

OKANAGAN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

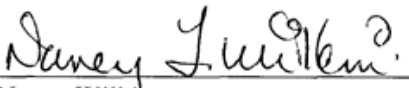
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Approved by:



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Date: Feb. 10, 2003



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Date: March 11, 2003

OKANAGAN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Okanagan Lake Park is a 98 hectare area fronting on Okanagan Lake. The park straddles Highway 97 midway between Summerland and Peachland.

The **primary purpose** of the park is to provide destination camping and day use outdoor recreation opportunities for local residents and Okanagan tourists.

The park is one of the most popular in the Okanagan because of its lake-side camping and day use opportunities for picnicking, swimming, beach activities, boating, fishing and walking. The park contains almost 1,900 metres of Okanagan Lake frontage, high quality beaches and lakeshore environment. The development includes 2 separate campgrounds with a total of 168 campsites, day use areas, boat launch and trails. The park is an important jump-off point for boaters of the lake and visitors to the lakeshore of Okanagan Mountain Park on the east side of the lake.

The **secondary purpose** of the park is to protect its natural lakeshore and upland features typical of the central Okanagan valley.

Most of the lakeshore and the land above the highway is undeveloped and in a largely natural state. The developed area is highly modified from the native landscape. Species at risk that are known to occur in the park include western rattlesnake, cottonwood as well as a variety of other biota and habitats. No CDC sites have been recorded.

In terms of representation, the park is one of the smaller protected areas in the Northern Okanagan Basin Ecosection. The upland encompasses BGxh1, PPxh1 and Water biogeoclimatic subzones/variants. BGxh1 is very under-represented in the ecosection.

Known Management Issues	Response
The planned Highway 97 improvements will reduce campground capacity. The earlier removal of land to accommodate the highway improvements also affected park values. The deletion occurred with the understanding that the Ministry of Transportation would provide suitable replacement land and funding to restore these values.	The Environmental Stewardship Division will work with the Ministry of Transportation to identify suitable land for acquisition to replace lost camping and conservation values and provide expertise to assist in the development of the park facilities.
Much of the developed area was planted with non-native tree species which are affected by disease. The presence of non-native trees lowers the conservation values.	Replant with native species as funding permits.
An aging capital plant, particularly the domestic water and irrigation systems, requires ongoing repair/replacement.	Upgrade the facilities as funding permits.

Zoning

The land between the lake and the highway as well as the northwest corner of the park is zoned Intensive Recreation to provide vehicle accessible camping and day use recreation opportunities (approximately 73% of the park). The remainder of the park (approximately 27%) on the west side of the highway is zoned Natural Environment to protect its natural values.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection Northern Okanagan Basin – very small contribution (0.75%) to this under-represented ecosection. Major contributors are Okanagan Mountain (53.98%) and Kalamalka Lake (15.12%)
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Minor contribution (1.96% of overall representation) to the moderately represented BGxh1 (4.91%); contributes 27.66% of the protected areas system representation of this BEC unit in the very under-represented Northern Okanagan Basin Ecosection, but only about ½ is undeveloped. PPxh1 – small contribution (0.18%)

Special Feature

Shoreline and riparian zone

Rare/Endangered Values

Western rattlesnake, cottonwood

Scientific/Research Opportunities

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination Significant camping and day use for central Okanagan valley tourists
- travel corridor Significant camping/day use stop for Highway 97 travellers
- local recreation Regionally important camping and day use destination

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Part of the Okanagan valley system of camping/day use parks

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

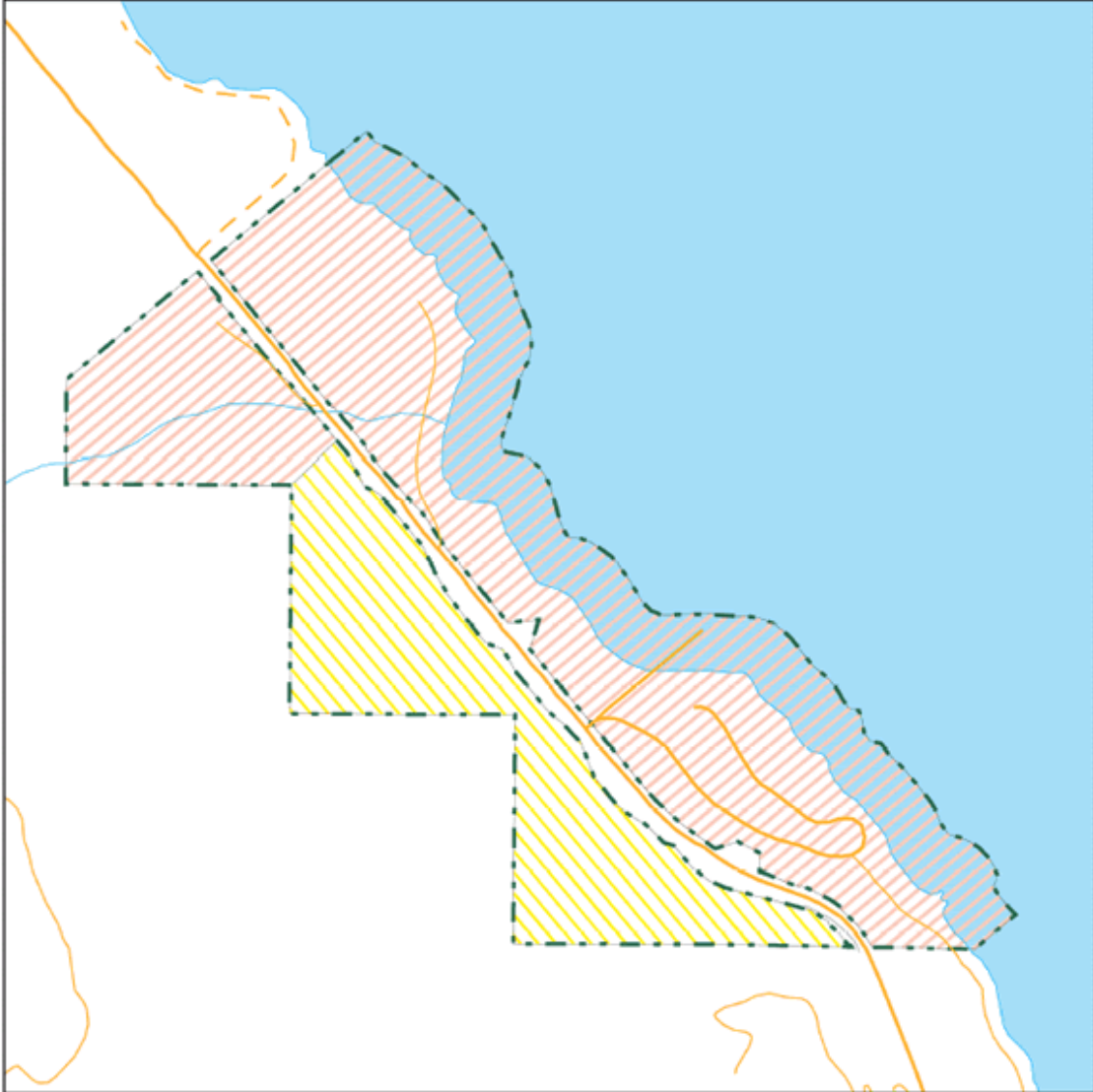
Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area: 98 hectares




Date of establishment: December 29, 1955

Zoning Map - Okanagan Lake Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Protected Area Boundary



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