



Strategic Plan 2020

This document defines the Strategic Plan that the Trust has developed to guide its stewardship of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area.

About the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area

The Province of Nova Scotia designated the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FWLWA) as a protected area in 2011. The designation serves to protect close to 8,600 hectares of Crown lands between Highways 103 and 333, in Halifax Regional Municipality.

This is a rugged landscape of forest, barrens, wetlands, rivers and lakes, ringed by communities. This wilderness area protects nature in the city, contributes to air quality and watershed protection, and much more. It is almost five times the size of Halifax Peninsula, and is only minutes away.

With its scenic views, natural setting, cultural history and location, the wilderness area offers superb opportunities for outdoor recreation, like hiking, trail running, canoeing, trout fishing, hunting, and nature appreciation. It is also ideally suited for education and research.

The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail provides more than 30 km of backcountry trail for hiking, trail running and other uses. Bicycles or motorized vehicles are not permitted on The Bluff Trail.

The Old Coach Road and Fire Road, within Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area, are managed by the All-terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia (ATVANS) under an agreement with Nova Scotia Environment. Bicycle use is also permitted on these routes.

About the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust

Established in 2001, the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust is a registered charity run by volunteers who love their community and its public natural spaces. The Trust preserves and protects the wilderness area by involving the community in exploration, hikes, education and encouraging wilderness appreciation for the area.



Our Vision

Our vision of the FBLWA provides us with direction for our activities as protectors of the wilderness area.

The Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area supports wildlife and sustainable recreational use and is supported and valued by the local community and all levels of government.

Our Goals

To achieve our vision, we have adopted the following goals for the FBLWA:

- Keep a natural state
- Maintain sustainable access to/through wilderness for different activities
- Have a strong relationship with government, NGO's and others
- Be compliant with relevant legislation
- Increase community support for the wilderness area
- Continue to be financially secure with diversified revenue

Our Objectives

The following objectives are action-items that will help us achieve our goals and vision.

- Protect existing habitat and native species from invasive plants and animals, and other risks
- Improve multi-modal access to the wilderness area, while ensuring sustainability, in compliance with regulations
- Improve public knowledge and awareness of the wilderness area to foster appreciation and support
- Increase connectivity within the protected area by acquiring land to fill in gaps within its boundaries
- Increase connectivity to other nearby wilderness areas by expanding the existing boundaries through land acquisition
- Develop inventory of properties of interest
- Participate actively and supportively with the Bay Treasure Chest Association
- Explore additional revenue sources
- Have gov't representative present on legislation and management plan
- Revamp communications, branding to align with new strategic plan
- Update by-laws, review joint stocks and CRA
- Develop a list of threats and plan for proactive protection