

# JOHN DEAN PROVINCIAL PARK

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:



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Date: March 25/03



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Date: Mar. 31/03

## JOHN DEAN PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

One of the oldest provincial parks, this park was established in 1921 as part of a donation from an early settler, John Dean, after whom the park is named. Four other area settlers also donated adjoining lands and the park now comprises 173 hectares.

### **Primary Role**

The **primary role** of John Dean Provincial Park is to protect one of the best remnants of old growth Douglas-fir forest on south Vancouver Island. John Dean Provincial Park contains five plant communities at risk that are part of the old growth Douglas-fir and Garry oak ecosystem. Picturesque displays of camas, lilies, shooting stars, sea blush and Indian paintbrush carpet the meadows and forest in the spring months. Diverse species of fungi, moss, birds and amphibian species are also present for naturalists to observe.

### **Secondary Role**

The **secondary role** of the park is to provide day use opportunities for study, viewing and appreciation associated with the natural and cultural values of the park. The natural habitats and their associated wildlife and plant species are of special interest to naturalists. Situated atop Mount Newton on the Saanich Peninsula, the park provides local and regional park visitors outstanding views across farmlands to the Olympic Mountains and Coast Mountains. The park receives many day use visitors from the region and increasing numbers of tourists who enjoy the excellent views. Hiking and horseback riding, wildlife viewing and nature appreciation are the primary recreational opportunities and activities in John Dean Provincial Park.

### **Tertiary Role**

The **tertiary role** of the park is to protect cultural and historic resources and values. John Dean Provincial Park is part of a larger cultural area that is extremely significant to First Nations people. Mount Newton figures predominantly in First Nations' origin stories as "the first place of refuge." This high point of land provided refuge to the Saanich people during post-glacial floods. Early descriptions of the mountain mention large rings of white stones that were used for ceremonial purposes. Remnants of early settlers' buildings, structures and vegetation are still evident in the park.

<b>Known Management Issues</b>	<b>Response</b>
Lack of formalized trail plan (extensive hiking and horse trail system built by volunteer groups over years).	Develop park trail system with community and regional/municipal government involvement as John Dean is now part of major regional trail linkage system.
Several park facilities in need of maintenance or repair. Pond and cement barrier need repair (eutrophication of pond). Illegal plant collection, unauthorized uses by park visitors such as mountain biking, dogs off leash, etc. all have a negative impact on protecting park's natural values.	Requires increased level of management and capital funding to better protect the park's natural values.
Important natural and cultural values compromised by lack of management presence.	Finalize management plan and promote stewardship/partnerships with local interest groups and municipal government. Stewardship Agreement with Friends of John Dean Society to help protect park's natural and cultural values and improve local recreational opportunities.
Visual and resource impact (tree tops removed) from radar installation inholding and road access.	Continued liaison with federal authorities on future of radar installation and further impact on surrounding park values.
Impact on First Nations ceremonial sites and traditional uses in and around park from existing trail system and park visitors.	Relocate any trails that are near sensitive ceremonial sites to maintain privacy and protect cultural values. Promote close communication and cooperation with First Nations to gain better knowledge of cultural values associated with John Dean Park.

### **Zoning**

The main road corridor and parking area with information signage and toilet facilities are zoned Intensive Recreation (approximately 6 hectares or 3% of the park). The old growth Douglas-fir stands and Garry oak meadows which also contain many native wildflowers are included in the Special Features Zone (approximately 66 hectares or 38% of the park). The remainder of the park (approximately 101 hectares or 59%) is zoned Natural Environment.

## Conservation

Representation - ecosection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nanaimo Lowland Ecosection: only 1.41% of this highly urbanized ecosection is protected in provincial protected area system. John Dean contributes 3.49% of total protected areas system representation to this poorly represented ecosection.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CDFmm biogeoclimatic variant: this ecosystem unit is poorly represented (2.43%) in the protected areas system; John Dean contributes 2.6% of the overall protection of the CDFmm; John Dean contributes 8.1% of the overall representation of the CDFmm in the Nanaimo Lowland Ecosection, the 4 <sup>th</sup> largest representation behind Gowlland Tod, Goldstream and Rathtrevor.
Special Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Largest mature Douglas-fir on Saanich Peninsula, meadows have picturesque spring flowering; highest point on Saanich Peninsula and provides excellent viewing and nature appreciation opportunities.
Rare/Endangered Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grand fir/tall Oregon Grape plant association – red listed; Douglas-fir/Arbutus; Douglas-fir/Garry oak/Alaska onion grass plant association – red listed; Douglas-fir/salal – red listed; Garry oak/ocean spray – red-listed.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impact by urbanization, industrialization from radar installation; sensitive plant communities and red-listed plant associations.

## Recreation

Representation backcountry	<input type="checkbox"/>	
destination	<input type="checkbox"/>	
travel corridor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
local recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High regional day use, trail system provides local linkages.
Special Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nature appreciation of unique plant communities and spring flowering in meadows.

Education/Interpretation Opportunities  Highest point on Saanich Peninsula; large mature Douglas-fir old growth, Garry oak community.

### Cultural Heritage

Representation  Significant ceremonial/spiritual area and traditional uses site to First Nations.

Special Feature  Remnants of early settlers' stonework and pond.

### Other Management Considerations

Other Designations

Relationship to other PAs  Regional trail linkage to other protected areas.

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships  Stewardship agreement with Friends of John Dean Society.

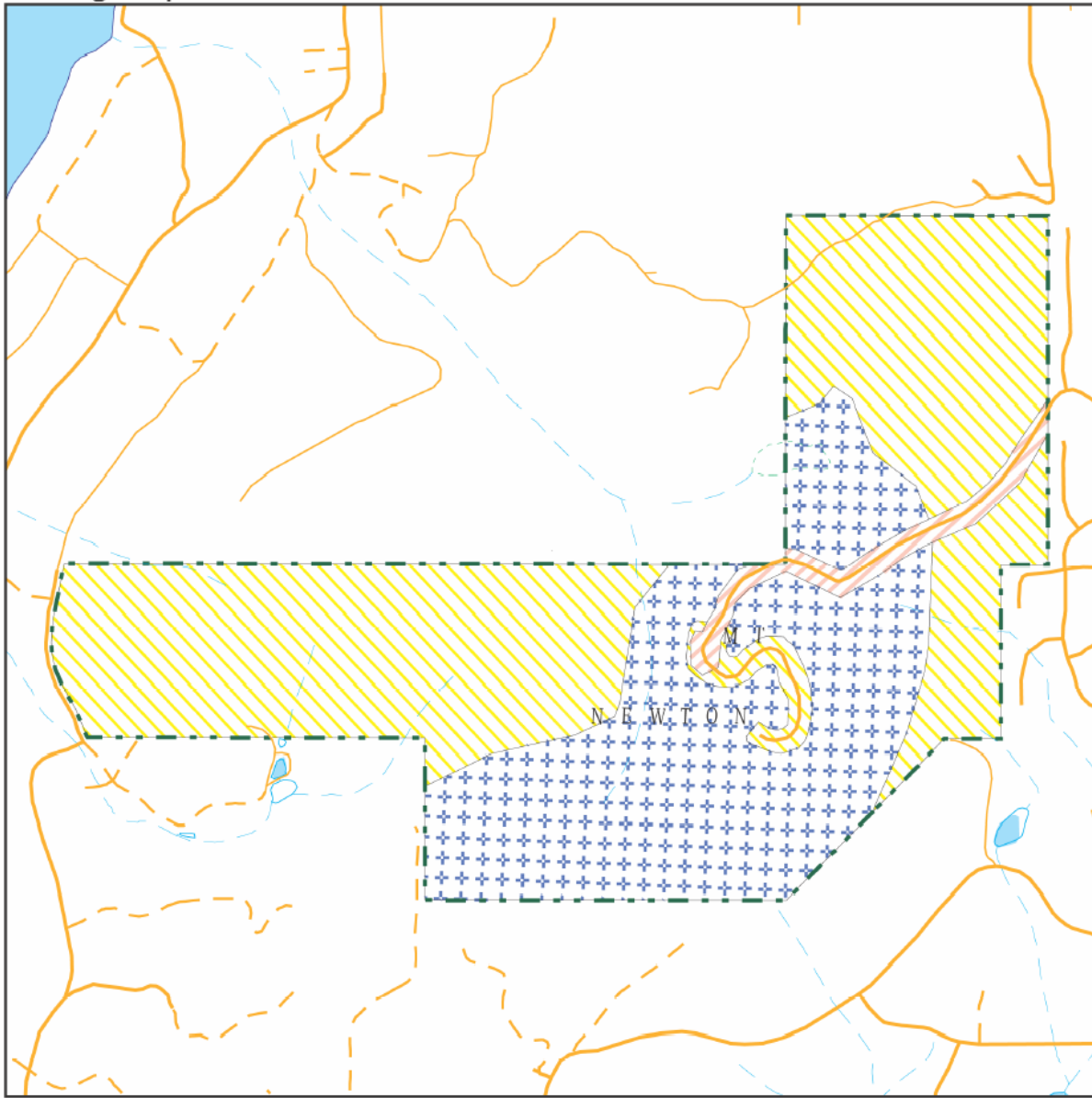
Vulnerability  Fire, invasive plant species; human impact and forest pest are a concern

Relationship to other Strategies  Sea-to-Sea Green/Blue Belt initiative; CRD Regional Parks system.

**Area:** 173 hectares




**Date of establishment:** December 9, 1921

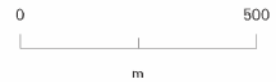
# Zoning Map - John Dean Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas  
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Special Feature
-  Protected Area Boundary



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