

# Buntzen Lake Reservoir

# WELCOME to the Buntzen Lake Reservoir Recreation Area

## History and hydroelectric generation

Buntzen Lake, located just north of loco approximately 30 kilometres (km) from Vancouver, is a BC Hydro reservoir. It is 4.8 km long and covers an area of 182 hectares. Formerly known as Lake Beautiful, the lake is named after the first general manager of B.C. Electric Co., Johannes Buntzen.

In 1903 the Buntzen hydroelectric project was put in service by the Vancouver Power Company to provide the first hydroelectric power to Vancouver. Previously, the city had to depend on a 1,500-kilowatt (kW) steam plant for its power supply. The project involved raising the level of the dam on Coquitlam Lake and excavating a 3.6 km tunnel to carry water from Coquitlam Lake to Buntzen Lake. The tunnel runs under Eagle Mountain, reaching a maximum depth of 1.2 km below the surface, and empties into the north end of Buntzen Lake.

Water from Buntzen Lake flows through penstocks down the steep mountain slope to a power plant located on Indian Arm. Buntzen No. 1 was constructed in 1903 with an initial capacity of 1,500 kW. A second powerhouse, Buntzen No. 2, was completed in 1914 with three pelton wheels delivering a total of 26,700 kW to meet Vancouver's continually increasing demand for secure electricity.

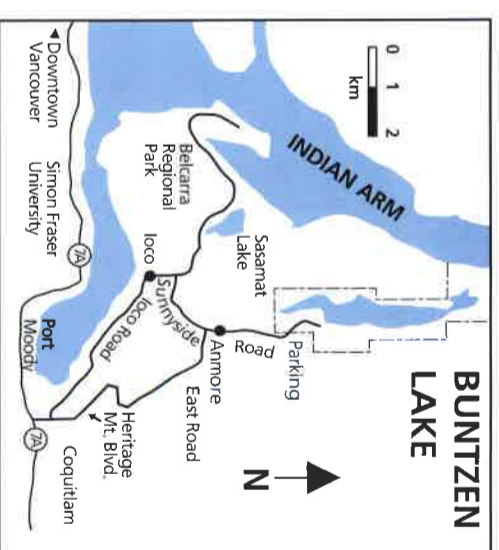
The generating equipment in Buntzen No. 1 was modernized in 1951 to produce 55,000 kW of power. In 1972 one unit at Buntzen No. 2 was shut down. The two remaining units continued in operation until 2001. Operation and monitoring of Buntzen No. 1 is carried out by a remote control facility in Burnaby.

In addition to powering the two hydroelectric plants, water from Buntzen is an essential part of the operation of the Burrard Generating Station. Fresh water from Buntzen is used to produce the steam to drive Burrard's natural gas-powered generators.

## Multiple use

Today BC Hydro's Buntzen Lake Reservoir serves not only as a source of hydroelectric power but also as an attractive recreation area for public enjoyment. To add to your enjoyment of the area, BC Hydro provides the following facilities:

- picnic tables, shelter and grass play areas
- cartop boat and canoe launch areas and dock
- Canoe and kayak rentals are available at the Anmore Store located on Sunnyside Road. Call 604 469-9928 for rentals.
- hiking, mountain biking, equestrian and nature trails
- developed viewpoints and interpretive displays
- parking and equestrian staging area
- designated off-leash areas for dogs
- drinking water
- pay phone



## Access

To get to Buntzen Lake from the Barnett Highway, take the loco exit and follow loco Road to the left. Turn right on First Avenue and continue to Sunnyside Road. Turn right again and continue to the Recreation Area entrance gate. An alternative route from the loco exit is to follow straight through on Heritage Mountain Boulevard (Heritage Mountain Boulevard continues north of Parkside Drive as David Road). Turn left at Forest Park Way. Turn left onto Aspenwood Drive connecting to East Road. Follow East Road to its end. Turn right at Sunnyside Road, and continue to the entrance gate.

Parking lots are located about 2 km past the entrance gate. Note, parking is on a first-come basis only. When parking lots are full the entrance gates will be closed for the day. No re-entry is permitted.

Buses originating in downtown Vancouver connect with buses to Anmore. A bus stop is conveniently located at the turnaround before the recreation area entrance gate. It is a 1.8 km or 15 to 20 minute walk to the South Beach area. On summer weekends, bus service is available into the recreation area. For bus schedules and information phone 604 953-3333.

## Visitors

To assist BC Hydro in maintaining the best possible outdoor recreation areas please observe the following rules:

- Please help keep the area clean by placing refuse in the containers provided.
- Dogs are not permitted in the main beach area. The map (over) shows three areas where your dogs may picnic with you. The trail to the right leads to the dog off-leash area beside Buntzen Creek. Please do not walk your dog through the main beach area.
- All dogs must be on a leash except in the two designated off-leash areas or on the dog off-leash trail. All dogs must be under

- Use of the picnic shelter is on a first-come first-served basis with no formal reservations. The Warden may be contacted to help him that a large group will be using the picnic areas and many groups wanting to use the areas on the same day. An entire group must still arrive before the parking area fill group is allowed one carload into the picnic area for sun one carload back out at the end of the picnic.

- Open fires are not allowed in the recreation area. A few are equipped with metal stands to support barbecues.
- The use of power boats is prohibited on Buntzen Lake. battery-powered electric motors are allowed. While boaters observe all water safety regulations.
- For public safety, firearms are prohibited.
- Overnight camping is prohibited. Vehicles left in the area overnight may be towed away at the owner's expense.
- Trails are closed to all motor vehicles.
- The consumption of liquor is prohibited.
- Vending is prohibited.

## Trails around Buntzen Lake

Whether you are planning a short stroll through a coastal lowland rainforest or a more adventurous hike into the surrounding mountains, the Buntzen Lake area offers a trail to suit you. There are numerous trail loops to follow depending on your time and fitness level. Plan to be back at the parking lot 45 minutes before the recreation area closes.

For more detailed trail information read our brochure **Enjoy the Mountain Trails — Buntzen Lake Reservoir**.

## Mountain bikers

For safety reasons and to limit damage, some trails are mountain bikes. Bicycles are not allowed on the hiking trails. Please obey all posted signs.

## For more information

Call Buntzen Lake warden's office at 604 469-9679

Visit the BC Hydro web site at:  
[www.bchydro.com/recreation](http://www.bchydro.com/recreation)

or write to:  
BC Hydro, Sustainability and Aboriginal Relations  
6911 Southpoint Drive (E16)  
Burnaby, B.C. V3N 4X8

If you do not wish to take this brochure home with you, you may recycle it by putting it in the brochure rack located on our information display board.

# Recreation Area

# BCHydro

