
Proposal Response:

Amendment to the Devil's Glen Provincial Park Management Plan

ERO #: 019-8238

Parks and Recreation Ontario Submission
September 19, 2025

About Parks and Recreation Ontario

Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) is a non-profit association with over 7,000 members from across the province, including post-secondary students, municipal staff, community agencies, and independent operators. Our work includes policy, research, education, training, and professional development opportunities, as well as our flagship quality standards program, HIGH FIVE®.

We are writing to express our support for the *Amendment to the Devil's Glen Provincial Park Management Plan*. Located in the region of Simcoe County, and less than a 100km from the Greater-Toronto-Area, Devil's Glen Provincial Park (PP) provides our growing province with quality outdoor recreation experiences. Proposed amendments to the management plan continue this legacy, protecting ecologically sensitive areas, offering opportunities for learning and environmentally responsible recreation, and providing rich research settings.

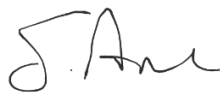
We would like to express our gratitude to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for the proposed amendments. These amendments strongly align with PRO's vision of equitable access to parks and recreation spaces and services for all Ontarians. PRO supports the proposed amendments to the management plan, including expanding the park boundary, changing the classification from recreation to natural environment, adding rock climbing as a permitted recreation use, and expanding and developing parking lots.

During this period of significant growth in Ontario, it is vitally important that the province also prioritizes long-term protection and preservation of greenspace and outdoor recreation. Expanding Devil's Glen Provincial Park and changing the park classification will provide additional protections for ecologically sensitive areas and better align with current park use. Adding rock climbing as a permitted recreational use represents an important step forward in acknowledging and supporting this increasingly popular recreation activity. The adoption of a climbing management plan will help to further enhance regulation and safety around rock climbing at Devil's Glen Provincial Park and other Ontario Parks. Finally, the expansion and development of parking lots will increase and encourage safe access to Devil's Glen Provincial Park, further promoting outdoor recreation in the region.

High quality, accessible outdoor recreation opportunities are integral to the health and well-being of all Ontarians. Provided for the benefit of both individuals and communities, parks and recreation are a public good, in the same way as education or healthcare. Quality parks and recreation services need to be available to all Ontarians, sustainable and supported at all levels of government. For this reason, we applaud the Ministry for the *Amendment to the Devil's Glen Provincial Park Management Plan*. We especially commend the Ministry for prioritizing outdoor recreation, including rock climbing and hiking, throughout the proposal. We encourage that these priorities continue to be a central focus as the management plan is further developed.

We are pleased to discuss our comments further with the Ministry, should any clarity be required. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important proposal.

Sincerely,



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