

# MANAGEMENT PLAN

May 2001

for **Lac le Jeune  
Provincial Park**



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Water, Land  
and Air Protection  
Parks Division

Lac le Jeune Provincial Park

# MANAGEMENT PLAN


Prepared by  
BC Parks  
Thompson River District  
Kamloops BC



Lac le Jeune  
Provincial Park

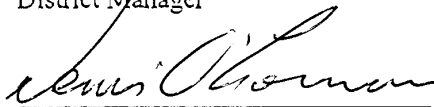
# Management Plan

Approved by:



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# LAC LE JEUNE PROVINCIAL PARK

## MANAGEMENT PLAN

### I. Introduction

#### A. Setting and Context

This management plan defines the role of Lac Le Jeune Park within the provincial park system and the objectives and guidelines for managing the resources and visitor use activities in the park.

The management plan incorporates those lands that were added to the park as a result of the Kamloops Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) process. The park addition area is subject to management criteria set out by the LRMP and the Park Amendment Act of 1997.

The park role, objectives and zoning as stated in this plan cannot be contravened in meaning or intent without consultation with the public and approval of the District Manager and the Parks Management Committee (PMC).

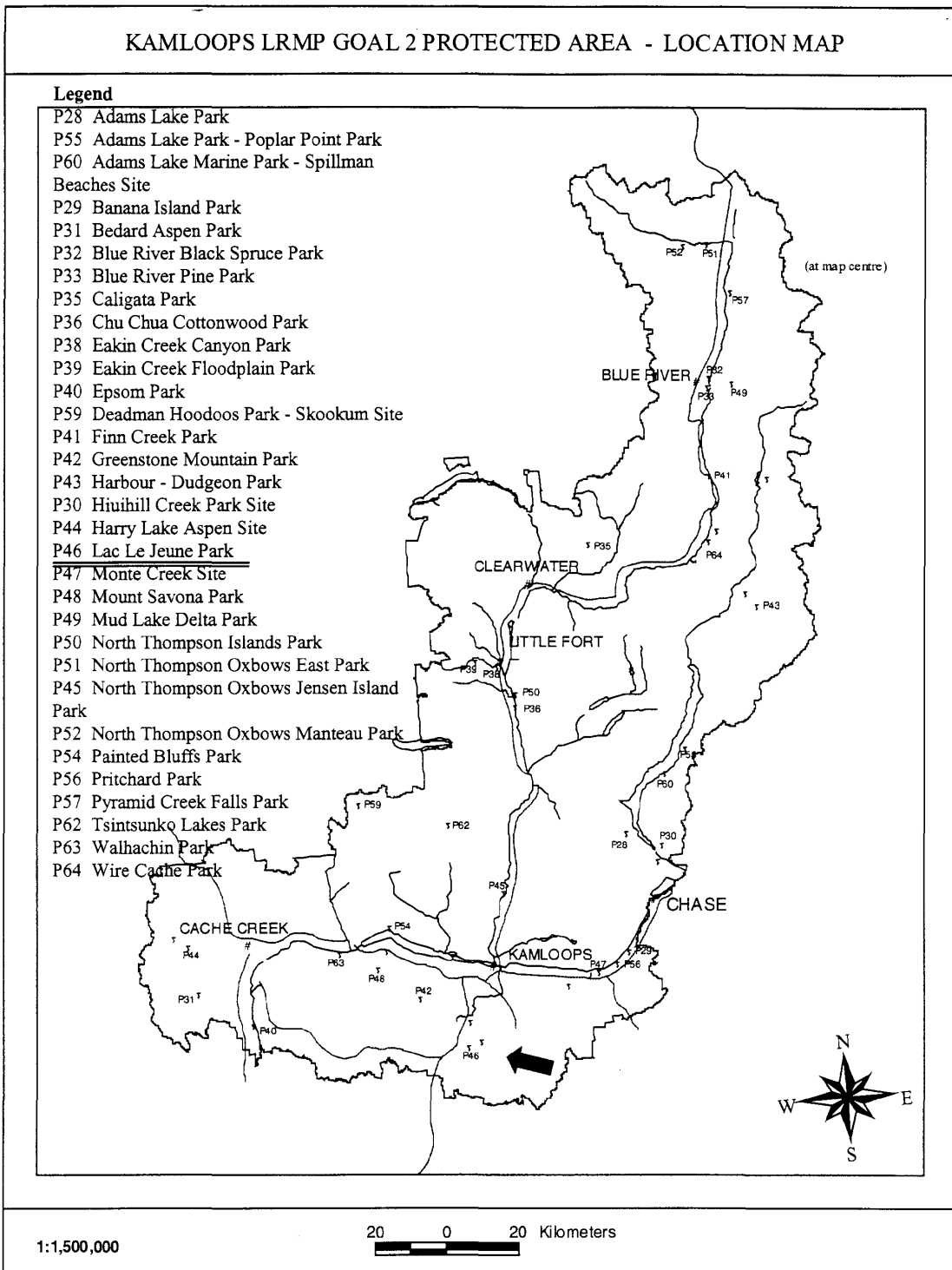
#### B. Background

Lac Le Jeune Park was established in 1956 for recreation purposes, primarily relating to camping and fishing. Over time, facilities improved to include the present day large campground with 144 units, sani-station, extensive beach and grassed day use/picnicking area with flush toilets, interpretive amphitheatre, boat launch and parking area.

As a result of the Kamloops LRMP recommendations the original 47 hectare Park was expanded in 1997 to include an additional 118 hectares of upland and 48 hectares of foreshore. These boundary revisions effectively added all Crown land frontage and immediate upland to the park. With the addition, the role of the park significantly changed from primarily a recreation focus to include conservation of the natural values associated with the upland, lakeshore and foreshore habitats of Lac le Jeune.

The park receives heavy use through the summer months and moderate use in the spring and fall seasons. With the opening of the Coquihalla Highway, campground use has shifted considerably from a regional to a provincial destination focus with the majority of use originating from the Lower Mainland and to a lesser degree from tourists travelling through the region. Day use originates from campground users, highway picnic and rest stop use and regional use. The cooler conditions at this high elevation lake are particularly attractive to regional users who wish to escape the hot climate of the lower valley bottoms. Annual campground use averages 35,000 people and day use 92,000 people. The park also serves as campground base for use of other nearby lakes including Stake and Walloper lakes. The park is open year round but snow conditions block off vehicle access through the winter months. Facilities and services are operational between mid May and mid September.

**Figure 1 - Location Map**



## **II. Protected Area Values**

### **A. Conservation**

The original parksite is fully developed with campground and day use facilities and the forest structure is strictly managed to maintain a safe recreation environment.

Park boundary revisions in 1997 added all of the surrounding crown uplands, shoreline riparian and shoal habitats of Lac le Jeune to the park. Upland forests are representative of montane spruce habitats with mixed stands of lodgepole pine, spruce and aspen and associated shrub and flower species. The upland includes large cattail marshes on the east end of the lake. The forested lake shoreline has many points and bays, and tule beds and chara cover the extensive shoals on the foreshore. These riparian and shoal areas are important rainbow trout rearing and feeding habitats.

Park habitats are used by a variety of wildlife species; moose, mule deer, lynx, beaver, muskrat, loons, osprey, bald eagle and varieties of song birds, cavity nesters and waterfowl.

### **B. Recreation and Tourism**

The park setting is a combination of attractive mixed conifer and deciduous forest, beach and deciduous riparian and reedy shoals, overlooking a scenic view of the lake and surrounding forested hills. The park provides access to Lac Le Jeune which epitomizes the plateau lakes of the Kamloops region and is provincially famous for its rainbow trout fishery. Camping, fishing, canoeing, boating and nature studies are traditional uses of the park. Upland additions to the park include extensive trail systems that are used both in summer for hiking and mountain biking and in winter for cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

The generally warm, dry summers offer excellent conditions for recreation. The spring and early fall months, while cooler and subject to changing weather patterns, can also be pleasant. The high elevation location of the park ensures relatively consistent and reliable snow conditions for winter recreation.

The park is used as a base for use of other nearby fishing lakes and has potential to serve as a base for summer and winter use of the Stake Lake trail system.

### **C. Culture**

There is one recorded archaeological site in the park.

**D. Vision Statement**

*Lac Le Jeune Park will continue to have a significant role in provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in the Thompson River District. Park addition in 1997 included all remaining Crown foreshore and uplands around the lake and these habitats are maintained in an undeveloped, natural state to protect the recreational and environmental conditions of Lac Le Jeune.*

*Over the years, facilities including a wheelchair accessible pier have been added to the park to allow for greater use by the physically challenged. Demand for camping and day use has required initiation of a reservation program for the park. The potential of the park for basing winter use and connection to the Stake Lake ski trail system maybe realized over the next five to ten years.*

**E. Conservation Role**

- To maintain the upland, lake shore and foreshore habitats over the major portions of the park in an undeveloped, natural condition.
- To maintain the character and qualities of the environment and features which form the aesthetic and recreational appeal of the park.
- To ensure protection of riparian and shoal habitats in the park.

**F. Recreation Role**

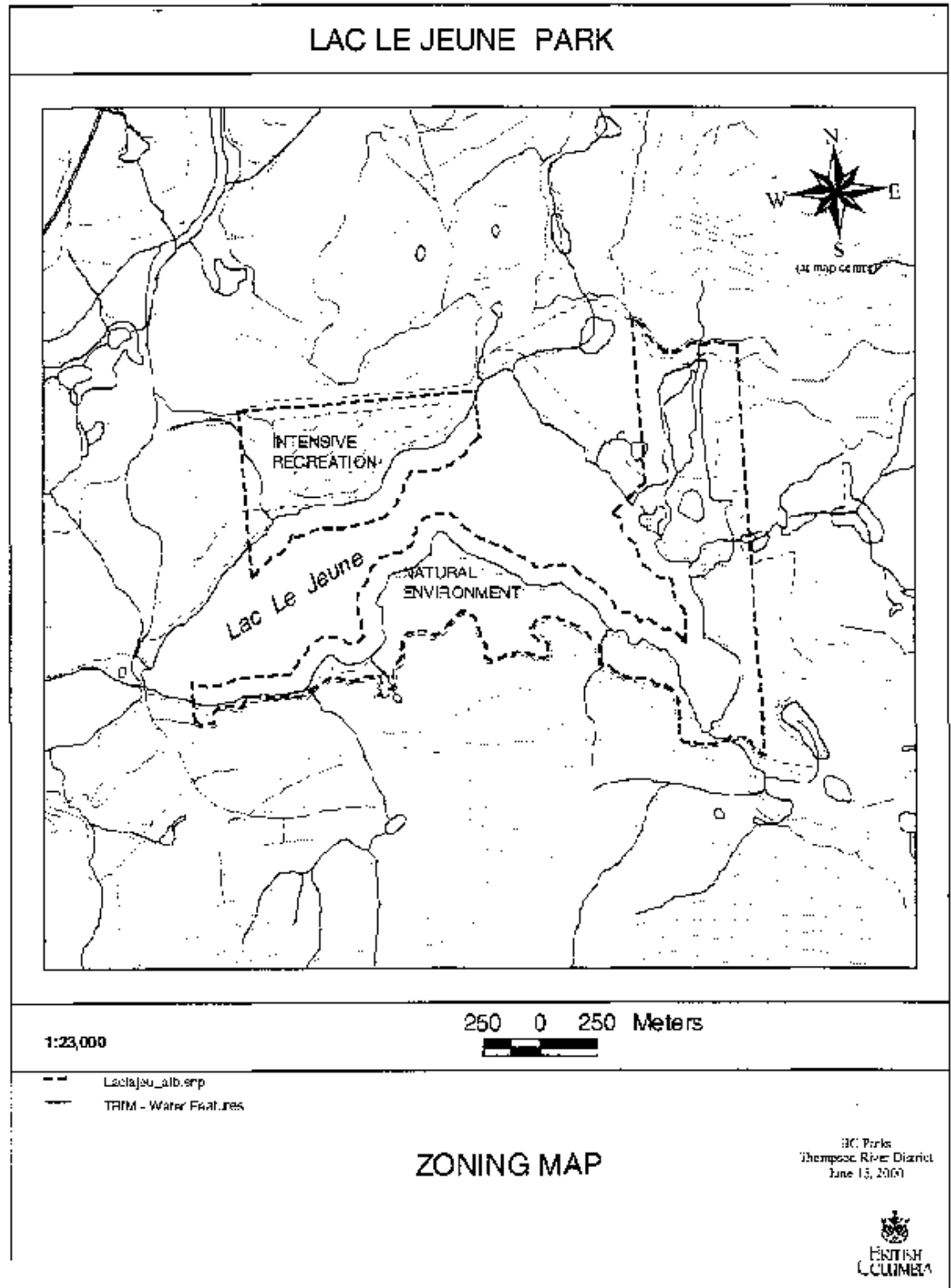
- To maintain existing recreational opportunities for destination, travel corridor and regional day use. Recreation activities include camping, fishing, boating, canoeing, nature study, beach/waterplay, picnicking and mountain biking and hiking.
- To provide a base for visiting and fishing nearby lakes and for summer use of the Stake Lake trail system.
- The park also has potential to serve as a base for winter use activities and connection to the Stake trail system.

**G. Zoning**

- The Park is separated into two zones:
- Intensive Recreation - includes the northern portion of the park, covering the campground and day use infrastructure.
- Natural Environment - includes the upland, lake edge and shoal habitats in the remainder of the park to reflect the intent to maintain the relatively undisturbed condition of the environment.



Figure 2 - Zoning Map



### **III Management Objectives**

#### **A. Natural and Cultural Resources**

##### **Land**

- To coordinate with other agencies and adjacent land owners in managing the land base around Lac le Jeune.

##### **Water**

- To provide potable water for park users and to ensure that the park does not become a source for water pollution.
- To coordinate with other agencies and adjacent land owners in maintaining existing water levels in Lac le Jeune.

##### **Vegetation**

- To maintain the vegetation cover in the intensive use zone in a vigorous, young forest condition.
- To maintain natural, undeveloped conditions in the upland portions of the natural environment zone and to protect adjoining riparian and shoal habitats.
- To maintain a biophysical inventory and ongoing long term monitoring of conditions and changes to habitats and composition, distribution and densities of plant and animal species.
- Existing grazing rights in the park addition area will continue to be administered under the Range Act by the Ministry of Forests. These rights are transferable, but no new grazing tenures will be issued.

##### **Wildlife**

- To ensure protection of Rainbow trout habitats. No development or uses that could impact these habitats will be permitted.

##### **Visual**

- To ensure that park facilities are designed and managed in harmony with the park setting.

#### **B. Recreation Opportunities**

- To provide facilities and services to service level 2 standards.
- To ensure safe separation between boating and beach/waterplay areas.
- To provide personal and non-personal interpretation of the park, Lac Le Jeune and surrounding environments.

## Appendix A - Service Level Explanation

BC Parks service levels provide a method of defining the facilities, information and services which the public can expect within the BC Provincial Parks system. The service levels do not include any measure of the capacity or use of the area, operating standards, or resource management issues. Instead, they are strictly a list of the key facilities and services that may be provided within a particular campground or day-use area. They also provide an opportunity to explore and understand the relationship between the facilities and services BC Parks offers and the expectations of the users or potential users. This will help in making decisions based on the type and grade of facilities and services that BC Parks plans to provide and their associated costs.

**Table 1. Campground Service Levels Attributes**

| Attribute                  | Level 1             | Level 2             | Level 3               | Level 4                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Facilities</b>          |                     |                     |                       |                               |
| ▪ Roads                    | paved               | paved               | usually gravel        | gravel, dirt or none          |
| ▪ Toilets                  | flush               | usually flush       | pit                   | pit or none                   |
| ▪ Water system             | pressure            | pressure            | pressure or handpump  | not usually supplied          |
| ▪ Campsites                | standard design     | standard design     | standard design       | informal (non-standard)       |
| ▪ Tables                   | Type I              | Type I              | Type I or II          | Type II                       |
| ▪ Sani-station             | available           | available           | not usually available | not available                 |
| ▪ Showers                  | available           | not available       | not available         | not available                 |
| <b>Information</b>         |                     |                     |                       |                               |
| ▪ Park entrance sign       | portal or plaque    | plaque              | plaque or Type A      | Type A                        |
| ▪ Campground entrance sign | Type A              | Type A              | Type A                | Type A or none                |
| ▪ Visitor centre           | usually available   | not available       | not available         | not available                 |
| ▪ Information structures   | information shelter | information shelter | single signs          | single sign or no information |
| <b>Services</b>            |                     |                     |                       |                               |
| ▪ Public telephone         | usually available   | usually available   | not usually available | not available                 |
| ▪ Garbage collection       | minimum daily       | minimum daily       | minimum weekly        | not usually available         |
| ▪ Security                 | up to 24 hour       | routine patrols     | occasional patrols    | no patrols                    |
| ▪ Visitor programs         | available           | possibly available  | not usually available | not available                 |

**Table 2. Day-use Areas Service Level Attributes**

| <b>Attribute</b>              | <b>Level 1</b>                       | <b>Level 2</b>                       | <b>Level 3</b>        | <b>Level 4</b>                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Facilities</b>             |                                      |                                      |                       |                               |
| ▪ Roads                       | paved                                | paved                                | usually gravel        | gravel , dirt or none         |
| ▪ Toilets                     | flush                                | usually flush                        | pit                   | pit or none                   |
| ▪ Water system                | pressure                             | pressure                             | handpump              | not usually supplied          |
| ▪ Tables                      | Type I                               | Type I                               | Type II               | Type II or none               |
| ▪ Change House                | available (if suitable for swimming) | available (if suitable for swimming) | not usually available | not available                 |
| <b>Information</b>            |                                      |                                      |                       |                               |
| ▪ Park entrance sign          | portal or plaque                     | plaque                               | plaque or Type A      | Type A                        |
| ▪ Day-use Areas entrance sign | Type A                               | Type A                               | Type A                | Type A or none                |
| ▪ Visitor centre              | usually available                    | not available                        | not available         | not available                 |
| ▪ Information Structures      | information shelter                  | information shelter                  | single signs          | single sign or no information |
| <b>Services</b>               |                                      |                                      |                       |                               |
| ▪ Public Telephone            | usually available                    | usually available                    | not usually available | not available                 |
| ▪ Garbage Collection          | minimum daily                        | minimum daily                        | minimum weekly        | not usually available         |
|                               |                                      |                                      |                       |                               |