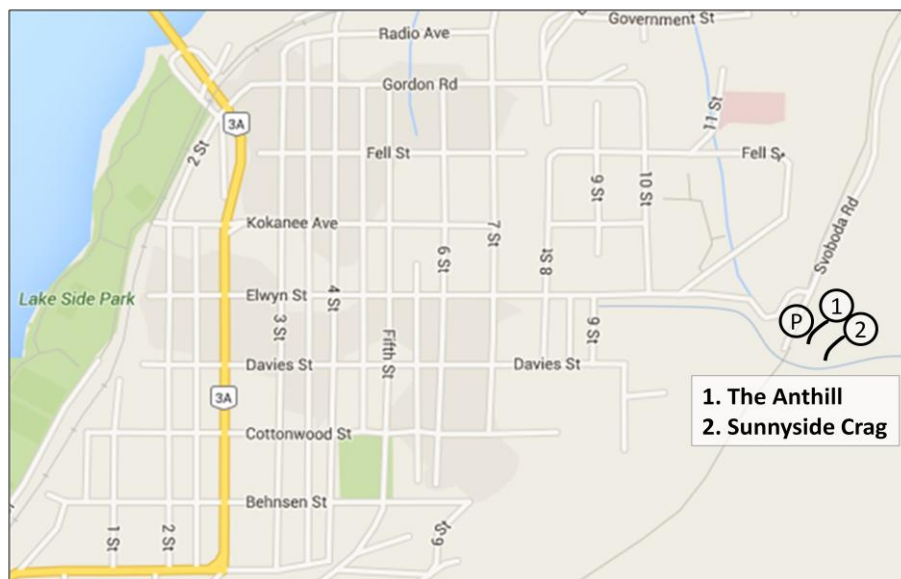


The Anthill / Sunnyside Crag ("CIC" bluffs, Nelson BC)

These newly expanded climbing areas now include some of the easiest and most accessible climbs in Nelson and the West Kootenay. This area is proving popular with families thanks to the flat staging areas, quick top-rope setups and numerous options for shorter climbs. A stone's throw away yet still hidden from the parking lot, the crags are also sheltered from urban noise by the rushing waters of nearby Anderson creek.



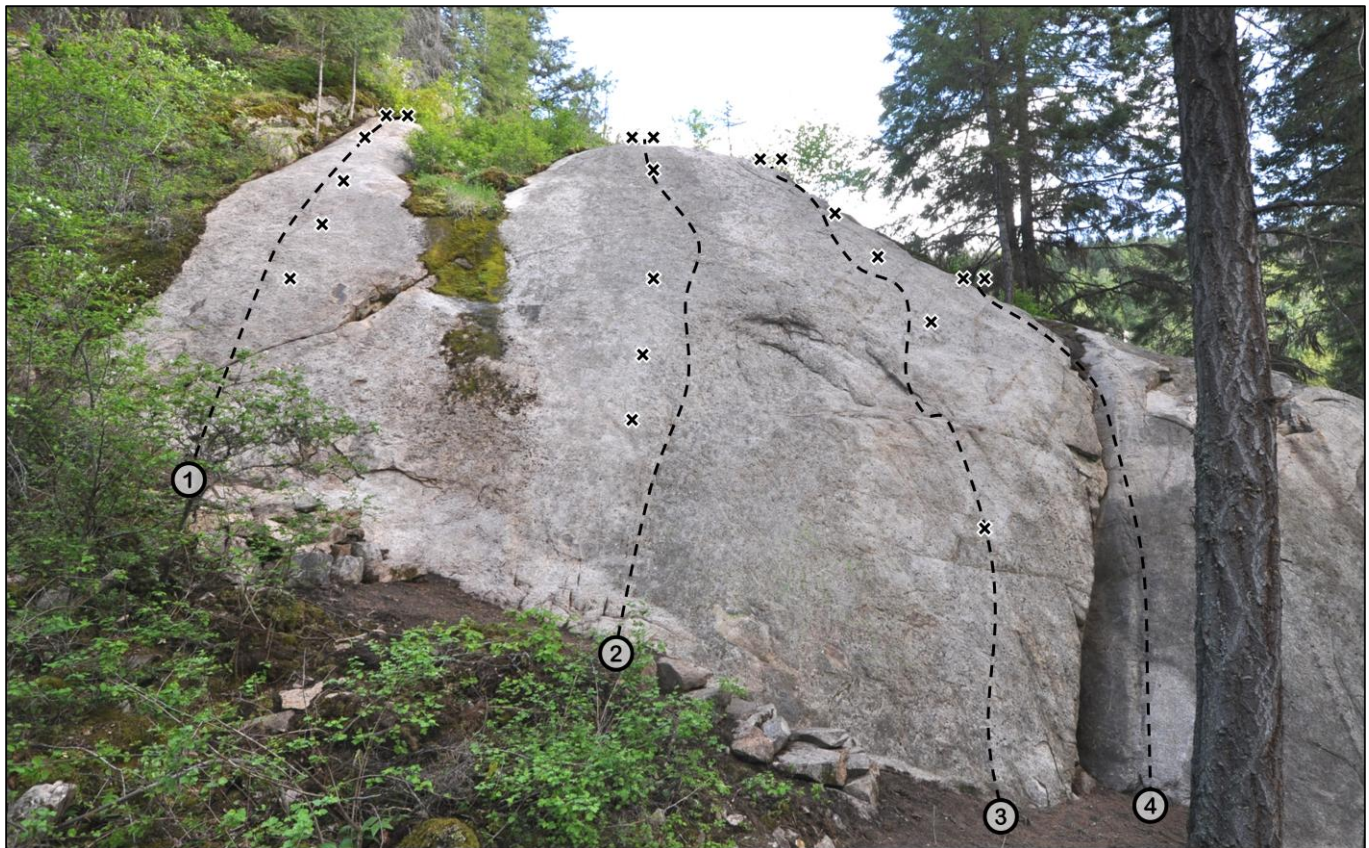
Access : From the Husky Gas Station in Nelson (a couple blocks before the Big Orange Bridge), travel all the way up Elwyn Street, past the 10th St campus, to the gravel "T" intersection with Svoboda Ranch Road, and turn right. This is the parking lot for the Great Northern rail trail. The trail to the crags enters the trees just above the creek/trestle end of the parking lot.

The Anthill is the first cliff encountered. A rather smooth granitic slab, this is a good place to hone your friction climbing technique. It also lends itself well to top-roping as the anchors can be quickly (albeit cautiously) reached around either side of the face.

Sunnyside is found just above the right end of the Anthill. Here the granitic rock is more featured, with more varied climbing. The anchors are set along the top ridge of the face, which can be accessed on rappel from the top left end of the crag, or scrambled/climbed as a route in itself. For more adventure, climbs up the main face can be extended with a second pitch along the ridge.

Descent: Rappelling is recommended as the cleaning method once you are finished with a climb. At the Anthill, you can carefully walk off most climbs; however, walk-offs are more dangerous at Sunnyside.

Notes: Owing to the many top-anchors now in place, several top-rope problems have been done between the various routes described; the most notable is mentioned on the Anthill topo. All grades are simply our initial thoughts; feedback welcome. E-mail Mike Curran (vw70@shaw.ca) and Yann Troutet (yanntroutet@yahoo.com).



Anthill left

1. Piglet Riblet 5.6

SPORT

The rounded rib of rock at the top left of the wall. Scale the finely featured face, to the top, making use of the riblet of quartz that runs all the way up. 4 bolts. (*Y. Troutet & M. Curran, 2016*)

2. The Marshall Plan 5.9+

SPORT

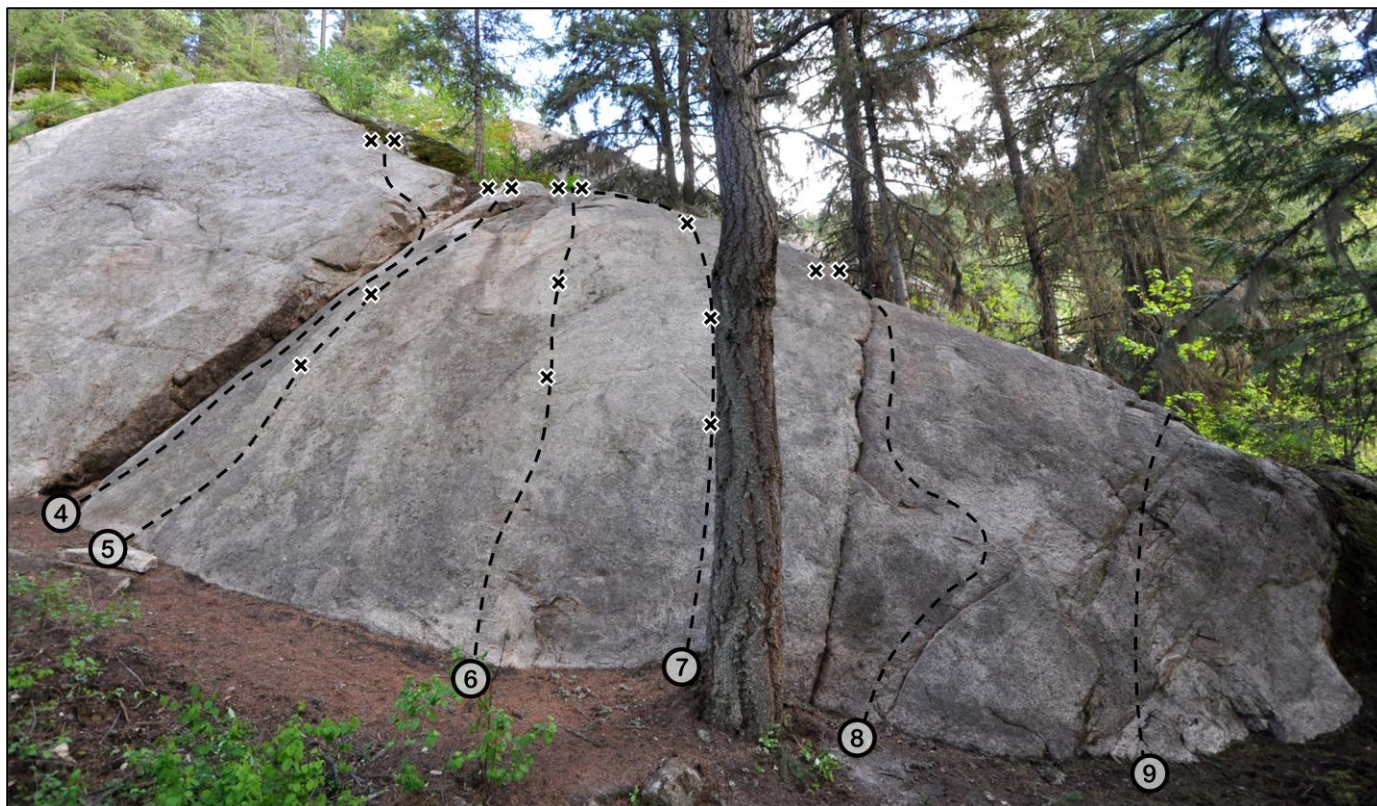
The smooth left side of the main face. Graeme Marshall first cleaned the line years ago. Soon taken over by graffiti, then moss, the *Marshall Plan* has now seen its revival... Climb slightly right of the line of bolts, then smear your way to the top. Or, for an unadulterated smearing experience, climb straight up the bolt line. 4 bolts. (*Y. Troutet & R. Cownden, 2015*)

3. Grand Tatou 5.8

SPORT

The right side of the main face. Like the banded back of a Giant Armadillo... For extra safety, a finger-sized cam can be placed at the ledge above the first bolt. 4 bolts. (*Y. Troutet & M. Curran, 2015*)

Note: The plumb line down from the anchors of *Grand Tatou* gives for a good top-rope (*Wall-eyed Chameleon*, 5.10-). It has been left unbolted, so as not to detract from the character of the adjacent routes, which converge near the top.



Anthill right

4. **Ants on a Log** 5.2 /5.6

TRAD

A treat for the little ones. Climb up the Anthill's main corner, to the anchors of *The Serpent* (5.2) or extend, as shown, via the *Groovy Aardvark* variation (5.6) by traversing back left at the topmost break in the arête. N.B.: lead gear is scarce. (Y. Troutet, 2014)

5. **The Serpent** 5.7+

SPORT

Snake your way up the obvious protruding quartz intrusion, past two bolts. (A. & S. Murray, 2014)

6. **Buddha's Belly Button** 5.7

SPORT

Starts at a curvaceous undercling pocket... 2 bolts. (S. & A. Murray, 2014)

7. **Hippopotenuse** 5.9

SPORT

Start just left of the tree. Angle right, tiptoeing up slanted edges and blunt dikes, anchoring at the top of *Buddha's Belly Button*. 3 bolts. (Y. Troutet & M. Curran, 2016)

8. **Skippy Flake Crack** 5.5

TRAD

Named in honour of the squirrel that made its first ascent, speed-climbing style. Layback the crack directly or start more easily by foot-traversing up the flake, while it's still there... (Y. Troutet, 2016)

9. **Doodlebug** VB

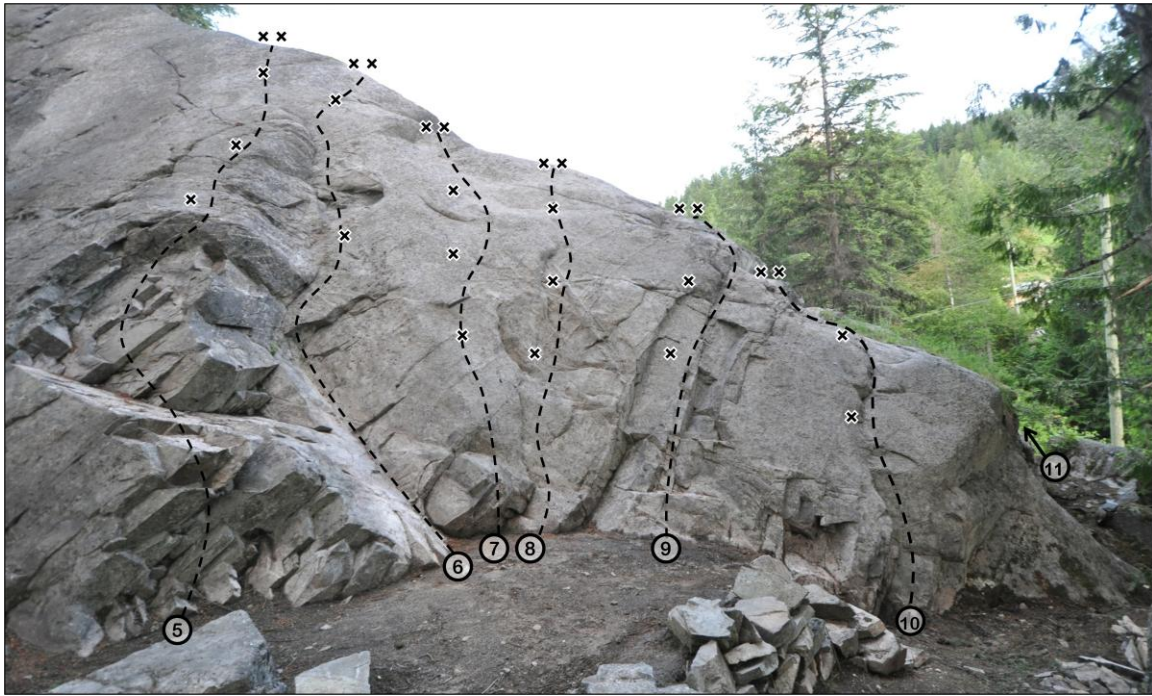
BOULDER

Feeling burdened by the rope? This one is for you. Scale the fractured scoop at the right end of the face. (Y. Troutet, 2016)



Sunnyside Left

1. **Short Circuit 5.8 R** (*gear does not seem as good as in the past, may be retro-bolted*) **MIXED**
 A direct start to *Training Circuit*, past one bolt. Small gear protects the bottom. (*M. Curran, 1998*)
2. **Training Circuit 5.7** **SPORT**
 A fun romp up the nicely featured line of weakness splitting Sunnyside's upper face. Enjoy the large quartz crystal mid-route. 3 bolts. (*M. Curran, 1998*)
3. **Déjà Vu 5.7** **MIXED**
 Climb discontinuous cracks then up a leftward slanting corner/ramp, mixing small gear and bolt-protected moves. The crux is surmounting the ridgeline at the top. (*M. Curran, 1998*)
4. **Crystal Crack 5.7/5.6** **MIXED**
 Start just left of the central buttress. Climb up the crack on small to medium gear, then either head left up the top of *Déjà Vu* (5.7) or exit as per *Boot Buttress* (5.6) (*M. Curran & Y. Troutet, 2016*)
5. **Boot Buttress 5.6** **SPORT**
 The central buttress. Start up the fractured bottom of the "boot", then follow the crest of the buttress to "Puddle Ledge" and to the top. 3 bolts. (*M. Curran & Y. Troutet, 2016*)



Sunnyside Right

6. Summer of '89 5.7

MIXED

The large corner on Sunnyside right. On sighted on gear circa 1989. Cruxes are now well protected with bolts. Climb up to the top of the corner, then exit right. (*M., P., S. & B Curran and B. Chow, 1989*)

7. Feline Face 5.8

SPORT

Summer of '89 features a deep dark cavity - this is the eye. The slab to the right evokes the side profile of a lion's head. Climb past a deep finger pocket, to get established on the slab. Arc your way up right, over the "feline face", then back left. 3 bolts. (*M. Curran & Y. Troutet, 2016*)

8. Broken Web 5.7

SPORT

The shallow corner criss-crossed by a beautiful web of rock intrusions. Slabs guard top - can you escape from the web? 3 bolts. (*M. Curran & Y. Troutet, 2016*)

9. The Castle 5.4

SPORT

The blocky depression. Storm to the top. 2 bolts. (*M. Curran & Y. Troutet, 2016*)

10. Little Nose 5.9

SPORT

The short corner and crack at the lower right end of the face. Named for a distinctive "rock nose" that has since broken off. Balance your way up. 2 bolts. (*M. Curran & Y. Troutet, 2016*)

11. Big Nose 5.5

SPORT (28m) or MIXED (33m)

This climb follows the skyline of the cliff and gives access to its 8 anchors, making it well suited for practising multi-pitch climbing. Start just past the "Big Nose" on the toe of the rock formation. Scramble past three bolts then clip the anchors as you go, making a crux move above the face's central buttress. 33 meters to the topmost anchors, or 40+ m to the trees; placing gear at 30 m will protect your second against a potential pendulum. (*M. Curran & Y. Troutet, 2016*)

