

SPECTACLE LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

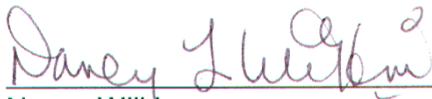
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Approved by:



Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: August 8/03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Jan. 21/04

SPECTACLE LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Spectacle Lake Park is to provide regional day use recreation opportunities in an easily accessible lake-side setting. Overlooking Saanich Inlet, this 65-hectare park on the Malahat Summit near Victoria has a spring-fed lake and an easy 2 kilometre hiking trail circling the lake that provide hiking, swimming, fishing, nature viewing, picnicking, skating, canoeing and kayaking opportunities. Facilities include a 60-car parking lot, picnic tables, pit toilets, a cold water pump, and a boat launching ramp. Much of the trail system is wheelchair accessible and it also unofficially links up to various regional trails outside of the park boundaries.

Spectacle Lake offers the only eastern brook trout fishing on Vancouver Island and is regularly stocked with cutthroat trout. The lake is one of the first to freeze over in winter, supplying a reliable skating site in cold temperatures.

Secondary Role

The **secondary role** is to protect natural features such as mature forest, rare wetlands, a trout lake and glaciated rock formations. Important wetlands ranging from bogs to swamps are protected, providing habitat for a diversity of amphibians and reptiles. Birds such as the great blue heron and bald eagle rely on these freshwater areas for foraging during bad weather. The moist forest that surrounds the lake supports a host of forest fungi and flora, including orchids, Indian paintbrush and wild strawberries.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Impacts from vandalism, illegal trails and uses such as biking on park values and visitor experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring (BRIM) program on the trail system and particularly in the lower trout spawning area on lake. ➤ Involve local community in a Park Watch program. ➤ Increase patrols in summer and maintain presence in winter.
Impacts on park values due to lack and age of park facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Install additional pit toilet at north swimming area as funding permits ➤ Upgrade parking lot and trail as funding permits
Artificial beach – ongoing maintenance and water quality issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Liaise with Central Island Regional Health District to monitor water quality for swimming.
Impacts of adjacent land uses (contamination of toxic material stored upstream, logging, water diversion) on park values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with Ministry of Forests and forest companies industry to protect park values during forest development. ➤ Monitor water quality in park ➤ Liaise with upstream owner to minimize leachates ➤ Work with promoters of Bamberton project to ensure that water diversion does not negatively impact water levels in lake and associated recreational values.
Incorrect highway direction signs and lack of signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Liaise with Ministry of Transportation to have new signs installed.
Role of park in provincial Protected Areas System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Examine the potential to transfer park to Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) for regional park purposes. ➤ Liaise with CVRD, First Nations and stakeholders.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation Zone – this represents a small area around the parking and day-use areas (2 hectares or 3% of the park). The objective of this zone is to provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment Zone – the remainder of the park is in this zone, which represents an area of 63 hectares, or 97% of the park. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

- Representation
- ecosection Spectacle Lake Provincial Park makes a small contribution of 1.3% to the under-represented Nanaimo Lowlands Ecosection which has only 1.41% protected provincially.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Spectacle Lake Provincial Park contributes minimally (0.67%) to the representation of the CWHxm1 variant which is under represented in the protected areas system at 2%.
- Special Features Contains bogs, swamps and riparian features. BC Parks owns the bottom of the lake.
- Rare/Endangered Values None known at this time
- Scientific/Research Opportunities None known at this time

Recreation

- Representation
backcountry Not Applicable
destination Not Applicable
travel corridor Not Applicable
local recreation Day use hiking, swimming, fishing and picnicking opportunities
- Special Opportunities Wheelchair access to beach and trails
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities None known at this time

Cultural Heritage

- Representation The region has a rich logging history
- Special Features Donated park from the Boas family, part of E & N land "grant"

Other Management Considerations

- Other Designations Potential park for transfer to CVRD
- Relationship to other PAs Part of a system of protected areas on Vancouver Island
- Co-operative Management Arrangements Not Applicable
- Partnerships Not Applicable

Vulnerability



Vandalism, water quality, water diversion, impacts from illegal trail use and adjacent logging and toxic material storage

Relationship to other Strategies

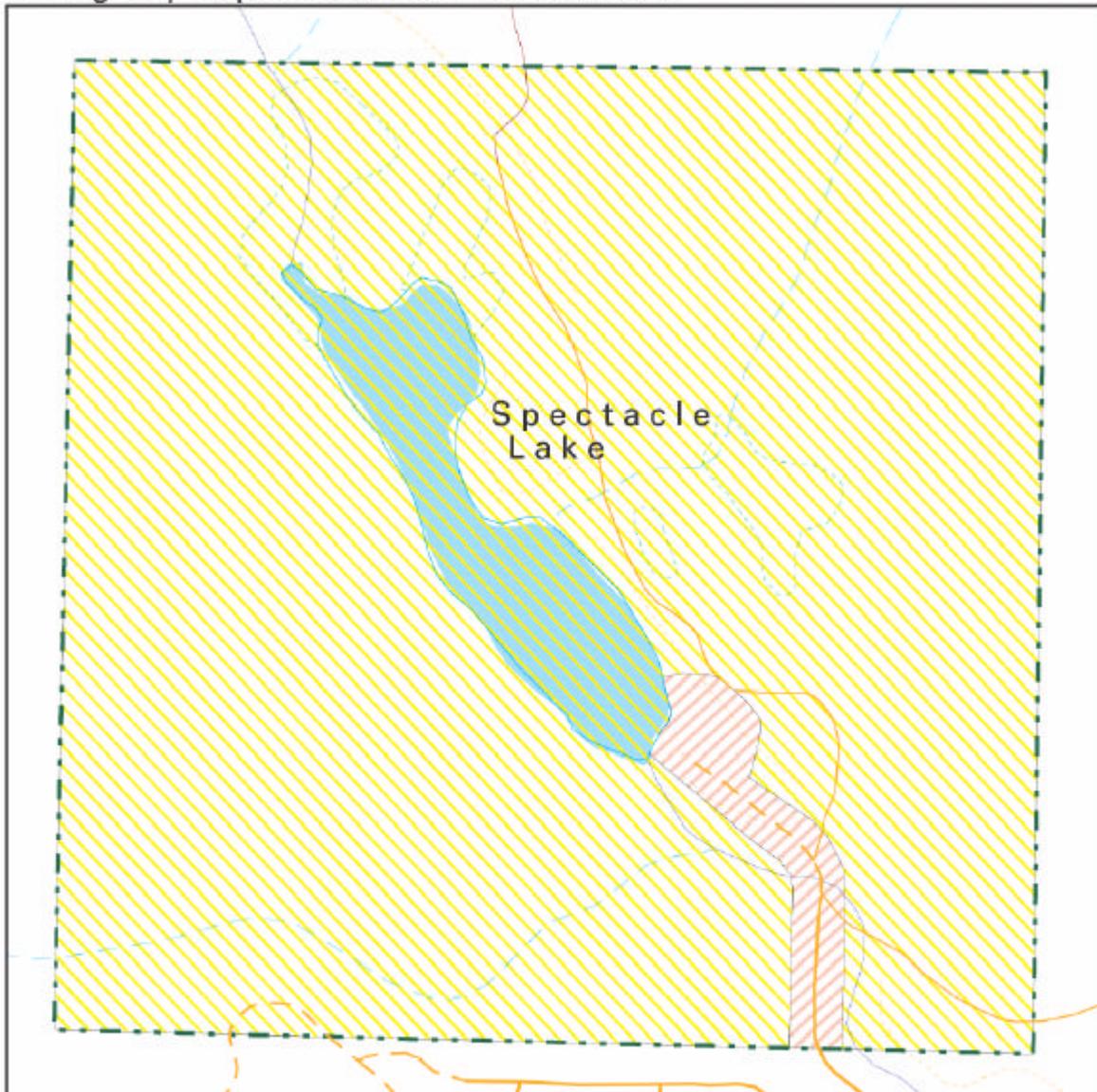


Not Applicable

Area: 65 hectares

Date of establishment: November 13, 1963

Zoning Map - Spectacle Lake Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Protected Area Boundary



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