

# CORNWALL WATERFRONT PLAN 2007

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## GUINDON PARK

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## Introduction

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\_\_\_\_\_The Official Plan recommends the “encouragement of the development of Guindon Park as a major outdoor recreation and tourism center and investigate the feasibility of using the Hydro transmission lands east of Guindon Park for linear recreation activities, linking the park to the rest of the Waterfront” (Pg. 121).

This chapter provides background on the park, focusing on the history and future possibilities of this area.

## **1.0 Boundary**

Park land bound by Vincent Massey Drive to the north, the City of Cornwall limits to the west, the Lake St. Lawrence Dyke to the south, and the boundary of Ontario Power Generation Lands to the east.

## **2.0 Existing Land Uses and Characteristics**

Guindon Park provides cleared picnic areas, nature trails, a boating area, washroom facilities, and recreational trails for biking and walking in the summer months and cross-country skiing in the winter. Guindon Park is zoned Open Space 10 (OSP10) for the south half fronting along the Lake St. Lawrence. The Official Plan designation is primarily Public Open Space (P.O.S.), with some small areas identified as Environmental Constraint Areas (E.C.A), as they are wetlands. These planning controls are consistent with the stated objectives for the park.

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## **3.0 History**

Before the Seaway flooding occurred in 1958, this area was part of Loyalist farm land. In the early 1970's, 500 acres were developed into recreational park land as a result of "infrastructure" grants available to Cornwall. The area was known as the Ontario Power Generation lands but was renamed in honour of a Member of Provincial Parliament at that time, Fern Guindon.

In 1977, a detailed park development plan was drafted containing significant uses and structures. The Plan would have required considerable expenditure of funds to fully develop. Only portions of the plan have been implemented and the area remains largely a passive recreational facility.

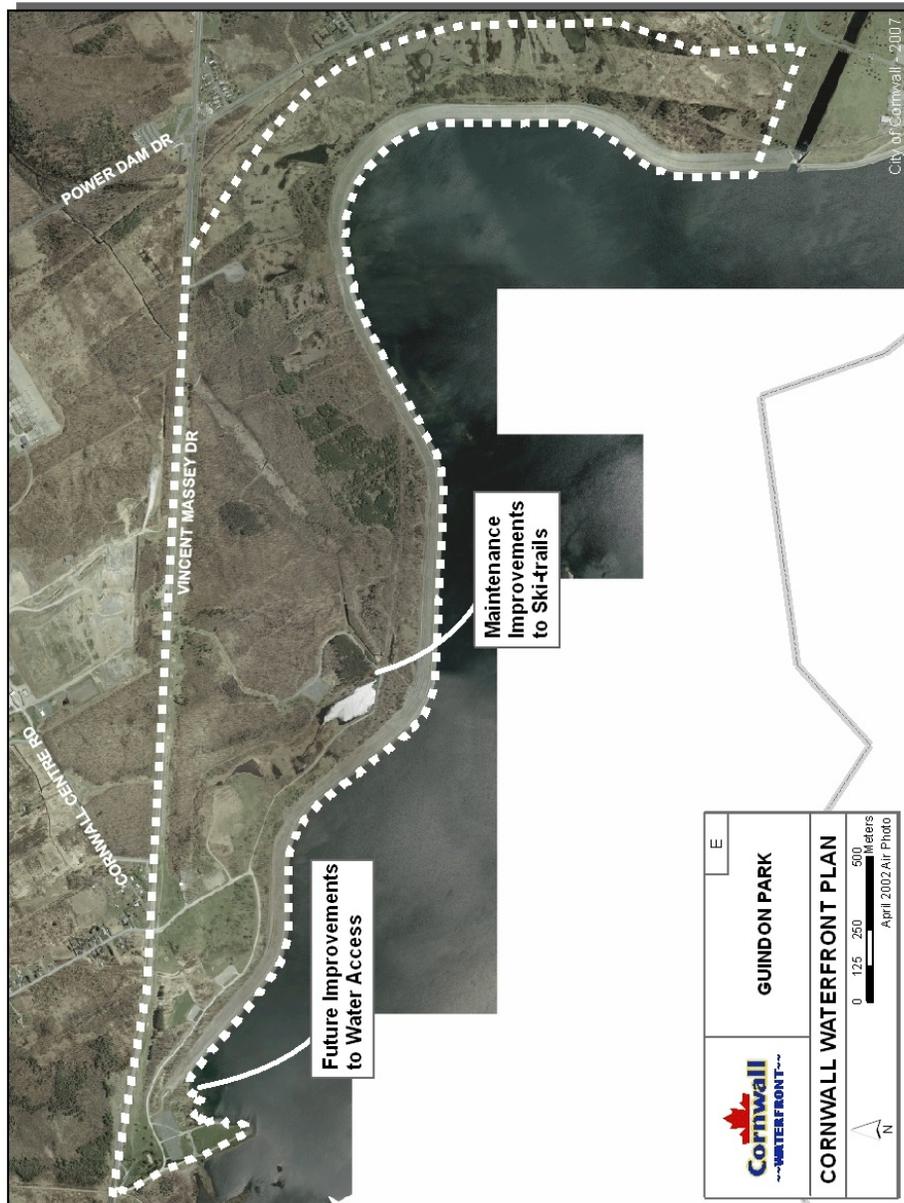
## **4.0 Role of the Area to the City**

Guindon Park is the largest park within the City consisting of 190 hectares (469 acres), and provides a balance of wooded "natural" areas and cleared picnic areas. Within the wooded areas, time could be spent walking on the nature trails in the summer, or cross-country skiing on the trails in the winter. The Park provides a good link from the urban city to the nearby beaches to the East in Long Sault, particularly with the key connection of the paved bikepath which travels along the length of the Park.

The cleared areas are supplied with picnic tables and waste receptacles for families and organized company picnics and for activities such as frisbee or football throwing. To the southwest, people launch their boats to go fishing or to enjoy Lake St. Lawrence.

Although the park abuts Lake St. Lawrence along its entire south perimeter, a majority of the Park, particularly toward the east, is quite distant from the Waterfront.

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## **5.0 Constraints to Development**

\_\_\_\_\_ Guindon Park is a major natural area within the City and there is a desire to not over develop this area. Generally, the community supports keeping it natural.

Any water activity that is considered is a concern to Ontario Power Generation because the Power Dam is close and public safety is an issue for that organization.

## **6.0 Projects Completed from 1989 Waterfront Plan**

Due to this section of the Waterfront being kept with such “natural” settings, there have not been many projects completed since the 1989 Plan. There were some additional picnic areas introduced for large family or recreational gatherings along with some additional trees which were planted for more shading in defined areas.

## **7.0 Preliminary Proposals**

Since this particular section of the Waterfront has no real direct link to the active shoreline or Waterfront, this section has more of a park planning exercise. The Committee is, therefore, not recommending significant actions related to the Waterfront Plan. It does, however, have some general recommendations:

- Since the nordic ski trails are used in the winter months, the Committee felt that this area and the trails be better maintained and perhaps some improvements to trail maps be placed at the entrance to the trails. There was also discussion of possible concession stands around the area with hot chocolate or so forth for those enjoying the ski trails.
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- Consider further more improvements to the bikepath's system, even some into and through the major areas of the park.
- The area at the west end could support more boating related activities, but increased use may be tied to progress on reopening the canal to recreation traffic. If progress is made on reopening the Canal, the area would warrant further analysis.
- One general suggestion made by the public is to set aside a darkened area on the Waterfront for stargazing. The Committee is suggesting that Guindon Park may be a suitable area for such a use.

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The earlier section provides details on the Plan's proposals and priorities but for summary purposes, they are listed as follows.

## PRIORITIES

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<b>SHORT TERM PRIORITIES - 1-5 YEARS</b>	<b>LEVEL OF EFFORT - BUDGET</b>
Continue to improve ski and walking trails	Continued investment in trail maintenance - Low budget
Stargazing area (parking and power)	Low cost
<b>LONG TERM PRIORITIES - 6-10 YEARS</b>	<b>LEVEL OF EFFORT - BUDGET</b>
West end area improvements and boating facilities	Medium effort and budget