



Office of the Superintendent
Jasper Field Unit
P.O. Box 10
Jasper, Alberta
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April 7, 2022

Trevor Wilson

Subject: Athabasca Pass trail in Jasper National Park

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for your recent letter inquiring about plans for maintenance of the Athabasca Pass trail in Jasper National Park.

The remote and rustic nature of Athabasca Pass has resulted in very low levels of annual trail usage and demand over the past several decades. In a park like Jasper, with approximately 1000 km of trail to look after, the park's limited capacity and resources for trail projects are applied to trails which see the highest levels of use. Like other very low use wilderness routes in the park, Athabasca Pass is a low priority when evaluated against the wide spectrum of official trails and wilderness routes in Jasper National Park. At the present time, including for the 2022 summer season and in the near future, the Athabasca Pass trail will not be receiving enhanced maintenance efforts such as those requested in your letter.

In regards to your request for facilitating a bridge at Simon Creek, Parks Canada is unlikely to undertake a bridge replacement project at this site in the immediate future. Beyond the construction of the bridge itself comes a number of additional commitments such as: conducting an impact assessment, project management, construction and routine inspections and many years of ongoing maintenance. These would be requirements that the park is unable to provide or commit to at this time.

I realize that this information will not be the news that you and members of the ACC wanted to hear. Please be aware that Parks Canada does appreciate and value the contributions and dedication of volunteers like yourself and the agency's deeply established working relationship with the Alpine Club of Canada.

Yours truly,

Alan Fehr
Field Unit Superintendent

CC: Keith Sanford, Interim Executive Director, Alpine Club of Canada