



Seton Portage Historic Park Management Plan

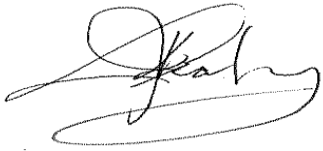
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BC Parks

Seton Portage Historic Park Management Plan

Approved by:



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March 28, 2012
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1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this management plan is to guide the management of Seton Portage Historic Park. The direction set out in this management plan is applied by the protected area managers to make decisions regarding the ongoing management and operations within the park.

This management plan:

- defines the role and significance of the area in the protected areas system;
- identifies the significant features or values of the park;
- outlines the current and predicted future management issues and opportunities; and,
- provides a framework for operational decision making.

The park is located 70 kilometres west of the Town of Lillooet (Figure 1). This small park of 0.7 hectares is located in the community of Seton Portage between Seton and Anderson lakes (Figure 2).

Seton Portage Historic Park was donated to the province by BC Rail in 1972. The park was established on March 29, 1972 as a Class A park and is currently named and described in Schedule C of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

2.0 Values and Roles of the Park

This historically significant site commemorates the location of the first railway in British Columbia. The small park consists of a plaque commemorating the donation of the park and an old caboose set in a small grove of trees.

The portage was created about 10,000 years ago when a large landslide occurred, dividing the then existing lake into two separate lakes. Alexander Anderson, a fur trader with the Hudson's Bay Company, was one of the first explorers through this area. He was looking to establish a travel route from Kamloops to Harrison and back up the Fraser River.

The 3 miles of railway was constructed at the time of the Gold Rush in 1861 on wooden rails to facilitate the transport of goods and miners between the two lakes. In 1915 the line was completed to Lillooet and became a bustle of activity.

This park has previously been used by the local Chamber of Commerce to operate a tourist information booth in the old caboose under a park use permit. The Chamber of Commerce provided information on the area's local history, including British Columbia's railroad development, commemoration of the gold rush portage and local cultural and recreation features.

This park does not have a conservation role within the park system due to its very small size and previous disturbance. Recreation primarily consists of day use by local residents of Seton Portage. There are no facilities at the site. The old caboose on the site is not currently being used, and has limited heritage value. It was moved to the site some time after the park was established.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Management Strategies

Management Opportunities/Stressors	Management Strategies
Future role of this park in the provincial protected areas system	Review park against Park and Protected Area system criteria to determine future direction for maintaining it within the system, or other options for the park. Transfer to an appropriate level of local government, Chamber of Commerce or other organization will be considered.
Opportunities for new uses in the park	Investigate opportunities with volunteers or other groups to manage and maintain the park on behalf of BC Parks. Continue current levels of maintenance at the park and monitor the park for potential new management issues.

3.2 Zoning

The entire park is zoned Intensive Recreation (Figure 3).

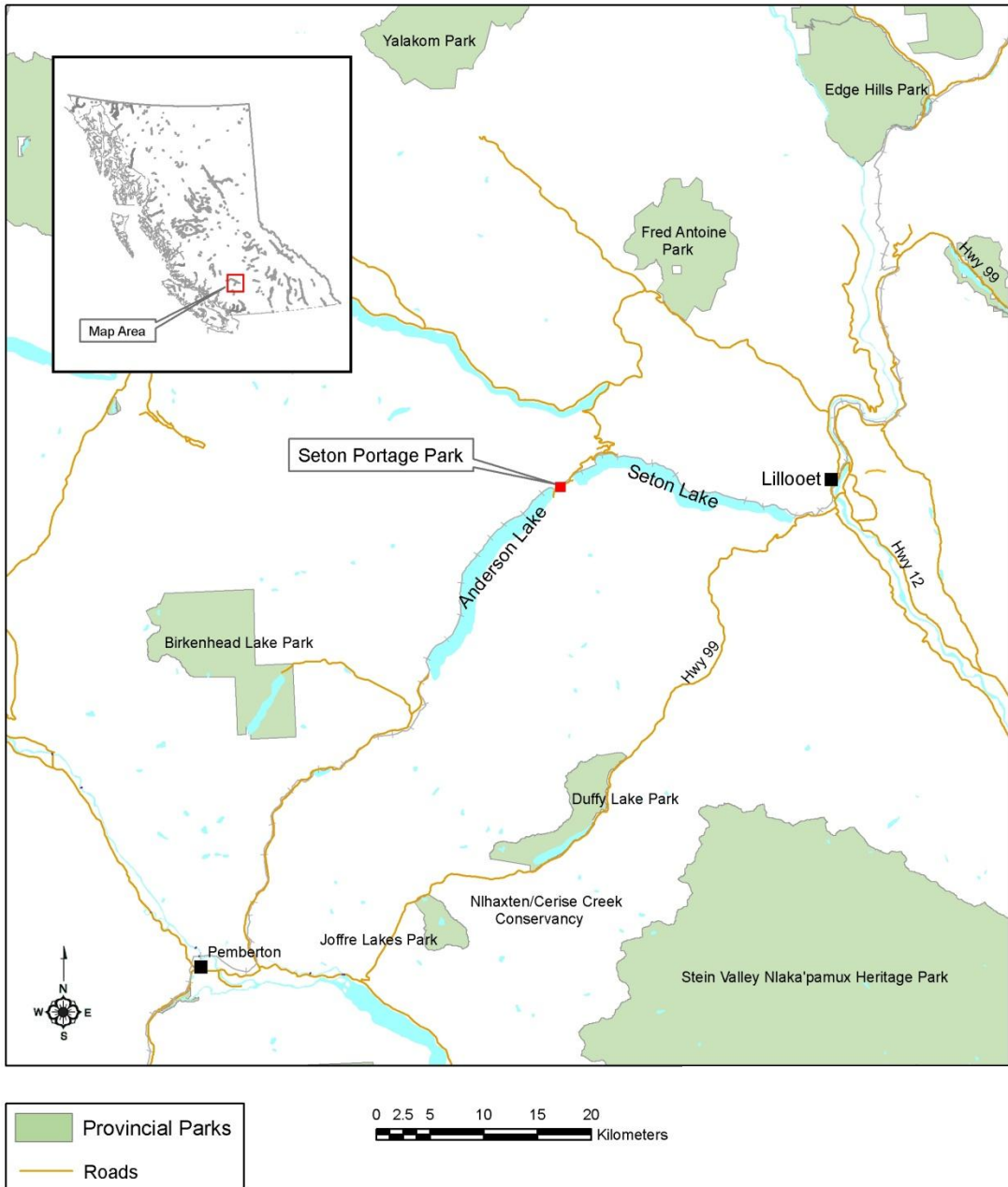


Figure 1: Regional and Provincial Context Seton Portage Historic Park

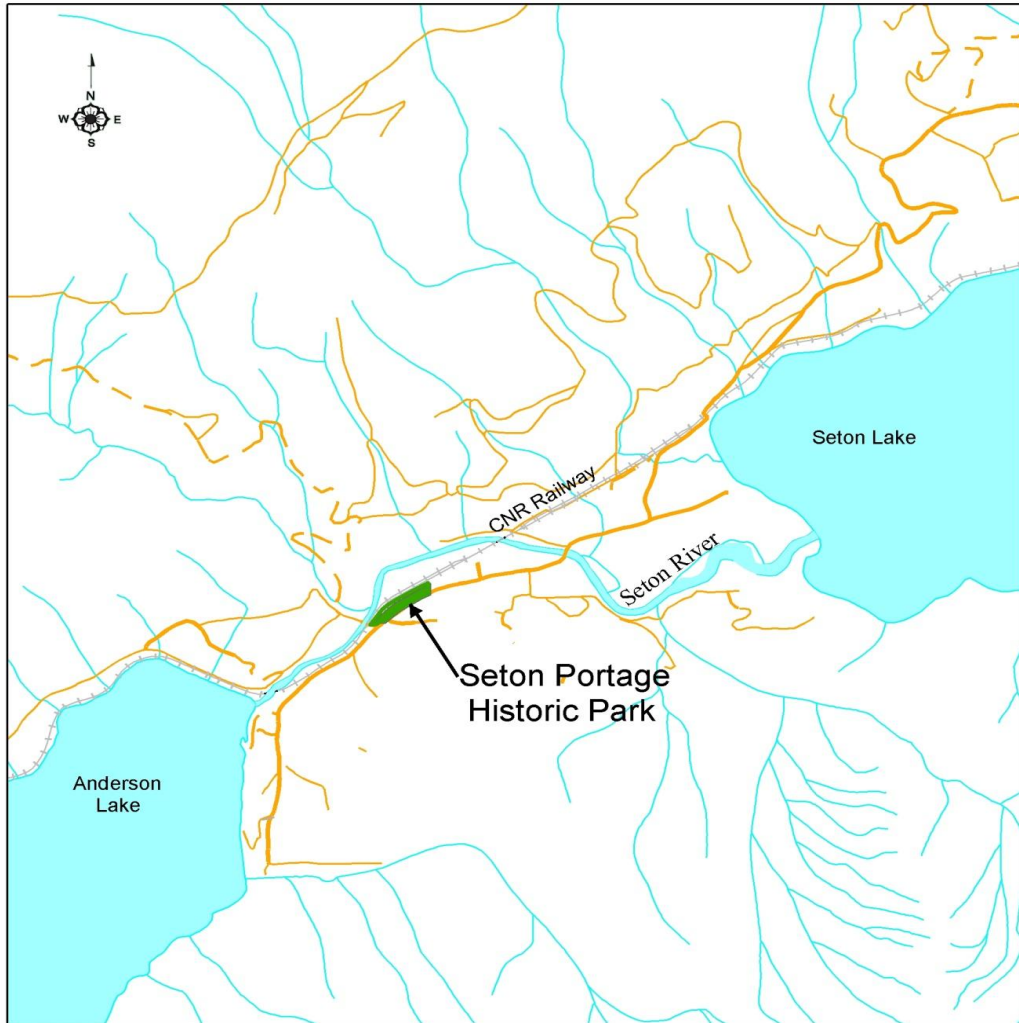


Figure 2: Local Location Seton Portage Historic Park

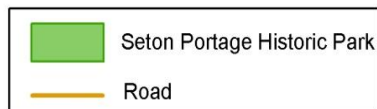
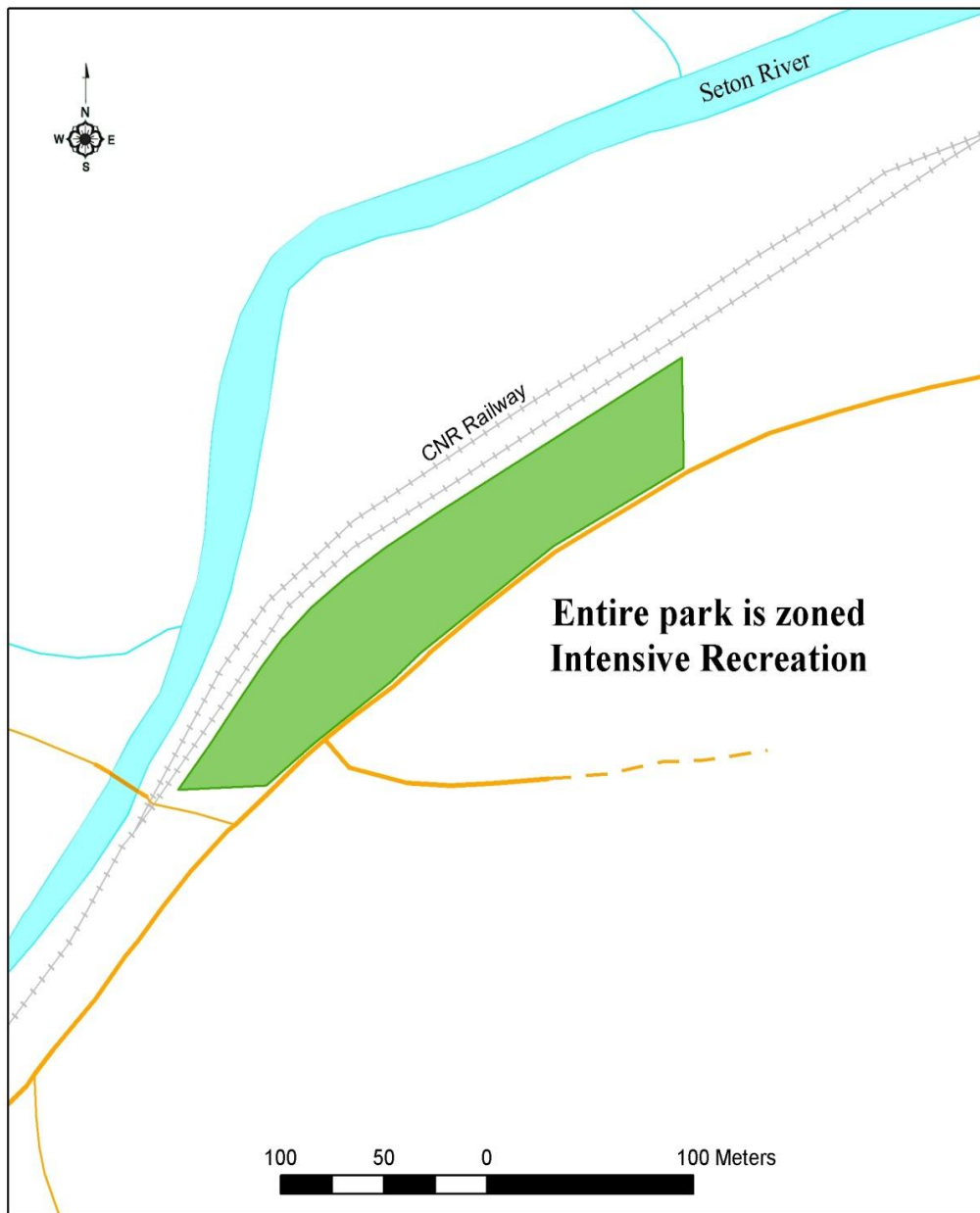


Figure 3: Zoning Map **Seton Portage Historic Park**