

Beamer Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan: Summary of Public Engagement Sept – Dec 2025

Overview and Purpose

In September 2025, the NPCA initiated a public engagement process to gather community input to help shape the development of a new management plan for Beamer Memorial Conservation Area (BMCA) in Grimsby, Ontario. The purpose of the engagement process is to better understand how community members, visitors, and other interested parties use and value BMCA, and to identify priorities to guide future management decisions. The feedback collected throughout the engagement process will inform actions within the final management plan, ensuring that the plan reflects both community values and conservation priorities.

Engagement Tools and Methods

NPCA staff collected community feedback through four main methods:

- **The [BMCA Management Plan Project Page](#)**, which received 706 visits and provided an online space for participants to share stories, big ideas, and ask questions.
- **Ongoing Visitor Surveys** (online and on-site), which gathered 94 responses from local residents as well as frequent and first-time visitors on priorities, challenges, and desired improvements.
- **A Public Open House** held in Grimsby on September 23, 2025, which welcomed 56 attendees who contributed stories, ideas and concerns through breakout discussions and written comments.
- **Meetings with key interested parties** such as staff from the Town of Grimsby, local nature clubs, Niagara Regional Métis Council staff, and other groups which provided additional insights and input to support the planning process.

The input gathered from these methods were reviewed alongside [the NPCA Strategic Plan 2021-2031](#), [Conservation Area Strategy](#) (CA Strategy) and the [BMCA Background Report Summary](#) to identify themes and inform next steps.

What We Heard

To date, community feedback consistently emphasized five themes (Figure 1):

1. Improved trails and amenities

A desire for safety and accessibility improvements to existing infrastructure at BMCA, including but not limited to the staircase, lookout areas, and trails near the escarpment edge, without obstructing views. Trail conditions and off-trail use was a recurring concern, and updating wayfinding signage was widely supported. Suggestions to fully repair and upgrade the on-site bathroom, which has recently been subject to vandalism, were also made along with more garbage receptacles and regular staff maintenance.

2. Visitor management and parking

Concerns related to visitor management and site capacity were raised, including crowding, unauthorized parking, off-leash dogs, and frequent instances of vandalism. Difficulty finding parking during peak periods, particularly on weekends, was commonly noted. Suggestions to improve enforcement of permitted uses, deterrents for vandalism, and to assess carrying capacity were made. Feedback also highlighted the need for better signage identifying permitted parking areas, and to consider alternative parking options with a preference for free parking.

3. Education and community engagement

There was strong interest in low-impact educational opportunities focused on BMCA's natural and cultural heritage, including Indigenous history and culture, native plants, and local wildlife. A desire for more educational signage, including responsible visitor behaviors, was also expressed. Opportunities for community participation in invasive species management and nature-based learning programs were strongly supported.

4. Protection of natural heritage

There was recurring emphasis on the importance of protecting BMCA's natural features and ecological integrity. Preserving mature and Carolinian trees, sensitive habitats, managing invasive species, and protecting the diversity of plant and animal life was noted as essential to maintaining BMCA's environmental quality and overall sustainability. Feedback highlighted the desire for a focus on conservation and restoration efforts and that any potential enhancements (e.g., infrastructure) have minimal impact on sensitive environments at BMCA.

5. Support for passive recreation

A strong appreciation for BMCA's peaceful atmosphere and value as a place for passive nature-based recreation activities such as walking, hiking, and snowshoeing was noted. Ensuring that future management decisions continue to support these

opportunities was viewed as a priority, along with establishing a clear definition of permitted recreational activities within the conservation area.

This feedback is in line with previous information gathered for the BMCA Background Report Summary. Both sources emphasize similar priorities focused on safety, accessibility, and preserving BMCA's natural character and long-term sustainability.

Community Priorities for Beamer Memorial Conservation Area

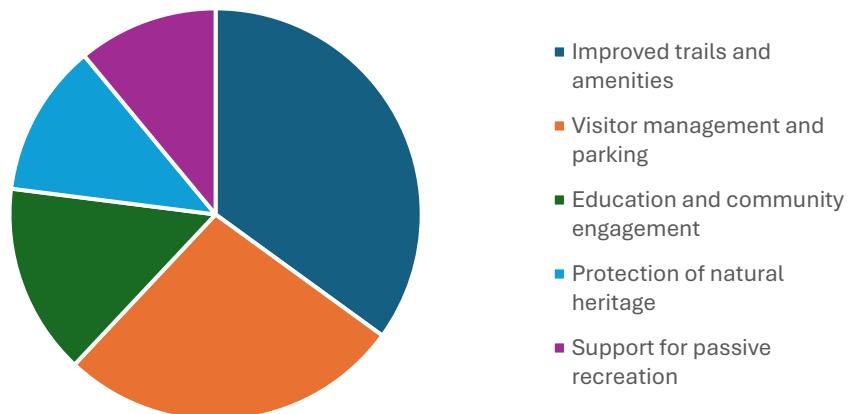


Figure 1: Overview of community priorities for BMCA. This figure reflects which priorities community members rated as important and how often each was mentioned across all feedback.

Strategic Priority Connection

The BMCA Management Plan will be developed in the context of several strategic documents, including the NPCA Strategic Plan 2021-2031 and CA Strategy (Figure 2). The feedback collected through this engagement align with the Goals from the CA Strategy outlined below:

- **Protect & Restore:** Biodiversity, Indigenous Knowledge, and enforcement.
- **Connect & Experience:** Safe, nature-based recreation and accessibility.
- **Adapt & Sustain:** Climate readiness and green infrastructure.
- **Inspire & Engage:** Education, stewardship, and partnerships.



Figure 2: Strategic Context of Management Plans

The feedback also aligns with the strategic priorities outlined below:

- **Healthy and Climate Resilient Watersheds:** Support watershed health through conservation, restoration, and hazard management.
- **Supporting Sustainable Growth:** Help create resilient communities through thoughtful land-use planning and management.
- **Connecting People to Nature:** Provide equitable access to nature for recreation, learning, and well-being.
- **Partner of Choice:** Build strong relationships with Indigenous communities, municipalities, and local partners.

Next Steps

NPCA will continue to engage with members of the community, municipal partners, and other interested parties to solicit feedback throughout the management planning process. The next phase of this project will focus on validating these themes to ensure they reflect shared priorities and values. Next steps will also involve reviewing potential management approaches, identifying site improvement opportunities, and concept developments that balance passive recreation, improved accessibility, and environmental protection. Input gathered will guide the creation of a draft management plan that supports the long-term sustainability and enjoyment of BMCA.