



Province of
British Columbia
Ministry of Lands,
Parks and Housing



**EMORY CREEK
MASTER PLAN**



Province of
British Columbia

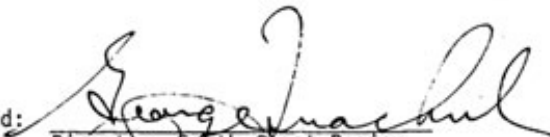
Ministry of Lands,
Parks and Housing
PARKS AND OUTDOOR
RECREATION DIVISION

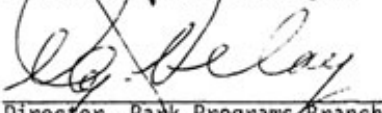
MEMORANDUM


To: Mr. C. J. Velay
Director, Park Programs Branch
Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division
Ministry of Lands, Parks & Housing
Victoria, B. C.

South Coast Region
Date: 84-07-13
File: 2-7-5-7

This Master Plan for Emory Creek Provincial Park is herewith submitted
for consideration and approval.

Approved: 
Director, South Coast Region

Approved: 
Director, Park Programs Branch

Approved: 
Executive Director

Note
Development of Cogaskella
Hwy. may significantly change
use patterns at Emory Pk. and
as such, any development
should only be entertained if the
this impact is further assessed.


11/10/84.

Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division
South Coast Region

EMORY CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

July, 1984

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PART I: SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

A. Plan Summary

Emory Creek Provincial Park provides primarily camping and gold panning opportunities adjacent to the Fraser River in a forest/river setting. It contributes significantly toward serving Division tourism and recreation goals.

Present summer use levels are high: roughly 75% campground occupancy over the summer season, with anticipated increased volumes in the future. There is very little opportunity for major campground expansion due to adverse site conditions, however a small day use area that would enhance the tourist rest stop function of the park is proposed.

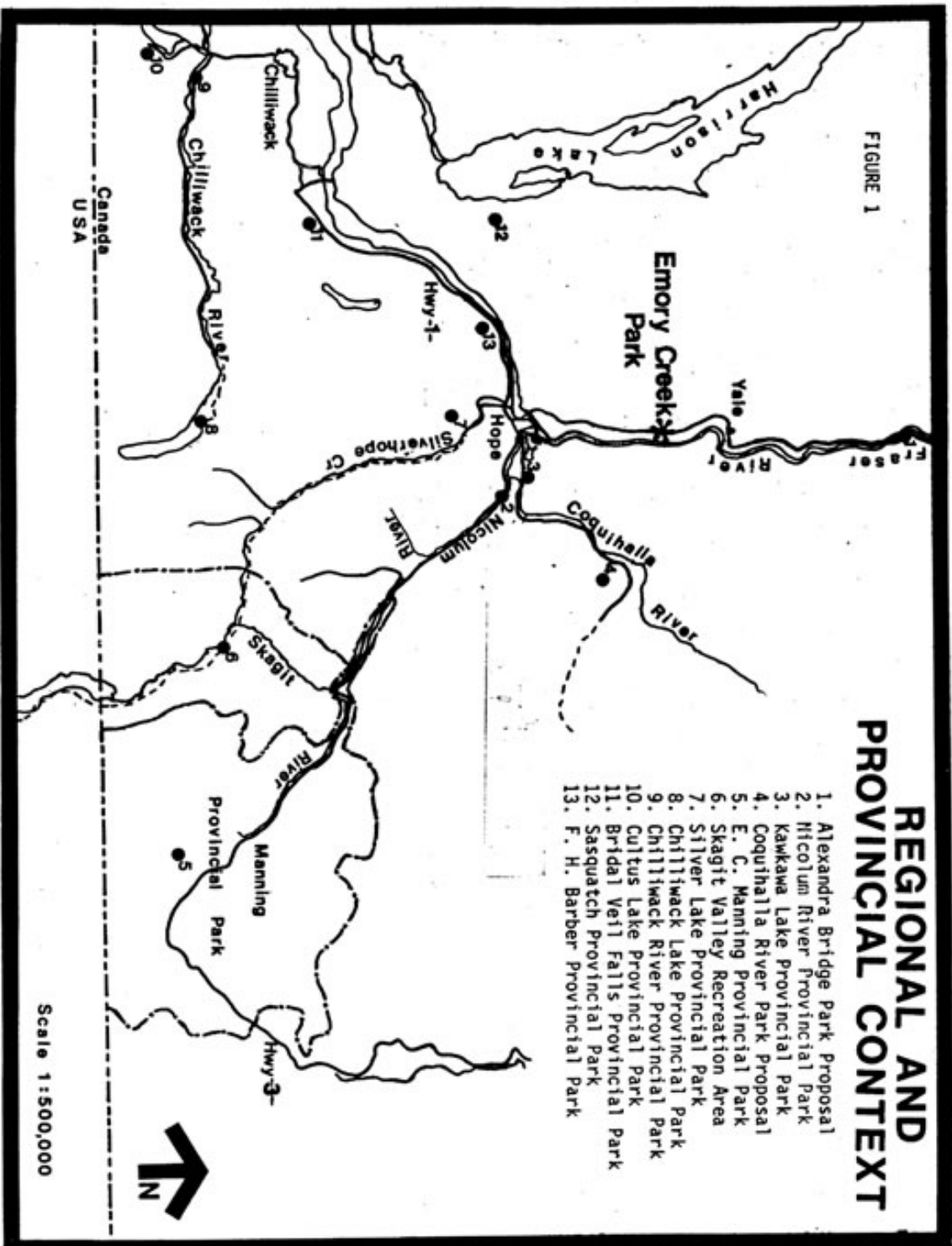
There is limited resource diversity in the park and few requirements for specific resource management action. A Recreation Gold Panning Reserve, for an area of the Fraser River Floodplain immediately adjacent to the park, is the main resource management action proposed.

B. Regional and Provincial Context

- C. Emory Creek Provincial Park is situated adjacent to the Fraser River at Emory Creek, about 18 kilometres north of Hope, B. C. (Figure 1). Access is via Highway #1 to a secondary paved road which crosses the Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way at the entrance to the Alberta Flats Indian Reserve.

The park consists of two separate areas on either side of Emory Creek, covering a total area of only 14 hectares. This small terrace of an ancient floodplain contains very little resource diversity. It was established as a park in 1956 as a result of its historic mining origins and the need to provide transient camping accommodation along the Trans-Canada Highway. Thus the prime objective for this park is to provide easy access camping while providing secondary opportunities for fishing and gold panning in the Fraser River.

There are several other Provincial Parks in the local vicinity that provide additional recreational opportunities and diversity. E. C. Manning Provincial Park, for example, is a 71 500 hectare, year round, multi-use park that offers diverse forms of recreation ranging from camping and day use to horseback riding and all types of winter activities. At Bridal Veil Falls, picnicking and viewing of the spectacular falls are emphasized, while at Kawkawa Lake, a variety of lake-oriented day use opportunities are offered.



C. Resources

1. Natural Resources

a) Natural Regions/Regional Landscapes

Emory Creek Provincial Park lies within the Province's Coastal Mountains Natural Region. It is representative of the Lower Mainland-Skagit Mountains Regional Landscape. This landscape is characterized by major low elevation valleys (e.g. Fraser River, Skagit River and Chilliwack River), densely forested mountain slopes, wet climate and a variety of pointed, serrated and rounded peaks, for example, Mt. Seymour, Mt. Frosty and Whitworth Peak. The Emory Creek site, being an old floodplain terrace, contributes to the Fraser River component of the landscape.

b) Climate

The climate in the park, as recorded from a weather station at Kawkawa Lake in 1976, is similar to the coastal environment Maritime Zone. Summer is relatively warm and dry, while winter is usually cold and wet. The actual annual total precipitation in 1976 was 128.3 centimetres, with winter snowfall measuring 161.3 centimetres. Only 33 centimetres of total precipitation fell during May to September. Temperatures during this period ranged from 12 degrees Centigrade to 16 degrees Centigrade.

c) Physiography

With the small area that the park covers, physiographic diversity is of limited significance. Natural topography undulates homogenously throughout the site except in the areas where roads and other park developments have modified the natural grade. Maximum change in grade on the terrace is about 2 to 3 metres, however where the terrace meets the existing active floodplain of the Fraser River, the bank is approximately 7 metres high. Subsurface materials are well drained sands and gravels, while the surface grade is blanketed by large, fist-size cobbles. Some erosion is taking place in a few areas along the bank, but vegetation for the most part is retaining soils sufficiently.

d) Hydrology

The closest source of hydrologic data for the Fraser River is a Canada Water Survey Station at Hope. According to the readings at this station, water levels

fluctuate on the average 4 to 5 metres each year. Maximum and minimum daily levels from 1960-1979 were 8.423 metres and 3.377 metres respectively. High water occurs in June with 7,023 m³/sec. maximum flow, while March is the low flow period, with only 800.8 m³/sec. of flow. As a consequence of many factors, including the large watershed size and extensive resource development, turbidity in the Fraser River is very high.

Very little is known about the hydrologic characteristics of Emory Creek. Water is clear and fast flowing, while field signs indicate flooding 1 to 2 metres above the summer low flow levels.

e) Vegetation

The park is situated at the eastern range of the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone (Krajina, 1970). The characteristic species associated with this zone include Coastal Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) as the dominant tree species with Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) appearing in the dryer area of the park. Understory plants include Red Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*), Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttalia*) for shrubs and for ground cover Twin Flower (*Linnaea borealis*), Vanilla Lea (*Archlyx triphylla*) and Salal (*Gautheria shallon*) in the wetter sites.

In addition to the characteristic vegetation, regeneration species in the form of Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) is present along the bank, roads and drainage as well as some development of a riverine community with Willow (*Salix*, spp.) and North Black Cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*).

f) Fish and Wildlife

Of the fish and wildlife resources within the park, the fisheries resources of the Fraser River are the most significant, although Emory Creek also possesses some fishery values. The Fraser River is the largest fish producing water course in the Province. Millions of salmon pass the park between July and November each year on their way to the spawning grounds that are scattered throughout the tributaries of the river. All five species of Pacific Salmon are involved, namely spring, coho, chum, pink and sockeye. However, due to Federal regulations governing salmon, sockeye, pink and chum species cannot be fished except by native Indians for personal consumption. There are, however, several species that can be fished from the park, including rainbow trout, Dolly Varden char, sturgeon and mountain whitefish. Steelhead trout is also included and has significant runs in the Fraser during November to April.

The wildlife in the park is generally made up of small mammals and bird species such as Grey Warbler, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Varied Thrush, Douglas Squirrel, Northwestern Chipmunk and the Cascade Deer Mouse. There are several larger mammals associated with the park in terms of range including Mule Deer, Black Bear and Cougar. Observation of these animals in the park can be expected, however traffic noise from the highway and railway probably limit most wildlife observation opportunities to the more tolerant small mammals.

2. Archaeological and Historic Resources

There are four archaeological sites associated with Emory Creek Provincial Park. These sites include examples of habitation (house pits), as well as cache pits, possible burial sites of the Coast Salish - Stalo Indians, cobble tools, flake tools and a basalt scraper.

The natives were the one people who, during their thousands of years existence with the Fraser River, succeeded in living by and from the river's resources. Although the natives knew of the gold, they did not use it, considering salmon to be more valuable! The native name for the river, which we call the Fraser, was the Stalo.

The bar beside Emory Creek was first inhabited by white prospectors looking for gold in 1858. Considerable gold was found at Emory's Bar but never the mother-lode. As the river bars were "worked out", these men moved up the Fraser, leaving only a few to continue their search in the Lower Canyon.

In 1879, the Canadian Pacific Railway considered using the settlement at Emory Creek Bar (known as Emory City) as the western terminus, but in 1881, the C.P.R. decided the town of Yale (located 5 kilometres upstream) would be a more suitable site. Emory City survived for a few short years but was a busy place during this period. The townsite consisted of thirteen streets divided into thirty-two blocks, with many houses, shops, saloons, a brewery, two hotels and a local sawmill. However, by 1890, there was barely a trace of this once bustling city.

Several later attempts at mining on Emory Bar were made by other prospectors and Chinese immigrant workers, but the area did not become active again until the 1930s. During the Depression, the Dominion Provincial Mining Training Project established a camp here to train unemployed men in various methods of mining and promised them a grubstake if they would stay in the area and work a claim. A cabin built by these men in 1939 can still be found in the campground today.

3. Visual Resources

There are two dominant visual orientations occurring at Emory Creek. The first is the canopied experience created by the overhead plane of the forest canopy throughout the park area. The texture and colour of the coniferous forest defines a year round ceiling and creates a feeling of identity with the natural character of the forest. The second is the vista from the campground through the trees towards the Fraser River.

4. Resource Analysis

Significance to Park System Conservation Goals

a) Representative Landscape

* Natural resources are insufficient to represent the regional landscape.

b) Special Natural Features

* There are no natural features of provincial or national significance.

c) Historical Resources

* Representation of gold panning (one of several examples in the park system).

* Representation of post-depression era (Government job training program).

Significance to Park System Recreation Goals

a) Camping

* Excellent vehicle access from the Trans-Canada Highway and an attractive natural environment are the essential elements that have contributed to the successful and high use at this park; however, the potential to expand is limited by a lack of a large enough area with suitable terrain.

b) Day Use

* Although there are no designated day use facilities in the park, many of the visitors use the campsites for picnicking while participating in a few hours of fishing, gold panning or leisurely walks. There are some options to provide a small day use parking area with picnicking facilities that could afford a superior vantage and location at minimal cost.

* Beach type activities such as sunbathing and picnicking have some potential at a small scale on the flat sand bar areas adjacent to the Fraser River.

c) Boating

* Emory Creek offers a good opportunity to act as a staging area for paddle boat access to the Fraser River. There is good vehicle access to the water, combined with a strategic location between two widely recognized canoe routes. Those going down the river to Vancouver can put in at Emory Creek, while paddlers coming from the Canyon run can come out at this point.

d) Winter

* In view of the small area of the park, there are no opportunities to make use of the abundant snowfall during winter, however fishing opportunities in winter and the other off-season months are being utilized.

e) Wildland

* Land area limitations exclude wildland opportunities.

f) Information and Education

* Emory Creek Park is a good location for the dispersal of B. C. Parks System information. There are large volumes of tourists passing by as well as the high level of campsite occupancy and visitation.

* There is also good potential to establish on-site education programs in conjunction with the existing log cabin, gold panners that are commonly visible and the historic background of the area.

Significance of Resources to Park System Tourism Goals

The resources at Emory Creek Park, combined with the convenient location, have made the park a valuable daytime or overnight rest stop for the motoring tourist.

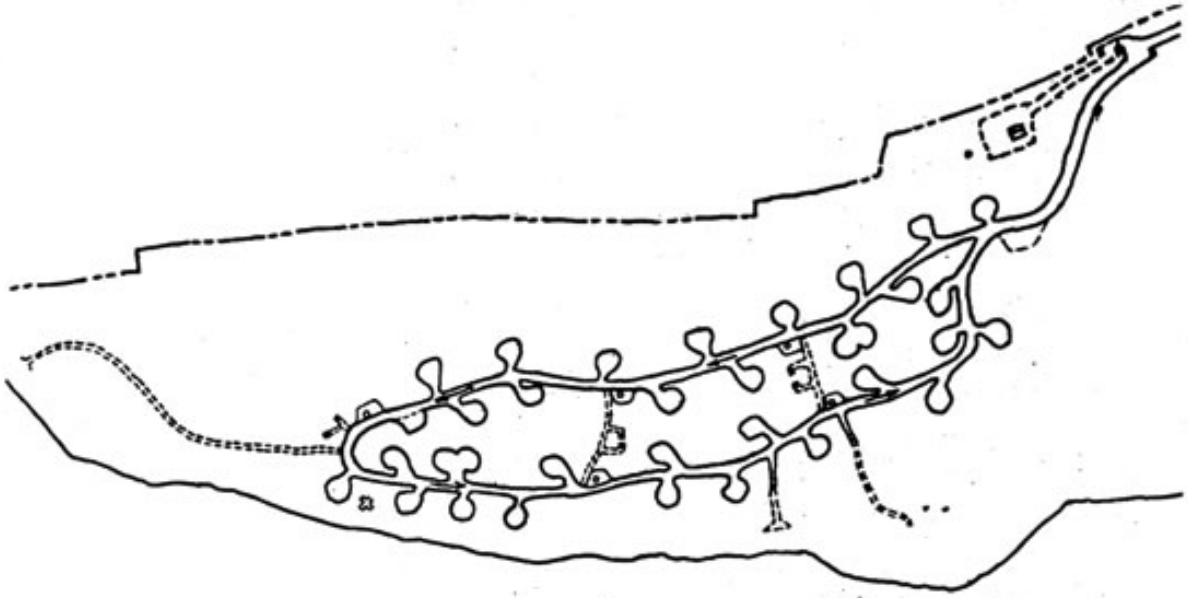
D. Land Tenures, Occupancy Rights, Jurisdictions

1. Leases and Use Permits - Lease with Alberta Flats Indian Reserve #5 to provide public access to the park through the reserve.
2. Fee Simple Lands - None.
3. Other Tenures - Right-of-way through Alberta Flats Indian Reserve #5 Y.D.Y.D. renewed every five years. Current agreement expires in 1988.
4. Trespasses - None
5. Mineral Claims and Developments - None.
6. Statutory Jurisdiction - None.
7. Major Additions - None.

E. Existing Facilities (Figure 2)

Existing facilities at Emory Creek Provincial Park include:

- 34 unit campground with water system
- small maintenance yard
- Type 3 hiking trails, totalling 1 kilometre



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Existing Facilities figure 2

LEGEND	
Information Shelter	
Campsite with Picnic Table and Firepit	
Woodlots, Water Tap, Garbage Container	
Flush Toilets	
Pit Toilets	
Maintenance Yard	
Inclinerator	
Lookout Trails	
Log Cabin	

Emory Creek Park
Scale 1:33000



north

F. Market Analysis

1. Existing Use

The visitors to Emory Creek Provincial Park are essentially highway travellers heading to other destinations who stop for accommodation or to rest. By far the majority of visitors, over 82%, are residents from the Interior and Lower Mainland regions of the province. From attendance figures (Appendix I), it appears that the park is extremely popular with the travelling public. During 1982, there were over 3,900 party nights recorded at Emory Creek. This figure represents a 76% average occupancy rate for camping over the entire May to September season. The most intensively used period was the month of July, when the park was full every day.

2. Supply

The market area that the park serves covers Highways 1 and 3 from Boston Bar to Princeton and as far west as Bridal Veil Falls, with Hope in the middle of the market area. The competitive market is in the field of campsite accommodation. There are a number of private campgrounds that compete in this market and, to some extent, the large number of hotels and motels in Hope and along the highway are also in the competitive market. For the purpose of this study, however, indoor accommodation will be considered outside the realm of the campground market place.

The supply is provided in chart form in Appendix II. Private sector campgrounds account for 59% or 756 campsites, while the public sector contributes 40% or 516 campsites of the supply. Manning Park and the Township of Hope are the areas of highest concentration of campsites. In addition to providing the majority of campsites, the public sector also provides the greatest variety of outdoor recreational activities.

3. Demand

There is very little information available to assess specific demand for park and outdoor recreational services. Some evidence, however, of general demand can be hypothesized based on inference from three main sources: park use attendance, private campground numbers and highway traffic volumes.

Park use attendance figures provide a measure of demand based on consumption of service. From the attendance figures for parks in the market area (Appendix III) there is a clear indication that all facilities are being used extensively.

During the months of July and August, all provincial park camping and day use facilities with the exception of Kawkawa Lake were used to near and in some cases greater maximum capacity levels. Emory Creek recorded an average occupancy rate in excess of 100%. Although overall attendance has declined, it is still apparent that the demand for camping opportunities as expressed by existing consumption is very high.

The presence of a large number of private campgrounds in the area suggests that a viable competitive market exists or once existed. Recent major facility construction and proposals seem to imply the former. In the last two years, the campsite supply of the private sector has increased by 150 additional campsites, accounting for a 13% increase. A further 300 campsites are being proposed for construction within the next five years. From this information, one can conjecture that this indicates significant general demand as a function of the perceived need by the private sector.

Finally, as Emory Creek Park is strictly orientated to highway users, the intensity of highway use in the area has a direct relationship to park use and demand. Unfortunately, traffic disruption as a consequence of construction on both Highways 1 and 3 over the past few years has prevented drawing any conclusion for demand. According to the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, however, traffic volumes throughout the province are projected to increase annually by 5 to 6%. Translated into terms of demand for park opportunities, this would suggest a maximum demand of 50 more party nights required at Emory Creek Park annually.

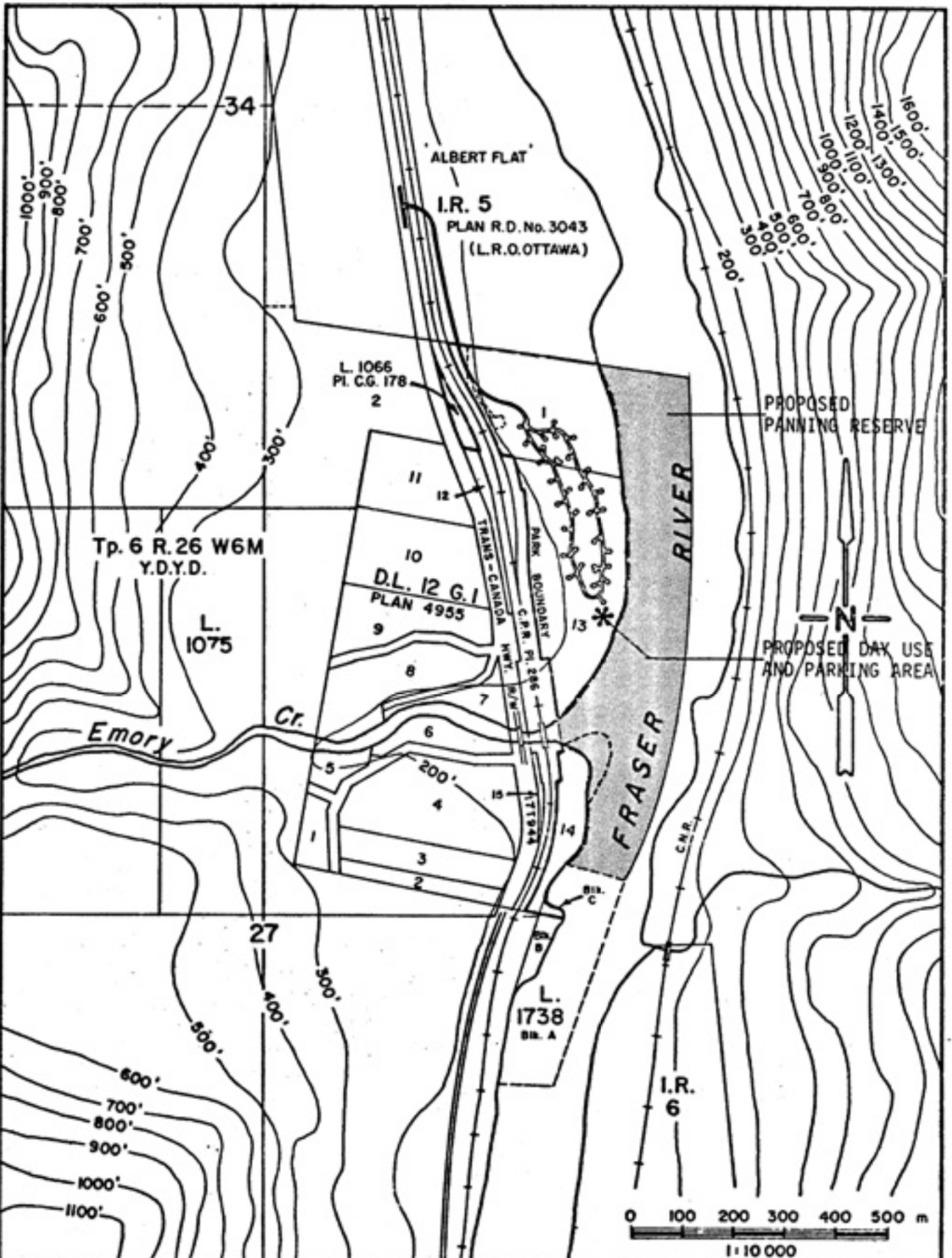
4. Implications

Camping opportunities are major viable services of high demand in the market. Although there is some indication of a need to provide more opportunities, the provision of increased camping opportunities will be accommodated through the expansion of private sector facilities.

From the supply inventory of Outdoor Recreational Opportunity (Appendix II), it is apparent that a greater emphasis on increased variety of recreational opportunities associated with camping could be provided to enhance the camping experience at all locations.

FIGURE 3

PROPOSED RECREATIONAL PANNING RESERVE



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - MINISTRY OF LANDS, PARKS AND HOUSING - PARKS BRANCH - VICTORIA, B.C.

DATE	REVISED BY	CHECKED BY	REVISION

EMORY CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

G. Planning Issues

1. Proposed Recreational Panning Reserve

Since the establishment of the park, the gravel bars at Emory Creek have become very popular for recreational gold panning. Park visitors have discovered that they can combine a night's accommodation or afternoon picnic with a few hours of gold panning in a manner and environment similar to the early settlers of the region. Those that have persevered are often rewarded with a few specks of gold. To ensure that this opportunity remains available to the public as a recreational activity, a reserve for recreational panning is proposed over the area fronting the Provincial Park and adjacent to Emory Bar (Figure 3). There are no claims over the area at present and it is not likely that commercial development would ever occur, however because of the historic association of this site with gold panning, the threat of development and the destruction of Emory Bar will always be present without reserve protection.

2. Providing Day Use Opportunities

From field observation of day use in the park and the fact that the majority of park users (highway travellers) are present in greater numbers during the day, the issue of providing day use opportunities at Emory Creek needs to be addressed. As previously mentioned, a certain amount of day use occurs at present without any formal facilities. During peak periods, the fully occupied campground provides few, if any, opportunities for the travelling public to use the park as a daytime rest stop, consequently a significant portion of the market is unserved. To take advantage of this situation and reduce potential use conflicts, a small day use parking/picnicking area is proposed. It could be developed at minimal cost and would improve the utilization of all facilities. During peak camping periods, a few parking stalls would be available for day visitors while during slack camping periods, vacant campsites would provide greater day use capacity.

PART II: THE PLAN

A. Purpose/Objectives

The general purpose of Emory Creek Park is to provide camping and day use opportunities along the Trans-Canada Highway to the travelling public through the following objectives:

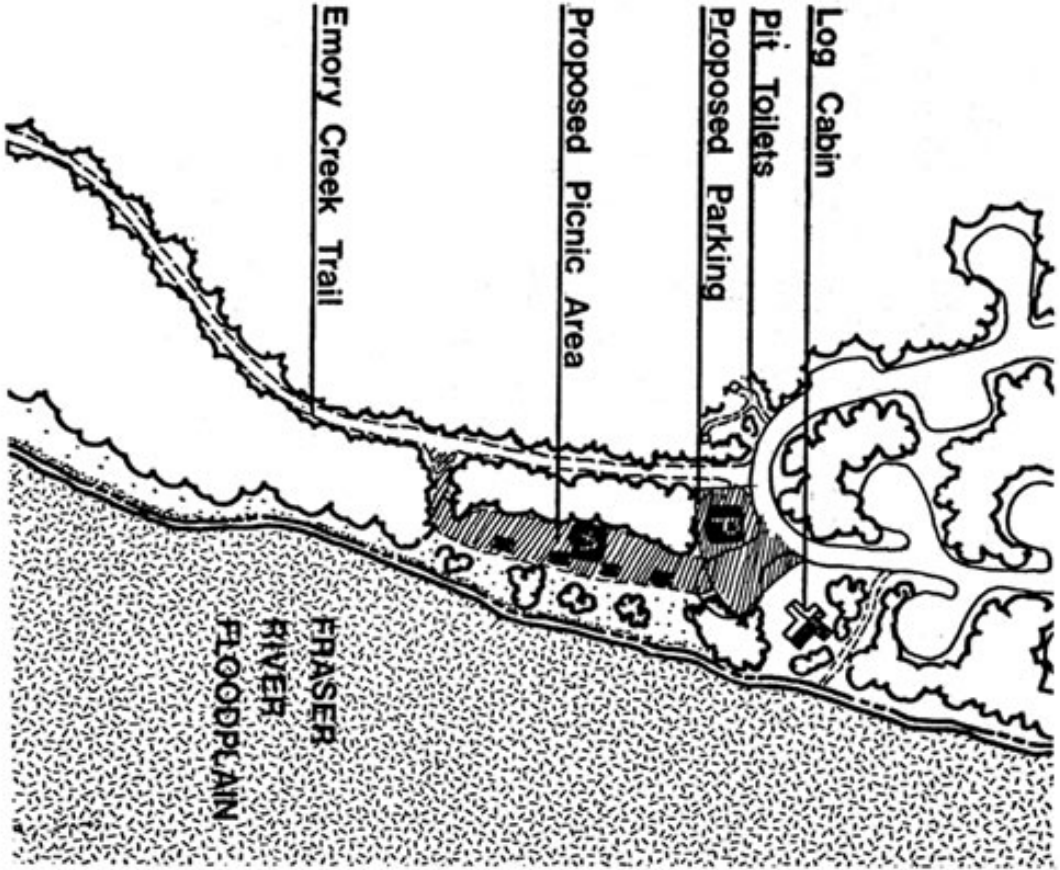
- * to provide 5,300 camping opportunities annually
- * to increase day use opportunities by providing a small parking area for approximately ten vehicles
- * to provide access to the Fraser River and Emory Creek to facilitate a variety of water oriented day use activities
- * to present the history of Emory Bar and Fraser River gold panning to the public as an interpretive/information package.

B. Zoning

To assist in the planning and management of Emory Creek Park, the entire park area is included in a development zone. With the park's small area and little resource diversity, its purpose and objectives are best served if the entire park is planned and managed with the same degree of intended use levels and facility development.

C. Development

The park is essentially fully developed to serve its transient camping purpose; however, a few minor improvements can be made at this time to enhance the rest stop use that is presently occurring. At the southernmost end of the campground loop there is a small, flat bench overlooking the Fraser River and the area frequented by gold panners and fishermen that would be appropriate for picnicking and viewing. Pit toilets and a tap are nearby and the 1939 log mining cabin could be the focus for interpretive information. A small parking lot and corresponding picnicking facilities are therefore proposed, as well as improvements to the cabin that will upgrade the structure to safer standards and provide increased interpretive information (Figure 4).



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Proposed Development
figure 4

Emory Creek Park
Scale 1:2000



D. Management Policies

1. Resources

a) Land

The land area will be managed for intense levels of recreational use. All manmade surface materials will be maintained as required and the existing balance of natural and developed areas will be retained as much as possible.

The proposed panning reserve area will be managed as required to rectify any minor problems resulting from visitor use (e.g. littering).

b) Vegetation

In order to maintain as much as possible the existing forest canopy, trees and other plants will be primarily managed with regard to their visual landscape and site design values. Only native species will be employed in any revegetation works.

c) Wildlife

Existing wildlife species will be maintained at present levels by retaining existing habitat and food sources.

d) Cultural

The 1939 mining cabin will serve as the focal point for the visitor information program on the native, gold, railway and Chinese history of Emory Creek.

e) Visual

The visual quality of the park will be maintained with an emphasis on the orientation toward the Fraser River and the retention of the overhead canopy in the campground.

2. Public Uses

a) Recreation

The acceptable types of recreational activity for this park include picnicking, camping, fishing and gold panning.

b) Education

Public education programs for the park shall emphasize the history of Emory Bar and the development of Emory City.

E. Marketing and Information Program

The marketing and public information strategies for this park are aimed primarily at the tourist travelling the Fraser Canyon route, who is encouraged through standard provincial park maps, brochures and staff referrals to stop and rest up either overnight or for just a few hours. In view of the high use presently occurring here, there is little need to alter the existing marketing strategy. All that may be required is to acknowledge establishment of day use picnicking facilities.

APPENDIX I

TABLE 1: Campground Attendance from 1976 to 1982
at Emory Creek Provincial Park

Year	Attendance in Party Nights
1976	3,149
1977	3,788
1978	4,881
1979	6,116
1980	5,879
1981	4,503
1982	3,972

TABLE 2: Summer Traffic Volumes at 9.2 Kilometres North of
Emory Creek Bridge, from July to August, 1976 to 1982

Year	Number of Automobiles
1976	10,300
1977	*
1978	8,700
1979	9,900
1980	10,800
1981	9,700
1982	8,800

*Not recorded.

APPENDIX II

OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLIERS

	CAMPING	# OF SITES	FISHING	SWIMMING	PICNICKING	HIKING	WINTER RECREATION	VIEWING	GROUP USE	BOATING	DAY USE PARKING
PROVINCIAL PARKS:											
Bridal Veil Falls	■	473	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	60
E. C. Manning	■	34	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	1375
Emory Creek	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	105
Kawkawa Lake	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	105
Nicolium River	■	9	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	10

MUNICIPAL PARKS:

Memorial Park (Hope)

■ ■

PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS:*

Bridal Falls Camperland	■	100		■							
Camper's Roost Park	■	52		■							
Canyon Alpine Motel	■	20									
Cochihalla Campsite	■	135		■							
Cariboo Trail Campground	■	36									
Flood Falls Campsite	■	33	■								
Holiday Motel Trailer Park	■	15		■							
Hope K.O.A.	■	150		■							
Hunterville Campsite	■	30									
Poole's Evergreen Resort	■	100	■	■							
Snowwhite Campsite	■	40									
Wild Rose Campground	■	45									
Proposed Jones Creek Resort	■	300	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	

*Some of these areas' activities are not on the suppliers' property but are within the vicinity.

APPENDIX III

CAMPING ATTENDANCE (IN PARTIES)

1981	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Average Occupancy/ Season*
E. C. Manning**	1,521	3,676	8,963	9,955	3,907	51%
Emory Creek	582	777	978	1,116	871	82%
Nicolium River	146	202	281	287	194	79%
Annual Total						Attendance: 33,456
1982						
E. C. Manning	5,084	4,318	9,107	9,938	2,333	56%
Emory Creek	741	933	1,127	1,164	804	90%
Nicolium River	164	210	275	276	184	79%
Annual Total						Attendance: 36,658

DAY USE ATTENDANCE (IN PARTIES)

1981	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Average Occupancy/ Season*
E. C. Manning	18,570	20,192	45,748	56,323	24,660	77.6%
Kawkawa Lake	376	514	882	2,523	619	30%
Nicolium River	169	238	231	489	246	89%
Bridal Veil Falls	3,142	3,877	7,550	8,306	3,505	283%
Annual Total						Attendance: 198,118
1982						
E. C. Manning	21,678	41,756	46,580	19,988	16,177	69%
Emory Creek	441	450	792	690	234	16%
Nicolium River	279	413	420	432	288	118%
Bridal Veil Falls	3,187	4,302	7,993	7,074	3,668	282%
Annual Total						Attendance: 240,275

* Average occupancy per season was calculated as a percentage of visitor attendance to the facilities' carrying capacity.

** Primitive tent camping was excluded from the capacity calculations as it did not relate to the type of camping occurring in all parks.

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