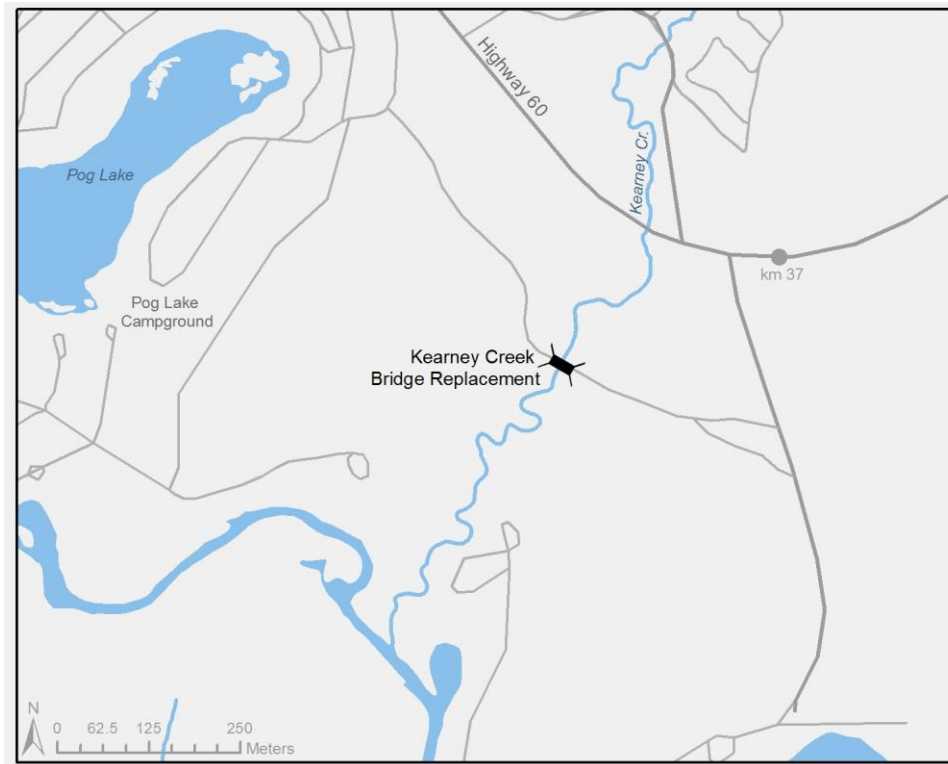


Algonquin

Public Notice for a Category B Project Evaluation: Replacement of the Pog Lake Campground Access Bridge



The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Ontario Parks is inviting public comment on its proposal to undertake the construction and replacement of the existing campground access bridge crossing Kearney Creek leading to Pog Lake Campground, Algonquin Provincial Park. The bridge is located within the park's designated development zone; all work will be contained within this zone. This project is being undertaken in accordance with the current approved management plan for the park.

Algonquin Provincial Park is a 772,300 hectare (ha) natural environment class park located approximately 42 kilometres east of Huntsville and 134 kilometres west of Pembroke. The park provides recreational opportunities such as camping, interior tripping, swimming, day use, wildlife viewing, canoeing and in the winter cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

A recent bridge inspection identified the Pog Lake Campground bridge as requiring replacement to ensure the long-term safe operation of the structure. The existing structure is a single lane bridge with a pedestrian sidewalk. It is 5.92m wide with a length of approximately 10.45m and a span of 4.35m. The bridge will be replaced with a 6.19m wide, 15.2m long modular single lane bridge and a pedestrian sidewalk structure which will be completely independent of the bridge structure.

Construction is planned for after Labour Day when the campground closes. Negative effects to the ecological integrity of Algonquin Park are not anticipated and the project may have a potential net benefit as the creek's opening size at the bridge will be reverted to the creek's natural width as intruding abutments will be removed and the structure will clear span the existing channel. Ground disturbance will be minimal beyond the construction area.

The proposal is being evaluated as a Category B project under *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* (Class EA). A Notice of Completion will be sent to those who submit comments or request further notice when the project evaluation is finished. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ontario Parks may proceed to implement the project without issuing a further general notice.

Comments must be received within the 30-day comment period which ends on **April 25, 2021**.

For more information on the project, to submit comments or to request further notice, please contact:

Beth Cragg
Park Planner
Algonquin Zone, Ontario Parks
451 Arrowhead Park Road
Huntsville, Ontario, P1H 2J4
Phone: (705) 571-2739
Email: beth.cragg@ontario.ca

All personal information included in your request – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, under the authority of section 30 of the Environmental Assessment Act and is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public. As this information is collected for the purpose of a public record, the protection of personal information provided in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) does not apply (s.37). Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential.