

Condition of the site

The overall condition of the Landscape of Grand Pré is judged to be good.

Various policies are in place to guide conservation. The coordinated management of the property will enhance each agency's ability to deliver comprehensive conservation measures.

Six different authorities are responsible for assessing the state of the property's assets within their jurisdiction:

Parks Canada Agency (federal): archaeological sites, field patterns, commemorative buildings, structures, and gardens (only on Parks Canada administered land: Grand-Pré National Historic Site of Canada, Horton Landing, and the cairn commemorating the Attack at Grand Pré)

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (provincial): Dykes, *aboiteaux*, dykeland, farmland, drainage (cost-shared with the Grand Pré Marsh Body)

Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage – Heritage Division (provincial): Archaeological sites (outside Parks Canada land)

Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (provincial): Public road network

Municipality of the County of Kings (municipal): Farmland, settlement pattern

Grand Pré Marsh Body (local): Roads, drainage (cost-shared with the Department of Agriculture)

Defining the ratings

Professionals within each agency or department performed the condition assessments. For ease of reporting, the regulatory authorities developed a single good–fair–poor rating scale to assess the condition of the various attributes:

Good

- Near ideal condition.
- No risk of accelerated deterioration.
- Any defects can be rectified through routine maintenance.

Fair

- Normal condition.
- Little or no risk of accelerated deterioration.
- Any issues can be rectified through routine maintenance.

Poor

- Below normal condition.
- Evidence or risk of accelerated deterioration.
- Issues cannot be rectified through routine maintenance.

Present state of conservation

From a range of recent assessments, the specific conditions of attributes of the Landscape of Grand Pré are listed below:

Archaeological sites (Parks Canada administered land) Fair
The “fair” assessment was because of vegetation-management issues that have since been corrected. Conservation measures include impact assessment, site avoidance, site capping, vegetation maintenance, and research.

Archaeological sites (provincial Crown land and private property) Fair
Condition was assessed as fair based on the potential effects of coastal erosion. Conservation measures focus on mitigating these effects, surveying the sites, and educating the public.

Memorial Church Good

Herbin Cross Good

Deportation Cross Good

Acadian cemetery Good

Roads (provincial jurisdiction) Good–Poor
Roads footprint is in good condition. Road surfaces vary in condition. Conservation measures focus on maintenance.

Roads (Marsh Body jurisdiction and private ownership) Poor
Road footprint is in good condition. Surfaces are in poor condition. Would require grading and ditch cleaning along the roads.

Drainage Good

Dykes Good–Fair
Monitored at least twice a year (spring and fall). Additional monitoring during regular maintenance, after storms, when ice jams are present, during wind events and during extremely high tides. Varying degrees of effects from erosion and health of vegetation. Conservation measures include rock facing, regular topping, and vegetation management.

DykELands Good

Farmland (dykelands and uplands)

Good

Factors affecting the property

Three factors could affect the nominated property's outstanding value:

- development pressures
- environmental pressures
- visitor and tourism pressures

Development pressures include the sustainability of agriculture, an increase in building density and land-use encroachment, and alternative energy sources such as wind farms.

The County of Kings has the most agriculturally based economy in Nova Scotia. Farmers here face significant challenges, including changing markets, an aging population, and loss of agricultural land to development. Although the number of farmers working the Grand Pré dykelands has been steadily declining, no land has been left unattended. Crops grown on the dykeland have included corn, salt hay, soy, alfalfa, oats, and winter and spring wheat. Current expanding industries include growing grapes for wine making (in the buffer area) and raising dairy cattle.

An increase in building density could also put pressure on archaeological sites. However, community members have collaborated with archaeologists for many years in reporting, locating and identifying archaeological sites. Clear guidelines have been developed for the reporting of all archaeological finds on private property.

Land-use encroachment mainly takes the form of agricultural uses encroaching on road rights-of-way that are no longer in use. Agricultural zoning now prevents any future increase in building density that might result from use encroachment.

Municipal zoning regulations and the province's Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act minimize the pressure of increased building density and use encroachment on the dykelands. In addition, the Grand Pré and Area Community Plan does not permit large, utility-sized wind turbines within the boundaries of the nominated property.

Visitor and tourism pressures relate to the number of visitors that the Landscape of Grand Pré can sustain.

If the nomination is successful, a modest increase in visitor and tourism numbers is expected. This increase is not considered a significant pressure to the nominated property.

Environmental pressures include coastal change, rising sea levels, and natural disasters.

Sea levels are anticipated to rise 70 to 140 centimetres over the next century, and more intense storm surges are expected. The dykes bordering the Grand Pré region will likely need consistent maintenance to minimize the hazard of dam breaches and to ensure that the dykelands continue to contribute to the economic and socio-cultural health of the Grand Pré area.

Additional studies are underway on the effects of coastal change in the area and on the effects of the various protection mechanisms in place. Continual monitoring and maintenance of the dykes are expected to reduce the negative effects of coastal change.