VASEUX LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:

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Environmental Stewardship Division

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VASEUX LAKE PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

The 12 hectare Vaseux Lake Park is situated 4 km south of Okanagan Falls on Highway 97 in the south Okanagan.

The **primary purpose** of Vaseux Lake Park is to provide camping, lake-oriented and nature appreciation outdoor recreation opportunities.

The park is an important part of the system of camping and day use areas in the bottom lands of the Okanagan Valley. It is primarily used for camping with 12 campsites, as well as picnicking, non-motorized boating, fishing and nature study. The park also plays an important role in the provision of nature appreciation opportunities, particularly bird-watching in the adjacent Canadian Wildlife Service Vaseux Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The Environmental Stewardship Division shares responsibility with the Canadian Wildlife Service for providing facilities to visitors to this popular site. With growing trends in ecotourism, the park has potential to be a valuable contributor to this economic sector of the south Okanagan and assisting in the diversification of the region's economy.

The **secondary purpose** of the park is to protect the lake and upland values typical of the lower elevation land in the southern part of the Okanagan Valley.

The park contains lakeshore riparian habitat, a small area of antelope brush which is one of the 4 most endangered ecosystems in Canada, and a small area of the under-represented BGxh1 biogeoclimatic subzone/variant in the Southern Okanagan Basin ecosection. The park is one of the smallest protected areas in the ecosection, making only a minor contribution to its protection.

The park is adjacent to a system of federal, Nature Trust and provincial conservation lands in the Vaseux Lake area. The park abuts the Canadian Wildlife Service managed Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife Area, which focuses on bighorn sheep and other species, as well as the Vaseux Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary on the lake. The Vaseux Protected Area, established in 2001 primary to protect bighorn sheep habitat, is nearby.

Known Management Issues	Response
The park plays a key role in educating and	The Environmental Stewardship Divisionwill
providing access to important conservation	continue to work with the Canadian Wildlife
values and has a responsibility to maintain	Service, Nature Trust and others to maintain the
these activities. Some of the facilities	facilities associated with nature appreciation
require upgrading, particularly the	activities.
information shelter at the Wildlife Centre.	

Zoning

Most of the park (approximately 88%) is zoned Intensive Recreation to provide camping, lake-oriented and nature appreciation recreation opportunities. The southern portion of the parkland on the east side of the highway is zoned Special Feature to preserve the antelope brush (approximately 12% of the park).

	CONSERVATION	
Representation		
• ecosection	South Okanagan Basin – minor contributor (0.17%) to the representation of this well represented ecosection (12.35%).	
• biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	BGxh1 – minor contribution (0.29%) to this moderately represented subzone/variant (4.9%).	
Special Feature		
Rare/Endangered Values	Antelope Brush – small area	
Scientific/Research Opportunities		
RECREATION		
Representation		
• backcountry		
• destination	Important access point to adjacent Canadian Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Sanctuary for bird-watching/nature study	
• travel corridor	Moderately important for camping for Highway 97 travellers	
• local recreation		
Special Opportunities		
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	Wildlife Centre – kiosk, interpretative trail	
	CULTURAL HERITAGE	
Representation		
Special Feature		
OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS		
Other Designations		
Relationship to Other PAs	Part of the system of Okanagan valley-bottom camping/day use parks and protection of natural values	

Vaseux Protected Area; Vaseux-Bighorn National
Wildlife Area; Vaseux Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Co-operative Management
Arrangements

Close relationship with Canadian Wildlife Service,
Nature Trust and others in managing the significant
conservation values of the Vaseux area.

Shared responsibility for Wildlife Centre with Canadian
Wildlife Service

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program

Area: 11.5 hectares

March 16, 1956

Date of establishment:



