

BELLHOUSE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:



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Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 25/03



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Assistant Deputy Minister
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Date: Mar. 31/03

BELLHOUSE PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Bellhouse Provincial Park is to protect a Garry oak ecosystem containing rare native grasses while providing the public with scenic viewing opportunities of Active Pass, Mayne Island and the Strait of Georgia. The park is characteristic of the typical Gulf Island landscape of rocky outcrops with dry grass/moss covered sloping shoreline. The natural values of the park and scenic viewscapes of adjacent areas provide opportunities for walking, picnicking, photography and wildlife viewing.

Located at the south end of Galiano Island adjacent to Active Pass, this small park was donated by the Bellhouse family in 1964. Other provincial parks located on Galiano Island are Montague Harbour Marine, Bodega Ridge and Dionisio Point. The proposed new Gulf Islands National Park Reserve centred around Saturna Island and growing tourism will increase public awareness and promote visitation to one of the most popular destination areas in the province.

Known Management Issues	Response
Sensitive native grasslands are threatened by invasive non-native plant species (e.g. Scotch broom) and high visitation.	Need for formalized trail system plan to protect vegetation that would include signage and trail relocation/boardwalk.
Popular day use area for local area residents and visitors to Galiano Island resulting in overuse. Garbage, vandalism and overuse of sensitive sites are threatening natural and cultural values.	An increased management presence is required. A “facility plan” (number and location of benches, tables, trails, fencing, signs etc.) is required.
High natural and cultural values associated with the park must continue to be protected.	Better knowledge of rare grasses and sensitive plant communities required as visitation increases. Undertake inventory studies to gain increased understanding.

Zoning

The park has two zones: a small Natural Environment Zone (approximately 1 hectare or 40% of the park) which comprises a circular trail, parking/information trailhead and pit toilets; and Special Features Zone (approximately 1.5 hectares or 60% of the park) which contains sensitive grassy headlands and Garry oak stands.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	<input type="checkbox"/>	Southern Gulf Islands Ecosection of which 5.62% is protected provincially. Bellhouse's contribution is insignificant due to small size.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Typical of the CDFmm variant associated with the southern Gulf Islands. Due to the park's small size, Bellhouse Park's contribution is insignificant.
Special Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contains small example of Garry oak meadows and rare native grasses; sloping rocky shoreline offering spectacular views of Active Pass.
Rare/Endangered Values identified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Garry oaks and sensitive grasslands.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Native plant and grass communities.

Recreation

Representation backcountry	<input type="checkbox"/>	
destination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Located in the popular southern Gulf Islands – growing tourism and island population places increasing pressures on island attractions/parks.
travel corridor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scenic Active Pass corridor.
local recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Popular day use park for local residents and major attraction for visitors to Galiano Island offering outstanding scenic and wildlife viewing of Active Pass.
Special Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Cultural Heritage

Representation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative of Gulf Islands farming history (part of old Bellhouse farm and area was used for grazing of livestock).
Special Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological site

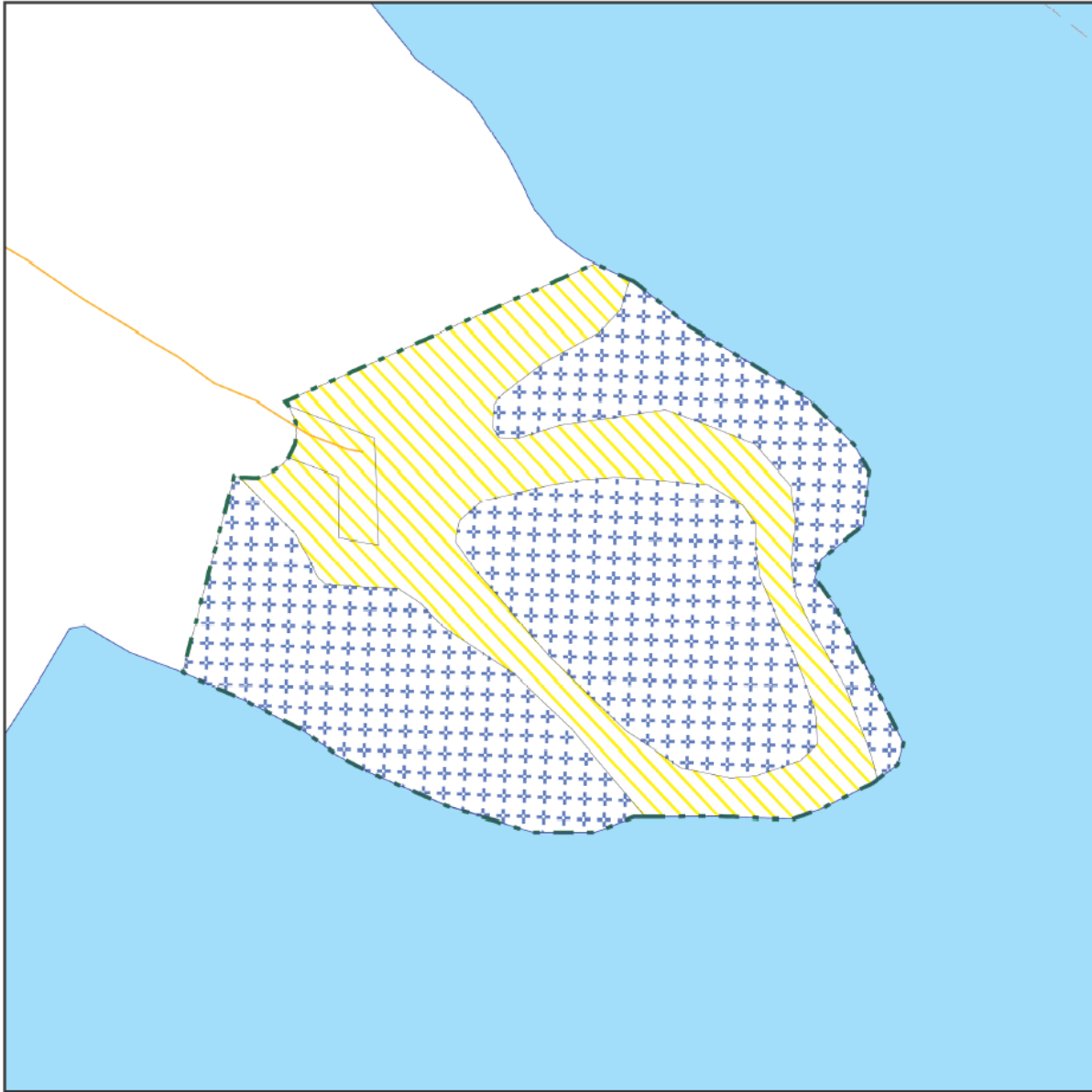
Other Management Considerations

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Designations | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Relationship to other PAs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy (PMHL) and establishment of Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Partnerships | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Potential transfer to local Parks and Recreation Commission; Galiano Island Conservancy . |
| Vulnerability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Increased park visitation, lack of funds to adequately manage park's special natural and cultural values. |
| Relationship to other Strategies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Proposed PMHL/Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. |

Area: 2.5 hectares




Date of establishment: August 21, 1964

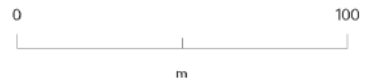
Zoning Map - Bellhouse Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Natural Environment
-  Special Feature
-  Protected Area Boundary



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