

PILOT BAY PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

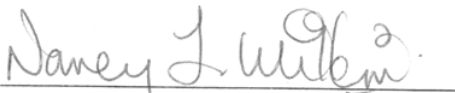
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Approved by:



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Date: February 20/03



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Date: March 31/03

PILOT BAY PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Pilot Bay Provincial Park is to provide visitors and the local community marine destination recreational opportunities, with upland day use and boat or walk-in camping adjacent to the confluence of the north and south arms of Kootenay Lake.

British Columbia's second largest inland lake, Kootenay Lake attracts thousands of outdoor enthusiasts every year to its waters. Pilot Bay Provincial Park is an integral part of the visitor experience and appreciation of the lake, offering not only one of the few safe natural harbours for boat moorage, but also an unprecedented opportunity to enjoy and understand the area's rich cultural heritage and natural features.

Within the park, remnants of the bygone era of steam boating is preserved in the Pilot Bay Lighthouse. Built in 1904, the facility was critical in navigation of this once very active, and at times, stormy transportation corridor. Not until the Canadian Pacific Railway developed a rail linkage between Proctor and Kootenay Landing did the necessity for the lighthouse fade. Removed from active service in 1993, the structure remains in excellent condition through the efforts of committed volunteers.

Pilot Bay Provincial Park's location near Crawford Bay ferry terminal affords anglers an opportunity to pursue the elusive Gerrard rainbow trout, a unique piscivorous and very large (average 9 kg) rainbow trout. Furthermore, several secluded beaches can be accessed within the park by recreational boaters and hikers.

In addition to boating activities, a variety of short hiking trails along the upland and beach area create additional opportunities to experience the park's pristine lakefront setting. A longer access trail from Pilot Bay road allows pedestrians to enter and exit the park.

Secondary Role

The **secondary role** of the park is to protect a variety of endangered flora situated amongst distinctive karst formations. Karst formations are recognized as a highly valuable, non-renewable resource that can be especially vulnerable to disturbance, more so than many other land resources. The intricate relationship between karst's unique surface characteristics and hydrology make for a delicately balanced system. In addition, carbonate rock often supports a variety of rare plant species and Pilot Bay Provincial Park is no exception.

One of the highest known occurrences within the province of the giant helleborine orchid is found within the park. This red-listed plant's dependency on a calcareous water supply is paramount and land use (logging, road building) adjacent to Pilot Bay Provincial Park has a high potential to disturb the natural hydrology in the area. Moreover, recreational impacts from off trail use and mountain biking can cause equally devastating effects on the species.

Two other flora at risk have been recorded in the park; marsh muhly, a blue-listed species, and prairie wedgegrass, a red-listed species. These plant species also rely on a complex hydrological balance associated with the calcareous-rich water supply. Trampling, spreading of non-native plants, and habitat loss because of fluctuating water levels related to dam control on Kootenay Lake, are further compounding threats to the species.

The important conservation role of Pilot Bay Provincial Park is strengthened by the presence of a rookery within the park for the endangered great blue heron (blue listed). This colony, one of nine within the interior of the province, provides a vital nesting and staging habitat for up to 10 nesting pairs. These sites are highly sensitive to human disturbance and disruption within the rookery can lower reproductive rates.

By placing a high emphasis on protecting the known rare and endangered species/ecosystems in the park, by default it also provides an opportunity to maintain critical winter range for ungulates. Pilot Bay Provincial Park supports healthy populations of both mule deer and blacktail deer.

Known Management Issues	Response
Adjacent logging or development could affect park values, including groundwater/hydrology crucial to survival of SAR (specifically orchid spp.)	Monitor access points directly upslope of giant helleborine orchid. Assess hydrological changes as a result of road building and harvesting.
Popularity of mountain biking is impacting surrounding vegetation by spreading weed species and trampling from off trail use.	Monitoring of use. Signage/designation of areas closed to mountain biking.
Transfer of the title for the lighthouse land and structure from the Federal Government not completed after 5 years.	Acquire land from the Federal Government.

Known Management Issues	Response
Residents concerned with perceived increased noise levels and waste water discharge in the bay (not within park).	Monitoring, assessment of issue and consider options.
Spread of invasive non-native (mullein, sweet clover, salsify, dandelion) and noxious weeds (knapweed).	Inventory species. Develop and implement control strategies.
Archaeological assessment of the park should be undertaken,	Area has been identified as containing high potential for First Nations traditional use.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation (approximately 44 ha or 13% of the park)

Objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment (approximately 200 ha or 60% of the park)

To protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Special Feature (approximately 92 ha or 27% of the park)

To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.

Conservation

Representation -ecosection	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor contributor (0.8%) to the representation of the under represented Southern Columbia Mountains (SCM) (6.38%). Major protected area representation of SCM from Kianuko (26%) and West Arm (60%).
-biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor contributor (1.77%) to the under represented ICHdw (4.1%) in the protected areas system. Ranks second in representation (8.3%) of ICHdw in the SCM ecosection, primary contributor is West Arm (70%).
Special Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karst topography and limestone sinkholes.
Rare/Endangered Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 listed SAR: giant helleborine orchid (b), prairie wedgegrass (r), marsh muhly (b). Rare karst geology. Great blue heron (b) rookery. However, SAR not yet fully assessed.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Research and study pertaining to hydrological/landform processes associated with karst formations and calciphilic plant communities. Monitoring and research into breeding/reproductive rates of the great blue heron. Eggs can be used to determine levels of environmental toxicants.

Recreation

Representation -backcountry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable
-destination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kootenay Lake is a popular summer lake retreat with numerous marinas, resort and cottage communities. The park

		contains 6 mooring anchors and walk-in or boat-in camping with 6 sites.
-travel corridor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
-local recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fishing, hiking, biking, swimming picnicking, and camping.
Special Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Last remaining inland lighthouse in British Columbia.
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Historical significance of the lighthouse. Education on reducing impact on karst formations and rare flora.

Cultural Heritage

Representation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not yet assessed, but high probability of First Nation's traditional use.
Special Feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not yet assessed.

Other Management Considerations

Other designations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
Relationship to other PAs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 of 3 provincial parks accessible by boat along eastern shore of Kootenay Lake (alternates - Campbell Bay and Lockhart Beach).
Co-operative Management Arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
Partnerships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Friends of West Kootenay Parks, the Kootenay Lake Environmental Education Society and the Riondel Historic Society.
Vulnerability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of SAR because of recreational activity. Negative hydrological impacts on SAR because of adjacent logging.

Non-native plant invasion.

Disturbance of heron rookery.

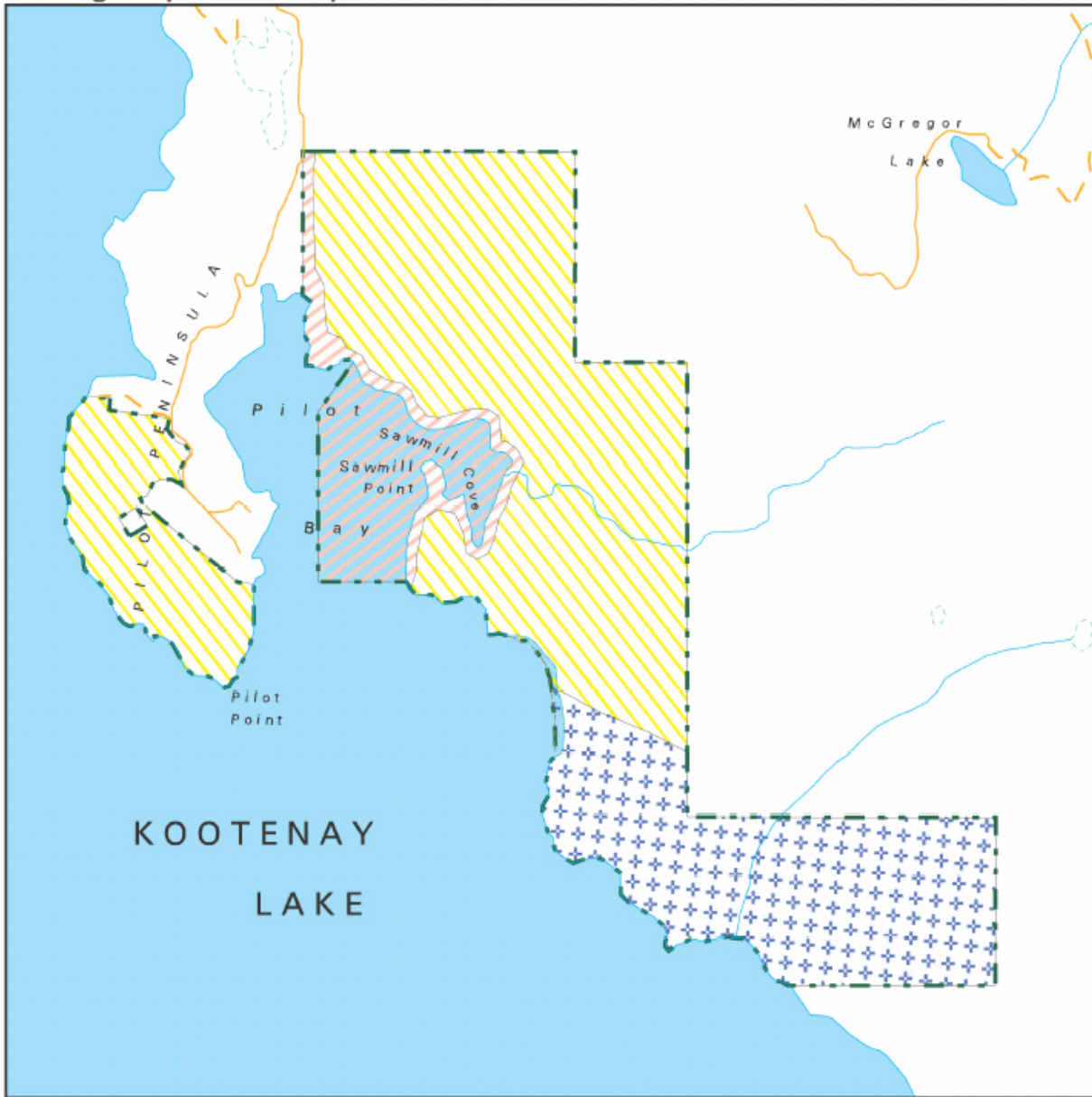
Relationship to other Strategies

None known at this time.

Area: 336 hectares

Date of Establishment: July 21, 1964

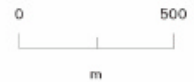
Zoning Map - Pilot Bay Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



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



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