

# St. John Point Regional Park Management Plan

Capital Regional District | November 2019



# Acknowledgements

The Capital Regional District (CRD) would like to acknowledge and thank the Mayne Island Conservancy Society for its significant contribution to the establishment of this park, the development of the draft management plan, and ongoing park restoration efforts. The CRD also acknowledges the input and assistance provided by federal Environment and Climate Change Canada staff and provincial Agricultural Land Commission staff. The ideas and suggestions provided by many members of the public helped in the creation of this management plan—the CRD appreciates your involvement.

# Contents

1	Executive Summary.....	2
2	Introduction and Context .....	4
3	Strategic Direction .....	11
	3.1 Park Classification.....	11
	3.2 Vision for St. John Point Regional Park.....	11
	3.3 Management Goals .....	12
	3.4 Management Statements .....	12
	3.5 Park Zoning.....	15
4	Development Concept.....	17
5	Management Actions & Implementation.....	17
	5.1 Proposed Actions & Anticipated Timeframe .....	17
	5.2 Implementation Monitoring .....	20

# List of Maps & Appendices

Map 1: St. John Point Regional Park - Context.....	7
Map 2: St. John Point Regional Park – Location.....	8
Map 3: St. John Point Regional Park – Ecosystems.....	9
Map 4: St. John Point Regional Park – Agricultural Land Reserve.....	10
Map 5: St. John Point Regional Park – Zoning.....	15
Map 6: St. John Point Regional Park – Development Plan.....	20
Appendix 1: Background Information.....	21
Appendix 2: Summary of the Engagement Process.....	24

Cover photo of St. John Point Regional Park courtesy of the Mayne Island Conservancy Society.

# 1 Executive Summary

St. John Point is one of six regional parks in the Southern Gulf Islands. It is a 26-hectare waterfront property located on the southeast tip of Mayne Island that was acquired in December 2017, through a partnership with the Mayne Island Conservancy Society. The park has been held in 'park reserve' status since its acquisition, and given the potential for significant impacts from unmanaged use, a management plan has been developed.

The park has been certified as environmentally sensitive under the federal Ecological Gifts Program of Environment and Climate Change Canada. Recognizing its relatively high ecological integrity, the park is classified by the Capital Regional District (CRD) as a regional conservation area. A small portion of the park, approximately 2 hectares, is designated by the Province of BC as Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). A Section 219 (*Land Title Act*) conservation covenant, held by the Mayne Island Conservancy Society, covers all of the park land except the ALR. As required by the covenant, the management plan must ensure protection of the natural and cultural values of the park while allowing compatible opportunities for the public to enjoy those values.

The Southern Gulf Islands are part of the traditional territory of several Coast Salish Nations. St. John Point area is noted as a deer drive area in *Saltwater People*, a resource book for the Saanich Native Studies Program. WJOLÉEP (Tsartlip Nation) has reserve lands at Helen Point on Mayne Island at the west end of Active Pass and were contacted, along with the SÁÁUTW (Tsawout), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin) First Nations, to seek their involvement in the management plan development.

A two-phase public engagement process was undertaken. In addition to First Nations, federal, provincial and regional government agencies, key stakeholders and the public were invited to provide initial input before a draft management plan was developed and to provide comments on the draft plan. Meetings were offered to First Nations, other government agencies and key stakeholders. A market booth at the Mayne Island Farmers Market and an open house at the Mayne Island Community Centre were held to provide face-to-face opportunities for discussion with the public. All input received has assisted in the development of this management plan.

The draft vision for St. John Point Regional Park is:

"St. John Point Regional Park is widely recognized as a significant conservation area. People understand the natural and cultural values of the park and support ongoing stewardship efforts. It is a place where local residents and visitors connect with nature, experience the forest and coastal environments,

refresh themselves through the beauty and tranquility of the site, and learn about the area’s natural and cultural history.”

This draft management plan includes a park vision, management goals and management statements, park zoning, as well as management actions to guide ongoing management, development, and use of the park. The final approved management plan will guide the management and operation of the park for at least the next 15 years.

Some of the priority management actions for St. John Point include:

- Continue the existing Partners in Parks agreement with the Mayne Island Conservancy Society for ongoing park restoration.
- Remove infrastructure associated with former landowners that is not needed for park operations or visitors.
- Create a park entrance hub, including a 10-20 car parking lot, toilet building, visitor information kiosk and trailhead.
- Undertake an archaeological assessment of areas where trails and other visitor facilities are proposed.
- Formalize a double-loop hiking trail, including two designated viewpoints with benches. Routing of the trail will focus on safety and protection of key natural and cultural features.
- Formalize two designated beach accesses (at Kadonaga Bay and at the east-facing bay).



South-side, central viewpoint area. Photo credit: Toby Snelgrove

## 2 Introduction and Context

The Southern Gulf Islands are part of the traditional territory of several Coast Salish Nations, and First Nations peoples have lived on and regularly used the lands and waters in these islands. Today, WJOLÉLP (Tsartlip Nation) has reserve lands on Mayne Island at Helen Point at the west end of Active Pass, known as S,ƷƑAK in the SENĆOƑEN language, and surrounding waters were used for hunting, fishing, gathering food and medicines, and other cultural practices for millennia. St. John Point, known as ƑÁWEN, was an area identifier for the coho salmon that were fished in the area. The Point was also noted in the book *Saltwater People*<sup>1</sup> as a deer drive area. These areas continue to be of importance to the WJOLÉLP (Tsartlip), SƑÁUTW (Tsawout), WSÍƷEM (Tseycum), and BOƷÉĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nations.

The CRD manages and operates 34 regional parks/park reserves and 3 regional trails. Regional parks help secure the region's biodiversity and quality of life by establishing, in perpetuity, a system of natural lands. Regional parks protect the region's natural systems, provide ecosystem services (e.g., clean air and water, critical habitat), and offer compatible outdoor recreation and education opportunities. Regional parks are integral to creating a human connection with nature—fostering appreciation and respect—and maintaining a vibrant regional community.

St. John Point Regional Park (hereinafter St. John Point) is one of six regional parks/park reserves in the Southern Gulf Islands (Map 1). These island parks protect a variety of landscapes within the Coastal Douglas-fir zone and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to experience, learn about and appreciate important natural areas. They also help maintain the natural character of the island communities.

St. John Point is 26 hectares (64 acres) and is located on the southeast side of Mayne Island (Map 2). It was acquired in December 2017 through a collaborative process with the Mayne Island Conservancy Society (Mayne Conservancy), the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (AFCLT), Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ecological Gifts Program), and the former landowners. Fifty-four percent of the property acquisition cost was contributed by Mayne Conservancy and AFCLT through community fundraising (cash). In addition, the landowners made a donation through the federal Ecological Gifts Program. The Mayne Island Local Trust Committee supported the land acquisition due to its high ecological values and the regional park classification as a regional conservation area is in keeping with the intent of the Islands Trust zoning allowing passive recreation parks in all zones.

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<sup>1</sup> Dave Elliot Sr., *Saltwater People* (Saanich: School District 63, 1990)

The Ecological Gifts Program provides income tax incentives for Canadians with ecologically sensitive land to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations through donations. To be eligible for an ecological gift donation, the lands must be certified as ecologically sensitive based on national criteria. St. John Point has been certified through this program as being ecologically sensitive. Once donated, alterations to or dispositions of the ecological gift lands are only to be made with prior written authorization from the federal minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

The mission of the AFCLT organization is to partner with Canadian conservation organizations and American owners of environmentally and ecologically significant lands in Canada to protect natural lands, clean water, abundant habitat and quality of life for citizens of both countries. Two of the former owners of the St. John Point lands are Americans, hence the assistance from this organization was of great benefit.

The Mayne Conservancy was a key partner in the park acquisition and holds a conservation covenant on St. John Point. The CRD must uphold the covenant requirements. The intent of the covenant is to conserve the natural and cultural values of the land, ensure that uses of the land are consistent with conservation of those values, and prevent any uses that will impair the values. The covenant restricts the types of uses that can occur within the park. In line with the intent of the covenant and through a Partner in Parks agreement with the CRD, the Mayne Conservancy undertakes ongoing natural area restoration work in the park, such as non-native and invasive plant removal.

The park property has relatively high ecological integrity. It is noted for its Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems and rugged bedrock outcrops (Map 3). More than 50% of the property has mature forest representing several sensitive ecosystems, including arbutus woodlands, coast bluff/cliffs and rocky herbaceous outcrops. Two red-listed ecological communities, Douglas-fir/dull Oregon-grape and Douglas-fir/Alaska oniongrass, and relatively intact examples of three additional red-listed ecosystems: Douglas-fir/salal, Douglas-fir/arbutus, grand fir/dull Oregon-grape, and grand fir/three-leaved foamflower occur in the park. Along the shoreline, the park provides access to two beaches. Additional information about the park's natural environment is provided in Appendix 1.

In 1974, approximately 2 hectares of the property was designated by the Province of BC as Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), through the Agricultural Land Commission (Commission). The ALR section of the park runs in a rectangular swath between Kadonaga Bay and Horton Bay Road (Map 4). The purpose of the Commission is to preserve the agricultural land reserve, encourage farming of the agricultural land reserve, and encourage local government, First Nations, and government to accommodate farm uses of lands within the ALR through their plans, bylaws and policies.

The contemporary history of the site begins in 1890 when a Crown Grant was given to James Campbell. In 1903, Goan Kadonaga, a Japanese settler, purchased Section 1 (167 acres/67.58 ha), which included the current park property. In 1921, Section 1 was subdivided into two lots; the north and larger part was given to the eldest son in the Kadonaga family and the southern portion was given to a nephew in the Sasaki family. The properties were farmed by the families until 1942, when, during the Second World War, the two properties were forfeited to the federal Secretary of State. A small area on the west side of the park is a remnant of a former agricultural area that contained orchard trees and meadows. Between 1955 and 2017, the property was owned by members of the Eddy family and was used as a recreational/vacation property. The Eddy family built a residence and several outbuildings and did some logging on the property. As noted above, in 1974 a portion of the property was designated as ALR.

Over the years, Mayne Island community members recognized the significance of the property and began the effort to have the property protected. That community effort was ramped up in 2017 when a collaborative effort was initiated among the CRD, Mayne Conservancy, Ecological Gifts Program, AFCLT, and the landowners to facilitate the purchase and sale of the property. A community-led financial pledge program was undertaken and members of the Sasaki family contributed believing that protection of the property is important for both its natural values and to preserve its history as a touchstone for future generations. The lands were transferred to the CRD for regional park purposes in December 2017. At the same time, a conservation covenant, held by the Mayne Conservancy, was registered on the park lands, with the exception of the ALR portion, to ensure the longer term conservation of ecological values.

This park management plan provides management direction for at least 15 years. The management plan provides specific direction for St. John Point, such as a park vision, goals, management statements, and actions based on the features and values of the park and input from the public. A summary of the engagement process for this management plan is provided in Appendix 2.



East-facing beach



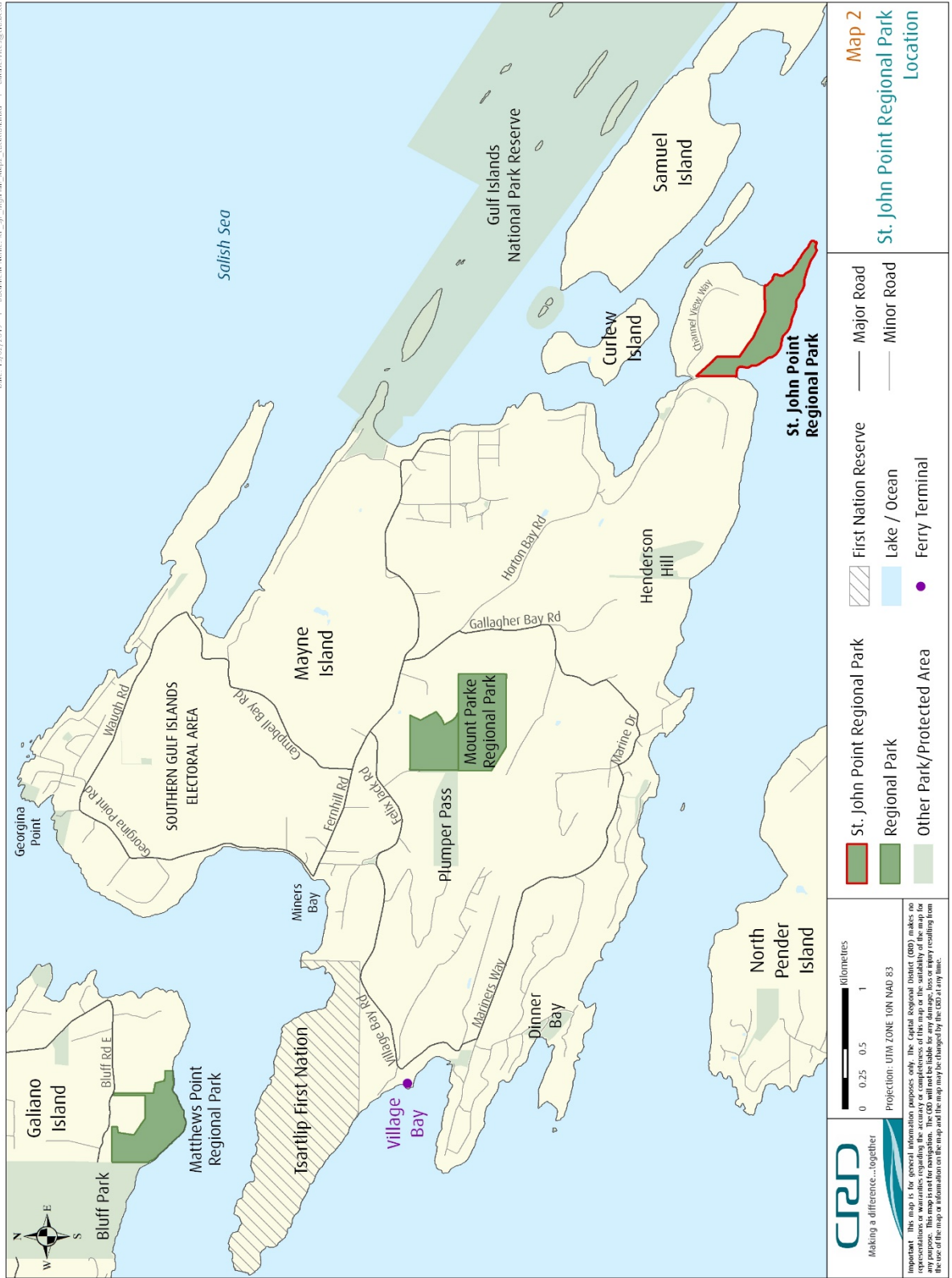
**Map 1**  
St. John Point Regional Park  
Context

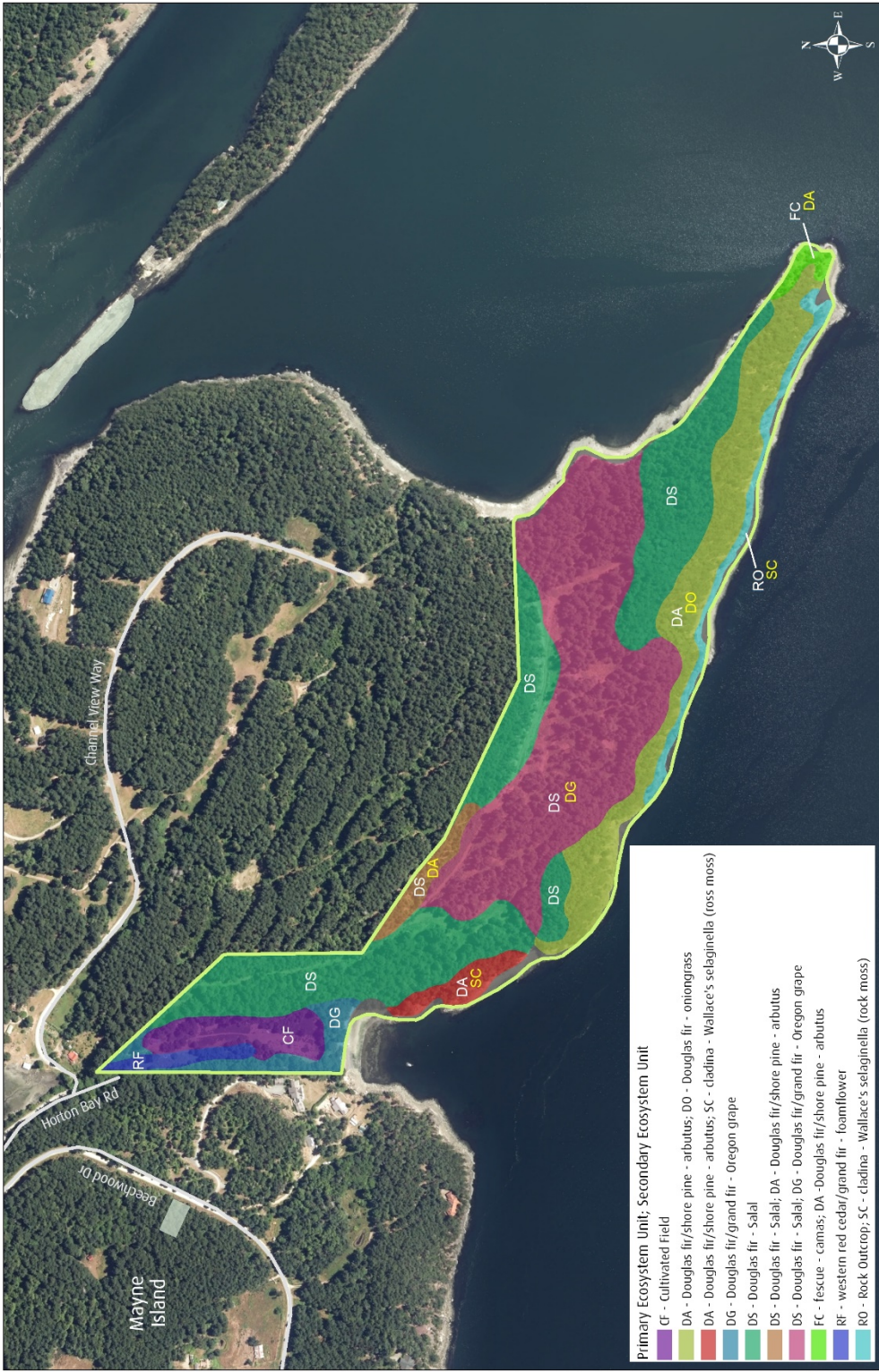
Regional Park  
 Regional Park Reserve  
 Other Park/Protected Area  
 First Nation Reserve  
 Lake / Ocean  
 Municipal / Electoral Area Boundary  
 Capital Regional District Boundary  
 International Boundary  
 Major Road

0 2 4 6  
 Kilometres  
 Projection: UTM ZONE 10N NAD 83  
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- Primary Ecosystem Unit; Secondary Ecosystem Unit**
- CF - Cultivated Field
  - DA - Douglas fir/shore pine - arbutus; DO - Douglas fir - oniongrass
  - DA - Douglas fir/shore pine - arbutus; SC - claddia - Wallace's selaginella (ross moss)
  - DG - Douglas fir/grand fir - Oregon grape
  - DS - Douglas fir - Salal
  - DS - Douglas fir - Salal; DA - Douglas fir/shore pine - arbutus
  - DS - Douglas fir - Salal; DG - Douglas fir/grand fir - Oregon grape
  - FC - fescue - camas; DA - Douglas fir/shore pine - arbutus
  - RF - western red cedar/grand fir - foamflower
  - RO - Rock Outcrop; SC - claddia - Wallace's selaginella (rock moss)

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St. John Point Regional Park  
 Other Park / Protected Area

No Data  
 Local Road

Primary Ecosystem Unit Label: **DG**  
 Secondary Ecosystem Unit Label: **DS**

**Map 3**  
 St. John Point Regional Park  
 Ecosystems

\*Orthophoto flown 2017



**Map 4**  
**St. John Point Regional Park**  
**Agricultural Land Reserve**

\*Orthophoto flown 2017

- St. John Point Regional Park
- Other Park / Protected Area
- Agricultural Land Reserve
- Local Road

Metres  
 0 40 80 160 240

Projection: UTM ZONE 10N NAD 83

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## 3 Strategic Direction

### 3.1 Park Classification

The regional park classification system provides a method of distinguishing the different roles that individual parks play in achieving the overall purpose of regional parks. Each regional park is classified based on its management focus. Four regional park classifications exist: wilderness area; conservation area; natural area; and recreation area. Although protection and recreation occur in all regional parks, these classifications indicate the primary purpose of the park.

Based on the ecological values at St. John Point, and in line with the federal recognition of St. John Point as an ecologically sensitive area (through the Ecological Gift Program), this park is classified as a regional conservation area. The conservation area classification is used to protect regionally significant natural areas that contain sensitive and threatened ecosystems. Outdoor activities will be permitted in a regional conservation area provided they have minimal impact on the natural environment. In most cases, the main activity will be hiking and generally only basic facilities will be provided, such as parking, toilets, trails, and signage.

### 3.2 Vision for St. John Point Regional Park

The vision for a park must be compatible with the park's classification. The purpose of the vision is to express the desired end state; where CRD wants to be in 15-20 years. The draft vision for St. John Point is:

“St. John Point is recognized as a significant conservation area. People understand the natural and cultural values of the park and support ongoing stewardship efforts. It is a place where local residents and visitors connect with nature, experience the forest and coastal environments, refresh themselves through the beauty and tranquility of the site, and learn about the area's natural and cultural history.”

### 3.3 Management Goals

Flowing from the vision, goals set the desired outcomes one wants to achieve. The goals will lead toward the long-term vision. The goals for St. John Point are:

Goal 1: As the first priority, conserve the park's natural environment and significant species.

Goal 2: Provide low-impact visitor opportunities that are compatible with protection of the park and that are linked to appreciation of nature.

Goal 3: Create a connection for the public that fosters respect for nature and a desire to help conserve the park environment.

Goal 4: Create an awareness of the different human uses of the land over the years.

### 3.4 Management Statements

Along with the park classification, vision and goals, the following statements provide more detailed direction for park management and decision-making. They guide the development of actions for the park, as well provide direction for decision-making on items that may arise in the future that are not specifically addressed within this management plan.

#### **Environmental Conservation**

- Conservation of the natural environment will be given first priority in decision-making.
- A park restoration program is important to continue through a Partners in Parks agreement with the Mayne Island Conservancy Society or another appropriate group or agency. Considerations need

to be given to the long-term effects of climate change on the park and how natural environments can adapt.

- The CRD will ensure that visitor facilities are located and developed in ways that respect the conservation needs of key ecosystems and species. Before new development is undertaken the CRD will check for significant species. Barriers may be used to manage visitor use and protect significant areas that are susceptible to disturbance.
- To protect the ecological integrity, dogs must be on-leash in the park and no cycling or equestrian activities will be permitted in the park.
- The CRD may participate in provincially-endorsed wildlife management programs related to non-native wildlife species affecting the park ecosystems (e.g., Fallow deer). When completed, the CRD will consider how the Mayne Island Fallow Deer Management Strategy impacts or is applied within regional parks on the island.
- In line with the CRD's Climate Action Plan, management of the park environment will contribute to long-term climate change goals and the protection of important ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration.
- The Mayne Island Conservancy Society should monitor the conservation covenant annually and report to the CRD on the observations and state of the covenant, including photo documentation.

### **Agricultural Land Reserve**

- Minimize disturbance to the Agricultural Land Reserve lands by ensuring any developments in the area impact less than 10% of the area.
- To preserve the ALR and minimize potential impact of public access between the park entrance and Kadonaga Bay, maintain a mowed walking area.
- Seek Commission approval for non-farm uses and locate those uses in the previously disturbed area where the former landowner's residential buildings and outbuildings were located.

### **Cultural Heritage**

- The CRD will acknowledge and highlight the past and present human relationships with the land as a way to promote public respect for the various human connections with the park lands.
- If sensitive cultural heritage exists on site, measures will be taken to protect them from negative impacts from park infrastructure or visitor use.
- In recognition of past and present use by Coast Salish Nations in this area, the CRD will work collaboratively with First Nations to understand First Nations values in this area and to collect

additional cultural heritage information, and will work to consider and incorporate First Nations interests in cultural heritage management initiatives within the park.

- Consideration will be given to how best to recognize the history of Japanese settlers that owned and worked the lands and the effect of the Second World War on them.

### **Visitor Opportunities**

- Park facilities will be kept to a minimum.
- The CRD will focus visitor opportunities on appreciation and enjoyment of the natural values of the park, particularly the values of the Coastal Douglas-fir forest and the forest-shoreline interface.
- Low-impact, day-use activities, such as walking, scenery viewing, and picnicking will be the mainstay of the park offer. Minimal ancillary facilities and services, such as parking, signage, a toilet, and a small number of benches or tables will be provided to support the visitor experience.
- To maintain a positive visitor experience, protect neighboring private lands, as well as protect the ecological integrity of the park, dogs must be on-leash while in the park.
- Before providing any new activity, the CRD will assess its compatibility with this management plan and the protection of natural values, including consideration of potential impacts.
- Prior to any development being initiated on site, the CRD will check with Ecological Gifts Program staff regarding requirements for authorization from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change or his/her delegate.
- Educational information about the park's natural and cultural values may be provided in a variety of ways, including the CRD website, park signage, or interpretive programs by non-profit groups through a CRD permit.



Seaside juniper shrubs on St. John Point

### 3.5 Park Zoning

Within the park, specific management zones may be used to address use, development, and management more specifically, based on ecological sensitivities. The regional park zoning system provides six different zones that can be used as appropriate within each park. In St. John Point, three zones apply, as follows:

**Environmental Protection Zone** provides the highest level of protection. Its objective is to protect ecologically significant areas through long-term science-based land stewardship. Typically, this zone is applied to areas with rare or endangered species and ecosystems that require the highest degree of protection or monitoring. Low impact nature trails may be considered, but if needed, visitor use may be restricted. In St. John Point Regional Park, this zone is largely along the sensitive shoreline areas and includes mossy rock outcrops, dry Douglas-fir/arbutus woodlands and fescue camas meadows, as illustrated on Map 5.

**Natural Environment Zone** is used for easily accessible natural areas where outdoor activities can take place in conjunction with protection of natural features. Hiking, viewpoints, picnic areas, and open fields may be typical in this zone. The central core, or spine, of the park falls within this zone, including the cultivated fields within the agricultural land reserve and a mix of Douglas-fir, grand fir and western red cedar forest with salal and Oregon-grape dominating the understory, as illustrated on Map 5.


**Park Services Zone** is used for key areas where support services will be focused. Generally, this zone covers areas where natural values are less significant and landscape modification for park service needs will be minimally impactful. Parking, visitor orientation, toilets, storage and operations buildings are permitted within this zone. This zone covers the entrance, parking and staging area of the park in the vicinity of the former homestead area, as illustrated on Map 5.



View in St. John Point Regional Park







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Metres



0 75 150 225

Projection: UTM ZONE 18N NAD 83

**Map 5**

**St. John Point Regional Park Zoning**

**St. John Point Regional Park**

- St. John Point Regional Park
- Other Park / Protected Area
- Local Road

**Park Zoning**

- Park Services Zone
- Natural Environment Zone
- Environmental Protection Zone

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## 4 Development Concept

The overall development concept for St. John Point is to keep the park largely in a natural state, with minimal and consolidated visitor facilities and services. A low-impact, double-loop trail will provide the primary means for the public to experience the park and together with the Kadonaga Bay beach access, will offer short, medium and longer walking opportunities. Park trails will be routed in ways that protect sensitive natural and cultural values. Two beach access points will be maintained (Kadonaga Bay and the east-facing beach by the north-easterly boundary) and two viewpoints with benches will provide opportunities for the public to sit and enjoy the coastal environment. To limit potential impacts, vehicle and bike parking and other visitor services, such as a park sign, toilet and trailhead information kiosk, will be consolidated by the park entrance and where the former landowner's cabin and other outbuildings existed. Further, vegetation, fencing or rock barriers and/or signage may be used in key areas to clarify designated trail routes and limit use in inappropriate areas. The CRD will provide awareness and education messaging through signage.

The CRD will approach First Nations, particularly the Tsartlip First Nation, regarding the possible use of FÁWEN Trail as the name for the perimeter trail and will approach the Sasaki family regarding the possible use of Sasaki Trail for the beach access trail to Kadonaga Bay.

Park restoration is envisioned to be an ongoing program through the Partners in Parks agreement with the Mayne Island Conservancy Society and the CRD. Key areas within the park will be restored by removing introduced, invasive plants and planting native species. Additional restoration projects may be considered in the future through the agreement (e.g., wetland or meadow restoration). The Mayne Island Conservancy Society may identify specific prescriptions for invasive plant species of concern and use an early detection rapid response approach for management of invasive plants in the park. Opportunities for public involvement in park stewardship may be provided through this restoration work or existing CRD programs.

## 5 Management Actions & Implementation

The St. John Point Management Plan comes into effect upon its approval by the CRD Board and continues to apply until a new or updated plan is approved by the Board.

### 5.1 Proposed Actions & Anticipated Timeframe

The table below identifies and prioritizes the proposed management actions. Implementation of the proposed management actions will be undertaken subject to availability of staff and financial

resources. Generally, it is anticipated that short-term actions will be addressed in the first five years after approval of the management plan (2020-2025). Actions that are spatially-based are illustrated on Map 6.

Proposed Action	Desired Outcome	Anticipated Timeframe
1. Continue the existing Partners in Parks agreement with the Mayne Island Conservancy Society for ongoing park restoration.	Conserve the park’s natural environment and significant species.	Ongoing
2. Provide input to the development of a Mayne Island Fallow Deer Management Strategy, as it relates to the regional park.	Consider implications and application to regional parks.	Short term
3. Remove infrastructure associated with former landowners that is not needed for park operations or visitor needs.	Make space for needed park services.	Short term
<p>4. Seek Agriculture Land Commission and Environment and Climate Change Canada approval to create a park entrance hub in the vicinity of the former landowner’s cabin and outbuildings.</p> <p>Notes: The hub will include a park sign at entrance, 20 vehicle parking area, bicycle rack, a single (pump-out) toilet building, a visitor information kiosk, a trailhead and small existing storage building, if required.</p> <p>The information kiosk should include information about the First Nations history in the islands, Japanese history of the site, the park acquisition partnerships, and the park’s natural values.</p>	Park services are located in an already-disturbed area of the park.	Short term

Proposed Action	Desired Outcome	Anticipated Timeframe
<p>Agricultural Land Commission approval of non-farm development in the ALR is required in advance of development.</p>		
<p>5. Undertake an archaeological assessment of areas of the park where trails and facilities are proposed.</p>	<p>Park infrastructure is not impacting significant cultural heritage features.</p>	<p>Short term</p>
<p>6. Formalize a double-loop hiking trail around the park.</p> <p>Notes: Two designated viewpoints with benches will be developed along the south portion of the trail, one just south of St. John Point/steep-sided bay and one centrally located on the south side trail where the existing informal viewpoint is.</p> <p>The north side trail leg, along a former logging road between the parking area and the east-facing beach, will be a double-track (wider) section allowing for two people to walk side-by-side. The remainder of the trail system will be single-track width (single file). The trail creating the short loop will begin at the central viewpoint on the south side and cross through the forest to the north side trail leg.</p> <p>In formalizing the trail route, particular focus will be given to ensuring it is located for safety and to protect environmental and cultural values. Barriers will be used as needed to manage visitor use in key areas.</p>	<p>Low-impact visitor opportunities that are compatible with park values are available.</p>	<p>Short term</p>
<p>7. Formalize two designated beach accesses (at Kadonaga Bay and at the east-facing bay).</p> <p>Notes: In formalizing the Kadonaga Bay beach access, consideration will be given to if kayak launching can be</p>	<p>Low-impact visitor opportunities that are compatible with the park values are available.</p>	<p>Short term</p>

Proposed Action	Desired Outcome	Anticipated Timeframe
accommodated (e.g., ramp, no railing).		
8. Approach First Nations regarding using ƧÁWEN Trail as the name of the perimeter trail and approach the Sasaki family regarding using Sasaki Trail as the name for the beach access trail to Kadonaga Bay.	Recognize the First Nations and Japanese connections to this land.	Short term
9. Sign the park trails.	Ease of wayfinding within the park.	Short term
10. Request that the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee update the zoning of the property, to park, when it undertakes a comprehensive or administrative zoning bylaw update.	To recognize the regional park land with park zoning.	Short term
11. Consider and promote volunteer opportunities in the park.	A connection is fostered between the public and the park through volunteerism.	As available

## 5.2 Implementation Monitoring

The CRD will plan for and monitor implementation of management actions through annual work planning and five-year service planning processes. If unexpected circumstances, significant issues, or critical new information arise that warrant substantive changes to the management direction, a plan amendment may be considered. Public consultation will be held for substantive amendments and all amendments must be approved by the CRD Board.

Prior to initiating a full management plan update, an evaluation of the current plan will be undertaken that will consider:

- if the strategic direction adequately addressed major issues and management considerations that have occurred.
- if the strategic direction is still relevant.
- to what extent the management actions were implemented and if any outstanding actions are still relevant.
- what changes or additions might be needed to provide appropriate direction for the future.



**CRPD**  
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**Map 6**  
St. John Point Regional Park  
Development Plan

Orthophoto flown 2017

**Legend**

- St. John Point Regional Park
- Other Park / Protected Area
- Local Road
- Park Road
- Double Loop Trail
- Access Trail
- Hiking Trail

**Scale**

0 50 100 150 Metres

Projection: UTM, ZONE 18N, UTM 83

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# Appendix 1: Background Information

## History of the Park

### First Nations

The Southern Gulf Islands are within the traditional territories of several Coast Salish First Nations. The W̱SÁNEĆ people (Saanich), part of the Coast Salish Nation, are also known as saltwater people. Dave Elliott Sr., of the Tsartlip Nation, said in his book *Saltwater People*, that the sea was very important to their way of life. Because there were no rivers in the Tsartlip traditional territory they went to the sea to get salmon. Sandy beaches provided clams and crabs; rocky beaches offered mussels, sea urchins and seaweed. Waterfowl could be found on mud flats and marshy beaches. On the islands, high rocky shores were the best places for camas to grow. Their bulbs were dug for food during the summers. The abundant forests provided many food plants like berries, fern roots, and nettle leaves and medicines were made from plants like Oregon-grape, Indian Consumption plant and yarrow. W̱SÁNEĆ peoples hunted elk, deer and some smaller mammals for the meat and fur hides. His book goes on to say that during April and May men would hunt deer and elk.

Mayne Island, is known as S,ƷƑAK in the SENĆOŦEN language, which means “pass” or “narrows”. St. John Point, known as ƑÁWEN, was an area identified for the coho salmon that were fished in the area and was likely a location for processing fish, sun-dried or smoked, at easily accessible bays. The point was also noted, in the book *Saltwater People*, as a deer drive area. The WJOLĒLP (Tsartlip Nation) has reserve lands on Helen Point at the west end of Active Pass on Mayne Island. They and other W̱SÁNEĆ Nations continue to use the marine and terrestrial resources in the Gulf Islands and continue to have ties to both Mayne Island and the park.

### Contemporary History

Based on research conducted by the Mayne Island Conservancy Society, the history of the park lands is as follows. An initial Crown Grant was provided to James Campbell in 1890. In 1903, Goan Kadonaga purchased Section 1 (which includes the park property) for a farming operation. In 1921, Section 1 was subdivided into Lots A and B by the Kadonaga family. Lot A (103 acres/42 ha) was transferred to the eldest son of the Kadonaga family and Lot B (64 acres/26 ha), the park property, went to a nephew in the Sasaki family. Farming was the main uses of the properties at that time and some remnant orchard trees (apple, pear and cherry) remain on the land today. Selective forest harvesting was carried out for buildings and firewood. In 1942, the properties were forfeited to the federal Secretary of State during the Second World War when Japanese residents were forcibly relocated away from the coast. In the 1950s, the property was acquired by the Eddy family as a recreational property. The family built

a modest cabin and several outbuildings for dining and sleeping. Several water wells were also established on site. In 1974, a small portion of the site (approximately 2 ha) was registered as part of the provincial Agricultural Land Reserve. In the late 1980s, the subsurface rights were forfeited to the Crown. In the early 2000s, some small scale, selective forest harvesting was undertaken by the Eddy family. The main logging road constructed for this purpose remains today as an access road and informal trail along the north side of the property. St. John Point was acquired for regional park purposes in December 2017 through a collaborative process with the Mayne Island Conservancy, the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, Ecological Gifts Program, and the former landowners. Through community fundraising, the Mayne Island Conservancy and American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts contributed 54% of the purchase costs. In addition, the Ecological Gifts Program was used by the landowners to donate part of the property value to assist in protecting this significant natural area.

## Ecological Information

St. John Point Regional Park lies within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, which is characterized by Douglas-fir forests. Ecosystems have been described by B.A. Blackwell and Associates in 2004 and by the Mayne Island Conservancy in 2016 and 2017. From this work, 14 different sub-communities were identified, within five main plant associations. According to the BC Conservation Data Centre (2016) all four of the forested ecological communities are red-listed (i.e., they are endangered or threatened and are considered to be at risk of being lost provincially).

### Douglas-fir - salal (DS)

This is the most abundant ecological community at St. John Point Regional Park. Generally, the canopy is dominated by Douglas-fir with varying components of western red cedar and arbutus. In some areas the forest is young, second growth (50-80 years) while in other areas a mature forest exists with most trees being 100 years old. Common shrub species include salal, dull Oregon-grape, hairy honeysuckle, sword fern and oceanspray.

### Douglas-fir/shore pine - arbutus (DA)

This community is present on very dry bedrock ridges with thin soil. The canopy is composed of varying amounts of arbutus and Douglas-fir with some Garry oak present. In some dry ridgetop areas, arbutus makes up nearly 100% of the canopy. Sparse patches of salal, hairy honeysuckle and dull Oregon-grape are scattered throughout, though heavily browsed by deer. The herbaceous layer is variable with Alaska oniongrass common, as well as miner's lettuce, Pacific sanicle, cleavers, and hairy bittercress, rattlesnake plantain, and small-flowered nemophila. Along the northeast edge, seablush, broad-leaved stonecrop, nodding onion, hooker's onion, western trumpet honeysuckle, mountain sweet cicely,



purple peavine and fawn lily can be found. In some areas, trees are approximately 70 years old while in other areas many trees are more than 250 years old with no sign of logging.

#### Douglas-fir/grand fir - dull Oregon-grape (DG)

This community is found in a relatively pristine section toward the eastern end of the park. The canopy is co-dominant with grand fir and western red cedar with a trace of red alder. Sword fern is most common in the shrub layer.

#### Red cedar/grand fir - three leaved foamflower (RF)

This community is present in small patches within second growth forests on moist swales with deep soil. Grand fir, western red cedar, and Douglas-fir make up the canopy, while the understory is made up of sword fern, stinging nettle and vanilla leaf. Old growth elements are evident although previous logging activities can be seen in old cut stumps. English holly is present in minor amounts. A single wet area in the northeast corner of the park is dominated by slender rush and common rush with a partial canopy of Douglas-fir, western red cedar, and English hawthorn present. The water regime in this wet area has been heavily modified by nearby road and residential construction.

#### Fescue - camas (FC)

This non-forested community is found at the eastern tip of the property. This site is flat to steeply sloping with thin soils over bedrock with open grown Douglas-fir and Garry oak woodland. Seaside juniper (approximately 40 individuals) is scattered throughout. The site contains some of the largest juniper in the Southern Gulf Islands. Native wildflowers are present (great camas, hooker's onion, seablush, fawn lily, chocolate lily, broad-leaved stonecrop, nodding onion, Pacific sanicle, miner's lettuce, and small-leaved montia) but the area is dominated by exotic grasses such as sweet-vernal grass, hedgehog dog-tail, and soft brome.

Surveys by the Mayne Island Conservancy Society at St. John Point resulted in identification of 140 vascular plants, including 93 native species and 47 exotic species. This includes 6 ferns and allies, 104 herbaceous species (grasses and forbs), 21 shrubs, and 9 trees. Eighty bryophyte species, including 74 mosses and 6 liverworts (hepatics) were observed on the property. Only one species of bryophyte is native. The BC Conservation Data Centre has identified Texas toadflax, found in two locations, as red-listed (endangered) and seaside juniper as blue-listed (of conservation concern).

Fifty-six animal species have been observed in the park, including 47 bird species, 6 mammal and 4 invertebrate species. Three of these species (fallow deer and black and brown slugs) are exotic/introduced. Hyper-abundant deer populations, both native and exotic, are causing browse problems inside and outside of the park.

## Appendix 2: Summary of the Engagement Process

The initial engagement process for the St. John Point Regional Park management planning process took place in October-November 2018 and the CRD sought input from First Nations, other government agencies, key stakeholders and the public before the drafting of the management plan was initiated. An additional round of engagement was undertaken in May-June 2019 to seek input and comments on the draft management plan. When the draft management plan was released, a project booth was staffed at the Mayne Island Saturday market and an open house was held at the Mayne Island Community Centre and a survey questionnaire was available online to assist the public in providing comments. All comments received were considered in development this plan. More specifically, the following aspects were included in the overall engagement process.

### First Nations

- Letters sent to the Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum, and Pauquachin First Nations introducing the project and seeking their interest in participating in the project. CRD staff followed up with each Nation and meetings were scheduled with the Tsawout First Nation but were later cancelled by the Nation due to other commitments. No suitable alternate date could be found to hold the meeting. A second round of letters were sent, with copies of the draft management plan, and offers were made to meet to discuss the plan and hear their input. Follow-up was undertaken in person or by phone or email but no input was received through the engagement process.

### Other Government Agencies

- Given that the park land has been certified as environmentally sensitive “ecogift” under the federal Ecological Gifts Program, a letter was sent to Environment and Climate Change Canada inviting participation in the planning process. A phone conversation and a meeting were held with key staff to discuss the Ecological Gift Program requirements and key sections of the draft management plan. Comments were received in both rounds of engagement.
- Given the Agricultural Land Reserve designation on a portion of the park land, discussions were held with key staff of the Agricultural Land Commission prior to the draft plan and a letter and the draft plan was provided for comment in the second round of engagement. Comments were provided in both rounds of engagement.
- An email was sent to Islands Trust staff outlining the project and anticipated planning process and inviting input from the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee. Comments were received in both rounds of engagement.

### Key Stakeholders

- Letters were sent to park neighbours along Channel View Way and a portion of Beachwood Drive in both rounds of engagement. Several neighbours attended the open house held on Mayne Island and comments were received on the draft management plan from some neighbours.
- Staff met with representatives of the Mayne Island Conservancy Society in the first round of engagement to discuss the park and receive comments and members of the Conservancy also provided comments on the draft management plan.
- Staff met with representatives of the Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission in the first round of engagement. They noted their interests relate more to Mt. Parke Regional Park than St. John Point, although they did provide a few comments relating to St. John Point. No comments were received on the draft management plan.

### Public

- Information about the park and the planning process was posted on the CRD website throughout the planning process. An initial input form, seeking information about the park and peoples' interests for its management was online in October and November 2018. Input received assisted in the development of the draft management plan.
- An ad was placed in the *Mayneliner* to notify island residents of the project, the online input forms, and how to get a copy of the draft management plan.
- Posters were put up around the community notifying residents about the project and how they could provide input.
- A sign was installed in the park notifying park users on various stages of the project.
- Social media notices were posted throughout the project.



View over east-facing beach