

What to do with Boundary Bay Regional Park?

Metro Vancouver is strapped for cash and has sold some of the regional parks to raise money. Your teacher represents the group of investors who bought Boundary Bay Regional Park (BBRP), 89 hectares (89,000 square metres) of land in Delta, B.C. The investors are now considering projects from various groups who each want to use the land in different ways: housing, farming, industry, conservation, public park, etc.

Learning Goals (Gr. 12 PLOs, adapted for this activity)

- identify general features of Boundary Bay Regional Park.
- practice interpreting satellite images.
- identify the various considerations involved in resource management, including societal, economic and environmental consequences.
- apply effective written, oral, and/or graphic communication skills to geography topics

Your task: Your group will be given a project. Your challenge is to research one positive and one negative impact of your project to each of the environment, economy and society. You will present your results in order to convince the investors, i.e., your teacher, to use the former BBRP land to support your project instead of your classmates’.

Task break-down:

1. Become familiar with the park (10-15 mins)
 - Find a satellite image of Boundary Bay Regional Park using Google Maps.
 - Use a separate piece of paper to complete the following:
 - a. Describe what you see around BBRP (e.g., forests, houses, etc.).
 - b. Predict the kinds of habitats found within BBRP (can use Point Roberts on the other side of the U.S. border for comparison).
 - c. Does BBRP contain any aquatic habitats? If yes, please describe.
2. Research your project (30 mins)
 - Use the given online resources for your research. You may use additional online resources if you like. Answer these two questions:
 - A) What makes the BBRP land appropriate for your project?
 - B) What is the most important (in your opinion) positive and negative impact of your project for each of the following:
 - Economy (jobs, costs, etc.)
 - Environment (ecosystem health, water and air quality, etc.)
 - Society (human health, well-being, culture),
 - Find specific and concrete impacts: “*Five endangered bird species will benefit because...*” is more compelling than “*Endangered birds will benefit...*”.
 - Stories about individual people add interest, but are less important than facts and data.
 - Record the sources of your information (organization, book, study, etc.).
3. Presenting your Project (20-25 mins)
 - As a group, briefly summarize (2-3 minutes max) your findings to the class.

Projects:

1) Return the land to the Tsawwassen First nation, who may develop it as part of an initiative to create a more self-sufficient and sustainable local economy.

WEB RESOURCES:

[Tsawwassen Economic Development Corporation overview](#)

[Tsawwassen First Nation traditional land map](#)

2) Convert Boundary Bay Regional Park to a conservation area for migratory birds that is closed to the public (i.e., no longer a park).

WEB RESOURCES:

<http://www.ibacanada.ca/site.jsp?siteID=BC017>

2) Leave Boundary Bay Regional Park as a park with a special focus on preserving the coastline and eelgrass habitats.

WEB RESOURCES:

<http://www.birdsonthebay.ca/eelgrass.html>

<http://www.crd.bc.ca/watersheds/protection/wildlife-plants/eelgrass.htm>

<http://seagrant.mit.edu/eelgrass/eelgrassscience/importance.html>

3) Incorporate Boundary Bay Regional Park into the new Southlands Residential Project as agricultural land for the community farm.

WEB RESOURCES:

<http://imaginesouthlands.ca/southlands-overview>

[CBC news story](#)

5) Convert Boundary Bay Regional Park to agriculture land that is part of the Grassland Set-Aside Stewardship Program.

WEB RESOURCES:

deltafarmland.ca

[European set-aside farmland](#)

Additional Questions/Extension Questions for Discussion

Environmental

2. Will your project change the land at Boundary Bay Park? If yes, how?
3. Will your project have a positive or negative impact on the current biodiversity (types of species and their abundance)? Please explain.
4. What, if any, will be the impact of your project on the seashore and waters of Boundary Bay?

Economic

5. How will your project affect the local economy in the short-term (e.g., create temporary jobs)?
6. How will your project affect the local economy in the long-term (e.g., create permanent jobs)?

Societal (human health and well-being)

7. How will your project benefit the local community?
8. What, if any, are the negative consequences to the local community?
9. Will your project have any impact on the global community? If yes, please explain.

Wrap-up Discussion Questions

10. Is it always necessary to consider the environmental, economic and societal impacts when managing resources like land use? Why or why not?
11. How do you know if you can trust a website as a source of accurate information? What do you look for in a trustworthy website?