

Chapter 1

Rouge Park Foundations Review



HAVE Plan for Rouge Park  Rouge Park

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Preface

This chapter and the entire Rouge Park HAVE Plan is based on the experience of the two principals of EcoLeaders Nature Interpretation and Environmental Education. We have found the following best practice model to be an invaluable tool for setting up the structure of effective plans such as this Heritage Appreciation and Visitor Experience plan. Below is a brief outline of the ANZECC best practice model.

The ANZECC Best Practice Model:

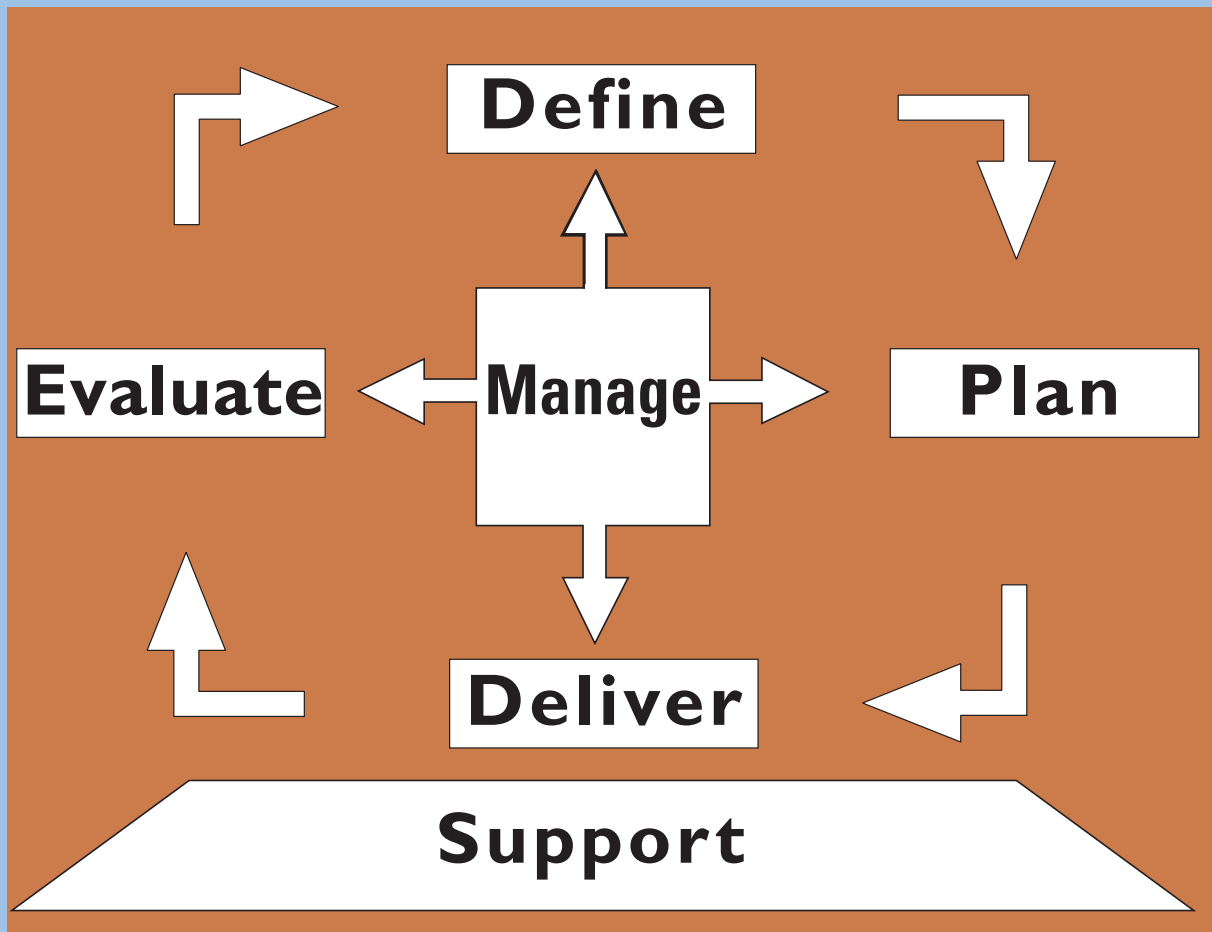
An Overall HAVE Program Development and Management Model

The Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) – a group representing 35 state and federal agencies that deliver interpretation and education service, employs a useful model illustrating current best practices in organizing, managing, and delivering interpretation and education services. The model was developed through a survey of the 35 agencies and the integration of two business management systems

The ANZECC model consists of five stages:

- Defining
- Planning
- Delivery
- Evaluation
- Support

These components will be clearly applied in the Rouge Park HAVE Plan.



Define

- The interpretation and education objectives and services of an organization must be clearly defined and linked to the department's legislated requirements, mission statement and broader agency goals. This provides a solid foundation.
- A good definition comprises broad areas such as benefits and outcomes, goals, functions, and relationships to other agency functions. Relevant community, customer, environmental, heritage, or scientific values can also be considered.
- It is understood that park interpretation and education operate increasingly in a business context where the benefits to visitors and the agency must equal or exceed the resources used.
- Many agencies integrate interpretation and education with other communication programs, including visitor promotion, agency reporting and imaging.

Plan

- This is where the park sets clear objectives that address agency goals for interpretation and education services and products.
- The park integrates documented procedures for identifying messages, target audiences and the approaches to be used in developing programs.
- Modern market research techniques are used to understand audiences and user needs. Often research is undertaken.
- The park sets clearly defined and measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Performance Standards for the activities and products that are critical to the core business (Critical Success Factors).

Deliver

- The park must ensure that interpretation and education staff, volunteers, contractors and partners understand all relevant corporate policies, objectives, targets, programs and performance standards and that any changes to corporate targets are updated quickly.
- The park must recognize the value of staff in delivering interpretation and education programs, and to acknowledge the importance of staff experience, commitment, expertise, and positive public image.

- The park should also recognize the role of non-staff providers in delivering core interpretation and education programs where both the provider and the organization will achieve a clear benefit; including expertise, quality, efficiency or range of choice. Non-staff provision of services must be more than a divestment of responsibility.
- The park clearly assigns roles and responsibilities for all stages of interpretation and education, and captures these in performance plans.

Evaluate

- The park must have an evaluation process for interpretation and education services, a process that addresses all components of the evaluation cycle with clear links to Key Performance Indicators.
- The park and properties should have a suitable method and systematic procedure for measuring the Key Performance Indicators.
- The park should link evaluation to performance assessment, including that of non-staff deliverers.
- The park should take the opportunity to learn from other government and business sectors how to measure the longer-term effectiveness of interpretation and education programs.

Support

- The park should have documented procedures to support communication, evaluation, data analysis (participant statistics) and performance reporting.
- The park should devise strategies to minimize the impact of organizational change on program development and delivery. These might include insisting upon quick transition processes, assigning individuals the responsibility for continuity, and establishing procedures for hand-over of knowledge.
- The park should also identify processes for training, monitoring and maintaining core skills.
- Workspace, budget, and other needs of the HAVE program must be provided.

[Modified from: Department of Natural Resources and Environment (Victoria) in conjunction with Parks Victoria; Best Practice in Park Interpretation and Education, Australia, April 1999]

Introduction

This chapter is an important part of this HAVE Plan. It is a key component of the Defining Stage identified in the ANZECC Best Practice model for managing Interpretation and education services (see preface for details).

What Are Foundations?

Foundations are the vision, mission, goals objectives and other over-arching statements such as planning principles that document the mandate and intentions of an agency or program.

The Value of Foundations In Guiding HAVE Services

Best practice in planning and management of heritage interpretation and education services is to ensure that HAVE offerings clearly contribute to the site's and agency's mandate and intentions.

What Is Heritage Appreciation And Visitor Experience (HAVE)?

HAVE is a tool kit that can assist Rouge Park and its partners and stakeholders in achieving the park's mission, vision and goals.

What HAVE Does

HAVE provides visitors and supporters of the park with opportunities to explore, understand, appreciate and participate in the stewardship of the park's natural and cultural heritage. Many of its initiatives enhance public awareness of our relationship to and dependence upon the natural world and our connections with the past.

Benefits of HAVE

These services are provided for their utility value (e.g., reducing visitor impacts to parks) and to meet community service obligations to inform the public about the park's mandates and heritage assets. The benefits of heritage appreciation and visitor experience services can be understood from several perspectives.

HAVE services can help to achieve the park's mandates and goals as they relate to:

The Park:

- a) foster appropriate use
- b) minimize impacts to fragile features through education and carefully managing visitor pressure
- c) develop advocates and support for the park
- d) minimize visitor/neighbor impacts and/or conflicts
- e) reduce the need for regulation, enforcement and rescue
- f) encourage the adoption of the "greater ecosystem concept" in the management of neighbouring properties



Beyond the Park's Boundaries:

- a) extend connections beyond the park to the natural region, the province, country and planet
- b) produce environmentally aware and environmentally literate citizens who value the neighbourhood's natural and cultural heritage, and that of the broader environment
- c) develop advocates and support for values under management
- d) foster sustainability (changing values and behaviours, consideration for future generations)

The Park's Managers and its Partner Agencies and Groups:

- a) be a visible presence in the community
- b) enhance image of the park and partners
- c) inform the community about purpose and nature of the park and partner agency programs
- d) develop advocates and support for the park and partner agency programs
- e) encourage public participation in management

The Visitor/Participant:

- a) answer questions—provide information
- b) provide a better understanding of what to expect
- c) provide enjoyment and recreation
- d) heighten awareness and appreciation of the natural and cultural landscapes under management
- e) inspire and add perspective to their lives
- f) enhance visitor safety
- g) provide explanation of current resource management practices
- h) promote exploration, experience and life-long learning: “get out there and experience!”
- i) support sense of place, pride and citizenship
- j) provide opportunities to connect to and understand the natural and cultural history of the area

The Community:

- a) identify, celebrate and sustain locally, provincially and nationally significant places and stories
- b) recognize and appreciate active citizenship
- c) establish or re-establish and maintain a healthy relationship between nature and culture
- d) celebrate or commemorate, deepening bonds of belonging and identity

The Tourism Industry:

- a) attract visitors
- b) help to meet the increasing demand for educational visitor experiences
- c) provide interesting and memorable experiences that ensure visitor satisfaction, positive word-of-mouth advertising and repeat visitation
- d) develop a substitute experience for places that are fragile and/or difficult to visit, e.g., wetlands, species at risk, and topics that are impossible to experience directly, e.g., history



Rouge Park Foundations

Rouge Park has a clear set of foundations as seen on the park's website and in key planning documents identified in this chapter's introduction.

Foundations Reviewed

Foundations include a vision, a goal, and objectives. These along with planning principles and other key statements in the following documents were reviewed:

- Rouge Park Management Plan
- Rouge North Management Plan
- Little Rouge Corridor Management Plan
- Bob Hunter Environmental Area Master Plan

Their implications for guiding HAVE services are discussed.

Park Vision

Rouge Park's vision reflects the essence of the park's current values and sets a definite direction for what the park should become.

The Park Vision

"The Rouge Park will be a special place of outstanding natural features and diverse cultural heritage in an urban-rural setting, protected and flourishing as an ecosystem in perpetuity. Human activities will exist in harmony with the natural values of the park. The park will be a sanctuary for nature and the human spirit.

The primary focus of the vision centres on the protection and appreciation of the park ecosystem. The vision is based on the premise that the functioning of significant natural systems forms a vital part of the natural environment, and that their continued health is dependent on the integrity of their habitats and on the physical connections between habitats. Where appropriate, interpretation of natural, scenic, historic, archaeological and architectural values will be provided."

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Discussion

The vision statement identifies three key areas of focus that are discussed below.

Conservation

This vision focuses on natural and cultural heritage conservation within the park.

It strongly implies that management of the park lands will follow ecological principles. Human use will be limited to activities that do not damage or interfere with native flora, fauna and natural processes.

There are, and will continue to be, challenges for park management related to this strong conservation focus:

- many long-time users of the park lands take part in activities that are not consistent with the sustainability of the park's natural and cultural features—e.g., mountain biking, harvesting wild plants, dumping waste, and dogs off leash
- many of the new residents of the rapidly growing communities near the park have no knowledge or understanding of the park and its management goals, and are taking part in similar unsustainable activities

Implications for the HAVE Program

- A key communication initiative for HAVE services will be to inform visitors and park neighbours about the conservation focus of the park and to involve them in these initiatives.

Urban Park Issues

The vision statement also recognizes that the park is located within city/suburban landscape as well as partly within a rural countryside.

The park faces many urban park challenges of such as:

- heavy use
 - trail degradation
 - random, un-planned trails
 - habitat damage
- people issues
 - visitor safety
 - vandalism/trash
 - trail use conflicts (e.g., pedestrian/bicycle)
 - dogs (off-leash, droppings on trails, dogs biting people and other dogs, and disturbing wildlife)

Implications for the HAVE Program

- HAVE services will also need to focus on education about appropriate recreation activities, visitor safety and security, and park rules.

Recognition of the Importance of Natural Areas to The Human Psyche

Finally, the vision recognizes the value and importance that natural areas hold for the comfort, inspiration, restoration and spiritual well-being of people (e.g., Richard Louv. 2007. *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*).

It recognizes that people need natural spaces in order to be whole. Many people have and seek deep connections with natural places. Beautiful surrounding, especially views and waterside forest for reflection and contemplation.

The visitor's experience is envisioned as being partly internal—recreation is not expressly mentioned in the vision statement.

Implications for the HAVE Program

- HAVE services must also focus on enabling visitors to appreciate and experience affective activities that nurture the human spirit and are appropriate for natural areas. These may include arts (e.g., painting or photography, music and writing), meditation, contemplative walking and other low-impact, appreciative activities.

Implications for the HAVE Program

- HAVE services must:
 - promote research on natural and cultural heritage within the park through:
 - university and college research programs
 - citizen science programs
 - ensure that research findings are made public in formats that are accessible to a broad public audience
 - provide or support education about natural and cultural heritage through
 - public education and outreach
 - formal education (K-12 and post-secondary)
- HAVE services will focus on key natural and cultural heritage features and processes within the park

Promotion of Public Enjoyment of the Park and its Natural and Cultural Heritage

Implications for the HAVE Program

- HAVE services will include elements of heritage interpretation that include:
 - appropriate nature and culture discovery and other low-impact activities that create enjoyment
 - a wide range of topics
 - all activities must combine enjoyment with learning

Promote Appreciation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Rouge Park

Heritage appreciation is a cornerstone of any HAVE service. Here appreciation means the development of values, and internalization where the park, its history and features become relevant to visitors and neighbours.

Implications for the HAVE Program

Current learning theory indicates that appreciation seldom is developed through the provision of information alone. Instead, appreciation is most successfully developed when people are given the opportunity to interact with and develop relationships with:

- real things (natural areas, wildlife, plants, history and stories of historical people)
- people who are actively studying or learning about or these features (researchers, interpreters managers)
- people who have connections with the land and history (e.g., long-time residents, First Nations Groups)

Promotion of Public Responsibility toward the park's Natural and Cultural Heritage

Responsibility implies both:

- harmonious behaviour and activities in the park (no impact or low impact)
- public participation in restoration, conservation, monitoring, support and research activities

Sustained responsible behaviour and support must be based on clear understanding of park values, permitted activities and the natural and cultural features and values that it protects.

Implications for the HAVE Program

- HAVE services must cover the entire range of the Stewardship Development Model (see page 78).
- HAVE services must include opportunities for encouragement and recognition of stewardship achievement by:
 - park staff
 - community service groups and individual members of these groups
 - members of the public that support the park and its activities

Natural, Scenic and Cultural Restoration and Enhancement Within an Ecosystem Model

To date, restoration and enhancement of natural habitats within the park have been the main focus of park managers and its community partners. This is likely to remain a major focus for the foreseeable future, since large areas of the park are slated for restoration, and restoration of forests takes a long time.

As stated earlier, public participation in restoration and enhancement of natural, cultural and scenic features is best supported when people understand and value the site, and the principles of ecological and cultural integrity.

Implications for the HAVE Program

- HAVE services (education, information and participation-based programming) must focus on:
 - the concepts and science of habitat restoration
 - including where, why, how, what and when, and natural processes involved
- There will be many opportunities for:
 - updates on progress of specific site restorations
 - past participants in restorations to monitor progress and maintain involvement in the park's restoration programs

Rouge Park Objectives

Natural Heritage

To protect, restore and enhance the natural ecosystem of the park by ensuring the health and diversity of its native species, habitats, landscapes and ecological processes.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

- a significant percentage of HAVE offerings must focus on awareness, appreciation, understanding of native species, biological diversity and natural processes in the park
- a key message is that primary functions of the park is restoration and conservation of the natural systems that it contains
- visitors and neighbours must be provided with the opportunity to participate in and contribute to programs focused on the restoration, enhancement and study of the park's natural systems
- in order to contribute to this objective HAVE audiences must include:
 - park visitors
 - community groups
 - park neighbours
 - school children and youth
 - retired members of the community
- HAVE services at the awareness and understanding levels of the Stewardship Development Scale will indirectly contribute to this objective

Cultural Heritage

To identify, protect and conserve the cultural heritage features of the park for their inherent value and depiction of the long-term human use and occupancy of the area.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

- HAVE offerings must include:
 - awareness, appreciation, understanding of cultural heritage features of the park
 - the long history of human occupation of this landscape from pre-history to the present
- visitors and neighbours must be provided with the opportunity to participate and contribute to programs focused on the conservation and study of history in the Rouge, Duffins and Petticoat valleys
- in order to contribute to this objective HAVE audiences must include:
 - park visitors
 - community groups, park neighbours
 - school children and youth
 - seniors

Land Use

To ensure protection of the ecological integrity and cultural values of the park through innovative planning, management and land use in the park and its environs.

Management

To manage the park to ensure the achievement of all park objectives and to provide for ongoing public involvement in park planning and management.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

- HAVE staff can assist park planning, management and land use through using their highly developed communications skills for:
 - communication of the background and reasoning for management decisions to park visitors, park neighbours and local taxpayers
 - encouraging input and feedback from the above constituents, and other involvement such as volunteer working groups and fund raising teams

Interpretation

To promote knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural values of the park, their protection and management requirements, and their significance, sensitivities and interrelationships.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

HAVE services must:

- follow current best-practice including:
 - inquiry learning
 - discovery learning
 - action research
 - learner-centered techniques
 - and any new appropriate techniques and delivery approaches that are developed in the fields of formal, and informal learning and teaching

Recreation

To provide opportunities for appropriate recreational enjoyment consistent with other park objectives.

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Implications for the HAVE Program

HAVE programs and services will:

- encourage appropriate recreational activities through:
 - providing park visitors, potential park visitors and park neighbours with information and examples of appropriate recreational activities
 - identifying to the above target groups particular recreation activities that are not compatible with the park's core foundations
 - clearly providing reasons for exclusion
 - suggesting alternative locations for such activities (when available)
- orient visitors to park locations suitable for particular types of activity

Sidebar: Greater Park Ecosystem

The Greater Park Ecosystem is a concept used by Parks Canada and other park systems in Canada and around the world.

Ecosystems are usually defined as the living and non-living components of a definable natural area that function as a system. Ecosystem boundaries do not usually coincide with park boundaries and thus extend into surrounding areas. The area outside a park boundary containing part of the ecosystem is known as the greater park ecosystem.

Management of the greater park ecosystem requires particular understanding and collaboration among all whose activities influence the wildlife and ecological integrity of the park—including park visitors, neighbouring landowners, businesses and other public land management agencies.

With this in mind it becomes extremely important for ecosystem managers to understand the range of perceptions, needs, uses and values that people have for ecosystems—the human dimension of ecosystem management.

In order to conserve ecological integrity and further the principles of ecosystem management in protected areas, parks managers need to be able to educate local communities on the importance of conserving not only the ecosystem within park boundaries, but also those that are in adjacent lands, including developed and developing areas.

Rouge Park Planning Principles

Natural Heritage

Biodiversity

Sustain and, where appropriate, restore and enhance the biodiversity of the park. The diversity of the park's natural landscapes, native species and biological communities will be maintained, restored and enhanced in concert with maintaining the physical conditions (i.e. water, soils, geology) and ecological processes of change (i.e. succession, species migration, water and nutrient cycles) of the area.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

HAVE services will focus on topics of:

- biodiversity in the park
 - what it is
 - values and importance
 - connections to microclimate and soils
- restoration of biodiversity in the park
- key natural processes associated with biodiversity in context the of the park
 - succession
 - water and nutrient cycling
 - habitat variety
 - ecological connections

Sustainable Functions

Sustain the biological and physical functions of the park which are important to the long term integrity of the park ecosystem. Some of the biological functions of the park depend on maintaining large tracts of forest cover and special plant communities, as well as linked natural systems. Important physical functions in the park include water storage and buffering to protect sensitive species.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

HAVE services will focus on topics of:

- sustainability of habitats and species in the park
 - what this means
- green infrastructure and free ecological services
 - how important physical functions are linked to natural habitats e.g.:
 - water: storage, flood control, purification
 - air: cooling, oxygen production, absorption of pollutants
- habitat and forest stand size
 - island effects, effects of shape of protected areas, etc.
 - minimum size needed to maintain biodiversity
 - buffering effects
 - importance of wildlife and green corridors
- key natural processes associated with biodiversity in context the of the park
 - succession
 - water and nutrient cycling
 - adaptability to climate change

Restoration

Enhance the natural heritage of the park through the restoration and reconnection of natural communities, and the reintroduction of native species, if appropriate. Terrestrial habitats, for instance, should be restored by reconnecting plant communities located on naturally forested uplands, valley slopes and bottomlands. Aquatic habitat should be restored through such means as river corridor revegetation and upstream water management programs.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

HAVE services will focus on:

- topic of habitat restoration in the park
 - why restoration
 - techniques used
 - current results
- providing park visitors and park neighbours with opportunities to participate in sanctioned restoration projects and corridor/greenways, or at least how not to compromise them

Health and Change

Monitor the biological and physical conditions of the park so that changes, especially in ecosystem health and the impacts of internal and external activities, can be assessed and managed appropriately.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

HAVE services will include themes and content relating to:

- change is natural in biological systems
- communication of findings of monitoring programs
- providing park visitors, community groups, schools, youth and park neighbours with opportunities to participate in sanctioned monitoring programs

Cultural Heritage

Broadly Defined

Heritage should be considered in the broadest perspective including structures, sites, areas, objects and documents, and less tangible aspects such as: values, speech, way of life and traditions.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

Content of HAVE services will include:

- a broad spectrum of park-specific cultural heritage including:
 - prehistory
 - pre-contact First Nations use and habitation
 - early European exploration and trade
 - European settlement including
 - lumbering/land clearing
 - farming
 - milling
 - recreation
- the park's heritage farm land which may include opportunities for:
 - market gardening
 - garden plots
 - sustainable gardening/farming featuring heritage vegetables, fruits, field crops and perhaps heritage livestock breeds
 - education on sustainable gardening and the agricultural history and pre-history of the area
 - heritage foods

Relevance to the Park

Only heritage features that are located within the park or are directly related to the park, will be considered for purposes of management and interpretation.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

HAVE services will focus on:

- heritage features and artifacts located in the park
- events that took place in the park and other intangible elements
- however, context to larger-scale events will be provided when necessary and/or beneficial for learning

Identification and Protection

All significant archaeological, built and landscape heritage features require identification and protection on a priority basis. Requirements for interim and long term monitoring and research must also be determined.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

HAVE services will:

- support heritage resource management by:
 - communicating the cultural significance and importance of the park's key heritage sites, landscapes and artifacts with security of these site as a priority
 - work to develop awareness, appreciation and understanding of the above by park visitors, community groups and park neighbours
- encourage public participation in appropriate research, cataloguing and protection of heritage resources in the park
- encourage and assist academics, artists and researchers in developing the appropriate communication and interpretation of new findings

First Nations Involvement

First Nations should be involved at all stages of planning and development for interpretation of Aboriginal heritage in the park and in the management of archaeological sites.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

HAVE services must follow this directive.

- the emerging theme of restoration offers a constructive framework for First Nations engagement and involvement
- aboriginal people and those with aboriginal ancestry living near Rouge Park or in the GTA, as well as well established bands, reservations organized aboriginal groups can be involved
- cultural experts and/or elders of the nations and cultures involved historically with should be invited to early stages of program development even if they are not local
- interpretation and stewardship education programs should include:
 - traditional ecological knowledge and skills
 - First Nations as living cultures not only from the historic and pre-historic context
- possibilities for community health and wellness goals to be addressed through First Nations involvement in the Park should be expanded from programs at Glenn Rouge Campground

Land Use

Holistic View

A key component in the planning and management of the park is the understanding of the behaviour of the river and watershed as a whole. The impact on the watershed in terms of water quality, plants, animals, natural history and history of human use must be addressed in the preparation of preservation, restoration and land use policies and implementation strategies. The Rouge ecosystem is within a mosaic of natural, rural and urban areas. This area in turn is one part of a larger system: The Greater Toronto bioregion. The interrelationship of the Rouge Valley system, the Oak Ridges Moraine, and other natural and cultural features must always be recognized. The park can not be viewed in isolation; an integrated approach to land use planning must be adopted.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

HAVE services will reflect this holistic view.

Topics included in HAVE offerings will include:

- the watershed concept in relation to the park's natural systems and park management
- the park and Rouge River, Duffins Creek and Petticoat Creek watersheds are a mosaic of natural, cultivated and urban landscapes
 - these interact with each other in many positive and negative ways
- the park interacts with larger ecosystems
- The park is managed in terms of these larger systems
- other over-arching concepts such as cycles, energy flow, change, biodiversity, interrelationships, community and adaptations

Restoration Zone

Restoration (R) zones include tablelands and stream corridors which form potential Nature Reserve zones... Some lands may already exist in various stages of natural regeneration or may provide strategic opportunities to expand the forest coverage to create large expanses of linked forest... It is anticipated that as these lands are renaturalized, they will be rezoned as Nature Reserve.

The policies for this zone are:

- implement a vegetation management strategy primarily based upon natural regeneration of native species to create the necessary forest linkages and buffer lands over the long term;
- maintain cultural landscape heritage values within a functioning forest ecosystem (i.e. retention of rural hedgerows, farmstead plantings);
- in consultation with the agricultural tenants, modify leases to encourage environmentally positive changes in agricultural practices to provide suitable setbacks from streams, wetlands, etc.;
- allow the continued retention of residential and farm building complexes;
- allow trail use for recreational and educational purposes and where feasible and appropriate, permit other recreational uses;
- permit the construction of a visitor centre, subject to feasibility studies and detailed site considerations.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

- HAVE services will include programs featuring stewardship activities in these zones including:
 - participation in restoration activities
 - participation in monitoring progress of restoration projects
 - opportunities to observe restoration in various habitats and various stages of recovery, perhaps including demonstration elements for private landowners
- if park centre(s) are deemed necessary, it (they) could be located on or adjacent to Restoration Zone land that overlooks important nature Reserve lands. Ideally such a centre would be a hub surrounded by a bustle of progressive stewardship activities, with options for visitors to watch, tour or participate (stewardship is a key park focus).

Agricultural Heritage Reserve Zone

The purpose of Agricultural Heritage Reserve is to maintain several significant agricultural areas for ongoing farming and to protect farm complexes which contain important cultural heritage values and contribute to the local rural identity.

Within this zone there are a number of general policies:

Agricultural Practices

- maintain agricultural operations and promote land management techniques which conserve soil, water and ecological functions over the long term (i.e. adequate set backs/buffers from streams, wetlands, and significant natural areas, and reduction in the use of chemicals).

Rural Landscape and Built Heritage

- conserve existing heritage structures;
- protect, restore and enhance the rural landscape features including barns, fence rows and fields;
- conserve, where feasible, and/or render safe, other important heritage elements within the Agricultural Reserve;
- permit the establishment of a demonstration farm

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

- HAVE services will include programs that will:
 - focus on the agricultural heritage of the area
 - provide urban visitors with the opportunity to experience agricultural practices/settings
 - showcase best practice in ecological protection of wetlands, streams and other natural elements in agricultural settings
 - feature specific rural landscape features and if possible provide opportunities for urban visitors to meet local farm families and farm animals
- HAVE staff may:
 - work with local farmers or agricultural organizations to develop a demonstration farm
 - restore or conserve existing farm structures and equipment for interpretation
 - with growing concerns regarding food security in the face of climate change, peak oil, municipal watering bans, etc., HAVE staff may respond with interpretation/education about food with minimum impact on surrounding ecology in backyard or community plots through or with the demonstration farm
- HAVE staff may not restrict all agriculture and food related programs to Agricultural Heritage Reserve lands

- they could also use small peripheral land parcels on the edges of the park (deemed unsuitable for restoration) for activities such as community gardens and demonstration plots

Access Zone

Access zones are areas where visitors and park neighbours can access park trails and other facilities.

The policies of the Access zone are listed below:

- provide visitor access to the park on sites at the periphery in areas that can sustain the impact of development and have limited to no negative ecological or visual impacts on the adjacent park lands;
- provide limited facilities and services to support trail and educational activities that will occur in adjacent zones; - primary access sites will include parking, including access for the physically challenged, washroom facilities, drinking water, interpretative and trail orientation displays and telephone emergency facilities. Where appropriate, lighting provisions may also be provided;
- ensure that all development occurs with approved site plans and development plans which address issues of visual impact, size and extent of parking and building facilities, neighbourhood impacts and planting requirements;
- permit the construction of a visitor centre, subject to feasibility studies and detailed site considerations.

Rouge Park Management Plan 1994

Implications for the HAVE Program

Major Access Points

- HAVE services at these marshalling and access points will include some of the following:
 - non-personal information and orientation services which may include:
 - Welcome to Rouge Park signs
 - map panels
 - self guided interpretation signs
 - information/orientation brochures including trail maps
 - self-guided interpretation brochures
 - care should be taken that the park centre is located in this zone and learning opportunities are immediately adjacent

Neighbourhood Access Points

- HAVE services at these marshalling and access points will include some of the following:
 - Welcome to Rouge Park signs
 - maps showing location of park lands and boundaries