

# MEMORY ISLAND PROVINCIAL PARK

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN


September 2003

Approved by:



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Dick Heath  
Regional Manager  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Sept. 6/03



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Nancy Wilkin  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Jan. 15/04

## MEMORY ISLAND PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

### Primary Role

The **primary** role of Memory Island Provincial Park is to provide day use recreation opportunities in a lake setting. This approximate one-hectare island (0.915 hectares) located at the south end of Shawnigan Lake is a popular picnicking, swimming and boating site for local residents and visitors. It is valued as an attractive and unchanged retreat in the middle of the lake. Other recreation activities include walking, viewing, nature appreciation, bird watching, and cultural appreciation. Facilities include a rough trail around the island, five picnic tables, two pit toilets, a garbage can, and a memorial plaque for the donation of the park by the families of two young men killed in the Second World War. Established in 1945, this park is one of the smallest parks in British Columbia and is significant for being the only public freshwater island on Southern Vancouver Island.

### Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to protect an entire small island in its natural state. Memory Island comprises rock outcrops amongst Douglas fir, pine and arbutus, and it protects nesting waterfowl during the spring because of its isolation from the mainland of the lake. Resident breeding birds observed include common merganser, belted kingfisher, and common snipe. Accessible only by boat, the island provides sanctuary and habitat for small mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, plants and fungi.

### Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Role in the protected areas system – the park is more suited to local and regional needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) to potentially transfer the park for regional park purposes while ensuring the maintenance of its natural and tranquil setting.</li> </ul>
Impacts of visitation on a small island: vegetation trampling; fires; parties; water quality; overuse; and vandalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Continue to work with area residents in monitoring of the park and in reporting any inappropriate activities that occur on the island (such as campfires).</li> <li>➤ Address sanitation and garbage disposal issues through relocation or refurbishing of pit toilets and garbage cans.</li> <li>➤ Work with user groups (local community, Bahi School, Camp Pringle, the Legion) and other interested parties to limit the impacts to the island</li> </ul>
Lack of knowledge of natural values Lack of understanding of the die-off of conifer trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conduct an inventory of plants and species at risk.</li> <li>➤ Investigate the cause of the die-off of conifer trees.</li> </ul>
Unique role of the park as a memorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain donation plaque.</li> <li>➤ The sensitivity of the island as a memorial in the local community must be a priority in any future park management/transfer considerations.</li> </ul>

## **Zoning**

**Natural Environment Zone** – covers the entire park (0.915 hectares). The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. The park will keep a minimum of facilities necessary to protect the natural features and to denote the island's park status and its memorial role. The park will continue to provide public access to lakeshore recreation opportunities while continuing to protect the natural and cultural values of the island.

### Conservation

- |                                   |                                     |  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Representation<br>- ecosection    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Park area too small to be representative |
| - biogeoclimatic subzone/variant  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Area too small to be representative      |
| Special Features                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Island sanctuary                         |
| Rare/Endangered Values            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | None known at this time                  |
| Scientific/Research Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/>            | None known at this time                  |

### Recreation

- |  |                                     |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Representation<br>backcountry          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Not Applicable  |
| destination                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Not Applicable  |
| travel corridor                        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Not Applicable  |
| local recreation                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Year round day use activities such as picnicking and swimming; kayaking/canoeing, valued as a quite public retreat on a busy lake |
| Special Opportunities                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The park offers views of the attractive landscape around the south end of the lake  |
| Education/Interpretation Opportunities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Donation plaque viewing and natural setting – geology and ecology themes  |

### Cultural Heritage

- |                 |                                     |  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Representation  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Values unknown   |
| Special Feature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Plaque commemorates the donation of the park as a memorial by Mrs. Scharf and Mr. Mayhew for their two sons that died during WWII. |

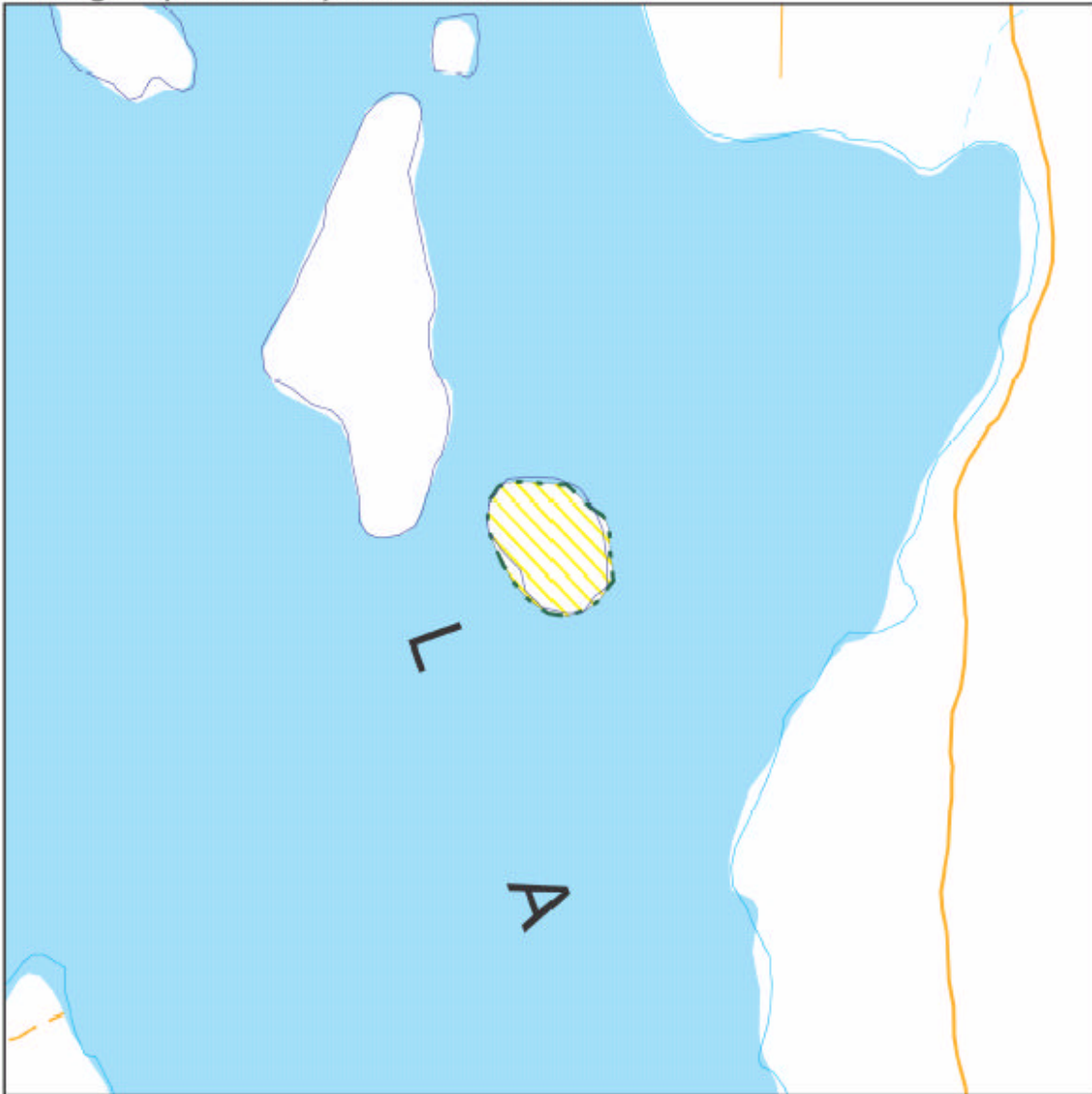
### Other Management Considerations

- |                                      |                                     |   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Designations                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Not Applicable  |
| Relationship to other PAs            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Part of a system of protected areas on Vancouver Island |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Potential transfer to regional district                 |
| Partnerships                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Volunteer watch and CVRD Park and Recreation Commission |
| Vulnerability                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Visitation impacts: vandalism, fire, and overuse        |
| Relationship to other Strategies     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Part of CVRD Regional Park System Plan                  |

**Area:** 0.915 hectares



**Date of establishment:** August 23, 1945

# Zoning Map - Memory Island Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas  
Datum: NAD83



 Natural Environment  
 Protected Area Boundary



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