



Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park Draft Management Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a management plan?

A management plan is a document which sets out objectives and strategies for conservation, development, interpretation and operations of a park for a 10-year period.

A management plan relies on current information about natural values, cultural values, recreational opportunities, and resource activities.

Management plans:

- Define how a site will be managed to maintain ecological health and preserve key natural and cultural values
- Describe the type and extent of outdoor recreation opportunities, facilities and services that will be permitted
- Identify issues, concerns and conflicts, and recommends solutions
- Identify boundary amendments, consolidations and reclassifications if required
- Recommend effective and efficient allocation and prioritization of fiscal and staff resources

For more information on management planning, please visit:

Alberta Parks: Management Planning (www.albertaparks.ca/albertaparksca/management-land-use/management-planning/)

2. Where is Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park and why is it important?

Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park (LHCPP) was designated on April 19, 2005, in honour of the late Lieutenant Governor the Honourable Lois Hole. The park encompasses the former Big Lake Natural Area, which was established in 1999, and is located along the western edge of the cities of St. Albert and Edmonton and is bordered by Parkland County to the South-west, and Sturgeon County to the North-west. Centered on Big Lake, and located at Twp. 53 - Rge 26 -

W4 the park includes 1,974 hectares of lake and wetland complex in the Central Parkland Natural Region, which is the most densely populated natural region in Alberta.

LHCPP protects one of the largest wetlands in the central parkland natural sub-region of Alberta. It is internationally recognized as an Important Bird Area for its abundant and diverse bird populations. The park's location within a busy urban landscape provides provincially significant opportunities for nature-based education and experiences that connect people to nature while supporting community engagement in environmental stewardship. The park also offers limited opportunities for low-impact, nature-based recreation and introduces Albertans to the larger system of Alberta Parks experiences and values.

3. What is the management vision and intent for Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park? How will the management plan help achieve this vision?

Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park protects a unique and important wetland ecosystem and connects people to nature through educational and low-impact nature-based experiences. The park models how biodiversity and urban development can exist in harmony, and facilitates community engagement in environmental stewardship and nature appreciation.

All activities that happen in the short- and long- term within the park must support and be consistent with this vision. Activities that conflict with this vision will not be permitted.

The goals, objectives, and associated management strategies specified in the management plan all are designed to contribute to the achievement of this vision.

4. What are the key outcomes of the LHCPP management plan?

The key outcomes of the plan include:

- Identification of the appropriate uses and activities in LHCPP
- Identification of a zoning framework that outlines how areas within LHCPP will be managed in the future
- Identification of the types of facilities and infrastructure that will support nature-based education, engagement, and recreation in the park
- Description of the monitoring, stewardship and management approaches that will protect the significant ecological values at LHCPP and maintain its status as a globally recognized Important Bird and Biodiversity Area

5. How was the draft management plan developed?

The management planning process was led by the Parks Division of Alberta Environment and Parks. During plan development, the department worked closely with the four surrounding

municipalities, key stakeholders, and Indigenous communities to identify key management issues and opportunities. Ongoing meetings were held during management plan development, and a public and stakeholder open house was held in St. Albert in November, 2016. Recommendations and advice from a wide diversity of perspectives were considered and applied to inform the objectives and strategies outlined in the draft management plan.

6. When and what facilities will be developed to support recreational use?

Facilities, including trails that are compatible with the primary conservation outcomes intended for LHCPP will be developed as is appropriate.

Environmental considerations, along with consultation with Indigenous communities and stakeholders, will guide discussions about facilities and trails. The completed management plan and subsequent strategies will inform detailed plans for facilities and trail development, including their location and other relevant criteria.

The majority of facilities and infrastructure development at LHCPP will be focused on the three proposed facility zones outlined in the draft management plan. Facilities, trails and infrastructure will support low-impact, nature-based recreation, consistent with the conservation objectives and supporting the management vision for LHCPP.

7. How can I comment on this draft management plan?

Public input is encouraged and important. Send in your comments, suggestions and concerns by clicking on the online survey link below, or by emailing or mailing in your feedback to the appropriate address outlined below. You may also email or mail in a copy of the draft management plan, with your edits and comments clearly marked.

Feedback on the draft management plan will be accepted until **September 6, 2017**.

Online: [LHCPP Draft Management Plan Survey](#)

By Email: loishole.cpp@gov.ab.ca ([External link](#))

By Mail:

Attn: Senior Parks Planner
Alberta Environment and Parks, Parks Division
Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park Management Plan Consultation
Suite 700, Millennium Centre, 4909 49th Street, Red Deer, AB T4N 1V1

8. What happens after the consultation period ends?

Once the 60-day comment period is complete, all comments will be carefully reviewed and considered.

Once approved, the final Management Plan will be posted on www.albertaparks.ca/consult along with a “What We Heard” document summarizing all feedback received during the 60-day comment period.

9. Who can I contact for further information on this plan?

If you would like further information about LHCPP, contact:

By Telephone: (403) 754-6239

By Email: loishole.cpp@gov.ab.ca