



Paradise Meadows/Forbidden Plateau area offers a variety of easy to moderate loop trails for day-hiking as well as more strenuous multi-day hikes in the sub-alpine with views of lakes and mountains. Camping available at Helen Mackenzie, Kwai and Cirlet Lakes as well as a reservable group site at Croteau Lake. **Buttle Lake Area** offers walking and interpretative trails under 1 hour. Other hikes are (return trip):

**Bedwell Lake** includes excellent viewpoints with access to Cream Lake. 12 km Elev: 600 m

**Flower Ridge** is notable for open hiking on the ridge and striking viewpoints. Water is scarce. 12 km 10 hours 1250 m

**Marble Meadows** features viewpoints, alpine meadows and limestone formations. 13.2 km 12 hours 1250 m

**Phillips Ridge** via Arnica Lake. Camping is available at the north end of the lake. 12 km 8 hours 800 m

**Buttle Lake** campground and Driftwood Bay group sites offer unmonitored swimming areas. With the exception of Kwai Lake on Forbidden Plateau, most backcountry lakes are also open to swimming.

Canoeing and kayaking are popular on Buttle Lake and Upper Campbell Lakes. Use caution on Buttle Lake as it is subject to strong afternoon winds.

Cutthroat and rainbow trout are in various lakes and waterways. Angling in B.C. requires a licence.

Crest Creek Crags offers more than 150 single pitch climbing routes along its bluffs, for various skill levels. Access via Hwy 28. Note- no camping allowed in this day-use area, but a primitive recreation site outside park is located about 2km west towards Gold River.

Backcountry skiing and boarding exist in the park. Nordic cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are also popular in Paradise Meadows. Rentals available from Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

## Things to Do

## Backcountry Permit Registration

The Backcountry Registration system is a convenient way to pre-pay for your permit online, up to two weeks before your arrival date. For more information see the Strathcona Park webpage on BC Parks' website: [www.bcparks.ca](http://www.bcparks.ca).

Designated backcountry campsites are located on the Bedwell Lake, Elk River, Della Falls, and Forbidden Plateau trails areas. Visitors may also camp 1 km or more from main roads. Overnight fees apply in above areas. Three marine backcountry campsites, accessible only by boat, are located on the western shore of Buttle Lake, with a fourth on Rainbow Island. Overnight fees apply. Pit toilets and food caches are available at most backcountry sites.

Please strive for **No Trace Camping** and use stoves for cooking (campfires are not permitted in the backcountry).

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Strathcona Provincial Park offers some of the best backcountry experiences on Vancouver Island. Valleys forested with ancient trees give way to the fir and hemlock of sub-alpine regions, and wildflowers provide spectacular displays from sea level up to 1800m. The park's geological history stretches back 380 million years, with extensive evidence of volcanic activity. Backcountry wildlife includes black bears, elk, cougars, bald eagles, swans and deer; many distinct from their mainland relatives due to Vancouver Island's separation from the mainland so long ago.

Backcountry visitors should be self-sufficient, properly equipped and highly experienced. Wilderness areas, glaciers, snowfields and mountains are challenging and hazardous, especially in avalanche areas. Snowfall can be expected from November to April on slopes and alpine plateaus, and can linger until July on the higher peaks. National Topographic Series maps (scale 1:50,000), sheets 92F/5, F/6, F/11, F/12, F/13 and K/4 cover the park.

## Backcountry Information

Strathcona Provincial Park offers numerous opportunities to view wildlife and enjoy the spectacular natural setting. Waterfall viewing is possible at Lupin Falls, Lady Falls, Karst Creek and both Lower and Upper Myra Falls. In the backcountry, adventurous visitors can see the beautiful Della Falls, whose drop of 440 metres over three cascades makes it one of the highest waterfalls in Canada. (Note - this remote area is not regularly maintained and is difficult to access). The Golden Hinde with an elevation of 2,200 m, is the highest point on Vancouver Island and located almost in the centre of Strathcona. While difficult to access through this remote and unmaintained area, the iconic mountain can be viewed with a rigorous day-hike up to Phillips Ridge Trail. The trailhead is near the south end of Buttle Lake.

Rugged Strathcona Provincial Park consists of snow-covered mountain peaks, beautiful lakes and alpine tarns dotting a landscape laced with rivers, creeks and streams. Designated in 1911 and comprising 250,000 hectares, Strathcona was the first provincial park in B.C.

Strathcona offers two well developed areas, Buttle Lake and Forbidden Plateau, with family oriented camping and outdoor adventure. The rest of the park largely appeals to those seeking a true wilderness experience where visitors can enjoy scenic splendour when backpacking into the alpine regions.

During the winter, Mount Washington Alpine Resort manages a network of Nordic ski and snowshoe trails into the Forbidden Plateau area of the park.

## Park Information

# Welcome to Strathcona Provincial Park

## Nature Trails and Hikes

All estimates below are based on a **return** trip.

Distance	Time	Elevation
<b>Family Nature Trails - Buttle Lake Area</b>		
<b>Lady Falls</b> to an excellent vantage point of Lady Falls. 900 m	20 minutes	Minimal
<b>Karst Creek</b> - limestone, sinkholes and a waterfall. 2 km	45 minutes	Minimal
<b>Wild Ginger</b> - old-growth forest and patches of wild ginger. 600 m	15 minutes	Minimal
<b>Shepherd Creek</b> - a mix of open forest and marshy areas. 1.5 km	45 minutes	Minimal
<b>Lower Myra Falls</b> - views of beautiful cascades. 1 km	15 minutes	Minimal
<b>Lake Helen Mackenzie/Battleship Lake Loop</b> - the most popular dayhike 8 km	3 hrs	Minimal
<b>Advanced Hiking</b>		
<b>Della Falls</b> trail is accessed by boat up Great Central Lake. This is a remote area not regularly maintained or patrolled. Natural hazards exist. 16 km	8 hours	350 m
<b>Love Lake</b> trail starts at the 15 km mark along Della Falls trail. Great views of Della Falls on opposite side of the valley. 4 km	2 hours	830 m
<b>Comox Glacier</b> is an excellent alpine hike but very steep, rugged and not maintained; experienced hikers only. Trailhead only accessible by private logging road which can often be closed. 9 km	10 hours	1,600 m
<b>Mount Albert Edward/Forbidden Plateau</b> - strenuous hike, normally done with an overnight camp at Cirlet Lake 31 km		2,094 m

## Visitor Services

- Vehicle accessible campsites are available at **Buttle Lake** (85 sites) and **Ralph River** (75 sites). Camping is not permitted in any day use areas.
- Driftwood Bay** group site (25 sites) offers wheelchair accessible toilets, a covered picnic shelter and wood stove.
- Croteau Lake/Forbidden Plateau** Backcountry group site offers 12 tent pads and a day use yurt facility.
- Karst Creek** group site, located near the south end of Buttle Lake (near Ralph River campground), offers exclusive group camping with picnic tables, fire pits, wheelchair-accessible pit toilets, and direct access to the lake shore. The site is also immediately adjacent to a public boat launch.
- Group sites available by reservation only at: [www.discovercamping.ca](http://www.discovercamping.ca)

- Boat launches are available on Buttle Lake at the Buttle Lake boat launch and the Karst Creek boat launch.
- Accessible pit toilets are available at the Driftwood Bay group site, Buttle Lake & Ralph River campgrounds, Elk Portal and Paradise Meadows trailhead. Crest Creek day-use area offers wheelchair accessible picnic tables and a pit toilet. Paradise Meadows loop is a barrier-free trail with an accessible visitor information hut at trailhead where wheelchairs and an all-terrain TrailRider can be borrowed.

## Contact Information

Park Facility Operator: 43K Wilderness Solutions  
 Phone: 1-844-43K-WILD  
 E-mail: [parkinfo@43k.ca](mailto:parkinfo@43k.ca)

Reservations: Discover Camping  
 Phone: 1-800-689-9025  
 Online: [www.discovercamping.ca](http://www.discovercamping.ca)

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

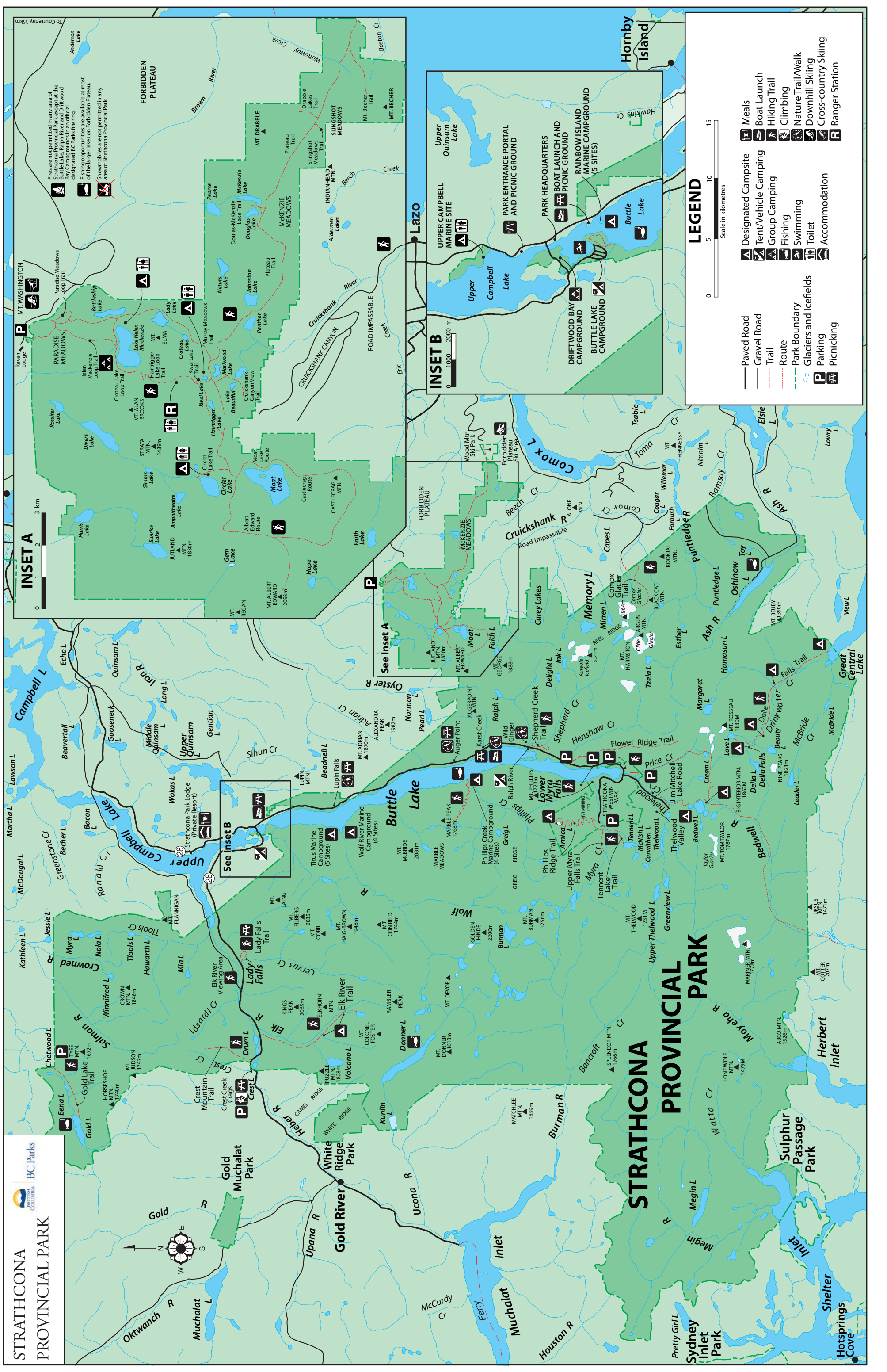
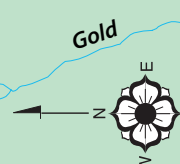
# Strathcona Provincial Park

## Park Map and Information Guide



Special thanks to Phil Stone for the cover photograph.

# STRATHCONA PROVINCIAL PARK



### LEGEND

Scale in kilometres: 0, 5, 10, 15

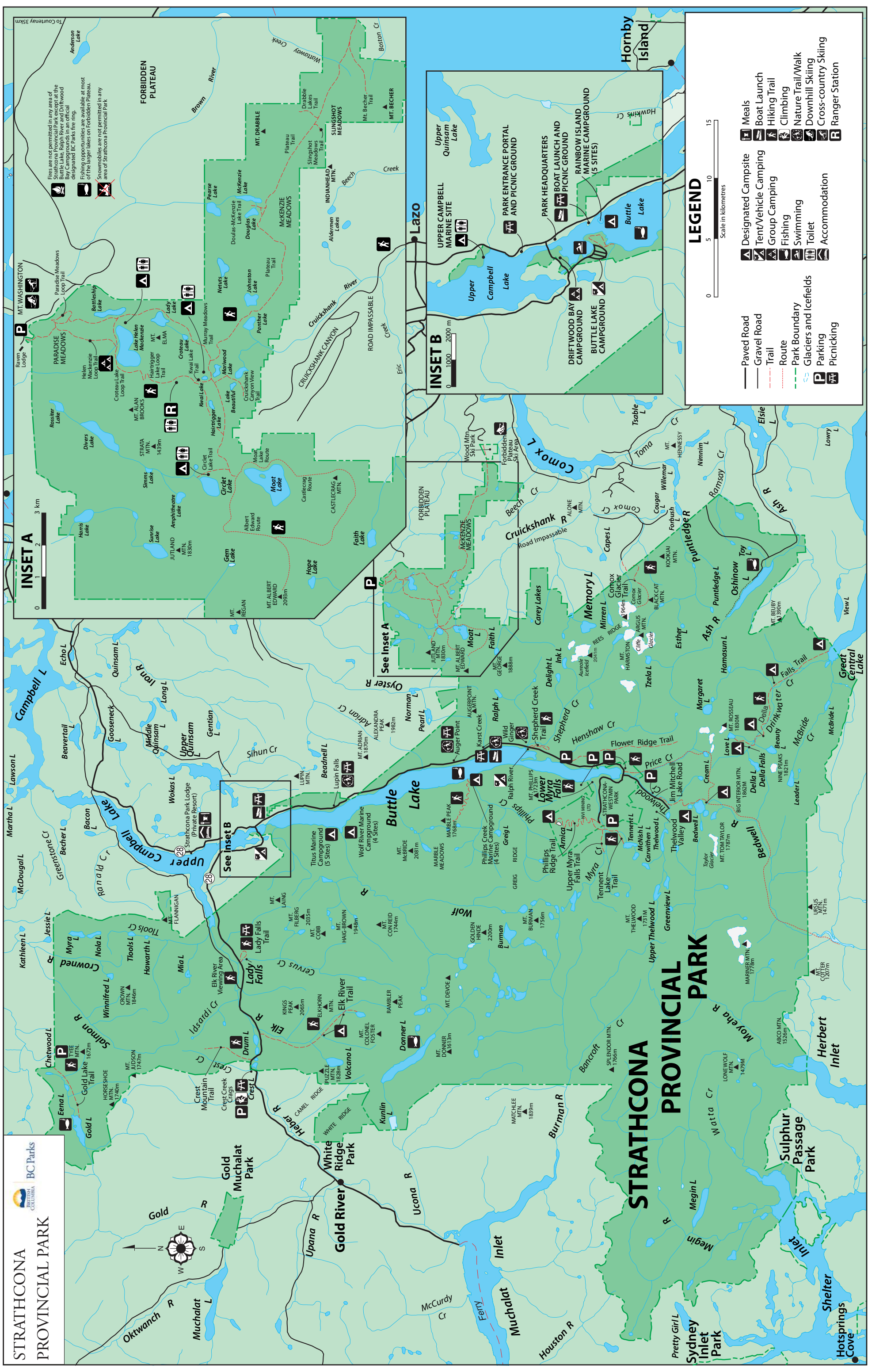
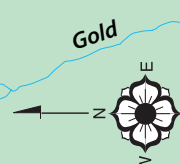
	Paved Road		Designated Campsite
	Gravel Road		Tent/Vehicle Camping
	Trail		Group Camping
	Route		Fishing
	Park Boundary		Swimming
	Glaciers and Icefields		Toilet
	Parking		Accommodation
	Picnicking		Meals
			Boat Launch
			Hiking Trail
			Climbing
			Nature Trail/Walk
			Downhill Skiing
			Cross-country Skiing
			Ranger Station

**INSET A**  
0 1 2 3 km

**INSET B**  
0 1000 2000 m

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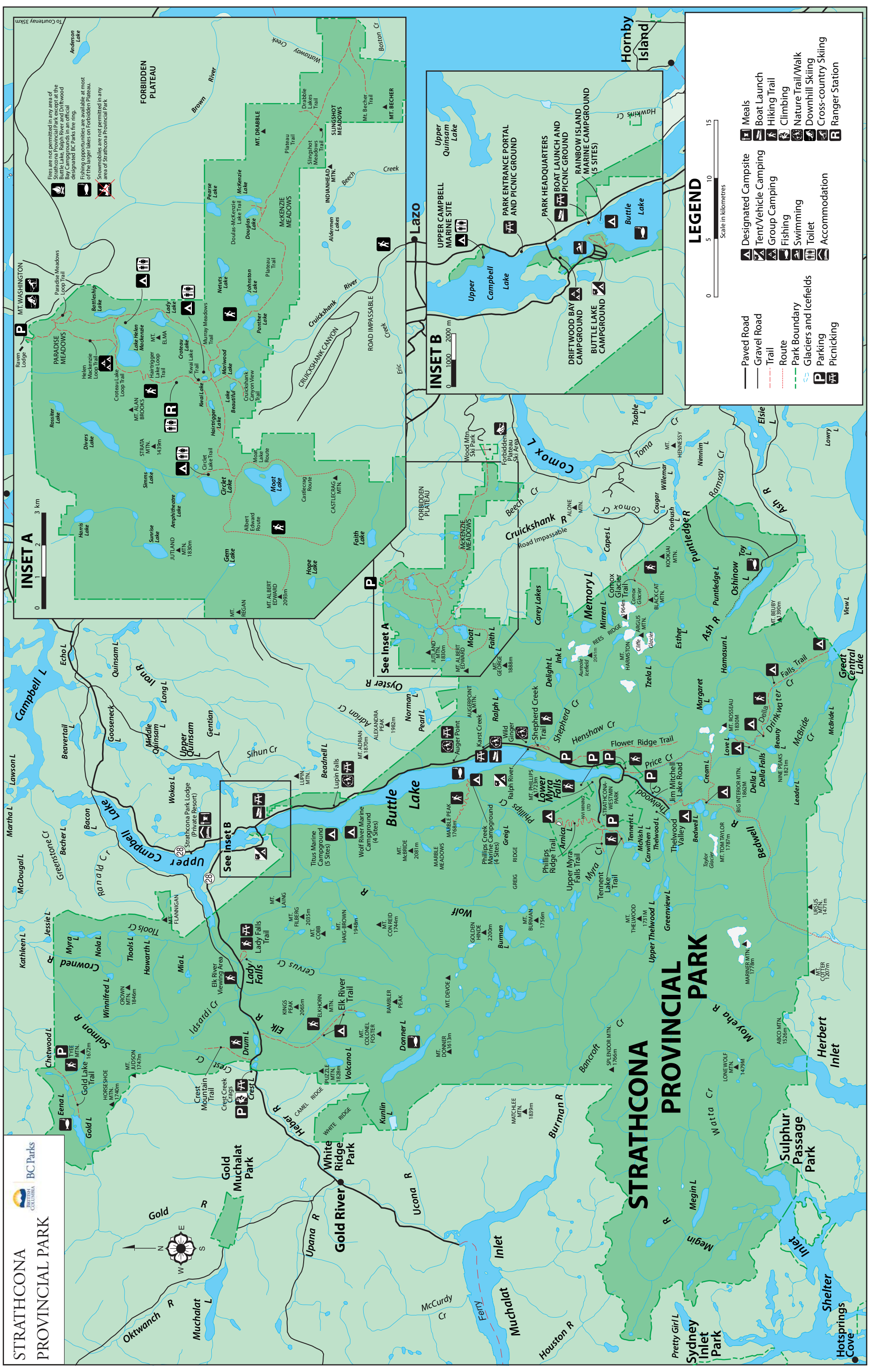
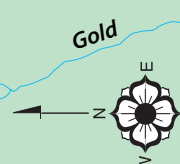
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