



# REVISED PARK CONCEPT OVERVIEW

## Feasibility Assessment of the Potential for National Park Reserve Lands on Bowen Island

### Introduction to the REVISED Park Concept

This information sheet summarizes the feasibility assessment process and provides an overview of the *Revised Park Concept* presented on Bowen Island on August 25, 2011.

Over the spring and summer we worked hard to incorporate the detailed and sometimes spirited feedback we received from the community of Bowen Island and interested members of the public on the first draft of the park concept—the *Preliminary Park Concept* presented on February 26, 2011.

### Project Background

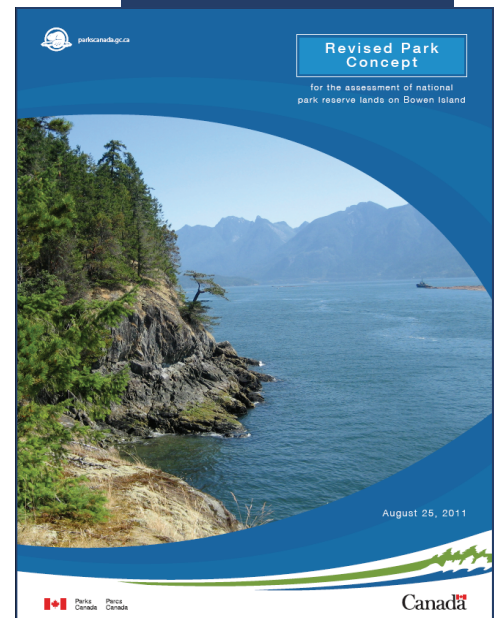
In 2009, Bowen Island Municipality approached Parks Canada with a request to consider lands on Bowen Island for the creation of a national park.

Subsequently, a study of the natural features and potential visitor experiences on Bowen Island was conducted by Parks Canada staff. The study found that the island would make a strong addition to the existing Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

With these promising results, Parks Canada agreed to lead a feasibility assessment, in collaboration with Bowen Island Municipality, and in partnership with the Province of British Columbia.

## Bowen Island

# info



## Feasibility Assessment Process

The purpose of the feasibility assessment is to determine if it is practical and desirable to establish national park reserve lands (and waters) on Bowen Island.

Initially, the feasibility assessment was estimated to take about a year. However, once public consultations began, it was clear that many community members had concerns that needed to be considered and addressed. For this reason, Parks Canada extended the consultation process and added more opportunities to hear citizens' views and concerns, and to refine the park concept.

It is important to note that the consultation process with First Nations continues, the results of which will be considered in the determination of feasibility.

## Park Concept

The creation of a draft park concept is a key step in the feasibility assessment process.

The *Revised Park Concept* replaces the *Preliminary Park Concept*. It provides additional information appropriate to this stage in the process in response to identified concerns, suggestions and ideas to better illustrate what a national park reserve could look like on Bowen Island. Examples are provided throughout the concept to illustrate how things work in practice in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

You won't find a detailed plan for a national park in the *Revised Park Concept*. The concept provides a broad overview of what lands and waters could be included in a future national park reserve, and how they could be operated and managed. Many finer details can only be resolved through negotiations between governments and management planning.

## Areas of Interest

The areas of interest identified in the concept are not the final boundaries. Adjustments can be made if the proposal proceeds to negotiations.

The areas being considered for national park reserve status have been modified from those presented in February 2011.

Removed:

- David Otter Nature Reserve
- Bluewater Crown Shoreline Reserve

Added:

- Lieben
- More land in Crown Block 6
- Additional marine areas

In addition, Seymour Landing Municipal Park is being considered. However, this property requires a more thorough assessment prior to being included as an area of interest.

## Crippen Regional Park

Crippen is essential to the park concept. It offers unparalleled recreational opportunities for Bowen residents and visitors, and is easily accessible by foot.

With Crippen as a base, we could offer engaging educational programming and outdoor activities that would help people appreciate Canada's rich history and natural wonders. As part of a future national park, Crippen could also provide an opportunity to reach out to urban Canadians.



### Other Highlights

Other highlights of the *Revised Park Concept* include:

- A commitment to a distinct park advisory board for Bowen Island.
- Alternative transportation options to offset potential ferry congestion.
- Flexibility in applying the national parks fee policy; no entry fees applied for the first five years.
- Entry fees would not be required for people transiting through the park.
- Education and partnering opportunities.
- An off-leash area for dogs in the park.
- Details on the potential for community gardens.
- On-site resources and staff trained to deliver emergency services on all national park reserve lands, enhancing public safety and fire prevention.
- Payment in lieu of taxes to the Municipality for all lands included in the park reserve, including acquired lands for which no taxes were previously paid.

### Next Steps

If the community supports this concept and the proposal moves forward, we will only be at the starting point for a longer collaborative process leading toward the establishment and management of national park reserve lands and waters.

If deemed feasible, and if agreement is reached to establish a national park reserve on Bowen, subsequent interim management planning would take place in consultation with Bowen residents, First Nations and other involved members of the public.

Parks Canada would then undertake a thorough inventory and assessment of the respective natural and cultural resources, and visitor use, education and partnering opportunities.

This would be followed by long-term management planning program involving consultation.

## Find out More

Explore our website [www.pc.gc.ca/bowen](http://www.pc.gc.ca/bowen)

- View detailed maps of the areas of interest;
- Download or request a copy of the concept;
- Complete the on-line comment form; and
- Read about the project's history.

You can also pick-up a copy of the concept from the Bowen Island Municipal Hall.

## Share Your Feedback

Please take some time to review the concept and to learn about the national park reserve proposal for Bowen Island.

Once you have read the *Revised Park Concept*, we invite you to share your feedback using our on-line comment form: [www.pc.gc.ca/bowen/feedback](http://www.pc.gc.ca/bowen/feedback)

If you prefer, you can request or download a copy of the comment form and send your comments via mail or fax.

## Contact Us

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