

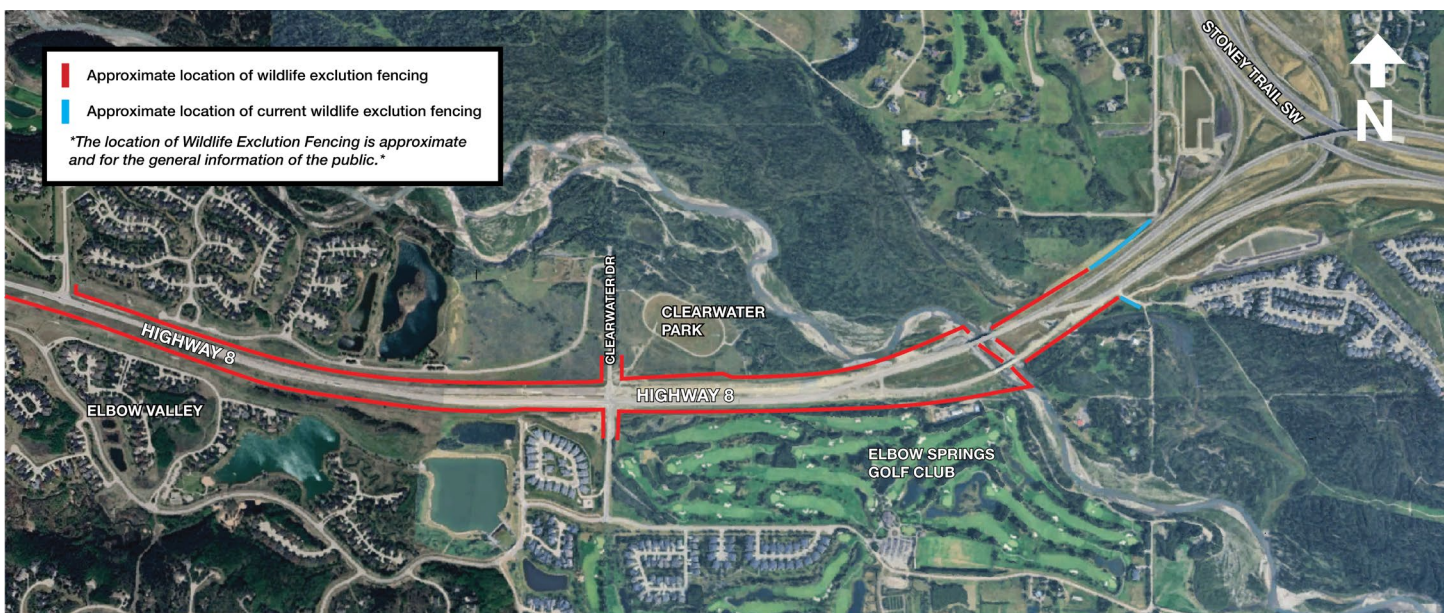
# Highway 8 Improvements

## Eastbound Elbow River Bridge Wildlife Exclusion Fencing

As part of the improvements to Highway 8 and adjacent eastbound Elbow River Bridge, wildlife exclusion fencing is being installed to enhance safety for drivers while ensuring that wildlife can move freely through the Elbow River valley. This area acts as an important corridor for the movement of wildlife, and the installation of exclusion fencing will improve the safety of wildlife as they move through the area.

### Where will wildlife exclusion fencing be installed?

Fencing will be installed along both sides of Highway 8 for several kilometers from Highway 201 to Stonepine Way. It will be installed within the highway right-of-way on land owned by the province.



### How will the wildlife exclusion fencing work?

Fencing creates a physical barrier that helps keep wildlife off of the highway and guides them to safe crossing points, such as underneath bridges.



Jump outs are designed and constructed to allow animals trapped between the highway and wildlife fence to safely leave the area.



Animals can use the ramp to get back over the fence, while the concrete block side helps keep them from getting back onto the highway.

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### Will the wildlife exclusion fencing impact pedestrians and recreation in the area?

Fencing will be located within the Highway right-of-way on land owned by the province. These lands are not available for recreational use by the public. Pedestrian access in the area is restricted to designated walking trails, and fencing will not interfere with or interrupt the continuity of designated trails within the area. Highway 8 is a high-speed provincial highway, and once improvements are completed, it will be a high-volume twinned highway. Currently, there are no designated pathways along the highway or crossings for pedestrians to cross the highway, and there are no plans to add pedestrian access as part of this project. Pedestrian accessibility falls under the jurisdiction of the local municipality and is outside the scope of this project.

### Why is wildlife exclusion fencing necessary?

The Province of Alberta monitors wildlife strikes across the highway network through the [Alberta Wildlife App](#). Areas where increased wildlife activity are noted have been prioritized to receive mitigation measures in an effort to improve safety and reduce the impact of highways on local wildlife populations.

Wildlife exclusion fencing is being installed at several locations in Alberta and helps to lower wildlife strikes on the highway by helping wildlife move safely through the area and maintain a long-term connection with natural spaces. By preventing wildlife from entering onto the highway, the risk of vehicle collisions with wildlife is reduced. Fewer wildlife-vehicle collisions result in less damage to vehicles, which results in fewer injuries and insurance claims.

The effectiveness of fencing is supported when fencing is continuous and free of areas where animals could access the highway. If you notice any damages or holes in the exclusion fence, please report them to the Government of Alberta at <https://511.alberta.ca/> contact or by dialing 5-1-1.



<https://www.alberta.ca/highway-8-improvements-eastbound-elbow-river-bridge>

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