

MCDONALD CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

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Approved by:



Wayne Stetski
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

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Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: 25-02-03

MCDONALD CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of McDonald Creek Park is to maintain holiday destination, tourism travel route and local community outdoor recreational opportunities oriented to a forested lakeside (reservoir) setting.

McDonald Creek Park is one of a system of four provincial parks on the Arrow Lake reservoir. It was established as a major holiday destination featuring boating and fishing opportunities. Other attractions include fine sandy beaches and open grassy meadows. The park has become a popular destination with Okanagan and Alberta visitors. It supports tourism by diversifying recreational opportunities and ensures access to recreational opportunities for residents in nearby communities.

Secondary Role

The **secondary role** is to protect lakeshore riparian habitat and kokanee spawning habitat associated with an alluvial fan and creek.

The Arrow Reservoir bisects the park and creates two distinct east and west portions of protected area. The east side contains McDonald Creek, which is an important kokanee spawning tributary to Arrow Lake. The small alluvial fan and riparian of the creek is a somewhat rare feature for interior lakes. Approximately 600 metres of the creek travels through the northeast corner of the park and empties into the reservoir. Because of fluctuating water levels in the reservoir, the fan is not a static feature of the shoreline.

Despite changes in reservoir level, the relief between shoreline and upland is minimal and the area has retained many characteristics of the original riparian habitat. The combined shoreline on the east and west encompasses over 6 km and is complemented with natural sandbars and coves. In contrast, the forested upland habitat, particularly on the west side of the park, provides critical winter range for ungulates (primarily deer and elk).

Known Management Issues	Response
Invasive non-native plant species (e.g. knapweed) threaten native species.	Inventory species. Develop and implement control strategies.
Forest health is threatened by tree diseases.	Inventory tree disease within the developed area of the park. Develop and implement a mitigation strategy.
West side (the park is divided in two by the Arrow Reservoir) values are threatened by uncontrolled visitor use. Unauthorized road building, campsites and fires are common. Island in reservoir is also being impacted.	Monitor and attempt to regulate visitor use on the west side of the lake to protect important wildlife habitat. Propose addition of island to the park.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation (approximately 67 ha or 14% of the park)

Objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment (approximately 392 ha or 84% of the park)

Objectives: To protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Special Feature (approximately 9 ha or 2% of the park)

Objectives: To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.

Conservation

- Representation
- ecosection Central Columbia Mountains (CCM). McDonald Creek is a small contributor (0.15%) to the considerably represented PA in the CCM (19%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Minor contributor to the ICHmw2 in the CCM (0.47%). Contributes significantly to the water subzone in the CCM (9.06%). Majority of water is in Goat Range, Valhalla's, and St Mary's Alpine, PAs that are substantially larger than McDonald Creek.
- Special Feature Alluvial fan and riparian features of McDonald Creek.
- Rare/Endangered Values Unknown. No studies completed.
- Scientific/Research Opportunities None identified.

Recreation

- Representation
backcountry Not applicable.
- destination 30 unit campground, fishing, 24 unit day use area.
- travel corridor Highway 23 (Upper Arrow Lakes).
- local recreation Day use, boat launching, fishing.
- Special Opportunities None identified.
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities None identified.

Cultural Heritage

- Representation AOS (1979) determined Lakes Salish use of area.
- Special Feature Archeological site identified on east side of park (day use area).

Other Management Considerations

- Other Designations None identified.
- Relationship to other PAs One of 4 provincial parks on the Arrow Lake Reservoir.

Co-operative Management
Arrangements

None identified.

Partnerships

None identified.

Vulnerability

Unauthorized visitor use of the west side
of the lake (within park) is a concern.

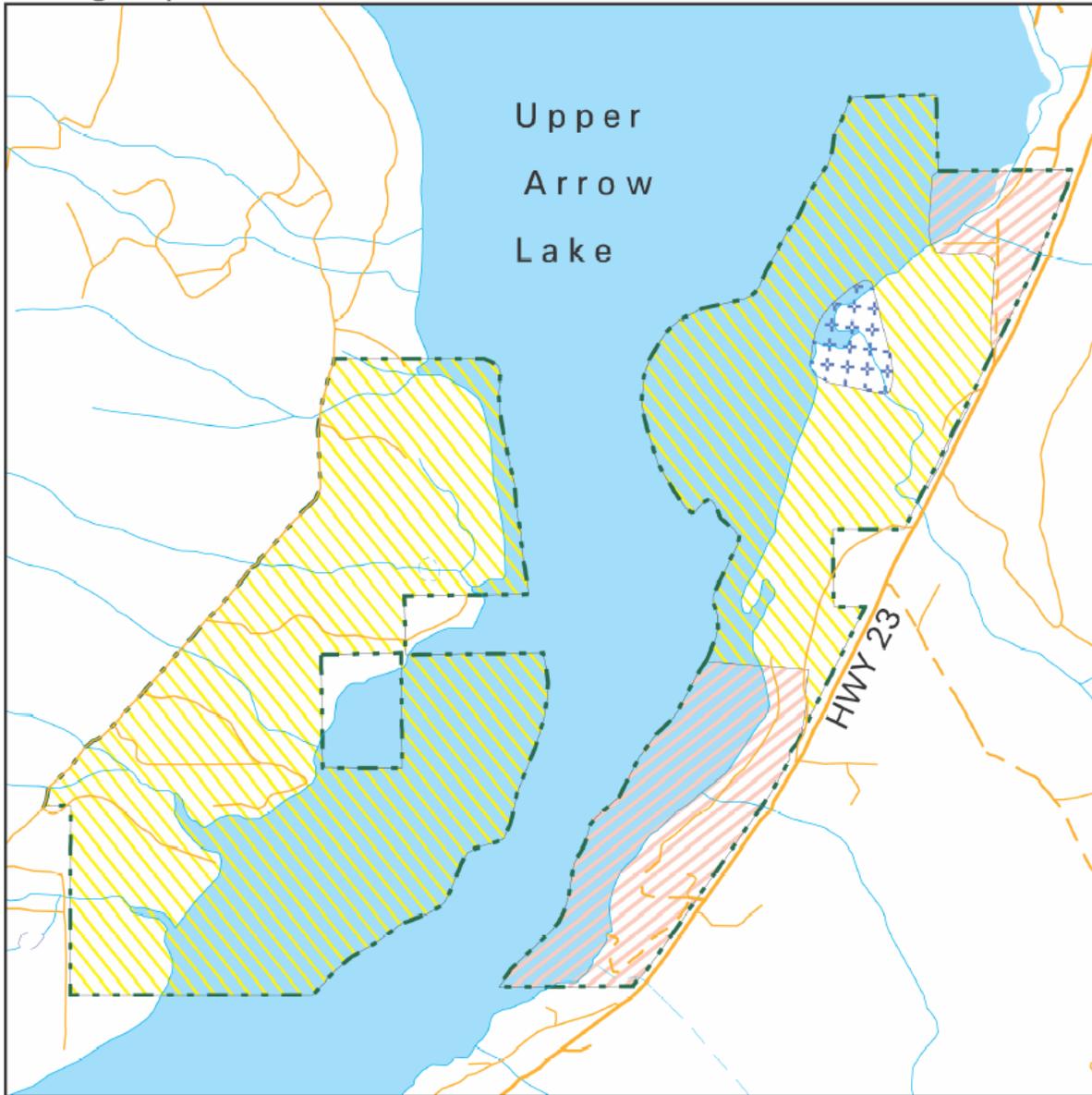
Relationship to other Strategies

None identified.

Area: 468 hectares

Date of establishment: April 28, 1982

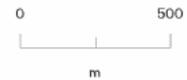
Zoning Map - McDonald Creek Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Special Feature
-  Protected Area Boundary



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