

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. Steelhead and 3 species of Pacific salmon; Chum, Chinook and Coho spawn in Cowichan River and in its tributaries.

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 support-ed 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 122 reservable campsites at this park and 4 campsites that are first come, first served. Full service camping is available from March 30 to October 31. Campsite reservations are accepted by calling 1 800 689-9025 or on-line at www.discovercamping.ca.

A winter fee (with reduced services) is in effect from November 1 to March 29.

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.



Group reservations are accepted at this park for dates starting March 30 to October 30.



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.



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 behind the Ice Arena, by the ball field, on South Shore Road on the way to Honeymoon Bay.



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 post-ed 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

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

For More Information

BC Parks
www.bcparks.ca

Park Operator: K2 Park Services Ltd.
Phone: 1 877 559-2115
Email: k2cowichan@shaw.ca



BC Parks

Updated April 18, 2018

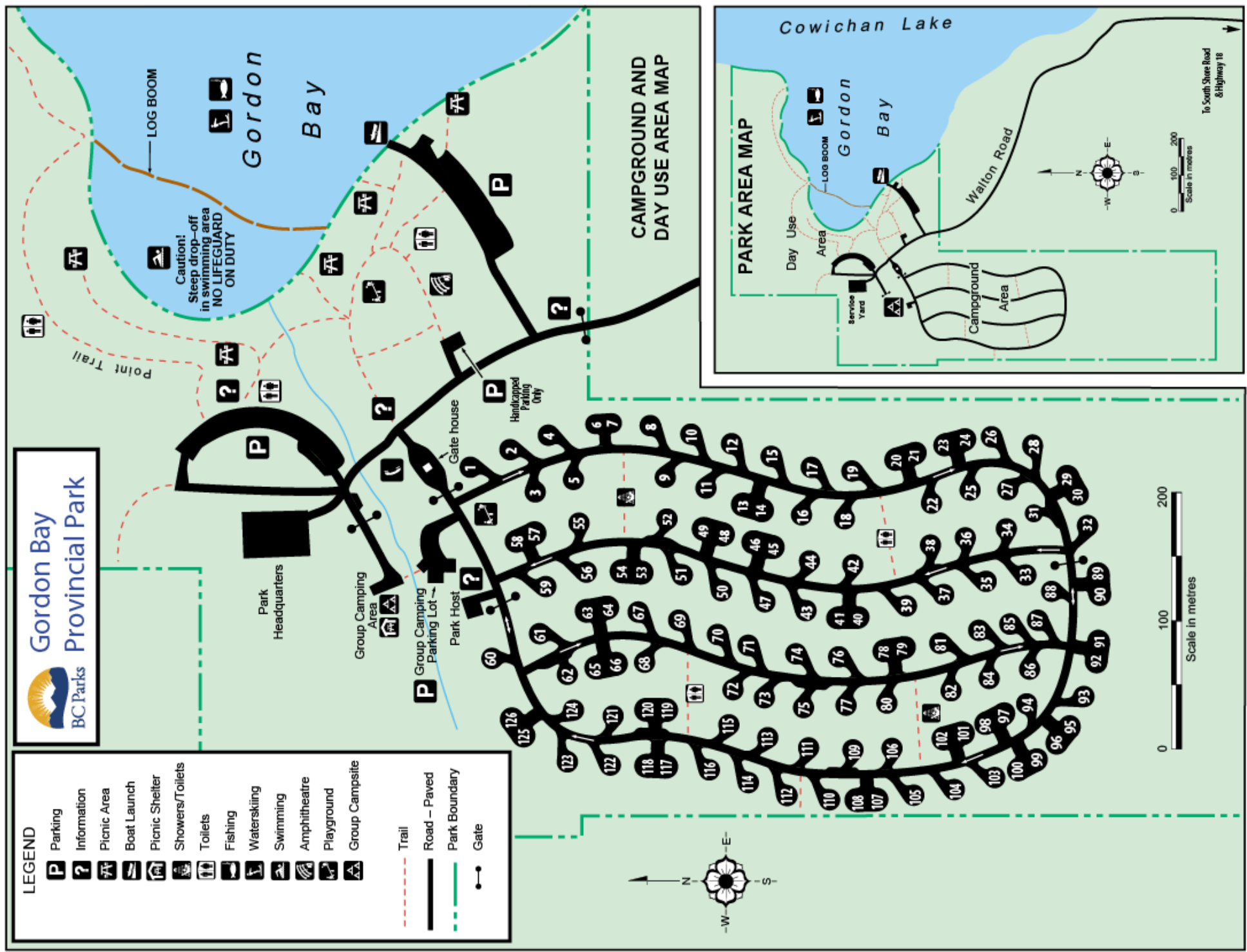


**Gordon Bay
Provincial Park**



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

Vancouver Island



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.