

Would there be park fees?

User fees normally apply in national parks. The application of user fees would depend on factors such as the level of services and facilities provided. If collected, park fees are retained in the park where they are collected and are used to help fund services, facilities and programs. Currently, for example, Gulf Islands National Park Reserve charges fees for camping, docking and mooring. They do not currently charge park use fees for day use activities.

During the feasibility assessment, local input from the community will provide guidance on what kind of services and facilities, if any, are supported, and therefore, what park fees may apply.

Would camping be allowed?

National parks typically offer a variety of visitor opportunities such as interpretive services, hiking and camping. It is not yet known what services national park lands on Bowen Island would provide, and such determinations would be made during the feasibility assessment with full public consultation. However, Parks Canada feels that it would be very important that some level of camping/overnight experience be part of the service offer.



Apodaca Provincial Park
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Bowen Island

info

Can I horseback ride in a national park?

Recreational horseback riding is an activity that many people enjoy in many national parks across Canada, and is recognized as a popular activity on many of the trails on Bowen Island. Recreational activities, such as horseback riding, typically undergo a local park assessment to consider factors like public safety and potential impacts on natural resources in order to determine how and where the activity would best take place. Like camping, such an assessment would be undertaken in full consultation with the community.

Can I walk my dog in a national park?

Pets are welcome in national parks, and must be kept on a leash at all times. Park regulations are designed to protect wildlife, ecosystems and other visitors.



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

Information

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

What is a feasibility assessment?

The purpose of the feasibility assessment is to determine whether the establishment of national park reserve lands on Bowen Island is both practical and desirable. The assessment will answer many questions, including:

- Do the resources of Bowen Island meet Parks Canada's criteria for national park reserve lands?
- Is there sufficient potential for memorable visitor experiences?
- Is there sufficient community and Aboriginal support?

Why Bowen Island?

In 2009, the Bowen Island Municipality approached Parks Canada with a request to consider lands on Bowen Island for the creation of a national park. A preliminary analysis of potential opportunities on Bowen Island was undertaken over the winter of 2009/2010 and in May 2010, Parks Canada, in collaboration with the Bowen Island Municipality, and in partnership with the Province of British Columbia, agreed to lead a streamlined feasibility assessment to study the potential for national park reserve lands on Bowen Island. Bowen Island boasts a diverse and abundant array of plants and animals on the land and in the surrounding waters. The landscape is dominated by forests of Douglas fir with western hemlock and western red cedar and some lands have

Bowen Island

info



exceptionally high ecological values. Bowen Island is home to a number of rare species and plant communities which are listed under Canada's *Species at Risk Act* and British Columbia's *Wildlife Act*.

Establishing national park reserve lands on Bowen Island could provide a great opportunity for residents of Vancouver and neighbouring communities to experience and connect with Canada's system of national parks. National park reserve lands on Bowen Island could offer potential visitors with new overnight opportunities, enhanced day use opportunities and new opportunities to learn about the management of the natural and cultural resources on the island.

Why is Parks Canada Interested in Bowen Island?

- To work in collaboration with the Bowen Island Municipality to pursue a greater level of protection for Bowen Island's natural and cultural values.
- To provide a national park experience in close proximity to a large urban audience.
- To better represent the natural features of the Strait of Georgia Lowlands natural region in the national park system.



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Bowen Island

info

What is a national park reserve?

National parks and national park reserves are a country-wide system of protected areas of Canadian significance that represent the physical, biological and cultural diversity of the country. National parks are established to protect and present outstanding examples of natural landscapes and phenomena that occur in Canada's 39 natural regions. These wild places, located in every province and territory, range from mountains and grasslands, to boreal forests and tundra, to lakes and glaciers, and much more.

The breathtaking scenery and inspiring natural surroundings in national parks provide the perfect setting for tuning into nature, learning about it, appreciating it, respecting it and pledging to protect it.

All activities that use up or threaten natural resources are prohibited in national parks by federal legislation. Prohibited activities include mining, forestry, agriculture and hunting. Some designated areas are open to sport fishing, however, special rules apply.

A national park reserve is a designation that refers to lands which are subject to Aboriginal claims that have been accepted for negotiation by the federal government.

What are the next steps?

Parks Canada will be conducting technical studies and consultations as part of the feasibility assessment. Technical studies will explore the economic and ecological values of the area being assessed and will answer questions about potential impacts on Bowen Island's infrastructure, community services and local businesses.

Consultation is an important part of the feasibility assessment and will be conducted throughout this process with governments, Aboriginal Groups, Bowen Island and other adjacent communities, stakeholders and the Canadian public. The information gathered from these consultations is essential to better understanding concerns and opportunities related to

the potential of establishing national park reserve lands on Bowen Island. Aboriginal Groups are involved in a separate and parallel consultation process.

Consultations will help guide and refine the proposal and determine the scope of opportunities and concerns and the level of support for establishing national park reserve lands on Bowen Island.

What role does the community play in making decisions that inform the feasibility assessment on Bowen Island?

Parks Canada and the Bowen Island Municipality will be working together to consult extensively with the Bowen Island community to determine the level of local support for a national park reserve. Public feedback is important – it provides an opportunity to learn about and address community and stakeholder concerns. Parks Canada will also be consulting with governments, Aboriginal Groups, adjacent communities, stakeholders and the Canadian public.

What does a national park reserve mean for Aboriginal people?

The Squamish First Nation and Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group First Nations have included the lands and waters of Bowen Island as part of their areas for purposes of treaty



Snug Cove © Parks Canada/M. Johns

negotiations. Parks Canada is committed to working with local Aboriginal groups that express an interest in potential new national park reserves, and will work with the Squamish and Hul'qumi'num First Nations to seek their input and involvement regarding the Bowen Island proposal.

Will the adjacent marine environment be considered as part of this feasibility assessment on Bowen?

As is often the case in establishing coastal national parks, the intertidal and near shore subtidal marine environments adjacent to lands of interest will be considered in this feasibility assessment.

Is expropriation of land being considered?

No. The Government of Canada would not expropriate private property in order to establish a national park reserve.

What special considerations are being taken into account for this park being on an island?

Islands are, by definition, special places and inherently pose challenges for access, visitor circulation and the provision of such services as water and proper sewage disposal and treatment, among others. Access only by water immediately introduces questions about the potential for crowding on the ferry, limitations for mooring in Snug Cove and a host of park management issues related to accessing park lands around the island. These are among the kind of issues to be addressed during the feasibility assessment.

What role will BC Ferries play in the feasibility assessment?

Since BC Ferries is the primary provider of access to Bowen Island, they will be consulted during the feasibility assessment. Other private providers of pedestrian access by boat to the island will also be consulted during the study.

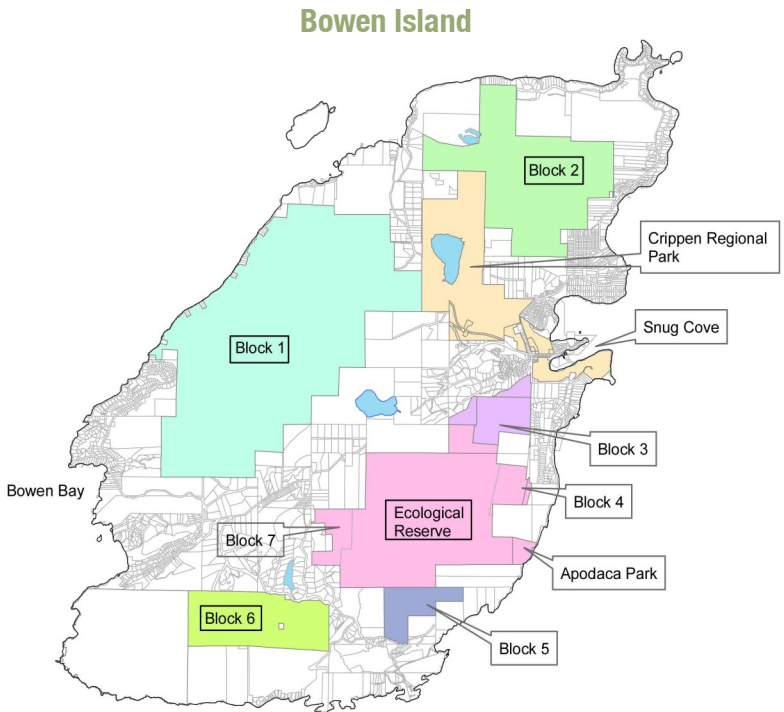
Would Bowen Island be a national park reserve unto itself?

National park reserve lands on Bowen Island would likely be managed as part of the operations of the existing Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

What lands are being considered in this feasibility assessment?

British Columbia Crown lands, some municipal lands and existing parks and protected areas on Bowen Island are being considered in this assessment.

While Parks Canada is not in a position at this time to purchase private lands, the potential role of private lands in complementing national park reserve lands to enhance the visitor experience and protect the natural and cultural resource values on the island will be considered during the assessment. The potential for some lands to be acquired through a third party or by donation will also be considered.



Lands to be considered in the feasibility assessment