



COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE
NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

	No.	2026-i183
	To	Board of Directors
For	INFORMATION	Date 2026-06-23
Subject/Title		
Renewal of the Gatineau Park Ecosystem Conservation Plan		
Summary		
Gatineau Park is a regionally, nationally and internationally recognized protected area that contributes to Canada's biodiversity protection commitments. To manage the park, the National Capital Commission (NCC) relies on a master plan (2021) and the Ecosystem Conservation Plan. The latter guides the strategies in the master plan for managing and protecting the natural environment. Adopted in 2010 to support the 2005 Master plan, the first ecosystem conservation plan established a long-term vision based on ecological integrity, adaptive management and collaboration, as well as priorities over periods from 5 to 15 years. Its renewal process began in 2025. It aims to take stock of the measures carried out, address the identified gaps and take into account changes in knowledge, ecosystems and threats. In addition, it will align with the 2021 Master plan and the NCC's new priorities. This two-year process is based on a collaborative, structured approach using best practices in conservation, and on the participation of partners, the public and Indigenous communities. It is part of an adaptive management cycle for adjusting measures taken to maintain or restore the ecological integrity of Gatineau Park. Consultations held in spring 2026 collected a wide range of perspectives on defining the new plan's vision, priorities and measures. The process will continue with a first draft expected in summer 2026, followed by a new round of consultations in fall and a finalized plan in spring 2027.		
Risk Summary		
The main risks identified are poor public understanding of the objective of the process and a lack of resources for implementing the new ecosystem conservation plan.		
Recommendation		
N/A, for information purposes only.		

Submitted by:

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1. Strategic Priorities

Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017 to 2067

- Goal: A Picturesque and Natural Capital
 - Protect and enhance the Capital Region's ecological integrity and its natural beauty.
- The Capital Green Space Network
 - Building the Capital Green Space Network as a model for promoting and protecting ecological health and biodiversity in an urban setting is a key commitment envisioned by this plan. Protecting our shared natural heritage will be crucial to the vitality, attractiveness and resilience of the Capital Region over the next 50 years. Natural habitats and ecosystems play an important role in the Capital and influence everyday life in the regional community.
- Gatineau Park
 - Rising visitation has led the NCC to develop and implement innovative management techniques to protect the long-term health of the park's ecosystems and preserve this national icon. This approach will be enhanced as part of the NCC's leadership role in regional environmental management.
 - The NCC will work with local interested parties to conserve and, in some cases, restore valued habitats and ecosystems in Gatineau Park. The NCC will work to maintain ecological connectivity, biodiversity and species at risk.

Gatineau Park Master Plan

- Vision 2067 for Gatineau Park
 - Located in the heart of Canada's Capital, Gatineau Park is first and foremost a place for the conservation of natural environments. [...] The park and its natural and cultural riches will be protected as a legacy for future generations and remain a symbol of Canadians' commitment to protecting the environment. Its natural ecosystems will remain dynamic and integral to the broader ecosystem comprising the ecological diversity present in the landscape of Canada's Capital.
- Impact of the implementation of the master plan on previously approved plans
 - These are the plans that are still in force; they will be updated if necessary:

- Gatineau Park Ecosystem Conservation Plan
 - 2025–2026 to 2029–2030 Corporate Plan
- Priority 4: Demonstrate national leadership in achieving an environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient National Capital Region. *In keeping with its role as steward of the region's largest and most valued green spaces, the NCC will continue its conservation efforts to maintain the ecological integrity of Gatineau Park and the Greenbelt, while allowing users to continue enjoying recreational experiences in these treasured natural areas.*

2. Authority

National Capital Act

- Objects and purposes of the Commission
 10. (1) The objects and purposes of the Commission are to prepare plans for and assist in the development, conservation and improvement of the National Capital Region in order that the nature and character of the seat of the Government of Canada may be in accordance with its national significance.

3. Context

Gatineau Park is a regionally, nationally and internationally significant protected area recognized as a Category II Protected Area by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It contributes to Canadian and international commitments on biodiversity, including the 30x30 target under the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

As planner and principal steward for the National Capital Region, the NCC relies on two foundational tools to guide its management of the park: the Gatineau Park Master Plan and the Gatineau Park Ecosystem Conservation Plan, the latter being a key tool informing strategies for managing and protecting the natural environment.

The first ecosystem conservation plan was adopted in 2010 to support the 2005 Master plan. It established a long-term vision and guiding principles based on a management approach directed at achieving ecological integrity, adaptive management, engagement and collaboration, as well as conservation priorities and measures over 5, 10 and 15-year periods.

As planned, the plan renewal process began in 2025, after a period of 15 years, to provide a structured assessment of the measures put in place so far, identify shortcomings, and incorporate changes in ecosystems, threats, scientific knowledge and conservation priorities.

The renewal process aims to build on the progress made since 2010 and the current state of the park and to align the plan with the new Gatineau Park Master Plan published in 2021 and with the NCC's other strategic priorities.

4. Options Analysis / NCC Staff Analysis

N/A

5. Financial Details

A budget of \$150,000 over two years has been allocated for the renewal of the Gatineau Park Ecosystem Conservation Plan.

6. Opportunities and Expected Results

The new plan is part of an adaptive management cycle following standards for the practice of conservation, allowing periodic assessment of results and guiding future measures to maintain or restore the ecological integrity of the park's ecosystems.

The strategic objectives in this renewal process include, among others:

- building on the first plan, the progress made and the park's state of health;
- reviewing the ecological framework to take the entire park into account;
- applying best practices in conservation;
- collaborating and exchanging ideas with the scientific community, conservation partners, the public and Indigenous communities; and
- developing a more concise, achievable plan that measures progress.

The renewal process is based on a structured, collaborative and engaged approach involving a wide range of interested parties and on the gradual development of the plan with a view to finalizing and implementing it.

7. Alignment with Government and NCC Policies

See Section 1, Strategic Priorities.

8. Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measure
Poor public understanding of the objective of the process	Medium	Low	Clear, proactive communication using appropriate tools
Lack of resources for implementing the new ecosystem conservation plan	Medium	High	Take available human and financial resources into account when developing targets and implementation strategies

9. Public Engagement and Communications

Three consultation workshops were held in March 2026: one with university scientists and government specialists, another with conservation partners from non-governmental organizations and a third with Gatineau Park staff as part of a strategic retreat. An online public survey was launched in April 2026 and received more than 500 responses.

The workshops and consultations in spring 2026 collected a wide range of perspectives that will be considered in the new plan when developing the vision, ecological framework and conservation priorities, and when identifying threats and the measures required to achieve the desired objectives.

10. Next Steps

Implementation of the renewal process continues, with a first draft scheduled for summer 2026, followed by a second round of consultations in fall and a finalized plan sometime in the second quarter of 2027.

11. List of Appendices

- Presentation: Renewal of the Gatineau Park Ecosystem Conservation Plan (PPT)

12. Authors of the Submission

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