

**STRATHCONA-WESTMIN
PROVINCIAL PARK
MASTER PLAN**

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- Strathcona-Westmin Provincial Park is a 3,328 ha Class "B" Provincial Park established to recognize an operating mine, the Myra Falls Operation of Westmin Resources Ltd.. The Park is geographically contained within the boundaries of Strathcona Provincial Park¹¹.
- The Class "B" Park is an interim status and will remain only as long as the mine is in operation. As portions of the Park are no longer needed for mining activities, they will be added progressively to Strathcona Provincial Park.
- The goal of this Master Plan is to accommodate the mine and, at the same time, protect the natural resources and provide recreation opportunities within the Park.
- Park zoning has been modified to reflect the unique purpose of this Class "B" Park. A Non-Conforming Use Area was included as well as an Intensive Recreation Zone, a Natural Environment Zone and a Special Feature Zone.
- Several branches of government have authority to issue orders to Westmin Resources Ltd.. There is a potential for conflicting orders to be given. The plan recommends formation of a field level working group, composed of local representatives of agencies and coordinated by BC Parks, to ensure clear direction is given to Westmin Resources Ltd.
- The Plan recommends extension of the Strathcona Advisory Committee's mandate to include Strathcona-Westmin for the purposes of public consultation.
- A herd of elk reside in the lower Thelwood valley. This represents the only known herd entirely resident in Strathcona and Strathcona-Westmin Provincial Parks. All human activities, including industrial, will be monitored to ensure that the presence of elk is not threatened.
- The Park has some moderately significant recreational features. However, key backcountry opportunities in adjacent Strathcona Provincial Park are accessed from the Park. BC Parks and Westmin Resources Ltd. will work together to ensure that mine operations do not inhibit this access.

¹ In this plan "the mine" refers to Westmin Resources Ltd.'s Myra Falls Operations, "the Park" refers to Strathcona-Westmin Provincial Park, and "Mine Operator" refers to Westmin Resources Ltd.

- Recreational facilities will be upgraded to the same standard as those of adjacent Strathcona Provincial Park. New facilities are recommended, including: parking at the Price/Cream Trailhead, a backcountry campsite at Arnica Lake, portions of a loop trail and trailhead connecting Bedwell Lake to Cream Lake and the lower Thelwood Valley, and if supported by an impact assessment, a self-guided interpretive trail in the lower Thelwood Valley.
- Overall direction for management will be to protect the Park's recreation and conservation values while not imposing undue restrictions on the mine's operation.
- One objective of the approved Strathcona Provincial Park Master Plan is "To eliminate the existing reservoirs at Jim Mitchell, Thelwood and Tennent Lakes once these are no longer needed by Westmin...". Through a review of reclamation and decommissioning plans, this Plan will ensure that this objective is achieved by returning the Strathcona-Westmin lands to a condition representative of their state prior to flooding.