

# Welcome to the Park!

## Silver Star Provincial Park

At 6092 hectares, Silver Star Provincial Park lies 22 kilometres northeast of Vernon atop a rounded mountain typical of the Okanagan highland. A combination of moderate terrain and consistently good snow conditions make the Park ideal for winter recreation drawing snowmobilers, cross-country skiers and snowshoers for as many as 6 months a year. Operated since the late 1960s by the Vernon Snowmobile Association, the snowmobile area provides wide, groomed trails which can be enjoyed by all levels of riders.

With the elevation change from the valley below, the Park also offers a refreshing break from the summer heat of the Okanagan Valley. Hiking or mountain biking on wide, moderate grade trails affords great views of both the valley as well as the Monashee Mountains further east.

## Nature and Culture

**History** - In the early 1900s, mineral claims with names such as Prince of Whales, Aberdeen and Silver Star were registered on what is now Silver Star Mountain, and exploration was undertaken. Although claims were active for decades, no active mining has been conducted since the 1940s.

**Cultural Heritage** - The larger area that now includes Silver Star Provincial Park has been used for centuries by local First Nations for hunting and berry picking.

**Wildlife** - The Park is home to many species of wildlife including Black Bear, Moose, Mule and White Tail Deer, Cougar and Lynx, as well as populations of Grouse, Crossbills, Owls and Raptors.

## Facilities Available at this Park

**Cabins and Huts** - There are two cabins located in the park for visitors to warm up. The Silver Star Cabin, located along Ganzeveld Trail, is maintained by the Vernon Snowmobile Association and is open for public use. Please respect the facility and the volunteer efforts by cleaning up after yourself, conserving firewood and donate to the VSA per use. The Black Prince Cabin, located along the Lars Taylor cross country ski trail, is maintained by the Sovereign Lake Nordic Society and requires a trail pass to utilize.

**Toilets** - Both the snowmobile and cross-country ski trail systems have pit toilets in various locations (refer to map for location of snowmobile pit toilets). Flush toilets are available at the Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre during operating hours.

## Things to Do and See While Visiting

**Snowmobiling** - Silver Star Park has over 40km of snowmobile trails, groomed and maintained by the Vernon Snowmobile Association (VSA). VSA also manages a number of trails extending from the Park boundary to the Armstrong Cabin. The complete maintained system totals over 100km. Riders are required to purchase a day pass, or have a current VSA membership.

Remember you are in a Provincial Park, and as such, snow machines are restricted to designated trails only while within the park boundary. Off trail use of snow machines is strictly prohibited and poses a risk to non-motorized users, refrain from off trail riding until outside of the Provincial Park. Please operate snow machines responsibly and be aware of areas with overlapping users.

**Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing** - The Park boasts world-class cross country skiing and snowshoeing, based out of the Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre. Cross Country Skiers and Snowshoes on the Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre trails are required to purchase a day pass. Additional free, but unmaintained, trails exist to the East of Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre for non-motorized use. For everyone's safety, non-motorized use of the snowmobile trails is prohibited unless in an emergency situation. Additionally, all users other than cross country skiers are not permitted on the cross country ski trails unless in an emergency.

**Hiking, Mountain Biking and Horseback Riding** - Opportunities for summer recreation exist along both snowmobile and cross country ski trails. Trails are wide with a generally hard-packed gravel surface, however there are wet sections on most trails during the majority of the snow-free season. Grades vary from easy to difficult. Please stay on established trails and avoid use during wet periods. Downhill mountain biking can be found at Silver Star Resort.

## Stay Safe - Are You Prepared?

Even this close to the valley, weather can change very quickly. Ensure you have adequate food, water and clothing, and let someone know where you will be recreating before heading out. Some trails are not maintained regularly and conditions vary year to year, be prepared if you are unfamiliar with the area. It is recommended that all back country users be prepared for 24 hours on your own in the event of an emergency. Bring a map and GPS, getting lost is very easy, know your turn around point and follow your trail back to the parking lot when you have reached that point. Tree-wells are common sites of accident and injury, in the winter stay clear of tree bases as they can be hollow and dangerous.

Report a Forest Fire (Note - there is no cell coverage in some areas of the park)  
1-800-663-5555 on a cell or satellite phone or \*5555 on a cell phone  
Report all Poachers and Polluters - 1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

Emergency: 911 (Note - there is no cell coverage in some areas of the park)  
Police (Vernon RCMP): (250) 550-7840  
BC Parks: (250) 490-8200

