

4.2 Assessment of Recreational Values

The Ottawa River provides excellent opportunities for recreation and meets all of the recreational selection and integrity guidelines as outlined by CHRS. Recreational values strengthen the ability of visitors and residents to enjoy both the cultural and natural heritage values of the river.

4.2.1 Selection Guidelines: Recreational Values

Outstanding Canadian recreational value will be recognized when a river and its immediate environment possess a combination of river-related recreational opportunities and related natural and/or cultural values, which together provide an opportunity for outstanding recreational experiences.

***Guideline:** Recreational opportunities include water-based activities such as canoeing and other forms of boating, swimming and angling, and other activities such as camping, hiking, wildlife viewing and natural and cultural appreciation, which may be part of a river-touring experience.*

The entire Ottawa River provides excellent opportunities for boating, swimming, fishing, trail use, natural and cultural heritage appreciation and camping, many elements of which are part of a river-touring experience.

***Guideline:** Natural values include natural visual aesthetics, and physical assets such as sufficient flow, navigability, rapids, accessibility and suitable shoreline.*

The Ottawa River provides scenic vistas, sufficient flow at all times for boating and fishing, and a variety between high volume rapids and calm lakes. The Ottawa is highly accessible, and possesses a shoreline that makes it both scenic and suitable for watersports and water-based recreation.

4.2.2 Integrity Guidelines: Recreational Integrity Values

In addition to meeting both of the recreational value guidelines, for a river to be judged to have outstanding Canadian recreational value, it must meet all of the following recreational integrity guidelines:

***Guideline:** The river possesses water of a quality suitable for contact recreational activities, including those recreational opportunities for which it is nominated;*

The water quality along the Ottawa River permits water contact recreational activities including world-class white water paddling and swimming, and as such is suitable for the recreational opportunities it presents.

***Guideline:** The river's visual appearance is capable of providing river travellers with a continuous natural and cultural experience, or a combined natural and cultural experience, without significant interruptions by modern human intrusions; and*

The visual appearance of the Ottawa River provides river travellers with a rich and varied mix of natural and cultural experiences along the entire corridor. Certain sections such as the Rocher Fendu can give

travellers a sense of what the river's earliest travellers must have encountered. The modern intrusions on the river, including agriculture, towns, cities, shoreline residences, and hydroelectric dams, do not occur along the entire river, and therefore do not compromise the experience of river travellers in terms of the Ottawa's natural and cultural heritage. The sheer scale of some of the dams along the river has become a visual draw in itself.

Guideline: The river is capable of supporting recreational uses without significant loss of, or impact on, its natural or cultural values or its visual character.

The Ottawa River corridor is capable of supporting recreational uses without the loss of or impact to its natural or cultural values or visual character. Indeed, it already does so, and continued development of recreation and tourism along the river could be a strong component of the sustainable economic development of riverside communities.

Ottawa River — Communities and Recreational Values



Title: Grand Chute; Credit: Mr. Cheng



Title: Tulip Festival; Credit: Ryan Pfeiffer



Title: Route Verte; Credit: Benoît Chalifour



Title: Waterfront; Credit: Temiskaming Shores



Title: Loppet; Credit: Keskinada Loppet



Title: First Nations; Credit: Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

Natural Heritage Appreciation

- Scenic Views
- Wildlife Viewing
Photo Credit: OMNR, Daryl Coulson
- Bird Watching
- Tributaries and Forests

Human Heritage Appreciation

- Festivals
- Museums
- Historic Sites and Heritage Plaques
Photo Credit: Parks Canada
- Heritage Corridors

Outdoor Recreation

- Hiking & Walking
Photo Credit: Ontario Ministry of Tourism
- Camping
- Biking
- Hunting

Water Related Activities

- Boating
Photo Credit: Ottawa River Waterway
- Sailing
Photo Credit: Ottawa River Waterway
- Paddling
- Rafting
Photo Credit: Owl Rafting
- Canoeing
Photo Credit: Ontario Ministry of Tourism
- Swimming
- Fishing

Winter Activities

- Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Ice Fishing
Photo Credit: Morning Mist Resort, OVTA
- Skating
- Dog Sledding
- Snowmobiling

Algonquin First Nations Communities

- Abitibiwinni (Picogan) — Amos QC
- Timiskaming — Notre-Dame-du-Nord QC
- Eagle Village (Kebaouek), Kipawa Lake QC
- Wolf Lake, Hunters Point QC
- Long Point (Winneway), Winneway River QC
- Kitcisakik (Grand Lac), Grand Lake Victoria QC
- Lac Simon, Abitibi QC
- Mitcikinabik Inik (Algonquins of Barriere Lake), Rapid Lake QC
- Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg (River Desert), Maniwaki QC
- Pikwakanagan, Golden Lake ON
Photo Credit: Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

1. Scenic Views — Oiseau Rock
2. Wildlife Viewing — Parc de la Gatineau
3. Bird Watching — Atocas Bay/Lefavre
4. Forests — Gillies Grove, Arnprior
5. Festivals — Winterlude, National Capital

6. Museum of Civilization, Gatineau
7. Historic Sites; Carillon Canal and Barracks
8. Heritage Corridors — Temiscamingue/Ville Marie
9. Hiking — Parc National de Plaisance
10. Camping — Driftwood Provincial Park

11. Biking — Cycloparc PPJ/Pontiac County
12. Hunting — ZEC Kipawa
13. Boating — Waterway
14. Sailing — Lake Timiskaming
15. Whitewater paddling/rafting — Renfrew County

16. Canoeing — Mattawa/Mattawa River
17. Swimming — Petawawa Point, Petawawa
18. Fishing — Waterway
19. Skiing — Deep River
20. Snowshoeing — Parc National du Mont-Tremblant

21. Ice Fishing — New Liskeard
22. Skating — Rideau Canal, Ottawa
23. Dog sledding — Algonquin Provincial Park
24. Snowmobiling — Trans-Quebec Trail System

