

# Smileys Provincial Park

Public Information  
Session



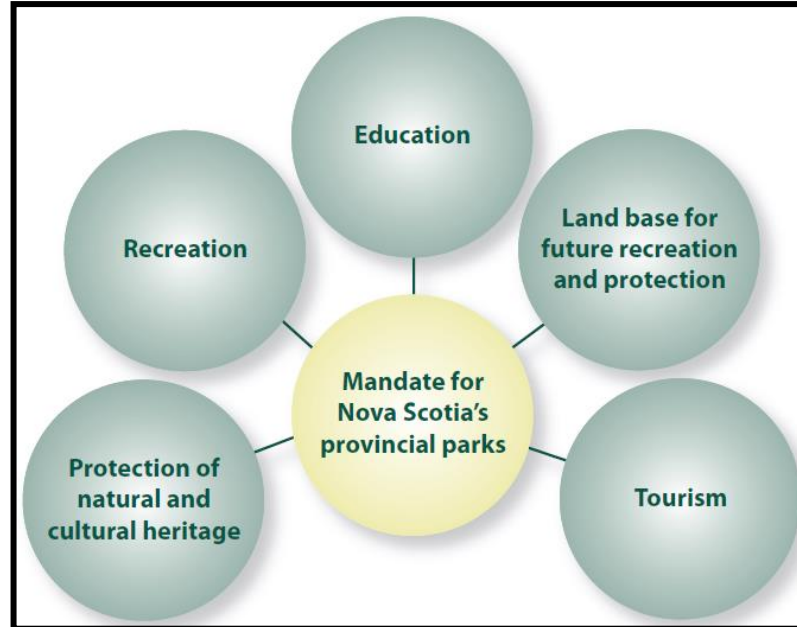


# AGENDA

- Welcome and introductions
- Mandate and planning process
- History and overview of Smileys
- Flood risk study
- Operational changes and updates
- Future planning update
- Group discussion
- Next steps and adjourn



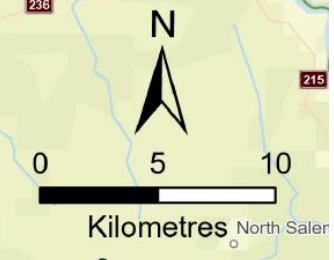
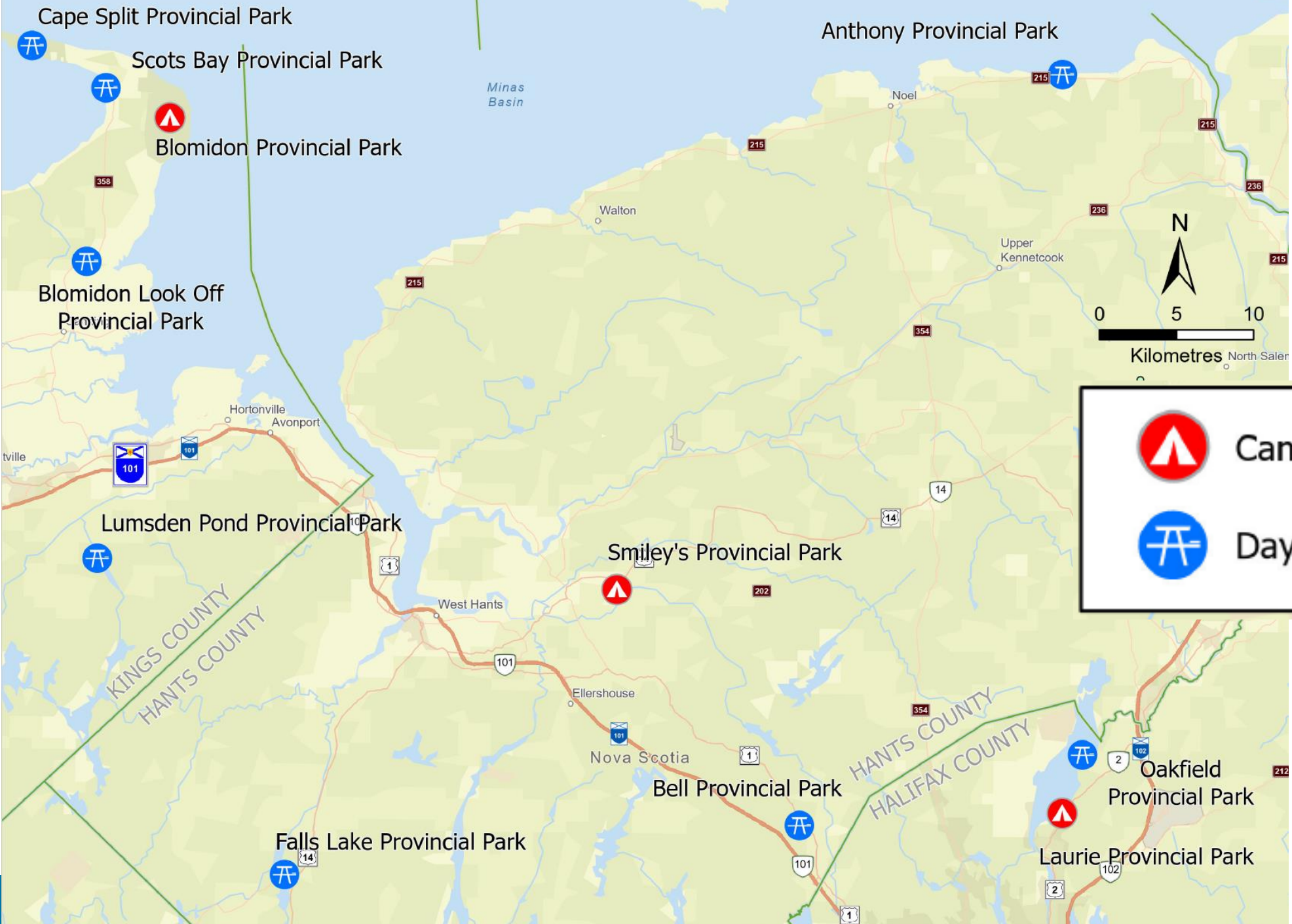
# Nova Scotia Provincial Parks



**203 Provincial Parks**

131 operational (20 Camping, 111 Day-Use)



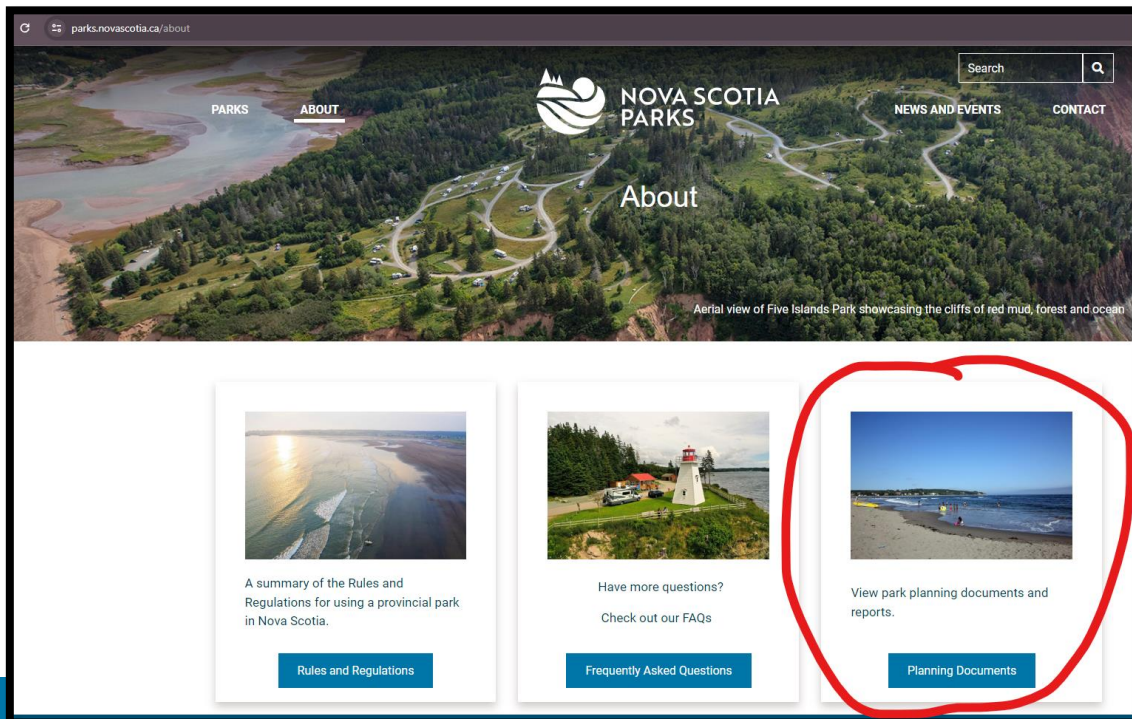


	Camping
	Day Use



# Park Management Planning

- A management statement sets the vision and provides guidance
- Ensures each park is managed consistently
- Includes public engagement



## Park Planning

- + ⓘ Cole Harbour-Lawrencetown Coastal Heritage Park System (Rainbow Haven and Lawrencetown Beach)
- + ⓘ McNabs and Lawlor Islands Provincial Park
- + ⓘ Pondville Beach Provincial Park
- + ⓘ Rissers Beach Provincial Park
- + ⓘ Smileys Provincial Park

The Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR), Parks & Outreach Division is currently undergoing a management planning process for Smileys Provincial Park. This process will result in a Management Statement which will guide future management activities. Public engagement is an important part of the management planning process, and we invite you to attend a public information session on Tuesday, September 17, 2024

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Brooklyn Fire Hall  
955 Highway 215, Newport

The session is an opportunity to learn about the flood study, hear about changes at Smileys, and to gather input for future planning for Smileys Provincial Park.

Additional Information: [Flood Study Executive Summary Smileys Provincial Park](#)

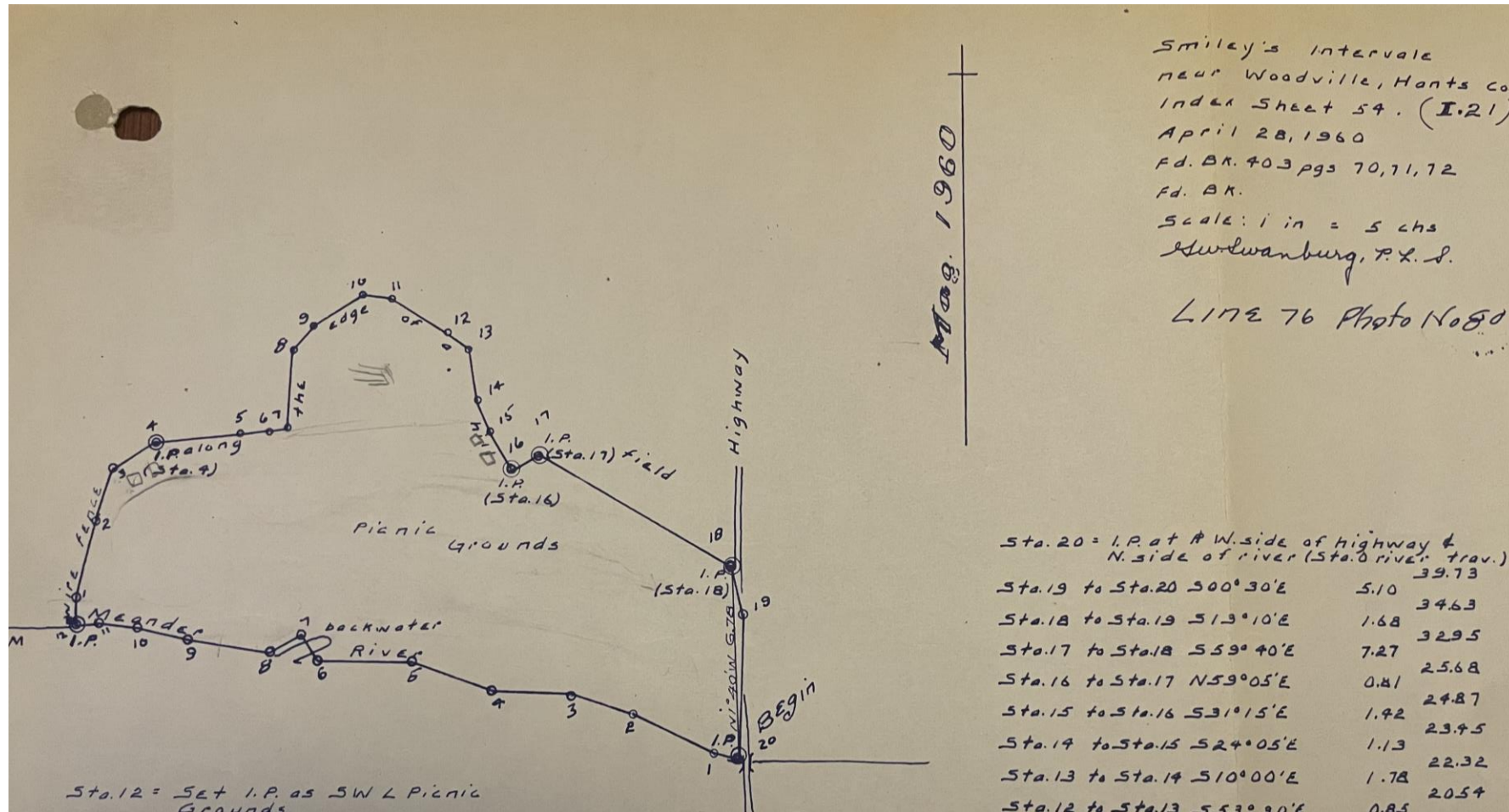


# Planning Timeline

Item	Description	Engagement	Dates
Scoping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rationale</li> <li>• Schedule &amp; Engagement Strategy</li> </ul>		Summer 2024
Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect background information on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Natural values</li> <li>○ Cultural values</li> <li>○ Recreation values</li> <li>○ Threats</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Information Session</li> </ul>	Fall 2024
Develop Management Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management Statement               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policies, approaches and development concept</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posted to website               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web-based opportunity to provide feedback</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Winter 2025
Phased Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site level planning &amp; design               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject to available funding &amp; resources</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		TBD



# Park History Smiley's Interval – 1960 survey data



NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS



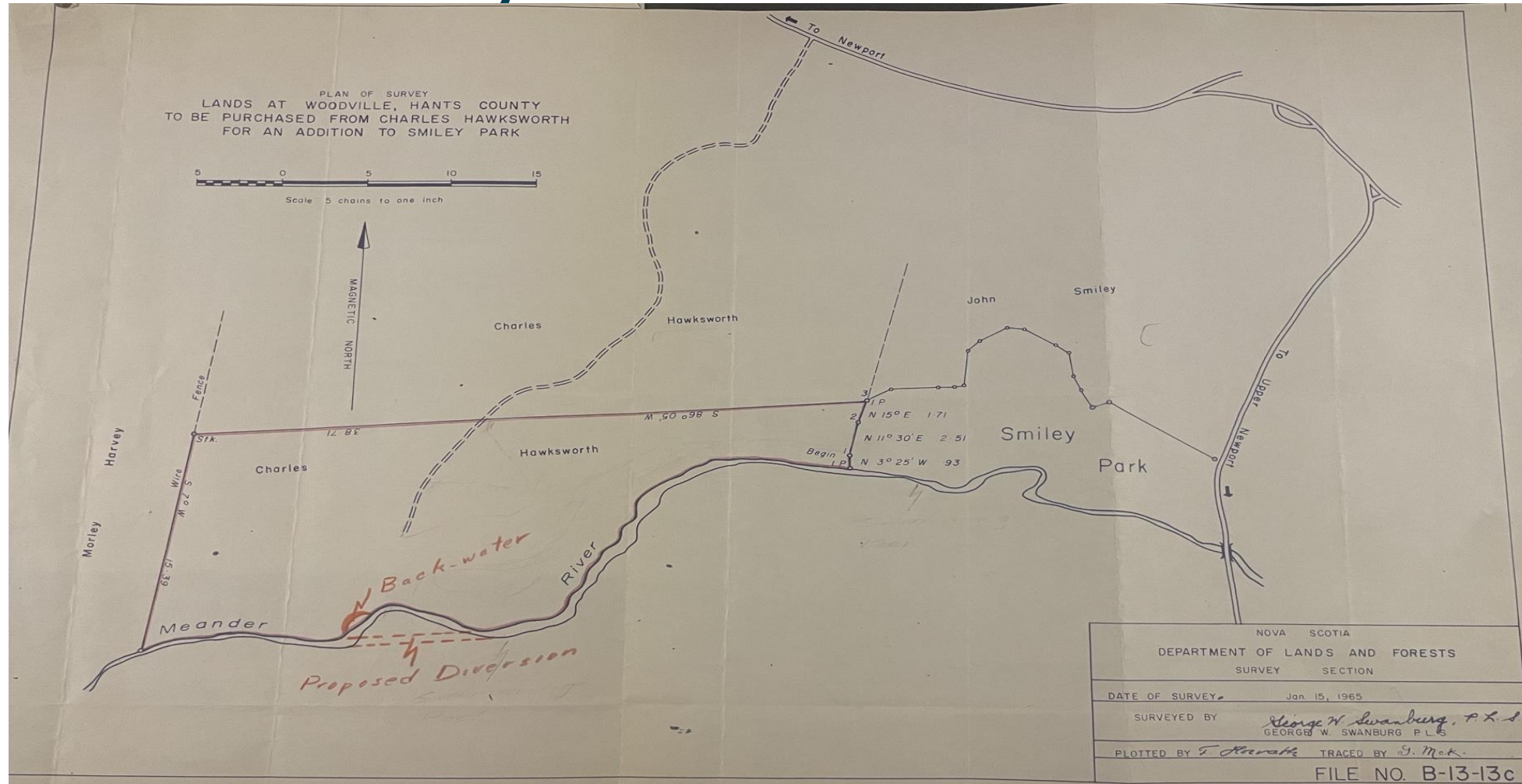
# Park History Smiley's Interval – 1960's camping





# Park History

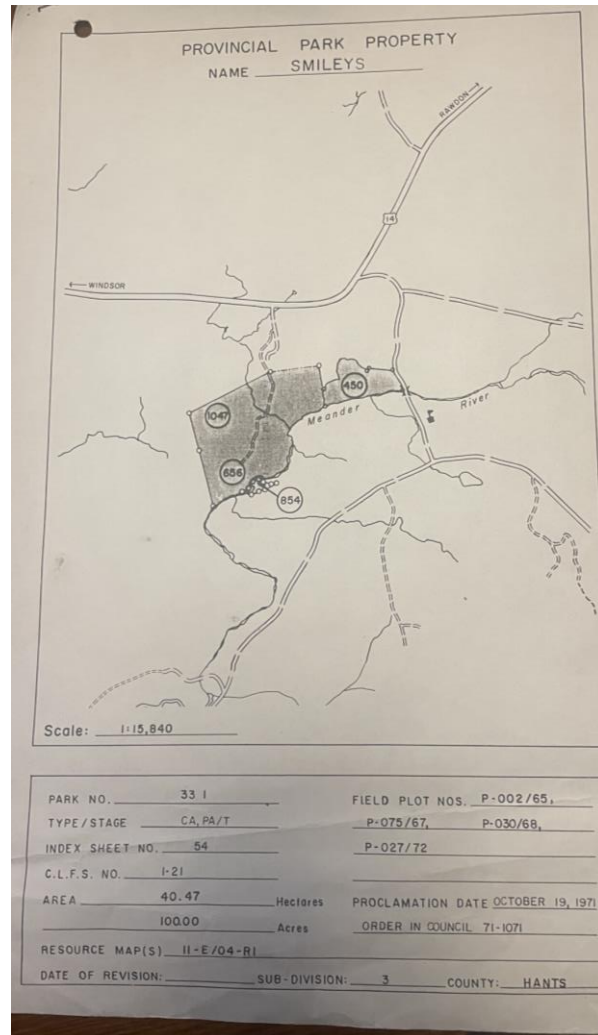
## Additional Lands - 1965





# Park History

Designated Provincial Park Oct 19, 1971



**Smiley's Provincial Park Designation  
made under Section 8 of the  
*Provincial Parks Act*  
R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 367  
O.I.C. 71-1071 (October 19, 1971), N.S. Reg. 93/71**

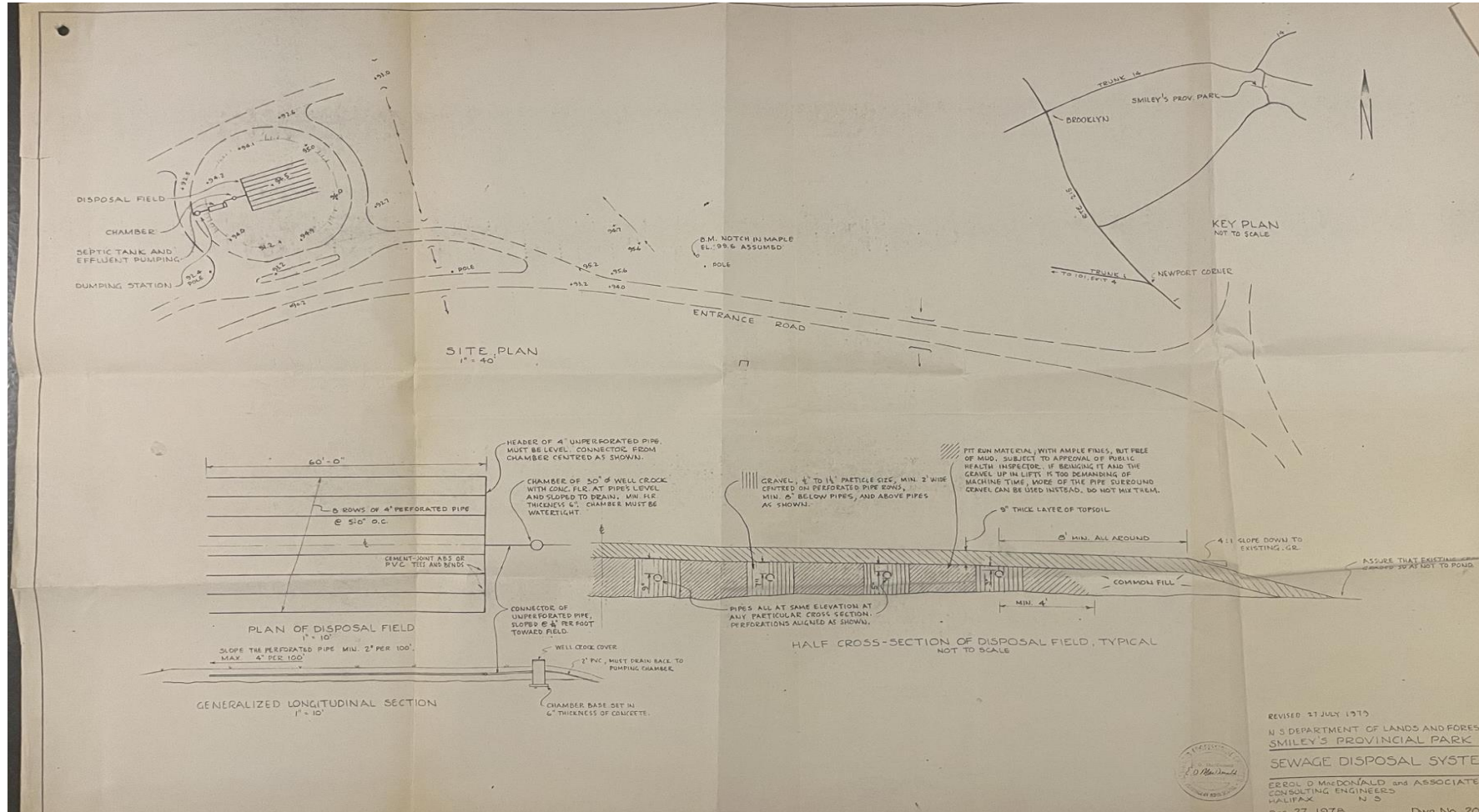


**NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS**



# Park History

## Septic System 1978









# Park History

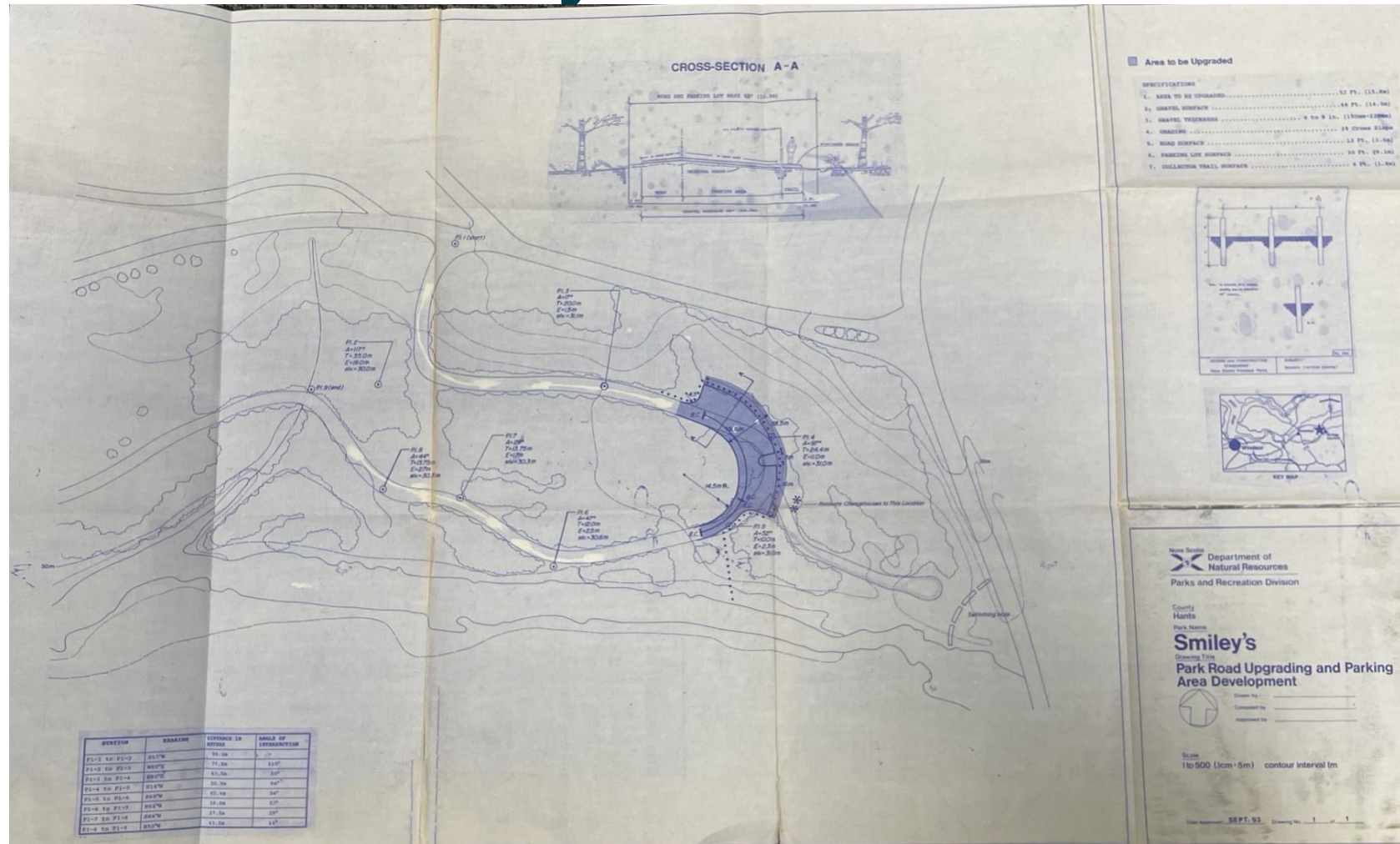
## 1980's upgrades, fire and Earwigs

- 1980 first report of Earwig in park, again in 1983
- 1981 New entrance building constructed \$26, 150
- January 1982 fire – 2 park building and all equipment, including a tractor. \$37,000 loss
- 1985 – Campsite rehabilitation through campground
- 1986 – Dutch Elm Disease report in park
- 1987 Water system study completed
- 1988/1989 – Playground equipment bought/installed
- 1988 to 1998 – Bank and stream stabilization



# Park History

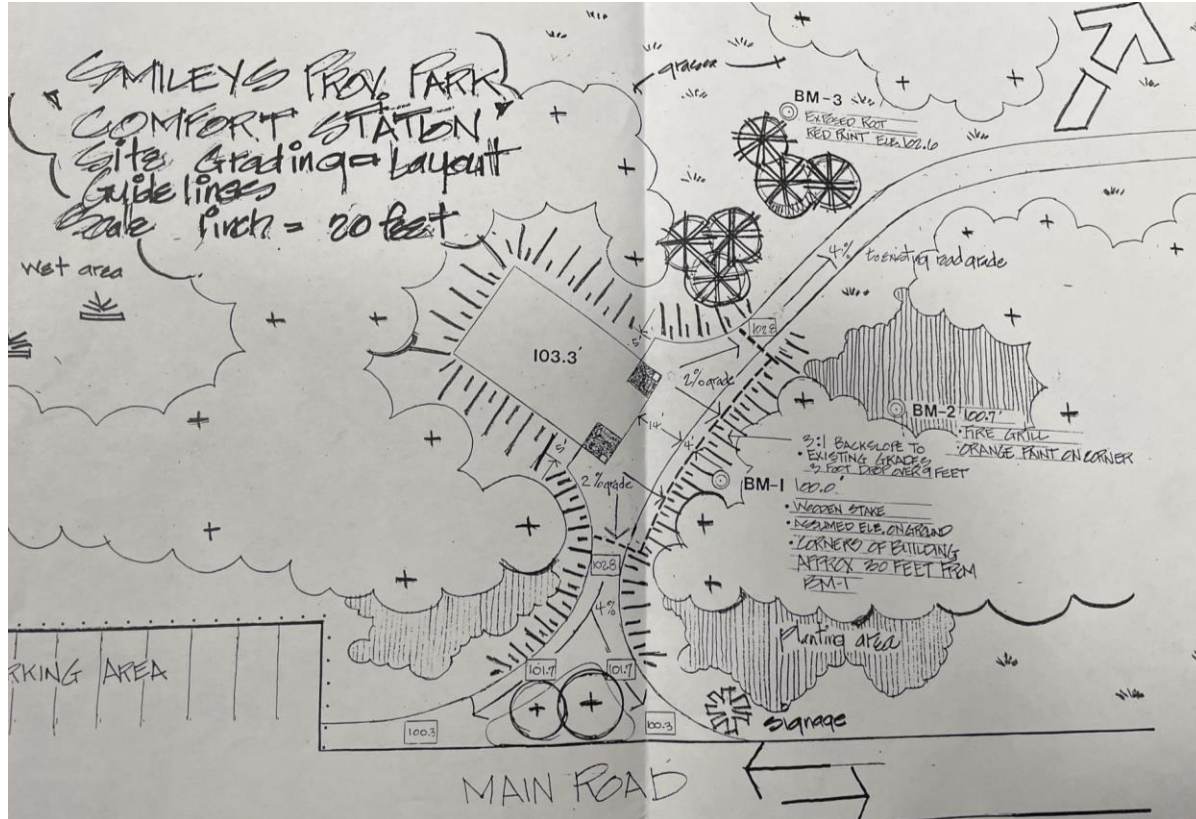
## Park and Road upgrades 1993/1994





# Park History

## Comfort Station Construction 1994



NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS



# Park History

## More recent updates

- Well drilled 1996
- Rehabilitation Brich loop 1999
- Solar Panels Comfort station
- Trail development
- Dishwash station
- Group Use building

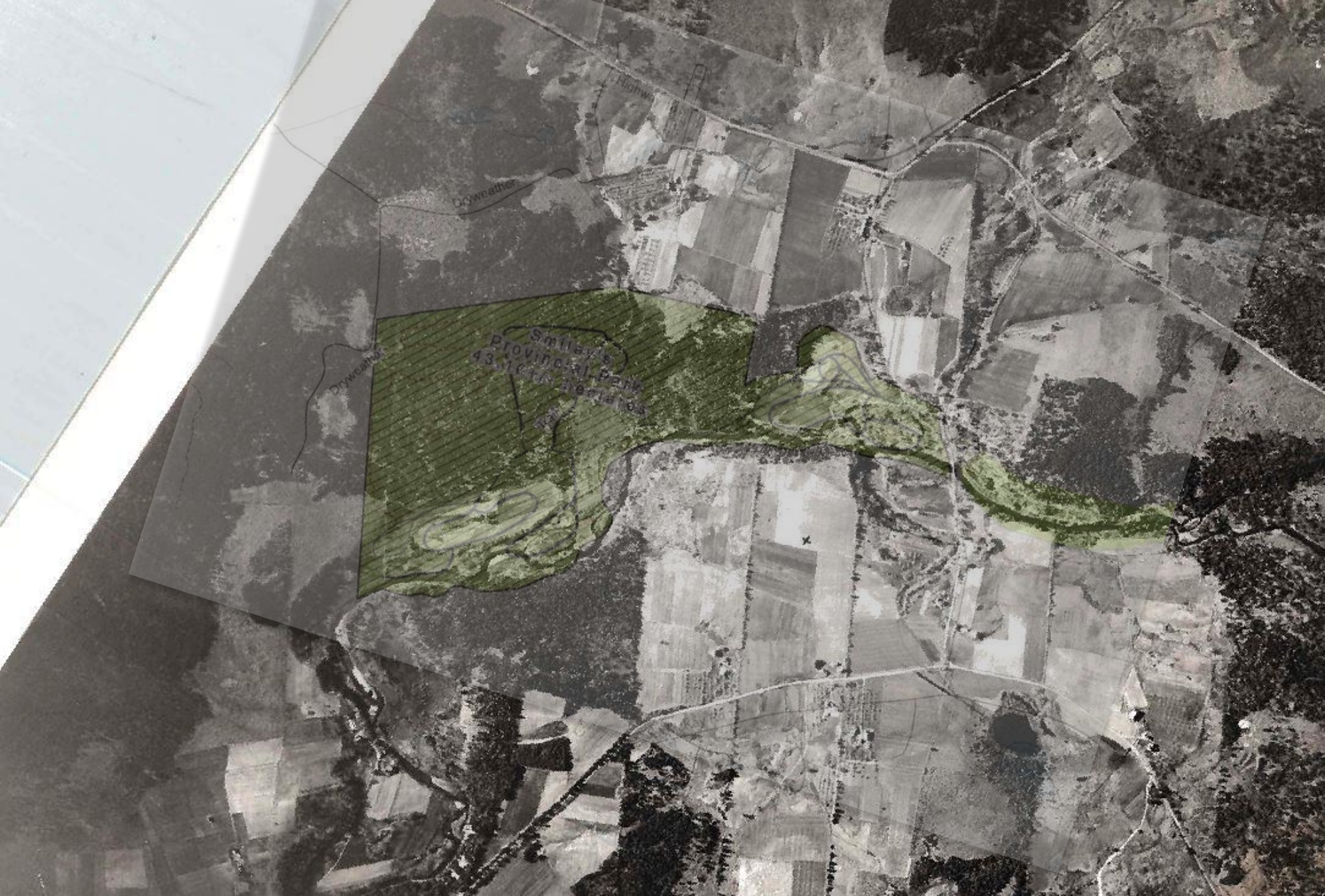






- Designated in 1971
- First Operated as a campground in 1960
- Approximately 43 hectares in size





1938 AERIAL PHOTO



NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS





1973



NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS





1992



NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS



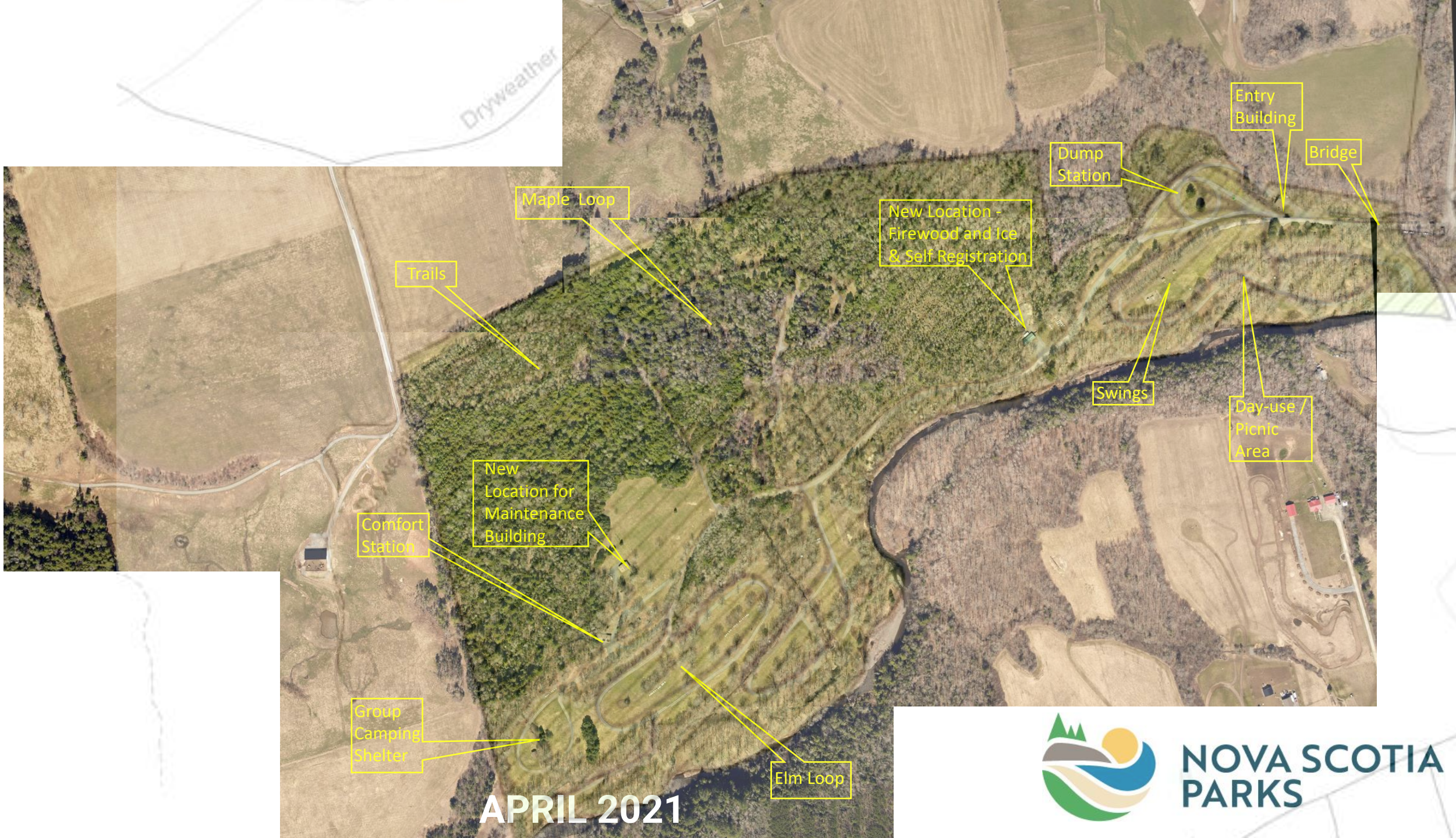


2012



NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS





Dryweather

Maple Loop

Trails

New Location -  
Firewood and Ice  
& Self Registration

Dump Station

Entry Building

Bridge

Swings

Day-use /  
Picnic  
Area

New  
Location for  
Maintenance  
Building

Comfort  
Station

Group  
Camping  
Shelter

Elm Loop

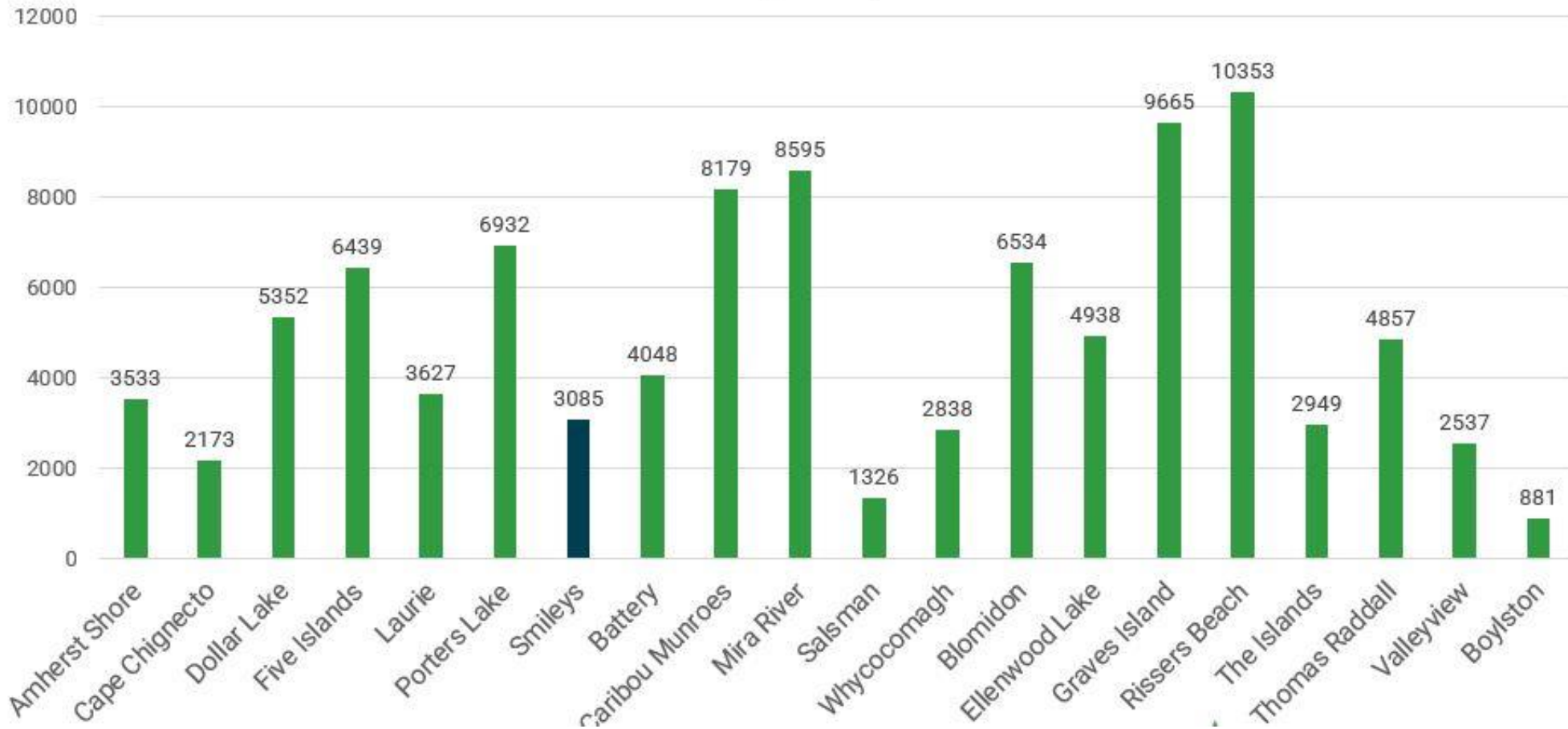
APRIL 2021



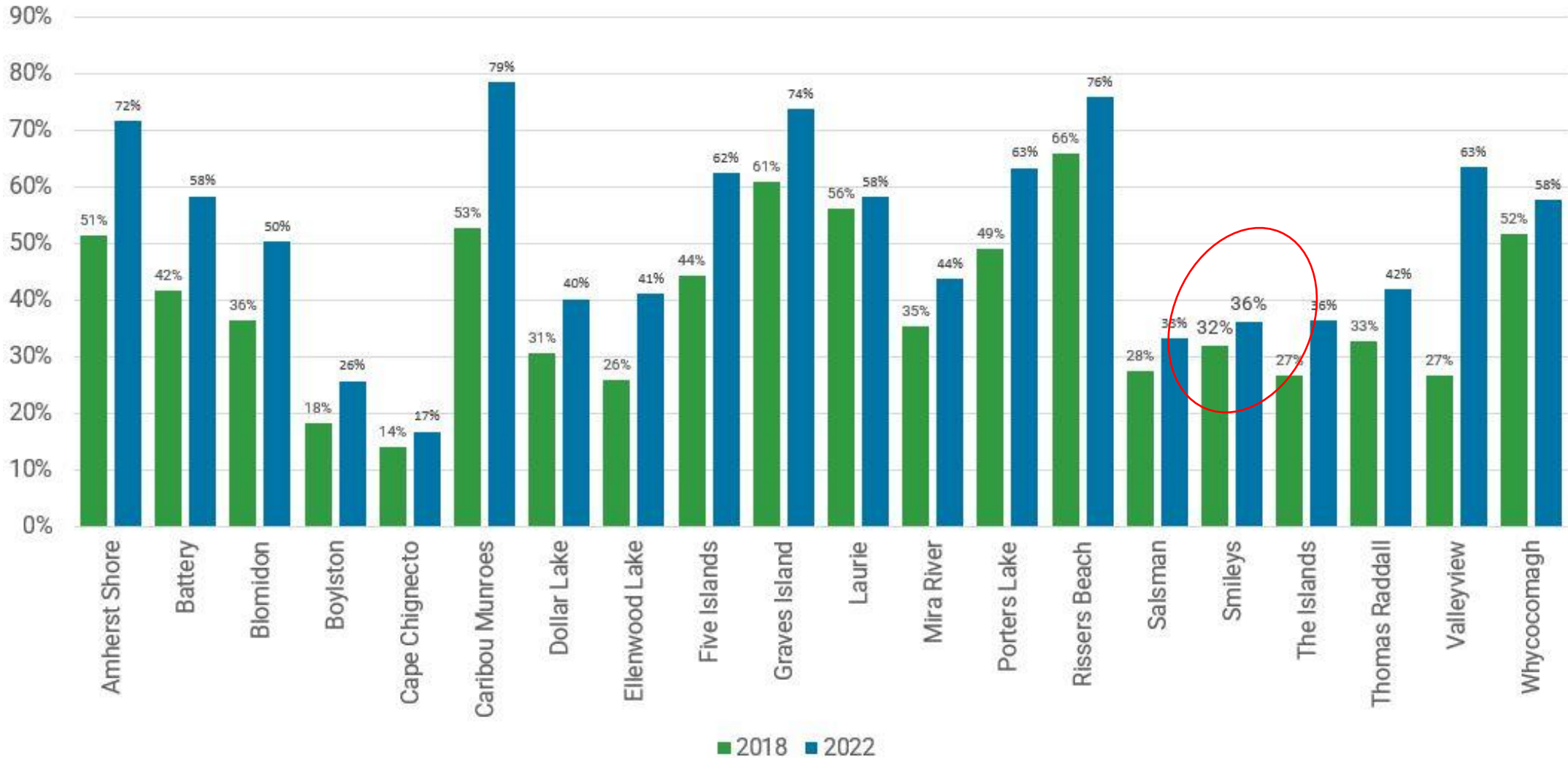
NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS



## Paid Overnight Stays - 2022

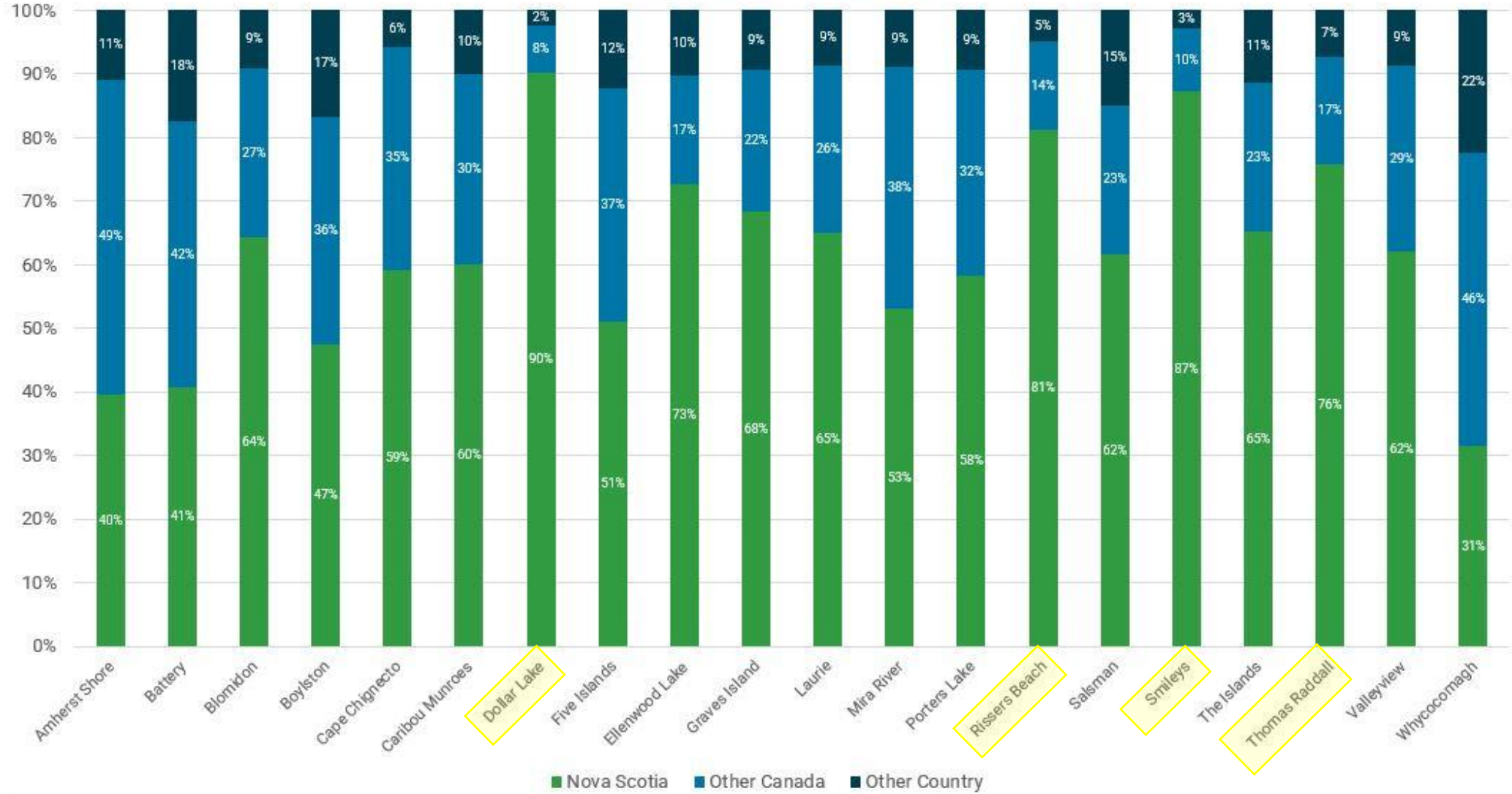


Percent Occupancy by Park - 2018 vs 2022





% Origin of Visitors by Park 2022

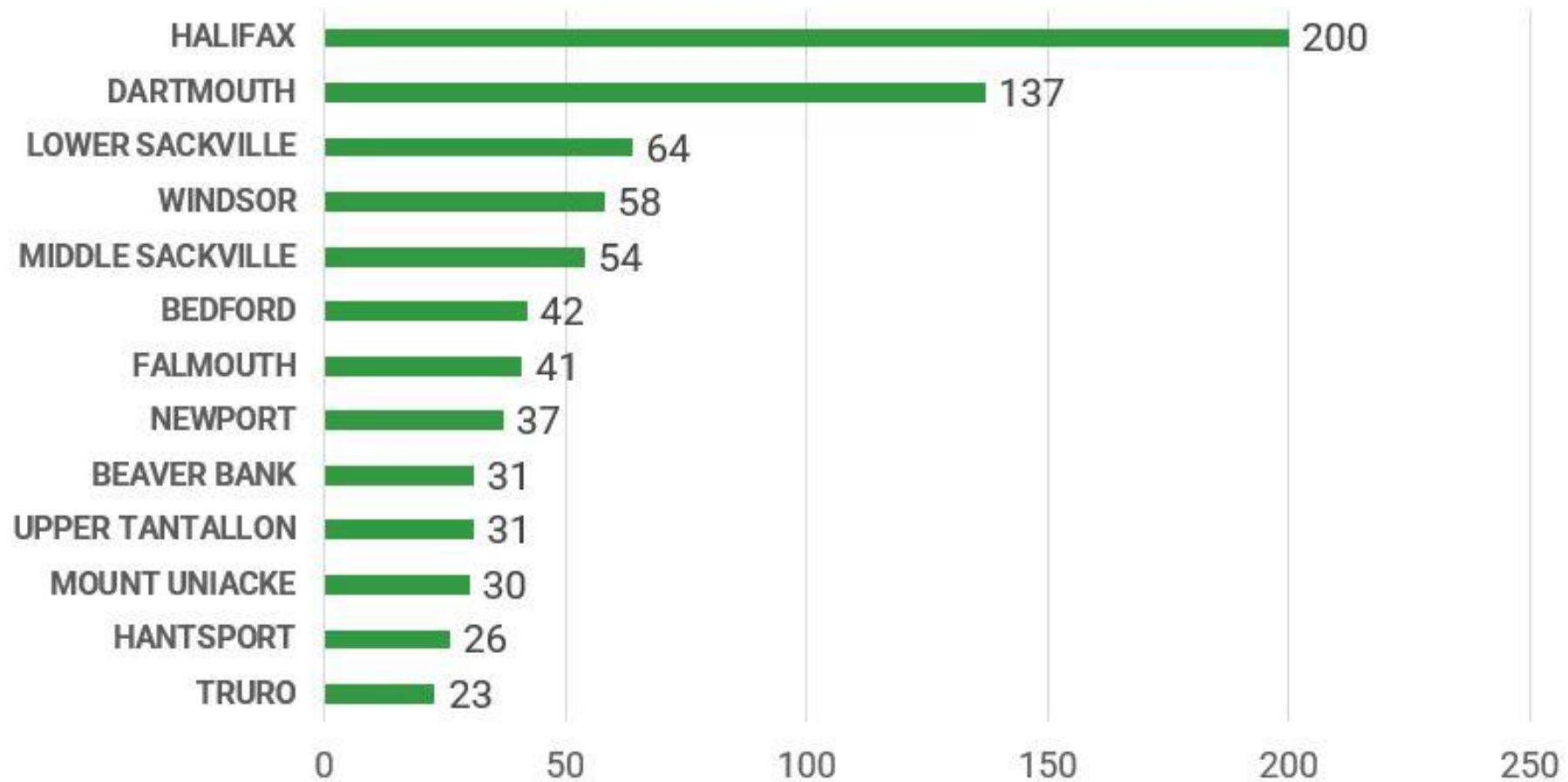


# WHO'S USING THE PARK



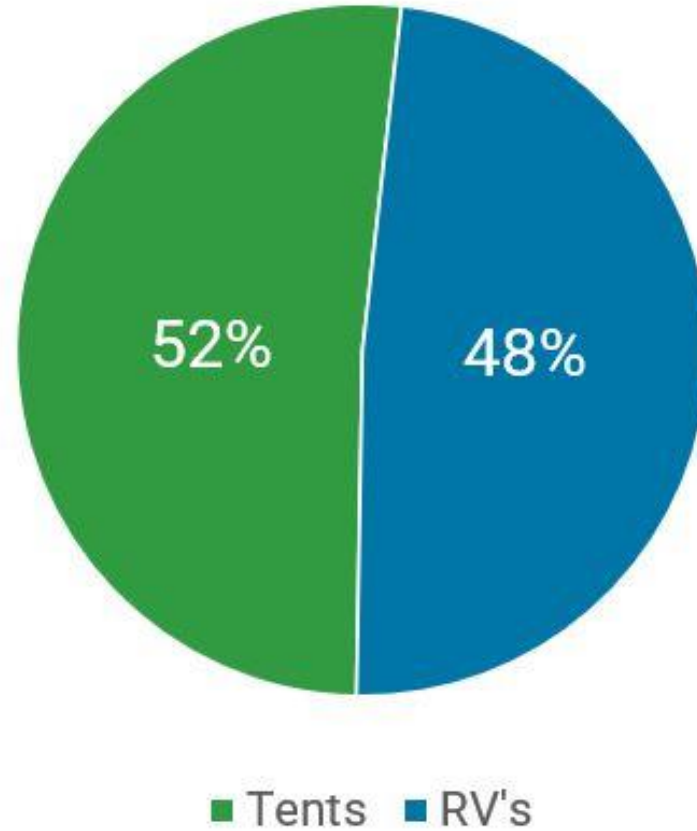
**NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS**

### Origin of Camper at Smileys - Reservations 2022





### Tent vs RV at Smileys - Reservations 2022







109

SMILEY'S  
PROVINCIAL PARK  
Nova Scotia Department of  
Natural Resources



























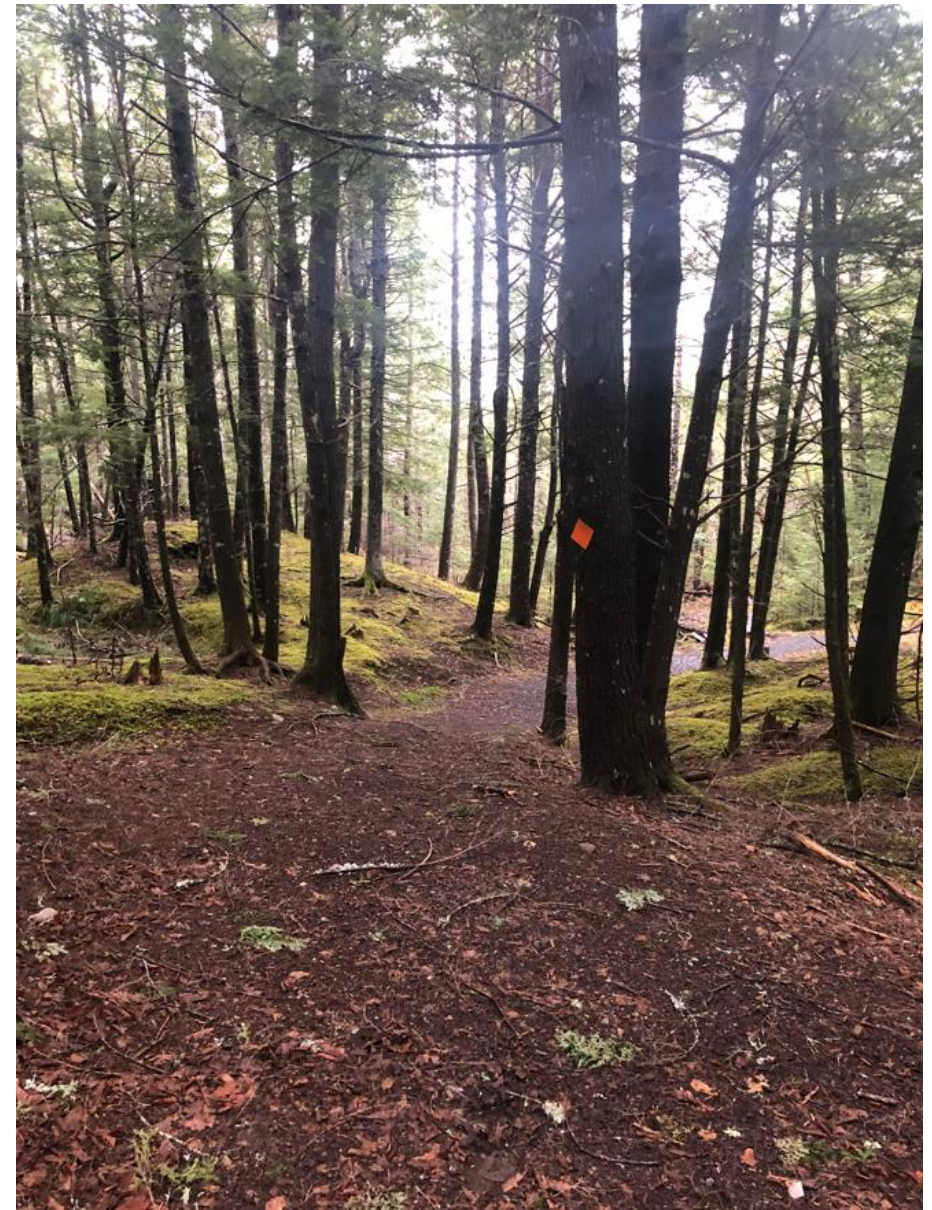












NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS

















Showy Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*)





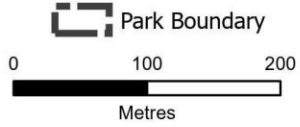






# Smileys Provincial Park

Hants County



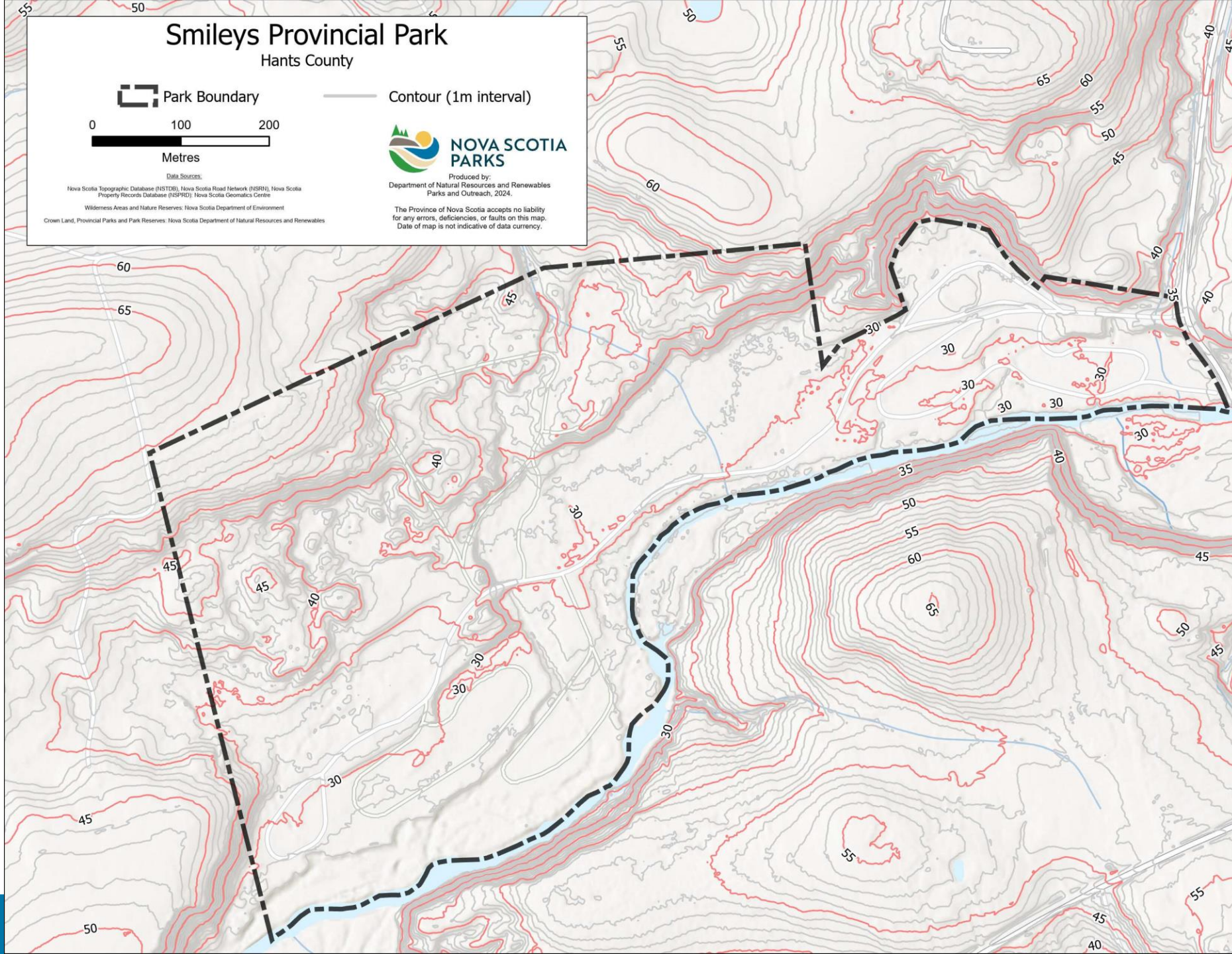
— Contour (1m interval)



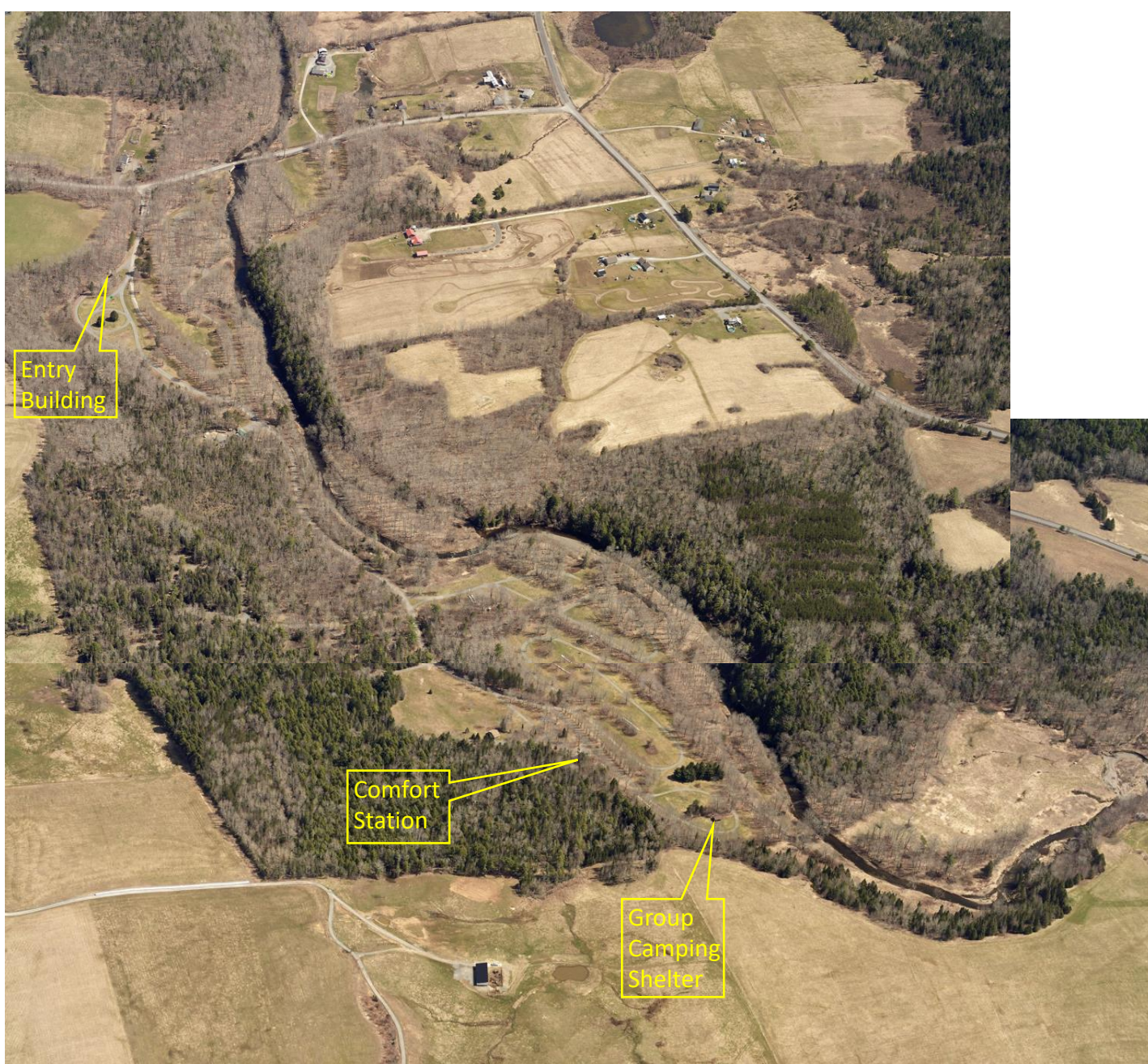
Produced by:  
Department of Natural Resources and Renewables  
Parks and Outreach, 2024.

Data Sources:  
Nova Scotia Topographic Database (NSTDB), Nova Scotia Road Network (NSRN), Nova Scotia Property Records Database (NSPRD), Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre  
Wilderness Areas and Nature Reserves: Nova Scotia Department of Environment  
Crown Land, Provincial Parks and Park Reserves: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables

The Province of Nova Scotia accepts no liability for any errors, deficiencies, or faults on this map. Date of map is not indicative of data currency.







Smiley's Provincial Park Flood Risk  
Study  
Final Report

CBCL



NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS

March 2024



NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS

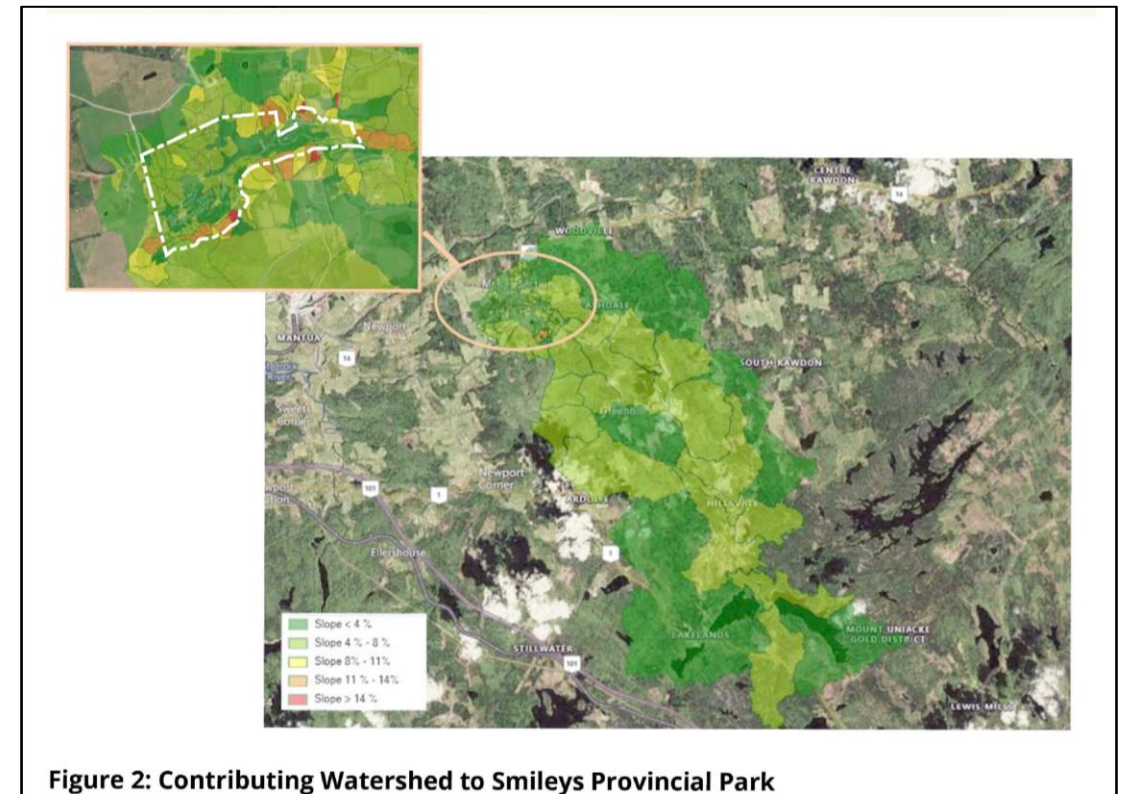
**JULY 22, 2023 STORM EVENT**



- The purpose of the study was to develop a hydrologic and hydraulic model of the Smileys Provincial Park, using technology developed by Computational Hydraulics International (CHI).
- The model is able to simulate hydrologic processes such as runoff, infiltration, flooding, snowmelt, evapotranspiration and low impact development measures.
- It is also applied for performing unsteady hydraulic flow calculations to simulate water backup, pooling, and detention ponds.
  
- **HYDROLOGY** – the study of transforming rainfall amounts into quantity of runoff – as it relates to the hydrologic cycle.
  
- **HYDRAULICS** – is concerned with the conveyance of flows and fluids – water in a channel.



- HYDROLOGY MODEL COMPONENT
  - Watershed Characteristics
    - Hydrologic parameters included
      - Watershed, Slope, Land Cover, and Soils
  - Rainfall Analysis
    - Rainfall amounts from Environment Canada Climate Change (ECCC) stations
  - Extreme Flow Estimation
    - hydrometric station, and flow gauges
  - Climate Change Projections
    - Increase in extreme precipitation, primarily due to the ability of warmer air to hold more moisture.





- HYDRAULIC MODEL COMPONENT

- Channel sections in the Meander River
- Floodplain areas and overland flow paths.

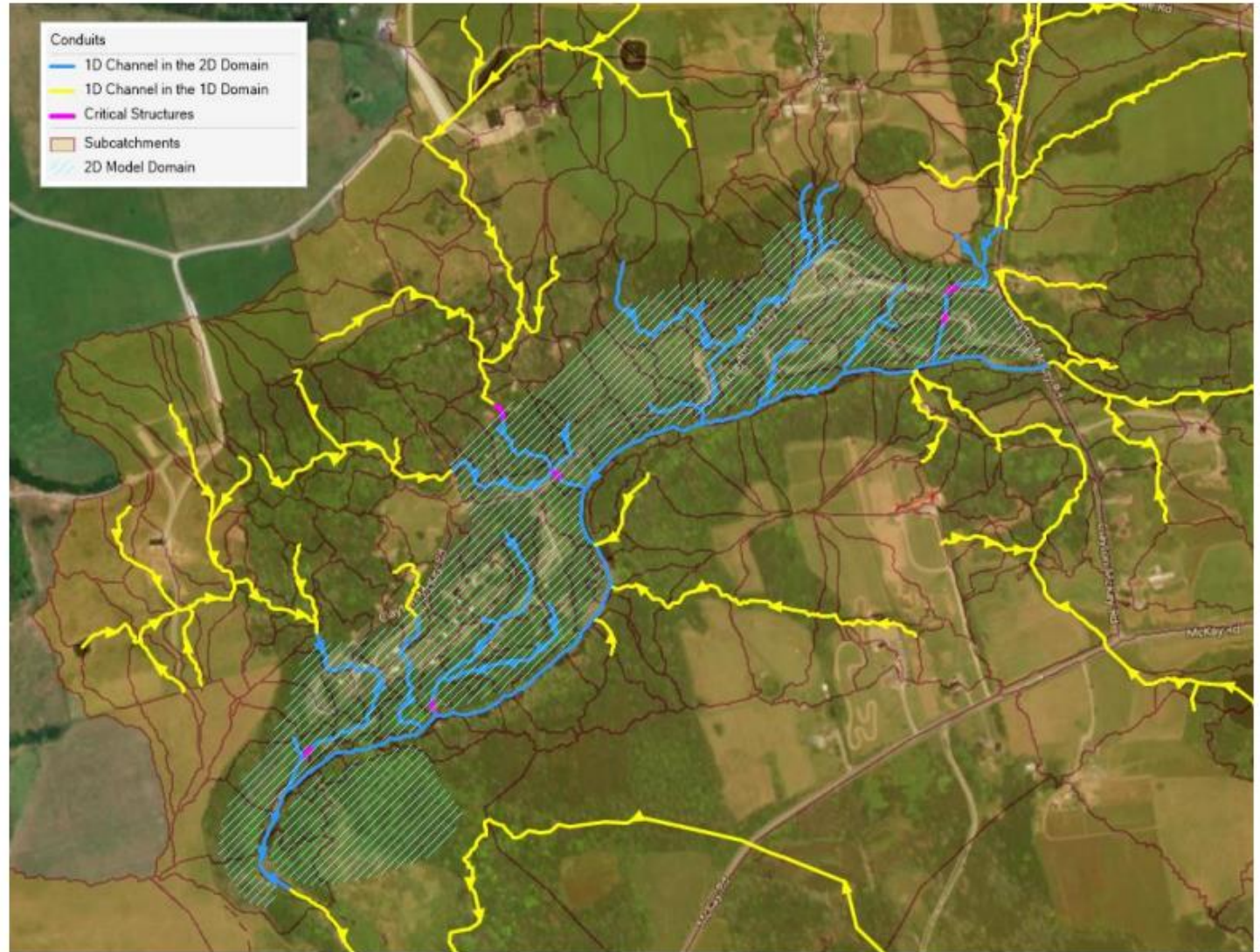
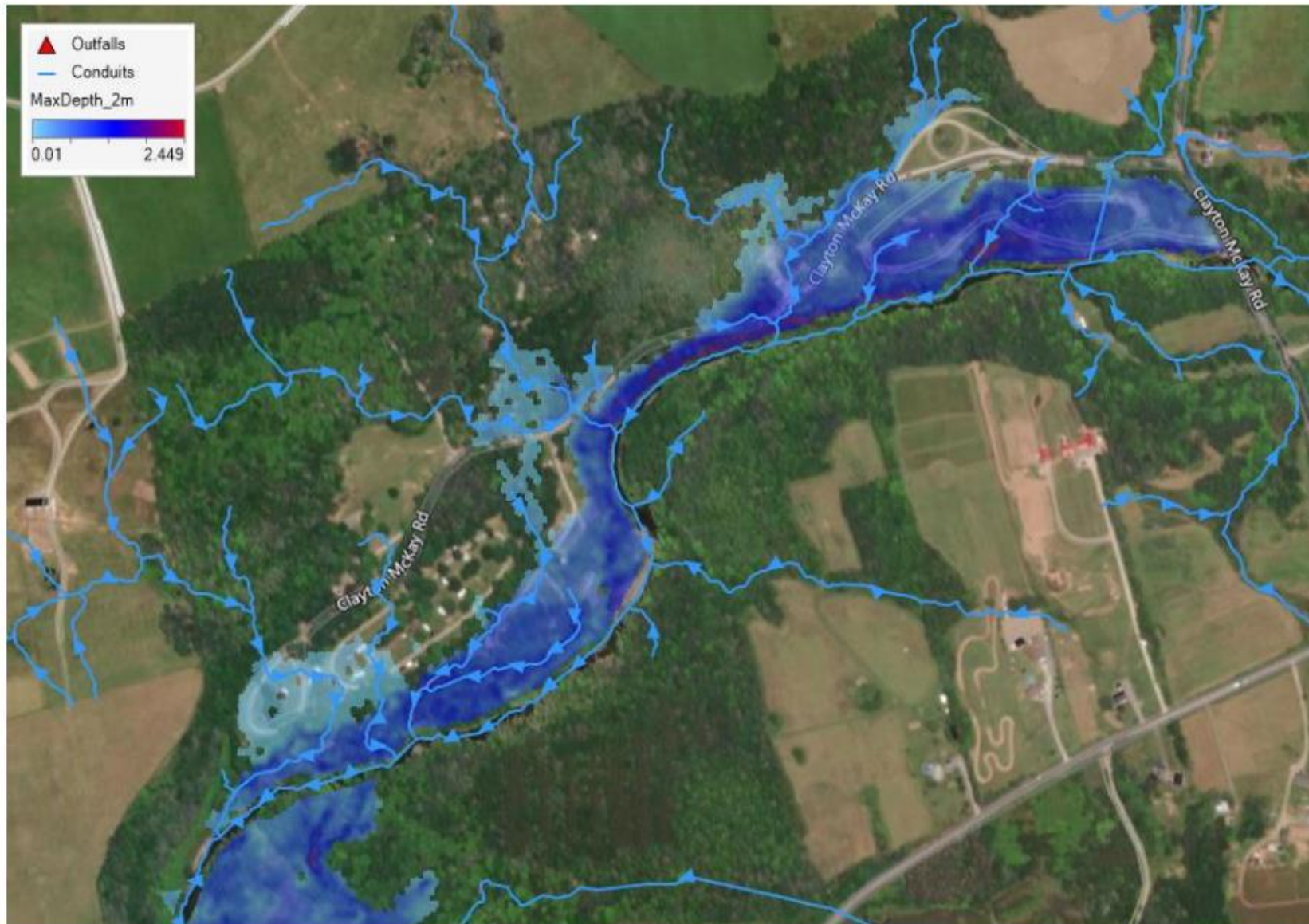


Figure 9: Smileys Provincial Park Domain



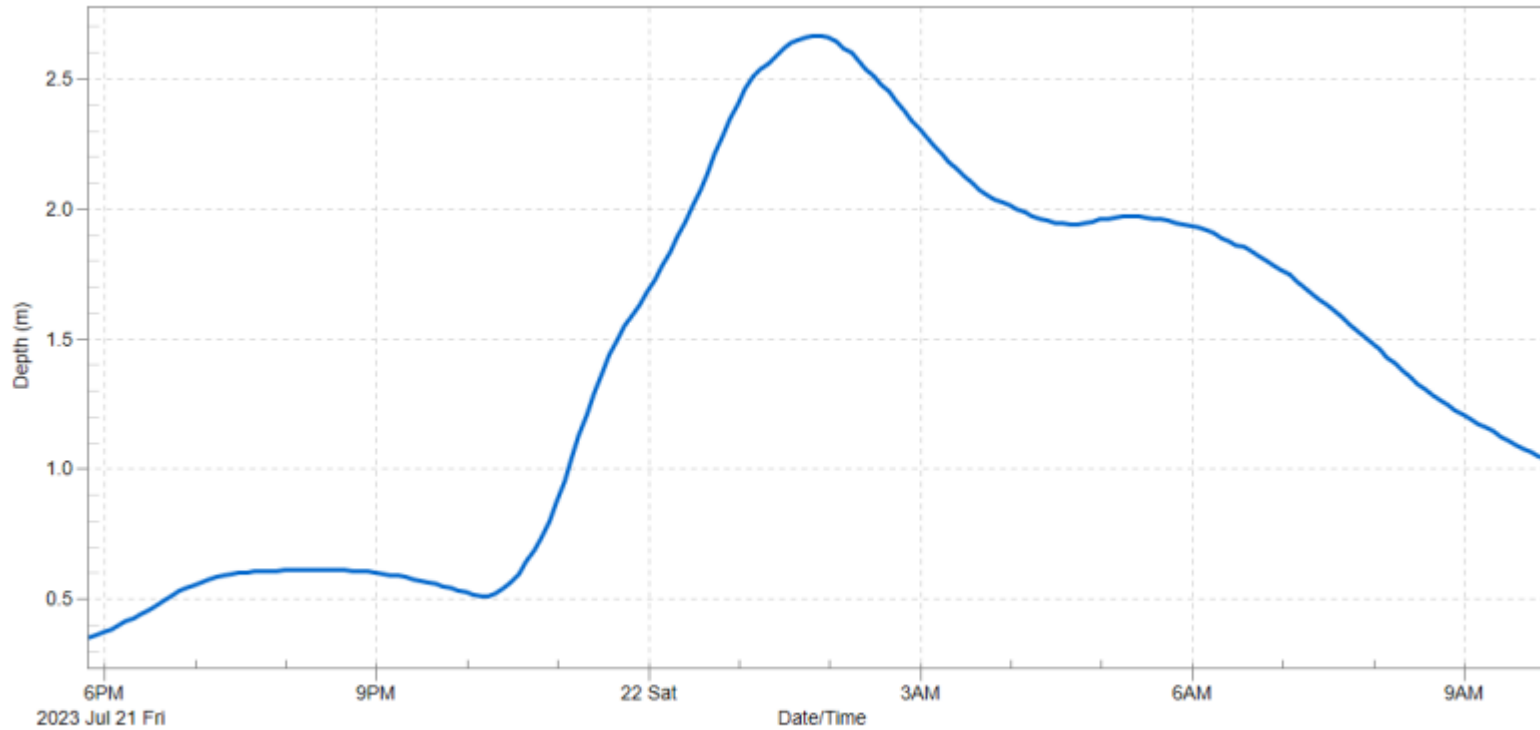


- Water depths reach 2 to 2.5 m in lower areas of park (dark blue)
- Upper areas of park have lower depths (light blue)
- In keeping with antidotal information from Park staff
- Very similar to a 1 in 100-Year Event.

Figure 11: Water Levels calculated by the model across the park

## FLOOD DEPTHS

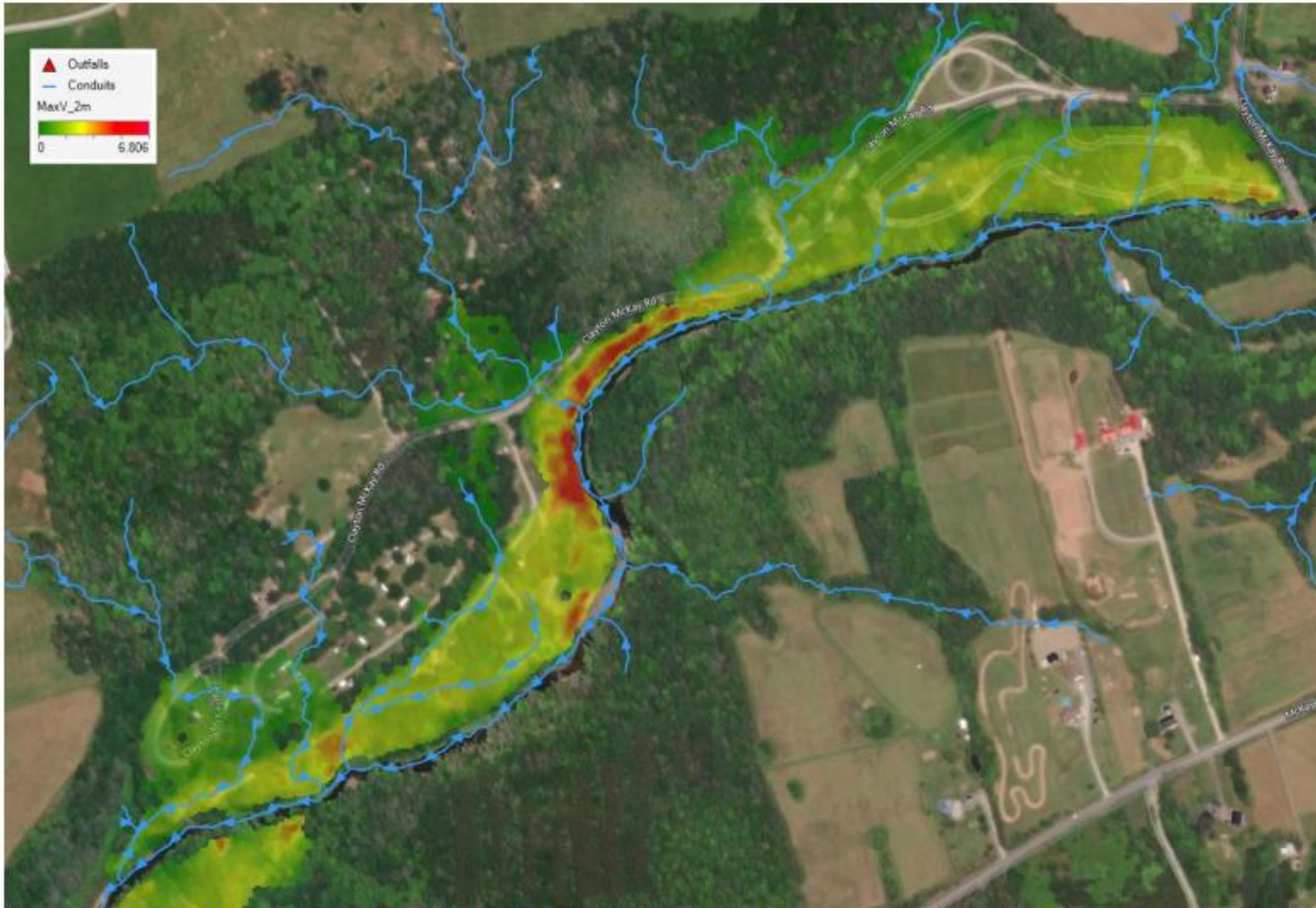




**Figure 12: Water Depth in one of the lower areas of the park.**

- Water levels rose very fast (1.5m over 2 hours during its fastest rise) in one of the lower areas of the park
- Consistent with what Park staff reported





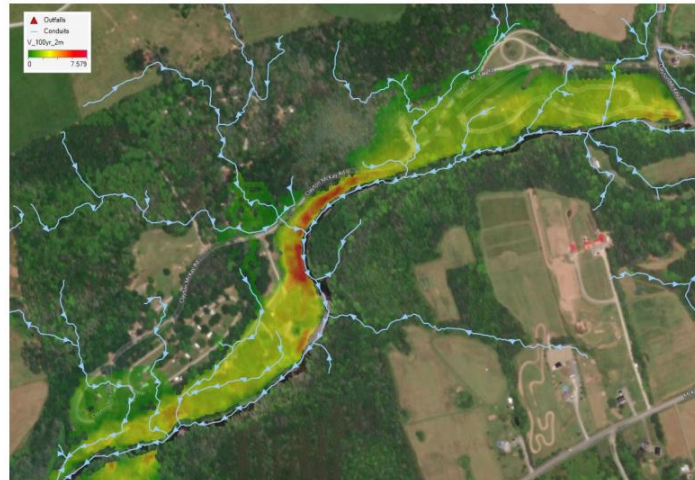
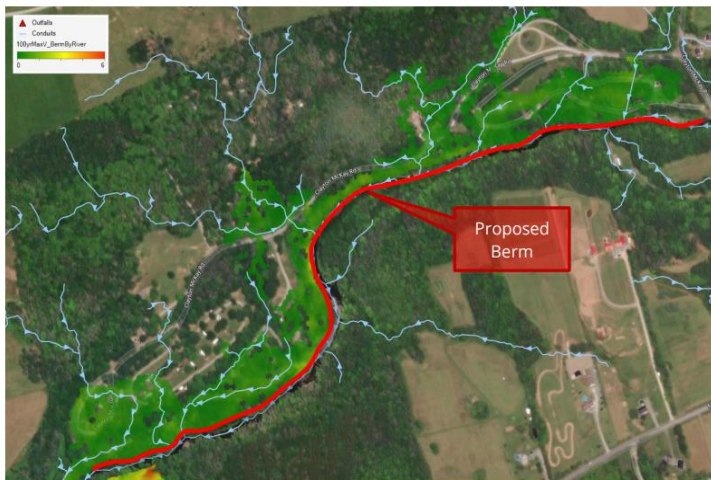
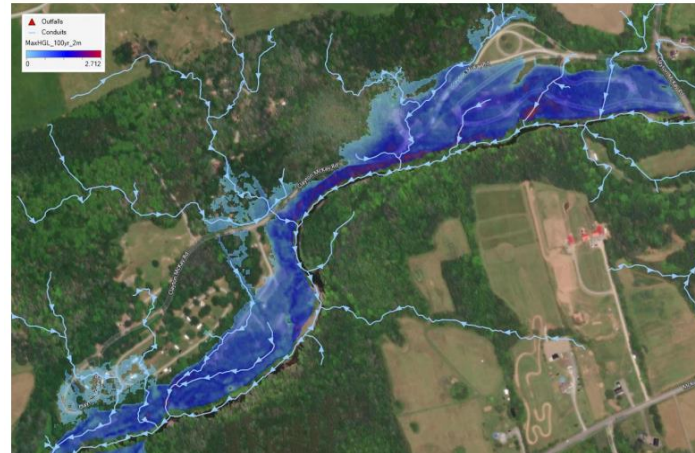
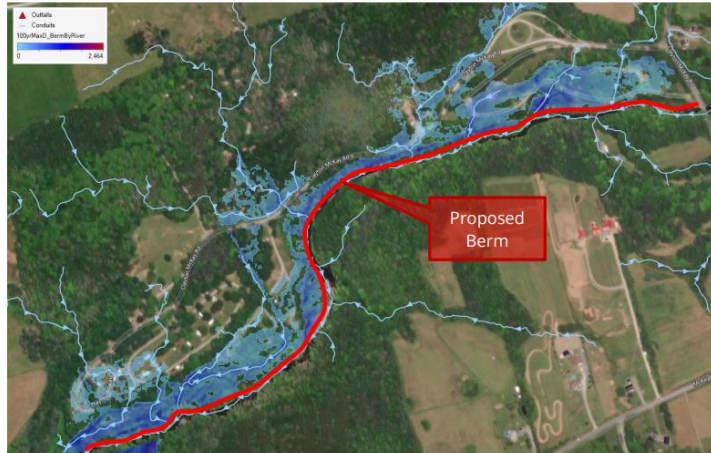
- The velocities calculated by the model reach very high values (>5 m/s)
- The model results for the peak velocities (peaks and patterns) are consistent with that of 1 in 100-Year Event

**Figure 13: Calibrated Model for July 21-22 Event showing model results for Peak Velocities**

## VELOCITY PATTERNS



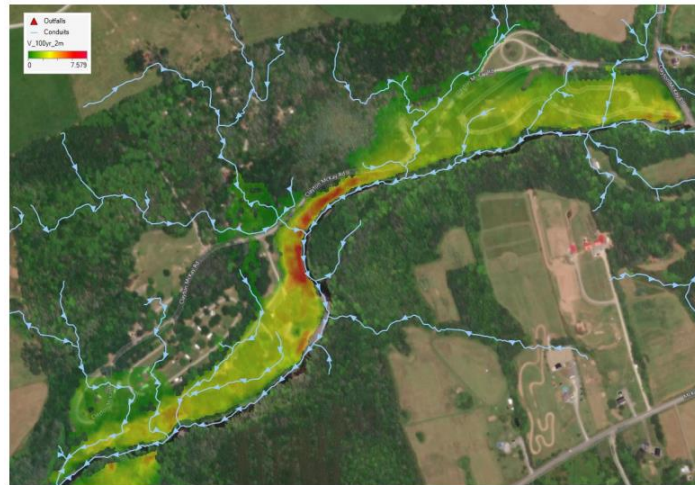
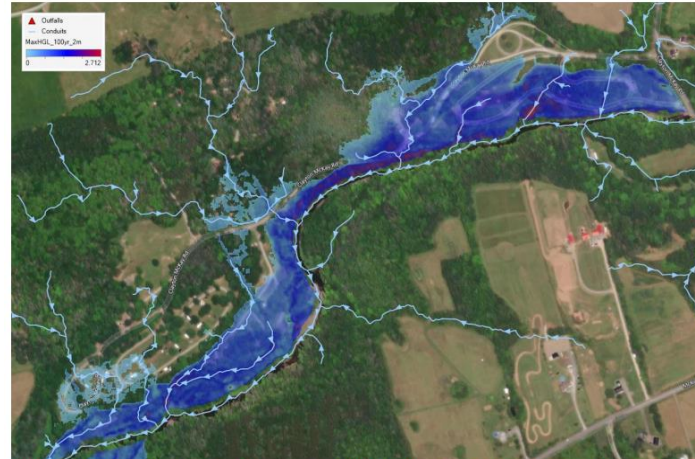
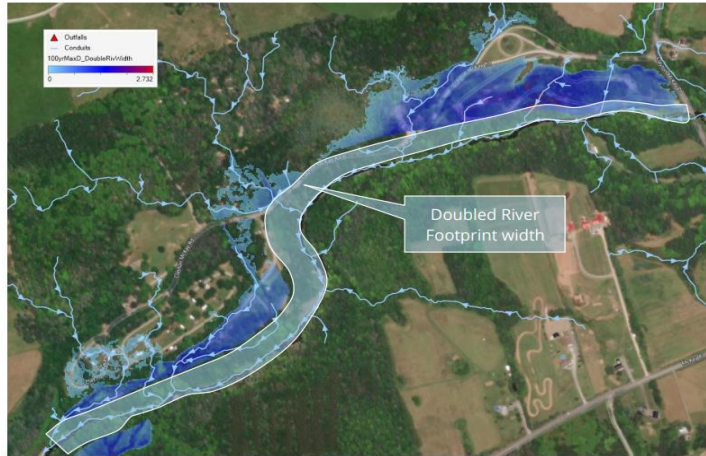
- Construction of a berm along the river to prevent floodwaters from inundating low-lying park areas.



- Constricts the overall capacity of the drainage path, and causes water levels to increase, to the point that a 5m high berm would be necessary.
- The McCay Road and Bridge would have to be raised by 1-2 m.
- Flooding would still occur and
- Velocities although reduced would still be significant at rates of 2-m/sec.



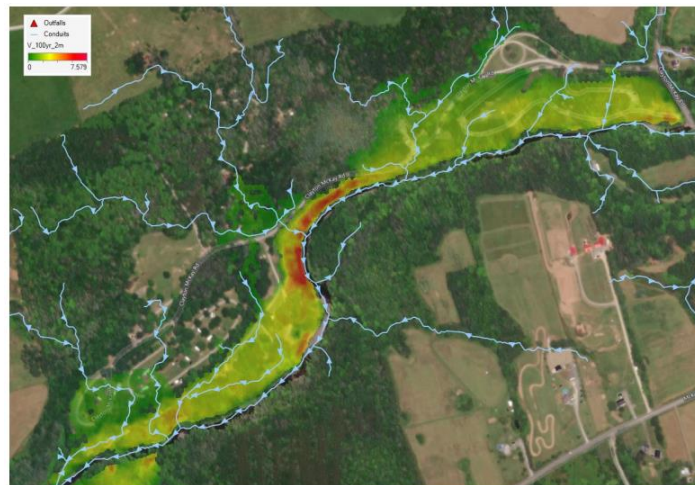
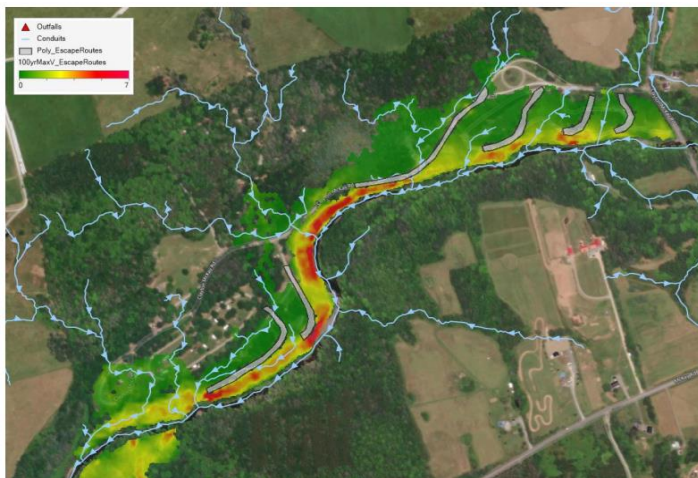
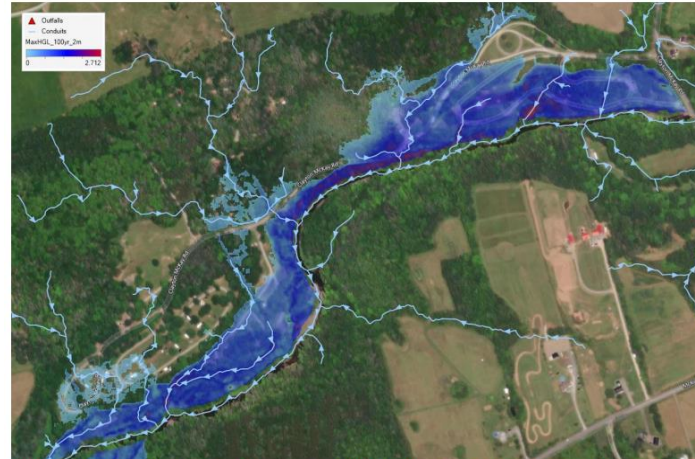
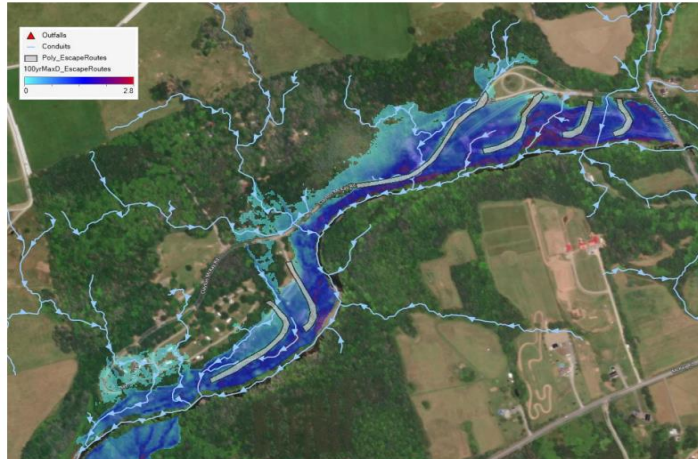
- Modifying the river channel by doubling its width to increase the river's flow capacity.



- Park area does not just function as a floodplain that fills with water, but also as a supplemental channel to the river, to help it drain the vast flows from the watershed.
- Although velocities were slightly reduced, in the western portion of the park, they were increased.



- Constructing, at regular intervals, egress routes, which are elevated roadways that connect the lower and higher sections of the park for emergency evacuation



- Waters are not decreased, and even though the surface of the roads are above the flood waters, accessing the roads may be unsafe, since the velocities are highly increased, up to 7 m/s, in the areas close to the river (since the roadways constrict the flow of water).





- **STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Given that the water levels at the site tend to rise very rapidly, the risk to public safety is very high.

It is recommended that:

- The lower area be allowed to flood during extreme rainfall events, and that public safety be protected by only allowing day-time use of the lower areas of the park (No camping).
- Warning signs be visibly placed to make sure that all visitors are aware of the exit points and ready to leave within a few moments' notice.
- An emergency management plan be developed for this park that includes considerations for communication with the park users and emergency services prior to, during and following flood events, safe access into and out of each area of the park, safe gathering and sheltering areas, as well as keeping emergency supplies of water and food.



PLEASE CLEAN UP  
AFTER YOUR PETS



























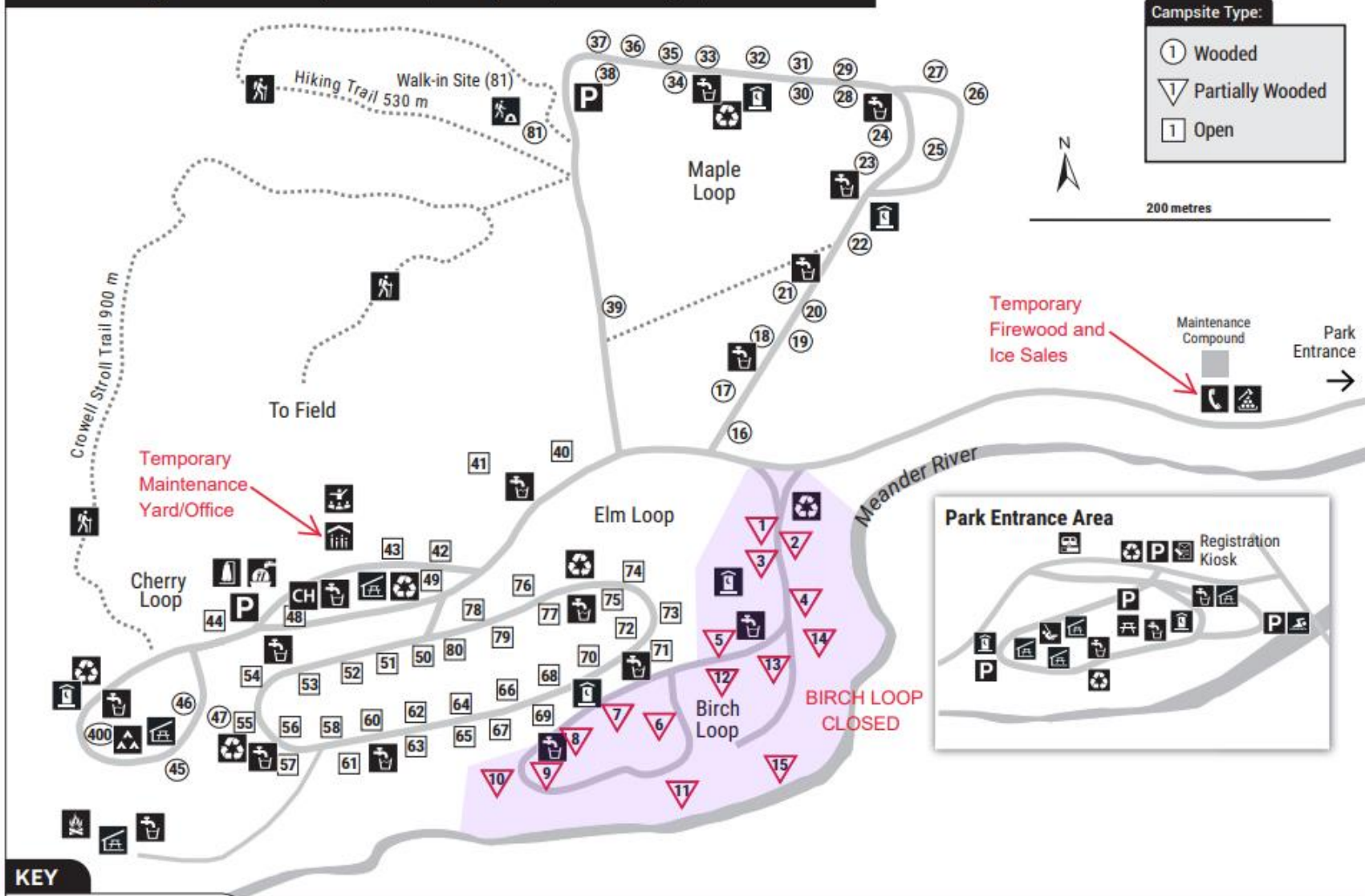






# Smileys Provincial Park

109 Clayton McKay Road, Hwy 14, Brooklyn, NS



- Sites 1 – 15 (Birch Loop) have been closed to future overnight camping
- A remaining total 66 campsites remain available for camping

**2024 SITE CLOSURES**





# Operational Changes and Updates

- Updated emergency response procedure
- Re-purpose of event building
- Relocation of wood and ice sales to former maintenance shed
- New safety signs
- Improving communications infrastructure
  - Wi-Fi
  - Payphone
  - Yellow phone
  - Telecommunications



NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS





NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS



# Future planning update

- Preparing a management statement for Smileys (fall/winter 2024/25)
  - Document values, conditions, trends
  - Identify management focus areas and long-term priorities
- Playground project (spring/summer 2025)













# Natural Playgrounds



Blomidon Provincial Park, 2024  
Photo: Cobequid Consulting





INCLUSIVE SPIRAL CAROUSEL



LOG JAM WITH NET



ACCESSIBLE PLAY HOUSE



2 BAY SWINGS WITH BIRDS NEST AND 2 BELTS



HILL SLIDE



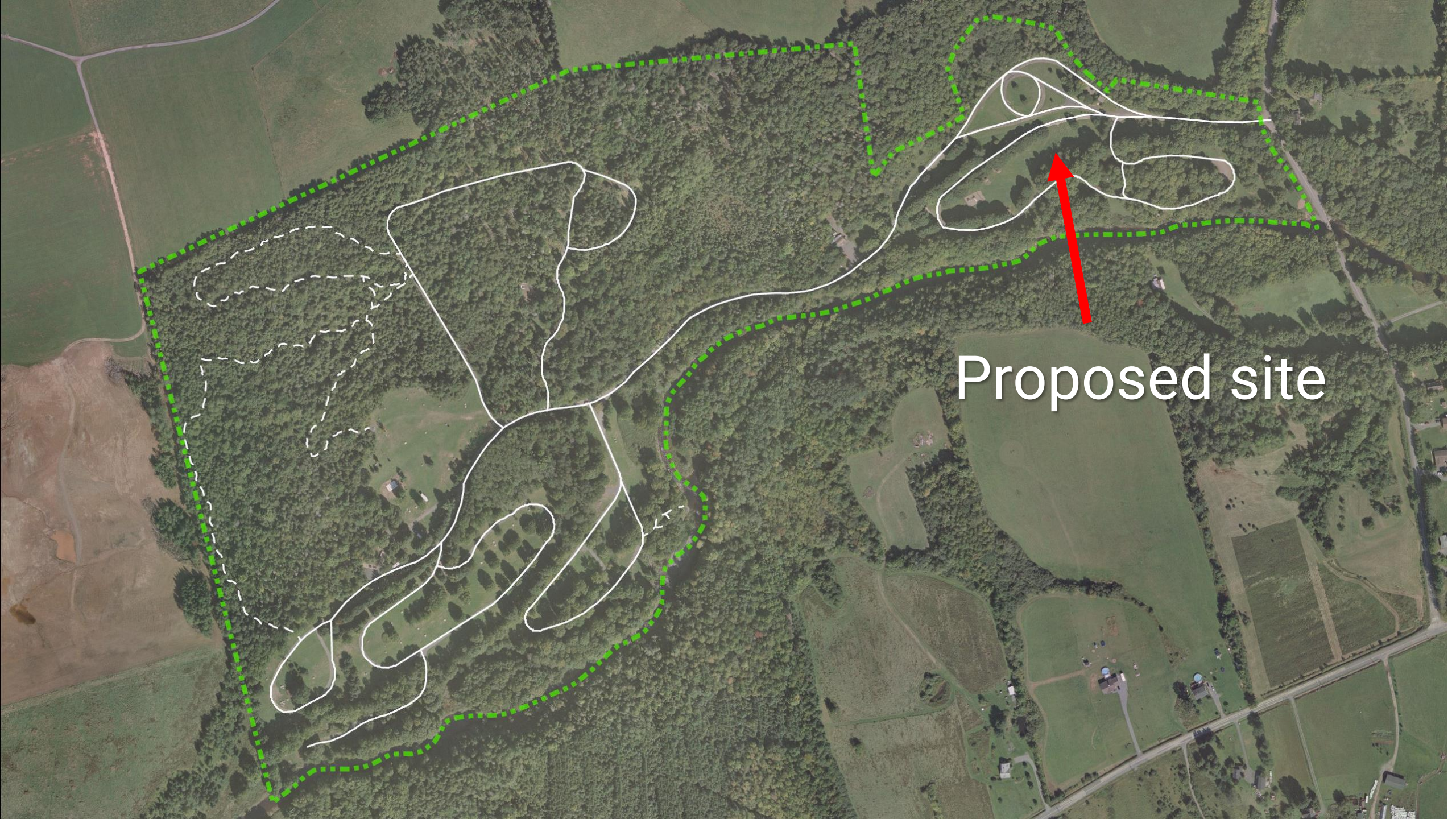
RESTORATIVE TEACHING CIRCLE





Dollar Lake





Proposed site





Proposed site

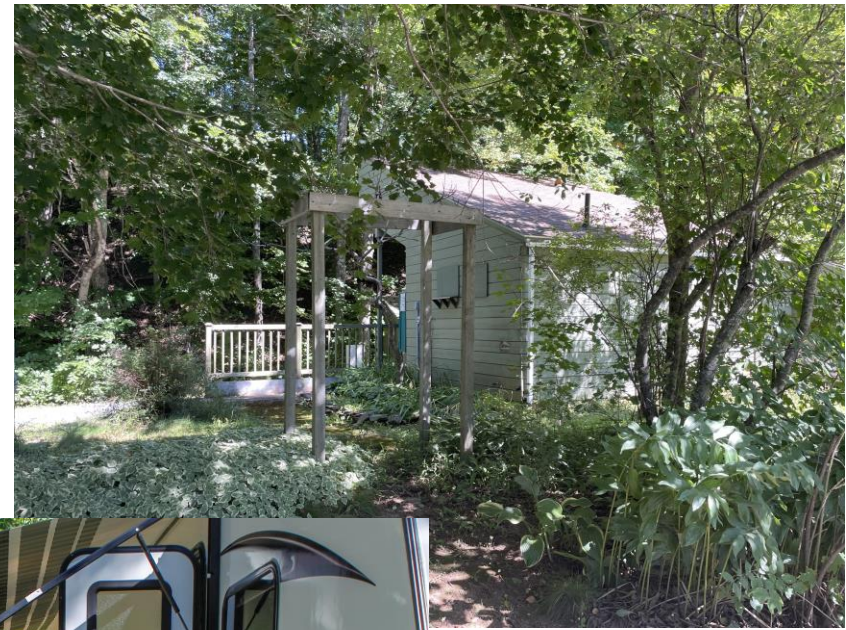






# Group Discussion

- Entry building
- Camping experience
- Improved accessibility
- Day use
  - Birch loop
- Playground
- Other ?



NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS



# Next steps

- Fall 2024
  - Compile information and draft management statement
- Winter 2025
  - Finalize management statement
  - Posted to website
    - Opportunity to review and comment
- Spring/Summer 2025
  - Playground build



NOVA SCOTIA  
PARKS



**Thank you for your participation.**