

TO: CITY MANAGER 1996 April 02

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING OUR FILE: 15.613

SUBJECT: COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC INTERPRETIVE LOOKOUT, BURNABY FRASER FORESHORE PARK

PURPOSE: To request Council's participation in a joint public/private partnership regarding the proposed construction of an Interpretive Lookout on the North Arm of the Fraser River.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council authorize a contribution not to exceed \$25,000 towards the joint funding for the construction of an Interpretive Lookout on the North Arm of the Fraser River as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment and Waste Management Committee and to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their information.

REPORT

As Council is aware, the City, the North Fraser Harbour Commission and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans have participated in two major habitat protection and enhancement projects in the Big Bend area. A series of new intertidal marshes were constructed along a 520 metre stretch of the River from Boundary Road east to Kaymar Creek. In addition to rebuilding these marsh areas, the riverbank was stabilized to prevent erosion and preserve the existing riparian vegetation. A further habitat enhancement program has been undertaken to extend and restore tidal sloughs and channels into the 40 acre City-owned parklands immediately east of the CN Railway Bridge.

As Council is also aware, the Canada Lands Company (CLC, formerly CN Real Estate) is proceeding with the development of the 135 acre Glenlyon Business Park in Burnaby's Big Bend area. This project is situated adjacent to the Fraser River Foreshore Park system as shown on Figure 1 *attached*. The City is developing an extensive Urban Trail System with connections into the Big Bend as shown on Figure 2 *attached*. This Figure illustrates the fact that the south slope network of trails converge at the Foreshore Park adjacent Glenlyon making this area a critical location in the overall system.

The Glenlyon Concept Plan, which has been adopted by Council and included in the Comprehensive Development zoning regulations, suggests that an Interpretive Lookout be constructed at the confluence of Sussex Creek and the Fraser River in cooperation with those agencies which share in the heritage of the River. Towards this end, CLC's design consultants have prepared a preliminary design concept which is illustrated on Figure 3 **attached**. The bridge crossing shown on this figure has been installed by CLC at no cost to the City.

Recently, the B.C. Rivers Heritage Board recommended to the Province the designation of the Fraser River as a Provincial Heritage River, and as a National Heritage River under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. This recommendation was supported by Council. The City has been advised that the Government expects to respond to the Board's nomination very shortly.

The Environment and Waste Management Committee at its meeting of 1996 March 12 requested staff to investigate the feasibility of constructing some interpretive displays for the environmental works undertaken along the Fraser. Further, it was felt that, should the Provincial Government designate the Fraser as a Heritage River, there was considerable merit to combining the heritage and environmental interpretive displays.

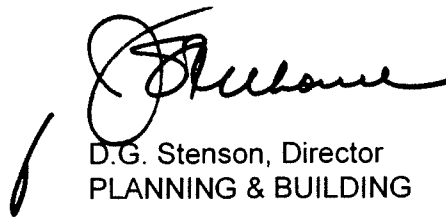
The above recent developments have given rise to an opportunity to pool resources of several agencies in an effort to fund the Lookout and to provide interpretive works describing the history and ecology of this area and the Fraser River. It has been proposed that CLC undertake the preparation of the final construction plans with input from City staff and proceed with construction. An ambitious schedule is proposed which would have the facility completed in time for a dedication ceremony as part of Environment Week (first week in June). Even if the project is not completely finished, it should be well underway and presentation boards depicting the project and its benefits could be made available for a ceremony.

The preliminary cost estimate for the project ranges from \$60,000 to \$75,000. As stated, CLC is finalizing the design which will result in a more definitive cost estimate. Preliminary discussions with staff from the North Fraser Harbour Commission have resulted in a willingness to place this matter before the Harbour Commission should the City Council endorse the project. It is also proposed to make representations to the Province to contribute. MacMillan Bloedel holds a number of waterlot leases along the River, including this area, and it is proposed to discuss the opportunity for it to contribute and to include an interpretive display.

The final amounts to be contributed will obviously depend on the number of contributors. Council is being requested to authorize a contribution of up to \$25,000 (assuming a cost of \$75,000 split 3 ways). If additional agencies are included, the costs will be proportionately reduced. Funds would be drawn from the Capital Contingency fund.

If Council authorizes the project to advance, formal representation will be made to the other potential contributors as noted herein. A formal application will also be submitted under the Fraser River Estuary Management Program.

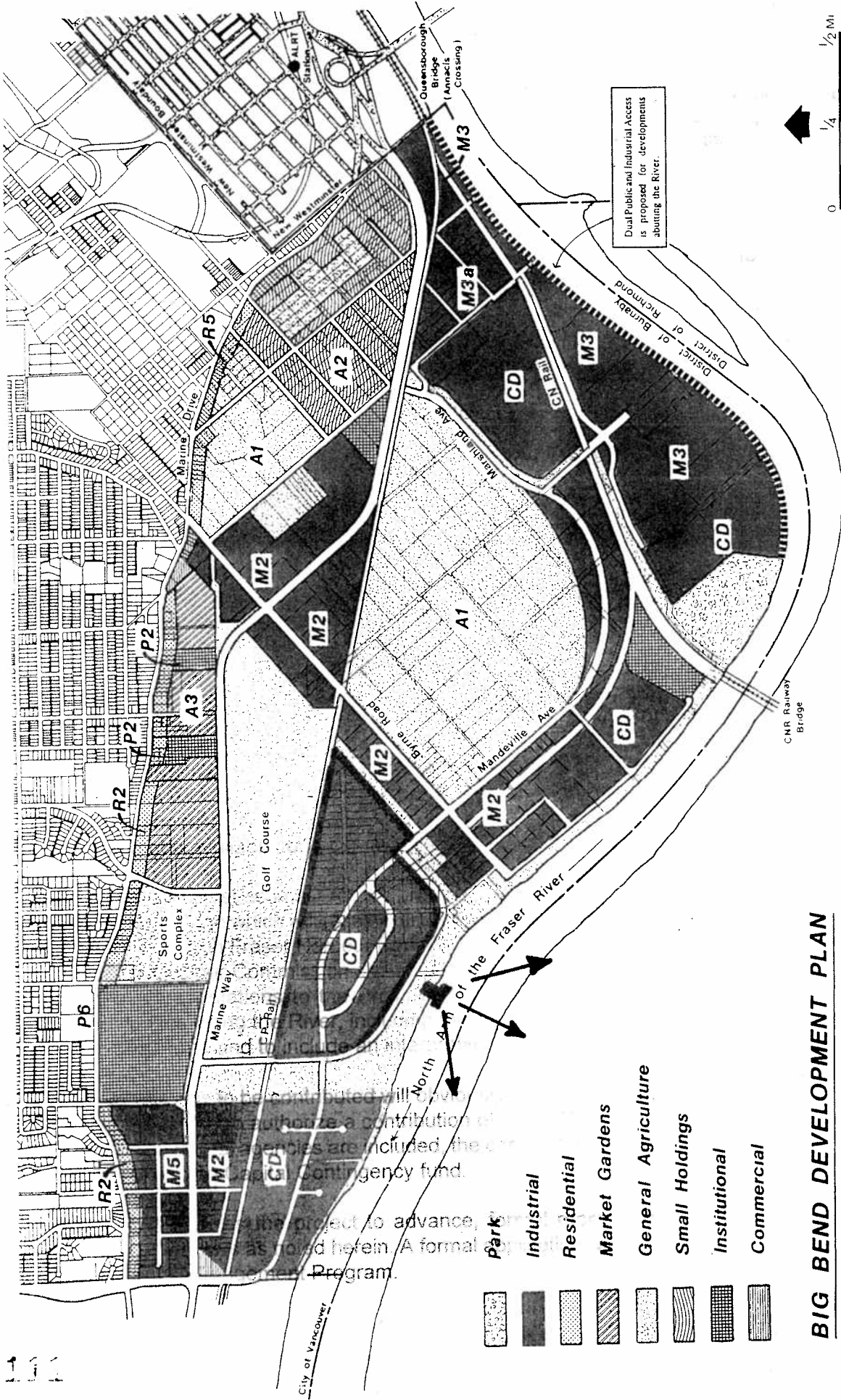
In summary, staff are of the opinion that the proposals outlined in this report present a unique opportunity for each of the agencies involved to obtain maximum benefit from their proportionate contributions. The provision of interpretive displays for the environmental works undertaken in the Big Bend area together with the construction of the public outlook will be of lasting benefit for the public, consistent with the plans for the area and the proposed designation of the Fraser River as a national Heritage River under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.


D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

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Attachments

copy: Director Recreation & Cultural Services
Director Engineering
Director Finance



BIG BEND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

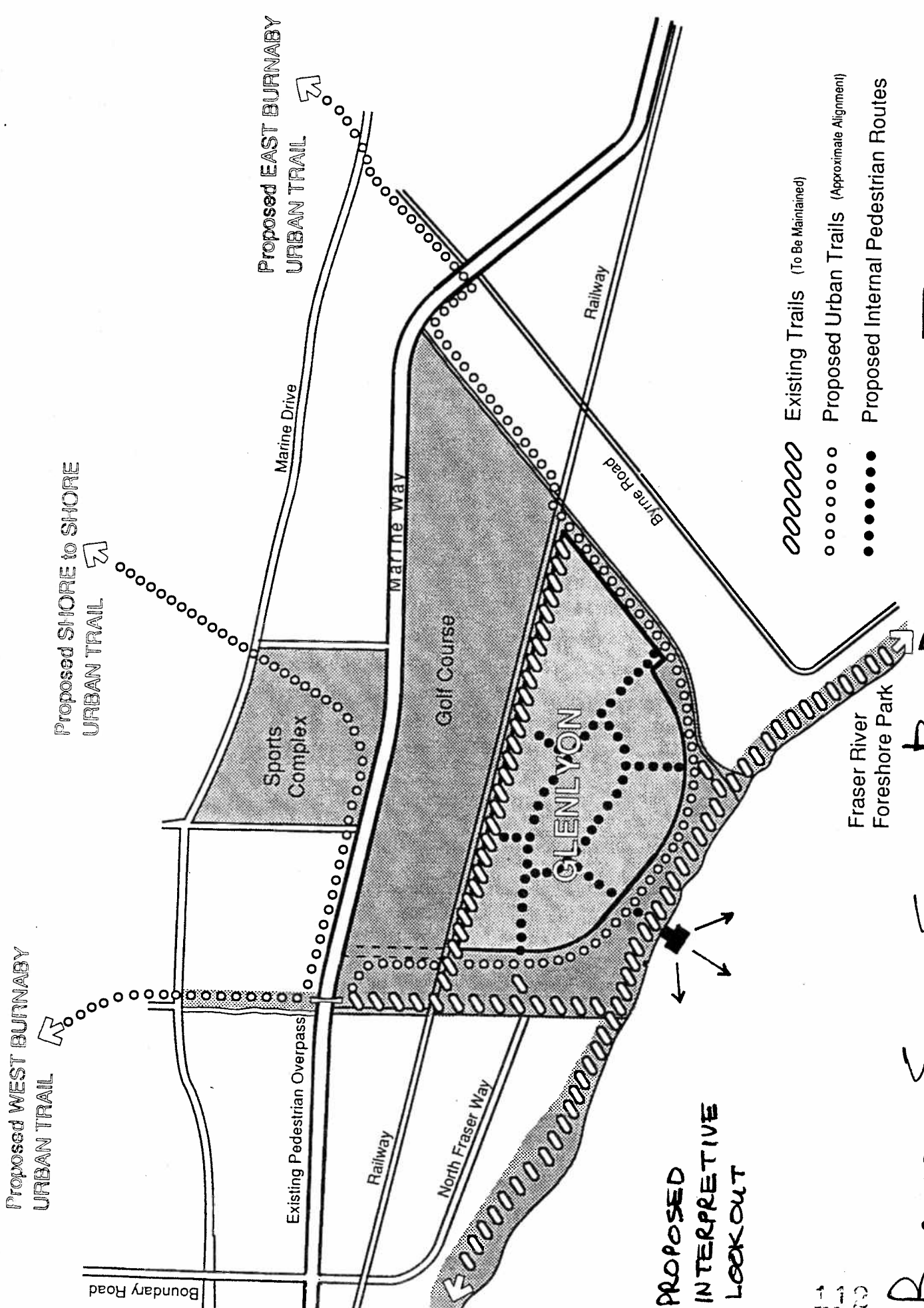
Revised to 1994 July

— GLENLYON BUSINESS PARK

! PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE LOOKOUT
 ↓↕ BURNABY FRASER FORESHORE PARK

FIGURE 1

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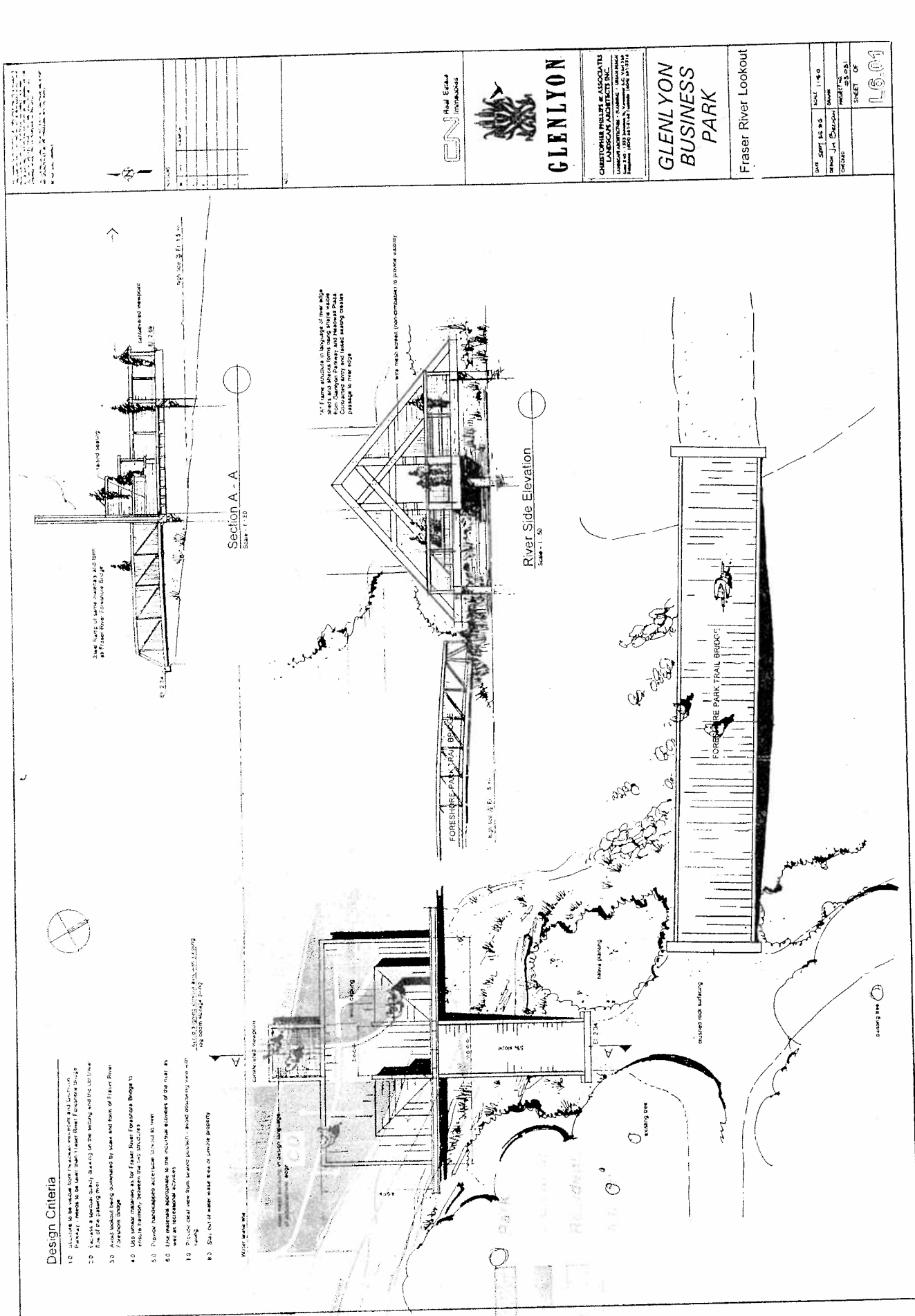


- Existing Trails (To Be Maintained)
- ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Proposed Urban Trails (Approximate Alignment)
- ● ● ● ● ● Proposed Internal Pedestrian Routes

BURNABY SOUTH SLOPE, BIG BEND AREA TRAIL NETWORK

FIGURE 2

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- Design Criteria**
- 1.0 Structure to be visible from Fraser River, approximately 1.5 km.
 - 2.0 Facility to be built on Fraser River Forestry Bridge.
 - 3.0 The design to be in keeping with the existing and the future use of the bridge and the Fraser River Forestry Bridge.
 - 4.0 The structure to be constructed by steel and form of Fraser River Forestry Bridge.
 - 5.0 The structure to be visible from the Fraser River Forestry Bridge to the river.
 - 6.0 The structure to be visible from the Fraser River Forestry Bridge to the river.
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Section A - A
Scale: 1:50

River Side Elevation
Scale: 1:50

FORRESTER PARK TRAIL BRIDGE

FORRESTER PARK TRAIL BRIDGE

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PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE LOOKOUT

FIGURE 3

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