

Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area F

James Johnstone Regional Park Purpose and Operations Statement



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.....	4
PARK PURPOSE	4
COMMUNITY SIGNIFICANCE	8
NATURAL FEATURES	8
RECREATIONAL FEATURES	8
LOCAL & HERITAGE FEATURES.....	8
FIRST NATIONS	8
ZONING.....	9
OPERATIONS AND GOVERNANCE	10
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES	11
MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES.....	12
PROJECTED COST ANALYSIS	13
CONSULTATION AND FUTURE PLANNING.....	14
APPENDIX 1: REGIONAL PARK ZONING	15

JAMES JOHNSTONE REGIONAL PARK PURPOSE AND OPERATIONS STATEMENT

Introduction and Background

This Purpose and Operations Statement (POS) will guide the management of James Johnstone Regional Park into the foreseeable future.

The park was established in 1960 through a private landowner donation (see photo of plaque below). It is located just opposite the Nelson airstrip on the north side of the West Arm of Kootenay Lake. Access is via Johnstone Road (see Map 1), and is designated a Waterfront Access Park in the RDCK Official Regional Parks Plan. It consists of 2 waterfront lots (south and north) totalling 1.82 ha (4.5 ac), of which the 0.90 ha (2.23 ac) south lot (Lot 1) is developed, and the 0.92 (2.29 ac) north lot (Lot A) is vacant (see Map 2).

*Park Legal (2 lots): Lot A, DL 370, Plan 18034 and Lot 1, DL 370, Plan 18033
Owner: Regional District of Central Kootenay*

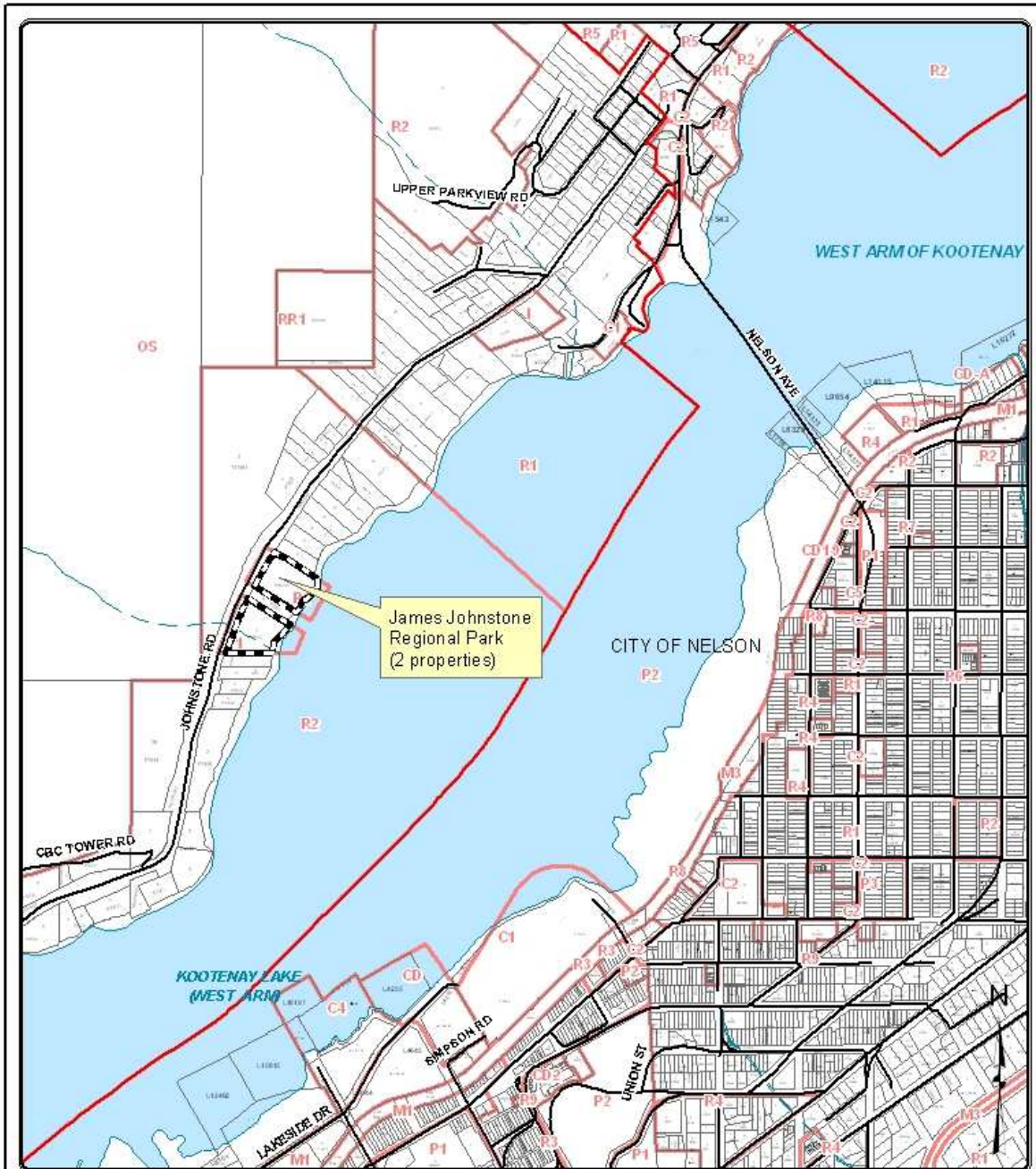
The park is not heavily used, with those users mainly local residents who access it via foot trail from Johnstone road. It is also accessible via a short boat ride from the City of Nelson. It includes a trailhead sign on Johnstone Road, and a 0.2 km trail to the beach. Parking is adjacent to the trailhead along the road right-of-way. The beach area includes an outhouse, picnic tables, fire pits, and signage.


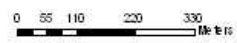
This POS provides the direction for priority management and development objectives of James Johnstone Regional Park. Implementation of this POS is of an operational nature, with follow-through on an as-needed basis and dependent on the availability of financial and staffing capacity.

Park Purpose

James Johnstone Regional Park serves as a local day use recreation area for locals and tourists alike. Activities include hiking, picnicking, boating, and nature appreciation in a riparian and waterfront environment.

Map 1: Park Location



 <p>Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5P4 Phone: (250) 352-6665 Toll-Free 1-800-268-7325 (BC) Fax: (250) 352-9300 Internet: www.rdkc.ca</p> <p>The mapping information shown are approximate representations and should only be used for reference purposes. The Regional District of Central Kootenay is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">James Johnstone Regional Park</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Boundary Roads - RBO Creeks Canals - RBO Zoning - RBO Lake 	<p>Map Scale:</p>  <p>Map Projection: UTM Zone 11 Map Datum: NAD83 Date Printed: 2011-09</p> <p>Mapsheet: 82F043.1.2</p>
---	---	---

Map 2 Park Map

Community Significance

Natural Features

- The park is in its natural state, primarily treed hillside, with the majority of human use concentrated on the southerly lot along the public recreation trail and beach area.
- Both lots are sloped, with an elevation range of 533m at the lakeshore, to 570m at the trailhead.

Recreational Features

- Moderately used day-use location, mostly serving local residents. Accessible via a short walk from Johnstone Road, or via boat. Activities include hiking, nature appreciation, picnicking, and boating.
- Recreational infrastructure includes a small parking area at the trailhead on the road right-of-way, and a well-established and maintained recreational trail. Majority of public use occurs in the summer months, but use does include all seasons.
- The park is governed by the Nelson, Salmo, and Electoral Areas E, F, & G Regional Parks Commission, and RDCK staff. A maintenance contractor is assigned to this park.

Local & Heritage Features

- No known heritage or special features.

First Nations

The park is within the asserted traditional First Nation territories of the Lower Kootenay Band, Ktunaxa Nation Council, and Okanagan Nation Alliance.

Zoning

This POS uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of the park. The majority of the park is zoned Limited Recreation, with the objective of maintaining the natural environment, while at the same time providing a non-motorized public access trail from Johnstone Road to the beach area. The beach and immediate upland areas are zoned Limited Recreation in order to accommodate basic facility development. Appendix 1 describes the RDCK Regional Parks zoning framework.

Map 3: Zoning



Operations and Governance

Park operations are an important component in ensuring that the daily experience of park users is enjoyable and safe. Park operations responsibilities include seeing that park regulations are understood and enforced, facilities are maintained and repaired when required, and the day use areas kept clean and accessible. Park management is undertaken jointly by RDCK staff and Nelson, Salmo, and Electoral Areas E, F, & G Regional Parks Commission. The Regional Parks Commission makes recommendations to the RDCK Board. The RDCK Board is the decision making authority for the park budget, policy, and regulations.

The RDCK currently operates and maintains the park through a maintenance contractor. The work will be carried out by the contractor according to specifications in the contract, and the contractor must supply all equipment necessary to perform the duties and meet the required standards of service.

Figure 1: James Johnstone Regional Park Governance Structure

Strategic Level Plan

Park Establishment

Service Area

Service Area Bylaw

Recreation Commission

Local Park Commissions

Facilities and Activities

RDCK Regional Park rules and regulations are stated in the RDCK Regional Park Regulation Bylaw No. 2173.

ACTIVITY	Zone	Comments
	Limited Recreation	
Camping	N	
Day-Use	Y	
Dogs	Y	Leash only
Horses	N	
Motorized Use	N	
Swimming	Y	
Fishing	Y	
Boating	Y	
Fire Mgmt	Y	
Grazing	N	
Hunting	N	
Noxious Weed Control	Y	
Bicycles	N	
Skiing	N	
FACILITY		
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N	
Boat Launch	N	
Roads & Parking Lots	N	
Trails	Y	
Playground	N	
Day-Use Facilities	Y	
Toilets	Y	
Picnic Shelter	Y	
Fire Pits	Y	

Management Priorities

This section outlines the immediate park priorities that are to be undertaken over the next five to ten years. It is understood that project proposals may come forward which are not anticipated, based on immediate management issues. These projects may be considered on a case by case basis by the General Manager of Community Services, General Manager of Development Services, the Nelson, Salmo, and Electoral Areas E, F, & G Regional Parks Commission, and the RDCK Board. The focus of works for the first five years is to maintain current standards and make improvements to assist in ensuring public safety.

The RDCK will be responsible for funding capital works at the park, and intends to prioritize projects listed below. The ability to do any of the projects presented is contingent on revenue and the resources available.

Management priorities include the following:

- Primary management interest is to ensure public safety by identifying potential hazardous features and areas that may pose a liability risk to the RDCK. Includes but is not limited to illegal and/or unsafe structures, natural hazards, illegal activities, hazard trees, winter use.
- Enforcing park rules and regulations, pursuant to RDCK Park Regulation Bylaw 2173.
- Maintaining park infrastructure, including the trailhead, trail, and park facilities.
- Enhancing park infrastructure based primarily on ensuring public safety, and secondarily on enhancing the user experience.
- Fostering both public and commercial activities compatible with park values
- Managing commercial activities through a Park Use Permit process
- Gathering an inventory of natural species, and any potential impacts to those species.
- Protecting and maintaining key park natural and recreational values (e.g. sensitive natural features/areas, sensitive archaeological areas, focusing development away from sensitive features).

Projected Cost Analysis

Since James Johnstone Regional Park contains basic infrastructure, costs are minimal and should be aimed at 1) ensuring public safety, 2) enhancing the user experience, and 3) maintaining infrastructure. Operating costs will be limited to trail and facility maintenance, hazard tree removal, and identification and mitigation of any public safety hazards. A range of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year can be expected for basic level of facility maintenance.

Tax revenues are the current source of base funding for public facilities. Other sources may be used at some point to enhance facilities or services for specific purposes (e.g. day use fees, donations, corporate sponsorship). These sources would have to be studied and recommended by the Nelson, Salmo, and Electoral Areas E, F, & G Regional Parks and be approved by the RDCK Regional Board on a case by case basis.

Future development costs for James Johnstone Park will vary depending on the types of facilities desired by local residents.

Maintenance Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Supplies	Yearly	750
Hazard Tree removal	Yearly	0-3,000
Facility repair contingency	Yearly	0-1,500

Operations & Development Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Projects (signage, day use facilities, tree planting, major trail upgrades)	Yearly, Based on resources available	0-10,000

Administration Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Office support	Yearly	RDCK Staff time=250-500
Planning	Yearly	RDCK Staff time=500-1000
Supplies	Yearly	100

Other Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Ecological Assessment / Inventory Overview	Once, incomplete	Staff time=250-500
Noxious Weed Inventory Overview	Once, incomplete	Staff time=250-500

Consultation and Future Planning

The RDCK Community Services Department and Development Services Department is jointly accountable for the planning, administration, and management of the park through the application of regulations and policies.

Revisions or updating of this POS will be coordinated by RDCK, with involvement of other agencies, including but not limited to the Provincial and Federal Governments, Nelson, Salmo, and Electoral Areas E, F, & G Regional Parks Commission, First Nations, commercial interests, and other stakeholders as required.

Appendix 1: Regional Park Zoning

	Intensive Recreation	Limited Recreation	Special Feature	Natural Environment
Objective	Provide for a variety of accessible, facility oriented outdoor recreation opportunities	Protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment	Protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility, and heritage values	Protect undisturbed natural environment, providing limited recreation opportunities
Use Level	Relatively high density and long duration types of use	Relatively low use, but higher levels associated with nodes of activity or access	Generally low	Very low use to provide for solitary experiences and protect natural features. Uses may be limited and/or controlled
Access	All weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high	Motorized and non-motorized	Variable, may require special permission	Non-motorized
Location	Contiguous with all weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas	Removed from all-weather roads, but easily accessible on a day-use basis	Determined by location of special resources. May be surrounded by or next to any other zone	Removed from easy access
Boundary Definition	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas	Boundaries consider limits of activity and facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of special resources	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features
Recreation Opportunities	Full spectrum of outdoor recreation activities	Limited due to access constraints	Limited to protect special resources	Non-motorized only
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience, e.g. campgrounds, boat launches, parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience, e.g. walk-in campsites, docks, small accessory buildings	Interpretive facilities only	Minimal or no facility development
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features in a primarily natural state, but where human presence may be readily visible. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas	Area where human presence is not normally visible. Facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities visually compatible with natural setting.	None	Natural area with little evidence of human presence. Facilities visually compatible with natural setting.
Management Guidelines	Oriented to maintaining a high quality recreation experience.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and high quality recreation experience.	High level of management protection with on-going monitoring. Oriented to maintaining special resources.	Oriented to protecting the natural environment. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels.
Examples of Zoning	Robson Wharf, Bonnington, Pass Creek	Rosebud Lake, Winlaw Nature Park, Roseberry Parklands	Historic Ainsworth Wharf, Brilliant Bridge, Sandon	Portion of Sunshine Bay, James Johnstone