

Silver Creek Preserve

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SILVER CREEK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT FAQ

Why is TNC doing this project?

Silver Creek is one of the most spectacular natural places in Idaho. However, fluctuations in annual snowpack, higher stream temperatures, aging infrastructure and rapid increases in recreational pressure in the watershed have placed this community landmark in jeopardy.

This project helps to address those threats and continues Silver Creek's legacy as a model for how to solve Idaho's toughest conservation challenges through innovation and community engagement. Renovation of the existing infrastructure, new educational and outreach programming and innovative, science-driven restoration will ensure Silver Creek Preserve remains a place where visitors can recreate, take solace in nature and experience first-hand the benefits of natural resource conservation.

What do I need to know before I visit during this time?

The Visitor Center will be closed for the duration of the construction project. For your safety and the protection of habitat, please follow posted signs and do not enter areas that have been marked off.

Will I still be able to [fish/canoe/recreate] during construction?

Yes! Summer recreation at Silver Creek will still be possible during construction of the Visitor Center, including fishing, hiking, bird watching, canoeing and guided trips. Please watch for sections of trails or trailheads that are temporarily closed during improvements and follow the directions on any posted signage to minimize damage to surrounding habitat. Anglers must use designated fishing access points along Silver Creek to protect sensitive habitat. Guides will not be impacted and are asked to use designated fishing access points.

Please remember to sign in daily when arriving at the Preserve. Instructions for the digital sign-in are posted on the kiosks at Kilpatrick Bridge and Stalker Bridge, as well as on sign boards at other trailheads. Visitors are required to sign in for each visit.

What facilities will be open?

The Visitor Center will be closed during construction. Restroom facilities will remain open and available. Parking is not available at the Visitor Center due to construction traffic and safety closures. Elsewhere on the Preserve, parallel parking along the north side of the road is allowed (with the exception of Kilpatrick Bridge and Stalker Bridge trailheads, where parking on both sides of the road is allowed).

How can I access the trail/creek if the Visitor Center is closed?

You can gain access using the trail that starts at the outhouse just southeast of the Visitor Center – look for posted signs that will guide you to the creek both upstream and downstream of the Visitor Center. In addition, all other trailheads on the preserve remain open.

How long is construction expected to last?

Completion of the Visitor Center is slated for 2022. The facility will be closed to the public during this time. Restoration of upper Stalker Creek is expected to begin in autumn 2021, with construction expected to conclude in late 2022.

Who designed the Visitor Center?

TNC has hired Ketchum-based architect Rebecca F. Bundy to develop the design. As part of the planning process, we are working with Native Landscapes, Inc., and landscape architect Nathan Schutte to support the site planning and landscape design. The architectural and landscape design, with its minimal visual impact and incorporation of native plantings, is intended to blend seamlessly into the Preserve's natural beauty.

Does this project impact wildlife and habitat?

Work by TNC and partners will help sustain and improve this diverse and resilient high desert cold springs aquatic ecosystem and its wild trout fishery. Restoration efforts will include targeted actions that restore stream function, secure stream flows, enhance aquatic habitats and expand riparian buffers.

We have designed the new Visitor Center to fit within the existing footprint of disturbance. We do not anticipate anything more than temporary disturbances to wildlife due to noise during construction. We are also incorporating measures to minimize the risk of disturbance to birds, including adding window glazing and other protection measures to the new facility. Our landscape design for the new Visitor Center includes fire-wise measures such as vegetation breaks around the buildings, and metal skirting around the base of the building and decks to minimize wildfire risk and prevent animals from moving in. Any new impacts to native vegetation will be mitigated through replanting and reseeding after construction.

How can I support this project?

We are working in the Silver Creek Watershed to restore the unique aquatic and riparian ecosystems, sustain the water supply of the springs that feed the creek and its tributaries, enhance the wild trout fishery and provide refuge for an abundance of wildlife. This is a collaborative effort, and we welcome the public's involvement. If you would like to partner with us to re-imagine Silver Creek and build a future for conservation in Idaho, please contact us at silvercreek@tnc.org or make a donation at [nature.org/donateidaho](https://www.nature.org/donateidaho)

Where can I find the latest information?

[Nature.org/silvercreek](https://www.nature.org/silvercreek)