

VASEUX LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

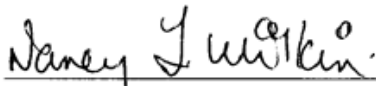
Approved by:



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Date:

Feb. 10, 2003



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Environmental Stewardship Division

Date:

March 11, 2003

**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 providing access to important conservation values and has a responsibility to maintain these activities. Some of the facilities require upgrading, particularly the information shelter at the Wildlife Centre.	The Environmental Stewardship Division will continue to work with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Nature Trust and others to maintain the facilities associated with nature appreciation activities.

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.

Partnerships



Shared responsibility for Wildlife Centre with Canadian Wildlife Service

Vulnerability



Relationship to Other Strategies

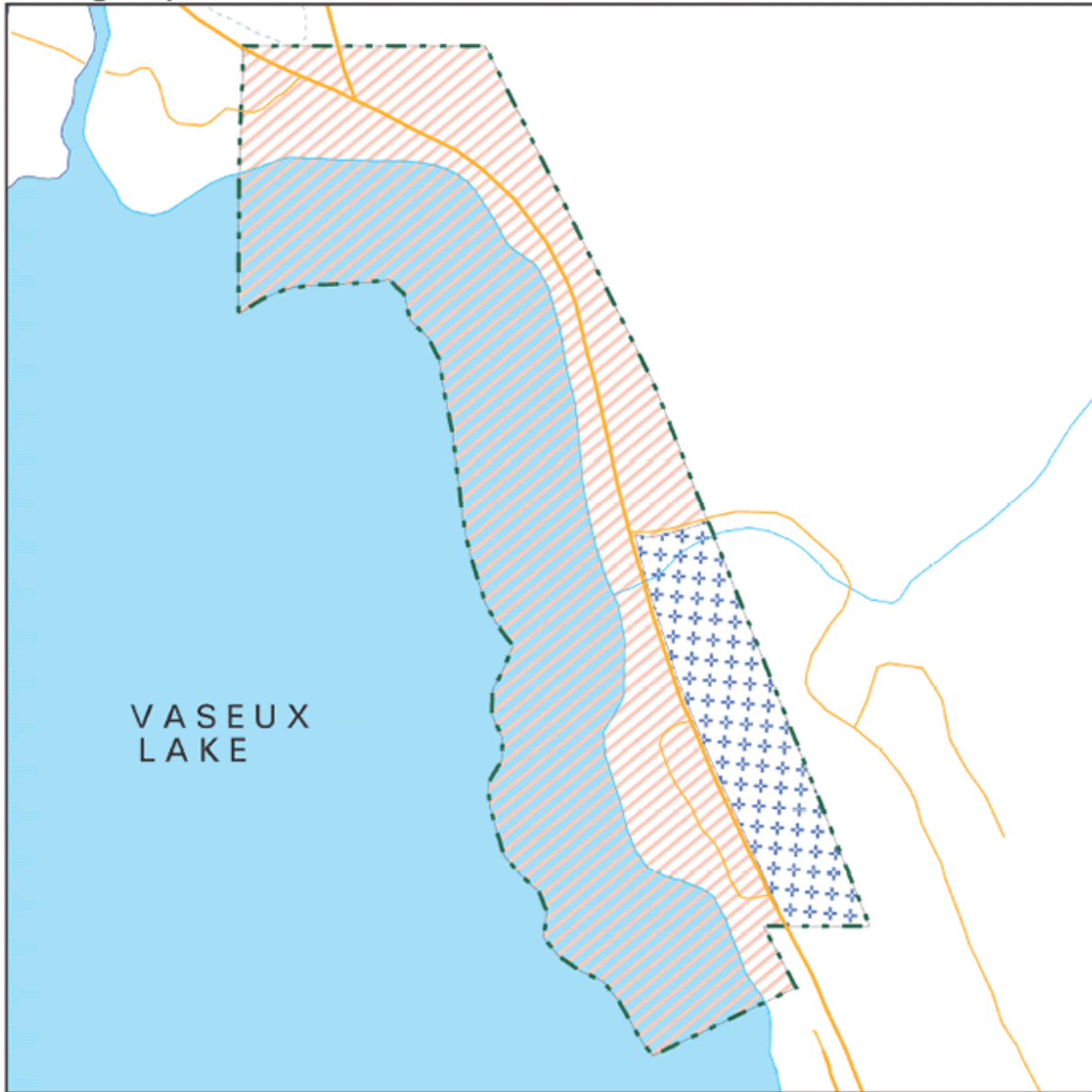


South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program

Area: 11.5 hectares




Date of establishment: March 16, 1956

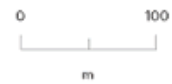
Zoning Map - Vaseux Lake Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Special Feature
-  Protected Area Boundary



Produced in Mar 2003 for
Ministry of Water, Land and Air
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