

STRATHCONA PROVINCIAL PARK



Snowmobiles are not permitted in Strathcona Provincial Park

Section 24(3) of the Park and Recreation Area Regulation states: “No person shall use or operate a snowmobile, in a park or recreation area unless permitted.” A financial penalty may be imposed for non-compliance.

Vancouver Island is probably known more for its moderate winter weather rather than a place to pursue traditional winter recreation activities. However, skiing, snow-shoeing, winter camping and snowmobiling are three popular activities to be found on Vancouver Island. While Strathcona Provincial Park is a great winter recreation area for most of these activities, the public should be aware that snowmobiling is **not permitted** within the park.

With great snow conditions and stunning vistas, it is not hard to understand what attracts people into the park. While snowmobile enthusiasts crave this winter activity, it is not supported by the park’s Master Plan.

The Master Plan was developed over years through an extensive public planning process. It was reviewed by the public, updated and approved again by the Minister in 2003. Park zoning, noise pollution, impacts to wildlife (wildlife does not need to be seen or chased to be stressed or disturbed) and potential fuel/oil spills were some of the other reasons cited during discussions about whether to allow snowmobile use in the park. The outcome of all the public planning discussions confirmed that the use of any motorized vehicles within the current park boundaries, unless authorized under a park use permit, will not be allowed.

BC Parks, acknowledges past support of local snowmobile clubs in encouraging members and other visitors to refrain from entering Strathcona Park. Due greatly to the clubs support and compliance efforts, illegal snowmobile use within the park has dropped. However, there are still many who ignore the current regulations and are solely responsible for creating conflict between users and discrediting the majority of ethical snowmobile enthusiasts.

Those interested in snowmobiling in the vicinity of Strathcona Park are encouraged to contact local snowmobile clubs for information about where to go in this region.

While it is hoped the need won’t arise, BC Parks and the RCMP are prepared to pursue charges and issue fines for non-compliance. The public is encouraged to report any witnessed snowmobile entry into Strathcona Park to BC Parks staff at 1-250-337-2405.

Thank you for your cooperation!