

West Bragg Creek All Season Trail Plan Implementation Project Summary

Version: January 24, 2012

The West Bragg Creek All Season Trail Plan (WBCASTP) was formally approved by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation (TPR) on September 14th, 2010.

The WBCASTP was developed with the twin goals of improving the visitor experience with the development of a multi-use all season trail system, while minimizing the environmental impact of recreational use. The Plan provides for the expansion and upgrading of the West Bragg Creek Trail System in Kananaskis Country to better meet the needs of all types of non-motorized users while reducing impacts on the local watershed. The Plan includes 47 km of new multi-use all season trails for hiking, biking and horse-back riding (also snow shoeing in winter), 8 km of new snowshoe trails, 17 km of new cross country ski trails, widening of several existing ski trails for skate skiing and other improvements. The West Bragg Creek area has seen dramatic growth in summer and winter use in recent years. However, the existing trails were originally developed over 30 years ago for winter cross country ski use only.

The implementation of the Plan is being led by the GBCTA in partnership with TPR, the Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance (CMBA), Friends of Kananaskis Country and others. Implementation commenced in September 2010 using a collaborative approach and will proceed as financial and volunteer resources permit. The estimated cost to construct the 72 km of new trails is \$ 600,000. The estimated number of volunteer hours to construct the new trails is 3,000.

The Snowshoe Hare Loop, a 5.4 km snowshoe trail, was completed in November 2010 and has been extremely popular since then.

As of December 31, 2011, 44.5 km of the new multi-use all season trails have been cleared and 32 km of trail tread has been constructed. The balance of the tread construction and trail clearing will be completed in the summer of 2012, provided sufficient funds are secured. 11 new bridges over creeks were installed as part of the trail construction. Over 500 trail marker signs have been installed on completed trails. Temporary map signs have been installed at trail heads and most trail junctions. Approval was obtained from TPR for trail names for all the new multi-use all season trails.

Funding of \$ 260,000 for this project was raised from a variety of sources. \$ 245,000 has been expended on the project to date. The WBCASTP can be viewed at:

<http://tpr.alberta.ca/parks/consult/braggCreek/FinalWestBraggCreekTrailsPlan.pdf>

Two temporary maps showing the new multi-use all season trails and the existing ski and snowshoe trails can be viewed at:

http://www.braggcreekski.org/GBCTA_Ski/Trail_Maps_files/WBC%20South%20RGB%20%2824x24%29%2020111222.pdf and
http://www.braggcreekski.org/GBCTA_Ski/Trail_Maps_files/WBC%20North%20RGB%20%2824x24%29%2020111222_1.pdf

If you are interested in providing financial support to implement the Plan, please contact Eric Lloyd of the Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association at elloyd@davincibb.net, (403) 949-2696 or Box 442, Bragg Creek AB, T0L 0K0.

To be added to our volunteer list, please contact Rod Saville at rsaville@barrick-energy.com or (403) 513-2451.