



BC Parks

August 18, 2025

## TRAIL REPORT – Golden Ears Provincial Park

### SAFETY ADVISORY – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Plan ahead - ensure you have enough time to return before dark - Visit [adventuresmart.ca](https://adventuresmart.ca)
- Carry your 10 essentials and know how to use them
- Natural hazards such as exposed rocks, windfalls and dead standing trees may be encountered on all trails at any time - Use at your own risk
- Gulleys and creek lead away from safety – STAY ON THE TRAIL - to prevent trail braiding and impacts to the environment
- Wildlife including Bears are actively feeding in the area – Use caution
- Drone use is not permitted without a permit - <https://bcparks.ca/visiting/parks-and-drones>
- Garbage removal service is not available. Please help by packing out all your garbage as well as any garbage left behind by others  
Pit toilets are located at all Backcountry campsites. Do not deposit garbage into pit toilets. Practice Leave No Trace principles: Pack it in, Pack it out.  
For more information on Backcountry Camping please visit: [Backcountry camping - Province of British Columbia | BC Parks](https://bcparks.ca/visiting/backcountry-camping)
- Bear proof containers are for overnight users to store of food and scented items only, they are not for use as garbage receptacles. Always bring bear hang equipment in case storage receptacles are full or damaged.
- Fires in the backcountry of BC Parks are prohibited
- Unless noted otherwise, the use of all styles of ATVs is prohibited in Provincial Parks.
- Always remember to have pets on a leash for their safety and the safety of others.

## Trail Difficulty Definitions

The ratings are determined based on the length of the trail section, change in elevation and trail type for the average Park Visitor, distances and time are only estimates.

### Trail Type Rating:

Type I	1.5 to 2.5 m wide	Paved, crushed gravel or board walk, less than 10% grade
Type II	1.5 m wide	Gravel surfacing in wet areas, up to 15% grade
Type III	0.5 m wide	Grade greater than 15%
Type IV	up to 0.3 m wide	Lightly used wilderness trail, tread as worn not grubbed out, infrequent maintenance

### Trail Difficulty Rating:

E	Easy
M	Moderate
S	Strenuous

TRAIL/CAMPSITE	CONDITIONS	REGULATIONS <small>*Ctrl+click here for all regulations</small>	DESCRIPTION
Lower Falls Trail	<span style="color: red;">◆</span> <b>OPEN/GOOD</b> 2.6 km – 1hrs – Elev. Gain 87m (Last assessed Apr 2025)	  Trail Type: I / Trail Rating: E	Gold Creek Parking Lot to Lower Gold Creek Falls. A popular easy walk along Gold Creek to the 10 metre high Lower Falls. <b>Waterfalls are dangerous, please do not swim in the falls. Trail is in good condition.</b>
Connector Trail Loop	<span style="color: red;">◆</span> <b>OPEN/CAUTION</b> 6.2 km – 3 hrs – Elev. gain 142m (Last assessed Nov 2024)	  Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: M	Steep and challenging section connecting Lower Falls and East Canyon trail. <b>Poor trail conditions along trail section closest to Lower Falls, use caution when navigating.</b>

<b>East Canyon Trail</b>	<b>◆ OPEN / CAUTION</b> <b>3.7 km (to bridge) 4.5 km (to Viewpoint Beach) 9.5 km (to Halfmoon Beach)</b> (Last assessed Apr 2025)	 	<p>Trail Type: II / Trail Rating: M</p>	<p>Gold Creek Parking Lot to Gold Creek Connector Bridge. Follow the logging road north to great views of the Golden Ears and Panorama Ridge to the west (minimal elevation change).</p> <p><b>Easy to moderate grade approach to the Gold Creek Connector Bridge. Trail erosion at 1.5km mark, use caution. Erosion and uneven surfaces on trail surface. Debris can be found near creek crossings. Please use caution.</b></p>
<b>Viewpoint Beach (East Canyon Trail)</b>	<b>◆ OPEN / CAUTION</b> <b>4.5 km – 2hrs – Elev. gain 165m</b> (Last assessed Apr 2025)	 	<p>Trail Type: II / Trail Rating: M</p>	<p>Gold Creek Parking Lot to Viewpoint Beach. Follow the logging road north to Viewpoint Beach and great views of the Golden Ears and Panorama Ridge to the west (suggested hiking time one-way 2 hours, elevation change minimal).</p> <p><b>Easy to moderate grade approach to Viewpoint Beach campsite. follow trail southeast from main beach. Trail erosion at 1.5km mark, use caution. Erosion and uneven surfaces on trail surface. Debris can be found near creek crossings. Please use caution.</b></p>
<b>Half Moon Beach (East Canyon Trail)</b>	<b>◆ OPEN / CAUTION</b> <b>9.7 km – 4hrs – Elev. gain 211 m</b> (Last assessed Apr 2025)	 	<p>Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: M</p>	<p>Trail continues past Viewpoint Beach, following Gold Creek through old growth cedar forest.</p> <p><b>Easy to moderate grade approach to Halfmoon Beach campsite. During early spring and after fall rainfall events this trail can become flooded, making access difficult during high water.</b></p>
<b>Hector Ferguson Lake (East Canyon Trail)</b>	<b>◆ OPEN / POOR</b> <b>14.6 km - 7.5hrs – Elev. gain 682m</b> (Last assessed Sept 2022)	 <p>Trail Type: IV / Trail Rating: S</p>		<p>This unmaintained portion of trail continues along Gold Creek for approx. 1km until a crossing of Gold Creek is required to reach the rest of the trail.</p> <p><b>Extensive blowdown past Halfmoon Beach will make access challenging. Trail in relatively good condition passed the Gold Creek crossing. No facilities at Hector Ferguson Lake. Please practices safe and responsible wilderness camping if you decide to camp here.</b></p>
<b>West Canyon Trail</b>	<b>◆ CLOSED / CAUTION</b> <b>5.3 km (to Gold Creek bridge) 5.7 km (to Alder Flats)</b> (Last assessed Nov 2024)			<p>West Canyon Trail: West Canyon Parking Lot to Alder Flats. The trail follows an old logging road for approximately 3 km and then becomes a rough trail that swings into the Golden Ears Valley (suggested hiking time one-way 2 hours).</p> <p><b>Trail closed near West Canyon Parking Lot. Alternate access via East Canyon Trail at Gold Creek Parking Lot. Do not attempt to traverse washout sections.</b></p>

		 Trail Type: II / Trail Rating: M	<p>Evans Creek has a large amount of debris in the area. The foot bridge at Evans Creek is no longer usable. Unstable rock and wood piles approximately 100 meters wide at Evans Creek.</p> <p>Sections of this trail can gather water making the trail muddy and swamped after and during rain events.</p>
<b>Hikers Beach (West Canyon Trail)</b>	<span style="color: red;">◆</span> <b>PARTIALLY CLOSED / CAUTION</b> 5.3 km – 2hrs – Elev. gain 230m (Last assessed Nov 2024)	 Trail Type: II / Trail Rating: M	<p>From West canyon parking lot, this trail follows an old logging road for approximately 3 km and then becomes a rough trail that swings into the Golden Ears Valley (suggested hiking time one-way 2 hours).</p> <p><b>Trail access closed near West Canyon Parking Lot. Alternate access via East Canyon Trail at Gold Creek Parking Lot.</b></p> <p>Evans Creek has a large amount of debris in the area. The foot bridge at Evans Creek is no longer usable. Unstable rock and wood piles approximately 100 meters wide at Evans Creek.</p> <p>Sections of this trail can gather water making the trail muddy and swamped after and during rain events.</p>
<b>Alder Flats (West Canyon Trail)</b>	<span style="color: red;">◆</span> <b>PARTIALLY CLOSED / CAUTION</b> 5.7 km – 4hrs – Elev. gain 348m (Last assessed Nov 2024)	 Trail Type: II / Trail Rating: M	<p>From West canyon parking lot, this trail follows an old logging road for approximately 3 km and then becomes a rough trail that swings into the Golden Ears Valley (suggested hiking time one-way 2 hours).</p> <p><b>Trail access closed near West Canyon Parking Lot. Alternate access via East Canyon Trail at Gold Creek Parking Lot.</b></p> <p>Evans Creek has a large amount of debris in the area. The foot bridge at Evans Creek is no longer usable. Unstable rock and wood piles approximately 100 meters wide at Evans Creek.</p> <p>Sections of this trail can gather water making the trail muddy and swamped after and during rain events.</p>
<b>Golden Ears Trail (West Canyon)</b>	<span style="color: red;">◆</span> <b>PARTIALLY CLOSED / CAUTION</b>	 Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: S	<p>Golden Ears Trail: Strenuous and difficult hike to the summit of the North Ear by way of Alder Flats and Panorama Ridge. It requires backcountry experience, route finding skills and navigation equipment. Follow the West</p>

	<p><b>11.8 km – 7hrs – Elev. gain 1644m</b> (Last assessed July 2024)</p>		<p>Canyon Trail to Alder Flats to reach the Golden Ears trailhead (estimated time one-way 7 hours).</p> <p>Minor stairway repair required at 49.369057, -122.482239, material requirements documented. Extensive erosion in two areas at 49.370490, -122.480956. Use caution when traversing. Heavy snow at high elevations during spring/early summer. Please practice avalanche safety.</p> <p><b>Trail access closed near West Canyon Parking Lot. Alternate access via East Canyon Trail at Gold Creek Parking Lot. Trail requires assessment following atmospheric river event</b></p>
<b>Viking Viewpoint Trail</b>	<p> <b>CLOSED</b> <b>4.1 km – 2hrs – Elev. gain 235m</b> (Last assessed Nov 2024)</p>	 Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: M	<p>West Canyon Parking Lot to partial views of Alouette Lake and in wetter seasons a picturesque waterfall can be seen tumbling down from the Viking Creek Viewpoint.</p> <p>Trailhead at .33 km on West Canyon Trail. (1.7 km, suggested hiking time one-way 1 hour, elevation change 175 m) One challenging gully to cross.</p> <p><b>Trail access closed near West Canyon Parking Lot.</b></p>
<b>Mike Lake Trail</b>	<p> <b>OPEN / GOOD</b> <b>4.1 km – 2hrs – Elev. gain 170m</b> (Last assessed Nov 2024)</p>	  Trail Type: II / Trail Rating: E	<p>Main Horse Corral near the Park entrance to Mike Lake. Mike Lake was once a thriving logging camp home to some 600 or more men who logged the area in the 1920s. (suggested hiking time one-way 2 hours).</p> <p><b>Gradual elevation gain</b></p>
<b>Menzies Trail</b>	<p> <b>CLOSED</b> <b>8.7 km – 4.5hrs – Elev. gain 165m</b> (Last assessed Nov 2024)</p>	  Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: E	<p>Park Headquarters to Gold Creek Parking Lot. Access to trailhead is approximately 100 metres up the Mike Lake Road by Park Headquarters. This trail was used as rail spur for logging operations in the 1920s. This is a viewpoint offering a glimpse through the treetops to the south of Alouette Lake and down to the dam. (suggested hiking time one-way 4.5 hours, elevation change minimal).</p> <p><b>Trail closed along all sections on Northern side of parkway. Do not attempt to traverse washout sections. Large amounts of rock &amp; debris blocking trail.</b></p> <p>Some creek crossings can be impassable in the fall.</p>

<b>Alouette Valley Trail</b>	<span style="color: red;">◆</span> <b>PARTIALLY OPEN / CAUTION</b> <b>7.2 km – 3.5hrs – Elev. gain 188m</b> (Last assessed Nov 2024)	    Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: E	Main Horse Corral to Menzies Trail junction. Trailhead located at the Main Horse Corral. At .8 kilometre the trail crosses over to the side of the Parkway and heads north (7 km, suggested hiking time one-way 3.5 hours, elevation change minimal). <p style="color: red;"><b>Trail closed at approximately 5 km (gps: 49.27932 / -122.51071); Landslide has destroyed a short section of the trail. There are also multiple down trees across the trail. Foot bridges are damaged. Do not attempt to traverse washout sections.</b></p>
<b>Scouts Bay Trail</b>	<span style="color: red;">◆</span> <b>CLOSED</b> <b>1.3 km – 0.5hrs – Elev. gain 0m</b> (Last assessed Nov 2024)	    Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: E	Scout Bay Trail is a 1 km trail providing access to Scouts Bay campsite. Access off Golden Ears parkway. <p style="color: red;"><b>Water erosion has destroyed a short section of the trail. Do not attempt to traverse washout sections.</b></p> <p>A large sinkhole has swallowed the entire width of the trail at approximately km 0.1, (49.31406, -122.47709) . Large trees are leaning towards the sinkhole on both side of the trail. Do not attempt to traverse washout section.</p>
<b>Scouts Bay</b>	<span style="color: red;">◆</span> <b>CLOSED</b> <b>1.3 km – 0.5hrs – Elev. gain 0m</b> (Last assessed Nov 2024)	  Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: E	Access from Scouts Bay trail off Golden Ears parkway. <p style="color: red;"><b>Water erosion has destroyed a short section of the trail. Do not attempt to traverse washout sections.</b></p> <p>A large sinkhole has swallowed the entire width of the trail at approximately km 0.1, (49.31406, -122.47709) . Large trees are leaning towards the sinkhole on both side of the trail. Do not attempt to traverse washout section.</p>
<b>Mike Lake Loop</b>	<span style="color: red;">◆</span> <b>OPEN / GOOD</b> <b>2.1 km – 1hrs – Elev. gain 43m</b> (Last assessed Nov 2024)	  Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: E	Mike Lake Loop Trail circles Mike Lake. The 2km loop has little elevation gain. The trail has swampy and exposed root sections and goes through the UBC Malcolm Knapp research forest. <p style="color: red;"><b>Trail has exposed roots, and muddy sections.</b></p>
<b>Alouette Mt. Fire Access Road</b>	<span style="color: red;">◆</span> <b>OPEN / CAUTION</b> <b>5.6 km – 3hrs - Elev. gain 454m</b> (Last assessed August 2025)		The Alouette Mt. Fire Access Road (AMFAR) is most commonly accessed at its junction from the top of the Incline Trail. From this junction, this old forestry road slowly climbs Alouette Mt. for 5.6km. A lookout to Alouette Lake is located

		Trail Type: II / Trail Rating: M	near the end of this road. <b>Bridge out 3km up fire access road, just beyond Alouette Mountain trial connecter. USE EXTREME CAUTION</b>  <b>Long moderate elevation gain. Used to access Alouette Mountain.</b>
<b>Incline Trail</b>	 <b>OPEN / CAUTION</b> 1.1 km – 0.5hrs - Elev. gain 185 m (Last assessed Apr 2025)	 Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: M	Mike Lake to Alouette Mountain Fire Access Trail. Trailhead 150 m back along Mike Lake Road from the Parking Lot. This shortcut eliminated 5 kilometres of the railroad haul down the mountain.  <b>This steep trail follows the shortcut that was once used by loggers as a route to 'skyline' huge logs down to the bottom of the mountain.</b>
<b>Lookout &amp; Loop Trail</b>	 <b>OPEN / GOOD</b> 2.8 km – 2hrs - Elev. gain 115 m (Last assessed Nov 2024)	 Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: M	Providing a circular hike to the Lookout on Menzies Trail. Trails begin on the west side of the Parkway near the entrance to the South Beach Day-use area. Park at Spirea nature trail parking lot.
<b>Eric Dunning Trail</b>	 <b>OPEN / FAIR</b> 1.3km – 1hrs – Elev. gain 160 m (Last assessed Nov 2024)	 Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: M	Mike Lake Road to Incline Trail junction. Access trailhead approximately 200 metres up Mike Lake Road. Small parking lot available near trailhead.  <b>Mountain Bike Trail primary, erosion issues – use with caution if hiking.</b>
<b>Alouette Mt. Trail</b>	 <b>Closed/Unknown</b> 9.8 km – 5hrs - Elev. gain 1,117 m (Last assessed Sept 2024)	   Trail Type: III / Trail Rating: S	Alouette Mountain Trail: This is a strenuous hike to the top of Alouette Mountain from Mike Lake. It requires backcountry experience and proper equipment. Take the Alouette Mountain fire Access Trail to the trailhead for the least strenuous route.  Sections of this trail can gather water making the trail muddy and swamped after and during rain events. Heavy snow at high elevations during early spring/summer. Please practice avalanche safety.  <b>Trail requires assessment following atmospheric river event</b>

Pit toilets are located at all Backcountry campsites. Do not deposit garbage into pit toilets. Practice Leave No Trace principles: Pack it in, Pack it out.

For more information on Backcountry Camping please visit: [Backcountry camping - Province of British Columbia | BC Parks](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/travel/backcountry-camping)

BC Parks is a smoke free environment. As of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, smoking of any kind (e-devices included) is prohibited in all areas outside of designated campsites.

Campfires are prohibited in backcountry campsites at all times. Do not gather wood, break off branches, or damage live trees in any way to build a fire

