NATURAL VALUES

Hornby Island falls within the Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone, one of the rarest of British Columbia's biogeoclimatic zones. This zone supports a wide variety of plants and animals. A number of sensitive ecosystems and rare species are found on Hornby Island. The forested property to be added to Tribune Bay Park features a wet meadow-swamp complex that transitions to a dry mature forest from south to north. From east to west, the land transitions from a forest to a beach upland meadow. There is a mix of young and older trees as well as uncommon species such as cascara, Pacific crab apple and black cottonwood. As well, several invasive plant species occur within both properties of the Tribune Bay addition.

Objective	Proposed Management Approach
Maintain and enhance the natural values of the park addition	 Consider smaller or walk-in campsites to minimize the disturbance of the forested property where possible. Develop a plan for removal and control of invasive plant species. Ensure that the design of any development of the forested property (e.g., campsites, trails) considers the ecology and hydrology of the site, as well as climate change implications on forest composition and health. Enhance or restore natural values on the campground property where possible.
Foster stewardship of the park's natural values	 Provide information to visitors about the ecological values at Tribune Bay. Encourage low-impact, responsible recreation through signage and other outreach opportunities. Consider collaborating with community partners to promote nature stewardship and responsible recreation to island visitors.





Hornby Island has a rich history, including thousands of years of Indigenous use and more recent colonial use. The presence of archaeological sites above the high tide line indicates traditional Indigenous use of Tribune Bay and the surrounding uplands for millennia, likely for shellfish harvesting, plant and berry gathering, and hunting. European settlers came to Hornby Island in the early 1800's to farm and harvest forest products. More recently, tourism is the main economic activity on the island, with Tribune Bay as one of the greatest attractions.

Objective	Proposed Management Approach
Improve understanding, awareness, and protection of cultural values	 Work with local First Nations to identify information that supports the protection of Indigenous cultural values in this and other nearby parks. In partnership with First Nations, consider the addition of interpretive signage to provide educational resources to visitors about the Indigenous cultural values at Tribune Bay. Ensure new amenities do not negatively impact any identified cultural values.



Camping has become more popular than ever. More than 3.1 million campers stayed in BC provincial parks during the 2021 camping season, and the demand continues to grow. The record number of visitors has resulted in new investments to make the BC Parks experience even better. The two private properties adjacent to Tribune Bay Park were purchased by the Province with the goal of protecting recreational opportunities and other park values.

Objective	Proposed Management Approach
Maintain and improve camping opportunities at Tribune Bay while respecting the unique character of the former campground and Hornby Island in general	 1. Provide an enhanced camping experience with improved facility infrastructure by incorporating principles of universal design and green building. 2. Continue to offer a similar number of campsites to what was previously offered at the private campground, though an overall increase in sites (between the two properties) may be considered. 3. Provide a variety of camping opportunities while minimizing impacts on natural and cultural values. 4. Promote active and car-free transportation through provision of walk-in/bike-in/paddle-in campsites where appropriate. 5. Consider reducing density of the original campground and improving privacy of campsites by developing some sites on the forested property. 6. Given the site constraints, examine opportunities for new approaches to manage noise, smoke and vehicle congestion.



Tribune Bay Park is a very popular destination, particularly in the summer months, when visitors are attracted to the crescent-shaped sandy beach and the warm, shallow water. Its natural beauty is enjoyed year-round, especially by many locals who enjoy walking in the upland trails or on the beach, often with a dog. The Park provides a significant contribution to the tourism and economic opportunities on the island. The newly acquired lands include the former Tribune Bay Campground, which will now be transitioned to a public BC Parks campground.

Objective	Proposed Management Approach
Promote walking, hiking and cycling	 1. Develop (or enhance) a trail system with appropriate infrastructure to connect the campground and forested property to the beach and existing park. 2. Add signage and maps to improve visitor safety and awareness of appropriate uses of the park and trails.
Provide opportunities for dog-walking that do not impact the park's conservation and recreation values	 Work with the local community to explore options for providing limited opportunities for allowing dogs on the beach if conservation values can be maintained. Consider seasonal, temporal or spatial restrictions to minimize any potential negative impacts to wildlife or other beach users. Monitor interactions between dogs, wildlife, ecological values and beach users and adjust approach as needed.
Contribute to Hornby Island's sustainable tourism economy while respecting transportation and community impacts	 Promote transportation options that will encourage active and car-free access to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and reduce impacts on ferry traffic. Work with community partners where possible to promote active and car-free travel options to the park. Consider working with partner agencies to support initiatives to promote safe and sustainable recreation.



Much of the foreshore (approximately the area between the high tide line and low tide line) in Tribune Bay is already within the park. In order to provide consistent management of the beach to promote a safe and pleasant experience for all park users, BC Parks is considering adding the foreshore in front of the forested parcel into the park. BC Parks consulting with First Nations, community members, other government agencies and stakeholders regarding this potential foreshore addition.

Objective	Proposed Management Approach
Provide consistent management of activities throughout the park and beach to promote appropriate and safe use of the beach and foreshore	 Pursue addition of foreshore in front of forested parcel (parcel B) to the park. Install signage clearly indicating park boundaries and permitted uses. Develop and implement an operational recreation strategy that provides specific guidance regarding activities on the beach, including fires, swimming, dog walking and boat access. Monitor and assess need for changes over time.
Protect foreshore and marine values throughout the park	 Consult and collaborate with federal agencies regarding concerns arising from moorage/boat access. Continue to support water quality testing in the bay and consider working with other jurisdictions to implement measures to improve water quality if required. Work with partner agencies to understand potential impacts of recreational activities on ecological values in the marine and foreshore areas.

