ABOUT THE SITE

Today, people descend a steep ravine to reach the base of Ammonite Falls, which is one of the most sought-after views in the park. Over the past several years, awareness of Ammonite Falls has grown and the number of people climbing down to the base continues to increase. This foot traffic has contributed to erosion of the ravine bank and the addition of unauthorized ropes to assist with the climb. Three trail concepts are being evaluated to address environmental impacts and provide a more sustainable access.
**Ammonite Falls Descent**

**OPTION 1**
- Improvements to existing upper trail
- New staircase at location of existing descent

**OPTION 2**
- Improvements to existing upper trail
- New short section of staircase at top of existing descent
- New trail to base

**OPTION 3**
- Completely new trail with switchbacks to base
- No stairs
- Close and restore existing descent route

Pathways routed to minimize impacts to existing trees

Crib stairs added in steep section of trail

Lookout area at base of trail (Option 1)

Existing lookout area with fencing extended

Ammonite Falls

To Main Pathway
OPTION 1: STAIRCASE
An aluminum staircase with timber accents would be built at the end of the trail where people currently scramble down the slope.

STRENGTHS:
» Most direct descent
» Maintains construction footprint within area previously affected by foot traffic
» Potential to incorporate small viewpoints and/or a lookout areas at the base of the stairs

CHALLENGES:
» More visual impacts than other options
» Staircase built on-site, requiring trail closures during construction
» Higher construction cost
» Higher maintenance requirements

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST* (CLASS D): $250,000
* Costs estimates are for construction only, not including detailed design, geotechnical work, or engineering constructions services. Costs are +/- 30% based on conceptual design and are for planning and budgeting purposes only. Updated cost estimating to be completed prior to implementation.
**OPTION 2: STAIRCASE / TRAIL**

A short staircase would be developed where people currently start the scramble down the slope, connecting to a new trail with a more gradual descent to the falls.

**STRENGTHS:**
- Less structure and construction cost than a full staircase
- Maintains existing upper trail route
- Views to the falls during the descent
- Moderate maintenance requirements

**CHALLENGES:**
- Staircase built on-site, requiring trail closures during construction
- Less direct access than a full staircase
- Moderate maintenance requirements

**ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST** *(CLASS D): $115,000*

*Cost estimates are for construction only, not including detailed design, geotechnical work, or engineering construction services. Costs are +/- 30% based on conceptual design and are for planning and budgeting purposes only. Updated cost estimating to be completed prior to implementation.*
**OPTION 3: TRAIL**

A new trail alignment would be developed to provide a more gradual descent starting from the main trail. The new trail would be routed to avoid existing trees and excessively steep slopes wherever possible.

**STRENGTHS:**
- No structures required and lowest construction cost
- Potential for existing routes to remain open during construction
- Lowest maintenance requirements

**CHALLENGES:**
- Longest route
- Trail length increases potential for impacts to undisturbed natural areas
- An additional trail connection is required to connect back to the existing lookout
- Less direct views to the falls during descent

**ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST* (CLASS D):** $80,000

* Costs estimates are for construction only, not including detailed design, geotechnical work, or engineering constructions services. Costs are +/- 30% based on conceptual design and are for planning and budgeting purposes only. Updated cost estimating to be completed prior to implementation.