



UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

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

Introduction

Parks Canada staff have recognized there is some confusion on what the feasibility assessment is and how components like the *Preliminary Park Concept* fit into the broader establishment process. This information sheet is designed to clarify where we are headed and how all the pieces fit together.

Where are we now?

To determine whether the establishment of national park reserve lands is feasible on Bowen Island there needs to be some idea for people to consider. The *Preliminary Park Concept* has been shaped by the views we've heard during public consultation beginning in August 2010. Parks Canada wants to hear your views on what you like and don't like about the *Preliminary Park Concept*.

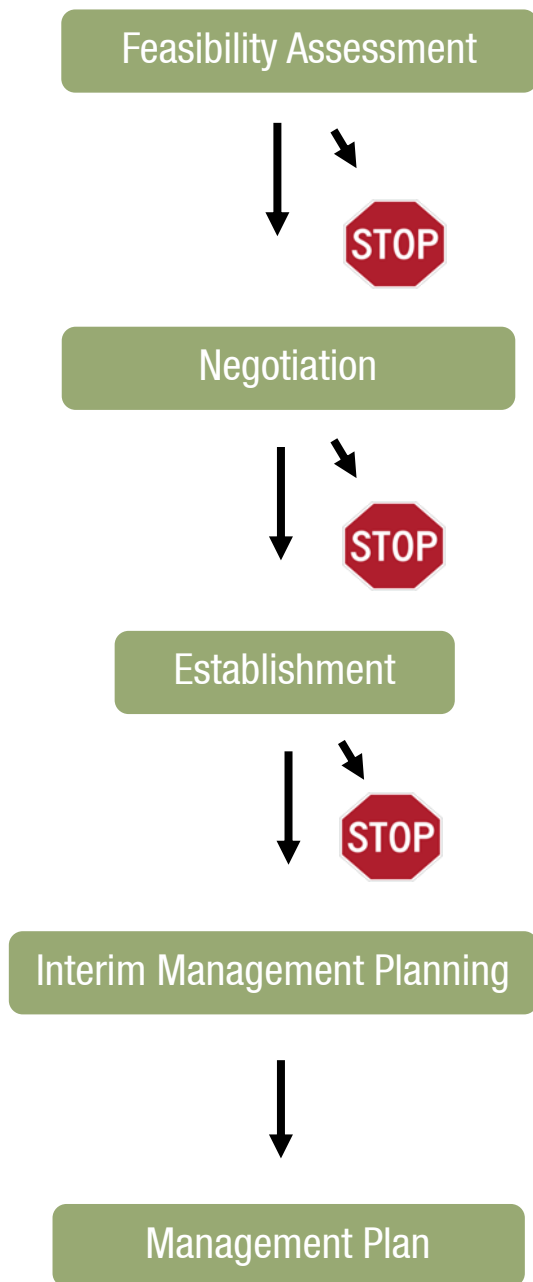
Where are we headed?

From February 26th to March 28th, we will collect your feedback. Further community input will also be gathered through a telephone survey. Once the comments and survey results are collected, Parks Canada will revise the *Preliminary Park Concept* and present it to the community a second time as part of the *Preliminary Feasibility Assessment Report*. At this point, we will collect feedback on the *Preliminary Feasibility Assessment Report*, and confirm what opportunities and challenges remain.

Based on this information, a recommendation will then be made to the governments of Canada and British Columbia on whether the proposal should continue to be considered or not. If the proposal does move ahead, there is no guarantee that national park reserve lands will be established. It would simply mean the proposal is ready to move to the next step in the process: negotiations. The steps of the process are explained in the following pages.



AN OVERVIEW OF HOW NATIONAL PARK RESERVE LANDS ARE CONSIDERED AND CREATED



Feasibility Assessment

A process with extensive consultation to determine whether establishing national park reserve lands on Bowen Island is practical and desirable. The feasibility assessment does not determine whether park reserve lands will be established, but identifies the scope of the park proposal, in addition to the opportunities and challenges associated with the proposal. If this assessment shows that the proposal for national park reserve lands is feasible and there is public and First Nations support for this land use option, the governments may decide to proceed with negotiation of a park agreement. Otherwise, the proposal will go no further.

Negotiation

A process that takes place primarily between the governments of Canada and British Columbia. During negotiations, the governments determine whether the park concept can be implemented, and whether concerns raised during the feasibility assessment can be overcome. If successful, negotiations can result in a formal agreement to establish national park reserve lands on Bowen Island. Otherwise, the proposal will go no further.

Establishment

A decision made by the federal Parliament of Canada on whether the proposed lands should be scheduled under the Canada National Parks Act. As part of this decision, Parliament reviews the feasibility assessment, First Nations and public input, as well as the agreement reached by the governments of Canada and British Columbia. If Parliament chooses not to schedule the lands, the proposal will go no further.

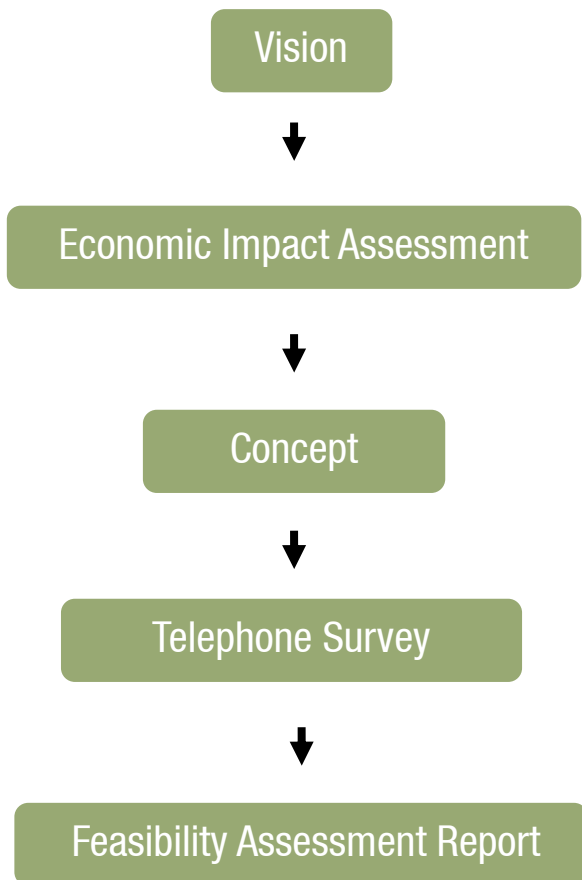
Interim Management Planning

A short-term set of guidelines that provide a basis for managing park reserve lands during the first five years of operation. These interim guidelines are intended to direct management and operations in the short term, acting as “stepping stones” that can lead the park reserve lands toward a long-term vision.

Management Plan

A strategic long-term guide for the future management of national park reserve lands. It is required by legislation and guided by public consultation. Its primary goal is to ensure that there is clearly defined direction for the maintenance, restoration, and appropriate use of national park reserve lands. The long-term management plan is reviewed and, if needed, revised every five years.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS ON BOWEN ISLAND



The Municipality will hold a public vote to determine the level of community support for the proposal after the *Preliminary Feasibility Assessment Report* is made public. The results of the vote will be incorporated into the *Final Feasibility Assessment Report*.

Vision

Developed in cooperation with the community, the vision captures the distinct character of proposed national park reserve lands. This guiding statement gives recognition to the special historic and natural values of those lands, helping to paint a picture of the future of the proposed park reserve lands.

Economic Impact Assessment

An early stage assessment of the economic effects Parks Canada operations and public visitation to the proposed national park reserve lands on Bowen Island could have on the community. The economic impact assessment, conducted by a third party, looks specifically at impacts on businesses, community organizations, existing infrastructure and services.

Concept

A broad overview of what property would be included in the proposed park reserve lands and how these lands could be operated and managed. The concept is a product of community consultation and includes strategies to address key opportunities and concerns. However, it is not a detailed plan since many factors can only be resolved through negotiations with different levels of government and subsequent management planning. The concept is open for public comment twice: first in a preliminary form, and then in a revised form as part of the *Preliminary Feasibility Assessment Report*.

Telephone Survey

A community survey conducted to collect feedback on the vision and concept drafted for the proposed national park reserve lands on Bowen Island. The telephone survey, conducted by a third party, will also help identify what issues the community considers important. This information will be incorporated into the *Preliminary Feasibility Assessment Report*. Bowen Island Municipality and Parks Canada provide content for the development of the questions.

Feasibility Assessment

A report on the feasibility assessment process that summarizes the concept, economic impact assessment, telephone survey, as well as consultations with land management agencies. It also includes recommendations on whether it is feasible to establish national park reserve lands on Bowen Island.

AN EXAMPLE OF HOW A DECISION TAKES SHAPE AS NATIONAL PARK RESERVE LANDS ARE CONSIDERED AND CREATED

Example Issue: Dogs off-leash



Example of Decision Making Process

Feasibility Assessment

During the feasibility assessment, public input demonstrates that there is a need among residents to have off-leash dog areas in the lands currently being considered as part of a national park reserve.

Negotiations

If the feasibility assessment proceeds and negotiations begin, different levels of government negotiate whether off-leash dog areas can be created adjacent to the park reserve lands, causing a slight change to the boundary. Alternatively, negotiations may result in the development of a criteria for establishing off-leash dog areas within national park reserve lands.

Establishment

If negotiations are successful and one of these options are incorporated into a formal agreement, the dog off-leash commitment is affirmed when the agreement is supported by the Parliament of Canada as part of the establishment process.

Interim Management

If national park reserve lands are established, interim management guidelines for the area are developed with public input including a short-term strategy to accommodate the dogs off-leash commitment made in the agreement. This is also a time to determine and collect what information is needed to create a long-term strategy for dogs off-leash.

Management Plan

Through public consultation a long-term strategy is developed, incorporated into the management plan and subsequently implemented for accommodating dogs off-leash as initially committed to in the agreement.

*Information handout developed in February 2011
Aussi disponible en français*

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