

Point de Pierre Sector

The Pont de pierre sector is well known to vacationers on Lac des Trente et Un Milles (31 Mile Lake). Its exceptional geological formations attract many who come to enjoy the site, its natural waterfalls and what is considered to be one of the most pleasant natural whirlpools in the province. Just a few years ago the site was identified for enhancement, however, most of the improvements at that time were withdrawn due to insufficient maintenance leading to their degradation. Today, one can nonetheless still find some amenities and facilities (trails, dock, interpretive signs, parking, picnic tables, dry toilets, garbage bins, etc.). Located in the 'extensive recreation zone'*, this sector is divided into three interrelated parts.

The first part of the sector includes the network of trails and distinctive geological formations. In the Park project, it is expected that this sector will retain its role as a place for relaxation and contemplation, and will host 'gentle' recreation. A detailed improvement plan will have to be drawn up to review the development of this site. Enhancement of the "whirlpool" can also be proposed in order to keep the quality of the site and its natural appearance. In addition, an observation tower, one of the seven proposed fire towers in the area, is projected here. The detailed development plan must include the building of the tower and validate its ideal location. Finally, it will be necessary to provide long lasting, quality facilities and equipment, which will reflect the exceptional quality of the site and thus enhance this highly attractive geological formation.

The second part of the sector is the camping proposal developed by private business. Scheduled to open in 2016, this project responds to a growing demand for RV camping. With a total area of 19 acres, the camping ground includes the construction of forty campsites in its first phase and a total of 86 campsites at the end of 2017.

The third part concerns public access that will be located in the southeastern part of the 'intensive recreation zone'**.

Baie Gabrielle Sector

The Baie Gabrielle sector already has some amenities and facilities, such as a network of walking trails and the lumberjack's refuge, managed by the municipality of Sainte-Thérèse-de-la-Gatineau. Located at the hollow of Baie Gabrielle, this sector has a pleasant atmosphere of calm, peace and privacy that must be respected and maintained, and which will be important to take advantage of.

Located in an intensive recreation zone, it is anticipated that this sector will welcome resort or cottage development that is centred on integration with nature and cottages in the trees.

A detailed development plan, as well as the development of an accommodation concept (implantation and typology of units) must first be made. This plan will also be used to identify more precisely the optimum location for the accommodation units depending on the different constraints on development of the site.

The existing interpretation trail network is also a potentially fertile ground to host activities relating to non-timber forest products. It is necessary to call on expertise in the field to identify and plan types of forest operations for this type of product. It is also planned to incorporate "Sensory enhancers" in the trail system, and an observation tower. In addition, a feasibility study should be conducted regarding the possible relocation of the White-tailed Deer Interpretation Centre of Sainte-Thérèse-de-la-Gatineau in this sector. Although complex, this move would be a logical fit with the concentration of the activities and interpretive facilities and recreational tourism within the regional park. Several challenges surround such an undertaking and a thorough examination must be carried out to validate this approach.

TPI Sector of Bouchette

This area, located in the southern extension of Gabrielle Bay, also has interesting potential to develop recreational activities. Located in a priority recreation zone, it could have potential cottage development, the type and nature of which remain to be defined. Moreover, like the Gabrielle Bay area, it would be interesting to study the possibility of integrating various non-timber forest products and related recreational, educational and culinary activities (e.g. picking wild mushrooms interpretation of medicinal plants, offering courses on 'forest cooking', etc.).

Grosse Loge Sector

An unavoidable landmark of Thirty-one Mile Lake, known for its unique topography, Grosse Loge is a place that is inspiring both as a destination and a pilgrimage. Located in an extensive recreation zone, this sector is good for hiking and contemplation. The trails that are planned there are gentle, thus ensuring accessibility for many types of users. These trails will also have "sensory amplifiers" and will lead to summit of the Grosse Loge where there will be an observation tower, one of the seven in the Parc, allowing for maximum altitude and unrivalled views of the landscape around Thirty-one Mile Lake.

Matte Bay Sector

The Matte Bay sector currently has an informal public water access onto 31 Mile Lake on municipality of Gracefield land. A project to upgrade and develop this public access must be undertaken in order to welcome users to the future regional park. In addition, this gateway to the Park will also be the starting point of a network of trails leading to the Grosse Loge sector. Finally, this sector, already accessible by road, is located within a priority recreation zone suitable for cottage development. These potential projects, the terms of development and the redevelopment of public access will each require detailed development plans.

Point Comfort Cave Sector

This rather unknown site has significant attractive potential because of its uniqueness and unusual character. This cave, relatively accessible, allows adventurers who do not suffer from claustrophobia to enter the world of caving. Located in an extensive recreation zone, light developments are planned in order to improve accessibility and usability of the site. Accessible via waterway, the way to Point Comfort Cave will be the object of a detailed plan including a dock, footpaths, the installation of interpretive signs and the plan of the cave, as well as a picnic area for groups coming to visit the site.

Lake Forcier Sector

This area, located between 31 Mile Lake and Lake Forcier has interesting potential for cottage development. Located in a 'priority recreation zone', this land can be part of a funding strategy for the Parc by making leases for cottage property available through a lottery system, through or a long-term lease to a developer. Further thought must be given to establish a clear vision surrounding the future of this sector. Eventually, the conditions around sale of land and development will have to be elaborated (keeping in mind zoning regulations, implementation and architectural integration plan, and the specifications to be given to developers, etc.) in order to ensure that all eventual development projects in this sector align with the vision of the development of the Parc Régional and that they correspond to the values of the Corporation of the Parc Régional.

The Islands

31 Mile Lake has a large archipelago of islands, the majority of which are public lands. This feature is an integral part of the identity and landscape of the lake. These islands are often rented for camping sites. They have basic equipment (fire pits, dry toilets, benches, picnic tables etc.). The ecotourism concept behind the Parc Régional encourages maintaining canoe-camping activities on the shores and islands of the lakes. That said, an upgrade of the sites is required to maintain the quality of the sites which contribute to the enviable touristic reputation enjoyed by the lake.

Some campsites already set up will be selected as ready-to-camp sites. The development of this offer will be gradual and will be the subject of a pilot project to explore the optimal form of this proposed accommodation. The objective will be to offer a unique experience to customers seeking both isolation and a natural setting at a campsite on an island in 31 Mile Lake, while ensuring some comfort beyond a rustic campsite. A delivery service and catering could also be included in the package. Moreover, some of the larger islands might include walking paths. This is the case of the island of the Petite Loge where an observation tower is projected in the design concept.

Finally, given the recognized potential of 31 Mile Lake for diving activities, it seems appropriate to further the development of this type of activity. Some places of interest have already been identified on the lake. A first step would be to confirm the existence of these diving locations, to document them and to finally map all potential dive sites. Within the activities promoted by the Parc Régional, it is also proposed to offer diving courses with a master diver with practical training on the lake. A floating mobile platform can be docked at different locations on the lake based on the level of the classes or groups. These platforms also serve to warn other users of the lake of the presence of divers in the sector, ensuring greater safety for divers.

**Extensive recreational activities:*

These include uses and buildings for light recreation purposes, involving no significant change in the natural environment, such as educational activities, hiking trails, ski or snowshoeing trails, bike paths, interpretation centers, gazebos and picnic sites.

***Intensive recreational activities:*

These include uses and buildings for heavy recreational purposes involving some changes to the natural environment such as ski hills, golf courses, marinas and campsites.