

ERIE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

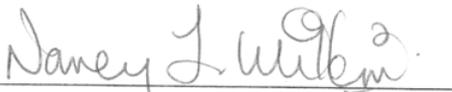
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Approved by:



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Date: February 20/03



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Date: March 31/03

ERIE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Erie Creek Provincial Park is to protect a mature cedar-hemlock forest and riparian black cottonwood ecosystem along the northern banks of Erie Creek.

Despite the park's small land base (14 hectares), it contains a high degree of species richness and provides an essential wildlife corridor for large mammals. A total of 39 terrestrial vertebrates and 157 vascular plants have been recorded in the park. One flora species, the marsh muhly, is listed as vulnerable/sensitive.

The natural river front values of the park are outstanding and the area supports several riparian-dependent species such as the Columbia spotted frog, belted kingfisher, northern water thrush and song sparrow. Wildlife tree dependent species, such as squirrels, woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees, also abound in the park. In addition, Erie Creek retains healthy populations of both rainbow and introduced brook trout. Endangered fish species include red-listed dace (Umatilla and speckled) and blue listed sculpin (shorthead, mottled, and Rocky Mountain). Bull trout (blue-listed) have also been known to occur.

The park was formerly a day use area, however, constant flooding and resulting damage to facilities prompted closure. Currently, the park is unsigned and deactivation of the entrance road and parking area discourages day use.

Known Management Issues	Response
Infestation of non-native plants (31 species). Of these, 3 are considered noxious (Canada thistle, orange hawkweed and sulphur cinquefoil).	Monitoring and mechanical treatment, especially in sites where vulnerable/sensitive species have been identified.
Illegal dumping, ATV use and firewood cutting.	Monitoring and enforcement. Explore joint stewardship options for the park (expressed interest by Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society).

Zoning

Natural Environment (approximately 13 ha or 93% of the park)

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

Special Feature (approximately 1 ha or 7% of the park)

Objective: To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.

Conservation

- Representation
-ecosection Minor contributor (<0.02%) to the well represented Selkirk Foothills Ecosection in the PA system (11.2%). Major contributors to SFH ecosection are Granby (47%) and Gladstone (46%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Minor contributor (0.09%) to the ICHdw which is under represented in the PA system (4.09%). The major contributors to representation of the ICHdw are Gladstone (44%), West Arm (15%) and Purcell Wilderness Conservancy (13%).
- Special Feature None identified.
- Rare/Endangered Values Marsh muhly (b), and provincially rare black cottonwood. Endangered fish species include red-listed dace (Umatilla and speckled) and blue listed sculpin (shorthead, mottled, and Rocky Mountain). Bull trout (blue-listed) have also been known to occur.
- Scientific/Research Opportunities None identified.

Recreation

- Representation
-backcountry Not applicable.
- destination Not applicable.
- travel corridor Not applicable.
- local recreation Fishing in Erie Creek (local residents).
- Special Opportunities None identified.
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities Not applicable.

Cultural Heritage

Representation None identified.

Special Feature None identified.

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations None identified.

Relationship to other PAs 26 km to Champion Lakes Provincial Park. 1 of 2 provincial parks in the West Kootenay that have been decommissioned and reverted back to a natural state.

Co-operative Management Arrangements None identified.

Partnerships None identified.

Vulnerability Spread of non-native plant species.

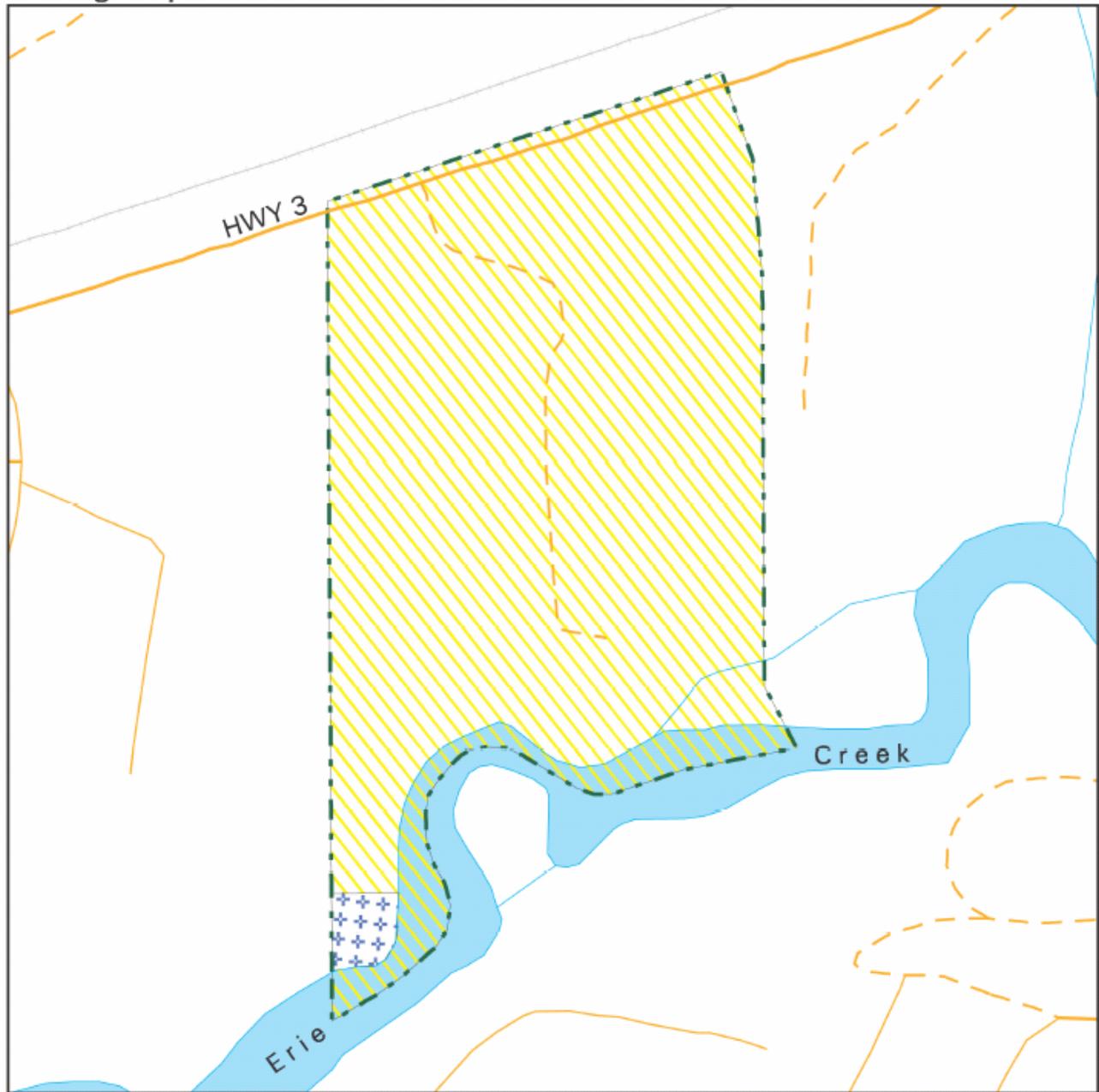
Impact on interior forest/riparian habitat by illegal dumping, motor vehicle activity and tree removal.

Relationship to other Strategies None identified.

Area: 14 hectares

Date of Establishment: August 9, 1965

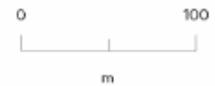
Zoning Map - Erie Creek Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Natural Environment
-  Special Feature
-  Protected Area Boundary



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