

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Spray Valley Provincial Park

- Spray West Campground Refurbishment

Where is Spray West campground located?

Spray West campground is one of the most popular first come, first served campgrounds in Kananaskis Country due to its proximity to the Town of Canmore and its location on the Spray Lakes Reservoir.

What is the project?

The project will:

- Establish a new layout for 65 campsites (an increase of 15 sites).
- Improve existing washroom facilities.
- Designate areas for outdoor recreation opportunities like hiking and dog sledding.
- Develop a firebreak.
- Designate more than 34 hectares of land as habitat enhancement areas to protect wildlife and enhance public safety.
- Naturalize decommissioned campsites to create improved wildlife habitat.

Why is Forestry and Parks working on refurbishing the Spray West Campground?

The Alberta government is committed to creating more campsites and improving high-traffic recreational areas across the province. This project will ensure the infrastructure at Spray West meets current standards and supports positive visitor experiences.

The current configuration of the campground negatively impacts the movement of wildlife in the area, which has resulted in a number of human-wildlife conflicts. The new, reduced campground footprint will improve visitor access to services, help prevent human-wildlife conflicts and improve the ability for staff to operate the site.

Why is Forestry and Parks closing the campground, parking lots and trails all at once?

The area is closed to support construction activities and protect the safety of both Albertans and wildlife. A full site closure is necessary to keep visitors safe. Alternative options are available for similar experiences nearby.

What does the area closure include?

Closure Areas

- Spray West campground
- Spray West hiker-biker area
- Parking lots and informal day use areas within the vicinity of the campground, including:
 - the hiker-biker area often used for overflow parking
 - the informal parking area often used as a trailhead for Old Goat Glacier Route
 - the informal day use parking area at the southern end of campground often used as a trailhead for the Spray Road West Trail (sometimes referred to Mount Nestor Route)

Long Term Trail Closures to Accommodate Construction

- Spray Road West Trail (designated trail)
- Mount Nestor Route (non-designated trail)
- Old Goat Glacier Route (non-designated trail)

Temporary Intermittent Trail Closures to Accommodate Construction

- High Rockies Trail (designated trail)/a segment of the Trans Canada Trail

Can I access trails from other parking lots?

No. Aside from non-motorized travel along the High Rockies trail to the northern edge of the campground, Forestry and Parks is enacting a full area closure to support the project. Access from the parking lots and all other trails are closed.

Long Term Trail Closures to Accommodate Construction

- Spray Road West Trail (designated trail)
- Mount Nestor Route (non-designated trail)
- Old Goat Glacier Route (non-designated trail)

Temporary Intermittent Trail Closures to Accommodate Construction

High Rockies Trail (designated trail)/a segment of the Trans Canada Trail

Conservation Officers will enforce the area closure under the *Provincial Parks Act*.

How long will construction take?

Construction is tentatively scheduled to start in September 2023 and is anticipated to continue until late June 2024. The Ministry of Forestry and Parks will provide updates on www.albertaparks.ca/advisories. The full area closure will be in effect until construction is complete.

Why can't I have access to the trails not under construction?

The campground and trail access within the campground area will be closed during construction. There is no alternative for safe parking and trail access. Roadside parking is unsafe and will impede access for the construction vehicles hauling materials and equipment. Access for emergency response vehicles needs to remain clear without vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

I purchased a Kananaskis Conservation Pass specifically to the Spray West Campground. Can I get a refund now that the site is closed?

The Kananaskis Conservation Pass (KCP) provides access to more than 25 campgrounds, 85 day use areas, hundreds of kilometers of trails and many other features like creeks, canyons and lakes. Please visit <https://www.albertaparks.ca/parks/kananaskis> or call the Kananaskis Information Line at 403-678-0760 to find other options that may interest you.

What are alternative camping options in Kananaskis?

Spray Valley Provincial Park

Eau Claire Campground

[Eau Claire - Spray Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Bow Valley Provincial Park

Bow River Campground

[Bow River - Bow Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Three Sisters Campground

[Three Sisters - Bow Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Lac Des Arcs Campground

[Lac Des Arcs - Bow Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Bow Valley Campground

[Bow Valley - Bow Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Willow Rock Campground

[Willow Rock - Bow Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Canoe Meadows

[Canoe Meadows - Bow Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Peter Lougheed Provincial Park

Canyon Campground

[Canyon - Peter Lougheed Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

William Watson Lodge

[William Watson Lodge - Peter Lougheed Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Elkwood Campground

[Elkwood - Peter Lougheed Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Lower Lake Campground

[Lower Lake - Peter Lougheed Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Boulton Creek Campground

[Boulton Creek - Peter Lougheed Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Interlakes Campground

[Interlakes - Peter Lougheed Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Mount Sarrail Walk-in Tenting Campground

[Mount Sarrail Walk-in Tenting - Peter Lougheed Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

What day use areas are in close vicinity to Spray West Campground?

The Driftwood Day Use Area is in the immediate vicinity of Spray West Campground. Visit [Driftwood Day Use - Spray Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#) for more information.

Spray Valley Provincial Park

Goat Creek
[Goat Creek Day Use - Spray Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Sparrowhawk
[Sparrowhawk Day Use - Spray Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Spray Lake
[Spray Lake Day Use - Spray Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Buller Mountain
[Buller Mountain Day Use - Spray Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Mt. Shark
[Mt. Shark Day Use - Spray Valley Provincial Park | Alberta Parks](#)

Will an alternative hiker-biker camping area be provided nearby Spray West campground to accommodate recreationalists during construction?

The existing hiker-biker area will not be available for use as it is located with the construction zone. Although a hiker-biker area will not be available in the immediate vicinity to the Spray West campground during construction, Forestry and Parks offers several alternatives. Hiker-biker camping in Spray Valley Park and Peter Lougheed Provincial Parks along the High Rockies Trail ([High Rockies \(Summer\) Trail - Kananaskis Country | Alberta Parks](#)) is available at the following locations:

- Buller Mountain day use
- Sawmill day use
- Pocaterra overflow campground

Hiker-bikers are encouraged to plan their trips and overnight stays in advance. For more information, please visit: [FAQs | Alberta Parks](#)

Will dog sled operations be impacted by construction?

Dog sled tours will not be impacted by construction. We anticipate dog sledding will be enhanced as a result of construction activities.

Will proposed campsites be serviced (power, water, sewer)?

Services (power, water and sewer) will not be provided.

What is meant by habitat enhancement?

A key component of the campground refurbishment is to enhance habitat to support wildlife:

- More than 34 hectares of land, away from the proposed campground footprint, will be designated as a habitat enhancement area.
- Within these designated areas, mature trees will be removed to open the forest canopy to support habitat enhancement via the colonization of Buffaloberry.
- While it may take five to ten years for the habitat enhancement to take effect, it will provide long-term habitat benefits, including an anticipated reduction in the number of human-wildlife conflicts.
- This work will also include moving buffaloberry shrubs and other attractants away from campsites and recreation areas to protect bears and other wildlife while enhancing public safety.

What are the operator and maintenance efficiencies being created?

The densified campground layout will provide the following operator and maintenance efficiencies:

- Reduced human-wildlife conflict (less monitoring / management)
- Increased visibility to support public safety (ease of monitoring by staff and operators)
- New vault toilet facilities (ease of maintenance)
- Improved level of service (improved accessibility to campsites for management / regular servicing, proximity to manager's sites for visitor information / supplies)
- The implementation of campsites to Alberta Parks standards, including some accessible sites (ease of managing / maintaining campsites)
- New site furnishings including picnic tables, firepits, signage, etc. (less refurbishment / repair)