

# Section Four

## Park Zoning



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## Introduction

Naikoon is zoned to identify a range of management objectives. At one end of the spectrum, the Intensive Recreation Zone indicates a portion of Naikoon that is appropriate for high levels of recreation and facility development. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the Wilderness Conservation Zone indicates an area of Naikoon that receives the highest level of conservation and minimal human presence. Between these two ends, there are three additional zones providing a range of conservation and recreation priorities. Details of the zoning descriptions are in Appendix A.

Based on Naikoon's features, its objectives for recreation and conservation, and its vision statement, it has been divided into the following zoned areas (figure 5):

- Wilderness Recreation Zone covering the interior and East Beach and encompassing about 62,000 hectares;
- Special Feature Zones covering important Haida archaeological and cultural sites;
- Natural Environment Zone encompassing about 7,500 hectares and covering South and North Beach, most of Mayer Lake, and the area along the highway; and,
- Intensive Recreation Zone covering the Tlell portion, the south end of Mayer Lake, and the Agate Beach-Tow Hill area and encompassing about 1,960 hectares.

# Wilderness Recreation Zone

This zone covers the majority of the interior of Naikoon and the East Beach area. The objective of this zone is to provide a high level of protection for the bog ecosystems, the old growth forests, and fish and wildlife habitat. Inside this zone, a high priority will be placed on conserving the natural environment while providing a level of backcountry use that is compatible with the natural environment.

Within this zone, hunting, trapping, and wildlife management projects to control introduced species are acceptable activities. It may be necessary to enhance and manipulate the habitat of native species in order to counteract the effects of introduced species.

Vehicle driving below the high tide line along East Beach is recognized as a non-conforming use within this zone and will be managed according to the Access Strategy in this plan. There will be minimal development for recreation in order to maintain the wilderness character of the area.

Generally, within the Wilderness Recreation Zone, natural processes such as wildfire are not interfered with unless necessary for protecting facilities or public safety in Naikoon or forest resources adjacent to Naikoon. In Naikoon there is limited information on vegetation and wildlife processes as well as the effects from introduced species on the natural ecology. Detailed vegetation and wildlife management plans (see Vegetation and Wildlife sections) will be prepared to give greater guidance on long-term management strategies.

## **Special Feature Zone**

This zone covers known Haida archaeological and cultural sites. Future identified archaeological or cultural sites will be covered by this zone. Site identification research will be undertaken only if approved by the Haida. Special Feature zones covering archaeological sites are indicated by a symbol on the map so that the specific locations of the sites are not identified to the general public.

The Special Feature zones will be managed with a high level of protection in mind. Access to certain sites may be restricted and many sites will not be identified to the general public. The full record of these sites will be considered confidential knowledge, owned by the Haida, and made available to the provincial government and the public at the Haida's discretion. No recreation development or promotion for recreation will be undertaken for these areas, however, interpretive and educational facilities may be appropriate if approved by the Haida.

## **Natural Environment Zone**

This zone covers the North and South Beach areas, the area surrounding Mayer Lake (excluding the southern portion of the lake area), and the area adjacent to the highway. The intent of this zone is to manage for a higher level of recreational use than is provided for in the Wilderness Recreation Zone. Facilities will be provided where necessary to maintain the natural environment and where they will enhance recreation opportunities. The intent is to ensure that facilities do not dominate the natural setting. The zone provides a transition area between the highly visited and

developed areas of Naikoon and the undeveloped wilderness areas of Naikoon.

Vehicles will be allowed on the beaches below the high tide boundary and along designated routes and roads as indicated by the strategies set out under the Access Strategy section of this plan. Tow Hill Road passes through this zone.

## **Intensive Recreation Zone**

The zone covers the three highly visited and developed areas of Naikoon: the Tow Hill-Agate Beach area, the south end of Mayer Lake; and, the Tlell-Misty Meadows area. This zone covers campgrounds, day use areas, the headquarters at Tlell, viewing platforms and trails, and parking lots. In this zone, visitors have opportunities for a variety of readily accessible facility-oriented recreation and interpretation opportunities. While development is aimed at managing a high number of visitors, the setting will be maintained in as natural state as possible.

*See Figure 5 in the Naikoon Map Folio*