

Regional Parks - Creating our Future
by protecting greenspace, enriching communities

Derby Reach

REGIONAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

May 1999



Greater
Vancouver
Regional
District

Regional Parks Department

DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Derby Reach Regional Park (DRRP) is one of 22 parks managed by the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). Its 297 hectares (734 acres) of Fraser River frontage, peat bog, upland forest and farm meadows are located on the south shore of the Fraser River, approximately four kilometers west of Fort Langley in Langley Township.

The park is rich with history. It contains the site of the First Fort Langley established in 1827 as the Hudson's Bay Company's first permanent settlement within present day coastal B.C. Derby Townsite was built near this site and was home to the Royal Engineers from 1858 to 1859. Kwantlen Natives fished and hunted in the area and pioneers farmed it in the late 1800s.

Derby Reach Regional Park opened in 1976. The park offers visitors excellent fishing, camping, picnicking, walking, cycling and equestrian trails. Since its opening, annual park visitation has steadily increased and totaled over 238,000 in 1997.

The DRRP Management Plan will guide GVRD's management of the park's resources and activities to ensure a balance between environmental protection and safe, enjoyable public use.

1.1 Planning Process

The park's initial Development Plan was completed in 1978. The DRRP Management Plan updates the initial plan and responds to public values, current and future needs over the next 20 years. It integrates GVRD's Major Park Plan and Langley Township's Rural Plan, Heritage Plan, Country Roads and Community Trails studies and the Fort-to-Fort Trail initiative.

The planning process focused on issues to be resolved and opportunities to be enhanced. Public involvement was achieved through surveys of park visitors; meetings with agencies, stakeholders, park partners and a number of focus groups; open houses with questionnaires; and newsletters to summarize the process and provide opportunities for submissions and comments.

Key steps in the planning process were:

1. **Park User Survey** which was conducted during the peak fishing season in September and October, 1992.
2. **Inventory and analysis** of existing background reports and park facilities, supplemented by field reconnaissance.
3. **Mapping** of existing facilities and uses, overlaid with opportunities and constraints for development and uses.
4. **Biophysical description** of the park including lands acquired in 1994 and 1995 at the west end of the park and the peat bog. It was supplemented by a hydrological study of the bog and wetlands, and a summary of the Langley Peat Processing Plant.

5. **Cultural heritage studies** of the Heritage Area and archaeology work carried out during 1995 and 1996.
6. **Discussions and workshops** with other agencies, including Langley Township staff, interest groups and the public to evaluate information and resolve issues.
7. **A workshop, focus group sessions and open houses** helped determine needs, priorities and obtain feedback on various concept designs and use preferences.

The completion of the management planning process was delayed to incorporate the opportunities and additions to the park by the Lower Mainland Nature Legacy Program in 1994; the creation of Brae Island Regional Park in 1996; and the establishment of Derby Reach/Brae Island Park Partnership Association in October 1997.

1.2 Park Management Objectives

The following objectives have guided development of the DRRP Management Plan.

1. To provide a westerly focus for the South Fraser River Area of the Lower Mainland Parks and Outdoor Recreation System (PORS).
2. To provide a greenway link in terms of trails east and west and a regional waterway on the Fraser River to connect and access other regional parks.
3. To emphasize the park's unique river edge, cultural and natural features and its recreational role on the Fraser River.
4. To provide a mix of activities and facilities to attract a wide range of users from across the region, and complement the features and activities provided in nearby recreation and historical areas.
5. To establish a program that fits with the community and the park's natural and cultural resources and provides physical linkages to other recreation open space and historical areas.
6. To preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and plant communities, especially the biodiversity of the wetlands, bog, riparian edge and upland forest.
7. To maintain and protect the park's cultural resources, especially First Nations sites, the site of the First Fort Langley and the Houston Pioneer Farm.
8. To develop opportunities for public education and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage.

To provide access to the river edge and activity areas for children, families, seniors, groups and people with disabilities.
10. To maintain and continue to enhance fishing opportunities with identifiable, safe access to the river edge. To encourage responsible fishing and provide educational information in coordination with agencies responsible for the fish resource.
11. To provide adequate reserve lands to respond to future park and recreation needs for the predicted population growth of the Lower Mainland.
12. To maintain ongoing public involvement in the planning, development and operation of the park with the Derby Reach/Brae Island Park Partnership Association, the Township of Langley, the Kwantlen and Katzie First Nations and other interest groups and agencies.

2.0 ROLE OF THE PARK

The park has many conservation, heritage and recreational roles because of its rich history, diverse habitats, riverside location, and proximity to other recreational areas and community trails.

2.1 Historical Context

Archaeological evidence suggests that there was human activity in the Fraser Valley as early as 9,000 years ago. Coast Salish natives living in the vicinity of Derby Reach, in the early part of the 19th century were the Katzie and Kwantlen bands, (groups of the Sto'lo river people having their own family connections and language). A Katzie village was located in the area now occupied by the Katzie Indian Reserve, downstream from Derby Reach (Charles Torrence, 1978). A Kwantlen village midden was found at the east end of the park (Quirolo, 1995) and some Katzie lived across the river at Kanaka Creek. These early inhabitants used the Fraser River as a source of food, a means of travel, and as a communication network.

In 1808, Simon Fraser led an expedition down the river that was to bear his name. He became the first known European to visit Derby Reach. In 1824, a Hudson's Bay Company expedition led by James McMillan visited the Derby Reach area and returned in the summer of 1827 to build the First Fort Langley at Derby Reach. The fort was the first Euro-American settlement along the mainland coast of British Columbia. A historical marker commemorating the fort site is located on the Derby Bluff. The early inhabitants of the fort trapped furs, traded fish for export, and established farms on Langley prairie. In 1839, the fort at Derby Reach was abandoned in favor of a new location upstream where the town of Fort Langley is today.

In 1858, because of the rapid influx of people during the Fraser River Gold

Rush, British Columbia officially became a Crown Colony. James Douglas, the first governor, saw the potential for the Derby site to become the new capital and had the townsite surveyed. Several buildings including a church were built at Derby during this period. However, several months later New Westminster was chosen to be the capital because of its more favorable location and the Derby Townsite was abandoned.

The pioneer period in Langley lasted about 100 years until the 1920s. William Edge bought his farm near Edgewater Bar in 1875 and his family lived there for three generations. During the past 100 years the erosive power of the Fraser River has destroyed several of the original farm buildings. James Houston, who is credited with the discovery of gold along the Thompson River that led to the gold rush of 1858, established his farm in 1890 at the Derby Townsite. In

1925, his descendants donated the ground for the cairn that commemorates the First Fort Langley.

As part of the Lower Mainland Parks Plan, the Greater Vancouver Regional District began acquiring land for the proposed Derby Reach Regional Park in 1972. The park opened in 1976.

2.2 Regional Perspective

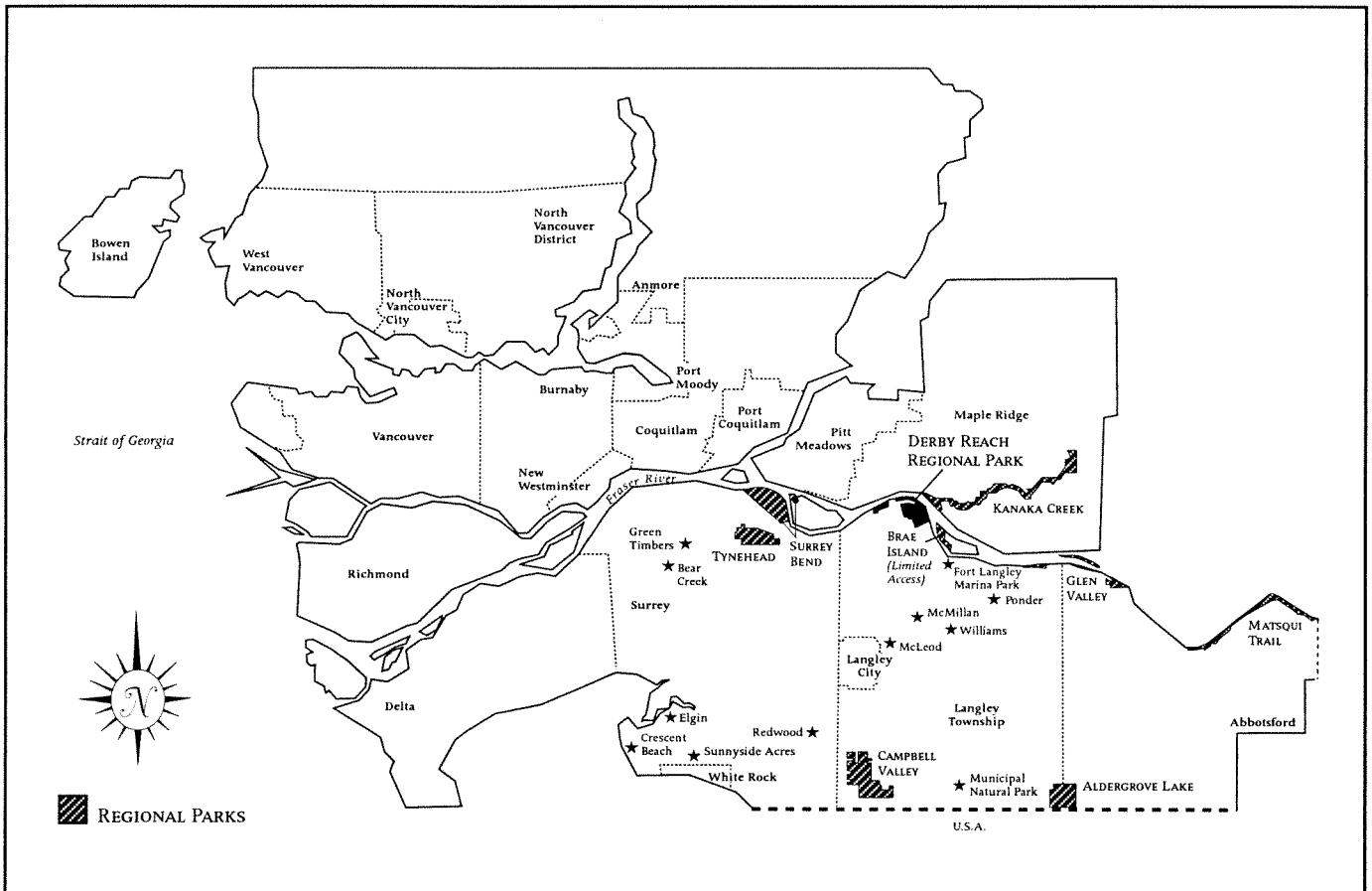
Derby Reach Regional Park is located on the south shore of the Fraser River, four kilometres downstream from Fort Langley in Langley Township (Figure 1). The Fraser River's south shore, from Surrey Bend to Matsqui Trail and Sumas Mountain, has been identified as a regionally important greenway corridor to link the Fraser recreation opportunities with the urban core of Metro Vancouver, and via the Albion Ferry, the areas of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

SITE OF FIRST FORT LANGLEY



FIGURE 1

**Location of Derby Reach Regional Park
and Regional and Municipal Parks in Langley, Surrey and Abbotsford**



Lower Mainland residents long ago discovered the prime river shorelines in the Langley area. Heavy use is already experienced in many near-urban park areas. The population of Langley City and District in 1997 was over 100,000. Population projections indicate a year 2001 population of nearly 113,000 along with a 2.3 million population predicted for the Lower Mainland. The number of park users is increasing, and demand for additional recreation opportunities and facilities is growing.

The 1993 Outdoor Recreation User Survey (Praxis, 1993) indicated a need for more wetland preservation,

freshwater access, greenways, recreation corridors, and rural and urban forest lands. Habitat protection along with complimentary recreation improvements proposed for Derby Reach will help fill these needs.

2.3 Role in the Regional Parks' System

Derby Reach is classified as a "Stream and River Corridor Park," and will continue to have a strong focus on the Fraser River. Land acquired in 1994 and 1995 adds variety, including an important natural and pastoral

component, to the existing park. Expanding and connecting existing green spaces with recreation and wildlife corridors will also complement the area's recreational features, including its 3.7 km of prime Fraser River shoreline. The area's historic character enriches both its natural and recreational features.

The recreation role of Derby Reach is defined by the PORS Plan as "the western anchor of an outdoor recreation system of nodes connected by trails along the south shore of the Fraser River" (GVRD, 1993). This proposed system includes the Fort Langley National Historic Site and

Glen Valley, Matsqui Trail and Sumas Mountain regional parks. Derby Reach will feature in GVRD's Greenway program not only as an east west link but also as a Regional Waterway on the Fraser River.

The heritage role of Derby Reach is to highlight the site of First Fort Langley, Derby Townsite and Houston Pioneer Farm. It will act as a venue for heritage programs and a trailhead for the Fort-to-Fort Trail connecting to Fort Langley National Historic Site.

Derby Reach, Fort Langley, and the whole of the South Fraser River Outdoor Recreation Area, are easily accessible from connectors off the Trans Canada Highway and Albion Ferry. It is an important open space for passive recreation and river edge activities for the growing populations of Surrey, Langley Township, Langley City, Maple Ridge and Abbotsford.

2.4 Nearby Recreation Areas

There are eight regional parks in the municipalities of Surrey, Langley and Abbotsford (see Figure 1). These include Derby Reach, Brae Island and Campbell Valley in Langley; Aldergrove Lake and Glen Valley on the Langley/Abbotsford border; Matsqui Trail in Abbotsford; Surrey Bend (with a component on Barnston Island) and Tynehead in Surrey. These regional parks provide passive recreation, such as picnicking, nature study and trail walks in a natural setting. Each regional park offers a unique activity or attraction. Tynehead has a fish hatchery; Campbell Valley is a "Nature Park" with an equestrian component; Aldergrove Lake has a 0.2 hectare (half acre) man-made lake which is very inviting on hot summer days; and Matsqui Trail and Glen Valley will complement Derby Reach with fishing, picnicking and trail experiences on the

Fraser River. Brae Island is a park reserve with about one third leased for the Fort Campground. Kanaka Creek Regional Park, across the river in Maple Ridge, is easily accessible from Fort Langley via the Albion Ferry. The mouth of Kanaka Creek is opposite Derby Reach and can be seen from the Derby bluffs.

Large municipal parks in Langley Township include Ponder, Williams, McMillan, McLeod, Fort Langley Marina Park and the Municipal Natural Park. City of Surrey has Bear Creek Park, Redwood Park, Green Timbers, Sunnyside Acres, Elgin and Crescent Beach. City of Abbotsford's Mill Lake is also a very natural type of municipal park.

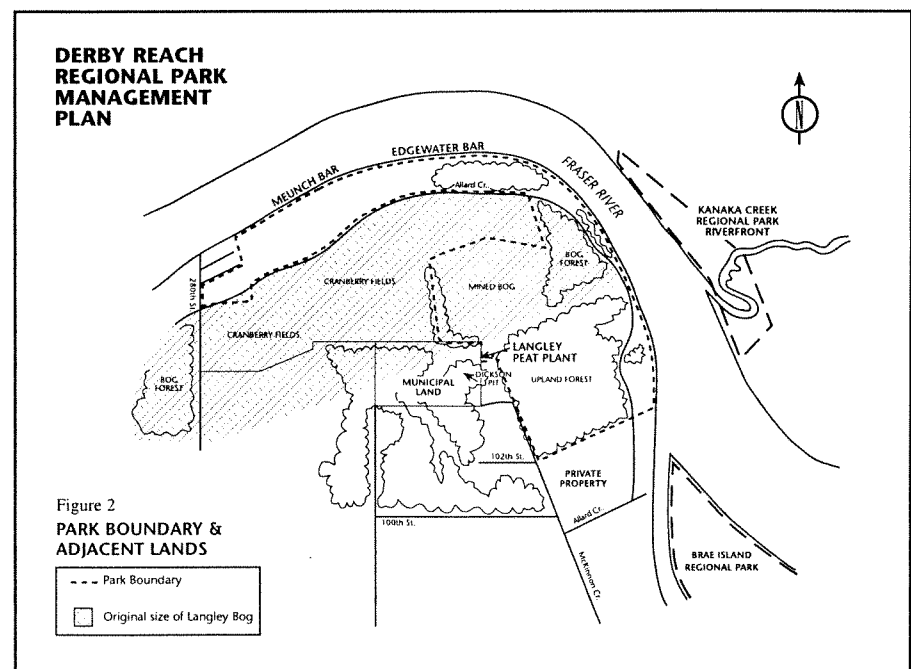
Fraser River traffic includes mostly commercial boats for fishing, barging and log booming, but increasingly pleasure boats are used to sightsee, fish, and water ski. There is a boat launch at Riverside Park in Fort Langley on Bedford Channel and two launch ramps, on the north shore of the Fraser River; one under the Port Mann Bridge and on in Mission.

On the south side of Allard Crescent is the Langley Bog (Figure 2). Most of

the bog has been developed into cranberry fields. The eastern end of the bog was mined for peat from 1958 to 1980 with the peat processing plant being on the edge of the bog at the end of McKinnon Crescent. Small bog remnants, with sphagnum moss, Labrador tea and shore pines still remain.

In March 1995 under the Lower Mainland Nature Legacy Program (LMNLP) a provincial, municipal and GVRD initiative, the mined bog area (89 hectares) and the remnants of the peat plant were acquired for the park. The LMNLP also acquired two properties west of Muench Bar that stretch from Allard Crescent to the Fraser River, and added another 25 hectares to the park.

There are two waterfront private properties west of Muench Bar remaining within the 'working' park boundary. Also, Langley Township owns land (Dickson Pit) just south of the bog and west of the peat plant. Discussions with Langley Township are required to determine the recreation and conservation potential of these lands and whether it would be appropriate to add them to the park.



2.5 Zoning

The first parkland purchased (Edgewater Bar to Edge Farm) is zoned P1 Institutional. This allows for typical park development. The land at the south east end of the park is Rural Zone RU-1 and the remainder of the park including the bog is Rural Floodplain Zone RU-5. Many building restrictions apply to the Floodplain Zone.

All of the park except the bog area is in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Regional Parks are an excepted use within the ALC and development is subject to the Agricultural Land Commission approvals.

2.6 Langley's Community Trails Network

The Township of Langley completed a community Trail Plan in 1994, which proposes a multi-use trail network throughout the municipality, including trail linkages to Derby Reach. The Fort-to-Fort Trail, identified a trail corridor for pedestrians and cyclists between the First Fort Langley site in Derby Reach and the Fort Langley National Historic Site.

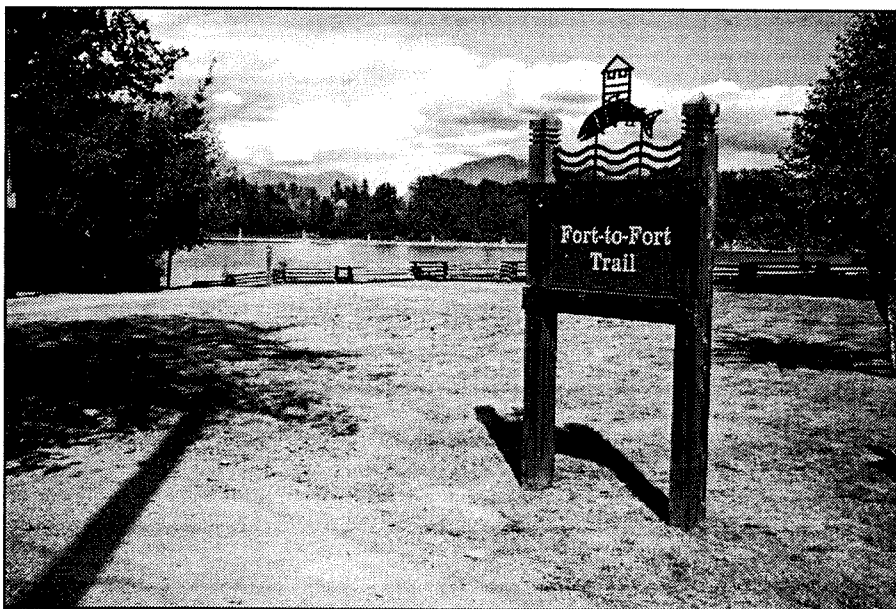
The Trans-Canada Trail, a national trail initiative, proposes a multi-use trail between Canada's coasts. Much of the proposed trail alignment in Langley Township is east of Fort Langley through Glen Valley and Matsqui Trail regional parks. Direct connections to Derby Reach via the Fort-to-Fort Trail will see the park receive related use.

2.7 Park Boundary and Land Status

A 'working' park boundary was established for Derby Reach in 1978. The boundary included the river frontage downstream from the park entrance to 208th Street. Portions of five parcels of land between Allard Crescent and the Fraser River were included in this 'working' boundary. GVRD acquired the entire middle parcel (Muench Bar) in 1993 (Figure 2).

In October 1994 GVRD acquired a 5.4 hectare (13.35 acre) parcel of land at the northeast corner of Allard Crescent and 208th Street. This land provides a natural forested park entrance at the west end of Allard Crescent and the opportunity to construct a trail to 208th Street. The parcel contains typical riparian forest, a significant mature cottonwood stand, and a number of large sitka spruce.

FORT-TO-FORT TRAILHEAD



3.0 NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The park is rich in both natural and cultural history and several research projects have been completed and added significantly to our understanding of these resources. Some of the research that has been completed to date include erosion, hydrogeological and wildlife enhancement studies; archaeological work in 1983 and 1995; biophysical descriptions of the park in 1994 and 1995; and cultural research for the Heritage Area and the Langley Peat Plant in 1995. The following sections summarize the highlights of these studies and indicate the diversity and wealth of heritage found in this park!

3.1 River Edge

Derby Reach has 3.7 km of river edge. The soils are typical Fraser floodplain deposits and are very susceptible to erosion. The natural river dynamics are eroding much of the river edge. Rates of erosion vary, but estimates at the First Fort Langley site indicate that 0.3 to 0.5 metre width of shoreline is lost each year.

The shoreline at Edgewater Bar and Edge Farm have been protected with engineered erosion control measures. The erosion work also protects the Edge Barn. This heritage structure has been stabilized and is named for the family who settled in Derby in the 1870s. Downstream from these protected areas, the shoreline is accreting from river deposition.

The Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) has classified the fish habitat along the Derby shoreline as codes red and yellow. Red is prime habitat and is mainly associated with well-treed shorelines. Yellow coded shoreline is adjacent to open fields, originally cleared for farming purposes or maintained for fishing and picnic sites.

Approximately 50% of the shoreline is well-treed (Figure 3) with typical riparian species of cottonwood, red alder, some big leaf maple, and willows. A typical riparian shrub layer of salmonberry, snowberry and red osier dogwood also exists. The vegetated shoreline helps slow the erosion process.

The riparian forest between Edgewater Bar and Allard Crescent contains outstanding examples of very large (two metre diameter) black cottonwood trees. These trees were assessed by a professional forester, who recommended that the trees be registered with the B.C. Forest Registry as 'monument trees' and be featured in the park's interpretive program.

3.2 Floodplain

With the exception of the upland in the southeast, the rest of the park and adjacent cranberry fields are in the 200-year floodplain. The 1894 flood, the highest on record, flooded this area as did the disastrous flood of 1948. Lesser floods occurred in 1950, 1964 and 1972 and submerged portions of Allard Crescent. Edgewater Bar has been closed several times during freshet in June and early July due to high river levels.

UPLAND FOREST



DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK

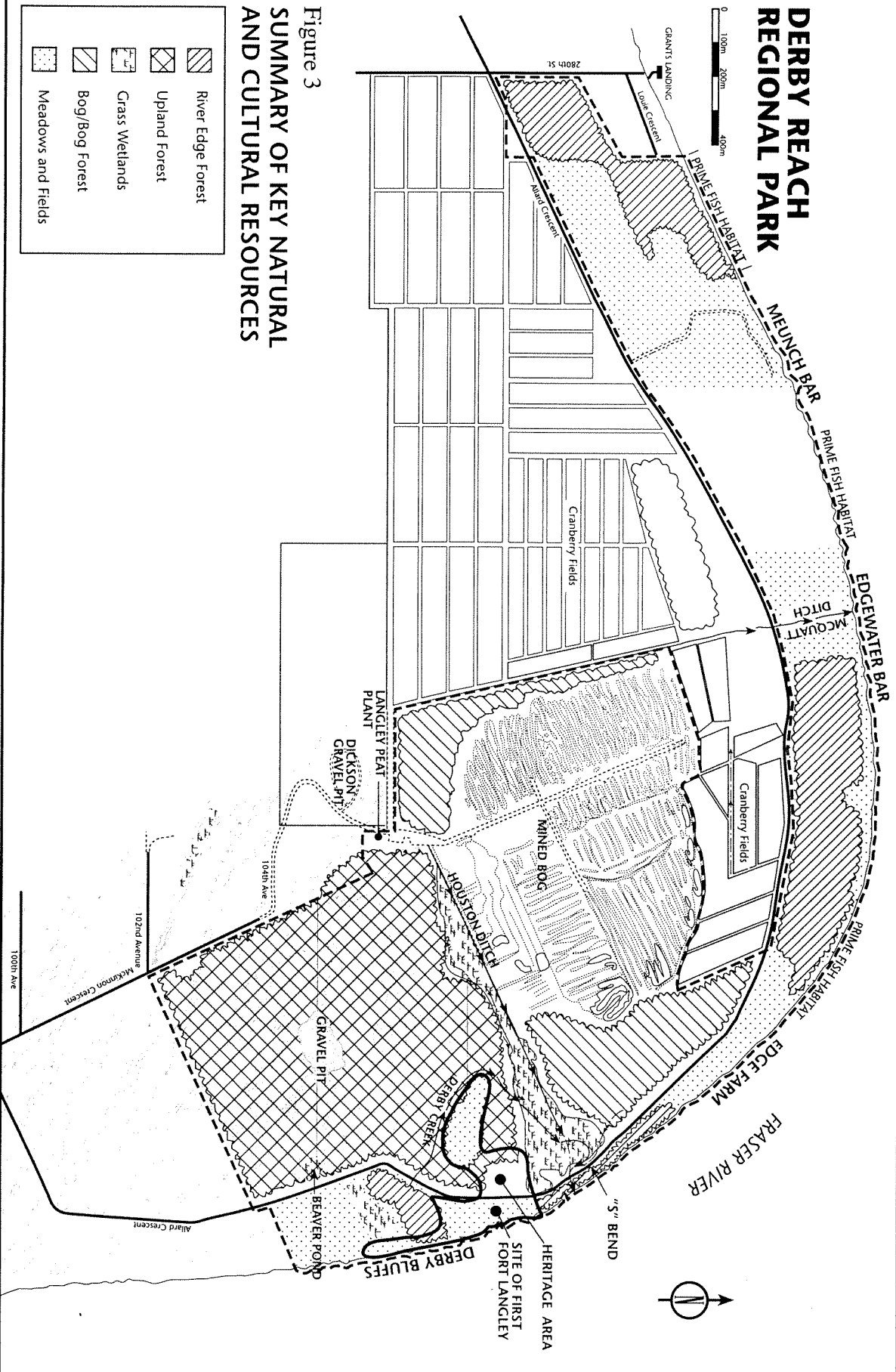


Figure 3
SUMMARY OF KEY NATURAL
AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

3.3 Upland Forest

The southeastern portion of the park contains an upland knoll which rises approximately 30 metres above the surrounding floodplain. This knoll is comprised of Abbotsford outwash deposited during glacial periods. A small gravel pit in the centre of the knoll is the only cleared area in this otherwise forested upland. Most of the upland forest is mature to overmature forest of deciduous and coniferous mix characterized by western hemlock, Douglas-fir, western red cedar, red alder and big leaf maple. There are pockets of maturing climax coniferous forest. Western hemlock and western red cedar are the dominant species with some large Douglas-fir, grand fir and sitka spruce. There is a large variety of plants found in the shrub and herb layers.

A stream on the northeast side of the knoll (named Derby Creek for location purposes) flows from a beaver pond to the Houston Ditch. There is also a small stream on the southwest side of the knoll flowing to the upper end of the Houston Ditch. The Houston Ditch forms the boundary between the upland and the Langley Bog. There is also a small stream which partially parallels the ditch and joins Derby

Creek. Both the Houston Ditch and Derby Creek flow through a reed canary grass wetland. They then join and flow under Allard Crescent and out into the Fraser River.

3.4 Ponds

There are three major ponds in the park. These are located east and north of the upland knoll. The Beaver Pond (so named because of the beaver dam which helps keep a high water level in this wetland) is located on the west side of Allard Crescent approximately 300 metres from the park's south boundary. This is a productive habitat providing for a multitude of plant and animal species.

A seasonal stream flows from the beaver pond under Allard Crescent to a low open field. In 1996, Ducks Unlimited constructed a small dam at the outflow, this has created a productive year-round pond. The third pond-like area is the large reed canary grass meadow west of Allard Crescent. Both the Houston Ditch and Derby Creek flow through the wetland meadow and out to the Fraser River. The tidal fluctuations of the Fraser River influence the water levels in the

ditch and creek and thus the wetland meadow. This is further influenced by beaver dams in this area. A 1994 hydrological study of the bog and wetlands provides guidelines for enhancing these wetlands and in 1996 Ducks Unlimited constructed a fixed wier just upstream from the confluence with the Fraser River. This structure helps maintain a higher summer water level in the bog.

3.5 Bog

The Langley Bog once covered an area of over 525 hectares (1300 acres). Approximately 75% of the bog has been converted into cranberry fields. Approximately 10% remains as undisturbed bog forest and the remaining 15% is harvested bog mined for peat moss between 1958 and 1980. The park contains approximately 80 hectares (200 acres) of harvested bog, approximately 28 hectares (70 acres) of bog forest, and two bog meadows. Bog meadows are very moist, peat dominated communities located at transition zones. One bog meadow is on the western edge of the pine forest bog and is in a successional stage that indicates it will become pine forest. The other is located on the edge of the upland zone. This area seems to collect more moisture from run-off from the upland and has a high diversity of shrub species. The southern and wettest edge of this bog meadow has a higher concentration of hardhack and fewer sphagnum hummocks, probably as a result of richer mineral and nutrient elements in the water flowing from the gravelly upland slope.

The pine forest bog is dominated by shore pine with an understorey of Labrador tea as the dominant woody species. Bracken fern, bog cranberry and skunk cabbage are also found. Spagnum moss covers the peat layer which in places is over five metres deep.

BEAVER POND



The mined bog area has a distinctive pattern of channels and ridges. The channels are where the peat was extracted. Deep extraction has left open water. In areas of shallow extraction the surface of the channels have a thin layer of vegetation, predominantly beak rush, over unconsolidated heath peat and a high water table, making the channels unsafe to walk on.

The ridges are areas of higher elevations that consist of both typical bog vegetation left untouched during peat extraction and, in places, stumps, root-masses, and other debris. windrowed out of the extraction areas. Some of the channel and ridge patterns are oriented north-south and in other mined areas are east-west.

Both the "Derby Reach Biophysical Report Addendum 1995" and the "Langley Peat Processing Plant" document the characteristics of the bog; provide an overview of the processes that shaped the harvested bog landscape; explain the significance of the peat industry; and anticipate the potential for bog recovery.

Bogs are fragile ecosystems. Water levels and chemistry (low nutrients, low pH) are critical to their sustainability. Development and access should be limited, but the interpretive, educational and research values of the Derby Reach bog are enormous.

3.6 Meadows and Fields

Homesteading and farming have created a number of meadows and fields in the park. These provide visual contrast to the forest as well as opportunities for recreational use of the open space. The field reflects the pastoral nature of the Fraser Valley and provide vistas of Golden Ears, Mount Baker and expanses of the Fraser Valley.

The largest fields are west of Edgewater Bar. The park entrance fields are regularly mowed to accommodate day-use activities. Other fields are hayed as is the meadow at Edge Farm.

The large open fields adjacent to the park's southern boundary are rented for horse pasture and the Houston fields, east of Allard Crescent and behind Houston House, are cut occasionally.

The fields have a variety of plants and the progression from grasses, to shrubs, to forest edge, provides excellent habitat for songbirds, raptors and small mammals. A wildlife habitat study completed in conjunction with Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) in 1995 prescribes enhancement work that could be undertaken to make the fields more productive for raptors.

3.7 Wildlife

The diversity of habitat types within the park provide ideal conditions for a large variety of wildlife. The biophysical analyses document the confirmed occurrence of 16 species of mammals and 72 species of birds and the possible occurrence of an additional 30 species of mammals and 112 species of birds.

Of the larger mammals, muskrat and beaver can be seen in the Houston Ditch and Derby Creek. Mule deer and coyote are sometimes sighted but tend to seek shelter in the upland forest and bog. Evidence of black bear in the area has not been recorded since 1960. Stellar's sea lion and harbor seals can be seen in the Fraser River as they follow seasonal fish runs. Waterfowl use the park year-round. The diverse wetlands provide breeding, feeding and nesting habitat for many species. The Canada goose population is becoming a concern to CWS and GVRD is discussing with CWS the possibility of a goose management program.

A Great Blue Heron colony existed in the large cottonwood trees between Edgewater Bar and Edge Farm. Unfortunately, the colony abandoned this nest site in 1991. Herons can be observed feeding along drainage ditches, Derby Creek and the Fraser River.

Raptor species are abundant in the park. Bald Eagles and Osprey have been observed along the Fraser River shoreline. Red-tailed Hawks have nested in two known locations in the upland forest and Northern Harrier

COYOTES IN BOG AREA



PHOTO CREDIT: LARRY MENEELY

have been observed and are believed to nest in the marsh areas.

Evidence of Long-eared and Great Horned Owls have been found in the bog forest and Barn Owls have been recorded and may nest in tree cavities or one of the many barns in the park.

Greater Sandhill Cranes have been seen in the bog and both historical and recent nest sites have been recorded in the harvested area. They likely use the ponded areas as initial feeding sites for newly fledged young.

The park's diverse habitats will become increasingly important to wildlife as urbanization and agriculture continue to expand.

3.8 Fish

Edgewater Bar is one of the best places for bar fishing on the Fraser River. Silt accumulates on the bend in this reach of river forming an underwater island. Fish swim in the deeper water between the reach and the shore, which brings them within casting distance from the shoreline.

Over a dozen species of sea-run fish have been documented in the lower Fraser River. Coho, chum, chinook, sockeye and pink salmon as well as cutthroat and rainbow trout and sturgeon inhabit the waters off Derby Reach. Forty freshwater species have also been documented in the lower Fraser River.

Spring runs of chinook and sockeye begin in May with late runs continuing until October and November respectively. August is the start of the pink and coho runs with the pink salmon run tapering off in October (odd calendar years only), while the coho continue to run until late January (Douglas, 1994). An estimated four million adult salmon annually enter the Fraser River to spawn and an out

migration of an estimated 800 million juvenile salmon occurs between February and October.

Coho and chinook juveniles rear in Derby Creek. There is suitable spawning habitat in Derby Creek for coho and cutthroat trout, but the beaver dams pose a problem for returning fish. Studies to enhance the wetlands and alleviate this problem have been completed. The "fixed wier" replaced a large beaver dam and a fish ladder was constructed as part of the project.

In 1997 fishing on the Fraser River was limited and in July 1998 fishing was closed to help preserve the coho run. Coho may be placed on the endangered species list.

3.9 Historic Derby

The Hudson's Bay Company built the First Fort Langley in 1827 on the Derby Bluff. The fort was relocated to its present site at Fort Langley in 1839.

Derby Townsite sprang-up around the site of the First Fort Langley and was the first permanent Euro-American settlement in present-day Coastal B.C. In 1858, discoveries of gold in the Fraser River caused a sudden influx of American miners. This led to the proclamation of British Columbia as a British Colony on November 19, 1858.

A townsite was surveyed near the site of the First Fort Langley and was named Derby after Britain's Prime Minister of the time. The colony's first governor, James Douglas, intended to establish Derby Townsite as British Columbia's first Capital and Port of Entry.

Lots were sold and several public buildings constructed including barracks for the Royal Engineers who occupied the site from 1858 to 1859. A courthouse, jail, church and parsonage

were also constructed. The church, known as St. John the Divine, remained at the site until 1882 when it was floated across the Fraser River to Maple Ridge, where it is still in use today.

Derby Townsite was the focus of many significant events and activities in British Columbia's history, but after New Westminster was declared the colony's first capital, Derby's significance began to wane.

James Houston, a prominent pioneer and farmer built his homestead on the Derby site in 1909. Today the Houston House has been restored and a stone cairn marks the townsite and the site of the First Fort Langley.

In 1983, an archaeological survey and test excavations were conducted on the site. Much of the study confirmed the evidence as mapped in 1891 on the "Plan for the Town of Langley" (Langemann et. al., 1984). It showed that the barracks had been built on the site of the original fort. This disturbance, plus the on-going shoreline erosion, have eliminated much of the original location of the fort. The test excavations revealed enough evidence to suggest there had been a long and continuous occupation of the Derby Townsite.

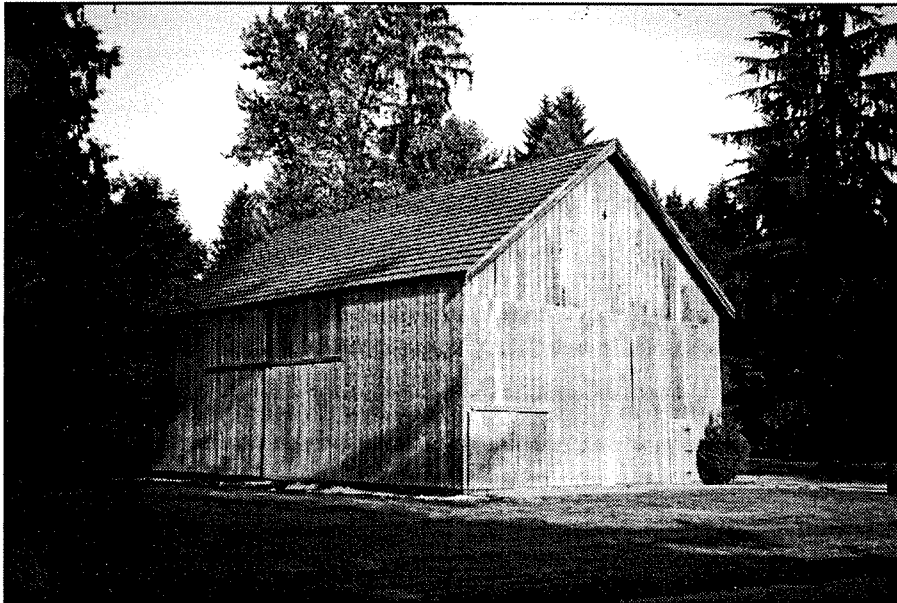
Further archaeological investigations were conducted between December 1995 and March 1996 to ensure proposed development at the Heritage Area would not negatively impact cultural resources. No evidence of the exact fort location was found. A shell midden was found on the cliff edge of Derby Bluff (above the horse pasture) and is suspected to be on the location of a pre-1782 Sto':lo village. River bank erosion of Derby Bluff has resulted in the loss of this village site.

The "Derby Reach Cultural Heritage Overview" was completed in 1996 and will help shape the Derby Reach Heritage Area Interpretive Plan.

HOUSTON HOUSE



KARR MERCER BARN



4.0 EXISTING PARK USES AND FACILITIES

Edgewater Bar and the Fraser River continue to be the main lures that attract visitors to the park, especially in the fall when fishing is at its best. However, year-round use is increasing as more people discover the park. In 1997, Derby Reach Regional Park experienced over 238,000 visits.

4.1 Edgewater Bar

Edgewater Bar is the focal point of the park (Figure 4). Most park visitors come to Edgewater Bar, but do not explore much beyond this shoreline. Most come to fish, picnic, relax and enjoy the sights and sounds along the river.

Edgewater Bar has two main activity areas; a day-use area and an overnight fishing and camping area. The day-use area has parking for 90 cars, a large grass field and picnic shelter constructed by the Marpole Richmond Sportsman's Association, (MRSA) toilets, picnic tables, fire pits and easy access to 400 metres of shoreline. The shelter is often booked for group picnics and the Annual Paraplegic Fishing Derby, hosted by MRSA for the last 40 years.

At the overnight fishing and camping area, there are 38 campsites along 600 metres of riverfront. Each site has a gravel pad, picnic table and fire ring. Firewood can be purchased and toilets and potable water taps are strategically located along the entire length of the camping area.

Near the mid-point of the camping area, there is a second picnic shelter with a 30 car parking lot for fishing derbies and overflow parking from campsites. The camping area is open to walk-in day-users year round. From May until November, vehicle access is restricted to shelter users, campers and day-users who wish to pay the camping fee, Thursdays through Sunday and holiday Mondays.

Conflicts for space and access to the shoreline happen between campers and day-users, but have been reduced by introducing the registration entry booth in 1991. The day-use area was extended downstream in 1993 to provide more river access.

A pedestrian trail (Edge Trail) parallels the camping area in the riparian forest south of the campground road. This trail has many interpretive opportunities and could be extended to the Edge Farm along an access route cleared for water line construction.

Edge Farm is presently rented, as are other open fields along the river edge (see section 4.5). Log boom storage is another rental activity, and log booms also help reduce shoreline erosion by breaking wave action caused by boats. Approximately 1.6 kilometres of shoreline is leased for boom storage and another 500 metres could be leased to help control erosion. However, log booms are not always in place and therefore are not permanent erosion control fixtures.

The park maintenance building and service yard are located in the riparian forest just east of the park entrance road. This is further discussed under section 4.7.

4.2 Heritage Area

The Heritage Area represents four distinct but interrelated components of history at Derby Reach. These include Sto'lo Villages, the First Fort Langley, Derby Townsite and the Houston Pioneer Farm.

The site of the First Fort Langley is marked by a stone cairn and bronze plaque even though "no records have been located to date to indicate that the cairn has received federal, provincial or municipal heritage designation" (Will and Chartrand, 1995). A flag pole stands behind the cairn. The Derby Townsite building locations have not been determined.

The restored Houston House, built in 1909, is on the opposite side of Allard Crescent from the cairn and is presently leased. The milk shed, behind Houston House has also been restored. Nearby is an old smoke house which possibly could be restored.

In 1990, the Karr/Mercer Barn was relocated from Rosedale, and reconstructed behind the Houston House on the approximate site of the old Houston milk barn. This structure was originally built in 1876 and is an excellent example of mortise and tenon construction. It complements the Houston Pioneer Farm and provides an excellent venue for public education and interpretive programs. Both the Houston House and the Karr/Mercer Barn are designated municipal heritage buildings.

Three residential buildings were moved into the Heritage Area in the 1950s. Two are rented and the third

DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK

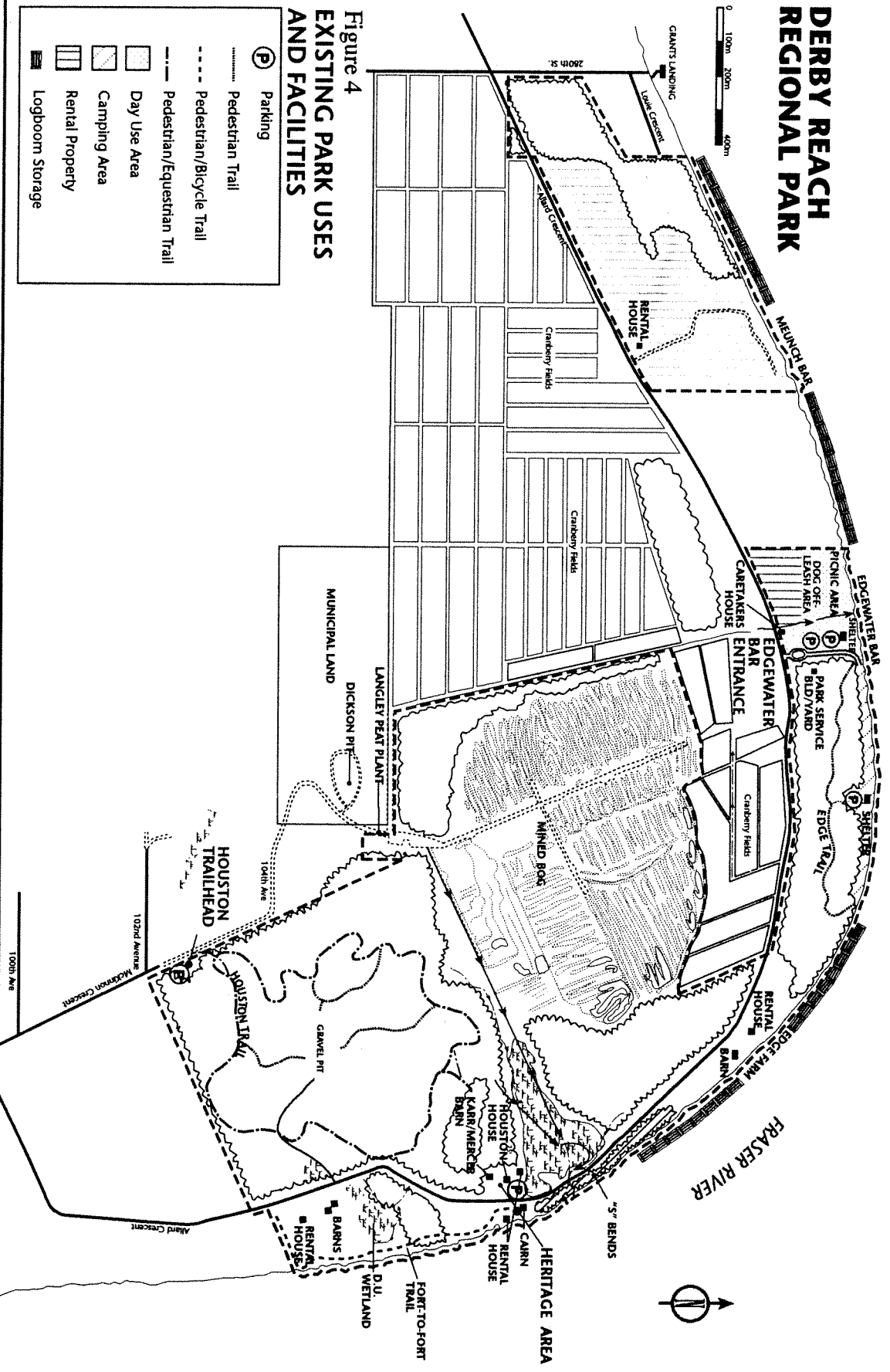


Figure 4
EXISTING PARK USES
AND FACILITIES

- Parking
- Pedestrian Trail
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Trail
- Pedestrian/Equestrian Trail
- Day Use Area
- Camping Area
- Rental Property
- Logboom Storage

was removed in 1995 to make way for a picnic area. Between the picnic area and the Houston House grave sites may exist.

In 1996, a 28-car parking lot, toilets, picnic area and trails were developed adjacent to the Houston House and Karr/Mercer Barn. Trails connect to the Houston Trail and the Fort-to-Fort Trail. Part of the project included construction of approximately 1 km of the Fort-to-Fort Trail which eventually will connect through to Fort Langley. This is a pedestrian and bicycle trail.

Just downstream from the cairn is a traditional aboriginal fishing site. The productivity of this site is due to a cobble outwash and naturally occurring depression in the river bed close to shore which causes an eddy in the river current. The eddy attracts fish.

The Heritage Area is a significant and unique complex. The educational and interpretive potentials are enhanced by linking it to Fort Langley National Historic Site and adjacent heritage and historical sites and attractions, such as the Langley Centennial Museum and Agricultural Museum.

4.3 Upland Forest

The Houston Trail, a four kilometre pedestrian and equestrian trail makes a loop through the upland forest. Minor unofficial pedestrian-only trails crisscross the loop and pass through an old gravel pit in the upland area. Increased use of these trails cause environmental impacts to the forest.

Access to the Houston Trail is from McKinnon Crescent where there is a small parking lot. Horse-trailer parking is difficult with the present design. The Houston Trail can also be accessed from behind Houston House or via an old road adjacent to the wetland meadow.

With the expanding popularity of mountain biking and the desire to escape city streets and rural roads this shaded forest trail has become attractive to cyclists. Conflicts between cyclists and equestrians are increasing.

4.4 Allard Crescent

Allard Crescent is classified by the Township of Langley as a Country Road. It serves local traffic and is the main access to the park. Historically, Allard Crescent may have been part of the connecting route from Fort Langley to New Westminster, but most of this connection was probably by boat. There is evidence of an old road bed paralleling Allard in the park and local residents refer to this as the 'Wagon Trail.' Allard Crescent does not show on any map until 1912 (Lighthall, 1912), well after the heyday of Derby Townsite. Through the park, Allard Crescent is a narrow (under 6 metres) old paved road with grass shoulders. Langley Township upgraded each end of Allard to meet the Country Road standard of 6.1 metres plus one metre paved bicycle lanes on each shoulder of the road and one metre gravel shoulders.

GVRD Parks and Langley Township staff hosted a focus group of residents and heritage interest groups concerned with the future standard of Allard Crescent. The outcome from the focus group was to upgrade Allard Crescent, when required, to 6.1 meter road width, with grassed shoulders and half-metre bicycle lanes only where bike trails could not be accommodated in the park. During the focus group meeting, GVRD stated it would like more influence over access to Allard Crescent within the park, to control vandalism, evening partying, traffic speeds, access to park developments and the visitor experience. More discussions with Township staff are required to see how Allard Crescent can best be co-managed to meet both transportation and recreation needs.

An area just west of the Heritage Area, known as the 'S' bends is a narrow piece of land between the reed canary grass wetland and the Fraser River. Allard Crescent is closest to the river edge in this area and the river is severely eroding this edge.

The erosion problem is compounded by anglers accessing the river edge. Riparian vegetation, which helps protect the embankment against erosion, is being destroyed by

HOUSTON TRAIL



trampling and in places cleared. Sometimes steps are cut into the bank, which then wash out.

GVRD Parks and Langley Township hired an engineering consultant to provide erosion control options for this area. Preliminary designs for engineered erosion control have been completed and a focus group in spring 1998 placed a high priority on completing this work.

4.5 Rentals and Inactive Parkland

GVRD Parks acquires land that is within a designated 'working' park boundary. Land is purchased at market value as it becomes available from a willing seller. Sometimes the land is not immediately required for park purposes or funds are not immediately available to develop and maintain the land for public use. When this occurs land is given an 'inactive parkland' status. Inactive parkland is leased whenever possible, and rental fees help fund further land acquisition. Inactive parklands are essentially park reserve needed for future recreation and park use demands.

Derby Reach has four inactive parkland areas. These are the properties at the west end of the park, pasture west of the caretaker's house, Edge Farm, and the horse farm adjacent to the park's southern boundary. These lands total approximately 67 hectares (165 acres) most of which are leased for farming purposes. There are five residences on the inactive parkland. These are all leased until such time as the house or land is required for park purposes. There is a temporary cooperative agreement with the Muench Bar Sport's Fishing Association for the use of the waterfront at the Muench property.

The Langley Heritage Society assessed all the rental houses for heritage

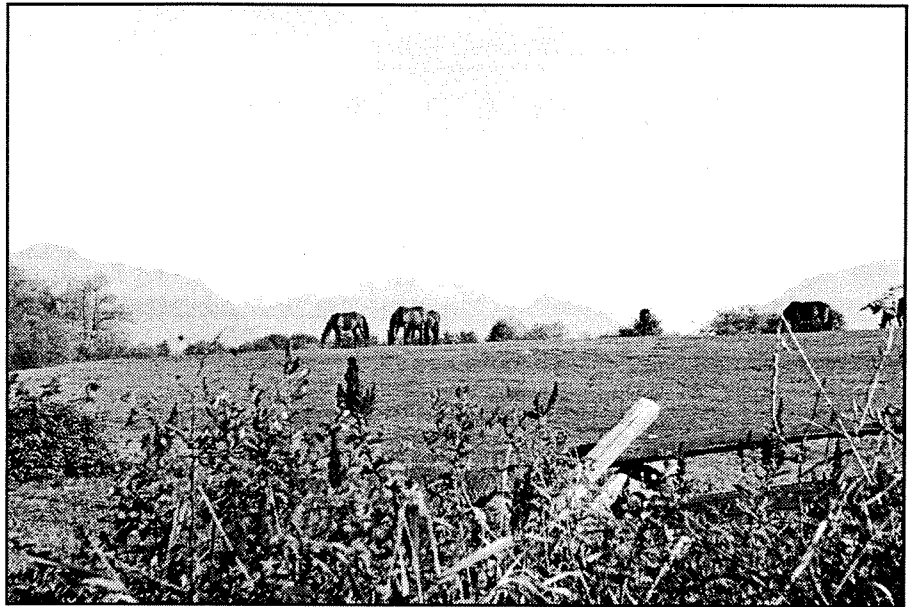


PHOTO CREDIT: SHARON MENEELY

HORSE PASTURE (EAST END LANDS)

significance. The house at Edge Farm is the third residential structure on the farm - built to replace two others lost to river edge erosion so is of some interest to the history of the farm. No heritage significance was placed on any of the other rental houses.

4.6 Interpretive and Educational Programs

GVRD Parks has provided hands-on learning experiences for school and community groups and the general public for over 20 years. Interpretive programs are designed to highlight the variety of natural and cultural resources that are special to each park.

At Derby Reach programs are offered to highlight the park's wildlife, wetlands, the Fraser River, and the Heritage Area. In 1997, over 250 people attended these programs. The Houston Heritage Hike continues to be a popular event and several hundred people have participated since it was first offered in 1995. The current program offering merely touches the surface of the potential of this park.

4.7 Operations and Maintenance

Park operations and maintenance are currently performed by two full-time staff (Park Operator and a Park Assistant) and four seasonal staff (26 worker months) for a total of 50 worker months.

The park service building and maintenance yard were built during 1983 and 1984 and are located at Edgewater Bar east of the entrance road in the riparian forest south of the fishing bar. As this location is in the 50-year floodplain and is under some overmature cottonwood trees, relocating the facility should be considered.

5.0 DEVELOPING AN INTERIM ACTION PLAN (Planning Phase I: 1992 - 1994)

The management planning process was affected by several large-scale initiatives including additions to the park by the Lower Mainland Nature Legacy Program in 1995; the creation of Brae Island Regional Park in 1996; and the establishment of Derby Reach/Brae Island Park Partnership Association in 1997. As a result the plan has evolved in two phases - the first identified interim actions and the second resolved outstanding issues and finalized the park plan.

5.1 Considering the Larger Context - Major Parks Plan Study

During this phase, GVRD Parks undertook a Major Parks Plan Study which reviewed existing and future Regional Parks and user needs and trends, based on a projected expanding population. This study was done in conjunction with the Protected Areas Strategy, a provincial initiative addressing conservation issues and the protection of a variety of habitats, which led to the Lower Mainland Nature Legacy Program (LMNLP).

In completing the Major Parks Plan, GVRD Parks took into consideration the results of a survey (see Appendix B) that summarized outdoor recreation participation patterns to identify missing opportunities and areas of need. The survey results were also reviewed to determine which activities could be accommodated at Derby Reach. The following outdoor recreation activities were considered appropriate for the park and are listed in order of highest participation rate as derived by the survey.

- Walking for pleasure
- Sightseeing/viewing landscape
- Going on a picnic
- Bicycling (on roads)
- Other nature study (e.g. nature trails)
- Camping with car, RV or motorhome
- Other wildlife viewing
- Freshwater fishing

- Jogging or running
- Bicycling (on trails or backcountry)
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Bird watching excursions
- Horseback riding

Both the Major Parks Plan and these activities were considered when identifying the opportunities and constraints at Derby Reach.

5.2 Identifying Opportunities and Constraints

Site analysis of existing facilities and uses led to a mapping overlay of opportunities and constraints for potential park uses and development. This visual information was used to prompt public discussion and feedback at a number of meetings and open houses.

The following summary highlights some of the opportunities and issues identified through GVRD Parks analysis of site resources and input from interest groups and the public.

1. **Separate Camping from Day-Use** by relocating camping away from the shoreline and into the riparian forest along Edgewater Bar; the open fields west of the Edgewater Bar; to Muench Bar; or other lands at the west end of the park.
2. **Expand Camping** onto any of the above areas.
3. **Expand Day-Use Area** west of the park entrance or onto Edgewater Bar if camping is relocated.
4. **Develop Edge Farm** by improving access to the site and river edges, providing family and group picnic areas; and interpreting pioneer settlement and farming.
5. **Develop Heritage Area** into staging areas for historic interpretation and trailhead for the Fort-to-Fort Trail. Possibly provide riverside picnicking and riverview walk.
6. **Expand pedestrian/equestrian trails** in the upland forest and upgrade the entrance off McKinnon Crescent to a major trailhead.
7. **Develop bicycle/pedestrian trails** along the river edge and possibly in the upland forest.

8. **Provide group camping** in the old gravel pit area.
9. **Undertake wildlife and wetland enhancement;** and expand bog and wetland interpretation.
10. **Acquire bog forest** from Langley Peat Ltd. and explore with conservation agencies the management of the bog.
11. **Develop Allard Crescent as a 'parkway'** and review options ranging from road widening to partial closure.
12. **Acquire additional land** west of park entrance.

Some major constraints to development and use are:

1. Shoreline erosion and fish habitat.
2. Log boom storage (may help against erosion but limits fishing).
3. Adjacent cranberry fields.
4. Ministry of Transportation and Highways proposal for a major bridge across the Fraser River, from Derby Reach (north edge of forested uplands) to Kanaka Creek Regional Park.
5. Environmental and cultural protection and rural landscape preservation.
6. Lands in floodplain and/or Agricultural Land Reserve.
7. Funding for development and operations.

5.3 Obtaining Public Input and Preferences

Public input to the planning process was received by way of a user survey, questionnaires (see Appendix A) and discussions at open houses and workshops. The following summarizes some of the input and preferences shown towards the identified opportunities. Information feedback to the public was by newsletters.

1. **Fishing:** Many park visitors come to Derby Reach to fish. Edgewater Bar, with its easy shoreline access and no log booms, is the main fishing area. Some fishing takes place at the 'S' bends, but the lack of parking and the poor shoreline access limits this area to low use. Roadside parking at the "S" bends causes a traffic safety problem.
2. **Nature appreciation:** Most people placed a high emphasis on being able to enjoy the natural environment, whether they were fishing, relaxing, viewing the river or walking trails. Nature education also rated highly with many people.
3. **Heritage appreciation:** There was strong support for developing the Heritage Area, to provide a trailhead for the Fort-to-Fort Trail and parking, trails, and interpretive displays and programs.
4. **Camping:** There was strong support for increasing overnight camp sites, but mixed preferences as to location. Some felt the river edge location is critical for overnight fishing. Others felt that in reality not much overnight fishing actually takes place and the camping is an exclusive use that limits access.

5. **Picnicking:** This is the fourth highest outdoor activity participated in by present park visitors, after fishing, relaxing and river viewing. The western extension of the existing day-use fishing and picnicking area in 1993 has added to this opportunity. There was strong support for developing more family and group picnic sites at Edge Farm.
6. **Trail use:** There was a strong desire for more trails and strong support for the Fort-to-Fort Trail. Allowing bicycles on the trails was also supported as long as some trails are designated as pedestrian only. There was some concern about mixing bicycles with horses.
7. **Environmental protection:** Many people wanted to know more about the natural environment. Most people felt something should be done to control the river edge erosion. The preference was for using log booms, with some support for an engineered solution, as long as the cost was reasonable. Many people placed a high priority on wildlife enhancement. There was strong support for Ducks Unlimited's proposal to enhance two wetlands and for GVRD Parks to acquire the bog lands.
8. **Other:** There was some support for a canoe/kayak launch area (but fear that this could conflict with fishing) some support for a children's play area and little support for food and bait or tackle concession. There was little to no support for group campgrounds, power boat launch area, golf driving range or a swimming lake.

5.4 Responding to Opportunities to Complete Interim Actions

Although the planning process was suspended, GVRD Parks responded to opportunities to implement high-priority projects for which there was public consensus to proceed. The following interim action items were completed (see Figure 5).

5.4.1 Land Acquisitions

The Langley Peat Ltd. Lands were acquired adding 89 hectares of bog forest and harvested bog and the peat plant to the park. The land was acquired under the LMNLP. The bog area adds significant environmental diversity to the park and offers many conservation, research and education opportunities. A biophysical description and an historical report on the peat processing plant have been completed.

Two parcels of land at the west end of the park were also acquired under the LMNLP and a third parcel south of Grant's Landing, east of 208th Street, was obtained through a purchase/donation agreement. This provides a significant land base from 208th Street to Muench Bar which adds water frontage and many development opportunities to the park. A biophysical description on these parcels was completed. A two hectare parcel was also purchased at the sharp bend on Allard Crescent, south of the upstream end of the park. This parcel is to facilitate the Fort-to-Fort Trail route.

5.4.2 Expanded Day-Use Area

Due to immediate pressures, the day-use area was expanded in the fall of 1993 to include another 200 metres of shoreline downstream from the existing day-use area. The development included bridging McQuatt Ditch, constructing erosion control tidal benches, an access trail along the river edge with access points to the water edge and picnic tables along the trail. A gravel parking lot for 51 vehicles was also constructed south of the existing paved day-use parking.

5.4.3 Edge Farm Development

The Edge Barn was stabilized in 1995 with the intent that it may become a picnic shelter in the future when Edge Farm is opened to the public.

Erosion-control work was carried out along the open field of the Edge Farm. Work was completed in winter 1995/1996. This will provide easier access to the river edge when the area is opened to the public.

5.4.4 Heritage Area and Fort-to-Fort Trail

Construction of a 28 car parking lot, toilets, trails and signage was completed in 1996. This development opened the Heritage Area to the public and provided the northern trailhead for the Fort-to-Fort Trail. The first kilometre of the Fort-to-Fort Trail was also built.

The "Derby Reach Cultural Heritage Overview" was completed in 1995 and archaeological work completed prior to any construction. Archaeological monitoring was done during construction and a final archaeological report completed in June 1996.

5.4.5 Wetland and Wildlife Enhancement

Ducks Unlimited completed two wetland enhancement projects in 1996. A weir was built at the lower end of Derby Creek, just west of Allard Crescent, to help keep the water levels higher in the reed canary grass wetland. Higher water levels will provide more nesting and resting habitat for waterfowl as well as help sustain the bog. Derby Creek contains fish habitat so a fish ladder was incorporated in the weir.

The second wetland enhancement created open water in the marshy area at the horse rental pasture. Higher water levels will provide waterfowl nesting habitat. The area can also be used by retriever dog clubs as a training area during the winter when nesting birds are not present.

Canadian Wildlife Services (CWS) and GVRD Parks completed a raptor and songbird habitat study throughout the Lower Mainland to determine suitable enhancement sites to compensate for habitat loss by the expansion to Vancouver Airport. Potential sites have been identified in Derby Reach but are considered to be too far away from the airport to receive compensation funding.



6.0 RESOLVING OUTSTANDING ISSUES (Planning Phase II: 1997 - 1998)

The Derby Reach/Brae Island Park Partnership Association was formally established in October 1997 and by May 1998 the association's board members were sufficiently familiar with the park and the issues to assist GVRD Parks with the planning process. Board members provided input into the management plan by endorsing the park type, park goal and management guidelines which were approved by the Park Committee in July 1998 and helped with six issue-driven focus groups.

The topics of the six focus groups included the S-Bends, the West End Lands, waterfront uses, trails, dogs and the bog. Each group addressed several key questions (Appendix C) and developed recommendations for the park. Their work was presented in a workshop and final suggestions were incorporated with the public feedback to produce the following conclusions with respect to park use.

6.1 Fishing

This recreation activity will remain important to the park as long as fish stocks are healthy. The demand for this activity is high and will increase with the projected population increase. GVRD Parks, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (MOELP) endorses this activity within certain user guidelines. The park's shoreline should be developed to provide safe fishing access. Environmental impacts on fish habitat and severely eroding banks will be a limiting factor to providing safe access.

6.2 Day-Use Areas

Picnicking, relaxing, and viewing the river are popular day-use activities. Facilities such as parking, toilets and picnic tables should be expanded to accommodate the increase in these activities. These facilities need to be adjacent to the accessible fishing shoreline.

Some conflicts arise because the camping area is so close to the day-use area. However, the campground registration booth has helped to alleviate some of these conflicts. Expansion of day-use activities might take place at Edge Farm, Muench Bar,

or other lands acquired at the west end of the park.

6.3 Camping

Camping was developed at Derby Reach to accommodate early morning and late evening fishing. GVRD has other regional parks along the Fraser River (Matsqui Trail, Glen Valley and Brae Island) where camping could also be accommodated.

The campground at Derby Reach limits public access to easily accessible shoreline and a good fishing area. The campground serves less than 10% of the park visitation but utilizes 600 metres of shoreline compared to the 400 metres at the day-use area. Many people feel this is a poor use of easily accessible shoreline, and that camping should be moved to inactive park land adjacent to other fishing-accessible shoreline. Design options were generated to indicate how camping could be accommodated in the riparian forest south of Edgewater Bar, or if moved, accommodated in the field west of the day-use area. The acquisition of land at the west end of the park also offers opportunities for relocating camping.

The focus group that reviewed waterfront uses concluded that camping at Edgewater Bar adjacent to the river is a very unique experience. It recommended that the campground be retained and a group camp be developed at Muench Bar to accommodate fishing derbies.

6.4 Group Picnicking

There is a medium to high demand for group bookings for picnicking and fishing derbies. These take place in the shelters at the day-use area and campground and sometimes conflict with other park users. The Edge Farm was identified as an area where such group activities could take place. The Edge Barn could be adapted as a large shelter. A design concept for this area was completed and supported by the public.

EDGEWATER BAR CAMPING



6.5 Group Camping

GVRD Parks provides group camps for organized groups, such as Scouts and Guides. There was little local support for developing a group camp in Derby Reach. However region-wide demand for group facilities continue to grow and may become more critical with the predicted growth in Langley and Surrey. As stated in section 6.4, developing a group camp for fishing derbies was recommended. Muench Bar was recommended as a site which could be designed to also accommodate Scouts, Guides and similar organized groups.

6.6 Heritage Appreciation

Derby Reach contains significant heritage resources. There was strong support through Langley's Heritage Plan and from the public to develop the Heritage Area to provide access to the area and facilities, and function as the trailhead for the Fort-to-Fort Trail. A Heritage Task Group has been established to assist GVRD Parks with creating educational displays and interpretive exhibits.

The acquisition of the Langley Peat Lands also included the abandoned

peat plant. Most of the buildings have been demolished and the site cleaned up to make it safer for public access. There remains a steel frame and roof of the baling shed, a building containing the peat presses and a number of artifacts from peat extraction and processing.

A Bog Task Group will be established to assist GVRD Parks in developing a program for the best use of the peat plant site and the bog lands.

6.7 Nature Appreciation

Derby Reach has diverse natural habitat and the public strongly supports keeping the park as natural as possible. Because GVRD Parks' mandate includes providing outdoor recreation in a natural setting, the protection of habitat is very important.

Trails will provide access to the park's diverse habitats for nature appreciation. Interpretive displays and programs will help visitors appreciate this natural diversity.

With the acquisition of the bog a very significant and sensitive environment was added to the park. The mined

portion of the bog has some unsafe areas (open water and thin grass layer over deep organics) for general public access. The bog has high potential for research and education.

6.8 Environmental Stewardship and Habitat Enhancement

Habitat enhancement projects such as the two wetlands developed by Ducks Unlimited have proven most successful. Other enhancement projects recommended in the biophysical reports and suggested by CWS could be implemented when funding becomes available.

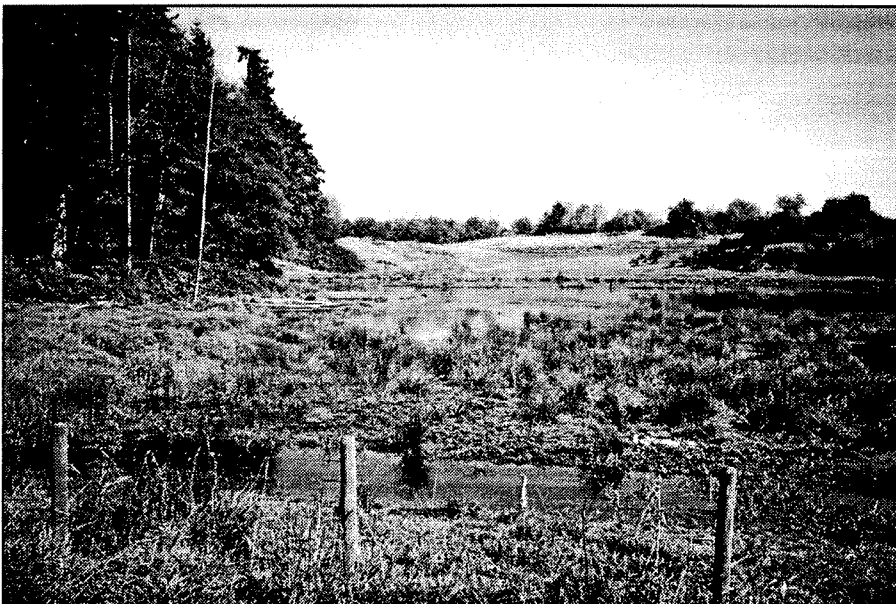
Public stewardship programs can be developed to assist and monitor the success of habitat enhancement and to provide an understanding of these projects to the general public.

6.9 Trails

The public requested an increase in trail development and supported accommodating all trail users; not mixing horses and bicycles; and ensuring that there were some pedestrian-only trails.

The focus group on trails proposed that:

- Edge Trail be upgraded to wheelchair-accessible standard and the partnership association is presently fundraising for this project
- Houston Trail remain for pedestrians and equestrians only
- a pedestrian/bicycle trail be developed along the entire shoreline of the park from 208th Street to the Fort-to-Fort Trail at the Heritage Area.
- pedestrian-only nature trails be developed in the bog only after careful study.



DUCKS UNLIMITED WETLAND

6.10 Allard Crescent

This country road is an important link in the park not only for access but also to increase awareness of the park. There is an opportunity to provide visual cues that connect the road edges to the naturalness of the park and the rural, pioneer feeling of the Heritage Area.

Most people in the focus group felt the speed limit should be reduced and enforced. Most wanted to retain the road's rural character and not have it repaved with wide bicycle shoulders. It was suggested that bicycle paths should be within the park and preferably away from Allard Crescent. GVRD Parks will work with the Township of Langley to ensure Allard Crescent, where adjacent to the park, will serve both recreational and transportation needs. Allard Crescent will be marked and signed to ensure the safety of recreational users.

6.11 Shoreline Erosion

The shoreline from the upstream end of the park to Edge Farm is subject to erosion from river currents and boat wave action. Downstream from Edge Farm, river currents have less impact because the deepest part of the river channel moves to the north side of the river but boat wave action is still a concern.

Erosion protection has been completed at Edgewater Bar and Edge Farm. Erosion studies indicate that engineered erosion protection is required to stabilize the shoreline at the Heritage Area and the "S" bends. These areas have few trees and shrubs to help hold the river bank. Many people supported the use of log booms as a means of erosion control. However, because they are not always in place, some people supported engineered erosion protection, depending on the cost.

Engineered erosion protection for the "S" bend has been designed and the focus group placed a high priority on this work. Part of the river edge trail (from the Heritage Area to Edge Farm) could be constructed in conjunction with this project.

6.12 "S" Bend Area

Allard Crescent forms an "S" curve where Derby Creek flows under it and into the Fraser River. The road separates a reed canary grass wetland from a thin strip of river edge forest. The thin river edge is primarily used for fishing. The shoreline is eroding and undercut in some sections with a 1.5 to 2m high bank. The river edge has eroded to within four metres of the road edge. As stated in 6.11 erosion-control measures are proposed.

The "S" curve causes poor site lines along this section of the road. Cars parked along the edge of the road create a hazard. Although the Township of Langley, at GVRD Parks' request posted "No Parking" signs on the river side of the road, enforcing this restriction is difficult.

Anglers impact the thin riparian zone between Allard Crescent and the river edge. Use of the area has added to the erosion problem. Visitors who do not know they are in Derby Reach Regional Park also impact the park as they light fires, leave litter and at times party late into the night. Securing the area and controlling this undesirable behavior is difficult.



DERBY BLUFFS EROSION

EDGEWATER BAR EROSION CONTROL



6.13 West End Lands

The focus group for this area concluded that there are many recreational activities that could take place on this area but there are no immediate needs. They recommended that the current (rental) farming practices continue and in the long term the West End Lands could accommodate a number of activities.

The Waterfront Focus Group suggested establishing a group campground at Muench Bar which could accommodate fishing derbies. This possibly could be operated by a service club or the Muench Bar Fishing Association.

6.14 Dogs

Park policy is that dogs must be leashed at all times while in the park, unless they are in special designated off-leash areas. A small off-leash area exists at the west end of Edgewater Bar.

The focus group on dogs recommended that the off-leash area be expanded with better signage and facilities. In the long term, the focus group suggested having a fenced off-leash trail adjacent to the river edge trail; using mesh fencing rather than barbed wire; and perhaps establishing an off-leash area on the West End Lands.

They also recommended that dogs should not be allowed in the bog or any sensitive wildlife areas.

7.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN PRINCIPLES

7.1 Park Type

In the Regional Parks system, Derby Reach is classified as a "Stream/River Corridor Park." This park type includes entire rivers such as Capilano and Kanaka, and also a string of parks fronting on the Fraser River, namely Matsqui Trail, Glen Valley, Kanaka Creek, Derby Reach and Deas Island. Other park types are Nature, Multiple-purpose, Ocean Beach and Mountain.

GVRD Parks guidelines for Stream/River Corridor Parks are to:

- provide a variety of active and passive recreational pursuits in park landscapes that preserve diverse natural and recreational features
- construct trails to take full advantage of the continuous linear nature of the park
- provide frequent access points and connections to other park areas
- provide sufficient land for activity areas and viewpoints where resting, viewing, picnicking, fishing, group camping or other appropriate activities can take place
- ensure that the water quality of the stream or river is protected and maintained.

7.2 Park Goal

Derby Reach Regional Park will provide a wide variety of river edge recreation and trail opportunities for public enjoyment. The significant cultural resources such as the site of First Fort Langley, and significant natural resources, especially the bog and other wetlands will be conserved and interpreted.

7.3 Management Guidelines

a) Facilities

- Facilities will be developed to provide year-round, basic day-use and overnight services for park visitors and to provide safe outdoor recreation within the conservation limits of the significant natural and cultural features.
- The river edge will be accessible to all park visitors wherever sensitive fish and wildlife habitat is not an issue. Enhanced, fee generating facilities such as family and group camping and group picnicking shall be developed close to the Fraser River, but will not have exclusive use of the river edge.
- The natural environments of wetlands, bog, riparian and upland forest shall only have trail and small trailhead developments.
- Cultural resource areas, such as site of First Fort Langley, the Houston Pioneer Farm, the Edge Barn and the Langley Peat Plant shall be conserved, interpreted and have only complementary facility development.
- The West End Lands may be developed with appropriate intensive outdoor recreation subject to Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and floodplain constraints.
- A group camp will be developed on the West End Lands.
- Dual-use trails shall be developed – pedestrian and equestrian or bicycle and pedestrian; but equestrian and bicycling will not be mixed. Pedestrian-only trails and pathways will be developed to provide access for interpretation of the significant natural environments and cultural features.
- A reasonable attempt will be made to make facilities accessible to all visitors.
- Co-management of Allard Crescent adjacent to the park will be explored with the Township of Langley to achieve both park and transportation objectives.
- Rental properties will have adapted uses that provide park security and a low key rural look with limited maintenance and life expectancy.

b) Visitor Information and Orientation

- Entrance portals at the west and southeast ends of the park along Allard Crescent will be developed. Park entrance, park hours and speed and parking limitation signs will be displayed at the entrance portals.
- Information kiosks will be provided at major activity areas. Information on other regional parks will be displayed.
- Increased visitor information and services will be explored with the Derby Reach/Brae Island Park Partnership Association.
- Improve directional signs to the park.

c) Interpretation and Education

- The Heritage Area will be a major interpretive node for cultural interpretation as it has had significant, diverse roles in human history (The First Fort Langley and 'meaningful contact' with First Nations; Sto':lo villages; Derby Townsite; and pioneer farming have all contributed to the area's rich heritage). Pioneer settlement, farming and fishing can be themes here and at Edge Farm picnic area.
- Linkages to other sites will be shown where thematically appropriate such as the Fort Langley National Historic Site.

- The Langley Peat Plant site will be an interpretive node for peat harvesting and processing as well as showing or experimenting with bog rehabilitation.
- Interpretive trails will highlight the characteristic vegetation and fish/wildlife habitats of the riparian zone, upland forest, pine bog, wetlands and the Fraser River.
- Joint educational programs will be explored with local schools, museums, heritage societies and park partners.

d) Land, Resource and Habitat Stewardship

- The objective is to conserve significant natural habits such as the bog, wetlands and forests and open fields and vistas of the Fraser River, Golden Ears and Mount Baker.
- A field management plan will be undertaken to determine objectives and prescriptions for individual fields.
- To help protect breeding Sandhill Cranes the bog will be off limits to the public except on developed trails or by special use permits or organized tours.
- Fraser River prime fish habitat and monument cottonwood trees will be preserved and highlighted in interpretive programs.
- The traditional native fishing site at the Heritage Area will be protected.

- The upland and riparian forests will be maintained and where possible enhanced by planting native trees and shrubs. Designated trails and small trailheads should be the only disruption to these natural habitats. Unofficial trails will be evaluated and either formalized or blocked off and re-vegetated.
- Wildlife will only be controlled in the park when they contribute directly to damage of park facilities, enhancement or adjacent private property or public roads.
- Dogs will be leashed at all times except in designated off-leash areas. Dogs will be prohibited in the sensitive wildlife areas and the bog except on designated through routes.
- The West End Lands will continue to be farmed in the short term (1 - 5 years). Recreation activities not requiring facility development or requiring only temporary structures (except for a group camping and fishing derby site at Muench Bar) may be accommodated providing any disruption to the farming activity is acceptable. As recreation and community needs change over time, development plans for facilities and the use of the West End Lands may be proposed; these will be publicly reviewed for their fit with the rest of the park and regional requirements and the community.

- Cultural and heritage resources will be protected, enhanced and interpreted. Excavation within these areas will only be undertaken with provincial archaeological permits.
- A sense of stewardship for the land, heritage resources and diverse habitats will be fostered through partnership initiatives, interpretation, education and management programs.

e) Park Boundary

- Private lands within the park boundary will be acquired as they become available on a willing seller basis.
- A right-of-way through the two private parcels at the West End Lands needs to be acquired for trail and water front uses until such time as these parcels are acquired.
- The small triangular piece of park land on the south side of Allard Crescent (100m east of 208th Street) should be retained as a buffer and entrance portal to the park.
- The small triangular piece of private land at the north east corner of 208th Street and Allard Crescent should be acquired to preserve that corner of forest.
- A triangular piece of land east of the Peat Plant should be acquired to provide access from Houston Trail.

- The recreation and conservation potential of adjacent municipal land containing Dickson Pit and wetlands will be explored with the Township of Langley.
- Transfer of unconstructed road allowances within the park will be sought from the Township of Langley.

f) Community Role

- Derby Reach/Brae Island Park Partnership Association will be the primary community link. A Letter of Intent defines the partners' relationship.
- Special interest groups will be encouraged to join the Park Partnership Association and channel proposals or requests through the Association.
- GVRD Parks will continue to liaise with the Township of Langley, the Langley Centennial Museum, the Fort Langley National Historic Site and the Katzie and Kwantlen First Nations on recreation and conservation linkages and programs.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE VIEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG



DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK

EDGEWATER BAR



MEUNCH BAR
Fishing/Derby Site



EDGE FARM
PICNIC AREA



0 100m 200m 400m

Fraser River Trail

Caretaker's House

Maintenance Yard

Dog off-leash area

Cranberry Fields

Trail use to be determined

BOG AND WETLAND
CONSERVATION AREA



PEAT PLANT



HERITAGE AREA



Entrance Portal

Grants Landing

Allard Cres

TRAILHEAD



208th St

Dickson Pit

Municipal Land

Langley Peat Plant

104th Ave

HOUSTON
TRAILHEAD



102th Ave

McKinnon Cres

100th Ave

to Fort
Langley
2 km

Connection for
Fort-to-Fort Trail

Allard Cres

Entrance Portal

HOUSTON TRAIL

Gravel Pit

Karr/Mercer
Historic Barn

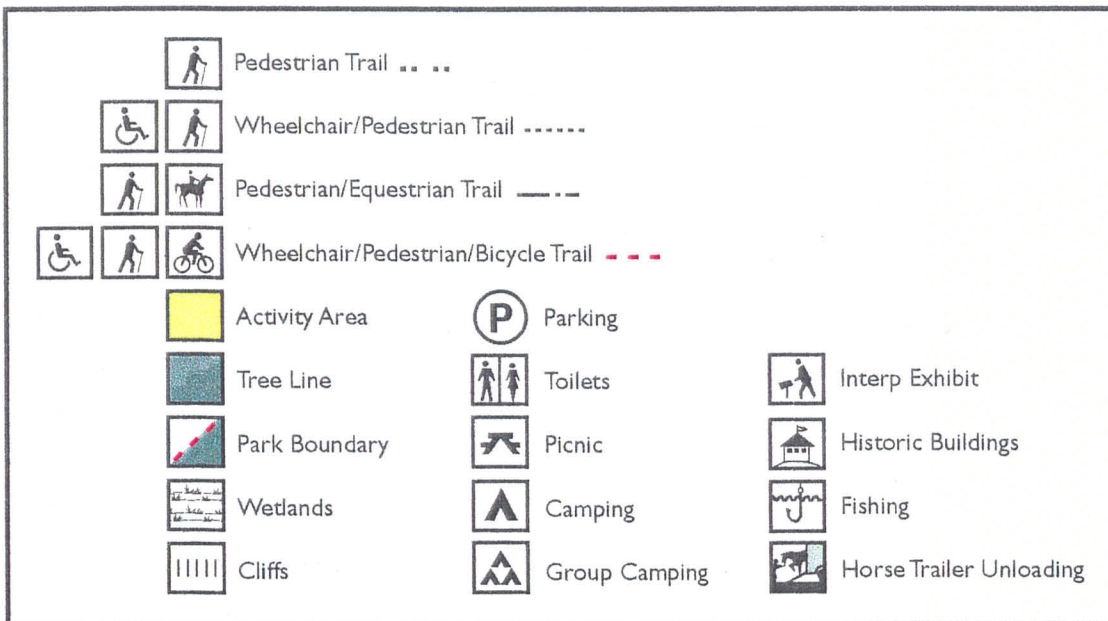
Houston House

Historic Cairn
(Site of the first
Fort Langley)

"S" Bend

FRASER RIVER

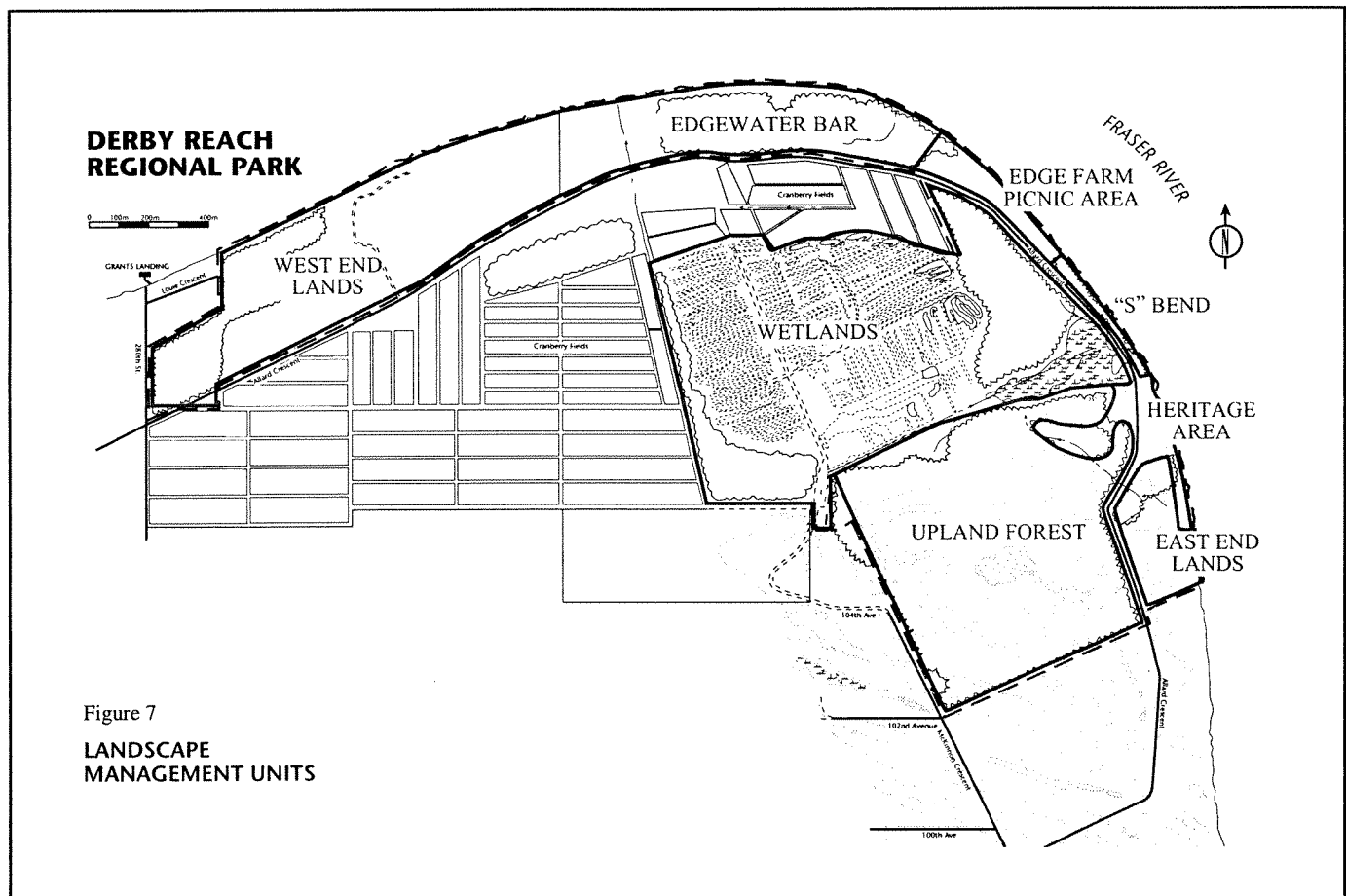
Figure 6
PARK PLAN



8.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

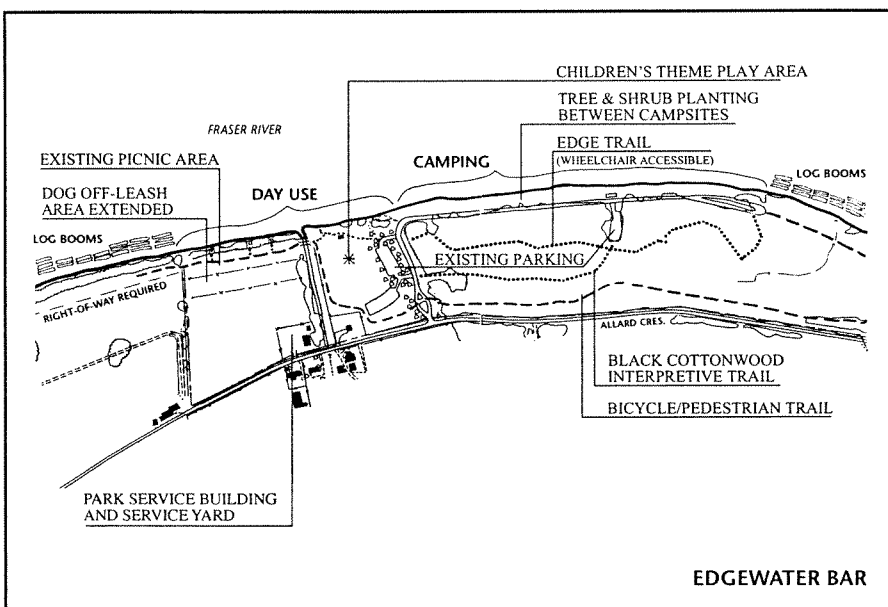
8.1 Description of Program by Landscape Management Unit

Eight Landscape Management Units (Figure 7) were defined using a combination of geography, biophysical resources, visual character and distinctive use patterns. The following is a program description for each unit (eg. facilities, trails, land and resource management and interpretation).



8.2 Edgewater Bar

This unit has been the main activity area within the park since its opening. It has one kilometre of easy access river frontage, with riparian forest as a backdrop to the camping area and open mowed fields at the day-use area. There are 38 campsites, toilet facilities, two picnic shelters, parking for 90 vehicles in three separate lots, numerous picnic tables and a designated dog off-leash area. A caretaker residence and the park service yard are also located within this unit. The western most field, between Allard Crescent and the off-leash area is rented to a local farmer for pasture. McQuatt Ditch runs through the day-use area and is crossed by a wooden bridge. Paths connect site facilities and the Edge Trail runs the length of the campground, parallel to the campground road, in the riparian forest.



PROGRAM

Facilities

- extend the dog off-leash area, subject to regional review of dog issues
- relocate and build new service yard and facilities
- pave or chip-seal campground road and the overflow parking lot
- construct rustic children's thematic play structure in the day-use area
- upgrade sanitation facilities
- upgrade utilities (eg. water and sewer)

Trails

- upgrade Edge Trail to wheelchair-accessible standard
- extend pedestrian/bicycle trail from Edge Farm to campground loop
- new pedestrian/bicycle trail through riparian forest from Edge Farm past the existing service yard and connecting across the wood bridge over McQuatt Ditch
- new interpretive trail from monument cottonwoods to centre of Edge Trail.

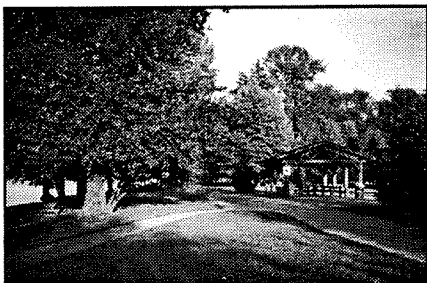
Resource Management

- monitor and protect the riparian forest
- monitor river edge erosion especially upstream of the campground
- investigate goose management options

Interpretation/Education

- install new entrance sign
- maintain information kiosks with up-to-date park and system maps and information
- provide interpretive information on riparian forest and monument black cottonwood trees
- provide signs and user etiquette information at dog off-leash area
- provide fishing information; low-impact camping information; and sharing the fishing bar user etiquette guides

EDGEWATER BAR PICNIC
AND DAY-USE AREA



Land Management

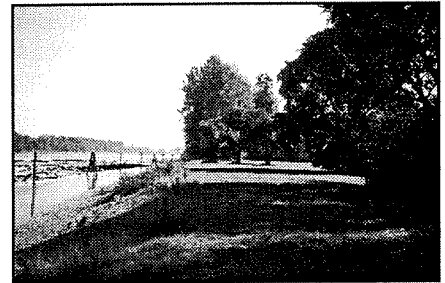
- continue to rent portion of field for pasture until required for park purposes
- continue to maintain day-use area and campsites
- plant native trees and shrubs along riverfront of day-use area and between campsites

8.3 Edge Farm Picnic Area

This open field area with one residence and a barn is the remnant of a pioneer farm purchased in 1875 by William Edge. The residence is the third residence built on the property as the other two were lost to the river by erosion. The rebuilding of the residence has some historic significance. The barn was built in the 1930s and was partially restored in 1995.

The residence is rented and the field is kept open by a local farmer cutting it for hay. The park's water supply system (well and pumphouse) is also currently located on this property. As problems have been experienced maintaining potable water in the well, a municipal water supply is being evaluated.

The river edge has been stabilized by engineered erosion control of a sloped gravel blanket with experimental planters in the gravel slope.



EDGEFARM
FUTURE PICNIC AREA

PROGRAM

Facilities

- maintain existing rental residence
- determine rental area and fence off yard
- restore Edge barn to picnic shelter
- construct new entrance road with gate off Allard Crescent
- construct parking for up to 60 vehicles
- install toilet facilities
- install picnic tables
- install new water supply system from municipal source
- allow for future group picnic shelters and expanded parking

Trails

- new pedestrian/bicycle trail along the entire riverfront to connect Edgewater Bar to "S" Bend area
- connecting trails between facilities (wheelchair accessible)
- trailhead and connecting trail to the bog forest

Land Management

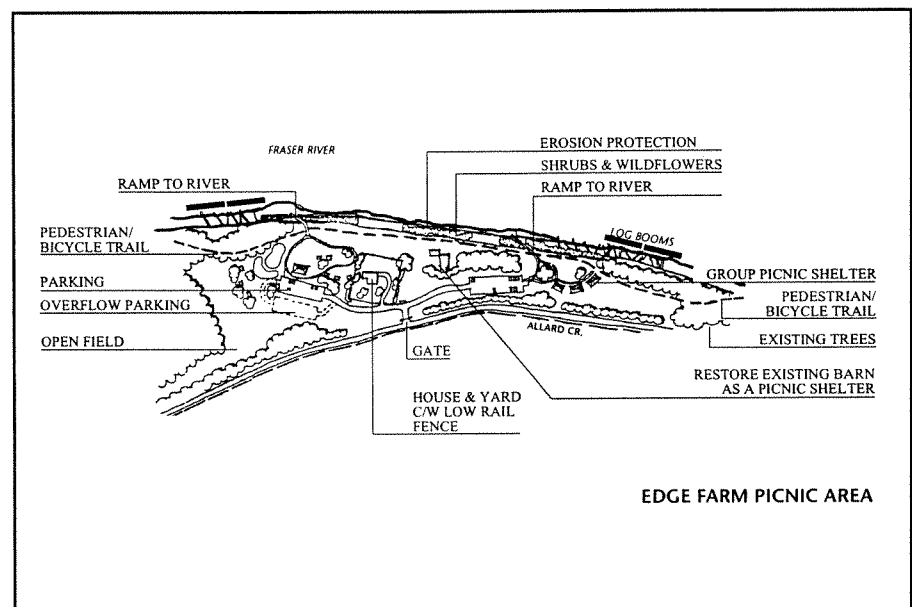
- mow the field to a standard similar to Edgewater Bar
- plant native trees and shrubs
- remove log booms directly in front of open activity area
- retain booms in front of forested areas for erosion protection

Resource Management

- monitor and protect riparian forest at each end of Edge Farm
- monitor river edge erosion up and downstream of the engineered erosion works

Interpretation/Education

- install new entrance sign
- construct information kiosk with park maps and information
- interpret pioneer farming and fishing
- provide trailhead information for a bog forest interpretive trail



8.4 "S" Bend

This unit is a narrow piece of land between Allard Crescent and the Fraser River, extending from the open field at Edge Farm to the Heritage Area.

The mouth of Derby Creek is in this unit and the creek flows from the wetland under Allard Crescent and into the Fraser River. The Fraser River is eroding the shoreline in this area and is threatening Allard Crescent.

PROGRAM

Facilities

- erosion control works (wood wall, solid where there is no vegetation and staggered so fish can pass through where there is vegetation)
- viewpoints and access to the water in areas without vegetation
- pedestrian/bicycle trail along the river edge where possible and along Allard Crescent road shoulder where the land is too narrow

Land Management

- fishing allowed as long as there is minimum disturbance to the thin riparian edge
- no parking permitted along this section of Allard Crescent; key area for park identification and introduction to park values

Resource Management

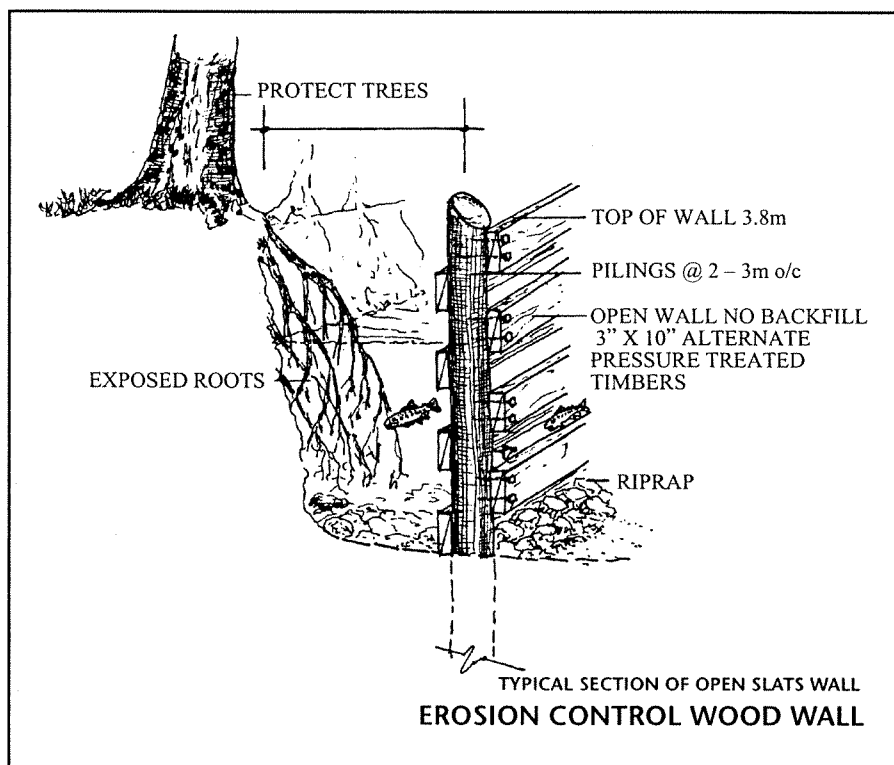
- protect and enhance riparian vegetation by planting native trees and shrubs
- monitor and correct recreation impacts on riparian vegetation

Interpretation/Education

- provide public awareness of shoreline erosion, natural resource stewardship and park values



"S" BEND EROSION



8.5 Heritage Area

This unit contains First Nations village and midden sites, the site of the first Fort Langley and Derby Townsite. The extent and exact locations of non-existing structures have not been determined. The Heritage Area also features the Houston House (c. 1909) and Karr/Mercer Barn (c. 1876) which was moved to the site and restored in 1989. There are also two rental houses within this unit.

Parking, toilets and picnic areas were developed in 1996 and the area also functions as the trailhead for the Fort-to-Fort Trail, 1 km of which is within the park.

PROGRAM

Facilities

- in conjunction with park partners explore an adaptive use for the Houston House
- remove the rental house on the river side of Allard Crescent
- determine future of rental house south of parking (adaptive use or removal)
- determine appropriate treatment for the smoke house
- consider re-constructing a Derby Townsite building to represent this historical component and to serve a modern function such as food services and/or visitor centre
- add electrical supply and lights to the toilets
- add drinking fountains once the water from municipal source is installed

Land Management

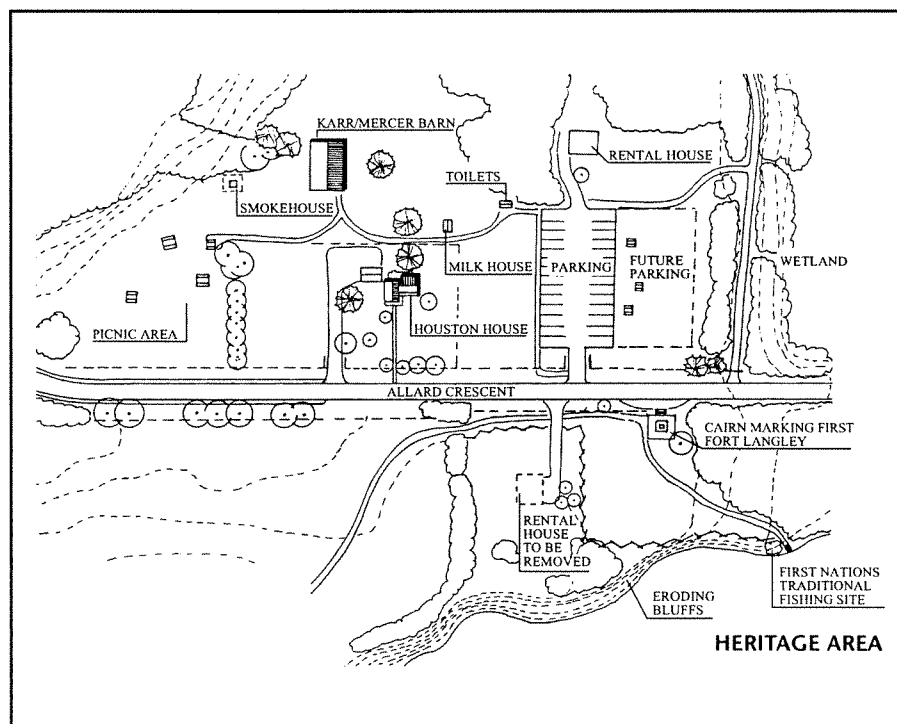
- continue to cut lawn areas around the heritage buildings and park facilities
- manage the fields in front of Houston House and behind the Kerr/Mercer Barn as heritage landscape and where possible for raptor habitat
- establish a butterfly garden and/or vegetable garden in conjunction with Houston House
- continue to investigate erosion control for Derby Bluffs

Resource Management

- conduct archeological investigation to determine the extent and location of First Fort Langley and Derby Townsite
- undertake archeological investigations and monitoring for any facility development
- monitor shoreline for artifacts exposed by erosion

Interpretation/Education

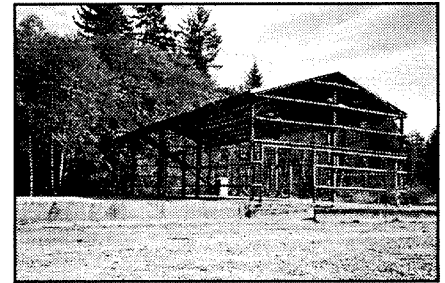
- develop interpretive plan and exhibits for the Heritage Area and Fort-to-Fort Trail
- label each heritage building with name, date and brief history
- provide information about the Kwantlen Village site "Sna'Kometl" of pre 1782 (in conjunction with Kwantlen First Nation)



8.6 Wetlands

This unit includes an extensive reed canary grass wetland and Derby Creek, pine bog forest, mined bog area and the abandoned peat plant. The bog and grass wetland are very dependent on high water levels and are relatively fragile natural environments, containing unique plants (eg. bog laurel and sundew) and rare wildlife (eg. Sandhill Cranes).

The abandoned peat plant has a number of machinery artifacts and two structures that can be utilized to interpret the peat plant and peat processing that took place from 1958 to 1980. This could be a major interpretive component showing the peat mining and processing. No other such opportunity exists in the Lower Mainland.



LANGLEY PEAT PLANT

PROGRAM

Facilities

- boardwalks and viewing towers and/or blinds in conjunction with interpretive trails
- fencing for access management to the bog
- assess peat plant buildings for interpretive use and visitor safety

Trails

- pedestrian-only trail connection from Houston Trail to the peat plant
- interpretive trail from Edge Farm into the bog forest and connecting to the river edge trail at the "S" Bend
- interpretive trail along the wetland edge from the "S" Bend to the Heritage Area
- a trail connection along the north/south hog fuel road connecting the peat plant to Allard Crescent at Edgewater Bar will be explored once public access to the bog can be directed

Land Management

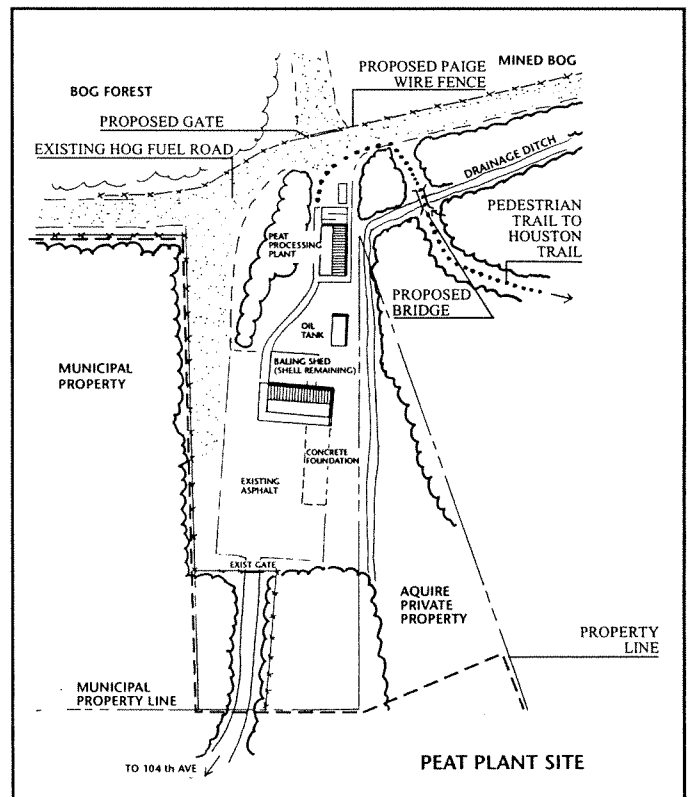
- coordinate with the Township of Langley vehicular access past the municipal gate off 104th Avenue
- public access will be limited to the bog by way of special use permits or group tours until safe visitor facilities are developed
- no dogs will be allowed outside of fenced trail corridors
- protect adjacent private property from park visitor trespass

Resource Management

- monitor fish presence in Derby Creek
- study Sandhill Crane habitat and if possible enhance to ensure nesting sites
- implement program for controlling the population of Canada Geese (in conjunction with CWS)
- bog rehabilitation studies will be undertaken and experimental plots implemented and interpreted
- save and display peat plant artifacts

Interpretation and Education

- interpret environmental significance and fragility of the bog and foster stewardship through education
- create an interpretive node at the peat plant with artifacts, display signs, and interpretive panels
- park partners can play a major role in tours and educating the visiting public



8.7 Upland Forest

The gravel knoll to the south of the bog and wetland unit is well forested with a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees and a variety of understory shrubs and ground covers. There is a small gravel pit with a gravel access road off Allard Crescent.

The Houston Trail makes a 4 km loop through the forest with equestrian access off a trailhead on McKinnon Crescent and pedestrians can also access the trail from the Heritage Area. Smaller trails cross through the gravel pit joining the Houston Trail at various locations. These trails and the Houston Trail have recently become popular with mountain bikers.

There is a beaver pond on the east edge of this unit adjacent to Allard Crescent. Derby Creek flows through this unit and into the Fraser River at the "S" bend.

PROGRAM

Facilities

- install pit toilet at Houston Trailhead
- formalize parking

Trails

- maintain Houston Trail for pedestrian and equestrian use
- evaluate and formalize as appropriate the pedestrian-only trails crisscrossing the gravel pit and install pedestrian-only baffles

Land Management

- prohibit mountain bike use and enforce regulations
- rehabilitate any informal trails
- rehabilitate the gravel pit

Resource Management

- protect snags and create wildlife trees when removing danger trees
- control the water level in the beaver pond so it does not impact Allard Crescent
- inventory Derby Creek and evaluate fish habitat

Interpretation and Education

- interpret the diversity of forest plants and habitats
- instill a sense of public stewardship



HOUSTON TRAILHEAD

8.8 East End Lands

Allard Crescent separates this unit from the Upland Forest. Much of this unit is rented out for horse pasture. A residence and two delapidated barns are part of the rental property. A wetland constructed by Ducks Unlimited (DU) is in this unit and the Fort-to-Fort Trail is along the Fraser River edge and the park's south boundary with access on Allard Crescent.

PROGRAM

Facilities

- seek ways to upkeep barns on this site to maintain the rural character
- construct a park entrance "portal" on Allard Crescent at the park boundary

Trails

- maintain the Fort-to-Fort Trail
- evaluate and address cliff hazard

Land Management

- evaluate and address cliff hazard along the Fort-to-Fort Trail
- allow use of the wetland by organized dog clubs (presently used by retrievers) throughout the year except during duck nesting time from April 1 to June 15
- continue the rental program

Resource Management

- prevent beaver activity in the DU wetland
- monitor waterfowl use of the wetland (in conjunction with DU)
- eliminate broom and confine blackberries to 3m hedgerow on the rental property



DUCKS UNLIMITED WETLAND

Interpretation and Education

- install park entrance sign and visitor information at park entrance portal
- provide interpretive information on the wetland and waterfowl (in conjunction with DU)

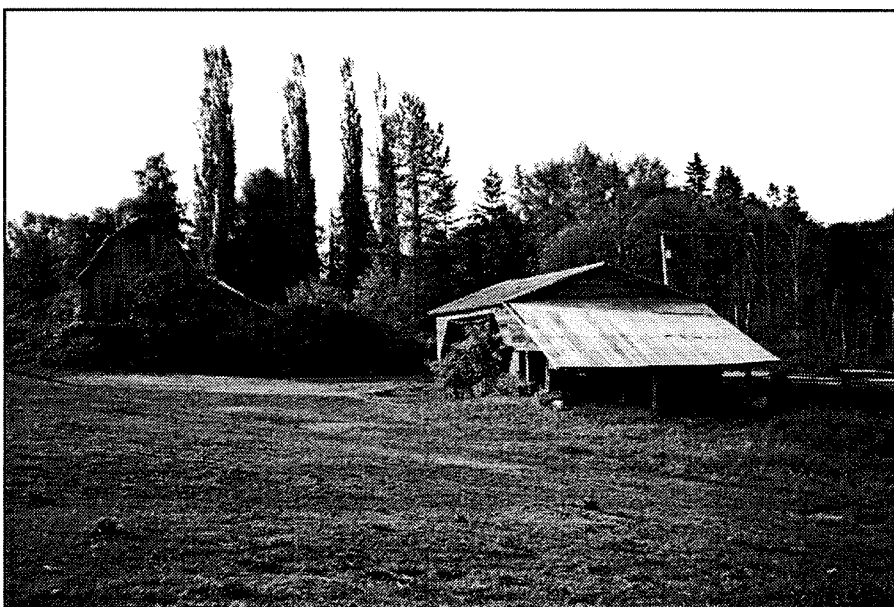


PHOTO CREDIT: SHARON MENEELY

DELAPIDATED BARNs
(EAST END LANDS)

8.9 West End Lands

This landscape unit extends from 208th Street to the Edgewater Bar unit. It includes a portion of riparian forest and a small parcel of bog on the south side of Allard Crescent. The waterfront at Muench Bar is leased nine months of the year by the Muench Bar Fishing Association. There is one rented residence on Allard Crescent at the access to Muench Bar.

Most of this unit is hayfields rented on a yearly basis to a dairy farmer. The Agricultural Land Commission feels these lands should be preserved for long-term agriculture (see Appendix D).

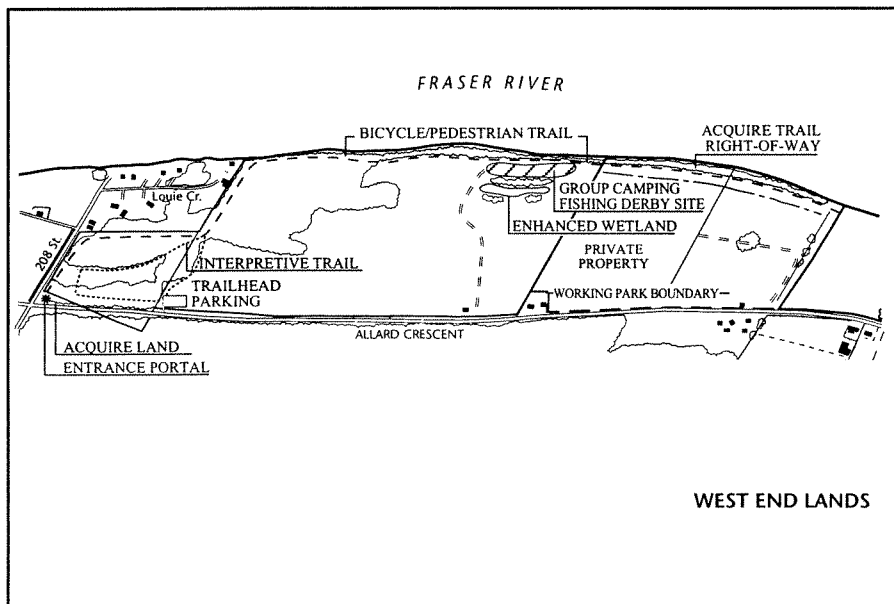
PROGRAM

Facilities

- construct a park entrance “portal” on Allard Crescent at the park boundary along Allard Crescent
- develop trailhead parking off Allard Crescent just east of the “portal” entrance in conjunction with other facilities
- develop a group campsite that can also function for fishing derbies at Muench Bar
- explore future dog off-leash area

Trails

- construct a pedestrian/bicycle trail from 208th Street and from the trailhead through the riparian forest and along the riverfront to Edgewater Bar (Note: A trail right-of-way is required along the riverfront over the private land)
- construct a fenced trail area adjacent to the river edge trail for dogs off-leash
- construct a pedestrian-only interpretive trail in the riparian forest



FIELDS (WEST END LANDS)

Land Management

- continue leasing the farm fields and residence
- explore future land uses that fit with floodplain and ALC requirements
- determine field management prescriptions

Resource Management

- protect and expand the riparian forest and fish habitat
- enhance the small wetland south of Muench Bar
- plant native trees and shrubs around the wetland and to enhance the existing hedgerows

Interpretation and Education

- place entrance directional sign and information kiosk at trailhead
- install park entrance sign and visitor information at park entrance portal
- provide interpretive information on the riparian forest and fish habitat of this unit

8.10 Allard Crescent

This country road is the primary access to the park. In places the park bounds on both sides of the road right-of-way. From the west end through to the bog, the park is only on the north side of Allard.

Actions

- Discuss with the Township of Langley how Allard Crescent can be maintained and managed to best meet the park and recreation needs as well as the transportation requirements.
- Explore a co-management agreement with directional signs to the park redesigned and installed.

8.11 Park Boundary Actions

- Acquire, on a willing seller basis
- the small triangular piece of property at the intersection of 208th Street and Allard Crescent
- two parcels of land between Muench Bar and Edgewater Bar
- the triangular piece of land adjacent to the Peat Plant
- collaborate with the Township of Langley on completion of the Fort-to-Fort Trail
- acquire from the Township of Langley any undeveloped road allowances and lands within the park boundary for park purposes
- discuss with the Township of Langley the future of the municipal lands containing Dickson Pit (gravel pit) to maximize the recreation and conservation opportunities of this parcel
- liaise with Township of Langley to resolve negative behaviours and problems on the park - neighbourhood interface

ALLARD CRESCENT



9.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The list below is a forecast for development of Derby Reach Regional Park. The projects correspond with components outlined in Section 8.0. Availability of funding may alter this forecast.

GVRD will work closely with the Park Partnership Association, the Township of Langley and other agencies to implement the plan. Data will frequently be collected on how people use the park and how satisfied they are with facilities and programs. Environmental monitoring will be conducted to determine the impacts of use on the park resources and to measure the success of habitat enhancement projects.

Implementation of the Management Plan is flexible to take into account changes in visitor use, environmental impacts and community needs. The Management Plan will be formally reviewed as the need arises.

YEAR	PRIORITY	ACTION
1998	1	Clean up Peat Plant site and bog and save Peat Plant artifacts.
	2	Upgrade Edge Trail to wheelchair-accessible standard.
	3	Develop interpretive plan and exhibits for Heritage Area.
1999	4	Complete field enhancement study.
	5	Improve campground security through site design.
	6	Negotiate co-management of Allard Crescent.
2000	7	Implement erosion control works at "S" Bend.
	8	Install municipal water supply along Allard Crescent.
	9	Construct pedestrian/bicycle trail (Fraser River Trail) from Heritage Area to Edgewater Bar (possibly in phases).
	10	Negotiate right-of-way across private land for extension of Fraser River Trail.

CONTINUED

2001	11	Pave or chip-seal Bar road and overflow parking lot.
	12	Install entrance portals.
	13	Install new entrance sign at Edgewater Bar.
	14	Enlarge, fence and sign existing off-leash area.
	15	Plant trees and shrubs in day use and camping area.
	16	Enhance fields for raptor habitat.
	17	Develop fishing derby site at Muench Bar.
	18	Implement bog resource management measures.
2002	19	Develop Edge Farm picnic area (new entrance, parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables, and toilets)
	20	Construct Fraser River Trail from Edge Bar to 208 th St.
2003	21	Relocate and build new service yard and facilities.
	22	Construct children's thematic playground.
	23	Construct trail access to bog from Houston Trail.
	24	Provide bog and Peat Plant interpretive signage.
2004	25	Construct pedestrian/cycle trail through riparian forest from Edge Farm to old service yard site.
	26	Construct Fraser River Trailhead with parking off Allard Crescent (West End Lands).
	27	Provide interpretive information on riparian forest and "monument" black cottonwood trees.
2005	28	Develop group campsite at Muench Bar.
	29	Enhance wetland and plant trees and shrubs at Muench Bar.
	30	Develop interp trail along "S" Bend wetlands.
2006	31	Develop interpretive trail in bog forest with trailhead at Edge Farm.
	32	Remove rental house on river side of Allard Crescent at the Heritage Area.
2007	33	Conduct archeological investigations at First Fort Langley and Derby Townsite.
2008	34	Construct tea-house/small restaurant at Heritage Area replicating a Derby Townsite structure on a cost recovery basis.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

GVRD Parks thanks the people and organizations who have devoted their time and effort to help develop this management plan. The involvement of the following in particular is very much appreciated:

Consultants

Sharp and Diamond Landscape
Architects
Dan Matsushita, Landscape Architect

Interest Groups

Allard Crescent Residents
B.C. Horse Council
B.C. Association of Retriever Trials
Back Country Horsemen of B.C.
Catherwood Towing Limited
Central Valley Naturalists
Coast Cranberries Limited
Derby Reach/Brae Island Park
Partnership Association
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Fort Langley Community Improvement
Society
Fort Langley Economic Enhancement
Committee
Langley Community Connections Team
Langley Environmental Organization
Langley Field Naturalists
Langley Heritage Society
Langley Peat Limited
Marpole Richmond Sportsman
Association
Regional Disabled Persons Association
Surrey Access for All
Scouts Canada, Langley District

Agencies

Agricultural Land Commission
B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands
and Parks
Canadian Parks Service
Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
(DFO)
Fraser River Estuary Management
Program (FREMP)
Langley Centennial Museum
RCMP, Langley Division
Township of Langley

The principal author, Gordon Smith,
Park Planner, thanks the following
GVRD Parks staff for their assistance in
producing the Management Plan.

Wendy DaDalt, Area Superintendent,
East Area
Kelly Hoskins, Visitor Services
Coordinator, East Area
Paul Skydt, Administrator, Planning
and Research
Don Watmough, Long Range Planner
Anne Morrison, Community
Development Coordinator, East Area
Dick Bullinger, Operations Supervisor,
East Area
Craig Smith, Park Operator, Derby
Reach Regional Park
Debbie Kerr, Office Supervisor, East
Area
Wendy Bishop, Graphics
Debbie Bowles, Graphics

DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN - 24 MARCH 1994

Questionnaire -19 Returned

Thank you for attending the Open House. Please state your opinions and concerns by filling out this questionnaire and leaving it with us before you depart.

1. What municipality are you from?

Langley-15 Matsqui-1 Maple Ridge-1
Vancouver-1 Delta-1

2. How did you hear about the Open House?

(Please circle one)

Newsletter 5 Mailed Flier 4
Newspaper 4 Word-of-Mouth 2
Other (Poster) 4

3. Did you find the Open House informative?

Yes No

How could we make it better?

4. What were you most interested in?

6 South Fraser River Parks and Outdoor Recreation System

10 Derby Reach Biophysical

3 Wetland Enhancement Proposal by Ducks Unlimited

8 Langley's Country Roads and Trails initiatives.

3 Park specific issues. Specify Historic Core 1._

Comments:

5. List any issues you feel should be immediately addressed?

1
2
3

6. Do you like the additional day-use parking and extended day-use fishing area that was constructed last year at Edgewater Bar?

Yes-12 No-0

Comments:

7. At present overnight camping and day-use fishing causes conflict for riverfront use. Should camping be:

a) Eliminated?

Yes-1 No-6

b) Increased?

Yes-5 No-2

c) Relocated away from the river edge?

Yes-6 No-2

d) Left as is?

Yes-2 No-0

Comments:

8. Shoreline erosion is a constant problem, mainly behind the historic cairn, which is the original site of Fort Langley. Engineered erosion protection is costly to install.

a) Do you support log booms to help protect the shoreline?

Yes-9 No-0

b) Do you support engineered shoreline erosion protection?

Yes-7 No-2

c) If yes to b), how much should be spent?

Up to \$500,000

Up to \$1 million

Comments:

9. Should trails be:
- a) Multiple use (pedestrian, equestrian, cyclists)?
Yes-9 No-4
 - b) Dual-use (state preferred combination)?
pedestrian/equestrian Yes-4 No-5
pedestrian/cyclists Yes-6 No-4
cyclists/equestrian Yes-0 No-8
 - c) Single-use only? Yes-5 No-7

Should more trails be provided? What kinds?

Comments:

3-Pedestrian only
1-Cyclist only
1-Horse only

10. There is a proposal to develop a parking lot and trailhead near the Houston House (Heritage area).

Do you agree with the concept design?

Yes-13 No-1

If yes, how soon should this be developed?

7-One to Two years
1-Three to Four years
3-Five to Six years

There is a proposal to develop a picnic area at the Edge Farm.

Do you agree with the concept design?

Yes-14 No-1

If yes, how soon should this be developed?

6-One to Two years
4-Three to Four years
1-Five to Six years

Comments:

11. Should GVRD acquire more land as part of Derby Reach Regional Park?

Yes-14 No-1

Comments:

12. Would you support any of the following being developed at Derby Reach Regional Park?

	SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	NOT SUPPORTED
Canoe/kayak launch area	12	4	2
Power boat launch area	1	4	12
Swimming lake	5	10	3
Playing fields	9	6	3
Children's playground	10	7	0
Food concession	3	6	8
Bait and tackle concession	3	5	9
Golf driving range	2	2	13

Any other general comments? (Please use back of sheet)

DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK

OPEN HOUSE - 15 OCTOBER 1994

Questionnaire -37 Returned

Thank you for attending the Open House. Please state your opinions and concerns by filling out this questionnaire and leaving it with us before you depart.

1. What municipality are you from?
 Langley-18 Surrey-8 Chilliwack-3
 Delta-1 Coquitlam-4 Matsqui-2
 Burnaby-1
2. How far have you travelled to get to Derby Reach?
 (Please circle one)
 Within 1/2 hour -22 1/2 to 1 hour -14
 over 1 hour -1
3. Have you completed a survey on Derby Reach before?
 Yes-5 No-32
4. What is the main attraction that brings you to Derby Reach?
 fishing-17 camping-14
 relaxing-20 picnicking-13
 walking-17
 other? (please specify)
 biking-2 peace and quiet-1
 birding-1 dogtraining-.
5. Should GVRD Parks provide more river edge access for day-use fishing and other day-use activities (e.g.: picnicking)?
 Yes-24 No-8 If yes, where?
6. Should GVRD Parks provide more campsites ?
 Yes-23 No-5 If yes, where?

7. Should camping be to support early morning/late evening fishing?
 Yes-14 No-13
 Comments:
8. Do you support the proposal to relocate the campsites away from the waters edge to make the area available for day-use fishing? (See displays for relocation options)
 Yes-10 No-23
 Comments:
9. Would you favor a user pay intensive use area that may incorporate camping, RV sites, golf drive range, boat launch and man made swimming pool facility?
 Yes-11 No-24
 Comments:
10. Recognizing the regional population is growing significantly (i.e. doubling over next 20 years), what additional facilities or services should be provided at Derby Reach Regional Park?

PRIORITY	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
day-use parking	10	11	1
campsites	14	10	2
picnic shelters	9	8	8
toilets	14	10	0
nature trails	12	6	6
food concession	3	2	19
bait and tackle retail	2	4	16
group campground (organized adult groups)	5	4	12
group campground (organized youth groups)	4	6	12
reservable group picnic areas	7	5	10
heritage site development	6	8	9
wildlife viewing towers	5	4	15

PRIORITY (*..continued*)

wildlife enhancement	7	6	7
nature education programs	10	8	4
erosion control	15	6	4
man-made swimming lake	4	6	12
children's play facilities	7	5	10
playing fields	3	5	14
<i>(soccer, baseball, etc.)</i>			
canoe/kayak launch area	5	5	11
power boat launch area	4	1	19
golf driving range	1	1	20
par 3 golf course	2	1	20
other (specify)			

8. General comments:

APPENDIX B: OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

Activities Participated in At Least Once in the Past 12 Months

Rank Ordered

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATING	LOW ESTIMATE	HIGH ESTIMATE
Walking for pleasure	92.3%	89.4%	95.2%
Sightseeing/viewing landscape	89.8	86.9	92.7
Going to beach	82.7	79.8	85.6
Driving for pleasure	77.4	74.5	80.3
Going on a picnic	70.2	67.3	73.1
Swimming in ocean, lake or river	61.3	58.7	64.2
Swimming in outdoor pools	52.9	50.0	55.8
Bicycling on roads	52.1	49.2	55.0
Other nature study	47.4	44.5	50.3
Camping with car, RV or motorhome	46.9	44.0	49.8
Day hikes	42.9	37.3	43.1
Outdoor field sports	38.9	36.0	41.8
Golfing	33.6	30.7	36.5
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	32.1	29.2	35.3
Other wildlife viewing	32.1	29.2	35.0
Jogging or running	31.0	28.1	33.9
Freshwater fishing	30.2	27.3	33.1
Bicycling on trails or backcountry	29.5	26.5	32.4
Powerboating	26.1	23.2	29.0
Canoeing or kayaking	23.6	20.7	26.8
Saltwater fishing	21.6	18.7	24.5
Bird watching	19.9	17.0	22.8
Cross-country skiing	15.6	12.7	18.5
Horseback riding	15.4	12.5	18.3
Sailing	13.9	11.0	16.8
Driving motorized off-road	12.9	10.0	15.8
Backpacking	12.8	9.9	15.7
Attending motorized spectator activity	12.4	9.5	15.3
Waterskiing	9.9	7.0	12.8
Underwater diving	8.5	5.6	11.4
Backcountry skiing	7.7	4.8	10.6
Hunting	7.0	4.1	9.9
Rock climbing	5.1	2.2	8.0
Windsurfing	4.9	2.0	7.8
Snowmobiling	3.8	0.9	6.7
Sky activities	2.5	0.4	5.4

APPENIX C: QUESTIONS/ISSUES ADDRESSED BY SIX FOCUS GROUPS

FOCUS GROUP 1

S-BEND

- Chair, Sherry Baker

1. Should engineered erosion protection be installed along this foreshore? Is the proposed wood wall appropriate for this area? If not, what else might be done?
2. Should public fishing be allowed in this area? If not, should log booms be moved along the shoreline to provide a revenue source? (The First Nations traditional fishing site would be protected.)
3. Should an off-road pedestrian and/or bicycling trail be built along this area to join the Fort-to-Fort Trail with the Edgewater Bar and west? How would it fit with the erosion works?
4. How could this area be better protected and identified as parkland?

FOCUS GROUP 2

WEST END LANDS

- Chair, Bob Rogers

1. What are the preferred short-term (1 - 5 years) uses of the west end lands? Should the rental farm operations be continued? Should wildlife enhancement be carried out with other uses? Should the Muench Bar-Fishing Association use be continued, modified or changed? Could there be any public uses of the lands? e.g. dog club area, dog off-leash area, trails, staging area etc.
2. What are preferred long-term uses of these lands?
3. Are there management principles that should guide evaluation of future proposals?
4. Are there any revenue generation opportunities for these lands that would provide commercial outdoor recreation and income for other GVRD Parks projects?
5. What are the important trail connections to other areas of the park and west to link with Walnut Grove and Surrey?

FOCUS GROUP 3

WATERFRONT USES,

EDGEWATER BAR

- Chair, Madeline Waring

1. How are the current waterfront uses at Edgewater Bar functioning?
2. Should camping be continued along the waterfront? If no, would it fit in elsewhere in the park?
3. If "yes" how can the campground be managed to reduce conflicts with day-users and park closing times?
4. Are there other access issues that need to be addressed?
5. Should day-use picnicking and fishing be expanded? If yes, where?

FOCUS GROUP 4

TRAILS

- Chair, Ron Ydenberg

1. Are the current trail user combinations working?
2. Should the Edge Trail be upgraded to accommodate wheelchairs?
3. Should there be a bicycle trail connection from McKinnon Crescent through the upland forest, possibly incorporating the existing gravel pit service road to Allard Crescent. If yes, suggest a route?
4. Should mountain biking i.e. off-road challenge cycling be accommodated in the park? If yes, suggest where?
5. What trails should be in the bog including trail corridors to link with other park areas? What safety measures would be required?
6. How important is a riverfront trail corridor from the Heritage Area to 208th Street? What user groups should be accommodated and what should the standard be?
7. Where should other new trails be constructed and for what user groups?
8. What trail work should be accomplished over the next 5 years?

FOCUS GROUP 5

DOG ISSUES

- Chair, Tom Mackie

1. Should there be off-leash area(s) in Derby Reach?
2. If "yes", where?
3. What facilities should be provided to make these areas function well?
4. Are there areas of the park where dogs should not be permitted for environmental protection or public health?

FOCUS GROUP 6

BOG

- Chair, Larry Meneely

1. What is the main role for the bog?
2. What other roles are compatible with the main role?
3. What are the preferred activities that can happen to reinforce the main role?
4. What activities could happen at the peat plant?
5. What tasks should be accomplished over the next 5 years?
6. Identify access points and connections to the neighbouring park units and the community.



APPENIX D

Provincial Agricultural Land Commission

133 - 4940 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 4K6

Telephone: (604) 660-7000

Fax: (604) 660-7033

February 12, 1999

Reply to the attention of Bruce Gunn.

Rick Hankin
Manager of Regional Parks
Greater Vancouver Regional District
4330 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C.
V5H 4G8

Dear Sir:

RE: Derby Reach Regional Park Management Plan
Our File: #57-O-98-32459

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above captioned Management Plan. The Commission would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Gordon Smith of GVRD Parks who attended our recent Commission meeting and provided us with a most informative and enjoyable presentation on the Plan.

The Commission acknowledges the long history of park development at Derby Reach Regional Park. Having reviewed the Management Plan we are generally supportive of the existing and proposed park development plans for most Landscape Management Units. However, the Commission also recognizes that a substantial area of ALR land associated with the West End Lands and Edgewater Bar Management Units as well as the intervening privately titled area has good agricultural capability and should be preserved for agricultural production.

The Commission felt that in order to preserve and encourage agriculture in this area that an agricultural strategy should be developed within the context of the overall Management Plan. The Commission further felt that given the agricultural history associated with the Park that there exists an opportunity for the Plan to provide greater public awareness in support of agriculture. Finally, based on the extent of the development document in the Management Plan the Commission noted that an application under Section 34 of B.C. Regulation 452/98 is required prior to any further park development.

Therefore by **Resolution #143/99** the Commission endorses the October 1998 "Derby Reach Regional Park Management Plan" prepared by the Greater Vancouver Regional District subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to any further park development on ALR land the Commission requires GVRD Parks to submit an application under Section 34 of B.C. Regulation 452/98.

2. The application noted above shall include an agricultural strategy respecting ALR lands associated with the West End Lands Management Unit and other lands identified on the attached Sketch Plan.

The agricultural strategy should include provisions for long term (minimum of five year) agricultural leases to promote security of tenure and best agricultural use of the land. Also the strategy could include opportunities for a variety of agricultural development such as community gardens as well as commercial scale farming. In addition, the strategy should provide examples of ways to promote public awareness/education of agriculture for park users.

3. Based on the Management Plan the Commission supports the development of the Fraser River Trail, Fraser River Trailhead facilities, dog off-leash area and group camp site at Muench Bar subject to appropriate fencing and buffering to protect the adjacent agricultural area. This matter should be addressed in the context of the agricultural strategy.
4. Once completed, the Commission recommends that the Management Plan be amended to incorporate the results of the agricultural strategy.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Derby Reach Regional Park Management Plan. ALC staff are prepared to discuss with GVRD Parks staff matters relating to the preparation of an agricultural strategy and application requirements noted above. Please contact Bruce Gunn, Planning Officer at 660-7019 for further information.

Yours truly:

AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

per: 

A. Chambers, Chair

bg/i:32459d1.doc.

encl: Sketch Plan

c.c. Mark Robbins, Regional Agrologist
Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Abbotsford