



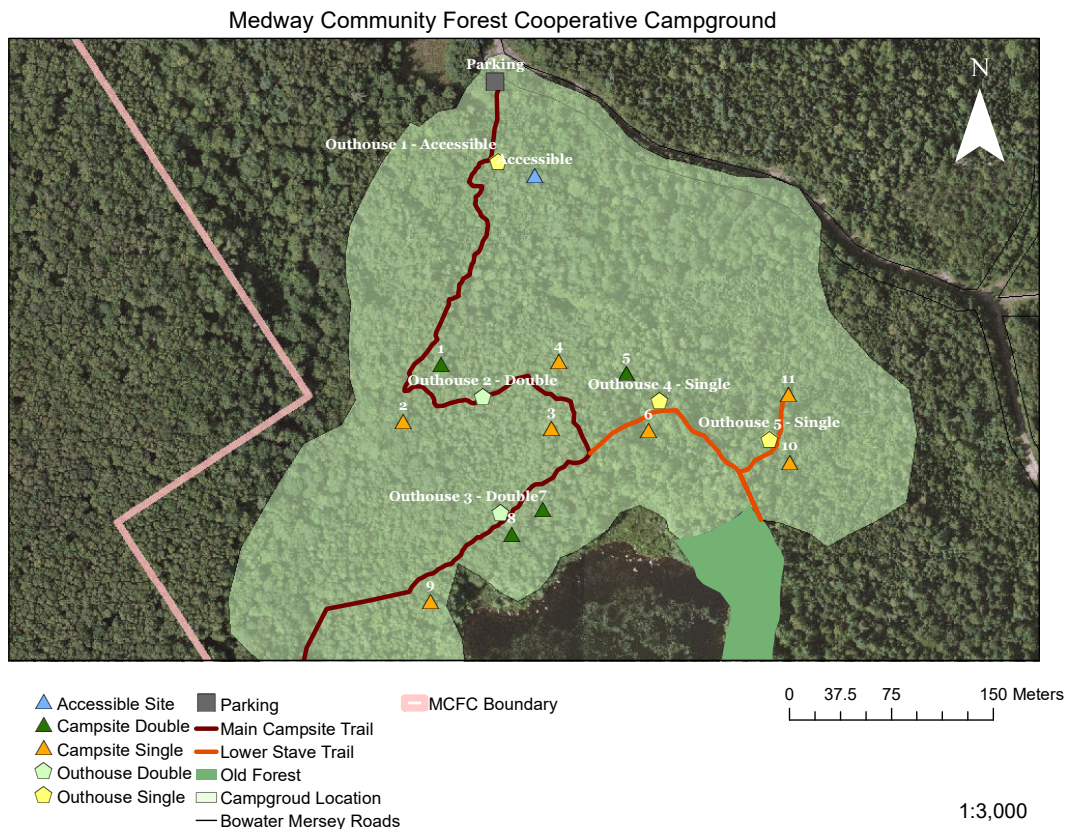
# Medway Community Forest Cooperative

## Stave Lake Campground Project Proposal Summary

### Introduction

The MCFC offers a license area that can be used to test ecotourism revenue streams on Crown land in Nova Scotia. The proposed campground development can accommodate overflow from Kejimikujik National Park and Historic Site, and provide accessible camping to families who may not be able to afford the additional costs of camping in a National Park. The MCFC is located in a region that is well suited to recreation, sharing property boundaries with the Tobeatic Wilderness Area, the Medway Lakes Wilderness Area (MLWA) and Kejimikujik. We are in a position to offer services that may not be permitted in protected areas and facilitate access for these neighbouring lands.

The MCFC is seeking input regarding the development of a 12-site, tent-only campground nearby Highway 8, in the Stave Lake region of the MCFC license area. The campground will aim to deliver a backcountry camping experience with front country access. The business will run entirely on a web-based platform and self-serve basis, from reservations to obtaining firewood, however will have staff onsite on a regular basis.



**Figure 1:** Proposed campground facilities adjacent to Stave Lake in Annapolis Co.

## Facilities Development

### Campground Infrastructure

The proposed campground will have the following amenities:

- 12 'backcountry' style campsites, each campsite will include:
  - Sign, indicating campsite number
  - Firepit made from re-purposed stainless steel pipe, with cooking grates and min. 2m clearance in all directions
  - Adequate room for 1-2 tents on a natural surface
  - Picnic table
- Campsites are walk-in only, roughly 20-100m apart - furthest campsite no longer than 600 m from parking area.
- An accessible main hiking trail to access campsite 1, smaller trail to remainder of campsites (see main trail construction description)
- Footpath trail(s) to local lakes and other features for campers to use - see map.
  - Signage to indicate swimming and other lake use is at own risk
  - No formal freshwater access planned (ie. wharf or dock)
- Safe parking adjacent to woods access road with sufficient parking for 20 vehicles
- Woodshed with firewood for purchase at parking area
- 4 outhouses/composting toilet buildings located throughout main campground
- Outhouse/composting toilet at accessible campsite
- Central signage including:
  - emergency numbers;
  - safety in the woods;
  - safety fire evacuation plan;
  - campground map and;
  - local amenities.

### Campsite Design

- The majority of vegetation will be retained, unless specifically marked for removal.
  - All danger trees will be removed and used on site for seating, cut to suitable lengths and left to rot, or chipped and used to level camping pads (respecting fire allowances)
- Campsite will allow users to access approx. 1200 square feet of area, however this area will not be cleared of vegetation or delineated in any way
- Campsites will be a minimum of 20m apart, and staggered on opposite sides of the trail where possible.
- Campsite will have a maximum capacity of two natural tent pads, sites with more difficult terrain or mature trees may only allow one natural tent pad.
- Regular occupancy is 4 adults, additional adults may be added (additional \$10/person charge will apply) to a maximum of 7 users per site or 4 users for sites with only one tent pad.
- One campsite will be designed to be accessible by wheelchair.
  - Trail to accessible campsite will have a level surface and will be no more than 2.5m wide.
  - Accessible outhouse will be constructed central to this site

- Trail to all other campsites will be a footpath with some tread surface leveling
- Each campsite will be clearly signed with an identifying number

## **Outhouse Design**

- One pit privy building constructed as per Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) *On-Site Sewage Disposal System Standard* regulations:
  1. The bottom of the pit must be at least 1m above whichever of the following is closest to the surface of the ground surrounding the pit:
    - a. The maximum ground water table;
    - b. The bedrock;
    - c. Soil with hydraulic conductivity greater than  $500 \times 10^{-6}$  per second.
  2. The pit must maintain the horizontal clearance distances outlined by NSE;
  3. The sides of the pit must be reinforced to prevent collapse;
  4. The surface of the ground surrounding the pit must be graded so that surface drainage is diverted away from the pit.
- Will be located 30.5m from any water source, picnic table, or campsite, 3m from all lot boundaries, and 9m from any downslope lot boundary.
- Have self-closing doors
- Equipped with locking device on each stall
- Be painted inside
- Be ventilated and screened
- Have a wastebasket with a lid
- Have a toilet tissue dispensing device with sufficient tissue

## **Rules and Regulations**

### **Fire Regulations<sup>1</sup>**

- 5-gallon water bucket will be provided at campsites to extinguish fires, additional water buckets provided at parking area for longer stays.
- Fire extinguisher at outhouse and woodshed
- Evacuation plan in case of fire posted at entry and on outhouse
- Posting regular updates from the NS Burning Restrictions and require campers to respect burn restrictions.
- Campfires must not be left unattended
- Avoid fires on days with excess wind gusts
- Movement of firewood from elsewhere is prohibited. All campers are required to purchase firewood from the MCFC on site. Firewood will be kept in a code-locked shed and accessed through a code provided when the user reserves their campsite.

## **Reservations**

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<sup>1</sup> The MCFC has not yet spoken to the Annapolis Co. fire marshal, although have left a message at their office. The final fire mitigation strategy will be developed in collaboration with the fire marshal.

- Campground is self-serve, reservations can only be made online through MCFC website
- Information collected through reservation system will include:
  - The name of the guest
  - The usual residence of the guest including mailing address
  - The vehicle license plate of the guest's vehicle
  - The number of people in the guest's party
  - The arrival and departure date of the guest
  - The rate charged for the campsite
  - The campsite occupied by the guest
- Information provided to the guest will include:
  - Fire safety protocol
  - Emergency numbers and protocol
  - Waste disposal protocol and nearby dump location
  - Noise and disturbance protocol
  - Liability waiver
  - Firewood access code
  - If applicable, parking lot gate access code

### **General Rules and Regulations**

- Video surveillance in parking area, possible gate with code to protect parked vehicles/limit illegal access.
- Daily supervision by MCFC seasonal staff, with fewer visits depending on number of reservations
- Garbage disposal is strictly pack-in, pack-out (\$50 deposit required)
- Users required to bring their own supply of potable water
- Dogs will be allowed, but must be tied or leashed at all times.
- ATVs or other recreational motorized vehicles will not be allowed in the campground area
- There must be an adult (over 18) at each campsite.
- Quiet time designated after 11:00 pm
- Check-in is after 1:00 pm and check-out is before 11:00 am.
- Complaints will be handled by MCFC summer staff and if necessary, relevant government bodies.

### **Construction Plan**

The MCFC campground will be built in phases, addressing larger infrastructure projects first including road building, and wrapping up construction by installing signage. Full construction plan to be developed with relevant consultants following Lands and Forestry approval of the general concept and location. Construction phases 1 & 2 will be taking place in 2020-2021.

#### **Phase 1:**

- Road Upgrades
  - Ditching
  - Grade and fill surface to accommodate low clearance vehicles

- Parking Area Construction
  - Clearing area for parking lot (<0.1 ha or 20m x 40m)
  - Parking surface will be constructed using gravel
  - Appropriate drainage and slope to maintain surface, reduce erosion and runoff during heavy rainfalls
  - Installation of access control gate at parking lot entrance

## Phase 2:

- Main Trail Construction
  - Use of smallest machinery possible to develop trail (eg. mini excavator, small compactor if necessary)
  - Use of material from existing gravel pits along main road for trail surface, no digging (ie. burrow pits or similar) in forest/campground area
  - Trail designed to minimize soil and site disturbance
  - Trail will be designed to be wheelchair accessible to first campsite, and a footpath to access the remainder of the sites.
    - Tread to accessible campsite will be constructed using crushed rock or other low-maintenance surface material.
  - Max. trail width 2.5 m and height clearance of 2.4 m
  - Use of stepping stones for areas of water flow, seepage or standing water.
    - Complete seepage tests where necessary
  - Prepare hole and grading for privy building
    - Constructed according to NSE regulations
- Outbuilding Construction (in partnership with [Tilia Builders](#))<sup>2</sup>
  - Outhouses
    - One outhouse placed in a location central to all campsites.
    - One outhouse adjacent to accessible camping site
    - Located 30.5m from any water source, picnic table, or campsite, 3m from all lot boundaries, and 9m from any downslope lot boundary.
    - Modern design constructed with local or recycled (non-toxic) materials
    - Follow design measures as outlined in Nova Scotia Environment *On-Site Sewage Disposal System Standard*
    - Approximate building dimensions - 6' x 6' x 10'
  - Woodshed
    - Modern design constructed with local or recycled (non-toxic) materials
    - Vented building with airflow
    - Approximate dimensions - 14' x 6' x 10'
    - Adhere to the Nova Scotia Building Code

## Phase 3:

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<sup>2</sup> Outbuildings will be pre-fabricated and assembled on-site.

- Campsite Construction
  - Awaiting proposal from Sustainable Trails, will send along specifics when received.
  - Clear danger trees from camping area, dispose of away from campsite and in a way that is aesthetically natural-looking.
  - Use natural terrain to designate areas for firepit, picnic table and tent pad(s)
  - Where necessary use natural fill (mulch) to level ground
  - Campsites will be placed 20m or more from fresh water
  - Prune or clear existing vegetation to allow 2m clearances surrounding firepit
    - Prune vegetation in a manner that does not adversely impact growth
  
- Recreational Trail Construction
  - Development of footpath to Lower Stave and Stave Lake, and adjacent to old growth in area
  - Trails will follow routes that are a combination of existing historic forwarding trails and new trails.
  - Trails will be footpaths and will not use tread material unless necessary.
  - Paths will be cleared primarily by removing organics and some surface leveling including benching.
  - Trail development will follow parameters or Nova Scotia Environment's *Hiking Trail Standards for Wilderness Areas (Draft – April 2018)* including:
    - Designed to minimize need for tread construction and structures
    - Max. width right of way = 1m
    - Height right of way = 2.4m
    - Use of stepping stones where ever possible in areas wet, poorly drained areas. If necessary, construct a simple boardwalk using local lumber.
  
- Signage Strategy
  - Installation of trailhead sign kiosk (campground map, emergency protocol & numbers, fire safety, and local destinations)
  - Installation of individual campsite signs
  
- Other
  - Installation of motion-detect solar lights in parking area
  - Installation of surveillance cameras in parking area