

Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area J

Waterloo Eddy Regional Park Purpose and Operations Statement





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WATERLOO EDDY REGIONAL PARK PURPOSE AND OPERATIONS STATEMENT

Introduction

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

The 3.7 ha park is located along the eastern shores of Columbia River, south of Castlegar, BC (see Map 1), and is designated a Waterfront Access Park in the RDCK Official Regional Parks Plan.



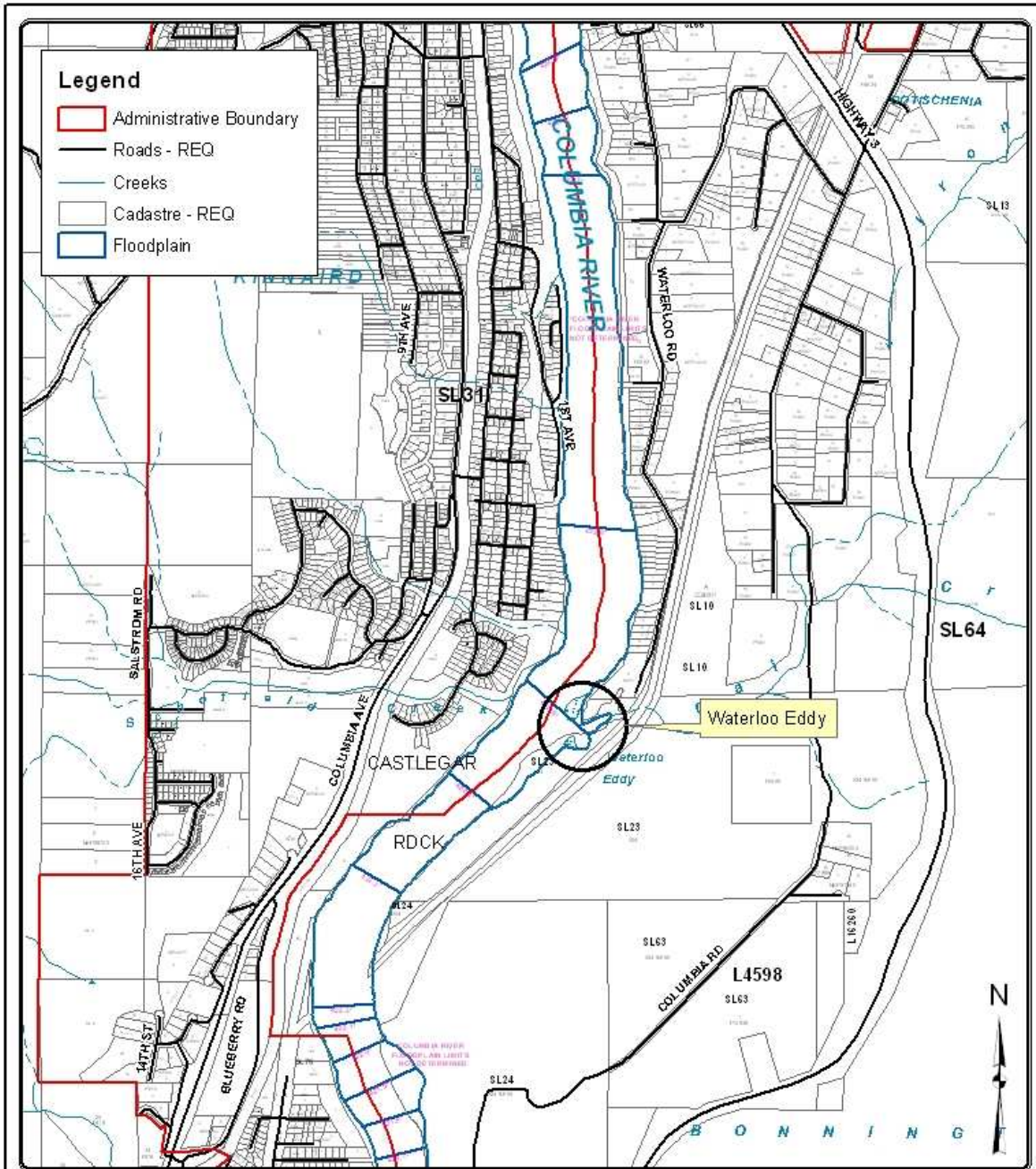
Waterloo Eddy was divested by the Province of BC to the RDCK in 2011 to foster the existing uses for walking, picnicking, and boating/fishing access. It is also one of two staging areas for the Castlegar portion of the Columbia Trail that connects with the City of Trail along the east side of Columbia River. The park has minimal facilities, and is used primarily by local residents. It was supported by the RDCK Board and Castlegar & District Community Complex Recreation Commission (CDCCRC) for inclusion into the Regional Parks system.



This POS provides the direction for the priority management and development of Waterloo Eddy 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

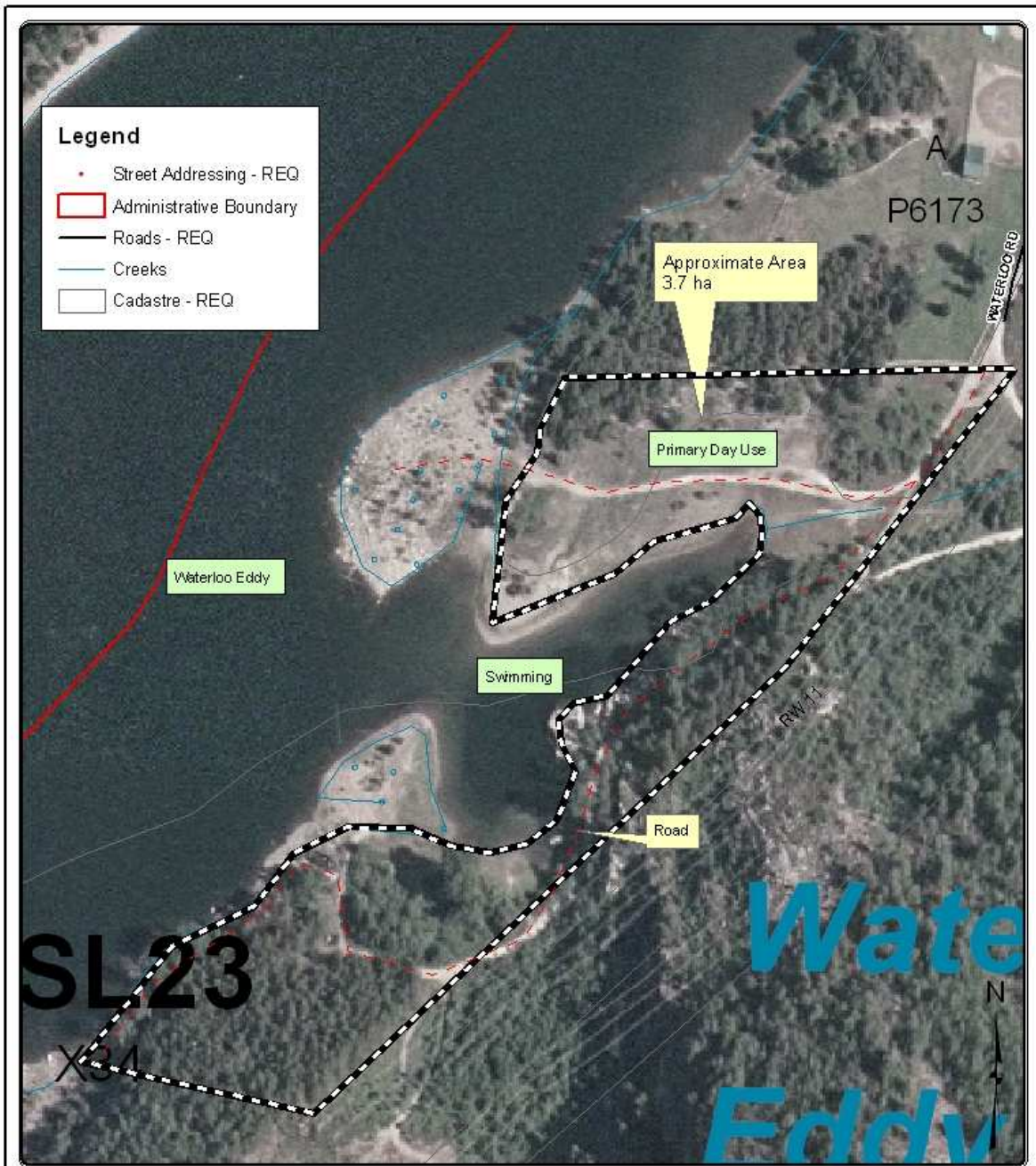
Waterloo Eddy Regional Park is primarily used by local residents for day-use recreation opportunities, including boating, fishing, hiking, swimming, picnicking, and interpretation.



Map 1: Park Location



| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  <p>Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5P4 Phone: (250) 352-6665 Toll-Free 1-800-298-7325 (BC) Fax: (250) 352-9300 Internet: www.rdkk.bc.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> | <p>Overview Map Area J - Waterloo Eddy</p> <p>Legal: Part of DL 4598, SL 23, PI X34, Exc (1) RW Plans 11 & 29, and (2) Plans 6599 and 6690, Kootenay Land District</p> | <p>Map Scale:</p>  <p>Map Projection: UTM Zone 11 Map Datum: NAD83 Date Published: 2011-01-25</p> <p>Mapsheet: 82F043.12</p> |
|--|---|---|

Map 2 Site Plan



| | | |
|---|---|--|
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Community Significance

Natural Features

- Waterloo Eddy itself is a natural feature of the Columbia River, which is an attractive and popular fishing spot. Access to the eddy is via the upland riparian area within the park.
- Although not within the park, this portion of Columbia River provides habitat for a variety of fish species (including endangered), both native and introduced.
- Columbia River water levels vary significantly, historic highs which immerse the majority of the park under water, and lows which cut off the swimming hole completely from the River.



Recreational Features

- The park is a popular recreation destination and staging area for many Castlegar residents who engage in swimming, fishing, boating, picnicking, hiking, and wildlife appreciation.
- Opportunities to view and appreciate a unique river feature (large swirling back eddy, and sheltered swimming hole) are provided against the backdrop of picturesque riparian and forest ecosystems.
- Provides an alternate trail head for the Columbia River Trail, which extends to the City of Trail.
- Commercial recreation activities, including fishing and boating.

Local & Heritage Features

- Provides a recreational day-use destination for primarily local residents
- Protection of the park's land base ensures that traditional use sites remain intact for perpetuity.

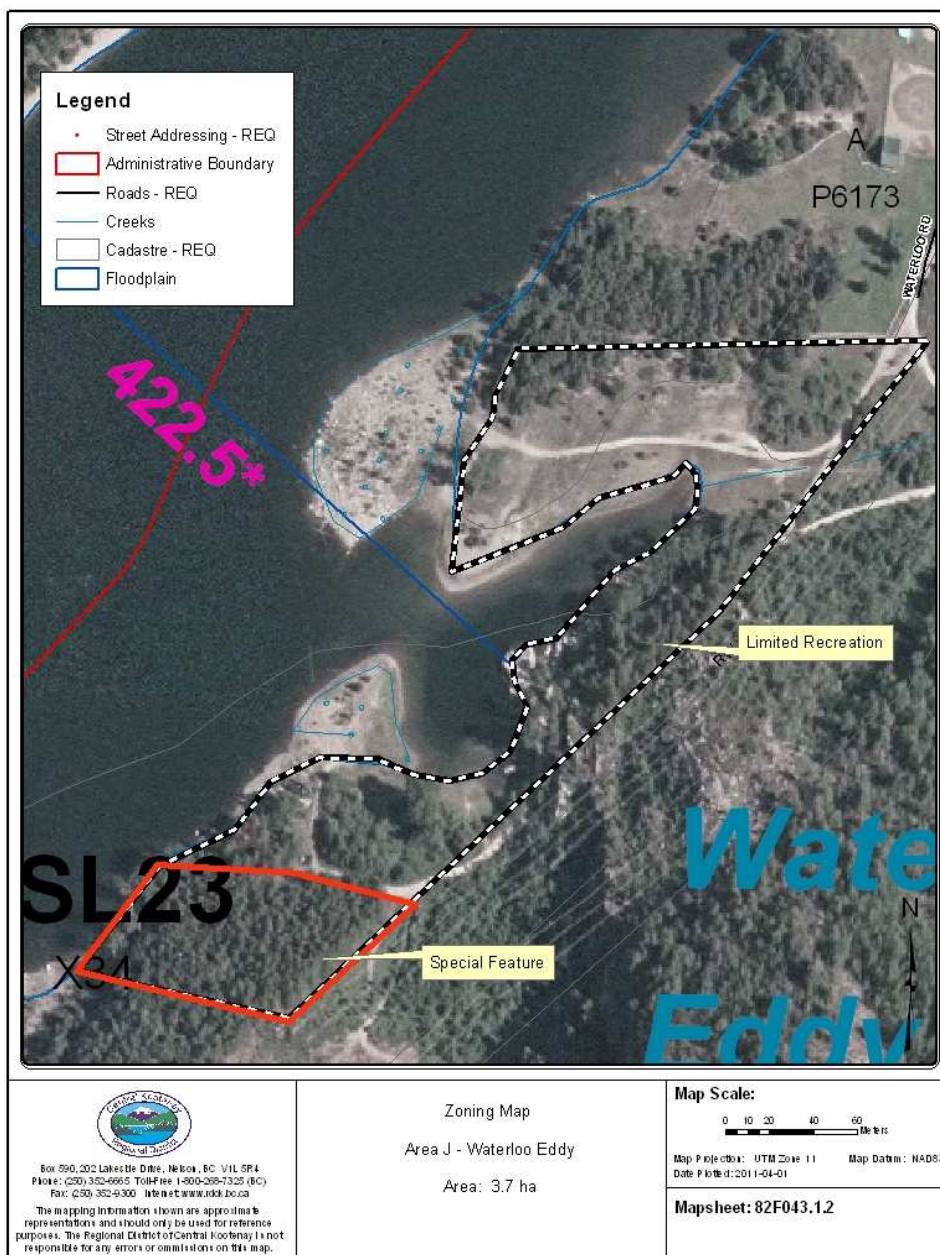
First Nations

As a requirement of acquisition of Waterloo Eddy, RDCK commissioned an archaeological assessment of the property. The assessment, completed in July 2007, determined that there was "archaeological potential" on the portion zoned Special Feature in this POS. The remainder of the park was assessed as having "no archaeological concern". See Map 3.

Zoning

This POS uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of the park (see Map 3). The majority of the park is zoned Limited Recreation, with the objective of providing basic infrastructure and safe access to Columbia River. The remainder of the park is zoned Special Feature in order to protect potential archaeological features that may be present, as identified in the archaeological assessment conducted in July 2007. This area will remain in its natural state until further archaeological assessments can be completed. Appendix 1 describes the RDCK Regional Parks zoning framework.

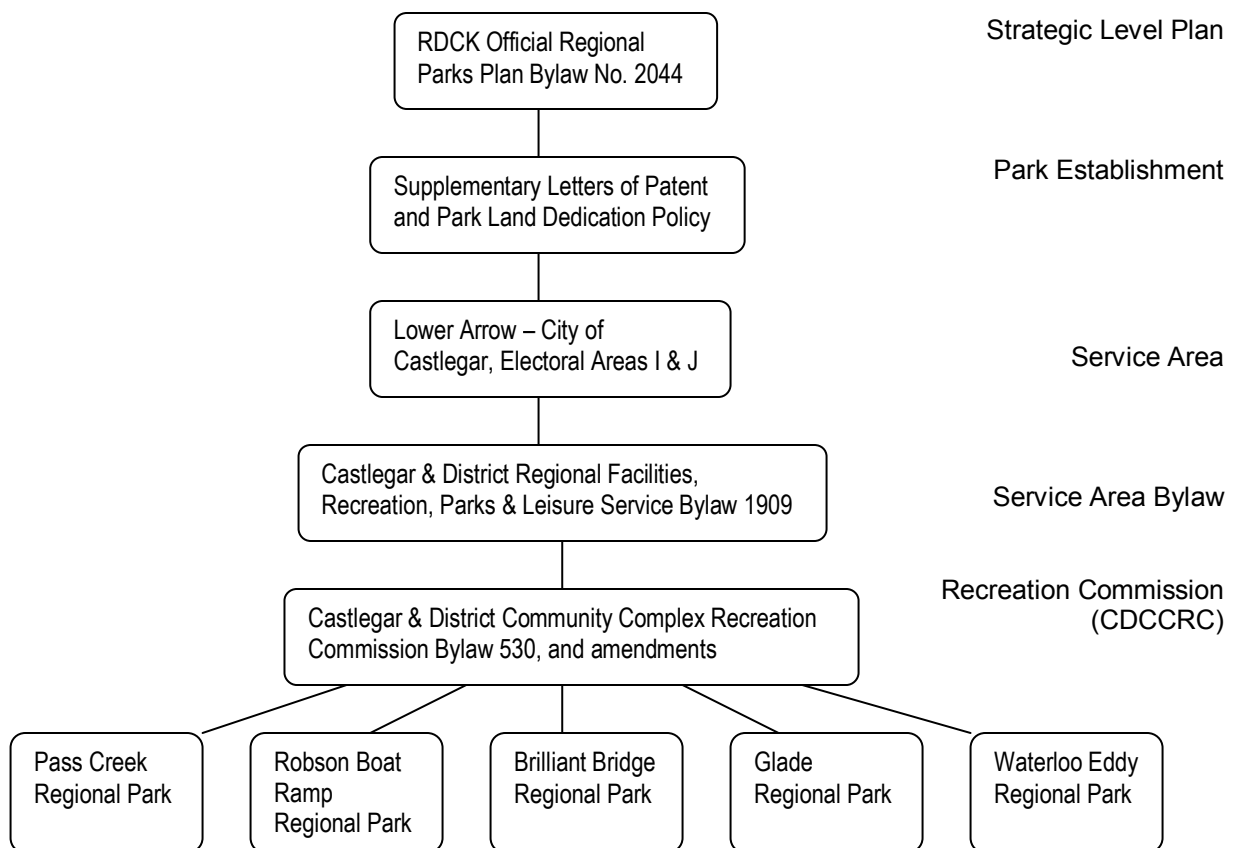
Map 3: Zoning



Operations and Governance

Park operations is 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. Management of Waterloo Eddy Regional Park is undertaken jointly by RDCK staff and CDCCRC. The CDCCRC makes recommendations to the RDCK Board. The RDCK Board is the decision making authority for the park budget, policy, and regulations.

Waterloo Eddy Regional Park Governance Structure



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 | Special Feature | |
| Camping | N | N | |
| Day-Use | Y | Y | |
| Dogs | Y | Y | |
| Horses | Y | Y | |
| Motorized Use | Y | N | Limited Recreation Zone only, on existing roads |
| Swimming | Y | N/A | |
| Fishing | Y | N/A | |
| Boating | Y | N/A | Ensure power boating does not negatively impact park values and features |
| Fire Mgmt | Y | Y | |
| Grazing | N | N | |
| Hunting | N | N | |
| Noxious Weed Control | Y | Y | |
| Bicycles | Y | N | |
| Skiing | Y | Y | |
| FACILITY | | | |
| Administrative Buildings and Compounds | Y | N | |
| Boat Launch | Y | N/A | |
| Roads & Parking Lots | Y | N | |
| Trails | Y | N | |
| Playground | Y | N | |
| Day-Use Facilities | Y | N | |
| Toilets | Y | N | |
| Picnic Shelter | Y | N | |
| Fire Pits | Y | N | |

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. These projects may be considered on a case by case basis by the General Manager of Community Services, General Manager of Development Services, the CDCCRC, 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 undertaking capital works at the park and intends to undertake projects according to the timeframe presented. 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, e.g. swimming hole, river currents, snags
- Maintain trail and road system
- Managing illegal dumping and partying through bylaw enforcement
- Fostering both public and commercial uses compatible with park values
- Gathering an inventory of natural species, and any potential impacts to those species and the adjacent riparian area
- Protecting and maintaining key park natural and recreational values, as well as respecting adjacent property owners
- Recognizing the legal rights of pre-existing tenure holders and landowners within the park, and to deal fairly with those interests.
- Managing commercial activities through a Park Use Permit process

Projected Cost Analysis

Since Waterloo Eddy contains basic infrastructure, costs are minimal and should be aimed at 1) ensuring public safety, 2) enhancing the user experience, and 3) maintaining park infrastructure. Operating costs will be limited to road and trail maintenance, hazard tree removal, and identification and mitigation of any public safety hazards. A range of \$3,000 to \$5,000 can be expected for basic level of facility operations.

Development costs for Waterloo Eddy will vary depending on the types of facilities desired by local residents. It is anticipated that the initial development costs will be in the range of \$20,000, the majority of which will be surveying costs, along with park signage, hazard tree removal, and other public safety mitigation functions.

Tax revenues are the current source of base funding for regional parks. 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 CDCCRC and be approved by the RDCK Regional Board on a case by case basis.

Maintenance Costs

| | Period | Projected Cost (\$) |
|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Contractor | Yearly | XX, plus staff administration time |
| Toilets | On-going | Contractor time |
| Garbage to dump | Yearly | 500-1000 |
| Supplies | On-going | 500-1,000 |
| Hazard Tree removal | Yearly | 0-3,000 |
| Facility repair contingency | Yearly | 0-1,000 |

Operations & Development Costs

| | Period | Projected Cost (\$) |
|--|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Contractor | Yearly | XX, plus staff administration time |
| Projects (signage, day use facilities) | As required | 0-500/yr |

Administration Costs

| | Period | Projected Cost (\$) |
|----------------|----------|------------------------|
| Survey | Once | 8,000 to \$10,000 |
| Office support | On-going | Staff time=250-500/mo |
| Planning | On-going | Staff time=500-2000/mo |
| Supplies | On-going | 100/yr |

Other Costs

| | Period | Projected Cost (\$) |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Archaeological Inventory | Once, complete | 0 |
| Ecological Assessment/Inventory | Once, incomplete | Staff time=250-500 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Overview | | |
| 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, CDCCRC, City of Castlegar, 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 | Taghum Beach, Robson Wharf, Bonnington, Pass Creek | Rosebud Lake, Winlaw Nature Park, Roseberry Parklands | Historic Ainsworth Wharf, Brilliant Bridge, Sandon | Portion of Sunshine Bay |