

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 2716

A BYLAW TO ADOPT A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR EAST POINT REGIONAL PARK

WHEREAS the Board of the Capital Regional District deems it necessary to adopt a bylaw for the Management Plan for East Point Regional Park;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Capital Regional District in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. The East Point Regional Park Management Plan, marked as Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw, is hereby designated as the East Point Regional Park Management Plan.
2. This Bylaw may be cited as the "East Point Regional Park Management Plan Bylaw No. 1, 1999"

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 22nd day of September 1999.

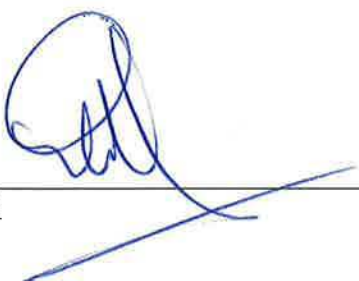
READ A SECOND TIME THIS 22nd day of September 1999.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 22nd day of September 1999.

APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, LANDS AND PARKS

THIS 23rd day of November 1999.

ADOPTED THIS 15th day of December 1999.



CHAIR



SECRETARY

EAST POINT REGIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

July 1999

Bylaw 2716 - Schedule "A"



Capital Regional District
PARKS

Summary of the Management Plan

East Point Regional Park

East Point Regional Park is located on the eastern-most point of land in the Capital Region, at the confluence of Georgia, Boundary, Passage and Haro straits (see Map 1, page 3 and Map 2, page 5). The marine waters offshore are turbulent and nutrient-rich. There are excellent wildlife viewing opportunities, particularly birds and marine mammals such as orcas and sea lions. The 4.4 hectare park provides spectacular views to Tumbo Island, the mainland coast of Washington State and the San Juan Islands, and the east coast of the Saanich Peninsula and associated islands.

Although the natural environment of East Point has been altered by a long history of human occupation, the regional park protects remnants of Gulf Island coastal bluff ecosystems, including a number of plant species of considerable conservation significance. The coastline of the park is dominated by attractive sculpted sandstone cliffs and provides access to one of the few sandy beaches on Saturna Island.

An area of shell midden on the point suggests a history of use of the site by First Peoples of the area. The working light station and associated buildings illustrate an important chapter in the history of East Point and remind visitors of the significance of light stations on the British Columbia coast.

East Point is part of a larger area of national and provincial significance. Tumbo Island, recently acquired by the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Program, may become part of a national park in the southern Gulf Islands. Cabbage Island and Winter Cove provincial marine parks are also located nearby. The marine waters to the north and east of East Point have been identified as a potential national marine conservation area.

The Management Plan

The management plan for East Point Regional Park has been prepared by a volunteer advisory group representing the Saturna Island community and CRD Parks, with input from the public and other government agencies.

This management plan for East Point Regional Park sets out:

- how environmental and cultural values in the park will be protected
- the types of outdoor recreational uses that will be permitted and where such uses will be allowed
- the types and locations of park facilities
- the types and levels of services that CRD Parks will provide
- how specific management issues will be addressed
- how adjacent lands relate to the park and if these lands should be considered as potential additions to the park
- key management actions to implement the plan and their relative priority

The plan addresses the five major management issues identified during the planning process:

- maintaining remnant native ecosystems and species
- maintaining the character of the site
- ensuring public safety
- determining the appropriate types and levels of recreational uses in the park
- managing dogs in the park

The management plan is divided into three main sections:

1. An overview of the management of regional parks and the purpose and objectives of the management plan for East Point Regional Park
2. A description of the natural and cultural features of the park, some of the issues and areas of management concern, and the existing facilities and uses
3. A vision statement and management principles and policies which provide context and specific direction for how the park will be managed.

Management Zones

The management plan for East Point Regional Park designates three different park management zones: *environmental protection*, *recreation* and *light station compound*. These zones are shown on Map 7, page 29.

The environmental protection zone contains remnant native vegetation and shell midden along the margins of East Point and the forested area in the southwest portion of the park. Ecological and cultural values in this zone are to be given the highest degree of protection while permitting recreational use. People and dogs will be directed to stay on established trails in this zone.

Most of the rest of East Point is designated as recreation zone. A large area in this zone will be regularly mowed to provide a fire break and a durable open area for active recreation and running dogs off leash.

Public access to the light station compound will continue to be restricted to protect the security of the light, caretakers' residence and fire protection equipment.

Vegetation Management

Four specific areas have been identified where vegetation will be actively managed to maintain native plant species, remove invasive shrubs, prevent trees from blocking the visibility of the Coast Guard light, and maintain the open meadow area for recreation and as a fire break. These areas are shown on Map 8, page 35.

Visitor Activities

Camping and open fires are not permitted in the park. Activities such as hiking, walking, wildlife viewing, beach exploration and photography are seen as most appropriate to the natural values and scenic character of the park. More active recreation, such as kite-flying and running dogs off leash, is acceptable in regularly mowed areas. Bicycles and horses will not be permitted in the park.

Dogs will be required to be on leash in the park except in regularly mowed areas which are designated as off-leash areas. Dog owners/handlers are required to remove any excrement deposited in the park by their dogs.

Public Safety

The beach on the west coast of East Point is the designated access point to the intertidal areas along the coast of the park. An area along the southern shore of the park will be designated as safe access point to the popular fishing and sitting areas on the cliffs. Park visitors will be encouraged to use these designated accesses when accessing intertidal areas along the shoreline of the park.

Environmental Interpretation and Information

CRD Parks will conduct environmental interpretation programs on the natural and cultural history of East Point with the assistance of local naturalists and historians. A kiosk with a map and information will be installed at the entrance to the park.

Park Facilities

Park facilities will be kept basic. Park signs will be located near the entrances to the park so as not to distract from the scenic character of the site. No drinking water or garbage containers will be provided in the park. The parking area will be upgraded, but kept within the right-of-way of Tumbo Channel Road. A new loop trail will be constructed through the forest in the southern portion of the park to reduce use and erosion on the trail above the cliffs. CRD Parks will work with the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission to examine the feasibility of a local museum or community facility in the second residence building. The proposed park facilities are shown on Map 10, page 47.

Operation of the Park

CRD Parks will continue to provide resident caretakers at East Point Regional Park. Saturna Island resources will be used wherever practical in upgrading or installing facilities in the park. CRD Parks will work with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to ensure that any use of the two road rights-of-way next to the park are consistent with its protection and management.

Relationship to Other Protected Areas

CRD Parks will work closely with Parks Canada, BC Parks, and the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission to ensure that management of East Point Regional Park is coordinated with the management of other protected areas on or adjacent to Saturna Island.

Park Boundaries and Land Acquisition

The existing boundaries of East Point Regional Park will be retained in the short term. In the future, CRD Parks may reassess the regional park potential of adjacent properties. CRD Parks recognizes and supports the efforts of East Point residents to acquire the remaining undeveloped portions of Sections 13 and 14, Cowichan Land District.

Trail Connections

CRD Parks will work with the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission to plan and develop a trail connection between Lyall Harbour and East Point Regional Park. CRD Parks will investigate the acquisition of an easement or right-of-way through Sections 13 and 14, Cowichan District, to facilitate this trail connection on lands adjacent to the park.

Ongoing Communication with the Saturna Island Community

CRD Parks will meet annually in the fall, or more frequently if required, on Saturna Island with the CRD Director, Islands Trust Trustees, members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the fire chief, East Point residents, and interested members of the public to discuss the management, use and operation of East Point Regional Park. CRD Parks will consult regularly with the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission about park and trail issues relating to the East Point peninsula.

Actions Arising from the Management Policies

A number of actions have been identified in the management policies for the park:

- Control priority invasive introduced plant species
- Monitor native ecosystems and species and the condition of the shell midden
- Improve the signs at the parking area to make it clearer where the park entrance is located
- Move existing signs out of the environmental protection zone and closer to the park entrance
- Install a sign at the beach advising boaters of the location of the park and key park messages
- Obtain an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to locate the parking area for the park within the right-of-way of Tumbo Channel Road.
- Construct a loop trail through the forest in the southern part of the park

- Install a park kiosk
- Hold meetings annually in the fall, or as needed, with elected representatives, members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the fire chief, East Point residents and other interested members of the Saturna Island community to discuss the management, use and operation of East Point Regional Park

Acknowledgements

CRD Parks would like to thank the members of the volunteer East Point Regional Park Advisory Group for their valuable assistance in preparing the management plan for the park. The advisory group members are:

- Jon Guy and Lois King of the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission
- Lorne Bolton of the Saturna Island Fire Protection Society
- Alfred Reynolds, Chief of the Saturna Island Volunteer Fire Department
- Doris Ackerman and Susie Washington-Smyth, Members-at-Large representing the Saturna Island community

Thanks also to Hugh Grasswick who participated as an alternate member on the advisory group.

CRD Director Jacques Campbell participated in several advisory group meetings and both public meetings in the planning process.

CRD Parks also appreciates the interest and participation of Saturna Island residents and property owners in the preparation of the management plan.

Special thanks to Harvey Janszen who provided valuable assistance with the ecological inventory of the park and to Roy and Marie Barrow for sharing their knowledge of East Point and for their generous hospitality.

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Introduction

In October of 1996, CRD Parks announced the creation of East Point Regional Park on the tip of the eastern-most peninsula of Saturna Island (Maps 1 and 2). East Point Regional Park has a spectacular marine setting with views to Tumbo Island, the mainland coast of Washington State, the San Juan Islands, and the east coast of the Saanich Peninsula. Tidal currents meet and mix off East Point at Boiling Reef, creating productive conditions that attract marine and bird life. Orcas and sea lions are frequently sighted from the point. A working light station and associated buildings add to the character of the site. The views, scenic coastline, working light station and opportunities to view wildlife are the major attractions of the park.

East Point Regional Park protects a total of 4.4 hectares of land. The focus of the park is the area of cleared open meadow and coastal bluff above spectacular sandstone cliffs sculpted by ocean waves. The cleared area is dominated by introduced pasture grasses. Remnants of the native meadow vegetation are found at the end of the point and the top of cliffs along the shore. The park provides access to a small pocket sand beach looking out to Tumbo Island and to shelves of sandstone rock in the intertidal zone. There is evidence of aboriginal use of the site; a shallow and extensive area of shell midden is visible along the west and northeast shores of the point.

East Point Regional Park contains two separate properties. Most of the park is leased from the Canadian Coast Guard. The Coast Guard property contains a cleared area out to the point, a light station, two residential dwellings and a number of related buildings. CRD Parks owns a smaller forested waterfront area within the southeast corner of the park. A resident caretaker lives in the park on the leased Coast Guard property. The Saturna Island Fire Protection Society has a licence agreement with CRD Parks to allow storage of a fire engine in one of the buildings and to conduct fire suppression training on site.

Since East Point Regional Park contains natural and cultural features which are sensitive to damage from human use, it was a CRD Parks priority to develop a management plan for the park. A volunteer advisory group representing the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission, the Saturna Island Fire Protection Society, the Volunteer Fire Department and the Saturna Island community was formed in June, 1997 to provide advice to CRD Parks about the management and operation of the park and to assist with the preparation of the management plan. This management plan is a result of the collective effort of the advisory group, CRD Parks, Saturna Island property owners and residents, and other interested people in the region who provided input into the management plan process.

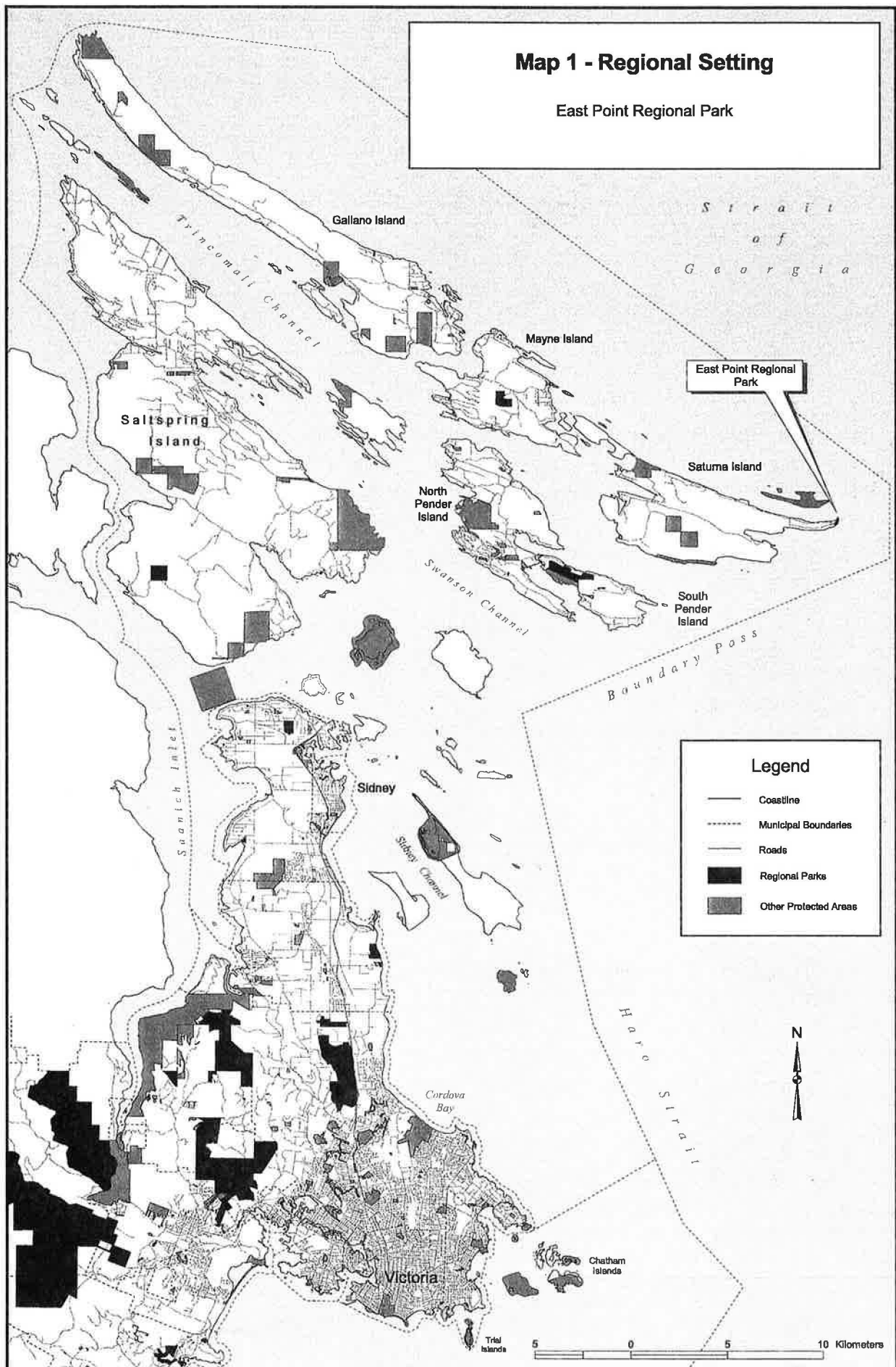
The draft management plan is divided into three main sections:

1. An overview of the management of regional parks and the purpose and objectives of the management plan for East Point Regional Park
2. A description of the natural and cultural features of the park, some of the issues and areas of management concern, and the existing facilities and uses
3. The vision statement and the management principles and policies for the park

The third section of the document sets out the management direction for the park and presents specific policy statements which will govern the on-the-ground management of the park and a list of priority management actions for the park.

Map 1 - Regional Setting

East Point Regional Park



Map 2 - East Point Regional Park

Legend

- Park Boundary
- Approximate High Tide Mark
- 5m Contour Interval



50 0 50 100 Meters

The Management of Regional Parks

The 1987 Official Regional Parks Plan (currently being revised) sets out the purpose, goals and objectives for CRD Parks and directs that a management plan be prepared for each park. This information provides important context for the management plan for East Point Regional Park.

Purpose of CRD Parks

The purpose of CRD Parks is

“ to provide a diversity of protected natural landscapes for the residents of the Capital Regional District to enjoy and appreciate, offering them the opportunity to incorporate outdoor activities in the natural environment into their lifestyles.”

Goals of CRD Parks

The goals of CRD Parks are to:

- protect a system of diverse natural areas that will support appropriate outdoor recreational pursuits and which illustrate the natural characteristics of the region
- provide regionally significant opportunities for a variety of appropriate outdoor recreational activities for people of all ages and abilities
- provide regionally significant opportunities for park visitors to learn about the natural environment
- provide park areas in proximity to all residents of the CRD

Objectives of CRD Parks Relevant to the Management of East Point Regional Park

To achieve these goals, CRD Parks has set out a number of objectives. The objectives particularly relevant to the management of East Point Regional Park are to:

- protect the characteristic natural landscapes and special features of the CRD
- maintain the integrity of the natural and cultural resources in the parks
- undertake effective management planning to achieve the appropriate balance between protection and use
- provide regionally significant opportunities for active and passive outdoor recreation appropriate to the natural setting and characteristics of the parks

- serve outdoor recreation needs of all ages and abilities, both residents and visitors to the CRD
- support local recreational use and special community events
- provide nature education programs to a variety of ages and interests
- improve public awareness of the importance of care and courtesy in the use of the parks

Management Plans

Section 3.1.5.1 of the Official Regional Parks Plan states that “(a)ll lands and facilities administered by the CRD Parks department will be managed in accordance with an approved master plan for each park.” The management plan is a statement of how the natural and cultural features in the park will be protected, used and managed, and what facilities and services will be provided. It considers both the short- and long-term. There are opportunities for public review and input during the process of preparing a regional park management plan. Final approval of CRD Parks management plans rests with the CRD Board. Regional park management plans are adopted as bylaw by the CRD Board and must be approved by the BC Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks.

Management plans cover the following points:

- how the environmental and historic/cultural features and values in the park will be protected
- the types of outdoor visitor activities that will be permitted and where such uses will be allowed
- the types and locations of park facilities
- the types and levels of services that CRD Parks will provide
- how specific management issues will be addressed
- how adjacent lands relate to the park and if these lands should be considered as potential additions to the park
- priority management actions

This management plan provides a clear statement to CRD Parks staff, other levels of government and the public about how individual regional parks will be managed.

Preparing a Management Plan for East Point Regional Park

Purpose of The Management Plan

The management plan for East Point Regional Park provides short- and long-term direction for how CRD Parks will protect and manage the natural and cultural features in the park, the types of visitor activities that will be permitted, and the facilities and services that will be provided in the park.

Objectives

The management plan for East Point Regional Park will:

- illustrate the regional context and significance of the park
- provide a clear and concise vision statement for the management of the park
- provide both short- and long-term management direction for the park
- identify the locations of natural and cultural resources of conservation and heritage significance in the park and along the adjacent shoreline
- identify management issues relating to protection of the natural and cultural features and develop management policies to protect and maintain these features
- identify management issues relating to outdoor activities in the park and determine the types, timing and intensities of activities appropriate to the park, the adjacent shoreline and nearby residents
- identify potentially hazardous areas and conditions in the park and develop management policies for addressing these potential hazards
- determine the types and locations of trails and other park facilities
- identify how East Point Regional Park may be affected by uses on adjacent lands and islands and develop management policies for addressing any concerns
- clarify the relationship between East Point Regional Park and adjacent lands acquired by the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Program
- provide the public, groups representing community, environmental and outdoor recreational interests, and all levels of government with opportunities for input into the management of East Point Regional Park

- present a list of priority management activities for the park

Process for the Preparation of the Management Plan

The process and a proposed schedule for the development of a management plan for East Point Regional Park are summarized in Figure 1 on page 11. The management plan process has involved ongoing input from the East Point Regional Park Advisory Group, a volunteer group of Saturna Island residents consisting of representatives from the:

- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Fire Protection Society
- Volunteer Fire Department
- Saturna Island community

The management plan process provided two major opportunities for public input and review by the Islands Trust, and local, regional, provincial and federal government agencies with an interest in the lands or issues relating to East Point Regional Park:

1. Input into the vision and guiding principles for the park and the identification of priority management issues
2. Input into the draft management plan for East Point Regional Park

At each stage of public input into the management plan, CRD Parks distributed a newsletter summarizing the work to date to all property owners on Saturna Island and made copies of the newsletter available to other interested residents of the region. Each newsletter contained a response form requesting written input. CRD Parks staff and the members of the Advisory Group also hosted a public open house and meeting at each stage of public input to provide opportunities for interested persons to get more information and ask questions.

Summaries of this public input are available from CRD Parks. The revisions to the management plan as a result of input into the draft plan are summarized in Appendix A on page 59.

Figure 1 - Key Steps in the Process of Preparing a Management Plan for East Point Regional Park

1.	Form East Point Regional Park Advisory Group	June 1997
2.	Work with Advisory Group to develop a proposed vision and management principles for the park and identify management issues	June to November 1997
3.	Begin the resource inventory and collection and analysis of background information required for park management planning	September 1997
4.	Distribute newsletter and response form and hold public meeting on Saturna Island to provide opportunity for public questions and obtain input on the proposed vision for the park and proposed management principles, issues, and options. Consult with other government agencies	November 1997
5.	Present draft management plan to the Advisory Group	December 1998
6.	Present draft management plan to the CRD Parks Committee	January 1999
7.	Distribute newsletter summarizing the draft management plan and hold public meeting on Saturna Island to provide opportunity for public questions and obtain input on the draft management plan. Circulate draft plan to government agencies	January and February 1999
8.	Prepare final management plan and present to public advisory group for discussion and approval	June and July 1999
9.	Submit management plan to CRD Parks Committee for approval and to CRD Board for adoption	July 1999

Description of the Park

Significance and Context of East Point in the CRD Parks System

One of the key goals in the 1987 Official Regional Parks Plan was to have one “nature-appreciation park” on each of the major Gulf Islands. The Plan identified East Point as part of the proposed regional park system due to its location, coastal character, sculpted sandstone cliffs and the presence of a working light station. East Point was identified as a priority for acquisition in the CRD Parks Land Acquisition Plan.

East Point is the eastern-most point of land in the Capital Region, located at the confluence of Georgia, Boundary, Passage and Haro straits. The marine waters offshore are turbulent and productive. There are excellent wildlife viewing opportunities, particularly marine mammals such as orcas and sea lions. The park provides spectacular views to Tumbo Island (a future national park), the mainland coast of Washington State and the San Juan Islands, and the east coast of the Saanich Peninsula and associated islands.

Although the natural environment of East Point has been altered by a long history of human occupation, the regional park protects a remnant Gulf Island coastal bluff ecosystem, including a number of plant species of considerable conservation significance. The coastline of the park is dominated by attractive sculpted sandstone cliffs and provides access to one of the few sand beaches on Saturna Island.

An area of shell midden on the point suggests a long history of use of the site by the First Peoples of the area. The working light station and associated buildings illustrate the significance of these facilities in the history of East Point and remind visitors of the importance of light stations in the history of the British Columbia coast.

East Point is part of a larger area of national and provincial significance. Tumbo Island, recently acquired by the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Program, may become part of a larger national park in the Gulf Islands. Cabbage Island and Winter Cove provincial marine parks are located nearby. The marine waters to the north and east of East Point have been identified as a potential national marine conservation area.

Natural Environment

The natural environment at East Point has been shaped by two major forces: the sea and human use. The underlying rock was formed from marine sands. The sea has leveled the terrain, eroded the rock along the coast and shaped the vegetation. With sea level changes over thousands of years, East Point has been alternately submerged and left high and dry. First Peoples lived on the point, seasonally, for hundreds, perhaps thousands of years. They cleared sites for shelters, burnt back encroaching shrubs and harvested plants and the resources of the sea. More recently European settlers to the area

established a light station, stayed year-round, cleared and topped trees, moved soil, introduced plants and grazing animals and kept large areas of the point mowed.

The natural environment of East Point Regional Park is summarized in the following sections. More detail is provided in the ecological inventory for the park.

Climate

The climate of the Gulf Islands is characterized by warm dry summers and mild wet winters. Low elevation coastal areas such as East Point are generally exposed to the extremes of weather within this general climate regime. Wind is constant, and can reach hurricane force in winter storms. Wind driven salt spray has a major influence on vegetation, and the durability of human structures. Prevailing winds through most of the year at East Point come from the southeast. Rain can occur in deluges in the winter. Snow is rare. Spring and summer at the point is very dry, with little if any rainfall.

Terrain, Geology, Soils

East Point is an elevated slab of gently sloping sandstone and conglomerate (rounded rocks 'cemented' together) rock at the end of a long east trending peninsula. Winter storms have sculpted steep cliffs along the shore. A relatively flat shelf of sandstone and conglomerate extends out into the sea at the base of the cliffs around the margins of the point. The terrain of East Point is shown on Map 3 on page 15.

The soils at East Point are derived from the underlying sandstone and have only a thin layer of humus. Not surprisingly, they have low moisture holding capability which results in severe moisture deficits for plants in the summer months. Soil depth varies in the park. On the point the soils are very shallow and bedrock is exposed in a number of places.

Water Courses and Flows

There are no ponds or streams in the park. Rain rapidly disappears into the soil and fissures in the sandstone rock. At a number of locations in the park, water gradually seeps out of fissures in the rocks for considerable periods after rains.

Vegetation

The ecological inventory of East Point Regional Park has identified and mapped nine plant communities in the park. Six of these communities are characterized by native species. The remaining three communities are the result of the extensive human alterations to the site.

The distribution of the different types of vegetation in the park is shown on Map 4 on page 17. The vegetation types shown on the map are a simplified version of the nine plant communities based on the general type of vegetation (conifer forest, Garry oak woodland, shrubs, meadow containing native plants, grass/lawn).

The open meadow areas of East Point and the light station compound are dominated by introduced pasture grasses, although communities containing remnants of native wildflowers, grasses and "coastal bluff" vegetation are found at the tops of the cliffs along the shore. These remnant native species can be damaged by trampling and are vulnerable to invasions of introduced pasture grasses. Four plant species of conservation concern in these communities (erect pigmyweed, tiny mousetail, purple sanicle and western pearlwort) are currently being tracked by the BC Conservation Data Centre.

Remnant areas of Garry oak and associated grass and wildflower species are found along the western and southern shores of the park.

An extensive area of native shrubs, dominated by snowberry, is found along the north and west portion of the point. These shrubs provide valuable cover for voles and snakes and are important breeding habitat for songbirds. The growth of snowberry is associated with the extensive area of midden found on the point.

A disturbed area of Douglas-fir forest is found to the north west of the light station compound. This forest was partially cleared and trees were topped to ensure that the light was visible from sea.

The southwest portion of the park contains a stand of Douglas-fir, shore pine and arbutus forest.

In addition to the introduced pasture grasses and weedy species on the point, a number of invasive shrubs occur in the park. Several, such as gorse and Himalayan blackberry, are well established and have the potential to spread to vulnerable areas throughout the park. Others, such as daphne, are present in very small numbers, but left unchecked have the potential to completely dominate the vegetation under the trees.

Intertidal Communities

Relatively flat, wide shelves of sandstone and conglomerate rock are exposed on the west, north and north east shores of East Point at low tide. Since variety in intertidal life is closely related to vertical variation in tide changes, there are relatively few marine plant and animal species exposed on the flat rock shelves at low tide. Rockweed is the dominant seaweed with Turkish towel and sea moss. Periwinkle snails and barnacles inhabit the upper surfaces of the rocks. The 'surge channels' between the rock shelves are dominated by blue and brown mussels.







There are steep drops in the ocean waters off the eastern and southern shores of the point. An extensive bed of bull kelp is found off the south cliffs. A small sand and pebble beach is located where the north shore of the peninsula curves north to East Point.

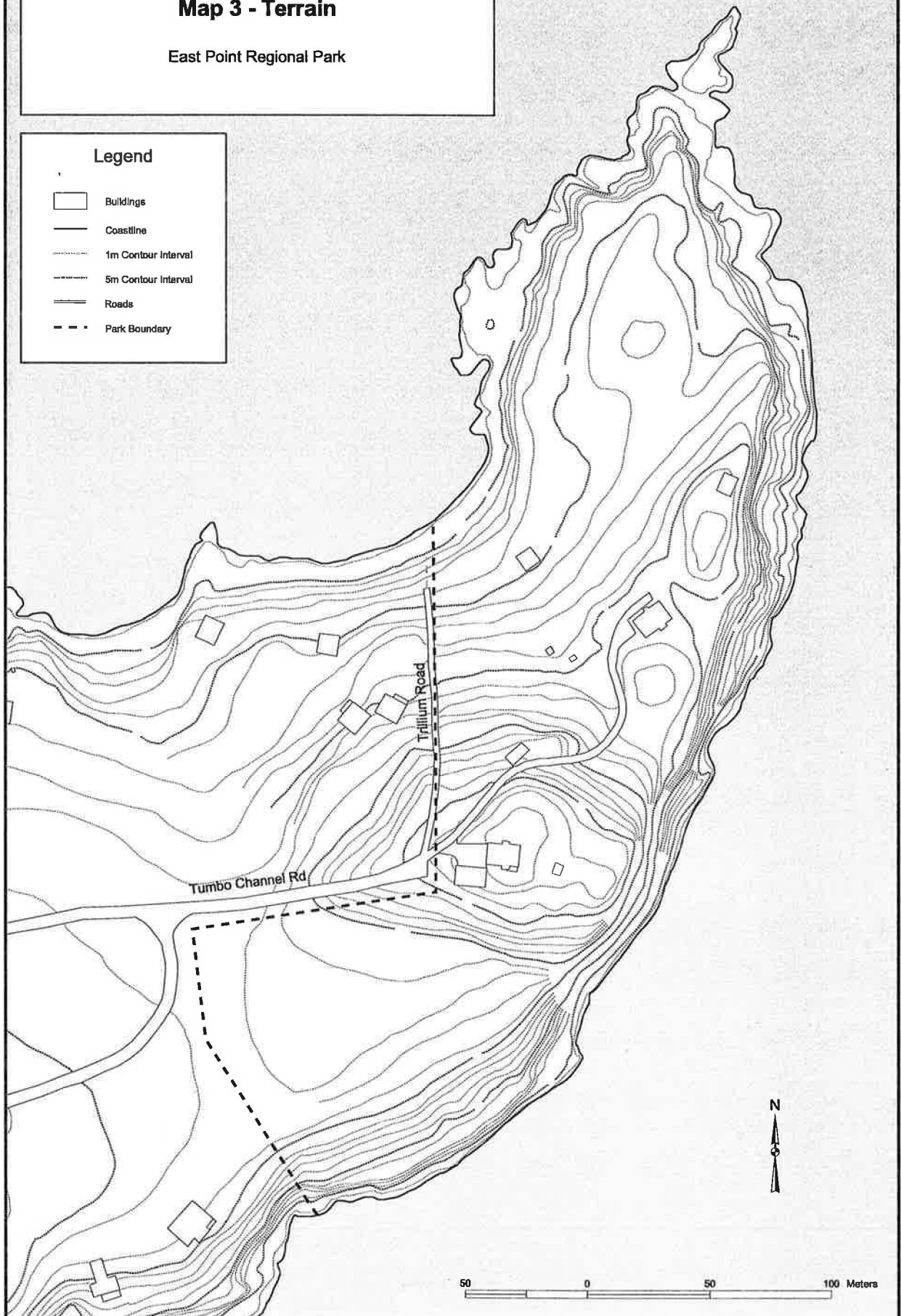
Map 3 - Terrain

East Point Regional Park

East Point

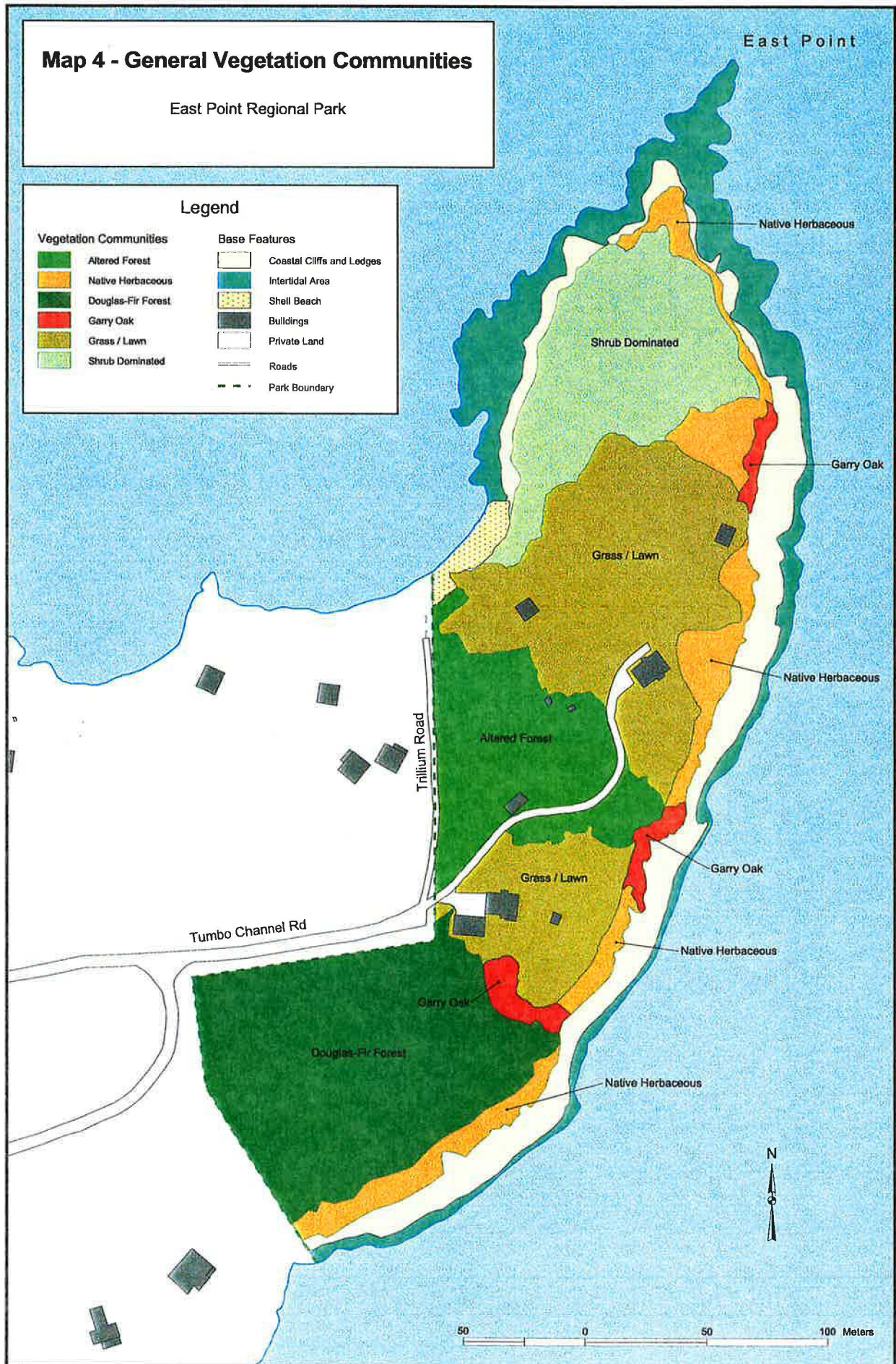
Legend

-  Buildings
-  Coastline
-  1m Contour Interval
-  5m Contour Interval
-  Roads
-  Park Boundary



Map 4 - General Vegetation Communities

East Point Regional Park



Marine waters off the park appear to be influenced by the discharge of the Fraser River. The plume of silt-laden water from the Fraser extends out to East Point and debris associated with the river occasionally washes up on the beach.

Wildlife

East Point is an excellent place to view wildlife. Although there are relatively few wildlife species (primarily songbirds) found within the park, a wide variety of species occur in the waters off the point. A complete list of the species recorded for the park is found in the ecological inventory.

Terrestrial species in the park include Columbia black tail deer, Townsend's vole and at least one species of garter snake (the western terrestrial). Shrubs, stunted Garry oak and tall grass are important components of the habitat for the voles and garter snakes.

The northern tip of East Point, where the historic plaque is located, shows considerable evidence of use by river otters.

A number of songbird species breed in the shrub and forest areas in the park. Breeding birds that nest in the shrubs or near the ground are susceptible to disturbance from people and dogs off established trails. Many of these species are quite faithful to specific sites, returning year after year, and can raise as many as three broods of young a summer.

Several species of birds of prey have been recorded in the park. The tall shrubs and stunted trees at the north end of the point are likely important perches for these species.

Gulls, oystercatchers, cormorants, pigeon guillemots and diving ducks are regularly sighted from the park. The Islands Trust Fund Special Features Inventory has a record of pelagic cormorants, pigeon guillemots, and glaucous-winged gulls nesting on the eastern cliffs of East Point. The resident caretaker at the park reports that none of these species are currently nesting on the eastern cliffs.

Marine mammals including orcas, sea lions, and harbour seals are commonly sighted from the park. Dall porpoise and minke whales are occasionally sighted in the off-shore waters.

Human History

First Peoples

An extensive area of shell midden along the west and north margins of East Point indicates use of the point by Northern Straits Salish peoples prior to European settlement. Small headlands such as East Point appear to have been used for summer camps by extended family groups while they were fishing, hunting, and harvesting shellfish and plants. Although the shell midden has been mapped by archaeologists, there has been no excavation, so the length of occupancy of the site is unknown.

European Settlement

East Point was named, mapped, and likely explored by the Spanish in 1791. The Spanish name for the point was Punta de Santa Saturnina. The first recorded European settlement on the point was the establishment of the light station in 1887. Settlement resulted in considerable alteration to the site. Trees were cut and topped to ensure the light was visible. Shrubs were cut back to reduce the risk of fire. A farm with gardens and grazing animals was established to provide food for the light keeper family. The light station and farm were a Sunday destination for boaters from other islands. The property was not connected to other parts of Saturna Island by road until the 1950s. The original light tower was replaced by a steel tower in 1948.

Establishment of the Park

The park potential of East Point has long been recognized. The area was identified as a potential regional park in the 1987 Official Regional Parks Plan. In 1996, the federal government decided to de-staff the light station. Thanks to the efforts of the Saturna Island community, the federal government offered a Licence of Occupation on the East Point property to the CRD for public park purposes. The opening of the area to public access occurred 110 years to the day after the property was transferred from the Province to the federal government for use as a light station.

Initially the East Point property was managed by the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission, but given the regional significance of the site, the property was designated a regional park. CRD Parks purchased an additional two forested properties immediately adjacent to the federal property on the southwest coast of the point in September 1996. The current lease on the federal property expires on March 31, 2001. CRD Parks will be applying for a renewal of the lease for as long as possible when the current lease term expires.

Management Issues and Specific Areas of Concern

The East Point Regional Park Advisory Group and CRD Parks identified five major management issues affecting the park. Where specific areas in the park are associated with these management issues, these are presented in the points beneath the issue statements.

Maintaining remnant native ecosystems and species

- remnant native wildflowers and grasses, especially rare plant species, along the cliff edges are easily damaged from trampling by park visitors who do not stay on established paths
- breeding birds in the shrubby areas on the point and on the cliffs are sensitive to disturbance by people and dogs
- remnant native plant species, including rare species, in the meadows above the cliffs are being displaced by introduced pasture grasses and the invasive shrub gorse

Public safety

- there are steep cliffs along the eastern and southern shores of the park, many paths come close to the edge of the cliffs and people are accessing the intertidal area from points along the cliffs at the north and east coast of East Point
- the rocks in the intertidal area along the coastline of the park can be extremely slippery

Determining the types and levels of visitor activities appropriate to the park

- native plants and wildlife along the margins of East Point are sensitive to damage or disturbance from people off the established paths
- there are concerns about damage from over-use of the park

Maintaining the character of the site

- the open areas of meadow that are maintained by regular mowing are considered an important part of the character of the site
- the existing buildings, in their historic colours, are an important part of the character of the site

Managing dogs in the park

- park visitors like to run their dogs in the open meadow areas
- native plants and wildlife along the margins of East Point are sensitive to damage or disturbance from dogs running off established paths

Visitor Use

A trail counter has been recording the number of visitors passing through the main entrance point to the park (Map 5 on page 23) since the last week of April 1998. The numbers collected to November 1998 suggest that East Point Regional Park receives steady but limited use during the week and on weekends in the spring and fall (Figure 2 on page 25). Most, if not all, of this spring and fall use is likely from Saturna Island residents.

The trail count data indicates that the number of people visiting the park increases during the summer months. These are the months that off-island property owners come to spend time on Saturna and the number of visitors and tour groups to the island increases. Figure 2 shows a peak of visits on the long weekend of August 1, 1998 and a secondary peak on the Labour Day weekend in the first week of September of that year. According to the local residents, there was a larger number of visitors to the park in August than the trail counter data in Figure 2 suggest. (There were problems with the counter during August.) Visits to the park declined noticeably when summer ended.

In addition to people arriving through the main entrance point, East Point Regional Park also receives visits from people accessing the park from the beach on the northwest shore of the park. This is an access point for people staying at the adjacent resort property and for kayakers and other boaters who may land at the beach to explore the park and use the washrooms.

East Point Regional Park attracts visitors from other parts of the CRD. However, levels of visitor use are constrained by the ferry schedule and the availability of accommodation on Saturna Island.

Existing Facilities

Visitor facilities at East Point are quite basic. CRD Parks has inherited an existing system of pathways, two pit toilets, and several benches along the cliffs above the eastern shore of the park. The existing facilities are shown on Map 5 on page 23. No water or garbage receptacles are provided in the park.

The existing pathways along the cliffs are well established and are obviously the route that people want to follow. A second access trail from the parking area to the southern shore of the park was constructed after the park was established. The pit toilets were constructed by the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission which managed the area prior to it becoming a regional park. The benches have been constructed by the park caretaker. The toilets and benches are not consistent with CRD Parks standards for such facilities, but they are well constructed and quite in character with the park.

The existing parking area for East Point is limited (maximum ten cars). Approximately one half of the parking area is located on private property; the remainder is located on the road right-of-way outside the park boundary.

The main entrance to East Point is not obvious from the parking area. Visitors first see the chain link fence and gate on the light station compound with a number of signs that the compound is Coast Guard property and that public access is not permitted. Park visitors must walk a short distance down a road right-of-way and then turn into a relatively inconspicuous trail to get to the main portion of the park.

The width and grade of the existing trails and the height and construction of the existing facilities appear to be suitable for most ages and abilities. Children need to be supervised near the cliff areas.

Map 5 - Existing Trails and Facilities

East Point Regional Park

East Point

Legend

Facilities

- Parking
- Designated Trails

Base Features

- Coastal Cliffs and Ledges
- Intertidal Area
- Sand Beach
- Buildings
- Private Land
- Roads
- Park Boundary

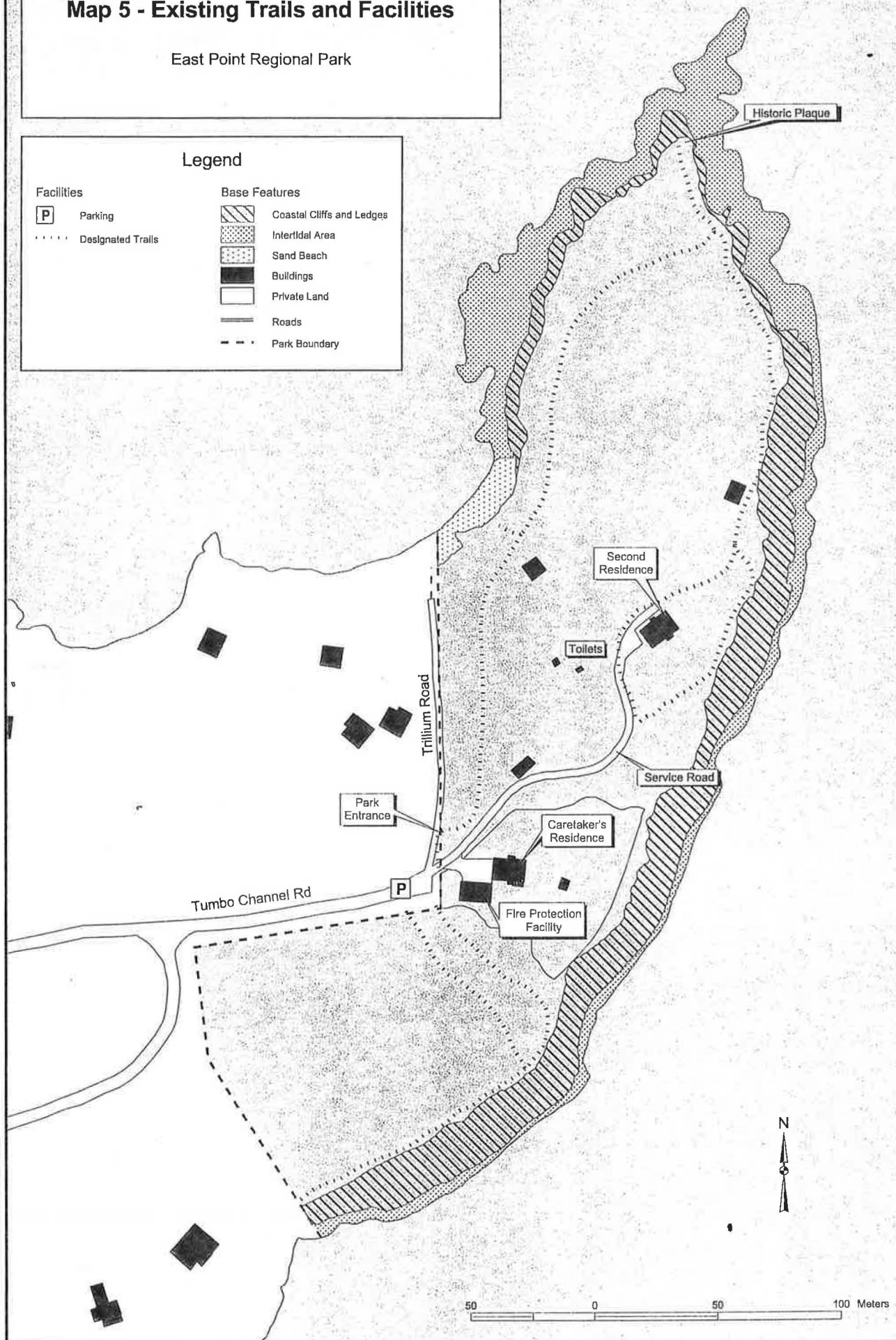
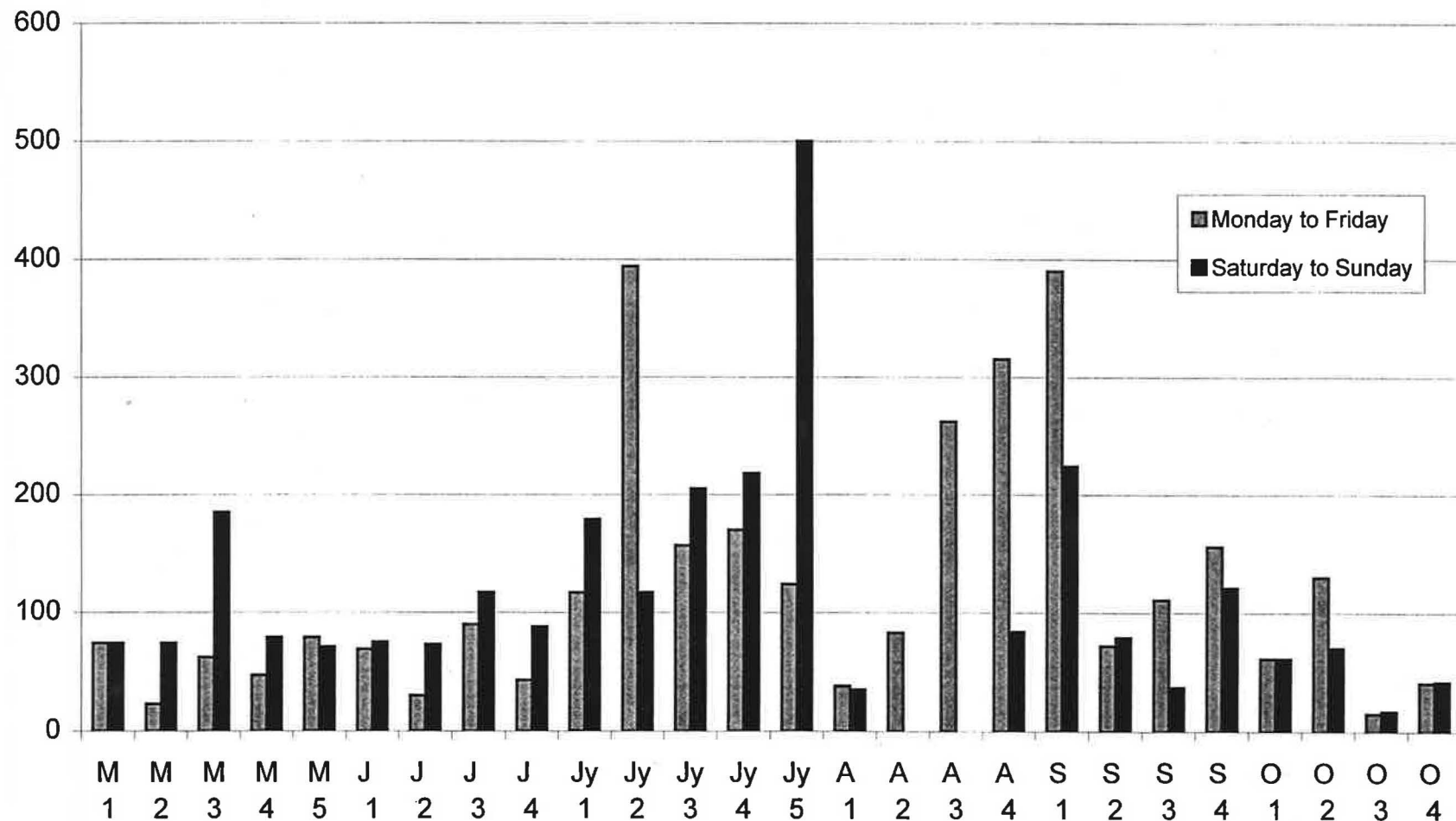


Figure 2 - Trends in Visits to East Point Regional Park - May to Nov. 1998

Data recorded by month and week, for example M 1 is the first week in May
The peak in the 'fifth' week of July is the August 1 long weekend



Issues Relating to Uses and Activities on Surrounding Lands

There do not appear to be any issues of management concern relating to existing uses and activities on surrounding lands. The zoning and relationship of surrounding lands to the park are shown on Map 6 on page 28. Two properties border the park: the East Point Resort, zoned commercial, and a small rural residential property. In both cases cleared areas and buildings are well away from the park boundary and down slope, so septic fields and water flows from these adjacent lands do not affect the park.

The resort next to the park does not appear to add appreciably to the visitor rates at the park. This could change if there was a substantial expansion of the resort. The proposed regulations associated with the commercial zoning of the resort property in the draft Official Community Plan for Saturna Island place restrictions on the number of buildings and the number of beds allowed in a commercial zone on the island.

Jurisdictions

Most of the property within East Point Regional Park is owned by the federal government and administered by the Canadian Coast Guard (see Map 6 on Page 28). CRD Parks leases the East Point portion of the park from these agencies. The current lease requires CRD Parks to maintain all buildings on the property, except the second residence. The remainder of the properties within the park (Sections 62 and 63) are owned by the CRD.

The area below the mean high tide mark is under the jurisdiction of the Crown. The BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks has jurisdiction over the land below the mean high tide mark and the ocean floor. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for the management of marine life.

Wildlife within East Point Regional Park is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. Migratory birds are under the jurisdiction of Canadian Wildlife Service. Threatened and endangered ecosystems and species within East Point Regional Park have been recorded and are monitored by the BC Conservation Data Centre.

Archaeological sites within East Point Regional Park are under the jurisdiction of the Heritage Branch of the BC Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture.

Boating regulations in marine waters are under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Coast Guard.

The portion of the park owned by the federal government may be subject to a land claim by one or more First Nations and become part of the treaty negotiation process(es).

Land use planning on Saturna Island is under the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust.

The Saturna Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection for the park.

Map 6 - Zoning of Adjacent Lands

East Point Regional Park

Legend

Zoning Designations

C2 Commercial Recreation

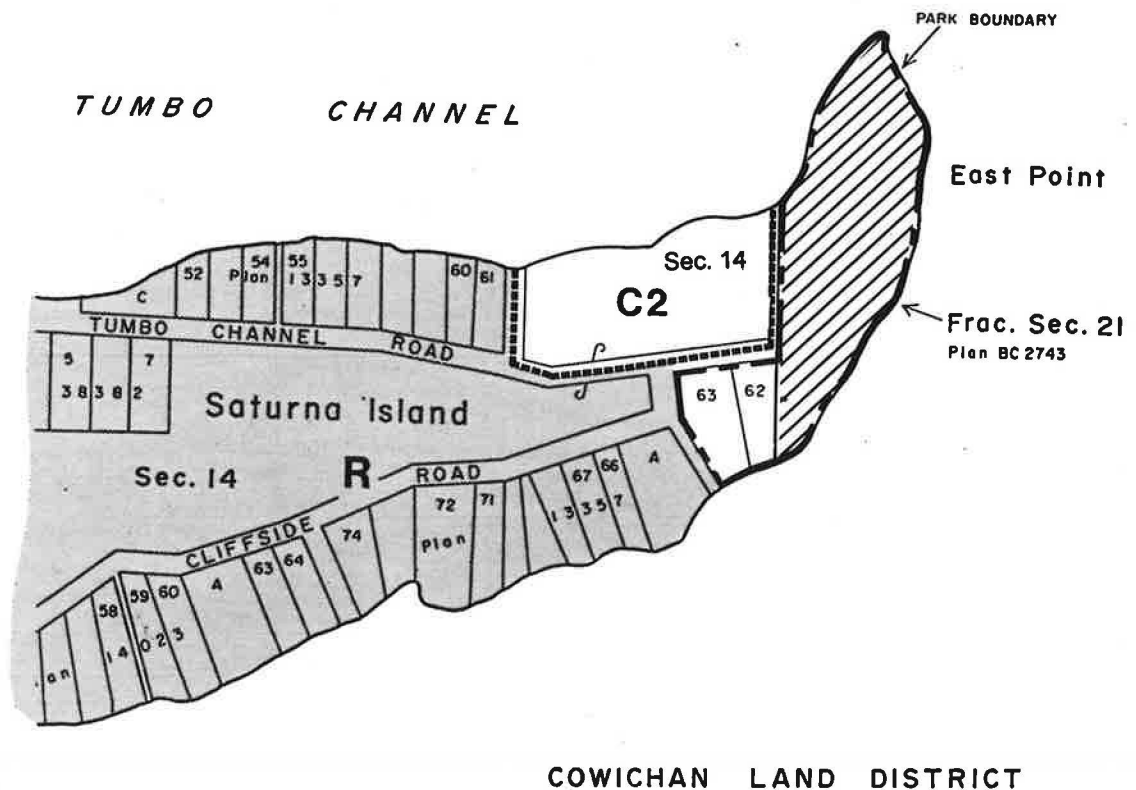
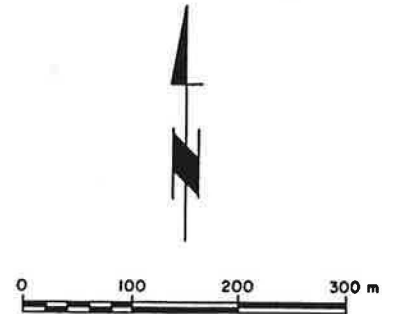
R Rural

Base Features

 Park Boundary

 Roads

 Leased Federal Land



The Management Plan for East Point Regional Park

East Point Regional Park is an important part of the CRD Parks system and a valued part of Saturna Island. The park combines ecological and cultural features in a spectacular marine setting. These characteristics form the essence of the experience of visitors to the park.

The East Point Regional Park Advisory Group and CRD Parks have developed a vision for the park and a set of principles to guide the management of East Point Regional Park. The vision and management principles provide the context for the policies and statements in this plan and have guided how the plan addresses specific issues. The vision and principles will also guide how CRD Parks will deal with any new issues that arise. Definitions of some of the terms used in the vision and principles are provided in Appendix B on page 61.

The Vision for the Park

East Point Regional Park protects the ecological and cultural values, scenic character, and ambiance of this sensitive and spectacular coastal headland and provides safe opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate the area.

Management Principles

- Maintain, and if possible enhance, remnant native ecosystems and species in East Point Regional Park
- Ensure that human activities within the park respect the physical environment, plants and animals of the adjacent shoreline intertidal zone and ocean waters
- Respect the cultural history and values of the park
- Recognize and appreciate the complex interplay between ecological and cultural history and values

- Ensure that visitor activities in the park do not degrade the ecological and cultural values or ambiance of the site
- Allow a variety of low-impact visitor activities appropriate to the sensitivities of the park
- Respect the neighbours of the park
- Provide safe access for a wide range of ages and abilities
- Inform visitors of potential safety hazards
- Provide opportunities for residents of the CRD to have meaningful input into the planning and management of the park
- Provide information that will encourage visitors to be aware of the values and sensitivities of the park
- Ensure that park management activities in East Point Regional Park do not degrade the ecological and cultural values or ambiance of the park
- Locate park facilities away from environmentally sensitive and hazardous areas
- Ensure that the design, construction and location of facilities and signs are consistent with the ambiance of the park

Management Zones

East Point Regional Park has different characteristics and values in different areas. What is appropriate for one area may not be for another. CRD Parks has developed a system of management zones which classifies areas in a regional park according to the desired level of protection of the natural environment and cultural features, the appropriate types, levels and locations of visitor activities, and the types and location of park facilities. The proposed zoning system consists of three zones: *environmental protection*, *recreation*, and *light station compound* (Map 7 on page 31). The specific purpose and requirements of each zone are presented in Table 1 on page 33.

Management Issues and Policies

This section describes the range of management issues that have been identified for East Point Regional Park and presents management policies to provide direction for how these issues should be addressed. These management policies are intended to be consistent with the vision and management principles for the park and the system of management zones.

Map 7 - Park Management Zones

East Point Regional Park

Legend

Management Zones

- Environmental Protection
- Light Station Compound
- Outdoor Recreation

Base Features

- Intertidal Area
- Sand Beach
- Buildings
- Private Land
- Roads
- Park Boundary

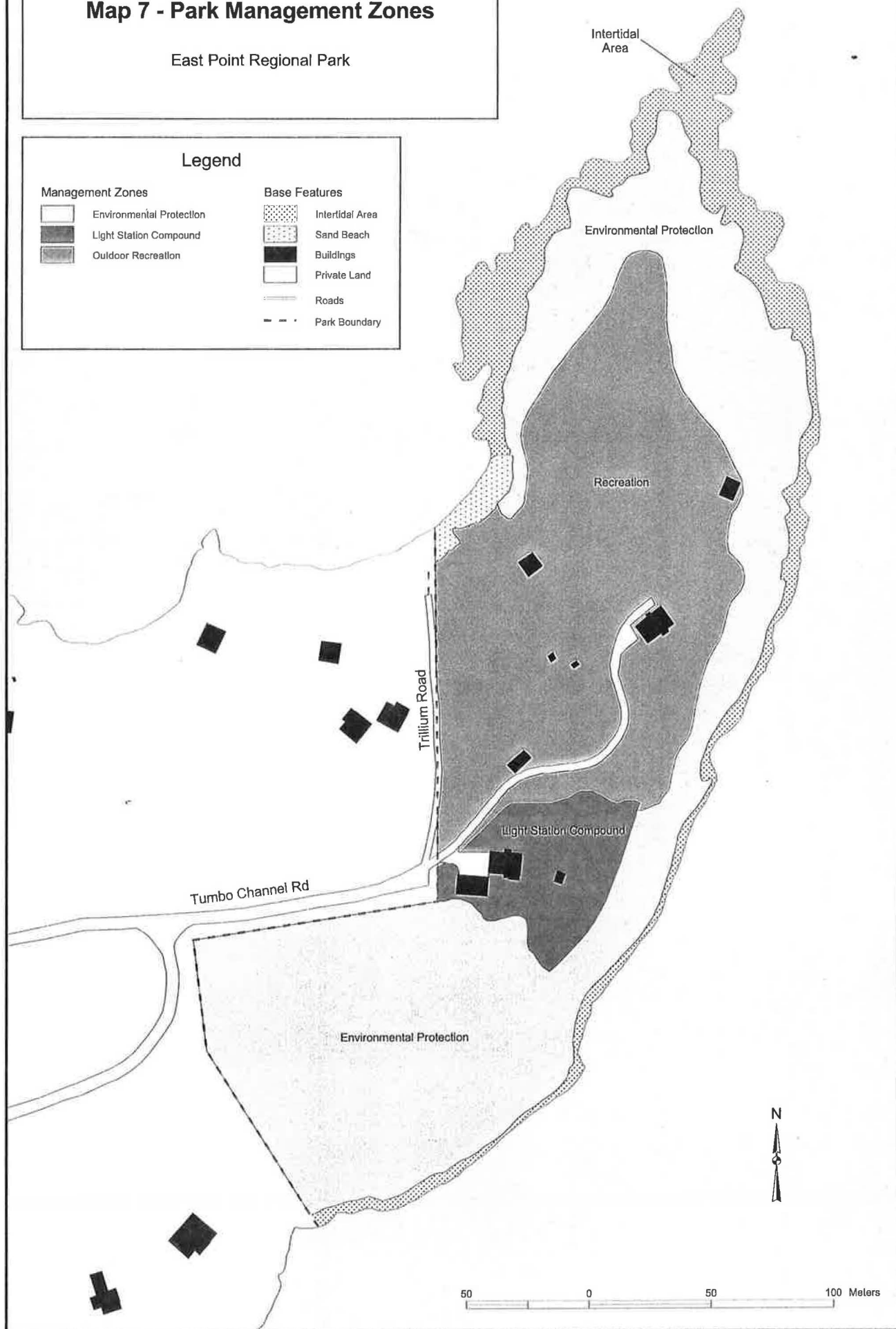


Table 1 - Park Management Zones and Criteria for East Point Regional Park on Saturna Island

Zone	Purpose of the Zone	Level of Protection for the Natural Environment	Level of Protection for Cultural Features	Appropriate Types and Intensities of Visitor Activities	Appropriate Types of Park Facilities
Environmental Protection	<p>To protect remnant native ecosystems and species and wildlife habitat values.</p> <p>To maintain the natural character and wildlife of the area for visitors to enjoy and appreciate.</p>	<p>This area will be given the highest degree of protection possible, while still permitting public access.</p> <p>No expansion or re-routing of trails will be permitted without an environmental impact assessment.</p>	<p>The area containing the midden will be given the highest degree of protection possible, while still permitting public access.</p> <p>No expansion of trails will be permitted without consulting the provincial government agency responsible for the protection of cultural sites.</p>	<p>Appropriate activities are walking and hiking to enjoy and appreciate the view and natural environment.</p> <p>Visitors will be required to stay on designated trails, dogs will be required to be on a leash.</p> <p>Visitors will be discouraged from accessing the intertidal area from the cliffs north of the light station.</p>	<p>Trails will be the only facilities permitted in this zone.</p>
Recreation	<p>To provide areas where visitors can enjoy the park without being unduly restricted in where they can go.</p>	<p>Maintain any wildlife habitat values and minimize impacts on native plant species.</p> <p>Meadow areas with no native species remaining will be regularly mowed. Where native species occur, the timing of mowing will be adjusted.</p> <p>Trees that could interfere with the visibility of the Coast Guard light will continue to be topped.</p>	<p>A number of buildings of historic interest are located in this zone. None have an official historic designation.</p> <p>All buildings, except the second residence, will be maintained as a condition of the CRD Parks lease with the federal government.</p> <p>Any restoration and use of the second residence will be consistent with the character of the park.</p>	<p>This is a zone for more active recreation, such as running or kite-flying as well as hiking and walking.</p> <p>Visitor activities should be consistent with the natural environment and character of the site.</p> <p>Dogs will be permitted to run off-leash in the mowed field area.</p>	<p>Appropriate park facilities include trails, signs, toilets, service roads, dog off-leash areas, interpretive centres or museums, and water storage tanks and cisterns.</p>
Light Station Compound	<p>To provide a secure light station, caretaker residence and storage area for fire protection equipment.</p>	<p>Regular mowing will continue on the lawn areas. The timing of mowing may be adjusted in areas where native plant species persist.</p>	<p>No known cultural sensitivities in the compound area. Any maintenance or new facilities will be consistent with the character of the park.</p>	<p>This zone is generally off-limits to park visitors, although the caretakers may allow access for people with walking disabilities or those interested in the light station.</p>	<p>Caretaker residence and associated water and septic facilities.</p> <p>Storage of water and fire protection equipment.</p>

The management issues and policy statements are separated into categories such as protection of the natural environment, protection of cultural features, visitor activities, and park facilities. To illustrate the integration and consistency of these policies with the management principles, the relevant management principles are provided at the beginning of each section.

Management policies are presented in bold text in boxes.

Protecting the Natural Environment

Much of the area between the light station and East Point has been cleared and altered since the installation of the light station. Pasture grasses have been seeded, soil has been moved to create vegetable gardens, domestic animals have grazed the site and buildings have been constructed.

Despite these changes, the park supports remnants of native ecosystems consisting of wildflowers, native grasses, shrubs, Garry oak woodland, coniferous forest and a number of wildlife species. These ecosystems and species are part of what makes the park special, and enrich the experience of visitors to the site. Some ecosystems and species are designated threatened and endangered in British Columbia, and most are susceptible to competition from introduced species and damage from visitor activities in the park. It is important that these native ecosystems and species be protected and that the park is managed to ensure they survive over the long term.

Relevant Management Principles:

- Maintain, and if possible enhance, remnant native ecosystems and species in East Point Regional Park
- Recognize and appreciate the complex interplay between ecological and cultural history and values
- Ensure that recreational use in the park does not degrade the ecological and cultural values or ambiance of the site
- Locate park facilities away from environmentally sensitive and hazardous areas
- Ensure that park management activities in East Point Regional Park do not degrade the ecological and cultural values or ambiance of the park

To ensure that the management of the natural environment in the park is consistent with the overall mandate of CRD Parks and the vision and management principles for East Point Regional Park, the management of the park will be governed by the following policies:

Environmental Protection Zone

Designate the cliffs, remnant native coastal bluff meadow, and shrub land along the coast of East Point, and the coniferous forest in the southwest part of the park, in the zone for environmental protection.

These areas will be given the highest degree of protection while still permitting public access. Visitors are not permitted off defined trails and are discouraged from accessing intertidal areas from trails along the cliffs. Dogs are required to be on a leash at all times. Trails are the only park facility allowed; no signs will be permitted. This zone is illustrated on Map 7 on page 31 and is explained more fully in Table 1 on page 33.

Special Vegetation Management Areas

Manage vegetation within four specific areas in the park to protect and maintain native species, eradicate gorse, prevent interference with the visibility of the light station and provide an open meadow area for recreation and a fire break.

The vegetation management areas are shown on Map 8 on page 37. More detail on the intent and activities to be carried out in these management areas is provided in the ecological inventory for the park and in other management plan policies. Map 8 also shows a number of areas which have been designated *transition areas* between the regularly mowed area and the environmental protection area. These areas may be mowed or brushed periodically to prevent the spread of exotic species or reduce the risk of fire.

Controlling Invasive Introduced Plant Species

Control priority invasive introduced plant species that are displacing native plant species and substantially altering the structure and composition of remnant native plant communities.

A number of invasive introduced plant species threaten the native ecosystems and species in the park. These species may also detract from the character of the site and increase the risk of fire. Priority invasive species for removal include gorse, daphne, Himalayan blackberry, exotic pasture grasses, and thistles.

As recommended in the ecological inventory, the strategies for controlling these priority invasive introduced species are:

- removing gorse from the coast to the south of the light station compound (Map 8 on page 37)
- removing daphne plants wherever they are found
- removing thistles from the Environmental Protection Zone and cutting thistles in the remainder of the park to prevent seed distribution
- experimenting with ways to maintain native grass and wildflower species from being displaced by introduced pasture grasses

Prevent Native Shrubs from Displacing Wildflowers and Native Grasses

Prevent native shrubs from spreading to areas containing native wildflowers and grasses.

The large area of native shrubs at the tip of East Point provides valuable habitat for breeding song birds, small mammals and snakes. However, in the absence of cutting or fire, these shrubs can quickly spread into meadow areas and shade out remnant native wildflowers and grasses. Some cutting of native shrubs may be necessary to protect the full range of native plant species at East Point. This subject is discussed in more detail in the ecological inventory for the park.

Monitoring the Health of the Natural Environment in the Park

Work with local naturalists, federal and provincial conservation agencies and other interested people to monitor the health of native ecosystems and species in the park.

The park should be visited by CRD Parks representatives at least once each spring to assess the relative health of remnant ecosystems and populations of native species.

Map 8 - Areas of Vegetation Management

East Point Regional Park

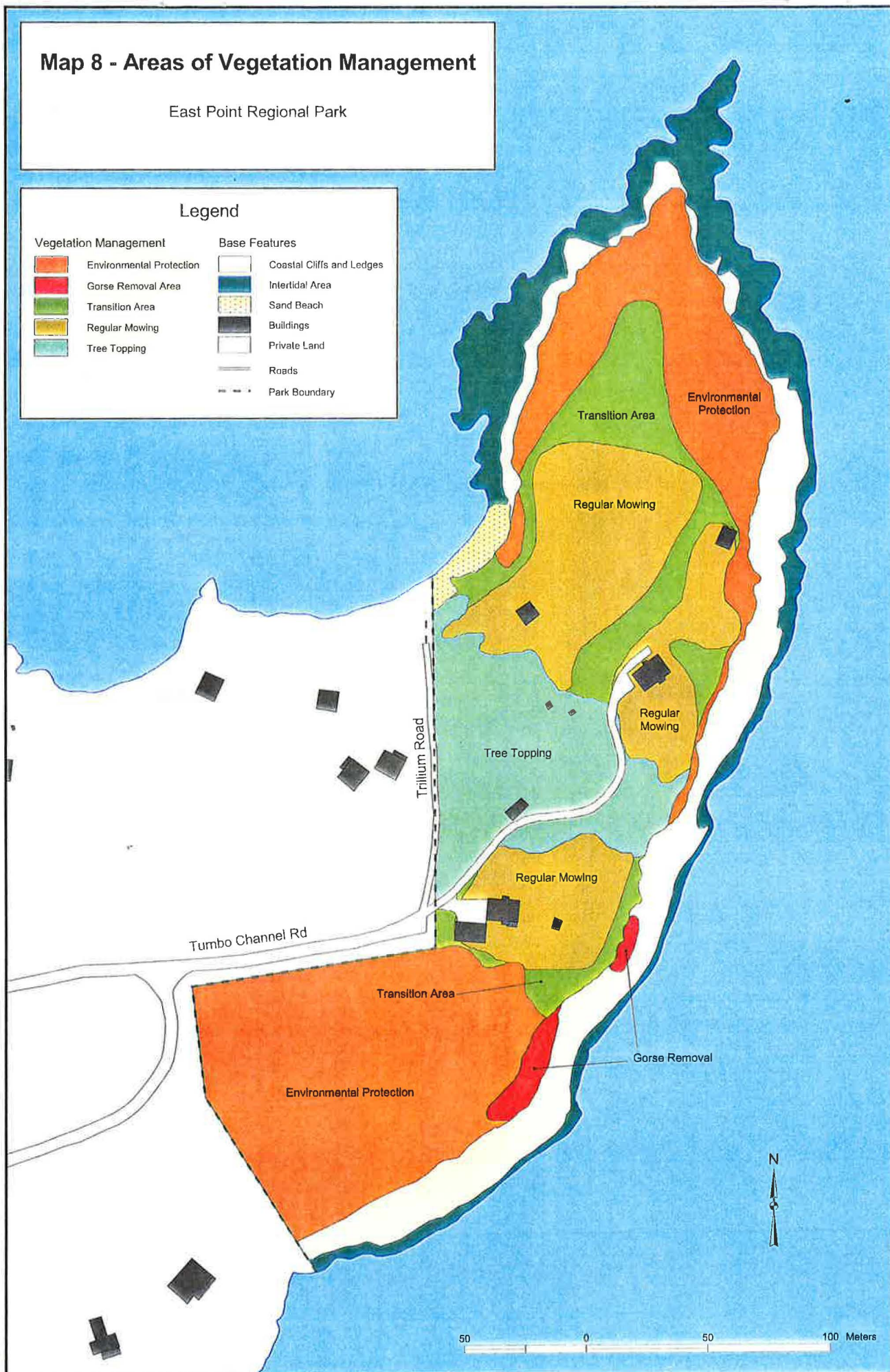
Legend

Vegetation Management

- Environmental Protection
- Gorse Removal Area
- Transition Area
- Regular Mowing
- Tree Topping

Base Features

- Coastal Cliffs and Ledges
- Intertidal Area
- Sand Beach
- Buildings
- Private Land
- Roads
- Park Boundary



Protecting Cultural Features

There has been a long history of human use at East Point. The evidence of this use is found in the shell midden within the park, the landscape modifications, and the buildings. All these features contribute to the character of the park and enrich the experience of visitors to the site.

Relevant Management Principles:

- Recognize and appreciate the complex interplay between ecological and cultural history and values
- Ensure that recreational use in the park does not degrade the cultural values or ambiance of the site
- Respect the cultural history and values of the park
- Ensure that park management activities do not degrade the cultural values or ambiance of the park

High Degree of Protection for Cultural Sites

Provide the highest degree of protection to the area of the park containing the shell midden and monitor this area to ensure the midden is not disturbed or damaged.

There will be no expansion of trails, excavations or uprooting of vegetation in the area containing the shell midden without consulting the federal and provincial government agencies responsible for the protection of cultural sites.

Maintenance of the Buildings on Site

Maintain only those buildings in the park associated with the light station that are included in the CRD Parks lease with the federal government.

Ensure that the maintenance and any upgrading of the buildings on site is consistent with their historic colours, materials and character.

The maintenance of the 'second residence' building is not included in the lease with the federal government and the Coast Guard has indicated that it is not interested in maintaining this structure.

The roof of the building is deteriorating and needs to be replaced. The Saturna Parks and Recreation Commission has indicated an interest in upgrading this building and using it as a museum or other community facility. It is important to ensure that such a use is consistent with the management plan for East Point Regional Park.

Ensure that any upgrade and use of the second residence building as a local museum or community facility operated by one or more groups from Saturna Island is consistent with the vision, principles and management policies for the park.

An agreement with CRD Parks will be required for any facility in the second residence building. Any upgrading or use of the second residence building by Saturna Island groups must be approved and governed by a legal agreement with the federal government agencies responsible for the East Point property.

Visitor Activities

Two of the five major management issues for the park identified by the East Point Advisory Group and CRD Parks relate to visitor activities:

- determining the types and levels of visitor activities in the park
- dogs

East Point Regional Park provides spectacular views, wildlife viewing opportunities and access to an attractive and interesting stretch of shoreline. As a regional park, it is day-use only and open fires are prohibited. The park receives consistent year-round use by local residents and is a destination for visitors to Saturna Island, including a number of organized tour groups. Kayakers camping on Cabbage Island occasionally land at the beach and explore the park. The park is used for an annual community event. There are concerns that visitor use will increase, although at present there is limited overnight accommodation on the island and the ferry schedule discourages day trips.

The small size of the park, the sensitive areas of remnant vegetation and wildlife habitat, and the susceptibility of the sandstone cliffs to erosion raise concerns about the types and intensities of activity appropriate for the park. Remnant native wildflowers and grasses are susceptible to trampling in the spring and early summer. The sites containing threatened and endangered plant species in the park are susceptible to damage from trampling or erosion at any time of the year. The areas of shrub at the end of the point are used by a variety of song birds for nesting. Off trail use will damage and interfere with these species.

Relevant Management Principles:

- Ensure that recreational use in the park does not degrade the ecological and cultural values or ambiance of the site
- Ensure that human activities within the park respect the physical environment, plants and animals of the adjacent shoreline intertidal zone and ocean waters
- Allow a variety of low-impact recreational activities appropriate to the sensitivities of the park
- Respect the neighbours of the park

Types and Levels of Visitor Activities

The natural and cultural features and scenic character of East Point Regional Park are an essential part of the visitor experience. Visitor activities in the park should be appropriate to, and respect, these characteristics of the park. Activities also need to be consistent with CRD Parks bylaws. Appropriate visitor activities in the park include hiking, walking, wildlife viewing, beach exploration and photography.

Do not permit fires and camping in the park.

Do not permit cycling or horse riding in the park.

Direct park visitors to keep to designated trails or regularly mowed areas.

Given these restrictions, there are opportunities for a range of activities. The open, regularly mowed areas are attractive places to run and play. Activities such as running, kite-flying, and frisbee are appropriate in these mowed areas. Games such as soccer or softball are not appropriate in the park and should be moved to the playing field area at Winter Cove.

Direct more active visitor activities, such as running and kite-flying, to the regularly mowed areas of the park.

Given the importance of keeping visitors and dogs on existing trails, dogs will be required to be on a leash in all parts of the park except the regularly mowed areas.

Require dogs to be on a leash at all times in the park except in the regularly mowed areas which are designated off-leash areas.

East Point Regional Park is relatively small. Unless dog owners remove the excrement deposited by their dogs, the build up of this waste material could be a serious problem in the park.

Require dog owners/handlers to remove any excrement deposited in the park by their dogs.

Public Safety

The East Point Regional Park Advisory Group and CRD Parks have identified public safety as one of the five major management issues to be addressed in this management plan for the park. The main safety concerns are the steep cliffs along the eastern and southern shores of the park and the areas along these cliff where people are scrambling down to access the intertidal area.

Another potential safety concern for park visitors is the slippery rocks in the intertidal area. Large areas of sandstone and conglomerate rock shelves are exposed at low tides along the shore of the park. Seaweeds on these rocks can be quite slippery. In addition, freshwater seeps from the park onto the rocks, causing the growth of slippery algae.

The areas of steep cliffs and slippery rocks are shown on Map 9 on page 43.

Relevant Management Principles:

- Provide safe access to East Point Regional Park for a wide range of ages and abilities.
- Inform visitors to East Point Regional Park of potential safety hazards.

Steep Cliffs

It is important to consider the character of the park when developing a management response. Fencing along the cliff areas, for example, would have a major visual impact on the open and scenic nature of the park.

Use signs and other information sources to warn visitors of safety hazards. Fencing along the cliff edges will only be used in exceptional circumstances.

Map 9 - Safety Hazards

East Point Regional Park

Legend

Hazards



Slippy Rocks



Steep Cliffs



Existing Trails

Base Features



Sand Beach



Buildings



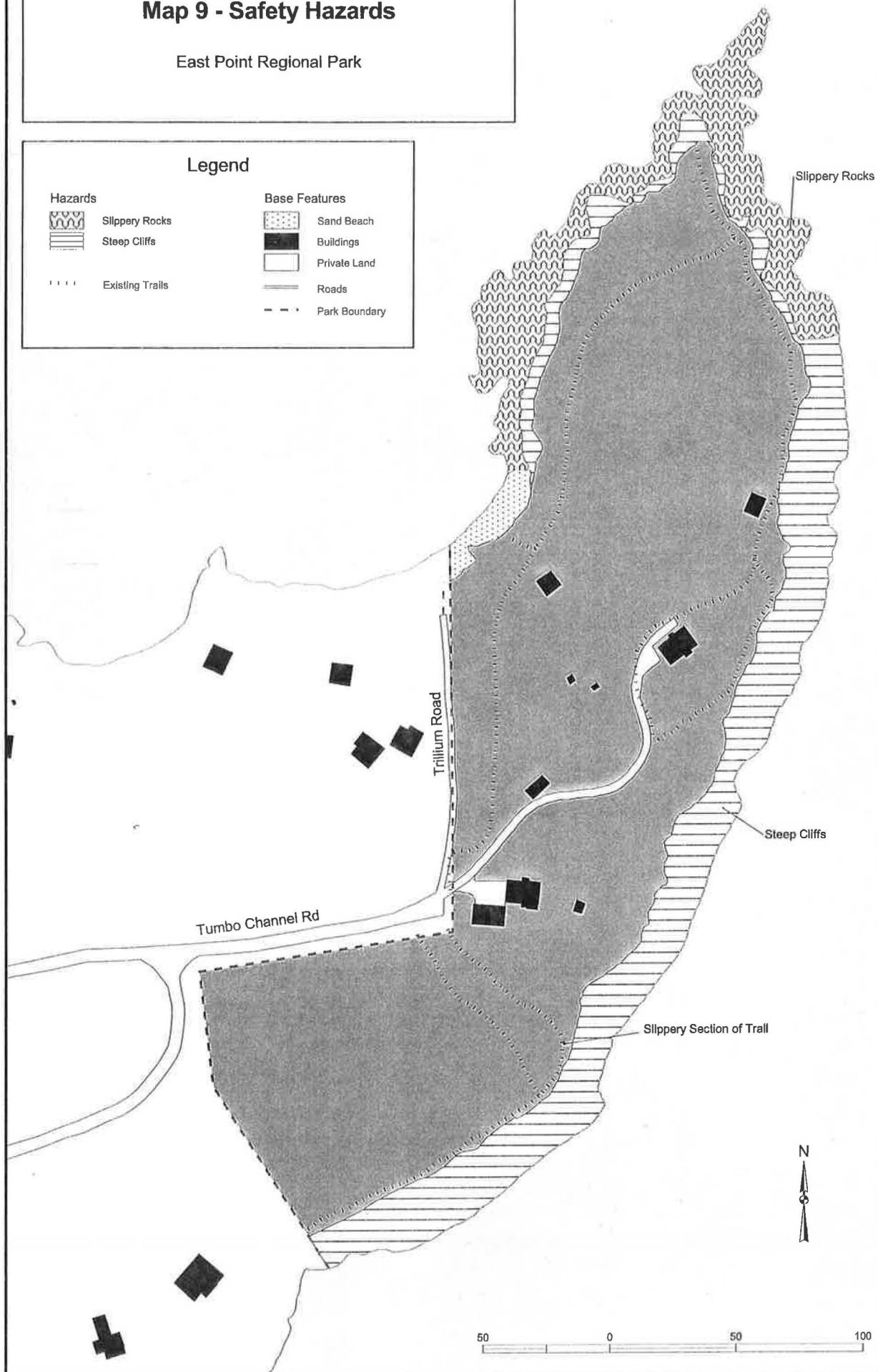
Private Land



Roads



Park Boundary



To improve public safety and minimize environmental impacts, there should be designated access points to the intertidal areas along the west, north and east shores of the park, and to the safe areas for sitting on the southern shore of the park.

Designate the beach on the west coast of East Point as the safe access to the intertidal area along the north and east shoreline of the park and encourage park visitors to use this access.

Designate a point along the south coast of East Point as the safe access point to the popular sitting and fishing areas on the cliffs.

The designated shoreline access points are shown on Map 10 on page 49.

Trail to South Shoreline

The trail immediately to the south of the light station compound has a section along the shore that is quite steep and slippery. A new parallel trail has been constructed to bypass this problem area, although regular visitors to the park continue to use the original trail. Use of the new trail will be encouraged and the original trail will be allowed to naturally revegetate.

Encourage use of the new trail from the parking area to the south shore of the park and allow the trail immediately to the south of the light station compound to naturally revegetate.

Environmental Interpretation and Information

Environmental interpretation and information initiatives are important parts of the CRD Parks mandate.

CRD Parks offers environmental interpretation programs to visitors to regional parks. The natural and cultural heritage, scenic character, marine setting and wildlife viewing opportunities associated with East Point Regional Park provide excellent subjects for such programs. Environmental interpretation programs also provide an opportunity to inform people about the sensitivities of the park and issues of management concern. CRD Parks environmental interpretation programs are held once or twice a year at regional parks on the Gulf Islands. CRD Parks identifies program themes and often recruits local naturalists and historians to lead or assist with programs.

There has been some interest on Saturna Island in developing a museum or other community facility in the 'second residence' building on the federal property leased by CRD Parks. This could provide an opportunity to interpret the cultural and natural history of the site. The use and upgrading of the building is discussed in the Cultural Features section of the plan.

A map and brief description of each regional park is provided in the publication *Parks for All Seasons*. CRD Parks also prepares a brochure or information sheet on each park which provides maps of trails and facilities and information about the natural and cultural history of the park and directions for getting there.

Site specific information on a regional park is also typically provided on a park kiosk (a map, information, and bulletin board) located at the park entrance. Information on park regulations, safety hazards, and directions are presented on signs at appropriate locations.

Relevant Management Principles:

- Ensure that human activities within the park respect the physical environment, plants and animals of the adjacent shoreline, intertidal zone and ocean waters
- Respect the cultural history and values of the park
- Recognize and appreciate the complex interplay between ecological and cultural history
- Provide information that will encourage visitors to be aware of the values and sensitivities of the park
- Inform visitors of potential safety hazards

Conduct environmental interpretation programs in the park led by CRD Parks staff or local naturalists and historians.

Install a kiosk (map, information display, and bulletin board) at the entrance to the park.

Visitor Facilities

The existing visitor facilities at East Point are described on page 22. CRD Parks has inherited a system of pathways, two pit toilets, and several benches along the cliffs above the eastern shore of the park. There is no drinking water available for park visitors. Due to lack of solid waste facilities on Saturna Island, no garbage receptacles are provided; park visitors must pack out their garbage.

Relevant Management Principles:

- Construct and locate park facilities and signs consistent with the ambiance of the parks
- Locate facilities in East Point Regional Park away from environmentally sensitive and hazardous areas
- Respect the neighbours of the park

Keep facilities at East Point basic and well maintained.

Location of Facilities and Signs

Do not construct facilities or install signs in the environmental protection zone. New trails may be developed in this zone after an appropriate environmental assessment

Install a sign at the beach advising boaters of the location of the park and key park messages.

Locate park facilities to minimize conflicts with uses or activities on adjacent private lands.

Proposed Loop Trail in the Southern Portion of the Park

Visitors walking along the southern shore of the park need an alternative to doubling back on their route along the cliffs. This will help protect the plant communities and species along the cliff that are sensitive to damage by trampling or by widening of the existing trail. A new section of trail is proposed through the Douglas-fir forest to create a loop trail with the southern shore. This new trail should have less environmental impacts than the widening and erosion associated with doubling use of the shoreline trail. The route of the proposed loop trail is shown on Map 10 on page 49.

Provide a loop trail through the area of forest in the southern portion of the park.

Parking

Obtain an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to locate the parking area for the park within the right-of-way of Tumbo Channel Road.

Park Operation and Maintenance

CRD Parks operates and maintains parks to a high standard to protect their natural and cultural heritage, provide safe and clean facilities for park visitors, implement management policies and enforce regulations.

Relevant Management Principles:

- Provide safe access for a wide range of ages and abilities
- Ensure that park management activities do not degrade the ecological and cultural values or ambiance of the park

A resident caretaker at East Point Regional Park provides the majority of on-site maintenance, management and enforcement. The caretaker also provides an important source of personal contact and information about the site to park visitors.

Retain resident caretakers at East Point Regional Park.

Map 10 - Proposed Facilities

East Point Regional Park

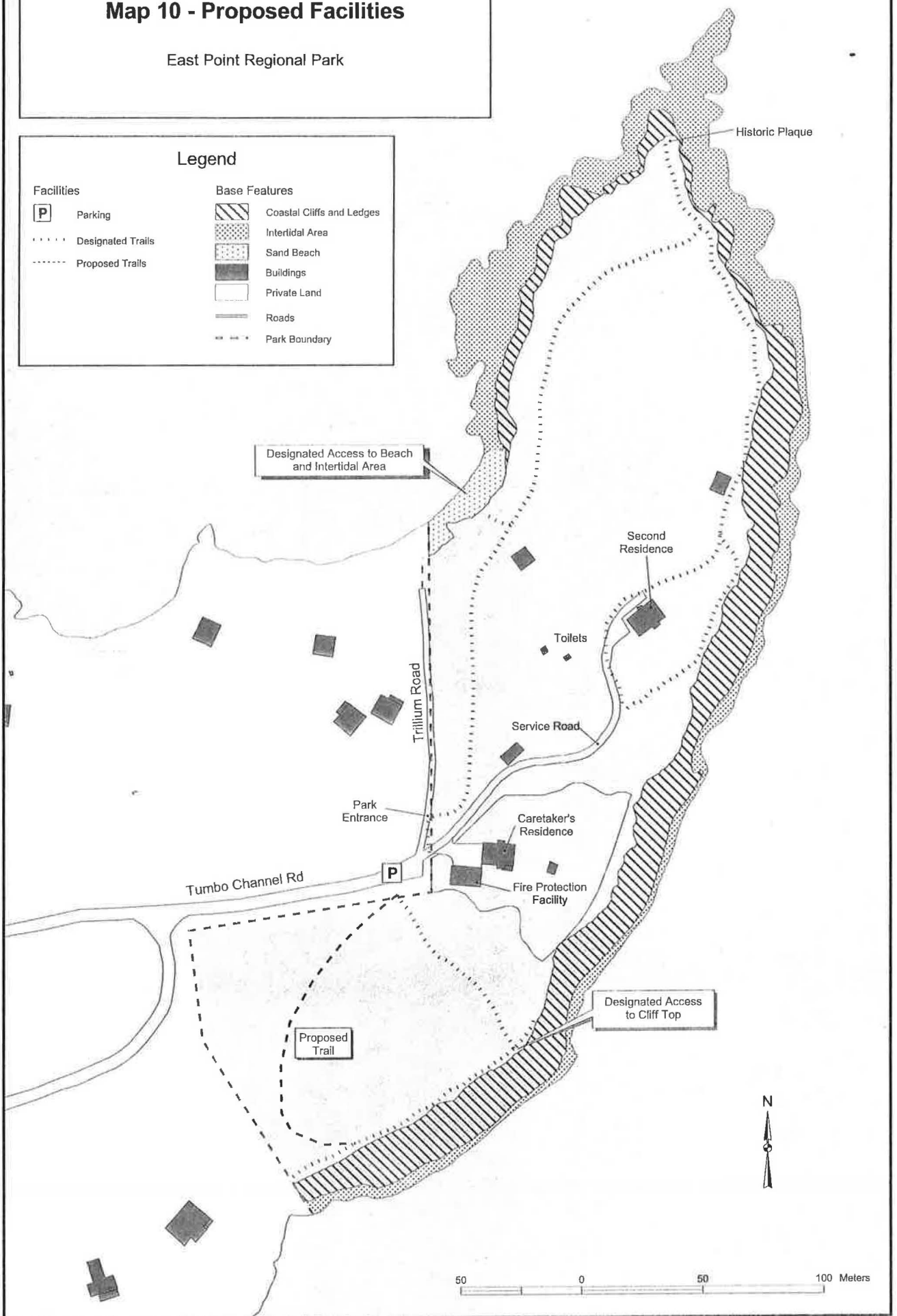
Legend

Facilities

- P** Parking
- Designated Trails
- Proposed Trails

Base Features

- Coastal Cliffs and Ledges
- Interlidal Area
- Sand Beach
- Buildings
- Private Land
- Roads
- Park Boundary



Given the importance of maintaining good relations with the Saturna Island community and the logistical difficulties involved in bringing CRD Parks machinery and heavy equipment to the park, CRD Parks will endeavour to utilize resources on Saturna Island whenever practical.

Use Saturna Island resources whenever practical when upgrading or installing facilities in the park.

Surrounding Lands

Uses and activities in the park can affect adjacent landowners. Similarly, uses and activities on adjacent lands can affect the natural environment in the park and the enjoyment of park visitors. It is important to identify and address any potential conflicts between uses and activities on these lands.

Three parcels of private land border the park. The zoning of these properties and their relationship to the park is shown on Map 6 on page 28. The largest parcel is the East Point Resort which borders the park to the west and north. The other parcels are a rural residential lot next to the coniferous forest in the southwest corner of the park and a portion of the large, undeveloped forest property in the interior of the East Point Peninsula. The East Point Resort property is separated from the park by a road right-of-way (Trillium Road) which has a narrow, cleared roadway down most of its length. The rural residential lot is separated from the park by an undeveloped road right-of-way. The portion of the large, forested property is separated from the park by Cliffside Road. Any clearing and buildings on the resort and rural residential property are well away from the park boundary. All properties are down slope from the park.

The relatively small size of the resort likely does not add appreciably to the visitor rates at the park. However, future plans and ownership may consider expanding the resort facilities. The proposed regulations associated with the commercial zoning of the resort property in the draft Official Community Plan for Saturna Island restrict the development of buildings and parking to ten percent of the parcel.

Relevant Management Principles:

- Respect the neighbours of the park

Ensure park visitors and adjacent landowners are aware of the park/private property boundaries to prevent problems of trespass or encroachment.

Encourage the owner(s) of the adjacent commercially-zoned property to make their visitors aware of the ecological and cultural features and management policies of the park.

Work with Ministry of Transportation and Highways to ensure that uses of the two road rights-of-way adjacent to the park are consistent with the protection and management of the park.

Relationship to Nearby Protected Areas

East Point is part of a larger coastal area of national and provincial significance. Tumbo Island, recently acquired through the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Program, may become part of a national park in the southern Gulf Islands. Cabbage Island and Winter Cove, provincial marine parks, are also located close by. The marine waters to the north and east of East Point are under study for the establishment of a national marine conservation area. Map 11 on page 53 shows the relationship between East Point Regional Park and other protected areas on Saturna and adjacent islands.

There is a need for coordination between the different park agencies in the management of these protected areas. For example, Parks Canada and BC Parks are encouraging kayakers destined for Cabbage Island Provincial Marine Park and Tumbo Island to launch from Winter Cove Provincial Marine Park on Saturna Island. Encouraging the launching of kayaks and other small boats at Winter Cove eliminates the need for overnight parking at other launch areas and makes visitor use easier to monitor.

CRD Parks will work closely with Parks Canada, BC Parks, and the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission to ensure that management of East Point Regional Park is coordinated with the management of other protected areas on or adjacent to Saturna Island.

Park Boundary and Potential Land Acquisition

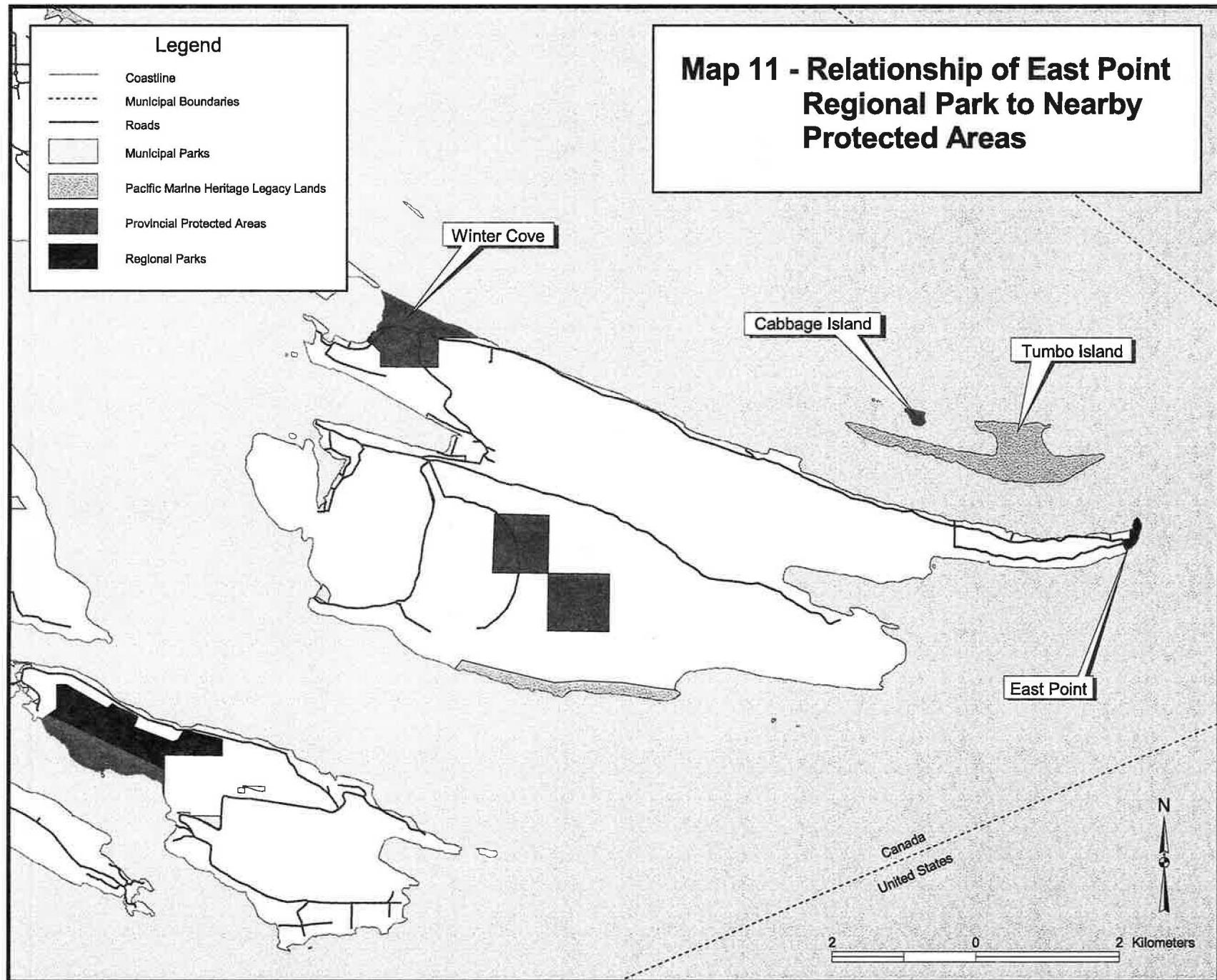
The existing park boundary protects the essential features of East Point. Park visitors are able to access a considerable area of intertidal shoreline, including the beach area in front of the East Point Resort (marine shoreline below the mean high tide line is Crown property and accessible by the public). Given the uncertainty relating to the creation of a national park in the southern Gulf Islands and the short-term nature of the lease on the East Point property, CRD Parks will retain the existing boundaries of East Point Regional Park.

Retain the existing boundaries of East Point Regional Park.

Legend

- Coastline
- - - Municipal Boundaries
- Roads
- Municipal Parks
- ▨ Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy Lands
- Provincial Protected Areas
- Regional Parks

Map 11 - Relationship of East Point Regional Park to Nearby Protected Areas



Two properties adjacent to East Point Regional Park—the East Point Resort and a large area of undeveloped forest in the interior of the East Point Peninsula (the remaining large parcels in Sections 13 and 14, Cowichan District)—have been identified as an area suitable for local park land in the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission Master Plan. There is strong support for the interior forested parcels remaining undeveloped and a coalition of East Point residents are seeking to acquire these lands.

CRD Parks recognizes and supports the efforts of the residents of East Point to acquire the remaining, undeveloped portions of Sections 13 and 14, Cowichan District.

A number of residents of the East Point peninsula have suggested that the resort and forested properties be assessed by CRD Parks as a potential addition to East Point Regional Park. Although the existing boundaries of the park protect the essential features of the site, the regional park and trail potential of these properties may be assessed in the future.

Trail Connections

The Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies the potential for a trail connecting Lyall Harbour with East Point. This type of trail connection is consistent with the regional trail mandate of CRD Parks, which would be able to provide support for the planning and implementation of the trail.

Work with the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission, landowners, government agencies and the Saturna Island community to plan and develop a trail connection between Lyall Harbour and East Point Regional Park.

The route of the proposed trail passes through the forested interior parcels of the East Point Peninsula. Even if these properties are not acquired for parkland, some form of right-of-way or easement should be secured for the proposed trail.

Investigate the potential for acquiring a right-of-way or easement for the Lyall Harbour to East Point trail through Sections 13 and 14, Cowichan District.

Ongoing Communication with the Saturna Island Community

CRD Parks will maintain communication with the Saturna Island community in the management of East Point Regional Park. This will happen in a number of ways. Members of the Saturna Island community can contact CRD Parks staff directly, or through the caretaker, with concerns about the management of the park. CRD Parks staff will consult regularly with the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission about park and trail issues relating to the East Point peninsula. CRD Parks staff will meet on an annual basis, or as issues arise, with Saturna Island elected representatives, representatives of community organizations with an interest in East Point, and members of the public to discuss the use and management of East Point Regional Park.

CRD Parks will meet annually on Saturna Island in the fall, and more frequently if required, with the CRD Director, Islands Trust Trustees, members of the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission, East Point residents, interested Saturna Island residents and the Fire Chief of the Saturna Island Fire Department to discuss the management, use and operation of East Point Regional Park.

CRD Parks will consult with the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission about park and trail issues relating to the East Point peninsula.

Implementation of the Plan

Implementing the management policies put forward in this plan will depend on the availability of, and priorities for, CRD Parks staff and financial resources.

The approval of the management plan by the CRD Board does not automatically mean that funding to carry out the tasks is also approved. The budget for upgrading existing facilities or undertaking new projects at East Point Regional Park will be determined in light of overall CRD Parks priorities.

Actions Arising From the Management Policies

A number of actions have been identified in the management policies for the park:

- Control priority invasive introduced plant species in the park
- Monitor native ecosystems and species and the condition of the shell midden
- Improve the signs at the parking area to make it clearer where the park entrance is located
- Move existing signs out of the environmental protection zone and open meadow area and closer to the park entrance
- Install a sign at the beach advising boaters of the location of the park and key park messages
- Obtain an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to locate the parking area for the park within the right-of-way of Tumbo Channel Road.
- Construct a loop trail through the forest in the southern part of the park
- Install a park kiosk
- Hold annual meetings in the fall with elected representatives, members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the fire chief, East Point residents and other interested members of the Saturna Island community to discuss the management, use and operation of East Point Regional Park

Table 2 presents the relative priority assigned to these tasks. The maintenance of the buildings covered under the lease with the federal government will be on-going.

Table 2 - Relative Priority of Key Tasks Identified in the Management Plan for East Point Regional Park

Tasks	Higher Priority	Lesser Priority
Control priority invasive introduced plant species in the park	✓	
Monitor native ecosystems and species and the condition of the shell midden	✓	
Improve the signs at the parking area to make it clearer where the park entrance is located	✓	
Move signs out of the Environmental Protection Zone and open meadow areas	✓	
Install a sign at the beach advising boaters of the location of the park and key park messages	✓	
Obtain an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to locate the parking area for the park within the right-of-way of Tumbo Channel Road	✓	
Hold annual meetings with the Saturna Island community to discuss the use and management of East Point Regional Park	✓	
Construct a loop trail through the forest in the southwest corner of the park		✓
Install park kiosk		✓

Appendix A

Summary of Changes to the Draft Management Plan from the Process of Input and Review

There was considerable support for the overall direction and intent of the policies proposed in the draft management plan from the individuals and government agencies who reviewed the plan and provided input. CRD Parks received a number of suggestions of how to improve the management policies. Many of these have been incorporated into the final version of the management plan.

A number of the policies in the draft plan unnecessarily restated overall CRD Parks policies and were deleted from the final plan.

The major changes to the draft management plan were:

- the deletion to the reference to a “low profile approach” to providing information about the park; CRD Parks will provide information about East Point Regional Park in the same ways as regional parks on other Gulf Islands
- the addition of a policy that reinforces the prohibition on camping and open fires in the park
- the deletion of the proposed policy that would discourage the launching of kayaks from the beach at East Point Regional Park
- the deletion of the proposed policy to request that anglers fishing off the rocks from the park use the south shore only
- the designation of an access to the southern shoreline of the park to recognize the long history of use of the tops of these cliffs for sitting and fishing
- the deletion of the proposed policy that prohibited picnic tables or memorial benches in the park; if required; one or two picnic tables in the recreation zone could reduce the potential for conflict between dogs off leash and picnickers
- the addition of a policy stating that CRD Parks will obtain an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to locate the parking area for the park within the right-of-way of Tumbo Channel Road; this will allow the parking area to be improved without impacting the park
- the addition of a policy stating that CRD Parks will work with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to ensure that uses of the two undeveloped road rights-of-way adjacent to the East Point Regional Park are consistent with the protection and management of the park

- modifying the policy which states CRD Parks will work with the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission to plan and develop a trail connection between Lyall Harbour and East Point Regional Park to include landowners, government agencies and the Saturna Island community in the process
- the addition of a policy recognizing and supporting the efforts of the residents of East Point to acquire the remaining undeveloped portions of Sections 13 and 14, Cowichan Land District
- the addition of a policy stating that CRD Parks will investigate the potential for acquiring a right-of-way or easement for the Lyall Harbour to East Point trail through Sections 13 and 14, Cowichan District (the large forested interior properties on the East Point Peninsula)
- the addition of a policy stating that CRD Parks will host an annual meeting on Saturna Island to discuss the use and management of the park with elected representatives, members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the fire chief, East Point residents, and other members of the island community
- the addition of a policy stating that CRD Parks will have ongoing communication with the Saturna Island Parks and Recreation Commission about issues that relate to parks and trails on the East Point Peninsula

Appendix B

Definitions of Terms

Some of the terms used in the vision and principles need to be defined:

ecosystem - a defined area of land or water comprising the physical environment, the species that live there, and the interacting processes between them

ecological values - native plant and animal species and ecosystems, and the processes that sustain them

cultural values - artifacts or other evidence that illustrate First Nation and European history

environmentally sensitive area - an area that requires special care because it has environmental characteristics worth maintaining that are susceptible to damage from human use

environmental interpretation - a communication process designed to reveal meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural heritage through entertaining, first-hand experiences with objects, artifacts, sites and landscapes