



POLICY NAME: DRONE

Date	Action
April 24, 2023	Approved by the Board of Directors

SCOPE

This policy regulates the use of remotely piloted aircraft (herein after referred to as “drones”) on the nature reserves of The Couchiching Conservancy (CC) and applies to CC Board of Directors, staff, contractors, volunteers, members, and the general public.

DEFINITIONS

Remotely Piloted Aircraft (“Drone”): a navigable aircraft, other than a balloon, rocket or kite, that is operated by a pilot who is not on board; an unmanned aerial vehicle that is remotely piloted.

GENERAL STANDARDS

1. This Policy will comply with all applicable legislation related to the operation of a drone on CC nature reserves, i.e., *Canadian Aviation Regulations, Part IX - Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems*.
2. Drones are tools that can be used for managing protected areas. However, drones can negatively impact visitors of CC nature reserves and disturb and harass wildlife. For these reasons, CC seeks to limit the use of drones.
3. This policy applies to CC nature reserves only. It does not apply to management agreement lands or conservation easement lands, which are managed according to the principles described in their individual agreements.

POLICY

1. The operation of a drone from or to any CC nature reserve is prohibited with the following exception:

- 1.1. The operation of a drone from or to any CC nature reserve may be permitted on a case-by-case basis with the consent of CC Executive Director and/or the Conservation Biologist. For example, a drone may be used for aerial monitoring as a method of inspecting a nature reserve that is too large and/or difficult to access by foot, or may be used to film a nature reserve for outreach and promotional purposes.
2. Any drone usage requires confirmation that Transport Canada's legal requirements are being met, such as drone pilots having a valid drone pilot certificate and the drone being registered, if required.