

Lake Louise: Input Required before March 9

February 5, 2026



Back in the Saddle: photo by Matt Laird

Parks is looking for feedback on visitor management using up to 3 surveys found [here](#).

The general problem is that both Lake Louise and Moraine Lake see an unbelievable amount of traffic - more than the current infrastructure can handle. If you've tried to climb at either of these destinations in recent years, you're probably well aware of the access issues:

- 1. Limited, expensive parking:** Show up at dawn to have a hope of getting parking and then wait for passable climbing conditions.
- 2. Ineffective, inconvenient shuttles:** Booking is difficult and rigidity is forced into planning. Plus, if you miss your shuttle, especially the one down, you are looking at a very long walk.

Provide your feedback to Parks and voice that their one-size-fits-all approaches to handling crowds will catch climbers (and other mountain-folk) in the crossfire. While we are tourists, we are a distinct subgroup that can be held to a different standard of planning and access.

Even if you don't climb at Lake Louise anymore, please fill out the survey(s) and look out for climbers coming up through the ranks. Lake Louise has world class climbing, and uniquely in the Bow Valley, it actually takes gear, and hosts moderate climbs that don't have ankle-breaking ledge fall risk.

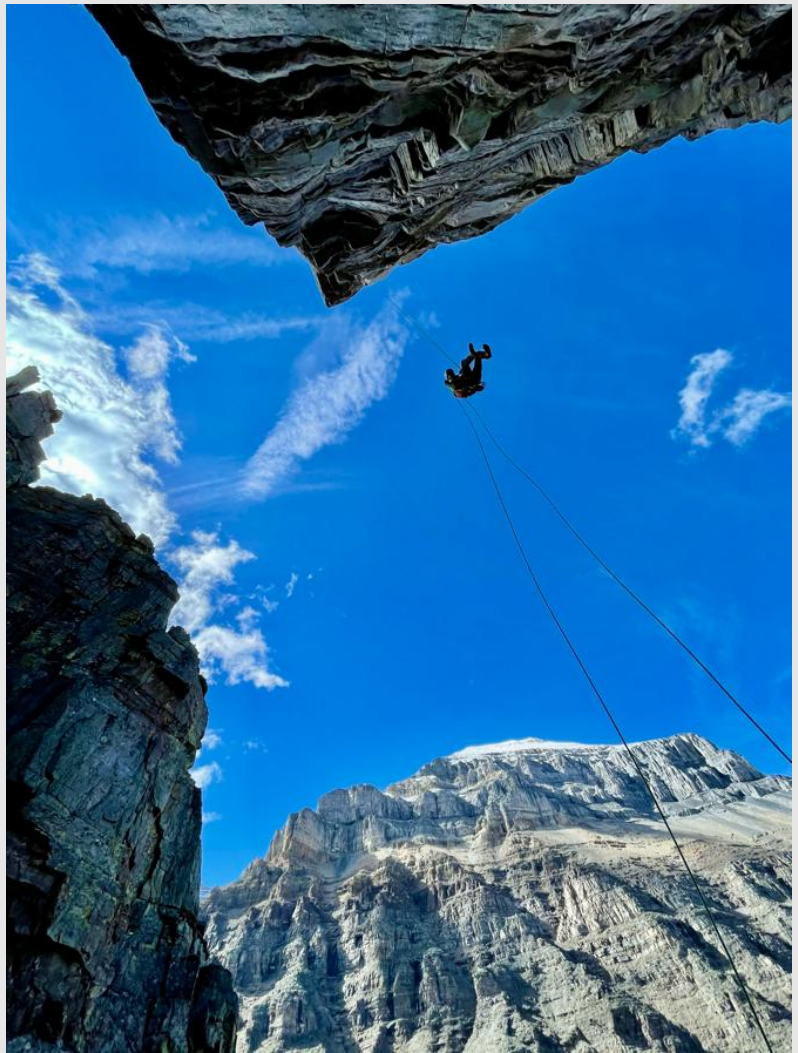
Suggested points to include in your answers below.

We encourage you to use your own words and contribute your own ideas.

Upper Lake Louise:

State that you visit Lake Louise for its world class climbing

- Good planning for climbing involves flexibility to accommodate conditions and manage risk
- Proposed strategies don't actually aim to reduce the number of visitors, but rather make visiting more logistically challenging
- There are already problems with booking shuttles
- Separate strategies are needed to accommodate long-stay visitors like climbers, medium-stay visitors like Beehive hikers, and short-stay visitors like those who go to the edge of the lake for a picture and then leave.



Cardiac Arête: photo by Matt Laird

Moraine Lake access point:

- Moraine Lake has world class alpine climbing, including the Grand Sentinel.
- The current shuttle system has effectively cut off access to alpine objectives in the region which require an exceptionally early start and may finish well after the last shuttle
- A separate strategy is needed for those who need an early start and have an unpredictable finish time.

Other considerations:

Two additional strategies could be suggested that may have beneficial impacts for both areas as we face a future of increased use:

1. Increase churn: Incentivize short stay visits and provide infrastructure to get people in and out in an organized manner. This may actually reduce the number of people at Upper Lake Louise / Moraine Lake at a given time, and increase the number of people visiting in a day.
2. Develop and promote other areas: Beyond Lake Louise and Moraine Lake being beautiful, they are also incredibly accessible and well known. If Parks developed infrastructure to support high-volume tourism at other destinations, it might help to share the access load. For example, what if there were paved roads up to Boom Lake, Rockbound Lake or Taylor Lake?