



## **Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) 2016 Ganaraska Forest Management Plan**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What is a Forest Management Plan (FMP)?

*A Forest Management Plan sets the general direction for the Forest for the coming 10 years, with objectives listed to 20 years in the future. It details the past, present, and future objectives for managing the Forest covering ecological, social, and economic factors. Overall, a FMP should consist of planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting through Adaptive Resource Management principles. Traditionally, FMPs would largely focus on timber harvest exclusively. Today, FMPs take a more holistic approach to include recreation, sustainability, social and cultural values, and Good Forest Management practices.*

2. What is the purpose of the updated Forest Management Plan?

*To complete a 10-year FMP (2018-2027) to direct forest management activities in the Ganaraska Forest and adhere to requirements of the Ontario Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).*

3. How will the Plan be used?

*The Plan will be used to assess current status of management of the Ganaraska Forest, assisting in defining needs of Forest users, and set future direction for management and Forest operations. The Plan will be used as a general guiding document for the coming ten years.*

4. Why is GRCA updating its Forest Management Plan for the Ganaraska Forest? Why now?

*The Ganaraska Forest participates in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) which requires plan renewals at ten year intervals. The current Plan has a sunset date of December 31, 2017. Furthermore, Sustainable Forest Management activities require careful planning and regular updates to ensure that objectives, targets, and conditions of sustainable management are being met. Forestry, as a discipline, involves checks and assessments at regular intervals to verify whether prior management activities have had the intended results. This helps to inform future management decisions so that the optimal and sustainable ecological, economic, and social conditions are being satisfied.*

5. What is the scope and limit of the study? What geographic area will be covered by the updated Forest Management Plan?

*The FMP covers the Ganaraska Forest including recreation, forestry, ecology, and forest operations.*

6. What is the time frame to develop the updated Forest Management Plan?

*The FMP will be presented to the GRCA Full Authority Board in May, 2017. It will be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) in July, 2017.*

7. Who approves the updated Ganaraska Forest Management Plan?

*The FMP is prepared by the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, the GRCA Forester will act as the FMP approver, and the FMP is recommended for approval by the Full Authority Board. Through the production of the FMP, many staff, stakeholders, general public and other interested parties are consulted and contribute to the completion of the FMP.*

8. What happens once the Forest Management Plan is developed?

*Once the FMP is developed, it is then implemented over the 10 year renewal period ending in December, 2026. Actions and management activities are documented throughout this period and included in a report submitted at the half way point in July, 2022. Amendments can be made during this planning period provided that they are in keeping with sustainable forestry principles and Good Forest Management Practices.*

9. How will GRCA ensure that landowners and community members have an opportunity to be involved in the process?

*Comment cards, surveys, public meetings and open houses that will be facilitated by the GRCA Consultant.*

10. How will GRCA ensure that interested parties are kept informed as the Forest Management Plan is developed?

*Public meetings, open houses, community newsletters, websites, social media, and information tents at community events (i.e. fairs)*

11. I still have more questions. Who can I contact for more information about the Ganaraska Forest Management Plan update?

*Additional questions about the FMP can be directed to [info@grca.on.ca](mailto:info@grca.on.ca)*