

Juan-Ravaged, Provincial Parks Closed

Curious can see park damages online

Nova Scotians interested in viewing the ravages of Hurricane Juan in our provincial parks are urged to do so from the safety of their computer screens. An image gallery of some of the damaged park areas can be seen on the DNR website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr>.

The hurricane, which hit the central part of the province on the evening of Sunday, September 28 and into the early hours of the next day, took its toll on the trees and facilities in provincial parks, especially those in Halifax Regional Municipality and Colchester County. While parks across the province are closed for the season, parks hit by the hurricane have been posted with “closed” signs warning people to stay out of these parks for their own safety.

In some parks, large numbers of trees were blown down. Many trees were seriously weakened during the hurricane and, although still standing, could come down quickly with little



Juan's destruction to walkways at Conrad's Beach

or no warning. Portions of other trees may be caught in surrounding trees and could spring back suddenly if moved, or when the debris holding them is removed.

Trails and boardwalks in parks and wooded areas present other risks. People can easily lose their way on trails that are blocked by fallen trees and debris. In beach parks, people who try to avoid damaged boardwalks could harm sensitive ecosystems by walking on them.

During the winter, DNR staff will be fully assessing the damages and working to remove downed trees and restore damaged park facilities. It is expected that most parks in the affected area will open according to their usual schedule in the spring, although certain areas in some parks may remain closed until more extensive clean-up and restoration is completed.



From left: Hurricane damage at Oakfield Provincial Park, overturned park boardwalk, and trees down in Porters Lake campsites.