

# SWAN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

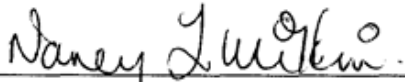
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Approved by:



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Andy Ackerman  
Regional Manager  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 4, 2003



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Nancy Wilkin  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 11, 2003

## **SWAN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan**

### **Primary Role**

The primary role of Swan Lake Provincial Park is to provide a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities in a natural setting to regional and local users, including visitors from across the Alberta border. Tourists from Alberta form a significant portion of the visitors who stay at Swan Lake Provincial Park (up to 40% of visitation) due to its proximity to the Alberta border. This is significant for the operation of the park, and viability. Activities include camping, fishing, swimming, and other water activities. The 67 ha park is located 35 km southeast of Dawson Creek, and provides a rest stop and camping area for travelers heading to Tumbler Ridge. The park provides public access to the lake and it is the only public boat launch and parking lot on the lake.

There are opportunities for park users to view and appreciate the natural values of the park. Trees, shrubs and vegetation are representative of the area, and include aspen, willow, birch, pine and spruce.

The park provides important bird habitat, including a stopover area for migratory birds. The park provides an opportunity for bird watching and wildlife sightings. During the spring and summer months, a variety of raptors, songbirds and other perching birds frequent the area. Waterfowl can also be identified on the lake. Large mammals that frequent the area include moose, deer, and black bear. Most likely sightings are of smaller mammals such as squirrels, chipmunks, beaver, snowshoe hares and muskrat. Fish species present in Swan Lake include unstocked walleye and northern pike.

### **Secondary Role**

The secondary role of the park is to ensure that the cultural history of the region is acknowledged and protected, as well as protection of habitat. Swan Lake Provincial Park is a historical site of extensive First Nations use, both pre and post-European settlement. There were numerous First Nations groups who traveled through the region and settled around the lake. Excavations at Swan Lake Provincial Park have unearthed various artifacts, bones and other items belonging to past First Nations groups. An archaeological interest was initiated, and any development in the park has included a careful search of the grounds prior to disturbing the earth. The recovered pieces have been sent to the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria and the Fort St. John museum.

Habitat conservation is an important aspect of maintaining Swan Lake Provincial Park. The BWBSmw 1 is poorly represented in British Columbia, covering only 0.68% of the province. Swan Lake Provincial Park is one of 22 parks that represent this area. Swan Lake Provincial Park is located within the very poorly represented Kiskatinaw Plateau Ecoregion. Only 2.57% of this ecoregion is protected and Swan Lake Park contributes only 0.31% of the overall protected area representation of this ecoregion.

<b>Known Management Issues</b>	<b>Response</b>
Weekend security of campground and day use areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot checks on weekends by rangers or volunteers</li> </ul>
High use; lack of group campsite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct a group campsite</li> </ul>
Low use of shelter and picnic area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the feasibility and desirability of converting the area into additional campsites</li> </ul>
Single point of public access to the lake; Overcrowding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider campground expansion</li> </ul>
Low level of lake stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage local participation through adequate signage and education</li> </ul>
Management of weir and water levels; lease with BC Fisheries, Regional District and Ducks Unlimited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate weir and water levels with other agencies</li> </ul>
Concern about the foreshore due to jet skis causing an impact to the beach area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with interest groups to identify methods for mitigating the effect of jet skis.</li> </ul>

## **Zoning**

The entire park (67 ha) is zoned Intensive Recreation.

## CONSERVATION

### Representation

- ecosection

Provides minimal representation of the poorly represented Kiskatinaw Plateau Ecosection (2.57%). Swan Lake Park contributes only 0.31% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection. Quality of representation is poor due to the small size of the park.

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Provides minimal representation of the very poorly represented BWBSmw1 (0.68%). Quality of representation is poor due to the small size of the park.

### Special Feature

**Rare/Endangered Values** X Tupper River rearing area, unstocked walleye

### Scientific/Research Opportunities

## RECREATION

### Representation:

- backcountry X Weekend and holiday
- destination X Located 4 km off Highway 2 near BC/Alberta border
- travel corridor X Recreation day use, camping and fishing
- local recreation X High weekend use

**Special Opportunities** X Provides local public access to the lake

**Education/Interpretation Opportunities** X Wildlife viewing, trails

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

### Representation

**Special Feature** X Important archaeological site; artifacts in museum third oldest park in the BC system (1918)

## OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Other Designations

### Relationship to Other PAs

**Co-operative Management Arrangements** X Sudeten Provincial Park

**Partnerships**

**Vulnerability**

**Relationship to Other  
Strategies**

**Area:** 67 hectares

**Date of establishment:** March 21, 1936 (although the area was originally reserved on June 19, 1918, making it the third oldest park in the region)

# Zoning Map - Swan Lake Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas  
Datum: NAD83



 Intensive Recreation  
 Protected Area Boundary



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Support Services

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