



Ruckle Park Management Plan

September 2014



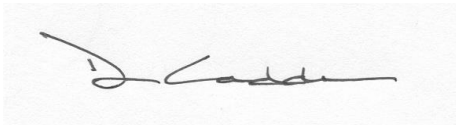
BC Parks

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*This document replaces the
direction provided in the Ruckle
Provincial Park Master Plan (1987).*

Ruckle Park Management Plan

Approved by:



September 30, 2014

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to provide strategic management direction for Ruckle Park.

In 1987, the Ruckle Provincial Park Master Plan was approved. In 2001, the Ruckle Farm Plan was developed to provide long-term management direction for both the working farm and heritage farm located within the park. Both plans provide background information used to inform this new management plan.

The primary objectives of the management plan are to:

- outline the role the park plays in British Columbia's (BC) protected areas system;
- identify management objectives and strategies for the protection of natural values, cultural values and outdoor recreation values;
- present a zoning plan; and
- identify the role of First Nations, the local community and others in implementing the management plan.

More specifically, this management plan addresses the following planning issues/interests:

- management direction for the 2007 Cusheon Cove park addition;
- the evaluation of the addition of a vehicle-accessible campground to the existing walk-in campground (this issue was identified in the 1987 Ruckle Master Plan);
- the preservation of the park's historic features, including the heritage buildings and historic farm, as well as future management direction for the Ruckle Farm property when the life tenancy is completed and the farm comes under BC Parks' management;
- the preservation of natural heritage values in the park, including the grasslands that slope gently down to the rocky shoreline; and
- management direction for invasive plant species control with a focus on carpet burweed (*Soliva sessilis*).

1.2 Planning Area

Ruckle Park is located on the west side of Salt Spring Island in the southern Gulf Islands off the east coast of Vancouver Island, about half way between Nanaimo and Victoria. Salt Spring Island is accessible by a short ferry ride from Victoria or Crofton on Vancouver Island. The park is part of a network of public and private protected areas on Salt Spring Island. These protected

areas include Mount Tuam Ecological Reserve, Mill Farm Regional Park Reserve, Burgoyne Bay Park, Mount Maxwell Park, Mount Maxwell Ecological Reserve, Manzanita Ridge Nature Reserve, Mount Erskine Park and Lower Mount Erskine Nature Reserve (Figure 2).

This 529-hectare park, established as a Class A park¹ in 1974, conserves and protects species and ecosystems at risk within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, unique Gulf Island landscapes, fragile rocky shoreline habitat, Garry oak meadows and coastal bluff and riparian ecosystems. In addition, the park protects and includes opportunities for interpreting the Ruckle Farm and several other heritage buildings so that the public can gain an appreciation of agricultural and farming endeavours of pioneer settlers in the Gulf Islands.

Ruckle Park contributes significantly to promoting tourism, historical interpretation and recreation activities on Salt Spring Island. The park provides day-use picnicking, hiking, heritage appreciation and the only provincial campground on Salt Spring Island (Figure 3). The campground provides a unique camping experience on the bluff overlooking Swanson Channel with both walk-in and bike-in campsites. Since the park's establishment in 1974, several other protected areas have been established on Salt Spring Island (Burgoyne Bay and Mount Erskine Provincial parks and Mill Farm Regional Park Reserve).



Figure 1: Ruckle Park

¹ See BC Parks Website at: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/aboutBCParks/prk_desig.html

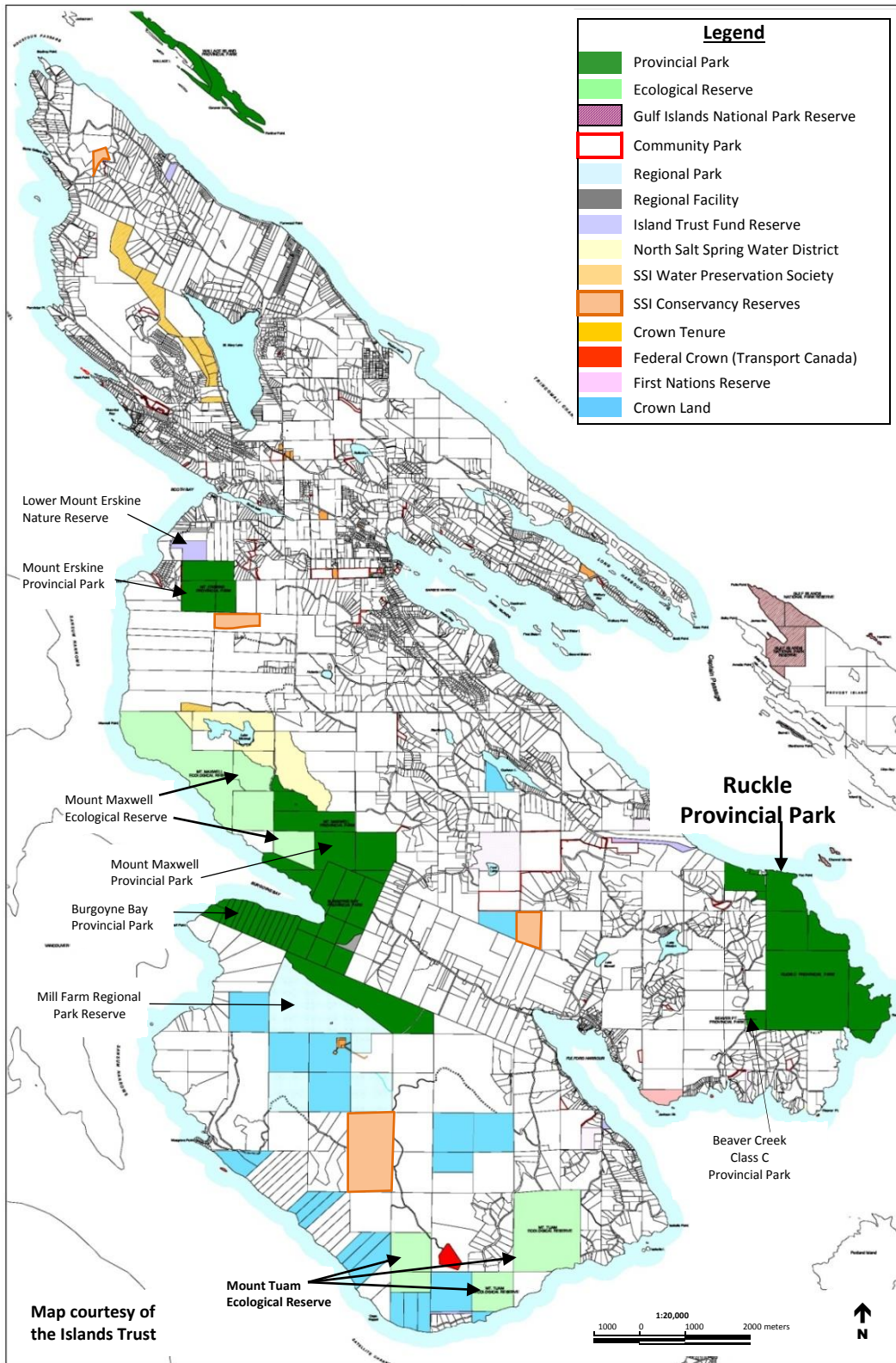


Figure 2: Salt Spring Island Protected Areas Context Map

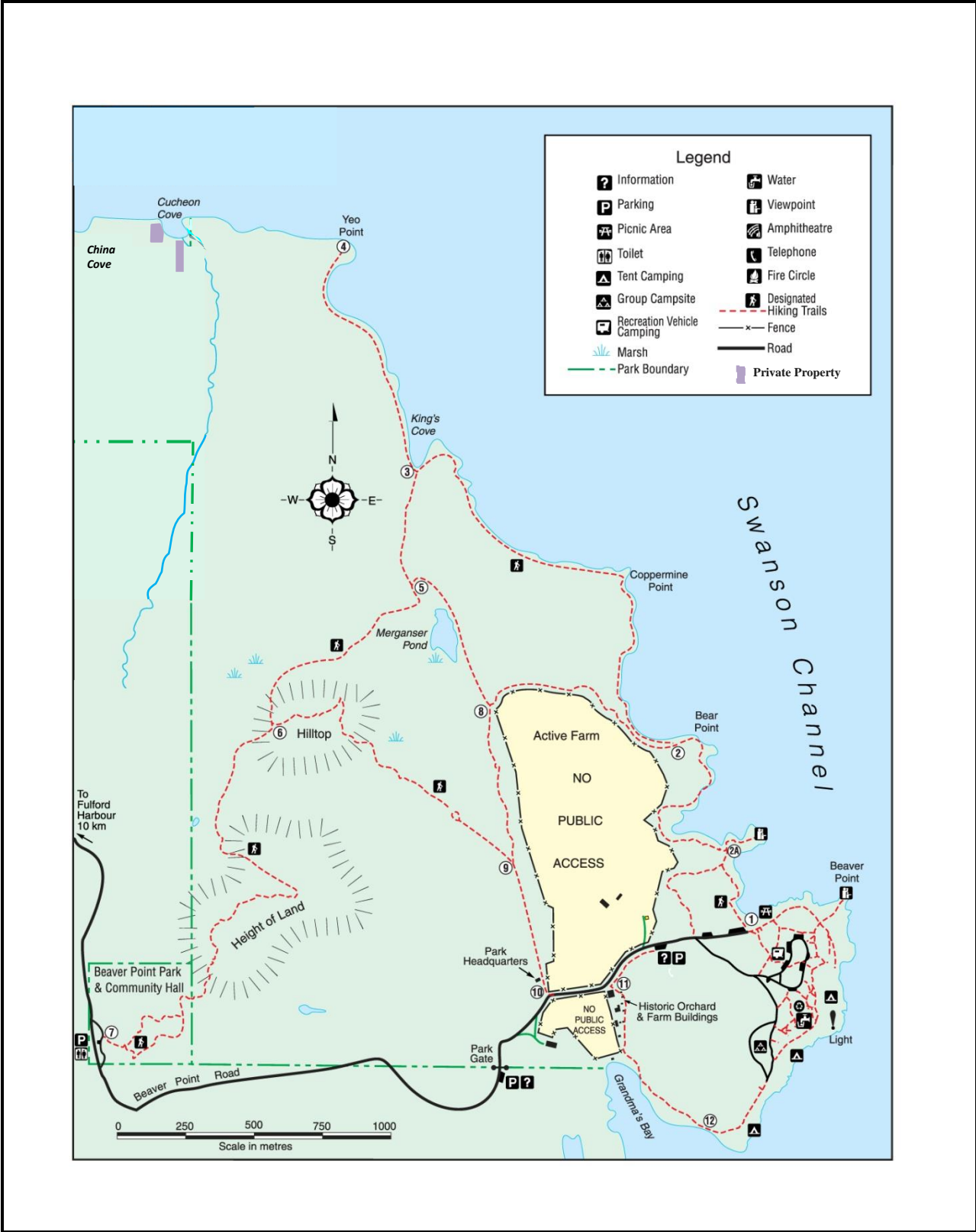


Figure 3: Ruckle Park Site Map

The Cusheon Cove area (Figure 4, photo below and shown on Figure 5), an addition to the park in 2007, includes over one kilometre of waterfront facing Captain Passage and includes rocky bluffs, sloped grassy uplands and rare insular coves. Cusheon Cove, a mud and gravel bay, lies close to the park's original northwest boundary and is part of a highly productive inter-tidal estuary. Another sheltered cove in the park, known as China Cove, lies to the west of Cusheon Cove and provides marine access into the park. The rocky headlands provide outstanding views towards Prevost Island and west towards Ganges Harbour.

Sections of the Cusheon Cove area have been disturbed due to farming, logging and residential development and have contained a sawmill, large wharf and salmon farm. Nevertheless much of the area remains undeveloped and in a semi-natural state. Common tree species include coastal Douglas-fir, bigleaf maple and isolated patches of western redcedar and arbutus. In addition, small pockets of Garry oak habitat exist along the shoreline. The area contains an orchard (20 varieties of apple and pear trees), flowerbeds, fields and gardens. The previous landowners planted several species of exotic plants, which remain in the area around the houses and outbuildings.

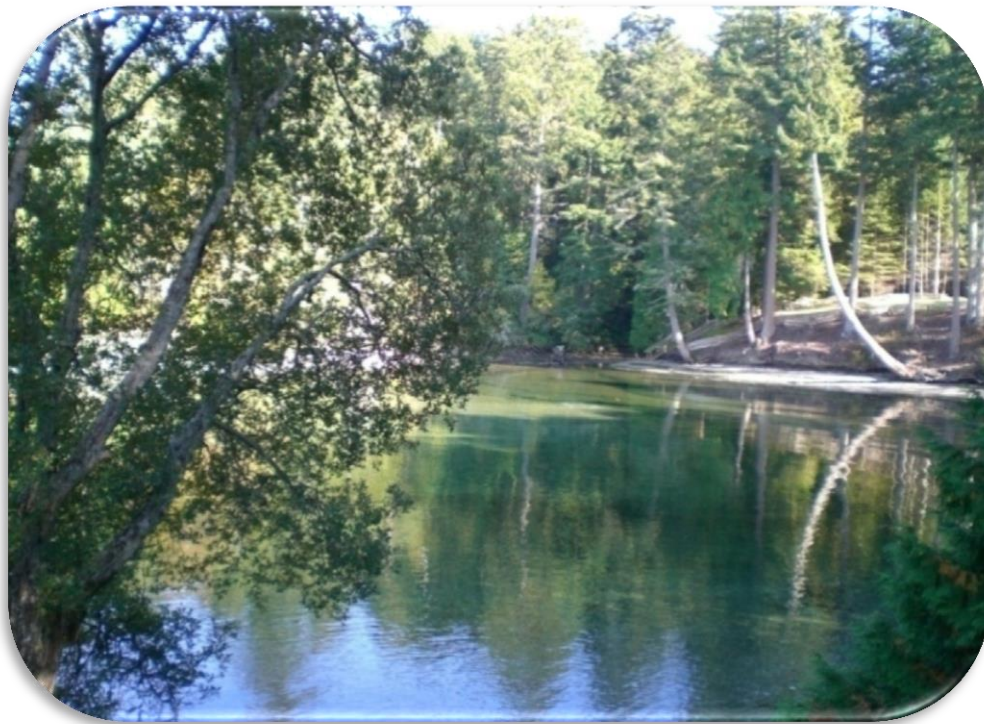


Figure 4: Cusheon Cove

Adjacent to the southwest corner of Ruckle Park is the Beaver Point Class “C” Park (Figure 5). Management of Beaver Point Park is not guided by this management plan.

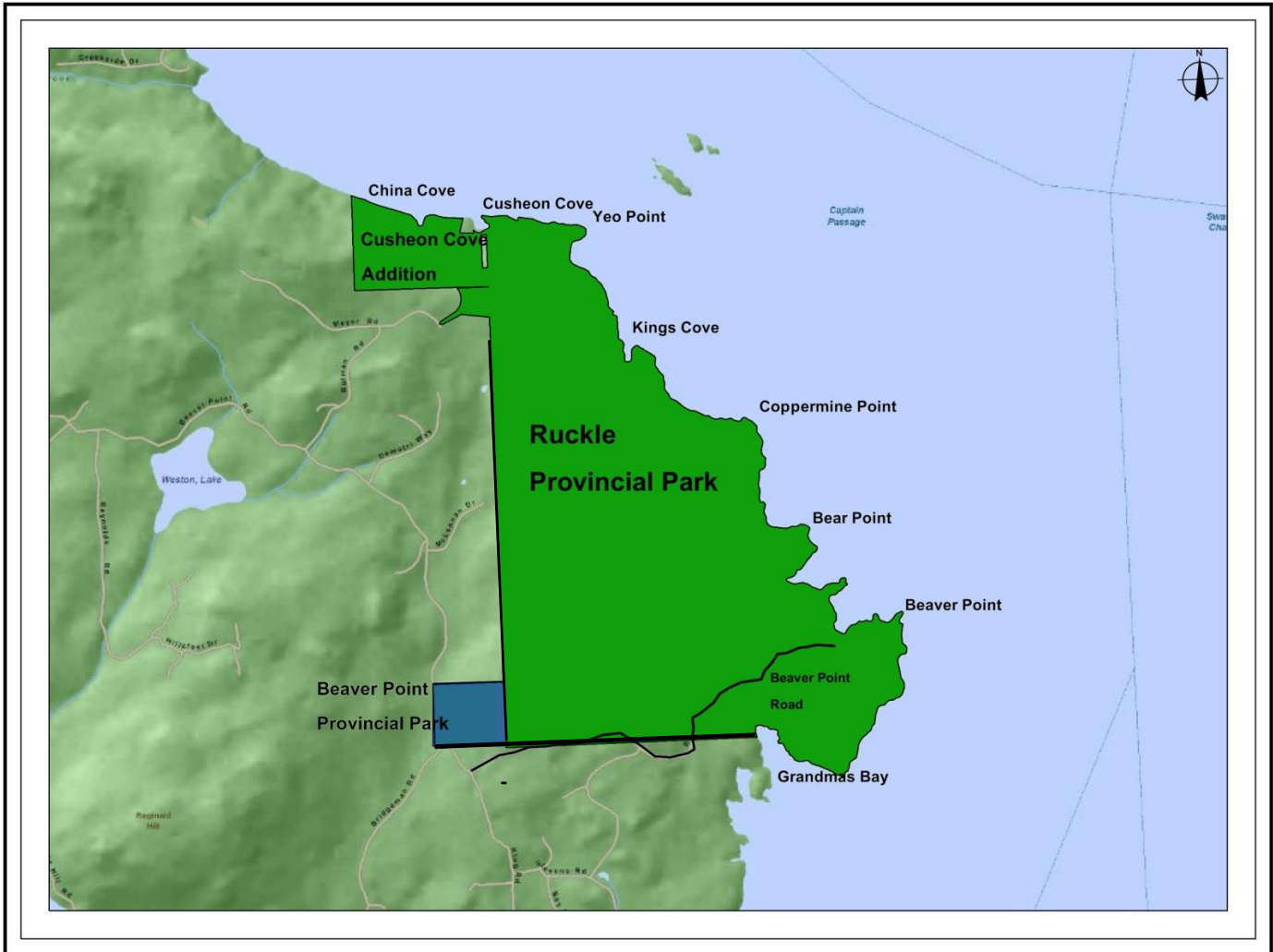


Figure 5: Ruckle Park Map

1.3 Legislative Framework

In 1973, 485.6 hectares of land at the southeast corner of Salt Spring Island was purchased from the Ruckle family for preservation as a park. Ruckle Park, bearing the family name as a tribute, was established as a Class A park in 1974. A life tenancy² over the working farm section of the park was granted to the Ruckle family when the park was established. This property continues to be managed by the Ruckle family, and a family member oversees the working farm section of the park and the private buildings.

² A **life estate or life tenancy** is a concept used in common law and statutory law to designate the ownership of land for the duration of a person's life. In legal terms, it is an estate in real property that ends at death. The owner of a life estate is called a "life tenant."

In March 2006, the Province purchased 35 hectares of private land adjacent to the northwest boundary of Ruckle Park. The Land Conservancy of BC purchased an additional 3 hectares of adjacent private land that has been leased to the Province to manage. In 2007, the additional lands, referred to as Cusheon Cove, were added to the park, increasing the size of the park to its current size of 529 hectares.

Class A parks are dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public.

1.4 Management Commitments and Encumbrances

The park has several management commitments and encumbrances including an informal tenure, a lease, permits, easements, private property and rights-of-way.

Informal Tenure

A life tenancy over the working farm portion of Ruckle Park was granted to several members of the Ruckle family (letter of Authority 73-02-06) and a “Gentlemen’s Agreement”. The Gentlemen’s Agreement³ states:

1. “No developments will take place without the Ruckle family’s approval to ensure that current farming activities are not hindered;
2. Development in the farm interpretation zone will conform to the existing architectural motif;
3. Developments will not be permitted which will infringe upon or alter the distinctive cultural landscape; and
4. Sheep grazing will be confined to the immediate farm area and remainder of the park will be permitted to return to a natural condition.”

Lease

Management commitments for Ruckle Park include the obligations outlined in the lease agreement between the Province (Ministry of Environment) (the Lessee) and The Land Conservancy of BC (the Lessor) for Lot 4, Section 73, South Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District (Plan VIP51663) (see Figure 6). The lease commenced February 8, 2007 and is valid for a renewable term of 99 years.

Under the lease agreement, the Ministry will do all of the following:

1. Designate the land as a Class A park under the *Park Act*.
2. Leave the land in good repair at the end of the term.
3. Allow access to the land by The Land Conservancy of BC at any time to view the state of repair and must repair according to notice.

³ Ruckle Park correspondence, Dated December 20, 1996, file 146-02/0267

4. Not erect or permit the erection of any sign on the land containing the name of the Lessor without the prior written approval of The Land Conservancy of BC. The Province must remove any signs not conforming to this section at the Lessor's direction and at their cost.

Other Management Commitments

There are several park use permits in Ruckle Park including:

- A park use permit for outdoor environmental education.
- A park use permit at Beaver Point for the operation of a navigation beacon.
- A park use permit at Beaver Point for operation of a repeater site and a telephone.
- A park use permit with existing tenant for a dwelling known as the Peavine Cabin. This cabin was in existence and rented at the time of the park establishment.

Other Management Commitments (adjacent foreshore area not within the park)

- Environment, Conservation and Recreation Reserve Notations (UREP), to the Ministry of Environment, for Russell Island together with all that unsurveyed Crown foreshore or land covered by water being part of the bed of Satellite Channel, Cowichan District.
- Right-of-way, to BC Hydro, over unsurveyed Crown land being part of the seabed of Swanson Channel, Cowichan District, as shown on Plan VIP77659. Tenure term April 2005 to no end date.
- Right-of-way, to BC Hydro, over unsurveyed Crown land being part of the seabed of Swanson Channel, Cowichan District, as shown on Plan 2143RW. Tenure term January 1972 to no end date.

Private Property

There is one private property surrounded by park on three sides (Rem. Parcel 'B' 39229-1) and one private property surrounded by park on all sides (Plan 1150R) (Figure 6 – insert 1). These private properties contain houses and outbuildings and are accessed through the park by means of a road easement (Plan VIP 80678).

Easements

Easements provide certain rights to use a piece of property without owning it.

- An easement (Plan VIP 80678) provides access to Cusheon Cove section of the park and the private property in the Cusheon Cove area. (Figure 6 – insert 1).

Rights-of-Way

Rights-of-way are corridors of land that are managed specifically for access or for the construction and maintenance of electric, telephone, water, trails, roads, highways and other utilities.

- Capital Regional District Park Trail is a right-of-way which runs between Rem. Parcel 'C' and Lot 4 VIP 51663 (Figure 6 - insert 1a). As of June 2014, the Capital Regional District has not built a trail on this right-of-way.
- BC Hydro Power lines and Telus phone lines into the buildings in the park.

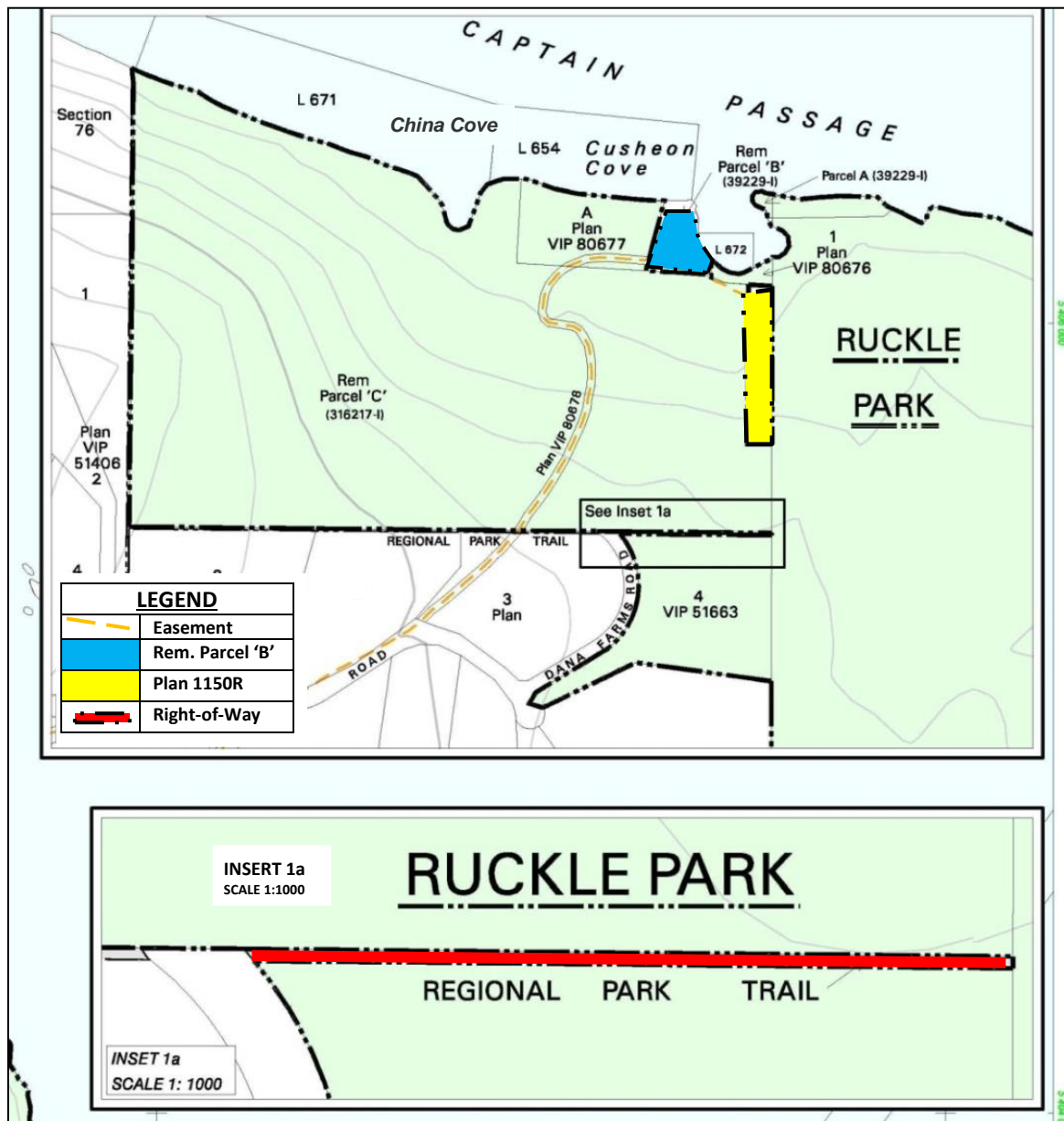


Figure 6: Private Lands, Easement and the Capital Regional District Trail

1.5 Relationship with First Nations

The park is within the traditional territory of the Malahat Nation and the Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tseycum, Tsawout and Tsawwassen First Nations. As well as all members of the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group including Cowichan Tribes and the Chemainus, Halalt, Lake Cowichan, Lyackson and Penelakut First Nations.

Parks and protected areas are established without prejudice to aboriginal rights and title claims. Through their involvement in treaty negotiations, First Nations have the opportunity to define their aboriginal rights and title, as per section 35 of the Canadian *Constitution Act* (1982).

1.6 Relationship with Communities and Stakeholders

In addition to BC Parks, several other government agencies, stakeholders and interest groups have interests in and around Ruckle Park.

Government Agencies

- The Capital Regional District's Parks Department and the Capital Regional District Salt Spring Island Recreation Commission manage a number of community and regional parks and reserves on Salt Spring Island, and have developed a regional park strategy.
- The Islands Trust is the managing government body responsible for land use planning, policy development, and the overall protection of the Gulf Islands. Zoning, regulations and other land-related issues are part of their mandate and are discussed in the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan.
- The BC Agricultural Land Commission has an interest in the 82 hectares of land in the park that is within the Agricultural Land Reserve.
- The BC ministry responsible for archaeology has an interest in the cultural and archaeological sites in the park.
- The BC ministry responsible for Forest Recreation Sites and Trails BC has an interest in the creation of a marine network of access points and campsites along the coastline of BC.
- The BC ministry responsible for transportation has an interest in Beaver Creek Road.
- The BC ministry responsible for wildfire management has an interest regarding wildfire management and response on Salt Spring Island.

Other Organization Interests

Agricultural Interests – These groups support the continuation of agricultural activities in the park:

- Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance is a non-profit organization established to oversee the implementation of the 'Plan to Farm' Salt Spring Island Area Farm Plan and to represent Salt Spring agricultural interests.
- Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust is a non-profit society created by the mandate of the Salt Spring Island Area Farm Plan.
- Salt Spring Island Natural Growers promotes organic farming as one of the primary building blocks in establishing a sustainable community.
- Salt Spring Island Farmers Institute is a 115-year old institution that encourages the preservation and development of agriculture on Salt Spring Island and supports farmers in their quest for sustainability.

Conservation and Protection Interests – These groups have interest in preserving the natural habitats on Salt Spring Island and supporting conservation in the park:

- Nature Conservancy of Canada has an interest in the protection of sensitive ecosystems and cultural heritage.
- The Land Conservancy of BC has an interest in the protection of sensitive ecosystems and cultural areas and the 3 hectares of land they own, which is leased to the Province to manage.
- Salt Spring Island Conservancy owns, for protection, several parcels of land on Salt Spring Island including a partnership with BC Parks at Mount Erskine.
- Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society organizes activities that help Garry oaks and their habitats, such as broom removal projects.
- Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team coordinates efforts to protect and restore endangered Garry oak and associated ecosystems and the species at risk that inhabit them.
- Salt Spring Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society has an interest in the protection of fish bearing streams, riparian areas and the removal of invasive species.
- The Ganges Fire/Rescue Department has an interest in fire management and response and public safety on Salt Spring Island.

Recreation Interests – These groups have interest in recreational activities in and around the park:

- The BC Marine Trails Network has an interest in the creation of a marine network of access points and campsites along the coastline of BC.

- Salt Spring Island Paddlers has interest in access points to the park along the park's shoreline.
- Friends of Saltspring Parks Society has strong interests in ensuring protection of natural values and the continuance of low-impact recreational activities in the parks and protected areas on Salt Spring Island.
- Salt Spring Island Mountain Bikers Association, South Island Mountain Biking Society (SIMBS), and International Mountain Biking Association - Canada (IMBA) have an interest in mountain biking trails on Salt Spring Island and the development of new trails.
- Salt Spring Island Trail Riders and the Back Country Horsemen of BC - Salt Spring Island Chapter have an interest in horseback riding trails on Salt Spring Island and the continuation of riding in the park.
- The Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club has a strong interest in providing trails for walkers and hikers on Salt Spring Island, including the development of additional trails in the park.
- Private land owners adjacent to Ruckle Park have interest in impacts to their property from park visitors, forest fires and park development.

1.7 Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

The western and southern boundaries of the park border private property and the Beaver Creek Class "C" Park. The northern and eastern boundaries of the park border the ocean (Captain Passage and Swanson Channel).

1.8 The Planning Process

The Ruckle Park management plan was developed between the summer of 2006 and the winter of 2014. Each provincial protected area on Salt Spring Island has its own special features, values and roles, however, they all share common characteristics and management needs. As such, as part of the Salt Spring Island Protected Areas Management Planning project, this management plan was developed concurrently with management plans for the five other provincial protected areas on Salt Spring Island: Burgoyne Bay, Mount Erskine and Mount Maxwell parks, and Mount Maxwell and Mount Tuam ecological reserves. The combined management planning process provided BC Parks with the benefit of effectively understanding Salt Spring Island's unique characteristics and more efficiently providing opportunities for public involvement.

In the winter of 2007, a technical advisory committee was formed to assist BC Parks with the planning project. Committee members included representatives from BC Parks, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Islands Trust, the Capital Regional District, The Land Conservancy of BC, The Nature Trust of BC, the Friends of Saltspring Parks

Society and planning consultants working on the project. To assist BC Parks in preparing the management planning documents, a series of technical advisory committee meetings were held over three years (from 2006 to 2009).

A series of meetings, focus group discussions and field trips with partners, stakeholders and individuals expressing an interest in Salt Spring Island's parks and ecological reserves and the BC Parks' management planning process occurred during the summer and fall of 2007 to gather initial public input. Additional open houses and public meetings were held on Salt Spring Island in July 2007 and January 2008. In addition, information on the protected areas was posted on the BC Parks website. Information gathered from the public consultation was used in the development of draft management plans for all six provincial protected areas. Appendix I provides a summary of what the public identified as the key values, activities and management issues specific to Ruckle Park.

In October 2009, the six draft management plans were posted on the BC Parks website for public review and comment and several public meetings subsequently took place. These meetings included an open house and a public forum where the public had the opportunity to discuss the draft management plans and provide comments. Information from this stage of the public process was considered in the development of the final management plans.

There are several known archaeological sites in the park. BC Parks invited all First Nations noted in Section 1.5 to participate throughout the planning process.



Figure 7: Salt Spring Island Management Planning Project Open House

2.0 Values and Roles of the Park

2.1 Significance in the Parks and Protected Areas System

Ruckle Park is significant to BC's parks and protected areas system because it:

- conserves and interprets a working historical farm offering the public an example of an island pioneer settlement, which is significant in BC's history;
- protects public recreation values including camping, hiking and wildlife viewing in a region where the majority of land is privately owned;
- protects a series of coastal ecosystems associated with the Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime biogeoclimatic subzone that are poorly represented in the system;
- provides a critical contribution to the protection of nine red-listed and two blue-listed ecosystems and provides habitat for several species at risk including the red-listed Macoun's meadow-foam; and
- protects significant cultural landscapes for First Nations which are of increasing interest for cultural research, landscape conservation and ecosystem restoration.

The six provincial protected areas on Salt Spring Island, including Ruckle Park, are important to the BC Parks' protected areas system as they contribute to the protection of the rare Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime biogeoclimatic subzone (CDFmm) and the rare Coastal Western Hemlock xeric very dry maritime subzone eastern variant (CWHxm1). With very little (less than 5%) of each biogeoclimatic subzone protected within provincial and federal protected areas in BC, the contribution of Salt Spring Island's protected areas to ecosystem representation goals is significant. Together, these areas also protect twelve red-listed ecosystems and provides habitat for several species at risk.

Collectively, Salt Spring Island's protected areas provide key ecosystem protection and low-impact recreation opportunities for both residents and visitors in a populated region where the landscape is heavily modified, and access to public lands is limited. Unique within the provincial system and the region, they conserve and interpret the rich Gulf Islands farming history and local First Nations' cultural heritage values.

2.2 Ecological Heritage Values

The information in this section comes primarily from the *Salt Spring Island Parks and Ecological Reserves – Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping and Conservation Assessment* completed by Madrone Environmental Services in 2007. Definitions for technical terms are summarized in the glossary in Section 6.0.

Ecosystem Representation

As a group, the provincial protected areas on Salt Spring Island, including Ruckle Park, play an important role in protecting significant representative ecosystems in the Southern Gulf Islands Ecoregion. Combined, these areas protect 1,678 hectares of the CDFmm biogeoclimatic subzone; representing 17.2% of the total CDFmm protected provincially (see Table 1).

The only biogeoclimatic subzone in Ruckle Park is the CDFmm. Only 4% of the CDFmm is protected in BC's provincial and federal protected areas, making the park's 529 hectares a valuable addition to the protected areas system. Additional CDFmm lands are protected by other government agencies and on some private lands.

Table 1: Ecosystem Representation

Ecoprovince	Georgia Depression	
Ecoregion	Georgia Puget Basin	
Ecosection	Southern Gulf Islands	
Biogeoclimatic Subzone	Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime (CDFmm)	
Representation: Area (hectares)		CDFmm
Total biogeoclimatic subzone area within BC		245,313
Total biogeoclimatic subzone area in BC protected within the parks and protected areas system (BC Parks and Parks Canada)		9,783
Total biogeoclimatic subzone area protected within the six Salt Spring Island provincial parks and ecological reserves		1,678
Total biogeoclimatic subzone area protected within Ruckle Park		529
Representation: Proportion (%) of area		CDFmm
% of total biogeoclimatic subzone area protected within BC (BC Parks and Parks Canada)		4.0%
% of BC's total biogeoclimatic subzone area protected within the six Salt Spring Island provincial parks and ecological reserves		0.7%
% of BC's total protected biogeoclimatic subzone area within the six Salt Spring Island provincial parks and ecological reserves		17.2%
% of BC's total biogeoclimatic subzone area protected within Ruckle Park		0.2%
% of BC's total protected biogeoclimatic subzone area within Ruckle Park		5.4%
% of Salt Spring Island provincial parks and ecological reserves total biogeoclimatic subzone area protected with Ruckle Park		31.5%

Ecosystems

Ruckle Park supports a series of ecosystems that have very restricted distribution provincially. With a Mediterranean-type climate and long growing season, the southern Gulf Islands and the southeastern part of Vancouver Island form a unique ecological region in Canada. This ecological region supports many rare ecosystems, which are at risk because of intense human pressure.

The park contains a very diverse patchwork of ecosystems or ecological communities and anthropogenic (human disturbed) sites. The predominant ecosystems⁴ found in the park are the dry coast Douglas-fir / salal (Dry Maritime) and the coast Douglas-fir - grand fir / dull Oregon-grape. Wetter sites support western redcedar / vanilla leaf or western redcedar / Indian-plum and on sites with better drainage, western redcedar – grand fir / three-leaved foamflower (Very Dry Maritime). Coast Douglas-fir - arbutus (lodgepole pine or shore pine) is more or less restricted to the shoreline areas, and on well-drained or drier sites, sporadic Garry oaks are found.

There are coastal Douglas-fir dominated second-growth forests, with a differing presence and proportion of other species depending on soil moisture and nutrient regimes. Riparian (freshwater) sites are distinguishable by their major hardwood components (i.e., red alder and bigleaf maple).

The homestead areas, heavily modified sites (i.e., the campground and picnic area), and the farm areas are mapped as rural, cultivated fields, orchards, and cleared forests, as applicable. Given that the management direction for these areas remains unchanged, it is unlikely that the native ecosystems that would otherwise occupy these sites will recur in the short- to medium-term.

All ecosystems found in the park are shown on the map in Appendix II. Appendix III provides a description of each ecosystem found in the *Salt Spring Island Parks and Ecological Reserves – Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping and Conservation Assessment* (Madrone Environmental Services Ltd., 2007) and its status according to 2013 data from the British Columbia Conservation Data Centre.⁵

The conservation ranking assigned by the BC Conservation Data Centre to each of the park's ecosystems (Appendix III) provides an objective and quantitative ranking of:

- their rarity;
- the occurrence of rare elements;
- their sensitivity to disturbance;
- their resilience;
- the level of fragmentation;
- the age of the stand; and
- the presence of invasive species.

⁴ BC Conservation Data Centre use the term Ecological Communities

⁵ See the BC Conservation Data Centre website at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc>

The ecosystems found in Ruckle Park range widely in their conservation rankings, reflecting the diversity of habitats, conditions and anthropogenic sites. The sensitive, undisturbed, non-fragmented ecosystem most likely to contain species at risk was ranked highest, while areas that were disturbed or harvested were ranked lowest. Ruckle Park contains fewer highly ranked ecosystems than most of the other parks on Salt Spring Island, due to its dominant use as farmland and a campground.

The ecosystems found in the park with a high or very high conservation ranking were:

- undisturbed older age class forests;
- meadows and shoreline bluffs;
- sites with Garry oak; and
- sites with rocky hummocks and very shallow soils.

Cleared sites and fields have low or very low conservation rankings, although the seasonally flooded, poorly drained fields found in the park have somewhat higher rankings, based on their capacity to provide migratory bird habitat. Young forests had a moderate conservation ranking, while those with fluctuating water tables and riparian sites were ranked slightly higher.

The young forest ecosystem polygons were ranked as low or moderate. These young, forested areas are examples of ecosystems at risk, and as they mature and recover from disturbance, their conservation ranking will increase since mature forests are more ecologically diverse than younger forests.

Vegetation

The heavily modified nature of Ruckle Park over the past 150 years has influenced its natural vegetation. Logging, farming, animal grazing, road development, park facilities development and camping have affected many parts of the park. Nevertheless, the park does protect critical habitat for, and supports, several plant species at risk.

In 2006, Isabella Point Forestry Limited completed a vegetation survey of approximately 6 hectares in the campground portion of the park, and 144 plant species were recorded (John and Brouard, 2006). While much of the park is dominated by introduced plant species, a surprisingly large number of native species were found in this study; 82 native species and 62 introduced species were documented. See Appendix IV for a complete species list.

Sensitive microhabitats in the form of small pools were recorded in the picnic and camping areas, which contained rare and fragile plant species including the red-listed Macoun's meadow-foam. In spite of heavy human traffic and years of animal grazing, these populations of

meadow-foam have survived. It is believed that human activity and animal grazing have controlled competition from other plants including grass species, and that because heavy park use peaks after the plants have already flowered and died, they have continued to thrive.

Areas in the park with coast Douglas-fir and Garry oak ecosystems are ranked as having high to very high conservation values and may contain species at risk. Other areas in the park with little to no disturbance, including shoreline areas with rock outcrops, small oak meadows and riparian ecosystems, provide habitat for several species and rare plant communities. Other recorded species at risk in the park include the red-listed green-sheathed sedge, and the blue-listed Nuttall's quillwort, slender woolly-heads, and poverty clover.



Figure 8: Red-listed Macoun's Meadow-Foam

Invasive Species

The anthropogenic sites in Ruckle Park all contain invasive species, including grasses, Scotch broom, English Holly, carpet burweed and other herbaceous species. The sheep, cattle and other livestock on the farm all potentially spread seeds as they stick to their coats or germinate in their droppings. The road, campground and trails also act as vectors for dispersal. The introduction of carpet burweed and its rapid spread in the park and elsewhere is one example of the dispersal and colonization of invasive species that can happen in areas with heavy visitor use.

Carpet burweed, a native plant to South America, was first discovered in the Ruckle Park campground in 1997 and has quickly spread throughout the park and southern Vancouver Island. Carpet burweed likes sunny open aspects with moist soil in the spring and does not appear to grow in shaded forests. The seeds have stiff hairs and spines forming a burr, which aids in dispersal by humans (or animals) as they readily attach to clothing, skin, camping equipment, shoes and tires. The burrs can also be sharp enough to pierce human skin. Once dispersed, seeds remain dormant in the soil through the summer drought until fall, when the annual life cycle begins again. Carpet burweed has become a concern in Ruckle Park as it grows in many of the same areas as several of the species at risk found there, including the Macoun's meadow-foam, and has become established in the campground area where visitor numbers and human interactions with the plant are high.

Since the discovery of carpet burweed in the park, BC Parks and volunteers have been working to control its spread. These eradication efforts have reduced its density and minimized impacts on both people and rare species, but continued attention and regular treatments will be needed to control its spread.



Figure 9: Invasive Carpet Burweed

Wildlife Species and Habitats

Ruckle Park protects a variety of habitats resulting in a high diversity of wildlife species using the area. Seabirds, ducks, geese and shorebirds live in the intertidal and marine area, while Great Blue Herons, *fannini* subspecies (blue-listed) and Bald Eagles use trees in the riparian and shoreline zones. Numerous passerines use the area including Townsend's Solitaires, Violet-green Swallows, Barn Swallows (blue-listed), Pine Grosbeaks, Common Ravens, Northwestern Crows, American Robins, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and several finch and sparrow species.

The blue-listed Dun Skipper and Moss' Elfin butterflies are known to occur in the general vicinity of the park (off Beaver Point Road) and other rare butterfly species are likely to occur. Red-tailed Hawks were observed in the forest adjacent to the lower parking lot during ecosystem surveys in 2007 and are likely breeding within, or adjacent to, the park. Records of the blue-listed Western Screech-Owl, *kennicottii* subspecies exist for Ruckle Park, with the last confirmed nesting observation in 1993. The blue-listed Barn Owl has been known to nest west of the park boundary in a snag cavity and the park would be suitable habitat for Barn Owls with its several barns. In addition, there is one historical record of a Bald Eagle nest on Beaver Point.

Mule (Black-tailed) Deer are abundant throughout the area, especially in the second-growth forests and in the campground area. The ditches in the flooded fields, as well as the riparian areas, are suitable habitat for shrews and the blue-listed Northern Red-legged Frog.

The underwater ocean environment adjacent to the park is full of marine life. Intertidal and undersea life include plumose and dahlia anemones, sponges, octopus, lingcod, sea stars, giant barnacles and nudibranchs (a group of soft-bodied, marine gastropod molluscs which shed their shell after their larval stage often called sea slugs). Tidal pools contain many types of crabs, mussels, oysters, sculpin, limpets and stars. Rocky walls encrusted in castles, such as staghorn bryozoans and caves, are ideal for underwater exploring.



Figure 10: Mule (Black-tail) Deer

Level of Human Disturbance

From an ecosystem management perspective, the agricultural use of the farm, the maintenance of the campground/picnic site, and the existence of the trails and roads constitute disturbances and contribute to increased fragmentation of adjacent intact, native ecosystems. The core area of the park is primarily undisturbed, supporting viable ecosystems and native species. However, much of the coastal Douglas-fir and western redcedar forests has evidence of historic logging.

Trampling of the native vegetation by visitors occurs in this popular park. Although there is an established trail network, off-trail mountain bike riding and hiking have compacted soil and damaged plants, especially around the shoreline trail and near the campground. The campground area contains freshwater pools that are highly susceptible to damage and contain important microhabitats for several rare species. These pools have continued to survive over the years, despite historic pressures ranging from cattle and sheep grazing to hiking, camping and park facility development.



Figure 11: Ruckle Farm Sheep

2.3 Cultural Heritage

First Nations

The park is within the traditional territory of the Malahat Nation and the Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tseycum, Tsawout and Tsawwassen First Nations. As well as all members of the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group including Cowichan Tribes and the Chemainus, Halalt, Lake Cowichan, Lyackson and Penelakut First Nations.

First Nations have used Salt Spring Island for centuries. Permanent settlements fluctuated over the years with the main centres of population at Hwu'ne'nuts (Fulford Harbour), Shiyahwt (Ganges), Stsa'tx (Long Harbour), Xwaaqw'um (Burgoyne Bay) and P'q'unup (Southey Point) (Figure 12). A major epidemic in the 1780s and subsequent warfare with northern Aboriginal peoples shifted resident populations to villages on Vancouver Island from which the various families continued to access the lands and resources on Salt Spring Island. First Nations people remained at the present-day Tsawout Indian Reserve at Fulford Harbour until the 1920s, making this the longest continually occupied place on the island (Salt Spring Island Archives 2010).

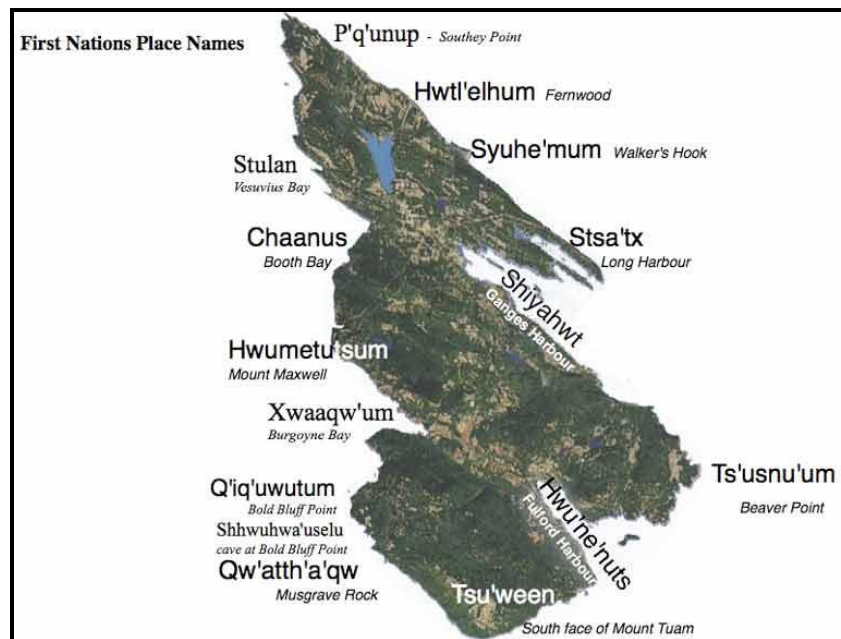


Figure 12: First Nations Place Names

First Nations people come to the area to gather seasonal and permanent resources from clam beds, camas beds, and wild clover beds, collect berries, and harvest herring and sea mammals. The Gulf Islands Archaeological Survey, completed in 1974, recorded several shell middens, located at various points along the park's coastline; two boulder cairns located near Beaver Point; and a historic First Nation's inland camping area located in the centre of the park. This widespread inland area, at a size of approximately 32 hectares, is the most extensive archaeological site identified so far within the park.

European Settlers

Ruckle Family Farm and Beaver Point Wharf

The Ruckle family pioneered Salt Spring Island in the early 1870s when Henry Ruckle immigrated to Canada from Ireland in 1872 and moved to Beaver Point where he started one of the first farms in BC. At its peak, the Ruckle family farm produced a variety of agricultural crops including hay, vegetables, potatoes, wheat, oats, barley, field peas and root crops. The Ruckle family also raised sheep, cattle, hogs, turkeys, chickens and pheasants. In addition, the farm was a large fruit and nut operation, which when in full production, included an orchard of more than 600 apple and pear trees, and about 40 nut trees.

At one time, Beaver Point was Salt Spring Island's only link for early European settlers with the outside world. Henry Ruckle built Beaver Point Wharf so that south Salt Spring Island pioneers could have easier contact with Vancouver Island. Before the steamer service began in 1889, Salt Spring Islanders had to row to Vancouver Island for supplies. By 1900, there were six sailings per week to Beaver Point, including two mail deliveries. The government purchased Henry Ruckle's wharf in 1904, rebuilt it in 1910, and then again in 1925.

Beaver Point housed a general store, the post office, the wharf and the residence of William Patterson and his family from 1915 until the 1950s. When the ferry service moved from Beaver Point to Fulford Harbour, the Patterson business moved with it, and the wharf and buildings at Beaver Point were dismantled (Salt Spring Island, 2009).

Five years after moving to the Beaver Point area, Henry Ruckle married Ella Anna Christiansen, a widow with a young son named Alfred. Henry and Ella had three more children – Daniel, Ella and Agnes. Ella and Agnes moved away from the island while Alfred and Daniel stayed on the farm. Daniel married Mary Patterson and they had four children – Henry Gordon, William, Ella and Helen. Helen lived on the farm and helped her parents. Henry Gordon moved off the farm and married Lotus Fraser and they had two children – Gwen and Henry. Gwen lived on the farm for many years. Gwen and Henry did not have any children.

The Ruckle family sold their farm to the Province in 1973 and in 1974, the property was established as Ruckle Park, bearing the name of the family as a tribute. In purchasing the Ruckle property and establishing Ruckle Park, a life tenancy over the farm portion of the property was granted to six Ruckle family members including Henry Gordon, Lotus, Ella, Helen, Gwen and Henry. In 2014, there is only one member of the Ruckle family left to oversee the operation of the active working Ruckle Farm.

Ruckle Farm Heritage Buildings

Ruckle Park contains several houses and farm buildings with some dating back to the early 1870s. Several heritage assessments of the heritage buildings have been completed and the reports provide a condition assessment, a heritage value and a heritage plan for each of the buildings in the park. This condition assessment will be used along with this management plan to inform management of the buildings. Appendix V provides the statements of significance, cited from Jonathan Yardley's reports, for each of the buildings in Ruckle Park.



Figure 13: Ruckle Family Heritage Queen Ann House

In addition to the Ruckle Farm buildings, there is one other existing dwelling located in Ruckle Park. The “Peavine” house is a log cabin located on treed property in the southwestern corner of the park. John Peavine Kahon built it in the late 1880s on property which he owned at that time, and which the Ruckle family later acquired. A long-term tenant currently rents this house under a park use permit.

Cusheon Cove

The Cusheon Cove area was the site of the largest sawmill on Salt Spring Island. In the early 1900s Cusheon Cove became a company village where a multicultural community of over 150 men and their families lived and worked for the Bulman-Alison Lumber Company. Families lived in houses, single men lived in bunkhouses and Asian workers lived in cabins. Surrounding farms prospered during this period by selling their supplies to the village. The whole community prospered until 1926 when the mill shut down shortly after the collapse of the large wharf associated with the mill. The wharf was not rebuilt for economic reasons and the once thriving sawmill community at Cusheon Cove was eventually abandoned (Kahn and Hatfield, 2007).

Although there is very little recorded information for Cusheon Cove or the Bulman-Alison Lumber Company, the previous owner of this property has unearthed many artefacts from those early times. The artefacts were found close to where the old sawmill foundations are located and where the bunkhouses once stood. The Hatfield collection includes an assortment of tools, bottles, rice bowls and pottery of Chinese, Japanese and English heritage. Several buildings still exist on the property, including some that date back to the time of the original sawmill pioneers, including the Bulman House (1909), Bulman Barn (1915), and the Bulman Family House (1920).

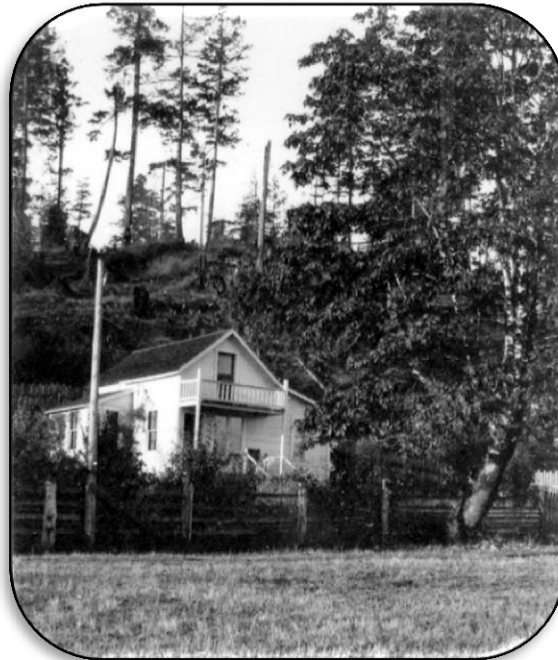


Figure 14: The Bulman House in 1920 (photo from Kahn and Hatfield, 2007)

Evidence of more recent history includes non-heritage farm buildings, a large barn, cabins, and a freshwater fish hatchery building, along with fences, pastures, an orchard and mooring buoys left from the former salmon farming pens. The park does not currently include the marine foreshore, and therefore the old mooring buoys and wharf are not in the park.

2.4 Recreation

Tourism is a major industry on Salt Spring Island and the local government and Chamber of Commerce seek to offer a variety of recreational opportunities to island visitors. There is a long history of tourism use at Ruckle Park and the park contributes significantly in promoting tourism, historical interpretation and recreation activities on the island.

The park is a favourite destination for local residents and visitors to Salt Spring Island and is one of the most popular destinations for tourists in the southern Gulf Islands. From 2008 to 2013, the park received an average of 83,275 day use visitors per year and an average of 19,000 overnight visitors per year in the campsite and group sites.

Visitors can access Ruckle Park along Beaver Point Road approximately 10 kilometres from the Fulford Harbour ferry terminal. There are several trails throughout the park offering visitors a view of the historic landscape and breathtaking views of Swanson Channel. A section of Ruckle Park (i.e., the Ruckle family life tenancy) is an active working farm and closed to the public. Visitors are requested to respect this property and not to interfere with the farming operation.

Access into the Cusheon Cove area of the park is along a single lane gravel road, off Bulman and Meyer roads. This road is only used to access two private in-holdings under a legal easement, for BC Parks staff and contractors and is not open to public vehicles. There is no formal trail access into Cusheon Cove, however limited water access for small boats is feasible by either beaching at Cusheon Cove or China Cove.



Figure 15: Hiking at Ruckle Park

Camping

Ruckle Park is the only provincial campground on Salt Spring Island that offers a unique walk-in or bike-in camping experience with 78 popular campsites located approximately 5 minutes from the parking lot. The campground is in a scenic location along the edge of the forest and extends across an open grassy area overlooking Swanson Channel. Adjacent to the walk- and bike-in campground, there are three group campsites set in an open field, and eight additional vehicle-accessible campsites adjacent to the parking lot area. On-site facilities include water taps, pit toilets, group fire rings, interpretive signs, trails and historic buildings.



Figure 16: Ruckle Walk-in Camp Site

Cycling and Mountain Biking

This park is a popular camping location for cyclists, as it serves as a good location for cyclists wishing to explore the rest of picturesque Salt Spring Island. Bicycles are allowed on the main roads only and riders are asked to walk their bikes into the main campground area. All bicycles, including mountain bikes, are prohibited on the hiking and walking trails in Ruckle Park.

Heritage Interpretation

Ruckle Park protects and interprets the oldest working farm in BC with most of the heritage features being located in the southeast corner of the park. The Ruckle family's heritage buildings include four houses and numerous other farm buildings, all built at various times by different family members.

The largest concentration of farm buildings is located south of Beaver Point Road where several buildings of various ages are clustered around the first house built by Henry Ruckle in the early 1870s. This house is a two-story frame structure with a one-story addition. The other buildings include a large barn, two pig houses, a brooder house, a sheep shed and other associated outbuildings. Many of these buildings have undergone stabilizing renovations and can be viewed by the public from the outside. Interpretive signs provide visitors with information on the history of the heritage farm and buildings.

The three other houses and assorted buildings are located in the active farming area and are still in use by Ruckle family members and the farm operator. This area is closed to the public.



Figure 17: Ruckle Heritage Farm

Hiking and Walking

Ruckle Park features beautiful ocean views from the day-use area and along the trails, as well as scenic pastoral views of the neighbouring farm. An extensive trail system exists at Ruckle Park, with more than 15 kilometres of trails (Figure 18). A shoreline trail runs from the heritage farm area to Yeo Point, along with other inland trail routes that range from easy walks to hikes that are more difficult.

With its 7 kilometres of shoreline, rocky headlands and tiny coves and bays, the park provides hours or even days of enjoyable exploration. A mixture of forest, field and shore habitats makes it one of the best wildlife viewing areas on Salt Spring Island. Several marine mammals including California and Stellar Sea Lions, Harbour Seals, Porpoises and Orca (Killer) Whales may be seen offshore from the park, while American Mink, Raccoons and North American River Otters can also be seen cavorting along the shoreline. On shore, tidal pools filled with a brightly coloured world of crab, mussel, limpet, oyster, sculpin, starfish, and more are accessible to park visitors to view. Birdwatchers can often catch sight of cormorants, grebes, guillemots, eagles, grouse and a variety of other birds.

Horseback riding

Horses were historically used on the Ruckle Farm for ploughing fields, logging, and as transportation. The present resident farmer does not use horses on the farm. Horseback riding is restricted to designated trails in the park (Figure 18), however, it is also allowed in the heritage farm and active farm areas on special occasions (e.g., Ruckle Farm Days).

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting and freshwater fishing are prohibited in the park, however, there are salt water fishing opportunities adjacent to the park.

Scuba Diving

Scuba divers frequent the waters off Ruckle Park, drifting among the castle-like caves or floating above the bountiful ocean floor, where they will find a profusion of plumose anemones, sponges, nudibranchs, octopi, sea stars and giant barnacles.

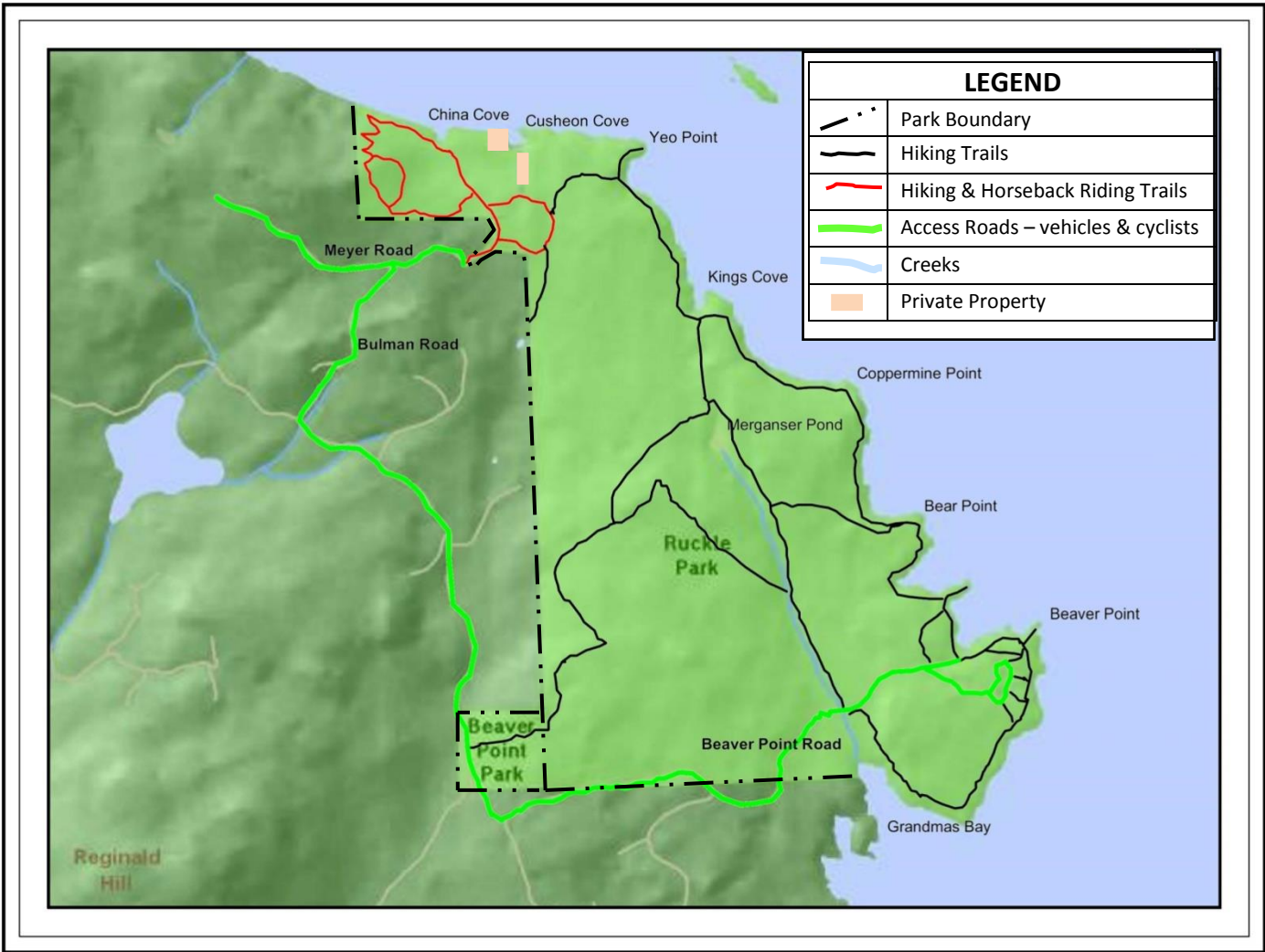


Figure 18: Ruckle Park Trails

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Management Vision

Ruckle Park offers a unique opportunity to visit a Gulf Island pioneer settlement and to experience an historic farm setting that characterizes a significant chapter in Salt Spring Island and British Columbia's history. The park also provides a wide variety of low-impact recreational opportunities making it a significant destination in the southern Gulf Islands. In addition, the park protects several ecosystems and species at risk in the rare Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic moist maritime subzone as well as impressive landscapes of fragile rocky shorelines, meadows and bluffs.



Figure 19: Ruckle Park Shoreline

3.2 Management Objectives, Issues and Strategies

Table 2 outlines the management objectives, issues and interests with the strategies to address them.

Table 2: Management Objectives, Issues, Interests and Strategies

Objectives	Issues	Strategies
CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES		
To conserve, protect and interpret cultural heritage buildings, artefacts and historic agricultural features.	Heritage buildings are at risk of further deterioration without ongoing maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve heritage buildings as per the recommendations in Yardley (2007) by maintaining, restoring and rehabilitating priority buildings.
	Opportunity to provide interpretation of heritage features (e.g. buildings and farm activities) for park visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance interpretive information about the historic Ruckle Farm site and the Bulman mill area for park visitors.
	Opportunity to protect and interpret historic Bulman Mill era.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with Mr. Hatfield to develop protection strategies for the Bulman Mill era artefacts.
	Opportunity to preserve and maintain the existing orchard, which includes several varieties of heritage apples, pears and nuts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the Ruckle Farm heritage orchard for the production of fruit and nuts.
To determine the future of non-heritage farm and residential buildings.	Limited resources exist to ensure that all non-heritage farm and residential buildings are adequately maintained and in safe condition (including several buildings in the Working Farm area, a large barn and several cabins).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove all non-heritage buildings in the park that are not required for administration, park operations or visitor use. • Retain one or more of the non-heritage buildings in the Cusheon Cove area for future visitor use or park operations (e.g., an interpretive centre, museum, picnic shelter, camping shelter or caretaker's house); prioritize retention of buildings in the best condition that can be maintained with available resources.
FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES		
To conserve, protect, and respect cultural values and maintain First Nations social, ceremonial and cultural uses.	Limited knowledge of the park's cultural values, including archaeological sites and First Nations' cultural uses, makes it difficult to protect these values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue building relationships with First Nations to assist in the identification and protection of archaeological sites and cultural use of the park. • Ensure that appropriate archaeological assessments are completed prior to development within the park in order to identify cultural sites that require protection. • Ensure management direction is developed for any new cultural sites and values identified.

Objectives	Issues	Strategies
RUCKLE WORKING FARM		
To conserve, protect and enhance the working farm as a key element of the visitor experience in the park.	Interest in continuing agricultural activities on the Ruckle Farm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue operating the Ruckle Farm under a park use permit or other BC Parks’ authorizations once the current life tenancy expires, following the principles outlined in the Ruckle Farm Plan. • Maintain the Ruckle family houses and outbuildings.
	Opportunity to maintain and provide interpretive information about the Ruckle houses, other farm buildings, and the Peavine Cabin to park visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the feasibility of using one or more of the Ruckle family houses for fixed roof accommodation or other visitor services facilities (e.g., an interpretive centre) when the life tenancy has ended. • Continue the park use permit for the Peavine Cabin to the existing tenant. When this occupancy ends, the cabin will be evaluated for continued use.
To conserve, protect and enhance the working farm as a key element of the visitor experience in the park.	Interest in continuing safe visitor access to the working farm area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow visitors to experience the working farm while ensuring public safety.
	Concerns related to potential impacts of recreational activities on farmland and livestock (e.g., dogs off-leash chasing farm animals).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the impacts of recreational visitors on the farmland and farm livestock. If impacts exist, redirect these activities away from farm area.



Figure 20: Ruckle Working Farm

Objectives	Issues	Strategies
RECREATION		NOTE: Any recreational development in the park will be guided by the BC Parks' Impact Assessment Process to determine locations that do not adversely impact park values (e.g., cultural and environmental).
To maintain and enhance a range of low-impact recreational activities.	Need to determine the feasibility of, and need for, additional vehicle-accessible camping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the eight existing vehicle-accessible campsites in the parking lot area. No additional vehicle-accessible campsites proposed.
	Need to assess possible impacts of increased and varied recreational activities on trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor impacts of recreational activities on trails. • Allow cycling only on vehicle roads and access roads to the campsites. • Maintain farm fencing in good repair to keep livestock out of public areas and public out of restricted farm area. • Allow horseback riding only on designated multi-use trails and during special events in the heritage and working farm areas.
	Need to provide for continued marine recreational use (e.g. scuba diving and kayaking).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an analysis to determine recommendations respecting adding an area of marine foreshore, which would include the Environment, Conservation and Recreation Reserve Notation for the foreshore areas of the original Ruckle Park and foreshore in the Cusheon Cove area, to ensure controlled recreation use that does not impact sensitive habitat and culturally significant sites.
	Cusheon Cove Section Need to assess and ensure adequate, low-impact terrestrial and marine access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade the trail from Yeo Point to Cusheon Cove to ensure public safety and protection of ecological values, and assess the potential for a loop trail back to the main parking lot. • Close the access road to the Cusehon Cove area to vehicles except for the private property owners and their guests and for groups who have BC Parks authorization (e.g., Salt Spring Island Conservancy). • Allow small boats to access the beach at China Cove. • Allow horseback riding on the access road and designated multi-use trails (Figure 18).
	Cusheon Cove Section May be a need to develop new recreational facilities to meet growing visitor demands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate toilet facilities. • Develop a small tent campground (10-15 sites) above China Cove accessible only by walking, cycling or boating if demand begins to regularly exceed the parks and Salt Spring Island's existing campground capacity. • Fixed roof accommodation may be considered if one or both of the private properties become part of the park.
To reduce the impacts of some recreational activities	Some existing and potential recreational activities, including off-road motorized vehicles, mountain biking, and special events, may negatively affect the park's sensitive ecosystems, cultural values, and diminish the recreational experience of park visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not allow special events (e.g., music festivals, sporting events and any other event involving large numbers of people, vehicles and facilities) with the exception of the annual Ruckle Farm Days. • Prohibit mountain biking on trails in the park. • Monitor unauthorized and restricted activities and enforce as required.

Objectives	Issues	Strategies
ECOLOGICAL HERITAGE VALUES		
To maintain the long-term natural diversity of ecosystems in the park and to conserve and protect natural heritage values.	<p>Need to ensure ongoing conservation and protection of species at risk and ecosystems at risk.</p> <p>Need to assess existing impacts of increased and intensive camping on the sensitive bluff habitats.</p> <p>Impacts from recreational use and farming activities on species at risk and ecosystems at risk have been observed in the park, particularly in high-use areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the impacts of camping on the sensitive bluff areas, particularly species at risk, and reduce the density of camping on the bluffs by continuing to relocate campsites to the forested areas if required. • Direct visitor traffic to previously disturbed areas and away from sensitive areas. • Continue to provide visitor information on the importance of protecting ecological values. • Maintain farm and ensure fencing is in good repair to keep livestock away from sensitive ecosystems. • Initiate further research, with the assistance of external partners, on species at risk in the park and protect their critical habitat. • Encourage local groups to participate in research and vegetation management initiatives.
To reduce unnatural fuel loads and presence of invasive species.	<p>There is a threat of severe forest fire from unnatural fuel loads from long-term fire suppression in the park.</p> <p>Sensitive ecosystems and species at risk are threatened by the introduction of invasive species, unnatural plant succession and an unnaturally high population of deer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a fuel management plan that defines long-term fuel management objectives and actions. • In the short-term, continue the existing carpet burweed monitoring, control and removal program. • Investigate how to best control carpet burweed in the long-term, including the use of volunteer efforts to support monitoring and control efforts. • Provide visitor information on the importance of invasive species control and eradication. • Collaborate with Coastal Invasive Species Council of BC, other agencies, stakeholders and the public on the reduction and/or eradication of introduced invasive plants. • Assess and monitor the impacts of deer on sensitive ecosystems and species at risk.
To improve protection of sensitive habitats in the marine foreshore.	Wildlife habitat and ecologically sensitive sites along the Ruckle Park shoreline are at risk from uncontrolled use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an analysis to determine recommendations respecting adding an area of marine foreshore to protect sensitive habitat and culturally significant sites.

Objectives	Issues	Strategies
CLIMATE CHANGE		
To gain a better understanding of the effects of climate change on the park's natural values.	<p>Species at risk and ecosystems at risk may be negatively impacted by climate change related variations to precipitation and temperature.</p> <p>Shoreline areas are at risk from sea level rise associated with climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage ongoing research on species at risk and ecosystems at risk to get a better understanding of the effects of climate change on these sensitive ecosystems. • Using the shoreline sensitivity model evaluate the shoreline areas that are likely to be impacted by climate change and sea level rise. • Monitor vegetation and benthic communities at the shoreline to determine their response to any sea level rise that may occur. • Work with local First Nations in the protection of archeological sites that may be at risk from sea level rise and increased erosion or wave action.
LAND USE AND INTERESTS MANAGEMENT		
To integrate adjacent land use issues and interests in the management of the park.	<p>Potential impacts from development of adjacent private and protected lands and the need to maintain biological connectivity with surrounding properties to help maintain migration, gene flow and biodiversity.</p> <p>Two private properties surrounded by the park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor adjacent land development. • Continue building relationships with park neighbours to encourage the protection of biological connectivity. • Pursue the addition of the two private properties (Figure 6) when opportunities arise.
STAKEHOLDERS		
To maintain a good relationship with stakeholders and neighbours.	Collaboration with stakeholders and interested parties on the management of the park and surrounding properties is required to ensure the protection of the park's values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collaboratively with other agencies and stakeholders to manage provincial and other protected lands in the area.

3.3 Zoning

BC Parks uses zoning to assist in the management of protected areas. Zoning divides a park into logical units to apply consistent management for conservation, recreation and cultural values. The zones reflect the intended land use, existing patterns of use, the degree of human use desired and the level of management and development required.

Since the approval of the original Ruckle Provincial Park Master Plan, BC Parks has updated its zoning framework. Ruckle Park now has four zones: Cultural Feature – Heritage Farm, Cultural Feature - Active Farm, Intensive Recreation and Nature Recreation (Figure 21).

Cultural Feature Zones

Heritage Farm: incorporates the heritage farm area of Ruckle Park. This area is located south of Beaver Point Road and is concentrated around the 1870s Henry Ruckle house and the large barn. This zone protects the heritage farm area and its associated buildings and is open to the public providing historical interpretation of the area. This zone is approximately 1 hectare, or 0.2% of the park.

Active Farm: incorporates the Ruckle Farm life tenancy area and the active working farm including the farm fields, orchard, family houses and the outbuildings. This zone protects the area's unique features and provides for the preservation of this historic resource. This area is closed to the public. This zone is approximately 68 hectares, or 12.8 % of the park.

Intensive Recreation Zone

The Intensive Recreation Zone follows the road corridor from the park boundary to the main parking lot and the easterly portion of the park, which includes the campground, picnic area and group campground. This zone covers the area where a majority of the recreational activities occur and park facilities are located. This zone is approximately 76 hectares, or 14% of the park.

Nature Recreation Zone

The rest of the park is zoned Nature Recreation to protect the park's environment and to provide for limited recreational opportunities in a relatively undisturbed natural environment. A large section of this zone contains ecosystems ranked very high or high for their conservation value. Management direction for this zone will ensure these values are not adversely affected by visitor use. This zone is approximately 384 hectares, or 73% of the park.

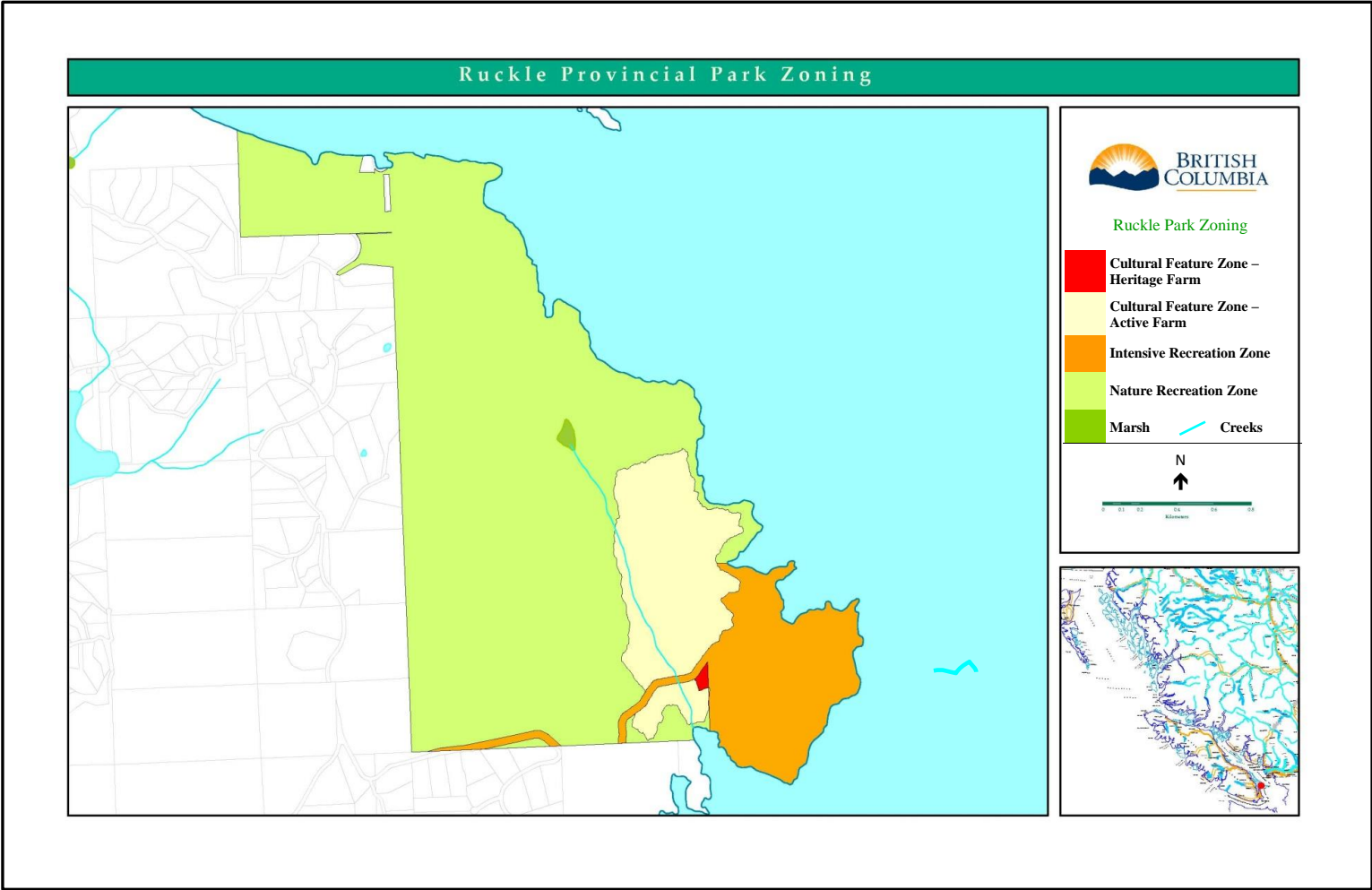


Figure 21: Ruckle Park Zoning Map

3.4 Appropriate Use Table

The Appropriate Use Table (Table 3) lists existing and potential future uses in Ruckle Park. This is not an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this protected area in the future. The table summarizes uses that the management planning process has confirmed are and are not appropriate in Ruckle Park. The table should be used in conjunction with other sections of the management plan.

Table 3: Appropriate Use Table

Activities	Appropriate in Intensive Recreation Zone	Appropriate in Nature Recreation Zone	Appropriate in Cultural Feature Zones	Comments
Camping	Y	Y	N	Designated sites only
Commercial Recreation - facilities based	N	N	Y	BC Parks' Authorization required. Use of existing barn and other buildings may be appropriate
Commercial Recreation - no facilities	Y	Y	Y	BC Parks' Authorization required. Guided education programs, cycling tours, and hiking
Cycling and Mountain Biking	Y	Y	N	Beaver Point Road, Ruckle walk-in campground access road, and the Cusheon Cove access road only
Farming	N	N	Y	BC Parks' Authorization required
Filming (commercial)	Y	Y	Y	BC Parks' Authorization required
Fire Management	Y	Y	Y	BC Parks' Authorization required
Fishing (freshwater)	N	N	N	
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	N	Y	BC Parks' Authorization required
Horseback Riding	N	Y	Y	Designated multi-use trails only and at Ruckle Farm Days
Hunting	N	N	N	
Invasive Species Control	Y	Y	Y	BC Parks' Authorization required
Motorized Off-road Access (e.g., ATVs or motorcycles)	N	N	N	
Scientific Research	Y	Y	Y	BC Parks' Authorization required
Special Events (e.g. music festivals, sporting events, and any other event involving large numbers of people, vehicles, and facilities)	N	N	Y*	* Only for the annual Ruckle Farm Days

Facilities	Appropriate in Intensive Recreation Zone	Appropriate in Nature Recreation Zone	Appropriate in Cultural Feature Zones	Comments
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	Y	Y	Y	
Campsite (vehicle access)	Y	N	N	
Campsite (cycling, walking, or boating access only)	Y	Y	N	
Picnic Areas	Y	Y	Y	
Communication Sites	N	N	N	BC Parks' Authorization required. Not normally appropriate but existing authorized uses are allowed to continue.
Fixed Roof Accommodation	N	N	Y	Use of existing houses may be appropriate
Interpretation & Information Structures	Y	Y	Y	
Roads and Parking Lots	Y	Y*	N	*Private access to Cusheon Cove private properties only
Utility corridors (power/transmission lines and other rights-of-way)	N	N	N	BC Parks' Authorization required. Not normally appropriate but existing authorized uses, and new uses where legal rights currently exist are allowed.
Legend				
N	Not an appropriate use in this zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been confirmed during the management planning process that this use is not appropriate in this zone. This may be an existing use, which the management planning process has determined is no longer an appropriate use in this zone. The management plan details strategies for addressing this inappropriate use (e.g., phasing out, closing). 		
Y	May be an appropriate use in this zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This indicates that some degree or scale of this use may be appropriate. For existing uses, the management plan will provide guidance on the appropriate level or scale of this use (e.g., direction to reduce, restrict or increase the current level of this activity) and may address specific restrictions or enhancements (e.g., capacity, appropriate sites, designated trails, purposes, party size, time of year, etc.). For new or expanded uses, this does not constitute approval. This indicates that the use <u>may be considered</u> for further evaluation and possible approval (e.g., Park Use Permit adjudication, completion of a review as part of the BC Parks' Impact Assessment Process). In some cases, the appropriateness may not be confirmed until further assessments are completed. 		
Definition of BC Parks' authorizations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Use Permit Contract Volunteer Agreement Stewardship Agreement Letter of Authorization 		

4.0 Plan Implementation

4.1 Implementation

The management of Ruckle Park will conform to the directions set forth in this management plan. As capacity allows, BC Parks will facilitate discussions with First Nations and stakeholders to identify and determine how to implement management strategies. Trail repair, monitoring of recreational use, and development and installation of signage, will require close cooperation and involvement with the community, First Nations, partner groups and stakeholders to ensure that the park is well managed, and the park's values are maintained and protected.

BC Parks will continue to coordinate the management of Ruckle Park with First Nations, The Land Conservancy of BC, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Islands Trust, the Capital Regional District, First Nations and other public stakeholders.

4.2 High Priority Strategies

The following strategies have been identified as high priorities for implementation.

- Investigate how to best control carpet burweed in the long-term, including the use of volunteers to support monitoring and control efforts.
- Provide visitor information on the importance of invasive species control and eradication.
- Monitor the impacts of recreational visitors on the farmland and farm livestock and if impacts exist, redirect these activities away from farm areas.
- Continue operating the Ruckle Farm under a park use permit or other BC Parks' authorization once the life tenancy expires following the principles outlined in the Ruckle Farm Plan.
- Upgrade the trail from Yeo Point to Cusheon Cove to ensure public safety and protection of ecological values, and assess the potential for a loop trail back to the main parking lot.
- Initiate further research, with the assistance of external partners, on species at risk in the park and protect its critical habitat.
- Continue ongoing maintenance, repairs and restoration of priority heritage buildings.

4.3 Adaptive Management

In order to ensure the management of Ruckle Park remains relevant and effective, an adaptive management approach will be used. Adaptive management involves a five-step process of planning, action, monitoring, evaluation and revision of the management plan to reflect lessons learned, changing circumstances, and/or objectives achieved. Adaptive management is flexible, collaborative and responsive to public input.

The management plan will be reviewed as required by BC Parks. A review of the management plan should generally be triggered by the complexities of the management issues in the protected area and/or a significant change in circumstances (e.g., a natural disaster, major environmental change or discovery of a major new archaeological site), and not by a specific time period.

A management plan review looks for any necessary updates to the management plan that are required to keep management direction current and relevant; correct the intent of a policy statement; address some error or omission; and/or address a new proposal. Any updates or changes to the content of the management plan will be addressed through a formal management plan amendment process. The amendment process will include an opportunity for public input.



Figure 22: Ruckle Campground

5.0 References

- Kahn, C. and Hatfield, C. 2007. *Forgotten Cusheon Cove Salt Spring Island*. Salt Spring Island Press, Salt Spring Island, BC
- John, S.E.T, and Brouard, J.S. 2006. *Vegetation Survey Ruckle Park Salt Spring Island*. Unpublished contract report to BC Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship Division, Vancouver Island Region, Nanaimo, BC
- Madrone Environmental Services Ltd. 2007. *Salt Spring Island Parks and Ecological Reserves – Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping and Conservation Assessment*. Unpublished contract report to BC Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship Division, Vancouver Island Region, Nanaimo, BC pp. 57 – 62.
- Salt Spring Island. 2009. Historic Information retrieved September, 2009 from <http://www.britishcolumbian.com>.
- Salt Spring Island Achieves. 2010. Historic Information retrieved January 2010 from <http://saltspringarchives.com>.
- Yardley, J. 2007. *Condition Survey and Statement of Significance for Hatfield Property Addition, Ruckle Park, Salt Spring Island, BC* Unpublished contract report to BC Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship Division, Vancouver Island Region, Nanaimo, BC

6.0 Glossary

Blue List	List of ecosystems, and indigenous species and subspecies of special concern (formerly vulnerable) in BC.
Ecoregion	The Ecoregion Classification system is used to stratify BC's terrestrial and marine ecosystem complexity into discrete geographical units at five levels. For a complete explanation of this complex classification system, visit http://www.env.gov.BC.ca/ecology/ecoregions/index.html/
Ecological Community	This term is used by the B.C. Conservation Data Centre and the NatureServe network. In B.C., it incorporates natural plant communities and plant associations, and includes a wide range of known ecosystems with their environmental site requirements such as soil moisture and nutrients, climate, physiographic features and energy cycles.
Ecosystem	An ecosystem is a dynamic complex of plant, animal and microorganism communities and the nonliving environment interacting as a functional unit. Ecosystems vary enormously in size: a temporary pond in a tree hollow and an ocean basin can both be ecosystems.
Ecosystem at risk	An extirpated, endangered or threatened ecosystem or an ecosystem of special concern (formerly called vulnerable).
Herbaceous	An ecosystem group in BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: ecosystems dominated by herbaceous vegetation. Shrubs generally account for less than 20% of vegetation cover, and tree cover is generally less than 10%.
Invasive Species	Species those are not native to an area and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
Red List	List of ecosystems, and indigenous species and subspecies that are extirpated, endangered, or threatened in BC Red-listed species and sub-species may be legally designated as, or may be considered candidates for legal designations as Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened under the <i>Wildlife Act</i> (see http://www.env.gov.BC.ca/wld/faq.htm#2). Not all Red-listed taxa will necessarily become formally designated. Placing taxa on these lists flags them as being at risk and requiring investigation.
Riparian	An ecosystem group in BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: ecosystems influenced by proximity to water bodies (rivers, streams, lakes) and processes associated with moving water.
Riparian Habitats	Areas situated, or dwelling on the bank of a river or other body of water
Species at Risk	An extirpated, endangered or threatened species or a species of special concern (formerly called vulnerable).

Appendix I: Ruckle Park Summary of Public Consultation

Through input provided at one public meeting, two public open houses, one stakeholder meeting, and through mail, e-mail, and the website, in 2007 and 2008, the public showed overall support for the key values and management issues identified for this park.

Ruckle Park is a very popular and favourite park for the residents of Salt Spring Island. Not many people wanted to see changes to Ruckle Park, particularly any increases in facilities such as parking, camping, hiking trails, etc. The key comment throughout both open houses and the public response to the questionnaires was support for the continuation of the farm operation at the end of the life tenancy. Many commented on the need and desire to see an organic farm plan in place that focuses on interacting with natural ecosystems with ecologically sound, organic farming practices.

Key values, activities and management issues identified through the management planning process included:

Key Park Values:

- Multipurpose park including conservation, recreation, and agriculture;
- Recreation for families, residence and visitors – hiking, camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, and scenery;
- Natural ecosystems and species at risk;
- Cultural history – both First Nations and farming;
- The Working Farm – providing protection of the natural landscape and ecosystems while providing access to sustainable and responsible farming practices; and,
- Wildlife viewing: birds, mammals, wildflowers and intertidal species.

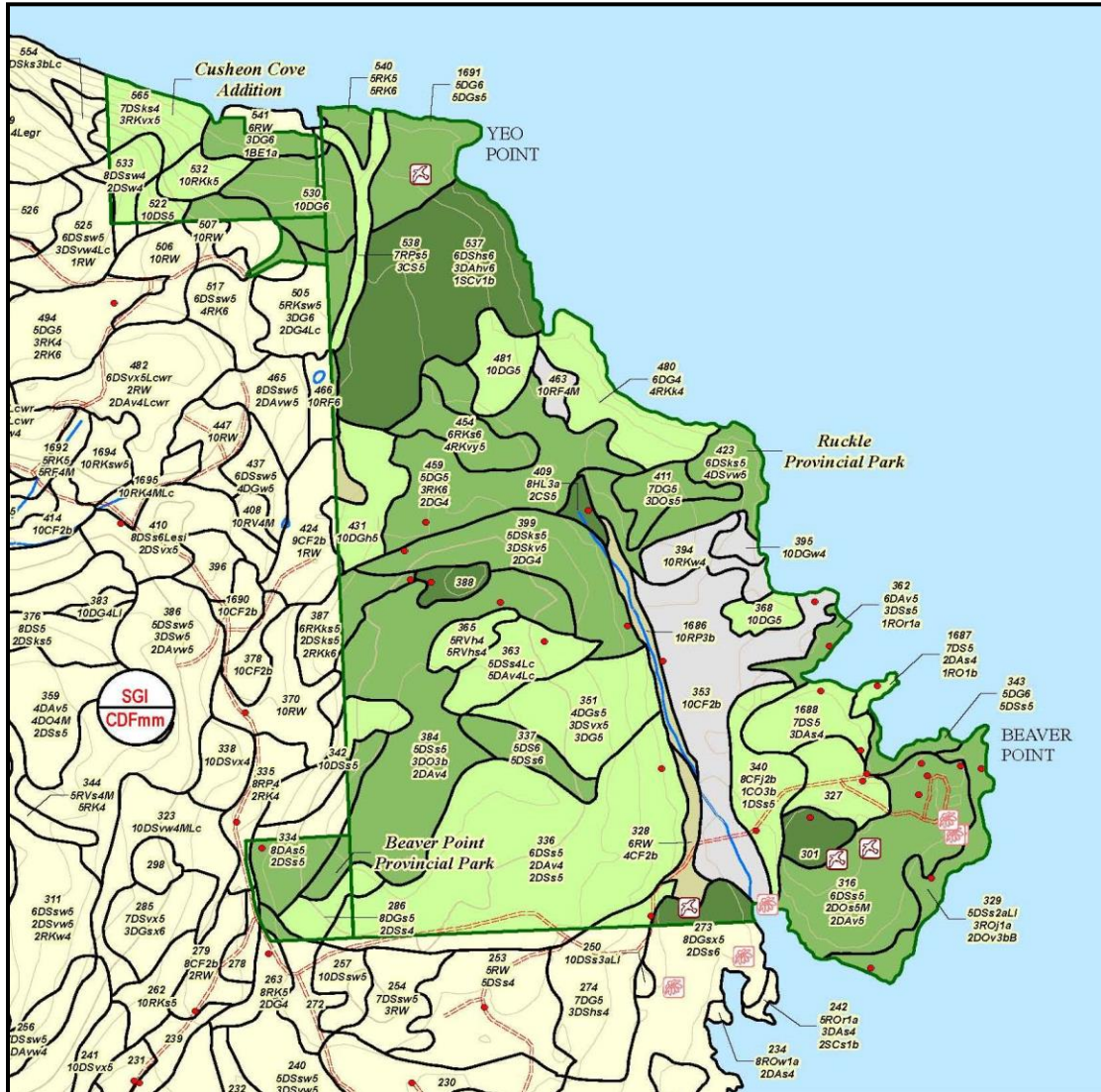
Appropriate Activities:

- Recreation – picnicking, hiking, wildlife viewing and nature appreciation;
- Horseback riding;
- Boating – kayaking and boat moorage;
- Diving and snorkelling;
- Camping – walk-in with no more vehicle accessible sites;
- Organic farming including the fields, animals, and orchards;
- Education on conservation, the historic farm, and sustainable organic farming;
- Heritage farm practices;
- Public access with well maintained and signed trails;
- Kayak and water access camping; and
- Museums or education centres, research and education.

Key Management Issues:

- Enforcement – dogs-off leash, bikes, fires, and illegal camping;
- No new Fixed Roof Accommodation;
- Horse accessible trails;
- Lack of information/interpretation signage – cultural and natural history, and conservation;
- Control of invasive plants, particularly carpet burweed;
- The balance of recreation and agriculture with conservation and sensitive ecosystems;
- Development – water access campsites and no more vehicle campsites;
- Farming – ensuring that farming continues after the end of the life tenancy;
- Preserving the farmland for sustainable farming;
- Lack of a farm management plan;
- Conflicts between users and farming;
- Better fencing to control farm animals; and
- Complete trail improvements to Yeo Point and a trail to Cusheon Cove.

Appendix II: Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping



LEGEND

ECO SECTION & BIO GEOCLIMATIC UNITS		ECO SYSTEM UNIT LABEL	
	<p>← Ecosystem</p> <p>← Biogeoclimatic Unit</p>	<p>Polygon ID — 32</p> <p>Percentile — 50Fz5M</p> <p>Site Modifier — 32</p> <p>Disturbance Code — 50Fz5M</p> <p>Ecosystem Unit — 50Fz5M</p> <p>Stand Composition — 50Fz5M</p> <p>Structural Stage — 50Fz5M</p>	
MAP SYMBOLS			
	Road		Plot Location - CDF TEM (2007)
	Rivers & Creeks- Definite		Rare Bird
	Rivers & Creeks - Indefinite		Rare Plant
	Biogeoclimatic Unit		Rare Plant Community (Forest)
	Ecosystem Unit		Rare Plant Community (Oak)
	Parks & Ecological Reserves		
		Conservation Rank	
			Very High
			High
			Moderate
			Low
			Very Low

Appendix III: Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping Polygon Codes and Status

Ruckle Park ecosystems in *italic red and blue bold* (Madrone, 2007)

COASTAL DOUGLAS-FIR MOIST MARITIME BIOGEOCLIMATIC SUBZONE			
<i>Polygon Code</i>	<i>Ecosystem</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Status</i>
CS	<i>western redcedar / slough sedge</i>	S2S3	Blue
DA	<i>Douglas-fir - arbutus (lodgepole pine or shore pine)</i>	S2	Red
DG	<i>Douglas-fir - grand fir / dull Oregon-grape</i>	S2	Red
DO	<i>Douglas-fir / Alaska oniongrass</i>	S1	Red
DS	<i>Douglas-fir / salal (Dry Maritime)</i>	S2	Red
FC	Roemer's fescue – camas	S1	Red
GO	Garry oak / oceanspray	S1	Red
HL	<i>hardhack – Labrador tea</i>	S3	Blue
QB	Garry oak / California brome/mixed grasses	S1	Red
RF	<i>western redcedar – grand fir / three-leaved foamflower (Very Dry Maritime)</i>	S2	Red
RK	<i>western redcedar - Douglas-fir / Oregon beaked-moss</i>	S1	Red
RP	<i>western redcedar / Indian-plum</i>	S1	Red
RS	western redcedar / common snowberry	S1	Red
RV	<i>western redcedar / vanilla leaf</i>	S1	Red
SC	<i>Cladina (reindeer lichen) – Wallace's selaginella</i>	S2	Red

OTHER features found in Ruckle Park in <i>italic bold black</i>			
<i>Polygon Code</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Polygon Code</i>	<i>Feature</i>
BE	<i>Beach</i>	ES	<i>Exposed Soil</i>
CF	<i>Cultivated Field</i>	GP	Gravel Pit
CL	<i>Cliff</i>	RO	<i>Rocky Outcrop</i>
CO	<i>Cultivated Orchard</i>	RW	<i>Rural Residential</i>

Appendix IV: Ruckle Park Plant List

List of Plants in Ruckle Park by Isabella Point Forestry Ltd; (John and Brouard, 2006).

Ruckle Park red-listed species in **red**, blue-listed species in **blue** and introduced (non-native) species in **purple**.

Alphabetical Scientific Name

Scientific Name	English Name
<i>Abies grandis</i>	grand fir
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	bigleaf maple
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Achlys triphylla</i>	vanilla-leaf
<i>Adenocaulon bicolor</i>	pathfinder
<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	redtop
<i>Agrostis pallens</i>	<i>dune bentgrass</i>
<i>Agrostis tenuis (Agrostis capillaries)</i>	colonial bent grass
<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	silver hairgrass
<i>Aira praecox</i>	early hairgrass
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	saskatoon berry
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	vernal grass
<i>Anthriscus scandician</i>	chervil
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	field parsley-piert
<i>Aphanes microcarpa</i>	small-fruited parsley-piert
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	arbutus
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	lady fern
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	English daisy
<i>Brodiaea coronaria</i>	harvest brodiaea
<i>Bromus carinatus</i>	California brome
<i>Bromus sitchensis</i>	Alaska brome
<i>Bromus vulgaris</i>	Columbia brome
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	soft brome1
<i>Bromus mollis</i>	soft brome2
<i>Bromus rigidus</i>	rip-gut brome
<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	barron brome
<i>Calandrinia ciliata</i>	desert rock purslane
<i>Camassia quamash</i>	common camas
<i>Carex bigelowii</i>	Bigelow's sedge
<i>Carex feta</i>	green-sheathed sedge
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	field chickweed
<i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>	little chickweed
<i>Cerastium fontanum ssp; triviale</i>	mouse-ear chickweed
<i>Circaea alpine</i>	enchanter's-nightshade
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canadian thistle

Scientific Name	English Name
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	bull thistle
<i>Clinopodium douglasii</i>	yerba buena
<i>Corallorhiza maculata</i>	Spotted coral-root
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	crested dog-tail grass
<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>	hedgehog dog-tail grass
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	orchard grass
<i>Danthonia californica</i>	California oatgrass
<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot
<i>Deschampsia danthonioides</i>	annual hairgrass
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	common foxglove
<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	blue wildrye
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	common helleborine
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	common horsetail
<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	woolly eriophyllum
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	common stork's bill
<i>Erythronium oregonum</i>	white fawn lily
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	red fescue
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	salal
<i>Geranium molle</i>	dove-foot geranium
<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	small-flowered geranium
<i>Gnaphalium stramineum</i>	cotton-batting cudweed
<i>Goodyera oblongifolia</i>	rattlesnake plantain
<i>Grindelia integrifolia</i>	Puget Sound gumweed
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	common velvet grass
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	oceanspray
<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>	meadow barley
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	hairy cat's-ear
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	English holly
<i>Isoetes nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's quillwort
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	toad rush
<i>Juncus occidentalis</i>	western rush
<i>Leontodon taraxacoides</i>	hairy hawkbit
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial ryegrass
<i>Lomatium utriculatum</i>	spring gold
<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>	western trumpet
<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	hairy honeysuckle
<i>Limnanthes macounii</i>	Macoun's meadow-foam
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	many flowered wood-rush
<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	dull Oregon-grape
<i>Malus fusca</i>	Pacific crab apple
<i>Moenchia erecta</i>	upright chickweed
<i>Montia fontana</i>	blinks
<i>Montia parvifolia</i>	small-leaved montia

Scientific Name	English Name
<i>Montia howellii</i>	Howell's montia
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	wall lettuce
<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	common forget-me-not
<i>Nemophila parviflora</i>	small-flowered nemophila
<i>Osmorhiza berteroi</i>	mountain sweet-cicely
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	yellow parentucellia
<i>Perideridia gairdneri</i>	Gairdner's yampah
<i>Plagiobothrys scouleri</i>	Scouler's popcornflower
<i>Poa annua</i>	annual bluegrass
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	bulbous bluegrass
<i>Poa compressa</i>	Canada bluegrass
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky bluegrass
<i>Polypodium glycyrrhiza</i>	licorice fern
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	sword fern
<i>Prunus emarginata</i>	bitter cherry
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	chock cherry
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	coast Douglas-fir
<i>Psilocarphus tenellus</i>	slender wooly-heads
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken fern
<i>Quercus garryana</i>	Garry oak
<i>Ranunculus occidentalis</i>	western buttercup
<i>Rosa canina</i>	dog rose
<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	baldhip rose
<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	nootka rose
<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Himalayan blackberry
<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>	cutleaf evergreen blackberry
<i>Rubus leucodermis</i>	black raspberry
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	thimbleberry
<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	trailing blackberry
<i>Sagina decumbens</i> ssp; <i>occidentalis</i>	western pearlwort
<i>Sanicula crassicaulis</i>	Pacific sanicle
<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>	tall fescue
<i>Schedonorus gigantea</i>	giant fescue
<i>Schedonorus pratensis</i>	meadow fescue
<i>Sedum lanceolatum nesioticum</i>	lance-leaved stonecrop
<i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>	broad-leaved stonecrop
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	field madder
<i>Silene gallica</i>	small-flowered catchfly
<i>Solivia sessilis</i>	carpet burweed
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	perennial sow-thistle
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	red sand-spurry
<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>	hooded ladies' tresses
<i>Stachys cooleyae</i>	Cooley's hedge-nettle
<i>Stellaria media</i>	chickweed
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	common snowberry

Scientific Name	English Name
<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	Pacific yew
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Western redcedar
<i>Tiarella trifoliata</i>	three flower foam flower
<i>Trientalis latifolia</i>	broad-leaved starflower
<i>Trifolium depauperatum</i>	poverty clover
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	small-hop clover
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	alsike clover
<i>Trifolium microcephalum</i>	small-headed clover
<i>Trifolium oliganthum</i>	few-flowered clover
<i>Trifolium variegatum</i>	white-tipped clover
<i>Trifolium wormskioldii</i>	springbank clover
<i>Trillium ovatum</i> var; <i>ovatum</i>	western trillium
<i>Triphysaria pusilla</i>	dwarf owl-clover
<i>Triteleia hyacinthina</i>	white triteleia
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	western hemlock
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	stinging nettle
<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	red huckleberry
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	wall speedwell
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	common vetch
<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	barren fescue
<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	rattail fescue

Alphabetical English (common) name

English Name	Scientific Name
Alaska brome	<i>Bromus sitchensis</i>
alsike clover	<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>
annual bluegrass	<i>Poa annua</i>
annual hairgrass	<i>Deschampsia danthonioides</i>
arbutus	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>
baldhip rose	<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>
barren fescue	<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>
barron brome	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>
Bigelow's sedge	<i>Carex bigelowii</i>
bigleaf maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>
bitter cherry	<i>Prunus emarginata</i>
black raspberry	<i>Rubus leucodermis</i>
blinks	<i>Montia fontana</i>
blue wildrye	<i>Elymus glaucus</i>
bracken fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
broad-leaved starflower	<i>Trientalis latifolia</i>
broad-leaved stonecrop	<i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>
bulbous bluegrass	<i>Poa bulbosa</i>
bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>

English Name	Scientific Name
California brome	<i>Bromus carinatus</i>
California oatgrass	<i>Danthonia californica</i>
Canada bluegrass	<i>Poa compressa</i>
Canadian thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
carpet burweed	<i>Solidago sessilis</i>
chervil	<i>Anthriscus scandiaca</i>
chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
chock cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
colonial bent grass	<i>Agrostis tenuis (Agrostis capillaris)</i>
Columbia brome	<i>Bromus vulgaris</i>
common camas	<i>Camassia quamash</i>
common forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis discolor</i>
common foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
common helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>
common horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>
common snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
common stork's bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>
common velvet grass	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Cooley's hedge-nettle	<i>Stachys cooleyae</i>
Cotton-batting cudweed	<i>Gnaphalium stramineum</i>
crested dog-tail grass	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
cutleaf evergreen blackberry	<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>
desert rock purslane	<i>Calandrinia ciliata</i>
dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
coast Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
dove-foot geranium	<i>Geranium molle</i>
dull Oregon-grape	<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>
dune bentgrass	<i>Agrostis pallens</i>
dwarf owl-clover	<i>Triphysaria pusilla</i>
early hairgrass	<i>Aira praecox</i>
Enchanter's nightshade	<i>Circaea alpina</i>
English daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
English holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
few-flowered clover	<i>Trifolium oliganthum</i>
field chickweed	<i>Cerastium arvense</i>
field madder	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>
field parsley-piert	<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>
Gairdner's yampah	<i>Perideridia gairdneri</i>
Garry oak	<i>Quercus garryana</i>
giant fescue	<i>Schedonorus gigantea</i>
grand fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>
green-sheathed sedge	<i>Carex feta</i>
hairy cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>

English Name	Scientific Name
hairy hawkbit	<i>Leontodon taraxacoides</i>
hairy honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>
harvest brodiaea	<i>Brodiaea coronaria</i>
hedgehog dog-tail grass	<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>
Himalayan blackberry	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>
hooded ladies' tresses	<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>
Howell's montia	<i>Montia howellii</i>
Kentucky bluegrass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>
lady fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>
lance-leaved stonecrop	<i>Sedum lanceolatum nesioticum</i>
licorice fern	<i>Polypodium glycyrrhiza</i>
little chickweed	<i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>
Macoun's meadow-foam	<i>Limnanthes macounii</i>
many flowered wood-rush	<i>Luzula multiflora</i>
meadow barley	<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>
meadow fescue	<i>Schedonorus pratensis</i>
mountain sweet-cicely	<i>Osmorhiza berteroi</i>
mouse-ear chickweed	<i>Cerastium fontanum ssp; triviale</i>
nootka rose	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>
Nuttall's quillwort	<i>Isoetes nuttallii</i>
oceanspray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>
orchard grass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Pacific crab apple	<i>Malus fusca</i>
Pacific sanicle	<i>Sanicula crassicaulis</i>
Pacific yew	<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>
pathfinder	<i>Adenocaulon bicolor</i>
perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
perennial sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>
poverty clover	<i>Trifolium depauperatum</i>
Puget Sound gumweed	<i>Grindelia integrifolia</i>
rattail fescue	<i>Vulpia myuros</i>
rattlesnake plantain	<i>Goodyera oblongifolia</i>
red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
red huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>
red sand-spurry	<i>Spergularia rubra</i>
redtop	<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>
rip-gut brome	<i>Bromus rigidus</i>
salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>
saskatoon berry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>
Scouler's popcornflower	<i>Plagiobothrys scouleri</i>
silver hairgrass	<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>
slender wooly-heads	<i>Psilocarphus tenellus</i>
small-flowered catchfly	<i>Silene gallica</i>
small-flowered geranium	<i>Geranium pusillum</i>
small-flowered nemophila	<i>Nemophila parviflora</i>

English Name	Scientific Name
small-fruited parsley-piert	<i>Aphanes microcarpa</i>
small-headed clover	<i>Trifolium microcephalum</i>
small-hop clover	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>
small-leaved montia	<i>Montia parvifolia</i>
soft brome1	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>
soft brome2	<i>Bromus mollis</i>
Spotted coral-root	<i>Corallorhiza maculata</i>
spring gold	<i>Lomatium utriculatum</i>
springbank clover	<i>Trifolium wormskioldii</i>
stinging nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
sword fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>
tall fescue	<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>
thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>
three flower foam flower	<i>Tiarella trifoliata</i>
toad rush	<i>Juncus bufonius</i>
trailing blackberry	<i>Rubus ursinus</i>
upright chickweed	<i>Moenchia erecta</i>
vanilla-leaf	<i>Achlys triphylla</i>
vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
wall lettuce	<i>Mycelis muralis</i>
wall speedwell	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>
western buttercup	<i>Ranunculus occidentalis</i>
western hemlock	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>
western pearlwort	<i>Sagina decumbens</i> ssp; <i>occidentalis</i>
western redcedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>
western rush	<i>Juncus occidentalis</i>
western trillium	<i>Trillium ovatum</i> var; <i>ovatum</i>
western trumpet	<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>
white fawn lily	<i>Erythronium oregonum</i>
white triteleia	<i>Triteleia hyacinthina</i>
white-tipped clover	<i>Trifolium variegatum</i>
wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
woolly eriophyllum	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>
yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
yellow parentucellia	<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>
yerba buena	<i>Clinopodium douglasii</i>

Appendix V: Ruckle Park Heritage Buildings Statements of Significance

ALFRED RUCKLE HOUSE - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Statement of Significance is a document drawn up to state why the Alfred Ruckle House is important from an historic point of view. It is generated to conform to the requirements of Parks Canada's guidelines so that the building can be placed on both the Provincial and Federal Registry of Historic Places. One of its main purposes is to provide direction as to what the important physical elements of the building are and to ensure that with any repair, maintenance, or alteration, they are not compromised. Below is the Statement of Significance for the Alfred Ruckle House.

A. Alfred Ruckle House

Description of site

The Alfred Ruckle House is a Queen Anne style wood frame farmhouse in the southwest corner of the Ruckle Park just south of Beaver Point Road on Salt Spring Island. The house and its outbuildings constitute a small working farm.

Heritage Value

The Alfred Ruckle House has cultural value as an integral component of the Ruckle Farm, an excellent example of the development of the family farm in the Gulf Islands of British Columbia. Henry Ruckle began his farming operation shortly after his pre-emption of 160-acres on August 31, 1872. By 1874, he had cleared and fenced 30 acres, built a house and two outbuildings. His sons Alfred and Daniel Henry became increasingly involved in the operation of the farm, building homes for their families in 1907. Outbuildings were added around each home as the farm expanded, effectively creating three distinct farms within the property boundary. The Alfred Ruckle farm is somewhat different from the other farms in that there are no farm-related outbuildings such as those found adjacent to the residences of Henry and Daniel Henry Ruckle. The home was built by Alfred Ruckle with the assistance of Charles Beddis. Alfred and his wife Martha Helen finished the interior of the house after moving in, and added the landscape that has matured over the years.

There is social value in the connection of Alfred Ruckle and Martha Helen to the Salt Spring Island community. Both were active in musical circles. She played the piano in a small orchestra at Beaver Point. Both played the violin, and Alfred became proficient at making violins. Alfred was active in the Salt Spring Island agricultural community. He was a Director of the Island Agricultural and Fruit Growers Association between March 17, 1906 and October 24, 1908 and was a member during the next two decades.

There is also value in the Western Canadian Queen Anne styling. Between the 1880s and the beginning of World War One, British Columbia grew tremendously in wealth and population. Architects and builders came to the region from England, the rest of Canada and the American west coast bringing with them a variety of architectural styles' their buildings reflected an anglophile stance. The British Columbia form of the Queen Anne Revival style served as a bridge between the early wood frame homes of the

pioneer families and the West Coast bungalow so prevalent in the 1920s. BC Queen Annes are generally simpler in composition than eastern forms with a narrower range of historical motifs and window types. Deep over hanging eaves were also common - a logical adaptation to the climate of drenching rains. Queen Anne features that were generally retained include corner towers and massive stone foundations.

Character-defining elements

The key elements that define the heritage character of the Alfred Ruckle house include:

- connection with the development of Salt Spring Island
- continuous use as a farm
- connection with the Ruckle family
- location of houses and outbuildings
- characteristics of the Queen Anne style including: steeply pitched roof, two-storey bay windows, and multiple roof pitches
- form and pattern of fenestration including leaded windows
- decorative fishscale shingles on upper storey
- decorative woodwork below casement windows
- interior woodwork patterns, type of wood and finishes
- mature landscaping

CUSHEON COVE BUILDINGS STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Statements of Significance have been drafted in accordance with the guidelines given by the Provincial Registrar of Historic Places. Their purpose is to act as a tool for both the preservation and to direct areas where interventions are not to be permitted that would destroy Character-defining Elements. Three (3) Statements of Significance have been prepared, first for the overall property and then one for the Bulman House precinct and finally for the Hatchery complex. These are as follows:

B. Ruckle Park Addition: Hatfield Property

Description of Site

The Hatfield Property addition to the Ruckle Park comprises of 40 hectares located at Cusheon Cove on the southeast of Salt Spring Island. The historic place includes four specific zones: the large clearing at the eastern portion of the park that contains the Bulman residence and outbuildings, the shoreline that contains potential archaeological resources, the area of the foreshore and adjacent headland that was used for a fish farm, and the natural forest that is undeveloped except for a barn near the park entrance.

Heritage Value

The historic place is valued as a representation of British Columbia history, as an example of an early resource industry site, for its illustration of early life on Salt Spring Island, for the potential archaeological sites, and for the changing use of the site over time.

The Hatfield addition to Ruckle Park has value as a microcosm of British Columbia history. A long period of aboriginal habitation on Salt Spring Island dating back at least 5,000 years was followed by a frontier society of loggers, fishermen, farmers, and miners. John Ducie Cusheon, a Victoria businessman, was the first to pre-empt this land – in 1859 – but following a dispute with Governor Douglas, he left for the gold rush in the Cariboo leaving only his name behind in Cusheon Creek, Lake, Road, and Cove.

The historic site is an example of the development of the lumber industry in British Columbia. Purchased in 1909, by William Bulman, the principal of noted Victoria firm Muirhead and Mann Lumber Company (the name was soon changed to Bulman-Allison Lumber Company), the area soon became one of the busiest communities on the island. The large sawmill contained state-of-the-art machinery and produced lumber and shingles with boxes, doors, windows, and other wooden materials manufactured at the Victoria plant at Laurel Point. Ocean-going ships loaded lumber at the dock for international markets. The mill was seriously under-capitalized and suffered from financial problems throughout its existence and was eventually liquidated in 1926. Some of the lumber from the bunkhouse was used to build Beaver Point Hall in 1934. Few of the original buildings remain, thus rendering them more valuable.

The site illustrates early life on the Gulf Islands of British Columbia. At its peak, the bunkhouse was home to as many as 150 workers – chiefly Norwegians and Swedes – while Japanese and Chinese workers lived in small huts. More than half the children attending Beaver Point School lived at the company village while surrounding farms prospered through selling produce to the village residents. William Bulman built a family home where he lived with his wife and sons until she returned to England taking her sons for an English education considered at the time to be far superior to what was available in Canada. There were also connections between the Bulman family and the Ruckles and McLennan, whose property adjoined the mill site. The McLennan house was built in 1911 with lumber from the Bulman mill while the Ruckles provided foodstuffs for the village residents.

There is heritage value in the potential of significant archaeological sites on the property. The former owner of the property has uncovered Chinese and Japanese artifacts on the site – tools, bottles, rice bowls, pottery, and footwear – and there is evidence of First Nations presence as well. Based on archaeological examination of nearby locations, it would be logical to assume that this site is also rich in layers of history.

There is cultural value in the changing use of the site over time. William Bulman continued to live on the site, selling parcels of land to keep his head above water and, on his death, it was inherited by his family. Descendants continued to live on site until 1955. Subsequent owners ran a small tourist facility combined with a sheep farm. In the early 1970s, Vancouver businessman Gordon Royal Smith acquired the property, never lived there, but allowed it to be used by an alternative community between 1974 and 1984. This type of communal living was common on the Gulf Islands in the 1960s and 1970s as young people wanted to “go back to living off the land” and squatted in deserted cabins, unable to afford to buy or rent property.

Chris Hatfield bought the property in 1984 and established Salt Spring Aquafarms that included both salmon and shellfish leases. It also included a freshwater hatchery for salmon egg incubation and smolt production. Later, it was used chiefly for research and broodstock development for the aquaculture industry, selling his innovations around the world. In 2006, 40 hectares of land was sold and donated to the provincial government as a park and has subsequently been added to the Ruckle Park.

Character-defining elements

The heritage character of the Hatfield addition to Ruckle Park is defined by the following elements:

- connection with the development of Salt Spring Island
- location of structures including the Bulman home and its associated outbuildings, the barn near the park entrance, and the Hatchery site and its outbuildings
- cultivated areas including orchard and garden remnants
- connection with lumber industry on Salt Spring Island
- ecosystems of natural woodland and meadows
- evidence of cultivation of cleared areas as shown by crop marks and snake fences
- potential archaeological sites within the park boundaries
- headland with look-out cabin for tourist use
- foreshore with evidence of aquaculture industry
- cultural changes in use over time

C. Bulman House

Description of site

The Bulman House is an early-twentieth-century two-storey wood frame farmhouse on the northeast of the park. Also included in the precinct are the Bulman barn, a small two-storey family cottage, and remnants of early horticulture.

Heritage value

The historic house, built in 1909, is valued for its architecture, its association with the early lumbering on Salt Spring Island, and for the changes in its use. The barn, built c. 1910 is valued for its simplicity and its continued use for farming purposes. The cottage is valued for its simplicity and its historic fittings. The open pasture with remnants of a cultivated garden and orchard are valued as reminders of the past uses of this site.

The Bulman House was built to house the family of Bulman-Allison Lumbering Company owner William Bulman and his family. William immigrated to Canada in 1889, living first in Victoria where he eventually became the principal of Muirhead and Mann Lumbering Company. He purchased property on Salt Spring Island in 1909 and established a mill site on Cusheon Cove, building the house soon after. Bulman's wife Sarah and their two sons lived in the house until 1918 when she returned to England so the sons could go to school there – and never returned. William continued to live in the house until his death in 1948.

The house is a simple wood frame farmhouse of a form common on the Gulf Islands. It is nestled into the hillside with undeveloped land to the rear. The building has evolved throughout its lifetime, changing to suit the need of the current resident. It sits amid mature cultivated landscaping to the front and sides.

The barn is a standard barn with hayloft overhead. It is a pole barn and is clad in rough-sawn vertical cedar planks. On the west face of the barn is a sheep chute and sheep dip, illustrating the changing nature of the property, from a sawmill site to a farm. It was used as a sheep farm in the 1960s.

The small cottage is valued for its simplicity, its symmetrical design, and its historic interior artifacts. It is constructed with a wood frame and clad on the exterior with double bevelled siding. The interior is sheathed in horizontal cedar planks with wainscoting and a chair rail. On the interior walls is a substantial fragment from a historic seed company poster. The D. M. Ferry Seed company operated in Detroit, Michigan from 1856 to 1930. They were the first company to use art posters to advertise their merchandise, often using well-known artists to draw the images.

To the north of the Bulman House are open cultivated areas that revalued as reminders of horticultural endeavours. Fields are contained by split rail snake fences that often follow historic ditches and waterways. In the large pasture to the northwest of the house are the remnants of a large cultivated garden and an orchard. These serve as a reminder of the activities of residents as some food would have been raised on site. The garden retains its fencing.

Character-defining elements

The heritage character of the Bulman House is defined by the following elements:

- simple, uncluttered design
- cedar drop siding on front elevation
- cedar shakes on sides
- wood framed sash windows
- red brick chimney
- mature landscaping

The heritage character of the Bulman Barn is defined by the following elements:

- asymmetrical roof
- pole construction
- cedar vertical board cladding
- sheep chute and sheep dip
- sheep weathervane
- covered lean-to holding pen on the north face

The heritage character of the Small Cottage is defined by the following elements:

- simplicity of design
- wood frame construction
- concrete chimney
- wood frame sash windows
- narrow wooden flooring
- interior sheathed in horizontal cedar planks with wainscoting and a chair rail
- gambrel roof
- poster fragment on interior wall

The heritage character of the Old Garden is defined by the following elements:

- evidence of plantings
- enclosing fence

D. Hatchery complex

Description of site

The hatchery site is located on the headland overlooking China Cove on the western edge of the park. It comprises an office building, remnants of hatchery activity at the waterfront and concrete stairs leading to the wharf. The complex also includes a cabin known as the “look-out” – a wood frame one-room cabin located on the headland.

Heritage value

The hatchery office, built in 1985, has value as it illustrates the change in use on the site. Rather than harvesting and processing lumber, the location was now used for a different resource - aquaculture.

The Look-out cabin, built c. 1930 is a simple one-room cabin, with a covered lean-to on the south face, set on the high point of land, on the waterfront. Its value is in its simplicity and its survival despite multiple owners and uses of the property. Of interest is the outhouse in the adjacent clearing.

There is value in the evidence of hatchery activities on the foreshore. Clearly visible is a large feed tube formerly used to provide nourishment to the fish held in tanks in the sheltered waters. Concrete stairs lead to the wood dock from which products were shipped to market, providing visual evidence of a once-thriving business, while seashells scattered over the site offer evidence of the products harvested.

Character-defining elements

The heritage character of the hatchery office is defined by the following elements:

- asymmetrical roofline that echoes that of the original Bulman barn
- board and batten cladding
- location at the edge of the undeveloped forest

The heritage character of the Look-out cabin is defined by the following elements:

- simple, uncluttered design
- cedar shingle cladding
- wood framed sash windows
- symmetrical design
- red brick chimney
- location on headland overlooking China Cove

The heritage character of the foreshore hatchery activities is defined by the following elements:

- concrete steps
- cedar storage shed
- feed tube
- wharf
- sea shells scattered over site