



COURSE OUTLINE: NRT211 - PROTECT PARK VALUES

Prepared: Conor Mihell

Approved: Bob Chapman - Dean

Course Code: Title	NRT211: PROTECTING PARK VALUES
Program Number: Name	5212: ADVENTURE RECREATION
Department:	NATURAL RESOURCES PRG
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	<p>This field, lecture and discussion-based course examines the evolving concepts of park values, revealing the actions and compromises protected area managers face in preserving ecological integrity, providing visitor experiences, and maintaining aesthetics. Local field trips allow students to practice mapping recreational impacts within urban greenspaces and develop their own plans to protect natural and cultural values. Case studies examine the impacts of climate change on parks, considering adaptive measures and protected areas as natural solutions to the climate crises. Students will learn about park management plans and discover how managers are directed to respond to issues like insect outbreaks, tree pathology, wildfire, and managing visitor impacts. Finally, students will work through the rapidly evolving processes of creating new protected areas and appreciate the challenges and opportunities of parks in the context of reconciliation and other contemporary issues.</p>
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Substitutes:	NRT139, NRT243
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	5212 - ADVENTURE RECREATION
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	VLO 1 Demonstrate clear, concise and industry appropriate written, spoken and visual communication skills.
	VLO 2 Identify, discuss, organize and assess common Flora & Fauna species found throughout ON, including biological and physiological characteristics.
	VLO 3 Describe how the six park systems in Ontario are managed and operated.
	VLO 5 Start and manage a career in the Adventure Recreation and Parks field.
	VLO 6 Demonstrate a sound understanding of the significance of the Adventure Recreation and Parks Industry including relevant legislation, trends and issues.
	VLO 7 Describe the scientific method and how it shapes our understanding of the ecology of the natural world.
	VLO 8 Demonstrate an understanding of sustainable development and apply the foundations in the natural environment.
	VLO 11 Analyze, evaluate and apply subjective and objective safety considerations for Adventure Recreation and Parks activities.



Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:

- EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.
- EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.
- EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.
- EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.
- EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.
- EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.
- EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.
- EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.
- EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.
- EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.

Course Evaluation:

Passing Grade: 50%, D

A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.

Other Course Evaluation & Assessment Requirements:

Academic success is directly linked to attendance. Missing more than 1/3 of the course hours in a semester shall result in an F grade for the course.

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:

Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1
1. Understand how park management plans define the conservation objectives and management actions for individual protected areas, under the broader concepts of provincial and federal protected areas legislation.	1.1 Define types and examples of park values in the greater conservation and recreational objectives of specific protected areas. 1.2 Understand the implications of balancing of ecological integrity and visitor experience in protecting overall park values. 1.3 Describe how park management plans guide park staff in responding to changes to the landscape, including tree health, insect outbreaks and wildfire.
Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Conduct a human impact forensic study at a local natural area to explore how human use influences park values, ultimately developing a zoning plan to manage impacts and preserve ecological integrity.	2.1 Define the types and effects of human impacts in park settings. 2.2 Describe general ways to mitigate human impacts. 2.3 Identify ways to restore ecological values in protected areas. 2.4 Create a map of impact zones and associated visitor experiences, including access zones, recreation zones, nature zones and wilderness zones.
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
3. Examine the natural factors influencing park values, with practical studies	3.1 Define the measures of tree health and discuss ways to optimize the ecological benefits of forests while promoting visitor safety.



	in tree health and pathology, hard-bodied and forest soil fungi and their role and impacts on the ecosystem, managing native and non-native insects, and the complexities of managing wildfire in park settings.	3.2 Identify five species of fungi and appreciate the role of fungal interactions in forest ecosystems. 3.3 Identify five orders of insects, with a knowledge of insect life cycles, the impacts of non-native insects, and the overall role of insects in promoting ecological integrity. 3.4 Describe the role of natural fire in Canadian ecosystems, applying fire weather calculations and appreciation the challenge of managing wildfire through suppression and prescribed burns.
	Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
	4. Through discussion and case studies, examine how climate change is impacting protected areas around the world and describe the opportunities and threats of parks in the climate crisis.	4.1 Define the ways in which climate change is altering parks, with examples of how this phenomenon is changing both ecosystem function and visitor experiences. 4.2 Examine how specific parks are responding to climate change through adaptive measures, such as ecological restoration and managed retreat. 4.3 Explore and identify the ways in which protected areas serve as natural solutions to climate change, supporting other global efforts to respond to the climate crisis.
	Course Outcome 5	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5
	5. Explore the challenges and opportunities in creating new protected areas in the Canadian concept, with emphasis on how modern conservation areas attempt to preserve ecological integrity and biological diversity, respond to climate change, promote urban green space, and develop reconciliatory relationships with Indigenous communities.	5.1 Describe the role and values of global targets to expand protected areas, including the Half-Earth concept and Canada's target of protecting 30 percent of its landmass by 2030. 5.2 Define modern types of protected areas and their values, including private land trusts, marine protected areas, Indigenous protected areas, and urban parks. 5.3 Apply knowledge of Canada's protected areas network as well as concepts like biodiversity, climate change, urbanization and reconciliation to identify and describe new candidate protected areas.

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Assessing Tree Health	10%
Final Test	20%
Fort Creek Protected Area Map	10%
Fort Creek Protected Area Plan	20%
Fungus ID presentation	10%
Insect ID Quiz	10%
Parks Issues Essay	20%

Date:

December 2, 2025



Addendum:

Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.

