



Project Update

January – September 2024

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Introduction

Parkland County aligns strategic and corporate planning, budgeting, and financial reporting to support achieving the outcomes and priorities established in the County's Strategic Plan. As an essential component of the overall process, performance reporting monitors the organization's progress to determine if Parkland County is successfully achieving the County's goals or if adjustments need to be made.

Reporting on key actions and projects is used by Administration to communicate Parkland County's progress to Council. Effective performance monitoring is the County's feedback loop that links strategy, planning, and continuous improvement together into an integrated system – it aligns direction, action and results.

How Parkland County is progressing on the Strategic Plan has been summarized into the Project Update Report. This report includes a summary of the corporate priorities, and a listing of each associated key action and project, containing:

- a project description,
- lead departments and internal supporting entities,
- overall project status and health,
- financial health,
- recent reports to Council, and
- strategic alignment.

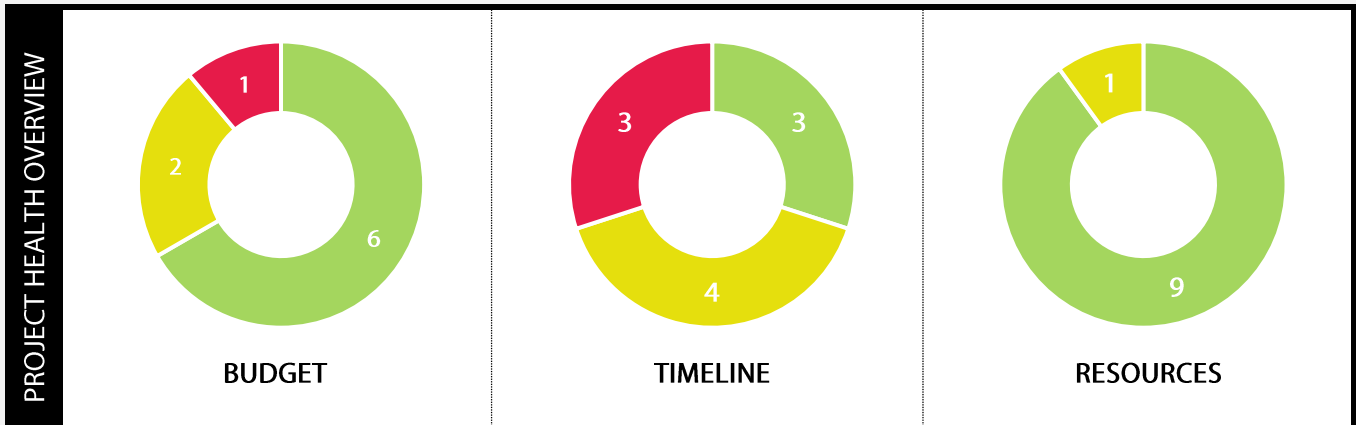
This report is not intended to include all projects the County is undertaking; however, it is intended to provide a snapshot of the key action and project activities conducted from **January 1 to September 30, 2024**.

Information on reports to Council can be accessed on the [Parkland County website](#).

Corporate Priorities Summary

Legend

- Not Started - action or project is planned but work has not commenced
 - Caution - some obstacles identified and slowing progress
 - On Track - action or project is progressing well with little-to-no issues
 - Off Track - significant obstacle(s) blocking progress
- Budget Health – is the project within budget Timeline Health – how the project is proceeding to schedule
 Resources Health – if the project has the people, supplies and materials required for project success



Action/Project	2024 Budget	Q3 2024 Actuals	Q3 2024 Total Commitments	Overall Progress	Project Health		
					Budget	Timeline	Resources
Pillar A – Complete Communities					Budget	Timeline	Resources
Rural Internet Initiatives	\$186,250	\$33,203	\$121,279	Execution	■	■	■
Pillar B – Strategic Economic Diversification					Budget	Timeline	Resources
Acheson Intersection Improvements	\$13,573,446	1,881,753	\$12,055,186	Execution	■	■	■
Wabamun Waterfront Initiatives							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restoration of Wastewater Lagoon* 	\$4,811,972	\$714,257	\$3,289,712	Execution		■	■
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wabamun Wastewater System Review and Rehabilitation * 					■	■	■
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waterfront Area Improvements 	\$8,662,707	\$811,123	\$1,797,156	Execution	■	■	■

Action/Project	2024 Budget	Q3 2024 Actuals	Q3 2024 Total Commitments	Overall Progress	Project Health		
					Budget	Timeline	Resources
Pillar C – Respected Environment and Agriculture							
Nature Policy Framework and Implementation	\$27,560	\$26,726	\$27,560	Execution	■	■	■
Natural Assets Management Project	\$271,263	\$108,538	\$91,471	Execution	■	■	■
Pillar D – Responsible Leadership							
Municipal Development Plan Update	\$189,386	\$185,440	\$189,102	Execution	■	■	■
Land Use Bylaw ReDesign and Implementation	\$38,712	\$14,543	\$26,280	Execution	■	■	■
Fire Master Plan	\$90,000	\$0	\$89,480	Execution	■	■	■

* The project budget for the restoration of the Wabamun wastewater lagoon and the review and rehabilitation of the Wabamun wastewater system are combined under one budget. The amounts in this report represent the whole budget and actuals.

Key Action & Project Updates

January 1 – September 30, 2024



PILLAR A

Connected Communities

We recognize the diversity of Parkland County's communities, while fostering a united and shared vision for Parkland as a whole.

GOALS

- A1 To ensure that County infrastructure meets the needs of residents, businesses, and industry
- A2 To create a sense of belonging and well-being by enriching our communities with relevant amenities
- A3 To build a strong community through effective social support services
- A4 To honour the history and culture of local indigenous peoples

RURAL INTERNET INITIATIVES (2024-2027)

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal A1

Associated with Priority Strategy: Explore and implement initiatives that enable rural connectivity in underserved areas, while having consideration for emergent technologies.

OVERALL PROGRESS Execution	2024 Budget	\$186,250	Q3 2024 Actuals	\$33,203	Total Commitments	\$121,279
	Project Health					
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ■ Budget ■ Timeline ■ Resources </div>						
Lead Technology & Digital Service	Supporting Entities: Growth & Strategy, Communications & Customer Service, Executive Committee and Council					
<p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>What: Rural internet initiatives aimed at challenges and opportunities with the County's internet infrastructure.</p> <p>Why: Improved rural internet connectivity will provide our residents more affordable and efficient access to basic amenities such as education, health care, public safety and government services.</p> <p>How: The County will continue to facilitate the installation of broadband and fibre optic infrastructure. This work includes advocacy at federal and provincial levels for investment in internet connectivity Parkland County. The initiatives will also seek to address other areas of need through satellite, other wireless, and additional fibre services, ensuring greater consistency of high-speed internet service.</p>						
<p>STATUS UPDATE:</p> <p>Technology & Digital Services prepared an update regarding the Wireless Internet Rebate Program (WIRP) for the Council meeting on October 8, 2024. The update included a recommendation to reinstate the program and to approve funding.</p> <p>The target release date to launch the reinstated program to the public is December 1, 2024. WIRP will run for three months or until funding is fully utilized, with an option to extend the end date and increase funding, based on demand. To be eligible, Residents will be required to either demonstrate test speeds below the CRTC minimum standard of 50/10 or declare service</p>						

need. All wireless service offerings will qualify for the program. The speed data collected through the program will inform the rural internet initiatives strategy development and decision-making. Additionally, a program review will take place during quarter 1 2025.

In addition to this, Parkland County has been in active discussions with ISED Canada (Innovation, Science and Economic Development) regarding federal funding streams to improve rural internet access in the community. In Fall 2024, ISED released new data that will inform Administration’s overall strategic approach to rural internet initiatives and future discussions with ISED.

RECENT REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

October 8, 2024 – Administration provided Council a program summary. Council approved motions to reinstate the program to supply a rebate for equipment and installation fees to enable access to high-speed wireless internet service for qualified ratepayers, and funding for up to \$103,000 from the Rural Communications Network Lifecycle Restricted Surplus.



PILLAR B

Strategic Economic Diversification

We support the continuation and evolution of traditional economic activities, while pursuing new opportunities for diversified and sustainable growth.

GOALS

B1 To explore strategies that encourage new businesses to locate in Parkland County, with strategic emphasis on Acheson and the Wabamun area

B2 To add emphasis to recreation and rural tourism to diversify the County’s economic opportunities

B3 To attract diversified energy investment in Parkland County

B4 To support existing and new businesses in Parkland County with a focus on micro and small businesses

ACHESON INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS (2024-2025)

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal B1

Associated with Priority Strategy: Implement the investment strategy for Acheson lands to ensure maximum build-out can be achieved.

OVERALL PROGRESS 50% complete Status: Execution	2024 Budget \$13,573,446	Q3 2024 Actuals \$1,881,753	Total Commitments \$12,055,186
	Project Health ■ Budget ■ Timeline ■ Resources		
Lead Engineering Services	Supporting Entities: Planning & Development Services, Enforcement Services, Road Maintenance and Drainage Services, Public Works, Growth & Strategy		
DESCRIPTION: What: Improvements at two intersections along Highway 16A: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Spruce Valley Road and Pinchbeck/Bevington Road. 			

Why: This project supports economic growth, as the work will greatly improve traffic movement in the Acheson Industrial Area. Businesses operating in the area will benefit as efficient freight transport systems improve market access, resulting in lower operating costs.

How: Widening of Highway 16A deceleration and acceleration lanes, installing traffic lights and realigning of Spruce Valley Road and Pinchbeck and Bevington Road. Project includes connecting water and wastewater line under Highway 16A to enable future connection between Acheson Zone 4 and Acheson Zone 6 services.

STATUS UPDATE:

Spruce Valley Road and Highway 16A

The roadway segment south of Highway 16A has been constructed and partially paved. Final pavement is expected to be completed in November 2024.

Turn bays, acceleration lanes and deceleration lanes at the intersection on the highway are under construction and are anticipated to be completed mid to late October.

Streetlights are being installed at the intersection and signal lights will be installed shortly afterwards. Energization of the streetlights and the signals will occur in early to mid-November 2024.

Bevington/Pinchbeck Road and Hwy 16A

The water and wastewater lines have been installed along Bevington Road and under Highway 16A. The connections to the lines are being completed and include local service connections where appropriate.

Bevington Road north of Highway 16A, including the connecting service road, has been constructed and is partially paved. Pinchbeck Road south of Highway 16A is under construction and earthworks are anticipated to be completed in mid to late October. Final pavement is expected to be completed in early October 2024 for Bevington Road and late October for Pinchbeck Road.

Turn bays, acceleration lanes and deceleration lanes on the highway at the intersection are under construction. These will be completed mid to late November.

Streetlights are being installed at the intersection and signal lights will be installed shortly afterwards. Energization of the streetlights and the signals will occur in mid to late November 2024.

Project Timeline Status

The project is delayed. There have been several project impacts that cumulatively have impacted project completion. In May 2024, there were some concerns with nesting birds that shut a significant part of the project site down and created a significant impact to the ability to continue working within the current plans. Alternative earthmoving activities were considered, and this maintained some of the work activities progressively moving ahead.

Administration had a concern with an existing high pressure gas line that was identified prior to project start, and the issues with a new crossing and replacement of the line have created some delays in completing the work. This portion of the project will likely require extension into 2025 to fully complete the task.

The project has been rescheduled and activities shifted around to complete most key tasks by end of 2024. Weather is currently a concern as the end of the 2024 construction season nears. Landscaping and seasonal deficiencies may carry into 2025.

RECENT REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

October 15, 2024 – A project update was provided to the Governance & Priorities Committee as part of the Operations Services Division Report.

WABAMUN WATERFRONT INITIATIVES

a. Restoration of Wastewater Lagoon (2024-2025)

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal B1

Note: The project budget for the restoration of the Wabamun wastewater lagoon and the review and rehabilitation of the Wabamun wastewater system are combined under one budget. The amounts in this report represent the whole budget and actuals.

OVERALL PROGRESS 75% complete Status: Execution	2024 Budget \$4,811,972	Q3 2024 Actuals \$714,257	Total Commitments \$3,289,712
Project Health			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ■ Budget ■ Timeline ■ Resources </div>			
Lead Engineering Services	Supporting Entities: Planning & Development Services, Public Works, Growth & Strategy		
DESCRIPTION:			
What: Infrastructure project to rehabilitate the existing wastewater lagoon in Wabamun.			
Why: Wastewater utilities are an essential service, and wastewater lagoons offer a cost-effective and energy-efficient solution for wastewater management, particularly in communities where resources and infrastructure may be limited. The performance and efficiency of the lagoon system depend on routine maintenance and repair to provide wastewater service to Wabamun residents and businesses.			
How: The rehabilitation will address performance issues and create capacity for future growth.			
STATUS UPDATE:	<p>Project activities include dredging existing sludge from the bottom of the lagoon. This will add long term capacity to the lagoon and should be repeated every 5 years to avoid excessive build up of sludge.</p> <p>The project also includes repair and replacement of the existing inlet and outlet manholes and service pipes. Some refurbishment of the lagoon banks and sidewalls will be conducted to ensure they are brought back to like new condition. As well, there was some minor sluffing and vegetation occurring that will be cleaned up accordingly.</p> <p>Most of the project activities are anticipated to be fully complete by end of November 2024. The dredging activities were completed in August 2024. The berm repairs and pond refurbishment activities have been completed by end of October 2024.</p> <p>There will be some delay for the replacement of the inlet and outlet structures due to timelines for material delivery. The material is not expected to be on-site until winter weather sets in. This work will be carried forward to 2025.</p>		
RECENT REPORTS TO COUNCIL:	<p>October 15, 2024 – A project update was provided to the Governance & Priorities Committee as part of the Operations Service Division Report.</p>		

c. Waterfront Area Improvements (2024-2026)

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal B1

OVERALL PROGRESS 35% complete Status: Execution	2024 Budget \$8,662,707	Q3 2024 Actuals \$811,123	Total Commitments \$1,797,156
Project Health <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> ■ Budget ■ Timeline ■ Resources </div>			
Lead Community Services	Supporting Entities: Growth & Strategy, Engineering Services, Executive Committee		
DESCRIPTION: <p>What: Improvements to the Wabamun Waterfront Park including the installation of an updated spray park, expanded beach and recreation area as well as, infrastructure improvements to support future marina, public beach and swimming pond .</p> <p>Why: In 2022, the Wabamun Area Vision was approved by Council, setting a 50-year concept for the area in and around Wabamun Lake, specifically identifying opportunities to enhance the Wabamun Waterfront public access and amenities. These improvements are key to encouraging future growth of the community and improving the quality of life of residents, businesses, and visitors by boosting local tourism opportunities.</p> <p>How: As part of the County’s commitment to the growth and diversification of the hamlet of Wabamun, the County is investing in improvements to the hamlet’s waterfront area. Additional support for this project is funded by the Government of Canada through PrairiesCan grant funding.</p>			
	STATUS UPDATE: <p>Marina and Swimming Pond The marina and swimming pond development in Wabamun are in design phase. The project team has been collaborating with the provincial government and TransAlta Corporation to secure approvals required for the waterfront design.</p> <p>Indigenous engagement for the project is scheduled to begin October 2024; a third-party consultant to conduct First Nations Consultation (FNC) has been engaged. Once FNC adequacy has been received, the County can submit for Alberta Environment and Protected Areas approvals and federal approvals</p> <p>The project team is also developing a Request for Proposal for Construction Managers to be released by mid-October. By utilizing a Construction Manager, the County can effectively review constructability and adjust the design as necessary to remain within budget.</p> <p>Waterfront Park Re-Development Construction started in October. To advance the project, the project team divided the project into two distinct subprojects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expansion of beach and parking lot 2. The remaining scope (civil, landscaping, bathroom relocation, etc.). <p>Recognizing the differing nature of these scopes, separate contractors have been engaged for each and the County has reached agreements with each contractor to finalize a budget and schedule for each subproject.</p> <p>The sum of each budget is slightly higher than the total estimate budget for the entire project. This cost overrun is attributed to construction inflation.</p>		
	RECENT REPORTS TO COUNCIL: May 21, 2024 – Administration provided a Waterfront Park Improvement project update to Council. December 2024 - A project update is planned to be provided to Council.		



PILLAR C

Respected Environment + Agriculture

We respect the natural environment, recognizing Parkland County's biodiversity and unique natural beauty, the land's value for agricultural purposes, and ensuring our commitment to sustainable agricultural and environmental practices.

GOALS
C1 To develop a policy framework that ensures the protection of environmentally significant areas
C2 To recognize the importance of preserving prime agricultural land available for production
C3 To support our agricultural community

NATURE POLICY FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

(2024-2025)

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal C1

Associated with Priority Strategy: Review and update the County's framework on environmentally significant areas to support responsible management of natural assets and amenities.

OVERALL PROGRESS	2024 Budget	\$27,560	Q3 2024 Actuals	\$26,726	Total Commitments	\$27,560
75% complete Status: Execution	Project Health					
	■ Budget		■ Timeline		■ Resources	
Lead Agriculture & Environment Services	Supporting Entities: Planning & Development Services, Engineering Services					
<p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>What: Development and implementation of the Nature Policy Framework with focus on Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) conservation.</p> <p>Why: Conserving valuable natural areas through policy will ensure water conservation, disaster mitigation, habitat and biodiversity provision, and scenic beauty are maintained as needed across the County.</p> <p>How: The framework will provide direction, ensure coordination between policies and provide options and clarity around ESAs and conservation.</p>						
<p>STATUS UPDATE:</p> <p>Throughout quarter 3 the Nature Policy Framework activities were focused on drafting policy for the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) updates. Concurrently, a draft of the framework has also been produced. Administration is reviewing the draft to ensure alignment with County documents and Council direction.</p> <p>The framework will act as a guiding document for the conservation of important natural features and functions and will summarize all the County's policies that support environmental stewardship. The next steps are to complete the development of individual Council policies that will support the implementation of the framework and to host a final workshop with Council prior to the formal adoption of the framework.</p> <p><u>Project Timeline</u></p>						

	Notably, the project team encountered challenges with enabling policies through the MDP. Accordingly, the framework will be accompanied by a set of individual council policies for adoption. The expanded scope of work has led to additional expenses for the project. To accommodate this work, additional funding has been requested through operating emergent items.
	<p>RECENT REPORTS TO COUNCIL:</p> <p>July 2, 2024 – Administration provided a Nature Policy Framework project update to Council.</p> <p>November 2024 - A final Council workshop is being planned.</p> <p>January 2025 – The Nature Policy Framework will be provided to Council for approval.</p>

NATURAL ASSETS MANAGEMENT PROJECT (2023-2025)

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal C1

Associated with Priority Strategy: Review and update the County's framework on environmentally significant areas to support responsible management of natural assets and amenities.

OVERALL PROGRESS 50% complete Status: Execution	2024 Budget \$271,263	Q3 2024 Actuals \$108,538	Total Commitments \$91,471
	Project Health <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> ■ Budget ■ Timeline ■ Resources </div>		
Lead Agriculture & Environment Services	Supporting Entities: Planning & Development Services, Engineering Services, Information Services		
DESCRIPTION: <p>What: Completion of a natural asset inventory, condition assessment and ecosystem service valuation.</p> <p>Why: Natural assets provide essential services to the community in an efficient and cost-effective way. They also require different types / levels of guidance to direct conservation and restoration efforts.</p> <p>How: In 2025 there will be a focus on updating Engineering Standards to include nature-based solutions and integration of identified assets into the asset management system.</p>			
	STATUS UPDATE: <p>To date, the County has completed bioengineering treatments and restoration at three project sites. One to address erosion and drainage issues within a road right of way, one to address erosion issues along the trail at Prospector's Point and one to restore the riparian area as Sauer Lake. The final location also included a public workshop to help landowners plan projects on their properties and teach them various bioengineering techniques. A total of 640 plants were planted in 2024 covering 460 m2.</p> <p>Work is also underway on the Natural Asset Inventory and Valuation. The internal Steering Committee was able to provide scoping direction to the hired consultants and Council's Committees were presented information on the project. Analysis and modelling are now being completed and the project team expects to have the final report in quarter 1 of 2025.</p>		
	RECENT REPORTS TO COUNCIL: <p>April 16, 2024 – Administration provided an update to Council regarding the Natural Assets Management Project.</p> <p>Quarter 1 2025 - The next project update to Council is planned.</p>		



PILLAR D

Responsible Leadership

We maintain the public's trust through transparent and fair decision-making, superior service delivery, and effective engagement.

GOALS
D1 To ensure that County Council is supported by a robust and current framework of bylaws, policies, and plans
D2 To strive for organizational excellence in delivering Council services and programs to residents, businesses, and community groups
D3 To strengthen relationships with leaders of Parkland County-based businesses and community groups
D4 To engage and collaborate with all orders of government, particularly our Tri-Region partners and Indigenous neighbours

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE (2024-2025)

Strategic Plan Alignment: Goal D1

Associated with Priority Strategy: Update Council's guiding documents to support clarity and consistency for Council, Administration, and the public.

OVERALL PROGRESS	2024 Budget	Q3 2024 Actuals	Total Commitments
95% complete Status: Execution	\$189,386	\$185,440	\$189,102
Project Health			
■ Budget ■ Timeline ■ Resources			
Lead Planning & Development Services	Supporting Entities: Engineering Services, Agriculture & Environment, Community Services, Growth & Strategy, Communications & Customer Service		
DESCRIPTION:			
What: Parkland County is updating its Municipal Development Plan (MDP) to guide county growth and economic diversification.			
Why: The MDP is Parkland County's long-term plan for growth and development. It provides direction on how land is used, where services go and how communities expand. To keep up with the evolving needs of the County and its residents, the MDP is regularly reviewed and updated. The new MDP will create a clear vision for the County that responds to regional and economic changes such as the phase out of coal, integration of Wabamun and alignment with the Regional Agricultural Master Plan.			
How: The update of the MDP includes completing a Technical Growth Study and conducting comprehensive public engagement.			
STATUS UPDATE:			
Final draft MDP is complete. At the Council meeting on October 22, 2024, the MDP received first reading.			
Following first reading of Bylaw 2024-22, Administration will circulate the MDP externally for formal comment which will be presented to Council on November 26, 2024, during a public hearing.			
Following second reading, the Parkland County MDP is required to be submitted to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB) under the Regional Evaluation Framework (REF). Once the County has received approval from the EMRB through the REF process, Administration will return to Council in early January for the final reading of Bylaw 2024-22.			

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