

## Conservation

As you walk through the forest, look for deer, raccoons and red squirrels. Birdwatchers often see juncos, Steller's jays and chestnut-backed chickadees as well as mergansers and golden eye ducks.

Thimbleberry, salal and salmonberry cover the forest floor. You can also see vanilla leaf, foamflower and bunchberry which grow closer to the ground. Visit in April when the wildflowers are at their peak. Flowers, trees and shrubs are part of the park's natural heritage. Please do not damage or remove them. Chum, coho and spring salmon spawn in the lake and in its tributaries. Steelhead spawn in the Cowichan River.

## History

The forest was one of the first on the island to be logged, probably because of the relative ease with which the felled trees could be skidded to the lake and floated to the mills. The notched stumps supported springboards that allowed old-time loggers to stand above the dense shrubbery so they could cut down the massive trees that dominated the area.

## What You Should Know



There are 126 campsites at this park. Camping is available from March 15 to September 30. Campsite reservations are accepted. First-come, first-served sites are also available. For campsite reservations call 1-800-689-9025 or (604) 689-9025 or [www.discovercamping.ca](http://www.discovercamping.ca). A winter fee (with reduced services) is in effect from March 15 to April 30 (excluding weekends, Spring break and Easter weekend) when full fee and full services will be in effect. Refer to the BC Parks website for details on reduced service periods. **Check-in:** for reservation holders is 1 p.m.; for non-reservation holders is 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. **Check-out:** is 11 a.m. **Gates open** at 7 a.m. and **close** at 11 p.m.



There are no wilderness/walk-in campsites at this park.



There is a group campsite available. For more information refer to the BC Parks website or call (250) 474-1336.



There is a large day-use/picnicking area with picnic tables, parking area, children's playground, amphitheatre and washrooms.



There is a disabled access washroom, shower building and campsites in the park. Contact the Regional Office for more information.



Cold water taps are located throughout the park. Taps are shut off during the off season.



Pit and flush toilets are available.



There are hot-water shower facilities at this park.



There are no sani-station/dump facilities at this park. Sani-station facilities are available in Lake Cowichan at the junction of Neva and Cowichan Lake roads in front of the Darling Tire Store. Open year round.



Firewood may be available for purchase. Campfire pits are provided. Group campfire facilities and/or limited burning hours may be designated at some campgrounds. Fire bans may be implemented during extremely hot weather conditions. Be prepared to bring a portable stove for cooking.



There are short in-park trails. For your own safety and preservation of the park, obey posted signs and keep to designated trails. Shortcutting trails destroys plant life and soil structure.



There is an adventure playground available at the day-use area of this park.



Cowichan Lake provides excellent swimming and water-oriented activities. The water is warm in summer and the sandy beach has a designated swimming area. Access is at the day-use area. There are no lifeguards on duty at provincial parks.



Canoeing and kayaking can be enjoyed on Cowichan Lake.



Boat launch with parking is available at this park,



Lake fish for rainbow, cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden. All anglers must have a valid fishing license; refer to current *BC Environment Fishing Regulations Synopsis*.



Bicycles must keep to roadways.



No horseback riding at this park.



Note that backcountry areas are usually not suitable for dogs due to wildlife issues and the potential for problems with bears.

Pets/domestic animals must be on a leash at all times and are not allowed in beach areas or park buildings. You are responsible for their behavior and must dispose of their excrement.

## How to Get to the Park

From Hwy 1, travel west on Hwy 18 for 26 kilometres to Lake Cowichan. Take the South Shore Road 14 kilometres to the park.

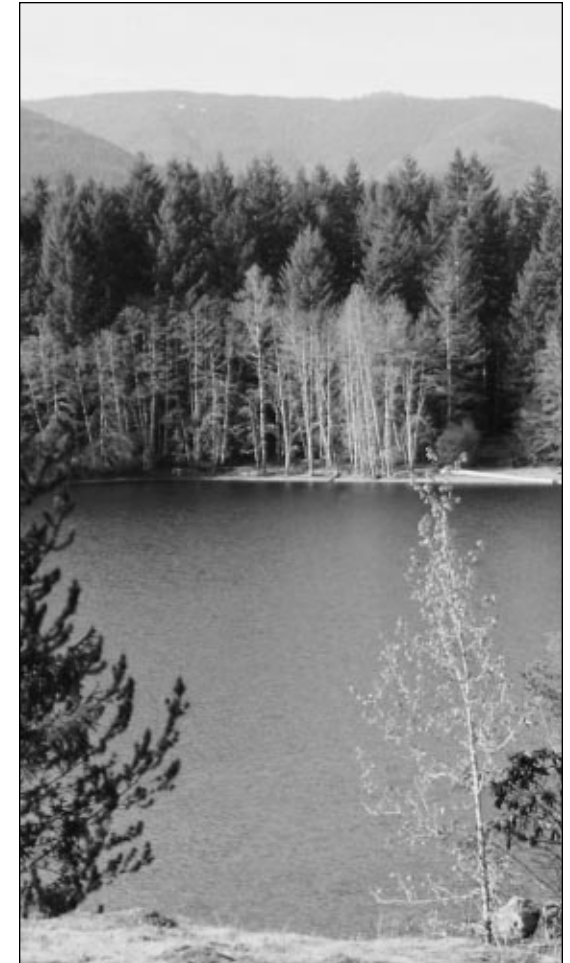
## Provincial Parks Nearby

Other provincial parks nearby are Bamberton Provincial Park and Cowichan River Provincial Park.



# Gordon Bay

## PROVINCIAL PARK



## For More Information

BC Parks

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>



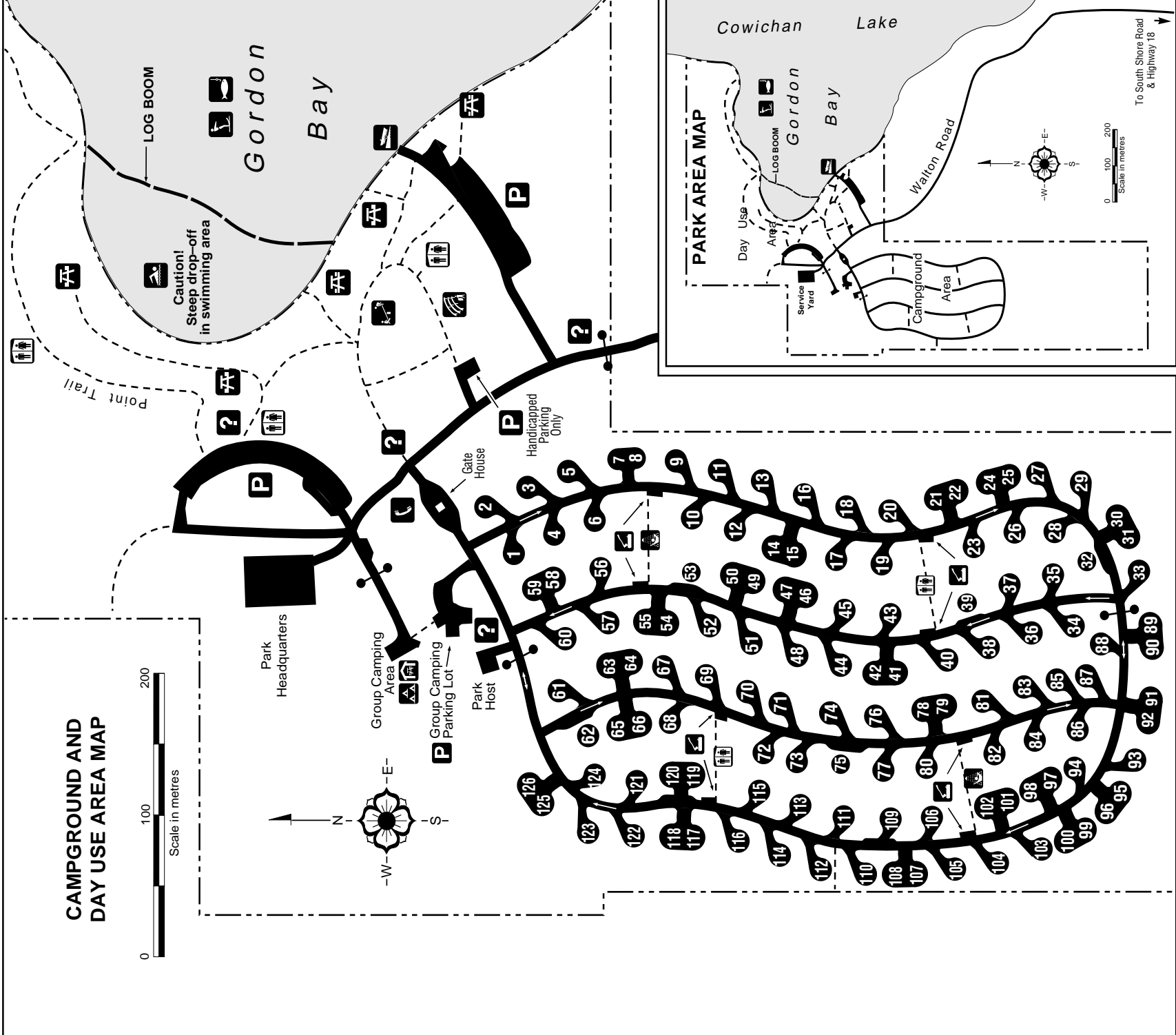
Ministry of Water, Land  
and Air Protection



04/2002

Welcome. This 49-hectare park on the west shore of Cowichan Lake offers campground, day use, swimming and boating.

## Vancouver Island



# Gordon Bay Provincial Park

- Parking
- Information
- Picnic Area
- Boat Launch
- Firewood
- Showers/Toilets
- Toilets
- Fishing
- Waterskiing
- Swimming
- Amphitheatre
- Playground
- Trail
- Road - Paved
- Park Boundary
- Gate

## Safety

**Park Roads** When driving in the park please obey the posted speed limits and pay close attention for pedestrians, children and bicycles. Likewise, pedestrian and bicycle traffic should be aware of vehicles at all times. Adults should accompany their children when on park roads.

**Animals** Never approach or feed bears or other wildlife. Proper food/garbage storage and handling will prevent the creation of a "problem" (habituated) animal. Be sure to use the garbage containers provided and maintain a clean campsite. This is bear and cougar territory. Please exercise caution. If you see bears or cougars, please report sightings to the Park Facility Operator, or call the Observe, Record, Report line at 1-800-663-9453.

**Wood ticks** are most prevalent between March and June. These potentially disease-carrying parasites live in tall grass and low shrubs and seek out warm-blooded hosts. Protect your legs by wearing gaiters or pants tucked into socks. After any outdoor activity, thoroughly examine yourself, children and pets. If you find a tick embedded in your skin, the best way to remove it is by grasping and pulling it, gently, straight up and out with a small pair of tweezers, and disinfecting the site with rubbing alcohol. You may wish to save the tick in a small plastic or glass container for later inspection by your doctor especially if a fever develops, or the area around the bite appears to be infected.

## Special Note

The sandy beach is great for family swimming in July and August when the water is warm. History buffs find plenty to interest them in the park and surrounding area. There is a fascinating small museum at Saywell Park. The forest industry has a number of displays and demonstration forests throughout the area. Nearby are the historic and interesting communities of Cowichan Lake and Youbou. There is a nine hole golf course close to the park.