

WARDNER PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:


Wayne Stetski
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: February 20/03


Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Mar. 31/03

WARDNER PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Wardner Provincial Park is to provide recreational opportunities for local residents on the Kootenay River. A boat launch located within the park allows access to the northern reaches of the man-made Lake Koochanusa. The reservoir, created in 1973 by the construction of the Libby Dam in Montana, stretches for more than 160 kilometers, with approximately 1/3 of its waters residing in British Columbia. The Kootenay River, as it flows by the community of Wardner, is most effected by water levels in the reservoir in summer months.

Originally, Wardner Provincial Park provided a picturesque rest stop along the southern trans-provincial highway. However, a new bridge crossing for the Kootenay River and subsequent rerouting of Highway 3 reduced tourist visitation to the park.

Today, the park primarily serves local residents and a small number of tourists. A small beach area allows swimming opportunities and an upslope forested picnic area, complete with tables and benches, further complements the park's riverfront setting.

Known Management Issues	Response
Noxious weeds (spotted and diffuse knapweed, dalmation toadflax) in park threatening adjacent grasslands and aesthetics of lakeshore.	Strategy required to address control of invasive /noxious species. Monitoring and seasonal treatment (mechanical, biological and chemical).
Transferring park land base to local interest group.	Discuss options with community.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation (approximately 0.5 ha or 12.5% of the park)

Objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment (approximately 3.5 ha or 87.5% of the park)

Objectives: To protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

- Representation
-ecosection Negligible contributor (0.13%) to the East Kootenay Trench (EKT) Ecosection, primarily owing to the park's small size. Representation of EKT is very poor within total PA system (0.68%).
- biogeoclimatic sub zone/variant Contributes minimally to the representation of IDFdm2 within province wide PA (0.14%). Major contributors to IDFdm2 in EKT ecosection are Kikomun (26%) and Premier Lake (31%). IDFdm2 is poorly represented in total PA system (0.96%).
- Special Feature None identified.
- Rare/Endangered Values Not yet assessed.
- Scientific/Research Opportunities None identified.

Recreation

- Representation
-backcountry Not applicable.
- destination Not applicable.
- travel corridor Provides a minor rest stop function close to Highway 3/93. Day use parking for 20 cars, historical marker location for former lumber mill site, 7 picnic tables.
- local recreation Used by local residents and the travelling public. Boating and fishing on Lake Koocanusa.
- Special Opportunities Not applicable.
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities Not applicable.

Cultural Heritage

- Representation Not yet assessed.
- Special Feature None identified.

Other Management Considerations

- Other Designations None identified.

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Relationship to other PAs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1 of 2 provincial parks located on Lake Koocanusa (alternate Kikomun Creek, 22 km to the south). |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |
| Partnerships | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Community interest in managing picnic area. Community contracted to perform mechanical weed control. |
| Vulnerability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Spread of noxious weeds and impact on indigenous plant species.

Fluctuating reservoir levels (up to 50 m) results in bank and beach erosion. Poor boat launching at low water. |
| Relationship to other Strategies | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |

Area: 4 hectares

Date of establishment: May 5, 1977




Zoning Map - Wardner Provincial Park

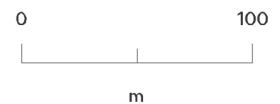


Kooocanusa
Lake

Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Protected Area Boundary



Produced in Mar 2003 for
Ministry of Water, Land and Air
Protection by MSRM, Decision
Support Services

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