

BEATTON PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

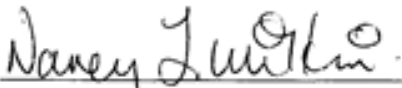
February 2003

Approved by:



Andy Ackerman
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 4, 2003



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 11, 2003

BEATTON PROVINCIAL PARK

Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Beaton Provincial Park is to provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities for regional and local residents in a natural setting. The park is used throughout the year for a variety of seasonal activities. Spring, summer and fall activities include picnicking, overnight camping, boating, fishing, hiking, cycling and beach and water play. Winter activities include cross-country skiing, tobogganing, and winter hiking and picnicking for local scout and guide groups. The only well developed cross-country ski trails in the area are located within Beaton Park. The park also provides recreational services to tourists.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role of Beaton Provincial Park is to protect a small example of the under-represented Halfway Plateau Ecosection with its representative wildlife and habitats. The park is situated in a region where agricultural and subdivision development is causing habitat fragmentation and islandization. Wildlife is being pushed into smaller pockets of forest land. Beaton Park provides one of the few refuges in the area to protect representative plants and animals. The park creates opportunities for park users to view and appreciate the natural values of the park. The park is located off the Alaska Highway, 13 km northwest of Fort St. John on Highway 97 and Road 244. Beaton Park borders Charlie Lake and covers 312 hectares of the Halfway Plateau Ecosection. The park was established on September 14, 1934.

Trees, shrubs and vegetation representative of the area include aspen, birch, alder, lodgepole pine, Saskatoon, soopalalie, flat-top spirea, waxberry and squashberry. The park provides an important stopover area for migratory birds as well as an opportunity for bird watching and wildlife sightings. During the spring and summer months, a variety of raptors, songbirds and other perching birds frequent the area. Northern orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks, and white-throated sparrows may be observed. Waterfowl can also be viewed on the lake. Large mammals that frequent the area include moose, deer and black bear. Most likely sightings are of smaller mammals, including squirrels, chipmunks, beaver, snowshoe hares and muskrat. Walleye and northern pike, popular fish for angling, are present in Charlie Lake. Other fish species include brook stickleback, burbot, flathead chub, lake chub, longnose sucker, northern pearl dace, northern redbelly dace, redbelly shiner, spottail shiner, sucker (general), troutperch, white sucker, and yellow perch.

Known Management Issues	Response
Inadequate services including tenting sites, fish waste disposal, sani-dump, play equipment for children, shower facilities, road pavement, and irrigation facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional signage • Upgrading facilities
Natural hazards, including swimmers itch, hazard trees and loss of historic forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming ban at certain times • Hazard tree removal ongoing
Disturbances; may include reports of vandalism, theft, partying, noise etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued staff presence • Repairs

Zoning

The entire park (312 hectares) is zoned Intensive Recreation.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection X One of only 3 parks in the very poorly represented Halfway Plateau Ecosection (only 0.06% protected); Beatton Park presently provides the best representation of this ecosection, contributing 54.62% of the total provincial protected area representation of this ecosection . The quality of representation is poor, however, due to the small size of the park.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Provides minimal representation of the very poorly represented BWBSmw 1 (only 0.68% protected). Beatton Park provides 1.24% of the overall representation of this subzone/variant.

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values

Scientific/Research Opportunities

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry X Beatton Park is located along the Alaska Highway. As such, tourists traveling north along the highway use Beatton Park as a stop over or overnight camping area.
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation X Beatton Park provides camping, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, picnicking and a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities to residents of BC. The park receives substantial use from surrounding communities and the rural area.

Special Opportunities

- X Special events organized by community groups.

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

- X Trails, interpretive signs, and wildlife viewing.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature

- X The cross-country ski trails are the only developed cross-country ski trails in the Fort St. John area.

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs	X	Provides rest stop and stop-over functions for travelers between parks along the Alaska Highway.
Co-operative Management Arrangements	X	Managed with Charlie Lake Campground; same operations permit for both parks.

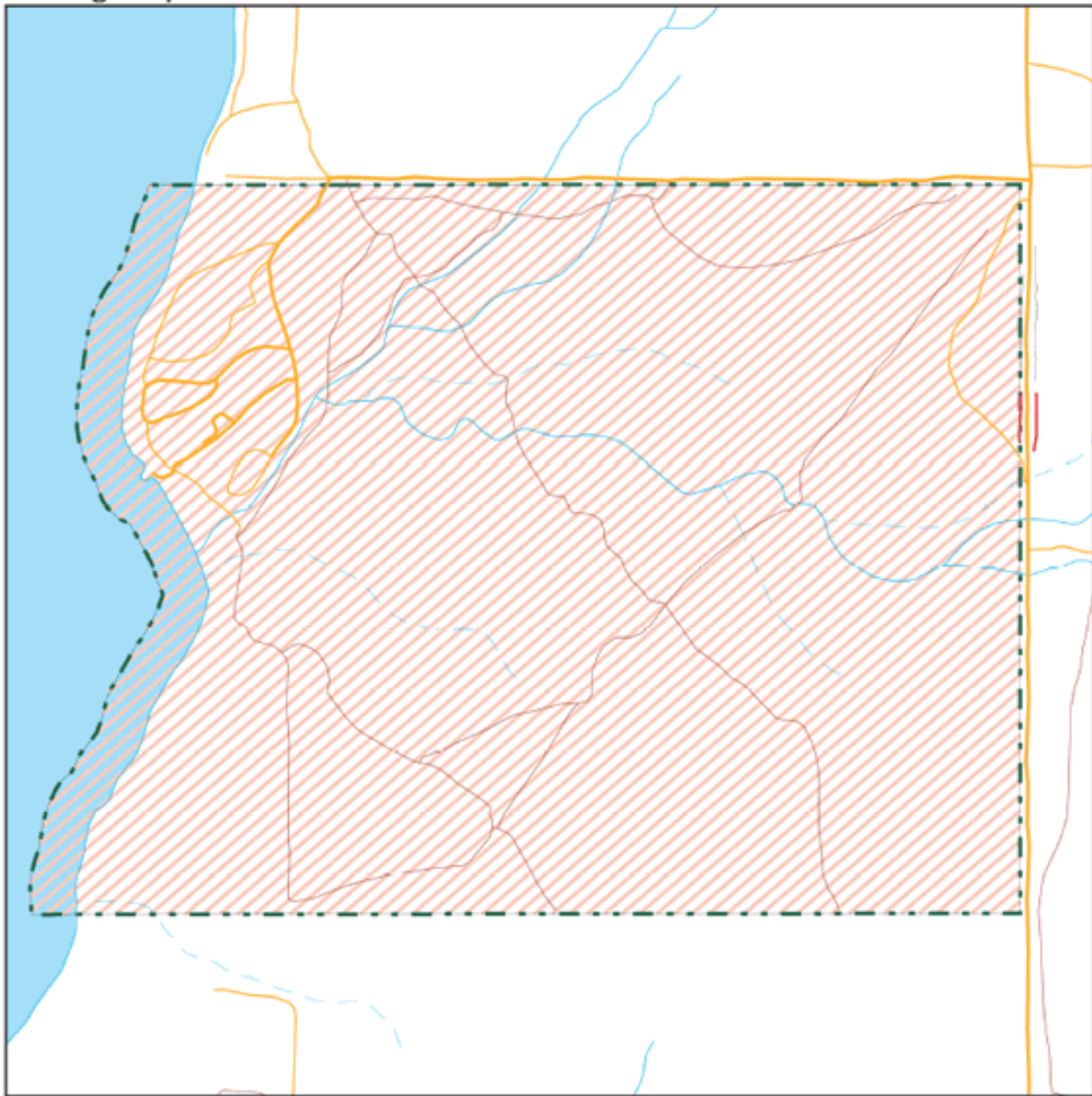
Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Size:	312 hectares
Date of establishment:	September 14, 1934

Zoning Map - Beaton Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



 Intensive Recreation
 Protected Area Boundary



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