

As the Park was established to allow Westmin Resource Ltd.'s Myra Falls Operations to carry out mining operations, the normal zoning system used by BC Parks has been modified to include a Non-Conforming Use Zone. Also, there are areas of the Park which require special attention, i.e., remnants of valley bottom old growth forests, riparian habitats used by elk and the side hills and alpine areas above the mine not used for mineral extraction. Correspondingly, the Park has been divided into three zones and a Non-Conforming Use Zone (Figure 4). This zoning is intended to complement the zoning for Strathcona Provincial Park

Non-Conforming Use Zone

Non-Conforming Use Zone is used to accommodate land use which is not usually acceptable in a park. This zone is usually only applied in a Class "B" Provincial Park and then only to lands which for the predictable future will continue to be used for non-park purposes.

An area of approximately 200 hectares currently used by the mine for mining activities has been designated a Non-Conforming Use Zone. This special designation is required to accommodate the mining operation and to indicate that, for a park a much higher than normal level of surface disturbance, is permitted. The size of this area may change to reflect the needs of mining.

As reclamation progresses and the mining operation no longer requires the lands, the zone may be reduced in size and the lands integrated into adjacent zones. This does not imply a change to the mining lease size. Any change to the lease will require the agreement of the mine owners.

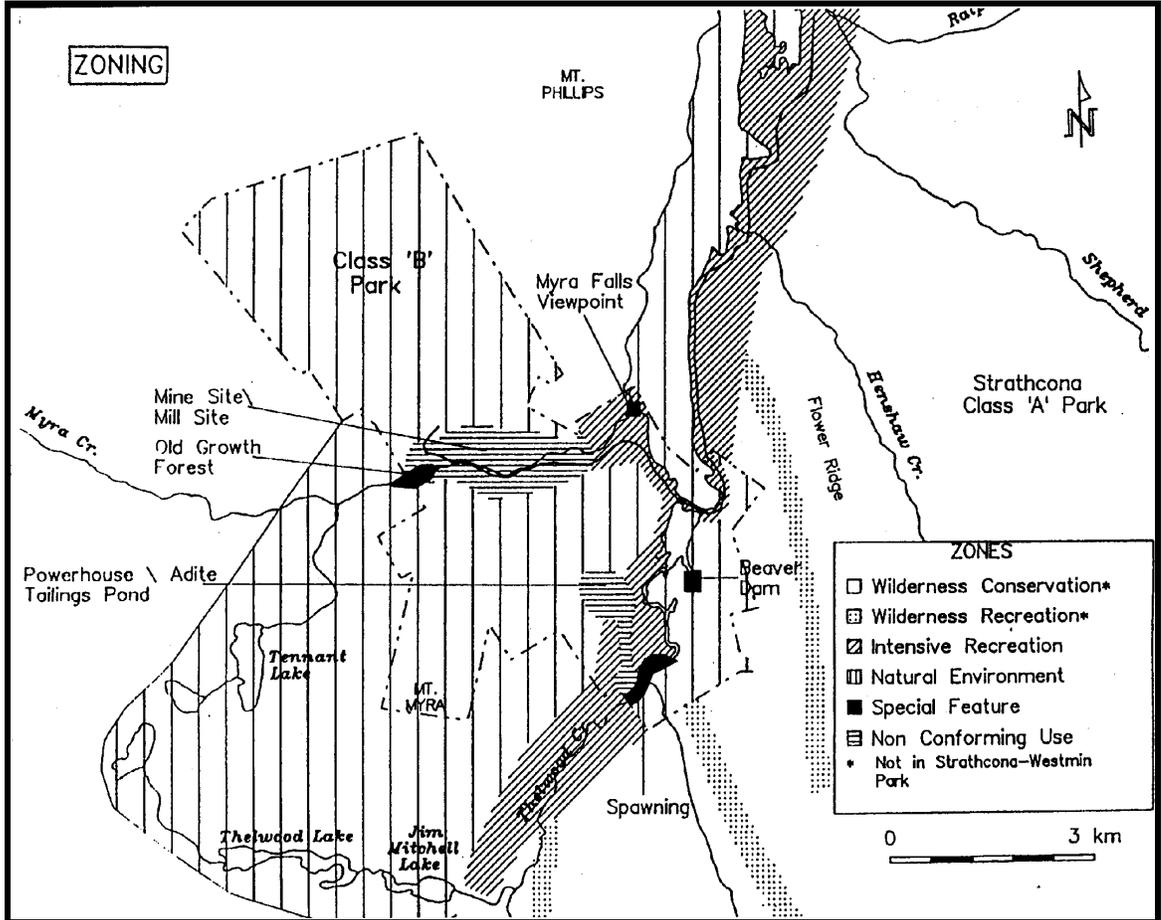
Upon final closure, the lands in this area will be designated as part of the Natural Environment Zone. However, it must be recognized that there will be a higher level of human activity than might be expected in a natural environment zone. This activity will be associated with ongoing monitoring and operation of pollution control systems.

Intensive Recreation Zone

The Intensive Recreation Zone is used to designate areas which provide a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

This zone is associated with nearly 300 hectares of land within the Park that have been modified through human activity including mining or fire and salvage logging. It includes areas that are being reclaimed or are recovering from being disturbed. Also included are those areas that offer access, and access-related facilities, to recreation opportunities beyond the Park.

Figure 4



Natural Environment Zone

Natural Environment Zones are used to designate lands requiring protection to ensure that scenic values and backcountry opportunities are maintained in a largely undisturbed state.

This zone designates more than 2,500 hectares of land that have not been impacted by human use, and includes areas such as Mount Myra and Phillips Ridge.

Portions of this zone, such as Phillips Ridge, may be subject to exploration of mineral potential by Westmin Resources Ltd. In some locations the type of access will be restricted. In all cases, new developments resulting in surface disturbance will be strictly controlled through Park Use Permit conditions.

Special Feature Zone

The objective of this zone is to protect and present significant natural and cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility or heritage values. This zone entails a high level of protection through ongoing monitoring of resources and control of human use. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the zone's special qualities and to limit impacts.

This zone, about 100 hectares, includes such features as the old growth forests in Myra Creek, the area of Lower Myra Falls, the beaver dams and wetland of the lower Thelwood Valley, the spawning beds of Thelwood and Price Creeks, the valley bottom deciduous forest of the Thelwood valley and the mouth of Thelwood Creek.