

# YOUR PARKLAND

2026 SUMMER

Keeping you connected with your County

A hidden gem  
**MARL POND  
TRAIL**

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Connecting with your  
Council is easy with  
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Stay up to date with Council meeting agendas, action lists and more by visiting [parklandcounty.com/meetings](http://parklandcounty.com/meetings)

COUNCIL MEETINGS

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## JUNE

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				

## JULY

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	



## UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES

Canada Day: July 1  
Heritage Day: August 3  
Essential services will be maintained



Parkland County Mayor and Council (L – R): Mayor – Rod Shaigec, Division 1 Councillor – Sally Kucher Johnson, Division 2 Councillor – Jason Doucette, Division 3 Councillor – Ben Jespersen, Division 4 Councillor – Corey Kyle, Division 5 Councillor – Kristine Olson, Division 6 Councillor – John McNab.

# MESSAGE FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Summer in Parkland County is about getting outside, reconnecting, and spending time with the people and places that make our community special. In this edition of *Your Parkland*, we're excited to share what's coming up — and, more importantly, how you can connect with us.

From local halls and community leagues to lakes, trails, and gathering spaces, Parkland County is built around strong, connected communities — and that connection starts with listening.

A recent highlight has been the launch of **County Chats** (see page 6). These informal, drop-in gatherings are all about conversation. No speeches, no agendas — just a chance to sit down with your Mayor and Councillors, discuss important local issues, ask questions and share ideas. Whether you want to talk about a local project, raise a concern, or learn more about what's happening in your area, County Chats are designed to make those connections with your Mayor and Councillors easier and more personal. We'll be visiting communities across the County throughout the rest of the year, and we hope you'll join us when we're in your neighbourhood.

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll also find features on our County's wonderful natural environment and ways we are working

alongside our community to enhance and protect it. Additionally, we've included important wildfire safety tips (including advice for keeping your animals and livestock safe), community stories and celebrations of local success, as well as plenty of great events and programs to keep you busy throughout the summer.

Thank you for taking the time to read *Your Parkland*. To keep up with the latest local news and timely County updates, be sure to subscribe to our monthly eNewsletter, too, by visiting [parklandcounty.com/enewsletter](http://parklandcounty.com/enewsletter).

We look forward to sharing the season with you, hearing what matters most, and continuing to build a County where everyone feels welcome, informed, and involved.

We hope to see you at a County Chat soon.

Sincerely,  
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.



# A HIDDEN GEM: MARL POND TRAIL

Nestled within the Wagner Natural Area, the Marl Pond Trail is a scenic 1.5 km loop that offers visitors a glimpse into one of Alberta's most unique and ecologically rich landscapes. The trail winds through a variety of habitats, including the striking marl ponds that give the trail its name. Each turn reveals a new layer of biodiversity, making it a rewarding experience for nature enthusiasts, photographers, and casual walkers alike.

## History of Wagner Natural Area

The Wagner Natural Area has a rich history rooted in conservation. Once owned by local farmer William Wagner and known to early residents as Wagner Bog, the land's ecological significance was recognized in the early 1970s. In 1971, the Alberta government and several conservation partners purchased the original half section of land to protect its rare natural

features. Four years later, in 1975, it was officially designated as the Wagner Natural Area.

Over time, additional land acquisitions by the Alberta government and the Nature Conservancy of Canada expanded the protected area to 251 hectares (620 acres). This diverse landscape now encompasses a range of vegetation communities and habitats. Since 1983, the Wagner Natural Area Society (a dedicated volunteer stewardship group) has managed the site

under a recreational lease. The Society's mission is to preserve the area's ecological integrity, foster public appreciation, and maintain it as a living classroom for nature education and research.

## The Unique Ecology of the Fens

One of the most remarkable features of Wagner Natural Area is its network of fens — specialized wetlands where peat, or partially decomposed plant material, accumulates over time. These fens are sustained by mineral-rich groundwater that seeps to the surface through underground aquifers composed of sand and gravel. The result is a delicate ecosystem where water chemistry and vegetation are intricately linked.

The fens vary in appearance: some are open, dotted with low vegetation and shallow, whitish marl ponds; others are forested, shaded by spruce and tamarack trees. Both types play a vital role in supporting rare plant species and providing habitat for diverse wildlife.

## A Place Worth Discovering

The Marl Pond Trail offers more than a walk-through nature — it's a journey through time, geology, and ecology. Visitors can witness the intricate relationships between land, water, and life that make Wagner Natural Area a true hidden gem in Alberta's natural heritage. Whether exploring for education, recreation, or reflection, this trail invites all who visit to slow down, observe,

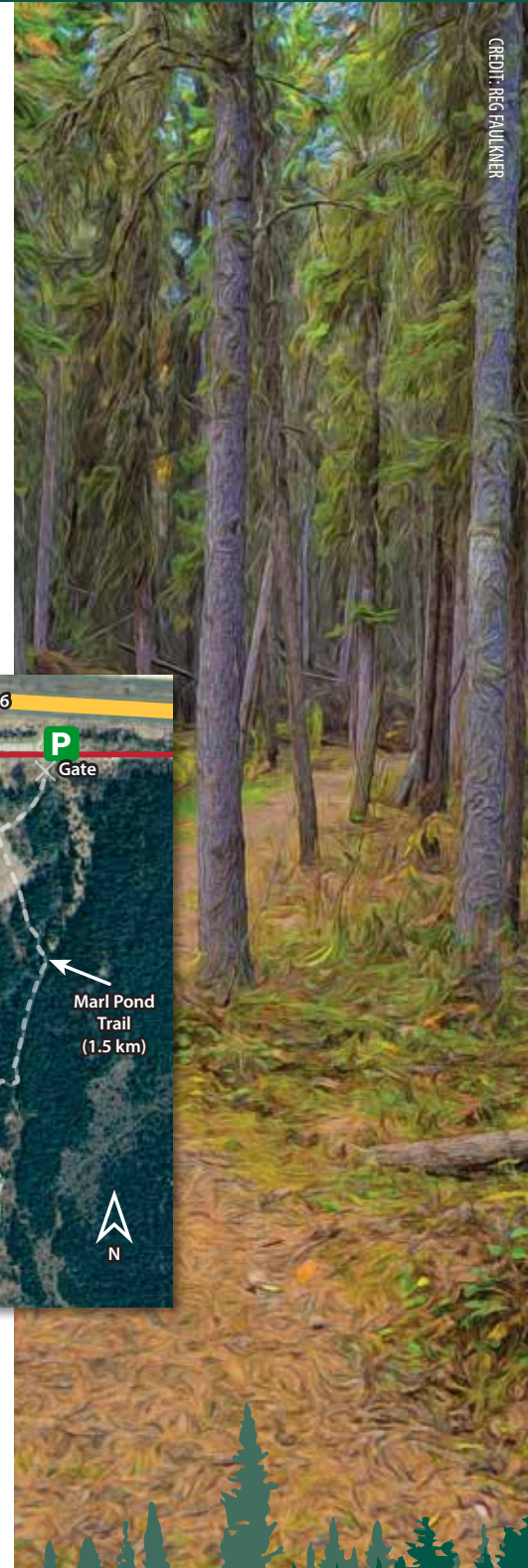
and appreciate the living landscape that thrives just beneath the surface.

More information, including a detailed trail map, can be found online at <https://wagnerfen.ca>

## Explore Parkland

Parkland County beckons outdoor enthusiasts with its wealth of natural treasures: tranquil lakes, challenging golf courses, scenic hiking trails, and inviting campgrounds. Experience the beauty of untouched wilderness without spending hours on the highway — your perfect nature escape awaits nearby.

Discover more day trip destinations at [exploreparkland.com](https://exploreparkland.com)



CREDIT: REG PAULMANN





# NEW ONLINE SERVICES SYSTEM FOR TAXES, UTILITIES AND MORE — NOW AVAILABLE!

To learn more and sign up, visit [parklandcounty.com/onlineservices](https://parklandcounty.com/onlineservices)

We've upgraded our Online Services system to make it easier for you to access, manage, and pay your taxes, utilities, and accounts receivable invoices.

Our new platform is fully online and accessible via the county website.

Once registered, you can easily access your account from anywhere and make convenient online payments via credit card.

## WITH AN ONLINE SERVICES ACCOUNT, YOU CAN:

- View property tax and utility accounts registered in your name
- Check account balances
- Make secure online payments via credit card
- Sign up for e-billing (paperless billing)
- Access accounts receivable invoices
- Purchase a property tax certificate

## IMPORTANT

Prior online services accounts will not transfer to the new system. All users must create a new account to access the new Online Services platform.

For step-by-step instructions on how to register, please visit [parklandcounty.com/onlineservices](https://parklandcounty.com/onlineservices)

# NEW COUNTY CHATS INVITE RESIDENTS TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Parkland County is bringing local government into the heart of its communities with **County Chats**, a new series of open-house style events where residents can meet their Mayor and Council, discuss local issues, share feedback and learn more about what is happening across the County.

Designed to be relaxed and welcoming, County Chats also highlight local community leagues and the many ways residents can get involved close to home.

The first County Chat sessions took place this spring in Tomahawk and Muir Lake, where residents enjoyed connecting directly with the Mayor and Councillors to discuss local issues and the future direction of the County.

More County Chats are planned throughout the year, creating opportunities for residents to have meaningful dialogue with Council in a casual setting, stay informed on local initiatives, and be part of the conversation in their community.

For a full list of County Chats events, visit [parklandcounty.com/Chats](https://parklandcounty.com/Chats).

## UPCOMING COUNTY CHATS

**Magnolia Community Hall**  
Tuesday, June 9

**Woodbend Community Hall**  
Thursday, June 18

**Parkland Village Community Centre**  
Wednesday, September 9



ALL EVENTS RUN FROM 5:30 – 7:30 pm



# STRATEGIC PLAN ENGAGEMENT

There's still time to provide your feedback on Parkland County's 2026–2029 Strategic Plan!

Every four years, following a municipal election, Council develops a new Strategic Plan. This plan sets the direction and priorities for Parkland County and acts as the roadmap to guide decision making over the next four years.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

You can provide your feedback **in-person**, via **online survey**, or via a **hard copy survey** available from Parkland County facilities.

## IN-PERSON:

Magnolia Community Hall  
Tuesday, June 9  
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Woodbend Community Hall  
Thursday, June 18  
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Community feedback is open until 11:59 pm on Thursday June 18.

## ONLINE SURVEY:

Approx. 10 mins to complete



[yourparkland.ca/stratplan](https://yourparkland.ca/stratplan)



# SUPPORTING OUR NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

## 2027 Not-for-Profit Grant Program

We see the impact local non-profits have every day, which is why Parkland County is proud to support the organizations that enrich our communities through meaningful programs, services, and activities. Our 2027 Not-for-Profit (NFP) grant program offers funding support to eligible initiatives that help strengthen quality of life, encourages leadership and volunteerism, and fosters vibrant, caring communities.

Funding is available for a wide range of purposes, including operational costs, minor capital projects, community-led initiatives, and special events. To better support timely needs, smaller capital grant applications will also be accepted throughout the year. All applications will be reviewed based on alignment with the County's strategic goals, the community need identified and the organization's ability to successfully carry out the proposed work. Full eligibility criteria and guidelines are available on our website.

- **Intake Opened: May 20, 2026**
- **Deadline: July 9, 2026**  
(late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted)
- **Mandatory Information Sessions:** Applicants must attend one of five sessions designed to build confidence, reduce errors, and support a smooth, successful application process. Registration is now open.
- **Learn more:** [parklandcounty.com/NFPgrant](http://parklandcounty.com/NFPgrant)

The County is proud to work alongside the dedicated organizations that help make our region vibrant, inclusive and full of opportunity. We encourage all eligible not-for-profits to apply and continue making a positive impact in our communities.



## FCSS Grants

Our Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) programs provide funding to not-for-profit organizations that enhance the social well-being of individuals and families.

If you or your organization offer child and youth programs, family life enrichment courses, seniors

programs, information and referral programs, or other social support programs that enhance the social well-being of individuals and families in our community, this grant may be available to you!

Visit [parklandcounty.com/fcss](http://parklandcounty.com/fcss) for full details. Applications close July 9, 2026.



# CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

This past April, we celebrated National Volunteer Week and recognized the incredible volunteers who help keep our communities strong and connected. The County hosted three drop-in volunteer events across Parkland County on April 20, 21 and 22, welcoming both current volunteers and those interested in getting involved. These events provided an opportunity to connect with others, enjoy light refreshments, and meet with members of Council.

The celebrations also included the annual Volunteer Appreciation Night, themed *Ignite Volunteerism*, a fitting tribute to the spark volunteers bring to our Parkland County. It was a pleasure to see so many valued community members recognized for their contributions.

Volunteers play a vital role in a thriving County. Many amenities, programs, and recreational opportunities would not be possible without their time and dedication. On behalf of Parkland County, thank you for all that you do!

## BUILD COMMUNITY. DEVELOP SKILLS. MAKE A DIFFERENCE. VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to your community? Joining a Community League is a great place to start.



**SHAPE OUR COMMUNITY**  
JOIN A COMMUNITY LEAGUE

Parkland County is home to 26 Community Leagues, each supporting residents through recreation amenities, community programs, rental facilities and more. These leagues are powered by volunteers, and they're always looking for people who want to get involved close to home!

### VOLUNTEERING WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY LEAGUE IS A GREAT WAY TO:

- Give back to your community
- Build your resume
- Grow professionally
- Learn new skills
- Meet new people and make friends

Whether you have a few hours to spare or are looking for an ongoing role, there's an opportunity for every interest and skill level.

Visit our website at [parklandcounty.com/communityleagues](http://parklandcounty.com/communityleagues) to find the nearest community league to you! Leagues are listed by general area, and you can contact them directly with questions about volunteering, programs, or facility rentals.

# PARKLAND COUNTY LIBRARIES

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Watch for our Library Mobile: July & August

The crew from Parkland County Libraries is targeting these areas on the following dates and times to bring you books, bags and stickers (no library card required!) Keep an eye out for them or **call or text 780-966-4960** when they're in your area if you don't see them around and they'll make sure to connect with you.

#### JULY

##### JULY 13

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12 noon  
**Location:** Woodbend Community Hall, Glowing Embers RV Park, Big Lake

##### JULY 20

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12 noon  
**Location:** Tomahawk area (Agra Complex, Township Road 512, Tower Acres, Moon Lake Community Hall)

##### JULY 22

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12 noon  
**Location:** Wabamun area (Jubilee Hall and Provincial Park)

#### AUGUST

##### AUGUST 6

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12 noon  
**Location:** Chickakoo Lake Recreation Area

##### AUGUST 10

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12 noon  
**Location:** Entwistle area (Old Entwistle, Pembina River Provincial Park)

##### AUGUST 12

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12 noon  
**Location:** Duffield area (North of Hwy 16, South of Hwy 16, Duffield Hall)

##### AUGUST 14

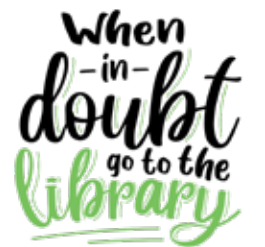
**Time:** 10:00 am – 12 noon  
**Location:** Keephills area (Holborn Hall, Mink Lake Campground)

### Tomahawk Library Kite & Game Day

#### JULY 6

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Join us to build and fly some kites! Already have a kite? Feel free to bring it along to fly and show off. Family board games will be available in the Tomahawk Agra and outside.



### Duffield Library

#### FAMILY NERF BATTLE

#### JULY 16

**Time:** 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

This free event features nerf games for all ages, sensory play for pre-school children and a concession as a fundraiser. **NOTE: Cash only, no ATM on site.**

### Entwistle Library — Free Swim Time

#### AUGUST 21

**Time:** 3:30 – 7:30 pm

This free event is open to all ages on a first-come, first-served basis at the Entwistle Community Recreation Centre outdoor pool.

One-hour swim blocks: 3:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 5:30 pm & 6:30 pm.



Register for lessons online at [parklandcounty.com/pool](http://parklandcounty.com/pool)

## ENTWISTLE POOL & SWIMMING LESSONS

### SPLASH, PLAY, AND SOAK UP THE SUNSHINE AT THE ENTWISTLE OUTDOOR POOL!

Located at the Entwistle Community Recreation Centre (4916 51 Street), this summertime favourite has something for every kind of water lover. Glide through the four-lane pool, tiptoe into the beach-style entry, or let the spray toys, diving board, and waterslide turn an ordinary day into a mini adventure.

Swimming lessons are also available for all age ranges, providing a fun and supportive way to build confidence and essential

water safety skills. Lesson registrations are open online at [parklandcounty.com/pool](http://parklandcounty.com/pool).

Whether you're cooling off, learning to swim, or spending the whole afternoon poolside, it's the perfect place to make summer memories.

If you have questions, please contact us at: [aquatics@parklandcounty.com](mailto:aquatics@parklandcounty.com).

**FREE BBQ**  
COURTESY OF FORTISALBERTA

**4TH ANNUAL TOMAHAWK FARM DAY**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH • 11:00AM – 3:00PM  
51122 HWY 759, TOMAHAWK

Market, bouncy house, face painting, henna tattoos, sausage making demonstration, pony rides, family photos & caricatures and more!

Visit [events.parklandcounty.com](http://events.parklandcounty.com) for details.

HERITAGE PARK STONY PLAIN  
Sat., July 25, 2026  
11 AM - 8 PM

**Mamawihitowin**  
A Gathering of Peoples

All Ages Welcome • Bring Your Lawn Chairs  
Visit: [mamawihitowin.com](http://mamawihitowin.com) or [lsametis.com](http://lsametis.com) for more details!



## LADYBUG RELEASE

**July 9, 10:00 am – 12 noon**  
**Wabamun Library,**  
**5132 53 Avenue**

Have you noticed yellowing, curled leaves or a sticky, “dirty” residue on your plants? You are likely to have an aphid infestation. Aphids are pests that thrive during hot, dry summers when heat-stressed plants are most vulnerable. Left unchecked, they don’t just damage your greenery; they also attract other unwanted insects like wasps, who are drawn to the sticky waste they leave behind.

Ladybugs are a powerful, natural solution to this problem, capable of eating up to 50 aphids a day. Using these beneficial beetles as biocontrol is a safer alternative to chemical pesticides, which can harm more than the intended target. To encourage ladybug populations in your yard, make sure to leave natural debris like leaf litter that can provide habitat. A healthy ladybug population will help control aphids naturally and requires little effort on your part.

Parkland County is hosting our fourth annual Ladybug Release to educate residents on these helpful little critters. This family-friendly event features fun activities like rock painting, colouring and games. Every attendee will also receive their own ladybugs to release at the event or at home. It is a great way to improve your garden’s health while enjoying a day out in your community.

Watch our calendar at [events.parklandcounty.com](https://events.parklandcounty.com) closer to the event for registration details to make sure we have enough ladybugs for everyone!



## DEALING WITH DUST ON GRAVEL ROADS

To improve air quality, overall road performance and reduce dust near homes, Parkland County implements a Dust Control Program using a safe, industry approved calcium chloride solution. By managing dust, we also help protect the road surface and reduce long-term maintenance costs.

### WHY DOES DUST CONTROL MATTER?

Dust control plays an important role in:

- **Safety:** reduces dust clouds that can limit driver visibility
- **Health and Air Quality:** minimizes airborne particles near homes
- **Road Preservation:** prevents gravel from lifting and eroding away
- **Cost Efficiency:** reduces the need for frequent road maintenance

### HOW DOES DUST CONTROL WORK?

The County applies a car-safe calcium chloride brine which acts like a magnet to draw and hold moisture in the road surface to keep gravel in place.

### PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND COVERAGE

If your residence is located within 150 metres of a gravel road, you are eligible for:

- 100 metres of dust control at no charge
- Additional coverage is available for a fee of \$4.25 per linear metre (plus taxes)

This approach ensures funding is focused on where dust impacts residents the most.

Want to learn more about this program and other road maintenance programs in place?

Visit [parklandcounty.com/roads](https://parklandcounty.com/roads) for more information.

## SWEET CLOVER AND ROADSIDE MOWING

You may notice tall white or yellow plants growing along roadsides and ditches this summer. These are sweet clover, a plant brought to Canada many years ago for farming. Today, it grows across Parkland County.

Sweet clover is not listed as a noxious weed, so it does not have to be controlled under regulation in Alberta. However, it does spread very quickly. In its second year, it can grow 3 to 8 feet tall and produce hundreds of thousands of seeds. These seeds can stay in the soil for up to 30 years.

Large patches can block sight lines at intersections, attract wildlife closer to roads, and crowd out native plants.

### HOW THE COUNTY MANAGES SWEET CLOVER

Parkland County manages sweet clover through its roadside mowing and weed management program, which is part of the County’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. Roadside mowing is done for weed control only, not for appearance.

Mowing work starts in designated focus areas but continues across the County throughout

the summer. Focus areas rotate annually. Some years, your area may be mowed early; in other years, it may be one of the last areas completed. The mowing program usually starts around June 15th.

Collector roads, which carry more traffic than local roads, are prioritized because they have a higher risk of weed spread. Where possible, roadsides are mowed once per year from the shoulder to the property line. Some parts of focus areas may receive blanket herbicide treatment, while other areas are spot treated when weeds are identified.

Because sweet clover is common across the County, mowing schedules cannot be changed for individual requests.

Municipal and Environmental Reserves are not included in the County’s regular mowing program. Weed concerns in these areas may be handled through focus area work or on as-needed basis as resources allow.

With this approach we aim to support responsive service delivery while supporting natural landscapes and sustainable agriculture.





# ENSURING SAFETY AND FUTURE CARE FOR YOUR ANIMALS

In Parkland County, pets and livestock are part of our families and a big part of rural life. That is why emergency preparedness plans should include them too. Whether the risk is wildfire, flooding, or severe weather, having a plan in place can help keep both people and animals safe.

### KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

An **evacuation alert** means you should get ready to leave on short notice. An **evacuation order** means there is an immediate risk to life safety, and you must leave right away.

### PLANNING FOR PET SAFETY

Develop a plan for where you and your pets will go, whether that is a pet-friendly hotel, kennel, or the home of friends or family. Have leashes, harnesses, carriers or crates

ready, and pack food, water, medications and comfort items like blankets or toys. Preparing for at least 72 hours is a good rule of thumb.

### PREPARING LIVESTOCK

For livestock owners, advance planning is especially important. Identify where animals could be moved, make sure feed, water, and shelter will be available, and keep emergency contacts up to date. Practising loading animals ahead of time can save valuable minutes to ensure preparedness if an evacuation order is issued and you need to act quickly.

### IF ANIMALS MUST STAY BEHIND

In some emergencies, livestock may need to remain on the property. If that happens, leave at least 72 hours of feed and water that does not rely on power, open gates or

reroute fencing to allow safer movement, and keep barn doors closed so animals do not enter and become trapped. Be sure to notify emergency contacts and inform staff at the Emergency Reception Centre or staging area.

### A LITTLE PLANNING GOES A LONG WAY

The best time to prepare is before an emergency happens. A little planning now can make a big difference when every minute counts.

Learn more about Emergency Preparedness at [parklandcounty.com/emergency](http://parklandcounty.com/emergency).



Book your FireSmart home assessment at [parklandcounty.com/FireSmart](http://parklandcounty.com/FireSmart) and enjoy a summer filled with peace of mind!

# PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Many homes catch fire during wildfire because of floating embers. They can travel far ahead of the main fire and land in places like gutters, decks, dry grass, mulch, or dry leaves, starting small fires before flames are anywhere nearby. That is why keeping the area around your home clean and well maintained is such an important part of wildfire preparedness.

A **FireSmart Advanced Home Assessment** is one of the easiest first steps you can take to protect your property. The assessment is free, takes about 30 minutes, focuses on the outside of your home, and gives you a personalized list of practical changes that can help reduce wildfire risk.

Our Fire Services team will help you identify where a few small changes could make a big difference. FireSmart is all about simple, realistic actions and the area closest to your home matters most.

## THREE WAYS TO KEEP YOUR YARD FIRESMART



**KEEP IT SHORT**

Cut grass short and prune low branches or branches hanging over your home. This helps reduce the chance of fire climbing upward and spreading.



**CHECK YOUR DECK**

Remove dead leaves and avoid storing patio furniture or firewood under your deck. These materials can easily catch fire from embers and that fire spreads to the home.



**CLEAR LEAVES FROM EAVES**

Dry leaves, pine needles, and twigs in your gutters are a fire hazard. If an ember lands there, it can start a fire and give it a path to travel.

# ANSWERING THE CALL CLOSE TO HOME



Parkland County Fire Services celebrated a proud milestone on April 8th, officially welcoming 20 new firefighters at its recruit graduation ceremony. The evening recognized the hard work, commitment, and teamwork it took for the 2025 recruit class to reach this point, while also honouring firefighters and Emergency Communications staff for years of service and exemplary contributions to public safety.

"These recruits have worked incredibly hard to get here, and it's been rewarding to watch them grow and support one another along the way," said Fire Chief Brian Cornforth. "We're proud to welcome them to the Parkland County Fire Services team."

Residents interested in serving close to home are encouraged to learn more about Parkland County's paid-on-call firefighter opportunities. Recruitment typically opens in the fall, and no previous firefighting experience is required. To discover how you can make a difference in your community, visit [parklandcounty.com/recruitment](http://parklandcounty.com/recruitment).

"These recruits have worked incredibly hard to get here."  
— Fire Chief Brian Cornforth

### ARE YOU READY?

### MAKE A PLAN

### BUILD A KIT

### STAY INFORMED

**PREPARE NOW — LEARN HOW!**



**DO YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN IN PLACE FOR YOUR FAMILY?**

**IS THERE A TO-GO BAG READY IN YOUR HOME?**

Visit [parklandcounty.com/EmergencyPreparedness](http://parklandcounty.com/EmergencyPreparedness) for more helpful information.



# NEW LIFE BLOOMS NEAR ROLLING MEADOWS



RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD



WOOD FROG



TREE PLANTING



CANADA GEESE

Last November, Parkland County transformed a piece of public land near the Rolling Meadows Subdivision into three brand-new wetlands.

These basins were carefully crafted to restore former wetland areas that had been altered over the years. Here is why this project is such a win for our local environment:

### NATURE'S FILTER

These wetlands act as natural cleaning systems, purifying water before they flow into Atim Creek and Big Lake.

### FLOOD CONTROL

They act like giant sponges, soaking up extra water during heavy rains to help protect downstream neighbors.

### WILDLIFE HAVEN

Frogs, birds, and bees are already moving in, including a pair of Canada Geese that seem to be making themselves at home!

## A Habitat Oasis

Wetlands are often called "nature's nurseries" because they provide unique resources that animals can't find anywhere else:

### FOR BIRDS

The combination of open water and tall grasses offers perfect nesting spots and a rich buffet of insects and seeds for both local and migrating birds.

### FOR AMPHIBIANS

Frogs and salamanders rely on these shallow, still waters to lay their eggs and provide a safe space for tadpoles to grow.

### FOR POLLINATORS

The specialized native plants that grow in wet soil provide high-quality nectar for bees and butterflies, which in turn help nearby farmers by pollinating their crops.

The new wetlands are already buzzing with life, but the transformation isn't finished yet.

## A Community Effort

In late May, Parkland County staff and enthusiastic community members gathered for a successful Community Planting Event. Together, they planted native wetland species to give Mother Nature a head start in this new ecosystem.

The work will continue in early June. Local Girl Guides, in partnership with the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) will be planting 600 native trees and shrubs. These plants will eventually provide essential shade and shelter for wildlife calling this area home.

Once the plants take root and mature, this public space will become a premier destination for quiet nature walks and photography excursions.

## Funded for the Future

This project was made possible through the Provincial Wetland Replacement Program.

The program is funded by fees paid when wetlands are lost elsewhere due to development. These funds are then reinvested into restoration projects like this one.

By using natural infrastructure to manage water, the County can reduce long-term costs for flood and drought protection.

## Want a Wetland of Your Own?

If you have a spot on your property that would make a great wetland, or a historically drained wetland you want to bring back to life, please reach out to Parkland County's Agriculture and Environment Services Department.

**Email: [agriculture@parklandcounty.com](mailto:agriculture@parklandcounty.com)  
Phone: 780-968-8467**

# THE BENEFITS OF NATURAL ASSETS IN THE COUNTY



Parkland County is home to a variety of natural assets - ecosystem features that provide a range of environmental benefits, including water storage, improved water quality, carbon storage and erosion protection. They can directly benefit property owners, too.

Proximity to waterbodies and natural spaces can significantly boost market value and long-term appeal of properties, often attributed to scenic views, recreational access, and increased demand for acreages. By establishing and maintaining Natural Asset Inventories, the County can further benefit residents and property owners by enabling access to incentives for conserving our region's valuable natural features.

ALUS is one way that Parkland County is showing a commitment to the conservation of natural assets through incentivization. ALUS is a farmer-delivered, community-led conservation program that works with agricultural producers to create, restore, and manage natural assets on farmland, generating ecosystem services such as clean water, flood mitigation, carbon storage, and wildlife habitat for the benefit of communities and future generations.

For over 10 years ALUS Parkland has worked with farmers and ranchers to establish projects that produce ecosystem services on marginal or environmentally sensitive agricultural land, providing support and annual per-acre payments for the maintenance and management of these projects.

## Integrating Conservation into Their Farm

The Van Dijk family, ALUS participants in Parkland County, set a great example by integrating conservation directly into their farm — enhancing wetland areas, planting trees and installing wildlife habitat structures — while continuing to run a productive operation. After learning about the program from a neighboring producer, they joined the ALUS Parkland community in 2025 and officially enrolled 40 acres of marginal land in the program. When asked about why they were interested in ALUS, their answer was simple: "We appreciate the natural features on our property, and we would like to make sure that it is left in better condition than we found it twenty years ago."

The newly protected area consists of a mosaic of ecologically significant habitat types: upland treed areas, natural forest clearings, and an open water wetland. The wetland was evaluated through Parkland County's Natural Asset Inventory, a County-wide study that measures the value of natural features and the benefits they provide. The Inventory shows this wetland plays an important role in managing water on the landscape by slowing runoff, keeping nutrients out of rivers and lakes, and storing carbon — helping reduce flood risk, protect water quality downstream, and support climate resilience. By setting aside space for nature, farmers like the Van Dijk family support biodiversity while protecting soils and strengthening the long term productivity and resilience of their farmland.

The Van Dijks intend to keep the property in their family and already have plans to add more improvements as time goes on.

Work like the Natural Asset Inventory and valuation paired with a program like ALUS will help ensure that farmers are recognized for the ecosystem service benefits that their farms are providing to the community.

For more information on Parkland County's Natural Asset Inventory please visit [parklandcounty.com/naturepolicy#naturalassetinventory](https://parklandcounty.com/naturepolicy#naturalassetinventory).

To learn more about the ALUS program, visit: [parklandcounty.com/ALUS](https://parklandcounty.com/ALUS).



“ We appreciate the natural features on our property, and we would like to make sure that it is left in better condition than we found it twenty years ago.”

— Van Dijk family

“ We are proud to serve kids and youth.”

— Todd Wiedric, Program Manager

# BRIGHTWOOD RANCH PARTNERS WITH PARKLAND COUNTY TO DELIVER YOUTH PROGRAMS

Parkland County has launched an exciting new partnership with Brightwood Ranch to bring after-school programs to young people in grades 2 – 6 and 7 – 12 across Entwistle and Wabamun.



Todd Wiedric, Program Manager

Building on three years of successful programming at Entwistle School, Brightwood Ranch has seamlessly expanded its reach into the Wabamun area. "We are proud to serve kids and youth," says Todd Wiedric, Program Manager. "It's important to us to offer a place where kids can come, make friendships, experience life, explore nature, and gain confidence."

The initiative currently runs four programs each week, serving an average of 17 – 24 young participants. The ranch's "kids in action" philosophy provides children with opportunities to burn off energy, connect with peers, enjoy nutritious snacks, and participate in a value-based rewards system. Weekly schedules feature engaging themes and events — from outer space adventures and cooking challenges to superhero days and game nights.

For information about upcoming events, including summer field trips, visit Parkland County's calendar at [events.parklandcounty.com](https://events.parklandcounty.com). Registration is recommended; please visit [parklandcounty.com/afterschool](https://parklandcounty.com/afterschool) to sign up.

## A Legacy of Hope

Brightwood Ranch's story began in the fall of 1982 near Evansburg, Alberta, born from both tragedy and generosity. After losing their nine-year-old daughter in a tragic accident, a local family moved to Edmonton (for the sake of privacy the family has requested not to be named), where they met Irvin Reich at a church service. Reich was searching for land to establish a youth ranch, and the family saw an opportunity to honor their daughter's memory. They donated half their property, and Reich purchased the remainder to create

Brightwood Ranch. Irvin was fondly called "Papa Reich," by former campers and a loving and spiritual man who made personal sacrifices to personally oversee the initial build in 1982. His goal was to provide a "place for life" for kids from the inner city, which is a mission that eventually led to the ranch becoming a key part of Hope Mission. Two years later, the ranch officially opened its doors. Today, it operates on 220 acres of trees and rolling hills, continuing its mission to serve young people in the community. Currently under expansion for summer camps, Brightwood Ranch hosted 330 kids last summer, and is expected to host twice as many this year. Overall, they provide programs and support to approximately 1,000 children each year.

For more information about Brightwood Ranch, including camp details and volunteer opportunities, visit [hopemission.com/camp/brightwood-ranch](https://hopemission.com/camp/brightwood-ranch).




# COMMUNITY EVENTS

TAKING PLACE BETWEEN JUNE – AUGUST 2026

## WOODBEND COMMUNITY HALL

### WORKOUT AT WOODBEND

June 2, 16, 23, 30  
10:00 – 11:00 am

### UNDER THE SEA ESCAPE ROOM

June 2  
4:00 – 7:00 pm

June 3  
10:00 am – 12 noon

### CRAFT RETREAT

June 8 – 10  
9:00 am – 9:00 pm

## YARD CLEAN-UP & BBQ

June 14  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

## KIDS ART ADVENTURE CAMP

August 10 – 13  
9:30 am – 11:45 am

Visit [woodbendhall.com](http://woodbendhall.com)

## HOLBORN COMMUNITY HALL

### CANADA DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

July 1  
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Visit [holbornhall.com](http://holbornhall.com)

## MOON LAKE COMMUNITY HALL

### SEWING & CRAFT GROUP

Every Second Thursday  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### COFFEE GROUP

Wednesdays  
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Visit [facebook.com/moonlakecommunityhall](https://facebook.com/moonlakecommunityhall)

## GOLDEN SPIKE HALL

### FAMILY FUN DAY & GARAGE SALE

July 11  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

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)

*These events and details are subject to change. Please check with each community provider for info. before planning to attend.*



## Organizing a neighbourhood party is easy with the County's 'Love Where You Live' program!

Bring your community together with a neighbourhood celebration. Parkland County makes it easy by offering a planning guide, event funding, activity bag loans, and other helpful resources to support your event.

### Planning your neighbourhood party?

Apply for support today! Please submit your application at least 3 – 4 weeks before your event to allow for processing. Note: only one application per event & subdivision will be accepted annually.

Learn more: [parklandcounty.com/LoveWhereYouLive](http://parklandcounty.com/LoveWhereYouLive)

## ENTWISTLE CELEBRATES CANADA DAY

JULY 1, 2026

### PARADE, FOOD, MUSIC & MORE

9 – 11 am	Pancake Breakfast – Community Church
10 am	Community Hall Market Opens
Noon	Parade
1 – 2:15 pm	Family Swim – Rec Centre
2:30 – 5:30 pm	Public Swim
1 – 4 pm	Family Activities – Seniors Centre & Community Hall
11 pm	Fireworks at the Rodeo Grounds

### JOIN IN THE FUN!\*

Hot dogs	Hamburgers
Birthday Cake	Car Show
Entertainment	Bouncy Castles

\*Some fees may apply

### HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Entwistle Community Church, Entwistle Community League, Seniors Centre, Parkland County Libraries, Parkland County



Funded by:



Alberta Parenting for the Future Association

# 2026 SUMMER DAY CAMPS

FOR CHILDREN AGED 6 – 12 YEARS



## Discover the best summer ever!

Parkland County is delighted to partner with Albert Parenting for the Future Association (APFA) to deliver a variety of summer day camps across our region. APFA summer day camps are designed to spark curiosity, build confidence and create lifelong memories in a fun, supportive environment.

Trained and caring staff create an inclusive and welcoming space where every child feels encouraged to try new things.

The camps offer engaging, structured outdoor activities that keep campers active and connected to the world around them, alongside age appropriate mindfulness practices that foster focus, self-awareness, and resilience.

APFA summer day camps nurture the whole child — mind, body, and spirit — while making every day exciting, engaging, and full of joy.



### REGISTRATION:

Registration opened April 1 for Parkland County residents and April 15 for non-residents.

Register now!  
Visit [parklandcounty.com/summecamps](http://parklandcounty.com/summecamps)

### LOCATIONS:

#### JULY 6 – 10 (5-DAY CAMPS)

Golden Spike Hall  
Blueberry Community Hall

#### JULY 13 – 16 (4-DAY CAMPS)

Woodbend Hall  
Holborn Hall

#### JULY 20 – 24 (5-DAY CAMPS)

Muir Lake Community Hall  
Wabamun – Jubilee Hall

#### AUGUST 10 – 14 (5-DAY CAMPS)

Parkland Village Community Centre  
Duffield Community Hall

#### AUGUST 17 – 21 (5-DAY CAMPS)

Sand Hills Community League  
Parkland Village Community Centre

### TIMES

Camps will run from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Drop-off is between 8:30 – 9:00 am  
Pick-up is between 4:00 – 4:30 pm

There will not be programming during drop-off and pick-up times.

### COST

**\$150** per camper for Parkland County residents.

**\$100** for 4-day camps.

**\$200** per camper for non-residents.

**\$150** for 4-day camps.

Full refunds for cancellations (less service fees) are available until June 15, 2026.

Half refunds (less service fees) are available if requested by noon on the Friday 2 weeks prior to the first day of camp.

### OVERVIEW:

#### SPORTS & GAMES

Movement, sports, and cooperative games build strength, confidence, and teamwork through fun physical activity.

#### OUTDOOR PLAY & ADVENTURES

The best learning happens outside where kids can connect with the natural world.

#### MINDFULNESS & WELL-BEING

Guided breathing, relaxation, and reflection help campers build focus, emotional awareness, and resilience they can carry beyond summer.

#### BUILD FRIENDSHIPS & COMMUNITY

Laugh, learn, and build friendships that last beyond your week at camp.

### CONTACT APFA:

**Family Connection Centre**  
5600 50th St, Stony Plain  
Email: [info@apfa.ca](mailto:info@apfa.ca)  
Phone: 780-963-0549

# GIVE YOUR BUSINESS A REFRESH

WITH THE COUNTY'S BUSINESS REVITALIZATION PROGRAM



As the sun stays out longer and the temperatures rise, it's the perfect time to bring that same energy into revitalizing your business. It's a natural time of year to take a step forward to invest in your curb appeal.

## APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

The County's Business Revitalization Program is back and covers up to 50% of eligible project costs, to a maximum of \$3,500 to help local businesses enhance and refresh the look of their exteriors. Whether you need better signage, more visual appeal or want to take steps to boost your branding, now is the time to consider improvements that will draw in customers and make your business stand out.

Visit [parklandcounty.com/revitalization](http://parklandcounty.com/revitalization) for details and to apply today.



## WORKING ON SUMMER PROJECTS?

PLANit Parkland is our online tool used to submit applications for your home, your business and your land. Apply for building and development permits, check the status of your application, pay online, book inspections, and more.

Visit [parklandcounty.com/planit](http://parklandcounty.com/planit) for details

## Did you know?

Parkland County Centre features a dedicated planning support staff member at the front counter to assist with drop-in inquiries. Expert assistance is always within reach during office hours, Monday to Friday.



LOCATION: COAL DIAMOND SPORTS PARK, WABAMUN

SAVE THE DATE



WABAMUN'S ANNUAL  
**OUTDOOR**  
MOVIE NIGHT!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

**MOVIE**  
TO BE ANNOUNCED,  
STAY TUNED!



# County Chats

Connect with   
your Mayor & Council



## Join us for County Chats — a new series of open-house style events happening across Parkland County.

Residents are invited to drop in, meet the Mayor and Councillors, and learn more about County initiatives and community leagues. Whether you want to ask questions, share feedback or find new ways to get involved, County Chats offers a relaxed setting to connect with your local government and community.



### **Magnolia Community Hall**

Tuesday, June 9

### **Woodbend Community Hall**

Thursday, June 18

### **Parkland Village Community Centre**

Wednesday, Sept. 9

### **Wabamun Jubilee Hall**

Tuesday, Oct. 6

### **Keephills Community Hall**

Wednesday, Oct. 14

### **Holborn Community Hall**

Thursday, Nov. 12

### **Blueberry Community Hall**

Monday, Nov. 23

SHARE FEEDBACK

ASK QUESTIONS

MEET YOUR COMMUNITY LEAGUE

EVERYONE WELCOME!

ALL EVENTS RUN FROM  
5:30 – 7:30 PM

