

PART I – THE CONSERVATION AREA AND THE PLANNING PROCESS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction to the Management Plan

The following report documents conceptual options and management recommendations for Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. The document is divided into two main sections: Part I describes the state of the conservation area today; Part II presents a plan for the conceptual development and management of the conservation area in the future.

Part I begins with an overview of the management planning process including the approach to public consultation. To understand the context of management issues of Burnaby Mountain, the existing natural and social environments of the conservation area are described. Included in this section is a discussion of issues that have been identified through the planning process.

Part II, the Conservation Area Management Plan, presents statements describing the purpose, vision and policies for the conservation area. These have been developed and refined through public input. Management guidelines have been proposed to ensure that all aspects of the conceptual plan for the conservation area respect basic principles of resource conservation, while providing for the recreational needs of its users. The plan then presents recommendations for conceptual planning, resource conservation, activity programming, administration and future management of the conservation area.

Consultation with agencies, technical experts, stakeholders, and the public throughout the planning process has helped develop and refine the conservation area vision, design concepts, and management actions. With their support, the Management Plan will form the basis for management decisions affecting Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. Additionally, the plan will provide a framework for future decisions to ensure that the conservation area will adapt to changing environmental conditions and societal values.

1.2 History of Establishment

In September 1996, the Province, the City of Burnaby and Simon Fraser University (SFU) completed the transfer of 313 hectares of land below the university campus to the City of Burnaby. Continuing their commitment to protecting natural areas and public open space, the voters of Burnaby, by referendum, dedicated the area to be preserved as parkland in perpetuity. Now merged with the lands within the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, the addition of the former SFU lands increased size of the conservation area to 576 hectares of primarily forested lands.

As part of the agreement to transfer lands between SFU and Burnaby, the City agreed to abide by the terms and conditions of a Covenant with the Province of British Columbia (see Appendix A). The Covenant applies only to the lands transferred from SFU and does not apply to the area included in the original Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area (Figure 1-2a).

1.3 Highlights of the Conservation Area

Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area is now one of the most significant natural parks in the Lower Mainland and is the largest component of the Burnaby Parks System (Figure 1-1). Important natural features include extensive forest resources, a diverse wildlife population, and many streams that feed into the Brunette River System to the south and the Burrard Inlet to the north. The conservation area's primary resource is its forest vegetation. While the structure and composition of the forest has been shaped by past logging and land use activities, today, the mountain has retained much of its forest cover. As much of the forest is only minimally disturbed, the mountain also provides one of the largest wildlife habitat areas in the region and is home to many species of birds, mammals, and herptiles. Also important are the numerous watercourses that originate on the mountain. These streams and drainage ditches provide habitat for invertebrates and aquatic species, and contribute water flows to local streams, many of which support fish populations. Burnaby Mountain has been recognized as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) in the City of Burnaby's initial ESA strategy. Principles for planning and managing ESA are presented in Appendix B.

In addition to its forest values and its benefits to fish and wildlife, Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area is an important community resource. The Centennial Pavilion area, with its spectacular views of the surrounding region, has traditionally been a focal point for tourists and local visitors to Burnaby Mountain. This developed recreation area is comprised of open meadows, walkways and other support facilities such as horticultural displays, a restaurant and a children's play area. In other areas of the conservation area, an extensive network of trails provide access as well as opportunities for a variety of recreational activities such as walking, jogging, mountain biking, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing.



Figure 1-1. Regional Context of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area

Source: Burnaby and the GVRD 1996, originally adapted from the GVRD satellite image entitled *Creating Our Future: Steps to a More Livable Region*

1.4 Objectives of the Management Plan

The Management Plan for Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area is the result of a sixteen-month planning process undertaken by the City of Burnaby in cooperation with a team of consultants as well as input from the public. The Management Plan sets goals and objectives for the conservation area, defines policies, and provides recommendations that will direct all management initiatives within the conservation area. Specifically, the plan will accomplish the following planning objectives:

- outline the natural, recreational, and cultural heritage resources of the conservation area and the rationale for resource conservation;
- clearly define the purpose, vision and policies of the conservation area;
- address the appropriateness and allocation of land uses and activities;
- provide direction for the management of resources and recreational uses within the conservation area;
- provide guidelines for conservation area programs, operations and maintenance activities; and
- present a framework in which subsequent planning, design and implementation can take place.

Figure 1-2 shows the boundary of the conservation area and some of its primary features. Figure 1-2a shows the boundary of the Covenant area transferred from S.F.U. to the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area in 1996.

The Covenant states that the transferred lands may be used only as a public park within which the City may develop only the following:

- a public trail system;
- small parking lots; and
- other support facilities for the trail system, which may include picnic facilities.

With the exception of these specified amenities, the land will be used for the purpose of conservation (see Appendix A for Covenant for establishing Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area).

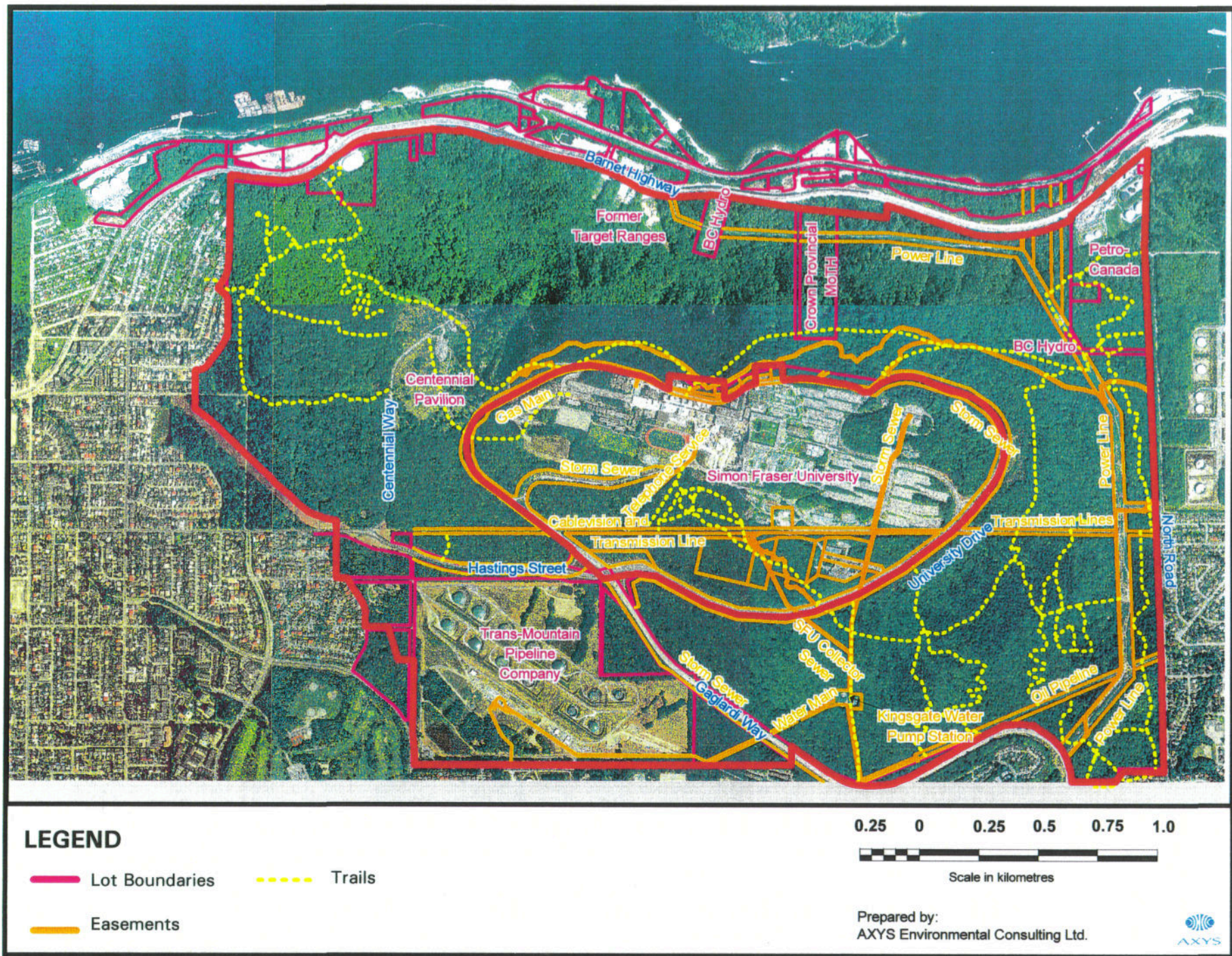


Figure 1-2: Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area

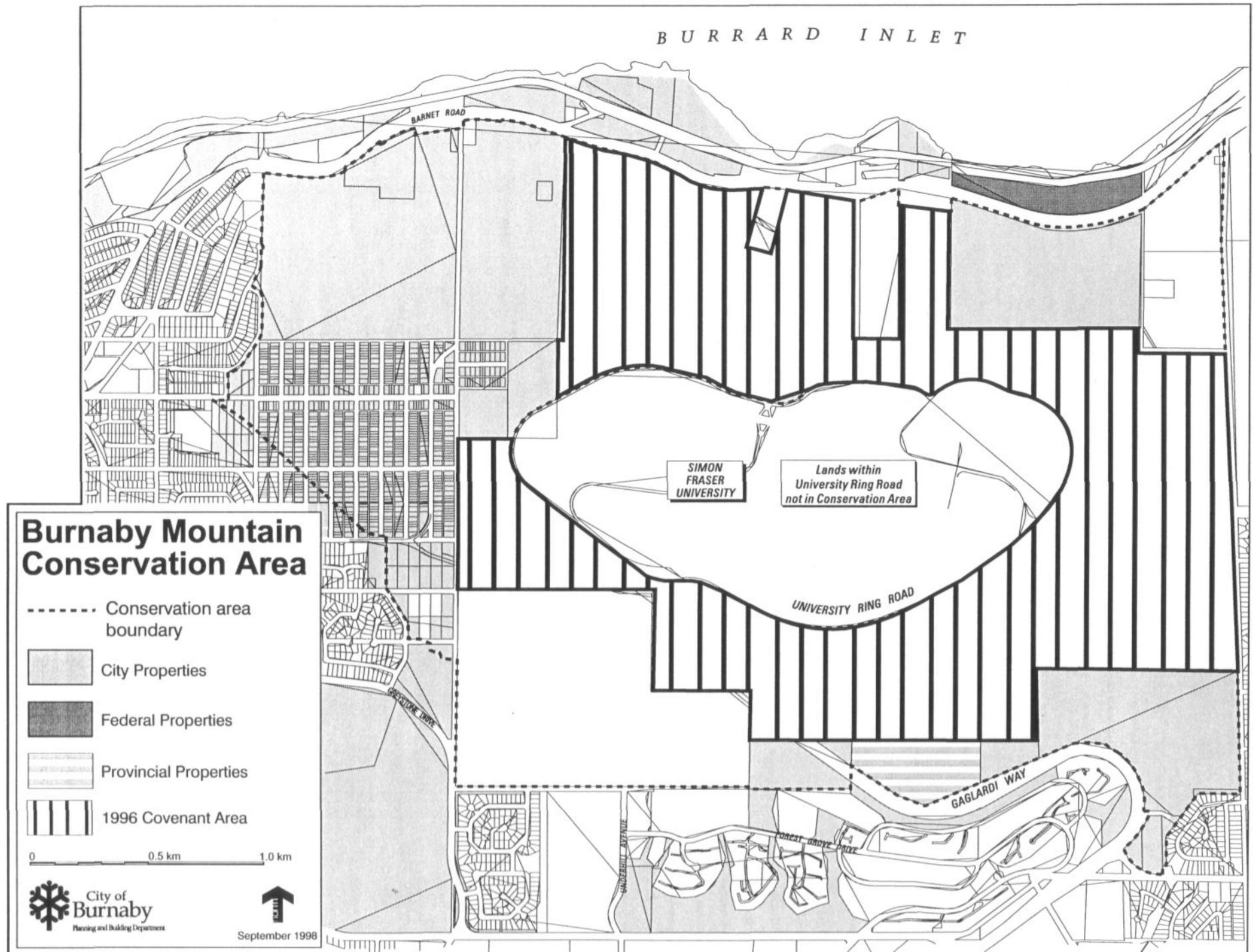


Figure 1-2a: Covenant Area