

## Winter Recreation and Snowmobiling

Vancouver Island may be more well-known for its moderate winter weather rather than as a place to pursue traditional winter recreation activities. However, skiing, snowshoeing, winter camping and snowmobiling are four popular activities to be found on Vancouver Island. Strathcona Provincial Park is just one of many great winter recreation areas that people go to enjoy the snow but where, unfortunately, snowmobiling is not permitted.

## Snowmobiling in Provincial Parks

Although snowmobiling is allowed in many provincial parks, it is not permitted in Strathcona 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.

## Restrictions in Strathcona

Given that the conditions for snowmobiling around Strathcona Park are great and the vistas are stunning, 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 many years through an extensive public planning process. It was recently reviewed by the public, updated and approved 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.

## Support from Snowmobile Clubs

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 people 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 near Strathcona Park are encouraged to contact local snowmobile clubs for information about where to go in this region.



## Contact Information

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 Provincial Park to BC Parks staff at 250 337-2405.

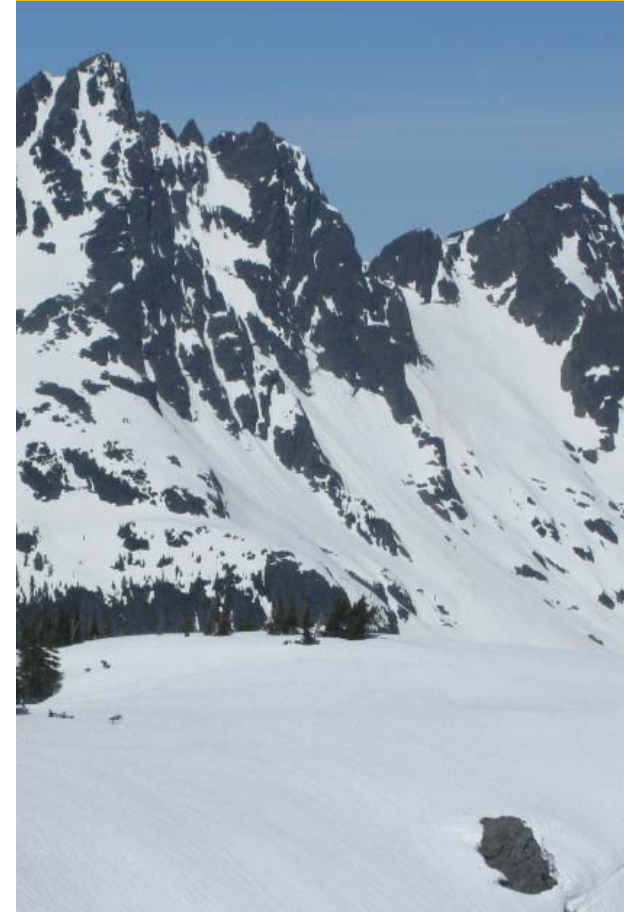
Thank-you for your cooperation!

Visit [www.bcparks.ca](http://www.bcparks.ca) for more information!



# Strathcona Provincial Park

## Snowmobile Information Guide



BCParks

