

Juan de Fuca Marine Trail to reopen this summer

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The Juan de Fuca Marine Trail is expected to reopen this summer, with an opening date to be announced in mid-May, the province says.

The Ministry of Environment and Parks said hikers and back-country campers will have access to the full trail.

Repairs are costing an estimated \$950,000, with most of the funding coming from the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements program.

The 47-kilometre trail, which runs from China Beach to Botanical Beach, was closed after being damaged by severe storms in late 2024 and early 2025.

One of the most popular back-country areas on southern Vancouver Island, the trail attracts thousands of people each year.

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During the storms, many trail sections were washed out, slopes were destabilized and trees came down.

That led to the trail and most of the campsites along it being closed last summer, although the campsites at Mystic Beach and East Sombrio stayed open.

The ministry said that "significant progress" is being made by B.C. Parks repair crews and members of the Pacheedaht First Nation, who are doing the work in phases.

To repair bridges, B.C. Parks is flying in materials to fix about seven spans, which range from those crossing small creeks to larger bridges.

Crews are also working on more than 800 metres of boardwalk and multiple staircases that are in steep, unstable terrain, the ministry said.

It said the trail will be rerouted in several areas to bypass sites affected by landslides, erosion and slope damage.

Minor repairs to such things as railings and some of the bridge components are expected to continue while the trail is open through the summer and fall, which means hikers might encounter brief delays as the crews work.

Victoria Clarke of Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue said she is happy to hear that the trail will reopen soon.

"I know that a lot of people are really anxious to see the trail open," she said. "It's just nice to get this kind of update."

Clarke said she hopes news of the impending opening will keep people off the trail in the meantime, noting the damage has made the trail unsafe for both hikers and search-and-rescue personnel.

Earlier this month, Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue issued a reminder to hikers that much of the trail remains closed, after launching a search for a hiker reported as overdue.

Over the past six years, upgrades to the trail have included \$2.1 million for new bridges, boardwalks, stairs and food caches, as well as \$905,000 for 50 tent platforms, the ministry said.

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