



Province of  
British Columbia  
Ministry of Lands,  
Parks and Housing

# CHILLIWACK RIVER MASTER PLAN

APRIL, 1980

MEMORANDUM

To: G. Trachuk  
Director  
Planning and Design Branch

Date: January 19, 1980

File: 2-7-4-6-27

Re: Chilliwack River Park - Master Plan

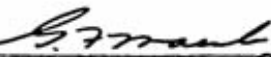
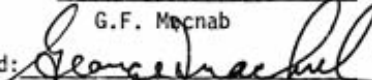
The attached plan has been reviewed and is recommended for your approval.



B. Price  
Coordinator  
Master Planning

THB/mam

Attachment

Recommended:   
G.F. Macnab  
Approved:   
G. Trachuk

19-1-81  
Date  
Jan 20/81  
Date

Lower Mainland Region  
Park Operations Branch  
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division  
Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing  
North Vancouver, B. C. V7G 1L3

CHILLIWACK RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

April, 1980

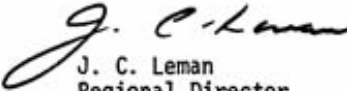
G. Trachuk  
Director

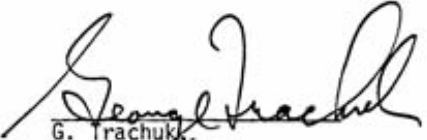
G. Trachuk  
Director  
Planning and Design Branch  
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division  
Victoria, B. C.


J. C. Lemam  
Regional Director  
Lower Mainland Region  
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division  
North Vancouver, B. C.

This Master Plan for Chilliwack River Provincial Park

is submitted for your approval.

  
J. C. Lemam  
Regional Director

Approved:  Jan 20/81  
G. Trachuk, Director Date

Recommended:  May 26/80  
D. H. Eggen, District Superintendent Date

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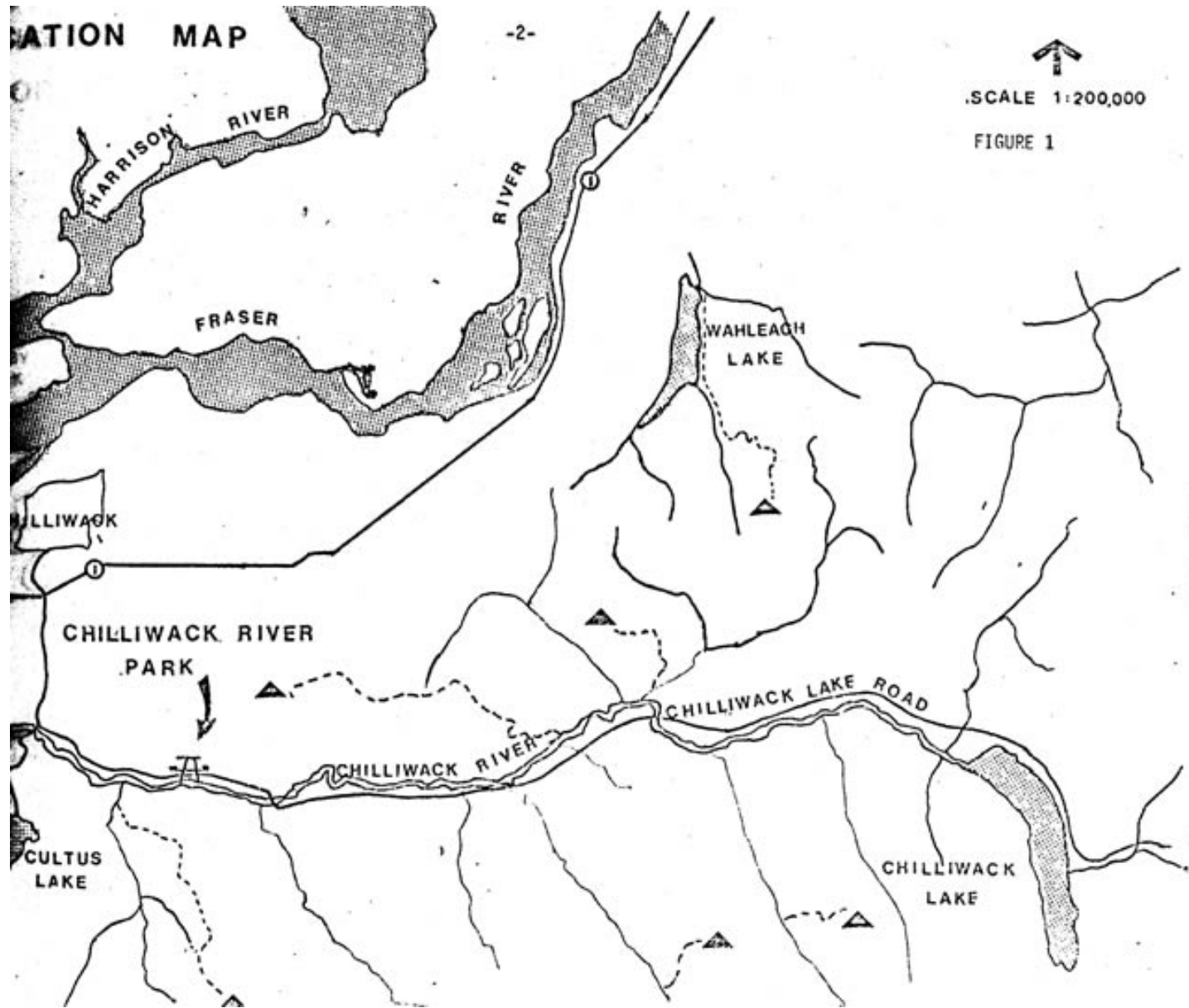
## **A. INTRODUCTION**

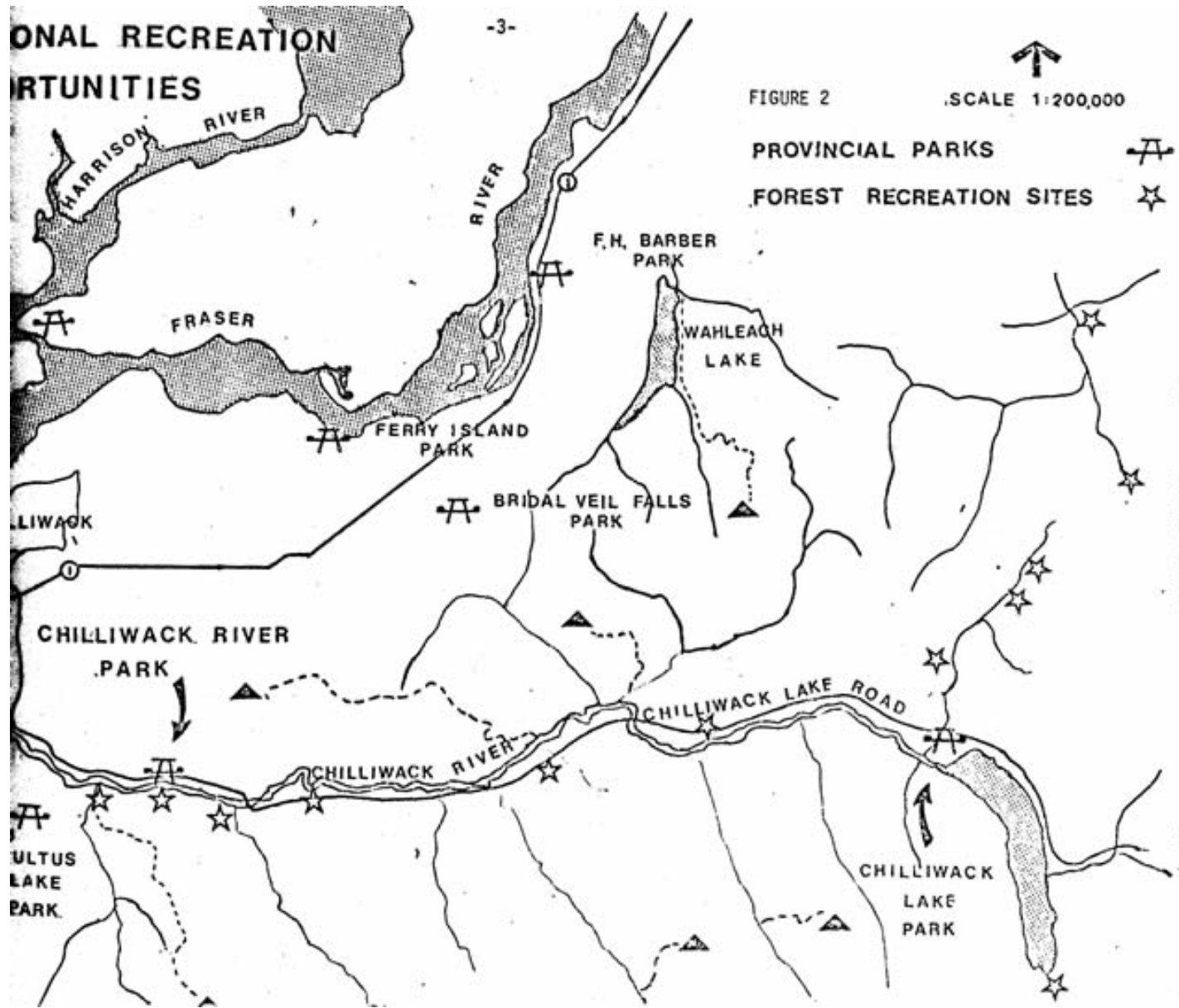
The Chilliwack River flows westward from glacier-fed Chilliwack Lake to the flood plain of the lower Fraser River. Its broad valley, framed by the western Cascade Mountains, lies in the wet subzone of the Coastal Douglas fir biogeoclimatic zone.

The recreational value of the Chilliwack River has long been recognized. Its location has made it accessible to the large urban population of the Lower Mainland and its inherent features initially made it popular for fishing, especially steelhead. Later, logging roads opened up access to the nearby alpine and subalpine meadows, which soon became a popular hiking and climbing attraction.

In recent years, river-oriented recreation has become increasingly popular. Easy access to both sides of the river provides many opportunities for all types and levels of canoeists, kayakers and rafters. To accommodate such use, both the Forest Service and the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division have set aside lands for recreation and have established recreational facilities.

Chilliwack River Park (Figure 1) is located 10 km southeast of the town of Chilliwack and was established as a Class 'A' Provincial Park in 1961. This currently undeveloped park contains 26 hectares.





**B. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Within the Lower Mainland Region, the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, in close concert with the recreation efforts of the Ministry of Forests, will provide a diverse system of parks to serve the recreational needs of tourists and local residents. Based on the existing recreation features and patterns of the Chilliwack River Valley, the goals and objectives of the Division can best be met by providing diversified, day-oriented, easy access riverfront park opportunities.

The park opportunities at Chilliwack River Provincial Park will include picnicking, nature study based on the riverine environment and river access for canoeing, fishing and kayaking.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

**C. PARK RESOURCES STATEMENT**

Chilliwack River Provincial Park lies in the wetter subzone of the Coastal Douglas fir biogeoclimatic zone. Its floodplain environment further accentuates the role of water in this park as a manipulator of not only the land but also the vegetation.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

Traces of the fluvial processes that shaped the area are visible everywhere. Some of the old and existing river channels making up the floodplain form ideal spawning and rearing areas for salmonids as well as being attractive environments for walking and picnicking. Beaver have dammed some channels north of the Chilliwack Lake road, creating a special habitat for other forms of wildlife than just themselves.

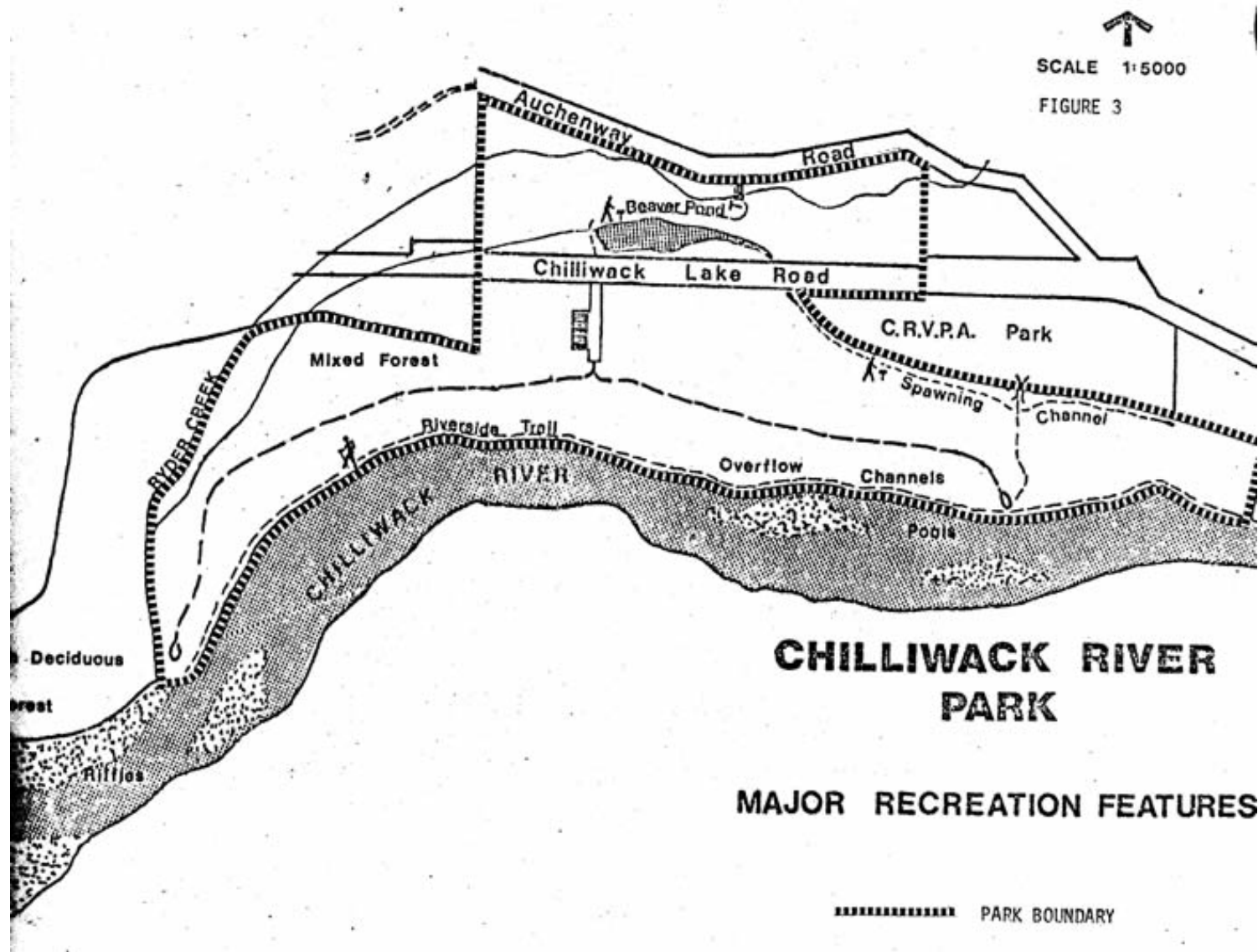
The Chilliwack River itself is extensively used for fishing, canoeing and kayaking. The portion of the river fronting the park is classified as Grade 1 to Grade 2 water. Many pools and back eddies provide easy entry and exit points along the river which are ideal for improving paddling skills. Chutes along gravel bars provide a challenge for more advanced canoeists.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

The Chilliwack River provides a good opportunity for sport fishing. In one year, over 36,000 angler days were attributed to steelhead fishing alone. The river also provides good spawning habitat for other salmonids such as chum, coho and sockeye.

Figure 3 shows the major recreational attractions of the park.



# CHILLIWACK RIVER PARK

## MAJOR RECREATION FEATURES

----- PARK BOUNDARY

#### D. ZONING

Figure 4 illustrates the zoning plan for the park.

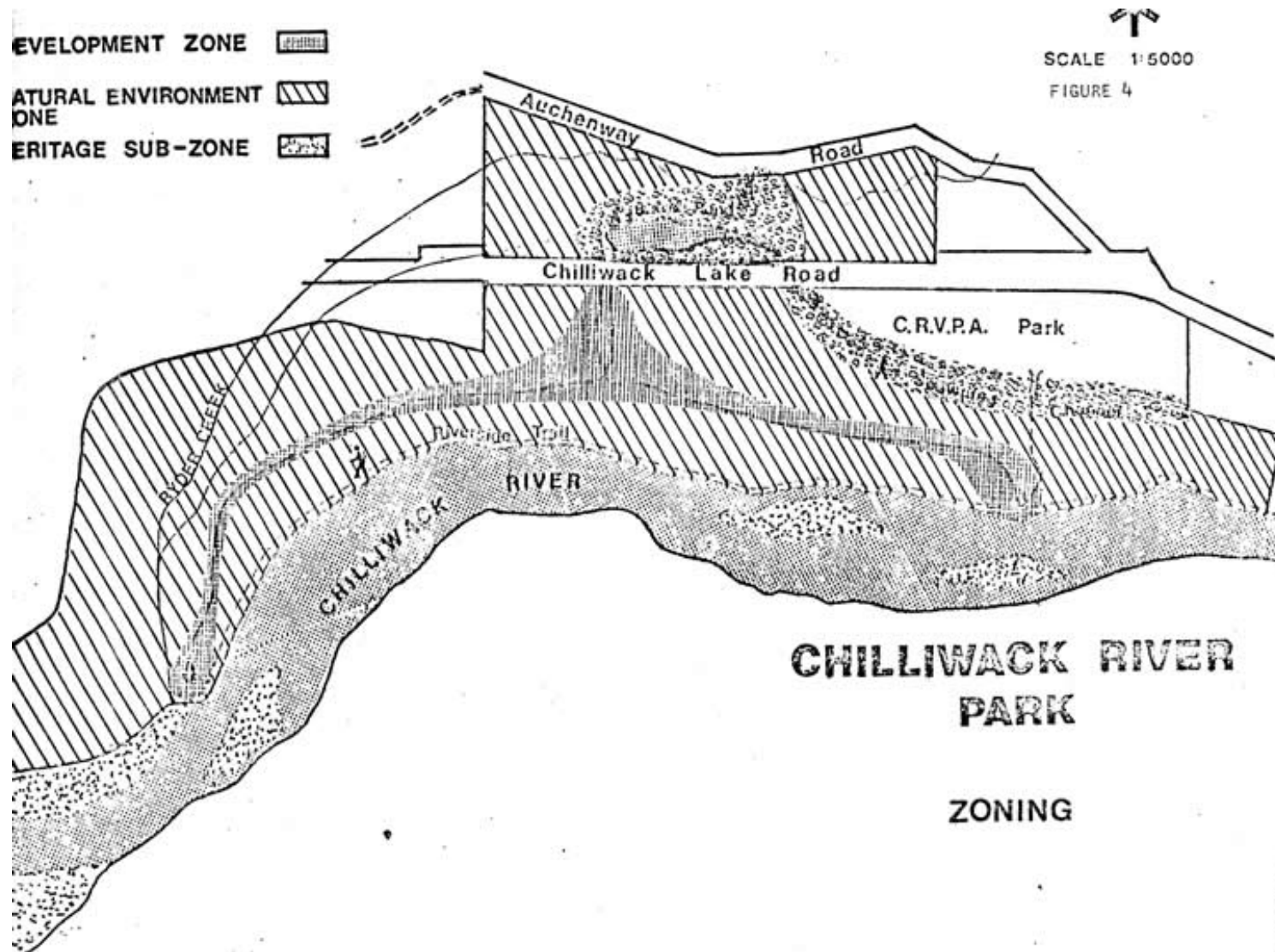
The **Development Zone** includes the area where construction of facilities is necessary to enhance or enable public recreation for fishing, picnicking, hiking and river access. Development will mainly consist of improving primitive facilities now in place.

The **Natural Environment Zone** is essentially a passive zone, retained primarily as habitat with development restricted to existing access trails.

The **Heritage Sub-Zone** is divided into two areas that are of particular interest. The beaver pond north of the highway contains a variety of aquatic life. The old river channel separating the park from the community park has the potential to be developed and interpreted as a spawning channel in conjunction with federal Fisheries and the Provincial Fish and Wildlife Branch.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

BEAVER POND NORTH OF THE HIGHWAY



**E. GENERAL MANAGEMENT STATEMENT**

In view of the importance of the Chilliwack River as salmonid spawning and rearing habitat, the overall management of Chilliwack River Park will necessitate close co-operation with federal and provincial fisheries departments. Recreation potentials will be managed to provide day-use, river-oriented opportunities for the residents of the Fraser Valley and their visitors.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

## **F. SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS**

### **1. Resource Management Plans**

Normal resource management procedures will be implemented at the park with an added emphasis on fishing. The Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans has shown interest in developing a ground water spawning channel for Chum and Coho salmon. This action will be encouraged and integrated with the interpretation facilities available at the park.

### **2. Visitor Management Plans**

In an effort to make the area more accessible to day users, the following developments are proposed:

- a) A 20-car parking lot will be constructed in the centre of the park and service roads will be built from there to the canoe launch and Ryder Creek picnic areas;
- b) Two picnic sites will be constructed and service roads will be built to maintain them:
  - i) Ryder Creek - at the confluence of Ryder Creek and the Chilliwack River;
  - ii) Canoe Launch - at the east end of the park;
- c) A canoe launch site will be provided at the east end of the park;
- d) Riverside Trail - the trail along the river bank will be improved to connect the picnic areas;

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

**F. SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS**

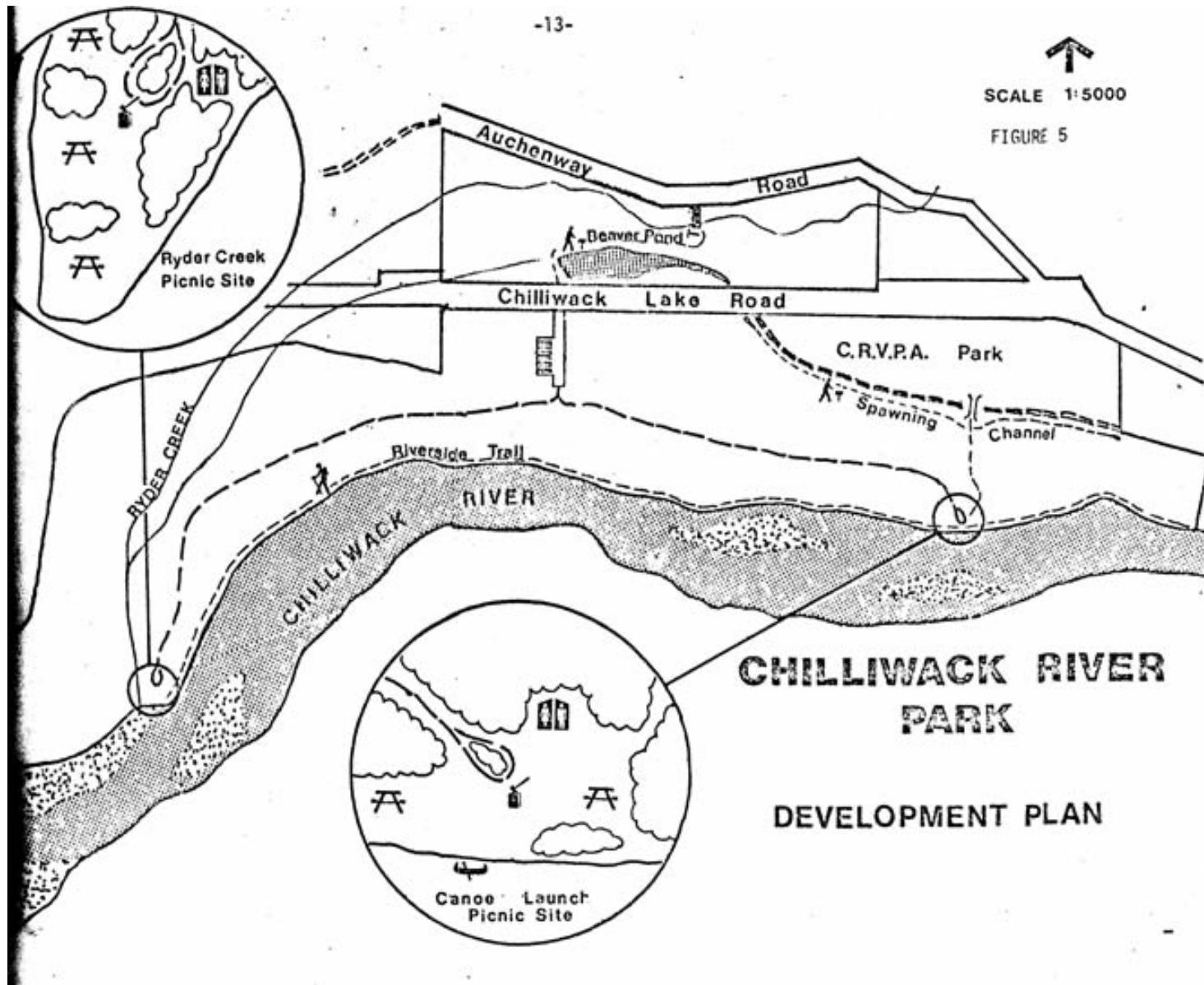
**2. Visitor Management Plan- Continued**

- e) Beaver Pond Trail - A self-guiding interpretive trail focussing on the aquatic plant and animal life will be built from Chilliwack Lake Road (opposite the park entrance) around the beaver pond to Auchenway Road;
- f) Spawning Channel Trail - An interpretive trail will be constructed along the ground water spawning channel, once it is completed by the Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans, to facilitate public awareness of fisheries enhancement projects.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

Canoe Launch Site

Figure 5 shows the projected development.



SCALE 1:5000

FIGURE 5

# CHILLIWACK RIVER PARK

## DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## **F. SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS**

### **3. Administrative Plans**

The administration of this park will be based at Cultus Lake with normal management practices implemented.

## **G. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

Based on the current use patterns, the park will be developed in the following stages:

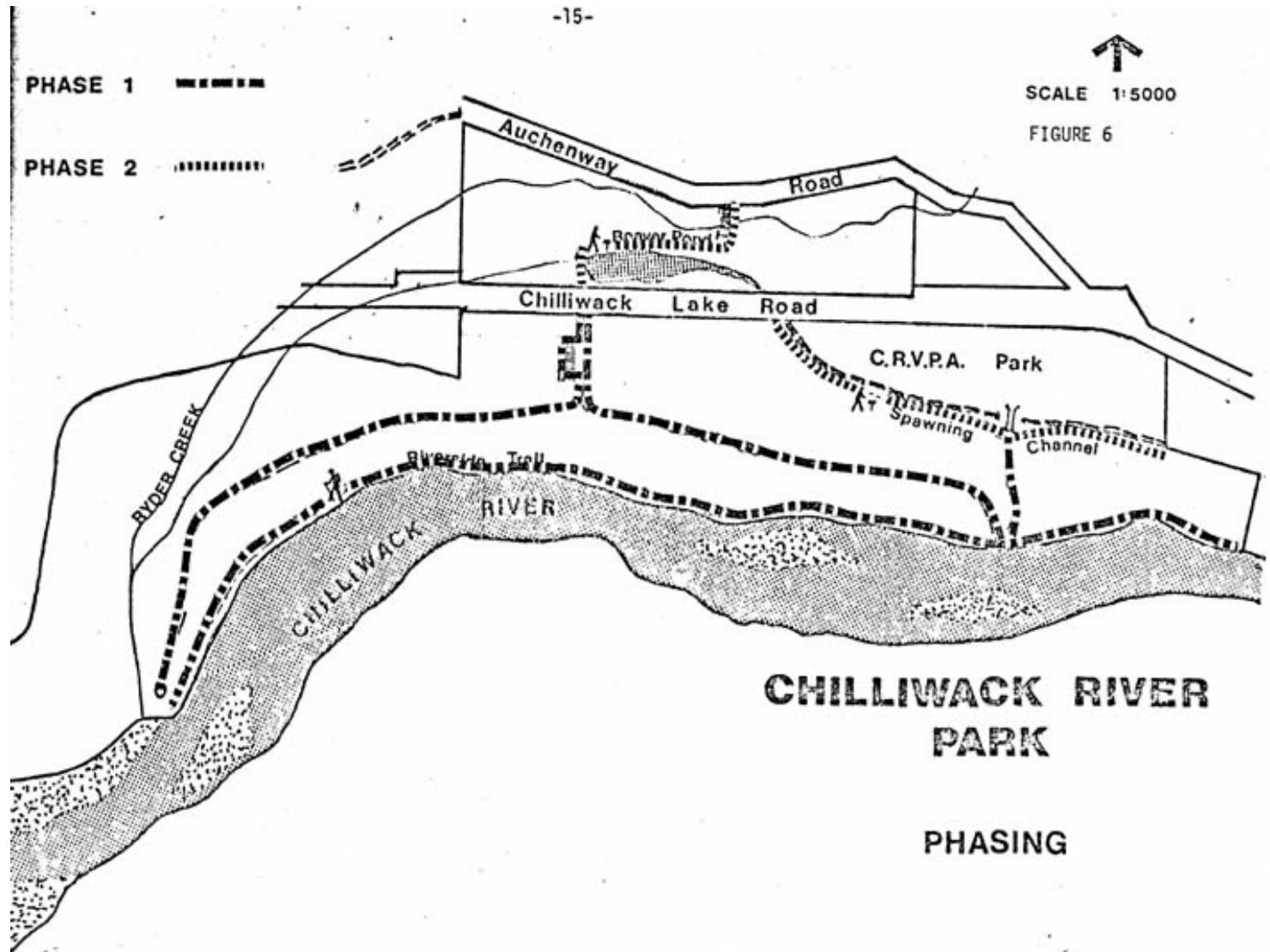
### **Phase 1**

1. Construct a trail from the Chilliwack River Valley Protection Association park to the canoe launch and picnic area.
2. Upgrade the "Riverside Trail."
3. Construct a 20-car parking lot in the centre of the park.
4. Construct a service road to the mouth of Ryder Creek.
5. Place a canoe launch at the east end of the park.
6. Construct a service road to the canoe launch.
7. Construct "Canoe Launch" and Ryder Creek" picnic areas.

### **Phase 2**

1. Construct the "Beaver Pond" interpretive loop.
2. Construct the "Spawning Channel" interpretive trail.

Figure 6 illustrates the phasing of construction.

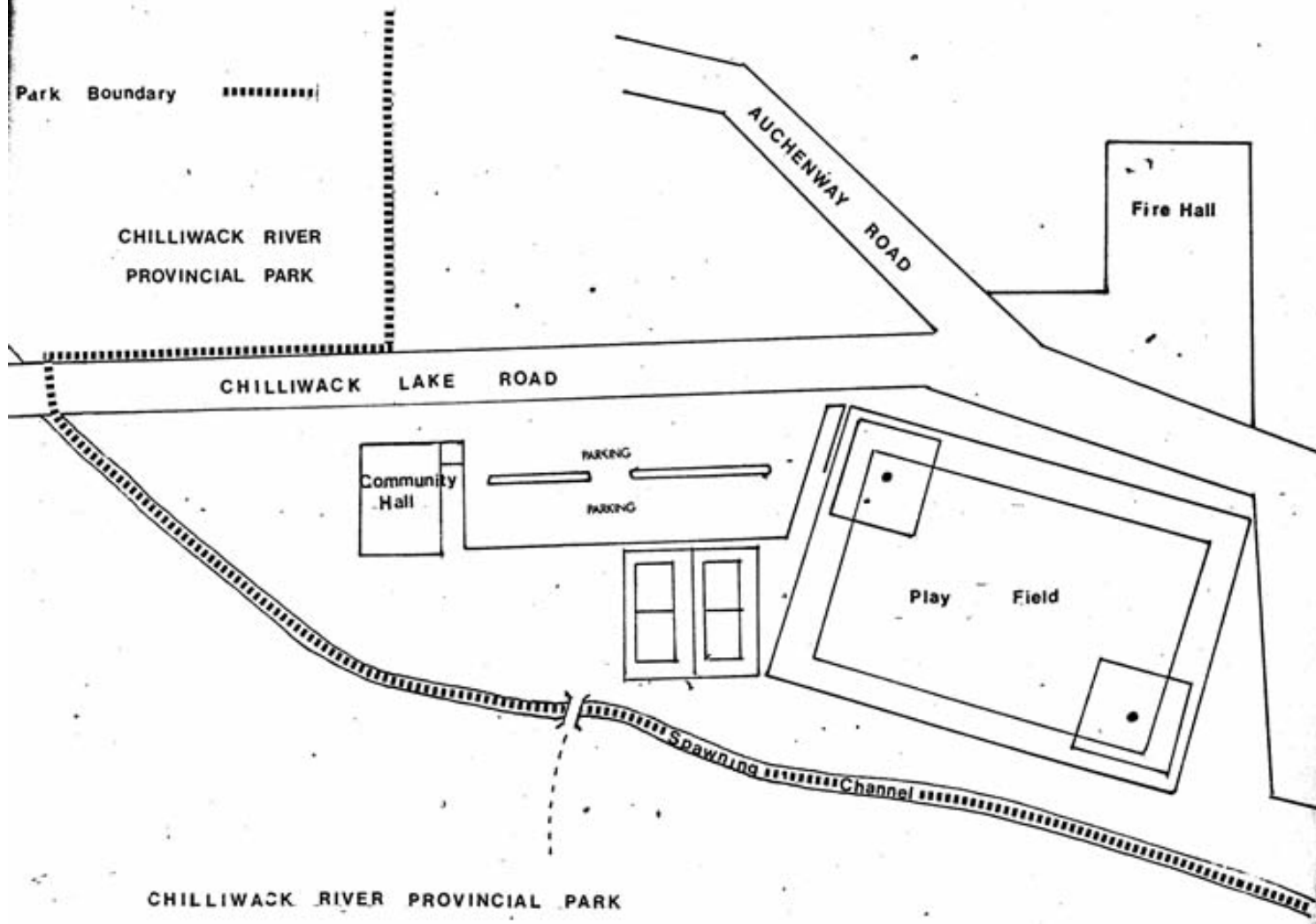


APPENDIX I

Chilliwack River Valley Protective Association

PARK PROPOSAL

CHILLIWACK RIVER VALLEY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION



CHILLIWACK RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK