

YOUR PARKLAND

2024 SPRING

Keeping you connected with your County

BE FIRESMART

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LEARN ABOUT CLIMATE RESILIENCY

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PRACTICE WATER CONSERVATION

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Cover photo: Cooper and O'Hara, Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary

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UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES

MARCH 29 – Good Friday

APRIL 1 – Easter Monday

MAY 20 – Victoria Day

PROCLAMATIONS

www.parklandcounty.com/Proclamations



PHOTO: WAYNE KOTT



PHOTO: GREG TURLOCK



PHOTOS: PATRICIA RUTTLE



Thank you to Patricia Ruttle, Greg Turlock and Wayne Kott for sharing their photos with us.

Have a photo of Parkland County you'd like to share? Email it to communications@parklandcounty.com



REACH OUT OR FOLLOW US:

Find out more on what's happening in Parkland County, follow us or visit parklandcounty.com

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday; 8:30am – 4:30pm

T: 780-968-8888

E: hello@parklandcounty.com

53109A HWY 779

Parkland County, AB T7Z 1R1



Parkland County Mayor and Council (left to right): Councillor Natalie Birnie, Councillor Allan Hoefsloot, Councillor Sally Kucher Johnson, Mayor Allan Gamble, Councillor Phyllis Kobasiuk, Councillor Kristina Kowalski, Councillor Rob Wiedeman. (photo above)

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Welcome to 2024 and another year of the Your Parkland newsletter! We are looking forward to the year ahead and all the exciting projects happening throughout the County, which you can learn about in this edition. You'll also find information on community events, bylaw updates, emergency preparedness and more — so be sure to keep reading.

Council continues to work hard to maintain service levels and fund important investments while keeping tax increases low and predictable, with a 2.9% increase to the municipal tax rate. This allows our county to remain in a stable fiscal position as we continue to rank among the lowest residential and non-residential property tax rates in the Edmonton Region.

We are incredibly proud of the County for being recognized as one of Alberta's top 80 employers, which you can learn more about on page 6. This is an amazing achievement and shows the dedication of our organization to encourage employee confidence and success while prioritizing health, wellness and safety.

As the weather warms up, we urge our residents to ensure they are always prepared for any emergency they may face. We encourage residents to learn about the FireSmart program and how it can increase your resiliency to wildfire. Learn more about this on page 4.

We are also excited for the launch of a new tourism website, **ExploreParkland.com**. If you are looking for new places to discover and explore throughout our beautiful region, we encourage you to check out this new site and plan an adventurous day out.

Thank you to all our residents who call Parkland County home. We appreciate your support as we work to ensure that Parkland will remain a wonderful community to live, work and play.

Parkland County Mayor and Council

We acknowledge that we are located on the lands of Treaty 6 which is the traditional home of the Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Nakota Sioux nations, members of the Metis nations of Alberta, Inuit and all First Nations sharing this land for generations. We recognize the long history and contributions of Indigenous peoples who've cared for this land from time immemorial to the present. We acknowledge that we are all treaty people bound to one another by the spirit and intent of treaty as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows.

ARE YOU FireSmart™?

As we embrace the arrival of spring, it is the perfect time to focus on wildfire prevention and how we can enhance the resilience of our communities. Let's explore the benefits of FireSmart and share some simple steps you can take at home this spring.

So, what is FireSmart? FireSmart is not just a concept; it is a set of actionable steps that reduce the risk of wildfires impacting our homes and neighborhoods. By implementing FireSmart principles, we create a safer environment for everyone. Benefits include protecting your property, creating defensible spaces around your home, and minimizing the risk of flames spreading. This enhances community safety through collaborative efforts that contribute to stronger, more fire-resilient neighborhoods.

Let's make this spring a season of action! Together, we can FireSmart our communities and create a lasting impact on wildfire prevention.

WHAT HAPPENS IN AN EMERGENCY?

During an emergency, Parkland County activates our Incident Management Team (IMT). Our IMT assists front-line staff with incident management and control, and ensures Parkland County residents, businesses, infrastructure, and assets are supported and maintained as much as possible.

Alberta Emergency Alerts are sent out to provide critical information about an immediate disaster, where it is occurring, and what action you need to take.

Our website homepage will have up-to-date information available during an emergency.
www.parklandcounty.com



ALBERTA
FireSmart™

FireSmart, Intelli-feu and other associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).

Spring FireSmart Checklist

- ☒ **Sign up for a free FireSmart assessment.** Fire Services staff will be out within subdivisions conducting wildfire hazard assessments and developing pre-wildfire plans for individual communities and subdivisions. You can sign up to have a free assessment of your property which will give personalized tips for how to make your property less susceptible to damage in the event of a wildfire.
- ☒ **Clear debris:** Remove dry leaves, pine needles, and other combustible materials from your property. It is especially important to remove debris from the roof of your home, your gutters, under decks and overhangs, and within 1.5 meters of your home's foundation.
- ☒ **Check your deck:** Are you storing firewood, patio furniture or other materials under your deck? These can easily ignite during a wildfire and help the fire spread to the house. Avoid storing flammable materials there during wildfire season.
- ☒ **Prune vegetation:** Trim trees and shrubs to create a defensible space around structures. Try and remove any limbs close to the ground, known as ladder fuels, as these low-hanging branches allow fire to climb up into the tree and result in increased fire intensity that is much more challenging for firefighters to extinguish.
- ☒ **Maintain a green zone:** Keep lawns well-watered and mowed to create a green buffer around your home. If unable to water due to water restrictions, maintain a mowed (10cm) buffer around the house.
- ☒ **Planting:** Consider planting fire-resistant plants that are less likely to contribute to the spread of wildfires.
- ☒ **Sign up for FireSmart workshops** to help educate yourself and fellow community members on best practices. Whether it is a community cleanup or a hands-on workshop, participation is key to building a safer and more resilient community.
- ☒ **Community Cleanup Days:** Coordinate with neighbors for a collective effort in creating FireSmart communities.
- ☒ **Ensure you have an Emergency Preparedness Plan** in place for your home including a packed bag if you have to evacuate in a hurry. Have important documents, medications, and other essentials ready to go.

To learn more, book a free assessment or view workshops, visit www.parklandcounty.com/Firesmart

WHAT WE HEARD



Thank you to everyone who completed our newsletter survey from the last issue!

We heard from respondents on what type of content they'd like to see included in our newsletter. Several common themes included —

Construction:

Requests for more information on infrastructure updates.

County Policies:

Interest in updates or information about county policies and bylaws.

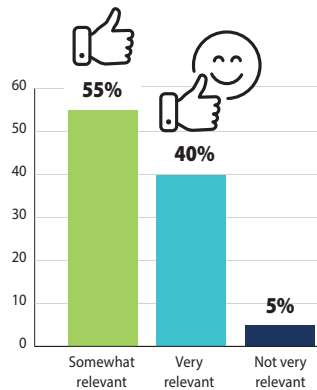
Business Lens:

Suggestions for including economic development wins, upcoming projects, and local business highlights.

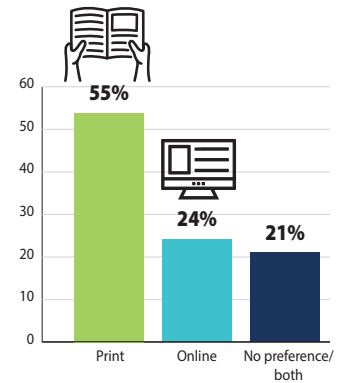
Community Engagement and Events:

Interest in volunteering, family activities, and desire for information about upcoming events.

We appreciate your feedback and consider all responses as we move forward with our newsletter. Here are a few highlights from the survey.



We were happy to hear that the majority of respondents find the information in our newsletter somewhat relevant or very relevant.



More respondents prefer to receive their news in print form as opposed to online.



As a response, this issue features more emphasis on a Business Lens (Page 7), Community Events (page 12), Infrastructure Updates (page 19), and Bylaws (page 23).

Not-for-Profit Grants

Our Not-for-Profit Grant plays a vital role in supporting not-for-profit organizations in carrying out their mission and enhancing the positive impact they have on the lives of residents. These grants serve as a valuable resource to address a variety of needs that not-for-profit groups face in their operations.

The annual grant offers the opportunity to apply for essential operational, minor capital, project and special event funding. This support helps cover basic expenses such as rent, utilities, and staff salaries, allowing these groups to sustain

their operations and focus on their core objectives.

Whether it's launching community programs, implementing innovative projects, or addressing specific needs within the community, the project grant helps turn ideas into reality. This support fosters creativity and innovation within these groups, allowing them to adapt and provide improved services to residents.

If your not-for-profit serves the residents of Parkland County, then this grant may be available for you. More information can be

found on our website, or join us for one of our information sessions:

Wednesday, May 8

6:30 pm — Wabamun Office

Thursday, May 9

6:30 pm — Parkland County Centre

Applications open: May 1, 2024

Application deadline: June 15, 2024

www.parklandcounty.com/NFPgrant

WHAT'S NEW IN PARKLAND COUNTY

Recognized as one of the best!

Parkland County was recently named one of Alberta's Top 80 Employers. This special designation recognizes Alberta employers that lead their industries in offering exceptional places to work. Parkland County was one of two municipalities in Alberta to be awarded the designation.

Alberta's



"The recognition of Parkland County as one of the province's top employers is a reason to celebrate the great team we've built here, and the time and effort we've put into moving the needle on employee health, wellness, and safety. County leadership is committed to ensuring our employees are confident coming to work knowing that their physical and mental health is held in high regard, just like the daily work they do on behalf of our residents making this a great place to live," said CAO Laura Swain.

Parkland County was recognized as one of Alberta's Top Employers for, among other things, strong career and leadership development, reaching out to the next generation of employees through paid internships and apprenticeships, helping employees plan for the future with retirement planning assistance, and a defined benefit pension plan.

Employers are compared to other organizations in their field to determine which organization offers the most progressive and forward-thinking programs. Employers are evaluated by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers using the same eight criteria as the national competition: Workplace; Work Atmosphere & Social; Health, Financial & Family Benefits; Vacation & Time Off; Employee Communications; Performance Management; Training & Skills Development; and Community Involvement.

“ While at work, Parkland County goes above and beyond to promote safety and mental health and implements numerous ways to recognize all staff accomplishments. I consider myself very fortunate to have found a career with Parkland County and am eager to continue to grow with the organization.”

— Chad Ritter, ALUS Coordinator



“ I feel that effort and ability are appreciated and applauded, and I enjoy a wonderful work-life balance due to having Earned Days Off, personal days, and flexibility that I haven't experienced working for a municipality before.”

— Rhonda James, Executive Administrative Assistant



EXPLORE PARKLAND

UNVEILING A NEW TOURISM EXPERIENCE

We are proud to announce the launch of our new tourism website, [ExploreParkland.com](https://www.exploreparkland.com). The new website showcases the beauty of the region through captivating visuals, immersive videos, and compelling content. The goal is to not only attract new visitors to Parkland County but also highlight the hidden gems for residents to discover in their own backyard. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast or just looking for a walk in the park, Parkland County has something for everyone.

This initiative aims to position Parkland County as a desirable destination that is an alternative to Jasper. An advertising campaign will be used to enhance visibility,

beginning with billboards that launched in downtown Calgary in mid-February. The roll out continues in the Edmonton area in April with additional billboards and radio ads.

The launch of Explore Parkland is a testament to the County's commitment to tourism and community involvement. Local tourism businesses and attractions will be highlighted throughout the website, including an ever-growing business directory.

Use the site to plan your perfect day — maybe a round of golf at the Ranch Golf Course or Pineridge Golf Resort followed by a drive to Anohka Distillery for a local

craft cocktail? Or perhaps you'd prefer some family fun at Somerset Farms, which is open year-round. The opportunities are endless!

Embark on this virtual journey through Parkland County's natural beauty by visiting www.exploreparkland.com.

We'd love to hear from you! If you have any feedback on your experience visiting the website or would like your business added to the directory, please email economicdiversification@parklandcounty.com

THE NEW WEBSITE OFFERS:



Easy access to comprehensive guides, interactive maps, and destination itineraries.



Updates on the latest events through the integrated events calendar.



A business directory of local shops, restaurants, and services



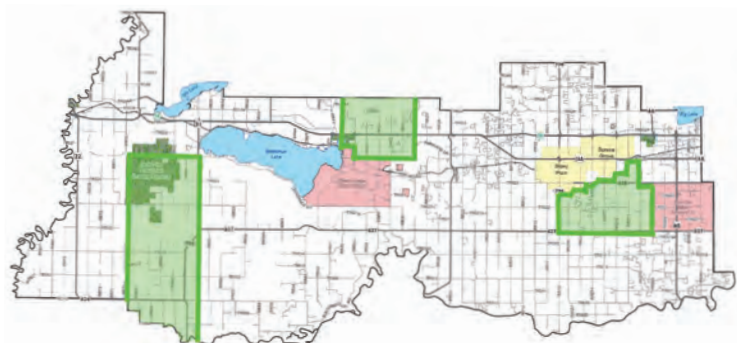
Weed Control Program

Not all plants are good. There are specific weeds you cannot leave unmanaged on your property. These weeds, designated as “prohibited noxious and noxious” under the Alberta Weed Control Act, can spread rapidly and cause serious problems. Property owners are responsible for controlling these plants on their property.

As shown in the image below, we have selected areas of the County where we will focus our

resources for 2024. We will start by controlling weeds on County lands and then begin assessing private properties. Properties with noxious and prohibited noxious weeds will be inspected and given recommendations for control.

Please note: a weed notice can be issued where no effort is made to prevent the spread of noxious weeds or destroy prohibited noxious weeds.



Vegetation Control Program:

Parkland County's Agriculture and Environment Services Department will be using a combination of methods to control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds on County lands as designated under the Alberta Weed Control Act. These methods include:

- Herbicide application
- Mowing
- Biological control agents
- Manual removal

Herbicides used this upcoming season may include:

Clearview PCP #29752
Truvis PCP# 30920
Lontrel XC PCP #32795
Milestone PCP #28517
Navius PCP #30922
Escort PCP #23005

Biological control agents are used to control Yellow Toadflax, Leafy Spurge and Canada Thistle at sensitive sites throughout the County.

For your safety and worker safety, please refrain from approaching staff or disturbing biological control sites while work is in progress.

For more information on the Vegetation and Weed Control Programs visit www.parklandcounty.com/weeds

DID YOU KNOW?

You can rent pasture sprayers from our Agricultural Services!

Call 780-968-8467



ALUS
PARKLAND



ALUS Parkland

ALUS is a national charitable organization that provides expertise, resources, and financial support to farmers and ranchers, allowing them to build nature-based solutions on their land to sustain agriculture and biodiversity for the benefit of communities and future generations.

Take Grant Taillieu's farm for example. His farm features an Adaptive Multi-Paddock (AMP) grazing system, with a central off-site watering system that is both solar powered and capable

of operating throughout all of Alberta's seasons. AMP grazing is a targeted approach that focuses on appropriately managing summer grazing practices. In return, successfully managed AMP grazing practices allow producers such as Grant to improve their rangeland health and increase their pasture productivity. The off-site watering component that provides water to cattle throughout the winter months allows Grant to winter cattle on the same land that is used for summer grazing. By wintering cattle on this same parcel of land, nutrients are put

directly back onto the land, increasing the nutrient supply needed for the grasses that are grazed in the summer months. Thanks to environmentally conscious producers like Grant, the ALUS Parkland program helps produce numerous ecosystem innovations for the benefit of Parkland County.

To learn more about the ALUS program, visit www.parklandcounty.com/ALUS

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

In December 2023, the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB) received *From Risk to Resilience: EMRB Climate Resilience Study*. The Study identified the risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities that our region will face in the future based on climate projections and impact scenarios.

The report suggested that climate change has already had significant economic consequences and could continue to do so in the future. It emphasized that adaptation is not the responsibility of one entity or organization, but a collaborative effort across society.

CLIMATE RISKS IN OUR REGION

The following are examples of climate hazards requiring us to take adaptable action:



Hotter summers



More extreme weather



Water stress

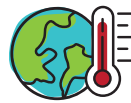


Wildland fire and smoke

Adaptability is needed from citizens, government, and industries. Included in the report are several adaptation actions for consideration to move the region from risk to resilience.

The full report can be found on the EMRB website: www.emrb.ca

The region's built and natural systems are intricately linked. As our region welcomes new people and jobs, and the demand to develop infrastructure grows, it is critical to apply a climate lens to build resilience and minimize future risks.



WHAT IS CLIMATE ADAPTATION?

Climate adaptation focuses on building resilience and adjusting to climate changes that are projected to occur in the future and those that are already happening.

WHERE CAN I TAKE ACTION?



Resilient vegetation and natural assets



Water management



Resilient homes



Emergency preparedness

WHAT CAN I DO?



Get a FireSmart™ assessment



Monitor outdoor air quality and improve indoor air quality



Implement climate resilient home improvements (such as sump pumps)



Grow your own food



Incorporate the three Rs



Support citizen science and local watershed groups



Prevent the spread of invasive species



Improve emergency preparedness



Plant climate resilient species



Conserve water



Improve soil health



Restore, enhance or maintain wetland areas

2024 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



2.9%
Tax Rate increase

\$83.7 M

Projected Net Financial Assets

(Financial assets after deducting the County's liabilities)



\$54.2 M

Capital Investment planned for 2024



Monthly tax rate increase of
\$5.25
per month
per household*

*Residential property assessed at \$500,000.

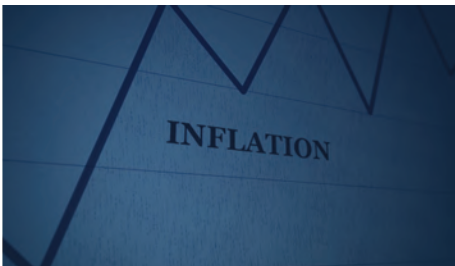


32%
Utilized Allowable
Debt Limit



Strategic Capital Investment

- Wabamun Initiatives
- Acheson Initiatives
- Entwistle Water Reservoir
- Road Program



Budget Pressures

- Inflationary/Deflationary Pressure
- Tight Labour Market
- Cost Sharing Pressures
- Lack of Assessment Growth
- Decreasing Linear Assessment



Low Tax Increase

Leveraging strong fiscal position to keep tax rates competitive while funding important investments in regional infrastructure

Upcoming Council Meetings

Stay up to date with Council meeting agendas, recaps and more by subscribing to receive email updates at www.parklandcounty.com/Council

COUNCIL MEETINGS

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

PARKLAND COUNTY LIBRARIES

ART TO ZEN

March 30, 2024

2 pm to 4 pm

Wabamun Village Office

- A relaxing afternoon for teens and adults to try different art applications such as acrylic, watercolour, gouache, and ink.
- Facilitated by artist Reg Faulkner

Register at 780-892-2713 or

wabamunlibrary@pclibraries.ca



COMICON

May 4, 2024

11 am to 2 pm

Entwistle Public Library

- All ages free
- Costumes
- Prizes
- Superhero Storytime
- Green screen and 3D printer
- Free BBQ
- Video games, comic making and much more!



"WEST END" ADVENTURES IN AGING CONFERENCE

June 3, 2024

10 am to 2 pm

Tomahawk Agra Centre

- Free event
- Contact 780-339-3935 to register



LIBRARY HOURS

Keepills

Tuesday: 8:30am-4:30pm

Wednesday: 12pm-8pm

Friday: 10am-6pm

Duffield*

Monday: 9am-5pm

Wednesday: 11am-7pm

Thursday: 9am-5pm

* Hours change in July & August

Wabamun

Tuesday: 9am-5pm

Wednesday: 9am-5pm

Thursday: 9am-5pm

Entwistle

Monday: 9am - 5pm

Tuesday: 9am-8pm

Wednesday: 9am-8pm

Thursday: 9am-8pm

Friday: 9am-5pm

Saturday: 11am-3pm

Tomahawk

Monday: 10am-4pm

Tuesday: 10am-4pm

Wednesday: 10:30am
-6:30pm

Thursday: 10am-4pm



COMMUNITY EVENTS

County Wide Garage Sale

APRIL 20

Muir Lake Community League Garage Sale

Time: 10 am to 3 pm
\$20/table for community
league members,
\$30/table for non-members
Contact: Michelle at
garagesale@muirlakehall.ca

Carvel Hall Garage Sale

\$20 per table
Contact: Lillian at 780-554-0240

APRIL 27

Woodbend Community Hall Garage Sale

Time: 10 am to 3 pm
Multiple Vendors.
Great selection. Concession.
Contact: Marilyn at 780-914-2206

Garden Valley Hall Garage Sale

Time: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
8-foot tables \$15
Contact: Kristine at
events@gardenvalleyhall.ca

Graminia Garage Sale

Time: 9 am to 3 pm
Inside tables rentals: \$10
Outside spot rentals: \$5
Contact:
graminiahallevents@gmail.com

Rosenthal Community Hall

Time: 9 am to 4 pm
\$10 per table
Contact: Connie at 780-975-8882

Holborn Hall Spring Garage Sale

Time: 10 am to 3 pm
\$10/table for community league
members,
\$15/table for non-members
Contact: Message the Facebook
page or text Barb at 780-919-1120

Community Events

MARCH 30

Woodbend Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

Time: 9 am to 11 am
\$7 per person (free for children
4 and under)
Drop by to meet your
neighbours and bring the kids
for an Easter egg hunt.

APRIL 12

Holborn Hall Family Bingo

Time: Doors open at 6:15 pm,
bingo starts at 7 pm
Everyone is welcome!
Contact: Email
President@holbornhall.com or
call 780-963-7077.

APRIL 6

Woodbend Partners' Crib Tournament

Time: Registration at 9 am,
games at 10 am
\$25/person — includes lunch
Phone-in registration starts Friday,
March 22 at 8 am
Contact: 780-470-3338
(no calls before 8 am)

APRIL 6 AND 7

Clymont Hall Spring Market and Trade Show

Time: April 6, 10 am to 5 pm
Time: April 7, 10 am to 3 pm

40+ local vendors offering products
and services to the community.

APRIL 6

Moon Lake Name that Tune!

Contact: Carly at 403-783-1289.

APRIL 20

Holborn Hall Spring Market

Time: 10 am to 4 pm
Market tables:
• \$30 (non-members)
• \$20 (member)
• Additional \$5 for power

Contact: To secure your
table, please message
Holborn Hall through
their Facebook or text
Barb at 780-919-1120.

MAY 4

Hansen's Corner Hall Garage sale

Tables and tailgate spots are
available for \$5.00.
Contact: Email
hansenscornerhall@gmail.com
or call Judy at 780-963-4716 to
book your spot.

MAY 5

Moon Lake Mother's Day Tea Party

Contact: Carly at 403-783-1289.

MAY 24 TO 26

Holborn Hall's 100th Anniversary Celebration

Join the 100th anniversary celebration at a spring picnic. Follow their Facebook page to stay updated on all the activities!

Community Leagues are vital in creating and sustaining vibrant communities. Parkland County's 26 Community Leagues have a diverse group of volunteers who provide community recreation and culture opportunities through a variety of programs, events, and recreation amenities — each one unique to the immediate community they serve.

Want to get involved? Please contact your local community league if you are interested in joining, volunteering or participating in one of the wonderful events that they host!

For more info on Community Leagues near you, visit parklandcounty.com/CommunityLeagues

Community Events

If you're looking to connect with your community, or want to advertise a community event, be sure to check out our Community Events Calendar at events.parklandcounty.com



Rain Barrel Sale

MAY 4

Tri-Municipal Rain Barrel Sale

Time: Sale starts at 7 am
RONA Home Centre Spruce Grove
175 Highway 16A

Get your rain barrel for \$89.99 (limit of two per person, while quantities last)

Shred Event

JUNE 15

Community Shred Event

Time: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Parkland County Centre Parking Lot
53109A HWY 779, Parkland County, AB T7Z 1R1

This is a free service provided by Parkland County to ensure your confidential, personal information is securely destroyed and responsibly recycled.

Please bring any animal treats/toys/food or cash donations. All donations will be given to a local Parkland County non-profit animal rescue group.

What is Accepted:

- Documents (including staples, paper clips), file folders, small soft covered books, CD's and DVD's.

Not Accepted:

- Banker boxes and other corrugated cardboard, hard cover textbooks, VHS or other types of reel tapes.



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Summer Camps

Our 2024 Summer Camps are offered in partnership with CHANGE Health.

Ages 6 – 12

9 am to 4 pm, with early drop-off and late collection of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

\$100/per camper

More information along with a full list of dates and locations can be found at www.parklandcounty.com/SummerCamps



Snow Removal Subsidy Program

Our Snow Removal Subsidy Program provides funding support to residents with disabilities for snow removal from their private driveways. The deadline for residents to submit receipts is **April 30, 2024**. For more information, visit www.parklandcounty.com/SnowRemovalProgram



Counselling Program

Spruce Grove's Community Social Development (CSD) supports the emotional and mental well-being of Spruce Grove and Parkland County Residents aged 14+ through counselling supports. The City of Spruce Grove employs a Community Counsellor who provides free single-session counselling which is a time-limited model focused on addressing specific issues or goals within a relatively brief period. Services are provided primarily through appointments within the Spruce Grove CSD office, but walk-in services may be available depending on counsellor availability.

Call 780-962-7618 for more details.



Home Support Subsidy Program

The Home Support Subsidy Program provides essential support to eligible (based on income and need) residents in Parkland County and the City of Spruce Grove needing assistance with light housekeeping. Find more information at www.sprucegrove.org/homesupport

SAIF Society Presentations

Our free presentations for seniors are hosted in partnership with the SAIF Society and offer support on the following topics: 'Identifying and Understanding Elder Abuse' and 'Fraud, Scams, Family & Friends'.

Dates and locations can be found online at www.parklandcounty.com/Seniors or by calling 780-727-3947.



Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP), in partnership with the Canada Revenue Agency, helps eligible, low- and moderate-income individuals and families file online tax returns at no cost using the secure "Auto-fill my return" service provided by Canada Revenue Agency. No physical tax documentation is required, and services can be provided over the phone, in person and online. Utilize this service from March 1 to April 30, find more information at www.parklandcounty.com/TaxSupport

Bridging Connections

The Bridging Connections team consists of Community Social Workers who are dedicated professionals offering compassionate and confidential support to Spruce Grove and Parkland County residents. Engaging in in-person, phone and community interactions, Community Social Workers actively listen to individuals, identify solutions, and facilitate connections to pertinent community resources. Drop-in support is available Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm within the Spruce Grove Community Social Development (CSD) office.

Drop-in and appointment-based support is also available from 9 am to noon on Wednesdays at the Parkland County FCSS office in Wabamun. Please call 780-962-7618 to book an appointment.



Red Cross Youth Programs

We are proud to offer Canadian Red Cross programs to help educate youth on important safety situations; from learning how to Stay Safe when home alone, to caring for younger children in the babysitting course.

Programs and courses will be available at various county community league halls throughout the year. A full list of available locations, dates and times can be found at www.parklandcounty.com/RedCrossPrograms



Parent and Tot Groups

Our Parent and Tot Groups offer the perfect space to socialize with other parents while your children play in a cheerful, relaxed environment. Plan to meet up with old friends or come and make new ones!

Parkland Village Community Centre

Tuesdays, 10 to 11:30 am

Tomahawk Agra Centre

Wednesdays, 10 to 11:30 am

Entwistle Community Recreation Centre

Fridays, 10 to 11:30 am



LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

Host a Love Where You Live block party and connect with neighbours to build relationships and a safer, prouder community. These block parties offer an opportunity for residents to mingle, have fun and build a sense of belonging. Getting to know your neighbours enhances safety, as you look out for each other and create a secure community. Love Where You Live parties, whether big or small, in any season, can be tailored to your

neighbourhood's interests. The program provides funding and loans of outdoors games – enriching the experience for event hosts. Additional information and an online application can be found at www.parklandcounty.com/LoveWhereYouLive

ENTWISTLE OUTDOOR POOL

The Entwistle Outdoor Pool is located within the Entwistle Community Recreation Centre and features a four lane pool, beach area with spray toys, a diving board and water slide. Registration for swim lessons opens early May and the pool opens as soon as weather allows, typically around the May Long weekend. Visit www.parklandcounty.com/Pool for the latest updates!



WATCHING OUT FOR OUR WATER

Alberta is currently in a significant drought. There is less snow and rain, along with higher temperatures, heightening the drought risk for spring and summer. The County has heard from Alberta Government partners and is committed to being a water conservation steward.

The water in Acheson, Wabamun, Entwistle and the Big Lake area is supplied from EPCOR through the Capital Region Parkland Water Commission (CRPWC). This water comes from the North Saskatchewan River, which has had historically abundant flows. However, due to current warming, other growth factors and projected climate change, we need to think carefully about water use efficiency today and in the future.

There are certain situations when water supply can be affected, and residents may be asked to have special measures in place to prevent critical shortages. Check the County's website regularly to find out if you are affected and how you can help conserve water during restrictions or bans.

Why would a water ban be necessary?

Water demand usually rises during summer months, mostly due to lawn and garden watering. When there is hot, dry weather, or a drought situation, it impacts the potable water production and creates more demand.

With water bans in effect, our water distribution reservoirs and water treatment plants have an opportunity to recover so that there is enough water available for essential use, such as firefighting.

How long will a water ban last?

It depends on the reservoir levels and potable water production rates. However, during water bans, the situation of the reservoir is reviewed on a daily basis to decide if the ban needs to be relaxed or lifted.

How can I help save water if a ban is implemented?

If a water ban is implemented by the county County, you will be notified on limiting your water usage for non-essential purposes such as watering your lawn or washing your car. Other practices include only running your laundry or dishwasher when full, turning taps off while brushing teeth or taking shorter showers. Businesses are also advised to limit their water usage.

What if I am an agricultural producer?

Water management is an important part of farm operations and the production of quality crops. Consider an Environmental Farm Plan or other water conservation tips like using cover crops, rotational grazing, wetland retention or composting. Contact the County ALUS Coordinator to learn more about Environmental Farm Plans and how you can get involved.

What will happen to my lawn if I don't water it?

Your lawn will go dormant during a hot and dry spell and may turn yellow or brown, but it will turn green again once the dry or hot spell is over. An effective alternative is to purchase a rain barrel and use this water for your lawn and/or garden. Check out the upcoming Tri-Municipal rain barrel sale! Find details on page 13.

Should I be worried about the availability of drinking water?

Effective water bans are designed to prevent any shortages of drinking water. However, the success depends on the cooperation of water users. If users do their part to conserve, there should be no shortage of drinking water.

For more on Water Supply and any restrictions in Parkland County, visit www.ParklandCounty.com/Water



Our online public engagement portal provides residents the opportunity to learn about and share feedback on various projects. It is also home to our Enforcement page that helps keep you updated on any significant criminal activity and connects you to a Peace Officer to ask questions. Stay up to date by entering your email and clicking SUBSCRIBE on each project webpage. Join the conversation, share your perspective on County projects, and help shape what's happening in your community.



Project rendering

Wabamun Waterfront Initiative

As part of a well-attended open house on October 24, 2023, Parkland County has committed to providing regular updates on the progress of this project.

In 2024, work is progressing on the Waterfront Park expansion and modernization. Regulatory approvals are next up for the project team. The

work at Waterfront Park will soon be tendered with construction completion expected in late 2024. Improvements will include three projects:

- The renewal of Waterfront Park
- Upgrading the hamlet's stormwater systems
- Creating a new amenity space in the form of a swimming pond and inland marina

For updates on the Wabamun Waterfront Initiative, please visit yourparkland.ca/Wabamun

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Through the 2024 budget process, our Engineering Services Department developed a list of projects that will be going forward in 2024 to improve our road and bridge network, expand water and wastewater service delivery and address certain localized storm water management improvements.

A complete list of projects can be found at www.parklandcounty.com/Infrastructure

Please note that many County roads have road bans placed on them, visit www.parklandcounty.com/RoadBans to learn more.

Highlights of the 2024 – 2027 Capital Infrastructure Program:

WATER RESERVOIR AND PUMPHOUSE IN ENTWISTLE

- In 2023, Parkland County completed the design and initiated the tender process for a new water reservoir and pumphouse in Entwistle. The existing reservoir and pumphouse has reached its end of life cycle after more than 50 years of use. The new facility will maintain existing service levels for water servicing in Entwistle for the next 50+ years.

ACHESON INTERSECTIONS IMPROVEMENTS

- Two intersections on Highway 16A will be improved throughout 2024. The intersections are at Spruce Valley Road and at Bevington Road/Pinchbeck Road. Improvements will include an increase in acceleration/deceleration lanes, improved turning lane and channelization, new streetlights, and traffic signal lights.
- The intersection at Bevington Road/Pinchbeck Road will also include realignment to one single location (versus two intersections as current).

WABAMUN WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS

- Several activities will occur within the Wabamun area to improve and address long term system improvements that will allow for existing development and future growth opportunities.
- At a high level, these tasks include the following:
 - Main line replacement of the Osprey Subdivision sanitary lines.
 - CIPP (cured in place pipe) lining of the sanitary sewer lines throughout the hamlet.
 - Wabamun Lagoon Dredging and partial reconstruction/maintenance.
 - Overview of the hamlet's overall system capacity and long-term system functionality.

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

- The annual programs include the following activities at select locations:
 - Asphalt resurfacing on our grid road network (Range Road and Township Road)

- Subdivision Road Preservation Programs
- Aggregate Chip Seal Program
- Bridge file repair and replacement

RR70 FIRE RECLAMATION

Parkland County is pleased to share that fire reclamation activities following the Range Road 70 Fire near Entwistle are now complete.

The reclamation work included repairs to fire guards created by, or directed by, County forces during the RR70 fire. General landscaping to bring properties back to their original state was completed, along with property approach repairs, fencing repairs, and additional tree clearing of hazardous trees within or adjacent to the road right-of-way.

The reclamation activities covered impacts that were a direct result of Parkland County equipment or Parkland County directed equipment, and this includes lands within Parkland County only.

www.parklandcounty.com/RR70



MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROJECT



What is a Municipal Development Plan?

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is a high-level plan that establishes a vision for the County's growth over the next 30 years. It sets future direction by identifying where different types of growth and development will occur, including residential, employment, recreation, and community service development. In addition to future land use, the MDP sets out policies to guide infrastructure, transportation, and environmental protection.

MDP's are required by the Alberta Municipal Government Act. They must be adopted by bylaw through a formal process involving three readings at Council and a Public Hearing.

With the phase out of coal, Parkland County is undertaking an amendment to the Municipal Development Plan to help foster and diversify growth opportunities within the County. The amendment is being completed in two phases over two years.

Project Updates and Next Steps

The MDP Project consists of two project phases and three stages of engagement from spring 2023 to spring 2025:

PHASE 1 — TECHNICAL GROWTH STUDY:



Work on this phase of the project is completed and available to the public in the second quarter of 2024.

Stage 1 Engagement — Growth Scenarios (Fall 2023):

Work completed during this stage gathered community feedback to support the creation of the Technical Growth Study and updates to the MDP vision and priorities. A summary of Stage 1 is publicly available at yourparkland.ca/mdp. Thank you to all those who participated!



PHASE 2 — MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CREATION:

Work on this phase is ongoing and will be the focus of the project in 2024.

Stage 2 Engagement — Policies (Spring 2024):

The second stage of engagement will gather community feedback on suggested policies based on the results of the previous stage and technical studies. Planning for Stage 2 engagement events is currently underway. Stay tuned for how you can participate by subscribing to yourparkland.ca/mdp

Engagement events will be advertised through email updates, the County website and events calendar, County social media, community newspapers, and other advertising methods in the month prior to events occurring.

Stage 3 Engagement — Draft Municipal Development Plan (Summer 2024):

The third stage will involve showcasing the updated Municipal Development Plan draft and provide an opportunity for the community to submit feedback prior to draft completion.



PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVALS:

The Municipal Government Act requires the adoption of the MDP through a formal process. This process involves three readings at Parkland County Council and one Public Hearing. Members of the public will have an opportunity to register to speak at the Public Hearing before Council prior to a decision on the adoption of the bylaw.

LAND USE BYLAW REDESIGN



What is a Land Use Bylaw?

A Land Use Bylaw (LUB) regulates how and where land within a municipality develops and is key to implementing the Municipal Development Plan.

A LUB helps ensure that neighbouring land uses are compatible with each other and that what one person does on their property does not negatively impact their neighbours. A LUB is required for every municipality in Alberta as per the requirements in the Alberta Municipal Government Act.

As part of an ongoing process, Parkland County is updating the LUB to streamline and modernize regulations and create transparent decision-making processes for development in the county. Land use regulations for the former Village of Wabamun will also be integrated. The County's LUB was last updated in 2017, with a previous update in 2009.

Project Updates and Next Steps

The Land Use Bylaw ReDesign consists of three project phases with multiple rounds of engagement from spring 2023 to spring 2025.



PHASE 1 — FOUNDATIONAL RESEARCH AND ROUND 1 ENGAGEMENT:

This phase included notification and engagement with internal County staff and the public. A summary of our engagement and what we heard can be found on the project webpage www.yourparkland.ca/lub. In addition to several engagement activities, the project team had undertaken research to identify where the LUB is working well, and where there is an opportunity for improvement.



PHASE 2 — DRAFT LAND USE BYLAW AND ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT:

Work on this Phase is ongoing and a draft LUB is expected to be completed this summer.

Round 2 engagement will gather community feedback on topics that matter most. Planning for round 2 engagement is currently underway. To stay up to date on events and opportunities to participate, subscribe to project updates at www.yourparkland.ca/lub



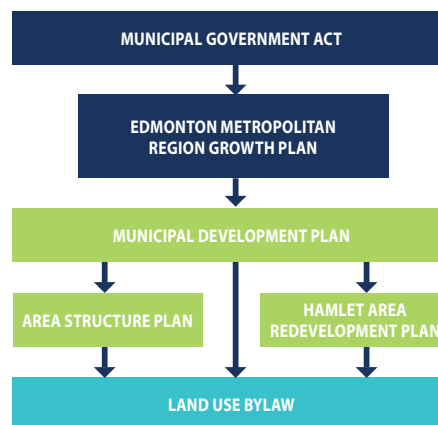
PHASE 3 — FINAL LAND USE BYLAW AND APPROVALS:

Work on this Phase is expected to occur in early 2025.

This phase of the project will include showcasing the final proposed LUB and providing an opportunity for the community to submit feedback prior to final approval. The Municipal Government Act requires the adoption of the LUB through a formal process. This process will involve three readings at Parkland County Council and one Public Hearing.

Working Together

The Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw are important tools that Parkland County uses to implement its vision, goals, policies, and regulations. Parkland County administration continues to work together on these projects to create streamlined policy and efficiency for current and future businesses and residents.



This figure shows the provincial framework / hierarchy of plans. The policies in the Municipal Development Plan are informed by provincial and regional plans. The Land Use Bylaw implements the higher-level plans

We want to hear from you! Both the *Municipal Development Plan Project* and the *Land Use Bylaw ReDesign* are looking to gather feedback on both projects as they progress over the next year.

For updates and information on both projects please visit:

- Municipal Development Plan
www.yourparkland.ca/mdp
- Land Use Bylaw ReDesign
www.yourparkland.ca/lub

Have questions about these projects? Please email buildingparkland@parklandcounty.com and one of our team members will connect with you.



BARELAND RECREATIONAL RESORT DISTRICT AMENDMENTS



PHASE 1 — NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 2023

Project kick-off and initiation of research and analysis to support future regulation creation that will be complete in Phase 2.



PHASE 2 — UNDERSTAND AND LEARN

Undertake public engagement activities to share the outcomes of the research findings and seek feedback from the community.



PHASE 3 — CRAFT

Draft recommended amendments to the Land Use Bylaw based on the research findings and community feedback. Once the amendments are finalized, the public will be invited to participate in a Public Hearing, and the project team will present the recommendations to Council for approval.

In response to direction from Council and current development pressures, Parkland County is undertaking a Land Use Bylaw Amendment to the BRR — Bareland Recreational Resort District. The project will include:

- Researching best practices for identified issues and opportunities.
- Seeking input through public engagement activities.
- Developing new definitions and regulations.
- Proposing amendments to the BRR — Bareland Recreational Resort District to Council for approval.

Project Overview

The BRR District Amendment project aims to conduct a detailed analysis of Arizona rooms and propose recommendations to regulate them within the BRR District. An Arizona room is a covered and screened-in outdoor extension of a home that's used for recreational and leisure purposes. Recommendations proposed by the BRR District Amendment will be incorporated into the LUB ReDesign project, as the projects work in tandem.

How can I get involved?

We want to hear from you! The project team is looking to gather feedback on the amendments. For updates and information on the projects please visit www.yourparkland.ca/brr. Have questions about this project? Please email buildingparkland@parklandcounty.com and one of our team members will connect with you.

MUNICIPAL BYLAW UPDATE

Our Municipal Bylaw Review is well underway, with five bylaw reviews now completed. The remaining bylaws have set public hearing dates where proposed updates will be presented. Residents are welcome to share input in these hearings. You can register to speak at any of the public hearings by emailing governanceagendas@parklandcounty.com or calling 780-968-8471.

Completed Bylaws:

FIRE BYLAW:

Updates include:

- **Fireworks and Discharge:** No Fireworks will be used or discharged within Parkland County in Restricted Burn areas having a lot size less than 0.8 hectares (1.98 acres)
- Removed restriction that consumer fireworks permits are only issued for New Year's Eve, Canada Day, and Labour Day.
- **Fireworks Vendor Permit and Responsibility:** A retail vendor wishing to sell fireworks to persons in Parkland County shall obtain an annual Fireworks Vendor permit from Fire Services.
- **Fireworks Sales:** Clarified that Consumer fireworks can be sold all year round.
- **Fire Permit Types and Eligible Timeframes:** This section clarifies the definition of an Outdoor Fire permit and Major Burn permit. 90 day permits for recreational Fire Pits without an approved screen are no longer required.
- **Recreational Fire Pits:** Removed permit requirement for recreational fires within non-combustible containers, width up to 1.5m, and flame height up to 1m. A screen is now recommended but not required.

COUNTY PARKS:

There are many changes to the bylaw that reflect important updated park rules as well as recognizing new activities that are now part of day-to-day life. The bylaw has been completely re-written with new sections and headings. The bylaw allows for friendly park spaces

and responsible use of County Land. Several categories include:

- **Public Access and Enjoyment:** This outlines when activities are permitted in a Park.
- **Safe and Courteous Behaviour:** outlines expected as well as unacceptable behaviour of all park users.
- **Activities Allowed in Designated Areas Only:** This outlines activities allowed only in designated areas; Including but not limited to tobogganing, disc golf, horseback riding, hockey and operating remote control toys.
- **Park Rules:** This outlines park rules and regulations pertaining to geocaching, bicycles, E-bicycles and E-Scooters, drones, watercrafts, trails and pathways, camping, waste, fires, and vehicles.

Other updates include:

- Park and trail hours have extended to be open from 5 am to 11 pm, pathways are open 24 hours.
- Addition of the use of Drones and E-bikes in Parks.

USE OF COUNTY LANDS BYLAW:

County land is recognized as one of the largest assets with more than 2000 titled parcels, each distinct in nature with its own limitations and advantages. County lands are governed by the regulations set out in the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and Parkland County bylaws.

This bylaw was created from the information removed from other bylaws and is in alignment with the MGA and the County's current policies, procedures and programs.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE:

Animal	April 9, 2024 – 9:30 am
Traffic	April 23, 2024 – 9:30 am

As part of the process, a thorough review of bylaws similar in nature from other municipalities took place as well as extensive public engagement.

OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES:

- Definitions section: The word "Park" was replaced with "County Land".
- "Environmental Reserve" has been replaced with "Conservation Reserve".
- Riders must be 16 years of age and hold a class 5 license to operate an OHV.
- Peace Officers have the ability to use discretion in the application of this Bylaw when assessing a situation.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS:

Updates include:

- **Violation Tickets and Penalties:** Added information about Peace Officer's discretion, what is required when making a complaint, and that the Court has final say.
- **False Information:** No person shall provide false or misleading information to any Peace Officer, or County employee.
- **Interference with a Peace Officer:** No person shall interfere with or obstruct a Peace Officer in the exercise of their powers and duties pursuant to this bylaw.
- Adjusted the "Lights" section of the bylaw to be less specific.
- **Added section:** Disposal of Deceased Livestock.

Learn more about the Municipal Bylaw Review at yourparkland.ca/municipal-bylaw-review



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