

MASTER
PLAN
May 1995

for Dionisio Point
Provincial Park



Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Parks

Dionisio Point
Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

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I Acknowledgements

This Master Plan has been prepared by BC Parks staff and a volunteer advisory committee. Consultation with the Penelakut Tribe and the Mid-Island Tribal Council has been ongoing for the duration of the planning process. Interest groups and the general public also provided important information.

The planning process has been chaired by David Chater, South Vancouver Island District Manager and co-ordinated by Karen MacDowell, South Coast Regional Planner. BC Parks would like to acknowledge the contributions of the advisory committee. Its' members include:

Amrit Chidakash,	Chamber of Commerce
Debra Holmes,	Galiano Club
Sylvia Mather, Leslie Bohm	BC Outdoor Recreation Council
Linda Millard,	Official Community Plan Steering Committee
Barbara Moore,	Official Community Plan Parks and Recreation Task Force
Robin Ridington,	Official Community Plan Heritage Task Force
Bill Scoones,	Advisory Planning Commission
Audrey Thomas,	Official Community Plan Conservation Task Force
Mechelle Thomas,	Penelakut Tribe

The interest of the Galiano community and their participation in the planning process is appreciated. Margaret Van Dijk's thesis, a concept proposal and management plan for north Galiano Island, was very useful. Dorothy Lupton's efforts in documenting the cabin era of Dionisio Point through her paintings, photographs and model of area are valuable records of the history of Dionisio Point. Special thanks to Fred King, Park Facility Officer, and Buster Oullette, long-time park visitor, for sharing their knowledge of Dionisio Point Park, and to Frank Norris of the Mid-Island Tribal Council for his assistance with First Nations issues.

II Plan Highlights

- The unique qualities of Dionisio Point Park's natural and cultural heritage are reflected in a long term vision for the park.
- Continued liaison with the Galiano Island community and First Nations regarding park management, plan implementation and plan review is recommended.
- The plan examines the park in the context of the Galiano Island community and considers other recreational opportunities and levels of service on the island.

Commitments for resource management include:

- Management focus on the protection of natural ecosystems, biodiversity, archaeological and cultural values. Park management will also encourage restoration and rehabilitation of previously disturbed areas and ecosystems;
- Expansion of the park boundary to include the foreshore adjacent to the park in order to protect the marine environment;
- Zoning based on park values: the Special Feature Zone encompasses the five archaeological sites in the park, the coastal sandstone formations, the tidal lagoon, the sand tombolo, the headlands and Dionisio Point with its wild flower communities and rare species of vegetation; the upland forest is zoned as Natural Environment; and the Intensive Recreation Zone includes the park developments such as the park access road and parking areas.

Commitments for visitor services include:

- Provision of recreational opportunities which are compatible with the protection of ecological, cultural and aesthetic values;
- Planned park development and visitor activities so any impacts on the park's values and natural processes are minimized. The plan recommends an extensive system of hiking trails, an informal day-use area, walk-in camping in two locations (15 existing campsites and 15 planned campsites), parking for vehicles in two locations (50 metres and 1.4 kilometres along the access road from the southern park boundary), and interpretive information highlighting the natural and cultural characteristics of the park. Appendix A outlines the park development concept;
- Existing vehicle accessible camping areas near the tidal lagoon will be removed in the autumn of 1995;
- Provision of opportunities to achieve an understanding and appreciation of park values;

- Maintenance of the existing location of road access into the park;
- Recognition of Raymond V. Smith, Chairman of the Board, and former CEO and President of MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. for the donation of land, which comprises, in part, Dionisio Point Park. To acknowledge Mr. Smith and to fulfil the legal requirements of land donation and acquisition, an interpretive trail will be established along the east coast of the park. The interpretive themes will focus on forest ecology and regeneration. In addition, a cairn will be installed as part of the main information kiosk near the day use parking area;
- Recommendations for establishing an economically viable camping reservation system, if required by level of use.

III Introduction

This Master Plan for Dionisio Point Park has been prepared by BC Parks staff and a volunteer advisory committee. The report is based on committee, staff and public input. Public input has been received through questionnaires, letters and public meetings, during which a number of development concepts were presented for review and comment.

The Master Plan is presented with a background report appended to it. The background report provides detailed information about the history and characteristics of the park, while the Master Plan focuses on management issues and statements. The Master Plan is divided into six main sections:

- First, the purpose of the plan and key management issues that are addressed in the plan are discussed. A summary of background information is provided;
- Second, the role of the park, its vision statement and overall management goal and objectives are presented. These outline the importance of the park and the foundation for the long-term protection of park values;
- Third, the plan presents park zoning which divides the park into units of consistent management objectives;
- Fourth, the objective and actions for protecting and managing park values are discussed;
- Fifth, the plan outlines strategies for access, park information formulation and distribution, and provision of outdoor recreation opportunities and management services;
- Sixth, the priorities for implementation of the Master Plan are described.

Plan Purpose

The Master Plan states in a broad manner the goals, objectives and strategies for park management. A vision has been developed for the park which outlines important values associated with the park and sets the tone for discussing specific management objectives.

The purpose of this plan is to guide protection, conservation and restoration of the rich and important ecological, scenic and cultural values of Dionisio Point Provincial Park while allowing opportunities for appropriate recreational and educational activities. This park, which is situated in the Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone, provides an unique opportunity to inform the public of both the consequences of human impact and possibilities of restoration while gaining appreciation for extensive cultural history.

It was the aim of BC Parks and the advisory committee to develop a Master Plan compatible with the values and needs of Galiano Island residents and the broader public interest and to approach park management in a holistic manner, by treating terrestrial and marine floral and faunal communities as integrated ecosystems.

Master Plan implementation and park management will take place with ongoing discussions between BC Parks, First Nations, and the Galiano Island community. Approval of the Master Plan is not an indication that funding to implement management actions is available. Standard funding procedures will apply during implementation of the plan.

Master Plans are reviewed every five to ten years. The review of the Dionisio Point Park Master Plan will be in conjunction with local First Nations, the Galiano Island community.

Key Issues

The Master Plan addresses a number of planning issues identified by BC Parks and the advisory committee. A summary is presented below.

Park Boundaries

- The Master Plan recommends inclusion of the foreshore adjacent to the park within its boundaries. This will facilitate management by BC Parks of activities affecting the ocean floor.
- Inclusion of the park boundaries in Schedule C of the *Park Act* is also recommended to legislate protection of the area.

Protection of the Natural Environment

- Measures are recommended to protect natural ecosystems and repair negative impacts from recreational and former industrial use. Previously uncontrolled recreational use, such as camping on shallow soiled rocky outcrops and parking vehicles on beach areas has caused impacts on park vegetation. Loss of vegetation, and soil compaction and erosion has occurred in sensitive areas.
- BC Parks will work co-operatively with surrounding landowners and resource managers to encourage activities outside of the park that are compatible with park values.

Protection of Archaeological and Heritage Values

- Park management will emphasize protection of the very significant archaeological, cultural and heritage values. An assessment of archaeological sites was completed to assist with the development of this plan. In addition, consultation with the Penelakut Tribe is ongoing. Management strategies to protect and interpret these archaeological sites and the associated values are addressed in the Master Plan.

Provision of Recreational and Educational Opportunities

- Park management will encourage recreational and educational opportunities which are compatible with the protection of ecological, cultural and aesthetic values.

Involvement of First Nations

- Dionisio Point Park is adjacent to the Penelakut Tribe Indian Reserve on the north end of Galiano Island. The Penelakut Tribe participated on the Master Plan advisory committee and continue to consult with BC Parks regarding park management issues.

Public Participation

- The Dionisio Point Master Plan advisory committee provided local knowledge to the planning process. The advisory committee meetings were advertised and open to the public. Articles were published in local newspapers and meeting minutes were posted on Galiano Island to keep the community informed of progress. Public input was received through open houses, public meetings, and correspondence.

Fulfillment of Legal Obligations

- Mr. Raymond V. Smith, Chairman of the Board, and former CEO and President of MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., will be acknowledged for the donation of land, which comprises, in part, Dionisio Point Park. To fulfil the legal requirements of land donation and acquisition, an interpretive trail will be established along the east coast of the park and a cairn will be installed as part of the main information kiosk near the day use parking area.

Provision of Park Information

- Galiano Island is recognized as having a finite capacity to provide additional services. This will be recognized with regard to park information that is distributed to the public.

Background Summary

Dionisio Point Provincial Park was established in 1991. The park is 142 hectares in size and is situated on the northeastern tip of Galiano Island (Figure 1). The park is rich in natural diversity and cultural history. Dionisio Point Park is characterized by sand and pebble beaches, sculpted sandstone headlands, forested upland and wild flowers. Fish and marine life inhabit the turbulent waters of Porlier Pass and have historically attracted both wildlife and people.

Evidence of traditional land and resource uses by First Nations found within Dionisio Point Park include middens, house platforms and burials (Mitchell, 1971). Preliminary excavations suggest that the area encompassed within Dionisio Point Park contains archaeological evidence from three periods: Old Cordilleran (7,000-3,500 BC); Marpole (400 BC to 500 AD); and Gulf of Georgia, (post 500 AD) (Mitchell, 1990). The Cowichan First Nations likely used the area each spring and autumn for collecting eggs, bulbs, plants, roots, and berries. Clams and mussels were an important component of their diet and were harvested in the surrounding marine waters. Marine mammals, such as seals and sea lions were also hunted (Mitchell, 1971).

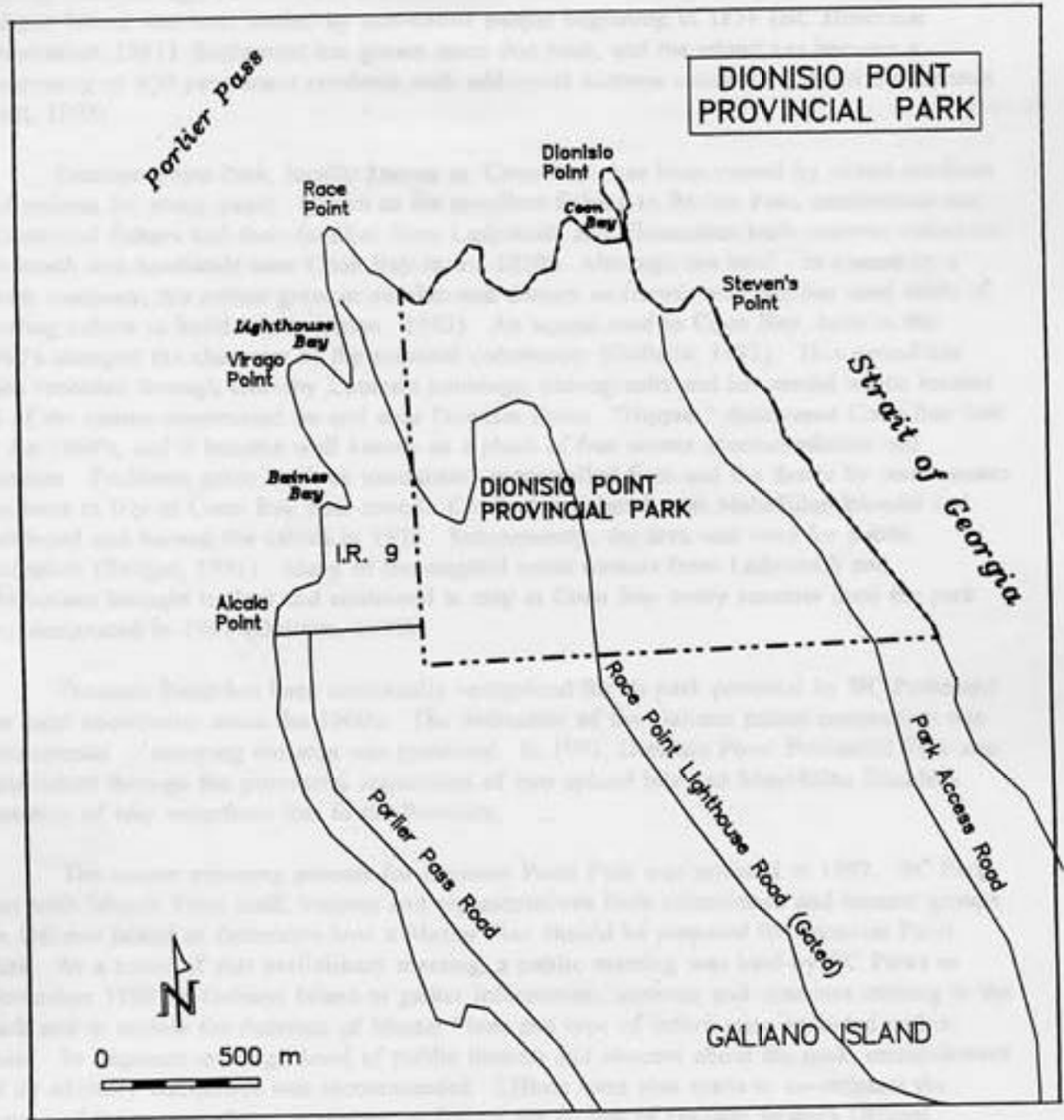


FIGURE 1

Galiano Island and Dionisio Point are named after the Spanish explorer Dionisio Alcala Galiano. Galiano, commander of the 'Sutil' and Don Cayetano Valdez, commander of the 'Mexicana', charted parts of the British Columbia coast for the Spanish Navy. During their 1792 expedition, they anchored off the east side of Galiano Island, traversed Porlier Pass and traded with First Nations (Bancroft, n.d.). Valdez and Galiano made the treacherous journey back through Porlier Pass and continued their northward journey (Loveridge, 1991). Galiano Island was later settled by non-native people beginning in 1858 (BC Historical Association, 1961). Settlement has grown since that time, and the island has become a community of 950 permanent residents with additional summer residents and visitors (Islands Trust, 1993).

Dionisio Point Park, locally known as 'Coon Bay', has been visited by island residents and visitors for many years. Drawn to the excellent fishing in Porlier Pass, commercial and recreational fishers and their families from Ladysmith and Chemainus built summer cabins on the beach and headlands near Coon Bay in the 1950's. Although the land was owned by a forest company, the cabins grew in number and density as friends and families used walls of existing cabins to build others (Anon., 1963). An access road to Coon Bay, built in the 1960's changed the character of the seasonal community (Oullette, 1993). This period has been recorded through Dorothy Lupton's paintings, photographs and her model which locates all of the cabins constructed on and near Dionisio Point. "Hippies" discovered Coon Bay late in the 1960's, and it became well known as a place of free winter accommodation and freedom. Problems arose, such as vandalism, uncontrolled fires and the desire by some winter residents to live at Coon Bay year-round. Conflicts escalated until MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. bulldozed and burned the cabins in 1975. Subsequently, the area was used for public recreation (Benger, 1991). Many of the original cabin owners from Ladysmith and Chemainus brought trailers and continued to stay at Coon Bay every summer until the park was designated in 1991 (Oullette, 1993).

Dionisio Point has been continually recognized for its park potential by BC Parks and the local community since the 1960's. The dedication of the Galiano Island community was instrumental in ensuring the area was protected. In 1991, Dionisio Point Provincial Park was established through the provincial acquisition of two upland lots and MacMillan Bloedel's donation of two waterfront lots to the Province.

The master planning process for Dionisio Point Park was initiated in 1992. BC Parks met with Islands Trust staff, trustees and representatives from committees and interest groups on Galiano Island to determine how a Master Plan should be prepared for Dionisio Point Park. As a result of that preliminary meeting, a public meeting was held by BC Parks in November 1992 on Galiano Island to gather information, interests and concerns relating to the park and to outline the function of Master Plans and type of information included within them. In response to a high level of public interest and concern about the park, establishment of an advisory committee was recommended. Efforts were also made to co-ordinate the timing of the master planning process to follow the review of Galiano Island's Official Community Plan. In February 1993, BC Parks' Assistant Deputy Minister attended a public meeting on Galiano Island where he spoke about park planning processes. BC Parks held a second public meeting in June 1993 to present the proposed advisory committee structure to the Galiano community. The committee began to meet in August 1993. The advisory committee worked with BC Parks to develop project Terms of Reference, a background report, and a draft Master Plan. Archaeological and biophysical studies

were completed to assist with development of the Master Plan. In addition to participating on the advisory committee, representatives of the Penelakut Tribe and Mid-Island Tribal Council met with BC Parks on numerous occasions to discuss matters pertaining to the park.

The draft Master Plan was presented at a public meeting in April 1994 for public review and comment. Letters, comments and questionnaires received by BC Parks were reviewed and summarized. BC Parks and all members of the advisory committee agreed on a vision for the park and the majority of management objectives. These objectives were also supported by the public. The only area of disagreement in the community and on the committee concerned the type of camping opportunities and the extent of vehicle access into the park. These issues were identified in public meetings correspondence and questionnaire results. All of the information gathered was taken into consideration by BC Parks and the advisory committee, and assisted BC Parks staff to finalize the Master Plan.

IV Role of the Park

Vision Statement

The vision for Dionisio Point Park was developed to highlight important values associated with the park and to foster management strategies that emphasize protection of these values.

The vision for Dionisio Point Provincial Park extends as far into the future as it does into the past, affirming the continuing presence of First Nations people.

The park, as a place of contemplation, enables islanders and visitors to be enriched by its unique qualities of natural beauty and cultural heritage.

Preserving these qualities depends not only on protecting and restoring the land but also on securing the integrity of Porlier Pass and surrounding waters.

Conservation Role

BC Parks has two conservation goals. Dionisio Point Park contributes to both of them: landscape representation and special feature conservation. Park management will emphasize these conservation values. The overall management goal of Dionisio Point Park is to conserve, protect and enhance the ecological, cultural and aesthetic values in the park and to provide opportunities for education, recreation and scientific research.

Dionisio Point Park plays an important conservation role by protecting an example of the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) Biogeoclimatic Zone. This zone covers an area of approximately 205,200 hectares and is limited in extent to southeast Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and a small adjacent area of the lower mainland (Ministry of Forests, 1993). The CDF zone has been heavily impacted by resource use and residential development. Less than one percent of this zone is in protected status, with only pockets of unmodified areas. Since there are few opportunities for further representation of the CDF zone, small parks such as Dionisio Point play an extremely important role in protecting and restoring some of the natural processes and communities in this zone. The park encompasses special features such as coastal sandstone formations, a sand tombolo, and tidal lagoon. Special vegetation features include highly attractive displays of spring wild flowers and several rare species of plants. In addition, significant archaeological sites are protected within the park. Dionisio Point Park features spectacular scenic vistas of the park's marine setting, islands, wildlife and distant mountains. Addition of foreshore to the park will protect habitat for intertidal life and marine birds.

Recreation and Education Role

Management of Dionisio Point Provincial Park will encourage recreational and educational activities that have minimal impact on the significant natural ecosystems and cultural features within the park. The park contributes to recreation goals by protecting a natural environment which lends itself to a variety of recreation opportunities. Residents and visitors to Galiano Island will be able to hike, swim, boat, fish, appreciate nature and camp within the park. The archaeological sites present excellent potential for education, interpretive programs and scientific research.

Regional and Provincial Context

Galiano Island is one of the Gulf Islands which separates Georgia Strait from smaller channels and other Gulf Islands to the south and west. Active Pass to the south of Galiano Island and Porlier Pass to the north form passages for navigation. Dionisio Point Provincial Park lies adjacent to Porlier Pass, part of a network of waterways which links historic and contemporary communities. The park is also part of a system of protected areas that includes over thirty provincial and regional protected areas in the southern Gulf Islands. Additional areas are protected by local agencies and organizations. Some of these areas contribute to the representation of the Gulf Islands landscape and special features, while others provide various land and water-based recreation opportunities.

There are numerous opportunities for recreation in the Gulf Islands. Hiking, fishing, nature study, historic interpretation, photography, SCUBA diving, cycling, swimming, painting, camping and boat mooring in protected harbours are examples of these opportunities. Many of the Gulf Islands are popular with residents from mainland and Vancouver Island urban centres for day trips and weekend holidays. The Gulf Islands are appreciated for recreation due to the warm dry summer weather, pastoral and forest landscapes, numerous scenic viewpoints, varied ocean shoreline, and sheltered waters with rich marine life. Careful measures must be taken, however, to protect and restore the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the Gulf Islands.

The southern Gulf Islands are situated between urban centres with rapidly growing populations, such as Victoria, Duncan, Ladysmith and Nanaimo on the east coast of Vancouver Island and Vancouver and numerous communities in the Fraser Valley on the mainland. The population of the regional districts surrounding the southern Gulf Islands is estimated to increase from 2.4 million in 1991 to 3.5 million in 2010 (Ministry of Finance, 1994)¹. Population growth is reflected by growing numbers of ferry passengers. Passengers on the four main routes

¹ Population figures based on 1991 Census and estimates for Fraser-Cheam, Central Fraser Valley, Dewdney-Alouette, Greater Vancouver, Capital, Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo, Alberni-Clayoquot, Comox-Strathcona, Sunshine Coast, and Squamish-Lillooet regional districts.

between Vancouver Island and the lower mainland increased from nine to thirteen million between 1986 and 1991. The number of passengers travelling to and from Gulf Island destinations also increased from three and one quarter to four and one half million during the same time period. The growth in population on the Gulf Islands and surrounding areas will have a significant impact on the economy, lifestyle and community character of many Gulf Islands (Islands Trust, 1993).

Local Context

Galiano Island is predominantly forested with areas of agricultural and residential use. The island maintains a rural atmosphere, and has a permanent population of approximately 950 people (Islands Trust, 1993). While no statistics exist, local residents estimate that population figures triple with summer residents and visitors. The island has limited facilities and minimal community services which are heavily dependent on volunteers. The shape of the island, which is approximately 30 kilometres long by 3 kilometres at its widest point, is an important factor in terms of access to the Dionisio Point Park and availability of community services.

Dionisio Point Provincial Park is one of seven protected areas on Galiano Island (Figure 2). Areas protected by the Province include: Montague Harbour Marine Park; Bellhouse Park; Galiano Island Ecological Reserve and Dionisio Point Park. Montague Harbour Provincial Park protects a salt marsh, intertidal zone, sandstone formations, over three kilometres of coastline, Douglas-fir forests and wildlife habitat. As a popular marine park, it offers safe anchorage, walk-in, vehicle and group camping, and opportunities for hiking, beach activities and nature study. Bellhouse Provincial Park is a small park which presents opportunities for picnics and excellent views of Active Pass, Mayne Island and the mainland. Galiano Island Provincial Ecological Reserve protects a rare assemblage of bog and wetland communities.

The community of Galiano has a history of protecting cherished areas of their island ecosystem. Examples of this commitment include the establishment of Bluffs Park for public use over 40 years ago; the designation of Bellhouse Park due to the donation of private land to the Province; and the acquisition of Mount Galiano as a local park in 1991. Both Bluffs Park and Mount Galiano are managed by the Galiano Club under a trust "for public enjoyment and recreational uses which do not disturb or interfere directly or indirectly with the soil, vegetation or animals and their habitat". The Galiano community is presently raising funds to protect Bodega Ridge. In addition, the Mount Sutil Ecological Reserve is held by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Galiano Conservancy Association to protect a Garry Oak woodland. All of these locally and provincial protected areas reflect Galiano Island's community commitment to conservation.

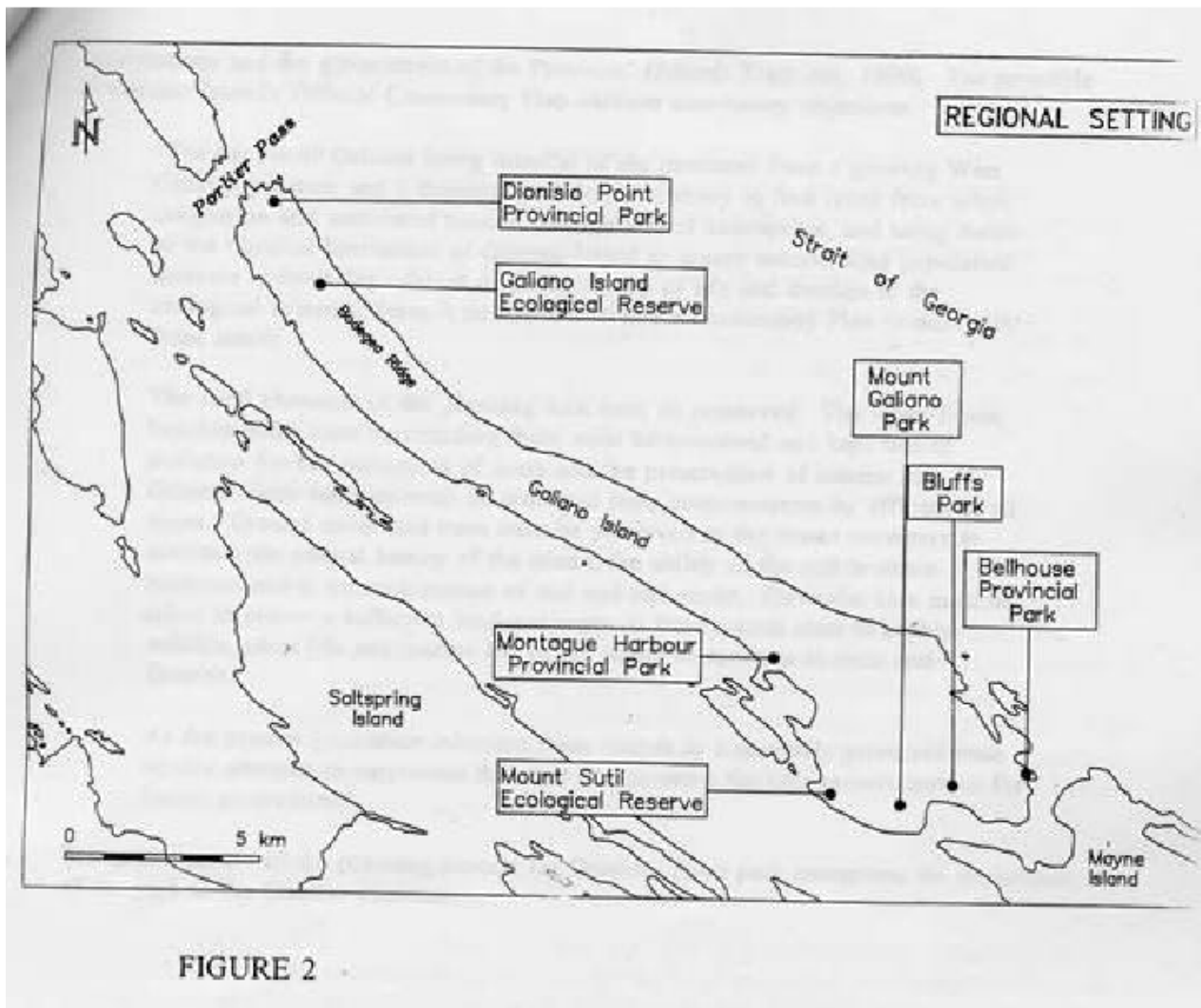


FIGURE 2

Dionisio Point Park is situated at the north end of Galiano Island. A reserve of the Penelakut Tribe borders the park to the west, and to the south is private land. The park can be accessed by water (although caution is advised due to strong currents and unprotected anchorage) or by a narrow winding road from the ferry terminal at the south end of the Galiano Island. The park is visited by local residents and visitors. Hiking, swimming, boating, camping, and nature and cultural appreciation are popular activities.

BC Parks will respect the mandates and initiatives of local and regional governments as they relate to management of provincial parks and ecological reserves. For example, the Islands Trust was established in 1974 in recognition of the unique nature of the Gulf Islands. "The object of the trust is to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of the Province generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of the Province" (*Islands Trust Act, 1990*). The preamble of Galiano Island's Official Community Plan outlines community objectives:

"The People of Galiano being mindful of the pressures from a growing West Coast population and a demonstrated desire of many to find relief from urban congestion and associated tension through a rural atmosphere, and being aware of the physical limitations of Galiano Island to accept uncontrolled population increase without degradation of the rural way of life and damage to the ecological systems, deem it desirable to create a Community Plan to deal with these issues.

The rural character of the planning area must be preserved. The water fronts, beaches and waters surrounding them must be preserved and kept free of pollution for the enjoyment of users and the preservation of marine life. Ground water supplies must be protected from contamination by effluent of all types. Ground cover and trees must be preserved to the extent necessary to maintain the natural beauty of the island, the ability of the soil to retain moisture and to prevent erosion of soil and soft rocks. Particular care must be taken to preserve sufficient land and water in their natural state to enable wildlife, plant life and marine life of the island to continue to exist and flourish.

As the present generation inherited these islands in a relatively preserved state so this attempts to perpetuate this state and preserve the unique environment for future generations."

The public nature of the planning process for Dionisio Point park recognizes the importance of the park to the Galiano community.

V Park Zoning

Park zoning is used to assist in planning the development and management of provincial parks. While recognizing that boundaries between zones do not necessarily correspond to natural ecological systems, zones are carefully applied to divide the park into units of consistent management objectives. The zones reflect the intended land use, the appropriate level of management and development, and the type and level of human activity that will be accommodated. The zones range from Wilderness Conservation in large, remote parks to Intensive Recreation which encompass areas modified by roads and facilities which accommodate opportunities for readily accessible outdoor recreation. Zoning descriptions are included in Appendix B. Dionisio Point Park is divided into three zones: Special Feature, Natural Environment and Intensive Recreation (Figure 3).

Special Feature Zone

The Special Feature Zone identifies areas where the management objective is to protect and present significant natural or cultural features or processes because of their special character, fragility or heritage values. The Special Feature Zone in Dionisio Point Park encompasses five archaeological sites; the coastal sandstone formations, significant features of erosion; the tidal lagoon, an important marine ecosystem; the sand tombolo, which is maintained by a balance of sediment deposition and erosion; the headlands and Dionisio Point itself which provide habitat for wild flowers and other rare species of vegetation. This zone includes approximately 15% of the park. The intertidal zone will become part of the Special Features Zone, with addition of foreshore to the park.

Natural Environment Zone

The objective of the Natural Environment Zone is to protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. The zone comprises approximately 80% of the park and encompasses the trails and walk-in campsites. Park management will encourage outdoor experiences similar to those available at locally managed parks such as The Bluffs and Mount Galiano.

Intensive Recreation Zone

This zone provides for readily accessible, facility oriented park opportunities. This zone includes the park access road and two parking areas. The main parking area is situated near Coon Bay, approximately 1.4 kilometres along the access road from the southern park boundary. This parking area is approximately 150 metres from the proposed day use area near the tidal lagoon. A smaller parking area will be situated 50 metres along the access road from the southern park boundary and will be approximately 1.6 kilometres from the proposed day use area near the tidal lagoon. This zone amounts to less than 5% of the park.

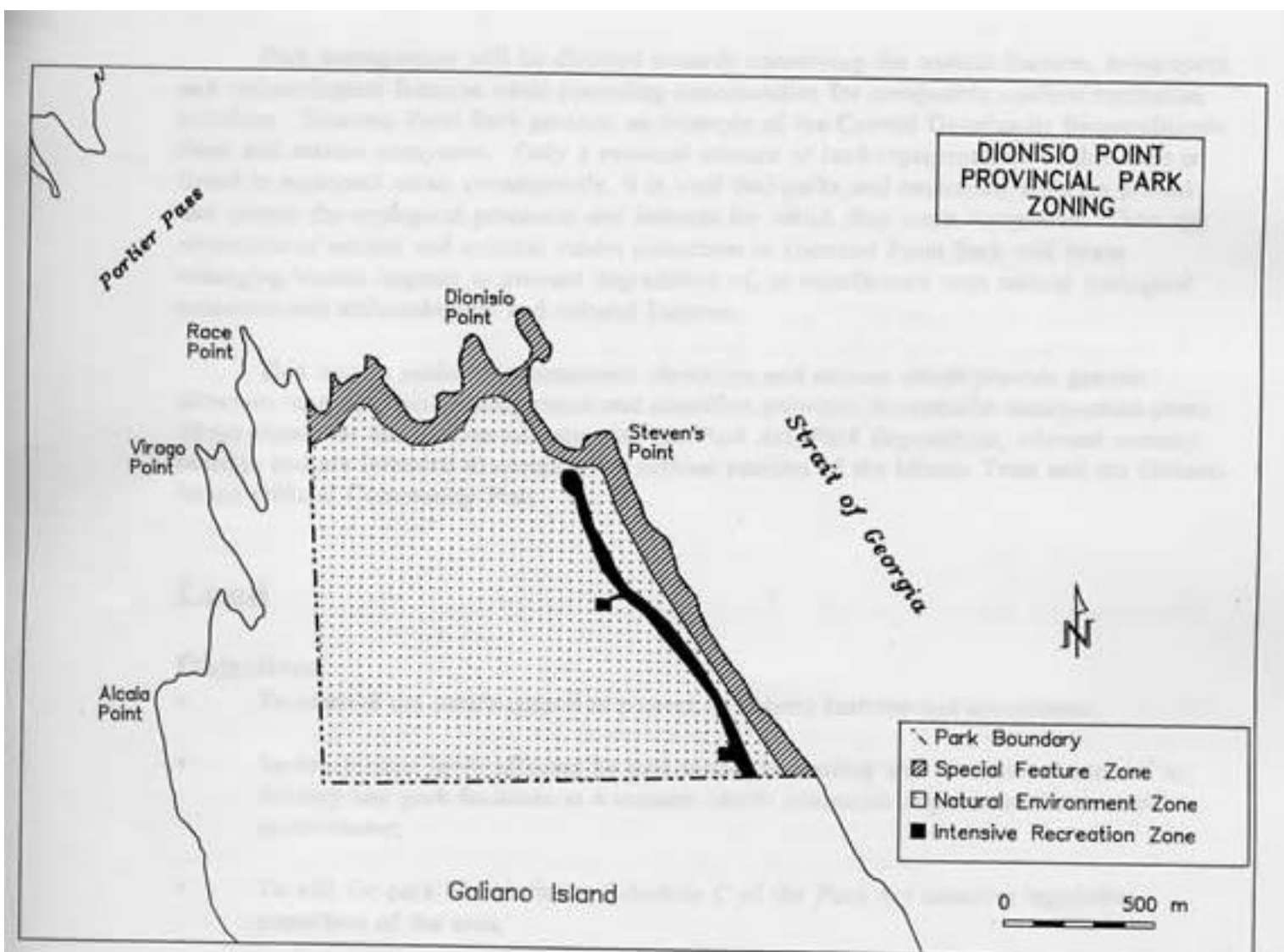


FIGURE 3

VI Natural and Cultural Values Conservation

Introduction

Park management will be directed towards conserving the natural features, ecosystems and archaeological features while providing opportunities for compatible outdoor recreation activities. Dionisio Point Park protects an example of the Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone and marine ecosystem. Only a minimal amount of land representative of this zone is found in protected areas; consequently, it is vital that parks and ecological reserves protect and restore the ecological processes and features for which they were designated. Thus, the objectives of natural and cultural values protection in Dionisio Point Park will stress managing human impacts to prevent degradation of, or interference with natural ecological processes and archaeological and cultural features.

This section outlines management objectives and actions which provide general direction regarding park management and identifies priorities for specific management plans. These objectives and actions comply with the *Park Act*, *Park Regulations*, relevant ministry policies and are intended to complement official policies of the Islands Trust and the Galiano Island Official Community Plan.

Land

Objectives:

- To manage the park's upland to protect its natural features and ecosystems;
- To rehabilitate lands affected by past timber harvesting and recreational use and to develop any park facilities in a manner which minimizes impacts on the natural environment;
- To add the park boundaries to Schedule C of the *Park Act* ensuring legislative protection of the area;
- To work co-operatively with government agencies, First Nations, the local community and interest groups to ensure that park values are protected;
- To acknowledge Mr. Raymond V. Smith, Chairman of the Board, and former CEO and President of MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., for the donation of land, which comprises, in part, Dionisio Point Park.

Actions:

- Build facilities and trails to withstand recreational use and to minimize negative

impacts on the natural environment or archaeological sites. For example, visitor access to the tidal lagoon will be accommodated by a trail designed and routed to minimize shoreline erosion. Sediments from the sandstone banks and shore are used in the formation of the tombolo which connects Dionisio Point to Galiano Island. Some informal trails down the banks to the lagoon have accelerated erosion.

- Designate upland trails and rehabilitate former logging roads to a scale suitable for trail use.
- Work with the Galiano Island community regarding initiatives such as linking Galiano Island's protected areas with trails and secondary roads.
- Co-operate with neighbouring land owners to ensure good relationships and to minimize any concerns associated with visitor use or day-to-day operation of the park (i.e. visitor trespassing).
- Designate a coastal hiking trail along the east coast of the park as the Raymond V. Smith Interpretive Trail. This trail will cross a number of forest communities which differ in diversity and age. The interpretive themes of the trail will focus on forest ecology and regeneration. Install a cairn acknowledging Mr. Smith at the information kiosk near the main parking area.

Water

Intermittent freshwater streams occur in the park. The largest stream flows northward into the bay west of Coon Bay.

A map reserve has been established over the foreshore fronting the park. An enlarged boundary is outlined in Figure 4 which encompasses the foreshore to a depth of 30 metres and can be determined by park visitors arriving by water. Adding a foreshore component to the park enables BC Parks to regulate activities within provincial jurisdiction which affect the foreshore. BC Parks will work with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to achieve management objectives for resources within their jurisdiction.

Objectives:

- To add a foreshore component to the park. The area of this addition approximates 150 hectares (Figure 4);
- To manage the park's marine areas to protect its natural features and ecosystems;
- To provide safe drinking water for park users;
- To promote water conservation;
- To prevent pollution of the marine waters and freshwater streams in the park;

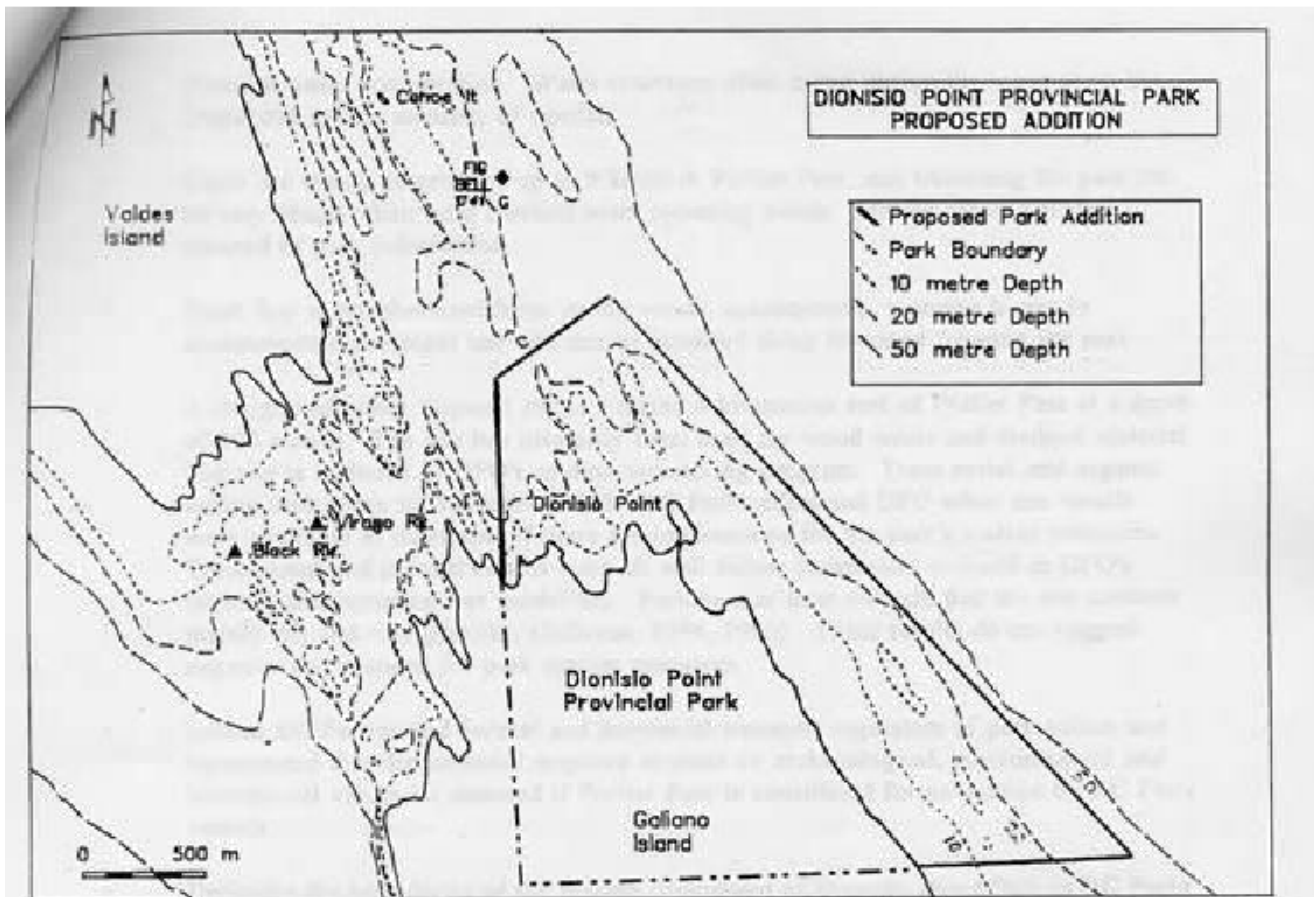


FIGURE 4

- To provide marine interpretive information and programming;
- To advise park visitors of marine safety issues and appropriate marine based activities;
- To ensure BC Ferries is aware of the park values as Porlier Pass may be considered for future navigation by BC Ferry vessels (Renault, 1994)

Actions:

- Situate facilities, such as trails, in locations that do not jeopardize the protection of water resources.
- Establishment of a fresh water well and hand pump associated with any development of walk-in campsites on the east side of the park will be given careful consideration. Caution will be taken to protect ground water resources and avoid saltwater intrusion.

- Promote water conservation. Water shortages often occur during the summer on the island due to low amounts of rainfall.
- There are strong currents of up to 9 knots in Porlier Pass, and traversing the pass can be very rough when tidal currents meet opposing winds. Marine safety will be stressed in park information.
- Coon Bay is not sheltered from strong winds, consequently, mooring buoys to accommodate overnight use will not be installed along the coast fronting the park.
- A designated ocean disposal site is situated 4 kilometres east of Porlier Pass at a depth of 200 metres. The site has primarily been used for wood waste and dredged material. The site is included in DFO's routine monitoring program. Trace metal and organic testing took place in November 1993. BC Parks contacted DFO when test results were available to determine if there are implications for the park's marine resources. Trace metal and pH test results were all well below parameters outlined in DFO's interim contamination test guidelines. Particle size tests indicate that the site contains mainly silt and clay particles (Sullivan, 1994, 1995). These results do not suggest negative implications for park marine resources.
- Inform BC Ferries and federal and provincial transport regulators of park values and recommend that the potential negative impacts on archaeological, environmental and recreational values be assessed if Porlier Pass is considered for navigation by BC Ferry vessels.
- Delineate the boundaries of the marine component of Dionisio Point Park in BC Parks' marine park brochure, in park information and on marine charts.

Forest and Vegetation

There is a variety of forest communities found within the park. Generally, the vegetation communities are oriented in the same manner as the park topography, aligned in a northwest-southeast direction. The following description uses site associations to describe likely climax plant communities. The valleys and slope down to the east coast are described as the Douglas-fir/ grand fir/ oregon grape association. This includes young and mature forest stands. These relatively moist areas are richer in nutrients than the drier ridges. There are also a few small moist areas (depressions and draws) where the Western Redcedar/ grand fir/ foamflower site association is the more appropriate classification. The main ridge systems are described as Douglas-fir/ shorepine/ arbutus in the west; and Douglas-fir/ salal further east. The headlands are influenced by wind and salt spray. Included within the Douglas-fir/ grand fir/ oregon grape site association, they are characterized by open forests of Douglas-fir, Arbutus, Garry Oak, grasses and mosses. Dionisio Point itself is described as the Garry Oak/ocean spray site association, with rock outcrops and shallow soils (Simmons, 1994). Wild flower communities, with rare and endangered species, occur on headlands, in some areas along the east coast and on Dionisio Point (Roemer, 1993).

The area encompassed within Dionisio Point Park has a lengthy logging history. Dates of forest stand re-establishment after harvesting vary significantly through the park. The oldest stands were re-established in the 1890's. These include forests along the northern and northeastern coasts, and the southwestern portion of the park. Forests were more recently re-established in the northeast corner of the park (1947); in the centre of the park (where the four district lots which comprise the park meet) (1965); and along the southeast coast (1982 and 1988) (Kadatz, 1994).

While numerous species of marine algae and kelp are visible in the inter-tidal zone, an inventory of marine vegetation is required to better understand the nature of marine resources adjacent to the park.

Objectives:

- To protect sensitive areas and vegetation species;
- To interpret vegetation communities;
- To improve forest diversity in stands that have been harvested and to improve aesthetics;
- To protect communities of marine vegetation.

Actions:

- Complete a vegetation management plan for the park to address conversion of logging roads to trails, suppression of exotic species, management strategies to ensure protection of rare and endangered species, and enhance forest diversity (to improve wildlife habitat, aesthetic values and restoration of disturbed sites.)
- Prohibit campfires in the park.
- Prepare a fire management plan to determine appropriate actions in case of wild fire.
- Designate an interpretive trail on Dionisio Point, oriented to wild flowers and viewing marine wildlife and the marine setting.
- Harden trails, and campsites to minimize impacts on surrounding soil and vegetation and direct recreational use with potentially higher impacts away from sensitive areas, such as headlands, and rare species.
- Inventory marine vegetation resources in the park foreshore to determine what management strategies are required for their protection.

Marine Wildlife

There is a diversity of marine life in the area. The strong tidal waters of Porlier Pass and proximity to the Strait of Georgia combine to create a prime feeding area for marine life. The surrounding rich waters contain, at various times of the year, five species of salmon, Lingcod, halibut, flounder, herring, and numerous other species of fish. On occasion, marine mammals such as Harbour Seals, California and Northern Sea Lions, River Otters and Killer Whales can be observed from the park.

In the intertidal zone there are numerous bivalve molluscs, including clams, oysters, mussels; univalve molluscs such as snails and limpets; crabs, sea stars, sea anemones, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers.

Objectives:

- To protect communities of marine wildlife and their habitat;
- To allow recreational and commercial harvesting of fin fish to continue in Porlier Pass (including the portion of the pass included within the park foreshore). Fin fish migrating through the park's waters are regulated by DFO. This management objective acknowledges the historical and current significance of the area for fishing, the migratory nature of many species harvested in the pass and, boating safety issues associated with fishing in Porlier Pass.

Actions:

- Complete an inventory of marine wildlife in the park foreshore.
- In keeping with the protection oriented focus of this park, work with DFO to:
 - close commercial and recreational harvest of shellfish within the park foreshore; and
 - close commercial and recreational harvest of marine life by divers to preserve the underwater habitat within the park foreshore.
- Inform park visitors of management restrictions through signs and brochures.

Terrestrial Wildlife

Objectives:

- To protect wildlife communities and habitat within the park;
- To encourage native wildlife communities in the park.

Actions:

- Assess wildlife communities as part of the biophysical mapping of park.
- Continue closure of hunting in Dionisio Point Park.

- Encourage wildlife viewing opportunities through park interpretation programming.
- Where appropriate, implement wildlife habitat enhancement projects.

Cultural and Archaeological Values

Five archaeological sites are situated within Dionisio Point Provincial Park. Varying levels of disturbance to the sites have occurred as a result of road development, logging, camping, trail use, and natural erosion.

Objectives:

- To protect archaeological sites from disturbance;
- To inform park visitors about the cultural history of the park.

Actions:

- Protective measures will be implemented near archaeological sites as recommended by Warner (1993) with consultation with the Penelakut Tribe: designating and delineating trails; using signs to interpret the sites and to caution against illegal collection of artifacts; seeding unstable slopes especially at Steven's Point; and maintaining vehicle restrictions. Hikers will be encouraged to remain on designated trails by signs and, in some cases, fencing near archaeological sites.
- In conjunction with the Penelakut Tribe, develop interpretive programming focused on the archaeological significance of the area.
- Continue to consult with the Penelakut Tribe regarding park management issues.
- Develop interpretation programs relating to historical use of the park such as the summer cabins and logging history with assistance from people familiar with the area.
- Planned facility development outside of the coastal area studied by Warner (1993), requires an impact assessment conducted under a *Heritage Conservation Act* permit, issued by the Archaeology Branch, Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture.

Aesthetic Values

The park's marine setting varies from quiet and contemplative to exhilarating when winds and currents are strong. The park's features include both sand and pebble beaches, sculpted sandstone, a tombolo, an islet, a tidal lagoon, and terrain characterized by ridges and valleys.

Objectives:

- To encourage surrounding landowners and resource managers to maintain the integrity of Porlier Pass area;
- To maintain viewing opportunities of the park's marine setting and wildlife;
- To preserve the visible and audible qualities of the natural environment;
- To design and situate park facilities which complement the park's setting.

Actions:

- Work co-operatively with surrounding landowners and resource managers to encourage activities outside of the park that are compatible with park values.
- Maintain areas and trails that provide views of the park's marine setting.
- Encourage quiet activities in the park.
- With community input, design and situate park facilities that complement the park's setting.

Scientific Research and Education**Objective:**

- To encourage non-consumptive scientific research and education relating to the archaeological sites and the natural ecosystems in the park.

Actions:

- Place all scientific research activities within Dionisio Point Park under Park Use Permit. Scientific research near or relating to archaeological sites also requires a permit from the Archaeology Branch, Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture.
- Consult with the Penelakut Tribe on an ongoing basis with regard to appropriate types of cultural research and appropriate information to share with the public.
- Work with the Penelakut Tribe to record traditional uses of the Porlier Pass and Dionisio Point areas to preserve these stories and enrich public understanding of the cultural significance of the area.

VII Visitor Services

General Concept

Dionisio Point Park will be managed primarily for conservation goals and secondly for recreational opportunities. This will be reflected in level of facilities provided in the park, in the content of information about the park and in how the information is distributed. Dionisio Point Park has not traditionally served the tourist market. Current use patterns may change as knowledge of the park spreads, however, Dionisio Point Park will not be heavily promoted to increase use.

Access Strategy

The present road access to the park will continue to be used as the main public route to the park. Some local residents access the park through trails and with permission of land owners, including the Penelakut Tribe. These informal access routes will remain as long as there is support from affected land owners and there are no associated safety or serious park management problems.

The main access road which crosses District Lots 85, 86 and 88 is an easement across private land. If the road becomes public due to land use changes, such as subdivision of property adjacent to the park, BC Parks will encourage the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and Islands Trust to respect their Letter of Agreement (1992) regarding consultation and rural road standards on the Gulf Islands.

Objectives:

- To provide a reasonable level of access for visitors to experience the park while minimizing effects on the environment, wildlife, and visitors' enjoyment of the park;
- To request that the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and Islands Trust consult with BC Parks regarding road development associated with subdivision applications adjacent to the park which may affect park access.

Actions:

- Control vehicle use of the former logging roads in the park upland through the use of gates within the park. Gates and road rehabilitation will also be used to prevent vehicle access to sensitive areas, such as the archaeological sites, headlands, and locales with rare plant species.
- Maintain the access road within the park as a narrow, winding rural road (BC Parks classification: secondary two-way road).
- Discourage overnight boat anchorage due to exposure to currents and strong winds.

- Use signs at ferry terminals in Victoria, Vancouver, Galiano Island and at the park boundary to discourage and prevent further use when the park is full.

Information Strategy

Providing current information about provincial parks is an important aspect of visitor services. In the case of Dionisio Point Park, information will serve a number of functions, however, there is no need for promotional strategies to increase park use.

One function of information is to orient people to Galiano Island. This information will indicate the range of recreation opportunities in protected areas on the island, outline the community's dependence on volunteer services and its' limited capacity to provide additional services to visitors. The characteristics of island roads and rural life style will also be highlighted.

Another function of park information is to describe the park's natural characteristics, facilities and recreation opportunities available. This will ensure park visitors have accurate expectations of what Dionisio Point Park provides. Clear information about the nature of the access road, the no-fire policy, sensitive areas of the park, permitted recreational activities, outdoor etiquette and safety information (marine safety in particular) will be stressed.

Information will be offered to the public in a variety of forms. The regional brochure for Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands which briefly describes Dionisio Point Park's characteristics and limited facilities will be distributed at provincial government offices, and travel information centres. Detailed information about the park will be available at provincial park offices and on Galiano Island. Road-side signs on Galiano Island will provide directions and distances to the park and appropriate activity symbols. Inside the park, signs and an in-park brochure will outline management policies and offer interpretive information.

Objective:

- To provide current information about Dionisio Point Park and environs to park visitors and to people planning to visit the park.

Actions:

- Prepare an in-park brochure which describes the park's ecosystems and features, recreational opportunities, outdoor etiquette, safety and the context of the local community.
- In partnership with the Galiano Island community, produce a brochure which identifies all parks and protected areas on the island and orients visitors to the community.
- Keep information about Dionisio Point Park on the regional Vancouver Island/Gulf Island regional brochure up to date to reflect what facilities and level of service are available in the park.

- Provide interpretive information about the natural and cultural significance of the area.

Interpretation and Education Program

Interpretive material will be conveyed to park visitors through signs and potentially through visitor programs. BC Parks will work with the Penelakut Tribe, and the Galiano Island community to develop the content of interpretive material and to determine the potential for joint participation in interpretive programs.

There are a number of interpretive themes that can be developed for Dionisio Point Park. The cultural significance of the Porlier Pass area, and of the archaeological sites specifically, will be the main focus of interpretive material. The park's wildlife, vegetation, physiography, recent cultural history and Porlier Pass offer numerous opportunities for interpretation.

Management Services

Dionisio Point Park is administered out of the South Vancouver Island District Headquarters. The district headquarters is situated in Goldstream Provincial Park, Victoria.

Objectives:

- To manage the park according to the *Park Act*, regulations and guidelines of the Master Plan;
- To foster opportunities for volunteer services and activities, such as wardens, park hosts and interpreters.

Actions:

- Pursue the establishment of an economically viable reservation system for all campsites in the Gulf Islands.
- Provide a management presence in the park throughout the year through staff, contractors, and/or volunteers.
- Create a forum for ongoing dialogue between BC Parks and the Galiano Island community.
- Park District staff will prepare Annual Management Plans for the park in conjunction with the Galiano Island community to implement management actions outlined in the Master Plan.
- Monitor changes in visitor use and in environmental conditions.

- Participate in resource conservation programs.
- Maintain signs outside of the park to advise potential visitors of park opportunities and management restrictions.
- Pursue the provision of a telephone for use by the volunteer park host or the general public for emergencies.
- Move the garbage and recycling stations to the main parking area, and advise park users through signs and the in-park brochure to take their garbage home with them.
- Due to the park's primary focus on conservation, a helipad to facilitate emergency evacuation will not be constructed in the park.

Visitor Opportunities

Dionisio Point Park provides an attractive natural setting for a variety of recreational opportunities and for nature appreciation. Such activities will be managed to ensure that they are not detrimental to the park's natural and cultural features. This section outlines which activities are allowed in the park and where they can occur.

Hiking

Hiking is a popular activity. Opportunities for hiking in the park will be enhanced and expanded. The proposed trail system is outlined in Appendix A.

Objective:

- To provide a variety of high quality, low impact hiking opportunities within the park.

Actions:

- Develop the trail system outlined in Appendix A. These trails offer a total length of approximately 7 kilometres.
- Designate and sign trails and encourage park visitors to stay on the trails.
- Harden trails with protective material in sensitive sites to minimize erosion and compaction.
- Plan trails to provide scenic views from the shore and upland.
- Rehabilitate logging roads overtime to enhance hiking experiences.
- Sign and/or gate roads and trails that lead visitors outside of the park boundaries.

Interpretation and Education

Objectives:

- To maintain the park's natural features and processes for public appreciation;
- To inform park visitors of the park's cultural history and natural characteristics through interpretive signs and/or programming.

Actions:

- Encourage nature study throughout the park and promote it in interpretive material.
- Include information relating to the archaeological sites, wild flower communities, and marine and forest ecosystems in interpretive material.

Swimming/Beach Activities/Picnicking

Sand and pebble beaches provide excellent opportunities for family picnicking, beach activities, and access to the water. The tidal lagoon and Coon Bay offer excellent swimming opportunities as the sand exposed at low tide warms the water as the tide rises.

Objectives:

- To provide a safe swimming experience in the park;
- To encourage informal picnicking and beach activities in a natural setting.

Actions:

- Emphasize marine safety in park information. Swimming opportunities will not be supervised by park staff or contractors.
- Establish a day use area adjacent to the tidal lagoon offering information, sanitary, and water facilities and a small number of picnic tables (Appendix A). Existing vehicle accessible campsites near the lagoon will be closed and restored to a natural state, and vegetation will be used to prevent access down steep banks to the lagoon.

Cycling

Cycling is growing in popularity amongst visitors to Galiano Island. All trails within Dionisio Point Park are closed to cycling unless specifically designated for that use. Park trails are outlined in Appendix A.

Objectives:

- To provide bicycle access into the park.

Actions:

- Restrict bicycling within the park to designated trails only.

- Designate a multi-use trail (Lagoon Trail) for cyclists and pedestrians to access the day use area near the tidal lagoon. The North Camp trail is a short hiking trail from the day use area to the existing walk-in campsites.
- Access to the proposed campsite adjacent to Georgia Strait will be by hiking trail only.
- Monitor the bicycle use and assess if there is a demand for cycling opportunities in the park upland in the future.

Horse Riding

Horse riding by local residents occurs sporadically in the park. There are other opportunities for riding outside of the park at present and there are concerns relating to conservation of archaeological sites and sensitive vegetation. BC Parks regulations outline that horse riding is allowed only on designated trails in provincial parks. Riding is not allowed on the park access road due to safety concerns for horses and riders.

Objective:

- Designated trails for horse riding will not be provided in the park.

Action:

- If there is a high demand in the future for horse riding in the park, a detailed assessment of the park will take place to determine whether there is a suitable location for horse riding that will not jeopardize conservation values or conflict with other types of recreation.

Motorized Vehicle Use

Objective:

- To provide road access to the park for visitors.

Actions:

- Permit motorized vehicles on the designated park road only.
- Allow service vehicles to use the Lagoon trail to undertake operational and maintenance activities. Emergency vehicles may also be permitted to use the Lagoon trail.

Camping

The development concept outlined in Appendix A offers an alternative to vehicle based camping which is provided at Montague Harbour Provincial Park. Dionisio Point Park will offer walk-in camping opportunities for park visitors arriving by car, bicycle, boat or on foot. The intention is to provide a less busy, less developed and quieter camping experience than the opportunities available at Montague Harbour Park.

The summary of opinions and comments received by BC Parks through the public consultation process demonstrate a strong difference in preferences for the provision of and types of camping in Dionisio Point Park (Appendix C). Community concerns about vehicle accessible camping has resulted in the recommendation of this plan to provide walk -in camping in two locations in the park and to remove vehicle accessible camping from its existing location. However, the provision of vehicle accessible camping in Dionisio Point Park will be reconsidered when the park master plan is reviewed. In addition, BC Parks will request that the Islands Trust develop a policy on vehicle accessible campgrounds for parks located in the Gulf Islands.

Objective:

- To provide primitive walk -in camping for park visitors.

Actions:

- Provide 15 walk-in tent sites in the existing walk-in campground situated on the ridge between Coon Bay and Maple Bay. Site size, location and vegetation will be evaluated and improved to enhance the camping experience in this location.
- Construct an additional walk -in campground near the eastern shore of the park, offering 15 walk-in tent sites, and sanitary and water facilities if recreational demand and financial resources are adequate. Use caution with regard to the need for, and placement of, a well and hand pump.
- Remove existing vehicle accessible camping areas near the tidal lagoon in the autumn of 1995;
- Pursue the establishment of an economically viable reservation system for camping, if required by level of use;
- Encourage Island Trust to adopt general policies on vehicle accessible public camping and specific camping policies for Galiano Island.

Boating

Porlier Pass is frequently navigated by recreational and commercial boaters and fishermen. Vessels traversing the pass range from sail boats and motorized vessels to kayaks. Small open boats may be unsafe in certain weather and tide conditions.

Objective:

- To permit marine access to the park and stress marine safety.

Actions:

- Encourage only temporary anchorage for visitors arriving by boat. Mooring bouys will not be installed.

- Provide marine information such as tide and current tables and stress marine safety in park information.
- Ensure signs on shore inform visitors arriving by boat of park facilities and policies.

Angling

Objectives:

- To support the continued use of the park foreshore for angling subject to federal fishing regulations;
- To monitor fish and other marine species, over time, in conjunction with DFO to assess whether changes in regulations are required.

Actions:

- Permit fishing in the park's foreshore.
- Construction of a boat launch will not occur in the park.
- Stress marine safety and conservation in park information.

SCUBA Diving

Objective:

- To allow recreational SCUBA diving in the park foreshore.

Actions:

- Request that DFO close commercial and recreational harvest of marine life by divers to protect the underwater habitat within the park foreshore.
- Stress marine safety and conservation in park information.

VIII Plan Implementation

This section lists all of the management actions outlined in the draft Master Plan and prioritizes them. First, the highest priority actions are listed. These are followed by specific project-oriented tasks. Finally, ongoing or monitoring tasks are listed.

Implementation of actions outlined in the Master Plan is dependent on the availability of BC Parks' financial and staff resources, and will be affected by the needs of other parks in South Vancouver Island District and the rest of the BC Park system. Approval of the plan does not constitute automatic approval of funding for implementation. There may be a requirement for community/corporate sponsorship to undertake some of these activities.

Highest Priority Actions

Land:

- Add foreshore to the park.

Legal Requirements:

- To acknowledge Mr. Raymond V. Smith, Chairman of the Board, and former CEO and President of MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., for the donation of land, which comprises, in part, Dionisio Point Park. To fulfil the legal requirements of land donation and acquisition, an interpretive trail will be established along the east coast of the park and a cairn will be installed as part of the main information kiosk near the main parking area.

Park Facilities:

- Implement the development concept outlined in Appendix A. This concept includes two walk-in camping areas, hiking trails, day use facilities, two parking areas and removal of existing vehicle accessible camping areas in the autumn of 1995.
 - Impact assessments will be undertaken as part of the site design process and under a *Heritage Conservation Act* permit, prior to facility development;
 - Facilities will be designed and situated in consultation with the Galiano Island community to minimize any negative impacts associated with recreational use.

Project-Oriented Actions

Cultural Features:

- Protective measures will be implemented near archaeological sites as recommended by Warner (1993) and in consultation with the Penelakut Tribe.

Vegetation:

- Complete biophysical study of the park's vegetation.

- Prepare a vegetation management plan.
- Prepare a fire management plan.

Wildlife:

- Complete biophysical study of the park's wildlife.

Marine Resources:

- Inventory marine resources in the park foreshore.
- Request that DFO close commercial and recreational harvest of marine life in the park foreshore by SCUBA divers and of shellfish within the park foreshore.
- Delineate the boundaries of the marine component of Dionisio Point Park in BC Parks' marine park brochure, in park information and on marine charts.
- Continue to liaise with DFO to ensure that results of ongoing trace metal and organic testing conducted at the Porlier Pass ocean disposal have no negative implications for the park's marine resources.

Park Information:

- Prepare a park brochure which orients visitors to the local community, describes the park's features, recreational opportunities, and outdoor etiquette.
- Update information about Dionisio Point Park to the regional Vancouver Island/ Gulf Island map to reflect what facilities and level of service are available in the park.
- Stress marine safety in park information.

Management Services:

- Pursue the establishment of an economically viable reservation system for campsites in Dionisio Point Park, if required by level of use, and in other provincial parks in the Gulf Islands.
- Prepare an interpretation program for park visitors in conjunction with First Nations and the Galiano Island community.

Consultation:

- Inform BC Ferries and Department of Transport of the values associated with Dionisio Point Park and recommend that the potential negative impacts on archaeological, environmental and recreational values be assessed if Porlier Pass is considered for navigation by BC Ferry vessels.

First Nations:

- Work with the Penelakut Tribe to record traditional uses of the Porlier Pass and Dionisio

Point areas to preserve these stories and enrich public understanding of the cultural significance of the area.

On-going and Monitoring Actions

Consultation:

- Work co-operatively with surrounding landowners and resource managers to encourage activities outside of the park that are compatible with park values.
- Consult with First Nations regarding park management issues, research and interpretation.
- Work with the Galiano Island community regarding initiatives such as linking Galiano Island's protected areas with trails and secondary roads.

Cultural Features:

- Ensure all scientific research associated with archaeological sites in the park have appropriate permits.

Wildlife:

- Continue closure of hunting in Dionisio Point Park.
- Encourage wildlife viewing opportunities through park interpretation programming;
- Where appropriate, implement wildlife habitat enhancement projects.

Park Information:

- Use signs at ferry terminals in Victoria and Vancouver, on Galiano Island and at the park boundary to discourage and prevent further use when the park is full.
- Install signs outside of the park and at the park boundary to advise potential visitors of park opportunities and management restrictions.

Water:

- Promote water conservation. Water shortages often occur during the summer on the island due to low amounts of rainfall.

Access:

- Use gates, signs and road rehabilitation to control motorized vehicle use in the park.

Management Services:

- Pursue the provision of a telephone in the park for emergencies.
- Sign and/or gate park boundaries where trespassing is likely to occur.

- Provide a management presence in the park throughout the year through the use of staff and volunteers.
- Prepare Annual Management Plans in the South Vancouver Island District office in consultation with the Galiano Island community to implement management actions outlined in the Master Plan.
- Monitor changes in visitor use and in environmental conditions.
- Participate in resource management programs and implement associated management strategies.
- Enforce a no-campfire policy in the park.
- Encourage quiet activities in the park.

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Appendix A

Development Concept

Preparation of a development concept plan was a vital part of the Dionisio Point Park master planning process. This plan was developed through consultation with the advisory committee, representatives of the Penelakut Tribe and the public. The public involvement process is outlined in Appendix C.

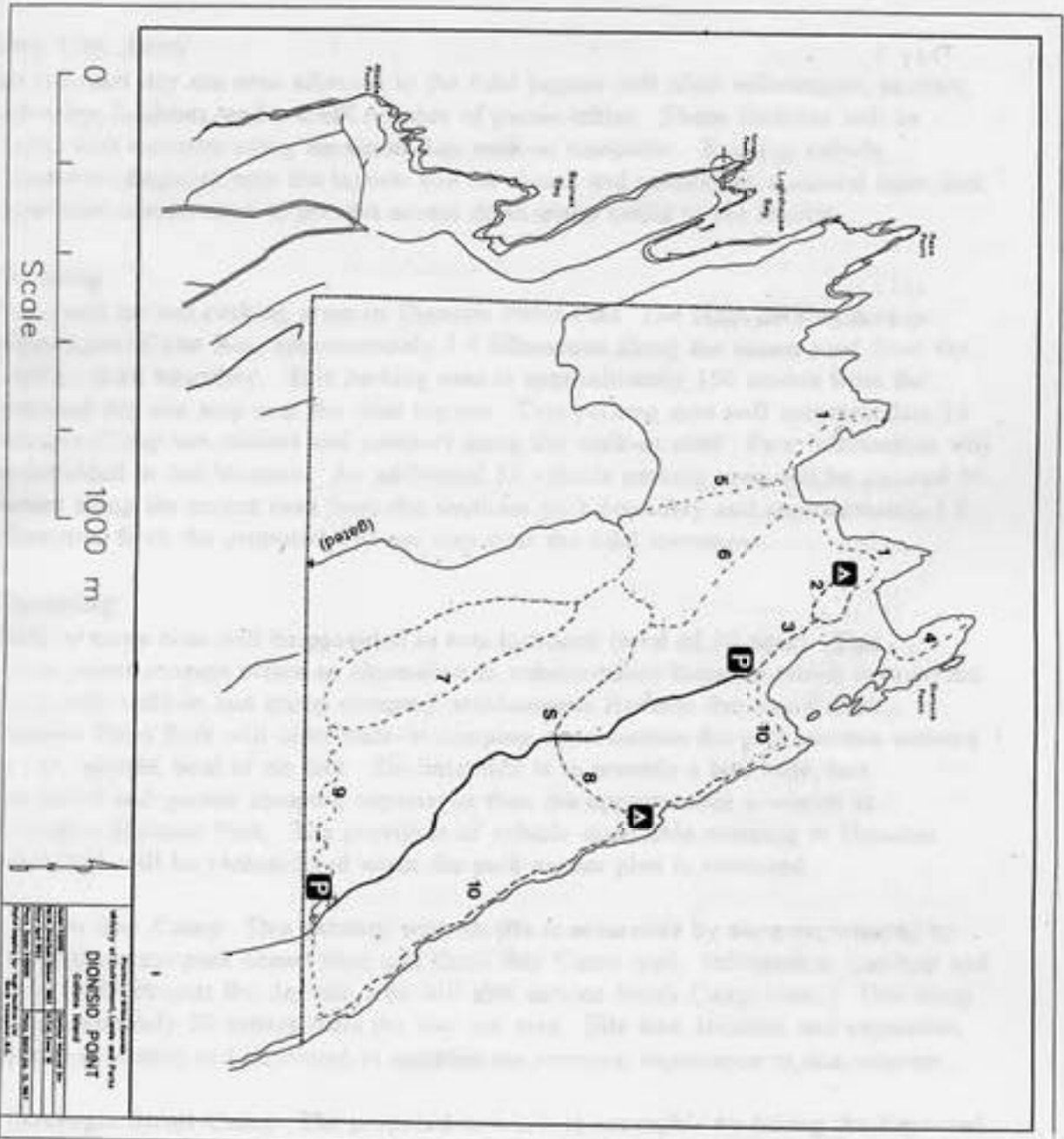
The principles underlying this development concept include:

- Protection of the natural ecosystems, biodiversity, archaeological, cultural and aesthetic values in the park;
- Provision of recreational opportunities which are compatible with the values identified in this plan;
- Realization of the vision for the park;
- Compatibility with the values and needs of Galiano Island residents and the broader public interest.

Walk-in Camping and Vehicle Accessible Day Use

This development concept (Figure 5) includes the following facilities and features:

- **Trails**
An extensive trail system with approximately 7 km of trail. All trails are for hiking only, unless specifically designated as a different type of trail.
 - 1) **Porlier Pass trail** - from Coon Bay to the western park boundary, ensure archaeological site protection (1 km);
 - 2) **Coon Bay Camp trail** - trail from day use parking to walk-in campsites (50 metres);
 - 3) **Lagoon trail** - the section of park road from the main parking area to the tidal lagoon will be designated as a multi-use trail for hiking, bicycling, and use by park maintenance/emergency vehicles (200 metres);
 - 4) **Dionisio Point interpretive trail** - improve trail to ensure protection of soils and vegetation (200 metres);
 - 5) **Stream-side trail** - from Maple Bay south to interior of park to link with other trails, establish trail using former logging roads (500 metres);
 - 6) **Maple Bay trail** - from near the service yard west and then north to Maple Bay, establish trail using former logging roads (900 metres);
 - 7) **Quarry Loop trail** - south central area of park, establish trail using old logging roads where possible (1.5 km);
 - 8) **Georgia Strait Camp trail** - proposed hiking trail linking walk-in campsites with park road and other park trails (200 metres);
 - 9) **Ridge trail** - links the Quarry Loop trail with the small parking area at the southern park boundary (700 metres);
 - 10) **Raymond V. Smith interpretive trail** - along east coast of the park from tidal lagoon to southern park boundary then west to the small parking area, forest interpretive theme, establish trail with various access points to the sandstone shoreline (1.3 km).



- Park Boundary
- Trails
 - 1. Porlier Pass Trail
 - 2. Coon Bay Camp Trail
 - 3. Lagoon Trail
 - 4. Dionisio Point Interpretive Trail
 - 5. Stream-side Trail
 - 6. Maple Bay Trail
 - 7. Quarry Loop Trail
 - 8. Georgia Strait Camp Trail
 - 9. Ridge Trail
 - 10. Raymond V. Smith Interpretive Trail
- Road
- P** Parking
- S** Service Yard

Project of Dionisio Point
 Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
DIONISIO POINT
 Coastal Studies
 1997
 Scale: 1:5000
 Date: 1997
 Author: [illegible]
 Project Number: [illegible]

Figure 5 Development Concept
 Walk-in Camping with Vehicle Accessible Day Use

- **Day Use Area**

An informal day use area adjacent to the tidal lagoon will offer information, sanitary, and water facilities, and a small number of picnic tables. These facilities will be shared with campers using the Coon Bay walk-in campsites. Existing vehicle accessible campsites near the lagoon will be closed and restored to a natural state, and vegetation will be used to prevent access down steep banks to the lagoon.

- **Parking**

There will be two parking areas in Dionisio Point Park. The main parking area is situated near Coon Bay, approximately 1.4 kilometres along the access road from the southern park boundary. This parking area is approximately 150 metres from the proposed day use area near the tidal lagoon. This parking area will accommodate 30 vehicles of day use visitors and campers using the walk-in sites. Park information will be provided in this location. An additional 10 vehicle parking area will be situated 50 metres along the access road from the southern park boundary and approximately 1.6 kilometres from the proposed day use area near the tidal lagoon.

- **Camping**

Walk-in camp sites will be provided in two locations (total of 30 sites). This development concept offers an alternative to vehicle-based camping which is provided, along with walk-in and group camping, at Montague Harbour Provincial Park. Dionisio Point Park will offer walk-in camping opportunities for park visitors arriving by car, bicycle, boat or on foot. The intention is to provide a less busy, less developed and quieter camping experience than the opportunities available at Montague Harbour Park. The provision of vehicle accessible camping in Dionisio Point Park will be reconsidered when the park master plan is reviewed.

1) Coon Bay Camp This existing walk-in site is accessible by campers arriving by boat and via the park access road and Coon Bay Camp trail. Information, sanitary and water facilities near the day use area will also service North Camp users.) This camp is approximately 50 metres from the day use area. Site size, location and vegetation will be evaluated and improved to enhance the camping experience in this location.

2) Georgia Strait Camp The proposed new site is accessible by hiking the Raymond V. Smith interpretive trail or via the park access road and Georgia Strait Camp trail. Information and sanitary facilities will be provided to service this camp. Caution will be used with regard to the need for, and placement of a well and hand pump. Georgia Strait camp is approximately 750 metres from the day use area.

An existing service yard will be used by park staff for park operations. A number of facilities exist in the park which are not included in the development concept. These facilities, such as the vehicle accessible campsites, near the tidal lagoon will be restored to a natural condition.

Appendix B

Park Zoning Descriptions

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment
OBJECTIVE	To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.
USE LEVEL	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels in association with nodes of activity or access.
MEANS OF ADDRESS	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see “Impacts” below).	Mechanized (power-boats , snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non mechanized (foot, horse, canoe, bicycle). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup points will be permitted.
LOCATION	Contiguous with all-weather roads and coverings immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanized means such as boat or plane.
SIZE OF ZONE	Small; usually less than 2,000 ha.	Can range from small to large.
BOUNDARY DEFINITION	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity/facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.
RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snowplay, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialized activities.	Walk-in/boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialized activities.

Special Feature	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites.	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorized activities will be allowed.
Generally low	Very low use, to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Uses may be controlled to protect the environment.	Very low use, to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.
Various; may require special access permit	Non-mechanized; except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe (horse may be permitted).	Non-mechanized (no air access); foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).
Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.	Remote; generally not visited on a day-use basis.	Remote; not easily visited on a day-use basis.
Small; usually less to 2000 hectares.	Large; greater than 5,000 ha.	Large; greater than 5,000 ha.
Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection).	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access. Will be designated under the Park Act.	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Will be designated under the Park Act.
Sight-seeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g. caving, climbing).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g. caving, climbing).

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment
FACILITIES	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail accommodation or interpretive building, boat launches; administrative buildings, service campgrounds, grave pits, disposal sites, wood lots, parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters; accommodation building may be permitted; facilities for motorized access e.g. docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.
IMPACTS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state but where human presence may be readily visible both through the existence of recreation facilities and of people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible; facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.
MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operations facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and to providing a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation. Designation of transportation modes may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).
EXAMPLES OF ZONING	Campground in Rath Trevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski areas in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.

Special Feature	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Interpretive facilities only, resources are to be protected.	Minimal facility development. Limited development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment e.g. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access nodes, e.g. dock, primitive shelter, etc.	None.
None; resources to be maintained unimpaired.	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings.
High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretive experience. Active or passive management depending on size, locations, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experienced and to limit impacts.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.
Tidepools in Botanical Beach Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park.	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Central Valhallas Wilderness in Valhalla Park; Garibaldi Park Nature conservancy Area.

Appendix C

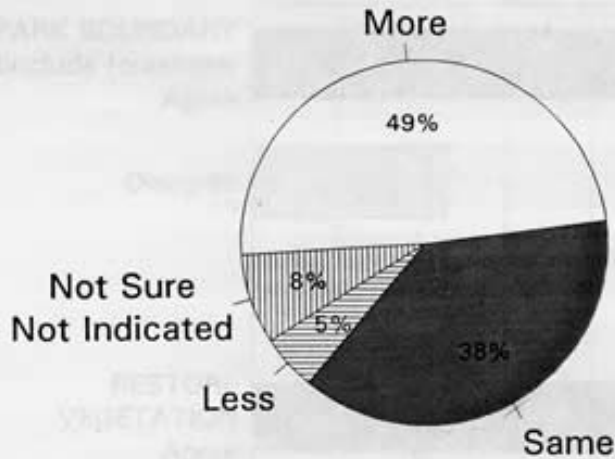
Public Consultation Process and Summary of Public Comments

The Master Planning process for Dionisio Point Park was initiated in 1992. BC Parks met with Islands Trust staff, trustees and representatives from committees and interest groups on Galiano Island to determine how a Master Plan should be prepared for Dionisio Point Park. As a result of that preliminary meeting, a public meeting was held by BC Parks in November 1992 on Galiano Island to gather information, interests and concerns relating to the park and to outline the function of Master Plans and type of information included within them. In response to a high level of public interest and concern about the park, establishment of an advisory committee was recommended. Efforts were also made to co-ordinate the timing of the Master Planning process to follow the review of Galiano Island's Official Community Plan. In February 1993, BC Parks' Assistant Deputy Minister attended a public meeting on Galiano Island where he spoke about park planning processes. BC Parks held a second public meeting in June 1993 to present the proposed advisory committee structure to the Galiano community. The committee began to meet in August 1993. The advisory committee worked with BC Parks to develop project Terms of Reference, a background report, and a draft Master Plan. Archaeological and biophysical studies were completed to assist with development of the Master Plan. In addition to participating on the advisory committee, representatives of the Penelakut Tribe and Mid-Island Tribal Council met with BC Parks on numerous occasions to discuss matters pertaining to the park.

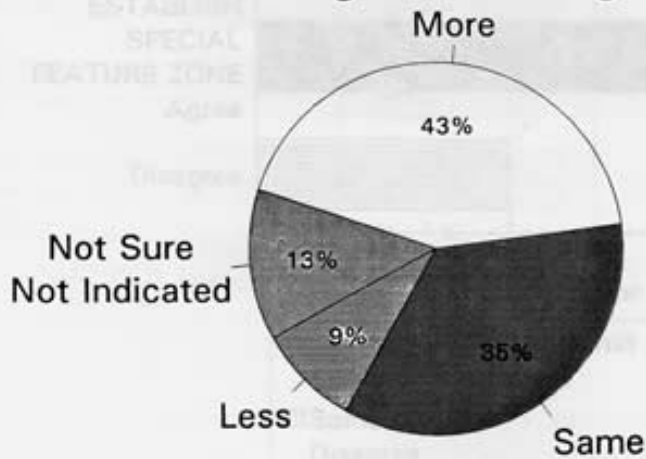
The draft Master Plan was presented at a public meeting in April 1994 for public review and comment. Letters, comments and questionnaires received by BC Parks were reviewed and summarized. BC Parks and all members of the advisory committee agreed on a vision for the park and the majority of management objectives. These objectives were also supported by the public. The only area of disagreement in the community and on the committee concerned the type of camping opportunities and the extent of vehicle access into the park. These issues were identified in public meetings correspondence and questionnaire results. All of the information gathered was taken into consideration by BC Parks and the advisory committee, and assisted BC Parks staff to finalize the Master Plan.

The summary of public comments is divided into a number of sections. The questionnaire distributed at the April 1994 public meeting is presented in the "Spring and Summer 1994" section with a summary of responses and representative comments. Public presentations made at the November 1992 public meeting and letters arising from the meeting are summarized in the "Winter 1992/93" section. Earlier letters and comment cards are outlined in the final sections.

Q1. Attention Given to Protecting Natural Resources



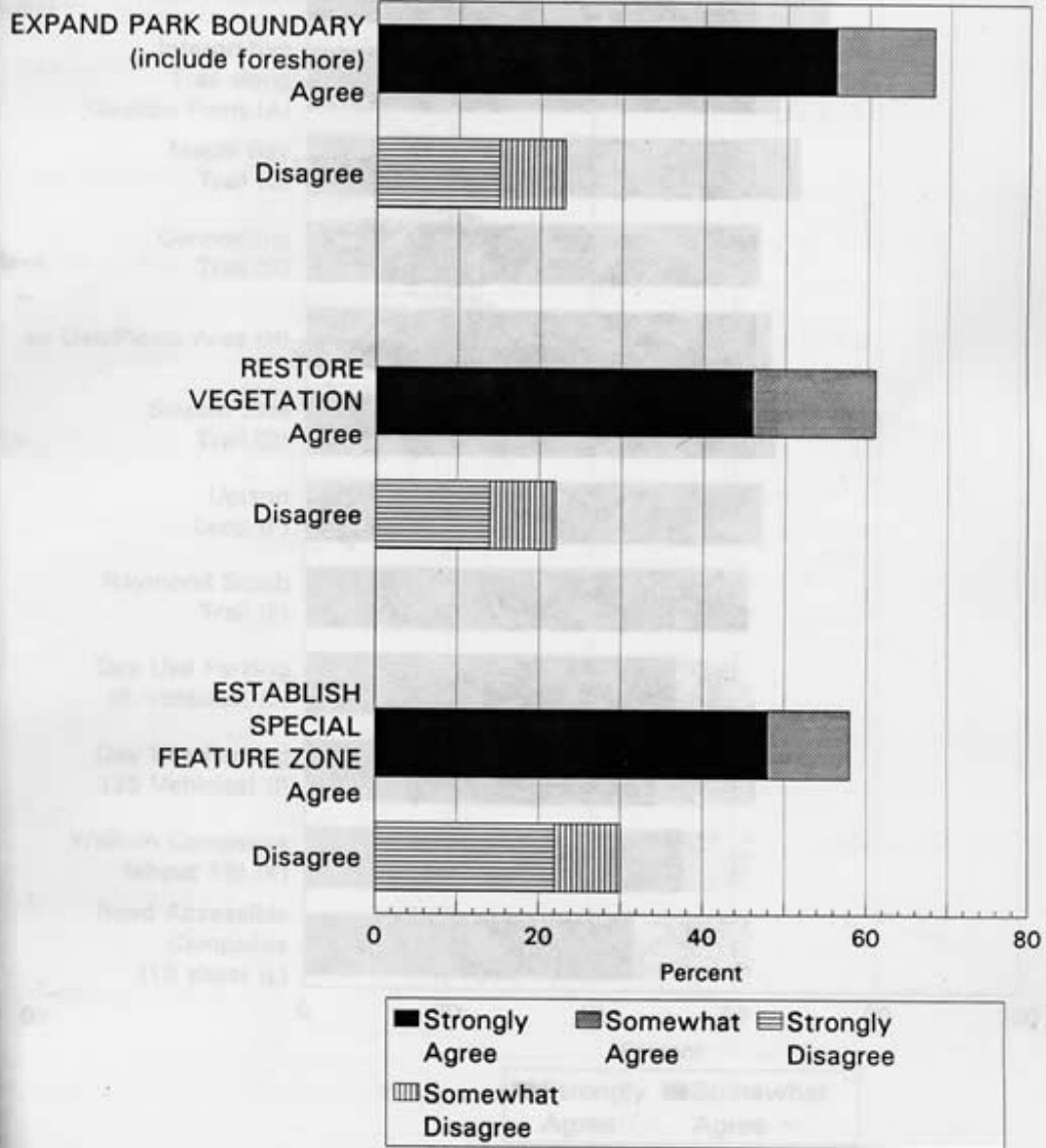
Q2. Attention Given to Protecting Archaeological Sites



Number of respondents = 153

- 46
1. Over the next few years, do you think BC Parks should give more, the same or less attention than it is now doing to protect the natural resources in this park?
 2. Over the next few years, do you think BC Parks should give more, the same or less attention than it is now doing to protect archaeological sites in this park?

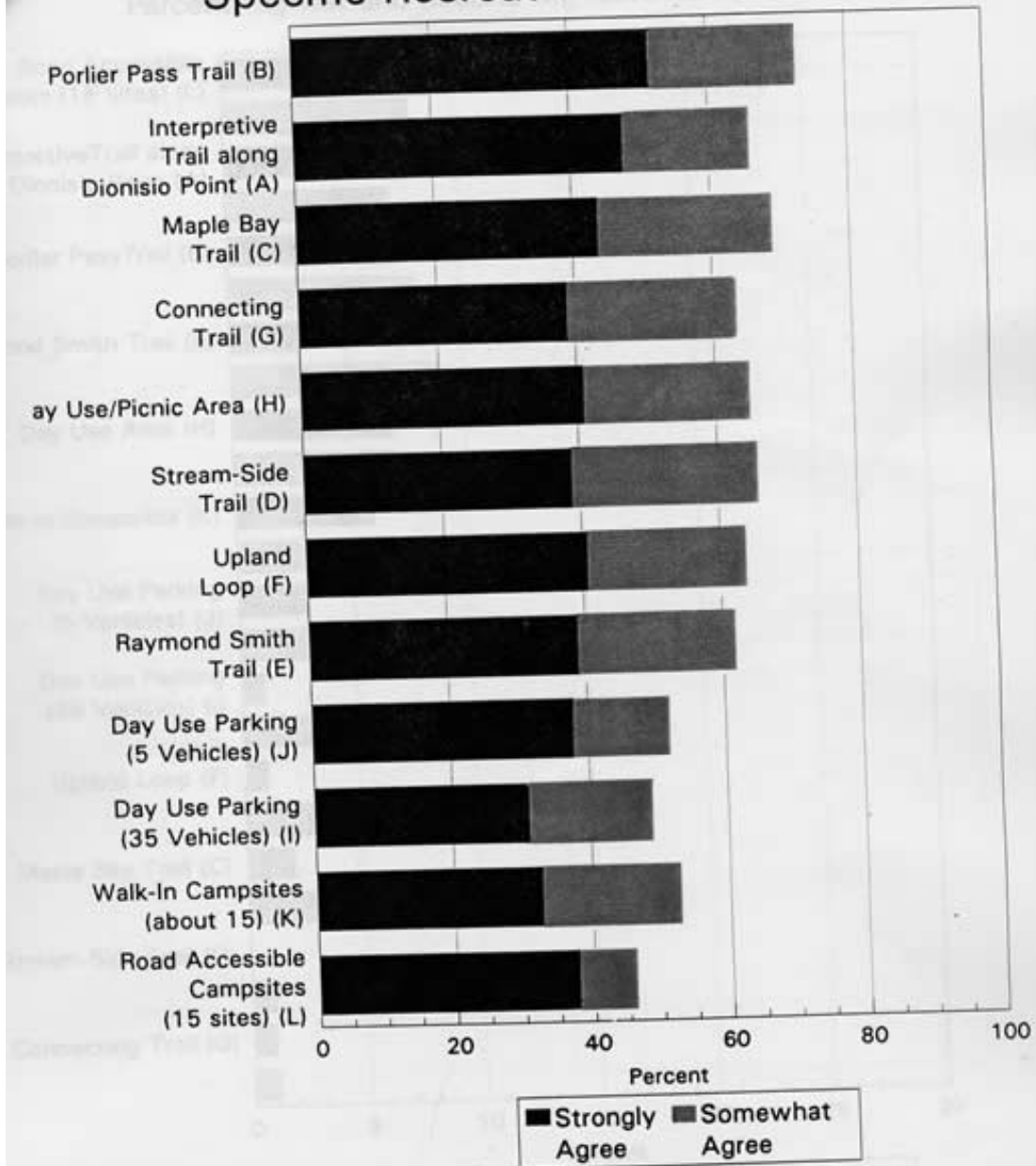
Q3. Views About Specific Resource Management Actions*



*Based on 153 respondents.

3. Please indicate the extent to which you would agree or disagree with each management action.

Q4. Views About Having Specific Recreation Facilities*



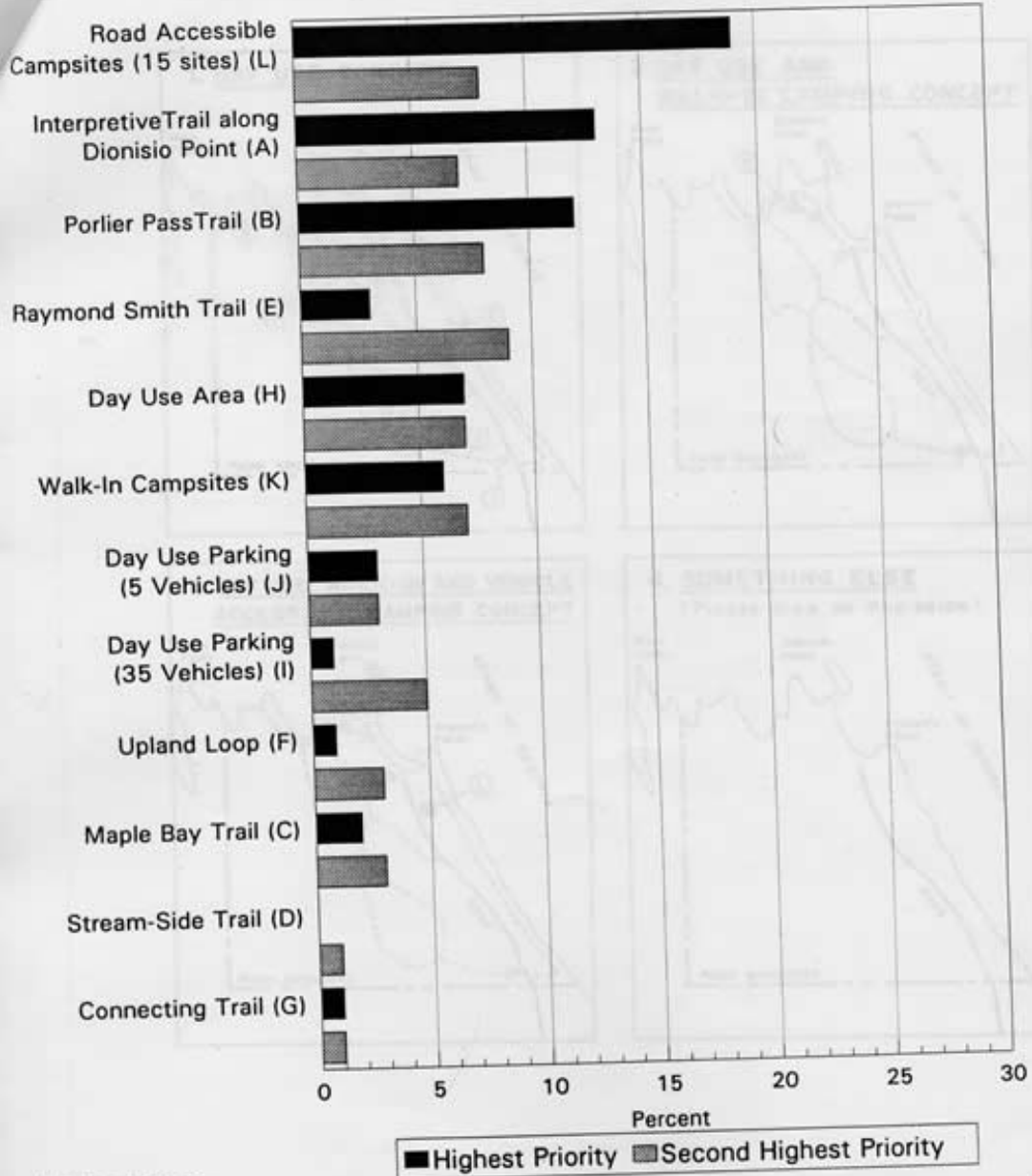
() Map Locator

*Based on 153 respondents

4. Please look at the concepts and then indicate the extent to which you would agree or disagree with having each of the following facilities in the park.

Q5. Priority of Specific Facilities

Percent Highest and Second Highest Priority

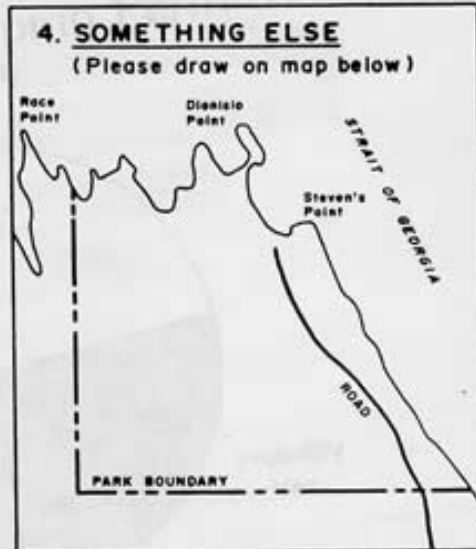
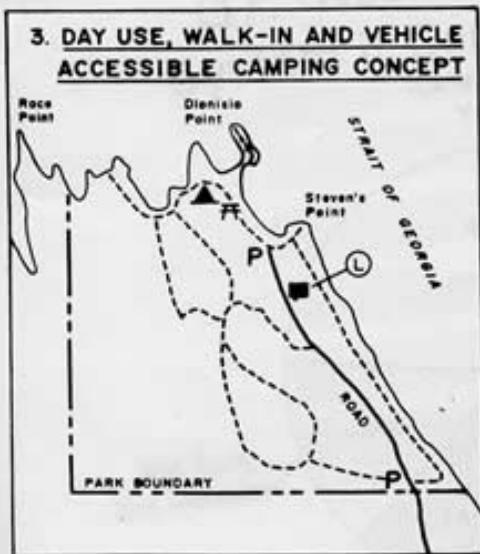
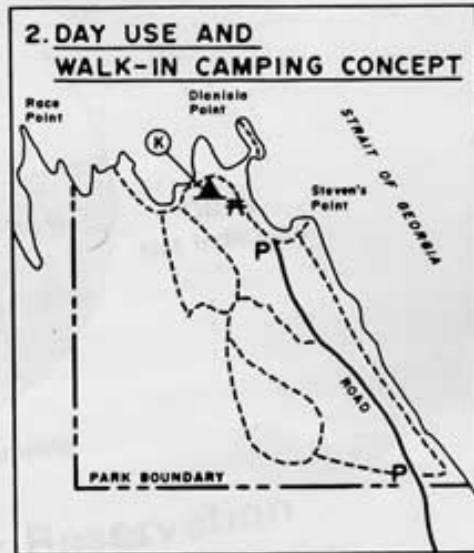
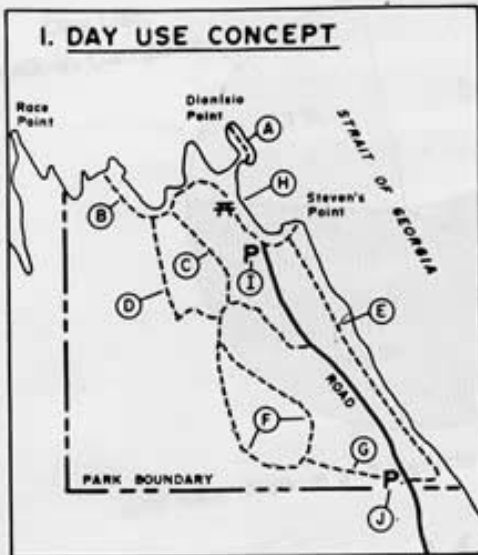


() Map Locator
Based on 153 respondents

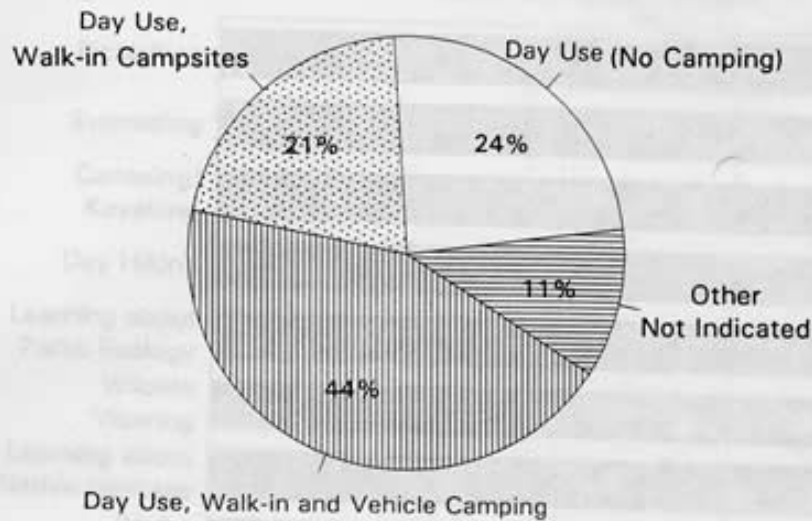
49

5. Which of the facilities do you think BC Parks should give the highest and second highest priority to in the next few years?

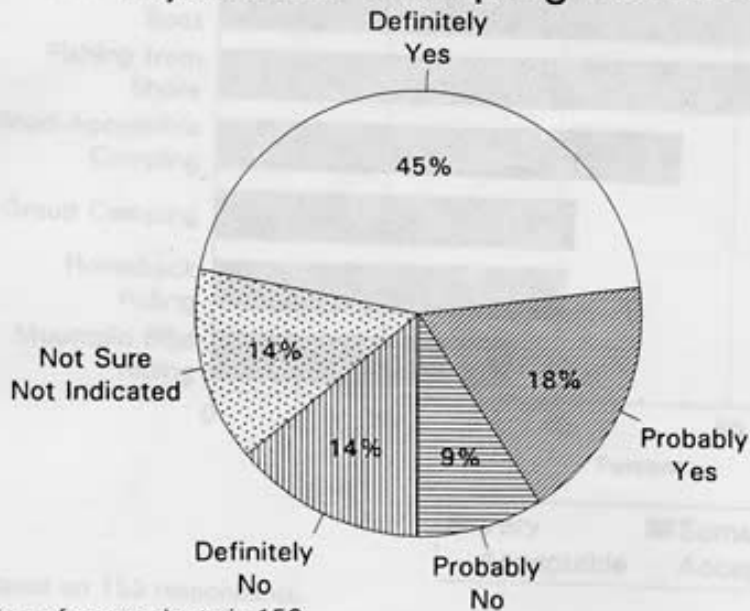
CONCEPTS PRESENTED IN QUESTIONNAIRE



Q6. Preference for Facility Development Concepts



Q7. Need for Reservation System if Camping Permitted

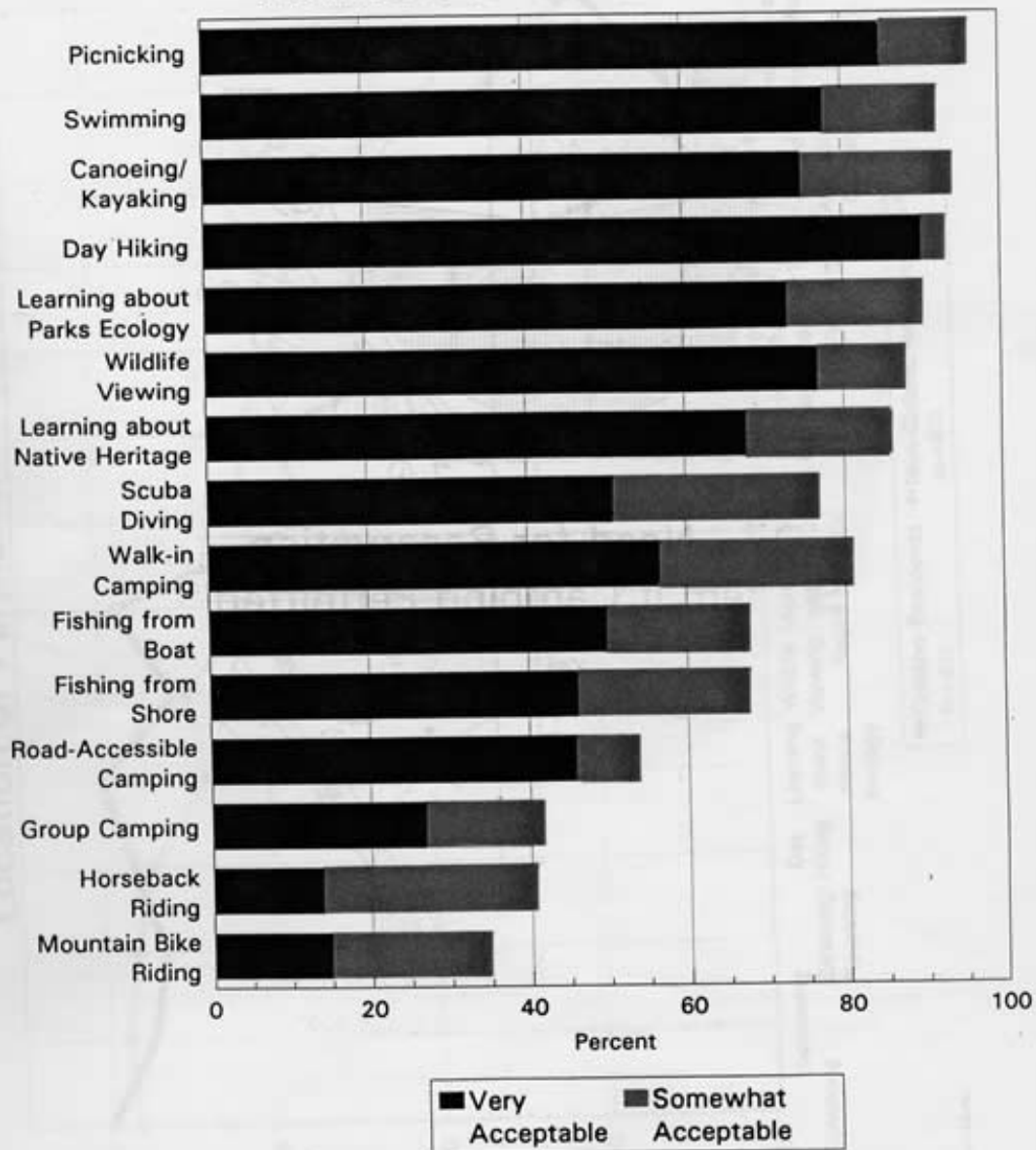


Number of respondents is 153

51

6. Overall, which of the following concepts of facility development would you most prefer for Dionisio Point Provincial Park in the next five years?
7. If camping was permitted in Dionisio Point Provincial Park, do you think it would be necessary to establish a reservation system for the use of the campsites?

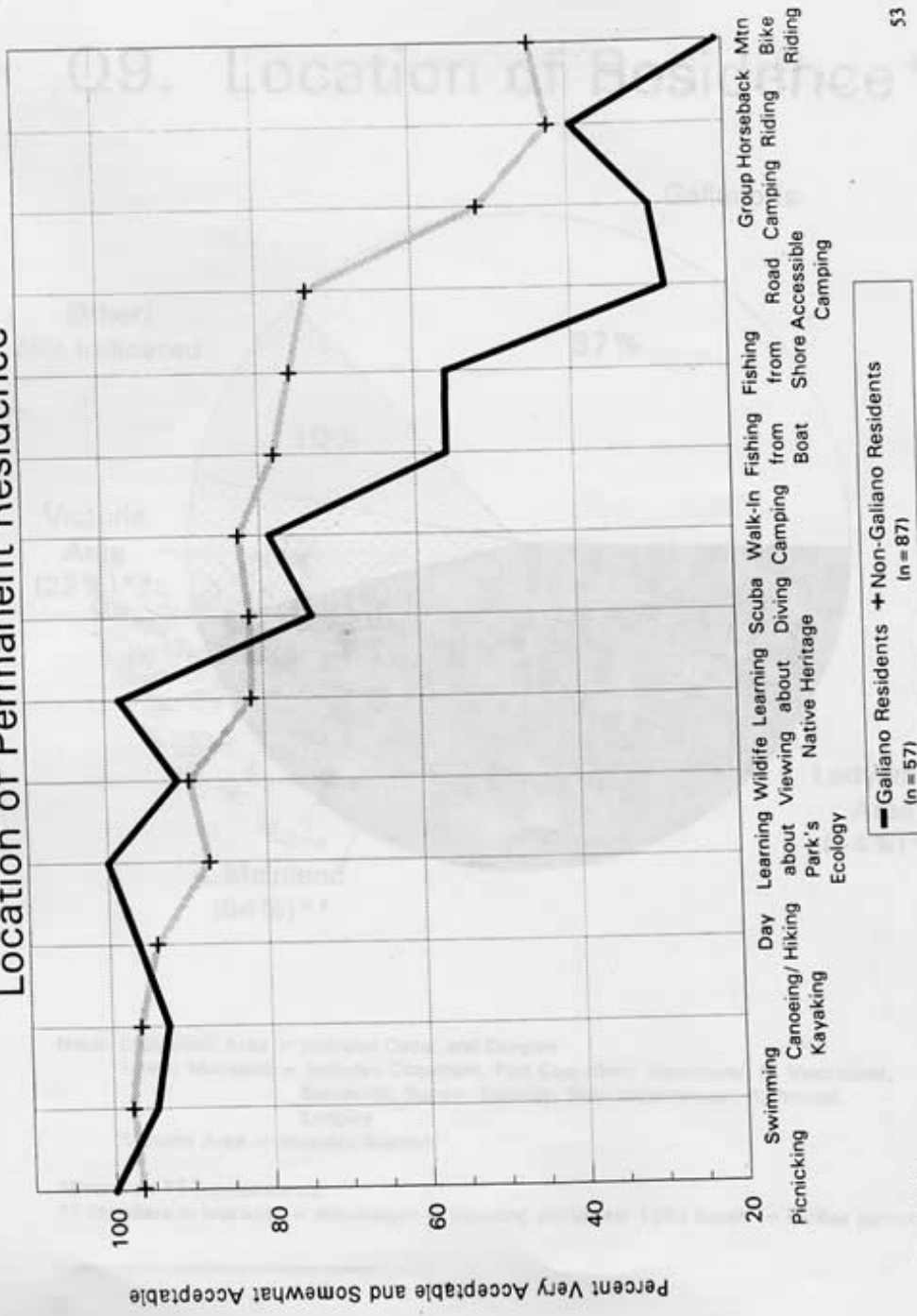
Q8. Acceptability of Recreation Activities in the Park*



*Based on 153 respondents.

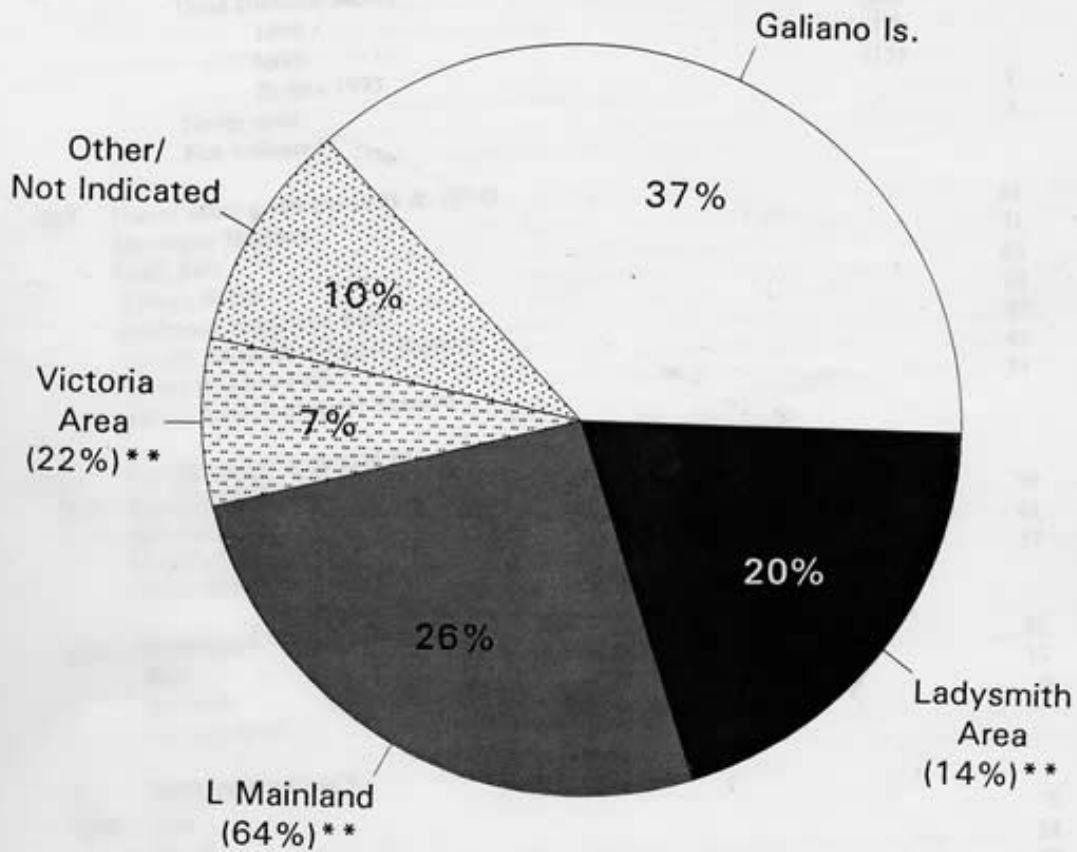
52 B. For each of the following recreation activities, please tell us if you think the activity would be very acceptable, somewhat acceptable or not at all acceptable in Dionisio Point Provincial Park.

Q8. Acceptability of Recreation Activities by Location of Permanent Residence



Dunedin 24.2.04

Q9. Location of Residence*



Note: Ladysmith Area = Includes Cedar and Duncan
Lower Mainland = Includes Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Vancouver, N. Vancouver, Squamish, Surrey, Burnaby, New Westminster, Richmond, Langley
Victoria Area = Includes Saanich

*Based on 153 respondents

** Numbers in brackets = Breakdown of camping parties for 1993 based on McBee permits

9. Where is your permanent residence located?

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

(Based on 153 respondents)

		Percent
A. PARK USE		
Q16.	Previous Use	
	Used Dionisio before:	96
	1994	(64)
	1993	(17)
	Before 1993	(15)
	Never used	1
	Not indicated	3
Q17.	Use of other parks (in 1993 & 1994)	
	Montague Harbour	81
	Bluff Park	71
	Bodega Ridge	65
	Bellhouse Provincial Park	63
	Galiano Island Ecological Reserve	47
	Mount Galiano Park	43
	Mount Sutil Ecological Reserve	31
B. FAMILIARITY WITH MASTER PLAN		
Q12.	Read Draft Master Plan	
	Summary	70
	Display Panel	61
	Draft Master Plan	57
Q13.	Understand "Intent" of Master Plan	
	Well	81
	Not well	12
	Not indicated	7
C. DEMOGRAPHICS		
Q10.	Age	
	18-24	5
	25-44	34
	45 - 64	43
	65 +	14
	Not indicated	4
Q11.	Gender	
	Female	55
	Male	40
	Not indicated	5
		55

Representative Comments

General

"I want to see Coon Bay strongly protected against development. There should be a large buffer area for the special feature zone. I'm in favour of educating about history and ecology but don't want to see signs placed on the landscape itself. All educational materials should be centralized and placed away from the "special feature zone". Signs of civilization destroy the experience of natural surroundings. That is why I would like to see Coon Bay left alone. BC Parks should take the role of protection in this case, and not feel that it has to organize people's experience of natural surroundings."

"There is nothing in this questionnaire that provides for impact analysis of park users on the community, its roads, its emergency services, and its waste handling capacity. It would appear that the parks department is still narrowly focused on facility development without consideration of the impact outside park boundaries."

"Please keep in mind that this park is not only unique and fragile, but that it is also located at the far end of an island. Galiano has only one main road, and it is already overcrowded in the summer months. Our fire fighting services are volunteer, our services and our potable water are limited, access is only by ferry and private boat. Thus, a reservation system is essential, and walk in camping, for those who wish to hike, bike, or kayak to this remote location (or walk in from the park's perimeter, if they have a reservation, or for the day only) is the only reasonable alternative to day use only. Under no circumstances should camping be allowed. Montague is available for that purpose and drivers can reach it in 1/2 hour from Dionisio. Bikers, hikers, and kayakers can't. I also urge you to listen to advisory committee, they have thought deeply about all the issues involved, and do represent a cross-section of Galiano and other users."

"Well done!! Keep it up! Galiano resident."

"The park is beautiful - and the way it has been used by the people of B.C. over the past years has made it a joyous and happy place. The happiness has left since it became a park. Please don't curtail it's use, like day use only - where people have an hour there, you cannot bond with the beauty and serenity in that short a time. Let the people of B. C. enjoy, and they will respect it's beauty."

"This park was made for the people of B. C., not only the island residents. It should be used to its full capacity for all to enjoy. I spend a week there each summer and enjoy my time there, so let it be as it is a place for all to enjoy."

"Since the given name of Dionisio Point Park reflects the Spanish background of the early European exploration of Galiano Island, I think there should be more emphasis placed on this fact. A hand carved relief sign depicting Galiano's ship "Sutil" and the park's name would be one way (in red cedar)."

Protection

"Dionisio Point is ecologically fragile and emphasis should be on nature and archaeological appreciation. Also the First Nation involved must control the archaeological sites, train proper interpretation or restriction on public access. In general I appreciate a designated park as a means of preservation I control if its not promoted as a destination resort."

"This area has survived, unmanaged camping for over 50 years and doesn't seem to have fared too badly in my view. The area has been carefully patrolled for fire prevention and garbage removal by the locals who return year after year without the intervention of outside influences."

"If you truly believe in your "role of the park" (Draft Master Plan) then you must limit Dionisio Point Park to day use only. "Place of contemplation, protecting & restoring, securing integrity, conserve, protect and enhance, minimize effects of park development & visitor activities. None of this is compatible with camping, even the best intentioned camping will, over the years, ruin the wilderness & uniqueness of Dionisio Point Park. Certainly there have been "campers" in one form or another at Coon Bay for centuries, but this is the 1990's and with the rapid & steady increase of population to this area places like Dionisio Point Park must be held sacred and not homogenized into yet another over run, worn out, sad memory. Either be true to your vision statement & have the intelligence to

follow through with it or change it."

Park Facilities

"I have been going to this spot since I was a small child. Many of my memories are going by boat or car to our summer vacation. Over my years, I have seen the changes in environment, regulations and the growth of families who want to pass on these "memories" to their children. I can understand things must change, but I cannot comprehend a day-walk-in only campground, as many families use this spot, that is a long day hike for kids not to mention grandma and grandpa. Please keep our memories alive in the future."

"We already have a camping (drive in access) campground/park at Montague harbour. We don't need another one on this small island. Keep this new one different for different people. For hikers/cyclists and day use only. That way it will get less misuse - stay nicer looking, and cheaper for the government to operate. Please also make some of the shoreline paths useable by wheelchairs. My wife is in a wheelchair and wants to be able to go there. She loves it!! Let's not make it only accessible to average ambulatory people."

" 1) Maintain historical use patterns, which have worked very well and are the reason people camp here. 2) Through intelligent and careful management, existing biological physical and cultural resources can be maintained. Excessive tax dollars to satisfy special interest lobby groups are not the way to go. 3) I have camped here for about 10 years and find the current trend to push campers out of the waterfront areas, and indeed out of the park very disturbing, and certainly not the way I want to see my tax dollars spent."

"I feel very strongly that trails should be narrow and not too condensed along the ocean views. Take some trails deeper into the forest so that no area becomes too walked on. Very important - as few small indicator signs as possible done in the most subtle way possible. IE: made out of wood not metal and paint. Existing "improvements" stand out like a sore thumb and are offensive to look at. Harmonize with nature, don't dominate it please. I love my island just the way it is and don't want to see it abused."

"The parking lot is very ugly, institutional, not in keeping with the surroundings. Should be better landscaped. Development should be minimum. Information should be available on brochures, not so much on signs along trails. The area should be treated more as a wilderness park, not as a recreational haven with elaborately developed and marked trails."

"Tactics that limit overuse of the park must be used. Camping should be limited, as should large groups such as graduating class celebrants which do a horrifying amount of damage. I can't tell you how big an area of trampled flowers and littered beaches we've sadly noticed after these large groups have departed. Surely there's some way to stop this destructive influx of group campers."

"Please, walk in camping only. RV's and cars ruin the tranquillity. So do parking lots all over the place. This place is incredibly beautiful and should be treated with the utmost respect. We should make it absolutely clear to visitors that this is a special place for quiet enjoyment (no radios!!). Please! these wild and natural places are disappearing so fast we need it preserved and protected. Thanks."

Recreation

"I have over the years enjoyed fishing--the only recreation I have at the moment and you have taken that away from Coon Bay. You also say that small boats have to be carried down to the water. Have you ever tried to carry a 12' boat on your back? Do not take the fishing away from the point. This has been a traditional fishing beach. Do not cause any more hardship to people like myself. I agree to regulations such as we had in the past. Respect the point for what it offers. Don't litter, conserve water and take your garbage out when you leave. Let's be fair to everyone, not to a select few."

" 1) Have to have sites for kayaking, close to water, or a spot to secure kayak at night.

2) Make the smaller sites roomy. Maintain the usual provincial park privacy between sites. Don't cram people in.

- 3) Keep parking lot where it is.
- 4) Develop hiking trails. No horses or mountain bikes. Park too small.
- 5) Keep the park "rugged". Special thing is about park is the low key, undeveloped feel. Don't develop like Montague."

Winter 92/93

General

"Encouraging a large number of visitors on a daily or weekly basis would have the effect of increasing, although temporarily, the population of Galiano on a disproportionate basis with the various environmental and social concerns that go with an influx of people who do not have a stake in the community. Accordingly, the planning process must be oriented towards the best interests of the community in which the Park is located."

"People should seriously consider the time it will take for injured people to be transported from the new park. It is imperative that people realize that it is a remote location in terms of ambulance service. It is also imperative that everything possible be done to facilitate emergency response. For example, construction of a proper lighted helipad with clear access from air and land would enable us to get patients with life threatening injuries to hospital in half the time. A separate, gated access road for emergency vehicles might alleviate traffic problems. A restricted number of campsites would also help."

"Our properties, including the ones that are rented, are really small parks in themselves, and that the two provincial parks should be primarily for the use of tourists to the island."

"Island residents should be encouraged to volunteer their time to help in the running of the park, educational programs, park maintenance, fire patrol, etc."

"An efficient system should be set up with B.C. Ferries to alert potential park users when the park is full before they board the ferry, similar to the present system for Montague Harbour Park."

Public Participation

"Because your Department has been making effort to solicit users' opinions at the Park, and is holding public meetings to solicit Galiano residents viewpoints, I am satisfied that the Park's development will continue to proceed as it should."

"Island residents should be involved as much as possible in all aspects of the planning of the development of Dionisio Point Park."

"Ongoing consultation with interested parties."

"Camping and use by off islanders acceptable providing islanders concerns are taken into account."

Protection

"Dionisio Point has retained its beauty because access has been limited. We feel strongly that the park should be designated for conservation, rather than developed as a 'destination recreation' area...Galiano already has one 'destination recreation' park at Montague Harbour...We feel strongly that Dionisio Point should be a different kind of park than Montague."

"We believe the archaeologically significant sites should be preserved...We believe that environmentally sensitive areas of the park should also be preserved."

Education

"As a conservationist, the public's education, even above the public's recreation, would be my priority for the park."

"An educational program of lectures and nature walks could be set up for the summer "high use" time."

Access

"Strongly suggest access route on previous MB road on east side of island. Pull back campground from water front."

"I would prefer that the existing access to Coon Bay be maintained."

"I believe that Dionisio Point Park, which offers a shallow sandy waterfront, would be most attractive to families with children if the road to it were paved...A family-type clientele is a tempering influence at this out-of-the-way location. As you no doubt know, the area has been thought of as being 'beautiful but dangerous' in the past."

"Road improvement would result in much quicker travel to the Island's medical clinic."

"ACCESS - No significant improvement to road access (such as paving)."

"MARINE ACCESS - None, other than small boats landing on beach, just as its always been."

"Access. The present access off Cook Road should be upgraded to an all-weather, single lane, gravel road with turn-out areas for passing. Directional sign at the Cook Road, Porlier Pass Road turn off, should be enlarged and should include the words "Coon Bay" to avoid the confusion in the minds of some over the name of the Park."

Park Facilities

"I would like to see as much of the park as possible be designated a Wilderness (Walk-in) Area. This would provide a fine balance with Montague Park which is mainly automobile oriented."

"The 'Bay' and 'Lagoon' be maintained in its present state with limited accommodation for camping."

"No vehicles! Cars stopped at existing entrance - parking lot and campground to be located at beach beside entrance. Rest of Park - Hiking trails and walk-in campsites only."

"A boat ramp (like the one at Montague Park) be installed at the north end of Galiano Island, preferably within the boundaries of the new park."

"In my opinion, more people would be better served with much less expense if Dionisio Point Provincial Park were utilized as a walk-in Nature Park with resources being directed to educational programs within the park."

"I've always experienced Coon Bay as a 'wild' place -- that is, it takes a long time to drive there, the roads are difficult, and one can always be certain (except at peak summer weekends) to have peace and quiet there...This is the kind of recreation -- that is, recreation of the spirit -- that Coon Bay has uniquely to offer, and this is what I want to honour and protect. I therefore strongly oppose the development of campsites at Coon Bay. Galiano is a very small island and can barely sustain one provincial campground without great damage, abuse and road hazards."

"I was delighted that BC parks immediately installed washroom facilities, fire protection, and a host at Dionisio Point."

"Improvements, such as additional campsites and the well, seem to be coming along regularly. Congratulations for a good start!"

"Because this park is at the extreme north end of a long, narrow island, its use will impact on almost every area of Galiano and for this reason any development should be slow and phased in over a number of years. In this way impact would be minimized and local residents and the general public would have time to get used to the inevitable changes that will take place. "

"We feel that as more and more visitors, tourists and campers come to the island, they will need good and practical accommodations to handle their needs, including the expanded facilities that the new park will provide. The Montague Park is already filled to capacity during the summer months. As the number of campers increase they need some place to go. We certainly don't want them camping on private property, lighting campfires, etc., particularly in the forested areas, which now have minimum, or no supervision...Our suggestions at this point in time

are as follows:

-Provisions should be made to receive people in both automobiles and R.V. Campers, as well as on bicycles, on foot or by sea.

-The type of people the park will be, and should be, required to handle are, local picnickers, day-trippers from off island, backpackers on foot and on bicycles, and R.V. campers, as well as people from the sea.

-Since the park contains some 355 acres, we suggest that four separate areas be provided, which would be located off the beach but near the beach, one for picnickers, one for R.V. Campers, one for tenters and one for back-packers, etc. These areas could be fairly widely distributed, so as to cut down on congestion.

Initially, we suggest that some 35 to 50 campsites be provided, with provision for reasonable expansion in the future as needed.

-We suggest that proper and good facilities be provided in the approved areas for camp fires for cooking, lavatories, or ablution rooms, and places to collect garbage.

-We also suggest that some form of reservations be provided, for about one-half of the campsites.

-Fines should also be levied, either by the camp attendant or the local police officer, for those people who don't clean up their garbage, or who do not leave the campsites as they found them when they came to the park.:"

"I very strongly feel that it can be used to best advantage as a 'walk-in' park---to preserve the tranquility, which will become increasingly of greater value as world population increases. The campers at Montague Park would also be able to enjoy a 'retreat', a pleasant change of pace."

"Fifty units should be the limit - the beach areas cannot accommodate more, plus all the day users. The camp area should be well away from all beach and headland areas with access from the back area near the present parking lot and with a separate walk in section for cyclists and hikers.

Picnic areas at both beaches (pebble and sand) and no car access at all beyond the parking area (present one enlarged). Boat launching at pebble beach only. Picnic tables placed singly and not in rows and provided with barbecue stands. Units at the campsite in the best B.C. tradition, privacy, fireplace and varnished table. Large trailers and motor homes to be discouraged."

Autumn 1992

"The single act of designating park status a year ago has changed recreational traffic volume, expectations and use. Any park development will have tremendous effects on our future community. Concerns expressed already by our membership range widely, including taxation, increased traffic congestion and noise, local environmental management, protection afforded sites of archaeological and cultural significance, general urbanization of Galiano Island and general alarm about park development which has already proceeded without addressing issues vital to this island."

"BC Parks may develop all the input from the interested group, but it must deal with the Hul'qumi'num people, for we have a unique interest in the lands and resources within our traditional territory arising out of our traditional use and occupancy of same."

Spring 1992

"It is essential that camping not be allowed on the sensitive areas. The Benn Report gives a very high priority to protection and preservation of this area because of its carpet of wild flowers, its geological formations and its Heritage sites."

"Because you expressed a desire to protect the area, and promised a public process in your planning, this community had great hopes that finally this area would receive some protection and restoration. We sincerely hope you have not forgotten your promise to this community. We look forward to hearing from you very soon."

Winter 1991

"If Coon Bay is to be established as a provincial park, we request your assurance that the Galiano Island community and the Island Trust be involved in its planning and subsequent development and usage. Aside from the obvious questions regarding protection of cultural heritage and natural features, the type of access and accommodation facilities will have implications for our community ...The type, placement, and rate of development of accommodation facilities are items on which we would wish to input in order that planning for resultant changes can be undertaken."

"We would strongly recommend that our community be allowed to make input and recommendations on the form such a park might take, in order that the ecological and archaeological integrity of this fragile site may be truly protected, and that the sociological impact of the development on our island of Galiano be addressed in a sensitive way."

"I suggest the best we can do is consider protection of the site first and public access second. Any public access should, in my opinion, be on foot, with parking pulled very well back from the sensitive (archaeological) areas."

"... We have more parks on our small island than anywhere else in BC, I'm sure. Bluff Park..., Bellhouse Park and Montague Park are all delightful, and more than adequate for this wee island."

"Protection under the Park Act will be a great relief to those who have quietly striven to keep the site from being damaged, and have tried to keep it clean between March and November. Some the school children have helped with clean-up as a community project."

"Shortly after the opening of the park I drove to the north end of the Island with my family and was amazed to find what in effect was the trailer park. Only one of the trailers was occupied at the time and the various other trailers (at least a dozen) were permanent set ups with propane tanks, umbrellas, up on blocks, etc...Firstly, the location where they are set up is the finest point of the park which projects into Porlier Pass. Surely there should be no camping permitted on this point and if so, a limit of one or two days."

DIONISIO POINT PROVINCIAL PARK

BACKGROUND REPORT

March 1994



**South Coast Region
North Vancouver, BC**

I Introduction

Dionisio Point Provincial Park is situated on the north-eastern tip of Galiano Island, one of the southern Gulf Islands between the mainland and Vancouver Island (Figure 1). This Class “A” Provincial Park was established by Order-in-Council #1055 in 1991 and covers an area of 142 hectares (Figure 2).

Dionisio Point is named after Commander Dionisio Alcala Galiano, an officer in the Spanish navy who charted parts of the British Columbia coast in 1792 aboard the exploration ship ‘*Sutil*’ (Wolferstan, 1976).

The area has a long history of use by aboriginal people. Evidence of traditional uses are found within Dionisio Point Park in the form of middens, house platforms and a burial site.

Dionisio Point has been continually recognized for its park potential by BC Parks and the local community since the 1960’s. The dedication of Galiano Island community was instrumental in ensuring the area was protected. In 1991 Dionisio Point Provincial Park was established through the provincial acquisition of two upland lots and MacMillan Bloedel’s donation of two waterfront lots to the Province.

As a legal requirement of the purchase and donation, a plaque acknowledging Raymond Smith, Chairman of the Board, MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., will be erected in the park. In addition, a feature or area within the park will be named after him.

The park is one of the four provincially protected areas on Galiano Island, including Montague Harbour and Bellhouse provincial parks, Galiano Island Ecological Reserve. Mount Galiano, the Bluffs and Mount Sutil Ecological Reserve are held in trust and managed by the Galiano Club as protected areas. Community initiatives are underway for the protection of Bodega Ridge. Dionisio Point Park is locally known as Coon Bay, and has been historically visited by island residents and guests. The park is accessible by a narrow, winding road and by water. Dionisio Point Park is characterized by its sand and pebble beaches, sculpted sandstone headlands, wild flowers and forest communities. The fish and marine life in the turbulent waters of Porlier Pass attract wildlife and people. Numerous bird species, for example, come for the rich food supply in the tidal lagoon and Porlier Pass. In addition, the proximity to fishing has made this area a popular stop for local fishermen and recreational boaters.

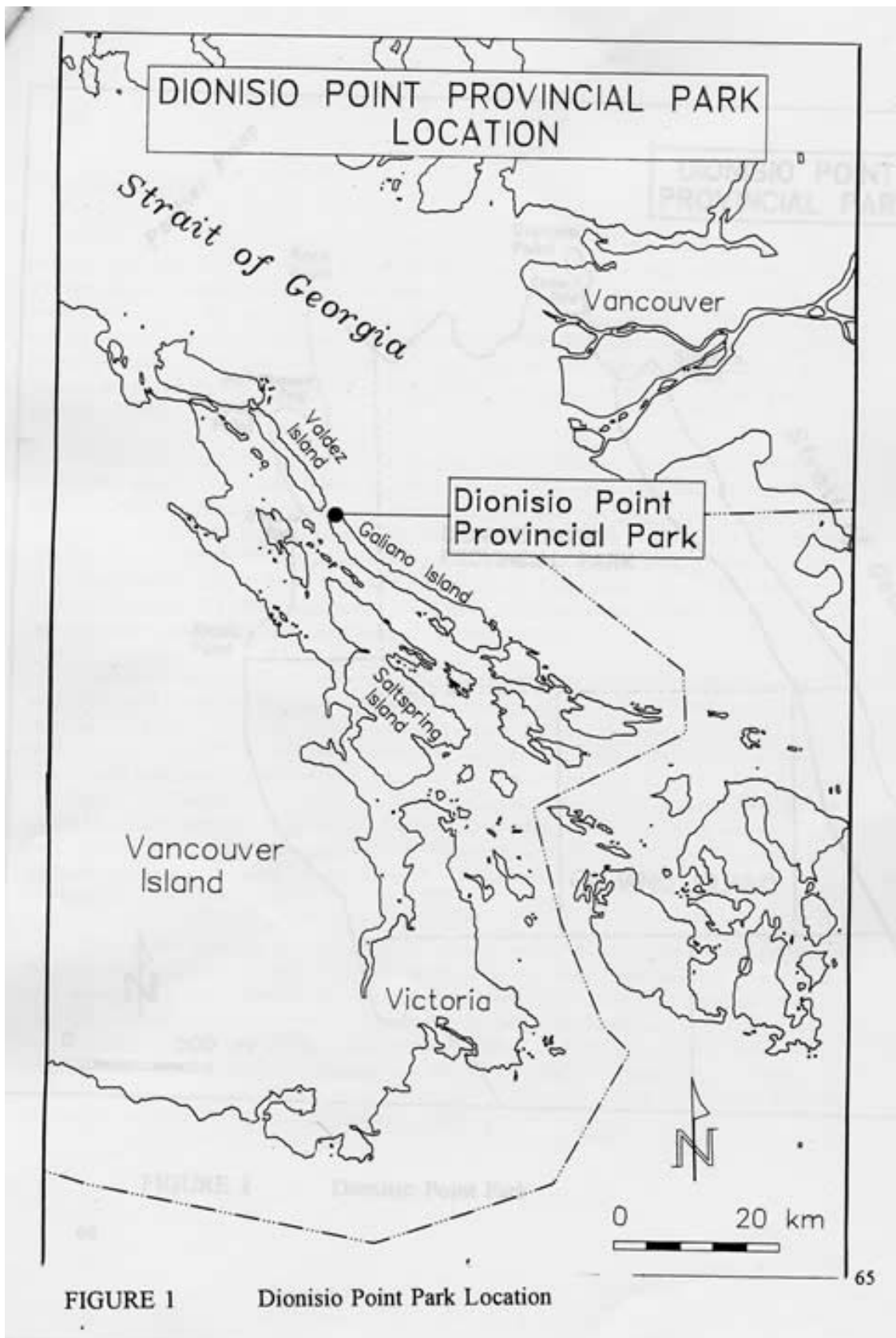


FIGURE 1 Dionisio Point Park Location

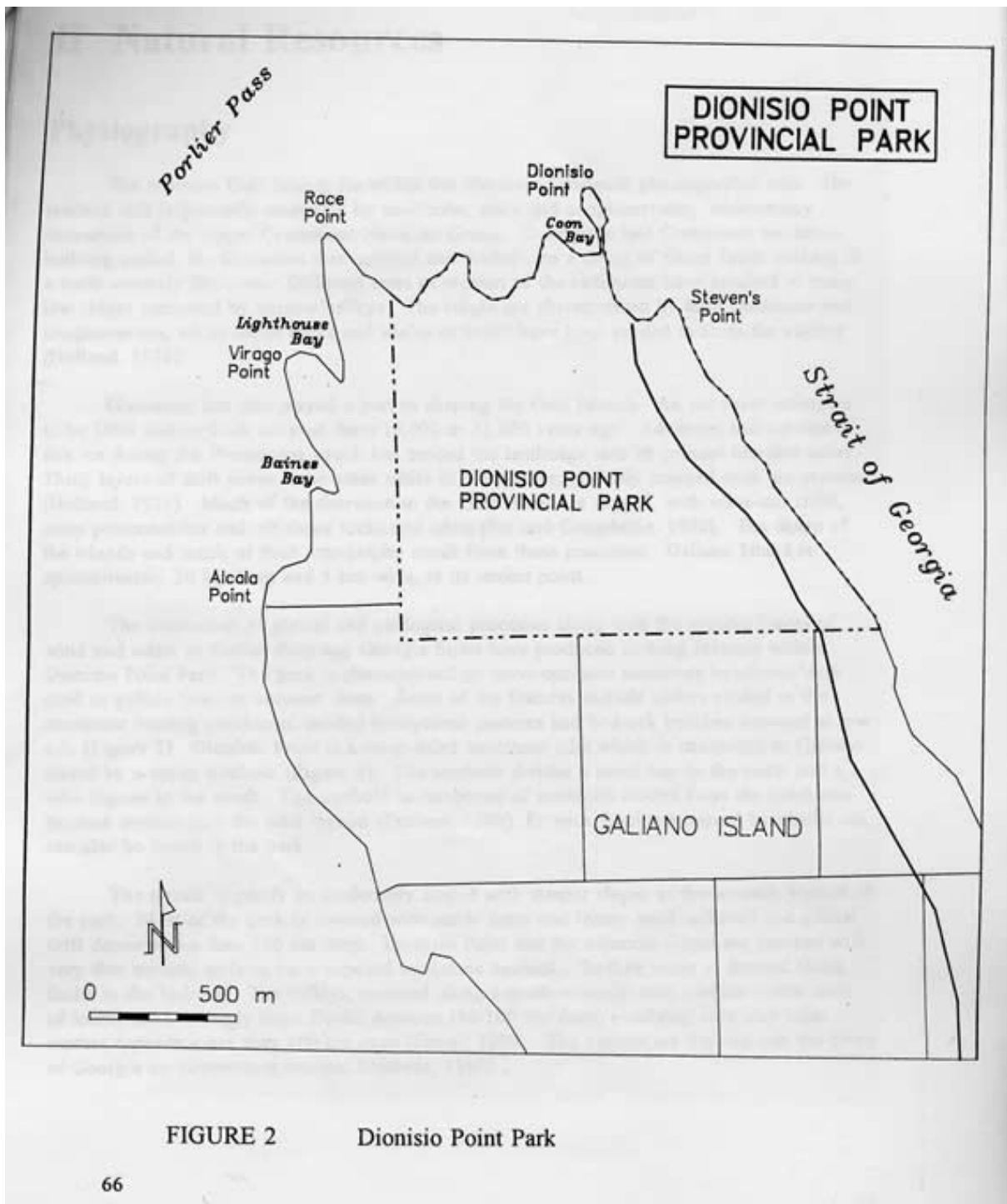


FIGURE 2 Dionisio Point Park

II Natural Resources

Physiography

The southern Gulf Islands lie within the Nanaimo Lowlands physiographic unit. The lowland unit is generally underlain by sandstone, shale and conglomerates, sedimentary formations of the Upper Cretaceous Nanaimo Group. During the late Cretaceous mountain building period, the formation was uplifted and folded into a series of thrust faults striking in a north-westerly direction. Different rates of erosion of the sediments have resulted in many low ridges separated by narrow valleys. The ridges are characterized by hard sandstone and conglomerates, while softer rocks and shales or faults have been eroded to form the valleys (Holland, 1976).

Glaciation has also played a part in shaping the Gulf Islands. An ice sheet estimated to be 1000 metres thick covered them 10,000 to 15,000 years ago. Advances and retreats of this ice during the Pleistocene epoch has eroded the landscape into its present rounded relief. Thick layers of drift cover some areas while in other areas, glacially scoured rock are exposed (Holland, 1976). Much of the shoreline in the Gulf Islands is rugged, with wave-cut cliffs, steep promontories and off-shore rocks and islets (Eis and Craigdallie, 1980). The shape of the islands and much of their topography result from these processes. Galiano Island is approximately 30 km long and 3 km wide, at its widest point.

The interaction of glacial and geobgical processes along with the erosive forces of wind and water in Porlier Pass and Georgia Strait have produced striking features within Dionisio Point Park. The park is characterized by wave-sculpted sandstone headlands with sand or pebble beaches between them. Some of the features include niches eroded in the sandstone leaving overhangs, eroded honeycomb patterns and bedrock benches exposed at low tide (Figure 3). Dionisio Point is a steep-sided sandstone islet which is connected to Galiano Island by a sandy tombolo (Figure 4). The tombolo divides a small bay to the north and a tidal lagoon to the south. The tombolo is composed of materials eroded from the sandstone bedrock surrounding the tidal lagoon (Pattison, 1980). Erratics, boulders moved by glacial ice, can also be found in the park.

The terrain is gently to moderately sloped with steeper slopes in the western portion of the park. Most of the park is covered with sandy loam and loamy sand colluvial and glacial drift deposits less than 100 cm deep. Dionisio Point and the adjacent ridges are covered with very thin mineral soils or have exposed sandstone bedrock. Surface water is drained along faults in the bedrock. The valleys, oriented along a north-westerly axis, contain wetter soils of loamy sand to sandy loam fluvial deposits (30-100 cm deep) overlying silty clay loam marine deposits more than 100 cm deep (Green, 1989). The valleys are drained into the Strait of Georgia by intermittent streams (Pattison, 1980).



FIGURE 3 Wave sculpted sandstone

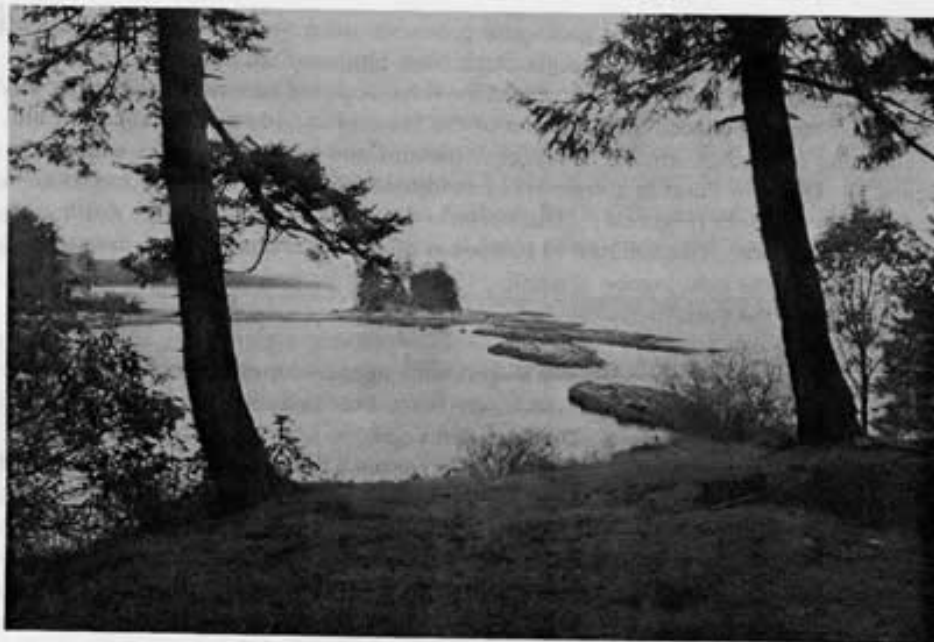


FIGURE 4 Dionisio Point and tombolo

Climate

Lying in the rainshadow of Vancouver Island and the Olympic mountains, Dionisio Point Park is situated in the moist maritime subzone of the Coastal Douglas-Fir Biogeoclimatic Zone (CDFmm). The climate has been described as Mediterranean, with summers that are drier and warmer, and with a higher number of sunshine hours than the rest of the BC coast (Chilton, 1981).

Weather information for the area is listed in climate normals, (estimated mean from 1951-1980). Air temperatures range from 15.6 to 17.8 degrees Celsius (C) in July and 1.7 to 3.9 degrees C in January. One of the sunniest places in Canada, the area averages 1800 to 2000 hours of sunshine per year. Between May and August, the average amount of sunshine is 240 hours per month. Total precipitation is low, averaging 856 mm per year, with 80% falling between October and April (Environment Canada, 1982). Domestic water is drawn from faults and fractures in the bedrock, however, seasonal soil moisture deficits result from the low level of summer precipitation. Aquifers are recharged with the return of heavier precipitation in the autumn.

Dionisio Point Park is generally sheltered from strong south-easterly winter winds, however, there is a high degree of exposure to north-westerly winds. This has implications for people visiting the park by boat. Only temporary anchorage is advisable.

Wildlife

There is a diversity of wildlife in and near the park. The strong tidal waters of Porlier Pass and proximity to the Strait of Georgia combine to create a prime feeding area for marine life. The surrounding rich waters contain, at various times of the year, five species of salmon (*Oncorhynchus spp.*), Lingcod (*Ophiodon elongatus*), halibut, flounder, herring, and numerous other species of fish. Marine mammals such as Harbour Seals (*Phoca vitulina*), California Sea Lions (*Zalophus californianus*), River Otters (*Lontra canadensis*) and Killer Whales (*Orcinus orca*) can be observed from the park.

In the intertidal zone there are numerous bivalve molluscs, including clams, oysters, mussels; univalve molluscs such as snails and limpets; crabs, sea stars, sea anemones, sea urchins, sea cucumbers and numerous species of marine algae.

The Gulf Islands lie within the Pacific Flyway, a major waterfowl migration route. It is estimated that 2 million waterfowl use the flyway as well as tens of thousands of other birds (shore birds in particular) (Benn, 1975). Drawn to the rich feeding areas in Porlier Pass and in the tidal lagoon, numerous bird species have been observed in and around the park. Glaucous-winged Gulls (*Larus glaucescens*), Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*), cormorants (*Phalacrocorax spp.*), grebes and raptors such as Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) are a few examples of the species that can be seen in significant numbers (Figure 5). (For a complete list, see Appendix 1.)

Inventories have not been conducted for land-based vertebrates and invertebrates within the Dionisio Point Park. Some of the larger mammals that have been seen in the park include: Black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), Mink (*Mustela vison*) and Red Squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*).

Vegetation

The shallow and rapidly drained soils found on the park's headlands and on Dionisio Point support open forests of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*) and Arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*) (Figure 6). The ground cover includes numerous mosses, grasses and wild flowers. Vegetation units are outlined in Figure 7.

Further inland and in the relatively moist valley bottoms the forest is comprised of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Western Redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), Western Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*), Grand fir (*Abies grandis*), Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*), Big-leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), Douglas Maple (*Acer glabrum*) and Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*).

Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), Swordfern (*Polystichum munitum*), Oregon grape (*Mahonia spp.*), Ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), Miner's lettuce (*Montia perfoliata*), and numerous grasses, ferns and mosses are included within the understory.

Wild flower meadows occur on the dry headlands and on Dionisio Point. Contributing to the floral display are the Chocolate lily (*Fritillaria lanceolata*); Blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia grandiflora*); Sea Blush, (*Pectritis congesta*); and Yarrow, (*Achillea millefolium*).

A number of wild flowers and herbs in the park are classified as rare or vulnerable. Some of the rare species identified are: Slimleaf Onion, (*Allium amplexans*); Meadow Nemophila, (*Nemophila pendunculata*). Sensitive or vulnerable species include: Great Camas (*Camassia leichtlinii*); Henderson's Shootingstar (*Dodecatheon hendersonii*); White Fawn Lily (*Erythronium oregonum*), Hairy Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*); Blinks (*Montia fontana*); Dwarf Owl-clover (*Orthocarpus pusillus*); Slender Plantain (*Plantago elongata*); Few-flowered Clover (*Trifolium oliganthum*); Tomcat Clover (*Trifolium tridentatum*); White-tipped Clover (*Trifolium variegatum*), and Fool's-onion (*Triteleia hyacinthina*) (Roemer, 1993).



FIGURE 5 Black Oystercatcher



FIGURE 6 Douglas-fir and Arbutus

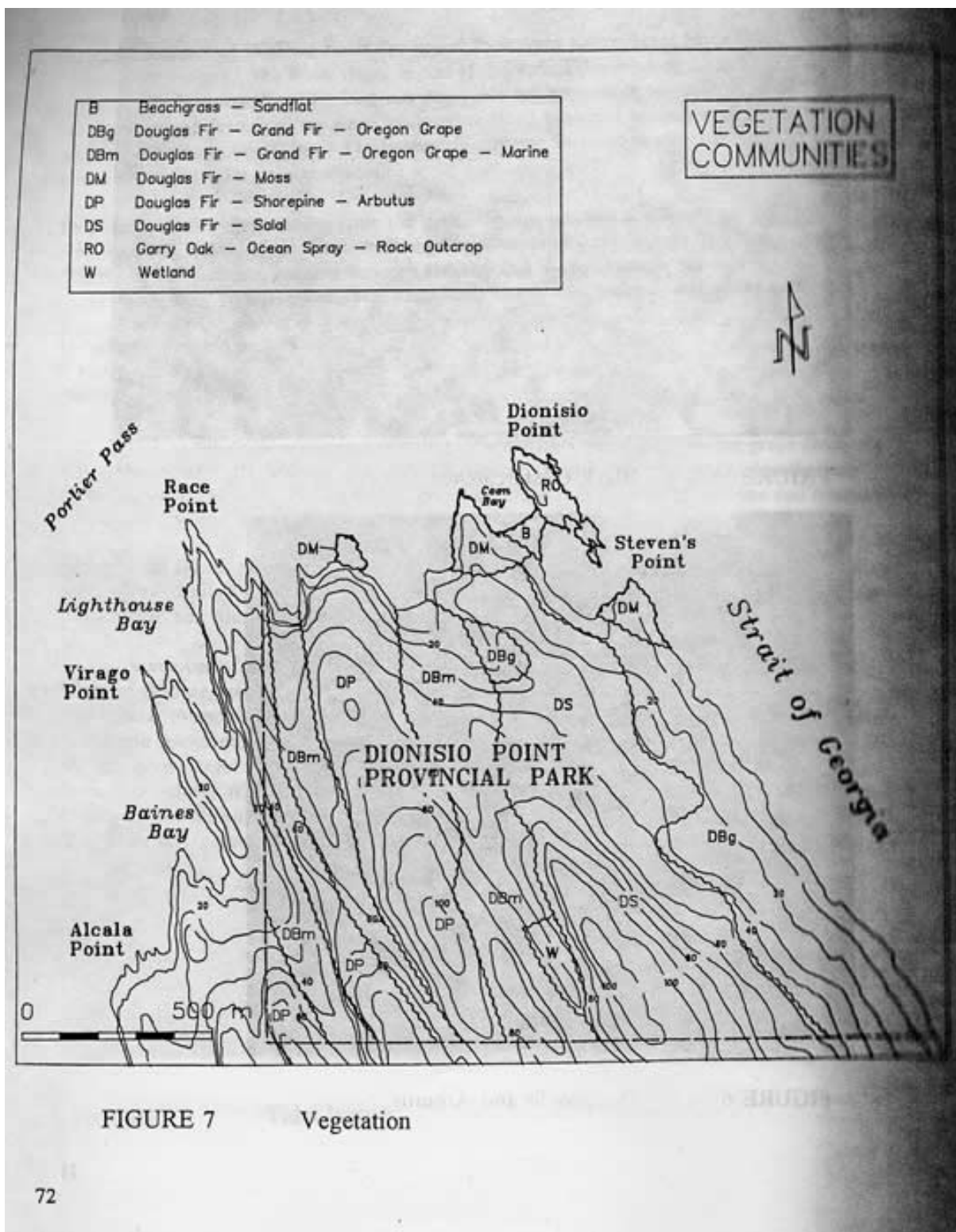


FIGURE 7 Vegetation

Visual Features

The scenic features of Dionisio Point Park form a significant part of the overall attraction for visitors. The main visual appeal is the varied shoreline of the park and surrounding area. As mentioned earlier, Dionisio Point and the connecting tombolo combine to form the most striking feature of the park, while other small bays and accompanying beaches are also very interesting (Figure 8). Several fascinating formations of wave-cut sandstone rock are visible along the coastline.

There are dramatic views visible from the park. To the east and south east are the Coast Mountains. Mt. Baker, of the Cascade Ranges is often prominent (Figure 9). The turbulent waters of Porlier Pass, situated between Galiano and Valdez Islands, provide excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. The Race Point lighthouse, located west of the park is a highlight of the marine setting (Figure 10).

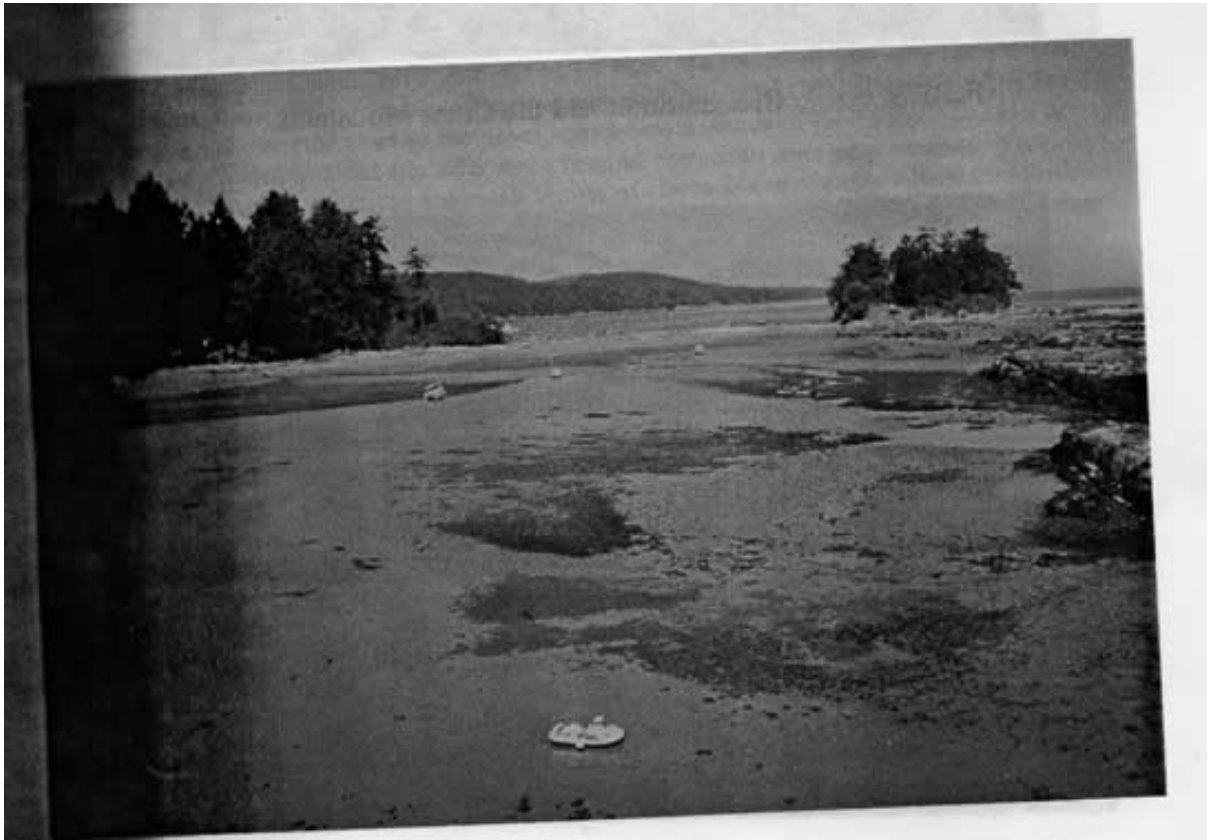


FIGURE 8 Tidal lagoon

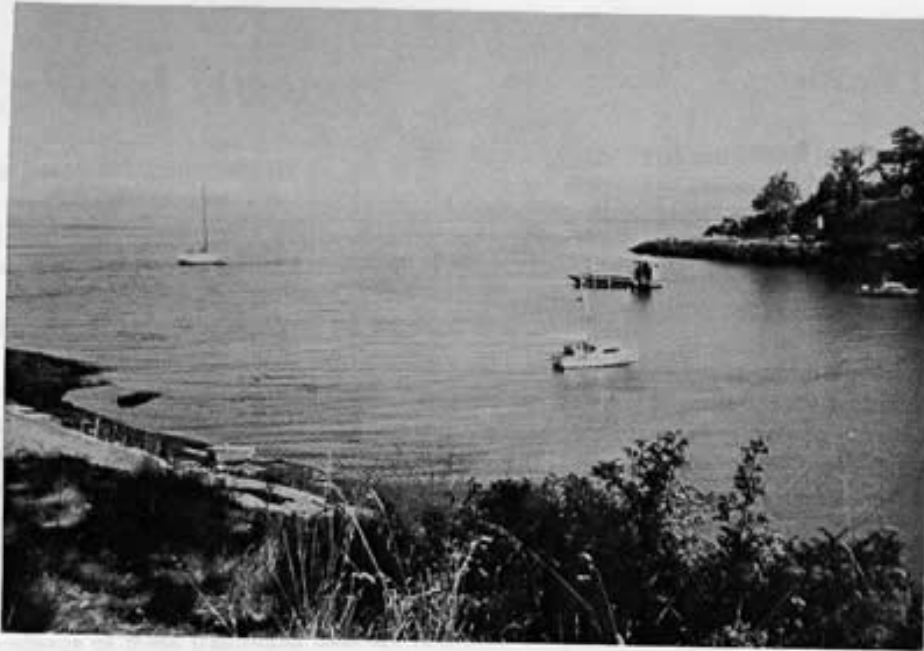


FIGURE 9 Georgia Strait and the Coast Mountains

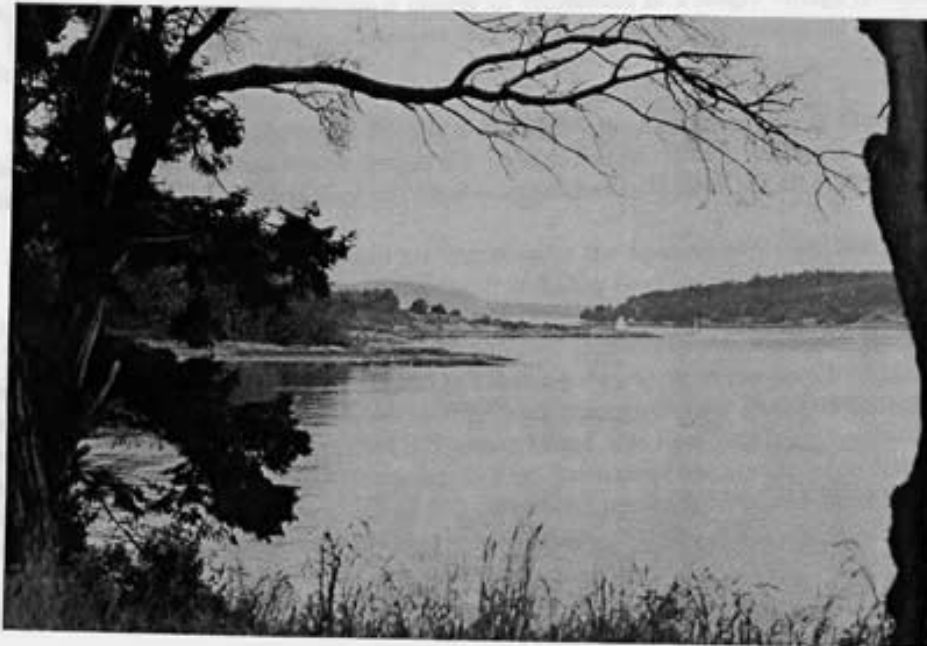


FIGURE 10 Porlier Pass, Valdez Island, adjacent Gulf Islands

III Cultural Heritage

The island has a long history of use by aboriginal people. Galiano Island is situated within the traditional territory of the Cowichan Tribes of the Island Halkomelem Language division Coast Salish linguistic Family (Wilson, 1991 and Warner, 1993). Due to references in archaeological literature regarding a former "Pass Tribe" and use of other parts of Galiano Island by aboriginal people in the Saanich Subdivision of the Straits Salish, it is unclear whether the area was used exclusively by the Cowichan Tribes (Warner, 1993).

Preliminary excavations suggest that the area encompassed within Dionisio Point Park contains archaeological evidence from three periods: Old Cordilleran (7,000-3,500 BC); Marpole (400 BC to 500 AD); and Gulf of Georgia, (post 500 AD) (Mitchell, 1990). The Cowichan people likely used the area each spring and autumn for collecting eggs, bulbs, plants, roots, and berries. Clams and mussels were an important component of their diet and were harvested in the surrounding marine waters. Seals and sea lions were also hunted (Mitchell, 1971).

Evidence of these traditional uses are found in five known archaeological sites, consisting of middens, house platforms and burial sites. The middens generally contain shell, ash charcoal, bone, fire cracked rocks and organic soil (Mitchell, 1971, Warner, 1993). The shell middens are located close to the ocean, which was a source of food supplies. Most of middens are situated in areas that offer some level of protection from poor weather. Five shallow, rectangular depressions indicate a cluster of residences in a single village (Mitchell, 1990). Figure 11 shows shell midden deposits and the locations of archaeological sites within the park are outlined in Figure 12.

Today, a few families from the Penelakut Band live on a reserve (part of the Chemainus Reserve) on the northwest end of the Galiano Island. Other band members maintain homes on the island that they use on a seasonal basis (Nemtin et. al, 1993).

Galiano Island and Dionisio Point are named after the Spanish explorer Dionisio Alcalá Galiano. Galiano, commander of the 'Sutil' and Don Cayetano Valdez, commander of the 'Mexicana', charted parts of the British Columbia coast for the Spanish Navy. During their 1792 expedition, they anchored off the east side of Galiano Island, traversed Porlier Pass and traded with Native people (Bancroft, n.d.) Thinking they were in the mouth of a river, Valdez and Galiano made the treacherous journey back through Porlier Pass and continued their northward journey (Loveridge, 1991). Galiano Island was later settled by non-natives beginning in 1858 (BC Historical Association, 1961). Settlement has grown since that time, and the island has become a community of 950 permanent residents with additional summer residents and visitors (Islands Trust, 1993).



FIGURE 11 Shell midden

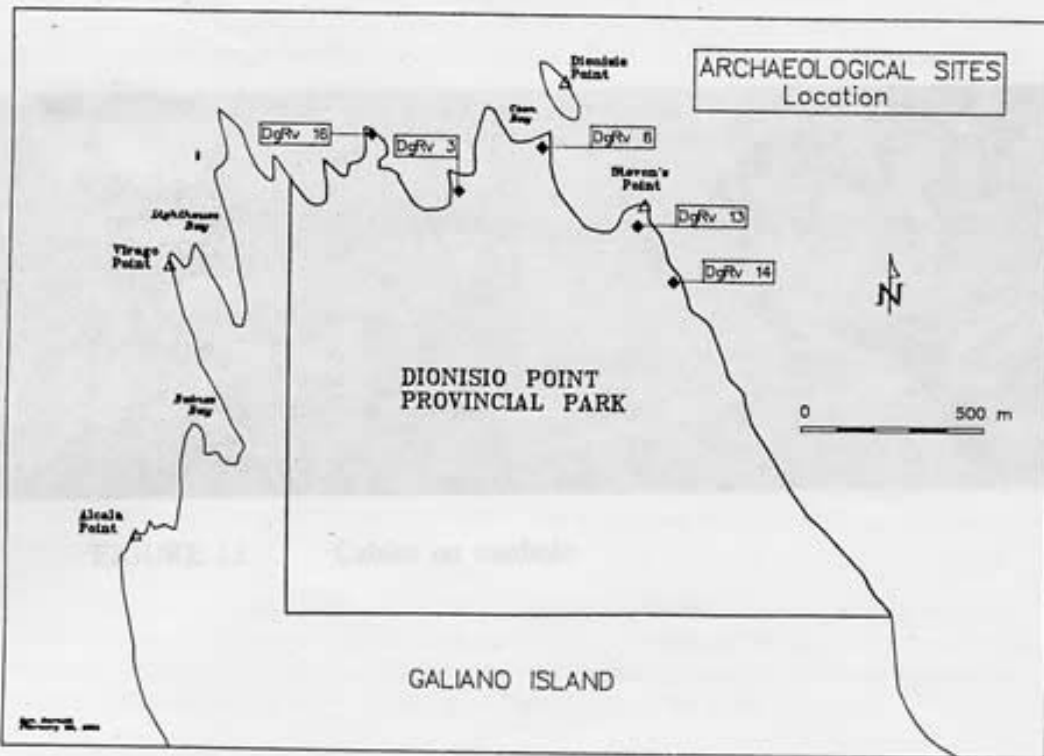


FIGURE 12 Archaeological Sites, Location

The area encompassed within Dionisio Point Park has never been 'officially' used for residential purposes; however, in the 1950's a group of commercial and recreational fishers and their families from Ladysmith and Chemainus built cabins on the beach and headland near Coon Bay. Drawn to the successful fishing in Porlier Pass, they spent summer vacations at the cabins. The land was owned by Powell River Company which merged with MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. in 1961. Despite the private land ownership, the cabins grew to number over 50 as friends and families used a wall of an existing cabin to build another (Anon., 1963) (Figures 13 and 14). The summer community had a watchman to control the use of camp fires, and an unofficial Mayor. An access road to Coon Bay, built in the 1960's changed the character of the seasonal community (Oullette, 1993). "Hippies" discovered Coon Bay late in the 1960's, and the area became well known as a place of free winter accommodation and freedom. Problems arose, such as vandalism, uncontrolled fires and the desire by some winter residents to live at Coon Bay year-round. Conflicts escalated until MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. bulldozed and burned the cabins in 1975. Subsequently, the area was used for public recreation (Benger, 1991). Many of the original cabin owners from Ladysmith and Chemainus brought trailers and continued to stay at Coon Bay every summer until the park was designated in 1991 (Oullette, 1993).



FIGURE 13 Cabins on tombolo

IV Recreation Opportunities

Numerous recreational activities have occurred in the area encompassed within Dionisio Point Provincial Park. These include hiking, nature and archaeological study, camping, swimming, beach activities, picnicking, SCUBA diving, boating and fishing.

Much of the park is accessible to hikers. The beaches and sandstone headlands make much of the shoreline available, while old logging roads crossing the forested upland provide numerous options for hiking and exploration.

The park lends itself to nature study and wildlife viewing. There are a number of rare plant species in the park, and beautiful spring wild flower displays that attract visitors to the park. In addition, opportunities to view wildlife and marine settings are available adjacent to the tidal lagoon, Porlier Pass and Georgia Strait.

There are excellent opportunities for interpretation of the archaeological sites within the park. The potential for interpretive programs will be addressed in the Master Plan in consultation with the Penelakut Band.

Camping has pre-historically and historically taken place in the area. The area has been used by campers who enjoy fishing in Porlier Pass, and by those seeking an alternative to the regulated campground in Montague Harbour Park. Popular camping locations on the mossy headlands and beaches have been closed off since park establishment due to sensitivity of the sites, however, several walk-in campsites (12) and vehicle accessible (13) campsites have been developed in less sensitive locations (Figure 15).

Sand and pebble beaches provide excellent opportunities for family picnicking, beach activities, and access to the water (Figure 16). The tidal lagoon offers excellent swimming opportunities. Sand exposed at low tide warms the water entering the lagoon as the tide rises.

For the more adventurous visitor, some of the most exciting recreation features are not to be found on or above the water, but in it. There are a number of wreck sites in the surrounding waters which attract divers, such as the "Del Norte", a steam schooner which struck a reef in 1868 on the northeastern side of Porlier Pass and the "Point Grey", a 100 ft. tug which went down at Virago Rock. The bays and tidal lagoon offer excellent opportunities for seeing marine life. It must be noted that one should approach diving in Porlier Pass with caution as the currents and strong tidal flow make it essential that one dives during slack periods.

Similar precautions must be taken for recreational boaters wanting to visit the park. Only temporary anchorage is advisable since the bays are exposed to strong winds and tidal currents. Boat access from the park into the water is limited to small boats such as canoes, kayaks and small cartop boats. There is no boat launch in the park.

Many of the natural and cultural features in the park are sensitive to inappropriate or over use, and have been negatively impacted by past recreational and industrial activities. Consequently, a Master Plan will determine the type and amount of facilities, services and recreational activities that will be available in the park. Facilities presently in the park are outlined in Figure 17.



FIGURE 14 Cabins on headland west of Dionisio Point



FIGURE 15 Former camping location on headland

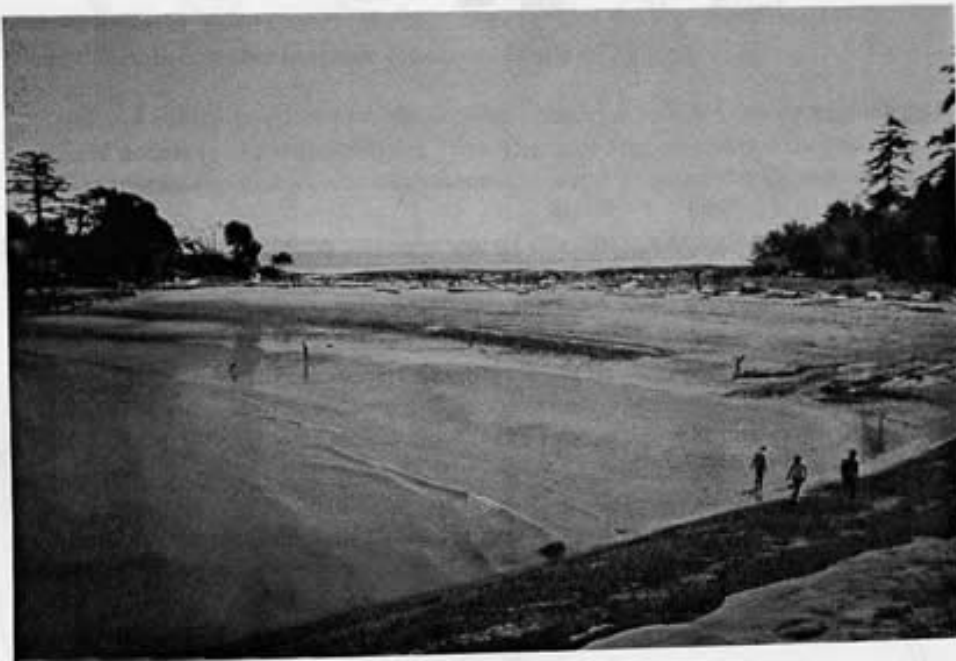


FIGURE 16 Tombolo and Beach

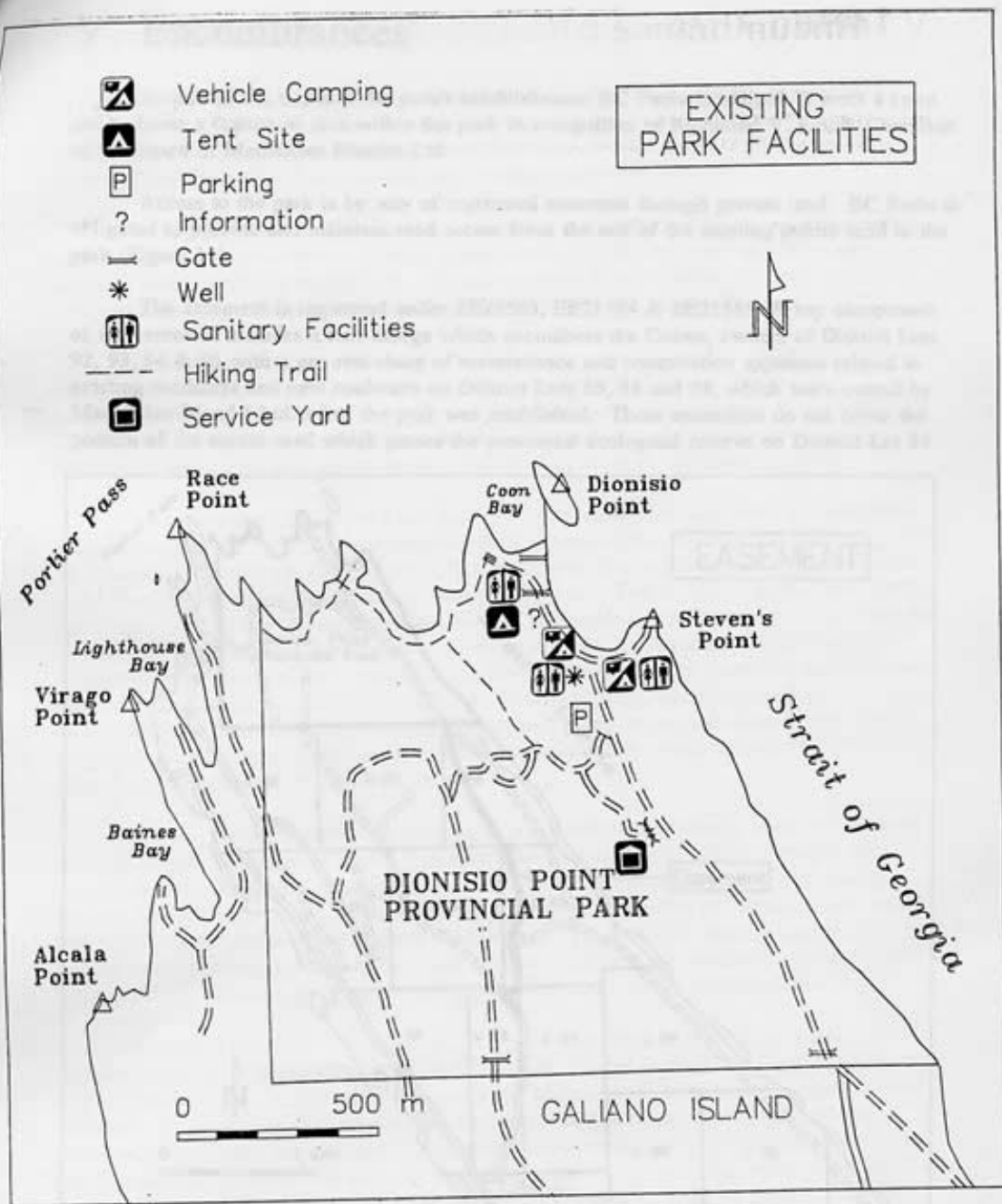


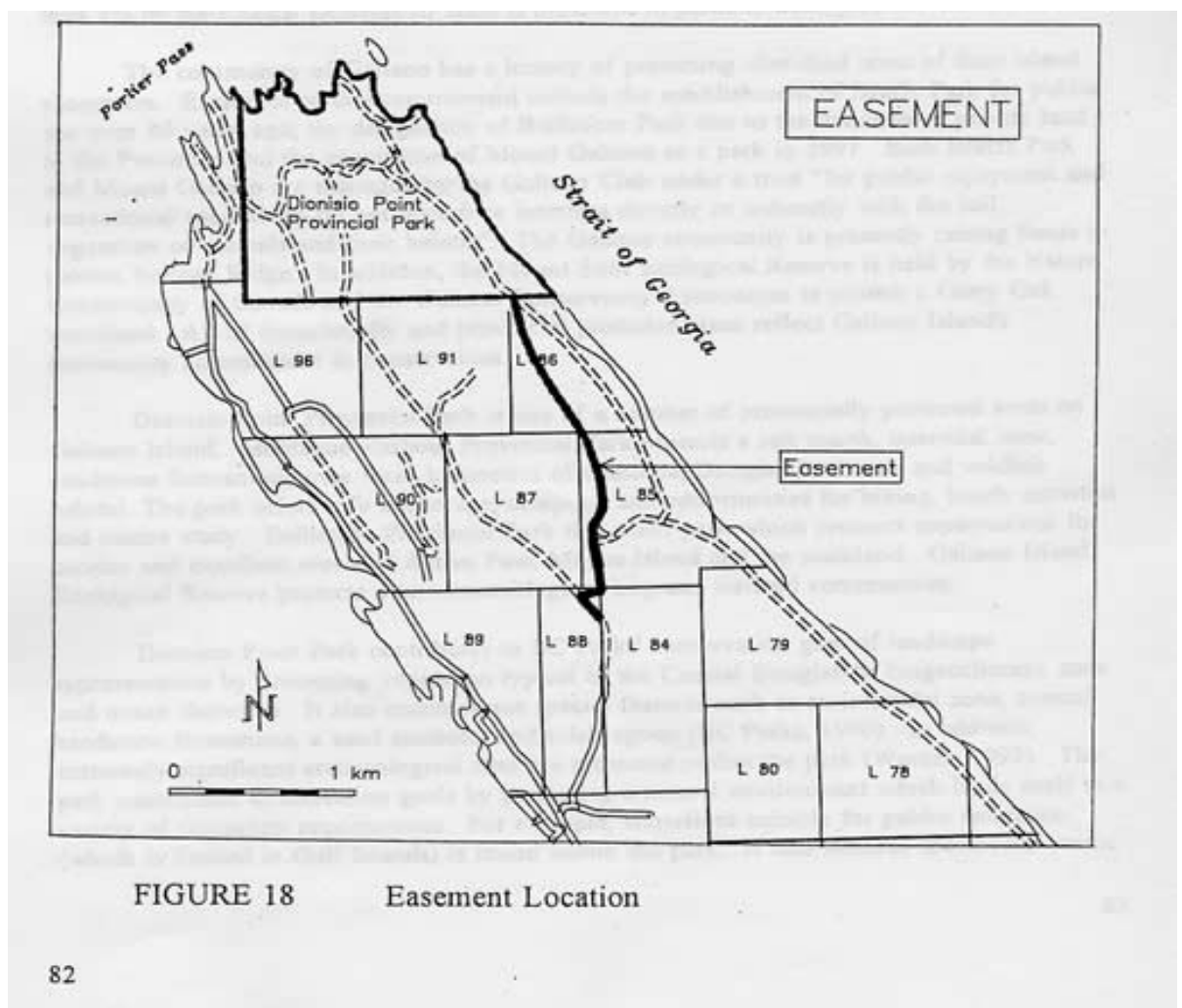
FIGURE 17 Existing Park Facilities

V Encumbrances

As part of the terms of the park's establishment, BC Parks is obliged to erect a cairn and to name a feature or area within the park in recognition of Raymond V. Smith, Chairman of the Board of MacMillan Bloedel Ltd.

Access to the park is by way of registered easement through private land. BC Parks is obligated to provide and maintain road access from the end of the existing public road to the park (Figure 18).

The easement is registered under EE21563, EE21564 & EE21565. A key component of the easement includes a rent charge which encumbers the Crown, owners of District Lots 92, 93, 94 & 95 with a pro rate share of maintenance and construction expenses related to existing roadways and new roadways on District Lots 85, 86 and 88, which were owned by MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. when the park was established. These easements do not cover the portion of the access road which passes the provincial ecological reserve on District Lot 84.



VI Provincial, Regional And Local Context

Dionisio Point Provincial Park is one of over 30 provincial and regional protected areas in the southern Gulf Islands. Additional areas are protected by local agencies and organizations. Some of these areas protect natural characteristics of the Gulf Islands, while others provide various land and water-based recreation opportunities.

The Gulf Islands are appreciated for recreation due to the warm dry summer weather, pastoral and forest landscapes, numerous scenic viewpoints, varied ocean shoreline, and sheltered waters with rich marine life. Careful measures must be taken, however, to protect and restore the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the Gulf Islands.

The very features that make the Gulf Islands attractive for outdoor recreation also attract other land uses. The Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone is limited to southeastern Vancouver Island, the southern Gulf Islands and a narrow strip of the mainland. The majority of this zone is used for residential, industrial and agricultural purposes, and less than 1% of the Coastal Douglas-fir zone is protected in parks or ecological reserves.

The community of Galiano has a history of protecting cherished areas of their island ecosystem. Examples of this commitment include the establishment of Bluffs Park for public use over 40 years ago; the designation of Bellhouse Park due to the donation of private land to the Province; and the acquisition of Mount Galiano as a park in 1991. Both Bluffs Park and Mount Galiano are managed by the Galiano Club under a trust "for public enjoyment and recreational uses which do not disturb or interfere directly or indirectly with the soil, vegetation or animals and their habitat". The Galiano community is presently raising funds to protect Bodega Ridge. In addition, the Mount Sutil Ecological Reserve is held by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Galiano Conservancy Association to protect a Garry Oak woodland. All of these locally and provincial protected areas reflect Galiano Island's community commitment to conservation.

Dionisio Point Provincial Park is one of a number of provincially protected areas on Galiano Island. Montague Harbour Provincial Park protects a salt marsh, intertidal zone, sandstone formations, over three kilometres of coastline, Douglas-fir forests and wildlife habitat. The park offers safe anchorage, camping, and opportunities for hiking, beach activities and nature study. Bellhouse Provincial Park is a small park which presents opportunities for picnics and excellent views of Active Pass, Mayne Island and the mainland. Galiano Island Ecological Reserve protects a rare assemblage of bog and wetland communities.

Dionisio Point Park contributes to BC Parks' conservation goal of landscape representation by protecting vegetation typical of the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone and ocean shoreline. It also encompasses special features such as an intertidal zone, coastal sandstone formations, a sand tombolo, and tidal lagoon (BC Parks, 1990). In addition, extremely significant archaeological sites are protected within the park (Warner, 1993). The park contributes to recreation goals by protecting a natural environment which lends itself to a variety of recreation opportunities. For example, waterfront suitable for public recreation (which is

limited in Gulf Islands) is found within the park. It also features spectacular scenic vistas of the marine setting, Gulf Islands, wildlife and distant mountains.

An important issue regarding use of Galiano Island protected areas is described in the report of the Conservation and Environmentally Sensitive Areas Taskforce. The taskforce was one of many that met as part of the Galiano Island Official Community Plan review:

"There is considerable concern that recreational use of parklands be in keeping with Galiano's highly scenic and biologically diverse ecosystem, - an area which is also quiet and rural, and has a low population density.

Non-motorized activities such as walking, bicycle riding, horseback riding and kayaking provide prime opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty and diversity of scenery without creating noise, air or water pollution. Bird and wildlife viewing and nature appreciation are certainly growing areas of recreational interest and use. Areas where such use is still available close to Victoria and the lower mainland are becoming scarce; hence, increasing numbers of people are attracted by the special quality of the wilderness-like experience Galiano offers. Our parklands and conservation areas must be maintained for those uses which do not degrade the island's special qualities" (Christian et al, 1993).

VII Use Analysis

Dionisio Point has long been popular for camping with residents and visitors from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. The level of use was not formally recorded prior to park establishment, however, up to sixty camping parties would stay at Coon Bay during summer weekends (Oullette, 1993). Statistics recorded since 1991 are listed in Table 1. Notable changes in recorded use are due to a number of factors. Records for 1991 were started in July when the park was established. Consequently, people visiting the park in spring and early summer are not reflected in the 1991 figures. Lower figures for 1993 reflect cool summer weather and the closure of traditional camping areas which has prompted a change in clientele. For a comparison in visitor use, figures for the previous five years for Montague Harbour Provincial Park are listed in Table 2. Montague Harbour continues to see a rise in day use parties, while the number of boaters has dropped somewhat.

	Camping	Day Use
1993	844	3,701
1992	1,277	5,909
1991 ²	566	1,576

	Camping	Day Use	Boating
1993	4,586	21,826	5,717
1992	5,077	17,443	5,238
1991	5,133	20,868	5,633
1990	4,656	19,013	6,801
1989	4,038	15,432	7,230

¹ Factors for converting parties to visits:
 camping parties x 3.2 people/party = overnight visits
 day use parties x 3.5 people/party = day use visits
 boating parties x 3.2 people/party = boating visits

² Statistics for July to December only

Tourism is increasing in British Columbia. In a study encompassing Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and Mt. Waddington Regional District on the mainland, the number of visitors to the region doubled in the decade from 1979-1989. The Capital Regional District, which includes the Gulf Islands, received 1.8 million non-resident visitors in 1989 (Economic Planning Group, 1991).

Tourism trends which are likely to affect park use include: a rise in shoulder season travel (especially from May to September); growing numbers of people with fitness-oriented lifestyles; a growing concern for, and interest in the environment which prompts many tourists to seek unspoiled destinations; and the popularity of outdoor adventure activities (Economic Planning Group, 1991). In addition, cycling on Galiano Island continues to grow in popularity.

There are concerns related to growth in tourism, including accommodating all visitors, traffic safety, environmental impacts, and maintaining the high quality of visitors' experiences.

There are a number of resorts and inns to accommodate visitors to Galiano Island. Increasing numbers of visitors arrive via BC Ferries or on personal boats. There is concern about accommodating all of the visitors to the island, since many arrive without reservations for private accommodations, and at present reservations at provincial parks are only accepted for large group campsites.

Safety of resident and visitors is a concern on Galiano Island. Bicycling, in particular, can be dangerous on the narrow island roads.

Careful management decisions must be made to ensure environmental impacts of tourism are minimized and to keep the rural island lifestyle on Galiano enjoyable for residents and visitors.

VIII Key Management Issues:

Planning Process A planning process involving island residents, groups, the Penelakut Indian Band has been initiated. In conjunction with review of the Official Community Plan, an advisory committee has been established to assist with the development of a Master Plan for Dionisio Point Park.

Boundaries Recommendations regarding legislation of the park's boundaries will be included in the Master Plan. The degree of protection of park ecosystems and the quality of visitors' experiences could be enhanced by securing the integrity of Porlier Pass and surrounding waters. The Master Plan will address the addition of foreshore adjacent to the park and BC Parks will encourage land and water uses outside of the park which are compatible with park objectives.

Conservation Previously uncontrolled recreation use, such as camping on shallow soiled rocky outcrops and parking vehicles on beach areas has caused impacts on park vegetation. Loss of vegetation, and soil compaction and erosion has occurred in sensitive areas. Measures will be recommended to protect natural ecosystems and repair negative impacts from recreational and former industrial use.

Recreation There is a wide range of recreation opportunities in and around Dionisio Point Park. Water-based activities include SCUBA diving, swimming, recreational boating and fishing, while hiking, camping, nature observation, and beach activities take place on land. Facilities and services are developed in provincial parks to protect a park's cultural and natural resources and to provide recreational opportunities. The type of access and the level and type of facilities and services in Dionisio Point Park will be addressed in the Master Plan, in relation to other recreational opportunities on Galiano Island.

Heritage Dionisio Point Park has high archaeological values. These values will be identified and management strategies will be adopted to protect and interpret them in consultation with First Nations.

First Nations Dionisio Point Park is adjacent to the Penelakut Band Indian Reserve on the north end of Galiano Island. The Penelakut Band will be encouraged to participate on the advisory committee. In addition, input will be sought specifically from local First Nations.

Public Input The Dionisio Point Master Plan advisory committee provides local knowledge to the planning process. The advisory committee meetings are advertised and open to the public. Minutes are posted on a local notice board. In addition, articles are written and open houses/public meetings are held to facilitate public input into the draft Master Plan.

Legal Requirements BC Parks has a legal requirement to place a cairn and to name a feature or area within the park for Raymond V. Smith, Chairman of the Board of Directors of MacMillan Bloedel Ltd.

Park Information Galiano Island is recognized as having a finite capacity to provide additional services. This will be recognized with regard to park information that is distributed to the public.

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Appendix A

Bird List

Preliminary list of the birds of Dionisio Point Park from the records of Al Grass, Naturalist, B.C. Parks.

American Robin	(<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)
Ancient Murrelet	(<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>)
Bald Eagle	(<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)
Band-tailed Pigeon	(<i>Columba faciata</i>)
Barrow's Goldeneye	(<i>Bucephala islandica</i>)
Belted Kingfisher	(<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>)
Black Oystercatcher	(<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>)
Black Turnstone	(<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>)
Bonaparte's Gull	(<i>Larus philadelphia</i>)
Brandt's Cormorant	(<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>)
Brown Creeper	(<i>Certhia americana</i>)
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	(<i>Parus rufescens</i>)
Common Flicker	(<i>Colaptes auratus</i>)
Common Loon	(<i>Gavia immer</i>)
Common Raven	(<i>Corvus corax</i>)
Common Tern	(<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)
Double-crested Cormorant	(<i>Phalacrocorax aurius</i>)
Glaucous-winged Gull	(<i>Larus glaucescens</i>)
Golden-crowned Sparrow	(<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>)
Great Blue Heron	(<i>Ardea herodias</i>)
Harlequin Duck	(<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>)
Horned Grebe	(<i>Podiceps auritus</i>)
Hutton's Vireo	(<i>Vireo huttoni</i>)
Marbled Murrelet	(<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)
Mew Gull	(<i>Larus canus</i>)
Northwestern Crow	(<i>Corvus caurinus</i>)
Pacific Loon	(<i>Gavia pacifica</i>)
Parasitic Jaeger	(<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>)
Pelagic Cormorant	(<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>)
Peregrine Falcon	(<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)
Pileated Woodpecker	(<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>)
Red Crossbill	(<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>)
Red-breasted Merganser	(<i>Mergus serrator</i>)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	(<i>Sitta canadensis</i>)
Red-necked Grebe	(<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>)
Rhinoceros Auklet	(<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>)
Ring-billed Gull	(<i>Larus delawarensis</i>)
Rufous Hummingbird	(<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>)

APPENDIX 1 (cont.)

Sanderling	<i>(Calidris alba)</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>(Accipiter striatus)</i>
Song Sparrow	<i>(Melospiza melodia)</i>
Surf Scoter	<i>(Melanitta perspicillata)</i>
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>(Myadestes townsendi)</i>
Turkey Vulture	<i>(Cathartes aura)</i>
Western Gull	<i>(Larus occidentalis)</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>(Dendroica coronata)</i>