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Castle Hill

National Historic Site of Canada

Management Statement

2018



Approval

Approved by:

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Date

DRAFT

Parks Canada Agency manages one of the finest and most extensive systems of protected natural and historic areas in the world. The Agency's mandate is to protect and present these places for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. This management statement outlines Parks Canada's management approach and objectives for Castle Hill National Historic Site.

Located within the ancestral territory of the Beothuk and Mi'kmaq Peoples, Castle Hill National Historic Site (NHS) is of national historic significance because, between 1692 and 1811, it played an important role in the defence of "Plaisance", the former French capital of Newfoundland, and in the larger strategic interests of France and Britain in what is now Atlantic Canada. Situated in Placentia, Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), the site consists of twenty-four hectares of land containing fortification remains and archaeological sites as well as a visitor centre, trails, picnic areas, an outdoor theatre space and maintenance compound. Since opening to the public in 1968, Castle Hill NHS has been a key tourism attraction for the Placentia region and a focal point for Newfoundland's francophone history.

Management Approach

Parks Canada is responsible for all cultural resources, natural features, and contemporary assets within the administered area for Castle Hill NHS (SEE MAP). A self-guided site, Castle Hill NHS is open daily from early June to Labour Day and also hosts special events, such as *Learn to Camp*, and off-season activities whenever possible. Parks Canada will continue to engage Indigenous partners, key stakeholders, the public, and community partners to ensure that Castle Hill NHS remains a cultural and tourism focal point for the Placentia region.

Management Objectives

- **Building Relationships with Indigenous Partners:** Fostering mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous Peoples is a high priority for Parks Canada. Parks Canada will work closely with Indigenous partners to explore aspects of Castle Hill NHS's historical and cultural significance and pursue opportunities to feature Indigenous stories and activities at the site, including opportunities for Indigenous partners to tell their own stories.
- **Resource Conservation:** At Castle Hill NHS, the focus is on adding to the archaeological and historical research records, undertaking vegetation control to mitigate risks to historic resources and view planes, implementing preventive conservation and maintenance measures for cultural resources, and monitoring for species at risk that may occur within the site. In addition, Parks Canada will work with others to ensure the protection and understanding of the site's cultural resources as well as associated sites that lie outside the boundaries of Castle Hill NHS.
- **Visitor Experience:** Parks Canada will continue to offer high quality, self-guided visitor experience opportunities at Castle Hill NHS. Parks Canada will also engage partner and stakeholder organizations to pursue opportunities for special events, programs, and visitor services. Visitor experience facilities, signage, and exhibits will be maintained according to Parks Canada standards and policies. Parks Canada will continue to monitor visitor use, identify hazards, and mitigate risks to ensure visitors to Castle Hill NHS have safe and memorable experiences.
- **Public Awareness and Appreciation:** Parks Canada provides information about Castle Hill NHS on the Parks Canada website and social media channels as well as the Canadian Register of Historic Places. Through collaborating with thematically-linked heritage places, such as Fortress of Louisbourg NHS, and with regional tourism and cultural stakeholders, Parks Canada will pursue promotional, public outreach and media opportunities to increase public awareness and appreciation of Castle Hill NHS.

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