



parks canada.gc.ca/bowen

THE FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL FOR NATIONAL PARK RESERVE LANDS ON BOWEN ISLAND

Project Update January 2011

Parks Canada and the Government of British Columbia, together with the Bowen Island Municipality, are exploring the possibility of establishing national park reserve lands on Bowen Island. National parks protect natural areas and cultural features and offer opportunities for experiencing and appreciating Canada's natural heritage.

What's happened so far

Since the Feasibility Assessment was launched in August 2010, Parks Canada and the Bowen Island Municipality have been busy hosting information sessions, workshops and open house events, meeting with people and responding to questions and comments. These consultations have helped us better understand the local context, and have guided and informed the development of a draft park vision and a preliminary park concept (in progress).

Parks Canada has also initiated consultations with other levels of government and stakeholders including the Squamish First Nation and the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, the Province of British Columbia, the Islands Trust and the Islands Trust Fund, Metro Vancouver Parks, BC Ferries and the Vancouver Aquarium.

In addition to consultations and outreach, Parks Canada has completed a values and priorities analysis to understand the ecological, cultural, recreational and educational values of the different areas of interest on Bowen Island. An Economic Impact Assessment is also in progress and is nearing completion. This assessment will provide some clarity on the possible impacts and benefits of a national park reserve on Bowen Island. The report should be available soon for public comment. Stay tuned!

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Information Sessions

**Bowen Island, North Vancouver, West Vancouver
& Bowfest information booth**
August 26, 28, 30, 31, 2010

The information sessions held on Bowen Island and in North and West Vancouver marked the beginning of the consultation process. During these information sessions, approximately 380 people attended. A summary report is available under Learn More at www.parks canada.gc.ca/bowen.

Inter-Island Mission

September 8-9 and October 2, 2010

On September 8th and 9th, eight community members, the Bowen Island Mayor and four Councillors visited Gulf Islands National Park Reserve to see the national park and learn first-hand from local residents about their experiences. The delegation was hosted by Parks Canada staff and time was divided between meeting with Gulf Islanders, the two National Park Liaison Committees and visiting park lands and facilities.

On October 2nd, the Bowen Island Municipality hosted an open house on the island where the community members of the Inter-Island delegation presented their findings and recommendations from their visit to Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. The report can be found on the Bowen Island Municipality website: http://www.bimbc.ca/current_topics.php?nnid=589#589.



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Bowen Island Community Open Space Forum

October 16, 2010

The Open Space Forum was a Bowen Island community-led gathering, facilitated by Bowen Islander Chris Corrigan. Participants designed their own agenda. They self-coordinated groups to discuss specific topics related to the feasibility assessment such as transportation, local involvement, and negotiations. Each group took notes and shared their ideas on the Bowen Island Ourselves website. <http://bowegover.ning.com/>



Bowfest © Parks Canada / M. Johns



Bowen Island Info Session © Parks Canada / M. Johns

Visioning Workshop

November 3, 2010

This visioning workshop, organized by Parks Canada and the Bowen Island Municipality, gathered ideas and information to inform the development of a draft vision for the possible establishment of national park reserve lands on Bowen Island. Twenty-two participants representing diverse on-island and off-island interests were invited to the workshop and an additional 15-20 people observed. Parks Canada used the feedback from the visioning workshop to develop a draft vision (*see Box 1 next page*). The objective of the vision is to articulate the special character of Bowen Island and paint a picture of the future of national park reserve lands should they be established. It will inspire decision-making for the planning, management and operation of national park reserve lands.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK! We welcome your feedback on the draft vision.



Inter Island Tour in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve © B. Turner

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Draft Vision for the Possible Establishment of National Park Reserve Lands on Bowen Island

The following statement summarizes the draft vision for the possible establishment of national park reserve lands on Bowen Island:

National park reserve lands on Bowen Island will provide a unique example of the integration of a protected coastal and island ecosystem in close proximity to a large urban population. They will protect healthy examples of the rich ecological and cultural heritage of Bowen Island and provide a place of refuge for nature and people. The national park reserve lands will provide quality, sustainable, and low-impact opportunities for local residents, metro Vancouverites and the broader Canadian public to learn about, appreciate, experience and protect the ecological and cultural heritage of this unique coastal ecosystem at the mouth of Howe Sound. Park lands will be collaboratively managed in a way that respects the special character of Bowen Island and local and Aboriginal values.

Key Elements of a vision for Bowen Island:

Over time, national park reserve lands on Bowen Island will:

- maintain and restore the ecological integrity of Bowen Island's terrestrial and marine environments.
- protect and showcase several significant examples of Bowen Island's unique cultural resources.
- provide memorable opportunities to appreciate, understand and enjoy the island in sustainable, low-impact ways (e.g. walking, hiking, paddling, sailing, bicycling, horseback riding, walk-in/boat-in camping), while respecting the island's desire to reduce reliance on motor vehicles.
- offer outstanding in-park and outreach educational programs that provide opportunities for adults and children to connect with the cultural and natural heritage of the island in ways that support the continued protection and stewardship of the island's heritage resources. Draw on the knowledge and resources of local residents, and enter into partnerships with educational and scientific organizations (e.g. Vancouver aquarium), to help support these education and outreach programs.
- provide a natural refuge adjacent to an increasingly developed region – a place to rest, reconnect with nature and rejuvenate.
- act as a model of sustainable living, demonstrating how people can maintain the integrity of their natural environment while living within it.
- be managed in a manner that respects the special rural character and community values of Bowen Island and contributes to the sustainable economy of the island.
- demonstrate through positive, respectful working relationships how local people and a national park can thrive together through stewardship, and a management model based on the advice and cooperation of others.

Note: This draft vision is intended to be a starting point. Refinements to this vision will be made through public and stakeholder review and First Nations input.

Drawing Lines on the Map

Concepts Workshop

November 27, 2010 - Morning

The concepts workshop, organized by Parks Canada and Bowen Island Municipality, was held on November 27th, 2010 where twenty participants reviewed the draft vision and prepared draft park concept options. Participants used Parks Canada's values and priorities analysis to elaborate on their own ideas of what a national park reserve could look like on Bowen Island.

Participants broke into five groups and each developed a park concept option. Although each of the five draft concept options was different, there were a number of common themes that emerged (see Box 2). The key difference was whether or not to include all of Crippen Regional Park, some of it, or none of it.



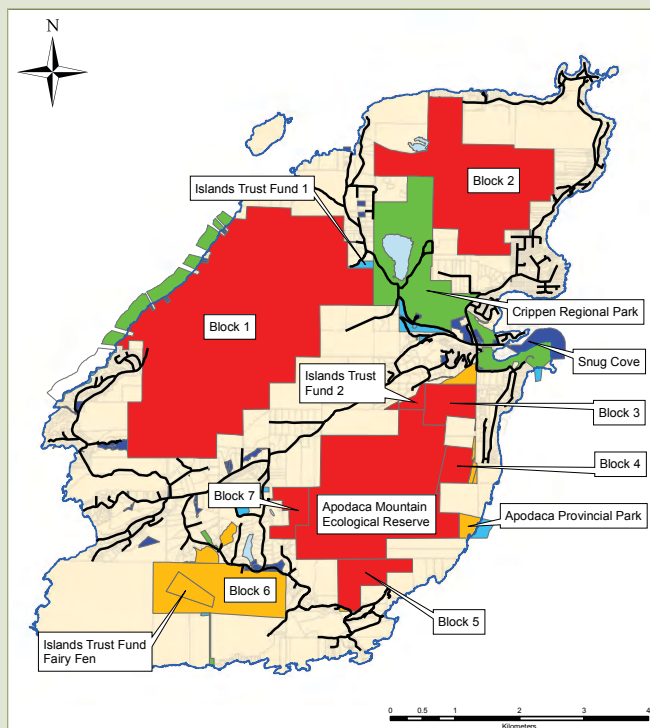
Concepts Workshop © B. Turner

The park concept is a description of what a national park reserve could look like and includes options on what areas could be included (or not), and what activities could take place (or not), and where.



Visioning Workshop © B. Turner

Box 2: Finding Common Ground



Legend

- Selected by 1 Group
- Selected by 2 Groups
- Selected by 3 Groups
- Selected by 4 Groups
- Selected by 5 Groups

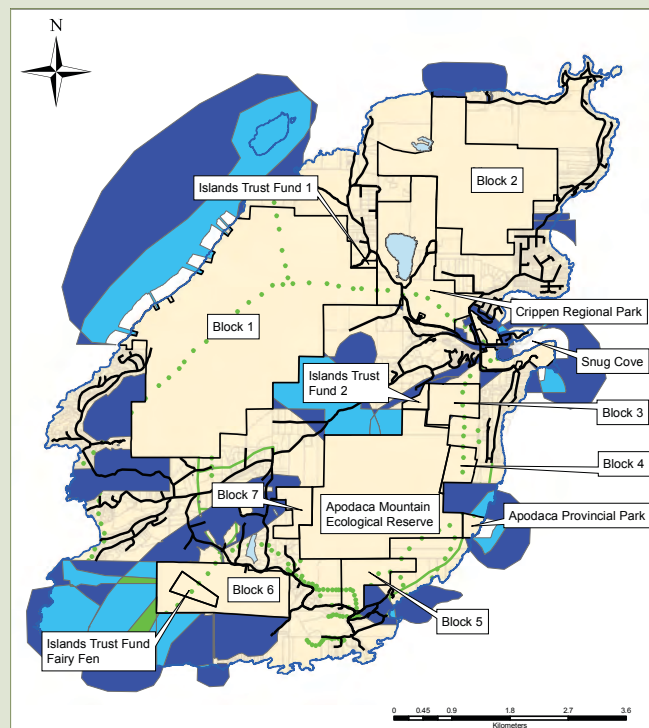
Park Concepts Summary - Areas of Common Interest

The Areas of Common Interest map was developed based on the lines that workshop participants drew on their maps. The five maps have been “layered” on top of each other to show where there is overlap in ideas. This first map shows areas of overlap for each of the areas of interest.

Note: These are not proposed boundaries. These are ideas from workshop participants that will be used to inform Parks Canada’s development of a preliminary park concept.

A number of common themes emerged from the concepts workshop:

- Include all Crown lands, except those required for community needs;
- Include some marine areas adjacent to lands of interest;
- Enhance opportunities for improved ecological and trail connectivity among lands of interest;
- Enhance watershed protection



Legend

- Selected by 1 Group
- Selected by 2 Groups
- Selected by 3 Groups
- Trail Connectivity

Park Concepts Summary - Additional Areas of Interest

While Parks Canada is looking exclusively at public lands and existing protected areas, participants noted some areas outside Parks Canada’s areas of interest as important areas that could complement possible national park reserve lands.

- Exclude most or all municipal parks and beaches;
- Consider the potential of some private land to complement the role of public lands;
- Consider the option of alternative access via Seymour Bay;
- Consider private lands (Cape Roger Curtis);
- Consider the inclusion of Lieben; and
- Include marine areas adjacent to private land.

There have been wide ranging opinions expressed about whether all, or parts of, or none of Crippen Regional Park should be considered in a preliminary park concept. Crippen will be a topic of focussed discussion at the January open space session.

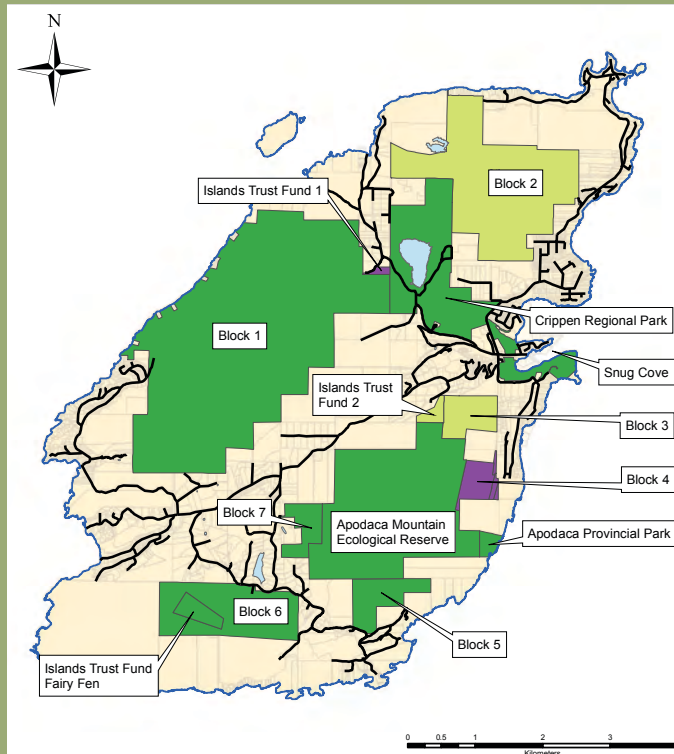
Vision and Concepts Open House

November 27, 2010 - Afternoon

At the Vision and Concepts Open House, the public had a chance to review the draft vision, learn about Parks Canada values and priorities, comment on the various draft park concept options developed in the morning concepts workshop, and propose guidelines for potential activities.

The feedback received at the open house will be instrumental in helping Parks Canada develop a preliminary park concept, which will be available to the public for comment.

Box 3: Values and Priorities



Parks Canada's values and priorities

Parks Canada carried out an analysis to better understand the ecological, cultural, recreational and educational values and the management considerations of the areas of interest on Bowen Island. The ecological component of this work was informed by several maps including; land use, ecosystem type, ecosystem status (e.g. rare or endangered), sensitive ecosystems, watersheds, and species occurrence. Additional maps were developed to record opportunities for visitor experiences including trails, viewpoints and beach access points. The Parks Canada Priorities map was designed as a starting point for discussion and the priority level assigned to a piece of land does not necessarily mean it would be in or out of a national park reserve.

Legend

Priority

- Very High
- High
- Medium



Concepts Open House © B. Turner

Next Steps

Based on the ideas developed in the visioning and concepts workshops, and on community and stakeholder feedback of what a national park reserve could look like on Bowen Island, Parks Canada is working on a preliminary park concept. The concept will remain as a draft pending further consultations with the Bowen Island community and First Nations. In early February, we will present this draft concept for comment.

What needs to be done:

- **January 22:** Open Space session on Crippen Regional Park
- **February 5:** Open House on Preliminary Park Concept/Economic Impact Assessment
- **January - March:** Bowen Island Municipality's National Park Community Advisory Committee outreach to Bowen Island residents and property owners
- **March:** Finalize Park Feasibility Assessment
- **April:** Consideration of results of Bowen Island community opinion vote
- **April/May:** Make Recommendations to Government

Bowen Island's National Park Community Advisory Committee

In December of 2010, the Bowen Island Council appointed 31 Bowen Island community members to a National Park Community Advisory Committee (NPCAC). The mandate of this committee is to conduct community outreach, to engage the Bowen public in discussion about a potential park and to report back to Council on key issues of concern, suggestions and comments about the national park reserve proposal by the end of February. A report from this committee will be used to draft the question(s) for the Bowen voters in April. The committee will act as an advisory body to the Bowen Island Municipal Council. Look for them in your community!

Upcoming Events

Open Space Session

Come to the Open Space Session and share your ideas and feedback on whether all, or parts of, or none of Crippen Regional Park should be included in the possible establishment of national park reserve lands on Bowen Island.

Saturday, January 22nd, 2011 • 1:30-4:30 pm
Bowen Island Community School
1041 Mt. Gardner Road, Bowen Island

Open House

Join us at our Open House to hear a presentation and comment on the preliminary park concept for the potential establishment of national park reserve lands on Bowen Island and to learn about the results of the Economic Impact Assessment.

Saturday, February 5th, 2011 • 1:00-4:00 pm
Bowen Island Community School
1041 Mt. Gardner Road, Bowen Island

Other Events

It is expected that Bowen Island will host additional education and discussion forums to discuss the national park reserve proposal through the January to March review period. Information about additional forums will be posted on the website.

Visit our website!

Visit us online to find more information on the Feasibility Assessment, learn the answers to frequently asked questions, download info, learn about upcoming events and share your feedback!

- Bowen Island Information Sheet
- Aboriginal Consultation Information Sheet
- Synopsis of What We Heard Report
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Project Update – January 2011

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