

# Frequently Asked Questions

## David Thompson Corridor Parking and Areas Construction Project and Area Closure

Bighorn Dam Public Lands  
 Crescent Falls Provincial Recreation Area

<p>Where is David Thompson Corridor?</p>	<p>David Thompson Corridor (DTC) is located on Highway 11 between Nordegg and Banff.</p>
<p>What is occurring?</p>	<p>A capital project known as DTC Infrastructure Safety Upgrades will see investment of \$8.4M to upgrade 13 sites along the corridor.</p> <p>The second phase of the project will see construction work in 2 locations: Bighorn Dam and Crescent Falls Provincial Recreation Area (PRA). Construction work within these sites will take place between June 2023 and June 2024.</p> <p>The first phase of the project's construction work is in progress and is at 80% completion. A number of upgrades were completed from Summer 2022 to winter 2023 and construction work was phased to allow for access to the various Provincial Recreational Areas (PRA) and Public Lands (PL) sites. From east to west the sites are: Coliseum, Allstone, Abraham Slabs, Hoo Doo Creek, Coral Creek, Pinto Lake, Preachers Point, Cavalcade, Kinglet/Tuff Puff, Wildhorse and Owen Creek. Limited areas within each site will see construction resume in April/May and will be completed by July 2023. The sites in general will be accessible to visitors.</p>
<p>Why is this work needed?</p>	<p>Over the past decade there has been a steady increase in visitation and usage of the various sites along the DTC. During the Covid-19 pandemic the number of visitation increased dramatically and all sites were overwhelmed with infrastructure and safety issues. The safety issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcrowding and congestion of the access road with traffic back ups leading to vehicle and pedestrian conflicts,</li> <li>• Lack of driveway and trail definition leading to chaotic and unsafe movement of vehicles and pedestrians,</li> <li>• Poor roadway structures with rutting, erosion and damage to adjacent landscape,</li> <li>• Significant waste management issues negatively impacting the environment,</li> <li>• Increased human and wildlife conflicts,</li> <li>• Insufficient toilet facilities for the increased volume of visitors</li> <li>• Increased use of trails creating negative environmental impacts, including waste management issues,</li> <li>• Insufficient wayfinding and safety signage to direct visitors,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing safety concerns with public access to the top and base of the Crescent Falls where extreme danger exists.</li> </ul> <p>The project will see upgrade and increase in capacity of these 2 sites to mitigate the increased visitation numbers and to mitigate the various safety issues. The improvements will ensure visitors can safely use the facilities and enjoy the natural beauty embodied on these 2 sites.</p>
What will the work entail?	<p>The work at Bighorn Dam seeks to formalize and upgrade the access road system with the site, increase rustic camping access, formalize parking areas, install toilets, install wayfinding signage, install access gates, install a new boat launch, develop new highway crossing for Tershishner trail and install new connector trail with staging area.</p> <p>The work at Crescent Falls PRA seeks to enlarge parking areas, upgrade access roads down to lower area, install a new pedestrian trail to the lower day use area, install new vehicle crossing, upgrade day use area, increase signage, install additional toilets and bear proof garbage bins and upgrade safety features throughout the PRA.</p>
Will FPT be closing both of the sites?	<p>Bighorn Dam will be open partially throughout the site over the course of 2023 from June to December. The closure will be phased so that various areas can be accessed and various trails can be accessible. Alternative parking and staging areas will be identified and accessible.</p> <p>Crescent Falls PRA will be closed from June 2023 to June 2024. As there is only one way to access the falls, there is no safe way to phase the construction of the project. The east viewing area of the Falls located on the county road will remain open. And, alternative parking and staging areas throughout DTC will be identified and accessible.</p>
Will the closures be all at once or phased?	<p>Construction for Bighorn Dam will be phased and physical barriers and signage will be placed in areas under construction. Updated closure notices will be communicated throughout the construction period from June 2023 to Spring 2024.</p> <p>Construction for Crescent Falls PRA cannot be phased and will be fully closed for the duration of construction work from June 2023 to June 2024.</p>
What does the closure include?	<p>Closure will include no access to the sites/area under construction. Signage on site with appropriate physical barriers will be installed at a number of visible areas to ensure closure is known and communicated.</p>
Can I access trails from other parking lots?	<p>Alternate parking and staging areas will be available to access trails along Highway 11. This will be identified in a map and posted in various sites, including at <a href="http://albertaparks.ca">albertaparks.ca</a> &amp; <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/bighorn-backcountry">https://www.alberta.ca/bighorn-backcountry</a></p>
How long will construction take?	<p>The construction work of the 2 sites will be completed over 12 months from June 2023 to June 2024. The duration takes into account for limited ability to</p>

	complete work over winter and phasing to allow visitor access within Bighorn Dam.
What happens if I get caught in the site closure?	Sites under construction will be marked clearly with signage with physical barriers and visitors are asked to follow the closure postings. If visitors are found on site, they will be asked by the construction crew and/or project team to vacate the site immediately for their safety as sites and areas under closure are active construction areas. In addition, all FPT (Forestry, Parks and Tourism) sites are monitored by Conservation Officers and Staff.
Why can't this work be done in the off-season instead of the busy summer season?	Construction during the winter is very difficult in the DTC area due to weather, cold temperatures and frozen ground conditions.
What else is being completed in the DTC area?	The DTC Infrastructure Safety Upgrades project is also completing the formalization of rustic camping, highway access and parking at 11 sites along HWY 11 between Nordegg and Banff National Park boundary, with the construction being fully completed by June/July 2023.