



Tie Lake Regional Park Management Plan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of the Tie Lake Regional Park Management Plan is to establish objectives and strategies for the long-term management of the park for the next 15 to 20 years. It is intended to provide strategic direction and guidance for the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK), community associations and stewards of the lake accesses.

The primary function of the regional park is to provide access to Tie Lake shoreline for area residents and visitors.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The Tie Lake Regional Park is a 12 hectare park located on the south shore of Tie Lake at the end of Tie Lake Road. The park owned by the RDEK and is zoned for park purposes.

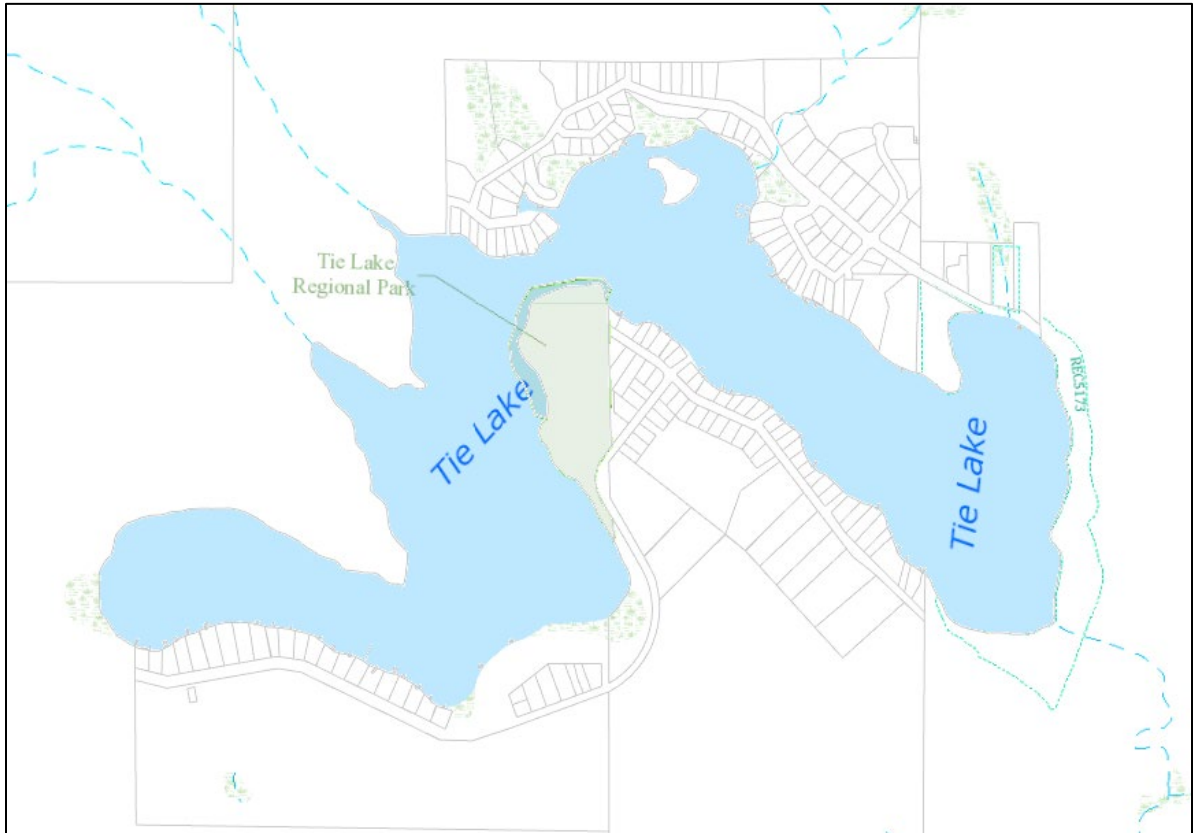


FIGURE 1: LOCATION PLAN

1.2 Establishment of Regional Parks

1.2.1 Background

The provincial government granted the RDEK authority to establish a regional park function by Supplementary Letters Patent in 1966. The RDEK now operates regional parks and trails under the authority of the *Local Government Act*.

In the 1970's, the RDEK began development of its regional parks system after having acquired crown land at Wycliffe and Tie Lake for park facilities. In 1975 a major study of potential regional park sites was undertaken by the RDEK; however, no formal park plan was adopted. In 1980, the Elk Valley Regional Park was included in the regional parks system.

In 1990, Extended Service (Regional Parks) Area Establishment Bylaw No. 933 was adopted. This bylaw converted the regional parks function to an extended service to enable the RDEK to recover annual operating and servicing costs of parks from taxes levied on properties within the Regional District.

In 2002, the RDEK added the Old Coach Greenway (Columbia Valley Regional Trail) to its services to address the absence of a regional park in the Columbia Valley subregion. In 2004, the RDEK adopted Electoral Area Regional Parks and Trails Service Area Establishment Bylaws and the Regional Park Plan to simplify the financing of parks and trails and to administer the expanding parks system.

With the regulatory tools in place to administer an expanding park system, a Regional Parks Plan followed. The focus of the Regional Parks Plan is to provide policies to guide the expansion, administration, and financing of the regional parks system.

In 2019, the Parks and Trails Regulation and Fee Bylaw No. 2833 was adopted and outlines regulations and fees related to the use and management of all parks within the RDEK.

1.2.2 Park Management Plan Planning Process

The RDEK operates regional parks and trails under the authority of the *Local Government Act*.

As per the RDEK Regional Parks Plan, separate management plans may be prepared for regional parks and trails on an as required basis. Management plans should address topics such as land acquisition, site planning, facility development, recreation, user groups, access management, public safety, maintenance, control of invasive plants, threat from wildfire and funding and partnership agreements.

Each management plan will be approved by the General Manager of Operations and adopted by Board resolution.

The Tie Lake Regional Park Management Plan was developed in consideration of the current improvements, usage and management of the park.

1.3 Existing Infrastructure & Current Uses

1.3.1 Existing Infrastructure

Existing recreational infrastructure and amenities include:

- Wheelchair accessible outhouses
- Signage
- Picnic tables
- Picnic shelter
- Fire pits
- Beach area
- Seasonal swim buoys & line
- Walking paths
- Baseball diamond
- Change shelters

Existing non-recreational infrastructure includes a wireless communications tower at the west side of the Park.

1.3.2 Current Uses

The current uses of the Park include, but are not limited to, pedestrian access to lakeshore, walking, picnicking, walking of pet(s), wildlife/bird viewing, swimming, launch of non-motorized watercraft (paddleboard, kayaks, canoes), recreational activities utilizing the baseball diamond and winter lake access.

2 CULTURAL HERITAGE OVERVIEW

The Ktunaxa Nation has had traditional territory in the plan area for more than 10,000 years. Historically, the Ktunaxa people migrated throughout their territory. European settlement in the late 1800s led to the establishment of the current Indian Reserves. The Yaqitʔa·knuqliʔit First Nation and Tobacco Plains Indian Reserve (ʔakinkumʔasnuqʔiʔit) is located south of the Tie Lake area along Highway 93 adjacent to the United States border.

The land around Tie Lake was originally owned by Canadian Pacific Railway as part of their land grant from the Crown. In 1920, land around the lake was purchased for its Timber. Land was then subdivided for recreational purposes beginning in the 1950s and 1960s.

3 RELATIONSHIP TO RDEK GUIDING DOCUMENTS

3.1 Regional Sustainability Strategy

The Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) provides the RDEK with a wide-ranging, long-term planning tool. It equips the region with a sustainability lens to guide and evaluate operations and decision-making. The RSS was adopted by the Board on October 3, 2014.

During the RSS public consultation process, it was evident that the environment is a primary concern for the region's residents. The protection of the natural environment is consistently ranked as one of the most important considerations when decisions are made about development and economic activities. The natural environment is also integral to both the quality of life of individuals for recreational purposes and the provision of economic opportunities for many businesses.

3.2 Regional Parks Plan

The purpose of the Regional Parks Plan is to determine the goals and objectives of the RDEK's regional park and trails system, to set criteria for additions to the regional parks and trail system, to establish policy for the RDEK's administration of park land or cash-in-lieu from a developer at time of subdivision, to initiate standards for the regulation, administration and operation of park and trail facilities and to identify existing park and trail services and their funding mechanism.

3.3 Jaffray, Tie Lake, Rosen Lake Land Use and Floodplain Management Bylaw

The Land Use Bylaw was adopted in July 1999 and is the regulatory tool used by the RDEK to establish development provisions for individual parcels of land. The land use bylaw establishes permitted uses, development density and parcel size, and other development controls such as building setbacks, building height and parking. The Land Use Bylaw also provides policies and guidelines to direct the RDEK in future decision making.

Tie Lake Regional Park is zoned P-1, Public Institutional Zone which supports the use of the land for park purposes.

3.4 Parks and Trails Regulation and Fee Bylaw

Adopted in 2019, the Parks and Trails Regulation and Fee Bylaw outlines regulations and fees related to the use and management of all parks within the RDEK and acts as an enforcement tool if required.

4 ECOSYSTEM & HABITAT

4.1 Invasive Plants

Invasive plants are typically non-native plants that have been introduced to British Columbia without the insect predators and plant pathogens that help keep them in check in their native habitats. For this reason and because of their aggressive growth, these alien plants can be highly destructive, competitive, and difficult to control.

The Ministry of Forests administers the *BC Weed Control Act*. As stated in the *Weed Control Act*, all landowners and occupiers in the Province of BC have a legal responsibility to control provincially and regionally listed invasive plants. The *Weed Control Act* is enforced within the East Kootenay through RDEK Bylaw No. 2711.

The RDEK is responsible for control of invasive plants within the Regional Park.

4.2 Wildlife

The park consist of limited infrastructure and alteration of the natural environment. Infrastructure should not impede wildlife access to adjacent lands or usage of the lake.

4.3 Natural Hazards

4.3.1 Alluvial Fans and Flooding

The Regional Park is not within alluvial fan or flood hazard areas. The water level is dependent on ground water and there is one outflow, Tie Creek. The water level of Tie Lake is managed by the RDEK via the Tie Lake Dam. The dam and weir are located at the southeast end of the lake adjacent to the provincial Tie Lake Recreation Site.

4.3.2 Wildfire

The park is designated as high wildfire hazard areas. The lake accesses are within the Jaffray Fire Protection Service Area.

5 PARK VISION

5.1 Goal

The primary goal of the Regional Park is to provide recreational access to park amenities and to the lake shoreline for all property owners and visitors in the area.

5.2 Key Management Issues

Ensuring the safety of users who utilize the beach for recreational lake access, such as swimming is an on-going management issue. The beach area is located at the narrowest part of the lake and there is potential for conflict between swimmers and boat users on the lake. To mitigate the risk a designated swim area is maintained seasonally through the installation of swim buoys and line, however the boat traffic and narrow nature of the lake result in a higher risk environment. Parking during busy summer weekends is an ongoing issue, which could be mitigated by the installation of signage and/or formalizing parking areas. With the exception of the outhouses, the Park is user maintained with users responsible to apply the 'pack it in, pack it out' philosophy for garbage. Invasive weed management is an ongoing priority for all RDEK facilities.

5.3 Public Safety

The RDEK prides itself on the quality of services provided to the public including the condition of RDEK parks and trails in relation to public safety. To reduce the risk of liability associated with park use by the public, the RDEK has developed a detailed park inspection policy which includes frequency and content of inspections and encompasses all aspects of the park use in relation to public safety.

6 PRIORITY ACTIONS & COST ESTIMATE

The following is a list of potential improvements to the Regional Park. It is a guideline and does not commit the RDEK to any particular course of action or investment in park infrastructure. The proposed timeframe for the improvements may change depending on future funding, human resource capacity and community involvement. The improvements could be funded through allocating funds through the annual budgeting process. Should a community or stewardship group be interested in performing maintenance or enhancement, alternative funding mechanisms could include community fundraising efforts or working with the Electoral Area Director to secure discretionary grant-in-aid funding. The plan will be periodically reviewed by the RDEK. The plan will also be considered during the preparation of five-year financial plans.

Basic operational and maintenance items such as removing danger trees and invasive plant control are not included in the following list as they are considered to be regular maintenance items included in the annual operating budget.

<u>2025-2031</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Bench	\$2,500
Parking Curbs / Signage	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$12,500