

REFERENCE  
ONLY

62050 - Management  
and Restoration

# SANDY POND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STUDY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

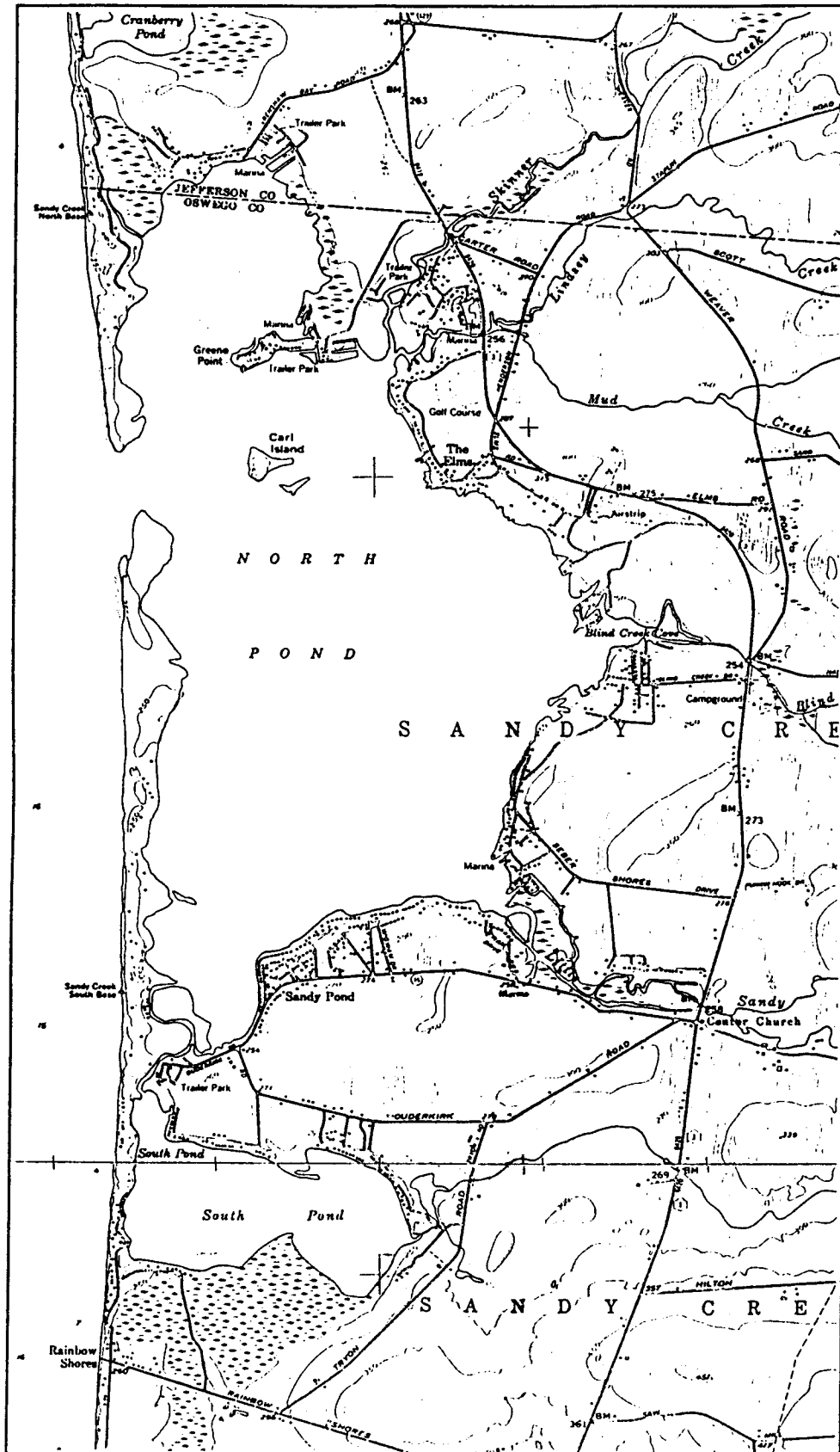
### SANDY POND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Sandy Creek, New York

Consultant to the  
Committee

L.R. JOHNSTON  
ASSOCIATES

July 1989



17-28-89

## INTRODUCTION

The Sandy Pond area is located primarily within the Town of Sandy Creek and is centered on the North and South Sandy Ponds. This area is the largest "barrier-pond" ecosystem on Lake Ontario. Resources in the area support boating and other recreational activities and are important for maintaining water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and for providing other valuable natural functions that contribute to the area's quality of life. These resources also provide opportunities for water-enhanced residential and other types of development and contribute greatly to the character and image of the area as a desirable place to live and visit.

Despite the overall positive effect of the Sandy Pond area on the quality of life, there are nonetheless some important issues and problems associated with current uses and conditions. Land and water resources here have historically not been subject to the same sorts of development pressures that exist in other coastal regions of New York State. In recent years, however, increased pressures for use of coastal land and water resources in the Sandy Pond area have highlighted the importance of long-range planning to protect these resources and to guide future use and development in a manner that will maintain and enhance current resource values.

## THE SANDY POND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STUDY

In 1988, the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek appointed a 14-member committee to conduct a special study of the Sandy Pond area and develop recommendations for use and protection of the area's resources. Members of this committee, which has since become known as the Sandy Pond Resource Management Committee, represent a variety of different interests in the Sandy Pond area. The committee's study efforts were aided by a grant from the St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission.

The committee was also aided in its study process by the consulting firm of L.R. Johnston Associates of Westport, Connecticut whose role was to assemble and review background information, provide a general framework for decision-making, recommend general and site specific management goals, objectives, policies and guidelines and prepare the final report.

## THE SANDY POND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Sandy Pond Resource Management Area has been defined by the Committee as the area bounded on the west by Lake Ontario; on the south by Rainbow Shores Road, Tryon Road and Ouderkirk Road; on the east by New York Route 3; and on the north by Renshaw Bay Road. Most of the management area falls within the Town of Sandy Creek; the northernmost section is within the Town of Ellisburg. (See Figure 1) Roughly 5,750 acres, or about 9 square miles, are included within the Resource Management Area as defined. Of this total, about 2,600 acres, or 45% of the area, is open water in the North and South ponds.

WHAT DOES THE STUDY INCLUDE?

The Sandy Pond Resource Management Area (RMA) is a 1,000-acre area located in the Town of Sandy Creek, Ontario, Canada. The RMA is bounded by the Town of Sandy Creek to the north, the Town of Sandy Creek to the south, the Town of Sandy Creek to the east, and the Town of Sandy Creek to the west.

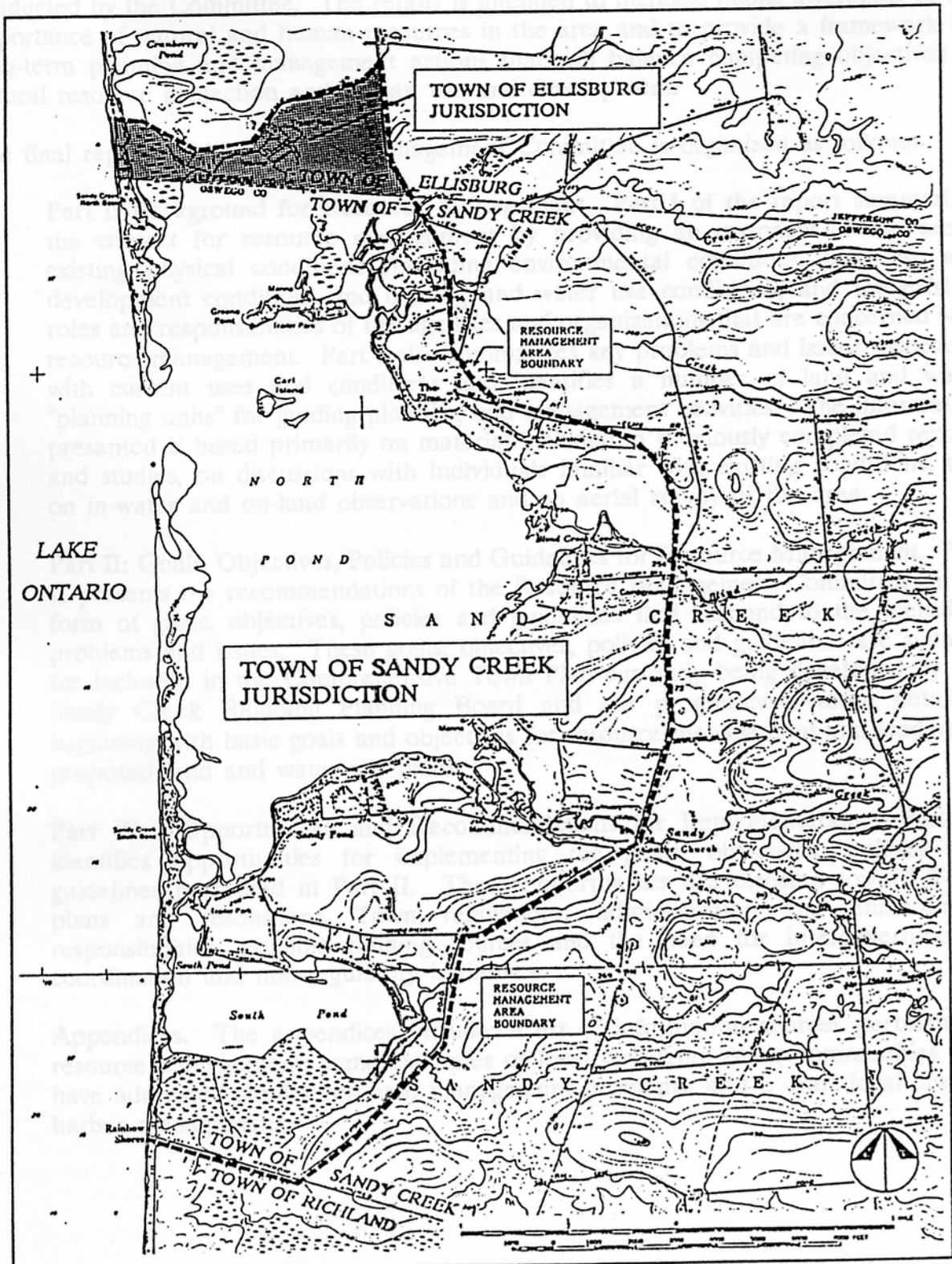


Figure 1: Sandy Pond Resource Management Area.

## WHAT DOES THE STUDY INCLUDE?

The Sandy Pond Resource Management Study summarizes the results of the special study conducted by the Committee. The report is intended to increase public awareness of the importance of natural and human resources in the area and to provide a framework for long-term planning and management actions that will balance competing objectives of natural resource protection and human use and development.

The final report of the Resource Management Committee is organized as follows:

- **Part I: Background for Resource Management.** Part I of the report summarizes the context for resource management by providing an overview of the area's existing physical conditions (including environmental conditions, land use and development conditions and boating and water use conditions) and the existing roles and responsibilities of the agencies and organizations that are concerned with resource management. Part I also summarizes key problems and issues associated with current uses and conditions and identifies a number of land and water "planning units" for guiding planning and management activities. The information presented is based primarily on material included in previously completed reports and studies, on discussions with individuals familiar with existing conditions, and on in-water and on-land observations and an aerial survey of the area.
- **Part II: Goals, Objectives, Policies and Guidelines for Resource Management.** Part II presents the recommendations of the Resource Management Committee in the form of goals, objectives, policies and guidelines that respond to the identified problems and issues. These goals, objectives, policies and guidelines are suitable for inclusion in the Comprehensive Town Plan currently being developed by the Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board and are progressively more detailed, beginning with basic goals and objectives for resource management and leading to proposed land and water use plans.
- **Part III: Opportunities and Recommendations for Implementation:** Part III identifies opportunities for implementing the goals, objectives, policies and guidelines presented in Part II. These opportunities are directed toward Town plans and resolutions, Town regulations, administration and enforcement responsibilities, possible funding sources and the need for intergovernmental coordination and non-regulatory initiatives.
- **Appendices.** The appendices include: a list of information sources pertinent to resource management; some examples of local laws from other communities that have addressed similar resource management problems; and a draft local law for harbor management.

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The study established several broad goals and objectives that should be thought of as basic and general guidelines for resource management planning in the Sandy Pond area. The goals are listed below. The full report identifies several more specific objectives related to each goal.

- To establish an increased role for the Town of Sandy Creek in the management and regulation of land and water uses and activities in the Sandy Pond Resource Management Area.
- To protect and, where possible, enhance the natural environmental resources of the Sandy Pond area for the use and enjoyment of all generations.
- To plan for and regulate boating and other water uses in the Sandy Pond area in a manner that assures safe, orderly and efficient use of the North and South Ponds, their tributaries and the connecting channel between North Pond and Lake Ontario.
- To Plan for and regulate land use and development in the Sandy Pond area in a manner consistent with the capabilities of the natural and man-made environment to support this use and development.
- To provide the quality and range of municipal services and facilities needed to ensure community health, safety and welfare.
- To promote and support water access for active and passive recreational activities.
- To protect and enhance the quality of life in residential neighborhoods.

These goals (and their related objectives) are directed toward achieving "balance" in the Resource Management Area — balance between the development of residential, recreational and other use opportunities on the one hand, and protection of the natural environmental resources and the existing character and quality of life in the Sandy Pond area on the other.

Resource management policies were formulated to respond to the various problems and issues that were identified in the Resource Management Area. The policies add detail to the more general goals and objectives. The policies are grouped into four major categories: 1) general policies; 2) boating and water use policies; 3) land use and development policies; and 4) natural resources policies. The policies are not tied to specific geographic areas but are intended to apply throughout the Sandy Pond Resource Management Area.

Several "planning units" were identified to focus planning and management attention on specific locations and to direct the development of specific land and water use guidelines. Three types of planning units were identified: 1) "shorefront" planning units; 2) "upland" planning units not directly related to the water; and 3) "in-water" planning units. These planning units represent: a) areas of existing or potential land or water use problems requiring special attention; and b) areas where — based on resource characteristics, existing land or water uses and anticipated management objectives — special management guidelines can be applied.

Planning and management guidelines were developed for each of the planning units. The guidelines follow from, and are consistent with, the goals, objectives and policies previously developed. The guidelines are represented graphically in Figures 2 and 3.

## APPLICATION OF STUDY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of the Resource Management Study are based on the recognition that the Sandy Pond area provides opportunities for use and development but that these opportunities are subject to certain limitations posed by the value and sensitivity of the area's natural resources.

The study and its recommendations provide a framework and a basis for a strengthened Town role in guiding future use and resource protection in the Sandy Pond area. Some of the goals, objectives, policies and guidelines can be implemented immediately; others will require a long-range time frame for implementation. The Sandy Pond Resource Management Study has coincided with the Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board's work to develop a Town-wide Comprehensive Plan. As a first step in strengthening the Town's planning and management role in the Sandy Pond area, the findings and recommendations of the Resource Management Study should be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan as appropriate.

The work initiated by the Resource Management Committee, however, should not end following the completion of this study or the incorporation of its findings into the Town Plan. Planning and resource management in the Sandy Pond area and throughout the Town of Sandy Creek should be viewed as an ongoing process that should continue to develop in the years ahead in response to changing conditions and circumstances.

The challenge now, however, is to translate an increased awareness of conditions and management concerns in the Sandy Pond area, along with the recommendations for resource use and protection presented in this report, into specific actions and measures that will serve to protect the resources of the Sandy Pond area for the use and enjoyment of future generations.