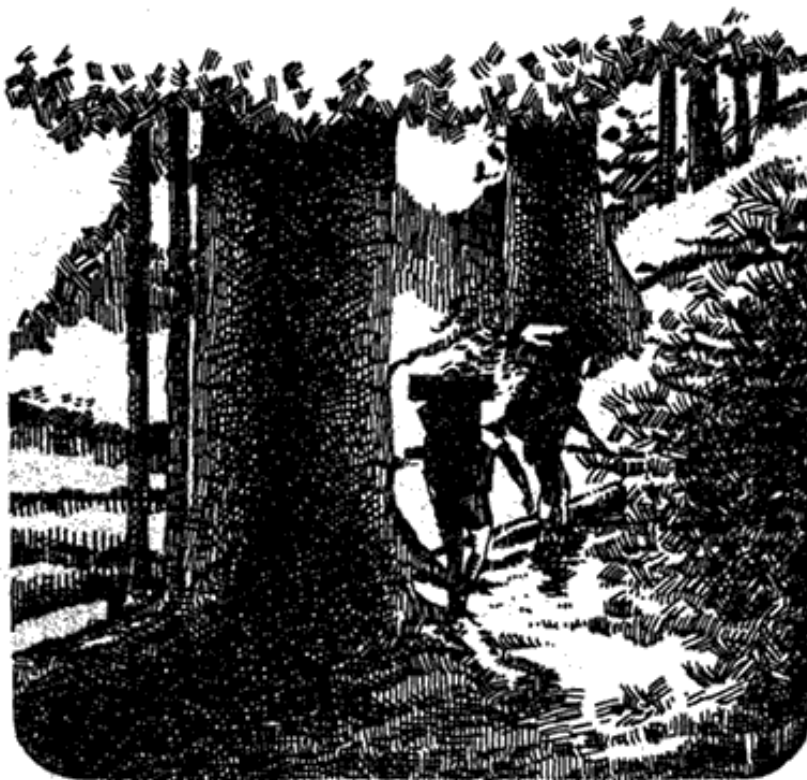


# MASTER PLAN

June, 1997



for Cypress  
Provincial Park



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment,  
Lands and Parks  
BC Parks Division

Cypress  
Provincial Park

MASTER  
PLAN

Prepared by  
BC Parks & Ecological Reserves  
Planning Branch  
for Lower Mainland District  
North Vancouver, B.C.



# CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARK

## MASTER PLAN

Approved by:

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## A VISION FOR CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARK

*... it is the vision that Cypress Park will exemplify BC Parks' and British Columbia's commitment to park stewardship in conservation, outdoor recreation and education, community involvement and the provision of commercial recreation opportunities, most notably alpine and nordic skiing.*



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This plan for Cypress Provincial Park has received the highest level of public input ever afforded a plan for a park in British Columbia's provincial park system. Well over 15,000 people have directly helped shape the plan by investing countless hours; many of those hours have been voluntary and many of the costs associated with this participation have been a personal investment.

These efforts, both silent and vocal, will lead to a park that is dedicated for the preservation of its natural environment for the use, inspiration and enjoyment of the public and to protect the park's resources from environmental impacts that are not necessary to preserve or maintain the recreation values. All of these personal contributions are recognized and appreciated.





- Cypress Provincial Park will exemplify BC Parks' and British Columbia's commitment to park stewardship in conservation, outdoor recreation and education, community involvement and the provision of commercial recreation opportunities, most notably alpine and nordic skiing.
- One-fifth of the park will be included in the Special Features Zone in order to protect and present the park's significant natural and cultural features. Hollyburn Mountain's old growth forest stands and the wetlands of Yew Lake will be included in this zone.
- Cypress Bowl Recreations Ltd. (CBRL) has received approval to expand and improve its facilities to serve a design capacity of 4,840 skiers in the alpine ski area, improve its nordic facilities in the Hollyburn area, and provide additional summer services compatible with the park's values reflected in the zoning for this area of the park.
- Revisions to the CBRL park use permit have been negotiated based on the recommendations of the Special Commissioner.
- Snowplay and summer hiking trailhead facilities including parking, information and sanitary facilities at Hollyburn will be improved.
- Additional winter backcountry opportunities will be provided on Black Mountain.
- A major viewpoint will be developed at Quarry Lookout.
- BC Parks will raise its profile in the park by implementing an information strategy and maintaining a ranger headquarters.
- An interpretive plan will be prepared and disturbed areas in the park will be revegetated.
- Additional Crown Provincial lands straddling Deeks Creek will be added to the park.
- The park will be added to Schedule C of the *Park Act* in order to provide its boundaries with maximum protection. Before this is actioned, BC Parks will consult CBRL on this and examine government's obligations under Park Use Permit 1506 to determine the consequences of such action on the future management of the park.

This Master Plan for Cypress Provincial Park has been prepared by BC Parks' staff. This plan is based on the approved recommendations by Special Commissioner Bryan Williams and his advisors, as well as input from Cypress Bowl Recreations Ltd. (CBRL) staff, interest groups and the public. Information was received from the public by questionnaires, letters, public meetings and working group sessions.

**What is a Park Master Plan?**

A park master plan guides a park's management and sets out objectives and actions for conservation, recreation, development, interpretation and operation of a park. Together with a number of other relevant documents, a master plan provides the management framework used for guidance by the District Parks Manager. For the Cypress Provincial Park Master Plan, there are a number of accompanying documents listed here that need to be applied within the context of the special role CBRL has in the core area of the park in providing recreation and visitor services:

- a) the Park Act and Regulations;
- b) Park policies, including "Striking the Balance" (1991), "1992 Principles in Managing with the Private Sector" (which is a policy approved by the Minister Responsible for Provincial Parks and post-dates the privatization of the ski developments in Cypress, Mount Seymour, and Manning Parks in 1984. It is a guide for BC Parks for contractual arrangements with the private sector in the provision of recreation and visitor services in Provincial Parks. It does not displace contractual obligations in existing Park Use Permits), "1994 Protected Areas Strategy", "1995 ministerial designation order for PUPs", "1995 Protected Areas Management Principles", and "1995 Compatibility of Selected Activities, Services and Use in Protected Areas";
- c) the renewable 50 year "Park Use Permit 1506" (i.e. "licence") issued in 1984 and subsequent negotiated amendments allowing CBRL "to occupy and carry on business and to carry on the operation of ski, lodge, recreational, food, and beverage facilities within Cypress Provincial Park";
- d) the 1991 Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and the Ministry of Transportation and Highways (MOTH) "regarding the administration of public roads by MOTH within provincial parks";
- e) the 1995 "Report of the Cypress Park Special Planning Commission" complete with government decisions and announcements;

- f) CBRL's approved Controlled Recreation Area Master Plan; and
- g) 1992 Cypress Provincial Park Master Plan Background Report.

A park master plan relies on current information relating to park resources, recreation uses and activities occurring on surrounding lands. This information is obtained from park managers, discussions with other government agencies, CBRL, previously prepared reports, public interest groups, consultants, study teams and from the general public. A variety of interest groups, including Friends of Cypress Provincial Park, North Shore Hikers, Ambleside-Dundarave Ratepayers' Association, Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, Sierra Club of Western Canada, Federation of BC Naturalists, Extreme Mountain Bike People, Disabled Skiers' Association of British Columbia, Big Brothers of British Columbia, Nordic Racers and a number of other clubs were active in providing detailed information and comments to BC Parks.

Park master plans establish long-term management direction for a park, as well as dealing with immediate issues. This means that the plan will generally contain numerous statements describing management actions that need various degrees of attention. Since BC Parks cannot carry out every task at the same time, the plan must also prioritize the management actions. The Master Plan is divided into six main sections:

- First, the purpose of the plan and the key management issues that are addressed in the plan are discussed. A summary of background information is provided;
- Second, the role of the park, its vision statement and overall management goals and objectives are presented. These outline the importance of the park and the foundation for the long-term protection of park values;
- Third, the plan presents park zoning which divides the park into units of consistent management objectives;
- Fourth, the objective and actions for protecting and managing park values are discussed;
- Fifth, the plan outlines strategies for access, park information formulation and distribution, and provision of outdoor recreation opportunities and management services;
- Sixth, the priorities for implementation of the Master Plan are described.

### **Plan Purpose**

This Master Plan for Cypress Provincial Park defines the role of the park and establishes the objectives and desired actions to guide the management and development in the future. It also provides direction for a number of key park issues such as boundary amendments, the ongoing working relationship with CBRL in the implementation of its ski area development plan, park development, vegetation and water management and the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities.

This plan also clearly describes the public's expectations for the park, including strong support for the recognition and conservation of Cypress Provincial Park's old growth, unique plant life, history, special features, visual qualities and the provision of numerous recreation opportunities such as hiking, alpine and nordic skiing and nature appreciation. Park zoning and facility developments described in the plan are based on protecting and presenting the park's natural and visual resources and recognizing government's agreement with CBRL (under Park Use Permit 1506) to facilitate the commercial development for intensive recreational use of the Controlled Recreation Area (CRA) in an aesthetic manner which complements the natural setting of that part of the park, (i.e., with minimum inherent environmental change and disturbance).

Master plan implementation and park management will take place with ongoing discussions between BC Parks and CBRL, as well as interest groups and the general public. Implementation of this plan will be conditional upon available funding. This will consist of private investments with respect to CBRL's business interests in the park and public funds with respect to BC Parks management responsibilities in the park.

Master plans are reviewed every five to ten years. The review of the Cypress Provincial Park Master Plan will be in conjunction with CBRL, recreation and conservation interest groups, West Vancouver District Municipality and the Village of Lions Bay.

## **Planning Issues**

The master plan addresses a number of planning issues identified by BC Parks, CBRL, special interest groups and the general public. Some of the key management and planning issues to be considered in this plan are described as follows:

### **a) Role of the Park**

As a Class A, Category 6 Provincial Park, Cypress serves both conservation and recreation roles established in the legislative mandate of BC Parks. In the first place, it is designated to preserve natural environments in most of the park for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. In the second place, with its proximity to a large population, it is well placed to offer intensive recreation opportunities capable of introducing urban residents to a lifestyle of outdoor recreation. Cypress Provincial Park represents a regionally significant Coast Mountain landscape containing excellent examples of old growth forests within the Coastal Western Hemlock and Sub-alpine Mountain Hemlock biogeoclimatic zones. The park also provides for intensive recreation (both alpine and nordic skiing) on a commercial basis, and non-commercial less intensive recreation, such as hiking and nature appreciation. In addition, Cypress provides access to wilderness backcountry areas such as the Lions and Deeks Lake. As land surrounding the park becomes more urbanized, the park becomes more valuable for both conservation and recreation. This master plan sets direction for managing these dual roles with emphasis on protection of the park's special and natural features and development of commercial recreation in the Controlled Recreation Area (CRA) of the park.

**b) Relationship to Contiguous Areas**

Cypress Provincial Park is surrounded by municipal, regional and provincial lands administered through the District of West Vancouver, the Village of Lions Bay, the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Ministry of Forests. The relationship and cooperative planning of these contiguous areas with respect to the management and future development of Cypress Provincial Park is crucial. The plan for the park must recognize the mandate of these neighbouring jurisdictions and how they relate to one another.

**c) Association with Cypress Bowl Recreations Ltd.**

In 1984, Cypress Bowl Recreations Ltd. (CBRL) acquired all the structures in the CRA including sewer, water and electrical systems and was granted a 50 year renewable licence (Park Use Permit 1506). This permit obligates CBRL to provide public recreation within the park in keeping with accepted British Columbia industry standards of ski area development. The permit encourages CBRL to develop, with approval from the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, additional nordic and alpine ski facilities and various seasonal activities within their defined permit area.

In 1995, the government appointed a Special Commissioner to review these and other issues. The Special Commissioner tabled a package of 77 recommendations that was subsequently endorsed by government. Incorporating this package of 77 recommendations in this plan, in CBRL's CRA Master Plan, and in revisions to the park use permit has now been complete. BC Parks and CBRL have negotiated to resolve a number of issues with respect to Park Use Permit 1506 including public access, public parking, public washrooms, permit rights and an approved ski area master plan.

**d) Management and Development of Recreational Opportunities**

Cypress Provincial Park offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from sightseeing and skiing to hiking and nature appreciation. CBRL's 50 year renewable park use permit to provide intensive commercial recreation services such as nordic and alpine skiing, presents a challenging dimension to the future provision of outdoor recreation in this park.

This master plan is designed to provide a management framework within which the park can provide a variety of recreational uses, while ensuring that critical natural and cultural resources of the park are protected. The challenges include supporting the spirit and intent of the existing permit which includes the opportunity to provide significant valid commercial recreational services, while ensuring that the evolving public expectations for non-commercial recreation experiences are sustained; ensuring that the legitimate recreation uses that are to be fostered in the Intensive Recreation Zone can be managed in a manner that is in harmony with users of adjacent zones; developing appropriate impact assessment measures and monitoring so that future proposed uses will be in keeping with park objectives as defined for each zone and ensuring that all approved developments, in all areas of the park, including those that require tree removal and site disturbance, are

implemented during the development phase in a manner that minimizes impact and allows for reasonable mitigation, consistent with the recommendations in Commissioner Williams' Report.

**e) Public Involvement**

In May of 1992, CBRL presented its master concept plan in an "open house" forum. The plan presented was a revised master plan of the 1988 version and proposed full "barrier free" development within their existing permit area (i.e., Controlled Recreation Area), as well as alpine ski development on the southwest slopes of Hollyburn Mountain and further alpine expansion on the lower slopes of Black Mountain.

In October 1992, BC Parks held a public meeting in Vancouver to discuss the planning process for Cypress Provincial Park and presented three possible options for future development. This well attended meeting also gave interest groups and the general public an opportunity to present their opinions. Supporters for both CBRL's facility expansion and for park preservation/no ski area expansion were well presented.

A special planning process was established under the auspices of the Provincial Land Use Coordination Office. The process which involved further public review and comment was coordinated by Special Commissioner, Bryan Williams, Q.C., and three advisors who presented a package of 77 recommendations to government at the end of August, 1995 as stated in (c) above.

In October 1995, the first draft of the park master plan incorporating CBRL's plan was available for public review and comments were heard at a public meeting.

**f) Involvement of First Nations**

BC Parks has limited information on the values of the features and resources in Cypress Provincial Park as they relate to First Nations' culture and heritage. Increased knowledge of traditional uses, if any, and further consultation with First Nations people are required.

## **Background Summary**

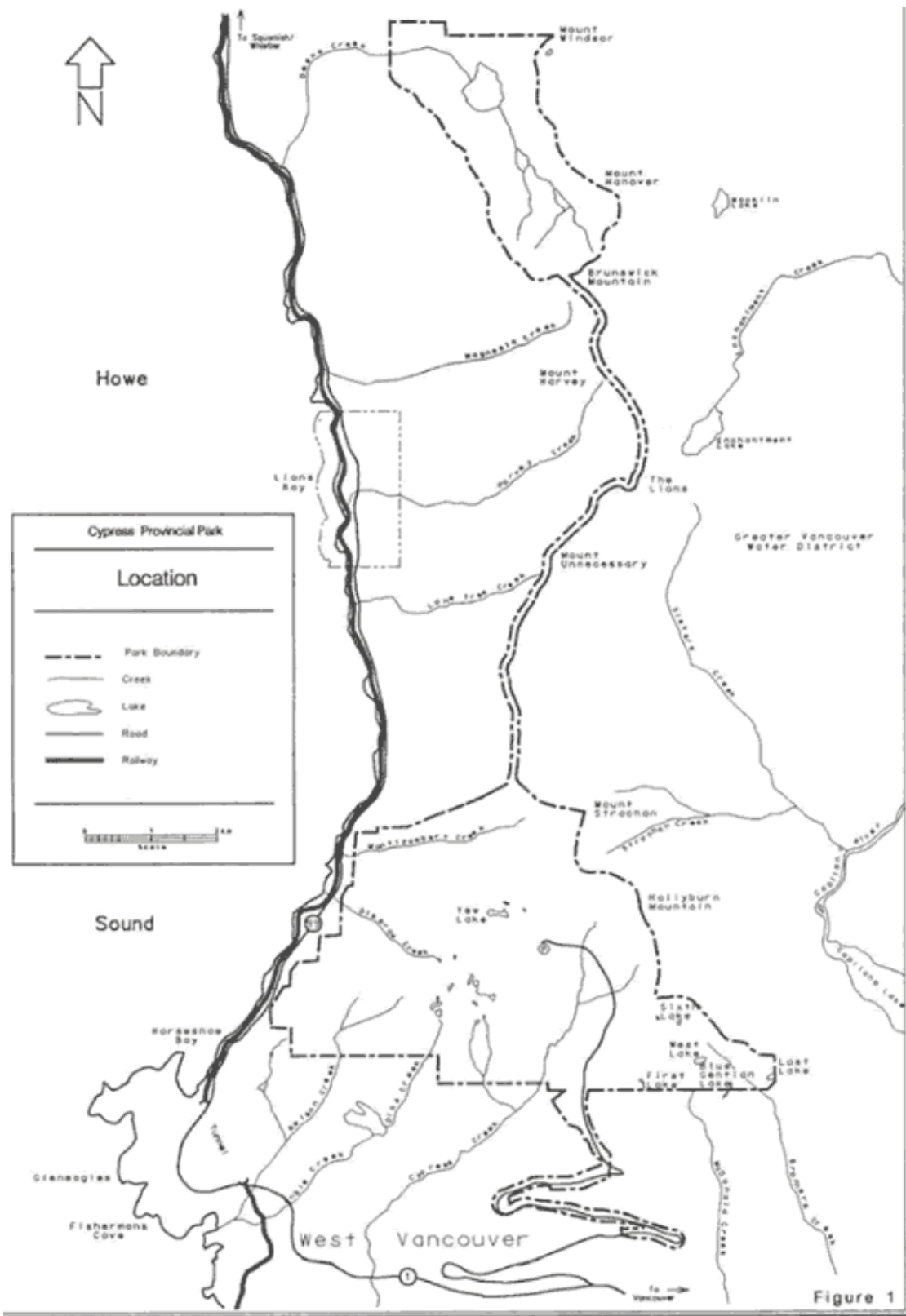
Cypress Provincial Park was established in 1975 as a Class A, Category 6 Provincial Park. The construction of a three-lane paved highway from the Upper Levels Highway provided public access to the newly constructed alpine and nordic ski areas which were managed by BC Parks until 1984. In that year, CBRL purchased, through a public tendering process, the skiing assets and business opportunities and was issued a 50 year renewable park use permit to operate, develop and improve the alpine and nordic ski areas within the park, as well as provide additional related services. The permit area consists primarily of three areas in which CBRL has exclusive control rights for seven months of the year (November 1st through May 31st). All buildings, lifts and equipment within the permit area are owned by the company which also maintains occupancy and control rights.

Since 1975, the park has increased in size from 2,100 hectares to nearly 3,000 hectares and now includes the height-of-land stretching north from Mt. Strachan to the Lions and Deeks Lake area (Figure 1).

This park is one of a number of protected areas in the Howe Sound and Lower Mainland area that provides a variety of recreation opportunities to its visitors, while protecting and presenting their natural values. Provincial parks such as Mount Seymour, Indian Arm, Porteau Cove, Shannon Falls, Murrin, Brandywine, Garibaldi, Pinecone/Burke and Golden Ears represent several biogeoclimatic zones and offer many summer and winter recreational activities including picnicking, camping, hiking, fishing, climbing, horseback riding, bicycling, alpine/nordic skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing and backcountry touring, as well as nature study, sightseeing, photography and nature appreciation.

Cypress Provincial Park, which is bounded on the west by Howe Sound, on the north and east by the ridgetops of Mount Hanover, Mt. Strachan and Hollyburn Mountain and to the south by West Vancouver, over the last three to five years has attracted an estimated 1,000,000 visitors annually. Winter visitor use accounts for 40%; spring/summer/fall visitor use accounts for 60%. Winter use is further segmented with alpine skiers comprising 55%; nordic skiers 15%; sightseers and other snowplayers 29%; and winter backcountry users less than 1 % of the annual visitor use in the park. It should be noted that CBRL's commercial ski business ranks among the most intensively used ski areas in the province.

Hi-View and Quarry Lookouts provide spectacular views of Greater Vancouver, Mount Baker, the Gulf Islands and even Vancouver Island to the west. Cypress Provincial Park, rich in biodiversity and coupled with its many natural features, recreation resources and strategic location, is the most frequently visited provincial park in British Columbia. The coastal maritime climate also promotes year-round visitation enabling park users to enjoy a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities.





Yellow-cedar or yellow-cypress, from which the park's name is derived, Western and Mountain Hemlock and Amabilis fir are the common tree species that create old growth stands in many areas of the park. Many of these record size trees are over 1,000 years old surviving fire, insects and humans. The lush understorey consists of many kinds of berries and ferns, red and white heather and false azalea and provides an ideal environment for hiking and nature appreciation. Higher elevations contain picturesque sub-alpine lakes and meadows providing breathtaking views for hikers, climbers, skiers and nature enthusiasts.

Resident wildlife include species typical to the North Shore mountains. Although some animals have moved due to increased urban development, there are still black bears, deer, coyotes, raccoons, hares, squirrels, mice and voles. Over 82 species of birds are also found in the park including ravens, gray jays, grouse, chickadees, warblers, woodpeckers, hawks, owls and the rufous hummingbird.

The discovery of culturally modified trees (CMT) indicates that there was probably local aboriginal use of the Cypress area as far back as 350 to 400 years ago (R. Stoltmann, 1990). Ceremonial rites, berry picking, bark stripping and hunting were some of the activities that occurred on the North Shore mountains prior to European colonization.

It was the European recreationists who, nearly a century ago, became interested in Hollyburn Mountain as a hiking and skiing destination. Over the years, Hollyburn Mountain became increasingly popular as a number of ski lodges and cabins were built in the area. With the opening of the Lions Gate Bridge in 1938, the North Shore mountains became more accessible and the start of a population expansion began that continues in North and West Vancouver municipalities.

Today, Cypress Provincial Park is a major public attraction. This park serves as a local and regional recreation area providing a variety of outdoor recreational activities in addition to alpine and nordic skiing. A portion of the park also serves as watersheds providing potable water for local residents. The park provides a protected haven from encroaching residential development for wildlife and plant species. The development of additional recreation facilities will be sensitive to the conservation of these special natural resources.

The 1992 Background Report, prepared by BC Parks, further details the park's resources. In addition, a number of recent studies outline the knowledge that currently exists. Further studies will increase this knowledge and provide more information on which to base future management decisions.

### Vision Statement

A vision statement for a provincial park sets the tone for how the park may differ in the future from what it is today. A clear long-term vision serves as a guideline for short-term management decisions. The vision statement is an important guide for reacting to changing demands for recreation and for incorporating new approaches to conservation management.

*It is the vision that Cypress Park exemplifies BC Parks' and British Columbia's commitment to park stewardship in conservation, outdoor recreation and education, community involvement and to the provision of commercial recreation opportunities, most notably alpine and nordic skiing.*

Cypress Provincial Park is a wonderful and important natural and recreation resource located only 20 minutes from downtown Vancouver. The park forms part of the North Shore Mountains landscape providing a scenic backdrop and vegetation viewscape for area residents and offers spectacular mountain-top viewing of Vancouver and surrounding environs, Mount Baker and in the distance the Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island. This park contains old growth forests including 1,200 year old trees, wetlands and other diverse habitats and provides excellent year-round recreation opportunities. A vision for the future of Cypress Provincial Park must consider and highlight these important park values and foster management strategies that emphasize protection of those values.



Cypress Provincial Park is part of British Columbia's family of protected areas and its 3,000 hectares are strategically situated adjacent to a population of 1.9 million people. On the doorstep of British Columbia's largest city, this park provides an oasis where urbanites can recreate and learn to enjoy its wilderness in a safe setting and to walk softly in nature, both literally and philosophically. The combination of the park's rich array of natural and cultural features with high quality alpine and nordic skiing terrain and snow conditions in Cypress Bowl and the Hollyburn area makes Cypress Provincial Park a gateway to many recreation and wilderness experiences. The majority of park use takes place along the parkway, view sites or in the developed nordic and alpine ski areas. Current visitation is the highest for any provincial park in the province.



The overall vision for Cypress Provincial Park is one which respects its special geographic location, natural and cultural features and opportunities for outdoor recreation. In keeping with the *Park Act*, this will be accomplished by establishing zones within the park that will protect exceptional conservation values, such as old growth forests and lead to the provision of exceptional recreation opportunities. An appropriate balance will be sought between conservation of the park's natural environments and biological diversity with a variety of recreational activities, i.e., non-commercial and commercial, non-mechanized and mechanized. All recreational activities depend upon the natural environments of the park.

The Intensive Recreation Zone will be the focal point for alpine and nordic ski development providing skiing opportunities for a broad level of skills. Subject to consideration of key park values and resources, the alpine and nordic areas will be developed under CBRL's park use permit. An approved CRA Master Plan for the permit area fulfils the terms of Park Use Permit 1506. Impact assessments and mitigation plans will ensure that the positioning and location of new infrastructure in the Intensive Recreation Zone of the CRA minimizes the impact on natural resources. Completion of sewer and water facilities will help meet the public's growing demands for improved park amenities and allow the skiing operation to be fully viable within the Intensive Recreation Zone.

Zoning in the park will protect the park's special features and allow for a variety of compatible outdoor recreation opportunities. These opportunities and uses will draw their meaning as much as possible from association with and direct relation to the park's natural and cultural resources. Clubs, interest groups and area residents will be invited to become involved in a variety of specific park planning and operational activities where appropriate. First Nations people will be encouraged to share their knowledge of this area and participate in the park planning process.

Cypress Provincial Park is a public space where special features are preserved and presented for sustained public benefit. The park is a popular destination for school groups, families, and people of all ages, abilities and walks of life. BC Parks' vision then sees a continuing, satisfying use of this popular park by more people. Approved management plans and agreements will reflect the need to limit use where necessary in order to preserve critical natural and cultural values as required under the *Park Act*. BC Parks, together with CBRL and the public, will continue to develop a strong commitment through experience and education, to protect the special values inherent in this magnificent park and be an advocate for park conservation and recreation values. In this way, Cypress Provincial Park will be managed for the continued inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public.

### **Regional and Provincial Significance**

Cypress Provincial Park has long been publicly recognized as important for conservation and recreation values with both these values passionately endorsed. This conservation and recreation role is further emphasized by the park's proximity to an area population of nearly two million people and easy year-round access. In recent years, urban development has put great pressure on the surrounding wildlands of greater Vancouver, the largest city in British Columbia. To meet the demands exerted by a growing population for increased recreation opportunities, a balance in protecting the park's ecological diversity and significant natural features must be achieved. Aboriginal use in the park by First Nations possibly dates back over 300 years and the historical association of skiers since the 1920s strengthens the area's cultural significance.

Natural features such as old growth forests, alpine tarns, spectacular views of the Greater Vancouver area to the south and the Coast Mountains to the north, waterfalls, alpine meadows and bogs, and unique plant species that are rarely seen in an accessible location on the North Shore mountains, combine to make Cypress Provincial Park a very special place. Yew Lake, Hollyburn Mountain, the Lions and Deeks Lake are examples of major areas in the park where people visit and experience the beauty and surrounding scenery. For hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts, the Baden-Powell trail, Yew Lake nature trail, Howe Sound Crest trail and others provide access routes to unique areas and the backcountry.

The variety and quality of these attributes and other outdoor recreation opportunities available within Cypress Provincial Park are prized by the local and regional residents and tourists visiting Vancouver.

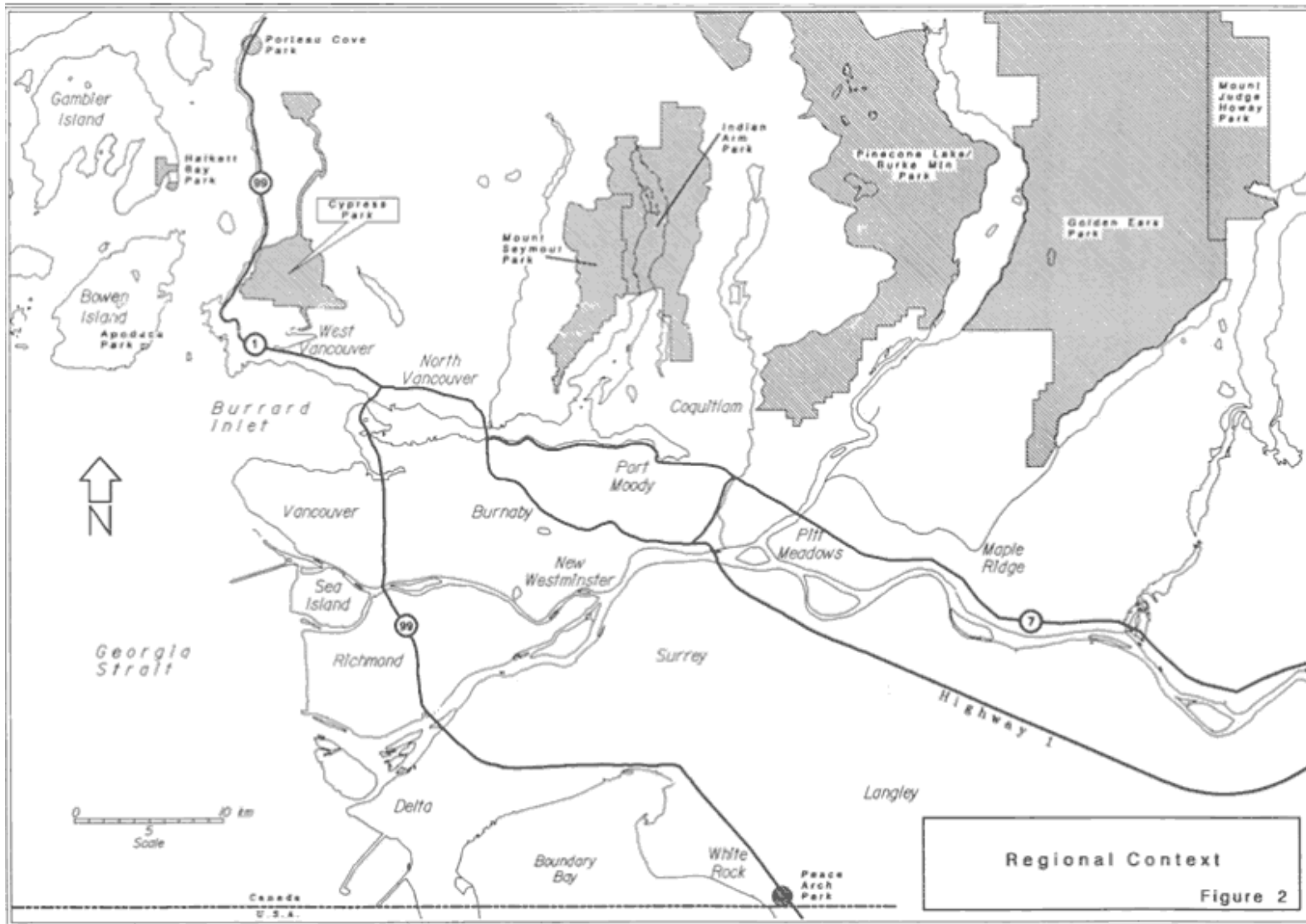
### **Local Significance**

Cypress Provincial Park lies partially within the District of West Vancouver and the lower south-west corner serves as a watershed for local residents. The municipality extends to the park's southern boundary and the Capilano watershed lies to the north and east. The Village of Lions Bay abuts the narrow ridge that connects the Deeks Lake area in the north with the rest of the park.

There are a number of other provincial parks in the Howe Sound/Lower Mainland area that complement the recreation and conservation features found in Cypress Provincial Park (Figure 2). They include Mount Seymour, Indian Arm, Golden Ears, Pinecone/Burke, Porteau Cove, Murrin, Shannon Falls, Brandywine and Garibaldi Provincial Parks. To complement this Lower Mainland Provincial Park System, the Greater Vancouver Regional District and surrounding municipalities also provide a number of regional and local parks which offer a variety of recreational and educational/conservation opportunities.

The District of West Vancouver maintains 165 municipal and local parks that offer access to a variety of recreational opportunities for local area residents. West Vancouver recently dedicated an area of old growth forest immediately to the south of Cypress Provincial Park as protected municipal parkland. The Greater Vancouver Regional District operates two regional parks on the North Shore at Lynn Headwaters and Capilano Canyon providing hiking trails, nature programs, swimming and viewing opportunities to regional park visitors. Generally speaking, the North Shore Mountains from Howe Sound to Deep Cove are a green space dedicated for park and watershed purposes.

The main access to Cypress Provincial Park is off the Upper Levels Highway following a paved highway of approximately 12 kilometres in length to the Cypress Bowl parking area. A secondary access is at the north end of the park where a trailhead south of Porteau Cove, off Highway 99, provides hikers access to Deeks Lake, the Lions and the northern portion of the Howe Sound Crest trail. The Baden-Powell trail which links Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver to Deep Cove in North Vancouver also crosses the park. Other connecting trails are located at the southern portion of the park linking to the West Vancouver municipal trail system.



## Conservation Role

BC Parks has two conservation goals: Ecosystem Representation and Special Features Preservation. Cypress Provincial Park contributes to both of them and park management will reflect both goals but emphasize the park's special natural features. The over-all management goal of Cypress Provincial Park is to conserve, restore, protect and present natural, cultural and aesthetic values and to provide opportunities for education, recreation and nature appreciation.



Specifically:

- Cypress Provincial Park will contribute to conserving representation of the Southern Pacific Ranges Ecoregion and biological diversity within the Coastal Western Hemlock and Sub-alpine Mountain Hemlock biogeoclimatic zones.
- The park will protect a large number of special features including Deeks Lake, the Lions, Yew Lake wetlands, Hollyburn Mountain old growth, alpine tarns, Black Mountain plateau, unnamed waterfalls, rock formations, escarpments and gorges, stands of old growth forests, record size hemlock, amabilis fir and yellow-cedar species and rare plants such as the blue gentian, three-leaved goldthread and mountain fern.
- The park will continue to provide important habitat for many resident and transient mammals including Coastal Black-tailed deer, black bear, coyote, cougar, mountain goat, raccoon, squirrel, chipmunk, pikas, vole and deer mouse. Approximately 82 species of birds have been recorded in the park and the Conservation Data Centre (CDC) has recorded the spotted owl near the southeast border of the park. Observations of the tailed frog, which is on the CDC tracking list, have been verbally reported by park naturalists.

- A number of cultural/historic sites will be identified and zoned as special features in the park. Culturally modified trees, Hollyburn Lodge and remnants of old ski cabins are today evidence of Cypress' past. The Old Strachan trail which traverses across the slopes of Hollyburn Mountain is estimated to be over 80 years old.
- Cypress Provincial Park contributes towards visual protection of the scenic backdrop of Vancouver.
- The park will continue to provide educational opportunities to observe and study natural processes, sensitive and rare plant species, old growth forests and wildlife, as well as promoting conservation/outdoor ethics.

### **Recreation Role**

Cypress Provincial Park contributes significantly to the local/regional recreation goal of BC Parks by providing area residents and visitors with readily-accessible day use outdoor recreation activities. This park contains one of the most intensively visited alpine ski areas in the province. Additionally, Cypress contributes to these recreational goals by protecting a natural environment which lends itself to a wide variety of recreational opportunities for both winter and summer activities. Cypress Provincial Park also offers a safe and inviting introduction to wilderness/backcountry experiences.





Specifically:

- The park will continue to provide a wide variety of easily-accessible and affordable summer and winter recreation opportunities including nordic and alpine skiing, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, tobogganing, snowplay, hiking, backcountry camping, picnicking, viewing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, wildlife observation, photography and nature appreciation.
- Intensive recreation, both alpine and nordic skiing, will be recognized as valid and continuing uses in Cypress Provincial Park. The vision for Cypress should be the delivery of these recreation experiences in an aesthetic manner that complements the natural setting of the park and with minimum inherent environmental change and disturbance.
- There are a number of trails that connect Cypress Provincial Park with surrounding areas. The Baden-Powell and Howe Sound Crest trails provide the major foot access routes through Cypress Provincial Park. Further discussions with the District of West Vancouver and Village of Lions Bay, private land owners and other government agencies will help to improve access and recreation opportunities.
- Provision of facilities and level of use will be planned in concert with both Mount Seymour and Pinecone/Burke Provincial Parks, as well as the regional and municipal park systems to ensure that the park contributes to a variety of outdoor recreation experiences.
- Facility design will facilitate persons with disabilities in accessing recreation opportunities.
- Over time new recreation activities may be proposed and will be evaluated for their impact on the park's natural and cultural resources, as well as existing users.

BC Parks is required by the *Park Act* to establish a zoning plan to assist in the planning and management of provincial parks that are set aside for more than one purpose. While recognizing that boundaries between zones do not necessarily correspond to natural ecological systems, zones are carefully applied to divide the park into units of consistent management objectives. The zones reflect the intended land use, the appropriate level of management and development, and the type and level of human activity that will be accommodated. The zones range from Wilderness Conservation in large, remote parks to Intensive Recreation which encompass areas modified by roads and facilities that accommodate opportunities for readily accessible outdoor recreation. Cypress Provincial Park is divided into four zones: Special Features, Natural Environment, Wilderness Recreation and Intensive Recreation (Figure 3). Within the CRA (Controlled Recreation Area), CBRL provides activities which are commercial in nature and subject to Park Use Permit 1506.

### Special Features Zone

The objective of this zone is to protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage value. Compatible activities include interpretation and the study of nature and history, sight-seeing, ski-touring, hiking and nordic skiing. This zone covers the Yew Lake and meadows and old growth stands on the western slopes of Mt. Strachan; the Howe Sound Crest trail that leads from Mt. Strachan along the ridge past Mt. Unnecessary and the Lions to Brunswick Mountain; the southwest slopes of Hollyburn Mountain which contain impressive stands of record size old growth, sub-alpine meadows, Frank Lake and waterfalls; Black Mountain plateau area containing numerous tarns; Brothers Canyon and Blue Gentian Lake area; and a number of specific sites such as First Lake for its ski history, Eagle Bluff, Do-Nut Rock, the roadside yellow-cedar, the Rope Tow and Sitzmark old growth stand and culturally modified trees.

The importance in protecting and presenting natural and cultural resources associated with these Special Features Zones is significant. By recognizing the cultural and ecological values, any development will be sensitive to protection and presentation of the special features. This zone comprises approximately 605 hectares or 20% of the park.

### Natural Environment Zone

The objective of the Natural Environment Zone is to provide a variety of easily-accessible off-road outdoor recreation activities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. Subject to unacceptable impacts, compatible activities include alpine and nordic skiing, backcountry skiing, hiking, picnicking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, photography, nature interpretation appreciation and mountain biking. Facilities will be provided where they are necessary to:

- maintain the natural environment;
- provide education/interpretation opportunities;
- enhance appropriate recreation activities.

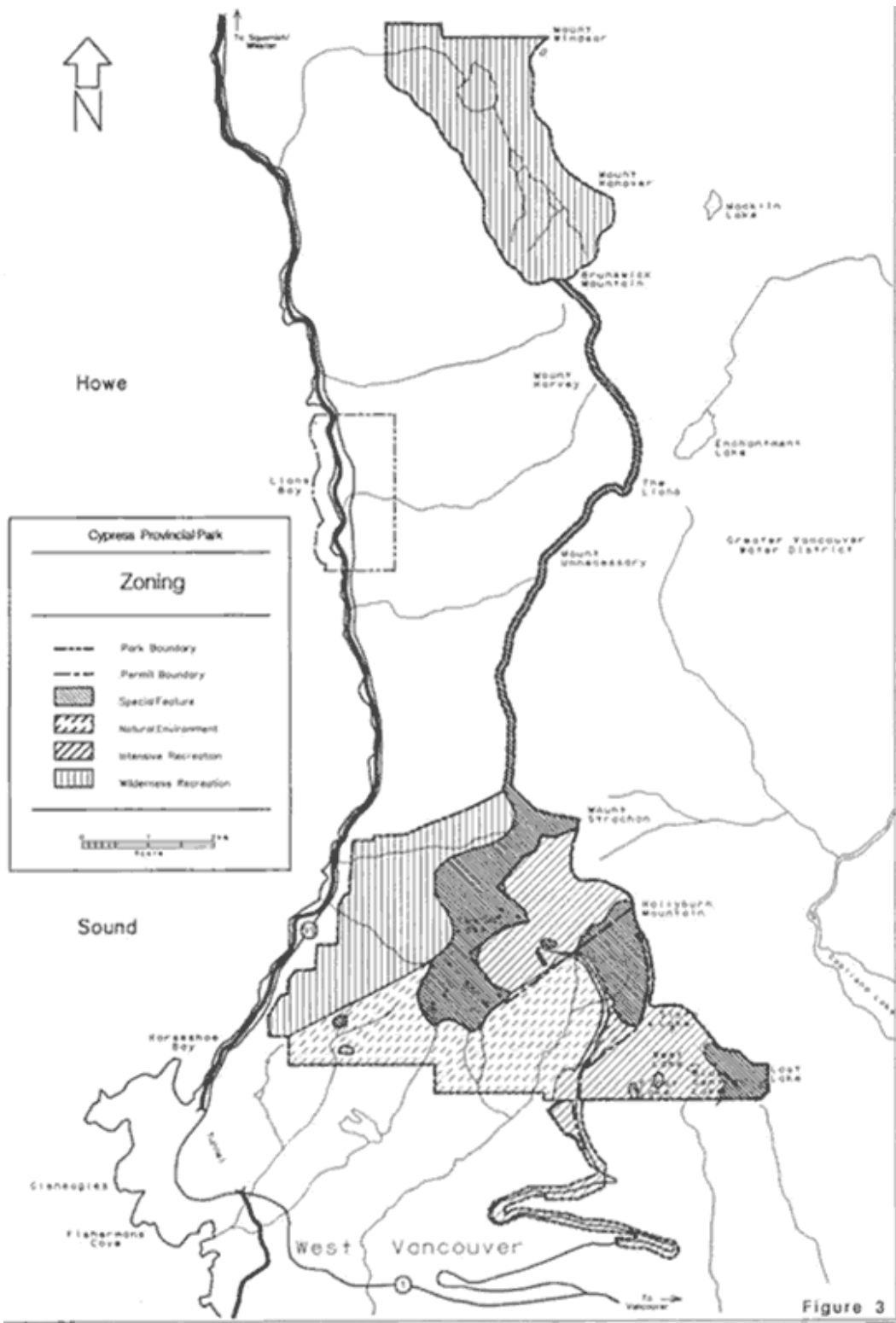


Figure 3

The intent is to ensure that any park facilities do not dominate the natural setting. New trail development will make use of the natural terrain, incorporate scenic values and respect the sensitive and natural sites within the park. No snowmobiling or mountain biking will be permitted on designated trails in the Natural Environment Zone east of Cypress Creek or in the watershed areas to the west. This zone comprises 594 hectares or 20% of the park.

### **Wilderness Recreation Zone**

The objective of this zone is to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment. Compatible activities include hiking, backpacking, ski touring, fishing, nature appreciation and photography.

The western portion of Cypress Provincial Park and the northern section surrounding Deeks Lake is zoned for wilderness recreation. Access to Deeks Lake is currently from the south via the Howe Sound Crest trail or off Highway 99 south of Porteau Cove along the Deeks Lake section of the Howe Sound Crest trail. Both areas are relatively undeveloped although wilderness camping occurs around Brunswick Lake and Magnesia Meadows. The western area containing both Montizambert and Disbrow Creeks has no formalized access and is virtually void of park development due to its steep and hazardous terrain.

This zone provides minimal facility development and future improvements will be confined to specific designated wilderness campsites around Brunswick Lake and upgrading of the Howe Sound Crest trail. Dedicated to protecting a pristine environment, this zone contains approximately 1,171 hectares or 39% of the park.

### **Intensive Recreation Zone**

The objective of this zone is to provide for a variety of high-use, readily-accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. Both alpine and nordic skiing are recognized uses within the Intensive Recreation Zone. The main access is provided by a 12 kilometre paved highway from the Upper Levels Highway in West Vancouver. For the most part, this zone is comprised of the viewpoints, parkway and the Cypress Bowl alpine ski areas and Hollyburn nordic ski area. The existing alpine ski area and the developed portion of the nordic ski area, are almost entirely within this zone and recreation facilities may be intensely developed for user convenience. The alpine and nordic ski areas, parking lots, trails and viewpoints at Hi-View and Quarry Lookouts provide high quality recreation experiences for the park visitor. Future development of the alpine and nordic ski areas within the permit area boundary will be directed under the terms of the park use permit.

Development and operation of facilities in the Controlled Recreation Area (CRA) will result in new impacts on some of the areas of the Intensive Recreation Zone. The CRA occupies 80% of the Intensive Recreation Zone. Most notable activities occurring in this zone include alpine skiing, nordic skiing, hiking, snowplay, picnicking, viewing, hiking, bicycling, photography and nature interpretation. Approximately 630 hectares or 21% of the park is contained in this zone.

## Introduction

Park management will be directed towards conserving the natural resources, ecosystems, special features and cultural heritage found within the park, while providing a variety of outdoor summer and winter recreation activities. The objectives of natural and cultural values protection in Cypress Provincial Park will stress managing human impacts to prevent, or in the very least, minimize degradation of, or interference with normal ecological processes or the remains of an aboriginal presence.

This section of the master plan outlines objectives and actions that provide general direction regarding park management and identifies priorities for specific management actions to be undertaken as available resourcing allows. These objectives and actions comply with the *Park Act, Park Act Regulations* and relevant ministry policies and are also intended to complement official policies and community plans of the adjacent municipalities and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). In particular, any new developments within the park will be preceded by environmental impact assessment and mitigation plans in order to minimize impact on any special features and key natural and cultural areas.

## Land and Natural Resource Tenures

Containing approximately 3,000 hectares, Cypress Provincial Park is surrounded by a variety of land jurisdictions and private lands. The GVRD manages the Capilano watershed along the park's eastern boundary, while the southern portion of the park lies within the District of West Vancouver and is contiguous to both municipal and private lands. The Village of Lions Bay is near the western boundary and the area north of the park's northern boundary is within the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (Figure 4). In 1989, private property was acquired to facilitate access to Deeks Lake.

The alpine and nordic ski areas are managed under a 50 year renewable permit held by CBRL who also own the buildings, lifts and utilities found within their permit boundary. The Special Commissioner's Report made recommendations to amend the existing permit boundary to delete an ecologically significant area near Yew Lake from the permit area and add an area near Mt. Strachan to accommodate additional ski terrain. In addition, there are ten park use permits for cabin sites, telephone cable, weather stations and commercial education within the park.

### Objectives:

- *To manage the park and protect its natural features and ecosystems with minimum impact from approved facility developments;*
- *To manage non-conforming tenures (i.e. cabins) to meet the conservation objectives of the park and to eventually eliminate those tenures;*

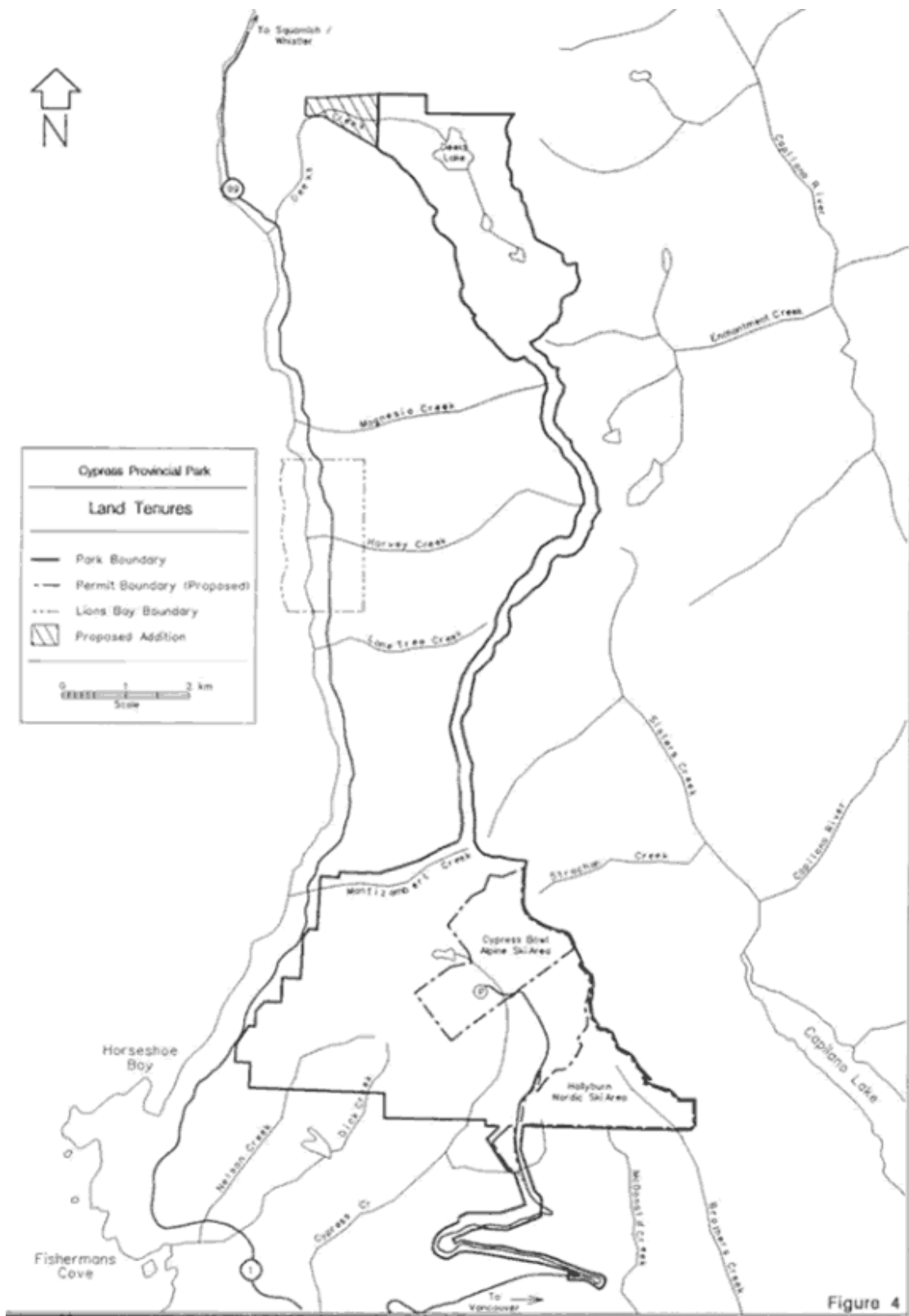


Figure 4

- *To work cooperatively with CBRL, First nations, other government agencies, the local community and interest groups to ensure that park values are protected; and*
- *To acquire, where necessary, lands to ensure good public access to the park.*

**Actions:**

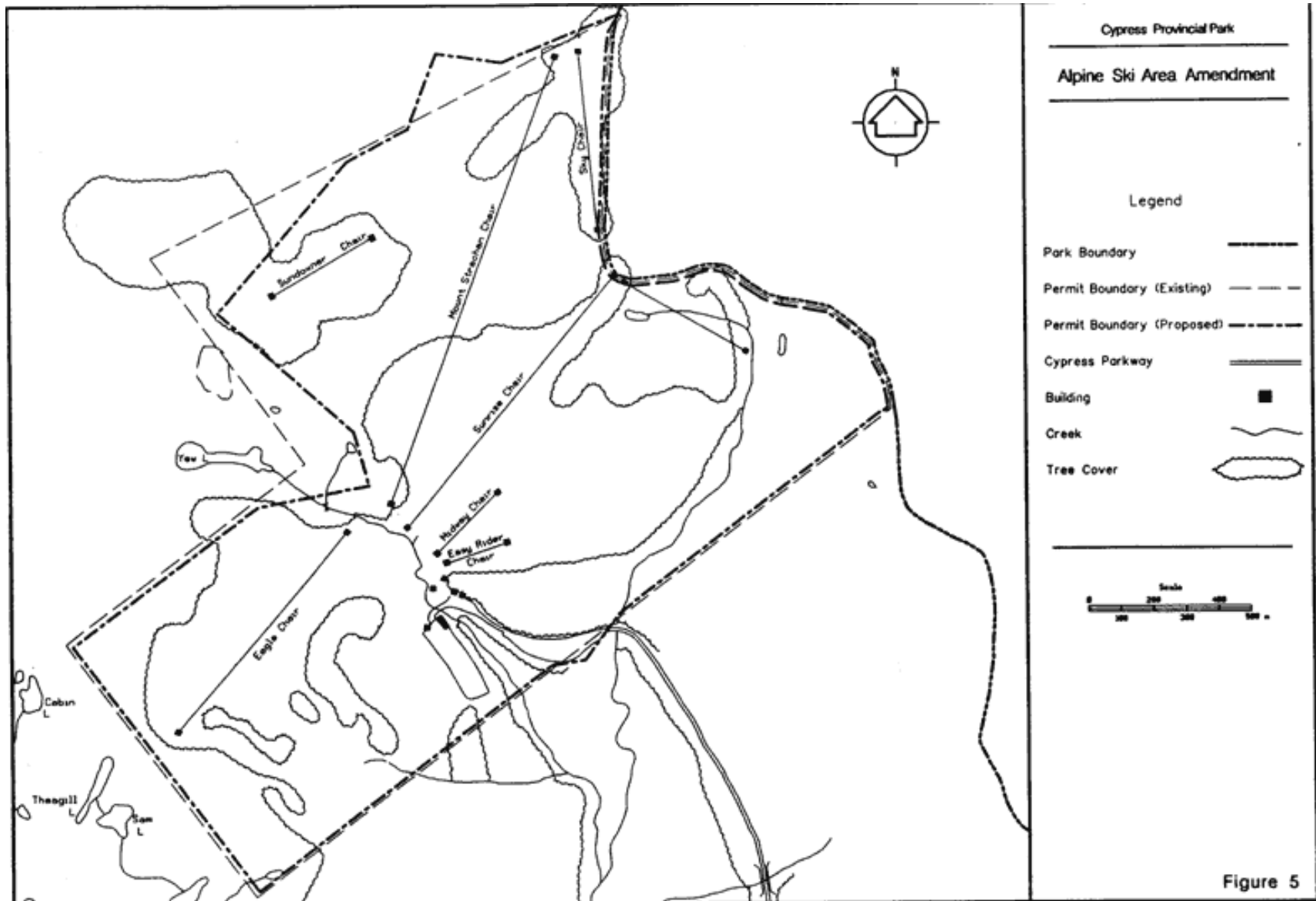
- Amend the permit boundary to exclude the Yew Lake associated wetlands and the nearby Pumphouse stand of forest and include an area on the west flank of Mt. Strachan to improve skiing opportunities. Any expansion of the permit area, if called for at a future date, will require public consultation and review (Figure 5).
- Explore with the permittee the possibility of excluding Blue Gentian Lake and Brothers Canyon areas from the permit area.
- Enter into discussions with private property owners to ensure access to the Deeks Lake area from Highway 99.
- Conduct discussions with the Village of Lions Bay in an effort to resolve access to the Lions.
- Add the park to Schedule C of the *Park Act* to ensure that any future park deletions are subject to review by the Legislature. Before this is actioned, BC Parks will consult with CBRL on this and examine government's obligations under Park Use Permit 1506 to determine the consequences of such action on the future management of the park.
- Administer all cabins under park use permits and phase out all private cabins.
- Continue to review and discuss the existing permit with the District of West Vancouver to resolve the future of the West Vancouver ranger cabin.
- Add acquired private lands and accompanying public lands on Deeks Creek to the park.

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**Water**

There are a number of stream headwaters, small lakes, tarns and wet meadow environments in Cypress Provincial Park. Some of these are located in community watersheds for West Vancouver and the Village of Lions Bay. Cypress Creek and its tributaries are important water courses and fish bearing streams which drain into Burrard Inlet and the Strait of Georgia.

Deeks Lake, at the north end of the park, is the largest fresh water body. Yew and Blue Gentian Lakes are examples of small lakes or ponds surrounded by a wetlands or fen community. These areas support a variety of unique aquatic plant, amphibian and insect species. Magnesia Meadows is part of the watershed for the Village of Lions Bay (Figure 6).





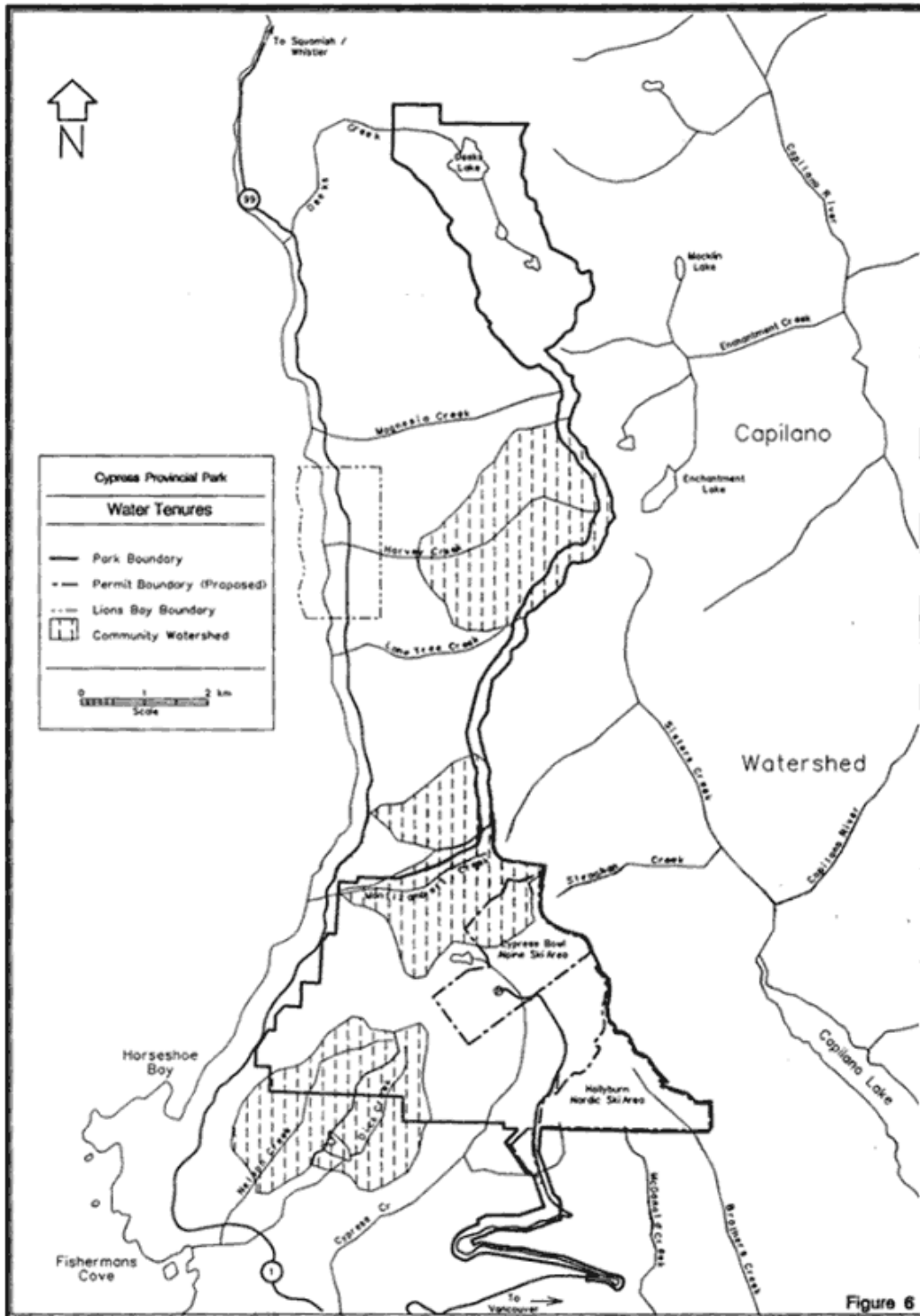


Figure 6

### **Objectives:**

- *To maintain the natural conditions and quality of water in and adjacent to the park;*
- *To protect sub-alpine pond and fen communities and minimize impact due to visitor use and facility development;*
- *To manage and protect creeks and streams as part of the park 's natural ecosystem; and*
- *To assist the District of West Vancouver and the Village of Lions Bay in protecting the portions of their watershed in the park.*

### **Actions:**

- Make funding submissions to Forest Renewal BC for watershed assessment, restoration and management funding within the park.
- Safeguard community watersheds from any pollution caused by recreation facilities and/or visitor use.
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## Forest and Vegetation

There are a variety of plant/forest communities found within the park depending upon elevation. The three biogeoclimatic zones/subzones found in Cypress Provincial Park are Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH), Very wet Maritime-Montane (CWHvm2), Mountain Hemlock (MH), Moist Maritime-Windward (Mhmm1) and Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF). The Mountain Hemlock Zone occupies mountain slopes and valleys above approximately 900 metres, while the Western Hemlock is found in transition with MH at or below 900 metres. It is the Mountain Hemlock-Twistedstalk site association, common to the slopes of Hollyburn Mountain that provides the environment suitable to record size old growth stands that are over 1,000 years old.

The fragile bog and sub-alpine areas, old growth forests and rare or unusual plant species must be managed in such a way as to minimize their disturbance from recreation development. The Yew Lake wetlands are unique with their extensive fen communities, including grass and sedge meadows along with stunted tree islands. These wetlands support numerous flowering plants such as arnica, lupin, pink monkeyflower, mountain daisies, mountain spirea and mountain valerian. Other interesting plants include round-leaf sundew, pond lily, buck bean, three-leaf goldthread, deer cabbage and fringed grass-of-Parnassus. The Conservation Data Centre (CDC) reports mountain fern as a blue-listed species found in the vicinity of Black Mountain.



Some of the small lakes on the Hollyburn, Strachan and Black Mountain plateaus also support small wetlands and shoreline habitats. Blue Gentian Lake is noted for its large population of flowering blue gentian plants.

**Objectives:**

- *To protect, maintain and enhance the park's vegetation, especially remnant old growth stands, sub-alpine wetlands, forest ecosystems and other sensitive areas;*
- *To protect rare, endangered and sensitive plant species and communities;*
- *To allow natural processes to occur as part of the park's ecological integrity;*
- *To prevent, where possible, the establishment of non-native species;*
- *To restore damaged wetlands and sub-alpine areas where human impact has had a negative effect on plant species and caused soil erosion; and*
- *To interpret vegetation communities.*



**Actions:**

- Undertake a biophysical inventory and assessment including rare and endangered species with priority for areas where development is proposed, and prepare a vegetation and fire management plan for the park.
- Remove planted non-native species and re-establish natural vegetation in those areas that have been significantly impacted by their introduction (eg. Scotch broom at Quarry and Hi-View Lookouts).
- Continue revegetation program in the Yew Lake area and on all disturbed slopes, and integrate with the Watershed Restoration Program.
- Upgrade and define trails in environmentally sensitive areas to minimize human impact.
- Emphasize Yew Lake, Black Mountain, Mt. Strachan, Hollyburn and old growth forest areas in an interpretive plan that includes signage, handouts and/or interpretive staff.
- Removal of trees and disturbance to wetlands will be minimized even though some further changes to the environment are necessary in the areas of intensive recreation.

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**Wildlife**

Cypress Provincial Park includes habitat of several species of large mammals including black bear, coyote, Coastal Black-tailed deer and mountain goat. Smaller mammals typical to the North Shore are also common dwellers in the park. Approximately 82 species of birds have been recorded in the park and the CDC has recorded a pair of spotted owls outside the extreme southeast boundary of the park.

Cypress Creek has some significance for fisheries as a source of gravel materials. Coho, chinook salmon and rainbow trout are found in the lower reaches of Cypress Creek well outside the park. First Lake has been stocked with trout and there are other lakes of similar size which may also have been stocked in the past. Deeks Lake is a popular destination for fishing and many hikers and wilderness campers cast their lines from the rocky shoreline for rainbow trout. Four species of amphibians have been recorded in the park and one of them, the tailed frog, is a primitive and unusual animal which is considered a blue-listed species.

**Objectives:**

- *To protect wildlife communities and critical habitats within the park;*
- *To protect and maintain the natural diversity of terrestrial and aquatic species and populations with special attention to rare, endangered, sensitive or vulnerable species;*

- *To increase the public's knowledge and understanding of wildlife and their habitat in and around the park. Special attention will be given to the black bear and other large mammals where there is potential conflict with park visitors; and*
- *To encourage scientific research projects in the park, particularly those that enhance a better understanding of natural processes and those with direct management benefits.*

**Actions:**

- Prepare a Wildlife and Public Safety Management Plan that includes bear management, wildlife viewing, and fishing in Deeks Lake.
- Continue working with Fish and Wildlife Branch to develop information and education programs/publications on wildlife and their habitat.
- Continue no hunting policy within the park.

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**Cultural and Archaeological Values**

There is very little detailed information on the historic use of the area by First Nations people. No extensive or site-specific archaeological assessment has been undertaken in the park. There is, however, more detailed history of the early recreationists who started skiing in the Hollyburn Mountain area as early as the turn of the century.

**Objectives:**

- *To protect and present archaeological, cultural and historic values from development and land uses;*
- *To increase cultural and historic knowledge relating to the park;*
- *To inform park visitors about the cultural history and recreational past of this park and local North Shore mountains; and*
- *To provide information and education on First Nations' culture and the park's heritage.*

**Actions:**

- Develop a Natural and Cultural History Theme document for the park.
- Work with CBRL and the public to source and compile information on the historical significance of the Hollyburn area buildings and alpine ski features such as the ski trails and old ski jumps.
- Encourage CBRL to present public information on the cultural and historical values of the First Lake building site.

- Identify historical uses by First Nations people in the park by working with local bands and others to better understand cultural significance, and preserve the history of this area.

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## **Aesthetic Values**

The park's forested and alpine settings which serve as a scenic backdrop for Vancouver, along with spectacular views of the surrounding lands and water, provide park visitors unparalleled photographic and scenic opportunities. Park visitors can view areas outside the park from numerous viewpoints and open areas such as the Howe Sound Crest corridor and Hollyburn, Black and Strachan Mountains. Some areas of the park, notably the alpine ski area and the hydro transmission line, were highly disturbed prior to the park's establishment and during BC Parks' construction of the road, ski runs and parking lots in the early 1970s. Although some revegetation has been completed, more needs to be done to improve the aesthetic appearance.

### **Objectives:**

- *To restore all disturbed areas in the park;*
- *To ensure that recreational experiences are delivered in an aesthetic manner that complements the natural setting of the park and minimizes impact from approved facility developments;*
- *To ensure the viewing opportunities from within the park are maintained and enhanced;*
- *To minimize unnatural changes to the views both within and outside of the park so that the visual qualities and atmosphere of the park are protected; and*
- *To design and situate park facilities that complement the park's natural setting and minimize environmental impacts.*

### **Actions:**

- Develop, in conjunction with Ministry of Transportation and Highways (MOTH), a roadway corridor plan along the Cypress Parkway from the junction of the Upper Levels Highway to the alpine parking area.
- Continue to review and comment on future tree cutting plans proposed by the Greater Vancouver Regional District within their Capilano watershed.
- Continue to work with private land owners and other agencies to promote and maintain the visual integrity of lands surrounding the park.
- Locate and design all facilities in the park in harmony with the visual setting and in accordance with park zoning objectives.



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### **Scientific Research and Education**

Although there have been a number of studies, thesis and research reports done on a variety of subjects in Cypress Provincial Park, there still remains more knowledge and scientific information to be gathered. The park's close proximity to Capilano College, the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and other institutions, as well as the general public, provides an excellent research, outdoor classroom and educational opportunity.

#### **Objectives:**

- *To encourage non-consumptive scientific research and education relating to the archaeological/cultural sites and the natural ecosystem in the park;*
- *To better understand the natural processes including site restoration and rehabilitation within the park; and*
- *To promote conservation through increasing environmental awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural values of Cypress Provincial Park, the BC Parks' system and other areas.*

#### **Actions:**

- Develop a strategy to enhance the knowledge of natural processes and increase research opportunities at the post-secondary level for a variety of projects within the park.



- Provide information based on research to park visitors to enhance their environmental awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural values of the park.
- Encourage research to be conducted and guide books on the park to be prepared.

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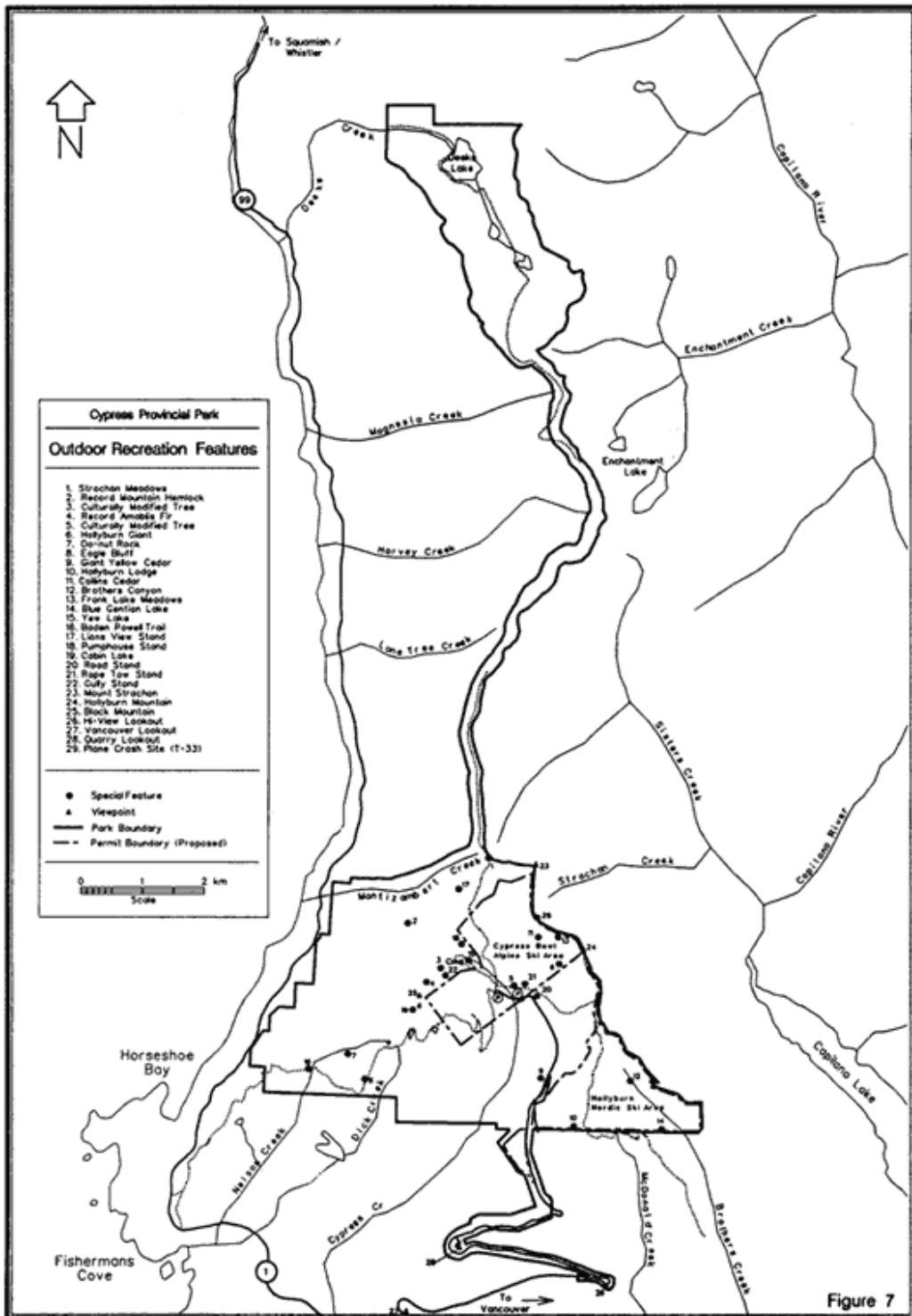
### **Outdoor Recreation Features**

Cypress Provincial Park has many natural features that provide opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreationists' interests. The park's accessible location combined with its old growth forests, well developed ski areas, scenic viewing sites, lakes and mountains provides for active and passive recreation, education and viewing opportunities for a broad range of people. These combined features provide park visitors a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in both developed and semi-wilderness settings. All of these opportunities are affected by the conservation goals of the park. The amount of recreation at any one site will vary with the specific site's ability to support a given recreational activity. As a result, management objectives will vary according to the area's environmental sensitivity (Figure 7).



#### **Objective:**

- *To ensure that recreation promotion, development and use are compatible with the cultural and conservation values of the park.*



**Actions:**

- Manage recreation use according to the park's zoning plan so that outdoor recreation features and natural resources will be protected.
- Ensure that approved recreational and facility developments have minimal impact on the natural or cultural values of the park, and enhance the outdoor recreation experience.
- Encourage implementation by CBRL of the approved CRA master plan.

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**Relationship with First Nations**

First Nations people have been using this area since before the arrival of Europeans. BC Parks has limited information on the values of the features and resources in the area as they relate to First Nations culture and heritage.

**Objectives:**

- *To develop ongoing communication and a working relationship with First Nations people whose asserted territory covers the park; and*
- *To develop an increased knowledge of First Nations' interests and values as they pertain to the mountains, streams and lakes of Cypress Provincial Park.*

**Actions:**

- Develop a relationship with the local First Nations people so that their sharing of cultural knowledge may enhance public understanding of the traditional uses of the land which is now Cypress Provincial Park.

**Introduction**

This section of the master plan describes the objectives and actions for managing outdoor recreation and park visitors, as well as providing park information. There are three important needs to be met:

1. Providing opportunities for people to use and experience the park in ways that are compatible with its features and the conservation of park values;
2. Providing outdoor recreation opportunities in a way that results in minimal conflicts between user groups; and
3. Providing means in Cypress Provincial Park for creating public awareness of and respect for natural and cultural values, as well as conservation ethics and ensuring that appropriate information is available to visitors.

**General Concept**

Cypress Provincial Park will be managed both for the recreation goals associated with alpine/nordic skiing, hiking, nature interpretation and other activities and the conservation goals associated with protecting the park's many special natural and cultural features.

Alpine and nordic ski development will be in keeping with the approved carrying capacity of the existing permit areas and CBRL's approved master development plan. CBRL's role in the park is the provision of commercial recreation facilities and services for public benefit and enjoyment. These are currently focused on the provision of alpine and nordic skiing. The park use permit obligates CBRL to exercise use and control over the Controlled Recreation Areas in the park from November 1st to May 31st. It also provides CBRL with the rights to provide a number of other recreation services throughout the year. CBRL's plan will complement the overall park plan by providing recreation facilities and services that reflect the overall intensive recreation goals and objectives for Cypress Provincial Park.

Since the initiation of the park master planning process and CBRL's master development plan, Cypress Provincial Park has gained a very high public profile. A major task in the implementation of this park master plan is to build upon this strong interest for the park and ensure that the park's special natural features will be protected and that intensive recreation facilities will be further developed in an aesthetically and environmentally sensitive manner. Future development will be in keeping with the character of the park and continue to provide year-round outdoor recreation opportunities.

The general concept for visitor services management in Cypress Provincial Park is to design and locate park facilities in a manner sensitive to the park's purposes, CBRL's legal rights in the park, and special natural and cultural features of the park.

## Access Strategy

Vehicular access to Cypress Provincial Park is along the Cypress Parkway which leads off Highway 1 in West Vancouver and terminates in the Cypress Bowl parking area 12 kilometres up the mountain. This three lane highway has two viewing areas and is maintained by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways. Car counter readings estimate that over 300,000 vehicles use this road annually.

CBRL currently operates a winter season bus system from Park Royal Shopping Centre and Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver. However, car parking is a problem on peak winter use days.

More informal routes into the park are from access points along a number of hiking trails. From the north, on Highway 99, a trailhead is established two kilometres south of Porteau Cove Provincial Park. This section of the Howe Sound Crest trail is outside the park, yet it still gives hikers access along an old logging road to the park and to the Deeks Lake area. Deeks Lake is the main destination area for hikers in the northern part of the park and is connected to Cypress Bowl and the Hollyburn area along the Howe Sound Crest trail. Designated access into the park is not recognized from either the Capilano watershed or the Village of Lions Bay due to watershed restrictions. The Baden-Powell trail which transects the North Shore mountains from Horseshoe Bay to Deep Cove also crosses the lower portion of Cypress Provincial Park and provides east-west hiker access. Other hiking routes lead from West Vancouver and connect with the Baden-Powell, Skyline and Brothers Creek trails.

Air access into the park is only permitted under park use permit or when an emergency rescue is required. Motorized access is not allowed in the backcountry but snowmobiles are permitted in a designated area south of Cypress Bowl.

The access strategy for Cypress Provincial Park recognizes the environmental and aesthetic sensitivities of the park's natural and wilderness areas. Terrain and neighbouring jurisdictions help to control access points in the more remote areas of the park. The present trail system uses many of the old routes developed by hikers and skiers over 50 years ago.

### Objectives:

- *To provide year-round public access to all parts of the park subject to protection of environmentally sensitive areas, public safety and the rights granted to CBRL under Park Use Permit 1506;*
- *To designate two public access routes through the Controlled Recreation Area;*
- *To continue to provide adequate and varied vehicular and hiking access for visitors to experience the park while minimizing effects on the environment, wildlife, cultural features and other visitors' enjoyment of the park; and*
- *To negotiate and secure trail access through private lands at Deeks Creek.*

**Actions:**

- Cooperate with MOTH in providing and maintaining year-round vehicular access to the Cypress Bowl and Hollyburn areas. Snow removal, road maintenance and development of a roadway landscape plan is the responsibility of MOTH.
- Finalize backcountry access corridors to Yew Lake/Howe Sound Crest trail, Black Mountain and Hollyburn Mountain during the winter months through the CRA.
- Work with the District of West Vancouver in developing a trail network system.
- In cooperation with hiking and mountaineering groups and CBRL, improve and maintain a variety of hiking trails throughout the park.
- Continue to assess and review public access conflicts when they arise and work towards their resolution.
- Discuss with MOTH options for a new access/egress and trailhead parking area off Highway 99 (south of Porteau Cove) for recreationists hiking into the Deeks Lake area as part of the plan for upgrading this highway.
- Develop a 400 car parking area to serve peak use periods.
- Develop a parking management strategy with CBRL and in collaboration with MOTH, achieve effective use of available parking areas (especially on peak days).
- Encourage and promote the use of CBRL's public transportation system.

**Information Strategy**

Providing current information about provincial parks is an important aspect of visitor services management. The information strategy for Cypress Provincial Park will emphasize the park's natural and cultural features, provide information on the variety of outdoor recreational activities available, encourage environmental ethics, promote outdoor safety and educate the public on conservation of the park's natural resources for future generations. It will also clarify the roles CBRL and BC Parks perform individually and in collaboration in the provision of outdoor recreation and area administration.

This information is designed to serve a number of functions. First, it will help people organize their visit and plan what areas of the park they want to visit or recreate in. Second, it promotes outdoor safety and etiquette, animal awareness, respect for the natural surroundings and careful appreciation of the wide variety of values found within the park. Third, it will create an awareness of conservation and cultural values and features associated with this park in educating the public on the value of the BC Parks system. Fourth, it will help clarify for the public the roles and relationships of CBRL and BC Parks in this park.

Park information is currently available in the form of a BC Parks' brochure. CBRL provides pamphlets on the alpine and nordic ski areas, road safety, and native interpretation. General interest brochures relating to outdoor safety, bear awareness, hypothermia, birds, the Yew Lake interpretive trail and plant life are also available for park visitors and distributed through park offices. The public can obtain park maps and brochures from park kiosks, CBRL's administration and retail buildings, district park offices and Travel Info Centres. Directional signing, interpretive panels and information shelters provide park visitors a wide range of information promoting activities, offering interpretation of natural and cultural values, and outlining management policies. The park's profile has also made it the subject of numerous articles in guide books and magazines.

Promotion of a park can affect the level of use and the type of visitors it attracts. Promotion strategies will consider different objectives, ones which provide a recreational opportunity and ones which emphasize conservation of sensitive natural and cultural values.

**Objectives:**

- *To promote an understanding of and appreciation for the natural and cultural values of the park and the surrounding area;*
- *To provide visitors with information that will enhance their respectful use and enjoyment of the park's natural, cultural and recreational features and CBRL's recreation services;*
- *To educate the public about the values of BC's Park system and this park's natural and cultural resources and how they are managed and protected;*
- *To educate the public about rehabilitation of natural systems; and*
- *To educate the province's increasing multicultural population on the natural and cultural values of parks.*

**Actions:**

- Develop and locate directional signs, interpretive signs, trail signs and information shelter sign packages that are consistent with the Vision Statement, are in accordance with the BC Parks' sign manual, and are integrated to create a park identity.
- Continue to develop self-guiding interpretive information packages on the park's special natural and cultural features.
- Provide clear information, by way of maps, brochures and signs, about the sensitive areas of the park and the location of recreational facilities.
- Develop and sign natural systems rehabilitation projects, e.g., disturbed lands and old road rehabilitation, Yew Lake revegetation program, removal of non-native plant species.

- Develop a Communications Plan to meet the needs of the ethnic diversity of Greater Vancouver.
- Enhance the public's awareness of Cypress Provincial Park and the BC Parks' system as areas for conserving, protecting and respecting its biodiversity of natural and cultural resources through brochures, signs, special events and other media.
- Develop a complementary information strategy with CBRL.

### **Management Services**

Cypress Provincial Park is administered from the Lower Mainland District Office of BC Parks, located in North Vancouver. Staff ensure that the various management responsibilities are undertaken according to the *Park Act* and *Park Act Regulations*, this master plan, established policies and procedures of the ministry, the conditions of Park Use Permit 1506 and other applicable provincial acts and regulations. This includes such priorities as regulating public use to ensure safe and appropriate use of the park, maintaining trails and facilities, managing CBRL's permit and other permits for commercial and research uses within the park, conducting environmental rehabilitation and management projects, and collecting data on the park's natural and cultural values.

There has been great public interest in Cypress Provincial Park over the years. Preservation of the park's special natural features and provision of improved and more recreation facilities have resulted in differences of opinion as to how the park should be developed. During the development of this master plan, public input was gained through the planning process. This resulted in a greater degree of awareness and understanding on the part of BC Parks about the public's concerns.

The Special Commissioner prepared a package of 77 recommendations in the Report of the Cypress Park Special Planning Commission which was accepted by government. These recommendations have been incorporated in this master plan and CBRL's CRA Master Plan.

### **Objectives:**

- *To manage the park according to the **Park Act**, **Park Act Regulations**, obligations of Park Use Permit 1506, and the guidelines of this master plan;*
- *To foster opportunities for volunteer services and activities, such as trail and day use development and serving as hosts and interpreters; and*
- *To foster and maintain a public role in the stewardship of the park.*



**Actions:**

- Implement revisions to the park use permit based on recommendations of the Special Commissioner's Report.
- Raise BC Parks' profile in the park by implementing the information strategy and establishing and maintaining a ranger headquarters so that both CBRL and the public will have an onsite contact with the managers of the park.
- Prepare Annual Management Plans to guide the implementation of management actions of this master plan.
- Develop a safety plan, including installation of telephones in the nordic ski area that will satisfactorily deal with user emergencies.
- Regulate public use to ensure safe and environmentally friendly use of the park and its facilities.
- Continue the existing policies of no hunting in the entire park and no camping in the southern portion of the park.
- Work cooperatively with CBRL to ensure that their management objectives and the needs of the public are adequately met in keeping with the purpose and values of the park.
- Monitor visitor use in the day use and backcountry areas to assess environmental impact and adjust management actions as required.
- Encourage volunteers to assist with the implementation of management actions stated in this plan (e.g. Adopt-a-Trail program, special events, interpretive programs).
- Liaise on a regular basis with groups representing park users to ensure that park management benefits from the public input.
- Conduct research on vegetation, wildlife, cultural, natural and recreation values to assist in the long-term sustainability of the park's resources.
- Permit commercial filming activities in the park providing there is no damage to any natural or cultural features and that inconvenience to park users is minimized or avoided.
- In keeping with the zoning plan, allow commercial summer activities that are compatible with the values and aesthetics of the park and are provided in an environmentally sustainable manner. Activities such as helicopter trips and large rock concerts are incompatible activities.

## **Visitor Opportunities**

Cypress Provincial Park provides the setting for a wide variety of Coastal Mountain recreational opportunities and for cultural and nature interpretation in both summer (Figure 8) and winter (Figure 9). These activities will be managed to ensure that they are compatible with the park zoning, are in keeping with the park's natural and cultural values, are consistent with visitors' expectations, and respect the Vision Statement of this master plan.

Over 1,000,000 visitors annually enjoy the park's special and natural features, spectacular views, hiking trails and a variety of other recreation opportunities/facilities. It is estimated that CBRL provides recreation and food services for approximately 300,000 of these park visitors under its obligations of Park Use Permit 1506.

**The following section outlines what types of activities are appropriate for the park, where they are allowed, and what type of experience visitors will have.**

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### **Hiking/Mountaineering**

Hiking and walking are popular park activities. Prior to the establishment of Cypress Provincial Park, the Baden-Powell trail was constructed linking Horseshoe Bay with Deep Cove. This east-west hiking trail wanders through Cypress Provincial Park and provides the public excellent access through magnificent old growth forest stands. A number of other trails were used by early skiers who trekked from 15th Street and 22nd Street in West Vancouver up to Hollyburn Mountain. With the addition of the Cypress extension and Deeks Lake area to the park, the Howe Sound Crest trail now links Cypress Bowl and Mt. Strachan with Mt. Unnecessary, the Lions, Brunswick Mountain and Deeks Lake.

Cypress Provincial Park currently offers over 75 kilometres of hiking trails ranging from relatively easy to difficult. Major hiking destination areas include the Howe Sound Crest trail, the Lions, Deeks Lake, Black Mountain, Brunswick Mountain, Hollyburn Mountain, Yew Lake, Cabin Lake, Blue Gentian Lake, Brothers Canyon and the Baden-Powell trail. The park has a well developed hiking trail system but inadequately developed trailheads in the Cypress Bowl and Hollyburn areas.

#### **Objectives:**

- *To provide a variety of high quality, low impact hiking and walking opportunities within the park;*
- *To connect the park's trail system with a municipal/regional trail network; and*
- *To provide a wide range of hiking opportunities from short, level interpretive trails to high elevation backcountry routes for novice, persons with disabilities, and experienced hikers.*

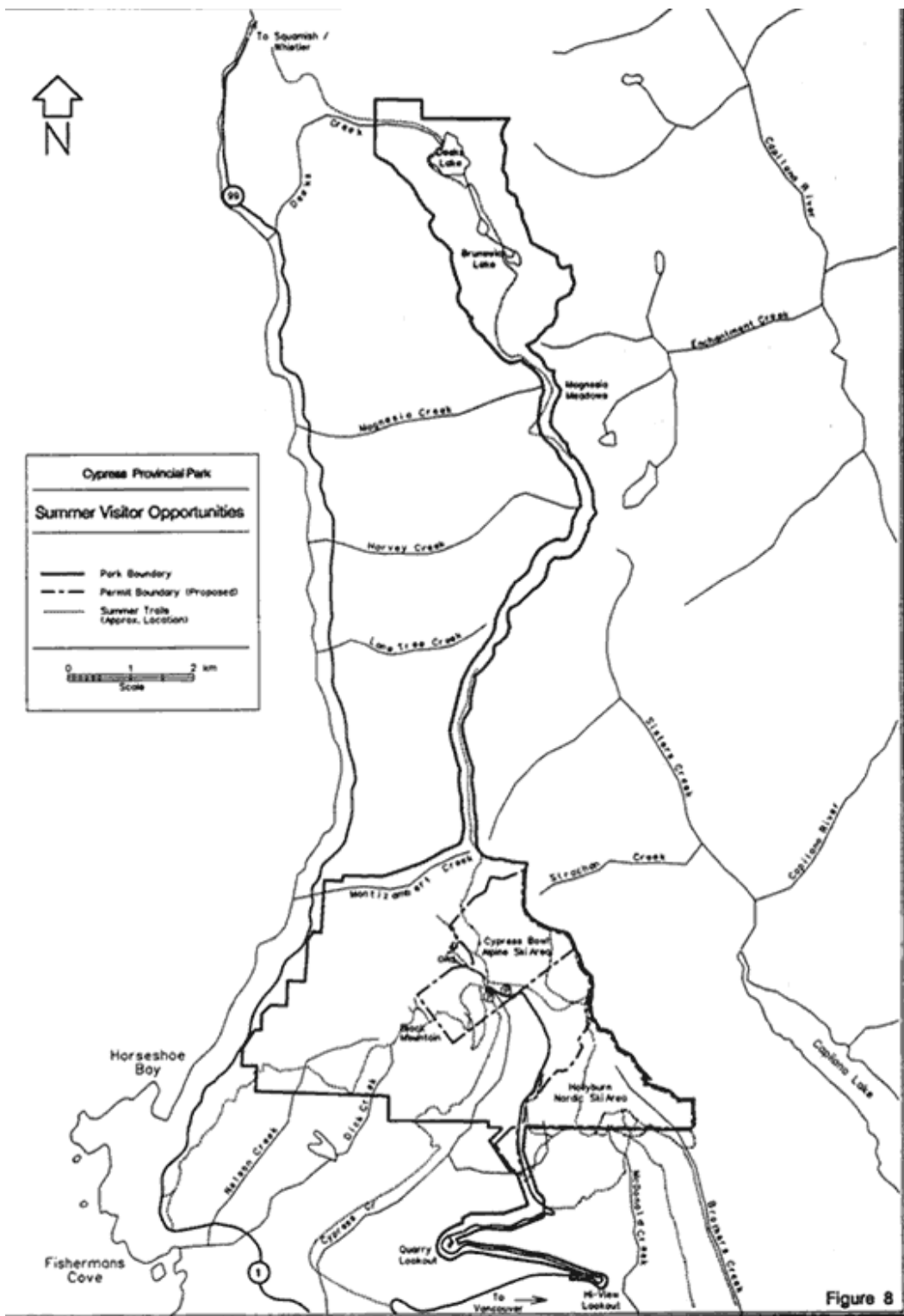


Figure 8



**Actions:**

- Ensure that all park trails and park trailheads currently approved are upgraded and indicated on the park map.
- Develop partnerships with interested parties to implement recommendations of trail maintenance/rehabilitation program.
- Ensure that existing trails are adequately signed and marked to facilitate public use and enjoyment and to promote public safety.

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**Winter Recreation**

Cypress Provincial Park is a popular destination for recreationists seeking to enjoy a variety of outdoor winter activities. The park's central location and paved road access are prime reasons why this park has the highest visitor attendance of all provincial parks. Along with alpine and nordic skiing facilities, recreationists can enjoy snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, tobogganing, snowmobiling and nature appreciation. Within the permit boundary area, CBRL provides alpine and nordic skiing facilities to service one of the most intensively visited alpine ski areas in the province.

**Objective:**

- *To provide a variety of winter-related recreation opportunities that are compatible with both recreation and conservation goals for Cypress Provincial Park.*

**ALPINE SKIING**

The Cypress Bowl area provides at present four ski lifts, rope tow, groomed runs, ski school, first aid, cafeteria, washrooms, night skiing, parking and ski rentals. Current alpine facilities provide for 2,500 skier carrying capacity. As recommended by the Special Commissioner, the existing permit area will not be expanded to include Hollyburn Mountain but new ski lifts and runs will allow CBRL's alpine skier design capacity to increase to approximately 4,840 skier carrying capacity based on the following skiers' ability level:

- beginner/novice	18%
- intermediate	60%
- advanced/expert	22%

- A chairlift will be installed connecting the base area to the top of Mt. Strachan. This lift will be constructed so that gondola cabins may be substituted for a number of the chairs to provide foot passengers with an enclosed, comfortable ride to the top of Mt. Strachan for both summer and winter use.
- A second chairlift will be installed on the lower slopes of Mt. Strachan to the west of the Sunrise Chair. This double chairlift will service additional return skiing on newly developed terrain and provide an area for ski club race training.
- A third chairlift will be constructed on the slopes on the north side of the Sunrise Chair's top terminal to provide higher altitude skiing for beginners in low snow years.
- The existing double chairlifts will be replaced by quadruple chairlifts and trail renovation and construction will be required to balance the lift and trail systems.
- A new beginner chair will replace the Sunshine rope tow.

Renovation of the existing alpine ski area strives to establish and enhance the year-round recreational services and facilities for both the existing recreational facility and the whole of Cypress Provincial Park. Existing facilities will be upgraded to provide an aesthetically pleasing area with an approved level of service consistent with the recommendation of the Special Commissioner. These facilities must also be altered and relocated to help balance the operational components of the area. Figure 10 shows the development for the alpine ski area.

Figure 10

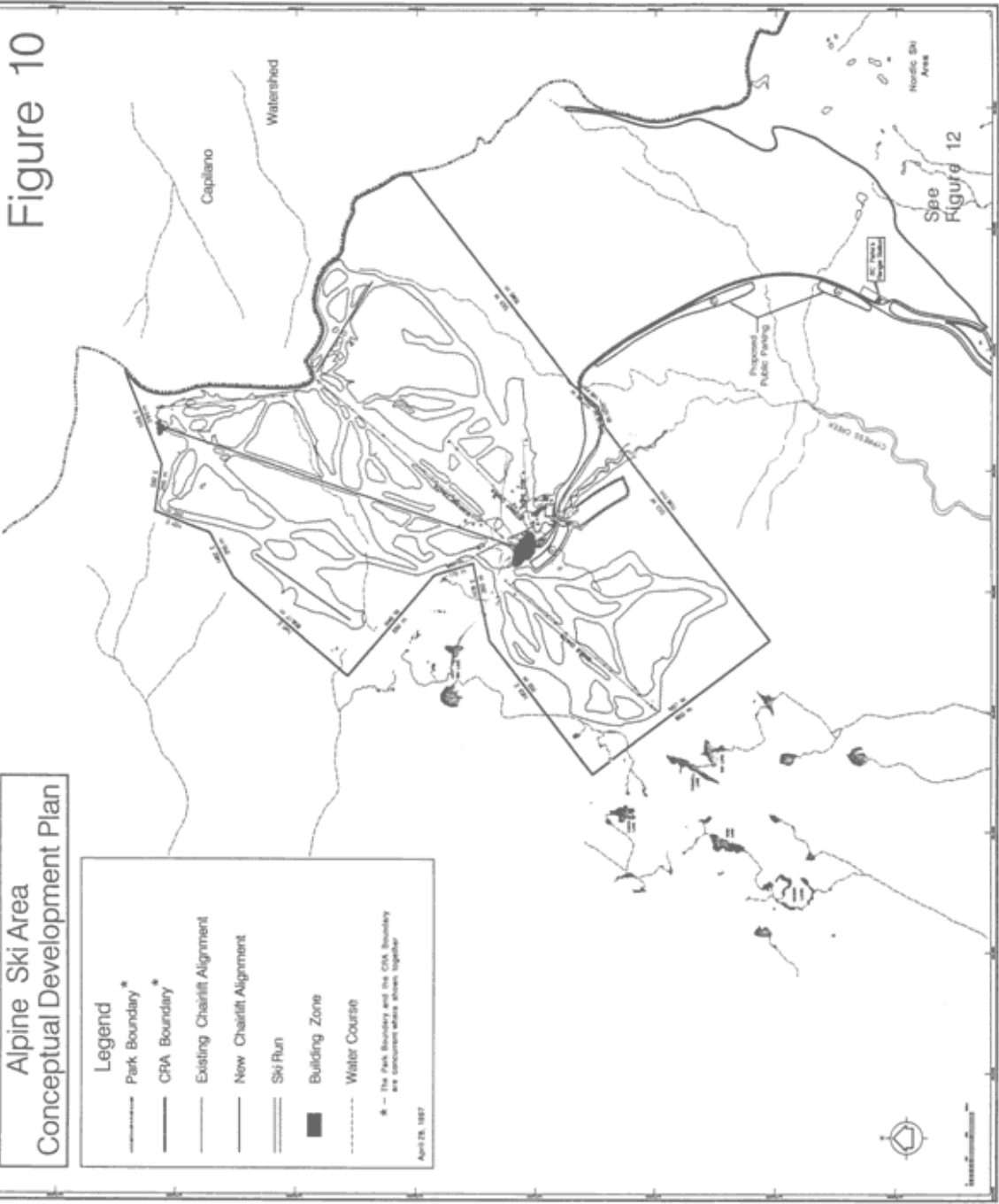
Alpine Ski Area  
Conceptual Development Plan

**Legend**

- Park Boundary\*
- CRA Boundary\*
- Existing Chairlift Alignment
- New Chairlift Alignment
- Ski Run
- Building Zone
- - - Water Course

\* - - The Park Boundary and the CRA Boundary are concurrent where shown together

April 19, 1997



See Figure 12

The Alpine Ski Base Area (Figure 11) lies in the centre of Cypress Bowl. Situated between Mt. Strachan and Black Mountain, the base area lands offer excellent access to alpine skiing in the winter and hiking and sightseeing in the summer. The concept for the development of Cypress' base area is to relocate visitor services from temporary structures located in and around the main parking lot to permanent structures which will be configured adjacent to Cypress Creek.

The new base area is designed so that it creates a formal separation between vehicular traffic and pedestrian circulation. The building layout will help avoid the existing conflicts between skiers, pedestrians and vehicles. Untravelled areas will be replanted with indigenous plant material. Base area facilities will complement the natural surroundings and be in keeping with traditional park themes and usage.

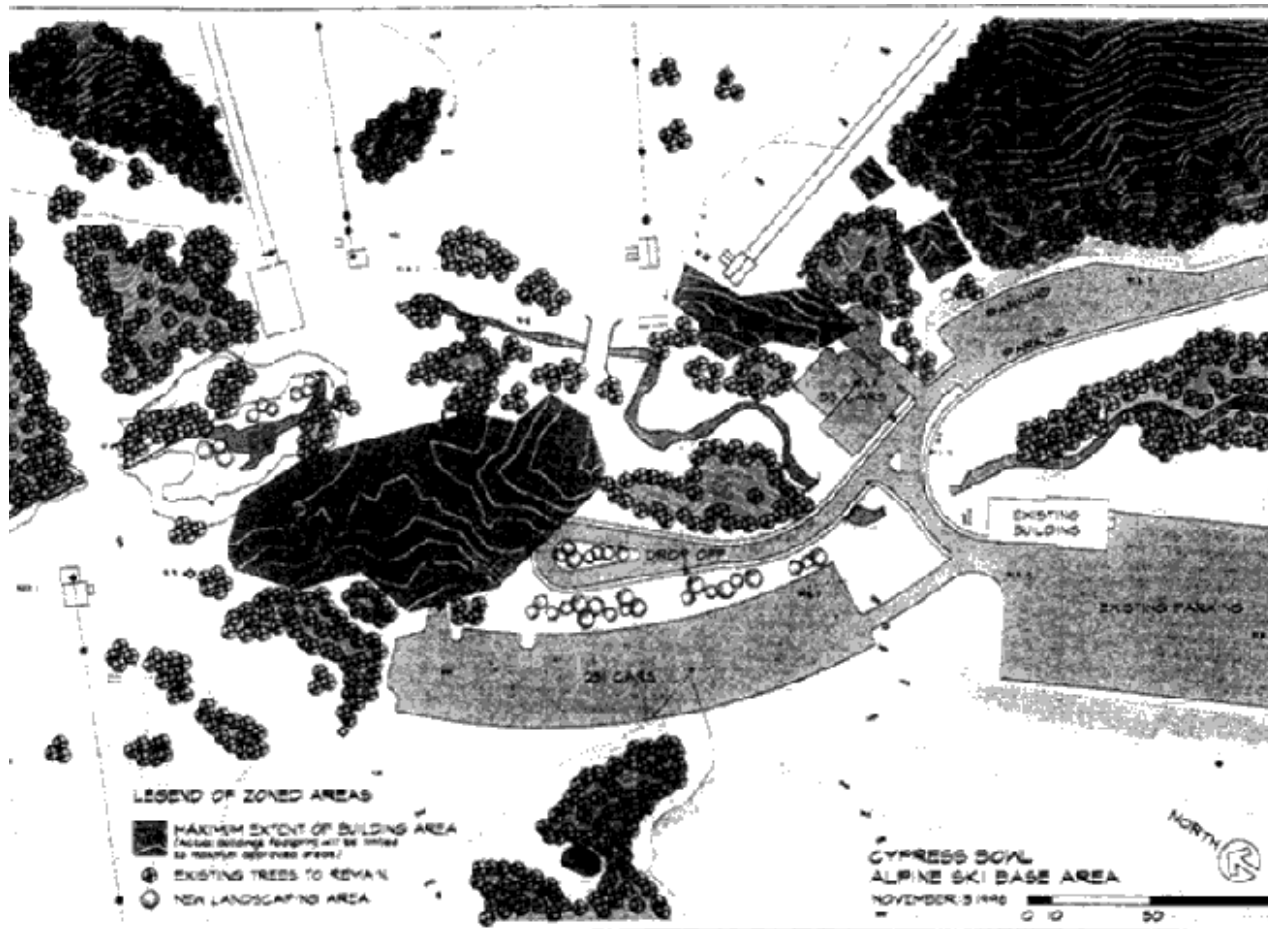
Included in the base area concept is a formal loop terminus to the Cypress Parkway. This terminus will act as a drop-off area. Two additional parking lots will be developed. These lots will be designed to have minimum impact on the environment. These facilities will formalize the arrival to the ski area and initiate the reclamation of this previously disturbed zone.

A small mountain top restaurant will be constructed at the top of Mt. Strachan to provide food and beverage services to visitors and provide sightseers with a panoramic view of Howe Sound, English Bay and Georgia Strait.

**Action:**

- Enable CBRL to improve alpine ski facilities and base facilities to meet the 4,840 skier carrying capacity as recommended in the Special Commissioner's Report and approved by Cabinet. These improvements will require some further changes to the environment. These changes will be managed under the terms of the CRA Master Plan to minimize further removal of trees and disturbance of wetlands.





## **NORDIC SKIING**

There are currently 14 kilometres of nordic ski trails and services such as ski rental and lessons, washrooms, food service, groomed trails, night skiing, warming hut, first aid and parking in the Hollyburn area.

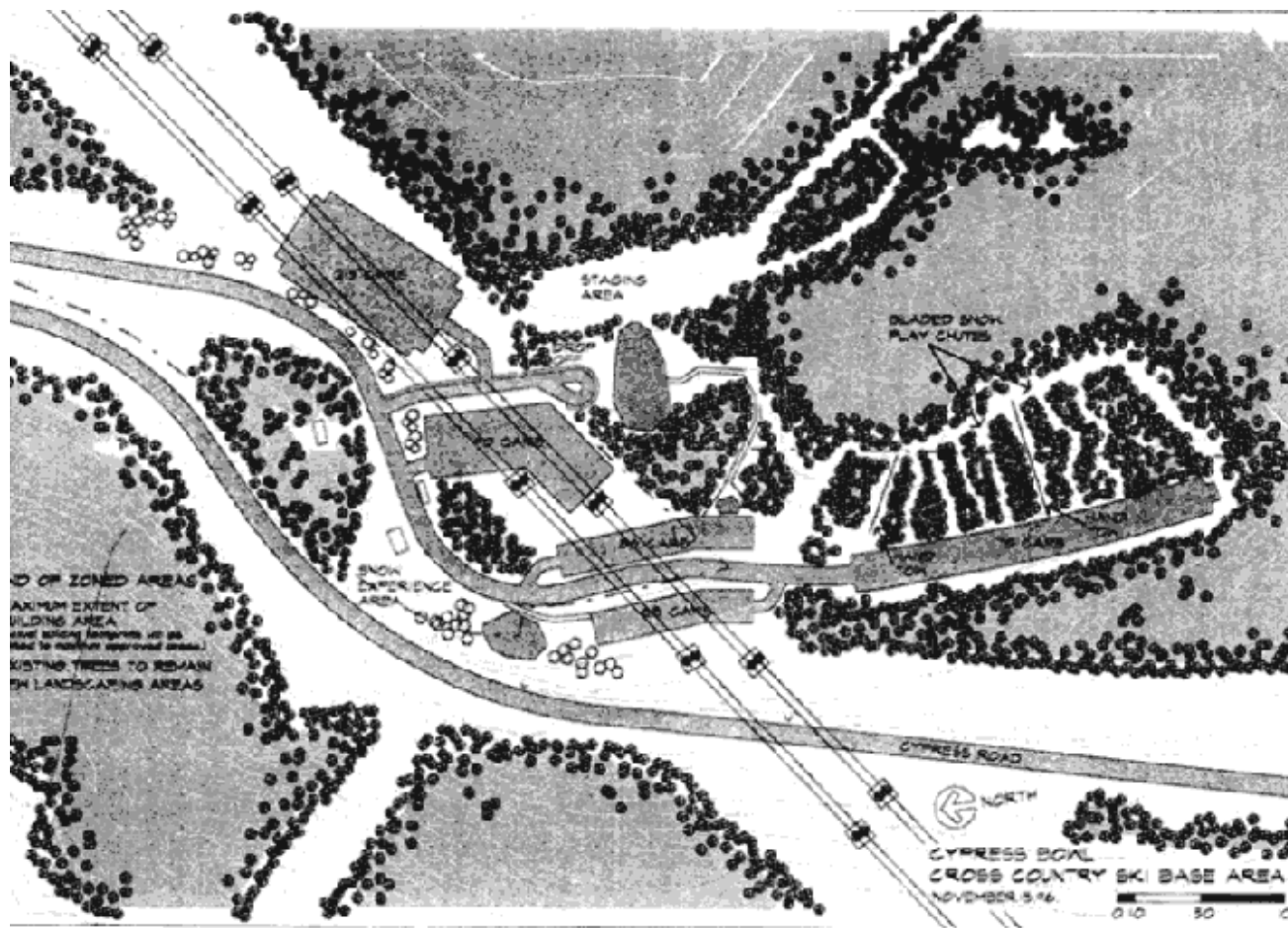
It is proposed to upgrade the existing nordic trails to increase their comfortable carrying capacity and to construct new trails, increasing the daily design capacity from 676 skiers to approximately 1,300 skier carrying capacity. It is also proposed to partly realign and improve the existing trails both to increase carrying capacity at bottlenecks and to formalize loops of trails. Figure 12 shows the approved conceptual development for the Nordic Area.

The existing base area facilities for the nordic area are inadequate in capacity and level of service. The existing facilities consist of portable, temporary structures in the parking lot for ticket sales and rentals, outhouse, and Hollyburn Lodge which presently serves as a restaurant and provides a basic food service. These facilities will be replaced, first to provide a satisfactory level of service to the existing users and then upgraded to service the expanded capacity of the nordic trail system. The new lodge will include space for a restaurant, public restrooms, first aid, lockers, warming, waxing, etc. Next to the expanded parking area and the new nordic base area, a staging/instruction area will be constructed complete with a special events kiosk. The proposed nordic base area and the proposed snowplay area are shown on the Nordic Ski Base Area (Figure 13).

### **Actions:**

- Allow CBRL to expand the nordic trail system and the nordic base area as outlined in the CRA Master Plan.
- In keeping with the Special Commissioner's recommendations, shooting ranges will not be allowed for biathlons within the park if requested by interested groups.
- A cultural and historical assessment is proposed for the First Lake site and other historic recreation facilities within the CRA. Recommendations from this assessment will form the basis for the future treatment of the site.





## **TOBAGGANING AND SNOWPLAY**

Tobogganing, making snow people, and generally playing in the snow, are the most popular activities in the park. In order to provide enjoyment primarily to the younger park users, the existing area needs significant upgrading.

Cypress Provincial Park attracts many visitors during the winter whose only desire is to experience snow, which rarely falls at city elevations. The tobogganing area is located beside the nordic ski area base. This area includes the existing toboggan runs and has slopes suitable for tobogganing and is located adjacent to parking lots.

Minimal tree clearing to prepare groomed “chutes” through the forest will be provided rather than an expansive cleared area. Tobogganing/tubing technology, such as handle or rope tows will be developed for user convenience.

An additional snowplay area for free public use and enjoyment will be developed. This will provide an area where park visitors can enjoy the snow without conflicting with active users. A lodge is proposed adjacent to this area to provide services to these visitors and a parking lot will be constructed on a terrace below the access road (see Figure 13).

### **Actions:**

- Improve tobogganing facilities in the Hollyburn area to a design carrying capacity of 700 users at one time.

## **BACKCOUNTRY SKIING/SNOWSHOEING/WINTER HIKING**

Hollyburn Mountain, Black Mountain plateau and the Howe Sound Crest trail provide opportunities for backcountry and ski-touring opportunities. Currently, a designated trail leads along the western edge of the nordic ski area boundary giving skiers access to Hollyburn Mountain. Backcountry corridors access to Black Mountain and the Howe Sound Crest trail is through the alpine ski area. Black Mountain plateau offers an excellent opportunity to expand and provide recreational/family and intermediate types of backcountry experience.

### **Actions:**

- Repair and relocate the most difficult spots of the Hikers’ Access trail to provide greater user safety and enhance their aesthetic experience.
- Provide additional backcountry skiing and snowshoe opportunities on Black Mountain plateau, including a winter shelter.

## **SNOWMOBILING**

Snowmobiling is currently allowed in the designated snowmobile area accessed from Parking Lot 5 and then across Cypress Creek.

### **Action:**

- Continue to allow snowmobiling opportunities within the designated area and investigate ways of improving access.

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## **Nature Appreciation/Outdoor Education**

Cypress Provincial Park provides numerous opportunities for nature appreciation, outdoor education and wildlife viewing. Yew Lake has a popular self-guiding, wheel-chair accessible summer interpretive trail. In addition a new loop trail off the main trail, has been developed which allows visitors to stroll through an old growth forest.

### **Objective:**

- *To encourage outdoor education and nature appreciation through the provision of interpretive programs, self-guiding trails, brochures, interpretive signs and special events.*

### **Actions:**

- Encourage interpretive programs and special events in the park and develop an interpretive plan.
- Emphasize Yew Lake, Black Mountain, Mt. Strachan, Hollyburn and old growth forest areas in an interpretive plan that includes signage, handouts and/or interpretive staff.

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## **Wilderness Camping**

Wilderness camping opportunities, including shelters are located along the Howe Sound Crest trail, Magnesia Meadows and Brunswick Lake. The Magnesia Meadows cabin is located within the Lions Bay watershed.

### **Objective:**

- *To provide wilderness camping opportunities in the Howe Sound Crest and Brunswick Lakes areas.*

**Actions:**

- Develop wilderness campsites and upgrade shelters for overnight and/or emergency purposes at Brunswick Lake and Magnesia Meadows.
- Reconcile future development plans for wilderness camping with local watershed authorities.
- Develop a signing and information package on wilderness camping for the park.

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**Day Use/Viewing**

Cypress Provincial Park provides a number of picnic sites that are located beside some of the scenic lakes or viewing areas. The park also offers spectacular views from a number of viewpoints throughout the park. The most popular site is Hi-View Lookout located approximately four kilometres along the Cypress Parkway. The main entrance portal depicting the Lions along with parking, picnic tables, information and sanitary facilities is located at the site. Landscaping, grass areas and a rock wall are all designed to be functional and add to the attractiveness of the site. Quarry Lookout is located two kilometres farther up the parkway and is presently undeveloped.

The summits of Strachan, Hollyburn and Black Mountains along with the Howe Sound Crest ridge offers incredible vistas of the surrounding lands, Howe Sound and the Gulf of Georgia. The Lions are the most notable features accessed via the Howe Sound Crest trail and stand as a symbol of the North Shore's coast mountain range.

The other special features of Cypress Provincial Park including Yew, Blue Gentian and Deeks Lakes as well as the old growth forests, interesting plant communities and wildlife provide a photographer's paradise.

**Objectives:**

- *To provide opportunities for day use while minimizing environmental impact;*
- *To allow CBRL to provide other appropriate summer activities that are compatible with park values;*
- *To provide opportunities for picnicking in a natural setting; and*
- *To maintain and develop special day use viewing areas in Cypress Provincial Park to afford visitors the opportunities to enjoy breathtaking views of Vancouver, Howe Sound, the North Shore and Gulf of Georgia.*

**Actions:**

- Develop Quarry Lookout as a major viewing area. Facility development will be designed for persons with disabilities and offer a variety of day use opportunities.
- Encourage CBRL to provide other summer activities to enhance their operation and bring enjoyment to those who would like these activities.
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**Mountain Bicycling**

Mountain bicycling has become a very popular recreational activity. Currently, the old logging roads in the designated snowmobile area and connecting trails through municipal lands are being used for mountain bicycling. The alpine ski area also offers cycling opportunities on designated trails.

**Objectives:**

- *To develop opportunities for cycling in locations where the activity does not damage hiking trails or park values and the activity does not conflict with other park visitors; and*
- *To connect with, where feasible and environmentally compatible, a municipal trail network.*



**Actions:**

- Work with West Vancouver, CBRL, bicycling clubs, outdoor recreation clubs and conservation groups to establish a network trail system for mountain bicyclists on the downhill portion of the alpine ski area, on the lower southeast slopes of Black Mountain and on the east side of Cypress Creek south of Cypress Parkway, and to establish methods for policing this activity.
- Review on an annual basis, and with public consultation, any adverse impacts of mountain bicycling on the environment in the park, and on other park users and implement appropriate regulation, management and/or site improvements as required.



**Introduction**

This section compiles all of the actions listed throughout the master plan. Timing of implementation of these actions is dependent on the availability, financial and staff resources to both CBRL and BC Parks, and will be affected by the priority needs of other parks in the Fraser Valley District and in the rest of the BC Parks system. Approval of this plan does not constitute automatic approval of funding for implementation. BC Parks may seek appropriate corporate, community or inter-agency partnerships to help implement many of the actions listed in this plan.

Prioritizing of the main resource and visitor management proposals (Figure 14) is necessary to effectively implement this master plan. The following outline lists the proposed actions in three sections: Highest Priority Actions, Task or Project-Oriented Actions, and Ongoing and Monitoring Actions.

The first list (Highest Priority Actions) highlights the actions that are of the highest priority and require attention in the near future.

The second list (Task or Project-Oriented Actions) highlights the actions that require a specific task or project. Park managers will review this list when developing upcoming budgets and annual work plans. This list is separated into Resource Management actions and Visitor Services actions.

The third list (Ongoing Monitoring Actions) describes the actions that require ongoing or monitoring types of tasks or projects. This list will be reviewed regularly by park managers to ensure that the overall spirit and intentions of this master plan are being followed. This list is also separated into Resource Management actions and Visitor Services actions.

**HIGHEST PRIORITY ACTIONS**

- Amend the permit boundary to exclude the Yew Lake associated wetlands and the nearby Pumphouse stand of forest and include an area on the west flank of Mt. Strachan to improve skiing opportunities. Any expansion to the Permit Area, if called for at a future date, will require public consultation and review.
- Explore with the permittee the possibility of excluding Blue Gentian Lake and Brothers Canyon areas from the Nordic Ski Controlled Recreation Area.
- Add acquired private lands and accompanying public lands on Deeks Creek to the park.



- Make funding submissions to Forest Renewal BC for watershed assessment, restoration and management funding within the park.
- Continue the revegetation program in the Yew Lake area and on all disturbed slopes and integrate with the Watershed Restoration Program.
- Encourage and promote the use of CBRL's public transportation system by the public.
- Negotiate revisions to the permittee's park use permit based on the recommendations of the Special Commissioner.
- Raise BC Parks' profile by implementing the information strategy plan and establishing and maintaining a ranger headquarters so that both CBRL and the public will have a contact on site with the managers of the park.
- Upgrade all existing trails.
- Enable CBRL to improve alpine ski facilities and base facilities to meet the 4,840 skier carrying capacity as recommended in the Special Commissioner's Report and approved by Cabinet. These improvements will require some further changes to the environment. These changes will be managed under the terms of the CRA Master Plan to minimize further removal of trees and disturbance of wetlands.
- Allow CBRL to expand the nordic trail system and the nordic base area as outlined in the CRA Master Plan.
- Repair and relocate the most difficult spots of the Hikers' Access trail to provide greater user safety and enhance their aesthetic experience.
- Provide additional backcountry skiing and snowshoeing opportunities on Black Mountain plateau, including a winter shelter.
- Improve tobogganing and snowplay facilities, including parking, in the Hollyburn area to a design capacity of 700 users at one time.
- Emphasize Yew Lake, Black Mountain, Mt. Strachan, Hollyburn and old growth forest areas in an interpretive plan that includes signage, handouts and/or interpretive staff.

- Encourage CBRL to provide other summer activities to enhance their operation and bring enjoyment to those who would like these activities.
- Develop Quarry Lookout as a major viewing area. Facility development will be designed for persons with disabilities and offer a variety of day use opportunities.
- Develop a parking management strategy with CBRL and in collaboration with MOTH, achieve effective use of available parking areas (especially on peak days) and develop new parking lots as recommended in the Williams' report.

<b>TASK OR PROJECT-ORIENTED ACTIONS</b>
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### **Management of Natural and Cultural Values**

- Enter into discussions with private property owners to ensure access to the Deeks Lake area from Highway 99.
- Add the park to Schedule C of the *Park Act* to ensure that any future park deletions are subject to review by the Legislature. Before this is actioned, BC Parks will consult with CBRL on this and examine government's obligations under Park Use Permit 1506 to determine the consequences of such action on the future management of the park.
- Undertake a biophysical inventory assessment, including rare and-endangered species with priority emphasis on areas where development is proposed, and prepare a Vegetation and Fire Management Plan for the park.
- Prepare a Wildlife Management Plan that includes wildlife viewing and fishing in Deeks Lake.
- Develop a Natural and Cultural History Theme document for the park.
- A cultural and historical assessment is proposed for the First Lake site and other historic recreation facilities within the CRA. Recommendations from this assessment will form the basis for the future treatment of the site.
- Develop, in conjunction with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, a roadway corridor plan along Cypress Parkway from the junction of the Upper Levels Highway to the alpine parking area.
- Develop a strategy to enhance the knowledge of natural processes and increase research opportunities for a variety of projects within the park.

## **Visitor Services**

- Discuss with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways options for a new access/egress and trailhead parking area off Highway 99 (south of Porteau Cove) for recreationists hiking into the Deeks Lake area as part of the plan for upgrading this highway.
- Finalize backcountry corridors access to Yew Lake/Howe Sound Crest trail, Black Mountain and Hollyburn Mountain during the winter months through CBRL's permit area.
- Develop and locate directional signs, interpretive signs, trail signs and information shelter sign packages that are consistent with the Vision Statement, are in accordance with the BC Parks' sign manual, and are integrated to create a park identity.
- Prepare Annual Management Plans that address the implementation of management actions and respect the Vision Statement of this master plan.
- Provide clear information by way of maps, brochures and signs, about the sensitive areas of the park and the location of recreational facilities.
- Develop and sign natural systems rehabilitation projects, i.e., disturbed lands and old road rehabilitation, Yew Lake revegetation program, removal of non-native plant species.
- Develop a safety plan, including installation of telephones in the nordic ski area that will satisfactorily deal with user emergencies.
- Develop wilderness campsites and upgrade shelters for overnight and/or emergency purposes at Brunswick Lake and Magnesia Meadows.
- Reconcile future development plans for wilderness camping with local watershed authorities.
- Develop a signing and information package on wilderness camping for the park.

## ONGOING AND MONITORING ACTIONS

### Management of Natural and Cultural Values

- Ensure environmental impact studies and future discussions on related issues are in keeping with Special Commissioner's recommendations, Park Use Permit 1506, and BC Parks' policy.
- Conduct discussions with the Village of Lions Bay in order to resolve access to the Lions.
- Administer all cabins under park use permits and phase out all private cabins.
- Continue to review and discuss the existing permit with the District of West Vancouver to resolve the future of the West Vancouver ranger cabin.
- Remove planted non-native species and re-establish natural vegetation in those areas that have been significantly impacted by their introduction (eg. Scotch broom at Quarry and Hi-View Lookouts).
- Continue working with the develop information and education programs/publications on wildlife and their habitat.
- Continue the existing policies of no hunting in the entire park and no camping facilities in the southern portion of the park.
- In keeping with the Special Commissioner's recommendations, shooting ranges will not be allowed for biathlons within the park if requested by interested groups.
- Continue to review and comment on future tree cutting plans proposed by the Greater Vancouver Regional District within their Capilano watershed.
- Continue to work with private land owners and other agencies to promote and maintain the visual integrity of lands surrounding the park.
- Locate and design all facilities in the park in harmony with the visual setting and in accordance with park zoning objectives.
- Manage recreation use in conjunction with the park's zoning plan so that outdoor recreation features and natural resources will be minimally impacted.

- Safeguard community watersheds from any pollution caused by recreation facilities and/or visitor use by careful site design and management.
- Provide information based on research to park visitors to enhance their environmental awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural values of the park.
- Encourage research and guide books to be conducted and prepared on the park.
- Ensure that approved recreational and facility developments have minimal impact on the natural or cultural values of the park and enhance the outdoor recreation experience.
- Identify historical uses by First Nations people in the park by working with local bands and others to better understand the cultural significance, and preserve the history of this area.
- Removal of trees and disturbance to wetlands must be minimized even though some further changes to the environment are necessary in the areas of intensive recreation.

### **Visitor Services**

- Enhance the public's awareness of Cypress Provincial Park and the BC Parks' system as areas for conserving, protecting and respecting its biodiversity of natural and cultural resources through brochures, signs, special events and other media.
- Cooperate with MOTH in providing and maintaining year-round vehicular access to the Cypress Bowl and Hollyburn areas.
- Continue to develop self-guiding interpretive information packages on the park's special natural and cultural features.
- Work with the District of West Vancouver in developing a trail network system.
- Continue to assess and review public access conflicts and work towards their resolution.
- Develop a complementary information strategy with CBRL.
- Regulate public use to ensure safe and environmentally friendly use of the park and its facilities.
- Work cooperatively with CBRL to ensure that their management objectives and the needs of the public are adequately met in keeping with the purpose and values of the park.



- Monitor changes in visitor use in the day use and backcountry areas to assess environmental impact on the park.
- Liaise on a regular basis with groups representing park users to ensure that park management concerns benefit from the greatest possible input.
- Conduct research on vegetation, wildlife, cultural, natural and recreation values to assist in the long-term sustainability of the park's resources.
- Manage commercial filming activities in the park providing there is no damage to any natural or cultural features, and inconvenience to park users is kept to a minimum.
- Continue to allow snowmobiling opportunities within the designated area and investigate ways of improving access.
- Work with West Vancouver, CBRL, bicycling clubs, outdoor recreation clubs and conservation groups to establish a network trail system for mountain bicyclists on the downhill portion of the alpine ski area, on the lower southeast slopes of Black Mountain and on the east side of Cypress Creek south of Cypress Parkway, and to establish methods for policing this activity.
- Review on an annual basis, and with public consultation, any adverse impacts of mountain bicycling on the environment in the park and on other park users and implement appropriate regulations, management and/or site improvements as required.
- In cooperation with hiking and mountaineering groups and CBRL, improve and maintain a variety of hiking trails throughout the park.
- Encourage volunteers to assist with the management actions stated in this plan (i.e. Adopt-a-Trail program, special events, interpretive programs).
- Ensure that all park trails and park trailheads currently used and described in standard guidebooks are upgraded and indicated on the park map.
- Develop partnerships with interested parties to implement recommendations of trail maintenance/rehabilitation program.
- Ensure that existing trails are adequately signed and marked to facilitate public use and enjoyment, and to promote public safety.
- Encourage interpretive programs and special events in the park and develop an interpretive plan.

## APPENDIX A

### BC Parks' Zoning Policy

Below are descriptions of the various zones that can be applied in provincial parks. The lists of activities and facilities shown for each zone indicate what could occur and not necessarily what must occur. In many parks, only a few of the activities or facilities shown in the list would occur.

#### INTENSIVE RECREATION ZONE

**Management Objective**

To provide a variety of high-use, readily-accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

**Activities**

Camping, picnicking, beach activities, power boating, nature appreciation, skiing, fishing.

**Facilities**

May be intensely developed, eg., campgrounds, play areas, interpretive buildings, boat launches.

#### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ZONE

**Management Objective**

To provide a variety of easily-accessible off-road outdoor recreation activities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

**Activities**

Walk-in camping, kayaking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding.

**Facilities**

Moderately developed, eg., trails, wilderness/boating campsites, shelters.

## **SPECIAL FEATURES ZONE**

### **Management Objective**

To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage value.

### **Activities**

Sightseeing, interpretation and study of history and nature.

### **Facilities**

May be developed for future interpretation purposes.

May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.

## **WILDERNESS RECREATION ZONE**

### **Management Objective**

To provide for backcountry recreation in a remote natural environment, with emphasis on a wilderness atmosphere.

### **Activities**

Backpacking, river rafting, fishing, hunting, nature appreciation.

### **Facilities**

Development limited to user convenience and protecting the environment, eg., trails, primitive campsites, shelters.

Mechanized access may be allowed to specific points.

## **WILDERNESS CONSERVATION ZONE**

### **Management Objective**

To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and provide backcountry experiences based on a pristine environment where no motorized activities will be allowed.

### **Activities**

Backpacking, river rafting, fishing, nature appreciation.

NO hunting and NO mechanized access allowed.

### **Facilities**

No development

## APPENDIX B

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