

YOUR PARKLAND

2023 SUMMER

Keeping you connected with your County

**Message from
Mayor and Council**

**What's new in
Parkland County**

**SWEET
SUMMERTIME
IN PARKLAND
COUNTY**

Cover photo: Chickakoo Lake Recreation Area

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UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES

Our offices will be closed on the following dates:

JULY 3 – Canada Day (in lieu)

AUGUST 7 – Heritage Day

SEPTEMBER 4 – Labour Day

PROCLAMATIONS

JUNE:

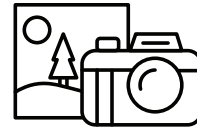
National Indigenous History Month – June

National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21

National Peacekeepers' Day – August 9



**PROPERTY TAXES ARE
DUE ON OR BEFORE
FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023**



Share Your Feedback and Photos

If you're out exploring the County and snap a beautiful photo, be sure to share it with us and you might see it featured in one of our future editions! Email your photos, and your thoughts on this publication, to communications@parklandcounty.com.

You can also share your photos by tagging us on social media.

Concerns

If you notice a concern or have a question within Parkland County, you can use our County Concerns tool to send it in right from your smartphone or computer.



REACH OUT OR FOLLOW US:

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday; 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

T: 780-968-8888

E: hello@parklandcounty.com

53109A HWY 779

Parkland County, AB T7Z 1R1



(L – R): Councillor Natalie Birnie, Councillor Allan Hoefslout, Councillor Sally Kucher Johnson, Mayor Allan Gamble, Councillor Phyllis Kobasiuk, Councillor Kristina Kowalski, Councillor Rob Wiedeman.

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Welcome to the second edition of *Your Parkland!* We created this newsletter as a way to share news, updates and information on various County projects, activities and events. As a resident of Parkland County, we want YOU to know what's happening all throughout our beautiful county.

Staying connected is important to us. Along with this newsletter, this year we've also created our online engagement platform, **YourParkland.ca**, which you'll learn more about in this edition.

Unfortunately, this year's extra-hot spring season meant extreme fire conditions and a challenging wildfire south of Entwistle. We want to send our most sincere appreciation to all our dedicated firefighters, first responders and County staff who worked tirelessly around the clock to combat the Range Road 70 wildfire and keep our community safe. We are beyond grateful for their commitment and resilience. We also want to acknowledge all the residents who were

forced to evacuate from their homes in Entwistle and the surrounding area. Thank you for your patience and understanding during a very stressful time. Throughout this wildfire emergency, we were amazed at the outpouring of support from community members, business owners, and our municipal partners. We are so grateful for how others stepped up to assist in this challenging time.

In this edition of the newsletter, we'll be highlighting other recent news, summertime in Parkland County, exciting opportunities for our local businesses and more.

To everyone who calls Parkland County home — thank you for your support as we work to ensure that Parkland will always be a great community to live, work and play, now and in the future. We hope you have a wonderful and safe summer!

Parkland County Mayor and Council

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

Teams from different areas gathered to help fight and manage the wildfire.



“ It was a great reminder of how we all need to work together in these types of emergencies.”

Brian Cornforth,
Fire Chief

WHAT'S NEW IN PARKLAND COUNTY

Range Road 70 Wildfire

On April 29, a wildfire began west of Range Road 70 near Entwistle and forced the evacuation of hundreds of residents. Dry, hot conditions mixed with heavy winds caused this fire to spread further, eventually jumping the Pembina River and crossing into Yellowhead County and growing to over 7,500 Hectares. The fire burned deep into underground peat, creating hundreds of hotspots and ash pits requiring a focused effort and lots of hard work from our crews to combat the blaze.

Throughout this emergency, Parkland County was amazed at the outpouring of support from residents and other agencies. We received hundreds of offers from the community looking to chip in through offers of equipment, labour, food, and in many other ways.

“We are grateful for all the residents and businesses who were willing to help us out. Our fire crews were working long, hard days in intense heat, and having the support from our community and neighbours really meant a lot,” said Fire Chief Brian Cornforth. “It was a great reminder of how we all need to work together in these types of emergencies.”

Thank you to all the first responders who have worked tirelessly on this wildfire in order to keep our community safe.

“Parkland County's Fire Services is filled with dedicated staff who continue to go above and beyond with their service. We are very fortunate to have them in our corner, always working hard to protect the place we all call home,” said Laura Swain, Chief Administrative Officer.



Twenty-seven students from Lakeland College's Emergency Training Centre stepped up to help on the front lines.

FireSmart Assessment

It's important to always be prepared and to ensure your home and property are not at high risk in the event of a wildfire. Schedule your **FREE Advanced FireSmart Home Assessment** today. An assessor will visit your property and review key areas within the home ignition zones. The assessment will highlight areas of risk and provide specific recommendations of actions and upgrades residents can take to increase their property's resilience to wildfire. Contact Fire Services at 780-968-8338 or email fireservice@parklandcounty.com to book.



Arrange for a
FireSmart
assessment



Assessor will
perform an on
site review



Areas of risk will
be highlighted



Peace of mind to
help you protect
your property

WE'VE GOAT TO GET RID OF WEEDS

Over the past three summers, Parkland County piloted the use of BAAH'D Plant Management and Reclamation in our weed control. The program uses trained goats and a targeted grazing method to control weeds in selected areas. The County's agricultural team utilized these goats around Sauer Lake to help manage the tansy weed.

Instead of having staff spray an entire area with chemicals, goats are trained to eat the noxious weeds. The goats graze the flower heads of the tansy before it goes to seed, preventing the spread. They also help cut back grass to increase visibility and access for weed applicators to spot spray any remaining tansy.

Who doesn't love having a friendly goat do some of your work?

BENEFITS OF THE GOATS:

- Goats can access areas that humans can't, such as tight spaces between trees.
- Tansy seeds become inactivated in a goat's stomach, preventing seeds in feces from causing new growth.
- They minimize the need for the use of chemical weed control methods.
- Increases carbon sequestration into the soil while building up organic matter and nutrients of the soil. In the long-term, this helps reduce carbon footprint and weed infestations.

Introducing the Sundance Boat Launch and Recreation Area



Thank you to everyone who shared their input on what to name the Wabamun south side boat launch! After presenting a list of the suggestions to Council, a decision was made to call it the Sundance Boat Launch and Recreation Area.

We look forward to opening the boat launch and park area to the public, but first it requires additional work —

including some necessary dredging to ensure safe passage of vessels. This work will begin after July 1 and is expected to be complete mid-July. Once work is finished, an opening date will be announced. Stay tuned!

For additional information, please visit www.parklandcounty.com/BoatLaunch

Mike Myshak Sr receives honorary road dedication

On May 10, we unveiled a new road sign in Acheson, officially dedicating the street as Mike Myshak Way. Mike Myshak Sr has been a pioneer in the heavy haul and equipment rental industry since 1960 as the founder of Premay Equipment. In 1996, he moved his business to the Acheson Industrial Park where he has made countless contributions to the community through his generosity, selflessness, and innovation.

"Our community's business leaders like Mike Myshak deserve to be acknowledged and appreciated for their hard work, and I'm grateful we can give proper tribute to Mike in an area where he has had tremendous impact," said Mayor Allan Gamble.

Although now happily retired, Mike's legacy lives on in his thriving business, and throughout the entire Acheson area.

"Mike has been a steadfast builder of the business community of Acheson and Parkland County for many decades, and we are thrilled to be able to honour his contributions to the area with this dedication," said Delly McEwan, Chair of the Acheson Business Association Board.

The honorary road signs are installed in two locations — the corner of Fulton Drive and Acheson Road, and the corner of 279 Street and Acheson Road.





SWEET SUMMERTIME IN PARKLAND COUNTY

Get out and explore Parkland County
this summer at one of our parks, trails or
natural areas

www.parklandcounty.com/Parks

Free events for the family!

Hosted by Parkland County Libraries — www.parklandcounty.com/Libraries

Foam Party & Community BBQ

Wednesday, July 19

3 – 6:30 pm

Keephills Public Library

Join us in a sea of bubbles and laughter. Games, face painting, sparkle tattoos and karaoke fun.

Amazing Race Obstacle Course & Community BBQ

Thursday, July 27

10 am – 1 pm

Duffield Hall (presented by Duffield Public Library)

One of a kind 100 ft inflatable obstacle course for all ages! Crafts, games, face painting, sparkle tattoos and karaoke.

Amazing Race Obstacle Course & Community BBQ

Thursday, August 10

3 – 6:30 pm

Tomahawk Agra (presented by Tomahawk Public Library)

Fun filled day of chasing friends and making new ones. One-of-a-kind inflatable obstacle course to entertain all. Games, face painting, sparkle tattoos and karaoke.

Foam Party & Community BBQ

Thursday, August 24

12:30 – 3:30 pm

Wabamun Public Library

A special moment for parents, grandparents and friends to connect and watch kids having bubble fun, busy with face painting, playing interactive games and sporting sparkle tattoos while serenading all with karaoke.

Summer Day Camps

Sign the kids up for summer activities, games, challenges, and crafts!

Summer day camps run Monday to Friday from 9 am – 4 pm throughout July and August at various community halls in the County. Visit www.parklandcounty.com/SummerCamps to learn more and register.



Love Where You Live

Connect with your neighbours this summer by hosting a Love Where You Live event! Parkland County's block party program is here to help with our planning guide, funding, Fun Bag loan and other resources.

As friendships grow, so do safe and caring communities. Learn more at www.parklandcounty.com/LoveWhereYouLive





Entwistle Outdoor Pool

Located at the Entwistle Community Recreation Centre, the Entwistle Outdoor Pool features a four-lane pool, beach area with spray toys, diving board and water slide. Lockers are available on site, please bring your own lock.

You can also book swim lessons and private parties, visit www.parklandcounty.com/Pool

Planning to sit around the campfire this summer?

Be sure to always check the fire hazard level on our website and be mindful of whether an advisory, restriction or full fire ban may be in place: www.parklandcounty.com/FireHazard

If there's no fire ban in effect, get your free fire permit at www.parklandcounty.com/FirePermit

Please note that fireworks are only allowed with a permit on New Year's Day, Canada Day, and Labour Day. Fireworks are not allowed during a fire ban.



Construction Notice

Mink Lake Road (Township Road 524) between Highway 770 and Range Road 25 will be undergoing a full reconstruction over the summer and fall months. This includes the Star Lake access at Range Road 25 and Township Road 524; this Star Lake access point will be closed intermittently throughout the construction process. Notices will be displayed prior. Motorists that are not local traffic are encouraged to take alternative routes and/or expect delays. Access to Mink Lake campground may also be affected, however, this impact is expected to be minimal. Visit www.parklandcounty.com/MinkLake for more details.

Community Shred Event

Saturday, June 24 – 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Parkland County Centre — front parking lot

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

What is accepted:

- Documents (including staples, paper clips, large bull clips)
- File folders
- Small soft covered books
- Coiled binders (metal or plastic)
- CD's and DVD's

Please bring a donation for the Parkland Food Bank.

For those enjoying the lake life:

The Government of Alberta governs water bodies and shores within the province. This includes the placement of seasonal boat docks and mooring structures. Waterfront and Semi-waterfront landowners are not required to get approval from the province as long as their docks and moorings comply with the province's standards. Backlot landowners (separated from the water's

edge by more than one property or road) are required to obtain written authorization from the waterfront landowner and a Temporary Field Authorization (TFA) for Seasonal Docks and Moorings from Alberta Environment and Parks. Visit www.parklandcounty.com/Docks or contact landmanagement@parklandcounty.com to learn more.



yourparkland.ca

Have you checked out **YourParkland.ca**? Since launching in January, our new online public engagement portal has been full of opportunities to provide feedback on topics that are important for County residents, such as proposed bylaw changes, plans for a new trail network, the upcoming Land Use Bylaw ReDesign, and a chance to name our new boat launch!

Another way we are connecting residents with the County is through the **YourParkland.ca** Enforcement page. Each Division in the County has

its own page — updated by a peace officer — with information on any significant criminal activity. There's news on upcoming events, surveys and interactive tools that allow you to ask one of our peace officers a question. Learn about crime rates in your area, clarify crime rumours you may have heard, or find crime prevention resources to help keep you, your family and your property safe.



Municipal Development Plan Project & Land Use Bylaw ReDesign

If you're looking to learn more about these projects and provide feedback, be sure to attend one of our upcoming Information Sessions! These Information Sessions will be held using a drop-in format, meaning you can drop-in any time during the hours listed below for a coffee and snack and chat with County staff.

Unable to attend in person? Visit **yourparkland.ca** to join the conversation, share your perspective on County projects, and help shape what's happening in your community!

UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Entwistle Community Recreation Centre

August 15, 2023
4921 51 St, Entwistle, AB
5 – 7 pm

Parkland County Centre

August 16, 2023
53109A Hwy 779,
Parkland County, AB
3 – 7 pm

Upcoming Meetings

Council and committee meetings will be taking place in-person at the County Council Chambers. All meetings commence at 9:00 a.m.

Residents are welcome to provide suggestions and/or raise concerns for 10 minutes at the beginning of the meetings or formal appointments can

be made by contacting Legislative Services at 780-968-8471.

Stay up to date with Council meeting agendas, recaps and more by subscribing to "Receive Email Updates" at www.parklandcounty.com/Council

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	31

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are more formal. Council makes decisions on important matters in the community.

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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					

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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					

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Governance and Priorities Committee meetings are less formal and allow administration to share information as well as discuss issues and ideas.

Interested in Quarterly Corporate and Financial Updates?

Each quarter, updates are provided at both Council & Governance and Priorities Committee meetings on the corporate and financial status of Parkland County.

Upcoming Corporate and Financial Updates:
Quarter 2 – 2023: September 5



WETLAND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Wetlands are highly productive ecosystems that are essential for protecting water quality, providing habitat for wildlife, and reducing the impacts of flood and drought by providing increased water storage. Parkland County has lost approximately 56% of our previous wetland area since the 1950s. We now have a unique opportunity

to re-establish wetlands in our area through the provincial Wetland Replacement Program. Funds that have been collected to compensate for wetland loss can now be accessed and used for wetland construction and restoration projects. If you would like to see a wetland in your area, email sustainability@parklandcounty.com or phone 780-968-8888 ext. 8236.

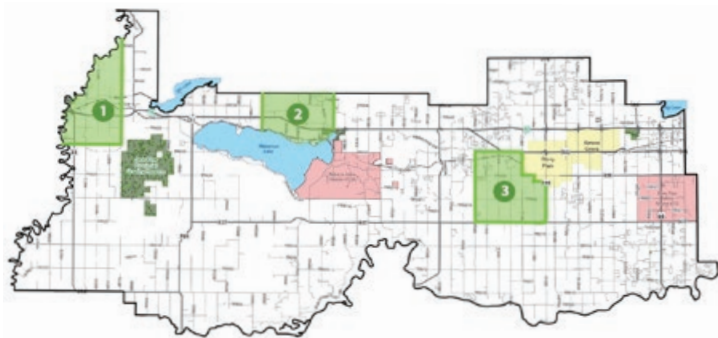
Weed Control Program

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

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

for 2023 weed inspections and control. We will begin with controlling weeds on County lands and then begin assessing private properties. Properties with noxious and prohibited noxious weeds will be inspected and recommendations for control will be given.

Please note: A weed notice can be issued in extreme cases where no efforts are made to prevent the spread of noxious weeds or destroy prohibited noxious weeds.



Vegetation Control Program

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

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

Herbicides used this upcoming season may include:

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

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

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

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

DID YOU KNOW?

You can rent pasture sprayers from our Agricultural Services!

Call 780-968-8467



Roadside Mowing

Roadside mowing occurs over the summer and is completed with safety and weed control as the top priorities. Due to the large land base of the County and the size of our mower fleet, some roads may not be mowed until later in the season. Each year, mowers are sent to different sections of the County and spread out on a rotational basis. Collector roads are given priority and are mowed more than once per season for safety considerations on high traffic roads.

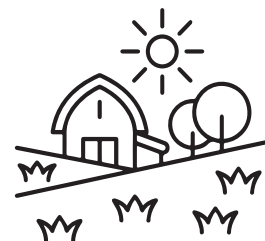
We are not able to determine exactly when mowers will arrive in a specific area. Please ensure that all road signs without a permit are removed. Parkland County will remove and dispose of any unpermitted signs left within the road allowance.

Agricultural Bursaries

Agricultural Services is providing up to five bursaries of \$500.00 to students residing in the County who are attending university, community college, or any other recognized post-secondary institution and enrolled in an agriculture-based program.

Application deadline: September 30, 2023, at 4:30pm

Visit www.parklandcounty.com/Scholarships to learn more.





GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Business Revitalization Program

Does your business need some TLC? Parkland County wants to help! Our recently launched Business Revitalization Program is designed to support increased visual aesthetics of business storefronts throughout hamlets in the County.

Business owners can apply to receive matching funding of up to 50% of the project's total cost, to a maximum of \$2,500. Projects must enhance the business's premises while contributing to the community and landscape

beautification. Funding is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To find out more about the program, visit www.parklandcounty.com/BRP

Digital Economy Program

The Digital Economy Program (DEP) has been helping hundreds of Alberta small businesses receive free digital support since the program's launch last year. Be sure to take advantage of this free program designed to support businesses as they move into the digital world!

Get your spot today! Sign up at yourDEP.ca or email hello@parklandcounty.com if you have any questions.

This program is delivered through a partnership between Parkland County, the University of Alberta, Business Link, and Digital Main Street. It is funded by the Government of Alberta and Prairies Economic Development Canada.



BUSINESSES MUST FIT THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Registered in Alberta.
- Zero to 49 employees (this includes self-employed business owners with no employees).
- Home-based or commercial business.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

- Support to build your online presence.
- An understanding on how to build a Search Engine Optimization strategy.
- How to create a social media plan.
- How to add eCommerce and other digital practices.



Travel around the region

Book trips for right now, or up to one week in advance, for travel between any two bus stops in Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Parkland Village or Acheson. Download the Pick-Up On-Demand app and book your ride.

On-demand local transit services within Stony Plain and Spruce Grove operates from 5 am – 7 pm Monday through Friday. Acheson and Parkland Village operates from 5 am – 9 am and 2:15 pm – 6:15 pm.

Parkland County was successful in receiving the Government of Alberta New Horizons Grant. With this grant we will be piloting a Senior's Transportation Program. Stay tuned, details will be coming to our website at www.parklandcounty.com/Seniors

Broadband Update



Improving rural internet for residents and businesses in Parkland County continues to be a priority. We are waiting on announcements from Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) to ensure County funds are utilized in the most responsible and effective way with the greatest impact for our communities. The UBF is a federal program that supports broadband infrastructure projects bringing high-speed Internet to rural and remote households. These UBF announcements have been delayed, which in turn affects our timelines. Pending UBF announcements, we are now hoping to have network construction and installation take place in 2024.

Parkland County carried out a Starlink Trial that involved four different Starlink units at residential locations known for poor quality and limited access to internet services. A fifth system was activated as a baseline to use in comparison with other units. The trial ran for a 10 to 16-month period to evaluate different weather conditions and is now successfully complete. Based on the trial, we believe low orbit satellite is a viable option for residents and businesses that do not have another connectivity option. We recommend residents that are interested in this option reach out to providers of this service for pricing and availability.

Watch out for Late Blight disease on **potatoes** and **tomatoes**!

Late Blight thrives and produces spores in humid, moist environments when extra water is on plants. Be sure to...

- Buy certified seed potatoes/tomatoes.
- Choose a location for your plant where potatoes, tomatoes or green peppers have not been grown for at least four years.
- Plant in a warm, dry, sunny area.
- If you discover Late Blight, destroy the infected plant and those within a two-foot radius.



PLANit Parkland is an online tool used to submit your application needs for your home, your business and your land. You can apply for building and development permits, check the status of your application, pay online, book inspections and more. Visit www.parklandcounty.com/PLANit

DID YOU KNOW?

So far in 2023, Parkland County has issued 213 development permits. Of these, 186 are residential in nature. We have more permits issued than usual for this time of the year — in all of 2022, there were 457 development permits issued.

CLIFFORD E. LEE NATURE SANCTUARY

Visit one of the County's beautiful natural areas

Located in the southern portion of Parkland County, Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary protects 348 acres of marshland, meadow, aspen parkland and pine forest. This beautiful area is home to over 100 bird species, making it the perfect place to enjoy a stroll while listening to the birds chirping. It also features a boardwalk throughout the area with several lookout points.

This area is maintained by volunteers. Please remember to clean up after yourself and be kind to the area. www.cliffordelee.com



BUILD
RESILIENCE

Are you a farmer or rancher with marginal or uneconomic lands?

JOIN US

ALUS helps you with wetland fencing, off-site waterways, tree planting, adaptive multi-paddock grazing projects and more.

Over 1,600 producers have enrolled more than 46,000 acres of land in the ALUS program.

ALUS
PARKLAND

For more information, contact your local ALUS program coordinator:

Chad Ritter
ALUS Parkland

Office: (780) 968-8888 ext. 8286
Cell: (780) 668-9245
chad.ritter@parklandcounty.com

ALUS.ca

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [v](#) [p](#)

Share the road

Farmers are busy at work, so be sure to keep an eye out and share the road with large farm equipment. Please keep your distance, be patient and make sure kids know to keep a safe distance when using the road for activities such as biking or walking.