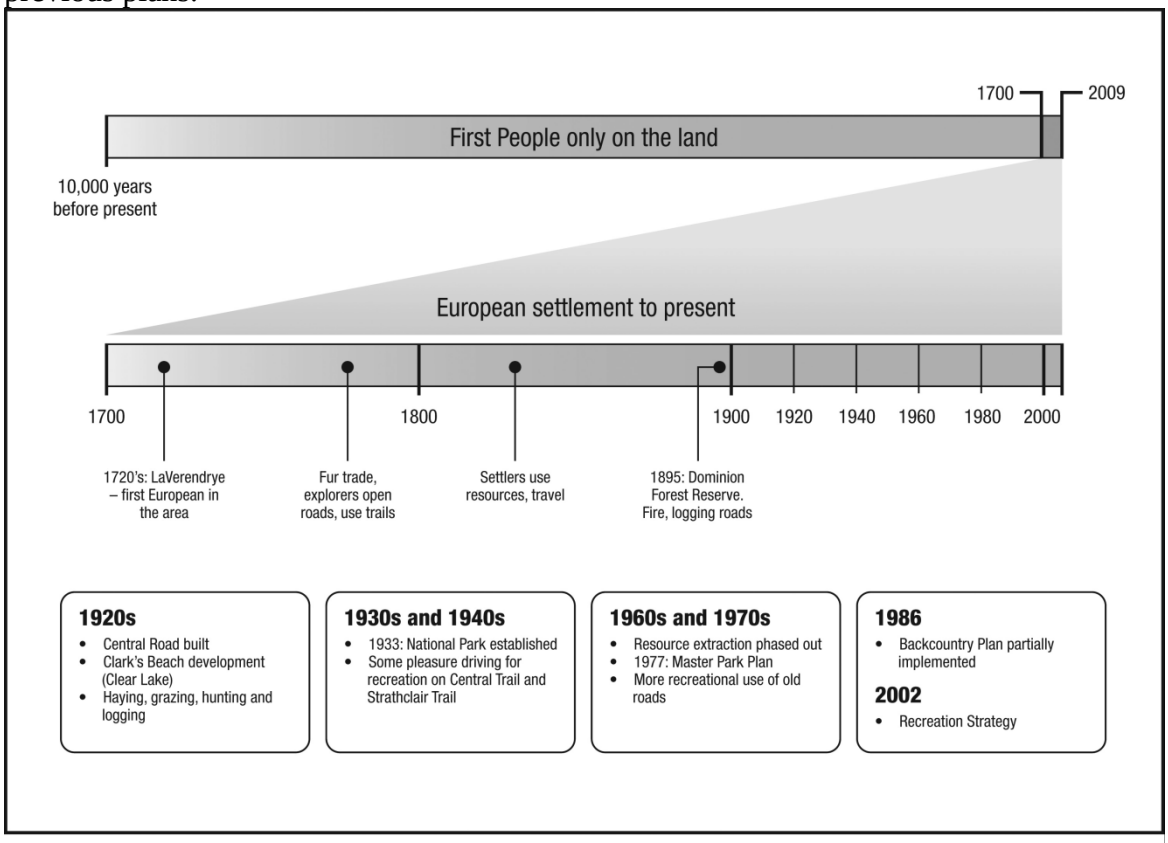


FIGURE 2: Timeline / history of trail development in Riding Mountain National Park

At present, the trail and backcountry system includes

- 400 km. of trails
- 6 self-guiding interpretive trails
- 39 trails (spring/summer/fall)
- 27 trails maintained for winter use
- *26* trailheads *(estimate)*
- winter camping
- 19 backcountry campsites
- random camping
- 1 cabin (Cairns) – winter use, pilot for year-round use
- Four geo-caching sites

Guided interpretive outings introduce many visitors to the trail system, whether it's one of the weekly hikes to places such as Gorge Creek and Ominnik Marsh, a bike tour or a wagon trip to the historic prisoner of war camp at Whitewater Lake.

E. TRENDS

The main changes in tourism that affect trail and backcountry use in RMNP are;

- *urbanization* – more Canadians live in urban centres, "nature deficit" is a term used to describe the disconnect between youth and the natural world,
- *immigration* – new Canadians awareness of national parks is low,
- *technology*- youth chose to use their computers, PS2, etc... rather than be outdoors, and
- *an aging population* – the baby boomers are not interested in tenting.

The trails and backcountry of RMNP provide the setting for the majority of the top ten outdoor activities that Canadians partake in, which include wildlife viewing, paddling, fishing, exercising, and cycling. People participating in outdoor recreation are taking shorter trips or more day trips. The younger generation (25 yrs and under) tend to participate in more extreme sport activities, including mountain biking.[1] However, there has been a decline in the numbers of youth using trails.

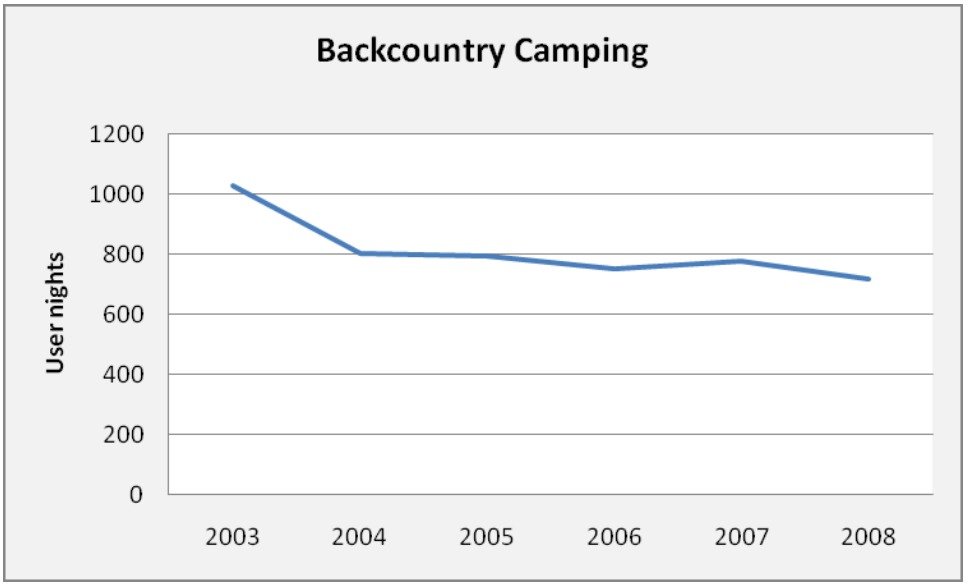
Research indicates Canadians want national parks to

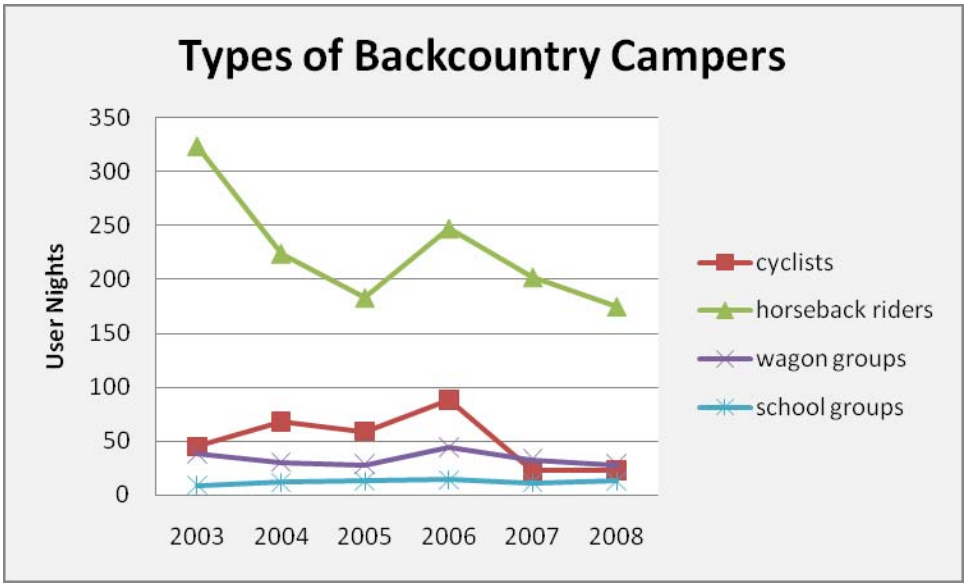
- be protected for future generations
- tell stories about history
- be enjoyable, memorable and fun
- be good value
- be authentic
- provide for outdoor recreation.[2]

This research reflects the desires of many RMNP visitors (see section H).

The number of people who registered to camp in RMNP's backcountry has declined over the past five years. This may reflect a) a valid decrease or b) people are not registering (for a variety of reasons). As well, information is lacking on trends regarding day use of trails.

[1] Travel Activities and Motivations Survey (TAMS), 2006 – Canadian Outdoor Activities While On Trips
[2] Parks Canada, 2006 – Public Opinion Poll





F. CONSULTATION

Three phases of public consultation helped to shape this plan. Phase 1 utilized a feedback form that was distributed to visitors and non-visitors. Feedback was analyzed (see Appendix 2) and assisted in designing the next phase. During phase 2, public meetings were held in Dauphin, McCreary, Laurier, Brandon, Russell, Winnipeg and Kerr's Lake. These meetings were well attended; peoples' passion for trails and opportunities was very evident. Results from these meetings were summarized and taken into consideration. Some common requests were;

- Increase online information about trail conditions, better maps, GPS coordinates
- Provide accurate information at trailheads
- Provide interpretive information along the trails
- Use the local historical stories/knowledge for interpretive signs

- Encourage and engage youth in learning and caring about the Park
- Improve maintenance and facilities on some trails, form partnerships
- Re-open old trails for horses, wagons, and sleighs
- Establish well designed loop systems and single track trails
- Design trails with varying terrain and scenery
- Link trails, along escarpment, across the park
- Connect trails to outside of the Park
- Have day use loop trails from front country camping areas
- Establish more winter trails for skiing, snowshoeing
- Provide more camping options – places and types of shelters
- Ensure water sources
- Re-assess fee structure.

Phase 3 involves distribution of the draft plan, collecting and analyzing final comments.

G. GOALS AND KEY ACTIONS

PROTECTING

"Biodiversity and natural processes representing the Southern Boreal Plains and Plateaux Natural Region are protected for all times in RMNP" Ecological Integrity Statement, RMNP

The Park follows principles of sound environmental stewardship/best practices whenever making decisions that will impact the ecological integrity of an area. Before proceeding with any actions, whether by park staff, partners or volunteers, potential environmental impacts must be taken into account, evaluated and minimized. An environmental assessment of this plan has been completed and takes into account the cumulative effects of all proposed actions (see Appendix 3).

The Trail and Backcountry Camping Classification System (appendix 4) is an important step to maintain the ecological integrity of RMNP. Each class has different footprints and maintenance requirements. For example, a wagon trail falls into the "major trail" class and requires. The classification system will be used to assess new developments and monitor the footprint.

Goal: Overall ecological footprint[3] of trail and backcountry related assets is maintained.

Key Actions:

- Define and calculate ecological footprint, determine the threshold for development.
- Apply the trail classification system to current and future trails (see Appendix 4) and adapt, if required, when a national classification system is developed.
- Evaluate different methods to maintain trails as per their classification.
- Incorporate sustainable trail practices.
- Monitor on an ongoing basis and evaluate the classification system within 5 years.

EXPERIENCING

[3] Ecological footprint would take into account maintenance activities (e.g. fuel for mowers), ecological impacts (e.g. watercourse obstructions, invasive weeds, habitat fragmentation) and restoration of closed trails.

Whenever people go on a trip, the experience starts with the planning and lasts as long as their memories of that trip. The goals in this section are organized in order of the visitors' experience.

- *Planning*
- *Visiting*
- *Remembering*

PLANNING

a. ***Goal – improve tools so visitors can better prepare for trail and backcountry travel*** Key Actions**:**

- By year one, have all trailhead coordinates and trail maps available (online and hard copy), including information on the classes of trails and campsites;
- Ensure visitors are aware of, and have easy access to, public safety and best practices information (e.g. self-reliance, Leave No Trace, trail etiquette, Adventure Smart) prior to their visit;
- Encourage visitors to use the Explorer Quotient program to plan their excursions on trails.
- Work with local governments (RM's), businesses and tourism groups to ensure trail information is included in marketing programs/publications.

VISITING

a. Goal – there are unique opportunities to experience and learn about the natural and cultural history of the Park and surrounding area.

Key Actions:

- In partnership, develop several avenues for the First Nations people to share their knowledge and stories
- Incorporate easy to use technology on RMNP's website to enhance the learning experience on the trail (e.g. pod-casts, high resolution ortho imagery, Blog options, geo-caches, "Explora" program).
- Evaluate the self-guided interpretive trails, renew where required. Incorporate into area plans where feasible.
- Facilitate partnering with local groups, outfitters, and guides to enhance opportunities for visitors (develop historical trails, share stories, organize special events, tours, etc.).

b. ***Goal – routes are well marked to trailheads and along the trails.***

Key Actions:

- Work with local governments (RM's) and MB highways to improve highway signs for trailhead locations;
- Pursue other means to improve wayfinding to trailheads, e.g. GPS coordinates.
- Create trail hubs and enhance the information at these locations, including public safety messages (a trail hub is an access point for several trails in one area).
- Develop an orientation sign plan (e.g. identify priority locations to orient users along trails) and implement by year two.

c. Goal – Promote backcountry overnight use (target - 2003 levels).

Key Actions:

- Encourage all overnight user to register, work with local communities/organizations to address registration issues.

- Establish different classes of campsites (random, primitive, minor and major) and maintain according to standards for each class/type.
- Locate campsites in areas in prime locations in various ecosystems.
- Initiate consultation on the proposal to revise the fee structure to a per site rate, rather than per person.

d. Goal - unique experiences and a variety of choices that match many interests and abilities are available.

Key Actions:

Trails

- Incorporate more loops and short day use trails in the trail system (see area plans).
- Meet the needs of hikers and bikers by designating existing, and creating some new, single track trails.
- Meet the needs of horseback riders by ensuring the system includes multi-use trails that meet standards.

Campsites

- Provide sources of water at priority backcountry campgrounds.

Alternative accommodations:

- Maintain Cairn's Cabin for winter use, pilot year-round use.
- Pursue partnerships to provide backcountry accommodations in strategic locations. Conduct required feasibility/market analysis.
- If market analysis is positive, renovate Grey Owl's Cabin and provide a loop trail.

Winter Use

- Maintain designated track set and packed ski trails.
- Facilitate horse-drawn sleigh route development by partners, develop criteria/requirements.
- Designate skijoring/kick-sledding/snowshoe multi-use trails.

Canoeing

- Establish canoe-in campsites on Whirlpool Lake
- Evaluate the demand for canoeing experiences and possibly provide random camping locations along canoe routes (e.g. Jackfish Cr., Whirlpool R. or Swanson's Cr.)

Horse drawn wagons

- Maintain this unique Canadian experience by designating selected routes for wagon use where the periodic use of heavy equipment for major maintenance will be required.
- Facilitate opportunities for visitors to experience wagon trips.

Geocaching and other technologies

- Work with the geocaching community to expand opportunities in RMNP.
- Work with GPS location based technologies to provide a better experience on our trail.

Accessibility

- Assess Ominnik Marsh and Boreal trails for accessibility.
- Evaluate the current assistive equipment.

REMEMBERING

a. ***Goal – trail and backcountry users value and share their unique experiences in the Park with others.***

Key Actions:

- Create opportunities for people to post their stories, send in comments and suggestions via innovative tools on the web.
- Facilitate students' and teachers' use of the web and other social networking tools to share their experiences with other schools.

CONNECTING

a) Goal: Increase awareness of RMNP trails and backcountry opportunities.

Key Actions**:**

- post links to Google Earth so Canadians can view updated imagery and upload data to GPS units;
- develop web social networks related to the trails and backcountry (blogs, Facebook, etc…);
- develop a trail and backcountry use marketing and communication strategy;
- Initiate contact with groups representing new Canadians, urban Canadians, seniors and those with disabilities; understand and meet their needs related to trails and backcountry use.

b) Goal: More youth use the backcountry and trail system.

Key Actions:

- Develop and distribute a new school information package that will highlight day-use trails, overnight options for school groups, and other resources (e.g. Adventure Smart).
- Develop and lead workshops for teachers to familiarize them with planning and leading safe, positive trips for students into the Park.

c) Goal: Visitors and local residents work with Parks Canada to enhance the trail and backcountry system.

Key Actions:

- Explore the potential of connecting the Park trails with external trail systems through the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association and other partners.
- Establish a volunteer program and partnering agreement which includes hands on training sessions to demonstrate sustainable trail practices. Develop and deliver at least one training session/work bee by year 2.

H. AREA PLANS

A. Lake Audy Area (Bison, Pre-settlement and settlement era's)

The Lake Audy area features a captive bison herd. The area has been used by First Nations people for many centuries. There's also a spruce plantation, planted during the period when the park was a forest reserve. Two goals in the park management

plan for this area are:

- Improve opportunities for visitors to understand and appreciate the ecological and cultural history and values of this area;
- Understand visitor, stakeholders and First Nations interests and use of this area.

B. ***East Side*** ***(Manitoba Escarpment, Lowlands, Mixed Wood forest)***

This area extends from the south boundary at Rolling River Road through to Highway #10 in the north. Activities range from hiking, camping, biking, skiing, horse riding, wagon and sleigh use and, recently, skijoring and kick-sledding. The area Management Plan goals include:

- Developing a wide-ranging area plan with communities and stakeholder groups, including First Nations.
- Develop a variety of visitor experiences along the Escarpment

Priorities for trail improvements include:

- trail hubs at the East Gate NHS and Agassiz site
- a day loop trail near Bald Hill.

Other possible developments at the conceptual stage are:

- a day loop ski trail near Kerr's Lake (in discussion)
- sleigh/wagon options on Rolling R. road.

C. ***Wasagaming*** ***(Clear Lake)***

Wasagaming and Clear Lake are often referred to as the "hub" of the Park for many visitors. Two key actions for this area are:

- Develop connecting trails between Wasagaming and backcountry areas;
- Work with the RM of Park to provide safe links (crossing of hwy 10) from Wasagaming to trails in the RM of Park;
- With partners, investigate a transportation system for visitors, with or without independent transportation, to reach the trailheads for backcountry adventure.

D. West End ***(Aspen Parkland)***

Trails in this area of the Park are not as extensive, partly due to the number of ponds and wet areas. One recent development includes a partnering agreement with the RM of Silver Creek for a trail from Silver Beach to Bydak Lake.

Key actions for this area are:

- Develop an area plan for the west end of the park to provide opportunities for a variety of visitor experiences. Consult with stakeholders and First Nations throughout the process. (from park management plan, 2007)
- Engage in other partnering agreements that would offer opportunities in other areas (e.g. Deep Lake, Ganza Lake, Sugarloaf Station, Birdtail Valley, Spruce Island Lake and Kays campsite)
- Work with the Trans Canada Trail committee to facilitate linkages
- Develop a day use loop trail near the Deep L. campground.

E. North End ***(Boreal Forest, Manitoba Escarpment)***

- Develop a loop trail from Agassiz Tower for visitors to experience the escarpment.

- Improve the experience on the Moon Lake trails by re-routing or offering alternative experiences (e.g. shorter loop trail).

F. Connecting Areas - Riding Mountain Traverse

- Develop a multi-day, multi-use trail with camping options through varied landscapes, showcasing the many natural wonders of the RMNP backcountry.
- Pursue opportunities to link this initiative with community partners and trail groups, such as the Mb Recreational Trail Association (Trans Canada Trail).

I. PROCESS

The Trail and Backcountry Committee will be responsible for implementation of the plan. The Committee will review and submit the work plan annually for approval by the RMNP Management Team.

Stakeholders and partners will be provided annual updates and opportunities to provide ongoing input. Annual "community conversations" will be held.

J. EVALUATING PERFORMANCE

Measuring the successful implementation of this plan will occur using the following methods described below. During the three year review period, other methods might be developed to help evaluate this trail plan.

Environmental Assessment: The ongoing monitoring identified in the assessment will be done.

Visitor Satisfaction: Ongoing visitor feedback opportunities will be provided through social media options such as website blogs and regular contact with those on the trail mailing list.
Periodic surveys of all park visitors will include questions regarding the trails and back country opportunities.

Levels of Use
Trail monitoring equipment will be used on certain trails to collect baseline data or compare levels of use with previous data collected by the park or researchers (e.g. Campbell and McKay). The target of 2003 levels for backcountry camping is to be achieved by year 5.

Classification System: The proposed trail and back country camping classification system will be monitored on an ongoing basis and evaluated within 3 years and aligned with the national classification systems.

Work Plan The work plan (appendix 5- To be developed) will be reviewed annually and updated. This will also function as an annual review of progress in implementing this Trail and Backcountry Use Plan.

Successful Partnerships: An initial target for developing successful partnerships is to establish three partnerships by year 3 of the plan.

Appendix 1 – Capital Asset Principles

...from the RMNP Management Plan, 2007

Capital Asset Principles

Development and investment programs are to be based on a sound, consistent and transparent management approach.

Capital Program Management

- Directed towards attaining Parks Canada's mandate, the Corporate Plan and RMNPC's Management Plan
- Follows all Parks Canada's guidelines, standards, applicable legislation and regulations
- Needs to be a manageable program

Stewardship and Environmental Leadership

- Based on an integrated approach (i.e. ecological and commemorative integrity, visitor experience and education)
- Reduces negative environmental impact and, wherever possible, reduce the existing footprint
- Exhibits cultural and environmental leadership, promotes public appreciation and understanding of Parks Canada's values
- Considers the visitor experience, social science research and innovative service alternatives
- Does not cause degradation or loss of cultural assets

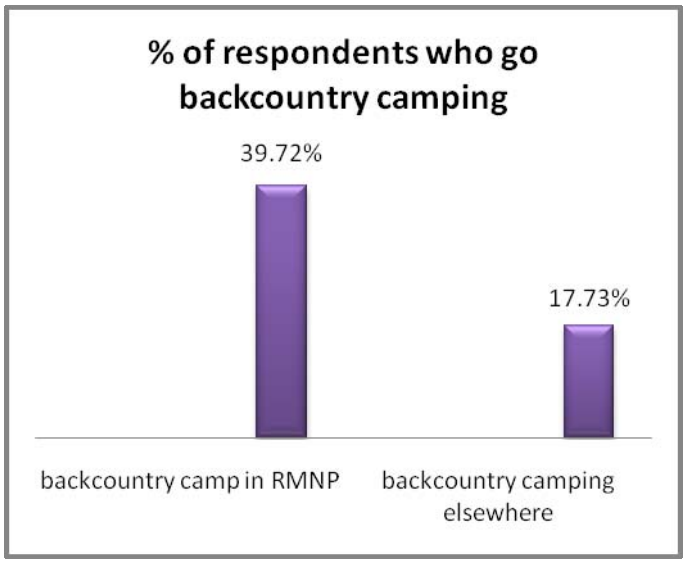
Financial Sustainability

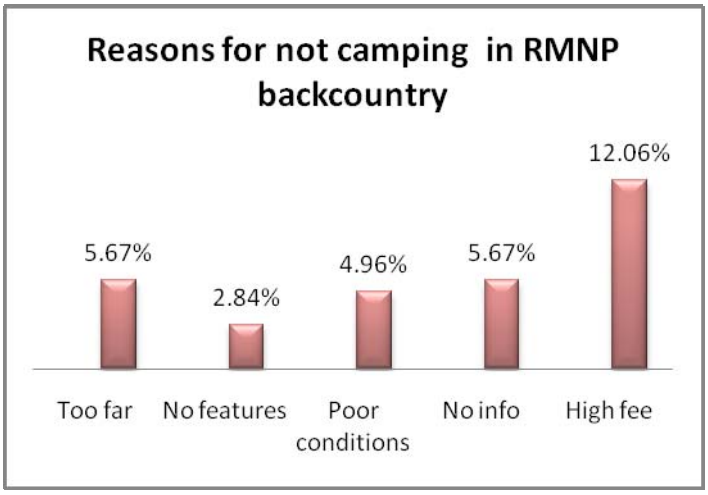
- Ensures full operational and financial sustainability over the proposed life of the investment
- Minimizes any net increase in Parks Canada's assets
- Designed to meet average, rather than peak demands
- Consideration given to leveraging investments through partnerships and cost sharing

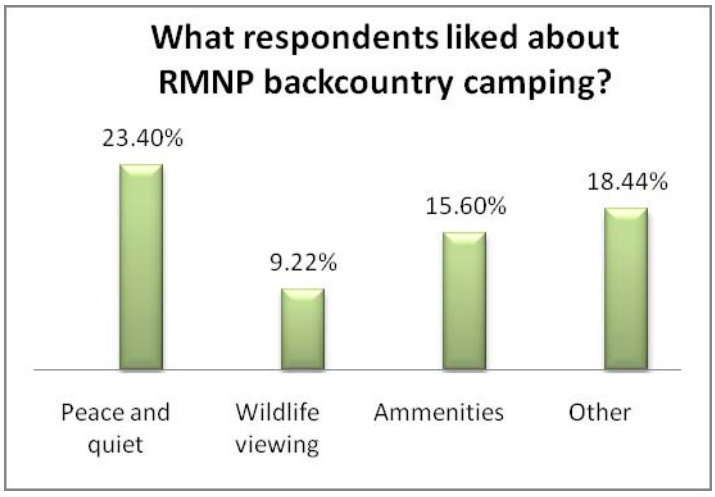
(adapted from *Parks Canada Capital Planning Process Directive, 2005*)

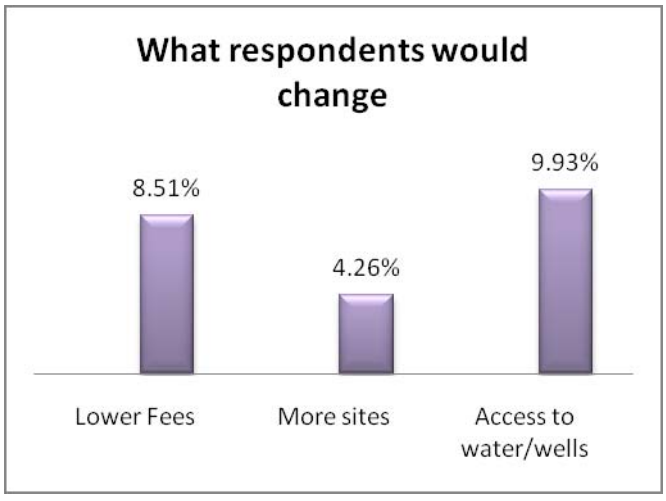
Appendix 2 - Public Feedback from Phase 1 Consultations

Backcountry Camping

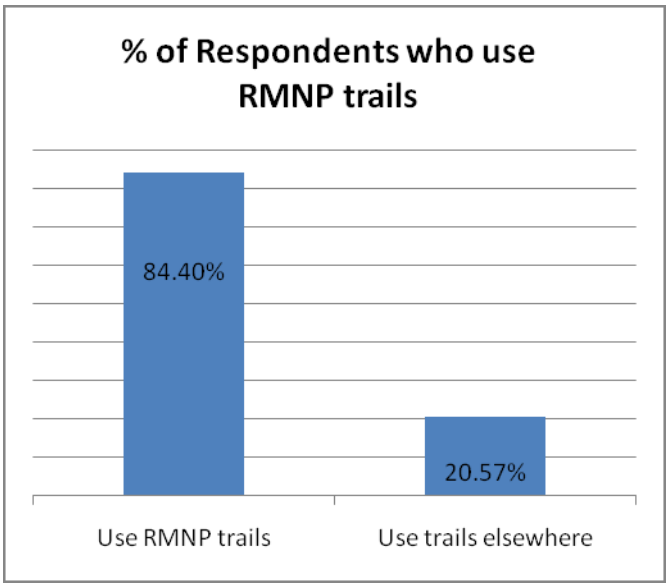


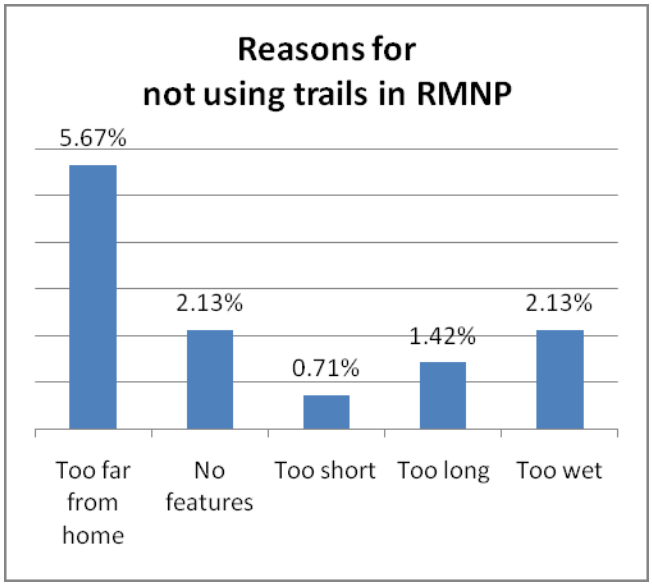


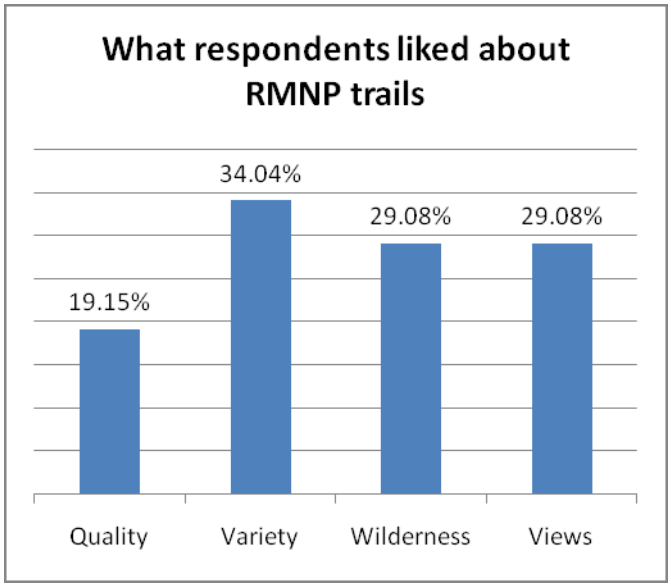


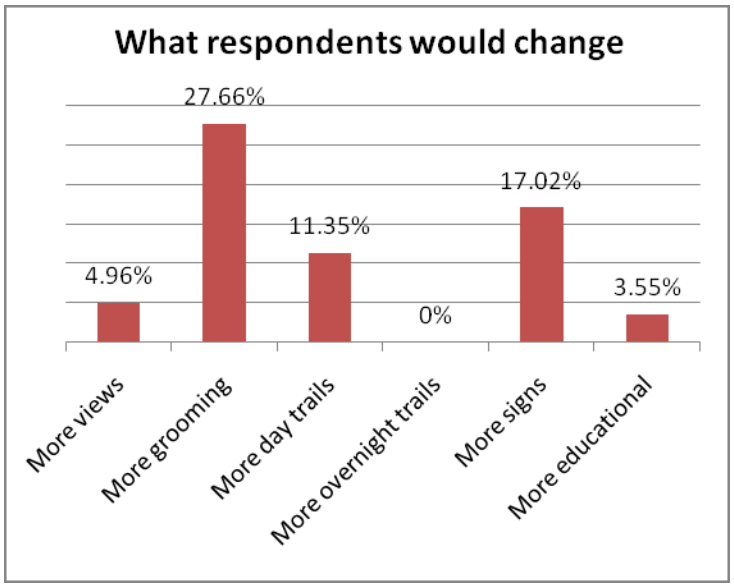


Trails









Appendix 3 – ***Environmental Assessment (to be done)***

Appendix 4 – Trail and Campsite Classification System

RMNP Trail Classification System				
Class #	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4\5**
Name	**Primitive**	**Minor**	**Major**	**Special Purpose** (Walks)
Description	Wilderness	Day use and Backcountry	Wagon Trails	Interpretive Accessible High Visitor Use attractions
Visitor Experience Opportunities	Wilderness, challenge Remoteness, isolation Self reliance Volunteer stewardship w/maintenance Links to communities	Diversity of opportunities Wilderness experience Recreation, fitness	Range of activities Safe and convenient Social activity/groups Recreation Unique	Unique attractions Natural/Cultural Education Disabled Access Large groups, high use
Visitor Expectations	Unobtrusive Minimal disturbance/maintenance Route finding Higher risk	Natural settings Some development/improvements Higher risk	Natural settings Old road infrastructure Low risk	Urban characteristics Significant Development Low risk
Examples	None presently to be developed or re-class existing trails	Grey Owl Jet Grasshopper	Central Strathclair Lake Audy Bike	Ominnik Boardwalk Boreal Island Trail Lakeshore Walk
Zoning	Wilderness	Wilderness	Wilderness motorized maintenance Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation Park Sevices Wilderness
Activity(s) (Day use/ Overnight) Hike	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes	Yes/yes	Yes/No

Horseback	Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes, some limits	Yes/yes	No/No
Cycle	limited	Yes/Yes, some limits	Yes/yes	Possibly
Wagon	No	No	Yes	No
Cross Country Ski	No/Maybe	Yes/Maybe	Yes/Maybe	No
Other		Snow shoe		wheel chair
Number & Length of Trails	0	38	6	5
% of Total System #'s	0	78%	12%	10%
Kilometers	0	250 km	154 km	6.1 km
% of Total System KM	0	58%	40%	2%
Target: % of System KM				
Target: % of System #				
Physical Attributes				
Tread Width	<50cm	80-120cm	200-250cm	variable
Cleared Width	50-100cm	150-200cm	3-4 m	variable
Surface	native materials	native materials/gravel	gravel	gravel, paved, wood,
Slopes	half bench	full bench	fall line	
Maintenance (Level)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
Equipment	Non motorized, hand, horses Winter OSV	ATV,kubota, hand, horses	ATV, trail cat, horse drawn equipment backhoe, tandem truck	ATV, heavy equipment
Inspection	1x/year	2x/year	3x/year	Weekly,monthly
Deadfall clearing	1x/year	2x/year	3x/year	as required
Brushing	1m (hand)	2m	3m	as required
Mowing	none	1m	2m	as required
Signage	Limited, Blazes or markers	National signage	National signage	National signage
Infrastructure	Limited	Moderate	Major	Major
Materials	natural, local material	natural and treated	engineered, treated	treated

Bridges Boardwalks	split log bridge Rustic, narrow 50 cm puncheon	class B bridges 120 cm boardwalks,puncheon gravel/geotextile	culverts, foords, Class A grade buildup cut/fill, gravel, Pond levellers/deceivers retaining wall	class B bridges boardwalks, ramps floating boardwalks stairs, handrails,
Visitor Risk Management				
Level of Use Level of Client Self Reliance Intervention Level Public Safety - SAR Extraction	Low Advanced minor Non-motorized wheeled stretcher	Moderate Moderate moderate ATV/OSV ATV rescue wagon OSV rescue toboggan	Moderate Moderate moderate ATV/Vehicle 4x4 truck, ambulance ATV rescue wagon OSV rescue toboggan	High Minor major ATV/Vehicle ambulance

RMNP Backcountry Camping Classification System					
Class #	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Name	**Random**	**Primitive**	**Minor**	**Major**	**Special Purpose**
Description	Wilderness	Wilderness Limited Facility	Hiker/Biker Camp	Wagon/Horse Camp	Hardwall Trailhead Horse
Visitor Experience Opportunities	self reliance remoteness, isolation no trace camping	self reliance remoteness, isolation	diversity of opportunities wilderness experience	larger social group shared sites fishing/haul canoe	winter/ski camping horse camping/vehicle
Visitor Expectations	no infrastructure solitude	minimal infrastructure	dry firewood water to make potable	well developed dry firewood water to make potable water Horses corrals	varies for each purpose
Examples		primitive sites not designated yet	Tilson Lake East Deep Lake Minnedosa River	Gunn Lake Whitewater Gunn Creek	Cairns Cabin Lake Audy Horse Corral
Capacity					
people	4	6	15	25	varies for each purpose
horses	6	to be determined (tbd)	tbd	10	
wagons	0	0	tbd	3	

Activity(s)					
Hike	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Horseback	yes	some	no	yes	depends
Cycle	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Wagon	no	no	some	yes	some
Winter/ski	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Other					
Maintenance (Level)	None	Low	Moderate	High	High
Access	Horse	Horse, OSV	ATV	ATV/Vehicle	
Inspection		1/season Horse or foot	2/season ATV	3/season ATV	
Brushing/mowing	none	hand	machine	machine	
Firewood	gather	gather	ATV cut locally	ATV cut/haul	Haul veh, ATV, OSV
Infrastructure					
Picnic Tables	None	1	2	3	
Fire pits	None	1	2	3	
wood shelters	None	0	1	1	
Water	None	find own	well	well	
outhouse	None	0	rustic	better	
food storage	None	0	2	5	
corrals	None	0	0	2	
hitching rails	None	0	1	2	
Signage	None	tbd	tbd	tbd	