

The information contained in each resource inventory will be used by park planners to achieve a sound zoning plan. Park naturalists will use the information to plan programs suited to the character of each park, and resource-conservation personnel will initiate resource-management plans based on the findings.

The resource inventory has now begun in most national parks. An atlas and base description has been completed for Point Pelee and Kejimikujik National Parks. The collection of data on the natural resources in several other parks is nearly complete. Emphasis has been placed on collecting data on the new parks.

The program has been decentralized and is now an important part of the activities of the natural resources conservation section of each region.

Parks Canada seeks the active participation of Canadians in its planning process. A formal public-hearings program held ten "hearings" during the period 1970-1972. In 1974, the program was revised to permit group consultation at an earlier stage. This "public-participation program" is now conducted by staff in Parks Canada's regional offices. Its purpose is to involve the public in the framing of long-term objectives, management goals and development criteria for each park as represented by the master plan.

A system of land-use zoning allows visitors to enjoy the park, at the same time protecting park values. These zones range from special preservation areas to those that can withstand intensive use. The amount of land in each zone varies according to the character and purpose of the individual park. Those areas of a park designated as special preservation zones may contain unique and fragile natural and cultural features requiring maximum protection.

Most of the land within a national park is designated as wilderness recreation area, and visitor-use is limited to such activities as hiking and primitive camping. Roads are kept to a minimum in all national parks; they are carefully planned according to the particular characteristics of the park and to the objectives that have been established for its development.

Serviced campgrounds, public-transportation facilities, interpretive centres and recreational facilities are confined to the general outdoor recreational areas. While commercial development of visitor services is allowed within the boundaries of parks, such developments are encouraged outside the park whenever possible.