

# **YOUR PARKLAND**

2025 SPRING

Keeping you connected with your County

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**UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES**  
Good Friday: April 18  
Victoria Day: Monday, May 19

**PROCLAMATIONS**  
To view monthly proclamations, please visit [www.parklandcounty.com/Proclamations](http://www.parklandcounty.com/Proclamations)



JANUARY SUNRISE



COMMUNITY INFORMATION NIGHT



AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME AWARD RECOGNITION



DOG RESCUED FROM TREE IN WABAMUN

You can now receive monthly County updates directly to your inbox! Be sure to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by visiting [www.parklandcounty.com/eNewsletter](http://www.parklandcounty.com/eNewsletter)



**REACH OUT OR FOLLOW US:**

Find out more on what's happening in Parkland County, follow us or visit [parklandcounty.com](http://parklandcounty.com)

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday – Friday; 8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
T: 780-968-8888  
E: [hello@parklandcounty.com](mailto:hello@parklandcounty.com)

53109A HWY 779  
Parkland County, AB T7Z 1R1



Parkland County Mayor and Council (L – R) Councillor Natalie Birnie, Councillor Kristina Kowalski, Councillor Sally Kucher Johnson, Mayor Allan Gamble, Councillor Phyllis Kobasiuk, Councillor Rob Wiedeman.

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Welcome to 2025 and the spring *Your Parkland* magazine! We are excited about this year ahead and all the work being done throughout our county — much of which you can learn about in this edition. You'll also find information on upcoming events, County history, agriculture news and more — so be sure to continue reading.

Council approved the interim operating and capital budget for 2025, keeping tax increases low and predictable while continuing to maintain service levels and fund important investments. With a municipal tax increase of just 2.5%, our county remains in a stable fiscal position as we continue to rank among the lowest property tax rates in the Edmonton Region.

We are also nearing the completion of two hugely significant multi-year projects. Thanks to the tremendous efforts and countless

dedicated hours from the project teams, and volumes of valuable feedback and input from our residents and businesses, the Municipal Development Plan Project is now complete and the Land Use Bylaw ReDesign is approaching the finish line. Council is very excited to have these updated plans and bylaws in place to guide future growth and decision making in Parkland County. We want to give a sincere thank you to all the residents and businesses who have engaged with us and shared feedback along the way. You can learn more about each of these projects, and the consultation that has informed them, on page 19.

Like many of you, we're eagerly awaiting winter's end. However, with spring also comes the beginning of wildfire season, and we'd like to remind our residents that it's never too early to ensure you are prepared for an emergency. Thankfully, our FireSmart program

is here to assist by helping you increase your property's resiliency to wildfire and do everything you can to keep yourself — and your neighbours — safe. Learn more about this on page 8.

With warmer weather on the horizon, we encourage you to get outside and explore our beautiful region. If you are looking for new places to discover, be sure to visit [www.exploreparkland.com](http://www.exploreparkland.com).

Thank you to all our residents who call Parkland County home. We appreciate your support as we work to ensure that ensure that it remains 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 Métis 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.



## Our employees are your neighbours!

Notice any famous faces around Parkland County lately?

We recently launched Caring for the County, a campaign featuring just a few of our employees who are also Parkland County residents. Like you, they take pride in their community and want the most from their tax dollars, too. Caring for the County showcases how these dedicated employees, and your neighbours, are working hard to care for the place that we call home.

**KYLE**

Fire Services Team and  
Parkland County Resident for 10 years

**KRISTIN**

Technology & Digital Services Team and  
Parkland County Resident for 23 years

**MATT**

Engineering Team and  
Parkland County Resident for 3 years

**THERESA**

Community Services Team and  
Parkland County Resident for 39 years

**KAREN**

Emergency Communications Team  
and Parkland County  
Resident for 24 years

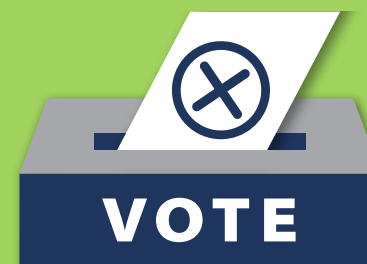
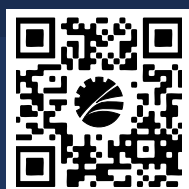
**DAILEN**

Public Works Team and  
Parkland County Resident for 4 years

**KELLY**

Customer Service Team and  
Parkland County Resident for 13 Years

Visit [www.parklandcounty.com/Caring](http://www.parklandcounty.com/Caring) to learn more about what your neighbours have done to improve the county and let us know what you'd do! Fill out a brief survey and you could win 1 of 3 gift cards, valued at up to \$500.



# HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YOUR COMMUNITY!

Nominations for the next Parkland County mayor and six divisional councillors, as well as Parkland School Division school trustees, are open! Interested in running? This is your chance to make a difference and represent your community.

The Nomination period runs from January 1, 2025, through to Nomination Day, which takes place September 22, 2025, from 10 am to 12 pm. Prior to Nomination Day, you must book an appointment with the Returning Officer to submit your completed nomination form. A \$100 deposit must be provided to the Returning Officer with your Nomination Paper.

Parkland County accepts the nomination for Parkland County Council and Parkland School Division. The Candidate Information Guide is available from the Elections Office at Parkland County Centre, or from our website at [www.parklandcounty.com/elections](http://www.parklandcounty.com/elections). Parkland School Division School Board Election Handbook will be available on their website at [www.psd.ca/board/election-2025](http://www.psd.ca/board/election-2025).

Parkland County conducts the vote for school trustees under joint agreements. If you're interested in running for a school trustee position for either Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division or St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Schools (separate schools), please visit their respective websites for further information.

## TRI-MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE INFORMATION SESSION

**FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025**

6 pm to 8 pm • Heritage Park, Spruce Grove Room  
5100 41 Ave, Stony Plain

### Are you interested in running in the 2025 municipal election?

This information session is an opportunity for prospective candidates to learn about:

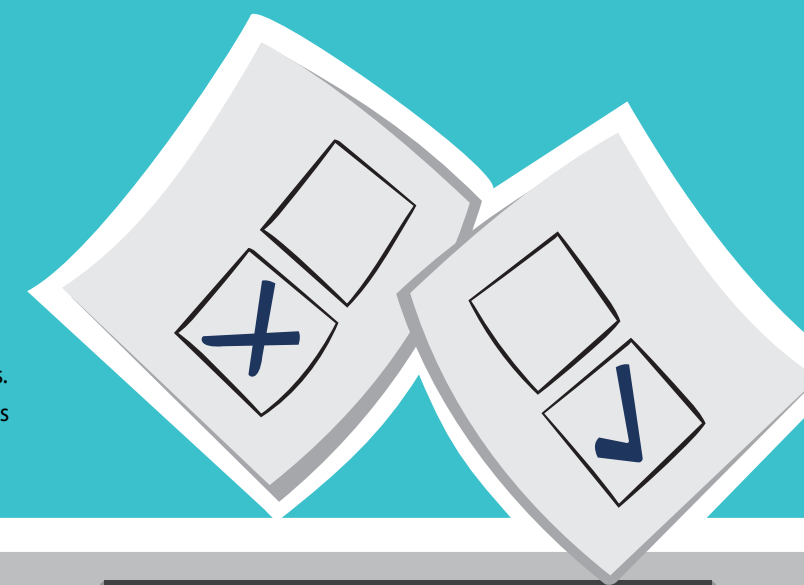
- The roles, responsibilities and commitments of municipal councillors.
- The election process; how to file nomination papers, changes to rules and regulations, upcoming deadlines and more.

Presentation takes place at 6:30 pm followed by a Q&A.

### WORK WITH US

We're hiring Election Workers! It takes a lot of people in a variety of roles to run a successful election. If you're interested in working the 2025 election, please visit [www.parklandcounty.com/careers](http://www.parklandcounty.com/careers)

Election job postings will open March 14, 2025



Election Day is Monday, October 20, 2025



# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Government of Alberta recently shared a new online tool that allows you to discover the origins of place names across the province. The Alberta Geographical Names Web Map gives insight into the cultures, people and history throughout our province with an interactive map of names. Whether a person wants to know how their hometown got its name, or if a particular historical figure has a place named after them, Albertans can easily search the map by name, location or the type of place.

The information in this article was taken from the Alberta Geographical Names Web Map.  
<https://tinyurl.com/bdea5r49>



Gainford Hotel



## GAINFORD

A post office operated here under the name of Seba from 1907 to 1910; this name is said to be either from a variation of the Cree word *sipi*, meaning "river," or from the biblical character Seba, who was a great-grandson of Noah. The new name was taken from a town in Durham County, England.

## WABAMUN LAKE

The name was noted as White Lake on John Palliser's map of 1865 and noted as White Whale Lake by the DLS and the Methodist Church Mission. This may refer to the presence of large whitefish in the lake. The current spelling of the name was recorded in the 1896 field notes of J.E. Woods, DLS. The commonly accepted translation of the name for this deep lake is "mirror" and can be descriptive of its blue, still, mirror-like quality. The confusion may be explained through the modern Alberta Elders' Cree Dictionary, which states that *wāpimin* in northern Cree means "white" and *wapamon* in modern Cree means "mirror."

## FALLIS

The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway established a station here in 1910. The post office opened in March of the same year; both were named for W.S. Fallis, an executive of the Sherwin-Williams Company of Canada, the Montreal-based paint manufacturer. It was declared a hamlet in 1990.

## KAPASIWIN

The name for this summer village, which was officially adopted in 1918, is a translation of the Cree word for "camp." It is the oldest summer village in Alberta and was previously known as Wabamun Beach.

## DUFFIELD

The name for the Grand Trunk Pacific station was approved in 1908 and the railway reached here in 1911. It was named for George Duffield Hall, formerly of Boston, Mass. A post office opened here in March 1913; G. Duncan was the first postmaster. It was declared a hamlet in 1990.

## KEEPHILLS

A post office operated here from February 1909 to March 1967; the name was suggested by George H. Collins, the first postmaster, after a town in Buckinghamshire, England. The community was moved in 1983 by Trans-Alta Utilities to allow expansion of an open pit coal mine, which was supplying a Trans-Alta electricity generator.

## MUIR LAKE

The lake may have been named for Alexander Muir (1830–1906), who wrote "The Maple Leaf Forever" in 1867; this was a very popular song among English Canadians and served as an unofficial national anthem for many years. The name was recorded as McCabe Lake in the 1920 field notes of P. Melhuish, DLS and was unnamed in earlier field notes for the area.

## ACHESON

The name for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway station was approved in 1908, and the station was established some years later. It was named for A. Acheson Tisdale, who was the railway's assistant to the vice president and general manager in Winnipeg.

## HUBBLES LAKE

The lake was likely named for either Wesley or Roy Hubbel, who homesteaded in the area in the early 1900s. According to correspondence of the Geographic Names Programme, one of them was an entrepreneur who started a summer resort and beach on the lake. It is not known why the spelling was changed.

## BEACH CORNER

A post office operated here from October 1937 to February 1970; J.P. Fuhr was the first postmaster. The name is descriptive because it is at the corner of the road that leads from Highway 16 to Edmonton Beach, now called Spring Lake.

## PARKLAND COUNTY

The name for our county is descriptive of its landscape. The County of Parkland was incorporated in 1969 and was, in part, comprised of the old municipal districts of Inga, Tomahawk and Stony Plain and portions of improvement districts. Its status reverted to municipal district in 1995 and at that time it took the title of Parkland County.

**Fun Fact:** Spruce Grove and Stony Plain are separate municipalities and are not part of Parkland County.



Wabamun Lake





# CONGRATULATIONS TO PARKLAND COUNTY'S FIRST FIRESMART NEIGHBOURHOOD!

Parkland County Fire Services is thrilled to announce that Century Gates is the first neighbourhood in Parkland County to achieve the official FireSmart Canada Recognized Neighbourhood designation! This is a national program developed to officially recognize neighbourhoods that have taken critical steps to reduce their vulnerability to wildland fires. The program focuses on bringing neighbours together to address threats on their respective properties, and those in common areas within the community.

"Congratulations to Century Gates on completing their application for recognition as a FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood! Your commitment to FireSmart showcases the strength of neighbours working together to understand their unique wildfire risk and taking collective action to increase resilience," said Laura Stewart, Provincial FireSmart Liaison.



This remarkable milestone wouldn't have been possible without the incredible dedication of Charlene, the Neighbourhood Champion for Century Gates, whose job was to rally the neighbours and act as a point of contact between the local FireSmart Coordinator and the residents. The efforts of all community members who came together to make this achievement a reality is outstanding.

"FireSmart has changed our urban community of Century Gates in so many ways. It has opened our eyes to fire behaviours and how it can affect our land and our homes in the event of a wildfire," said Charlene. "It started with the Parkland County fire department coming out and doing home assessments and then developing it into an Emergency Response Plan for our community in the case of a wildfire. This includes a preventative maintenance plan that deals with clearing fuels, such as trees and wood piles away from structures, and knocking down tall grass."

FireSmart initiatives help strengthen communities against the risk of wildfires. Parkland County Fire Services looks forward to continuing to work with Century Gates and any other neighbourhoods interested in becoming FireSmart.

"The Firesmart journey has brought out the best in community spirit and participation in reducing the risk of wildfire. We are now more than just ourselves," said Charlene.

If you'd like to learn more about how your neighbourhood can get involved, contact [firesmart@parklandcounty.com](mailto:firesmart@parklandcounty.com) or visit [www.parklandcounty.ca/FireSmart](http://www.parklandcounty.ca/FireSmart). Working together to increase resilience to wildland fire is a great way to get to know your neighbours and build a greater sense of community.

Let's work together to make every corner of Parkland County FireSmart!

“ FireSmart has changed our community of Century Gates in so many ways. It has opened our eyes to fire behaviours and how it can affect our land and our homes in the event of a wildfire.”

— Charlene, Century Gates Neighbourhood Champion



## SAFER COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (SCAN)

Many Alberta residents are uncertain of how to properly and safely handle problem residential or commercial properties. SCAN (Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods) is a unit under the Alberta Sheriffs that works to make communities more secure. As a resource for communities across Alberta, the unit begins investigations based on citizen tips and works in partnership with residents to increase safety.

### THE SCAN UNIT WORKS TO TARGET PROBLEM PROPERTIES THAT ARE BEING USED FOR SPECIFIC ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS:

- drug trafficking
- prostitution
- child exploitation
- gang-related crime

### REPORTING SUSPICIOUS PROPERTIES THROUGH SCAN:

- improves community safety
- empowers citizens
- targets properties, not individuals
- holds property owners accountable for activities on their properties

### WHEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS REPORT A SUSPICIOUS PROPERTY, SCAN INVESTIGATORS CAN:

- begin an investigation
- gather information
- issue a warning letter
- mediate the dispute
- work with the landlord to facilitate an eviction or resolution
- apply to the courts for a Community Safety Order that can:
- call for owners to meet a number of conditions, or
- allow the property to be closed for up to 90 days
- take any measures necessary to safely and effectively close the property

Visit [www.alberta.ca/report-suspicious-property](http://www.alberta.ca/report-suspicious-property) if you need to report a suspicious property in your neighbourhood.

## ROAD BAN SEASON COMING SOON

We'd like to remind all road users that road ban season is fast approaching. Road Bans are placed on sensitive roads to protect them during their weakest point to minimize damage. When the frost comes out of a road, it becomes soft under the top surface and is more likely to sustain damage.

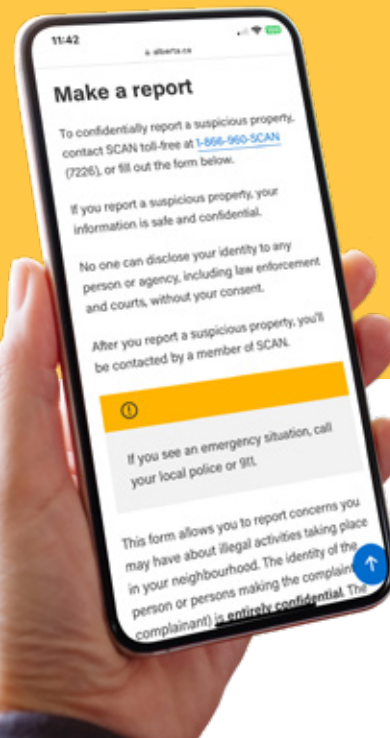
Road bans are typically placed mid-March and last to the end of May. All oiled and hard surface roads in Parkland County will be banned. The majority will have a 75% restriction placed on them.

Visit [www.parklandcounty.com/RoadBans](http://www.parklandcounty.com/RoadBans) to learn more.

## REPORT A POTHOLE

Notice a pothole that needs attention? Use our County Concerns! This tool allows you to share issues with us right from your smartphone or computer — it's fast and easy. Visit [www.parklandcounty.com/CountyConcerns](http://www.parklandcounty.com/CountyConcerns).

You can also contact our Customer Service team with your concerns by calling 780-968-8888 or emailing [hello@parklandcounty.com](mailto:hello@parklandcounty.com)

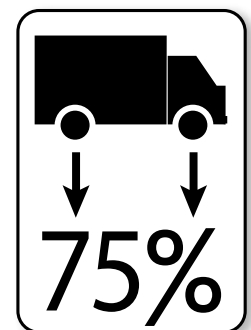


### NEED HELP?

For Emergencies, dial 9-1-1

For Non-Emergency Peace Officer assistance, dial 780-968-8400

For the latest news on crime prevention, criminal activity and what our Peace Officers have been doing to make Parkland County a safer place, visit [YourParkland.ca](http://YourParkland.ca)





# SPRING GARDENING

## NATIVE PLANT GARDENING

Plants native to Parkland County make a beautiful addition to any garden. Native plants are perennial, naturally adapted to local conditions and, if planted in the right place, require little maintenance once established. Using native plants in your garden enhances biodiversity, helps native pollinators and improves climate resilience.

## POLLINATOR GARDENS

Planting a diversity of flowers of different shapes, colors, sizes and bloom times will attract native pollinators to your garden. Clumps of 3 to 8 native plugs or seeds of varied species together mimic natural settings and provide foraging

opportunities for pollinators. Untidy gardens with decaying wood, hollow stems and patches of undisturbed bare soil will also provide habitat for bees.

**Pollinator-friendly wildflowers include:** giant hyssop, blanket flower, beebalm, bearberry and nodding onion.

## DROUGHT-TOLERANT GARDENS

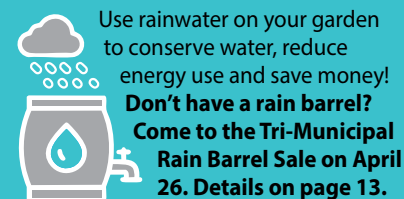
**Drought-tolerant plants include:** Little bluestem grass, woodland strawberry, northern bedstraw, smooth fleabane, blue-eyed grass, heart-leaved Alexanders and smooth aster.

**Shrubs and trees include:** jack pine, junipers and saskatoon.

## FLOOD-TOLERANT GARDENS

**Flood-tolerant plants include:** fireweed, bunchberry, smooth fleabane, northern bedstraw, early blue violet and blue-eyed grass.

**Shrubs and trees include:** paper birch, alder, tamarack, red-osier dogwood, willows and balsam poplar.



# WETLANDS ON YOUR LAND

**Are you planning to subdivide or develop your land in the future? It is important to understand that wetlands are protected under the Alberta Wetland Policy and the overarching Water Act.**

What is a wetland? The Alberta Wetland Policy defines wetlands as "...land saturated with water long enough to promote wetland or aquatic processes as indicated by poorly drained soils, hydrophytic (water loving) vegetation and various kinds of biological activity that are adapted to the wet environment." It is estimated that Alberta has lost approximately 60 – 70% of the wetlands

in settled areas and Parkland County has lost approximately 56% of its wetland area since the 1950s.

Why are they important? Wetlands play an important role in improving water quality and quantity of water supplies, providing critical wildlife habitat, supporting biodiversity, recharging groundwater and reducing the effects of drought and flooding.

How do you know if you have a wetland on your land? If you use the terms slough, swamp, swampy area, muskeg, low area or marsh to describe an area on your land, then you likely have a wetland. Water may

not always be present in these areas due to natural fluctuations; however, they are still protected!

How can this impact your subdivision or development plans? Upon review of your application, Parkland County may require the use of setbacks from or avoidance of wetlands. Land dedication or technical studies may also be necessary to protect these environmentally sensitive features.

For more information, please view the Alberta Wetland Policy and the Landowner Guide to the Alberta Wetland Policy, available at [www.WetLandsAlberta.ca](http://www.WetLandsAlberta.ca).

## GROWING YOUR OWN FOOD

**Growing fruits, vegetables or herbs in your garden can positively impact your mental and physical health, improve your diet and save you money at the grocery store! Food gardens also increase biodiversity and provide habitat for pollinators, especially when combined with native gardening.**

### Common Gardening Methods:

- Planting in the ground
- Using garden boxes
- Container gardening

### GARDEN TIPS

- Double-check wildflower mixes to ensure they do not contain invasive weeds. A full list of invasive plants can be found at [www.abinvasives.ca](http://www.abinvasives.ca)
- Place plants with similar lighting and water requirements close together.




- Conserve water by adding compost, using a rain barrel and directing water to the base of the plants with a hose or a drip irrigation system.
- Use FireSmart landscaping to keep your property safe.
- Check your soil. Good garden soil is deep, loose, well-drained and contains decayed organic matter.
- Choose your plants by talking to a local horticultural club or supplier.
- Use a planting calendar to determine vegetable planting times.
- Harden off seedlings prior to planting to increase plant survival.
- Use compost to help your plants thrive! Compost should be added into holes when planting and placed around the base of plants once they are growing quickly.
- Plants in garden beds benefit from fertilizers every 2 to 4 weeks. Use compost, castings, aged manure or other organic fertilizers to avoid chemicals.

- Water plants in the early morning or in the evening and direct the hose to the base of the plant to maximize absorption and minimize evaporation.

For more information, visit [www.parklandcounty.com/Grow](http://www.parklandcounty.com/Grow)

Remember to check local bylaws for any restrictions prior to setting up your garden and contact Alberta One Call prior to digging if you are planting in the ground.

### COMMON FOOD PLANTS

-  **Full sun** (>6 hours): basil, lavender, peppers, strawberries, tomatoes, beets, cucumber, squash, onions and raspberries.
-  **Partial sun** (3 – 6 hours): dill, beans, carrots, beets, chives, peas and arugula.
-  **Full shade** (<3 hours): cilantro, parsley, kale, spinach and lettuce.



## DUTCH ELM DISEASE

**Did you know Elm trees in Alberta can only be pruned between October 1 and March 31 annually?**

A pruning ban during the spring and summer months is provincially legislated in the Alberta Pests Act to prevent the spread of the devastating Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Because of intensive management and monitoring, Alberta has been DED free.

In summer 2024, the City of Edmonton found infected trees and subsequently removed them. Because of this close call, Parkland County is taking steps to ensure that residents know their responsibilities if they have an unhealthy tree.

### Unhealthy trees have:

- Leaves that droop and turn yellow and then go brown, but remain on the tree.
- Dark brown or red streaks in the wood under the bark.

### How you can help:

- Learn how to identify an elm tree — they are non-native trees used in landscaping as a shade tree with serrated/sawtooth edges and veined leaves.
- Report all suspect infected trees to the STOPPED hotline: 1-877-837-ELMS (3567).
- Follow best practices to keep your trees healthy and less susceptible to DED.

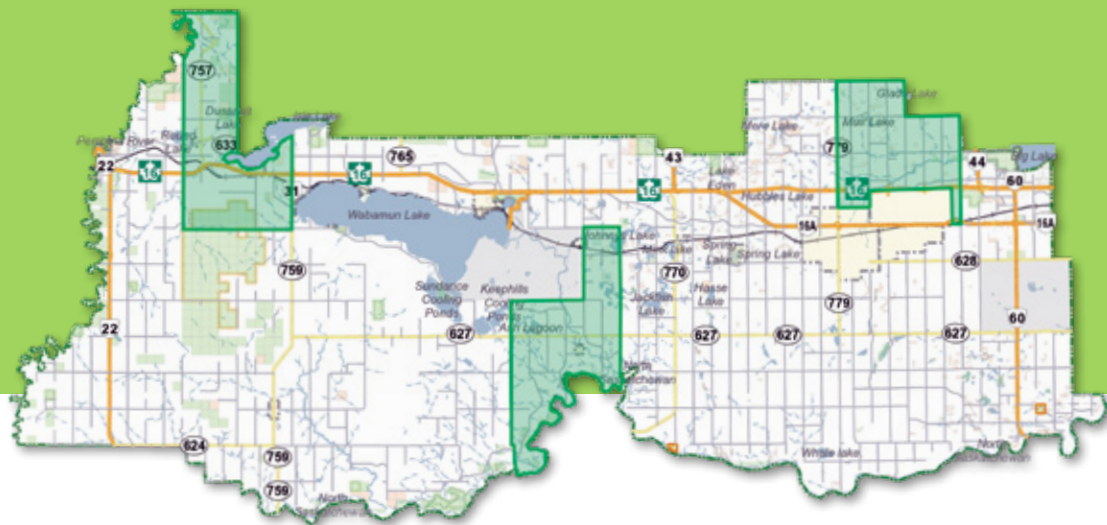
- Do not transport firewood from other provinces into Alberta. Buy locally and burn onsite.
- Do not store Elm wood on your property.

If you are pruning elms, the Parkland County Transfer station at 52514 Range Road 11 accepts Elm prunings, be sure to notify the scale staff that you have Elm (fees may apply).

For more information or for DED testing, please contact the Agriculture and Environment Services Building at 780-968-8467.







## 2025 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 above, we have selected areas of the county where we will focus our resources for 2025. 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.

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 an integrated pest management approach 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 and manual removal.

For more information on the Vegetation and Weed Control Programs visit [www.parklandcounty.com/weeds](http://www.parklandcounty.com/weeds)



# PARKLAND COUNTY EVENTS

### TRI-MUNICIPAL RAIN BARREL SALE

Conserve water at your home this summer by collecting rain in a rain barrel! Pick one up for \$89.99 on Saturday, April 26, at the Tri-Municipal Region Rain Barrel Sale at RONA Home Centre in Spruce Grove.

The sale starts at 7 am and there is a limit of two rain barrels per person while quantities last.

*Presented by the City of Spruce Grove, Town of Stony Plain, Parkland County, Village of Spring Lake and RONA Home Centre.*

### COMMUNITY SHRED EVENT

Mark your calendars for our annual Community Shred Event on Saturday, June 7! This free event provides you the opportunity to securely destroy and recycle your confidential and personal information.

9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Parkland County Centre Parking Lot  
53109A Hwy 779

### WHAT IS ACCEPTED:

- Documents (including staples, paper clips)
- File folders
- Small soft covered books
- CD's and DVD's

### NOT ACCEPTED:

- 2 pronged shannon files
- Banker boxes and other corrugated cardboard
- Hard cover textbooks
- VHS or other types of reel tapes

# USE OF FERTILIZER

Fertilizer runoff is identified as a nonpoint source pollution, meaning it doesn't come from just one location but rather multiple dispersed areas — complicating its regulation.

In Alberta, which features some of the highest household fertilizer usage rates, the consequences are particularly severe, as most lakes in the region are already eutrophic — rich in nutrients. The additional nutrients from fertilizer runoff further increase this condition, elevating nutrient levels and contributing to the growth of blue-green algae, which poses risks of skin irritations upon contact and illnesses if ingested. Over-fertilizing also leads to runoff that degrades water quality and undermines long-term soil fertility.

Residents in Parkland County can utilize funding available through programs like the Land Stewardship Centre's Green Acreages Program to support sustainable land use practices that benefit local waterbodies.

### PRACTICES THAT CAN HELP REDUCE IMPACTS OF FERTILIZER USE:

1. **Maintain a Healthy Buffer Zone:** Maintaining a strip of healthy native vegetation along shoreline areas can help filter runoff, while also improving shoreline stability. The wider the buffer width, the greater the filtering capacity for stormwater runoff.
2. **Alternative Landscaping:** Native plants are an alternative to lawns that require less water, fertilizer and maintenance. This is because they are already adapted to local conditions. Decreasing hard surfaces can also reduce runoff from your property.
3. **Soil Testing:** Testing soils prior to fertilizer application can help analyze nutrient content in relation to plant nutrient needs. This can provide essential information to prevent over-fertilizing.
4. **Timing:** Avoid applying fertilizers on windy or rainy days and only apply when plants are actively growing. Applying before heavy rains is a waste of product, money and time for landowners. Much of the unabsorbed fertilizer will end up in local waters.
5. **Placement:** Apply fertilizer as close to the plant as possible and avoid applying near waterways and on hard surfaces.
6. **Alternatives to Synthetic Fertilizers:** Synthetic fertilizers do little to improve long-term soil fertility and are higher in nutrients than most plants can uptake. Although overuse can still lead to runoff, organic fertilizers act as slow-release fertilizers with lower nutrient values. Many organic fertilizers can also contribute to improvements in overall soil health and water retention, if used appropriately.

# LIBRARY EVENTS

### 4th Annual Seniors Showcase

**Date:** June 2  
**Time:** 10 am – 2 pm  
**Location:** Tomahawk Agra Centre

Speakers, vendors, activities and a catered meal.

**Cost:** Free  
**Register:** call Chris at 780-339-3935

### Free Tech Assistance

Get help with your devices, apps or other technology.

#### TUESDAYS

**Location:** Entwistle Library  
**Time:** 1 – 3 pm

#### WEDNESDAYS

**Location:** Wabamun Library  
**Time:** 9 am – 12 pm

### 3D Print Services

Quality prints for all County residents

**Location:** Wabamun Library  
**Cost:** \$1/hour

Contact the library at 780-892-2713 or [wabamunlibrary@pclibraries.ca](mailto:wabamunlibrary@pclibraries.ca)

### Free Digital Literacy Classes

PC Libraries received Digital Literacy Exchange Project Funding from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. In partnership with the Tri-Community Adult Literacy Association (TriCALA), the following Literacy Classes are available thanks to this funding.

One-on-one device and and/or application assistance is available. Contact your local library to book an appointment.

MARCH 3  
**Location:** Tomahawk Library  
**Time:** 10 – 11 am

MARCH 5  
**Location:** Duffield Library  
**Time:** 4 – 5 pm

MARCH 6  
**Location:** Entwistle Library  
**Time:** 6:30 – 7:30 pm

MARCH 11  
**Location:** Keppahills Library  
**Time:** 10 – 11 am

MARCH 13  
**Location:** Wabamun Library  
**Time:** 7 – 8 pm



# COMMUNITY LEAGUE EVENTS

Please contact community halls directly for additional information

## DUFFIELD HALL

#2 FIRST STREET, DUFFIELD, AB

### St. Patrick's Jiggs Dinner & Dance

**March 15**

**Time:** 5 pm to 11:45 pm  
**Cost:** \$30

### Jamboree and Supper Events

**March 22, April 19 and May 24**

**Time:** 4 pm to 9 pm, followed by free karaoke until 11:45 pm  
**Cost:** \$20

### Pig Roast and Dance

**June 14**

**Time:** 5 pm to 11:45 pm  
**Cost:** \$30

## TOMAHAWK AND DISTRICT SPORTS AGRA SOCIETY

51122 HWY 759

### Tomahawk Jamborees

**March 21, April 18 and May 16**

**Time:** 1 pm to 5 pm  
Light lunch at 3 pm  
**Admission:** \$15/person or \$5 for entertainers

## HOLBORN HALL

51132 RGE RD 13

### Family Bingo

**March 15, April 5 and May 10**

Everyone is welcome! Tickets are \$5 for a strip of 3, \$7 for a double strip and \$10 for a triple strip. Prizes are meats and other foods, gift baskets or gift cards.

Doors open at 6:15 pm, bingo starts at 7 pm

### Paint Fundraiser

**March 23**

Professional Artist Denise Lefebvre of Red Pepper Painting Parties will be the host and guide and will be demonstrating step by step how to paint one beautiful image. An outline of the image is carefully hand drawn on each prepped canvas to make the experience more fun with less anxiety. It allows you to create an amazing piece that you will want to hang on your wall and have a ton of fun with the entire experience. Anyone can do it, no experience is necessary and everyone is welcome!

Only 40 spaces available. See Holborn Hall's social media for all the details.

Money raised will be used for upgrades to Holborn Hall.

### Spring Clean Up Weekend

**May 3 and 4**

Come lend a hand and help give the hall a quick cleanup to get ready for summer.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email [events@holbornhall.com](mailto:events@holbornhall.com)

## GOLDEN SPIKE HALL

51302 RGE RD 275

### Spring Market

**March 8**

**Time:** 10 am – 3 pm

For more information, contact Marilyn at [goebelmi@telus.net](mailto:goebelmi@telus.net)

## WOODBEND HALL

26002 TWP RD 514

### Pi Day

**March 14**

Come celebrate Pi Day! Join us for a pig roast dinner with all the fixings, dance featuring a local Edmonton band and — of course — pies for dessert.

Support the event by bringing a pie and you will be entered into a draw for some amazing prizes.

Buy your tickets online before the event sells out.

### Crib Tournament

**April 5**

A community favorite! Show us your amazing crib skills and enjoy the company of your fellow community members. More details will be posted online at [www.woodbendhall.com/events](http://www.woodbendhall.com/events)

### Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

**April 19**

Bring the whole family to enjoy a hearty breakfast at Woodbend Hall. The Easter Bunny will be hiding eggs for the kids around the hall.

Tickets will be available online and at the doors.

### Mother's Day Tea

**May 10**

Celebrate this special day with mom and show her some extra love. Details will be available online at [www.woodbendhall.com/events](http://www.woodbendhall.com/events)

### Woodbend Hall Annual General Meeting

**May 21**

**Time:** 6:30 pm

Beverages and snacks will be provided.

The meeting will start at 7 pm

## HANSENS CORNER HALL

51216 HWY 770

### Crib Nights

**March 1, 8, 15 and 22**

Doors open at 7 pm, Crib starts at 7:30 pm

**Cost:** \$2.50 admission

### Spring Supper

**May 24**

**Time:** Doors open at 5 pm, supper starts at 6 pm

**Cost:** \$25 per ticket (purchase in advance)

## 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](http://events.parklandcounty.com)



## BLUEBERRY COMMUNITY HALL

53109 RGE RD 15

### SPORTS

Registration for Soccer and Parkland Funball opens February 1!

**Start date is May 1**

### Soccer

Ages 3 to adult

**Fees:** \$80/kids, \$60/adult

**Coordinator:** Nadine Lapointe

Jerseys and soccer balls are provided, coaching is needed!

A \$200 volunteer deposit is required and returned once a volunteer event is completed.

Email: [soccerteam.blueberry@gmail.com](mailto:soccerteam.blueberry@gmail.com)

### Parkland Fun Ball

Ages 4 to 15

\$50 per player plus a \$200 volunteer deposit per family (returned once volunteer commitment has been kept)

Players bring their own glove, long pants and a water bottle. The team supplies other necessary team equipment. Players can bring their own league approved bats, helmets and protective gear if desired. Coaches and assistant coaches are needed.

Contact [baseball@blueberryhall.com](mailto:baseball@blueberryhall.com) or visit [www.blueberryhall.com/programs](http://www.blueberryhall.com/programs) for more information

## CARVEL HALL

3A 52511 HWY 770

### Farmers' Market

Begins May 22 and runs every Thursday through to August 28.

### Spring Yoga

Information online at

[www.carvelhall.org/calendar](http://www.carvelhall.org/calendar)

## WABAMUN AND DISTRICT MUSEUM

5140 52 AVE, WABAMUN

### Art to Zen with Wabamun Library

Join us for four relaxing Saturday sessions 2 pm to 4 pm, March 8, 15, 22 and 29 in Wabamun!

Free for all residents, no experience needed. Supplies provided. Discover simple art techniques and mindfulness practices to refresh body and mind.

### Nature Journaling

Starting May 6, explore Lake Wabamun's surroundings every Tuesday evening from 6 pm to 7 pm for six weeks. All ages welcome!

We'll provide notebooks, sampling containers and more.

Just bring your curiosity (and a camera if you like). Learn from special guests and enjoy guided nature hikes.

For exact locations, registration and more details, please contact the Wabamun and District Museum Director Reg Faulkner at [rcfaulk@gmail.com](mailto:rcfaulk@gmail.com) or 780-892-4908

Come unwind, create and connect with nature!

More details will be posted on the Museum and Parkland County Library Facebook pages as dates gets closer.

## ENTWISTLE COMMUNITY LEAGUE

4921 51 ST, ENTWISTLE

### Garage Sale

**May 3**

**Time:** 10 am – 4 pm

**Cost:** \$10/table

**Contact:** Joe Barna at 780-898-9454

## COMMUNITY HALL GARAGE SALES

Do you have things to sell but don't want to do a garage sale all by yourself? Book a table, bring your stuff and have fun with members of the community for a big garage sale day!

### APRIL 26

#### HOLBORN HALL

**Time:** 10 am – 4 pm

**Cost:** \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members.

Contact: Barb Stadnyk at [bardbranch@live.ca](mailto:bardbranch@live.ca)

#### HANSENS CORNER HALL

**Time:** 10 am – 3 pm

**Cost:** \$5 per table / tailgate spot  
Inside tables and outside tailgate spots available

Concession available

Contact: [hansenscornerhall@gmail.com](mailto:hansenscornerhall@gmail.com) or 780-823-9881

#### CARVEL HALL

**Time:** 10 am – 3 pm

**Cost:** \$10/table

Contact: Lillian at [carvelhall@gmail.com](mailto:carvelhall@gmail.com) or message 780-554-0240

### MAY 3

#### WOODBEND HALL

**Time:** 10 am – 3 pm

Contact: [info@woodbendhall.com](mailto:info@woodbendhall.com) for more information.

#### ROSENTHAL HALL

**Time:** 9 am – 4 pm

**Cost:** \$10/table

Contact Connie: 780-963-7984





Join  
**ALUS**

THE ALUS ADVANTAGE  
**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP  
DELIVERS LOCAL SOLUTIONS**

**SUSTAINING AGRICULTURE, WILDLIFE, AND NATURAL SPACES  
FOR COMMUNITIES AND FUTURE GENERATIONS**

ALUS helps cost-share the establishment of beneficial management projects and practices, providing an annual payment for the management and maintenance of the project.

**Chad Ritter**  
ALUS Coordinator, Parkland County  
780-968-8888 ext. 8286  
chad.ritter@parklandcounty.com

ALUS.ca    




# RMA SCHOLARSHIP


The Rural Municipalities Association (RMA), an organization representing Alberta’s incorporated rural municipalities, offers a Scholarship Program. The program supports rural students attending a recognized post-secondary institution.

Please visit the RMA Scholarship Program page at [www.rmalberta.com](http://www.rmalberta.com) for full details on how to apply. Part of the requirement is to have written confirmation from the local rural municipality’s Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) certifying that the applicant is a resident of the municipality. If you require a verification letter, please email [Dana.Schlecker@parklandcounty.com](mailto:Dana.Schlecker@parklandcounty.com), or call 780-968-3237.


The application deadline is August 31, 2025.



2025 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS





**\$84 M**  
**Projected Net Financial Assets**  
(Financial assets after deducting the County’s liabilities)




**\$33 M**  
**Capital Investment planned for 2025**


**2.5%**  
Municipal tax rate increase



**\$4.71**  
Monthly residential tax increase for every \$500,000 of assessed value




**36%**  
**Cumulative Utilized Allowable Debt**  
(The amount of debt Parkland County is legally allowed to carry)




**Strategic Capital Investment**

- Road Rehabilitation & Construction
- Water Infrastructure
- Wabamun Projects



**Budget Pressures**

- Inflation
- Declining Linear Assessment (Tax revenue from power generation, utilities, oil & gas, etc)



**Low Tax Increase**  
Minimizing tax increases for residents and businesses while remaining fiscally sustainable.

Figures taken from the interim budget presented in December and may vary when the final budget is approved in April.

# UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Stay up to date with Council meeting agendas, recaps and more by subscribing to receive email updates at [www.parklandcounty.com/Meetings](http://www.parklandcounty.com/Meetings)

 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

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## MAY

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## JUNE

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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					



# WABAMUN WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS



New beach area completed in the fall — from the east looking towards the pier.

Work continues on this project to revitalize Wabamun’s Waterfront Park. The expansion of the beach area was completed in the fall. In January, work focused on completing the foundation for the new washroom location and mobilizing to move the washroom building.

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

Work will continue on the project with completion expected this summer.

# MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who engaged with us over the course of this project! The updated Municipal Development Plan was officially adopted by Council on February 25, 2025, and is now in effect! To view the plan, please visit [www.parklandcounty.com/Planning](http://www.parklandcounty.com/Planning)

**ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY:**

- ✓ 16 In-person Open Houses spread throughout the County
- ✓ 4 Online Chats with Planner
- ✓ 3 Online and hardcopy surveys
- ✓ 3 Community Workshops
- ✓ 3 Industry Workshops



# HASSE LAKE DAY USE PARK REDEVELOPMENT

THE COUNTY HAS INITIATED A PROJECT THAT WILL SEE THROUGH THE FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT OF HASSE LAKE DAY USE PARK.

Hasse Lake is one of the County’s key day-use parks that, for many years, has been a destination for residents and visitors to the County. Recently, this park has experienced a sharp decline in usership. This project is the first step in reinvigorating interest in park use.

In February, we had several engagement opportunities to hear feedback from residents.

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

The project team will present the final concept plan, final report, proposed development phasing plan and estimated budget to Council for decision. Learn more about this project at [yourparkland.ca/Hasse-Lake](http://yourparkland.ca/Hasse-Lake)

# LAND USE BYLAW REDESIGN

The Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Redesign would like to extend thanks to all those who participated in the final round of engagement on the proposed draft of Parkland County’s Land Use Bylaw!

**OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, WE HAVE HAD:**

- ✓ 3 Open Houses spread throughout the County
- ✓ 24 Chat with a Planner Sessions with County residents, developers and business owners
- ✓ Nearly 7,000 views of the online draft

- ✓ 53 total comments of the online draft
- ✓ Numerous messages to the Building Parkland email with suggestions and feedback

**OVER THE PROJECT’S LIFESPAN WE HAVE HAD:**

- ✓ 18 open houses, spanning across all divisions
- ✓ 485 unique interactions with the public
- ✓ 10 meetings with Council Committees
- ✓ 4 focus group sessions with local development, environmental and agricultural advocates
- ✓ 90 survey responses

Feedback is summarized in a What We Heard Report that can be found on the project webpage at [yourparkland.ca/LUB](http://yourparkland.ca/LUB)

**What’s next?**

We will be bringing the final draft of the Parkland County Land Use Bylaw to Council and will host a Public Hearing. You can find dates of these events on the project webpage as they become available. Sign up to stay informed on the project at [yourparkland.ca/LUB](http://yourparkland.ca/LUB)





# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

## Seniors Shuttle

The Senior Shuttle Bus service has resumed for 2025, providing convenient and accessible transportation for seniors. This service is designed to help older adults with transportation to essential destinations, including grocery stores, medical appointments and community centres. The shuttle offers a safe and reliable option for seniors who may have limited mobility or infrequent access to other forms of transportation. While the service is primarily intended for seniors, non-seniors are also welcome to use the shuttle. Non-seniors will be required to pay the full fare, rather than the subsidized rate available to senior riders.

### TUESDAYS

To Spruce Grove, leaving from and returning to Entwistle  
**Time:** 9 am – 3 pm

### THURSDAYS

To Spruce Grove, leaving and returning to Wabamun  
**Time:** 9 am – 3 pm

**Book your seat by calling 780-727-3947**  
Visit [www.parklandcounty.com/Shuttle](http://www.parklandcounty.com/Shuttle) for more information.

## Bridging Connections

Meet with a community Social Worker who will offer compassionate and confidential support. Assistance will be provided in identifying solutions, connecting residents to resources and navigating many of life's challenges. This program operates in person Wednesdays from 9 am to 12 pm at the Wabamun Community Centre.

Bridging Connections also offers short-term counselling sessions the first Wednesday of every month for residents aged 16+.

Call 780-962-7618 to book an appointment or drop in.

Beginning in April, the second Wednesday of each month, this program will be offered at the Entwistle Community Recreation Centre (ECRC) and not Wabamun.

April 9 – ECRC  
May 14 – ECRC

## Snow Removal Subsidy Program — Deadline Approaching

Please be advised that the Snow Removal Subsidy Program is coming to an end for the season. All receipts for snow removal services must be submitted by April 30, 2025, to be eligible for reimbursement. Make sure to submit your receipts on time to ensure you receive the subsidy. Late submissions will not be accepted.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact [prc@parklandcounty.com](mailto:prc@parklandcounty.com)

## SUMMER CAMPS

Registration for our summer day camps is now open! Cost for residents is \$125 for a 5-day camp. Camps take place various dates and locations throughout the summer. Visit [www.parklandcounty.com/SummerCamps](http://www.parklandcounty.com/SummerCamps) to learn more and get the kids signed up for summer activities, games, challenges and crafts.



## Red Cross Youth Programs

The Canadian Red Cross programs 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](http://www.parklandcounty.com/RedCrossPrograms)

## Change Health After School Program

Physical activity, nutrition, social connection and mental well-being through friendship, crafts and community activities!

- Monday and Wednesdays in Wabamun
- Tuesdays in Entwistle

**Cost:** Free!

Visit [www.changehealth.ca](http://www.changehealth.ca) to learn more and register.

## Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Get the support you need this tax season! The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, in partnership with the Canada Revenue Agency, helps eligible individuals and families file online tax returns at no cost.

Visit our webpage to learn more at [www.parklandcounty.com/TaxSupport](http://www.parklandcounty.com/TaxSupport)

## Parent and Tot Drop-In

**Entwistle Community Recreation Centre**

**Day:** Fridays

**Time:** 10 – 11:30 am

**Cost:** Free!

The APFA Parent and Tot Drop-In Program is a fun, interactive and supportive activity designed for parents or caregivers and their young children. This program offers a safe and welcoming space where families can engage in play, learn and connect with others in the community. Alberta Parenting for the Future Association will join every Friday of every month to provide additional support and activities for families. Children must be always supervised.

## Indoor Playground

**Entwistle Community Recreation Centre (Multipurpose Room 1)**

**Cost:** \$2.00 per session (Children 6 months and older)

**Days:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

**Time:** 9:30 am – 3 pm

**Ages:** 0 – 5 years old (exceptions will be permitted)





As the snow melts and the fairways turn green, Parkland County is gearing up for another incredible golf season! Whether you're a seasoned pro looking to sharpen your game or just eager to dust off the clubs and enjoy a relaxed round, our region offers something for everyone.

From challenging championship courses to scenic resort-style gems, Parkland County's diverse mix of courses is perfect for kickstarting your season. With rolling landscapes, tree-lined fairways and beautiful lake views, every round feels like an escape into nature.

It's almost time to refresh your gear and get back into the swing of things — another unforgettable golf season in Parkland County is just around the corner!

Parkland County is home to a diverse range of golf courses, from championship-level layouts like Cougar Creek Golf Resort and Blackhawk Golf Club, to more casual spots such as Grouse Nest Golf Course and Deer Meadows Golf Course. With courses like The Ranch Golf & Country Club, Silver Sands Golf Resort and Edmonton Springs Golf Resort, there's something for every golfer, whether you're seeking a relaxing round or a challenging test.

PLAN YOUR NEXT GOLFING ADVENTURE

Whether you're a local looking to explore new courses or a traveler seeking the perfect golf getaway, Parkland County's stunning golf opportunities await. Explore the natural beauty, enjoy some friendly competition and take in the breathtaking views as you tee off in one of Alberta's most desirable golfing regions.

Visit [www.exploreparkland.com](http://www.exploreparkland.com) to learn more about the range of golf courses located in Parkland County. Book your tee time today and experience the best of golf in Parkland County!



Parkland County Golf Courses



LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

This spring, get to know your neighbours by hosting a Love Where You Live event! As friendships grow, so do safe and caring communities.

Parkland County's Block Party Program makes hosting easy with our planning guide, funding, fun bag loan and other resources.

Events must be held at a Parkland County residential address or public space and be open to all who live in your neighbourhood. Submit an application today — visit [www.parklandcounty.com/LoveWhereYouLive](http://www.parklandcounty.com/LoveWhereYouLive)



ENTWISTLE OUTDOOR POOL

Soon enough outdoor pool season will be in full swing — we can't wait!

Swimming lessons will be launching soon so be ready to secure your spot.

The official pool opening date, swim lesson registration and more can be found at [www.parklandcounty.com/Pool](http://www.parklandcounty.com/Pool)





# YOUR PARKLAND

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