

FAQs

Elkwater Lake Marina Refurbishment

Cypress Hills Provincial Park Summary of Project

Where is the Elkwater Lake Marina?

The Elkwater Lake Marina is located within Cypress Hills Provincial Park (CHPP) near the Elkwater townsite. The park is located 65 km south of Medicine Hat, on the Alberta-Saskatchewan border, with the land base found on either side.

The marina is on the south side of Elkwater Lake, located next to the beach and close to the visitor centre.

What is the project?

Alberta Forestry and Parks is refurbishing the marina and increasing water access which includes the following:

- new floating dock to replace the old fixed docks;
- new land berm fixed breakwater;
- repaired boat launch ramp;
- new concrete boardwalks and repaired wood lookouts;
- sheet piles added to east, north and south interior seawall;
- an increase from 39 to 46 boat slips and adjusted width for modern boats;
- rental shop relocation to better serve the public; and
- hand launch installation in a safe location for kayaks, canoes and other self-propelled watercraft.

Why is Alberta Forestry and Parks refurbishing the marina?

The existing marina is over 40 years old and at the end of its serviceable life. Despite receiving regular maintenance over the years, the structural timbers and wood walkways have failed, and a full refurbishment is required.

Will the marina be closed during construction?

Yes. To accommodate construction and ensure the safety of Albertans, the marina will be closed for the entire 2025 season.

What does the area closure include?

The area closure includes the following:

- West marina parking lot (laydown area)
- Northwest beach area
- Complete marina footprint:
 - Loading ramp;
 - Marina boardwalk;
 - West lookout;
 - Grassed area around the washrooms; and
 - boat and boat stall rentals, and bike rentals.

What areas can I access around the Marina?

The washrooms and central parking lot will be open, as well as the main beach area and grassed area south of the beach. Parking areas adjacent to 4th Avenue will also be open for public access.

How long will construction take?

Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in April 2025 with completion expected in October 2025. Alberta Forestry and Parks will update the final schedule on www.albertaparks.ca/advisories. The full area closure will be in effect until construction is complete.

Why can't the work be completed in the fall and winter?

With the stabilization of the shorelines and removal of in-water components of the marina, the schedule has been finalized to meet federal *Fisheries Act* requirements and allow for work to be completed in warmer conditions. Some materials will also require warmer temperatures to complete installation safely.

What happens if I enter the closed construction zone?

If the contractor encounters you in the construction zone, they must stop work, and they will notify conservation officers that you are in the construction zone. Conservation officers will charge anyone found in the closure area. To support completion of this project in 2025, and to keep everyone safe, please stay out of the closed area.

With the marina boat launch closed for construction where can I launch my boat into the lake?

The Firerock boat launch located on the west side of Elkwater Lake, will remain open for recreational boaters. There is also a hand launch area on the east side of the beach, near the old bike and boat building, that is used for canoes, paddle boards and other small personal crafts.

See attached Figure 2: Elkwater Lake Marina Construction Map

I previously rented a slip to store my boat while it is not being used. Where should I dock my boat during construction?

The rental slips will be removed during construction. All boats will need to be removed from the water while not in use. The parking lot on the south side of the road by the beach is an alternative short-term location for boat and trailer parking while not in the water. Firerock boat launch parking lot is another alternative staging and short-term parking location.

See attached Figure 3: Elkwater Lake Map

Figure 3: Elkwater Lake Map

