

## Management of the site

An exemplary system is in place for managing the Landscape of Grand Pré, should the property be successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List. The local community, the Acadian community, and government administrative bodies will all be included in the decision-making process.

Three levels of government will be involved: federal, provincial and municipal.

The government bodies responsible for the nominated property, along with key stakeholders and partners, have signed a *Memorandum of Understanding on the Governance of the Nominated Property*. The Memorandum ensures that the property will be protected and managed cooperatively, and it creates a **Grand Pré World Heritage Site Stewardship Board** to coordinate the site management. A management plan, also developed jointly, provides a framework to guide their work in protecting and interpreting the nominated property.

Each regulatory authority will retain its individual jurisdiction and authority. However, the Memorandum of Understanding confirms the authorities' commitment to support the principles and goals of the management plan and to work together with the Stewardship Board.

## Goals for managing the property

*The Management Plan for the Landscape of Grand Pré* ensures the coordination of the various jurisdictions and stakeholders. Its goal is to ensure that the outstanding universal value of the site, and the attributes that support it, are preserved for present and future generations. Within this overall goal are three specific goals:

**Goal 1:** To provide for the protection, continuing community and agricultural use and appreciation of the nominated property.

**Goal 2:** To enrich the existing tourism destination by promoting wide recognition, understanding and appreciation of the educational and cultural values represented by the nominated property.

**Goal 3:** To instil a strong sense of shared community pride and stewardship in the protection, interpretation and promotion of the nominated property.

## Who is responsible

Protection of the site involves community management through the Grand Pré Marsh Body, municipal zoning, and federal and provincial government legislation.

- **Parks Canada**, as a federal government agency, is responsible for managing Grand-Pré National Historic Site of Canada and Horton Landing.
- **The Province of Nova Scotia**, mainly through the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, is responsible for protecting the dykelands and archaeological sites not located on federal lands.
- **The Municipality of the County of Kings** is responsible for implementing the *Grand Pré and Area Community Plan* and the zoning regulations it contains.

## **Role of the Stewardship Board**

The mandate of the Grand Pré World Heritage Site Stewardship Board is to

- ensure a coordinated management approach among all jurisdictions
- provide technical advice on protecting the property's outstanding universal value
- promote the property's outstanding universal value
- engage the stakeholders in the stewardship of the property
- coordinate the reporting on the property's condition.

The Stewardship Board will be made up of local residents, Acadian representatives, representatives from the three levels of government, and representatives of other stakeholders or communities of interest.

The Board will rely on a variety of experts for advice on protection, promotion, and education. A Site Management Coordinator will implement the Board's strategic plan and the management plan. Staff from the Kings Regional Development Agency will manage administrative and financial operations.

## **Protecting the site**

Federal and provincial legislation is in place to safeguard the dykeland, its agricultural use, and the archaeological sites from undue development and environmental pressures.

A buffer zone around the nominated property, encompassing both land and water, was defined through community engagement. This led to the adoption of the *Grand Pré and Area Community Plan* to ensure that zoning remains compatible with the aims of protecting the nominated property.

These mechanisms are sufficient to control development, ensure agricultural land capacity, and monitor the effects of coastal erosion.

## Interpreting the site

The *Société Promotion Grand-Pré Business Plan* serves as a guiding document for managing the not-for-profit Société and its work at Grand-Pré National Historic Site of Canada. The business Plan's objectives include

- working with Parks Canada to deliver visitor services at the national historic site
- creating partnerships with other historic sites that are significant to Acadians
- developing projects with corporate sponsors
- establishing a governance system
- improving tourist and media promotion strategies
- supporting other endeavours of the Acadian community.

Nomination Grand Pré has also developed a *Tourism Strategy and Interpretation Framework* to identify current tourism opportunities and provide a framework for managing and promoting tourism in the Grand Pré area. It includes a tourism plan and assesses the overall effects and opportunities that an increase in tourism could have on the local community. It builds on existing tourism infrastructure in the area and will serve as the foundation for an interpretation plan in the event of a successful inscription.

## Risk preparedness

The Province of Nova Scotia is sometimes in the path of tropical storms. The main risk is for the dykeland to be flooded if exceptionally high tides occur at the same time as strong winds or if a dyke fails. If the dykeland were to flood, the land would be unusable for farming for up to three years. Farmers would require support from federal and provincial agriculture programs designed to help them. Any damage to the dykes is the responsibility of the provincial government.

The risk of fire is mainly to the Memorial Church.

### Responsibility is shared

Risk preparedness is a shared responsibility among several jurisdictions.

The Municipality of the County of Kings has an Emergency Response Plan managed by its Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) under the Province of Nova Scotia's Emergency Management Act. In the case of an emergency, the municipality is the first responder. It may request assistance from the provincial Emergency Management Office if the severity of the emergency requires it. The EMC focuses on protecting lives and personal property.

In case of dyke rupture or flooding of the dykelands, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture implements its own emergency preparedness plan. The

Municipality of the County of Kings' EMC is the first responder and would coordinate with the Department of Agriculture to consolidate the dykes. The priority of the Department of Agriculture is to protect the dykes and the farmland.

Federally, Parks Canada is responsible for protecting the memorials. The agency has protocols and tools in place to react to fires. These include a direct line to the local fire department, fire alarms, and fire-suppressant mechanisms in the visitor centre and in the Memorial Church. In addition, the memorials have been recorded to provide information in case they should need to be repaired or rebuilt. The local fire department is responsible for coordinating the response.

**Framework for preparedness**

A framework for managing natural disasters has been prepared to outline roles, responsibilities and procedures to mitigate the risks and effects of such disasters.

For the Landscape of Grand Pré, this framework provides the broad strokes of preparedness, response, and recovery actions. It focuses on managing these with relation to protecting the nominated property's outstanding universal value and key attributes. It also addresses some elements of visitor management.