

Frequently asked questions:

Prairie Mountain Trail Project:
Kananaskis Public Land Use Zone

<p>Where is Prairie Mountain Trail?</p>		<p>Prairie Mountain Trail is an approximately 3.3 km out and back trail (6.6 km round trip) located in the Kananaskis Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ), in the Elbow Valley, across Highway 66 from Elbow Falls Provincial Recreation Area. The existing trail is user-established and has not been formally designated as a Provincial Trail.</p>
<p>What is the project?</p>		<p>This project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refurbish and formalize Prairie Mountain Trail• Improve wayfinding and amenities on the trail• Once constructed, designate Prairie Mountain Trail as a Provincial Trail
<p>Why is the trail being developed?</p>		<p>This trail is being developed to address increased year-round use of the trail, ongoing environmental degradation and increased public safety incidents in the area. Trail work will improve safe and sustainable year-round use of the trail.</p>
<p>What area is being closed?</p>		<p>The area closure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sections of Prairie Mountain• Prairie Mountain Trail• Sections of Elbow Valley Trail
<p>Why are areas of the mountain being closed?</p>		<p>The area closure will be in effect during construction work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce danger to hikers, as contractors work on the mountain including felling trees, moving heavy equipment around sloped terrain, long-lining heavy helicopter loads, and dislodging rocks.• Ensure construction can occur safely and efficiently.
<p>Can I still use other trails and parking lots in the area?</p>		<p>Nearby recreation trails and areas will remain open during the Prairie Mountain Closure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elbow Falls Day Use Area• Elbow Falls Interpretive Trail

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powderface Day Use Area • Canyon Creek Trail • Prairie Creek Trail • Powderface Trail • Elbow Valley Trail (outside of the closure area) • Beaver Flats Interpretive Trail • Moose Mountain Trail • MMBTS Mountain Bike Trails (including Pistolero)
How long will construction take?		<p>Construction is tentatively scheduled to start May 23, 2023 and will continue until October 1, 2023. Closure schedule information will updated at Alberta.ca/PublicLandClosures</p> <p>The area closure will be in effect until construction is complete.</p>
What happens if I get caught in the closure?		<p>Pursuant to Sections 184(1) of the Public Lands Administration Regulation, access is forbidden to the following:</p> <p>Map - Prairie Mountain Temporary Area Closure (PDF, 665 KB)</p> <p>Contracts must stop work if they encounter unauthorized persons in the area and report the incident to Conservation Officers. Violating the closure could land you a fine. To support completing this project in 2023, keep safe and stay out of the closure and let the contractor finish the project without getting in their way.</p>
We have out-of-town visitors and would like to hike Prairie Mountain. Where should we go instead?		<p>Looking for another trail to check out in the area? Check out one of these trails that offer a similar experience and are all within a 1-hour drive from Calgary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moose Mountain Trail • Fullerton Loop Trail • Jumpingpound Summit Trail • Prairie View Trail, near Barrier Lake