

Frequently asked questions:

Cougar Creek Flood Project

What is happening with the Cougar Creek Flood Project?

In February 2020, the Minister announced approval of the Town of Canmore's Cougar Creek Flood Project. To ensure visitor safety around construction, Alberta Parks is closing access to Cougar Creek Canyon for all recreational uses for the duration of project (two years).

What does the two year construction closure involve?

The construction closure will impact climbing and hiking in Cougar Creek; all other access to the trails and scrambles in the area will remain open **with the exception of blasting closures**.

Do not attempt to access the closure area at, thru, or around the construction sites at any time.

Follow construction signage and barricades.

What does the BLASTING closure involve?

The construction closure during **BLASTING** activity will be expanded to include closure of the Mount Lady MacDonald trail.

All other access to the trails in the area will remain open including Montane and the Horseshoe loop.

Do not attempt to access the closure area at, thru, or around the construction sites at any time.

Follow construction signage and barricades.

Why are closures being put in place and what alternatives were considered?

The construction closure is to ensure public and contractor safety as well as timely and cost-efficient construction.

Alberta Parks and the Town of Canmore considered constructing an alternative route around the closure to access Cougar Creek Canyon. Due to the challenging steep terrain on Lady MacDonald and Grotto Mountain, Alberta Parks determined that closing access is the best alternative for ensuring public safety.

Can I hike around the closure area to access the Canyon?

Hiking around the closure to access Cougar Canyon is not permitted. There is a designated wildlife corridor in this area of Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park and use is only permitted on designated trails.

Do not attempt to access the closure area at, thru, or around the construction sites at any time.

Follow construction signage and barricades.

What are the alternatives for hiking and climbing activity in the Bow Valley?

Alberta Parks is working with the Climbers' Access Society of Alberta (CASA) and The Association of Bow Valley Rock Climbers (TABVAR) to communicate alternative climbing areas for Cougar Creek canyon. These include Grassi Lakes, Grotto Canyon and Heart Creek.

Alberta Parks will direct hikers to formal canyon trail hikes including Grassi Lakes, Grotto Canyon and Heart Creek.

Hunters were notified of the closure through the Alberta hunting draw booklet.

What are the details of the project?

The Cougar Creek Flood Project consists of a debris dam structure, spillway, inundation area and access road. The Town of Canmore provides additional details on construction and operation of the project on their [Cougar Creek](#) webpage.

How do I stay updated? Who do I contact for more information?

To stay up to date on construction advisories and area closures please visit: [Alberta Parks Advisories](#).

The logo for the province of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized, cursive script font, followed by a small square icon.