


About the Trail Sections

For full descriptions, visit the **Elk Valley Trail Kiosks** which are indicated on the reverse side map with this symbol 

Round Prairie to Elkford (Mountain Walk Trail)

LENGTH OF TRAIL SECTION: Elkford (Mountain Walk) to Round Prairie Upper Elk Valley 7.6km / Mountain Walk to Elkford Kiosk at Fording Highway 2.4km

TYPE OF TRAIL: Forest Service Road to the north. The Mountain Walk Trail is a graded, dirt trail.

Elkford to Line Creek

LENGTH OF TRAIL SECTION: Elkford Kiosk at Fording Highway to Line Creek Kiosk 18.5km

TYPE OF TRAIL: A 1.6 km. trail connects Fording River Road to Sulphur Springs Road. 4.2 km of trail combined with low volume forestry road.

Line Creek to Lower Elk Valley Road

LENGTH OF TRAIL SECTION: Line Creek Kiosk to Lower Elk Valley Road Kiosk 17.8km

TYPE OF TRAIL: Road and gravel trail.

Lower Elk Valley Road to Sparwood

LENGTH OF TRAIL SECTION: Lower Elk Valley Road Kiosk to Sparwood Kiosk 5.9km

TYPE OF TRAIL: Gravel trail to Sparwood.

Sparwood to Hosmer

LENGTH OF TRAIL SECTION: Sparwood Kiosk to Hosmer Kiosk 19.2km

TYPE OF TRAIL: Primarily singletrack trail with approximately 5km of low volume roads, connecting to Stephenson Road in Hosmer.

Hosmer to Fernie

LENGTH OF TRAIL SECTION: Hosmer Kiosk to Fernie Aquatic Centre Kiosk 15km

TYPE OF TRAIL: Approximately 6km of hydro access road and 9 km of singletrack trail.

Fernie to Morrissey

LENGTH OF TRAIL SECTION: Fernie Aquatic Centre Kiosk to Morrissey Kiosk 18.5km

TYPE OF TRAIL: Approximately 8km of gravel road, decommissioned road and/or gravel forestry road, and 10km of single track trail.

Morrissey to Elko

LENGTH OF TRAIL SECTION: Morrissey Kiosk to Elko Kiosk 35km

TYPE OF TRAIL: All gravel forestry road

Elko

LENGTH OF TRAIL SECTION: Elko Kiosk to Morrissey Kiosk 35km

TYPE OF TRAIL: Gravel forestry road

Getting out on the Elk Valley Trail around each town

Elkford

The Elk Valley Trail is easily accessible from the Town Centre, and can be traced both north and south from here.

Heading north: From behind the Aquatic Centre, follow the Boivin Creek Trail upstream. Cross Fording Drive and follow the trail through Peace Park. This trail will spill out onto the gravel section of Natal Road, which you can follow uphill to the Mountain Walk Kiosk located on the right side of the road. This trail extends 7.6 km north from the kiosk to Round Prairie where you can continue on towards the Elk Pass/Alberta Border or turn south onto the Upper Elk Valley Road back towards town.

Heading south: From behind the Aquatic Centre, take the Boivin Creek Crossover Bridge and follow the trail south until it intersects Boivin Road. Turn left onto Boivin Road until it intersects Alpine Way. Turn left again until you reach the 4-way intersection on Highway #43. From there go straight and cross the Elk River and in another 80 m the Elk Valley Trail diverts onto Lost Lake Road, which will head south towards the Sulphur Springs and the Line Creek Kiosk. You can also choose to take the Lost and Lily Lake trails from this trailhead instead which make a nice loop.

Sparwood

Beginning at the Titan Truck / Tourist Info Site, follow the signage to the Middletown #3 Underpass, where the Elk Valley Trail connects to the Mountain Shadows Trail. The trail skirts around the Golf Course, and then continues above the Campground. Singletrack has been constructed from here to Hosmer, where trail users may continue along mixed road and single track for 15 km to Fernie or return to Sparwood.

Alternatively, the Elk Valley Trail can be navigated to the North from the same starting point. Follow Aspen Drive to the Highway 43 junction to join onto the Lilac Trail, where it intersects Pine Ave. A paved trail across the CPR crossing and Elk River Bridge comes out on Matevic Road. Travel about 1km east to where the Cypress Trail climbs up into the forest, below Sparwood Heights. Descend to Highway 43, traveling north to the Wilson Creek bridge, and you will arrive at the Lower Elk Valley Road Kiosk. From here the Elk Valley Trail meanders around a broad meadow towards the Elk River. Follow this trail for 3.2km before returning to the Lower Elk Valley Road where you can continue north to Elkford or return to Sparwood.

Fernie

To access the Elk Valley Trail south section, start at the Fernie Aquatic Centre Trail Hub on Pine Avenue. The Coal Creek Heritage Trail projects upstream, traversing the slope above the "Old Landfill". It departs to the south and crosses Coal Creek at the River Road Extension bridge, then re-establishes itself as it joins the Montane Trail network. Follow the signage as you circumnavigate below Castle Mountain to end up on a long stretch, (8.5km) of recommissioned forest road. Newly constructed single track takes off to the left and makes its way 4.5km to connect with Cokato Road. One can return home on the road, or retrace your track on the trail to get back to Fernie.

The trail to the north is comprised of existing trails, namely the Kootenay Elk and Old Stumpy Trails which connect to the recently upgraded Coal Discovery Trail. At a distance of 6.5km the trail crosses Deadfall where a turn downhill to the left will lead across the Hydro line and then back to town by the Golf Course.

About the Elk Valley/ Trans Canada Trail

The longest recreational trail in the world, the Trans Canada Trail offers a range of activities through a variety of landscapes embodying the vastness of our country and the diversity of its people. 24,000 kilometres of trails stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic Oceans link Canadians in close to 1,000 communities.

The Elk Valley Trail (EVT) is one of these links, connecting the Elk Lakes/ High Rockies Trail to the Cranbrook/Wardner Trail. It is the gateway to British Columbia from the east. The EVT traverses over mountainsides and through the Elk River Valley while providing a combination of single-track, backcountry roads and existing community trails to create an impressive 130 kilometre, signed route.

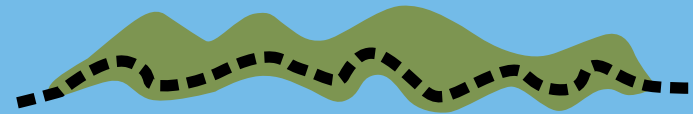


The residents of Fernie, Hosmer, Sparwood, Elkford and the Elk Valley welcome trail users to enjoy the Rocky Mountains' natural beauty. The EVT passes through private properties whose owners have allowed the trail to be constructed on their lands. Please respect this privilege and leave only footprints.

The EVT is a multi-use trail and non-motorized.

Distances

- To **Elk Pass/Alberta Border** from **Round Prairie 70km**
- From **Round Prairie Upper Elk Valley** to **Mountain Walk 7.5km**
- From **Mountain Walk** to **Elkford Kiosk at Fording Highway 2.5km**
- From **Elkford Fording Highway** to **Line Creek Kiosk 18.5km**
- From **Line Creek Fording River** to **Lower Elk Valley Road Kiosk 18km**
- From **Lower Elk Valley Road** to **Sparwood Kiosk 6km**
- From **Sparwood** to **Hosmer Kiosk 19km**
- From **Hosmer** to **Fernie Kiosk 15km**
- From **Fernie Coal Creek** to **Morrissey Kiosk 18.5km**
- From **Morrissey Cokato** to **Elko Kiosk 35km**



Elk Valley Trail


A 130 kilometre section of the Trans Canada Trail connecting the communities of Elkford, Sparwood, Fernie and Elko to the Cranbrook/Wardner Trail to the South and the High Rockies Trail at Elk Pass to the North





MULTI-USE • NON-MOTORIZED

Venture Out and Discover

Discover these sites along the way! 

ELKFORD / MOUNTAIN WALK

Pristine natural wilderness is highlighted by proximity to the Elk Lakes Provincial Park, Koko Claims snowmobiling area, world class fly-fishing on the Elk River, a local ski hill and a full range of community recreational amenities.

ELK RIVER AND FORDING RIVER

The significance of the Elk River and Fording River confluence cannot be understated. As First Nations and early explorers ventured into the thick undergrowth of the Elk Valley, the navigable waters were the paths of least resistance. This location was undoubtedly a place to camp, hunt, fish and otherwise prepare for the journey upstream to discover the natural treasures that awaited.

SPARWOOD

Sparwood is the first BC town encountered on Highway 3 when travelling from Alberta and has an enduring community spirit, a reputation for world class hunting and fishing, and a collective community passion for outdoor adventure. Visitors should take the time to stop by the **TEREX Titan**, the world's largest tandem axle truck, situated at the Sparwood Visitor Centre.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FERNIE

Whether it is magnificent forests, historically significant coal reserves, the fish and wildlife populations, or its hard-working people, Fernie has developed and preserved a thriving social and cultural community. The **historic downtown business district** is testament to this enduring spirit. Connected by trails that radiate out from its core, the surrounding mountains have attracted many adventurers and explorers and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future.

COTTONWOOD TREES AT MORRISSEY

The **Ancient Cottonwood Interpretive Trail** winds through a grove of the world's oldest-known black cottonwood trees, some of which tower as high as an eight-story building and measure up to 10 metres around. Discovered in 2003, this grove of cottonwood trees rival Canada's famed coastal cedars and firs in both age and girth. Scientists confirmed the ages of the trees, dating the oldest as more than 400 years old. They are by far the oldest known cottonwoods in the world.

MT BROADWOOD CONSERVATION AREA

This 21,000 acre (8,950 hectare) mountain property that was donated to Nature Conservancy Canada by Shell Canada in 1992 is home to a wide variety of species. The **conservation area** protects the wintering grounds of bighorn sheep, elk and mule deer. Other resident wildlife include moose, elk, grizzly and black bear, grey wolf, cougar, wolverine, badger, fisher and the Rocky Mountain tailed frog.

ROUND PRAIRIE

There are several forestry recreation sites along the Elk Valley Forest Service Road including **Round Prairie, Blue Lake, Weary Creek, Riverside and Upper Elk River**. Extending 70 kilometres, this gravel road leads upstream to the source of the Elk River at Elk Lakes Provincial Park.

JOSEPHINE FALLS

The Falls cascade twenty-five metres down a steep canyon carved by the Fording River. From the Falls, embark on the **Lost or Lily Lake Loop Trails**.

SULPHUR SPRINGS

The trail follows the Elk River to one of the early explorer's natural spa areas. Alongside the Elk River, you'll find **Sulphur Springs**. Many years ago, this secluded, natural warm spring was locally famous for its healing properties. **Wildkat Charlie's Bathtub**, a seven-foot trough dug out of a spruce log, still remains.

LOWER ELK VALLEY ROAD

Passing below the Elk View Mine, the **Lower Elk Valley Road** was, at one time, the main highway leading north to Elkford and to the head of the Elk Valley. The area along the trail is rich with wildlife habitat and amazing views of Mt. Washburn, Mt. Salter and Sheep Mountain as well as some incredible pasture land that is home to elk, black bear and moose. Take some time to explore the **Big Ranch Conservation Area**, the **Elk River and the Elk Valley Regional Park** just north of Line Creek. All of these locations are abundant with the region's diverse flora and fauna.

HOSMER

Hosmer's rise to its brief fame began in 1906 when the Canadian Pacific Railway established the Pacific Coal Company to take charge of the mining operation in Hosmer. Most of the old town is gone now but along the nearby mountainside, hidden in the deep brush, lie the magnificent and ghostly **ruins of the mine site**. Forty-six of the original **coke ovens** are still standing today. Up on the mountain you can also find the **old pioneer cemetery**.

COAL CREEK HERITAGE TRAIL - OLD TOWNSITE

The Coal Creek Heritage Trail follows Coal Creek upstream to the **Old Townsite ruins**. Heritage interpretive panels along the path provide the adventurous with an insight into the lives and culture of Fernie's past. Enjoy your exploration!

COKE OVEN RUINS AT MORRISSEY

Morrissey is like many 'ghost' towns in the Elk Valley which sprung up around the coal mines and died after the reserves became exhausted, unprofitable or simply too much effort to maintain. Evidence of Morrissey's mining past can be discovered at the **coke oven ruins** located upstream alongside Morrissey Creek.

THE LODGEPOLE - RAM CREEK - WIGWAM RIVER

Situated in the midst of natural grandeur the **Wigwam River** is home to some of the largest cutthroat trout in southeastern British Columbia and is the single most important bull trout spawning system in the Kootenay Region. Sockeye (kokanee) salmon were introduced in the early 1970s. The Wigwam River and Lodgepole Creek are open for catch and release fly fishing.

LEGEND

