



Terra Nova  
National Park

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# Management Plan Update for Terra Nova National Park



Terra Nova National Park would like to thank Indigenous partners, other partners, stakeholders and members of the public who provided feedback and input throughout the management planning process. The feedback received during Phase 1 public engagement helped shape the Terra Nova National Park Draft Management Plan, and the feedback received during Phase 2 helped to refine the plan and address any outstanding opportunities for improvement. The planning team carefully reviewed and considered all feedback, resulting in a robust and effective strategic document to guide Terra Nova National Park into the future.



## Overview of Phase 2 Draft Management Plan Engagement

In March and April 2019, Terra Nova National Park continued to engage Indigenous partners and members of the public to seek feedback on the Draft Management Plan. Meetings were held with the Miawpukek and Qalipu First Nations and the draft plan was discussed with members of the local Mayors Forum group who were updated on the process at a spring meeting.



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## **Opportunities for members of the public to engage and participate in this process included:**

- An online comment card was made available on the Terra Nova National Park website and on the Consulting with Canadians website;
- Four open house sessions hosted in the Terra Nova National Park region and St. John's;
- An engagement booth at the St. John's Farmers Market;
- Engagement at the Students, Meet World conference at Memorial University; and
- A paper copy of the comment card completed by local junior high and high school students.

Social media and email distribution lists were used to share information about how to participate. Partners helped support this process by sharing information within their contacts and encouraging involvement and feedback.

Content available for review and consideration included a report on Phase 1 public engagement titled *What We Heard Report: Opportunities for the Future, the Terra Nova National Park Draft Management Plan* and the 2009 Terra Nova National Park Management Plan. In addition, a copy of the Strategic Environmental Assessment was available upon request for review and comment.

## Highlights of the Draft Management Plan Review

The draft management plan included a vision for Terra Nova National Park describing desired outcomes for the next fifteen years, and four key strategies whose implementation will guide the park towards realising this vision. Participants were asked to review the draft plan and share their thoughts on the future direction outlined for the park. A brief synopsis of feedback received is outlined below.

## Vision

The vision proposed in the draft management plan was influenced by feedback received during Phase 1 discussions. Additions to the vision based on public input included strengthened or more specific references to ecological integrity and landscape connectivity, the importance of collaboration and working with local and Indigenous communities, the importance of the Terra Nova National Park Dark Sky Preserve, and the need to adapt to potential climate change impacts. Overall, the proposed vision was well received and participants were in agreement with the updates in the draft management plan.





# Key Strategies

The Terra Nova National Park Draft Management Plan included four key strategies, each with a set of objectives and targets that will help guide park management decisions for the ten year life of the plan. The key strategies frame the priorities for Terra Nova National Park and give direction to park managers as they make decisions. Detailed operational plans will determine how objectives and targets are met, and an annual implementation update will outline what has been achieved throughout the plan period.

## Key Strategy 1: Connecting People and Landscapes

This strategy aims to maintain healthy, connected ecosystems within the park and outside of its boundaries, encourages formal collaboration with partners and stakeholders to advance priorities, and seeks to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of environmental stewardship.

Responses to the draft management plan encouraged the park to continue to prioritize maintaining ecological integrity, and supported continued and increased collaboration to advance mutual goals of enhancing ecological integrity and connectivity in and around the park. Increasing public awareness and opportunities to contribute to conservation programs were also supported.



## Key Strategy 2: Sharing our Stories, Shaping our Future

This strategy focuses on working with Indigenous partners and local communities, and creating meaningful ways to increase public knowledge and understanding of and sense of connection with culture and history. Indigenous and local partners expressed support for increased opportunities to share stories and reflect their voices.

Indigenous languages were raised as an important area of consideration and it was suggested that these could be incorporated into park products. Increasing public awareness and understanding was seen as important, as was finding effective ways to communicate about park operations and programs. General feedback on the draft plan indicated support for initiatives that will help reach the targets outlined.





## Key Strategy 3: Escape, Explore, and Experience Terra Nova National Park

Future direction for visitor experience activities is described in the third key strategy. In particular, providing diverse programs and activities, reaching youth audiences, and encouraging participation in conservation efforts and hands-on learning opportunities are highlighted.

The majority of responses received came from individuals who identified themselves as long time park users. The support of repeat park visitors was evident throughout the process. Much of the feedback provided on this strategy focused on specific actions related to visitor facilities and offers. This feedback was appreciated and will influence how targets and objectives in the management plan are achieved.

Support was expressed for exploring new cultural programming and continued exploration of new offers including diversified accommodations and backcountry experiences. 'Learn to' activities were seen as a valuable opportunity to engage youth and underrepresented user groups, and there was continued interest in exploring a four season offer in the park.



## Key Strategy 4: Building a Foundation of Knowledge for Adaptation

The fourth key strategy acknowledges the need to broaden our understanding of climate change impacts, and supports increased knowledge sharing, research and understanding of risks and vulnerabilities.

Climate change was identified as an area for collaboration with Indigenous partners and local communities, and it was suggested that national parks serve as valuable areas for academic partners to study. Overall, feedback indicated agreement from partners, stakeholders and the public that climate change data should help inform management decisions as it becomes available. The importance of planning for potential impacts in the future and working together to identify adaptations or mitigations was noted.





## Zoning

The Terra Nova National Park Draft Management Plan proposed some changes to park zoning, most notably an increase in the percentage of Zone I area within the park. Zone I is a special preservation area established to support unique, threatened or endangered natural or cultural features, or areas that are among the best examples of the natural region represented by the park. The portion of Gros Bog within Terra Nova National Park was proposed as a Zone I as it meets the above noted criteria.

Some discussion around this zoning change took place during draft plan discussions, with questions around how this adds extra protection to the area and whether visitor or local use would be impacted. Overall, response to this proposed change was positive and the park was congratulated on its efforts to increase protection in this area.



## Next Steps

The park planning team is proud to say that the 2019 Management Plan for Terra Nova National Park was completed through engagement with our Indigenous partners, stakeholders, local communities and the general public. The final plan has evolved to respond to suggestions and ideas that we heard from you. Our shared vision will guide park management for the next 10 years as we work to implement the key strategies, objectives and targets that will improve ecological integrity, visitor experience and public outreach activities.

Implementation of the plan will be reported on an annual basis to our partners, stakeholders and the general public.