

Frequently asked questions:

McKinnon Flats Road Upgrade

Where is McKinnon Flats?

In 1983, the Government of Alberta purchased land from the McKinnon family southeast of Calgary; a site referred to as McKinnon Flats.

McKinnon Flats is located in Rocky View County approximately 34 km southeast of Calgary along the Bow River. Vehicle access from Calgary to McKinnon Flats is obtained on Hwy 22x to Range Road 274 followed south to the river. The site is a common float trip via the Bow River; common upstream boat launch sites include Fish Creek Provincial Park and Policeman's Flats.

Why is the access road being upgraded?

McKinnon Flats provides public access to the Bow River access as well as providing nature based experiences in close proximity to Calgary. The access road is very steep and presents safety issues during wet. The road is not to current standards for larger vehicles including auto-trailer units (for boats) or potential emergency vehicle access (for water rescue). Alberta Environment and Parks will upgrade the McKinnon Flats road this fall to meet Alberta Transportation standards. To support construction efficiency and ensure public safety, the road will be closed.

What are the details of the Project?

As part of the Project, Alberta Environment and Parks proposes to:

- Construct the road upgrades (two dedicated gravel lanes, top to bottom including appropriate water management features and signage).
- Decommission and restore abandoned parts of the existing access road.

Construction is scheduled to begin on August 31 and continue to the end of November.

Alberta Environment and Parks will post construction updates at:

Alberta Parks Advisories:

<https://www.albertaparks.ca/albertaparksca/advisories-public-safety/advisories/>.

Can users access McKinnon Flats during road construction?

Alberta Environment and Parks will close the access road during construction. Although the McKinnon Flats can be accessed from the Bow River, vehicle access will not be permitted to McKinnon Flats from Range Road 274 during construction. River users may use the site as a trip stop but will not be able to access the road and the parking area to launch or take out boats.

Why is construction scheduled for the end of August?

As part of the environmental review for the Project, Alberta Environment and Parks conducted a site assessment for McKinnon Flats to gather background information on environmental topics. Due to environmental windows related key wildlife biodiversity zones, migratory bird restrictions and migratory periods for Western Terrestrial Garter Snakes, Alberta Environment and Parks proposed fall construction to avoid impacts to most species. A fall window disrupts the wildlife the least while providing a stable weather period for optimal construction.

Are there alternative Bow River access points?

Alternative public vehicle access points for the Bow River include Policeman’s Flats, Legacy Island and Johnson’s Island.



Please keep in mind the proposed float times provided below.

	Policeman's Flat	McKinnon Flat	Legacy Island	Johnson Island
Fish Creek	3 hours (~8 km)	11 hours (~31 km)	16.5 hours (~44 km)	19.5 hours (~52 km)
Policeman's Flats		8.5 hours (~23 km)	13.5 hours (~36 km)	16.5 (~44 km)
McKinnon Flats			5 hours (~13 km)	8 hours (~21 km)
Legacy Island				3 hours (~8 km)

Float times are conservative estimates only and can vary greatly depending on the water level and flow. The Bow River's water level is normally higher in June and July, therefore flow is faster at that time.

