

# Gulf Islands National Park Reserve Management Plan Newsletter #2



PARKS CANADA

July 2011

Parks Canada is developing the first management plan for Gulf Islands National Park Reserve —  
You Can Help Set the Direction for the Future.

## A Vision for the Park

A vision for Gulf Islands National Park Reserve was approved in 2006, through the Interim Management Plan process. It is now time to review and update the vision.

The vision should paint a picture of what the future desired state is for the ecology, cultural heritage and visitor opportunities in the park. It should also illustrate how we will be working together with the different communities to achieve our goals for this national park.

The Park Advisory Board suggests that the updated vision should express:

- The fragility/uniqueness of the area
- First Nations connections to the area
- The culture/context of the Gulf Islands (part of existing rural, island communities)
- The value of protecting natural and cultural resources
- That the park provides a refuge for nature and people
- That visitor opportunities are focused on connecting with nature
- That leadership, cooperation and working together is key to accomplishing goals.



Roesland, North Pender Island  
Parks Canada/Christian Stewart

Do you agree these elements are important?  
What does your vision for the park include?  
Provide us with your suggestions.

### Inside this issue:

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| A VISION FOR THE PARK            | 1 |
| MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES            | 2 |
| MANAGEMENT NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES | 3 |
| 15-YEAR OBJECTIVES               | 4 |
| PUBLIC SESSIONS—AN UPDATE        | 5 |
| SEND US YOUR COMMENTS            | 5 |

# Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

---

## Management Principles

Management principles are sometimes referred to as Values. They provide overarching **philosophy or 'touchstones' upon which management and decision-making are based.**

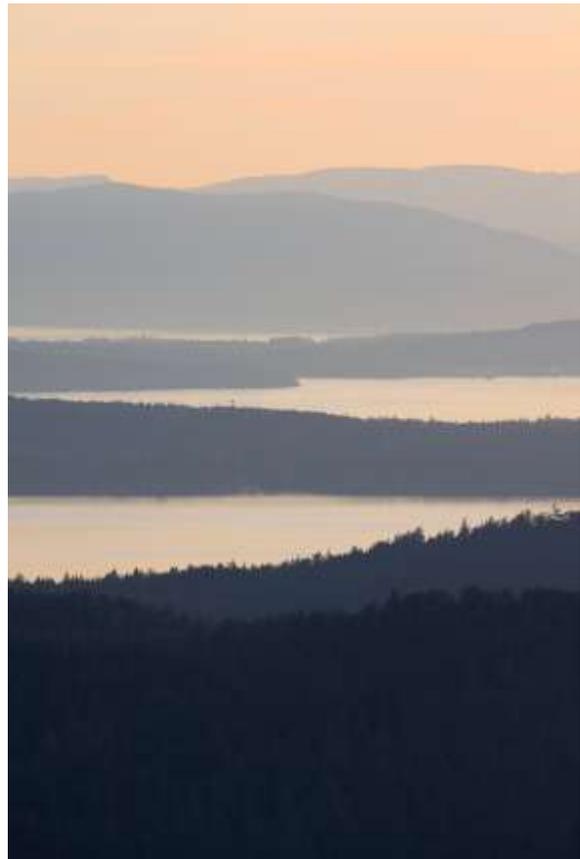
Nine management principles were approved in the Interim Management Guidelines and have guided Parks Canada in its day-to-day actions to-date.

Summarized, they are:

- The vision should be considered in all decision-making.
- Communication is critical
- Working relationships with other government agents are key.
- Consult and work cooperatively with First Nations.
- Engage the public in planning and management.
- The park advisory board should communicate the public interest.
- No commercial roofed accommodation/buildings will be permitted.
- Operations should be as green as possible.
- The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act will be followed.

Parks Canada believes that updated management principles should be included in the management plan.

Are there any changes you would suggest?



Mt Warburton-Pike,  
Saturna Island  
Parks Canada/Christian Stewart

# Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

---

## Management Needs & Opportunities

The 2010 State of the Park Report outlined 24 key issues, based on a review and assessment of park related information and monitoring programs. Additional management needs and opportunities have been suggested by the public and staff over the years also.

There are certain needs that are Parks Canada requirements and must be addressed, while others will be addressed as resources or cooperative efforts permit.

We are looking for input on which of these needs and opportunities the public considers most important to address first. It is important that we address some from each topic area.

Please let us know which you consider the top two in each category.



Park Ecologist Monitoring & Banding Black Oystercatcher  
Parks Canada

### Ecological Integrity (EI)

- Need a formal EI Restoration Program
- Need full implementation of the EI monitoring program
- Need further marine research & planning
- Need continued regional integration and collaboration
- Need to promote stewardship

### Cultural Heritage

- Need a Cultural Resource Management Strategy
- Need a cultural heritage monitoring program
- Need to improve the condition of several cultural buildings
- Need to address impacts to First Nations cultural heritage
- Need additional cultural research
- **Need to increase the public's connection to heritage**

### Visitor Experience

- Need a sustainable interpretive program
- Need to ensure visitor facilities are sustainable
- Need a formal volunteer program
- Need a visitor experience monitoring program
- Establish level of service and types of park fees
- Need additional social research
- Potential for expanded and new opportunities
- **Need locations for “gateways” to the park** (welcome areas)
- Need locations for special events/large group uses

### Public Outreach Education

- Need research on public awareness, needs, and preferences
- Need to identify key urban outreach venues
- Need a targeted outreach education program
- **Desire for a “parks discovery centre”**

# Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

---

## Management Needs & Opportunities (continued)

### Coast Salish First Nations

- Need to protect burial grounds and ancient human remains
- Need to accommodate traditional uses in the park
- Desire to have First Nations tell their cultural story to park visitors
- Need continued relationship building
- Desire to improve communications among Coast Salish First Nations
- Desire for First Nations liaison with island communities

### Stakeholder and Public Engagement

- Need a stakeholder engagement strategy

### Other

- Desire for further land acquisition



Russell Island  
Parks Canada/Christian Stewart

## 15-Year Objectives

Over the timeframe of the Management Plan, we are proposing to focus on four broad goals:

- Restoring Ecological Integrity
- Protecting Cultural Heritage
- Enhancing Visitor Experiences, and
- Working Together

**We're looking for your help to set strategic 15-year objectives in each of these four areas. The objectives, should identify the main 'aims' or 'intent' that Parks Canada should work toward over the 15 year timeframe. Further, the objectives should be broad enough that the priority issues should fit into the objectives.**

Example objectives might be:

- GINPR better represents the native diversity of the Strait of Georgia Lowlands because non-native and hyper-abundant species have been targeted and removed.
- New opportunities, that connect visitors to nature and to the park, are being offered and promoted.

What do you suggest as 15-Year objectives for Gulf Islands National Park Reserve?

# Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

---

## Public Sessions—An Update

Three public sessions have been held to-date, on Salt Spring, Pender and Mayne Islands. Approximately 70 people have provided their ideas and suggestions on the items included in this newsletter.

### **As part of Parks Canada's Centennial**

Celebration, held in Stanley Park in Vancouver on Parks Day (July 16), the Gulf Islands team provided opportunities for residents and visitors alike to **"get a taste" of the national park** reserve. We introduced the park to many—provided information about the natural and cultural heritage, visitor opportunities, and that Parks Canada is now working on the management plan and looking for public involvement.

An open house is being planned for Victoria on:

Saturday, September 10

and in Sidney on:

Saturday October 1

People on the management planning email list will be notified and time/location information will be on the park website later in August ([www.parkscanada.gc.ca/gulf](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/gulf)).

Parks Canada is also working with interested Coast Salish First Nations to ensure that opportunities are available for their involvement in the management plan process.

## Send Us Your Comments...

By email  
[carolyn.stewart@pc.gc.ca](mailto:carolyn.stewart@pc.gc.ca)

By mail  
Management Planning  
Gulf Islands National Park Reserve  
2220 Harbour Rd  
Sidney, BC  
V8L 2P6

By fax  
250-654-4014

## For More Information

[www.parkscanada.gc.ca/gulf](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/gulf)



East Point, Saturna Island  
Parks Canada/Christian Stewart