

Nelson Creek Trail

Suncadia is preparing to improve the trail along Nelson Creek to the Cle Elum River with improvements to the trail, way-finding and educational signage. But before we are able to make those improvements, we still want our guests to be able to enjoy this beautiful route to the river. This trail is good for either hiking or mountain biking. The approximate distance from the Lodge to the first riverside area is 2 ½ miles. From the Lodge to the end of the trail is a total of 3 ¾ miles. (See the map on the third page for more distances)

The route is an “out and back” trail – so you can turn around at any point and head for home! **Blue arrows indicate advancing farther. Red arrows indicate the return direction.** A red and a blue arrow next to each other pointing down, indicate the end of the marked trail. Remember it is “out and back,” if you plan on going to the end of the trail, the total distance will be ~7 ½ miles.



Always stay on the marked route! There are many small routes that connect to the marked corridor but most are blocked with logs. Many of these areas are environmentally sensitive and it is easy to get lost when you leave the main route.

Treat all wildlife with caution and respect. Please read the booklet “*Living with our Wildlife Neighbors*” before departing on your adventure. It is available from either a Suncadia Greeter or Tumble Creek Caretaker.

Remember to bring water and sunscreen. Although it won’t work in certain areas, it is a good idea to have a cell phone. Some days, bug repellent is a good idea too.

To access the trail follow these steps:

1. Follow the paved path along Swiftwater Drive to Yellow Bell Court.
2. Take a right onto the shoulder of the street and walk approx 200 yards down the road. You will find a rock on the left hand side of the road that is painted in black with “Trail” and an arrow.
3. Follow this trail and the arrows carefully down to an old dirt road. When you reach the road take a right, and travel down the road. Straight ahead will be blocked with logs so take a left and go down the hill. Just down the hill the dirt road will meet a gravel road.
4. Take a right onto the gravel road. After you make the turn, the stream bed of Nelson Creek will be on your left. Follow this road and the arrows towards the Cle Elum River.
5. As you approach the Cle Elum River, Nelson Creek stays to your left and the main road bends to the right. You will see a “Y” in the road with blue arrows that point both left and right. The main route is to the right but, if you want a small side adventure with a

beautiful view to the river, go left down the steep slope. The two arrows pointing down indicate the end of the marked trail. From here you can go on short walks either left or right. You ultimately have to turn around and head back up the slope to the turn.

6. Back on the main route, continue down the road. Follow the arrows through or around the gate. Immediately after the gate, veer to your left and follow the arrows. Here the arrows will be sparsely spaced but there is only one road to follow so stay on it.

7. This road takes you down to a beautiful meadow at the river bank. Near the river bank, you will see another set of blue arrows pointing both left and right indicating another “Y” in the trail. To the left is another streamside area.



8. Following the arrows to the left leads you to a beautiful streamside spot. The end is marked here with an arrow of each color pointing down. Be careful as the river flows are variable in early summer. **Never under any circumstances go swimming or inner-tubing in the river.**

9. For more adventure, go back to the “Y” and follow the road and arrows, to the right. This part of the trail is a bit narrower and can be sporadically muddy in the spring and early summer. Follow the road, arrows and stay to the left. The trail will take you to an



abandoned fan-house, an artifact from the mining years that was used to ventilate the mineshafts more than a thousand feet below. Don't be surprised if there is spring water pouring out of the old building. Also don't be surprised if it has a sulfurous (rotten egg) smell to it. **Do not approach or enter the fan-house building!**

10. There is a break in the arrows just before the fan-house, but if you continue through the grassy, open area and past the fan-house, the arrows will pick-up again.

11. If you continue on past the fan-house, **stay to the left**. There will be an area where four roads meet, the arrows should indicate to the left. Take note of the direction you came from so that when you return, finding the arrows and correct road is easier. At this point and beyond you may need to



look more carefully for arrows, they are there but may be a little more difficult to see than before.

12. The road winds its way through some thicker portions of bushes and opens up at a nice open area near the river. In 2008, this is where a mother duck raised her family of four ducklings. The end of the road is just beyond here.
13. Continue along the road until a large open area near the Cle Elum River. This is the end of the marked trail. Again, the end of the marked trail is indicated by two arrows pointing down. There are good picnic/resting areas if you walk a little ways to the left or right of the end of the trail. Going beyond this general area is not recommended.
14. Enjoy your adventure and always be careful and respectful of the natural environment!

