



Some Park Guidelines for the Explorer

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Please Obey Park Rules and Regulations!

So much of this is common sense... see a plastic water bottle discarded on the beach, please pick it up and dispose of it properly. Find a piece of native pot, arrowhead or any unidentified artefact? Please take a photograph and let the Park Office know where it was found, without disturbing the area.

There's still so much undiscovered history in the County that needs the interpretation of professional archaeologists.

See an interesting plant/flower/insect or other wildlife? ... take a photo, but let it be!

The biggest problem is not that people take things other than memories away from the park, it's that too many visitors leave their personal trip "memories" behind! In 2015 I even saw a new and unused gas barbecue abandoned... the campers had forgotten to bring propane!

The Park has become so popular, but in many ways a victim of its own success, with over 650,000 person-day/visits in 2015. While most visitors are happy to spend their time within the established campsites and very popular beach areas, the back dunes and more remote areas of the Park are becoming increasingly traveled.

That's a large number of visitors every day! And while the Park staff does a great job of maintaining all facilities at Sandbanks, a little more cooperation by day-visitors in cleaning-up after their visits would go a long way in helping to maintain the pristine park that we regular visitors and local residents really appreciate!

These areas are ecologically fragile!

The popular mantra of *"take only photographs, leave only footprints"* needs to be observed with common sense... please stay on the marked trails to avoid damaging the wild plants that are having enough difficulty surviving on the drifting sands due to increased recreational activity within the Park.

But for any curious explorer, the following (extracted from [Ontario Park Regulations](#)) **must always** be observed:

2. (1) No person shall,
 - (a) **remove, damage or deface any property** of the Crown in a provincial park; or
 - (b) **damage or deface any relic, artifact or natural object or damage or deface any site of archaeological or historical interest in a provincial park.** O. Reg. 347/07, s. 2 (1).
- (2) Except with the written authorization of the superintendent, no person shall,
 - (a) **disturb, cut, kill, remove or harm any plant, tree or natural object** in a provincial park;
 - (b) **disturb, kill, remove, harass or harm any animal** except in accordance with the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, any bird except in accordance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (Canada) or any fish except in accordance with the *Fisheries Act* (Canada);
 - (c) **remove any relic or artifact in a provincial park;**
 - (d) **disturb any site of archaeological or historical interest** in a provincial park;

(e) **make an excavation** for any purpose in a provincial park; or

(f) conduct research in a provincial park. O. Reg. 347/07, s. 2 (2).

(3) In considering whether or not to grant an authorization under subsection (2), the superintendent shall base his or her decision on the following criteria:

1. The potential for the proposed activity to protect or enhance human safety.
2. The degree to which the proposed activity would harm or benefit the environment or wildlife or support or impede the maintenance of ecological integrity.
3. The range and value of scientific benefits that the proposed activity would provide.
4. The extent to which the proposed activity would promote cultural knowledge and understanding.
O. Reg. 347/07, s. 2 (3).

[See the full list of Ontario Provincial Park Regulations...](#)