



Province of
British Columbia
Ministry of Lands,
Parks and Housing



A MASTER PLAN FOR KILBY PROVINCIAL PARK

Kilby Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
BC Parks
Lower Mainland District
North Vancouver, BC



Ministry of Environment and Parks
Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division
South Coast Region

KILBY PROVINCIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

JULY, 1987

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This Master Plan for Kilby Provincial Park is submitted for your consideration and approval.



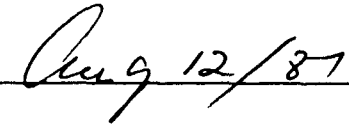
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1.0 Plan Highlights

- Lying within the Fraser Lowlands natural landscape, this park offers a destination riverine experience.
- Utilized mainly by local and regional area residents, Kilby Provincial Park provides a variety of recreational opportunities, i.e. camping, picnicking, beaching, fishing, boating.
- The camping and day use areas are fully developed and only minor improvements to these facilities are recommended.
- Order-in-Council 1908 transferred the administrative duties of operating the museum/store and grazing fields to the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Culture.

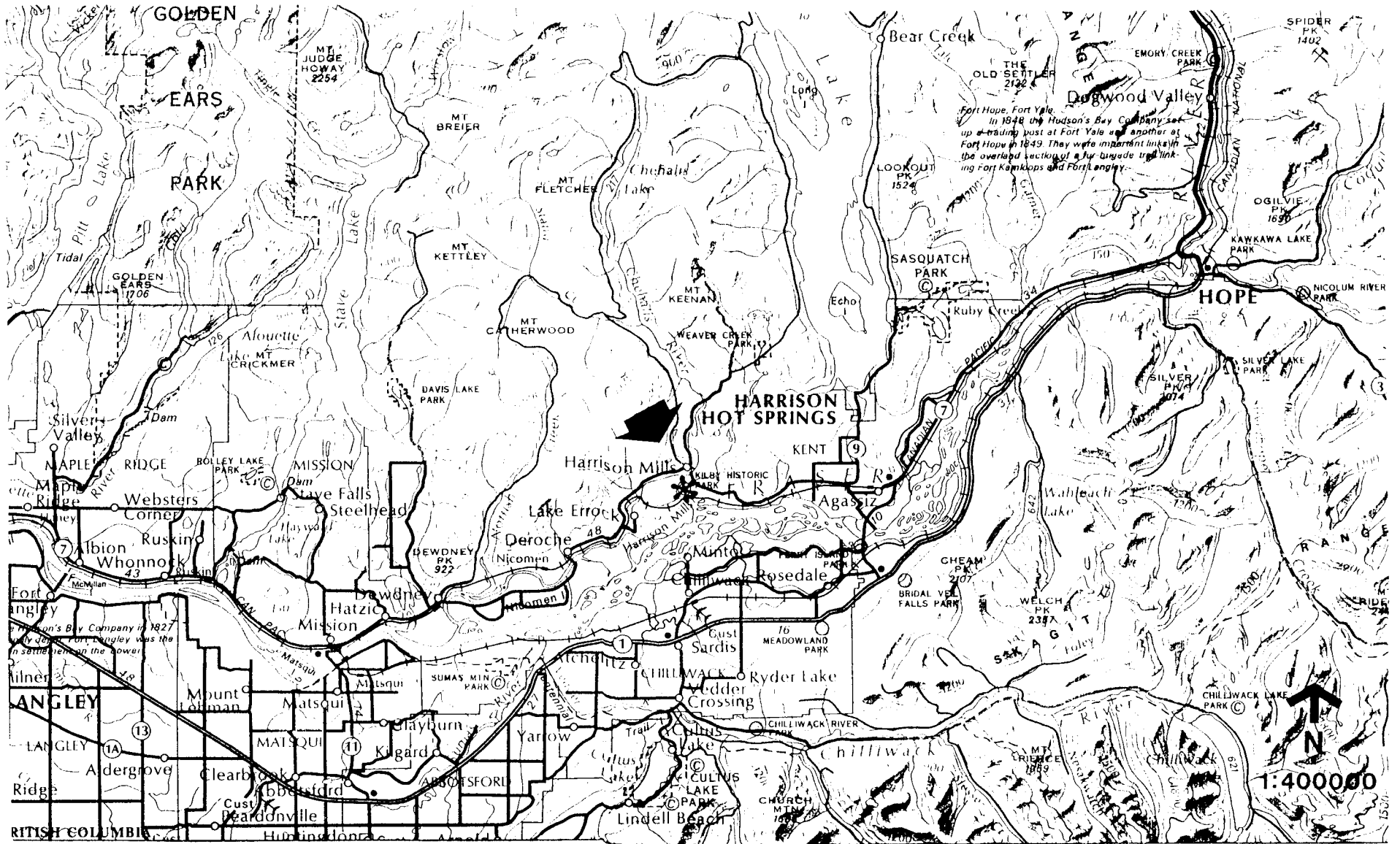
2.0 Background Summary

Kilby Provincial Park and Museum are situated adjacent to the scenic Harrison River in a rural pastoral setting some 37 kilometers east of Mission, or 16 kilometers west of Agassiz (refer: Figure 1). Approximately two hours drive from Vancouver, this park offers visitors opportunities not only for camping, picnicking and boat access to the Harrison River and Harrison Lake, but also to experience a past time and wander through the Kilby General Store. This store, which typifies the essence of a once common country store found during the 1930's in British Columbia, now acts as a museum.

Established as a Class 'A' Provincial Park in 1973, comprising twelve hectares of both lush grazing pastures and river frontage, this small park provides campsites, picnic areas, sandy beaches, boat launch and an extensive interpretive program which focuses on Kilby General Store.

In November, 1986, under Order-in-Council 1908, the administration duties of operating the museum and grazing fields were transferred over to the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Culture. Due to the new policy change and transfer, this plan focuses only on the land areas directly under the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division jurisdiction. This includes Lot 2 of Section 26 and 27, Township 3, Range 30, W6M Plan 22952, NWD and Lot 3 of Section 22, Township 3, Range 30, W6M Plan 22952, NWD.

Figure 1: Regional map



2.1 Existing Development

The present park development includes two separate areas covering approximately 12 hectares.

A day use/campground area is provided adjacent to the Harrison River. A 35 unit campground was constructed to organize the parking problem and provide standard park facilities. Minor landscaping and the planting of native trees was undertaken to provide a more attractive setting, stabilize sand erosion and provide shade. A single boat launch also provides access to Harrison River and Harrison Lake.

Figure 2

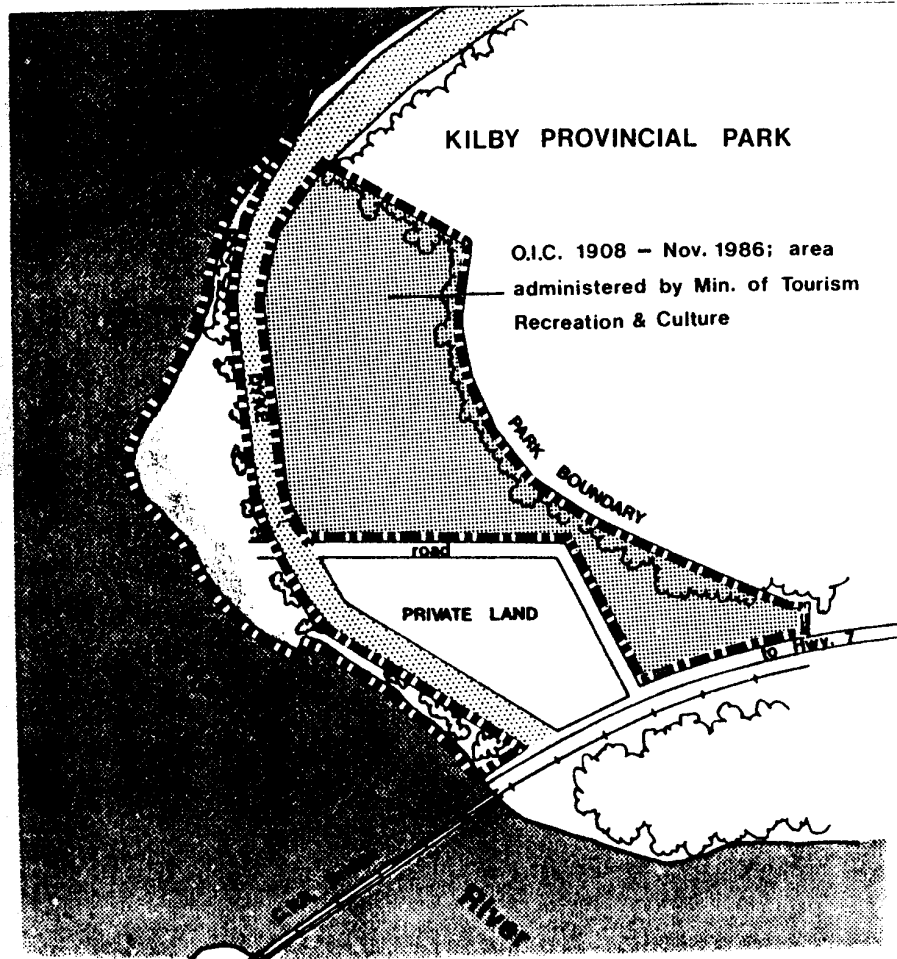
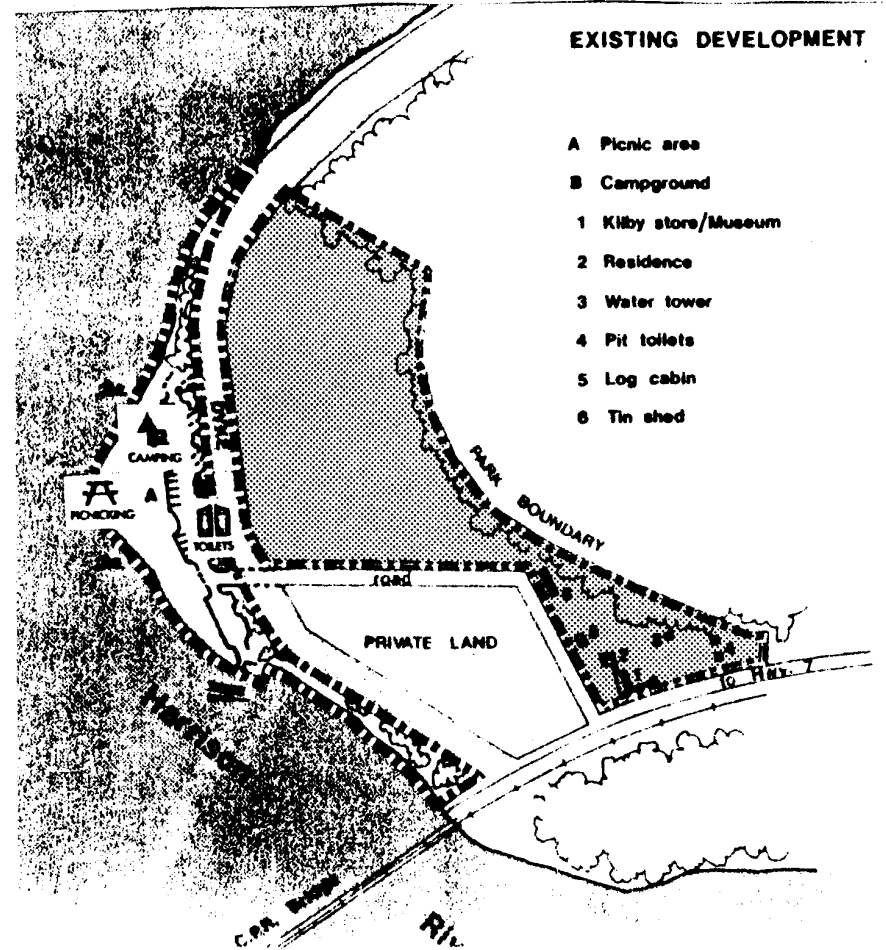


Figure 3



The historic area, or Kilby Museum, is located a short distance away from the campground. As well as a unique general store and historical/interpretive displays, there are washroom and parking facilities.



Looking from campground to day use area and boat launch.



Entrance to parking area for Kilby Museum/Store.

3.0 Role of the Park

Kilby Provincial Park will continue to play a unique role by contributing significantly towards the objectives of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division. Our division will assume the recreation objectives of providing camping, picnicking and river access opportunities while the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Culture will operate the museum and its associated historic (interpretive) opportunities.

3.1 Regional and Provincial Context

Kilby is surrounded by a number of nearby communities including Agassiz, Harrison Hot Springs, Mission and Chilliwack, which offer all types of tourist and service facilities. Other provincial parks in the area are: Cultus lake, 13 kilometers south of Chilliwack with four campgrounds totalling 326 sites; Sasquatch Park, 22 kilometers northeast near Harrison Hot Springs with 130 sites; and F. H. Barber and Bridal Veil Falls, both day use areas.

Regionally, Kilby Provincial Park is significant with its numerous attractions, drawing local residents and their guests. However, due to its small size and out-of-the-way location, this park lacks the provincial significance to become a major destination.

3.2 Park Use

Kilby Historic Park serves both transient and destination users travelling the eastern Fraser Valley. However, as it is 29 kilometers northwest of Chilliwack, most recreationists visit this park for a specific purpose. Whether it be boat access to Harrison River, camping, or visiting the museum, Kilby offers a variety of recreational opportunities.

Table 1: Park Attendance

Kilby	Campground	Day Use	Interpretation
1986	2045	25588	13244
1985	1988	54279	11444
1984	1625	25086	12927
1983	1886	27233	11601
1982	2196	11017	12784
1981	2256	12239	12910
1980	2166	11214	13987
1979	3577	15316	14884
1978	2041	7648	11061
1977	1984	840	8642

Campground use has remained relatively constant with the exception of 1979. Demand is not only in the summer, but also during the winter months when fishing on the Harrison River is excellent. The most popular campsites are those nestled amongst the Willow and Alder trees.

3.3 Conservation Role

Found within the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone (Krajina), the natural features of the park serve only to enhance the recreation opportunities found associated with the Harrison River. The pastures and cultivated fields surrounding Kilby Store and Museum are representative of the Fraser Flood Plain landscape.

3.4 Recreation Role

The recreation role of Kilby Park is to provide riverside access and associated recreational opportunities. To a lesser extent, but equally important, the museum/store also provides a type of recreation.



Sandy beach on Harrison River is popular with picnickers.



Field behind dyke and campground.

4.0 Park Resources

a) Natural Resources

Kilby Provincial Park lies within the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone and the Fraser Flood Plan regional landscape. Bordering Harrison River, fishing is a popular recreational activity. Many campers arrive during the fall and winter months to fish for Coho and Spring salmon. Of interest are the convergence of bald-headed eagles during major salmon runs and the spawning channels located nearby at Weaver Creek.

The sandy beach area is most attractive to swimmers, sunbathers and strollers. Resulting from lateral and vertical excretions, this aeolian deposit area is typical of a shoreline located in a semi - arid region. Upland vegetation includes cottonwood, poplar, alder and the predominate understory comprises such shrubs as red currant and salmonberry.

Ravens, geese, eagles, swans, finches, chickadees and jays are common species of birds found along the Harrison and Fraser rivers.

The large pasture is currently leased on an annual basis to a farmer whose dairy cows feed off the lush vegetation. Typical of the lands found in the Fraser River floodplain, this area was once used only for farming purposes. A dyke separates the farmland from campground and beach areas.

b) Cultural Resources

The Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Rush period (1858 - 1870) produced considerable activity along the Harrison River. The earliest records indicate that what is now Harrison Mills was a stopping place, called Carnarvan, for the paddle wheelers on route to Port Douglas. It was not until the commencement of logging in the 1870's that Harrison Mills as we know it was actually settled. In 1870, Henry Cooper built a mill and sold dressed flooring, cedar, white pine, maple and rough lumber in New Westminster. By 1877, there were sixteen families living at Harrison Mouth, as it was then named.

The history of the next ten years is unclear. However, by 1877, the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed and provided passenger, freight, mail and telegraph services to Harrison Mills. Later, Harrison Mills also served as an important transshipment point with sternwheelers providing twice daily service between the C.P.R. station and communities on the southern shore of the Fraser.

In 1887, Joseph and Fred Martin travelled from Ontario to the newly completed C.P.R., pre-empted land in the area and started the Harrison Saw Mill Company. They sold the mill in 1898 to the Tretheway brothers, Arthur and James, who organized the Harrison River Timber and Trading Company. Business prospered and the community grew. Logs were floated down the Harrison River and stern wheelers picked up the finished lumber, selling it up and down the Fraser River. By 1901, a second mill was in operation, the Harrison River Shingle Mill, owned by Fullbrook and Innes of Chilliwack. This was eventually sold to G. W. Beach of Chilliwack and the name changed to the Harrison Bay Company.

In 1904, amid all this activity, Thomas Kilby, who had come from Sapperton a couple of years earlier, purchased some land and built a huge, three story structure to house a general store with a hotel on the third floor. Assisted by his son Acton, Thomas operated the store until his death in 1928. The hotel, however, had ceased to function as thus around 1910, when traffic across the river dropped off with the completion of the B. C. Electric Interurban Railway to Chilliwack. The rooms upstairs were used for a few more years as a boarding house for mill workers, the local teacher and the help who worked on the Kilby farm.

Acton Kilby also operated a pack train to carry goods and supplies to the mining camps, lumber camps and B. C. Electric crews who were working in the mountains surrounding Harrison Mills.

In 1906, Thomas Kilby purchased two hundred acres of land adjacent to the store and began dairy farming. The farm, named Waterloo Farms, was operated with varying degrees of success until 1923. In 1923, Acton revitalized the farm and started developing a herd of purebred Jerseys. From this time on, the family was heavily involved with the dairy industry in the Fraser Valley. At various times, Acton was Field Representative for the Jersey Breeders Association, Secretary to the Lower Mainland Dairy Products Board, President of the Milk Shippers Agency in Vancouver and President of the Mission Farm Products Ltd. Following the 1948 flood, Acton sold the farm, including land, equipment and stock and by 1959 was out of the dairy business entirely.



Museum/Store



Picnic Area around Kilby Museum

Most of the historical resources have long since disappeared. The Rat Portage Mill burned in 1930, while the Harrison Bay Shingle Mill was shut down by a strike in 1948 and never re-opened. All that remains are concrete ruins covered by blackberry bushes and hidden by a new growth of poplars and the Kilby Store and residence.

At the time that the Kilby Store was acquired by the Provincial Parks Branch, it was operated as a general store/museum by Jessie and Acton Kilby. Though the store is now operating only as a museum, it does allow visitors to view and experience an early twentieth century rural lifestyle common to British Columbia. The General Store provided supplies, services and credit, and by acting as a monitor for new goods and a public meeting place, it responded to the needs, interests, attitudes and fortunes of the community it served.

Kilby Historic Park provides an excellent opportunity to present and interpret the significance of the General Store in a provincial context. The store complex and related artifacts are in many ways representative of other general stores of a similar period and as it is located in a rural setting close to the largest urban centre in British Columbia, it has the potential to offer the public, which is rapidly losing sight of the traditions and lifestyle which the General Store represents, such an experience.

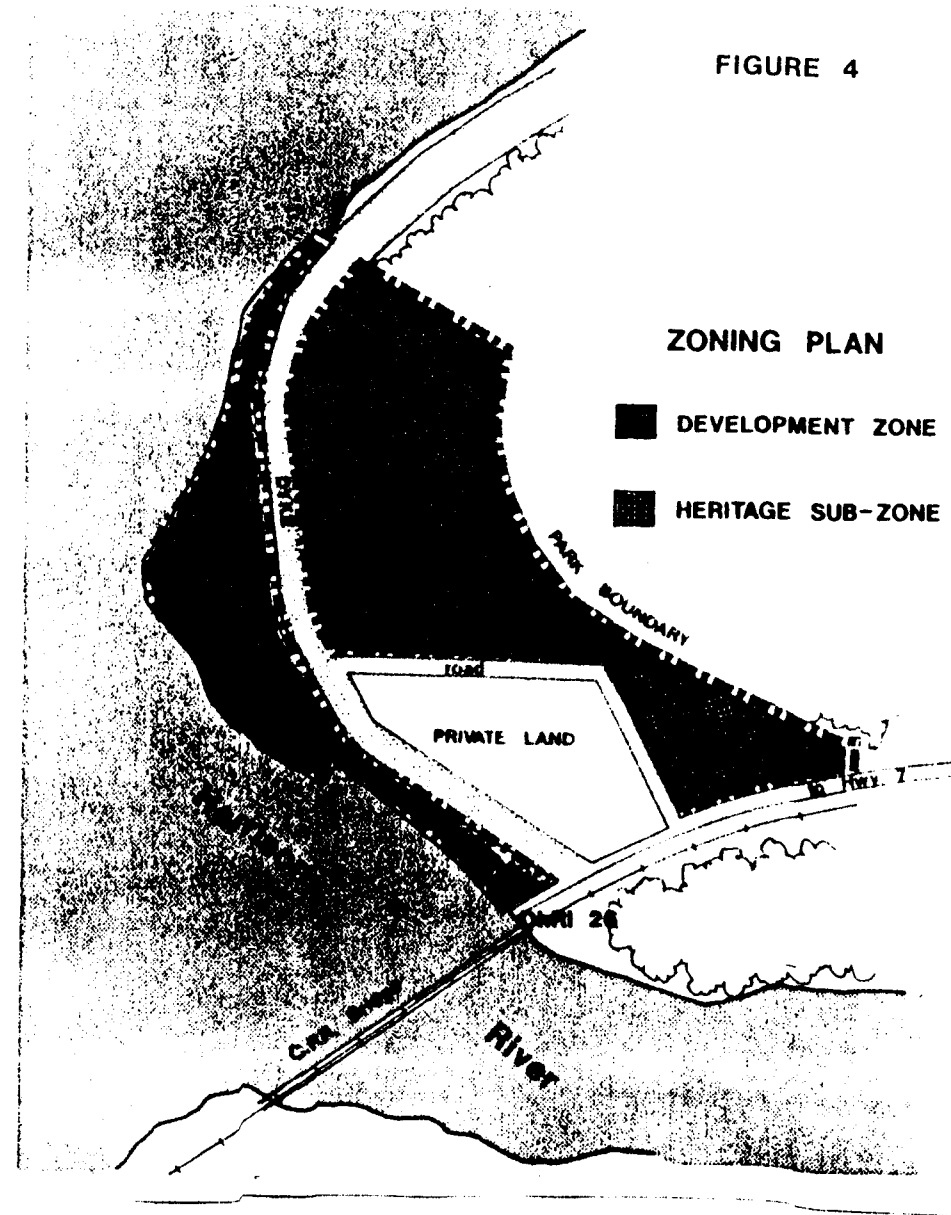
The historic General Store/Museum and surrounding pastures are now administered by the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Culture, while our division will continue to manage the campground and day use area.

There is one archaeological site (DhRL 26) found on Lot 3 southeast of the boat launch.

5.0 Zoning

Zoning is a procedure used to assist the planning and management of Park Act designations by dividing each park into logical land and water units based upon uniform and consistent management objectives. The zones reflect the intended land use, the level of management and development required and thus the level of human activity to be accommodated. In some cases, it is practical to be more specific about the nature of the zone. This can be accomplished with the use of subzones.

The whole of Kilby Park has been zoned for **development**. This includes the campground, day use, boat launch and parking areas. A special features subzone would be given to the area containing archaeological site DhRL 26 to ensure its protection.



6.0 Natural and Heritage Resources Management

The overall management of resources will be based upon the *Park Act*, park regulations and ministry and division policies and the role of Kilby Provincial Park in the overall system of provincial parks.

The resource management objective is to ensure that Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division goals are met by:

- protecting the natural resources of the park

- working closely with the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Culture, who now administers Kilby Store (Museum and surrounding area). (Order-in-Council 1908/86, November, 1986).

A dyke separating the campground/day use protects the area from possible flooding. Maintained by the District of Kent, this dyke was rebuilt under a Federal/Provincial Flood Protection Program in the late sixties.

7.0 Visitor Services

Kilby is both a transient and destination park for many Lower Mainland residents. The visitor services concept is to maintain the existing level of camping and day use development. In addition, close co-operation with the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Culture, who is responsible for the functions and duties of the museum/store will ensure continuity of protection of this parks cultural and heritage resources.

A Visitor Services Plan outlining a full marketing program in association with the museum will be prepared.