

DECISION NOTE
FORKS OF THE CREDIT PROVINCIAL PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN MINOR AMENDMENT

Issue:

Proposed minor amendment to the *Forks of the Credit Provincial Park Management Plan* to accommodate a connecting link of the Trans Canada Trail.

Background:

Forks of the Credit Provincial Park is a 282 hectare Natural Environment class park established by regulation under the *Provincial Parks Act* in 1985. Located about 18 kilometres southeast of the Town of Orangeville, the park has limited development with one central parking lot providing access to a system of hiking trails. The *Forks of the Credit Provincial Park Management Plan* was approved in 1990. The Forks is part of the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System.

Two trails in the vicinity of Forks of the Credit Provincial, namely, the Caledon Trail and the Elora to Cataract Trail have already been embraced as sections of the Trans Canada Trail. The provincial park is considered to be the optimum location for a linkage between the two sections of the Trans Canada Trail. Existing park trails and an acquired closed portion of former railroad allowance would be utilized for the linkage. A minor park management plan amendment is required to approve the proposed trail linkage through Forks of the Credit Provincial Park. The intent would be for the shared-use trail to accommodate walking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding and cycling. Walking and cross-country skiing are presently conforming uses in the provincial park. A minor plan amendment would be required to permit horseback riders and cyclists, but only on the designated trail.

The Town of Caledon is a major partner in this project and has granted permission for the trail to cross municipal lands and utilize unopened road allowances abutting the park. The only proposed development associated with the trail linkage is a bridge to span the Credit River at a former bridge site. The river itself is regulated as part of the park, however, no footings or cribbing will occur on park property. New bridge footings would be constructed on abutting municipal lands, with an adequate set back from both existing footings and the river. The bridge would be designed to accommodate pedestrians, horses and light maintenance vehicles. The bridge and any necessary trail upgrading will be financed through local contributions and through the Trans Canada Trail fund.

The proposal has already been subject to some external public consultation by virtue of the involvement of the Town of Caledon, Grand River and Credit Valley Conservation Authorities, Ontario Trail Riders Association, Bruce Trail Association, Ontario Trails Council and Trans Canada Trail. Ontario Parks sits on a Trail Linkage Committee hosted by the local municipality. The proposed trail linkage has also been the subject of an academic project by a group of University of Guelph students. A Caledon Trailway Day was held on June 21, 1997 to locally promote the Trans Canada Trail.

All requirements under *Exemption Order MNR-59/2, Environmental Assessment: Provincial Parks Program*, will be met upon approval of the minor plan amendment. A public notice will be posted by Ontario Parks on site 45 days in advance of the formal linkage. There will be no significant environmental impact, therefore, a proposal notice is not required to be posted on the Environmental Registry.

Ministry Position:

It is recommended that a minor amendment to the *Forks of the Credit Provincial Park Management Plan* be approved to allow the Trans Canada Trail linkage to go through the park, approve an associated bridge crossing over the Credit River, and to allow horseback riding and cycling to occur on the designated trail.

Prepared June 25, 1997 by:

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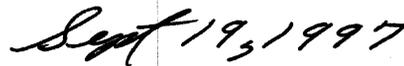
APPROVAL STATEMENT

I am pleased to approve a minor amendment to the *Forks of the Credit Provincial Park Management Plan* as official policy for the management and development of this park. The amendment pertains to a Trans Canada Trail linkage through the park. Besides hiking and cross-country skiing, horseback riding and bicycling would be added as permitted uses on the designated trail.

The amendment reflects this Ministry's and Ontario Parks' intent to protect the cultural, natural and recreational features of Forks of the Credit Provincial Park and maintain high quality opportunities for outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation for both residents of Ontario and visitors to the Province.



**Norm Richards
Managing Director
Ontario Parks**



Date

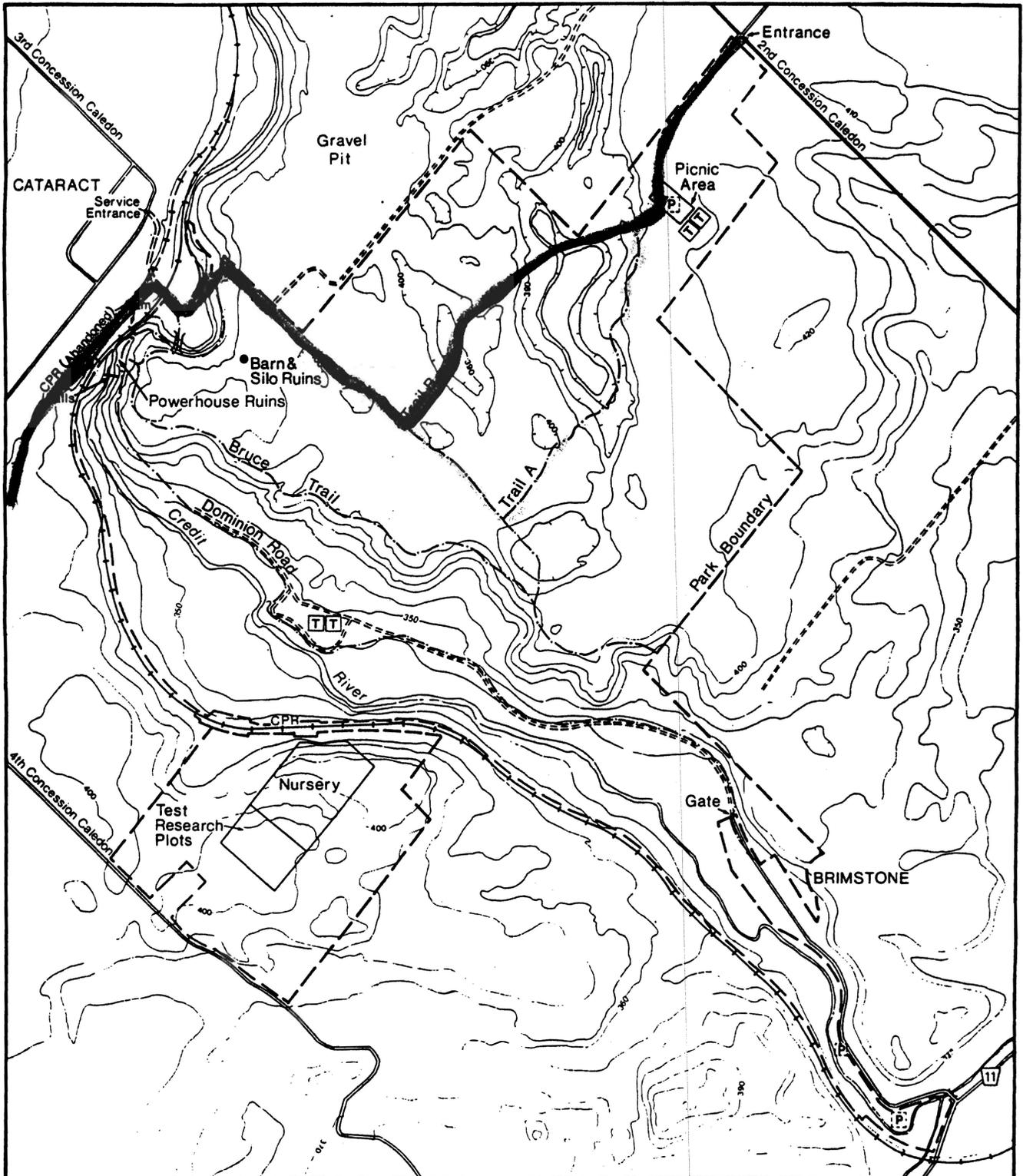
(P) Parking

(T) Toilet (vault privy)

Forks of the Credit Provincial Park

--- Trail

————— Trans Canada Trail Linkage
(proposed)

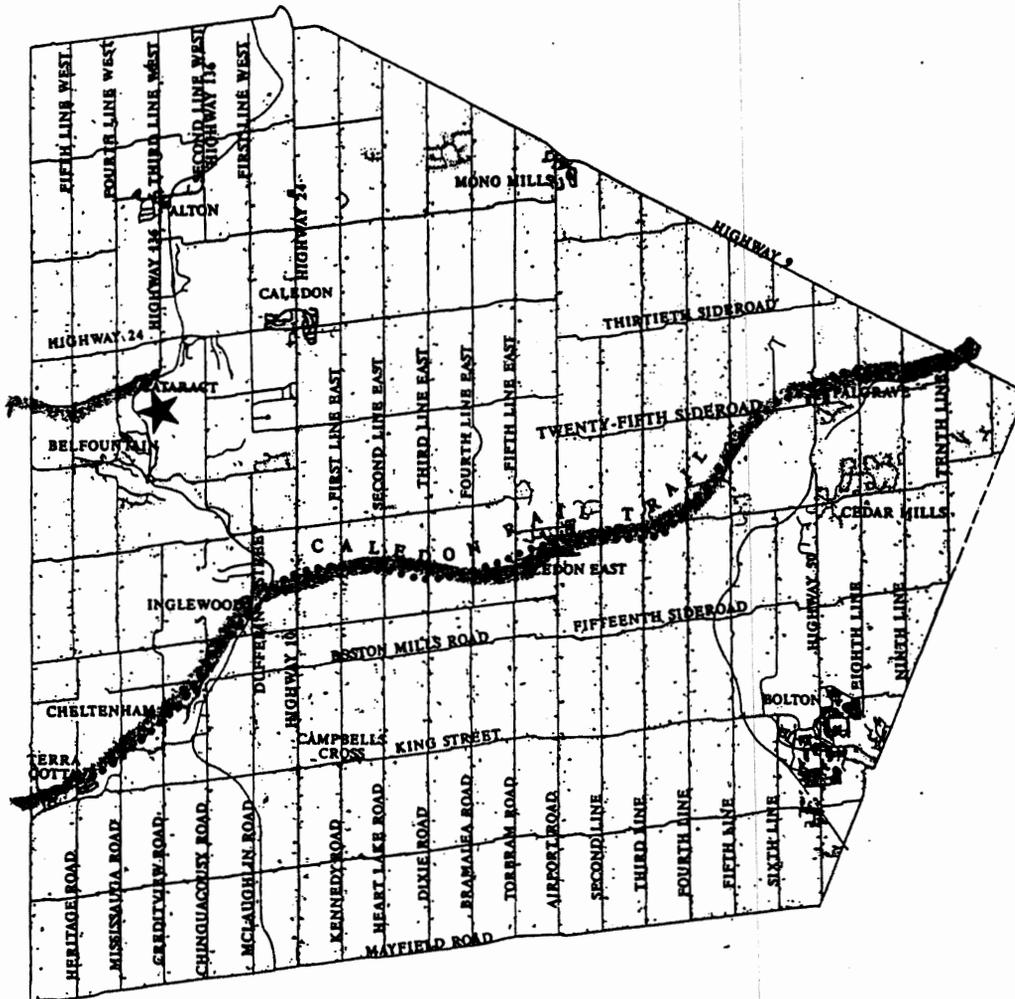


Metres 100 0 100 200 300 400 500 Metres

Contour Interval 10 Metres

The Site

The Trail begins in the southwest at Elizabeth Street in Terra Cotta. It ends on the north east boundary of the Town at Highway 9 just east of Palgrave. The trail is approximately thirty five kilometres (twenty-two miles) long. It is accessible where it crosses roads, and from several short paths within newly developed residential areas. The trail cuts through the villages of Terra Cotta, Cheltenham, Inglewood, Caledon East and Palgrave.



C A L E D O N R A I L T R A I L



The Caledon Rail Trail

★ Forks of the Credit Provincial Park

