



SMOKY LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. held

Virtually <https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/245883168> (Meeting ID # 245883168) and Physically
in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes
 - 3.1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, September 26, 2024
 - 3.2. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting, October 1, 2024
4. Delegation(s)
Nil
5. Public Hearing
Nil
6. Municipal Planning Commission (MPC)
Nil

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD - announced between 11:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

7. Business – Requests for Decision
 - 7.1. Alberta Invasive Species Council Sponsorship
 - 7.2. Waskatenau Creek Corridor Restoration and Trail Concept
 - 7.3. County-Owned Lands – Offers to Purchase
 - 7.4. Village of Waskatenau – Request to Purchase Land
 - 7.5. Spedden Hall & Church – Request to Waive Natural Gas Service Charge
 - 7.6. FCSS Grant Application – Smoky Lake Minor Hockey
 - 7.7. Tax Agreement for Property Tax Roll #15591611
 - 7.8. Smoky Lake Curling Club – Accounts Receivable Penalties
8. Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Report
 - 8.1. Action List from September 12 & 26, 2024 Council Meetings
9. Council Committee Reports
Nil
10. Correspondence
 - 10.1. Letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated October 2, 2024, requesting participation in a survey for the purpose of sharing data relating to the impact of the Carbon Tax
 - 10.2. Letter from Scott Cyr, MLA Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul Constituency, to the City of Edmonton Mayor, dated August 23, 2024, requesting support of the AGLC advocating for fairer distribution of charitable gaming revenues
 - 10.3. Letter from the Smoky Lake County Regional Heritage Board, dated September 27, 2024, recommending three buildings to be assigned municipal historic designation

11. Information Release

Nil

12. Financial Reports

Nil

13. Next Meetings

13.1. Reconfirm Smoky Lake County Council's scheduled upcoming Meetings are as follows:

Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Regular & Organizational)

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Budget)

Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Regular)

Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Regular)

13.2. Schedule a Council Meeting for the Purpose of CAO Evaluation in November 2024

14. In Camera (Executive Session)

14.1. Legal Issue: Surface Material Leases, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 27: Privileged Information and Section 16: Third Party Business Interests

14.2. Personnel Issue: Update on Staff from the CAO under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 27: Privileged Information and Section 17: Third Party Personal Privacy

15. Adjournment.

Policy Statement and Guidelines:	
1. STATEMENT:	
1.1. Smoky Lake County is committed to protecting municipal infrastructure from flooding and water movement that relates to beaver activity and may provide flood mitigation services for a fee to landowners for blasting beaver dams and/or installing pond levelers, within the County's jurisdictional boundaries.	
2. OBJECTIVE:	
2.1. To mitigate damage to municipal infrastructure caused by beaver activity i.e. dam creation.	
2.2. To utilize pond leveler technology or dam removal to manage beaver activity on private land.	
3. GUIDELINES:	
3.1. Applicants must submit the "Service Fee" identified under Schedule "B": Request for Service Permission to Enter Land(s) from Landowner with the signed Schedule "A": Request for Service - Permission to Enter Land(s) for Municipal Work , prior to any work being completed.	
3.2. Landowners will subsequently be charged for each stick of explosives used.	
3.3. Smoky Lake County has the right to refuse any Request for Service if it is determined by the certified blaster or County Administration to be unsafe work conditions, i.e.: near gas lines, power lines, or infrastructure and may be subject to approval from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.	
4. PROCEDURES:	
4.1. Request for Service - Municipal Work:	
4.1.1. Smoky Lake County shall remove only the necessary sections of Beaver Dams, as required to facilitate the flow of water. Removal of entire dams will not be done to avoid downstream flooding and situations causing damage to municipal infrastructure.	
4.1.2. In the event the Beaver activity is located outside the municipality's right-of-way, the Agricultural Service Board Staff shall obtain Landowners' permission for dams/beaver removal activities to access land(s); as per Schedule "A": Request for Service - "Permission to Enter Land(s) for Municipal Work".	
4.1.3. It is highly recommended that the property owner removes all beavers by their own means prior to blasting to prevent the dam(s) from being rebuilt.	
4.2. Request for Service - Agricultural Land:	
4.2.1. Beaver Control measures may be undertaken on a fee for service basis at the request of a landowner on lands to which access is permitted. This will provide producers assistance when seeded land is being affected by flooding caused by beaver dams.	
4.2.1.1. Prior to the start of blasting, the Landowners must grant permission and commit payment for the services rendered, as per Schedule "B": Request for Service - "Permission to Enter Land(s) from Landowner".	

Title: Beaver Control on Private Lands	Policy No.: 21-07
Section: 62	Page No.: 2 of 5 E

4.2.2. A service fee of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) shall be collected prior to every entry upon the land.
4.2.3. In addition, FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00) per stick of explosives used shall be collected after the removal of a beaver dam(s).
4.2.4. The timing and amount of water lowered at any one time will be at the sole discretion of the Smoky Lake County employee conducting the work, bearing in mind effects on other landowners, down and up-stream from the work area. Timing of the work will only take place after July 16th and before November 1st to align with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans 'timing windows' for dam removal.

Title: Beaver Control on Private Lands	Policy No.: 21-07
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SCHEDULE "A"
PERMISSION TO ENTER LAND(S) FOR MUNICIPAL WORK

DETAILS	Property Owner: Name: _____
	Address: _____
	Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

LEGAL DETAILS	Legal Description (hereinafter referred to as the "Lands"):
	Location: LEGAL LAND LOCATION: 1/4 _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M
	1/4 _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M
	1/4 _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M


PERMISSION	I (We), do hereby grant permission to SMOKY LAKE COUNTY and its employees or agents, to enter upon the "Land(s)" and use such equipment and material as considered necessary for:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Removal of beaver dams <input type="checkbox"/> Installation and maintenance of pond leveler <input type="checkbox"/> Trapping/Hunting beavers <input type="checkbox"/> Other work(s) as described on the reference "Land(s)": _____
	I (We) hereby agree to, in consideration of the benefit derived by me (us) from the work description above shall indemnify and save harmless the <u>SMOKY LAKE COUNTY</u> , its Councillors, officers, employees, and agents from any claim, damages, liability, cost, fee, penalty, action, cause of action, demand, damage to property, injury to person or death (including, without limitation to, legal fees of <u>SMOKY LAKE COUNTY</u> on a solicitor-client full indemnity basis), that may arise directly or indirectly out of the performances of the above described work(s).
	I (We) hereby acknowledge that pond levelers are property of <u>SMOKY LAKE COUNTY</u> , therefore maintained by <u>SMOKY LAKE COUNTY</u> . I (We) hereby agree this easement is considered valid for 5 years at which time <u>SMOKY LAKE COUNTY</u> will contact me (us) for renewal of easement if required, or in the event property is sold.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVE READ THIS APPLICATION AND AM AWARE OF ITS CONTENTS AND AGREE TO THE CONDITIONS.

SIGNATURE OF OWNER: _____	DATE: _____
SIGNATURE OF SMOKY LAKE COUNTY: _____	DATE: _____

Title: Beaver Control on Private Lands	Policy No.: 21-07
Section: 62	Code: _____ Page No.: 4 of 5 E

SCHEDULE "B"
REQUEST FOR SERVICE: PERMISSION TO ENTER LAND(S) FROM LANDOWNER

DETAILS	Applicant: Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ Cell Number: _____ Land Property: <input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Lessee
LEGAL DETAILS	Legal Description (hereinafter referred to as the "Lands"): Location: LEGAL, LAND LOCATION: ¼ _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M ¼ _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M ¼ _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M 
SERVICE FEE	A service fee of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) shall be collected prior to entry upon the land. A per stick charge of FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00) shall be collected after the removal of a beaver dam.
PERMISSION	I (We), do hereby grant permission to SMOKY LAKE COUNTY and its employees or agents, to enter upon the "Land(s)" and use such equipment and material as considered necessary for the removal or destruction of <u>BEAVER DAMS</u> . I (We) hereby agree to, in consideration of the benefit derived by me (us) from the work description above shall indemnify and save harmless the SMOKY LAKE COUNTY, its Councillors, officers, employees, and agents from any claim, damages, liability, cost, fee, penalty, action, cause of action, demand, damage to property, injury to person or death (including, without limitation to, legal fees of SMOKY LAKE COUNTY on a solicitor-client full indemnity basis), that may arise directly or indirectly out of the performances of the above described work(s).
WORK	Number of Dams Blown: _____ Signature of Blaster: _____ Number of Sticks Used: _____ Date of Blasting: _____
I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVE READ THIS APPLICATION AND AM AWARE OF ITS CONTENTS AND AGREE TO THE CONDITIONS.	
SIGNATURE OF OWNER: _____ DATE: _____	
SIGNATURE OF SMOKY LAKE COUNTY: _____ DATE: _____	

Carried.

7.2. Federation of Alberta Gas Co-op's Annual Convention and Annual General Meeting
853-24: Céré
That Smoky Lake County Council approve for up to two Councillors, or one Councillor and the Chief Administrative Officer, attend the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-op's Annual Convention and AGM, scheduled for November 25 - 28, 2024, at the River Cree Resort and Casino.

Carried.

One Member of the Public virtually left the meeting, time 9:23 a.m.

Delegation: Robyn Laczy, Project Coordinator – North Zone Health Neighborhoods Project: Four Directions Health Neighborhood, virtually joined the meeting, time 9:28 a.m.

7.3. Policy Statement No. 03-35-14: Snow Clearing – Public and Private Services
854-24: Halisky
That Smoky Lake County Council acknowledge review of Policy statement No. 03-35-14 Snow Clearing-Public and Private Services, and going forward a copy of the current Policy will be provided to each flag purchaser, and a call-out on social media will be conducted in an effort to collect information from private contractors willing to offer private snow clearing services, which will be compiled into a list made available to all residents as a private option for snow removal at no cost to the County.

Carried.

One Member of the Public virtually joined the meeting, time 9:34 a.m.

4. Delegation:

4.1. **Robyn Laczy, Project Coordinator – North Zone Health Neighbourhoods Project: Four Directions Health Neighbourhood**

Present before Council from 9:34 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., was the Robyn Laczy, Project Coordinator – North Zone Health Neighbourhoods Project, to provide information on the organizations' newest initiative: Four Directions Health Neighbourhood, including but not limited to the following points:

- Meetings are held once a month for approximately 1.5 hours.
- Health Neighbourhoods bring together people from diverse backgrounds to improve primary health care for the people in Northern Alberta.
- It is unique to Northern Alberta and builds bridges between health and social areas to improve the primary health care experience for everyone in Northern Alberta.
- Working together towards understanding gaps in services for the benefit of everyone in Northern Alberta, avoiding duplication, learning sharing and using ideas support primary health care needs now and in future.

Delegation: Robyn Laczy, Project Coordinator – North Zone Health Neighbourhoods Project: Four Directions Health Neighbourhood, virtually left the meeting, time 9:45 a.m.

North Zone Health Neighbourhoods Project: Four Directions Health Neighbourhood

855-24: Halisky

That the information received by Smoky Lake County Council from the September 26, 2024, Delegation: Robyn Laczy, Project Coordinator – North Zone Health Neighbourhoods Project, in respect to their newest initiative: Four Directions Health Neighbourhood, be forwarded to the Physicians & Health Care Professionals Committee.

Carried.

7.4. 2024/25 Alberta Community Partnership Grant Application (ACP) – Regional Economic Development Hwy Commercial Initiative

856-24: Céré

That Smoky Lake County, in partnership with the Town of Smoky Lake, the Village of Waskatenau and the Village of Vilna, participate in the joint application to the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) 2024-25 Grant Intake, under the Intermunicipal Collaboration Stream, in the amount of \$200,000.00, for the purpose of undertaking a Regional Economic Development – Highway Commercial Initiative Project; and approve the Town of Smoky Lake to be the Managing Partner of the said project; and further agree to abide by the terms of the Conditional Grant Agreement governing the purpose and use of the grant funds, should the application be successful.

Carried.

7.5. 2024/25 Alberta Community Partnership Grant Application (ACP) – Regional Service Delivery for Waste Management

857-24: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County, in partnership with the Town of St. Paul, County of St. Paul #19, Town of Smoky Lake, Town of Elk Point, Village of Vilna, and the Village of Waskatenau (all being Members of the Evergreen Regional Waste Management Services Commission) participate in the joint application to the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) 2024-25 Grant Intake, under the Intermunicipal Collaboration Stream, for the purposes of undertaking a Regional Service Delivery for Waste Management project; and approve the Town of St. Paul to be the Managing Partner of the said project; and further agree to abide by the terms of the Conditional Grant Agreement governing the purpose and use of the grant funds, should the application be successful.

Carried.

7.6. County Surplus Equipment Sale – Bids

858-24: Céré

That Smoky Lake County Council direct Administration to contact the highest bidder on Surplus Equipment Unit 473 and Unit 474, described as follows and complete the sale of Unit 473 and Unit 474 to the said highest bidder, for the total amount of \$17,500.00, sold as is where is:

Unit #	Description	Serial Number	Odometer/Hours
474	Rev 1500 Degelman Mower	RC17777	473, 474 sold together
473	1820 Degelman Side arm	SA1349	N/A

and approve for the remaining Surplus Equipment as described below, to be contracted to a structured auction house and sold to the highest bidder at the time of sale:

Unit #	Description	Serial Number	Odometer/Hours
105	2008 GMC 3500 4x4 DWB	1GTJK33678F218493	162408
726	2009 GMC SLE 3500 4x4	1GTHK73K89F161371	322720
101A	2018 GMC Sierra 1500 4x4	3GTU2MEC9JG258813	253716
457	2013 3PT John Deere Mower Mx8	1P00MX8CHDP088260	N/A
634	2000 Sod Mixer	IMR081	N/A
636	98 Kuhn Mixer 7.5ft	960004	N/A

Carried.

7.7. Smoky Lake County Investment Attraction Strategy - RMA Microgrant Program

859-24: Gawalko

That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the report produced by Michelle Wright Consulting Services, dated March 14, 2024, titled: Investment Attraction Strategy, prepared for Smoky Lake County, funded through the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Microgrant program; and forward the report to the Smoky Lake Region Municipalities as an information resource.

Carried.

5. Public Hearing:

Nil.

8. Chief Administrative Officer’s Report:

8.1 Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Report

Chief Administrative Officer - Report Period: October 1, 2024 – October 30, 2024		
LEGISLATIVE / GOVERNANCE		
Projects	In Progress	Completed
Joint Municipality meeting, Bellis		x
ICC meeting/Fire	x	x
Meeting with MLA Shannon Stubbs		x
ADMINISTRATIVE		
Projects	In Progress	Completed
Land & Bldgs. Site Selector- RMA project kick off	x	
Met with local 955 Union Rep/Trevor	x	
GIS Tracker information session with Catalis	x	
Rural Renewal Stream orientation	x	
FINANCIAL		
Projects	In Progress	Completed
Enterprise lease discovery	x	
Capital Departmental budget review	x	
Associated Engineering Bridge Program	x	
Department operational budget reviews for 2025	x	
initial Land negotiation meeting Oct 26	x	
HUMAN RESOURCES		
Projects	In Progress	Completed
RMA Economic Development Initiative	x	
Onboarding/Exiting staff discussion, identifying gaps, building program	x	
COMMUNITY		

Projects	In Progress	Completed
Heritage River Plaque Ceremony		x
Victoria Home Guard Tour		x
TRAINING / MEETINGS		
Nil		

8.1 Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Report

860-24: Gawalko

That Smoky Lake County Council accept the Chief Administrative Officer Report, for the period of October 1, 2024, to October 30, 2024, as presented, as information.

Carried.

9. Council Committee Reports:

9.1 Division One Councillor’s Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

Dan Gawalko – Division One Councillor’s report from various Committees, Boards and Commissions:

September 11 – 13, Alberta CARE conference in Bonnyville also in attendance was Smoky Lake County employee Scott Adamson, everyone is looking to reduce MSW waste and recycle through different technologies full report attached.

September 19, attended the Evergreen Regional Waste Commission meeting with councillor Lorne Halisky also in attendance, went over the ACP grant partnering municipalities must make a motion to approve the town of St. Paul as the managing partner, product care update must approve to sign an site collection agreement with each municipality, EPR update more information coming, the 2016 used Cat Compactor is in Calgary oil tests were done just waiting on the results then will be trucked to Evergreen site, we purchased extended warranty on the Cat 950 loader site inspections were done in Smoky Lake county (Spedden landfill) & St. Paul county, Ashley presented the finances, Paul gave the Alberta CARE conference report and site report the soil sifter went through the pit run gravel, St. Paul county graveled & graded the roads, the inert waste cell has a new fence, parts are in for the JCB loader, trucks are hauling tire shred for the new cell, next meeting October 31 10:00 am

9.2 Division Two Councillor’s Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

Linda Fenerty – Deputy Reeve & Division Two Councillor’s written report from various Committees, Boards and Commissions:

September 11, 2024 – NLLS – General Board Meeting / Training Session – Elk Point HQ – 10:00 a.m.

- Financial report presented – budget is tracking well, except for processing supplies, which are over by 10% due to cost of barcodes being higher than anticipated.
- Two municipalities (Ryley & Lamont County) have not yet sent in their annual payment, but will be in soon.
- Two exciting services will be offered in 2026 – Discovery Layer (roll-up of abilities to search & find titles) and wireless printing which will be offered to NLLS libraries – currently patrons cannot come to library and print wireless from their phones or laptops. This service will eliminate FOIP issues since currently printing requests are handled through library manager. There still will be a charge for printing though.
- Another project that NLLS is embarking on is shelf-ready purchase of library books. This is a pilot project which two libraries will participate in. This will be a significant saving to the budget. It may reduce 2.5 personnel, but this will be absorbed by attrition.
- Question to consider was moving to one in-person meeting which will save \$6,000.00 as NLLS pays travel expenses to 46 member libraries invited to attend in-person meetings. This motion was carried.
- Several policies were carried in an omnibus motion.
- James will be sending a Financial Plan Briefing Note to all municipalities. Essentially, it states the levy will remain at 1.5% for years 2025-2027. I will send it to relevant staff.

September 11, 2024 – Community Futures – River Ranch – 5:00 p.m. (I attended via Zoom)

- Loans & Client supports – loans which were done during summer months were ratified – confidential
- Financial report – nothing unusual to report
- Carlson Roberts presented their year end Manager Report
- Judith Hess has officially retired. Evelynne & Penny have been working on updating policies
- Evelynne, Penny, Parrish, Joan & Sid will be attending CF Symposium
- Evelynne, Penny, Joan, Sid & Paul to attend Power Up North

September 17, 2024 – Smoky Lake Tourism Company (SLTC) – 9:00 (via Zoom)

- Discussion on potential Executive Director – meeting was held to consider increasing wage being offered – carried.

September 24, 2024 – Council’s Role in Land Use and Development Approvals (EOEP) – Red Deer

- Will report on this next month

September 25 – 27, 2024 – Alberta Municipalities – Red Deer

- Will report on this next month

Other Meetings

- August 26, 2024 – Joint Municipalities Meeting – Bellis Hall – 5:00 p.m.
- September 4, 2024 – Meeting with MP Shannon Stubbs – Council Chambers – 10:00 a.m.
- September 12, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting – Council Chambers – 9:00 a.m.
- September 26, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting – via zoom from Red Deer – 9:00 a.m.

- September 25-27th 2024- Alberta Municipalities Conference -- Red Deer -- Three resolutions of interest:
 - Declining Fire Department Services Across Alberta
 - Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System Equipment Funding
 - Establishing a Provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services

9.3 Division Three Councillor's Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

Dominique Céré – Division Three Councillor written report from various Committees, Boards and Commissions:

August 17 Vilna Boomtown Parade
August 22 Regular Council Mtg., Smoky Lake
August 22 Alberta Bilingual Municipalities Association

- Bilingual Signage project update: looking for municipalities to participate

August 23 RMA District 5 Mtg., Camrose
August 26 Joint Municipalities Mtg., Bellis
August 28 Smoky Lake Region Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee Mtg., Smoky Lake
September 04 Meeting with MP Shannon Stubbs
September 12 Regular Council Mtg., Smoky Lake
September 12 Municipal Planning Commission

- Development Permit Application #040-24 for the placement of a Shipping Container was approved subject to a list of conditions including but not limited to setbacks, size, finish and use.

September 19 Rural Renewal Stream (Zoom)
September 20 Smoky Lake Foundation
September 24 Victoria Home Guard Tour of Victoria Trail

9.4 Division Four Councillor's Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

Lorne Halisky – Division Four Councillor's report from various Committees, Boards and Commissions:

August 17, 2024 – Vilna & District Agricultural Society Boomtown Days Parade (in-person)

- Attended this event.

August 23, 2024 – RMA District 5 Meeting in Camrose (in-person)

- Presentations were held on Road to Rail, Sustainable Rural Communities, AgKnow – Farmer Mental Health, and Emerging Customer Solutions.
- Regions MLA's Jackie Lovely and Rick Wilson presented GOA initiatives.
- Provincial Downloading Resolution – County of Vermillion River and Full Time (24/7) Home Care Support in Lodges/Supportive Living Accommodations Resolution – Beaver County both Resolutions passed.
- RMA President Paul McLaughlin, RMA District 5 Director Kevin Wirsta, FCM Representative for RMA District 5 Robert Parks, and Alberta Municipalities Representatives Andrew Knack and Bill Rock gave brief updates.
- Next meeting to be held in January 2025 – Flagstaff County.

August 30, 2024 – Smoky Lake Tourism Company Ltd. - SLTC CEO Interviews (in-person)

- Interviewed four candidates for the SLTC CEO Position and discussed offer, next steps etc.

September 5, 2024 – Economic Development for Elected Officials Session (in-person)

- Discussion on various topics such as municipality boundaries, government funding, leveraging partnerships, regional collaboration, borrowing content vs. developing, political vs. competitive – NIMBY, proactive policies, strategic plans need to be flexible/not too long i.e. 10 yrs. with 3 or 4 SMART goals, support existing businesses firstly before exploring other opportunities, stay/plan/play/pay strategy, purposeful defined/clear KPI's, start with outcomes and work your way back to inputs, community resilience process should take place firstly etc.

September 12, 2024 – Heritage River Plaque Unveiling and Flag Raising (in-person)

- Attended this event.

September 16, 2024 – Smoky Lake Tourism Company Ltd. CEO Recruitment Meeting (virtually)

- Discussed CEO offer and decided to schedule/hold a SLTC Special Board Meeting to go over the candidate offer with all Directors before proceeding.

September 17, 2024 – Smoky Lake Tourism Company Ltd. Special Board Meeting (virtually)

- Discussed CEO offer and gained director approval to proceed with legal to develop a contract to present to chosen candidate.

14. In-Camera (Executive Session):

14.1. Legal Issue: Smoky Lake Tourism Company Ltd.

861-24: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session to discuss a legal Issue: in respect to the Smoky Lake Tourism Company Ltd., under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 16: Third Party Business Interest, in the presence of all Council, Chief Administrative Officer, and Municipal Clerk, Executive Services Clerk, time 10:28 a.m.

Carried.

862-24: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Council go out of Executive Session, time 10:38 a.m.

Carried.

9.5 Reeve & Div. 5 Councillor's Report on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

Jered Serben – Reeve & Division Five Councillor written report from various Committees, Boards and Commissions:

August 22, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council)

- Approved to donate 2 loads of gravel, to the Smoky Lake Agricultural Society, for use their facility at no cost, to host the Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day events held in 2021 to 2024.
- Vilna Agricultural Society was a delegation offering the Vilna Arena / Curling Rink facility located within the Village of Vilna, to the County, as a way to address the Society's struggle for operating funding.
- Acknowledged receipt of the 2024-2025 County Bridge Program priorities prepared by Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd.
- Approved the unbudgeted expense of \$88,022.03 to replace all items stolen from the Vilna Fire Hall that were not covered by insurance.
- Received a report on the snow clearing (driveway) program costs for the seasons of 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 and will be reviewing the Policy.
- Approved to write of 50% of the \$450.98 invoice issued to the Smoky Lake Ag Society, for 2 Electrodes replacements for the Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED) at Complex, and requested they budget for them in the future.
- Acknowledged receipt of the "Notice of Intent to Annex Lands from Smoky Lake County", received from the Village of Waskatenau.
- Acknowledged the County was awarded the Minister Awards for Municipal Excellence for the North Saskatchewan Canadian Heritage River Initiative.
- Acknowledged an update on the inspection deficiencies identified at the Smoky Lake Regional Landfill, providing assurance of the completion of the corrective action undertaken by Evergreen Regional Waste Management Services Commission.
- Acknowledged the Agricultural Service Board's recommendation for County Council to consider internal environmental and extension programming in 2025, and agreed to take no action due to the staff's expected capacity in 2025.
- Agreed to advertise 8 units of County surplus equipment for sale by public tender.

August 23, 2024 – Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) District 5 Meeting (Jered, Dominique & Lorne)

- Scheduled speakers included: MLA Jackie Lovely, MLA Rick Wilson, CET of Road to Rail Construction Group Inc., Director of Emerging Customer Solutions for Fortis Alberta, Director for the AB Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, and Program Director of AgKnow.
- Held discussion on Provincial Downloading.
- Received updates from RMA's President, RMA's District 5 Director, RMA's FCM Representative, and two Alberta Municipalities Representatives.
- Beaver County brought forward a Resolution to endorse take to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta 2024 Fall Convention regarding Full Time (24/7) Home Care Support in Lodges/Supportive Living Accommodations.

August 26, 2024 – Joint Municipalities Meeting, held in Bellis (All Council except Lorne)

- Received a verbal update from Sgt. Anita Doktor, Smoky Lake RCMP and noted:
- We will soon have a fulltime Victims Services position based out of Smoky Lake.
- We're involved heavily in Rural Crime Watch & Citizens on Patrol, and utilizing the RCMP RAVE (web-based communication platform for RCMP to fan out real time alerts to the community).
- Received a presentation from Alberta Municipal Affairs about Municipal Viability and Municipal Restructuring for information.
- Received a verbal update from MLA Glenn van Dijken, and noted:
- Highway 28 continues to be a concern and that a study is being done to determine what is necessary for improvements; and that he will follow up with the Minister about the speed reduction along Smoky Lake.
- Received a verbal update on the Smoky Lake Region's Regional Recreational Services Study being conducted through an Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant, with the Village of Waskatenau as the Managing Partner, with a project completion date expected to be in December 2026.
- Received a verbal update from Aspen View School Division's Donna Cherniwchan, South East School Trustee, and Constantine Kastrinos, Superintendent, and noted:
- Portage College is offering a Bachelor of Education program and where they will provide local placements after graduating.
- Athabasca University is offering one complimentary, free course to all Aspen View students graduating in 2024.
- K-12 students will not be allowed access to personal mobile devices during school instructional time in the classroom.

August 28, 2024 – SL Region Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee ICC, (Jered, Dominique & Lorne)

- Approved to incorporate a Dispute Resolution Procedure as Schedule "L" into the proposed Smoky Lake Region Fire Rescue Bylaw.
- Agreed to incorporate the Fire Hall Buildings rental expense, including the utilities, into the Smoky Lake Region Fire Rescue 3-Year Draft Budget 2025-2027, at a total rental budget of \$74,062.
- Agreed for Volunteer Firefighter Insurance Services (VFIS) coverage to be based the Volunteer Firefighters paying 1/3 of the cost and the Smoky Lake Region Fire Rescue paying 2/3 of the cost.
- Discussed the Charge for Services to be calculated at \$250/hour/unit, not including mutual aid, and with a maximum cap to be determined.

September 4, 2024 – Meeting with MP Shannon Stubbs (All Council)

- This informal meeting was scheduled by the office of the Lakeland Member of Parliament (MP) Shannon Stubbs, Shadow Minister for Natural Resources, who was touring the region.
- Sgt. Anita Doktor, Smoky Lake RCMP was also in attendance as an information resource.

- Discussion topics included: rural crime concerns, lack of jail time for offenders, lack of funding for infrastructure to hold criminals, addiction and mental health support, lack affordable housing, hinderances to local economic growth, trade agreements, tariffs on electric vehicles, carbon tax, dropping canola prices, municipalities pulling out of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), grant funding application information sharing, and need for regional fire services funding.
- September 12, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting (All Council except Dan)
- Approved the Tax Notification properties, for the 2024 Property Tax Sale, to be held on November 13, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
 - Adopted Policy Statement No. 15-06-01: Pension Participation.
 - Agreed to execute the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) Memorandum of Agreement relating to the payment of funds and outlining the County's responsibilities and general provisions in respect to CCBF funding.
 - Acknowledged receipt of a letter from Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT), formerly known as the Municipal Government Board (MGB), written to the Village of Waskatenau, about the Notice of Intent to Annex, confirming "On April 13, 2011 the MGB received the original Notice of Intent to Annex (Notice) from the Village. On October 23, 2012, the Village submitted a revised Notice. The LPRT will accept your correspondence of August 6, 2024 as the second revision submitted by the Village."
 - Acknowledged an update on the completed deficiencies and corrective action plan, to address the Federations of Alberta Gas Co-ops Ltd.'s, 2024 Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Audit of the County's Natural Gas system.
 - Approved for Administration to enter negotiations relating to surface material lease explorations, as discussed in Executive Session.
- September 12, 2024 – Municipal Planning Commission Meeting (All Council except Dan)
- Approved Development Permit No. 040-24: PLAN 2321586, Block 7, Lot 16, for the placement of a Shipping Container (20'x8'), subject to conditions.
- September 12, 2024 – Canadian Heritage River Designation of North Saskatchewan River (Jered & Lorne)
- The plaque unveiling and flag raising Ceremony for the North Saskatchewan Canadian Heritage River took place at Métis Crossing, where a Land Acknowledgement & Prayer was provided by Jerry and Jo Ann Saddleback, and addresses from: the Victoria Home Guard Historical Society, Senator Paula Simons, Parks Canada, Alberta Environment & Protected Areas, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, and Smoky Lake County Reeve, were provided.
- September 19, 2024 – Rural Renewal Stream (RRS) Newly Designated Community Orientation (Jered & Dominique)
- Smoky Lake Region has been designated under the RRS. This designation supports the attraction and retention of immigrants to the Smoky Lake Region to meet local labour vacancies not being filled by Canadian Citizens, it empowers our region to attract, recruit, screen and retain foreign nationals who intend to live, work and settle in our region.
 - Immigrant candidates must meet several requirements and must be living and working or intending to be residing and working in our Region. Part-time, casual or seasonal employees are ineligible.
 - Employers must also meet several requirements, one of which is that they must be incorporated or registered by or under the legislature of the province and have a minimum total annual revenue of \$400,000 for the most recent fiscal year.

Reeve's Report and Councillors Reports on various Committees, Boards & Commissions

863-24: Fenerty

That Smoky Lake County's Reeve Report received for the period August 22, 2024 to September 19, 2024, be posted to the County's website and the Councillors reports on various committees, boards and commissions, be accepted as presented.

Carried.

10. Correspondence:

10.1. Ducks Unlimited Canada - County-Owned Lands near Hanmore Lake

864-24: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter received from Ducks Unlimited Canada, dated September 13, 2024, expressing gratitude to the County for considering them in the future of the Hanmore Lake lands and declining the stewardship opportunity of the County-Owned lands near Hanmore Lake, legally described as SE-25-61-18-W4 (containing 107.35 acres), and PT. NE-25-61-18-W4M (containing 32.78 acres).

Carried.

865-24: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Council direct Administration to follow up with follow up with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) in response to their letter received, dated September 13, 2024, to explain their sentence: "DUC is committed to continuing conversation with the County on our existing projects and potential future work in other areas of the County" and request DUC to identify where the said "areas" are.

Carried.

10.2. Smoky Lake Curling Club – Request to Reconsideration of Waiving Penalties

866-24: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter from Smoky Lake Curling Club, dated September 16, 2024, requesting reconsideration of writing off the interest accrued in the amount of \$1,039.72, on the Smoky Lake Curling Club’s Accounts Receivable account #SMOK028, in response to the defeated Council Motion #825-24 moved on September 12, 2024.

Carried.

867-24: Fenerty That Smoky Lake County Council be provided financial statements from the Smoky Lake Curling Club, prior to reconsideration of writing off the interest accrued in the amount of \$1,039.72, on the Smoky Lake Curling Club’s Accounts Receivable account #SMOK028.

Carried.

10.3. Rural Renewal Stream Confirms Smoky Lake Region’s Community Designation

868-24: Halisky That Smoky Lake County acknowledge the email from Nataly Ore, Manager of the Rural Renewal Stream (RRS), dated September 10, 2024, to the Smoky Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce, confirmation the approval of Smoky Lake Region’s “Community Designation”, effective, September 9, 2024, which will remain in place for 3 years for the purpose of attracting, recruiting and retaining newcomers (including foreign nationals) through the (RRS).

Carried.

10.4. LICA – Environmental Stewards, Open House & Annual General Meeting

869-24: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council who can attend – attend, the LICA – Environmental Stewards, Open House and Annual General Meeting, scheduled for October 10, 2024, to be held in Cold Lake Alberta, at the Lakeland INN.

Carried.

6. Municipal Planning Commission (MPC):

Nil.

11. Information Releases:

Nil.

12. Financial Reports:

Financial Statement

870-24: Céré That Smoky Lake County’s Financial Statement for the Month of August, 2024, as prepared by the Finance Manager, be accepted for information.

Carried.

Budget to Actual Report

871-24: Fenerty That Smoky Lake County’s Budget to Actual Report as at September 16, 2024, as prepared by the Finance Manager, be accepted for information.

Carried.

Bills and Accounts

872-24: Gawalko

That Smoky Lake County's Bills & Accounts as of September 26, 2024, be accepted for information:

County Council Meeting: Sept. 26th 2024

Batch #	Cheque Numbers	Total of Batch
PMCHQ261	52946	\$164.19
PMCHQ263	52947 to 52973	\$160,918.60
PMCHQ265	52974 to 52990	\$88,587.03
PMCHQ267	52991 to 53012	\$312,166.68
PMCHQ269	53013 to 53027	\$93,789.81
PMCHQ270	53028 to 53041	\$50,331.38
Total Cheques from 52946 to 53041		\$705,957.69

Batch #	EFT Numbers	Total of Batch
240812	1498 to 1517	\$182,195.13
240820	1518 to 1530	\$64,324.89
240828	1531 to 1544	\$4,767.75
240904	1545 to 1550	\$73,048.59
240910	1551 to 1564	\$279,407.75
Total EFTs from 1498 to 1564		\$603,744.11

Direct Debit Register

Batch #	Description	Total of Batch
PMPAY081	My HAS	\$663.00
PMPAY082	My HAS	\$690.63
Total Direct Debits		\$1,353.63

Grand Total Bills and Accounts	\$1,311,055.43
<i>(Note: From General Account)</i>	

Carried.

13. Next Meeting(s):

Reconfirm County Council Meeting Dates

873-24: Serben

That the previously scheduled upcoming Smoky Lake County Council Meetings be re-confirmed as follows:

- Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Regular),
 - Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Organizational & Regular)
 - Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. (Budget)
 - Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Regular), and
 - Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., (Regular),
- to be held physically and/or virtually in County Council Chambers.

Carried.

14. In-Camera (Executive Session):

14.1. Legal Issue: MCC For Smoky Lake Development Corp. & Smoky Lake Tourism Company Ltd.

874-24: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session to discuss a legal Issue: in respect to the MCC For Smoky Lake Development Corp. and Smoky Lake Tourism Company Ltd, under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 16: Third Party Business Interest, in the presence of all Council, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipal Clerk, and Executive Services Clerk, time 10:52 a.m.

Carried.

875-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County Council go out of Executive Session, time 11:08 a.m.
Carried.

14.2. Legal Issue: Expenses for National Heritage River Designation Celebration

876-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session to discuss a Legal Issue: in respect to expenses relating to the National Heritage River Designation Celebration, under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 27: Privileged Information and Section 24: Advice from Officials, in the presence of all Council, Chief Administrative Officer, and Municipal Clerk, Executive Services Clerk, time 11:09 a.m.

Carried.

877-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County Council go out of Executive Session, time 11:20 a.m.
Carried.

One Member of the Public virtually left the meeting, time 11:23 a.m.

Councillor/Deputy Reeve Fenerty virtually left the meeting, time 11:27 a.m.

11:30 to 11:31 a.m.

Public Question and Answer Period:

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

878-24: Gawalko That the Smoky Lake County Council Meeting of September 26, 2024, be adjourned, 11:31 a.m.
Carried.

REEVE

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

Minutes of the **Special County Council Meeting** held Tuesday, **October 1, 2024**, at 9:00 A.M. in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order by the Reeve, Mr. Jered Serben, in the presence of the following persons:

			ATTENDANCE
			<u>Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024</u>
<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>		
Councillor Division 1	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers	
Councillor Division 2/ Deputy Reeve	Linda Fenerty	Present in Chambers	
Councillor Division 3	Dominique Céré	Present in Chambers	
Councillor Division 4	Lorne Halisky	Present in Chambers	
Councillor Division 5 / Reeve	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers	
CAO	Kevin Lucas	Present in Chambers	
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Present in Chambers	
Executive Services /R.S.	Patti Priest	Present in Chambers	
Public Works Manager	Chris Minailo	Present in Chambers	
Members of the Public	N/A	Nil	

WAIVER NOTICE

All County Councillors signed a “Waiver Notice” as displayed below:

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

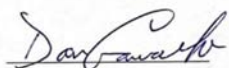
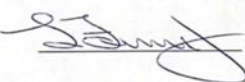
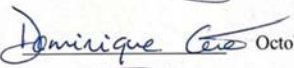


WAIVER NOTICE of a Special Meeting of the County Council
of the Smoky Lake County called under authority of
Section 194 of the Municipal Government Act

We, the undersigned members of the County Council of Smoky Lake County, hereby Waive Notice of a Special Meeting of the County Council to be held in County Council Chambers, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, Alberta, and/or virtually through Telus Business Connect Video Meeting:

<https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/589298374>
Meeting ID: 589298374

on **Tuesday, October 1, 2024**, commencing at **9:00 A.M.**, for the purpose of discussing and/or acting on an:

1. **Executive Session / In Camera Legal Issue**, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 27: Privileged Information and Section 16: Third Party Business Interests, in respect to Surface Material Lease Exploration.

COUNCILLOR:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Dan Gawalko, Division One		October 1, 2024
Linda Fenerty, Division Two		October 1, 2024
Dominique Cere, Division Three		October 1, 2024
Lorne Halisky, Division Four		October 1, 2024
Jered Serben, Division Five		October 1, 2024

Agenda:

879-24: Céré

That the **Smoky Lake County Special Council Meeting Agenda**, as per the “Waiver Notice” for Tuesday, October 1, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

Executive Session:

Legal Issue: Surface Material Lease Exploration

880-24: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 27: Privileged Information and Section 16: Third Party Business Interests, in respect to Surface Material Lease Exploration, in the physical presence of Council, Chief Administrative Officer, Finance Manager, Public Works Manager, and Executive Services Clerk, time 9:01 a.m.

Carried.

88124: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Council go out of Executive Session, time 10:16 a.m.

Carried.

Request For Decision:

Surface Material Lease Exploration

882-24: Gawalko That the verbal update received by Smoky Lake County Council from the Chief Administrative Officer in respect to matters relating to Surface Material Lease Exploration, in Executive Session, on October 1, 2024, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 27: Privileged Information and Section 16: Third Party Business Interests, be accepted as information.

Carried.

Adjournment:

883-24: Fenerty That the Smoky Lake County Special Council Meeting of Tuesday, October 1, 2024, be adjourned, time 10:16 a.m.

Carried.

REEVE

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Agenda Item: #7.1

Topic: Alberta Invasive Species Council Sponsorship

Presented By: Agricultural Department

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County sponsor a bronze membership in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Alberta Invasive Species, in response to the email received from Paige Kuczmariski, Invasive Species Technician, Alberta Invasive Species Council, dated September 19, 2024.

Background:

Smoky Lake County has supported the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) from 2014-2024. The AISC does an excellent job of providing non-biased information on invasive species and its resources are utilized by many Agricultural Fieldman in their efforts to promote education and awareness of noxious weeds and enforce provincial legislation. The irreplaceable information and resources provided by the AISC allows municipalities across the province to provide services, policies and education for agricultural families, businesses, and the public. Smoky Lake County sends out AISC weed fact sheets with every Weed Inspection information package that is sent out to landowners with weed issues on private land. AISC staff have also attended Smoky Lake County events in the past with a tradeshow booth promoting themselves and answering landowner questions. They facilitate the biocontrol release program in the Province and have been a wealth of knowledge in answering any questions we have regarding our Leafy Spurge Beetles. The AISC trains Fieldman at no cost to perform Weed Free Forage Program inspections to offer to landowner that want their hay certified weed free.

Benefits:

It shows the level of dedication Smoky Lake County has to promoting and supporting invasive species management. Smoky Lake County will receive member rates for the AISC Conference and member rates on any weed awareness materials purchased through their online store.

Disadvantages:

None

Alternatives:

None

Financial Implications:

\$1000 from the Agricultural Department extension budget.

Legislation:

Weed Control Act of Alberta, Agricultural Pest Act

Intergovernmental:

(Describe any intergovernmental involvement and/or implications related to or affecting the recommendation or select from dropdown)

Strategic Alignment:

(Select the Strategic Plan Priority that this topic is associated with)



Request for Decision (RFD)

Enclosure(s):

Email received from Paige Kuczarski, Invasive Species Technician, Alberta Invasive Species Council RE: AISC 2025 Partnership

Signature of the CAO:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. K. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Carleigh Danyluk

From: Paige Kuczmariski <communications@abinvasives.ca>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 9:49 AM
To: Carleigh Danyluk
Subject: AISC 2025 Partnership
Attachments: AISC YEAR IN REVIEW 2024_aug.pdf; Smoky Lake County.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Carleigh,

As we approach the new year, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for your commitment to protecting Alberta from the growing threat of invasive species. These species not only threaten our biodiversity, but also cost the Alberta economy over \$2 billion annually.

The Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) continues to serve as a valuable resource hub for both practitioners and the public. In 2025, our goal is to empower even more management efforts and raise greater public awareness. We would love for you to join us at our [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) on March 4th, where applicator credits will be offered in ALL classes, followed by our [12th Annual Conference](#) on March 5th and 6th. This year's conference will feature cutting-edge research, technology and management sessions, providing a glimpse into the crucial role we play in the fight against invasive species!

As a non-profit entity, the work we do is made possible through the generous support of partners like you. Enclosed is our 2025 Partnership Letter, highlighting our progress in 2024. Your contributions are essential to our ability to provide necessary resources, foster collaboration, and offer vital training opportunities that help strengthen efforts to protect Alberta's ecosystems.

We kindly ask you to consider a partnership with us in 2025, as we continue working together to make a real, lasting impact ensuring a healthier future for our province.

Thank you for standing with us in this important mission. Together, we are making a meaningful difference!

The AISC Team

Paige Kuczmariski
Invasive Species Technician



Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) for all things invasive!

Alberta Invasive Species Council
PO Box 1925
Blairmore, AB, T0K 0E0
www.abinvasives.ca

September 19, 2024

Carleigh Danyluk
Smoky Lake County
P. O. Box 310
Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

Dear Carleigh,

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to safeguarding Alberta from the impacts of invasive species! The challenges posed by invasive species continue to grow, threatening our biodiversity and costing the Alberta economy over \$2 billion annually. Your partnership with the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) is vital in our shared mission to combat these threats.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the generous support of organizations like yours to sustain and expand our programs. Your contributions have enabled us to provide essential resources such as factsheets, webinars, workshops, identification guides, mapping tools, and more, empowering practitioners and raising public awareness.

2024 Accomplishments

With your support, 2024 was a year of significant progress. Here are some highlights:

- **Partnership Growth:** AISC's Partnership program grew to include 36 Partner organizations from 33 in 2023 - the largest number of partners ever! And we can't thank you enough for that continued support!
- **Membership Growth:** We improved our AISC Member Portal, making it easier for members to access resources, register for events, and connect. If you need more information on accessing AISC's Member Portal, let us know and we will walk you through it.
- **Team Growth:** We welcomed one new staff member, Jesse Eklund! Jesse will work to deliver the AISC's aquatic programs and build capacity and programming. We are also in the process of adding a Finance and Administrative Officer to our growing team.
- **Funding Growth:** AISC secured our largest grant to date, with a successful application to the Environmental Damages Fund for \$2.2 million over five years to work on Aquatic Invasive Species prevention to protect Lake Sturgeon and aquatic species and habitats, which is an order of magnitude higher than any previous grants we have secured.

- **Advocacy:** We met with the Honourable Premier, the Environment Minister, the Agricultural Minister and the Finance Minister. We were also appointed to the newly formed Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to address the increasing threat of aquatic invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels.
- **Invasive Species Reporting:** We continued to promote the Early Detection and Distribution System Mapping (EDDMapS) app, resulting in 2,787 reports and 5,983,102 infested acres mapped (up to date since August 29)
- **Educational Outreach:** Our presence at over 40 events across Alberta allowed us to directly engage with over 12,000 individuals, including key stakeholders and the public.
- **Research Contributions:** We collaborated on research projects, including the development of a new biocontrol agent for common tansy, thanks to support from the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund.
- **Community Engagement through Behavior Change Campaigns:** We rebranded and promoted our ‘Squeal on Pigs!’ campaign by erecting billboards, producing new t-shirts, buffs, stickers as well as wild boar taxidermy for tradeshow outreach. We expanded our reach through campaigns like ‘PlayCleanGo’, ‘Clean Drain Dry’, and ‘Grow Me Instead’, securing additional funding to further these initiatives.
- **Program Expansion:** Expanded our ‘Don’t Let It Loose’ and ‘Clean Drain Dry’ programming. Thanks to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the AISC’s Aquarium and Pond Retailer Recognition Program was able to certify 11 retailers as Recognized Retailers as well as create a new Rehoming Network with 7 partners where individuals can bring unwanted aquarium pets and plants to prevent the release of these species into the wild. AISC also received funding from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support the development of an outreach program to raise awareness of and encourage Albertans to report rat sightings.
- **Social Media Engagement:** Our online presence grew significantly, with a surge in followers across all platforms. Facebook (2,600 followers) remained our most popular platform, followed by Instagram (1,696 followers), Twitter (1,137 followers) and TikTok (455 followers). These totals account for over 600 new followers in 2024.
- **Media Engagement:** Media coverage was widespread in 2024 with several different news agencies and channels, spreading awareness about invasive species, including a feature on CBC News and an article in the Alberta Conservation Association’s Spring/Summer Magazine.
- **Annual Conference and AGM:** Our 11th Annual Conference at Olds College attracted nearly 250 attendees that took in 16 oral and 14 poster presentations from presenters across North America, plus networking opportunities, and a live appearance by Tank, our ‘Don’t Let It Loose’ Mascot!

2025 Partnership Opportunities

As we look to 2025, we are excited to announce new opportunities for our partners. We have increased the cap on our Gold Partners to accommodate more organizations eager increase their support toward our shared objectives. Additionally, we’ve introduced new perks to enhance the value of your partnership, which are outlined in the table below.

Table 1. Updated Bronze, Silver, and Gold Level AISC Annual Partner Perks.

Partner Benefit	Bronze Partner (\$1,000)	Silver Partner (\$2,000)	Gold Partner (\$5,000)	Platinum Partner (\$10,000+)
Access to over 150 invasive species factsheets	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access to quarterly electronic newsletters	✓	✓	✓	✓
Free use of the EDDMapS, EDDMapS Pro, and ISM Track apps and data downloads	✓	✓	✓	✓
Opportunity to participate in working groups, events, or contribute articles to newsletters	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recognition on the AISC website	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recognition in our quarterly newsletter	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recognition at AISC's Annual Conference	✓	✓	✓	✓
Exclusive access to the AISC's Newsletter Archive	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual AISC Memberships (each receive one vote at the AGM)	2	3	4	5
Member rate for the AISC Conference Registration	2	3	4	5
Member rate prices on select items on the AISC's online store	2	3	4	5
Free conference registration fee			1	2
AISC presentation tailored to your audience delivered in person				✓

We believe these enhancements will provide even more value to our partners while allowing us to continue our vital work. Your partnership helps us amplify our efforts, ensuring that together we can protect Alberta's ecosystems for generations to come.

Should you have any questions or wish to explore further partnership opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact us. We're open to discussing new program ideas or partner recognition options to foster even more collaboration.

Together, we are stronger in the battle against invasive species. Thank you again for your continued support of the AISC. Your commitment is instrumental in our mission, and we could not do the work we do without you.

We look forward to working with you in 2025!



Megan Evans

Executive Director
Alberta Invasive Species Council

To renew your Partnership, visit AISC's Member Portal at:

abinvasives.member365.ca/sharingnetwork/dashboard

OR



Be sure to indicate which staff members in your organization that will be assigned the memberships provided with your Partnership level. Remember that members receive important discounts at AISC events!

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

abinvasives.ca
LAST UPDATED AUGUST 29

OUTREACH EVENTS

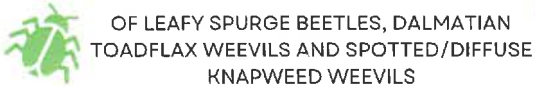
ATTENDED BY AISC



30

BIOCONTROL RELEASES

94



AISC AT A GLANCE



4 STAFF MEMBERS



16 BOARD MEMBERS

150

INDIVIDUAL & STUDENT MEMBERS

CAMPAIGNS

SUPPORTED BY AISC

8



1,350

REPORTS

80 DIFFERENT SPECIES

EDDMapS
find • map • track

5,978,714 INFESTED ACRES

REPORTERS

112

FACTSHEETS

FOR INVASIVE PLANTS, ANIMALS, INVERTEBRATES & DISEASES

150+

50+ VIDEOS

200+ PHOTOS

SOCIAL MEDIA

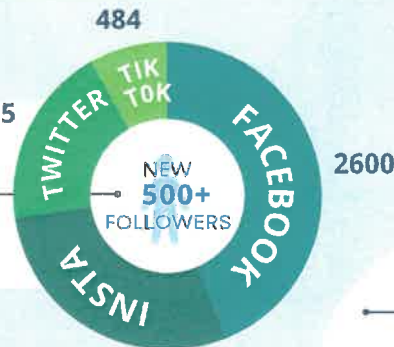
STATISTICS



NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS



650,000+ REACH



WEED FREE FORAGE

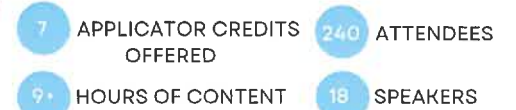
21

PARTICIPATING COUNTIES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2 DAYS HELD IN-PERSON

11TH





Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Agenda Item: **#7.2**

Topic: Waskatenau Creek Corridor Restoration and Trail Concept

Presented By: Planning & Development Services

Recommendation: That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the “Waskatenau Creek Restoration and Trail Concept” report, dated August 2, 2024, prepared by O2 Planning & Design, resulting from the grant funded study through the 2023 Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) program application managed by the Village of Waskatenau in partnership with the County; and utilize the information as a resource if any grant funding applications are submitted to any programs for any Waskatenau Creek area development.

Background:

Smoky Lake County partnered with the Village of Waskatenau via the 2023 Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Grant with the Village acting as the project lead, to conduct a study of the Waskatenau Creek corridor to determine possible opportunities for restoration/enhancement of the corridor and to identify opportunities for improvements to increase recreation in the study area. The project goals were as follows:

1. Engage elected officials, administration, landowners, and residents to develop a Vision Statement for the area;
2. Provide recommendations, options, and actions for environmental conservation and restoration, based on mapping, site analysis, and data;
3. Identify strengths, weaknesses, and gaps, and recommend capital improvements consistent with existing plans, policies, and processes;
4. Prioritize potential improvements, and provide high-level costing, scheduling and scope of work definition for high priorities;
5. Identify funding sources to undertake recommended capital improvements; and
6. Identify potential opportunities to commemorate the former Bear’s Ears Reserve towards reconciliation through relationship building and direct involvement in development and design decisions with local Indigenous communities

Benefits: Increased connectivity between the Village of Waskatenau and the North Saskatchewan River will create additional opportunities for recreation (hiking, paddling/canoeing/picnicking/day-use/camping). Potential to draw additional tourists and tourism investment to the County. Create connections with the nearby Iron Horse Trail. Support the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy and existing tourism operators.

Disadvantages: Potential for increased maintenance costs related to new infrastructure elements.

Alternatives: Deny the request and maintain the Waskatenau Creek Corridor in its current configuration.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Financial Implications: The financial implications of the recommendation are an unbudgeted expenditure at this time. Capital funding would be required to advance some of the Plan's objectives.

Legislation: Nil.

Intergovernmental: Cooperation with the Village of Waskatenau may be required for certain elements of the plan.

Strategic Alignment: Aligns with the County's priorities respecting economic development and the Victoria District Economic Development Strategy;

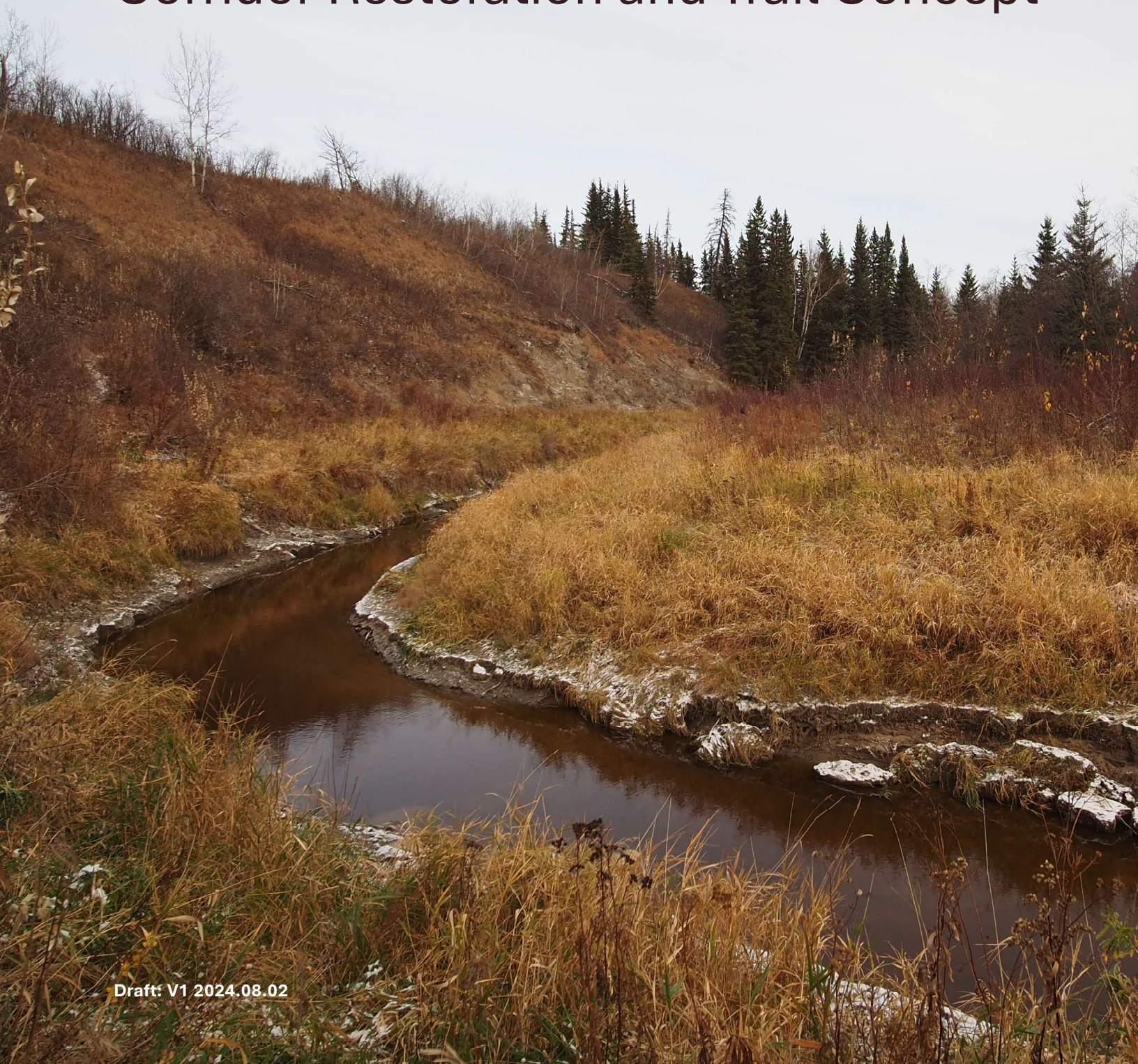
Enclosure(s): **Enclosure #1: Waskatenau Creek Corridor Restoration and Trail Concept**

Approved by the Interim CAO: . Date: Oct 2, 2024

Village of Waskatenau and Smoky Lake County

Waskatenau Creek

Corridor Restoration and Trail Concept



Land Acknowledgement

The Waskatenau Creek Trail Team, would like to acknowledge that we are gathering, working, and learning in Treaty 6 Territory, which is also the Metis North Saskatchewan River Territory of St. Albert Metis District 11. These are the lands of the Blackfoot, Cree, Dene, Nakota Sioux, Saulteaux, and Métis Nation. Specifically in the ancestral space of the Amiskwaciyiniwak, the Pakân Cree, the Muskegwtatic Cree, and the Metis. We acknowledge the complex history of the area, as well as the land governance and stewardship that has been carried out by the Treaty Six Nations and the Métis Nation of this space since time immemorial. We aim to uphold the spirit and intent of Treaty 6, and work toward learning what it means to be good Treaty partners.

Social sustainability is intertwined with environmental sustainability and economic sustainability. Enacting reciprocal relations through social sustainability is a key component in working toward equitable environmental management and decision making processes.

“We respect these histories, languages, and cultures, which continue to enrich our vibrant community.” (Town of Smoky Lake, 2021) (County of Smoky Lake, 2021).

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Introduction

1. Introduction

Established in 1919 and incorporated in 1932, the Village of Waskatenau in Smoky Lake County is named after a Cree word that loosely translates as “an opening in the bank”.

The meandering Waskatenau Creek passes by the Village on its’ journey south to the North Saskatchewan River.

The study area is located around the Village of Waskatenau and the Waskatenau Creek corridor. The creek and its adjacent riparian areas and ravine form an important wildlife corridor and landscape feature. This feature provides many values, including habitat, watershed ecosystem services, scenic views, cultural and historic resource values, and recreational opportunities for residents, visitors, and tourists. In recognition of these values, the Village of Waskatenau and Smoky Lake County are collaborating to examine options for both trail development and environmental conservation along this important landscape feature and amenity.

Several trails are found in the vicinity, notably, the Alberta Iron Horse Trail which is a regional trail over 300 km long linking northeast Alberta, with its westernmost trailhead located near the Village of Waskatenau. Regional connections to the Trans-Canada Trail can also be found via the Sturgeon County Connector. The historic Victoria Trail also passes through the area, traversing the former Bear’s Ears Reserve just north of the North Saskatchewan River. Trail network extensions south

along the Waskatenau corridor offer potential for higher quality connections to this Nation-wide trail network. There are also excellent opportunities to develop a more formal river access point along the North Saskatchewan River - known as Kisiskâciwani-sîpiy in Cree- - to enable high quality river recreation and boating on this important river, that has been designated as a National Heritage River.

The feasibility of conserving important local and regional environmental features for future generations also requires examination alongside the potential for trail connectivity and restoration of degraded areas. This must be undertaken in partnership with the local community, landowners, stakeholders, and Indigenous peoples. Through careful engagement, listening, and learning, local knowledge, opinions, and expertise can be brought into the project, while achieving long-term buy-in for future action and sustainable outcomes. The objective is to create a vibrant, intact natural open space, connecting people to Waskatenau Creek and the North Saskatchewan River.

1.1 Project Goals

Working closely with Smoky Lake County (The County) and the Village of Waskatenau (The Village), O2 set out to address the overarching goals for this project, as outlined below:

1. Engage elected officials, administration, landowners, and residents to develop a Vision Statement for the area.
2. Provide recommendations, options, and actions for environmental conservation and restoration, based on mapping, site analysis, and data.
3. Identify strengths, weaknesses, and gaps, and recommend capital improvements consistent with existing plans, policies, and processes.
4. Prioritize potential improvements, and provide high-level costing, scheduling and scope of work definition for high priorities.
5. Identify funding sources to undertake recommended capital improvements.
6. Identify potential opportunities to commemorate the former Bear's Ears Reserve towards reconciliation through relationship building and direct involvement in development and design decisions with local Indigenous communities.

1.2 Vision Statement

Through engagement with The County and Village councils and administrations, the following project vision was developed:

“The Waskatenau Creek Corridor provides a connection between the Village, County, and North Saskatchewan River, facilitating recreational opportunities for villagers and visitors, while maintaining important connections to Indigenous culture and wildlife movement through the region.”

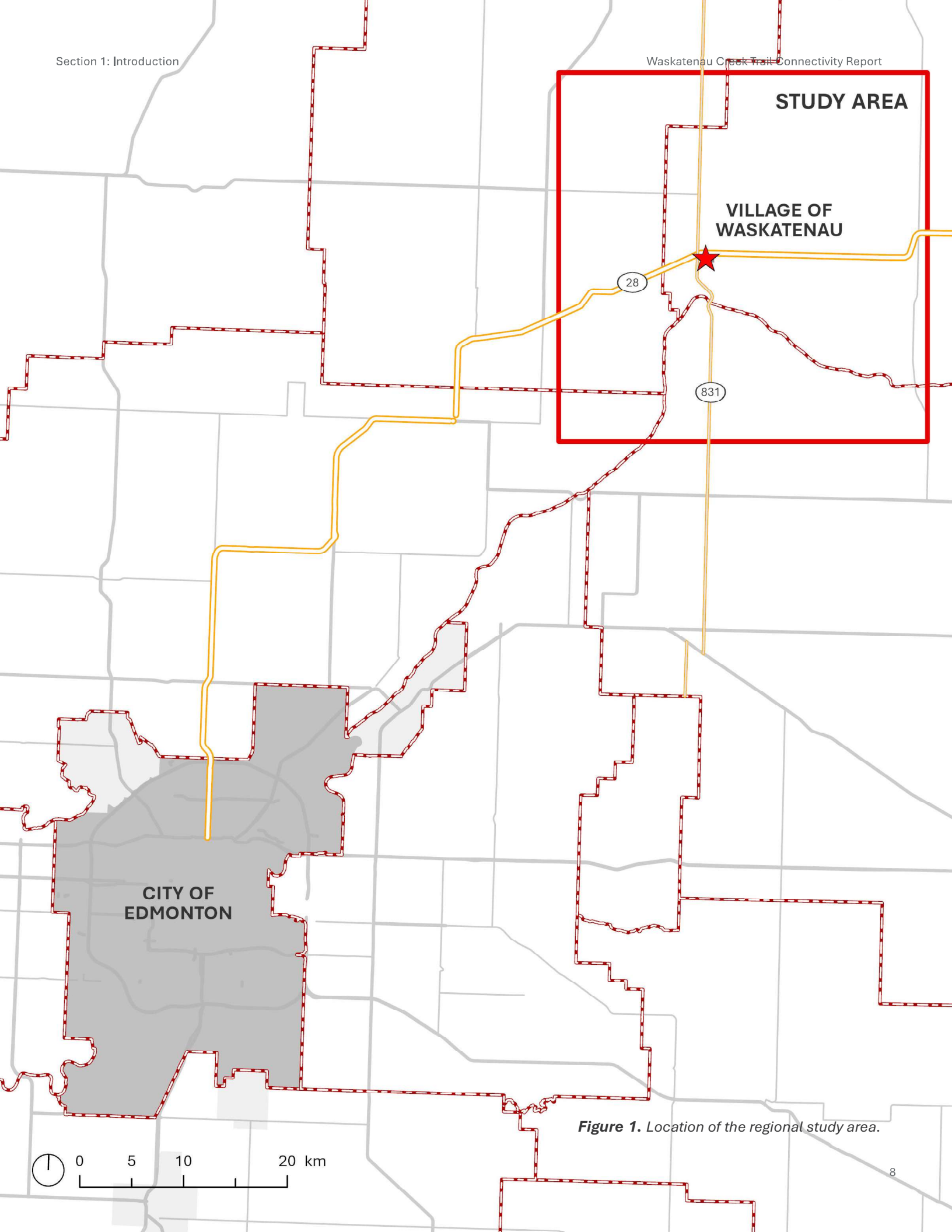


Figure 1. Location of the regional study area.

1.3 Site Context

1.3.1 Location and Regional Study Area

The Village of Waskatenau is located in central Alberta in the southwestern corner of Smoky Lake County. At the junction of Highways 28 and 831, it is approximately 90 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, Alberta. A regional study area (Figure 1) was defined with an approximate area of 35km², selected at a scale appropriate to understand regional patterns in land cover, slopes, and ecologically connected networks.

1.3.2 Natural Subregion of Alberta

Ecologically, The Village is found in the Boreal Forest Natural Region, specifically in the Dry Mixedwood subregion (Natural Regions Committee, 2006). This subregion is characterized by a landscape of undulating plains, aspen forests, fens, and cultivated fields dotted with wetlands (Natural Regions Committee, 2006). White spruce and balsam poplar can be found in moist, rich sites (Natural Regions Committee, 2006), such as those found within the Waskatenau Creek Corridor. The Dry Mixedwood subregion experiences the warmest summers in the Boreal region, with the peak average temperature occurring in July at about 16 Celsius and the low occurring in January at about -18 Celsius (Natural Regions Committee, 2006). The majority of precipitation falls in the summer months, with the peak in July with an average of approximately 80mm (Natural Regions Committee, 2006). Mean Annual Precipitation in the Dry Mixedwood subregion is 461mm while the Mean Annual Temperature is 1.1 Celsius (Natural Regions Committee, 2006).

1.3.3 Historical and Indigenous Context

The Waskatenau Creek Trail is located on Treaty 6 Territory, which is also the Metis North Saskatchewan River Territory of St. Albert Metis District 11. These are the lands of the Blackfoot, Cree, Dene, Nakota Sioux, Saulteaux, and Métis Nation. Specifically in the ancestral space of the Amiskwaciyiniwak, the Pakân Cree, and the Muskegawatic Cree, and the Metis. We acknowledge the complex history of the area, as well as the land governance and stewardship that has been carried out by the Treaty Six Nations and the Métis Nation of this space since time immemorial. It is important to recognize that in the past there has been unethical engagement with Indigenous communities in this area.

One of the most notable instances was the removal of Chief Muskegawatic's band at the Bears Ear's Reserve (Waskateenow/ Washatanow/ Wahsatanow) in 1896. The Waskatenow band was surveyed and allocated to the community in 1887. However, the expansion of the railway network combined with the desire to obtain the high-quality farmland, drove the federal government and the Department of Indian Affairs to administer the forced relocation. Though Muskegawatic's community did not want to leave the area, the nation members were forcibly amalgamated into the Saddle Lake Cree Nation through the Cache Lake adhesion in 1893. However, five families remained at Waskatenow despite government harassment and discrimination until at least 1896. Other band members were reported to have scattered, some being at Victoria, and others at Beaver Hills. Chief Pakan was also forced to move

his community and relocated close to the Whitefish First Nation, which is a part of the Saddle Lake First Nation. Many Metis families had also occupied the area of the Victoria Settlement and were displaced after fur traders and missionaries took over the area. Chief Maskegwahtic and Chief Pakan were prominent leaders in the Indigenous

communities that were displaced by Euro Canadian settlement. Chief Pakan's presence was prominent in literature up to the signing of Treaty 6, and Chief Maskegwahtic was prominent in the literature post Treaty era. A timeline of Euro Canadian influence in the Waskatenau Area is provided.

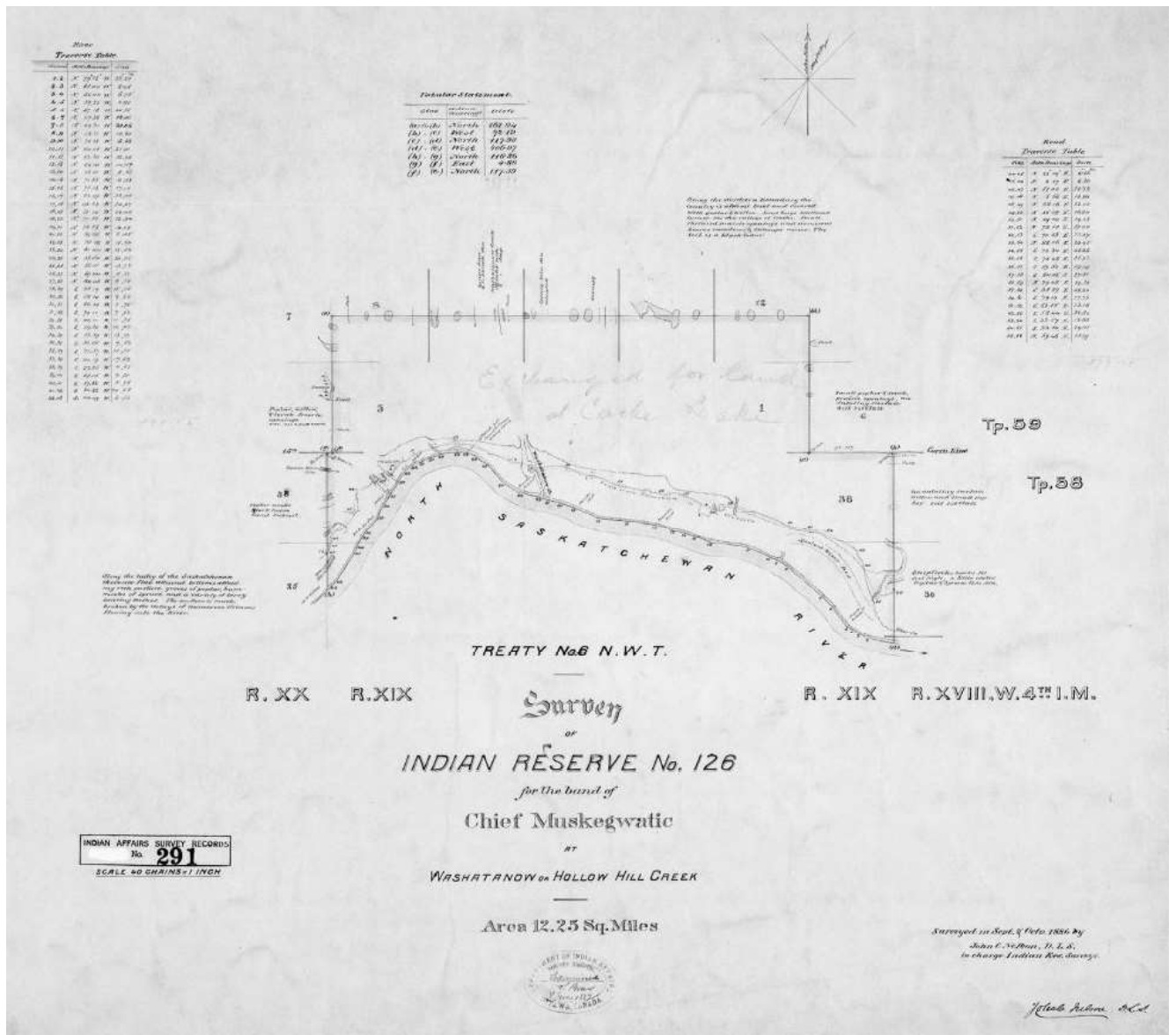


Figure 2. Survey map of the Bears Ear's Reserve in 1886.

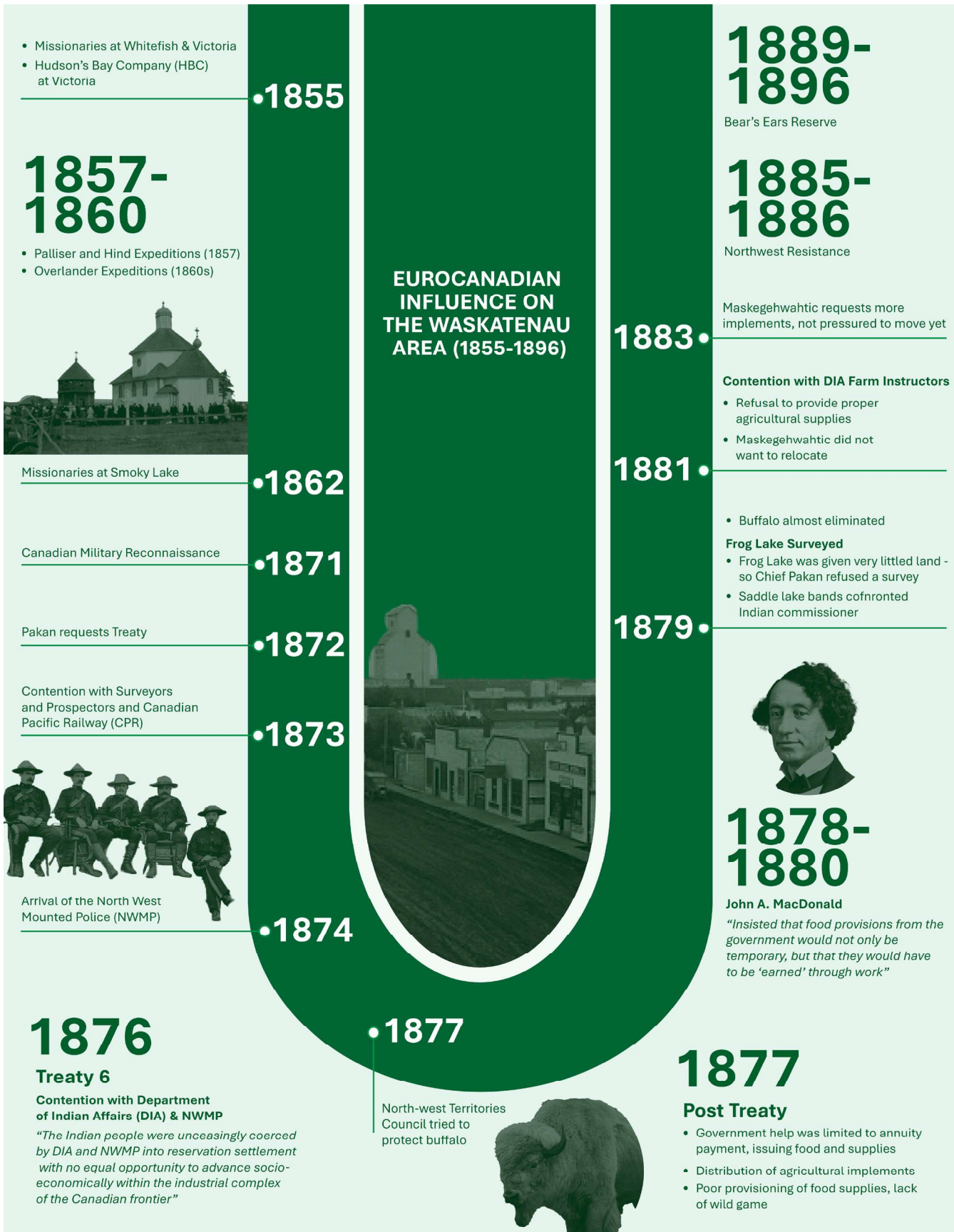


Figure 3. Timeline of recent history relevant to the study area.

A dark brown background with a faint, light brown topographic map overlay. The map features contour lines, a winding river or path, and various irregular shapes representing terrain features. The text 'Site Analysis' is centered in the lower half of the image.

Site Analysis

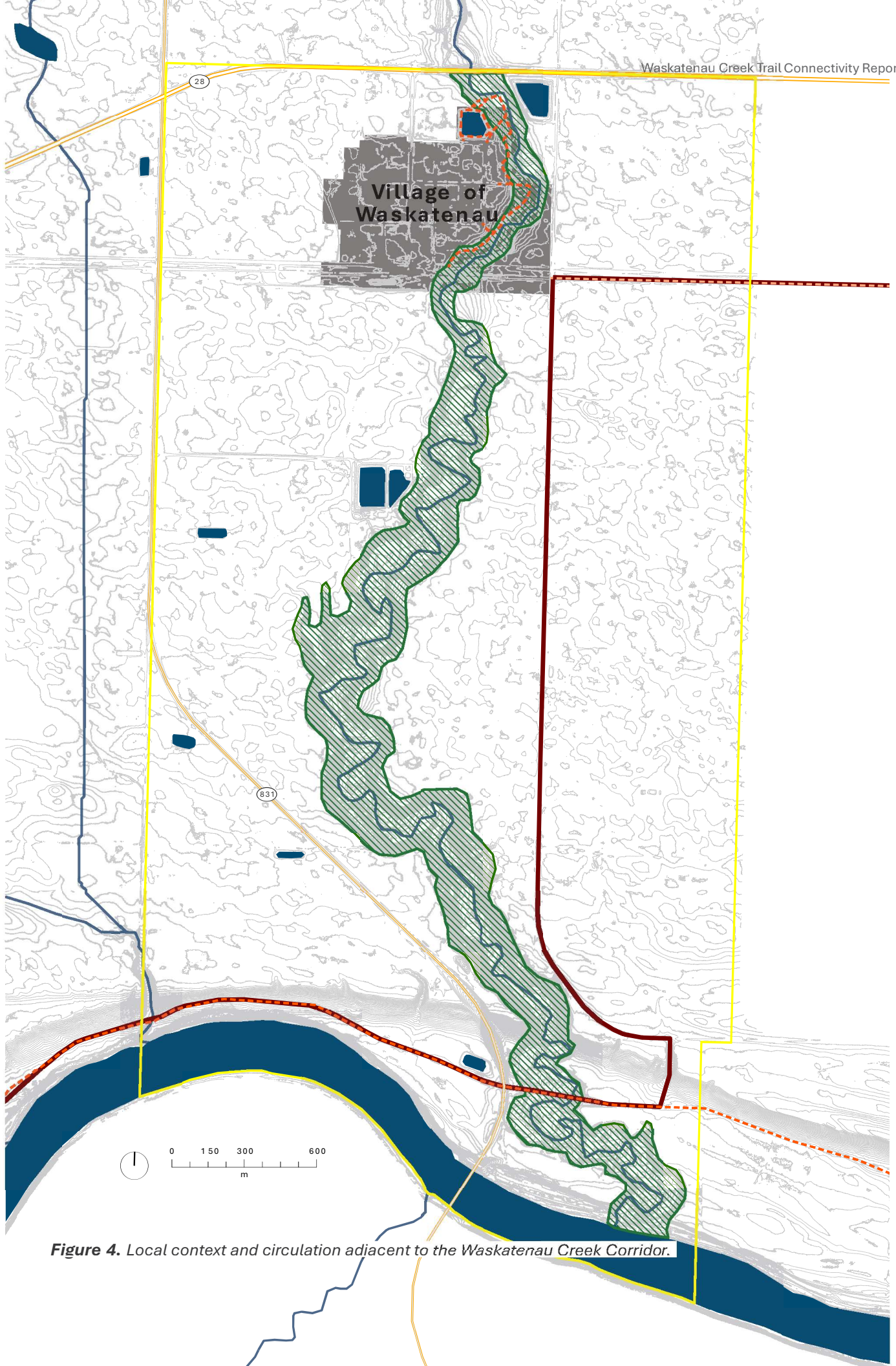


Figure 4. Local context and circulation adjacent to the Waskatenau Creek Corridor.

2. Site Analysis

2.1 Local Context and Circulation

Waskatenau Creek Corridor

Waskatenau Creek originates in neighbouring Thorhild County and passes through the Village of Waskatenau before meandering to its termination at the junction with the North Saskatchewan River. The Waskatenau Creek Corridor defined in this project includes the creek and surrounding steep slopes to the top-of-bank and runs south from the Village of Waskatenau all the way to the North Saskatchewan River.

Village of Waskatenau

The Village of Waskatenau is accessed primarily from Highway 28 at the north end of the Village. Secondary access points include Range Road 193, east of the Village with direct access off Highway 28; and Township Road 592, south of the Village with access from Highway 831. Highway 831 also provides access to the Village transfer station, the Victoria Trail, and the North Saskatchewan River.

Regional Trails

Three regional trail networks bisect the local study area; the Iron Horse Trail which has its western terminus at the Village of Waskatenau; the Trans-Canada Trail, of which the Iron Horse is a portion, which continues south and west towards Edmonton; and the historic Victoria Trail which runs parallel to the North Saskatchewan River for approximately 57 kilometres (Alberta Recreation and Parks, n.d.) – it crosses the Waskatenau Creek where it aligns with the Trans-Canada Trails Sturgeon County Connector leg as it heads south toward Edmonton.



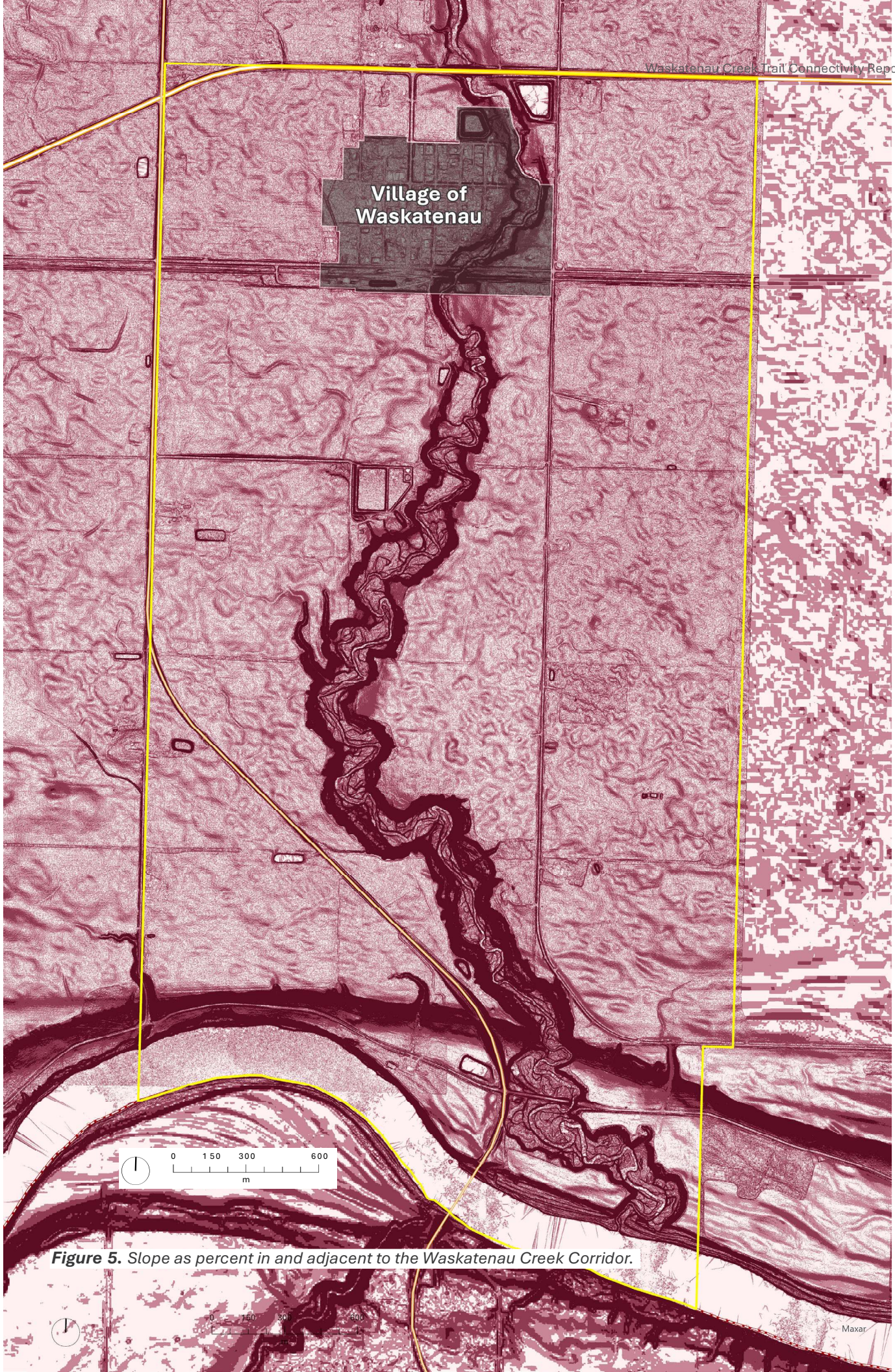


Figure 5. Slope as percent in and adjacent to the Waskatenau Creek Corridor.

2.2 Slope

The Waskatenau Creek Corridor is defined by very steep slopes (>15%) dropping to the creek from the surrounding agricultural lands. The surrounding landscape is relatively flat but undulating with local depressions leading to pooling of water in many nearby agricultural fields.

Towards the North Saskatchewan River the topography experiences another steep drop to the meander belt of the North Saskatchewan, with further 'steps' down to the river's edge. The meander belt of Waskatenau Creek is also well

developed at the bottom of the creek corridor, where level topography is more prominent. The erosive activity of the creek is evident with active slumping occurring at several locations, with two high-risk areas identified near its convergence with the North Saskatchewan on a field that is actively hayed with heavy equipment (Figure 5).

The steep slopes preclude the introduction of a trail traversing from the Village to the North Saskatchewan within the Waskatenau Creek Corridor and necessitate the creation of a top-of-bank trail to complete the proposed connection.

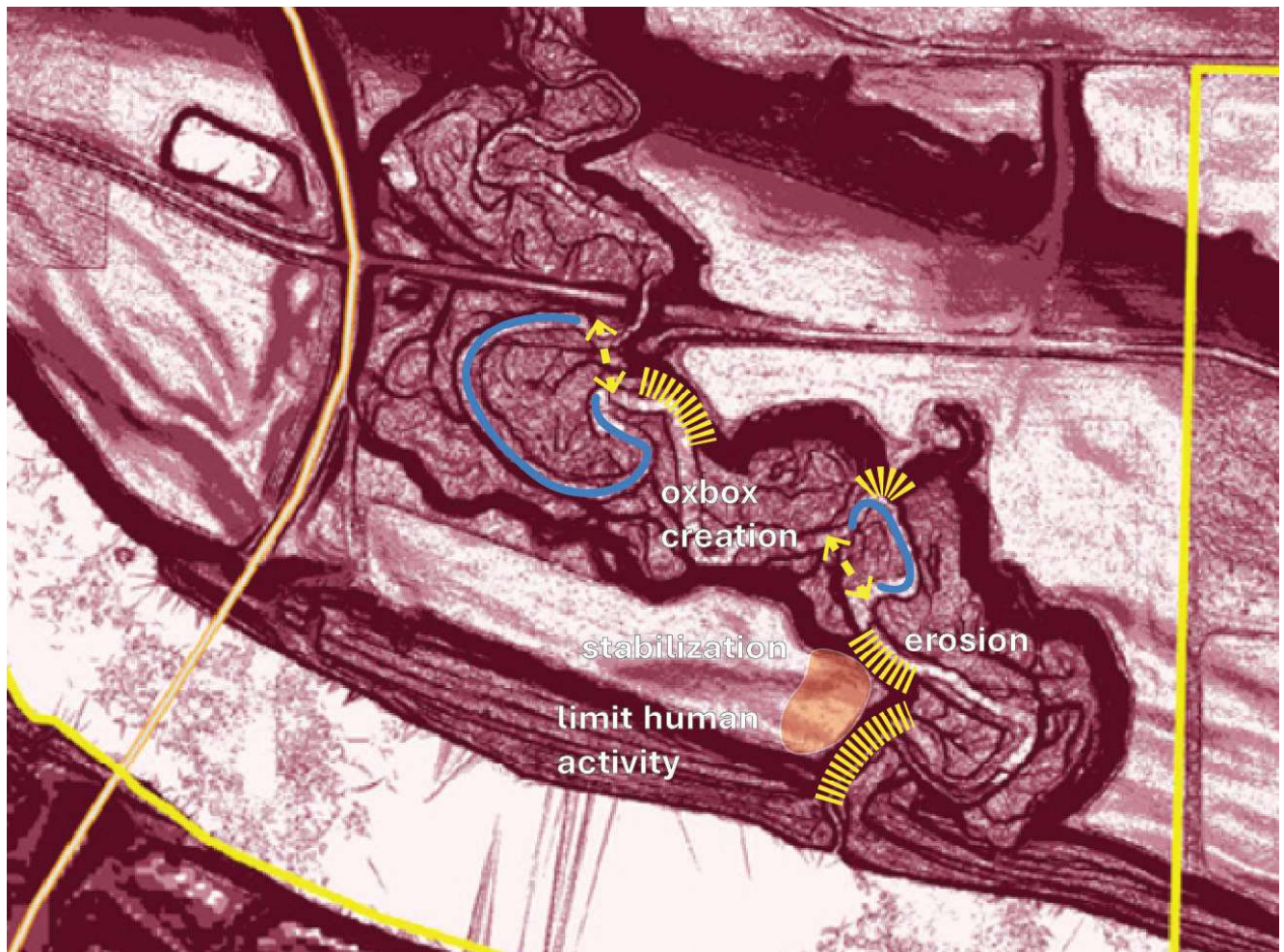


Figure 6. Identified erosion risk areas along Waskatenau Creek near the junction with the North Saskatchewan River.



Figure 7. Existing land cover in and adjacent to the local study area.

Land Cover			
Agricultural	Disturbed Vegetation	Natural Bare Ground	Roads
Depression	Graminoid	Natural Grassland	Shrub
Bog	Fen	Natural Open Water	Snow/Ice
Coniferous	Human Built	Pasture	Swamp
Cropland	Marsh		Woody Fen
Deciduous			

2.3 Existing Land Cover

The local study area consists of a predominantly agricultural landscape with smaller areas of pasture, wetlands, and human development. The Waskatenau Creek Corridor contrasts its surroundings, with heavy shrub cover along with stands of coniferous trees on the predominantly north facing slopes, and smaller patches of deciduous tree scattered throughout the corridor. Wetlands in the form of Marshes occur within the corridor, largely in areas where the creek has meandered and left an oxbow wetland that is separated from the flow of the creek (The Nature Conservancy, 2024).

The Waskatenau Creek Corridor presents a striking contrast to its surrounding landscape, representing excellent examples of microclimate effects on vegetation patterns. The effect of this contrast is a sense of remote wilderness with the comfort of being close to home. It provides accessibility to nature without the risk of venturing into truly remote areas.

2.4 Historic and Cultural Opportunities

Working towards reconciliation requires we address the past harms inflicted upon Indigenous Nations rights and freedoms by the past government policies and land governance decisions. Improvements to the Creek through trail and day use area development, accompanied by an effective interpretive strategy, provide the opportunity for the Village of Waskatenau and Smoky Lake County to work towards better relations and better land governance processes moving forward. To honor the spirit and intent of the Treaties, working toward cooperative management of lands and resources in Traditional Indigenous Territories, we aim to uphold the spirit and intent of

Treaty 6, and work toward learning what it means to be good Treaty partners.

The heritage value of the Waskatenau area has been recognized by Smoky Lake County and the Victoria District National Historic Site of Canada. Alongside this, it is important to consider the history of unethical treatment of Indigenous communities in the Waskatenau area in Smoky Lake County as part of efforts towards reconciliation. This includes meaningful consultation and collaboration to inform the detailed design and construction of the day use areas. There is opportunity to create spaces and amenities that serve the needs of displaced Indigenous communities and educate current residents and visitors about the long Indigenous history of this land.

The Bears Ear's Reserve covered a broad area around Waskatenau Creek. These lands have significant history, including the Chief's House to the west, and potential grave sites towards the Pine Creek area in the east. A formal recognition of this area's cultural significance would be an important step forward, complementing the existing recognition of the Victoria district. This would provide a more comprehensive historical picture of the land, and the people who lived here.

Opportunities for reconciliation are abundant if time and care is taken to nurture relationships with nearby by First Nations and Metis communities whose ancestors were impacted by forced relocation. It is important to collaborate with any interested Indigenous communities in moving forward with any detailed design, to ensure that significant lands are not impacted, and that the narrative of this place is accurate and appropriate. These lands can be an important driver for education, cultural appreciation, and a new path forward for everyone in the region.

History of Place Names

Place names are an important consideration, as changes through time tell a story about the power dynamics at play as well as the shift in human geography over time. Both Waskatenau and the Bears Ear's Reserve underwent several name changes throughout their histories, as outlined in Figure 7.

Figure 8. Waskatenau and Bear's Ears Reserve - Name Changes Over Time



A dark brown background featuring a faint, light-colored topographic map. The map shows a winding river or path that meanders across the landscape, with various contour lines and irregular shapes representing terrain features. The overall aesthetic is technical and geographical.

Conservation Analysis

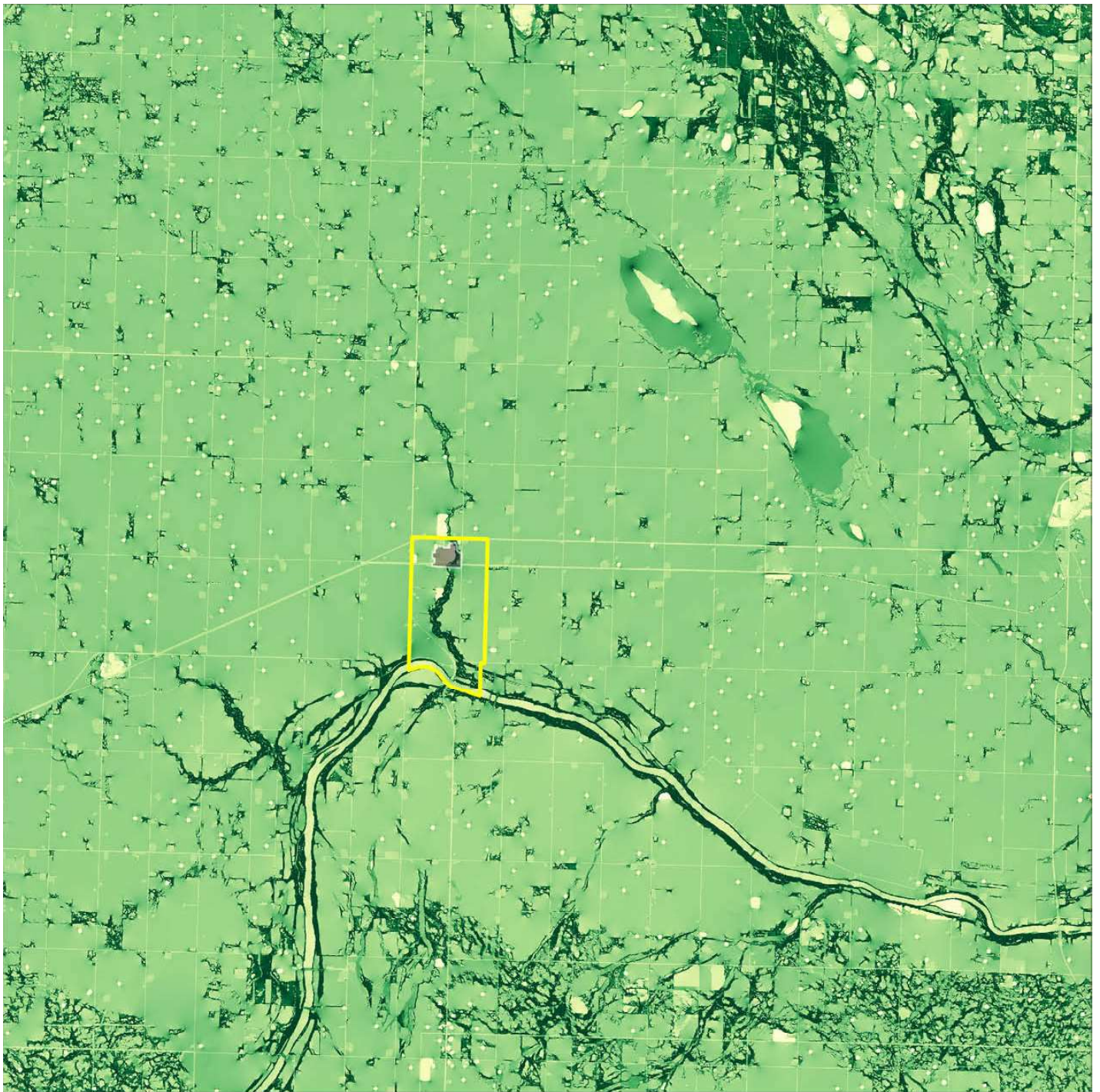
3. Conservation Analysis

To better understand the value of conservation activities within the creek area requires an analysis of its surrounding context. The environmental conservation analysis involved two related components: a landscape connectivity model which describes the relative likelihood of wildlife movement through the region, which (alongside a range of other environmental spatial data) informs the delineation of Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) in the broader region.

3.1 Landscape Connectivity

Connectivity has been defined as “the extent to which movements of [plants and animals] are facilitated by the composition of the landscape” (Rudnick et al., 2012). There are two components to landscape connectivity, functional and structural; the former speaks to the needs of individual species, while the latter “describes the physical characteristics of a landscape that allow for movement” (Rudnick et al., 2012). These physical characteristics include the topography, hydrology, vegetative cover, and human land use (Rudnick et al., 2012). A lack of landscape connectivity, or fragmentation, is associated with habitat and biodiversity loss (Rudnick et al., 2012). This study estimated the structural connectivity of the regional landscape surrounding the Waskatenau Creek Corridor to understand its role in the regional landscape and identify likely movement corridors for a variety of species. Details of the landscape connectivity analysis can be found in Appendix B. Text Box

The results of the circuit model for the regional study area showed areas of high concentration along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River and the many drainage channels or coulees that flow into the North Saskatchewan River, including the Waskatenau Creek Corridor (Figure 7). Human features, such as roads, reduce potential movement, while areas with natural cover facilitate movement. The high concentration of current shows the critical areas where connectivity should be maintained and indicates gap areas where connectivity should be restored. The Waskatenau Creek Corridor is a primary north-south linkage between remnant patches of natural vegetation and the major regional passage along the North Saskatchewan River. Restoration of disturbed areas and a shift to low-impact recreational uses in the Waskatenau Creek Corridor will help retain its functional importance as a refuge and movement corridor for wildlife in this region. As a recreational amenity, the corridor provides opportunities for education and nature appreciation, fostering a sense of stewardship in the community to ensure its long-term protection.



Landscape Connectivity



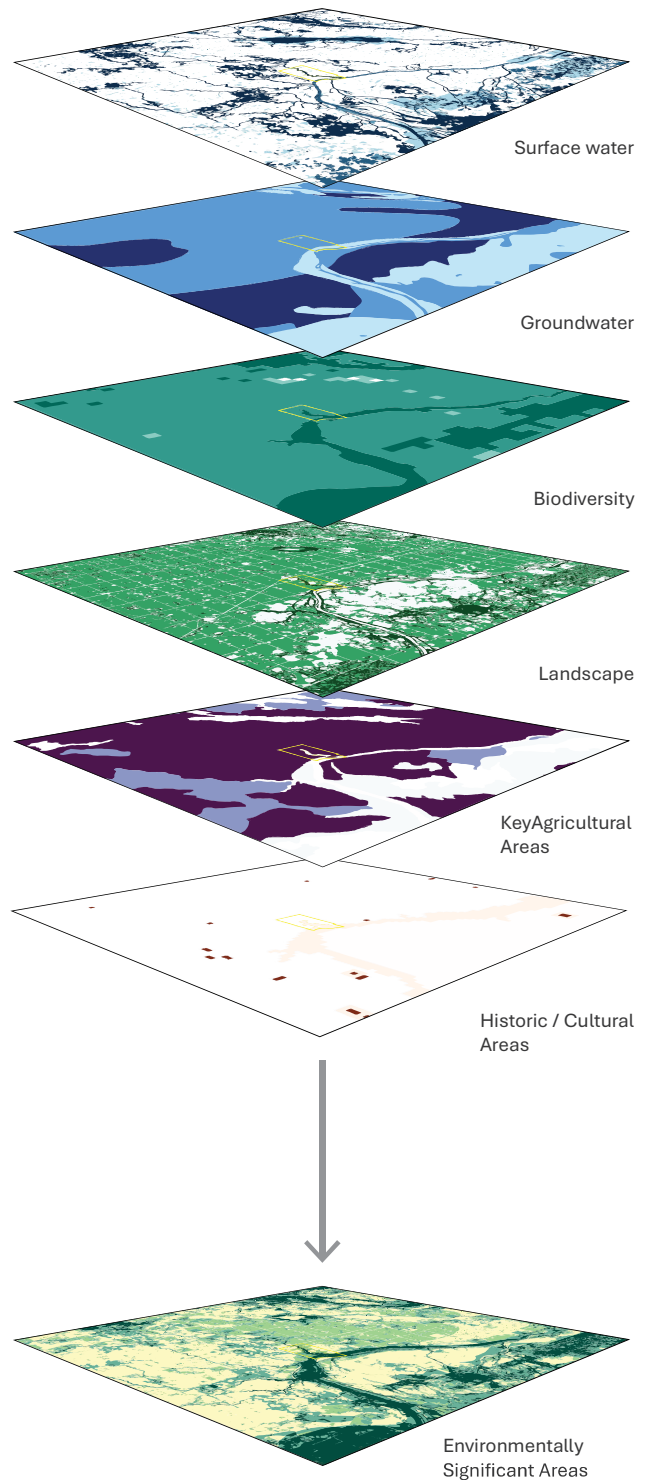
Figure 9. Landscape connectivity results for the regional study area.

3.2 Environmentally Significant Areas

Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) were defined using an overlay model which took individual data inputs related to seven criteria as inputs. Each data input was assigned scores between zero and one based on relative importance as defined through practical experience or precedent, expert knowledge, or scientific literature. Scores for each input dataset were summed to generate a total score for each criterion, and these total scores were then summed to generate a final total ESA score for the regional study area (Figure 8).

3.2.1 ESA Criteria

Each criteria represented key ecological, agricultural, or cultural components in the regional study area. The importance/ relevance of each criteria to the ecological function or recreational value of the landscape is described below (Table 1). The total score outputs for each criteria can be found in Appendix C.



Note: Traditional Ecological Knowledge is a known information gap dependent on more concerted collaboration with Indigenous communities.

Table 1. Overview of ESA criteria and description of the importance and ecological function of each input dataset to the overall criteria.

Criteria	Data Inputs	Importance
<p>Surface Water – The bed and shore of naturally occurring streams and waterbodies is owned by the Crown (Public Lands Act), and water is owned by the Crown under the Water Act (Environmental Law Centre, 2019).</p>	<p>Streams</p>	<p>Smaller headwater streams which feed into larger order rivers and waterbodies. Protecting headwater streams and surrounding riparian areas is critical to the maintenance of water quality.</p>
	<p>Major Waterbodies</p>	<p>Includes large rivers and lakes.</p>
	<p>Wetlands</p>	<p>Wetlands are important landscape features which provide numerous benefits including a role in maintaining water quality, provision of habitat supporting biodiversity, and carbon sequestration.</p>
	<p>Aquatic ESAs</p>	<p>Aquatic ESAs are areas identified in Alberta that are important to the maintenance of biodiversity and the quality of water resources. This dataset provides a distinct contribution in its consideration of focal aquatic species and rare or unique aquatic ecosystems (Fiera Biological Consulting Ltd., 2010).</p>
	<p>Riparian Areas</p>	<p>Riparian areas provide many important ecosystem functions for the regulation of surface water quality and quantity. Preservation and restoration of riparian areas is important for managing flood risk, water quality, and biodiversity.</p>

<p>Groundwater – Human activity and development poses a threat to groundwater quality, particularly in areas with potential for rapid movement of surface contaminants into groundwater sources. Groundwater is an important water source for more than 600,000 Albertans (Government of Alberta, 2024).</p>	<p>Springs</p>	<p>Springs are locations where groundwater directly meets the surface, highly vulnerable to contamination.</p>
	<p>GW Vulnerability</p>	<p>Highlights the areas vulnerable to surface impacts to shallow groundwater.</p>
	<p>Surficial Sand and Gravel</p>	<p>Sand and gravel are coarse sediments, which have high potential for vertical or lateral migration of contaminants.</p>
	<p>Aquifers</p>	<p>Aquifers are important feature to protect from development as they are a direct link to groundwater and key for maintaining groundwater quality.</p>
<p>Biodiversity - Biodiversity is essential to maintain ecosystem resilience, and resilience maintains ecological function in the face of threats and disturbances.</p>	<p>Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zones</p>	<p>Areas which offer higher habitat potential for biodiversity and/ or are important areas for winter ungulate habitat.</p>
	<p>Species Richness</p>	<p>A component of biodiversity, richness is a count of the total number of species in a given area. It can be used to identify areas with potential for high biodiversity.</p>
	<p>Species Uniqueness</p>	<p>Uniqueness has a relationship to species richness, but in areas with lower richness but higher uniqueness may contain rare species.</p>
<p>Landscape – Certain landscape characteristics support important ecological functions, including the provision of habitat which supports biodiversity. Landscape fragmentation is a key factor in biodiversity loss (Rudnick et al., 2012).</p>	<p>Steep Slopes</p>	<p>Steep slopes contain unique and sensitive ecological features and habitats that are highly vulnerable to erosion.</p>
	<p>Connectivity</p>	<p>A lack of landscape connectivity, or fragmentation, is associated with habitat and biodiversity loss.</p>
	<p>Patch Size</p>	<p>Larger patches support greater biodiversity as they maintain intact habitats and allow for natural disturbances to occur. While smaller patches are valuable as refugia or stepping-stones, large patches are more vulnerable to fragmentation and cannot be replaced once lost.</p>

<p>Key Agricultural Areas – Defined by factors known to be important drivers of crop yields. Included factors are those less prone to within season variability, such as nitrogen content.</p>	<p>Soil Organic Carbon</p>	<p>SOC is a proxy for Soil Organic Matter, an important driver of plant productivity in cultivated landscapes. Organic matter in soils has many benefits, including better aggregation which protects against erosion, improved soil structure which improves water infiltration and capacity to hold water, and improved nutrient storage and cycling.</p>
	<p>Soil Texture</p>	<p>Soil texture is an important contributor to crop yields dependent on the local climatic conditions – wetter and cooler climates found further north benefit from soils with less heavy clay which are prone to water logging. Coarse textured soils drain rapidly and are more prone to wind erosion as they have weaker structure, but the lower water retention may benefit crops in wetter climates.</p>
<p>Historic/ Cultural – Areas containing potential historic or cultural resources*.</p>	<p>Historic Resource Value</p>	<p>Dataset contains information about the potential for historic resources to be present which may require avoidance during any type of development. Historic resources are relevant to the cultural heritage of a place and have high potential tourism value.</p>

***Information around areas important to Indigenous groups is incomplete**

3.2.2 ESAs in the Regional Study Area

The Waskatenau Creek Corridor and the meanderbelt of the North Saskatchewan River received high total ESA scores. The North Saskatchewan River contains an important band of ESA connecting the local study area to its regional ecological context from the Redwater Provincial Recreation Area southwest of the study area and along the North Saskatchewan River. The Waskatenau Creek Corridor is an ESA and a key linkage to pockets of ESAs north of the local study area.

Much of the region's ESA value has been lost to human development, leaving narrow linkages between small patches of native vegetation and habitat. Preserving these high value ESAs is critical to maintain the ecological integrity of the landscape, as these areas of high value ESAs facilitate the movement of wildlife and provide key ecological functions as described in Table 1.

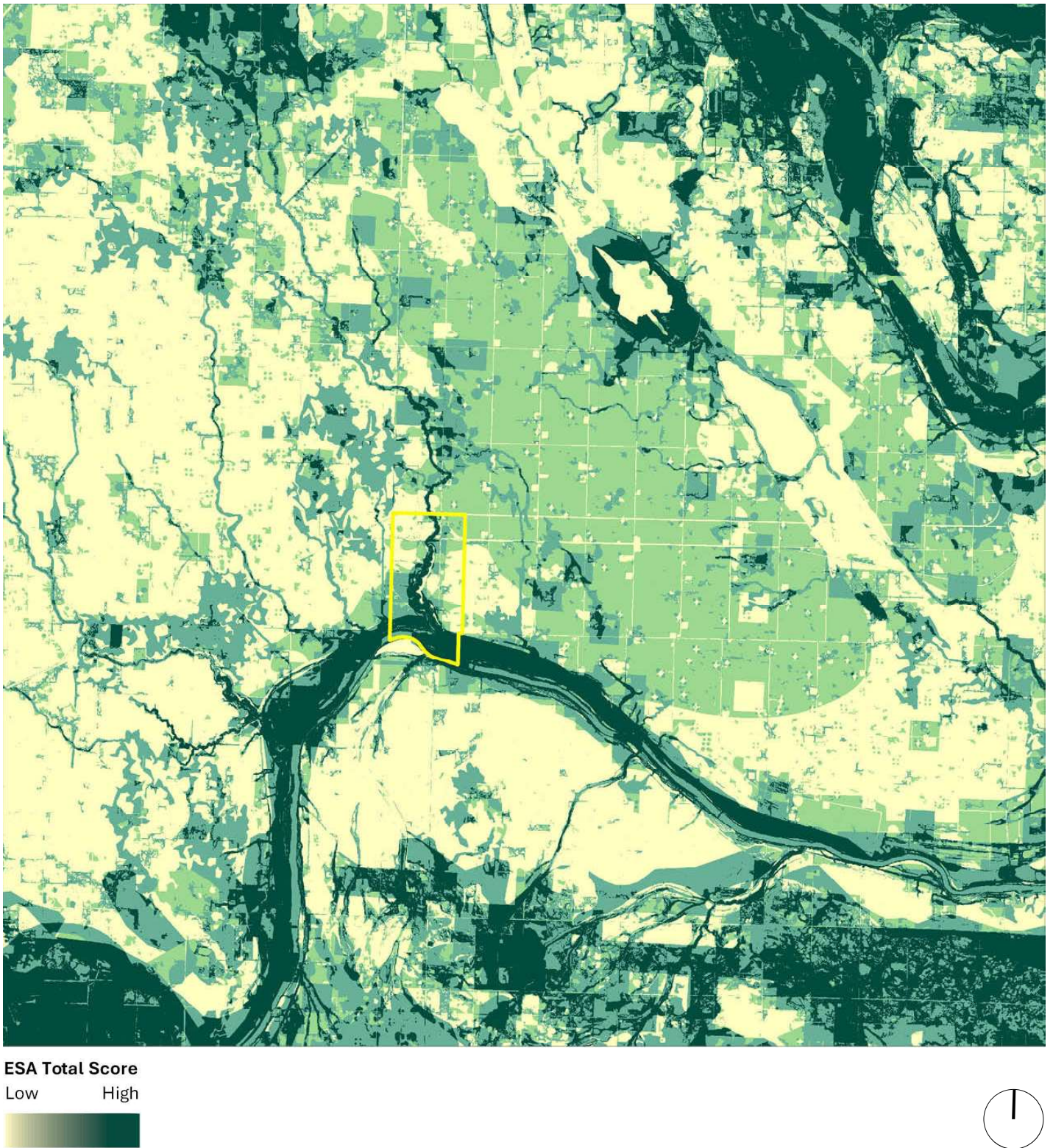


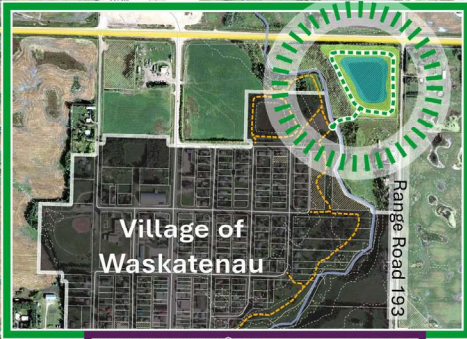
Figure 10. Total ESA scoring results for the regional study area.

A dark brown topographic map of a mountainous region, showing contour lines and a winding creek. The map is oriented vertically, with the creek flowing from the top towards the bottom. The text is overlaid on the lower-left portion of the map.

Waskatenau Creek Corridor Trail Concept

Highway 28

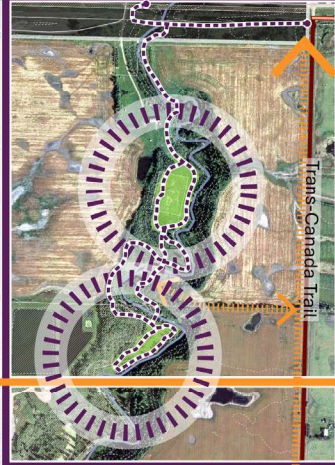
Section A



Village of Waskatenau

Range Road 193

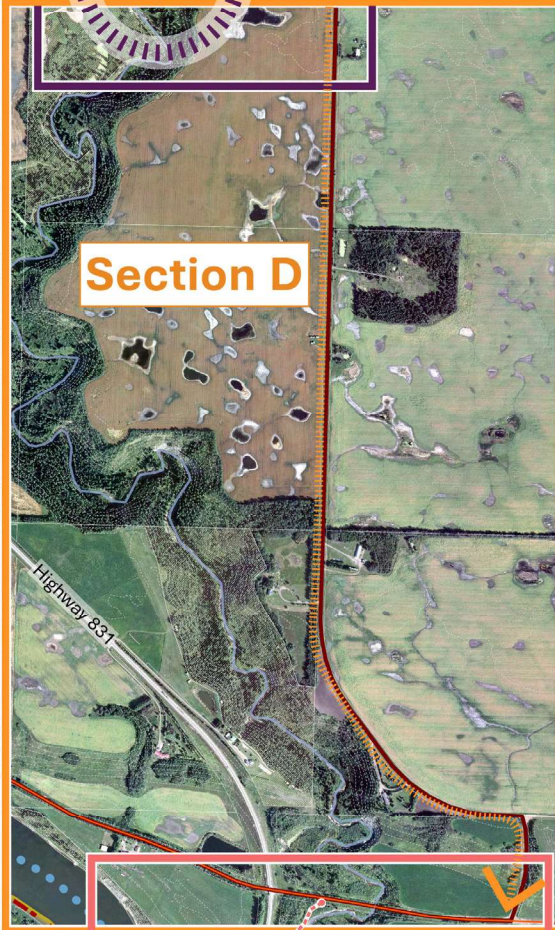
Section B



Iron Horse Trail

Trans-Canada Trail

Section D

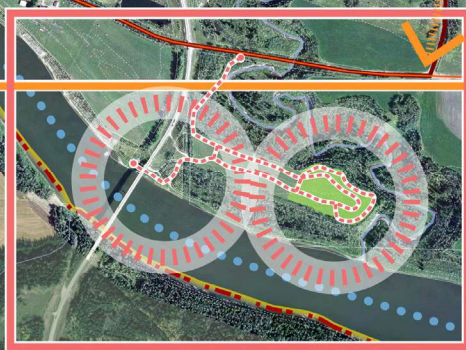


Highway 831

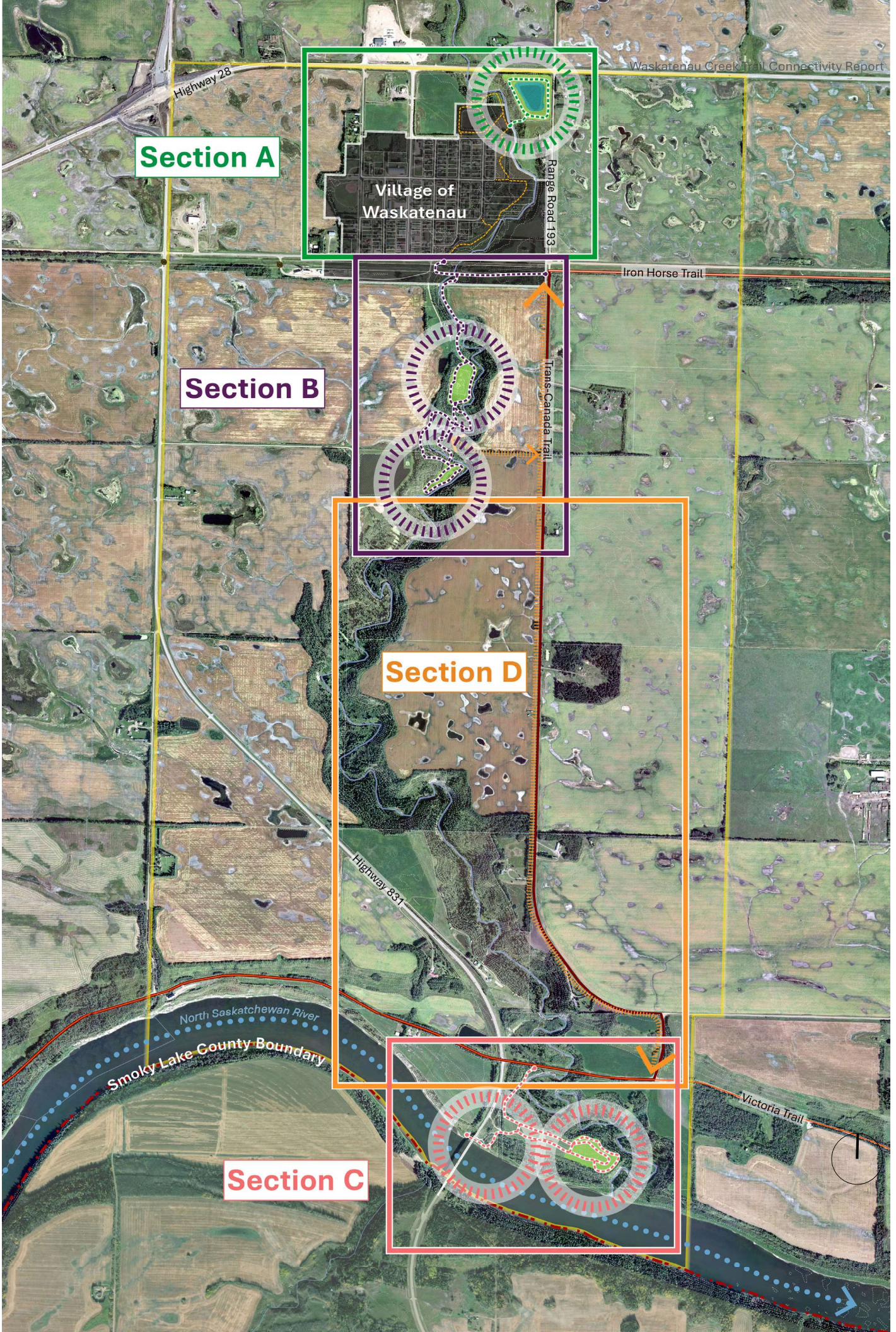
North Saskatchewan River

Smoky Lake County Boundary

Section C



Victoria Trail



4. Waskatenau Creek Corridor Trail Concept

The Waskatenau Creek Corridor was identified as a key landscape linkage, both recreationally and ecologically. The proposed trail concept is intended to improve connectivity between the Village of Waskatenau, The County, and the North Saskatchewan River to facilitate recreational opportunities for villagers and visitors. It also functions as a key wildlife corridor as an area of high landscape connectivity and containing important environmentally sensitive areas. The dual recreational and ecological values present an opportunity to improve recreational use and ecological function.

The Challenge

Current access to the river follows the range road as part of the Trans Canada Trail network. The Waskatenau Creek Nature Trail ends at the village boundary. These two trail systems provide for different user groups, and currently no walking or hiking trail serves as access to the creek or from the Victoria Trail to the North Saskatchewan River.

Overview

The trail concept is divided into 10 individual project components with related components organized into logical groupings by section of trail. Trail sections are groups of projects which are recommended for implementation as a unit wherever possible to ensure the functional integration of individual but related projects. Sections can be implemented in any order, depending on community priorities and available funding. The following outlines the four sections and the individual related projects within each:

All proposed trails would be designed for non-motorized travel, no more than 1.5 metres wide, acting as connectors that expand the existing Waskatenau Creek Nature Trail. The intent of these trails is to provide more opportunities for village and county residents to enjoy the natural asset that is the Waskatenau Creek Corridor, while maintaining the ecological integrity of this important wildlife corridor and Environmentally Sensitive Area with compatible, low impact recreational uses.

The proximity to the major regional trails in the Iron Horse Trail, the Trans-Canada Trail, and the historic Victoria Trail also presents an opportunity to add amenities for tourism development of these regional connections. Currently, none of the regional trails provide access to the North Saskatchewan River in this area. Additionally, the connection between the end of the Iron Horse Trail at the Village of Waskatenau and the Victoria trail is currently provided by the Trans Canada Trail, however, this link makes use of Range Road 193 which does not offer a scenic nature experience. Extending the Waskatenau Creek Nature Trail south into two new Day Use Areas with a network of trail loops would bring people into the creek corridor and provide unique experience close to home.

A campground near the North Saskatchewan River would provide an amenity for local residents as well as a more regional draw for visitors from adjacent counties, users of the Iron Horse, Trans-Canada, and Victoria Trails, as well as paddlers on the North Saskatchewan River. It would offer a refuge for long haul travelers of the Trans-Canada Trail, and Day Use Area 3 would provide a different, more nature-oriented experience to both residents and visitors.

4.1 Section A

This section consists of two projects which would extend the recreational opportunities within the Village of Waskatenau. Projects could be completed in any order; however, a logical progression would begin with Village Improvements before proceeding to the Fishpond.

Fishpond

Village Improvements

Village Improvements: improvements to the existing Waskatenau Creek Nature Trail would include upkeep and maintenance to repair erosion damage and reinforcement to mitigate future erosion

issues. Restoration of the weir would include clean-up of the creek and the addition of a creek crossing to enable access to the future fishpond. Finally, an extension of the Waskatenau Creek Nature Trail would be created to connect the Village to this new amenity via the creek crossing at the restored weir.

Fishpond: the creation of a fishpond at the location of a former water reservoir would provide a new recreational amenity for the Village and County. The fishpond project would need to begin with restoration to ensure water levels can be maintained for winter survival of fish, strengthen banks with vegetation as well as improve the visitor experience with shade from trees. A new trail connecting in from the Village would traverse along the top of the berm, with the addition of benches for seating and fishing platforms for water access. A small parking lot would enable additional access from County visitors.



Figure 11. Weir-crossing bridge leading from the existing village nature trails to the fishpond.



Figure 12. Design concept for Section A showing the weir crossing and fishpond area.

4.2 Section B

This section includes an extension of the Waskatenau Creek Nature Trail into two new Day Use Areas that would be connected by a network of new trails, including four creek crossings. These projects could also be completed in any order, but completing the extension of the trail network may be beneficial to enable connectivity once the DUAs are complete.

Wayfinding Strategy: A key short-term development that should be pursued immediately is to develop wayfinding signage that highlights the connection from the village to the Iron Horse and Trans Canada Trails, supporting interpretive activities for the Victoria District, and guiding operations from the Pine Creek Resort area, and providing an initial interpretive strategy that begins to promote the overall design concept for Waskatenau Creek and the broader region.

Trail Extension

Day Use Area 1

Day Use Area 2

Trail Extension: the trail extension component in Section B includes all new trail segments that would be created and the four creek crossings that enable passage through the creek corridor, connecting DUA 1 and DUA 2 with the Village. The first new segment of the trail would begin at the end of the existing Nature Trail, continue across the Range Road past the trestle bridge and follow a gentle decline down to Waskatenau Creek. The first creek crossing will be located just downstream of the old trestle bridge. Following this first crossing the trail will fork with

the left path leading back up the slope to connect with the Iron Horse Trail. The right path will continue south alongside the creek with the second creek crossing occurring before the first large bend in the creek, providing access to DUA 1.

The trail will loop around DUA 1 with an internal trail network to be designed at the detailed design stage. At the south end of DUA 1 the trail will fork once again. One portion of the path will continue straight towards the third and fourth creek crossings and into DUA 2. The other portion of the path will fork to the left and follow the creek meander, crossing back over the first path and leading up the slope to the top of bank and following inside the tree line before looping back down along the access to the former shooting range into DUA 2. The former access road will also provide maintenance access to DUA 2. Once within DUA 2, the trail will loop around; this internal trail network to be finalized at the detailed design stage.



Figure 13. Example trail cross section.



Figure 14. Design concept for Section B, showing trail alignment, creek crossings, Day Use Area 1 and Day Use Area 2.

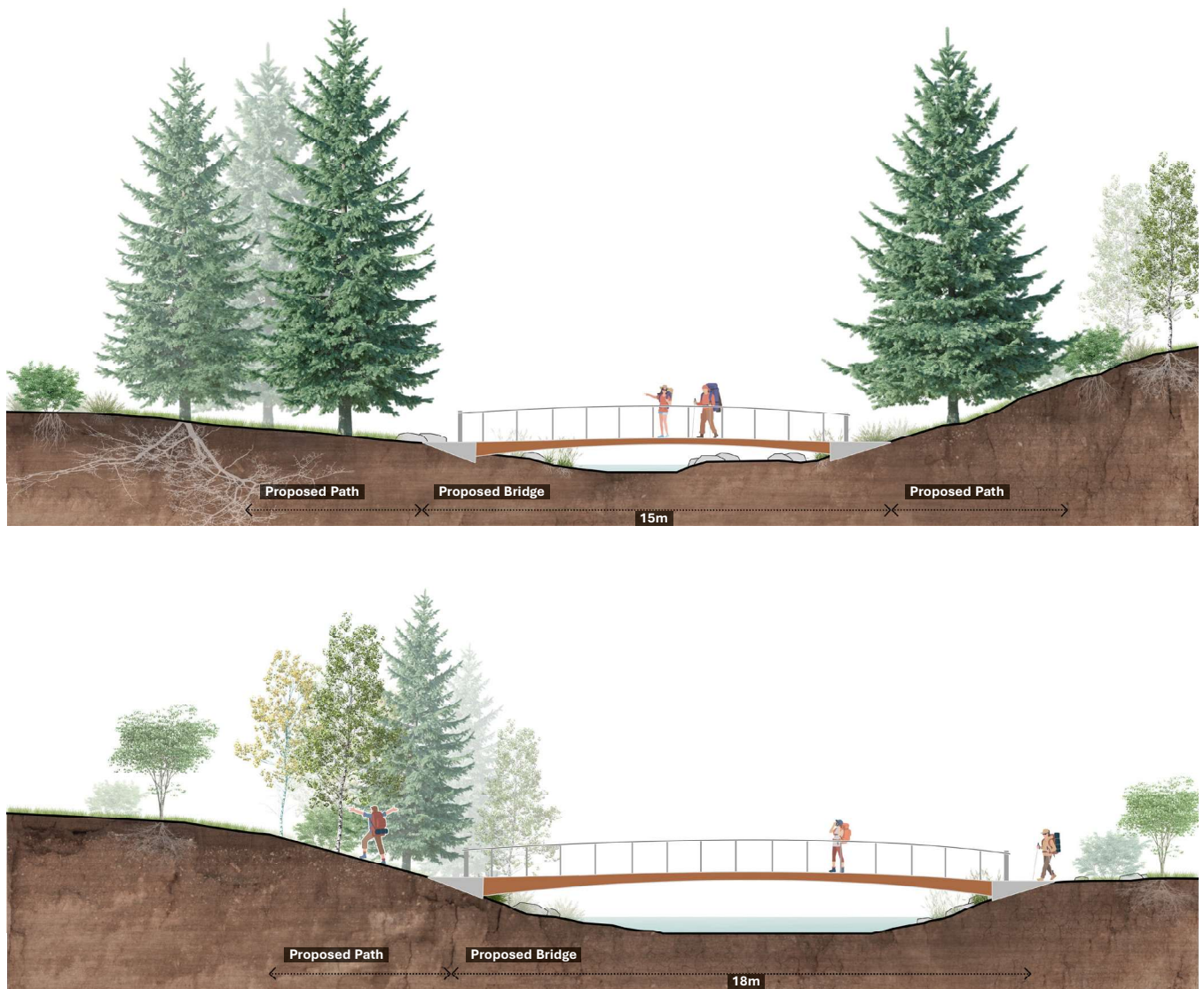


Figure 15. Example bridge cross-sections for creek crossings.

Day Use Area 1: DUA 1 is approximately 500 metres from the edge of the Village and will be connected via the extension to the Waskatenau Creek Nature Trail described above. This DUA would need to undergo ecological restoration work to eliminate the existing weeds and prevent future intrusion of invasive species. The addition of a

central gathering area with a fire pit, picnic shelters and an internal network of nature trails leading back to the central hub will provide a new amenity to the community. It is close to the Village with walkable access to the creek and shorter trail loop options where visitors can relax and enjoy nature close to home.



Figure 16. Design concept for Day Use Area 1.

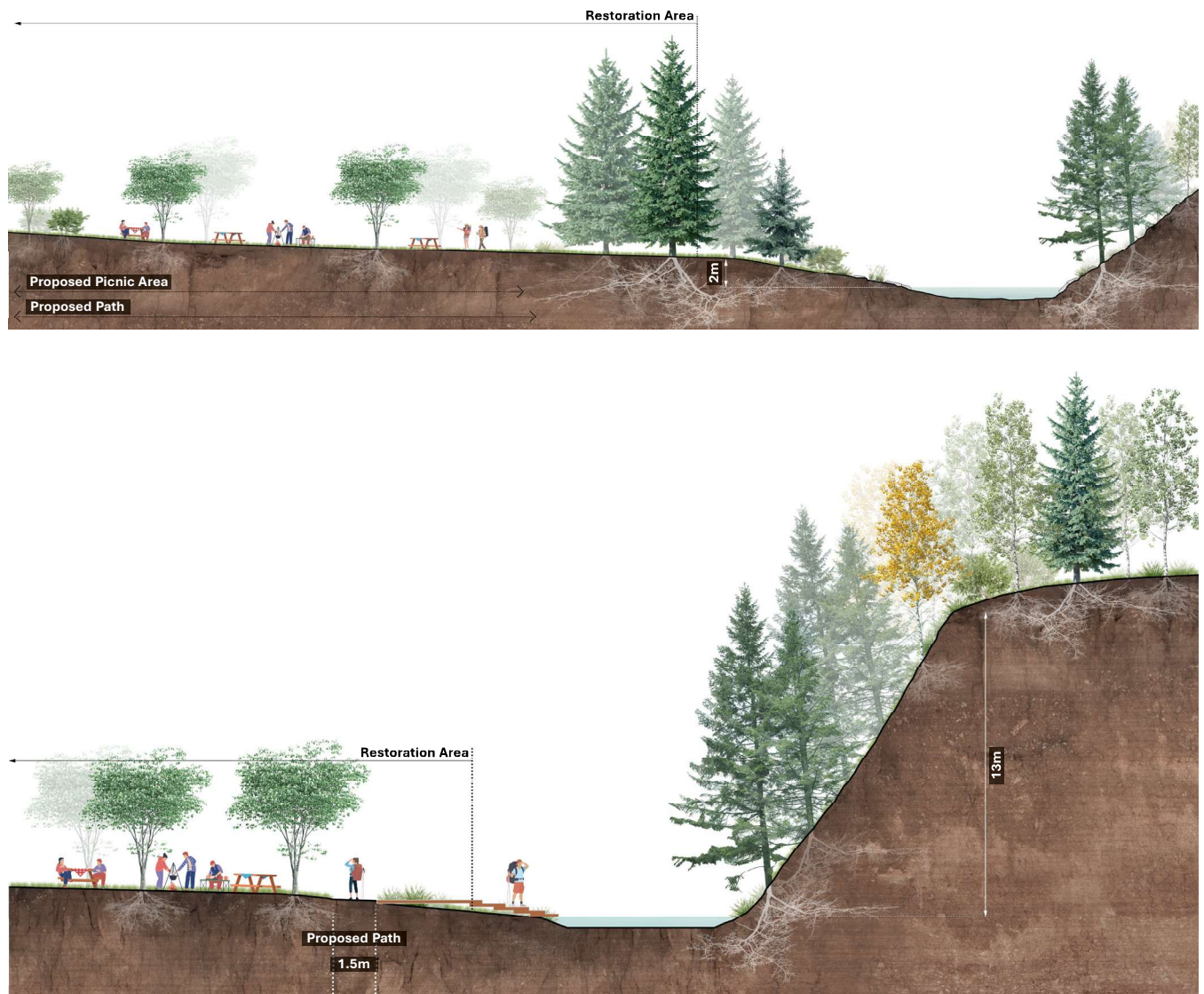


Figure 17. Cross-section example for Day Use Area 1.

Day Use Area 2: DUA 2 is located at the site of the former shooting range, which would be repurposed following ecological restoration to remove weeds and prevent future intrusion from invasive species. The proposed DUA would provide opportunities for creek access, picnicking, and low impact nature trails for nature appreciation.

The former access road to the shooting range would be restored to a nature trail while allowing access for maintenance vehicles from the Village transfer station. As this site is further from the Village (approximately 800m), a pit toilet would be installed at the upper entrance to the proposed day use area.



Figure 18. Design concept for Day Use Area 2.

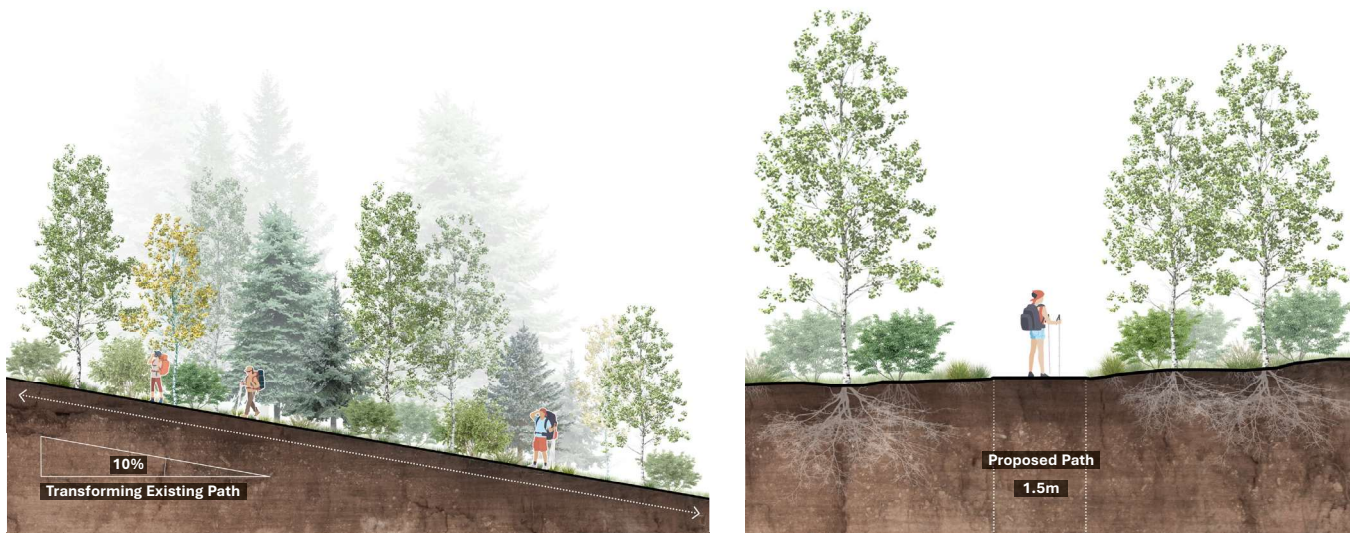


Figure 19. Trail cross-sections around Day Use Area 2.

4.3 Section C

This section involves the restoration of an isolated hayfield and development into a Day Use Area (DUA 3) and/ or campground, providing an amenity for residents, regional trail users, or river users (in conjunction with a boat launch). This site is located in an identified regional Environmentally Significant Area, where compatible recreational uses, such as tent camping and hiking trails, along with restoration of native vegetation, offers lower impact uses relative to agricultural operations. These lower impact recreational uses coupled with restoration would help to mitigating against the risk of erosion and slumping as the creek meanders, limiting the risk to humans.

- Trail Extension
- Boat Launch
- Campground
- Day Use Area 3

Trail Extension: a trail connection from the Victoria Trail leading up to the plateau containing the campground and DUA 3 would be created to provide access to these new amenities.



Figure 20. Design concept for Section C showing the boat launch and campground area.

Boat Launch: a hand boat launch would enable access to and from the North Saskatchewan River. Access would be provided to drop boats off with a turnaround area for vehicles, but parking would only be available at DUA 3. An existing path along the shore under the bridge would be emphasized, providing access to a potential fish spot on the North Saskatchewan, upstream of the boat launch. Any installed infrastructure would need to be able to withstand flooding.

Campground + Day Use Area 3: the campground and/or day use area would be conveniently located near the convergence of the Trans-Canada, Iron Horse, and Victoria Trails, as well as the North Saskatchewan River. Restoration of the hayfield and the addition of stacked trail loops would make this site an attractive tourist spot.

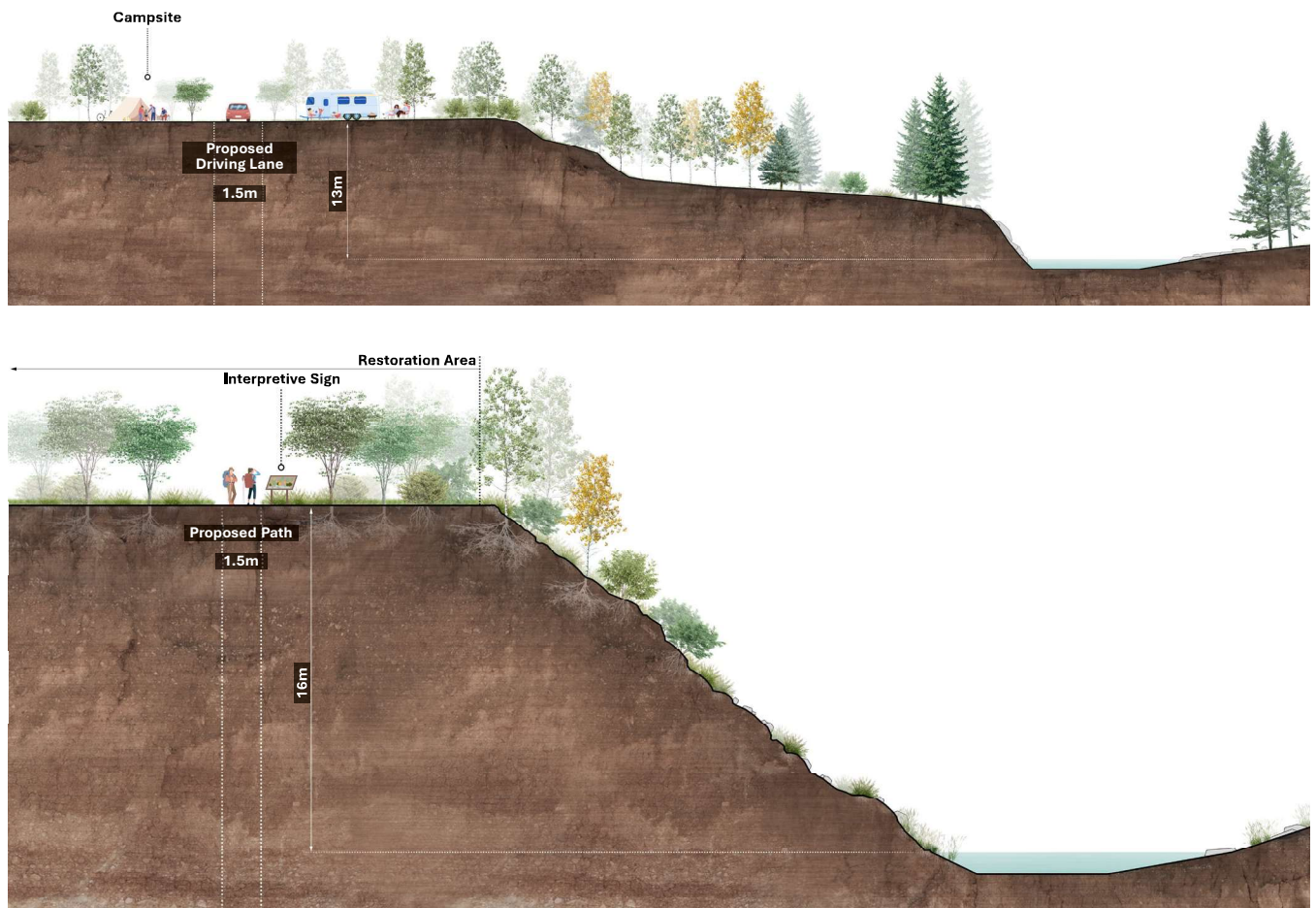


Figure 21. Trail cross-sections showing the campground area.

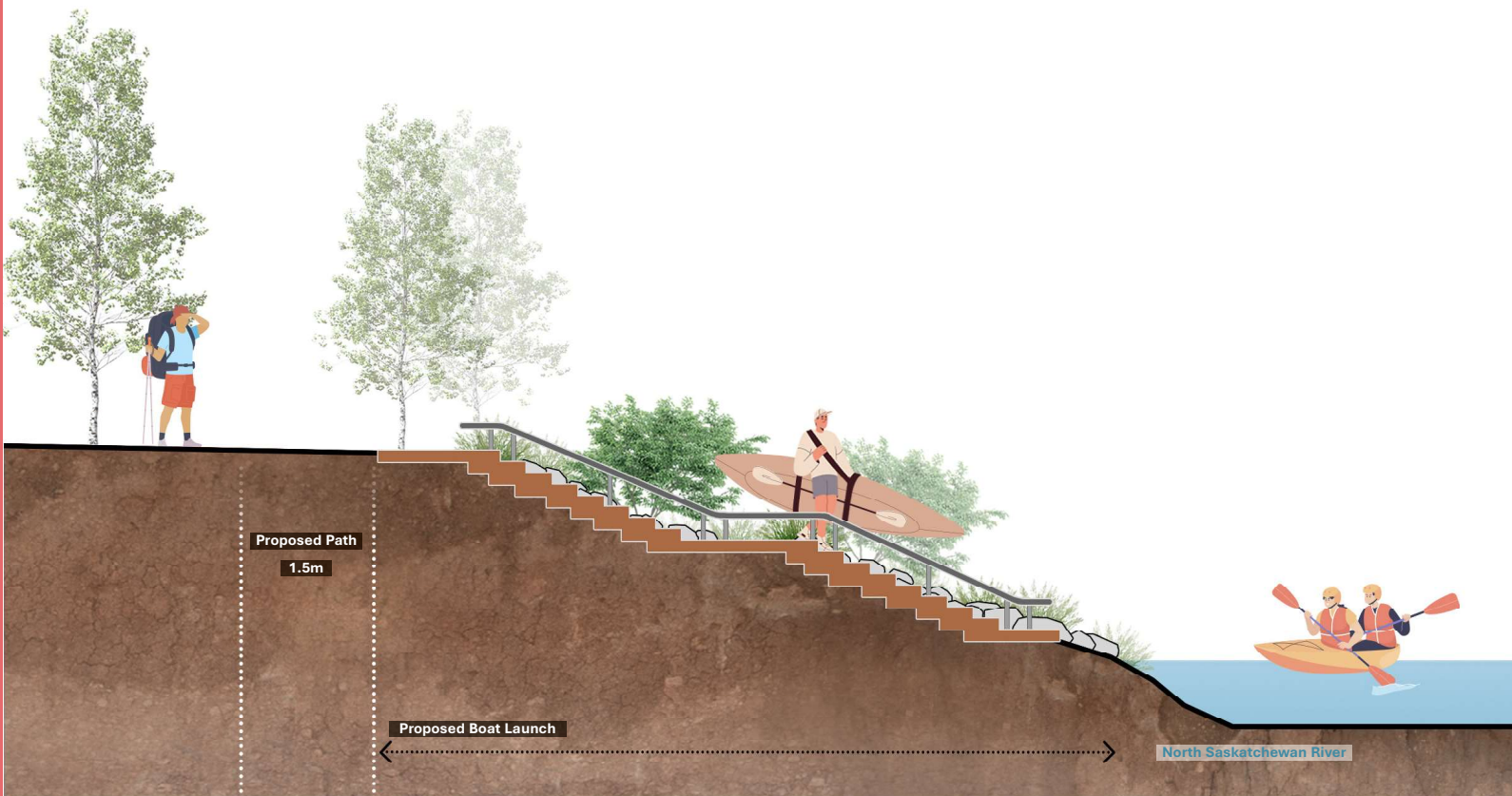


Figure 22. Cross section design concept for the boat launch.

4.4 Section D

The vision for the final section imagines a completed connection from the Village to the North Saskatchewan River. The creek corridor poses significant barriers to trail development within it, therefore completing the connection will likely require a top of bank trail that leads south from DUA 2 and connects with the Campground and DUA 3. Alternatively, a new connection to the existing Trans-Canada Trail with potential separation of the trail from the Range Road could improve the user experience on this segment of trail while facilitating the missing link between the Village and the North Saskatchewan River.

Future Trail Development Vision

4.4.1 Benefits

Economy and Tourism

- Generate tourism interest and investment in the Village of Waskatenau and Smoky Lake County

Recreation

- Created new recreational opportunities
- Distinct from what currently exists - nature-based hiking, walking, nature appreciation

Environment and Sustainability

- Improved access to nature and the North Saskatchewan River
- Provide opportunities for education and nature appreciation
- Conserve wildlife corridors and preserve sensitive habitats
- Introduce compatible, low-impact recreational uses to identified regional Environmentally Significant Areas
- Mitigate slumping and creek meandering to address safety concerns that may lead to loss of usable land in the future

4.5 Landowner and Public Engagement

To support the development of the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept, the project team connected with members of the public and landowners in the Village of Waskatenau and Smoky Lake County to ensure that the vision and implementation of the concept reflects their needs and preferences, and accounts for local recreational and cultural considerations.

Landowner and public engagement took place through three phases, described below:

- Phase 1 (Winter 2024): Draft Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept information package sent to adjacent landowners with an opportunity to provide feedback or discuss the concept with a project team member.
- Phase 2 (Spring 2024): Revised Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept developed and shared with landowners and members of the public through an online public survey and public open house.
- Phase 3 (Summer 2024): Following a further revision to the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept, an updated information package was sent to adjacent landowners with an opportunity to participate in an online landowners' meeting.

In Phase 2, Smoky Lake County sent an email to the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta, and Métis Crossing, inviting them to participate in a conversation about the project. While there were no specific meetings about the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept with local Indigenous rights holders as a result of this outreach, the County and Village should strengthen existing relationships with First Nations in the region and should continue to inform and engage them as the project progresses.

Each phase of engagement is described in further detail below and includes a summary of what we heard from landowners and members of the public.

4.5.1 Phase 1 (Winter 2024)

In Winter 2024, the project team reached out to landowners with property adjacent to the Waskatenau Creek Corridor. Adjacent landowners were engaged given the complexity of the project and varying land ownership throughout the proposed concept. Each landowner was mailed an informational package at the beginning of January 2024, which contained preliminary concept drawings of the proposed trails, day use areas, campground, boat launch, and fishpond, as well as the project vision, objectives, and intended benefits to local residents and visitors.

Landowners were invited to review the information package and connect with a contact person from Smoky Lake County to provide their feedback or ask clarifying questions. A total of X adjacent landowners participated in one-on-one interviews with County staff throughout January 2024. The

feedback in Table X below was captured during landowner interviews and was incorporated into the revised concept presented back to landowners and members of the public in Phase 2.

Table 2. Summary of Feedback from Phase 1 Landowner Interviews

Feedback	Response
Concern about negative impacts on land value	The County has indicated there is a potential for tax breaks where land is acquired by The County.
Concern about a 3-metre wide path encouraging use by ATVs, OHVs, and snowmobiles	<p>The project team reduced the trail width to no more than 1.5m in any location to ensure the use of the nature trails is limited to non-motorized use.</p> <p>Except the existing clearing to the Former Shooting Range which will be maintained for maintenance access.</p>
Concern about erosion concern created by trails	<p>The project team acknowledges erosion risks and intends to mitigate these risks with the following:</p> <p>Trails to be set back from the creek and will be limited to non-motorized use to reduce erosion concerns.</p> <p>Bridge crossings should be anchored well back from the creek, with no impact to the watercourse or bank.</p> <p>Water access areas will have significant riparian restoration to limit erosion from visitation.</p> <p>Restoration of higher risk areas will help stabilize soils.</p>
Request for river access parking	The project team acknowledges that parking is an important component for river access and will ensure parking areas will be provided near the boat launch area, adjacent to the campground.

Encourage the focus on the campground and boat launch as it is already a well-used area. Concerns were raised around potential vandalism and the need for stewardship and maintenance.

4.5.2 Phase 2 (Spring 2024)

In Spring 2024, the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept was shared with members of the public, landowners, and interest holders in the Village of Waskatenau and Smoky Lake County. There were two opportunities for residents to provide their input into the project.

- Public survey: May 8th to June 2nd
- Public open house: Wednesday, May 22nd from 3-6pm at Waskatenau Senior’s Centre

See Appendix X to read the Phase 2 What We Heard Report in full.

Public Survey

This section summarizes the responses received to the public survey for the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept. The survey received 25 responses (16 respondents completed the entire survey).

In general, survey respondents were in support of the proposed Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept. For example, 76% of respondents said they are satisfied with the proposed vision statement for the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept and 75% of respondents are satisfied with the overall concept for the Waskatenau Creek Corridor.

When asked to select the benefits of project that are most important to them, the following were selected most frequently:

- Providing opportunities for education and nature appreciation - 36% (9)
- Creating new recreational opportunities – 32% (8)
- Improving access to the North Saskatchewan

River – 32% (8)

The project team acknowledged the implications for physics and emphasized the need to ensure maintenance and oversight to prevent vandalism and impacts to infrastructure. Survey respondents were invited to review each of the four sections of the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept and indicate their satisfaction with each section.

Level of satisfaction with each section of the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept:

- 79% - Section A
- 78% - Section B
- 76% - Section D
- 72% - Section C

Several common concerns and challenges were raised across each of the four sections, which include:

- Concern about litter
- Potential for wildfires initiated by human activity in the Creek
- Possibility of vandalism

Public Open House

This section summarizes the comments and concerns expressed by members of the public, landowners and interest holders at the Public Open House held in May 2024.

Day Use Areas: In general, residents expressed positive feedback and support for recreational spaces and amenities, including the proposed boat launch, campground, fish pond, and each of the day use areas.

Boat Launch: Particularly, there was overwhelming support and excitement for the

proposed boat launch; however, there is a need to clarify language and messaging to indicate that it is only meant to be a non-motorized boat launch. Several residents were excited at the prospect of launching their motorized boats.

Picnic Areas: Residents expressed concern that the picnic areas and/or day use areas would only be accessible on foot. The project team noted that these spaces are intended to be for packed meals, rather than cookouts. There was a suggestion to limit vehicle access at day use area 1 and to envision it as a community-oriented gathering space.

Top-of-Bank Trail: There was some hesitance from landowners around the idea for the top-of-bank trail, with additional concerns around fire risk and unauthorized access to their property. However, there was support for a modified trail concept that would enable educational opportunities, nature connection, and ecological restoration. A resident suggested that there could be benefits to a motorized trail on the top of the bank, and walking trails along the creek (in the valley).

4.5.3 Phase 3 (Summer 2024)

Following Phase 2 of engagement in Spring 2024, the project team revised the concept to incorporate concerns and challenges identified by landowners and members of the public through the survey and open house. An updated information package was mailed to adjacent landowners on July 15th, 2024 inviting them to review the revised concept and participate in an online landowners' meeting.

The landowners' meeting took place virtually on July

25th, 2024 and was attended by four landowners who own property adjacent to the Waskatenau Creek. Participants discussed a variety of topics, including phasing of the project, funding sources, details about the boat launch, and more.

In particular, two participants requested that a motorized boat launch be considered, citing the distance to the nearest motorized boat launch being too far and safety concerns. Another participant suggested that a hand boat launch would be beneficial for supporting Waskatenau's vision as a tourist and recreation destination.

The majority of the conversation was centred around building connections to existing trails and upcoming projects, as well as introducing wayfinding and signage as a first step in the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept to build interest and align with other opportunities.

There was no opposition to the Waskateanu Creek Corridor Concept as a whole, and landowners' were amenable to the vision presented for the fish pond, day use areas, trail connections, campground and boat launch.



Implementation Recommendations

5. Implementation Recommendations

The following sections outline key information and recommendations for the implementation of the Waskatenau Creek Concept, including all proposed trails and amenities. An outline of some high level design considerations for the day use areas and campground provides key information and strategies for future implementation. A phasing approach is suggested as a logical progression, dependent on the amount and type of funding that can be obtained. An approach to restoration activities is provided for each DUA, as well as the campground and boat launch area. Finally, a summary of potential funding sources and partnerships is included.

Other criteria for determining priority include (Alberta Environment and Parks, 2018b):

- Public safety
- Ecological restoration needs
- Conservation and/or enhancement of natural and cultural values
- Support for educational and interpretation programs
- Funding availability and sources
- Ability to compliment parallel projects

5.1 High Level Design Considerations

Higher level design considerations have informed the proposed concept, however, further detailing of day use areas and campground should consider additional factors as outlined in the following sections.

5.1.1 Day Use Areas

The proposed DUA's are located near the Waskatenau Creek and within the Waskatenau Creek Corridor. All DUAs are proposed in formerly disturbed areas which require restoration, including at the least the clearing of existing hay fields and brome infestations.

Additional considerations include (Alberta Environment and Parks, 2018a):

- Ensure minimal ecological impacts by maintaining existing grade and drainage patterns as much as possible.
- Generally, one public toilet is required per 50 day visitors; however, due to its proximity to the village, a public toilet is not currently proposed for DUA 1.
- Due to their location in the Waskatenau Creek Corridor, DUA 1 and 2 are protected from road noise and sheltered from the wind. DUA 3 is located on a plateau, but surrounded by a protective tree barrier which will reduce noise related impacts to the user experience.
- All DUAs are located in scenic areas with views or water access to preserve the nature experience. Seating should be strategically located to take advantage of the natural features and views.
- A variety of experiences should be provided: group and individual activities, sunny and shady areas, open and enclosed areas, etc.
- Design for year round use.
- Design features that seamlessly blend with the natural environment and topographic context.
- Main gathering areas or nodes should be clear and surfaced with coarse gravel or sand.
- Limit access to hazardous areas using natural barriers.
- Design should consider the repair and

maintenance of the site and its facilities.

- Design at a human scale – consider visibility and sightlines to ensure safety.
- Picnic sites should be at least 15 metres apart.

5.1.2 Campground

The proposed campground is located on an elevated plateau between the meandering Waskatenau Creek and the North Saskatchewan River. It is accessible from Highway 813 via vehicle and from the Victoria Trail via foot or bike. Access to the North Saskatchewan will be facilitated by a hand boat launch. The proposed campground will accommodate drive in tenting and smaller RVs (maximum size to be determined in detailed design) with approximately 20 to 25 sites.

Additional design considerations include (Alberta Environment and Parks, 2018a):

- Bathroom facilities should be in a central area. A separate toilet for the parking area should be considered.
- Use a one-way loop road through the campground to minimize vehicle conflicts.
- Consider wind direction when locating fire pits.
- If possible, provide walk-in or bike-in tent sites.
- Utilize group planting as wind breaks, screening between sites, and to provide a sense of direction.
- Use native planting on site.

5.2 Development Phasing

The full concept has been broken into four phases each with related components, which are logical to complete in conjunction with one another. The order of the phasing is suggested; however, phases are not dependent on one another and could be

completed in any order in response to community or county priorities and available funding. Recommended phasing for the development of the trail concept, day use areas and campground and corresponding restoration, and the boat launch is outlined below along with some key considerations for each component.

As Sections A through C are somewhat independent of each other, the phasing of this work can be adapted to suit available resources, and to capitalize on development opportunities or collaborations with other projects. The development of each section will require that funding be secured to support detailed design work, construction budgets, and approvals processes. Where land is currently privately owned, acquisition or agreements will need to be established to ensure access. Infrastructure will also require a management and maintenance strategy to ensure accountability and oversight. This strategy may involve private businesses, collaborations with non-profit groups, or direct management by the village and/or the county.

The proposed phasing of this work may begin with Section C, the campground + boat launch, as this area provides a wholly new amenity for the region, which will benefit both village residents and visitors. Establishing this area provides the chance to gauge usage and maintenance levels and identify instances of vandalism of infrastructure before additional construction of Section A and B. Sections A and B can be constructed in parallel, or one may be prioritized over the other in response to public support, or partnership opportunities. Section D remains a lower priority and should be explored following the establishment of the creek

trail and day use areas, in response to increasing use of the trails.

1. Section C: Campground + Day Use Area 3 + Boat Launch

- a. The proposed location of the campground and day use is on privately owned land – it will be necessary to discuss options with the landowner to determine the appropriate path forward (e.g. sale of land, private operation, etc).
- b. The existing hayfield is currently in agricultural operation and accessible by farm equipment. With few or no weeds present, the restoration of this site as a first step could also act as an interim nursery for native grass species which supplies seed and sod to the other day use areas prior to conversion to a campground.
- c. Design considerations for the boat launch include design for managing and treating stormwater runoff from the parking area as well as mitigating erosion of the riverbank.

2. Section A: Village Trail Improvements + Fishpond

- a. The design of the fishpond should set the stage for natural regeneration by introducing aquatic and terrestrial vegetation that can spread out over time. The placement of woody debris (logs and stumps) can facilitate the spread of native seeds through the site.
- b. Ensure the minimum water depth can be maintained for survival of overwintering fish (minimum depth 6m or 20 ft).

3. Section B: Day Use Area 1 + Day Use Area 2 + Trail Extensions/ Loops

- a. The areas proposed for restoration and day use will require extensive removal and management of undesirable weed species. Ongoing monitoring and management will be critical to prevent and

control reoccurrences of weeds as these areas will be visited by the public who may reintroduce these species unintentionally.

4. Section D: Potential Future Trail Connection

- b. Options for connecting the village trail extension and day use areas to the North Saskatchewan River should be explored, including a separate pathway running parallel to the range road within the right-of-way.
- c. Opportunities may arise to purchase currently private lands that might facilitate a top of bank trail.

5.3 Conservation / Restoration Approach

The Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) defines ecological restoration as “the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed” (Society for Ecological Restoration International Science & Policy Working Group, 2004). In the context of the Waskatenau Creek Trail system, the restoration approach will largely revolve around invasive species management and controlling public movement to conserve or enhance the natural landscape that exists along the creek. Continued management will be required at DUAs as people create vectors for weed invasions through the creation of bare ground and transporting seed on their clothing and gear.

Another restoration approach is to manage where people stop (Day Use Areas) and access the water. These areas will also mitigate disturbances along

the creek by providing people with access to the water at controlled locations. By preserving the ecosystem, visitors will continue to enjoy the beauty along the creek for years to come.

5.3.1 Restoration Framework

“Ecological restoration, when implemented effectively and sustainably, contributes to protecting biodiversity; improving human health and wellbeing; increasing food and water security; delivering goods, services, and economic prosperity; and supporting climate change mitigation, resilience, and adaptation.

It is a solutions-based approach that engages communities, scientists, policymakers, and land managers to repair ecological damage and rebuild a healthier relationship between people and the rest of nature. When combined with conservation and sustainable use, ecological restoration is the link needed to move local, regional, and global environmental conditions from a state of continued degradation, to one of net positive improvement” (Gann et al., 2019).

*The Society of Ecological Restoration (SER)
International Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration*



Figure 23. Eight Principles Underpinning Ecological Restoration (Gann et al., 2019)

The International Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration were developed to provide a robust framework to guide projects towards achieving intended outcomes. The standards support the application of ecological restoration treatments across all geographic and ecological areas to improve biodiversity conservation outcomes for all ecosystems, secure the delivery of ecosystem services, and ensure projects are integrated with socio-cultural needs and realities (Gann et al., 2019). There are eight principles that guide ecological restoration from these standards as shown in the following figure:

The Standards provide guidance through four phases:

1. Planning and design
2. Implementation
3. Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting
4. Maintenance of restoration projects

IUCN Ecological Restoration for Protected Areas: Principles, Guidelines and Best Practices (2012)

This guide provides advice on the process of restoration within protected areas, and information on principles and best practices, including examples. These are defined as “a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature

with associated ecosystem services and cultural values” (Cairns et al., 2012). The guide is not a comprehensive restoration manual and does not provide detailed methodologies and techniques (Cairns et al., 2012).

Parks Canada Ecological Restoration Guidelines in Protected Areas (2008)

This document was developed to improve ecological integrity in Canada’s protected ecosystems by guiding policy creation and restoration practitioners (Parks Canada & Canadian Parks Council, 2008). The guidelines provide a practical framework for ecological restoration to ensure decisions are consistent, informed, and credible. The focus of this document is on the restoration of natural heritage, but it also recognizes the relationship between humans and

5.3.8 Approach

Three broad restoration approaches have been described by the SER and are provided in the following table. A combination of all three approaches is sometimes warranted. For instance, less resilient species may require reintroduction where natural regeneration is otherwise applicable, or where they may be outcompeted by more

aggressive species. A combination of approaches could also be warranted if there is a range of degradation or restoration goals across a site.

All approaches require monitoring and maintenance, including triggers to respond to activities that are not achieving the intended restoration goals, such as modifying the restoration activities or selecting a new one.

Table 3. *Typical Restoration Approaches and Strategies*
(adapted from (Gann et al., 2019)McDonald, Gann, Jonson, & Dixon, 2016))

Restoration Approach	Restoration Time Frame	Existing Level of Degradation	Potential for Regeneration Without Active Restoration	Restoration Strategies for Waskatenau Creek Corridor Trail Concept
Natural Regeneration	Long term	Low-moderate	High	Trail closure + removal of threats (human trail use, invasive species, cattle use).
Assisted Regeneration	Mid-long term	Moderate-high High	Moderate	Installing habitat features such as hollow logs, rocks, woody debris piles, and perch trees. Establish conditions suitable for natural regeneration to occur. Bioengineering to stabilize slopes and water course banks.
Restorative Activities	Short-Mid term	High	Low	Feasibility will depend on amount of effort and available funding.

the natural environment, and the need to integrate considerations relevant to the protection of cultural heritage (Parks Canada & Canadian Parks Council, 2008). The IUCN guide described above serves as a companion document (Parks Canada & Canadian Parks Council, 2008).

Natural regeneration

is when a site is left alone to naturally revegetate with seeds and other natural propagation processes from the surrounding area. Natural revegetation may occur only when the following ecological factors are met (Chazdon, 2017):(Chazdon, et al., 2017):

- Low levels of soil disturbance and compaction, and retention of topsoil;
- Proximity to remnants of the desired ecosystem that allows colonization of vegetation from dispersed seeds, root sprouts, or stem sprouts;
- Protection from fires, grazing, and extensive harvesting; and,
- Minimal presence of fire-prone grasses, ferns, woody vines and invasive species that an impede tree establishment.

Assisted regeneration

is a mix of both natural regeneration and restorative activities. This approach involves removing barriers and threats to natural regeneration, and often includes introducing native plants that can then spread naturally through the site. Small interventions to encourage seed dispersal include providing perches for seed-eating birds. To encourage tree growth, invasive grasses are removed to give soil space for tree roots to grow and prevent competition for moisture and nutrients.

Restorative activities

include moving and reshaping soil, planting, invasive species management, placement of habitat features, such as woody debris (stumps and logs) which also create microclimates. Restorative activities are intended to re-create an environment and re-introduce natural processes to the landscape. This approach can be more expensive and intensive and is often the only option when restoring sites that sustained degradation from previous intensive human use.

Detailed restoration plans will need to be

Area	Existing Level of Degradation	Significant Restoration Challenge	Proposed Restoration Approach
Fishpond	Moderate		Assisted regeneration
Day Use Area 1	High	Smooth brome control	Restorative activities
Day Use Area 2	High	Smooth brome control	Restorative activities
Campground	Moderate	Hayfield	Restorative activities
Boat Launch	Low	Construction activity	Assisted regeneration

developed that identify specific activities and prescriptions to repair each degraded area. The following sections provide an overview of the key considerations and approaches for the potential restoration work identified in the concept.

5.3.2 General Considerations

Some general considerations are applicable to all restoration work, informing the development of detailed designs for each area. These include the following:

- Reduce ecological impacts by maintaining existing grades and drainage patterns as much as possible.
- The selected plant species and seed mixes must consider the specific microsite conditions, including aspect (direction), moisture regime, and elevation. A mix of native grasses and forbs is recommended to provide habitat, attractive meadows, and maintain viewsheds.
- Include vegetation that creates habitat to support the wildlife that use the creek corridor.
- Develop an IPM (integrated pest management) plan for each site, integrating different control techniques for each targeted species and decreasing reliance on herbicides.
- A long-term IPM will be needed as human recreational use will introduce weedy species, as well as blowing in from adjacent agricultural fields.
- Reuse salvaged native soil from trail building activities instead of introducing new soil and potentially new weeds into the site.
- Save native sod from trail building activities and use to repair disturbed trail edges (sod stripping).

Source seeds and plant material well in advance of planting activities. If possible, gather native species, including seeds and woody vegetation cuttings, from the site for germination at a local nursery.

5.3.3 Fishpond

The former water reservoir is in close proximity to the village. The reservoir conditions include the following.

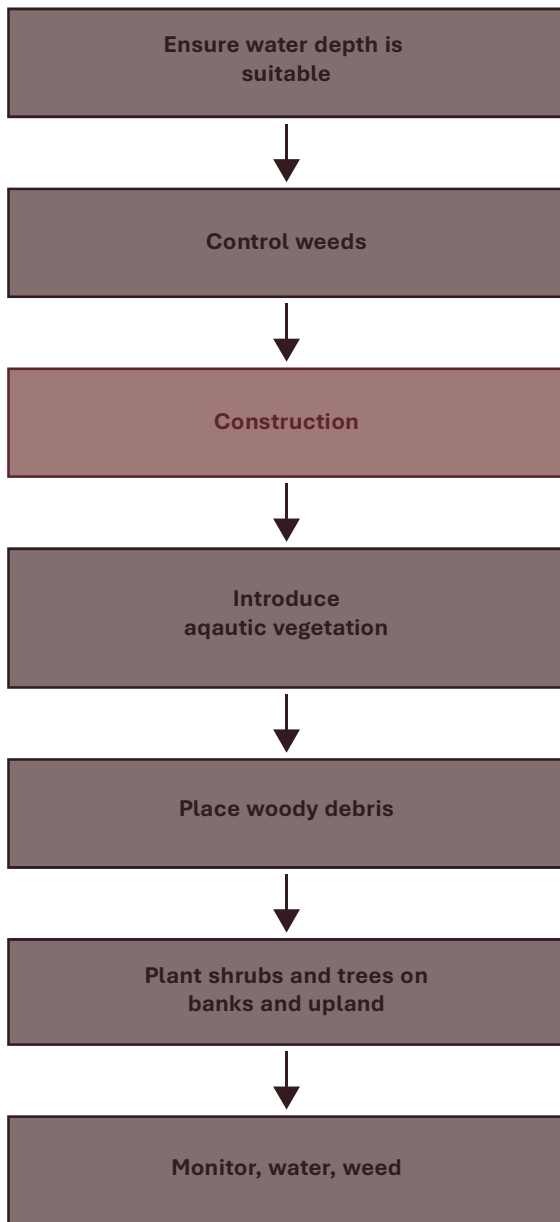
- Lack of vegetation diversity
- Potentially unstable slopes due to lack of deep-rooted vegetation
- Limited riparian buffer zone

The following are restoration considerations for establishing appropriate conditions for a fishpond:

- Ensure that water levels can be maintained at a depth necessary for winter fish survival
- Increase bank stability and reduce erosion with deep-rooted native vegetation
- Provide trees that shade a portion of the fishpond to help regulate water temperatures
- Improve water quality by introducing locally adapted or locally sourced aquatic plants and creating a riparian buffer along the shoreline.
- Provide native trees to shade parts of the perimeter trail
- Use natural barriers to direct recreational activity to take place at designated spots

Restoration Approach for the Fishpond

The proposed restoration approach is assisted



restoration. The design should set the stage for natural regeneration by introducing aquatic and terrestrial vegetation that can spread out over time. The placement of woody debris (logs and stumps) can facilitate the spread of native seeds through the site.

5.3.4 Day Use Area 1

The existing conditions at DUA 1 include the following:

- Undesirable weed species
- Smooth brome invasion

Restoration considerations for DUA 1 include the following:

- Control of smooth brome is a challenge and requires active management activities to reduce its influence. Smooth brome must be removed before revegetation activities occur to ensure success. Options for control both with and without herbicide could be considered. It is expected that native species will emerge from the seedbank once the smooth brome is controlled. However, to avoid recolonization by weedy species, assisting the establishment of native populations through seeding or planting would be beneficial.

With herbicide:

- Option 1.** The application of glyphosate is an effective control method (Slopek & Lamb, 2017). Since brome is a cool-season grass, herbicide can be applied in early spring when brome is one of the only plants growing. Apply glyphosate when brome is about 100mm (4 inches) tall. Timing is critical to avoid affecting early-spring native species. Plant or seed native species about one week

later. Herbicide application might be required in subsequent years, on the same timeline. Do not use herbicide within 30m of the creek.

Option 2. If controlled burns are an option, burn the field early in the spring and then apply glyphosate when brome reaches the boot stage (when flowering head is still enclosed within the sheath of the plant). Spread native seed to supplement the native seed bank (Grilz & Romo, 1995).

Without herbicide:

Option 3. Cut brome very low in the spring when it's in the boot stage (about 18-24 inches tall). Continue to cut an additional three times throughout the season (Sather, 1987). To exhaust the brome seedbank, repeat for an additional two years. Supplement the native seed bank if necessary, by spreading seeds or planting plugs.

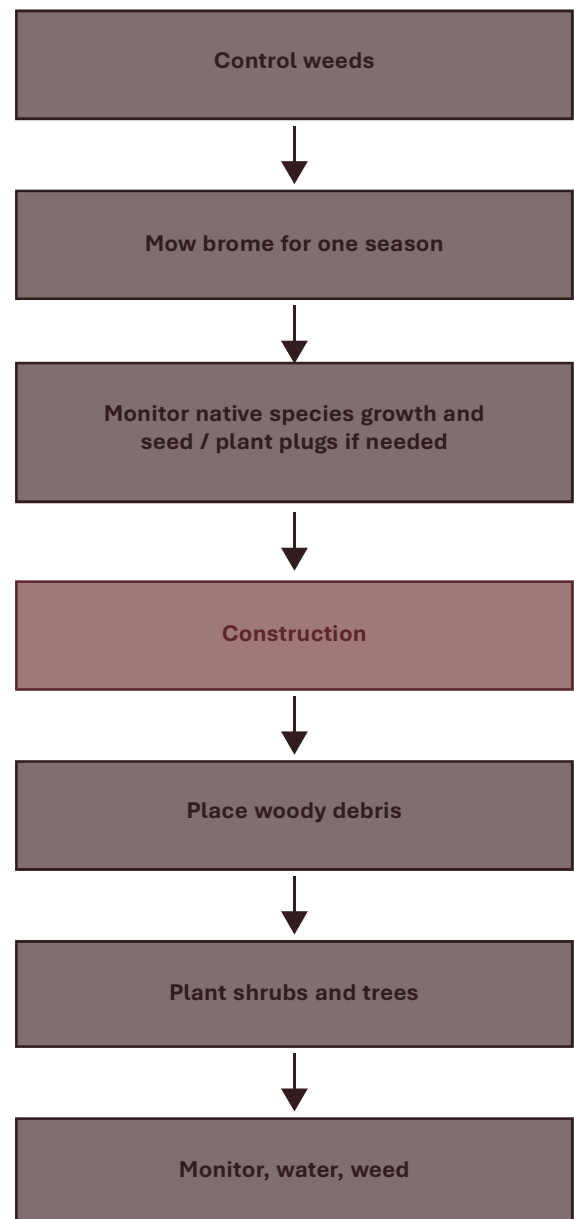
Option 4. Cut and flip the sod to dry and kill the roots. Sod will need to be dug to about 300mm (12 inches) depth to get the deeper roots. After the flipped soil is dry, cover with clear plastic to prevent airflow and solarize the soil. The plastic will increase the temperature of the soil, killing any living roots. The plastic will need to remain in place for at least one growing season.

- Since smooth brome is not classified as a weed under the Weed Control Act, pesticides are not permitted for its control within 30 metres of a water body and mechanical control will be necessary
- Provide native trees to shade picnic tables
- Protect restoration tree planting from beaver

activity (wire fencing)

- Use strategic planting to discourage water access at non-designated points
- Increase bank stability with deep-rooted native vegetation and consider bioengineering techniques

Restoration Approach for DUA 1



The proposed restoration approach is restorative activities. Existing weeds will need to be controlled, and management for new weeds will be on-going. Control of the smooth brome will require time and patience. If required after brome eradication, the existing seed bank could be supplemented with additional native species not currently present on the site.

5.3.5 Day Use Area 2

The former shooting range is located one and a half kilometers (1.5 km) from the village and is only accessible by the trail. There may be potential for vehicle access in the future through the village transfer station.

- The existing condition of this area consisted of the following:
- Smooth brome and thistle invasion occurring up to the creek's edge
- Potential historic oxbow wetland on the NW side of the clearing
- Debris from the operations of the shooting range, such as targets?

Restoration considerations for DUA 2 include the following:

- Control of smooth brome is a challenge and requires active management activities to reduce its influence. Smooth brome must be removed before revegetation activities occur to ensure success. Options for control both with and without herbicide could be considered. It is expected that native species will emerge from the seedbank once the smooth brome is controlled. However, to avoid recolonization by weedy species, assisting the establishment of native populations through seeding or planting would be beneficial.

With herbicide:

Option 1. The spot application of glyphosate is an effective control method (Slopek & Lamb, 2017). Since brome is a cool-season grass, herbicide can be applied in early spring when brome is one of the only plants growing. Apply glyphosate when brome is about 100mm (4 inches) tall. Timing is critical to avoid affecting early-spring native species. Plant or seed native species about one week later. Herbicide application might be required in subsequent years, on the same timeline. Do not use herbicide within 30m of the creek.

Option 2. If controlled burns are an option, burn the field early in the spring and then apply glyphosate when brome reaches the boot stage (when flowering head is still enclosed within the sheath of the plant). Spread native seed to supplement the native seed bank (Grilz & Romo, 1995).

Without herbicide:

Option 1. Cut brome very low in the spring when it's in the boot stage (about 18-24 inches tall). Continue to cut an additional three times throughout the season (Sather, 1987). To exhaust the brome seedbank, repeat for an additional two years. Supplement the native seed bank if necessary by spreading seeds or planting plugs.

Option 2. Cut and flip the sod to dry and kill the roots. Sod will need to be dug to about 300mm (12 inches) depth to get the deeper roots. After the flipped soil is dry, cover with clear plastic to prevent airflow and solarize the soil. The plastic

will increase the temperature of the soil, killing any living roots. The plastic will need to remain in place for at least one growing season.

- Since smooth brome is not classified as a weed under the Weed Control Act, pesticides are not permitted for its control within 30 metres of a water body and mechanical control will be necessary
- Remove all debris and treat those areas for weeds prior to undertaking restorative activities
- Protect restoration tree planting from beaver activity (wire fencing)
- Avoid disturbing the oxbow wetland by using only mechanical removal techniques (e.g., hand pulling, cutting) for invasive and weedy species removal
- Provide native trees to shade the picnic tables

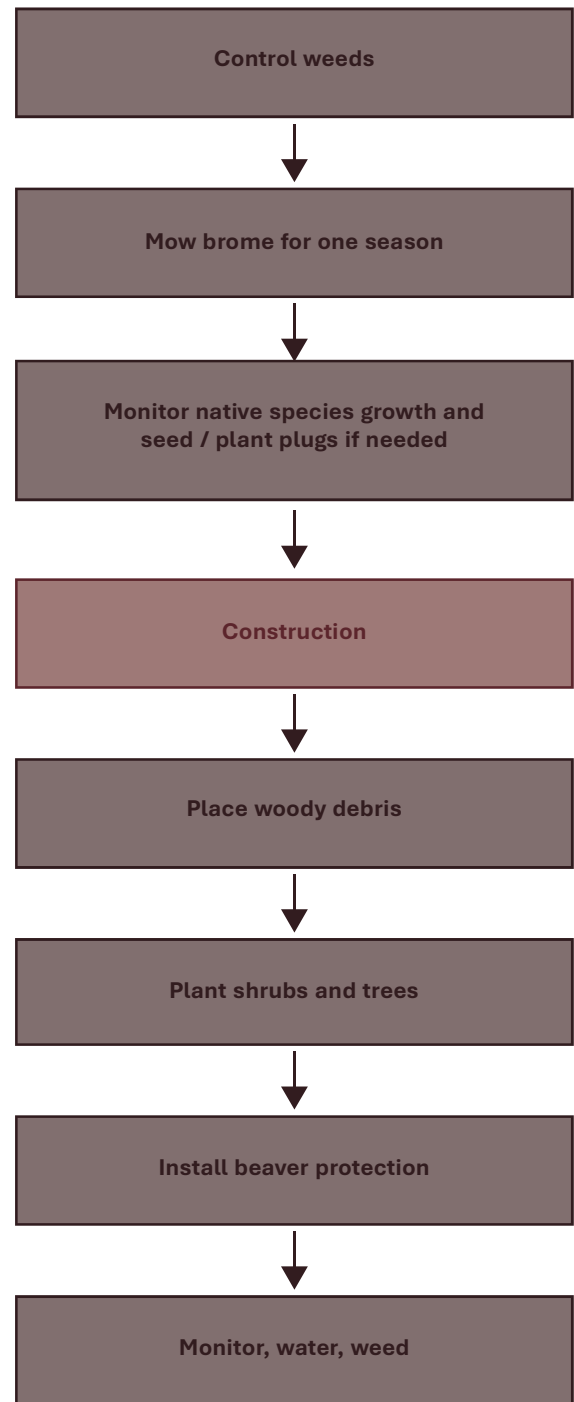
Restoration Approach for DUA 2

The proposed restoration approach is restorative activities. Control of the smooth brome will require time and patience. If required after brome eradication, the existing seed bank could be supplemented with additional native species not currently present on the site.

5.3.6 Campground

The campground would be located on the site of a currently-active hayfield that is surrounded by forest. It is close to the highway (831), the North Saskatchewan River, and Waskatenau Creek. The field provides some excellent vantage points over the creek to the north and east.

Since the hayfield is presumably free of brome and other weeds, and accessible to farm machinery, restoring it could be the first step in the restoration process. The field could become an interim native

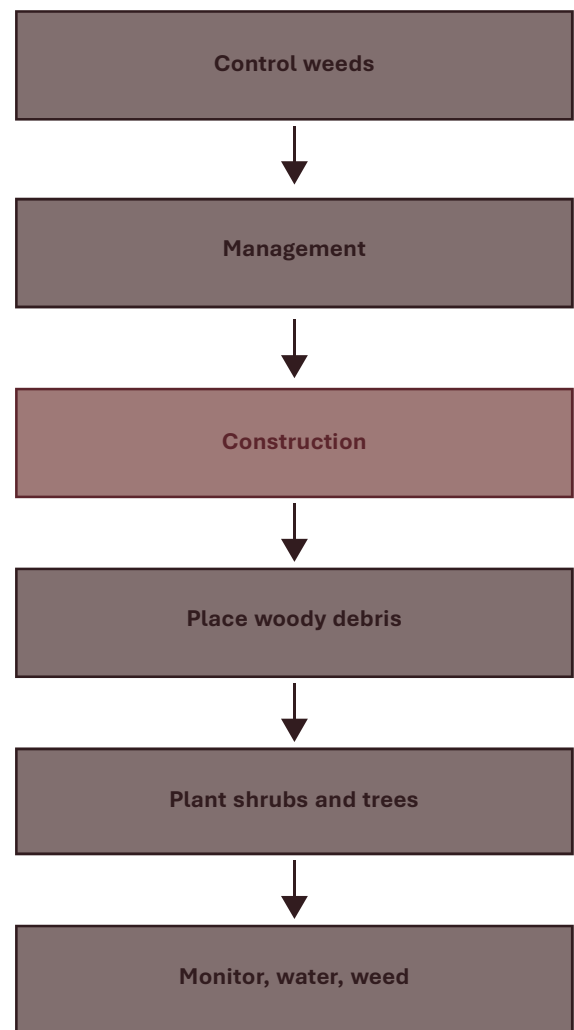


grass nursery and supply seeds and native sod to the other sites until final conversion into the campground.

Restoration considerations for the campground include the following:

Rehabilitation of hayfield to native grassland; recommended protocol to be refined based on site assessment

1. Pre-Seeding Preparation: clean up debris and fences, conduct detailed assessment of weeds, secure seed source for selected seed mixes, select cover type for final crop, weed control
2. Seedbed Preparation: ensure there will be good seed-soil contact (e.g., harrow) and decompact if necessary; control weeds
3. Seed: use a method that will accommodate a range of seed sizes; time of year will be dependent on seed mix composition; different microsite conditions (e.g., moisture, light) will require different seed mixes
4. Post-Planting Management: monitor and control weeds; monitor, evaluate, and manage native species establishment
5. Post-Establishment Management: stimulate native prairie productivity and prevent invasion of weeds and woody species
 - Pull down a small number selected trees from the surrounding forest and leave them on the ground to supply cones and seeds for natural regeneration between camp sites
 - Provide native trees to shade people using the trail
 - Plant only native species in the campground



to avoid introducing non-native seeds to the restoration area

Restoration Approach for the Campground

The proposed restoration approach is restorative activities. Weeds will need to be controlled and native species seeded into the field.

5.3.7 Boat Launch

The boat launch would be located on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River.

The existing characteristics of the site included the following:

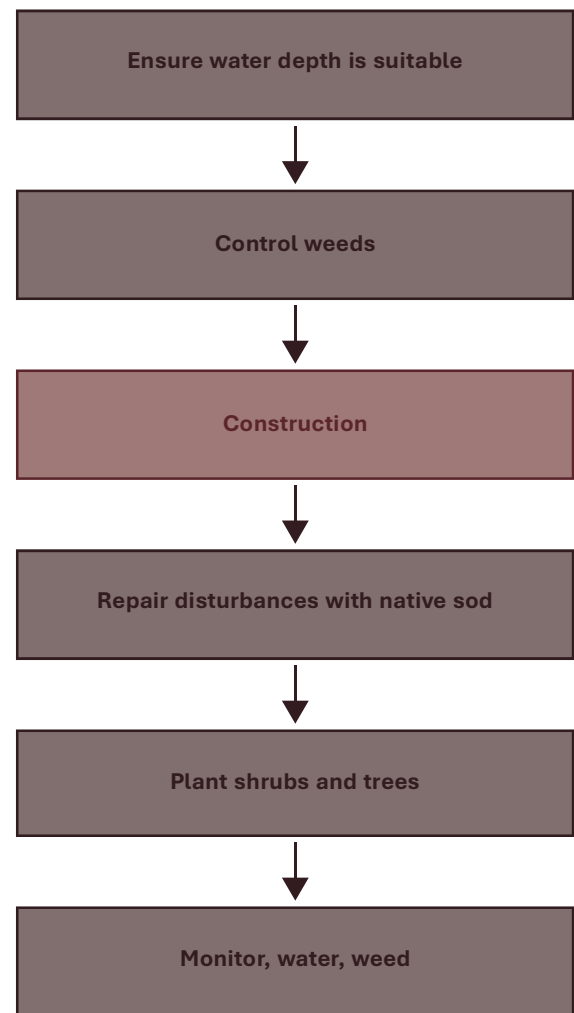
- Some weedy species
- Steep slopes

Restoration considerations for the boat launch include the following:

- Direct stormwater through vegetated areas to filter polluted water from the parking lot before it reaches the river
- Design must control stormwater to minimize erosion of the riverbanks
- Revegetate disturbed areas with deep-rooted native species to enhance bank stability. Consider bioengineering techniques in areas that are eroding.
- Save native sod from construction activities and use to repair disturbed edges (sod stripping)

Restoration Approach for the Boat Launch

The proposed restoration approach is assisted restoration. Deep-rooting native vegetation will be installed to stabilize the riverbank and prevent erosion. Native sod will be stripped and used to mitigate construction disturbance.



5.4 Preliminary Estimate of Probable Restoration Costs

The following estimated costs are high level and can be used to prepare grant applications. The unit prices were extrapolated from recent tenders and contracts for similar work and are intended to represent a probable cost, not an actual construction cost. (l.m.=lineal metre; l.s.=lump sum)

Table 4. Estimate of Probable Costs for Section A.

Section A					
Component	Description	Est. Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Total
Village Improvements	Rehabilitate erosion issues	1	l.s.	\$15,000	\$15,000
	Restoration of the weir and new creek crossing	1	l.s.	\$108,000	\$108,000
	Extension of the Nature Trail (natural tread, 1.5m width)	130	l.m.	\$25	\$3,250
Village Improvements Total					\$126,250
Fishpond restoration	Assisted terrestrial and aquatic restoration and 5 years of management	15,596	m2	\$18	\$280,728
	Trail (natural tread, 1.5m width)	650	l.m.	\$25	\$16,250
	Benches, fishing platforms	1	l.s.	\$78,000	\$78,000
	Parking lot (5 spots)	140	m2	\$50	\$7,000
	Trees	150	ea.	\$500	\$75,000
	Shrubs	600	ea.	\$65	\$39,000
Fishpond Total					\$495,978
Engineering and Design fees					\$62,223
Section A Total					\$1,321,728

Table 5. Estimate of probable restoration costs for Section B.

Section B					
Component	Description	Est. Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Total
Trail Extension	Trail (natural tread, 1.5m width)	2,000	l.m.	\$25	\$50,000
	Creek crossings	4	ea.	\$100,000	\$400,000
Trail Extension Total					\$450,000
Day Use Area 1	Central gathering area, fire pit, picnic shelter, seating areas, picnic tables	1	l.s.	\$86,000	\$86,000
	Internal trail network (natural tread, 1.5m width)	500	l.m.	\$25	\$12,500
	Restoration activities and 5 years management	18,785	m2	\$9	\$169,065
	Trees	250	ea.	\$500	\$125,000
	Shrubs	1,000	ea.	\$65	\$65,000
	Brome control option 1: spring herbicide	18,785	m2	\$8	\$140,888
	Brome control option 2: burn and herbicide	18,785	m2	\$14	\$262,990
	Brome control option 3: mowing	18,785	m2	\$30	\$563,550
	Brome control option 4: sod flip	18,785	m2	\$23	\$432,055
Day Use Area 1 Total (Includes Control Option 3)					\$1,021,115
Day Use Area 2	Creek access, picnic shelter, viewpoint, picnic tables, pit toilet	1	l.s.	\$64,000	\$64,000
	Trail loop (natural tread, 1.5m width)	400	l.m.	\$25	\$10,000
	Restoration activities and 5 years management	7,099	m2	\$9	\$63,891
	Trees	400	ea.	\$500	\$200,000
	Shrubs	1,200	ea.	\$65	\$78,000
	Brome control option 1: spring herbicide	7,099	m2	\$8	\$53,243
	Brome control option 2: burn and herbicide	7,099	m2	\$14	\$99,386
	Brome control option 3: mowing	7,099	m2	\$30	\$212,970
Brome control option 4: sod flip	7,099	m2	\$23	\$163,277	
Day Use Area 2 Total (Includes Control Option 3)					\$1,480,741
Engineering and Design fees					\$295,186
Section B Total					\$3,632,446

Table 6. Estimate of Probable Costs for Section C

Section C					
Component	Description	Est. Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Total
Trail Extension	Trail connection to Victoria Trail (natural tread, 1.5m width)	300	m2	\$25	\$7,500
Trail Extension Total					\$7,500
Nursery	Restoration nursery and 5 years management	20,860	m2	\$28	\$584,080
Restoration Nursery Total					\$584,080
Campground	Campsites, parking lot, picnic tables, pit toilets	1	l.s.	\$1,060,000	\$1,060,000
	Trees	100	ea.	\$500	\$50,000
	Shrubs	400	ea.	\$65	\$26,000
Campground Total					\$728,000
Day Use Area 3	Viewpoints, interpretive signs	1	l.s.	\$21,000	\$21,000
	Trail (natural tread, 1.5m width)	1,000	l.m.	\$25	\$25,000
	Trees	400	ea.	\$500	\$200,000
	Shrubs	1,200	ea.	\$65	\$78,000
Day Use Area 3 Total					\$381,000
Boat Launch	Hand boat launch	30	m2	\$1,000	\$30,000
	Assisted restoration and 5 years of management	250	m2	\$9	\$2,263
	Shrubs	500	ea.	\$75	\$37,500
Boat Launch Total					\$69,763
Engineering and Design fees					\$171,734
Section C Total					\$1,889,077

5.5 Potential Funding Sources

The following table summarizes potential collaborative and funding opportunities to leverage potentially overlapping objectives, projects, and programs which may help support and fund capital improvements and operational capacity as it relates to the Waskatenau Creek Corridor trail network and amenities. Some funding is available to municipalities to support capital and operational costs related to community amenities and public infrastructure, while other sources are available to non-profit or Indigenous groups. Establishing key relationships with environmental, recreational, or tourism related non-profits, as well as Indigenous communities, opens the door to funding to create and maintain the Waskatenau Creek Corridor amenities proposed in this report. Additionally, the inclusion of Indigenous groups in the planning and design of the trail network and amenities is an important step toward reconciliation and commemoration of the Bear's Ears Reserve, as well as relationship building with local Indigenous communities.

Category	Name	Overview	Dates	Applies to	Criteria	Links
Community	Canada Community-Building Fund	Municipalities can apply for funding for projects to build and revitalize public infrastructure.	Online application open any time	Municipalities	Capital costs	CCBF – Resources Alberta.ca Canada Community-Building Fund Program Guidelines (alberta.ca)
Community	Local Government Fiscal Framework - Capital Funding	Legislated infrastructure funding program for local governments in Alberta.	Submit application anytime online	Municipalities	Capital costs	Local Government Fiscal Framework – Capital funding Alberta.ca Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital Program Guidelines (alberta.ca)
Community	Local Government Fiscal Framework - Operating Funding	Funding for local governments to support the municipal services Albertans need.	Applications not required	Municipalities	Operating activities	Local Government Fiscal Framework – Operating funding Alberta.ca LGFF Operating Program Guidelines (alberta.ca)
Community	Alberta Community Partnership	This program helps municipalities by providing support for regional collaboration and capacity building initiatives.	Submission deadlines: Municipal Internship October 1 Intermunicipal Collaboration October 1 Municipal Restructuring January 15 Mediation and Cooperative Processes & Strategic Initiatives February 3	Municipalities	Services, capacity, collaborative activities	Alberta Community Partnership Alberta.ca
Community	Alberta Community Partnership	This program helps municipalities by providing support for regional collaboration and capacity building initiatives.	Submission deadlines: Municipal Internship October 1 Intermunicipal Collaboration October 1 Municipal Restructuring January 15 Mediation and Cooperative Processes & Strategic Initiatives February 3	Municipalities	Services, capacity, collaborative activities	Alberta Community Partnership Alberta.ca 2024-25 Alberta Community Partnership Program Guidelines
Culture	Historic Resource Conservation Grants	Apply for funding to conserve historic places.	Annual deadline is first working day of February	Municipalities	Conservation work or studies and professional services for historic conservation	Historic resource conservation grants Alberta.ca
Environment	Drought and Flood Protection Program	Municipalities and Indigenous communities can apply for funding to help build drought and flood protection projects.	Available in Fall 2024	Municipalities	Drought resilience; design and construction projects	Drought and Flood Protection Program Alberta.ca
Environment	Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program	Apply for funding for projects that enhance watershed resiliency to floods and droughts.	Annual deadline September 15	Municipalities	Restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity and function in critical areas	Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program Alberta.ca

Environment	Rangeland Sustainability Program	Organizations can apply for grant funding for projects promoting the conservation and long-term sustainability of Alberta's rangelands.	Annual application deadline in fall	Municipalities	Extension and education Research Stewardship	Rangeland Sustainability Program Alberta.ca
Environment	Wetland Replacement Program	Municipalities and non-profits can apply for funding to construct or restore wetlands.	Applications accepted year-round	Municipalities	Wetland restoration Wetland construction	Wetland Replacement Program Alberta.ca
Recreation	Alberta's Public Land Trails Grant Program	Apply for funding for projects to enhance public land recreation opportunities.	Application deadline January 7	Municipalities	Maintenance/ Monitoring/ Repairs/ Rehabilitation	Alberta's Public Land Trails Grant Program Alberta.ca
Environment	Ducks Unlimited Wetland Restoration	Restoration programs are focused on restoring naturally occurring water levels of drained and altered wetlands. These projects are combined with other programs such as conservation easements and forage conversion to maximize the benefits of your land. By partnering with us to restore your wetlands, not only will you receive expert technical assistance, but in some regions, project funding and compensation may also be available. Contact one of our regional conservation specialists for details on restoration programs in your area.	n/a	Landowners	n/a	Wetland Restoration — Ducks Unlimited Canada
Environment	Ducks Unlimited Wetland Restoration Lease Program	Under this program, Ducks Unlimited Canada pays landowners current fair market value to restore previously drained wetland areas under a 10-year lease. The restored area remains under the management of the landowner and can be hayed or grazed but not drained, altered or tilled during the term of the agreement. Landowners receive compensation from us for this restriction which could be used by farmers to support new land purchases. The lease program is a very good fit for cattle producers who have drained wetlands on grazing lands. Contact us for details on programs in your area.	n/a	Landowners	n/a	Wetland Restoration Lease Program — Ducks Unlimited Canada
Environment	Nature Conservancy of Canada - Conservation Agreement	A conservation agreement is a contract between a landowner and conservation organization like the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). The landowner agrees to limit some uses of a piece of land to protect its natural features and the species that live there. In return, the landowner is paid or receipted for placing the agreement on their land. NCC monitors the land in question to ensure the agreement is being respected. A conservation agreement limits or restricts mutually agreed to activities on the land. Each agreement is different. Each one is created to fit the specific property and its special features, as well as the wishes of the landowner.	n/a	Landowners	n/a	NCC: Conservation Agreement (natureconservancy.ca)

Environment	Ecological Gifts Program	Ecological Gifts Program Canada's Ecological Gifts Program provides a way for Canadians with ecologically sensitive land to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations. Made possible by the terms of the Income Tax Act of Canada and the Quebec Taxation Act, it offers significant tax benefits to landowners who donate land or a partial interest in land to a qualified recipient. Recipients ensure that the land's biodiversity and environmental heritage are conserved in perpetuity.	n/a	Landowners	n/a	Ecological Gifts Program: overview - Canada.ca
Environment	Alberta Land Trust Grant Program	Land Trusts can apply for funding to conserve ecologically important areas to prevent habitat fragmentation, maintain biodiversity and preserve native landscapes.	15-Sep	Land Trust	n/a	Alberta Land Trust Grant Program Alberta.ca
Community	Community Facility Enhancement Program - Small	Financial assistance up to \$125,000 to upgrade, expand, purchase or build public-use community facilities.	Annual intake January 15, May 15, and September 15	Non-profit, Indigenous Communities	Capital grant	Community Facility Enhancement Program - Small Alberta.ca
Community	Community Facility Enhancement Program - Large	Financial assistance over \$125,000 to \$1 million to upgrade, expand, purchase or build public-use community facilities.	Expression of Interest deadline May 15 2025; applications by June 15	Non-profit, Indigenous Communities	Capital grant	Community Facility Enhancement Program - Large Alberta.ca
Community	Community Initiatives Program - Project based	This program provides funding to new community-based programs, initiatives, events and publications.	Annual intake January 15, May 15, and September 15	Non-profit, Indigenous Communities	Non-capital grant	CIP Project-Based grant Alberta.ca
Community	Community Initiatives Program - Operating grant	This grant provides funding of ongoing core operations for non-profit organizations that address social issues.	Annual application deadlines January 30 and July 15	Non-profit, Indigenous Communities	Non-capital grant	CIP Operating grant Alberta.ca
Community	Other Initiatives Program	This program provides funding for community projects that fall outside the scope of other Community Grants programs.	Application deadlines ongoing	Non-profit, Indigenous Communities	One-time events or projects	https://www.alberta.ca/other-initiatives-program Other Initiatives Program Guidelines alberta.ca
Community	Enhanced Capacity Advancement Program	This program provides funding for up to 3 years to Alberta-based capacity building non-profit organizations.	Multi-year funding cycle intake anticipated for Fall 2025	Non-profit	Operational funding	Enhanced Capacity Advancement Program Alberta.ca
Tourism	Travel Alberta Growth Fund Purchase, build or renovate permanent tourism infrastructure.	Purchase, build or renovate permanent tourism infrastructure.	Expression of Interest period February to March	Tourism businesses	Creating or enhancing purchasable tourism experiences Promoting sustainability Professional support	Growth Fund Travel Alberta

Tourism	Travel Alberta Innovation Fund	Develop and diversify assets*, programs and experiences of existing operators.	Expression of Interest period February to March	Tourism businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase costs for equipment Specialized equipment for diverse market Seasonal temporary or moveable structures Permits and licensing expenses Testing new experiences Developing interpretive programs Content development 	Innovation Fund Travel Alberta
Tourism	Travel Alberta Incubator Fund	Support new and emerging tourism businesses.	Expression of Interest period February to March	Tourism businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating of enhancing purchasable tourism experiences Promotion activities Testing new experiences Developing interpretive programs Business development services Content development Development of online business platforms Tourism membership fees 	Incubator Fund Travel Alberta

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Maintenance and Management Recommendations

6. Maintenance and Management Recommendations

The following sections outline recommendations for the types of visitor experience that may be cultivated with the proposed Waskatenau Creek Corridor concept, considerations for maintenance of proposed trails and amenities, as suggestions for partnerships and stewardship opportunities with neighbouring educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and First Nations communities.

6.1 Visitor Experience

Visitor use of the proposed trail network and day use areas would support the following potential uses:

Village gatherings and recreation

The proposed concept will have direct benefits to the village community, providing new recreational resources and destinations to residents, improving access to the North Saskatchewan River, and expanding the existing nature trail system to allow more people to experience the beauty of Waskatenau Creek. The day use areas provide an important destination for picnicking, performance, and interaction in a beautiful and serene setting.

The boat launch will provide an important new recreational activity for the village, coupled with the increased development of Pine Creek resort, allowing for river float day trips that may be supported through a shuttle service. Recreational fishing access to the river will be improved, providing additional opportunities for village residents.

Access across the weir to fishpond itself will also provide a new amenity for the village within walking distance. This improvement will expand use of the

village's existing nature trail system, and provide a new recreational destination for the community. This high point of land also provides a beautiful vista looking down into the creek and the village beyond.

Indigenous use

Given the long connection of First Nations and Metis to Waskatenau Creek, this project provides the opportunity to foster reconciliation through improved access to the area, supporting traditional uses and gatherings through the day use areas. For example, a central fire pit could provide an important space in which to celebrate the rich history of this area, and the people it connects. Further outreach and collaboration with the region's First Nations and Metis communities will be needed to explore these opportunities, to ensure that detailed design provides what is needed to support use, and to promote the idea throughout the community.

Nature interpretation

The improved connection into Creek from the village fosters a greater understanding of the region's ecosystems through interpretive signage and educational programs. Collaborations with Universities may identify research opportunities and help to craft a narrative of the natural functions provided by the Creek. The improved access and day use areas can serve as destinations for school day trips, allowing children to appreciate the unique habitats of the creek. Interpretive signage is an important aspect, to ensure that visitors understand the unique conditions of the creek, promote sustainable practices, and minimize damage through misuse of the space. Wayfinding from the village can help people understand what recreational amenities are available, as well as promote the day use areas to visitors. Similarly, signage at the campground will help people understand the creek and the broader region as they travel along the Trans Canada Trail, as well as those visiting the area to access the boat launch.

Tourism

Through the establishment of the boat launch, improved connections to the Trans Canada, Iron Horse, and Victoria Trails, and development of Waskatenau Creek day use areas and fishpond, this project has the potential to increase the regional attraction of the Waskatenau area. Recreational fishing access to the river will be improved, providing additional opportunities, which when coupled with the fishpond could increase fishing activities significantly. Commercial fishing supplies and guided operations may further promote the location.

The development of village as a staging area for the the Iron Horse and Trans Canada Trails are an important opportunity to increase the prominence of the region as a tourism destination. Wayfinding signage that connects the village with these trail systems is an important short-term implementation item, coupled with campground development and trail construction.

The boat launch will likely see significant use across the region, as it provides a new example of an extremely limited recreational resource. This will serve as a launching point for multiday river trips downstream (which may require promotion and development of guided operations and other resources to help support this activity).

The campground will enable more multiday trips along the Trans Canada Trail and serve as a staging area for river use both up and downstream. Integration with the Victoria Trail and surrounding destinations such as Pine Creek will help to increase the regional draw of this area, providing opportunities for guiding, interpretive tours, and multiday vacations.

Heritage interpretation

The long history of First Nations homelands through this area, coupled with the more recent history of the Victoria District, provide an important attractive

draw for the region. Collaborative opportunities with the surrounding First Nations communities should be explored to ensure appropriate messaging and collaborative development. Similarly, alignment with the Victoria District's heritage strategy can help to place the Creek area in context.

6.2 Maintenance

Maintenance of the trail, signage, and day use infrastructure is likely to be an ongoing concern, especially in the early stages prior to widespread use and interest in the area. It is critical to establish custodial / stewardship roles that will lead to oversight and investment in the success of the new areas. The initial creation of the boat launch and campground will help gauge interest and use of the area, as well as a chance to monitor for problems such as vandalism, prior to investing in day use area and trail development and maintenance. Ongoing maintenance of trails and amenities will require operational funding or volunteer efforts through stewardship partnerships.

6.3 Partnerships and Stewardship

Partnerships will be essential to the success of this project. Establishing a regional attractive draw of visitors will help improve economic opportunities, help to highlight and promote the region's history, and develop tourism opportunities that can contribute to the development of the area in many ways. This will take time, and that process of establishing relationships will undoubtedly help identify new opportunities that have not been imagined.

Ongoing dialog will help to promote the stewardship of this area and foster a shared effort that will benefit the broader community.

Key partners may include:

Stewardship Groups

- Community volunteers
- School volunteers
- Alberta's Iron Horse Trail – volunteer trail stewards
- National Trail Youth Employment Program

Tourism Partnerships

- Alberta's Iron Horse Trail
- Trans Canada Trail
- Alberta Trailnet Society
- Pine Creek – guided sightseeing

County Partnerships

- Educational school trips from surrounding region

First Nations Partnerships

These projects could contribute to the livelihoods of Cree and Metis communities, as well as providing opportunities to return to lands of traditional use. These partnerships will take time to establish and should not be rushed. It is important to make sure that trust is gained before pressuring for firm collaborative agreements. We recommend that initial outreach take place as soon as possible, to allow everyone to get to know each other, and identify opportunities that can be mutually beneficial.

- Educational Institutions

- » Blue Quills University – offers the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Training Program (CEMT) in the Department of Science, providing accredited training in environmental monitoring with an emphasis on Indigenous knowledge. Opportunities exist to foster relationships with this program for ongoing environmental monitoring of restoration work and for the incorporation of traditional knowledge into stewardship of the Waskatenau Creek Corridor.
- » Metis Crossing is a cultural gathering centre which provides a unique Indigenous tourism experience. It is located downstream of the Waskatenau Creek Corridor along the North Saskatchewan River.

Treaty 6 First Nations

- » Saddle Lake Cree Nation has members directly descendant of Chief Muskegawatic.
- » Whitefish/ Goodfish Cree Nation has members directly descendant of Chief Pakan.

Metis Nation of Alberta – noted Metis interest holders may be connected to descendants of the Metis who occupied the Victoria Settlement.

- » Kikino Metis Settlement is in close proximity to the proposed project.
- » Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement is in close proximity to the proposed project.

Conservation Partnerships

Partnerships with the Nature Conservancy or Ducks Unlimited can be established alongside conservation easement agreements, providing an opportunity to draw on these groups interpretive and stewardship expertise.

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Appendices

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix A: References

- Alberta Environment and Parks. (2018a). *Castle Development Plan: Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park*.
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7.2 **Appendix B: Public Engagement**

7.2.1 **Phase 2 What We Heard Report**

Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept

Phase 2: Engagement Summary

June 2024

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1.0 Introduction

Smoky Lake County is embarking on a joint project to improve connectivity between the Village of Waskatenau, the County, and the North Saskatchewan River to facilitate recreational opportunities for villagers and visitors. The Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept is a bold vision to improve the area through improved recreational access, increased tourism potential, and improved ecological function.

1.1 Purpose

The Waskatenau Creek Corridor was identified as a key landscape linkage, both recreationally and ecologically. The proposed trail concept is intended to:

- Improve connectivity between the Village of Waskatenau, The County, and the North Saskatchewan River
- Facilitate recreational opportunities for villagers and visitors
- Function as a key wildlife corridor

1.2 Objectives

Dual recreational and ecological values present an opportunity to improve recreational use and ecological function.

- **Tourism development:** The proximity to the major regional trails in the Iron Horse Trail, the Trans-Canada Trail, and the historic Victoria Trail also presents an opportunity to add amenities for tourism development of these regional connections.
- **Nature-oriented experiences:** Completing a trail connection between the Village and the North Saskatchewan River would offer a different, more nature-oriented experience to both residents and visitors using the regional trail network.

1.3 Engagement Overview

In spring 2024, the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept was shared with members of the public, landowners, and interest holders. There were two opportunities for residents to provide their input into the project.

- **Public survey:** May 8th to June 2nd
- **Public open house:** Wednesday, May 22nd from 3-6pm at Waskatenau Senior's Centre

2.0 Public Survey Summary

This section summarizes the responses received to the public survey for the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept. The survey was available to the public from May 8th to June 2nd, 2024 and received 25 responses. Only 16 respondents completed the entire survey.

2.1 Satisfaction with Vision Statement

The vision statement for the project, which was generated through conversations with land owners, interest holders, County and Village staff, was presented to survey respondents.

76% of respondents said they are satisfied with the proposed vision statement for the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept.

Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept Vision Statement:

“The Waskatenau Creek Corridor provides a connection between the Village, County, and North Saskatchewan River, facilitating recreational opportunities for villagers and visitors, while maintaining important connections to indigenous culture and wildlife movement through the region.”

2.2 Corridor Benefits

Survey respondents were asked to select the two benefits of the Waskatenau Creek Corridor that are most important to them:

- Providing opportunities for education and nature appreciation - 36% (9)
- Creating new recreational opportunities – 32% (8)
- Improving access to the North Saskatchewan River – 32% (8)
- Generating tourism interest and investment – 28% (7)
- Mitigating risk of slumping and erosion that may lead to loss of usable land in the future – 16% (4)
- Other - 16% (4)
 - Boat launch (2)
 - Not in favour of project – fire risk and ATV use (1)
 - None of the above (1)
- Conserving wildlife corridors and Environmentally Significant Areas – 12% (3)

2.3 Corridor Section A

Survey respondents were shown the concept and recommendations for Corridor Section A, which includes Village Trail Improvements, Weir Restoration, Fishpond Restoration, and Day Use Area 1, then asked to respond to several questions.

Satisfaction with Section A

79% of respondents are satisfied with the recommendations for Section A of the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept.

Amenities and Facilities for Section A

Amenities or facilities that would enhance experiences at Day Use Area 1:

- Picnic tables / seating (4)
- Washrooms (3)
- Garbage cans (including bear proof) (2)
- No fire pits (2)
- Trails (2)
- Boat launch (1)
- Fire pit (1)
- Cook shack (1)
- Picnic area (1)
- Visitor centre (1)
- Informational signage (1)
- Parking lot (1)
- ATV loading area (1)

One respondent made a specific recommendation about the location of the trail:

“Continue the town trail under the railway bridge along the west side of the creek rather than along the road way to day use area 1”

Concerns and Challenges for Section A

Biggest concerns or challenges for Section A:

- Litter (5)
- Wildfires (3)
- Vandalism (2)
- Drownings (1)
- Attracting bears / wildlife interactions (1)
- Access through private property (1)
- Cost (1)
- Attracting visitors (1)
- Use of ATVs (1)
- Pond access (1)

- Parking (1)
- Signage (1)
- Emergency services access (1)

2.4 Corridor Section B

Survey respondents were shown the concept and recommendations for Corridor Section B, which includes Village Trail Extension and Day Use Area 2, then asked to respond to several questions.

Satisfaction with Section B

78% of respondents are satisfied with the recommendations for Section B of the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept.

Amenities and Facilities for Section B

Amenities or facilities that would enhance experiences at Day Use Area 2:

- Picnic tables / seating (2)
- Washrooms (2)
- Garbage cans (1)
- Informational signage (1)
- Access to creek (1)
- No fire pits (1)

Concerns and Challenges for Section B

Biggest concerns or challenges for Section B:

- Litter (3)
- Wildfires (2)
- Drownings (1)
- Vandalism (1)
- Use of ATVs (1)
- Emergency service access (1)
- Maintenance (1)
- Monitoring usage (1)

One respondent made a specific recommendation about the location of the trail:

“Continue the trail in the valley along the creek to the old shooting range and at that point either come out of the valley on the existing trail to the dump or continue along the creek.”

2.5 Corridor Section C

Survey respondents were shown the concept and recommendations for Corridor Section C, which includes a Bridge Crossing and Top of Bank Trail, then asked to respond to several questions.

Satisfaction with Section C

72% of respondents are satisfied with the recommendations for Section C of the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept.

Concerns and Challenges for Section C

Biggest concerns or challenges for Section C:

- Construction (1)
- Landowner rights (1)
- Trespassing on private property (1)
- Prevention of erosion (1)
- Safety (1)
- Areas for rest (1)
- Vandalism (1)
- Flooding (1)
- Monitoring (1)
- ATV use (1)
- Cost of fire or flooding (1)
- Access for emergency services (1)
- Enough usage to justify maintenance (1)

2.6 Corridor Section D

Survey respondents were shown the concept and recommendations for Corridor Section D, which includes a Boat Launch, Campground and Day Use Area 3, then asked to respond to several questions.

Satisfaction with Section D

76% of respondents are satisfied with the recommendations for Section D of the Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept.

Amenities and Facilities for Section D

Amenities or facilities that would enhance experiences at Day Use Area 3:

- Boat launch (2)
- Parking (2)
- Informational signage (1)
- Campground (1)

Amenities or facilities that would enhance experiences at the potential campground or boat launch:

- Boat launch (2)
 - Concrete boat launch (1)
 - Fuel for jet boats (1)
- Fire pits with grate (1)
- Adequate parking, including for trailers (1)
- Litter (2)
- Maintenance (1)
- Tent camping / non-electric sites (1)
- Power (1)
- Swimming area (1)

Concerns and Challenges for Section D

Biggest concerns or challenges for Section D:

- Wildfire response (1)
- Access to campground for emergency services (1)
- Parking (1)
- Use of area for partying (1)
- Commercialization of Victoria Trail (1)
- Wildfires (1)
- Litter (1)
- Loss of use and enjoyment for locals (1)
- Maintenance (1)

Additionally, one respondent recommended building Section D as a pilot to ensure the project's success and public reaction, as well as to confirm that maintenance and proper usage is achievable prior to expanding the trail north.

2.7 Overall Concept

After reviewing the concepts and recommendations for each of the four sections, survey respondents were asked to share their feedback on the overall concept for the Waskatenau Creek Corridor.

Satisfaction with the Overall Concept

75% of respondents are satisfied with the overall concept for the Waskatenau Creek Corridor.

Additional thoughts on the overall concept:

- Construct the boat launch first (2)
- Build the river section first (1)
- Would like to see this happen (2)
- Concern about cost and who will pay for project (1)
- Priorities should include preservation, enhancement, appreciation, education (1)

3.0 Open House Summary

A public open house was held Wednesday, May 22nd from 3-6pm at Waskatenau Senior's Centre to present the draft Waskatenau Creek Corridor Concept. This section summarizes the comments and concerns expressed by members of the public, landowners and interest holders.

Day Use Areas

In general, residents expressed positive feedback and support for recreational spaces and amenities, including the proposed boat launch, campground, fish pond, and each of the day use areas.

Boat Launch

Particularly, there was overwhelming support and excitement for the proposed boat launch; however, there is a need to clarify language and messaging to indicate that it is only meant to be a non-motorized boat launch. Several residents were excited at the prospect of launching their motorized boats.

Picnic Areas

Residents expressed concern that the picnic areas and/or day use areas would only be accessible on foot. The project team noted that these spaces are intended to be for packed meals, rather than cookouts.

There was a suggestion to limit vehicle access at day use area 1 and to envision it as a community-oriented gathering space.

Top-of-Bank Trail

There was some hesitance from landowners around the idea for the top-of-bank trail, with additional concerns and feedback from residents that this would not be an amenity they envision themselves using in the future.

However, there was support for a modified trail concept that would enable educational opportunities, nature connection, and ecological restoration. A resident suggested that there could be benefits to a motorized trail on the top of the bank, and walking trails along the creek (in the valley).

Additional Comments

- There is a desire to track visitation and usage to ensure the trails and day use areas are properly maintained.
- There is concern about fire risk, including wildfires.
- Motorized access on trails is not preferred by some.

Resident Questions

Throughout the open house, residents asked the following questions, which should be considered and clarified in future concepts and communication materials:

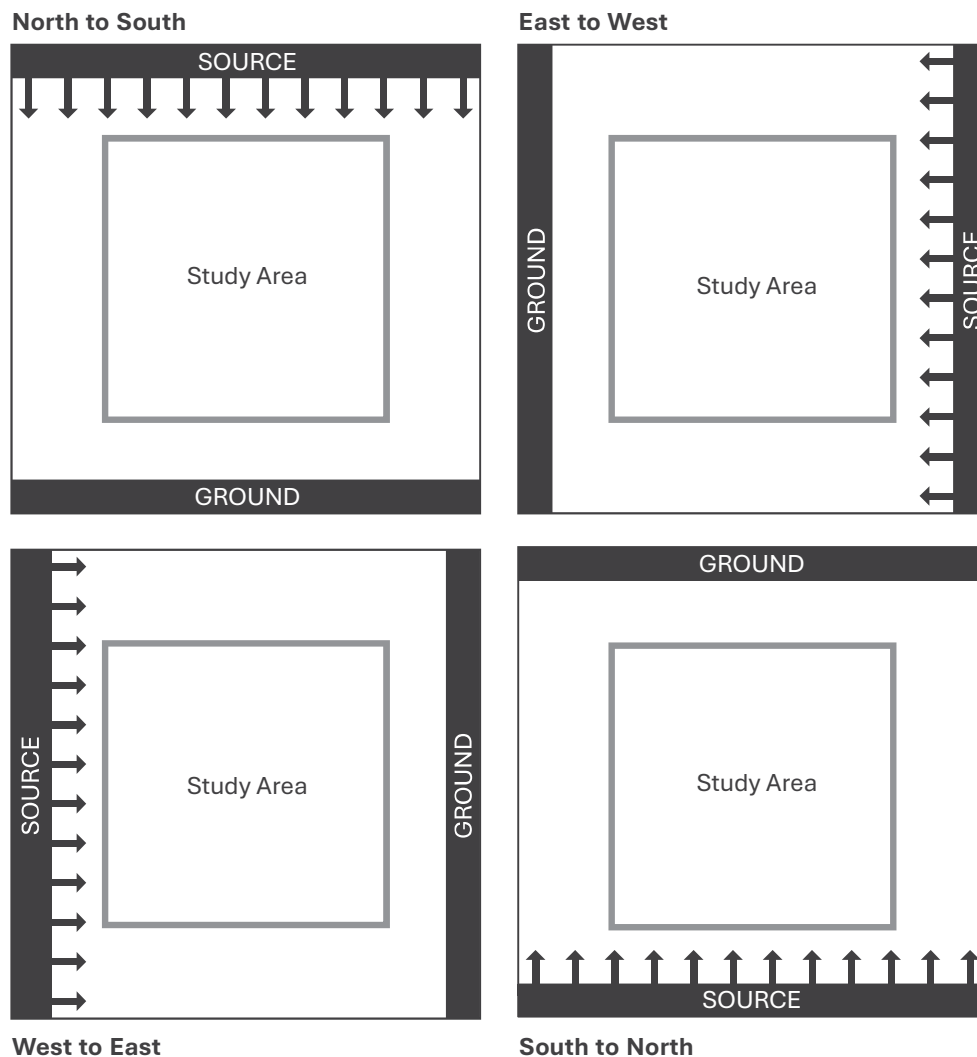
- Will parking be provided in the Village for quads and side by sides for people that come along the Iron Horse Trail and want to explore the non-motorized Waskatenau Creek Corridor?
- In case of emergency, what is the process for calling for help? There is limited cell service within the creek area.
- Will horseback riding be permitted along the trail?
- What type of fish will be stocked in the fish pond?

7.3 Appendix C: Circuitscape Model

The structural connectivity of the regional landscape was modeled using circuit theory using the ‘Circuitscape’ software (Anderson et al., 2012). This analysis considers the resistance of the landscape to a current, as defined by land cover, where natural vegetative cover represents the least amount of resistance, and human development represents the

highest resistance (Chernoff, 2016; O2 Planning & Design, 2024). In addition, steep slopes (>45 degrees) were considered areas of high resistance (O2 Planning & Design, 2024). An omnidirectional model was applied which applied current in four directions across the regional study area (Figure B1). Current will avoid areas of low permeability, diffuse through intact or highly permeable areas, and concentrate in key linkages or pinch points (Anderson et al., 2012).

Figure B1. Visual description of the omnidirectional circuit model approach.



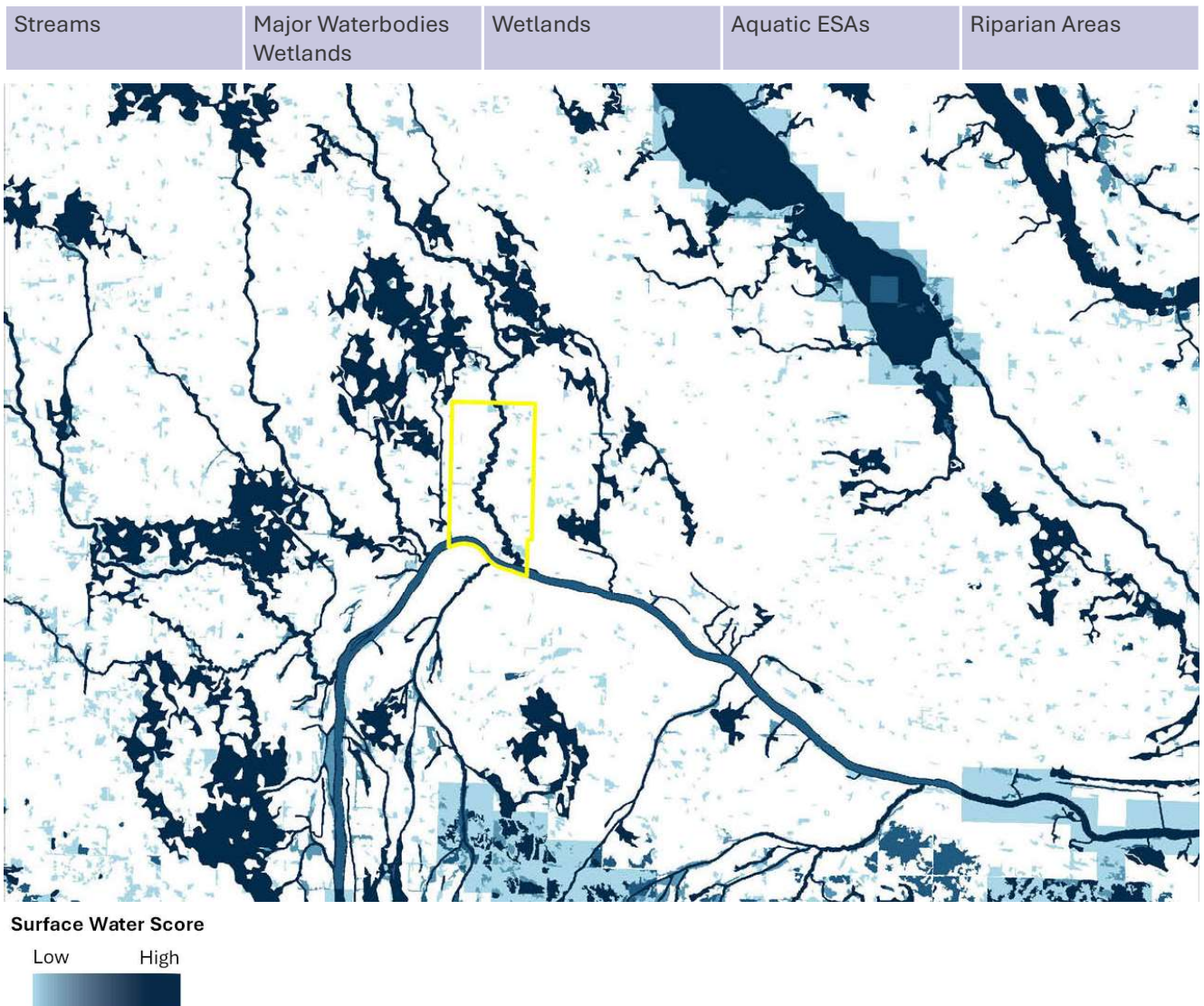
7.4 Appendix D: Environmentally Significant Areas Analysis

Detailed methodology for ESA criteria and scoring was adapted from previous ESA work in the Calgary Metropolitan Region (O2 Planning & Design, 2024).

The following sections describe the results for all ESA sub-criteria.

7.4.1 Surface Water

Surface water scoring was derived from the inputs of streams, major waterbodies, wetlands, aquatic ESAs, and riparian areas. Surface water scoring results showed high value areas along the Waskatenau Creek Corridor and other riparian areas throughout the regional study area.



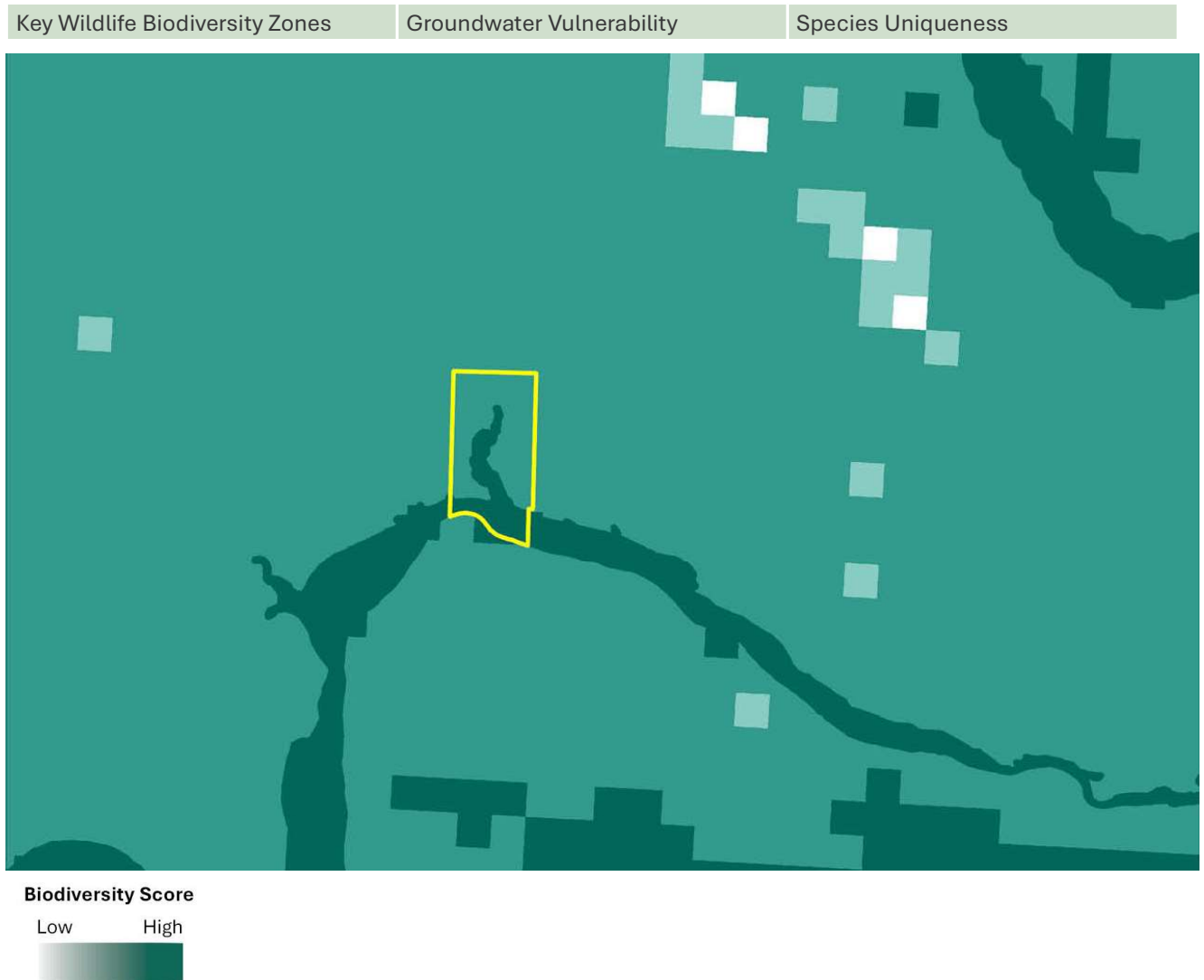
7.4.2 Groundwater

Groundwater scoring inputs included springs, Groundwater Vulnerability Index, surficial sand and gravel patches, and aquifers. Results show the majority of the local study area scored moderately high for groundwater value, with the southern slope to the North Saskatchewan River scoring lower for groundwater value.



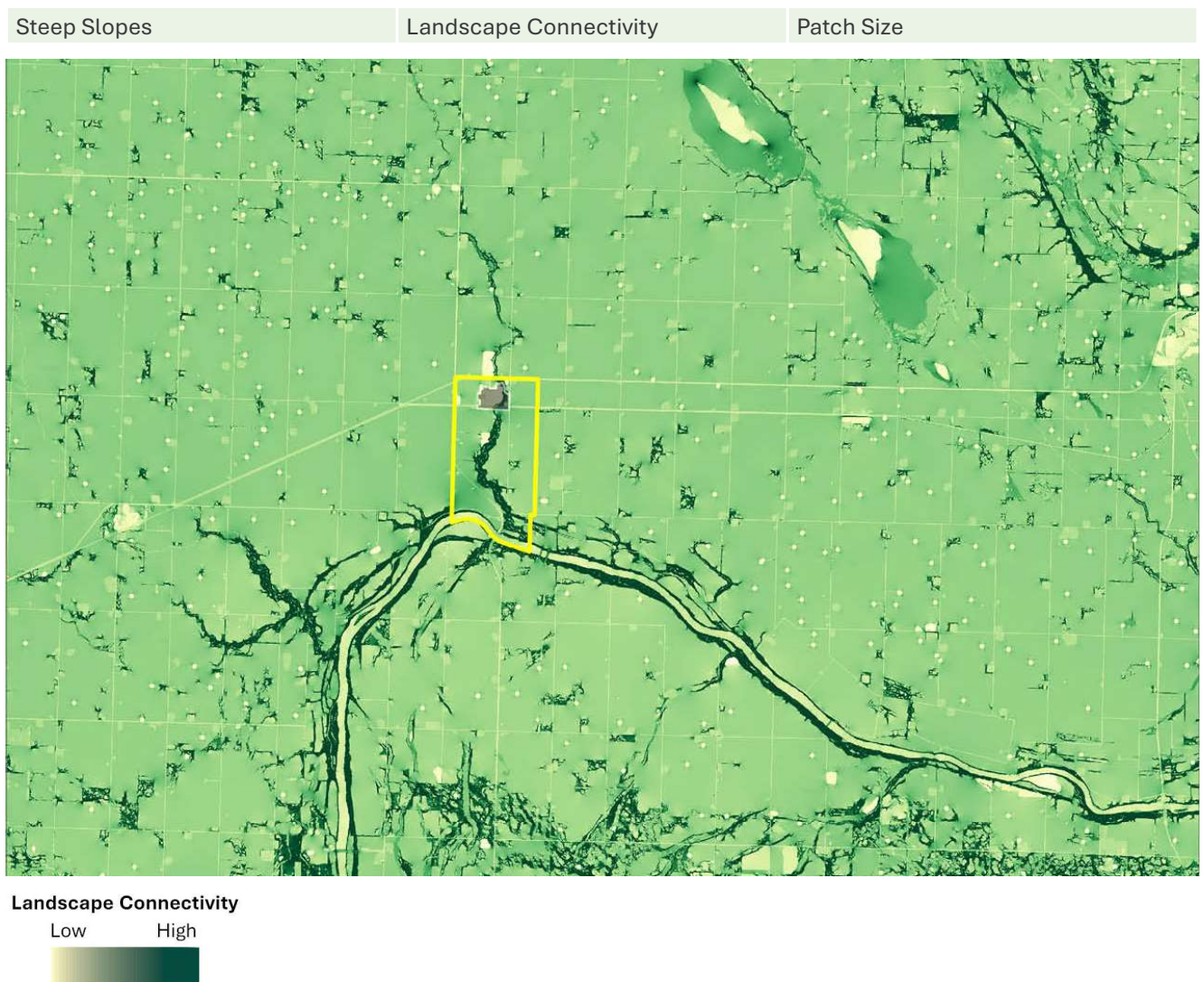
7.4.3 Biodiversity

Biodiversity scoring inputs included the provincial scale key wildlife biodiversity zones, species richness, and species uniqueness. The North Saskatchewan River Corridor and the Waskatenau Creek Corridor scored highest for biodiversity value.



7.4.4 Landscape

Landscape scoring inputs included steep slopes, landscape connectivity, and size of intact native ecosystem patches. The Waskatenau Creek Corridor scored the highest for landscape value. The banks of the North Saskatchewan River also scored high for landscape value, while flatter areas within the river valley scored moderately high for landscape value.



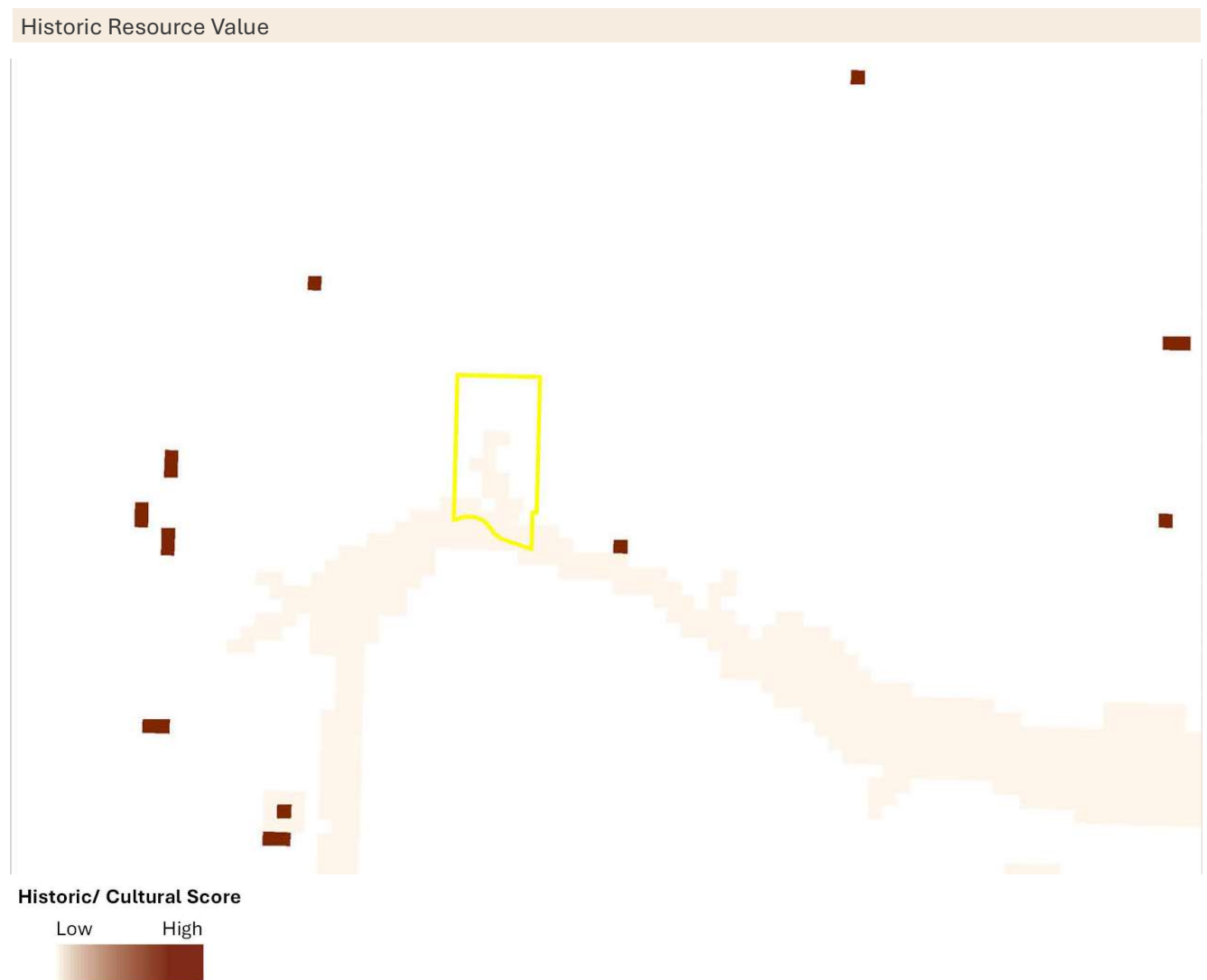
7.4.5 Key Agricultural Areas

Key Agricultural Area scoring inputs were soil organic carbon and soil texture. The tablelands, corresponding to currently cultivated areas, surrounding the Waskatenau Creek Corridor and the North Saskatchewan River score as high value agricultural areas, while the creek corridor river valley score low.



7.4.6 Historic/ Cultural

Historical or Cultural scoring input was limited to the provincial Historic Resource Value dataset. The Waskatenau Creek Corridor and the North Saskatchewan River valley scored moderately high with respect to the identified historic or cultural resources in the local study area. Note: this analysis is incomplete as it lacks areas of identified importance to First Nations communities.



Theme	Data inputs	Classes	Score
Surface Water	Streams		0.25
	Major Waterbodies	Lake – Permanent, Recurring	0.75
		River – Major	0.5
		Island – Lake, Recurring, River	0.25
		Dugout, Lagoon, Reservoir	1
	Wetlands	Swamp	0.75
		Bog	0.5
		Fen	0.25
		Marsh	0.25
	Aquatic ESAs		1
Riparian Areas		1	
Groundwater	Springs		1
	Groundwater Vulnerability	Very High	0.75
		High	0.5
		Medium	0.25
		Low	1
	Surficial Sand and Gravel	Sand + Gravel	0.75
		Sand	0.5
		Other	0.25
Aquifers		0.25	

Biodiversity	Key Wildlife Biodiversity Zones		1
	Species Richness	90 to 100	1
		80 to 90	1
		70 to 80	0.75
		60 to 70	0.75
		50 to 60	0.75
		40 to 50	0.5
		30 to 40	0.5
		20 to 30	0.25
		0 to 10	0
	Species Uniqueness	90 to 100	1
		80 to 90	1
		70 to 80	0.75
		60 to 70	0.75
		50 to 60	0.75
		40 to 50	0.5
		30 to 40	0.5
		20 to 30	0.25
		0 to 10	0

Landscape	Steep Slopes	>20%	1	
		15 to 20%	0.75	
	Connectivity	>17.4	1	
		14.1 - 17.3	1	
		9.4 - 14	0.75	
		8.1 - 9.3	0.5	
		7.4 - 8	0.25	
		6.7 - 7.3	0	
	Patch Size	>1000 ha	n/a	
		500-1000 ha	1	
		250-500 ha	0.75	
50-250 ha		0.5		
<50 ha		0.25		
Key Agricultural Areas	Soil Organic Carbon	3 to 5% (Highest)	0.75	
		2.2 to 3% (Moderate)	0.5	
		1.5 to 2.2% (Lowest)	0.25	
	Soil Texture	Loam	1	
		Sandy Clay Loam	0.75	
		Silty Clay Loam	0.75	
		Silty Loam	0.75	
		Sandy Loam	0.5	
		Loamy Sand	0.25	
	Historic/ Cultural	Historic Resource Value	HRV 1	1
			HRV 3	0.75
HRV 4			0.5	
HRV 5			0.25	

7.5 **Appendix E: Regulatory Tables**



Draft

MEMO

Date: April 23, 2024 **File:** 2023-8551
To: Leif Olson **Page:** Page 1 of 8
From: Deanna Joly
Project: O2 Planning and Design - Waskatenau Creek Trail and Day Use
Subject: DRAFT: Regulatory Requirements and Compliance

1 PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

The Village of Waskatenau is planning a new recreational trail along Waskatenau Creek that connects the Village with a new boat launch at the North Saskatchewan River; this project includes additional infrastructure, such as pedestrian crossings at Waskatenau Creek and parking at the north and south limits of the project area.

We understand that a trail alignment has not yet been finalized, but the following planning principles will apply:

- Minimize trail footprint below the top of bank of the creek, with the alignment generally above the treed area, and minimal watercourse crossings along the creek;
- Minimize disturbance to any contaminated soils, including contaminated sites within municipal or private lands (currently unknown);
- Engagement with regulatory agencies for major permits/approvals, to confirm timelines align with project schedule;
- Sensitive species and their critical habitat is not present along the creek.

This memorandum summarizes the considerations for regulatory permitting and compliance that will be revisited during the next phase of the project. Environmental field investigations will likely be required to better explore and quantify the environmental risks, and to support the environmental permit applications. Additional details pertaining to installation of a fish pond will be required to determine regulatory permitting and compliance measures under the *Water Act*, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*, and the federal *Fisheries Act*. Both permit applications and field investigations require scheduling and strategic planning (e.g., during favourable growing season periods; and long-lead time [e.g., 9 months] for certain Crown-land or federal permits). Timelines are excluded from this discussion, including timeframes to complete necessary environmental assessments and studies to support environmental permits.

Permit and compliance requirements are generally tied to 3 project components:

1. the boat launch;
2. watercourse crossings/trail footprint in the creek high water mark;
3. the new fish pond in the Village and construction/earthworks in general.



2 ANTICIPATED REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Table 1-1 summarizes regulations that likely pertain to specific project components.

Table 1-1. Anticipated Permits Waskatenau Trail and Day Use Area Development

Regulator and Legislation	Legislation Description	Project Component(s)	Permit Type(s)	Regulatory Triggers and Compliance Considerations
Federal Acts				
<p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)</p> <p><i>Fisheries Act</i></p>	<p>The Act protects fish and fish habitat in Canada and prohibits harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat.</p>	<p>Boat Launch</p> <p>Watercourse Crossings</p>	<p>Request for Review (RfR)</p> <p>Authorization (to be determined)</p>	<p>Submission required; permit to be determined: Upon review of a request for review for the boat launch, DFO will determine whether the project is likely to cause HADD to fish and/or fish habitat, and whether the project will require an Authorization. Alternatively, DFO, may specify mitigations in a Letter of Advice (LOA).</p> <p>Request for Review required: New pedestrian bridges over Waskatenau Creek will require instream construction, with the potential to cause sedimentation.</p> <p>No permit required for the fish pond, assuming the fish pond will be a new pond constructed in areas that are currently upland, with no disturbance to fish/fish habitat, and with appropriate erosion and sediment control management to avoid indirect (i.e., sedimentation) impacts to the Creek.</p>

Regulator and Legislation	Legislation Description	Project Component(s)	Permit Type(s)	Regulatory Triggers and Compliance Considerations
<p>Transport Canada (TC)</p> <p><i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i></p>	<p>The Act offers protection of navigation in Canadian waters deemed navigable under Section 1 of the Act.</p>	<p>Boat Launch</p> <p>Watercourse Crossings</p>	<p>Approval</p> <p>Notification of work on a non-scheduled waterway</p>	<p>Permit required: An approval under the CNWA is required for the boat launch, because it will be a new permanent structure in the navigable channel of a scheduled waterbody (North Saskatchewan River).</p> <p>Action required: Review the navigability of Waskatenau Creek at the locations of the proposed pedestrian crossings to be determined in discussion with Transport Canada to determine the scope of regulatory permitting for the watercourse crossings.</p>
<p>Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)</p> <p><i>Migratory Birds Convention Act 1994 (MBCA) and Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022</i></p>	<p>This Act protects migratory bird populations, their eggs, and their active nests.</p> <p>The Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022 (MBR 2022) protect nests of 395 species of migratory birds when they contain a live bird or viable egg, with year-round protection of nests of the 18 species listed in Schedule 1.</p>	All	To be determined	<p>Action required: Field assessments to determine whether any protected legacy nests (e.g., pileated woodpecker nest cavities) or related habitat risks apply within the proposed alignment. This will inform whether a Permit under the MBCA is required for relocation or destruction of a nest in Schedule 1 of the Act.</p> <p>Compliance: Construction compliance requirements to be refined once the alignment and footprint is defined; this will likely involve ecological field investigations, pre-construction wildlife sweeps, and timing considerations (i.e., avoid habitat disturbance during the breeding period).</p>
<p>ECCC</p> <p><i>Species at Risk Act</i></p>	<p>This Act regulates activities with potential to impact species at risk/of concern and/or their habitat.</p>	All	N/A – Compliance measures required	<p>Compliance: No permit is anticipated; however, permitting may be required should species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act be found within the project area. This Act will apply to any construction activities for which habitat disturbance is expected.</p>

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Regulator and Legislation	Legislation Description	Project Component(s)	Permit Type(s)	Regulatory Triggers and Compliance Considerations
<p>If a species at risk is encountered during project construction, work should be stopped, and the sighting should be reported and discussed with a qualified professional and/or federal representatives from the Canadian Wildlife Service.</p>				
<p>Provincial</p>				
<p>Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act</i></p>	<p>The Act supports and promotes the protection, enhancement and wise use of the environment by designating proposed activities for which an approval or registration is required.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>N/A – Compliance measures required</p>	<p>Compliance: No permit is required; however, this Act will apply to any construction activities for which alterations to soil, water or air quality may be affected or if previously contaminated materials are found within project limits.</p> <p>Review the limits of the sewage lagoon site and current EPEA Approval requirements that may influence the alignment and/or earthworks.</p>
<p>Alberta Culture (AC) <i>Historical Resources Act</i></p>	<p>Provides protection of historic resources, including palaeontological, archaeological, historic or natural sites, structures or objects.</p>	<p>All areas of ground disturbance</p>	<p>Approval</p>	<p>Regulatory Trigger: Approval is required for any ground disturbance activity within a Historical Resource Value (HRV) Area, as determined by the Historical Resources Management Branch of AC.</p> <p>As part of the Approval application, AC will assess the value of the resource sites within the project boundaries and as needed, provide further direction for mitigation, including a Historical Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA) or construction monitoring.</p>

Regulator and Legislation	Legislation Description	Project Component(s)	Permit Type(s)	Regulatory Triggers and Compliance Considerations
<p>Alberta Forestry and Parks (AFP)</p> <p>Public Lands Act</p>	<p>The Act establishes the role of the Alberta government in managing public land.</p>	<p>Boat Launch</p> <p>Watercourse Crossings</p>	<p>Disposition (DLO)</p> <p>Temporary Field Authorization (TFA)</p>	<p>Regulatory Trigger: A Department Licence of Occupation (DLO) Disposition application is required for any infrastructure that permanently occupies Crown land, including the bed and shore of permanent waterbodies.</p> <p>A TFA is a stand-alone authorization required for short-term activities such as construction access and laydown on vacant public land.</p>
<p>AEPA</p> <p>Water Act</p>	<p>Supports the conservation and management of water by regulating developments affecting wetlands and waterbodies.</p>	<p>Boat Launch</p> <p>Watercourse Crossings</p>	<p>Approval</p> <p>Code of Practice Notification</p>	<p>Regulatory Trigger: Work below the high water mark of a mapped waterbody, as well as temporary or permanent disturbance to wetlands within the project area, including within the agricultural fields, require Approval applications under the <i>Water Act</i>.</p> <p>Work on pedestrian bridges along the trail that fall under the <i>Water Act Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossings</i> and will require a Notification submission to AEPA at least two weeks prior to construction in place of an Approval.</p> <p>If construction components fall under the Codes of Practice, recommendations from a Qualified Aquatic Environment Specialist (QAES) will be necessary to comply with the Code of Practice. A Wetland Assessment Impact Form or Report will be required if temporary or permanent wetland disturbance is expected through construction.</p>

Regulator and Legislation	Legislation Description	Project Component(s)	Permit Type(s)	Regulatory Triggers and Compliance Considerations
Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO)	Provincial policy regarding Consultation with First Nations.	See 'Regulatory Trigger and Compliance Considerations'.	Pre-Consultation Assessment (PCA)	<p>Regulatory Trigger: PCA submissions are required for Approval applications under the <i>Water Act</i> and Disposition applications under the <i>Public Lands Act</i>.</p> <p>Additionally, federal funding for the project could trigger additional First Nations consultation for the entire project more broadly.</p>
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AAI) Agricultural Pests Act	This Act enables the declaration of an animal, bird, insect, plant or disease as a pest or nuisance.	Trail installation	N/A - Compliance measures required	<p>Compliance: No permit is required; however, this Act will apply to any construction activities for which soil disturbance is expected in lands zoned as agricultural and where clubroot may be present</p> <p>The contractor must follow provincial best management practices for equipment sanitation in areas where clubroot is present as part of the overall Environmental Construction Operations (ECO) Plan for the project.</p>
AEPA Fisheries (Alberta) Act	This Act controls licences for the transportation, stocking and handling of fish.	Boat Launch Watercourse Crossings Fish pond	Fish Research Licence (FRL)	<p>Regulatory Trigger: If watercourse isolation is required during construction, an FRL may be required.</p>
AAI Soil Conservation Act	This Act imposes a duty upon every landholder to take appropriate measures to prevent soil loss or deterioration, or to mitigate	All	N/A - Compliance measures required	<p>Compliance: No permit is required; however, this Act will apply to any construction activities for which soil disturbance is expected.</p>

Regulator and Legislation	Legislation Description	Project Component(s)	Permit Type(s)	Regulatory Triggers and Compliance Considerations
	where it has previously occurred.			The contractor will be required to create an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan as part of the overall Environmental Construction Operations (ECO) Plan for the project.
AAI <i>Weed Control Act</i>	This Act regulates the specific weed species that are listed in Schedule 1 (prohibited noxious weeds) and Schedule 2 (noxious weeds) of the Act.	All	N/A - Compliance measures required	<p>Compliance: No permit is required; however, this Act will apply to any construction activities for which soil disturbance is expected.</p> <p>The contractor will incorporate measures to prevent the introduction and spread of weed species in the ECO Plan and will ensure equipment arrives on site in clean condition. Seed mixes that have been certified free of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds for any revegetation activities will be used in areas where turf rehabilitation is required. The destruction of any prohibited noxious weeds and controlling of noxious weeds in project area will be required.</p>
AEPA <i>Wildlife Act</i>	This Act protects species listed as endangered or threatened under the Alberta Wildlife Regulation.	All	Wildlife Research Permit	<p>Compliance: A Permit will be required to complete a pre-construction wildlife sweep.</p> <p>Conduct vegetation clearing activities outside of migratory and non-migratory bird nesting periods. Consult with a qualified professional if vegetation clearing activities must be completed within this nesting period. Follow appropriate mitigation strategies to prevent/minimize potential human-wildlife interactions during construction activities, such as removing wastes from site. If an active nest, den or animal residence is discovered within the project area, stop work and consult a qualified professional.</p>

3 NEXT STEPS

The following considerations apply to planning and next steps of the project:

1. Determine whether federal funding is planned for the project.
2. Given that the boat launch and the watercourse crossings components of the project trigger more environmental effort and permits than the general trail alignment, consider strategizing a phased approach for certain components of the project – for example construction of the boat launch as a first priority or conversely construction of just the trail in the Village with no watercourse crossings and outside of major permit triggers.
3. Identify and alignment and determine required field assessments to refine details on environmental sensitivities such as wetlands/fisheries impacts as well as terrestrial/wildlife planning considerations (e.g., pileated woodpecker nest cavities).
4. Hydrological investigations and fish habitat investigations on suitable boat launch sites that minimize overall impacts.
5. Initiate pre-application meetings with the regulator.

7.6 Appendix F: Waskatenau Report on the Indigenous History

Waskatenau Creek Trail

Report on the Indigenous History & the Public Engagement Strategy
for the Waskatenau Creek Trail

by

Robin Howse

Developed for 02 Design
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Preface

I would just like to note that this is a living document. This is not a comprehensive and detailed history about the Waskatenau area, nor the Bears Ear's Reserve, or Chief Muskegawatic. This is just a glimpse into the history of these topics. I would encourage people who are interested in learning more about this history to delve deeper to learn more. Reach out the Elders and Knowledge Keepers from the communities connected, search for more secondary and primary literature, and help to expand the general knowledge of these topics to the general public.

Introduction

The Waskatenau Creek Trail is located on Treaty 6 Territory, which is also the Metis North Saskatchewan River Territory of St. Albert Metis District 11. These are the lands of the Blackfoot, Cree, Dene, Nakota Sioux, Saulteaux, and Métis Nation. Specifically in the ancestral space of the Amiskwacīwiyiniwak, the Pakân Cree, and the Muskegawatic Cree, and the Metis. We acknowledge the complex history of the area, as well as the land governance and stewardship that has been carried out by the Treaty Six Nations and the Métis Nation of this space since time immemorial. It is important to recognize that in the past there has been unethical engagement with Indigenous communities in this area.

One of the most notable instances was the removal of Chief Muskegawatic's band at the Bears Ear's Reserve (Waskateenow/ Washatanow/Wahsatanow) in 1896. The Waskatenow band was surveyed and allocated to the community in 1887. However, the expansion of the railway network combined with the desire to obtain the high-quality farmland, drove the federal government and the Department of Indian Affairs to administer the forced relocation. Even though Muskegawatic's community did not want to leave the area, the nation members were forcibly amalgamated into the Saddle Lake Cree Nation through the Cache Lake adhesion in 1893. However, five families remained at Waskatenow despite government harassment and discrimination until at least 1896. Other band members were reported to have scattered, some being at Victoria, and others at Beaver Hills.

In an effort to enact reconciliation by addressing the past harms inflicted upon Indigenous Nations rights and freedoms by the federal government's policies and land governance decisions, we would like to engage in creating better relations and better land governance processes moving forward. To honor the spirit and intent of the Treaties, while working toward cooperative management of lands and resources in Traditional Indigenous Territories. We aim to uphold the spirit and intent of Treaty 6, and work toward learning what it means to be good Treaty partners. We would like to request your assistance in these processes.

The 'Indigenous' history of Waskatenau is very important to take into consideration when planning construction the Waskatenau Creek Trail. Both the County of Smoky Lake and the Victoria District National Historic Site of Canada recognize the 'heritage value' of this area.

It is important to preface this work with the acknowledgement that this work is not complete, it is ongoing. The report is not a comprehensive historical documentation of the Waskatenau area. Instead, this report is a glimpse into the multi-faceted and multi-layered history of the area. The work of uncovering and reviving the stories and oral histories of this area should be an ongoing practice. This report will provide an overview about the research that Robin Howse has conducted between March 2024 to June 2024 into the Indigenous history of Waskatenau. Research methods will be explained, results presented, discussion outlined, and next steps outlined.

Research Methods

In line with Indigenous research methods. It is important for me to include community members within this process. Although this report does not include any interview data collection, it was important to start by consulting with Traditional Knowledge Keepers about the best ways to move forward with learning the history for this project, and to verify the information regarding Indigenous Languages and the place name for Waskatenau. Alongside this, I conducted an internet search in collaboration with Librarians to locate primary archival resources and secondary data collection regarding the history of Waskatenau. I visited the Saddle Lake Museum, the University of Alberta, and the Provincial Archives of Alberta which allowed me to collect initial information. Finally, I was able to connect with non-Indigenous community members at the public engagement session that was hosted by the Waskatenau Creek Trail team. Once the information was collected, it was reviewed, analyzed, and synthesized.

Indigenous Knowledge Keepers

I felt it was a very necessary first step to reach out to Traditional Knowledge Keepers to ask about the Waskatenau place name. It sounds like a nehiyaw (Cree) place name. However, I noticed in the spelling there is the letter 'u' present. In the standard roman orthography system of writing nehiyawewin (the Cree Language) there is no 'u'. Because of this, I wanted to double check what would be considered the correct spelling of the name. I also wanted to ask about the morphology of the word, to get a better understanding of what it means. Les Skinner said that this word describes a hilly area, although he was not sure about the correct spelling or pronunciation (Skinner, 2024). Additionally, I took a visit to go and see Ida Bull. Ida Bull stated that the correct spelling of this word would be waskatinaw, and it loosely translates to 'land on a curve' (Bull, 2024). She recommended that the project team reach out to Bruce Cutknife, as he may have oral stories about the history of this area.

Primary & Secondary Data Collection

An initial keyword search was conducted to get a sense of the abundance of literature pertaining to the Indigenous history of Waskatenau. I chose to search between the years of 1875 (prior to the signing of Treaty 6) and 1900 (four years after the dissolution of the Bears Ear's Reserve) to find related literature that is pertinent to the topic. Several different databases and search engines were used to locate information. A collection of academic papers, thesis dissertations, and other grey literature was located.

I collaborated with two post-secondary libraries to assist with the secondary literature review and primary data collection. I connected with Ben Harrison at Lakeland College, as well as Anne Car-Wiggin and Jessie Loyer at the University of Alberta. These wonderful ladies at the UodfA connected me to the Provincial Archives of Alberta and the University of Alberta Geography Map Collection. Bonnie Gallinger assisted me to search the Geography Map collection. We were able to find and collect some data via informative maps related to our area of interest. I also put in request for maps at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, where I was able to collect data from the maps and some surveyor diaries.

I took a visit over to the Saddle Lake Museum to make connections with the community who is the most directly involved. I was hoping to find some information on the history of Saddle Lake and Waskatenau. Since the "Waskatenaw Reserve" or "Bear's Ears Reserve" was displaced of their land, forced to disband, and many amalgamated into Saddle Lake Cree Nation. Unfortunately, the Saddle Lake Museum was in the process of digitizing their archives, and most of the archival documents were sent away temporarily. However, the Museum Curator, Ben Steinhauer, had some very helpful points of interest. He shared some of the oral history about how six different bands amalgamated into Saddle Lake Cree Nation (Steinhauer, 2024). This is how Saddle Lake came to be the community it is today. He said that they had some very informative documents regarding the head count's that were taken when the Bear's Ears Reserve was amalgamated into Saddle Lake. He said that Pakan had the largest headcount and Waskatenaw had a smaller headcount. He also shared some family connections to the amalgamations such as the fact that the Nayawatatik family comes from Chief Maskikawahtik, and the Wasahnow family comes from Chief Waskatanaw. I was also able to review a "Brief History of Saddle Lake" archival document that was left behind from the digitization process.

Public Engagement Session

I was grateful to be invited to participate in the preliminary public engagement session that was hosted by the Waskatenau Creek Trail Team. Clayton Didier with the Pine Creek retreat was an amazing community member to connect with. He shared extremely pertinent information about the geography of the area, and the location of historic grave sites, as well as sacred sites utilized by contemporary Indigenous community members (Didier, 2024). He is also looking into collaborating with local Indigenous communities on Tourism opportunities in the Waskatenau area.

Research Results

This section will outline the results that came from the review of the secondary literature and maps. I will examine pertinent background information, provide a detailing of maps, and share a collection of photographs of land-based imagery of the area in question. A few important topics came up while reviewing the background information on the Waskatenau area. The history regarding the forced relocation of the Bears Ear’s Reserve will be discussed, alongside different place name changes in both the Waskatenau and the Bears Ear’s Reserve. In the maps section, some “Notable Points of Interest” found on the maps will be outlined.

Secondary Literature Review

This section will provide a literature review based on the documents located in the initial search. There was very little secondary literature on this topic. However, from the small list of literature found there was some great information collected. One of the most influential documents for this research was Andre Lafleur’s thesis work from 1989 titled, “From Nomadism to Sedentary Agriculture at Saddle Lake: the forced settlement of five Cree first nations” which touches on the Indigenous history of Waskatenau (Lafleur, 1989). Tracing human geography can tell us a lot about the history of an area. I will be focusing in on history and human movement around Waskatenau in the time period of 1870-1900. I chose this time period because the Bears Ears Reserve #126 in existence from 1889-1896, and Treaty 6 was signed in 1876. So, I decided to start the search off from before the signing of Treaty 6, and after the disbanding of the reserve.

The place name changes are important to consider. Knowing the different place names and which years they are associated with will assist researchers to find pertinent information regarding the area depending on what they are looking into. The timeline of place name changes tells a story about how the power dynamics and human geography shifted over time. Table 1 highlights the Waskatenau place name changes. Table 2 highlights the Bears Ear’s Reserve place name changes.

Name	Year
Waskatenau	Current
Waskateenow	1896
Wahsatnow	1893
Was-kat-ee-now	1891
Washatanow	1886

Table 1. Timeline of Waskatenau name change.

Name	Year
Bears Ear’s Reserve	1886-1896
Bear’s Ears	1886
Hollow Hill Creek	1886

Table 2. Timeline of Bears Ear’s Reserve name change.

There were three Indigenous communities impacted by their removal from this area in the past. The Bears Ear's Reserve was surveyed in 1889 and disbanded in 1896. Chief Maskikawahtik were forced to move the communities to Saddle Lake Cree Nation in 1893. Chief Pakan was also forced to move his community and relocated close to the Whitefish First Nation, which is a part of the Saddle Lake First Nation. Many Metis families had also occupied the area of the Victoria Settlement. After fur traders and missionaries took over the area, there was a displacement of Metis families as well.

“The relatively rapid rate of transformation of their ancestral landscape by European entrepreneurs increasingly undermined traditional lifestyles of the Amerindians of the region. Critical decisions regarding the defense of their territory would have occurred for the bands when expeditions of European and EuroCanadians began to explore for possible exploitation of the regions natural resources. These groups include the Palliser and Hind expeditions of the 1857 and the overlander expeditions of the 1860's, as well as the surveys of Sandford Fleming, engineer-in-chief of the CPR company for railway routes in 1873 and William Butler for Canadian military reconnaissance in 1871” (Lafleur, 1989).

Chief Maskegehahtic and Chief Pakan were prominent leaders in the Indigenous communities that were displaced by EuroCanadian settlement. Chief Pakan's presence was prominent in the literature up to the signing of Treaty 6, and Chief Maskegehahtic was prominent in the literature post Treaty era. Below I have provided a timeline of EuroCanadian influence on the Waskatenau area:

1855: Missionaries at Whitefish & Victoria

1855: Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) at Victoria

1857/1860's: Palliser and Hind expeditions (1857), the Overlander expeditions(1860's)

1862: Missionaries at Smoky Lake

1871: Canadian military reconnaissance

1872: Pakan requests Treaty

1873: Contention with Surveyors and Prospectors and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR)

1874: Arrival of North West Mounted Police (NWMP)

1876: Treaty 6

- Contention with Department of Indian Affairs (DIA) & NWMP
- “The Indian people were unceasingly coerced by DIA and NWMP into reservation settlement with no equal opportunity to advance socio-economically within the industrial complex of the Canadian frontier” (Pg 52)

1877: North-west Territories Council tried to protect buffalo (verbal treaty promise)

1877: Post Treaty

- Government help was limited to annuity payment, issuing of food and supplies
- Distribution of agricultural implements
- Poor provisioning of food supplies, lack of wild game

1878-1880: John A MacDonald

- “Insisted that food provisions from the government would not only be temporary, but that they would have to be ‘earned’ through work (page 55)

1879: Buffalo almost eliminated

1879: Frog Lake surveyed

- Frog Lake was given very little land – So Chief Pakan refused a survey
- Saddle lake bands confronted Indian commissioner

1881: Contention with DIA Farm Instructors (Farm No.16)

- Refusal to provide proper agricultural supplies

1881: Maskegehwahtic did not want to relocate

1883: Maskegehwahtik requests more implements, not pressured to move yet

1885-1886: Northwest Resistance

1889-1896: Bear’s Ears Reserve #126

I will detail some of the important historical demographic and human geography considerations here. In 1885, Aboriginal people were the majority in Alberta but quickly became a minority, representing only about ten percent of the population by 1905. (Lafleur, 1989, p. 80). This demographic shift was partly due to treaty withdrawals facilitated by the government, which used these withdrawals—trading land or money for scrip—as a cost-saving measure for the Department of Indian Affairs (DIA), “Scrip-related treaty withdrawals accounted for a significant reduction of treaty members after 1886. The withdrawals were seen by the government as a convenient method of lowering the expenses of DIA. The treaty withdrawals, in exchange for land or money scrip, were included within the mandate of the Half-Breed Commission established by an Order-in-Council on March 30, 1885” (Lafleur, 1989, p. 84).

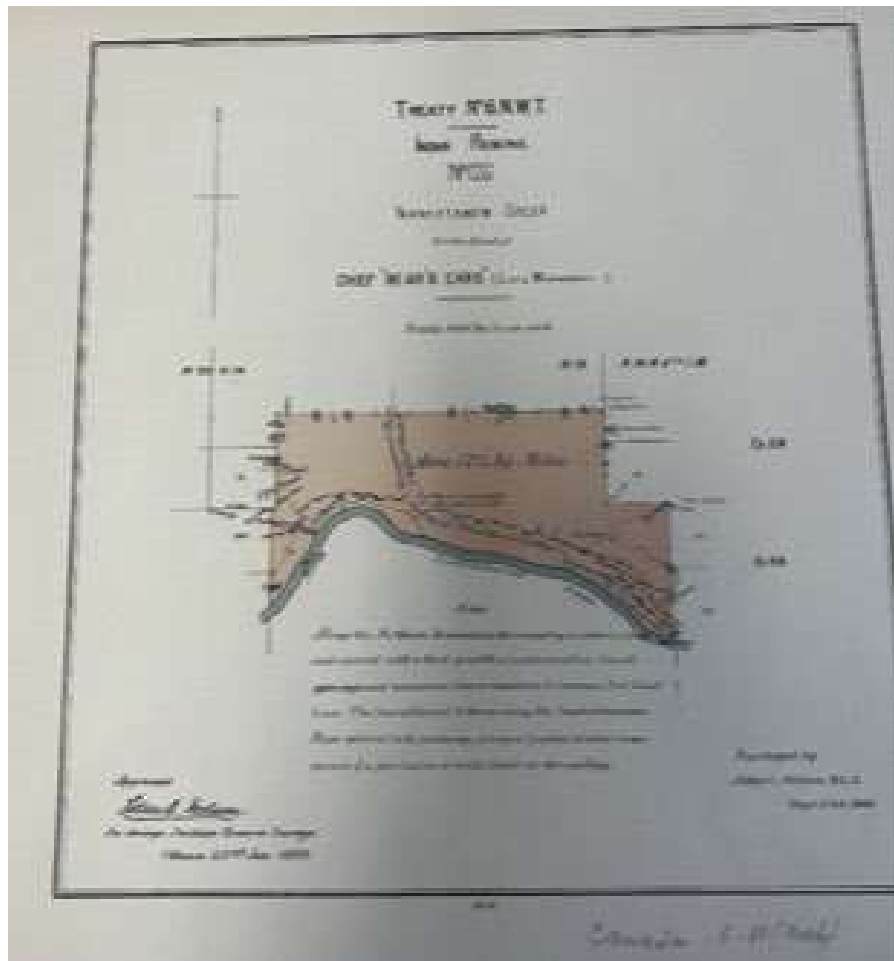
The expansion of the railway network in the early 1890s further intensified efforts by the DIA to relocate Indigenous groups, such as Blue Quill and Muskegahwahtic, to different reserves. “Even though reserves had been surveyed at Waskateenow in 1887 as well as at Whitefish Lake and Saddle Lake, DIA insisted that muskegahwahtic’s band be removed from the newly surveyed reserve and be relocated at Saddle Lake. The tactics used were those in typical of land surrender procedures at Pas-pass-chase in 1888 and at Bear’s Hill beginning in 1897” (Lafleur, 1989, p. 88).

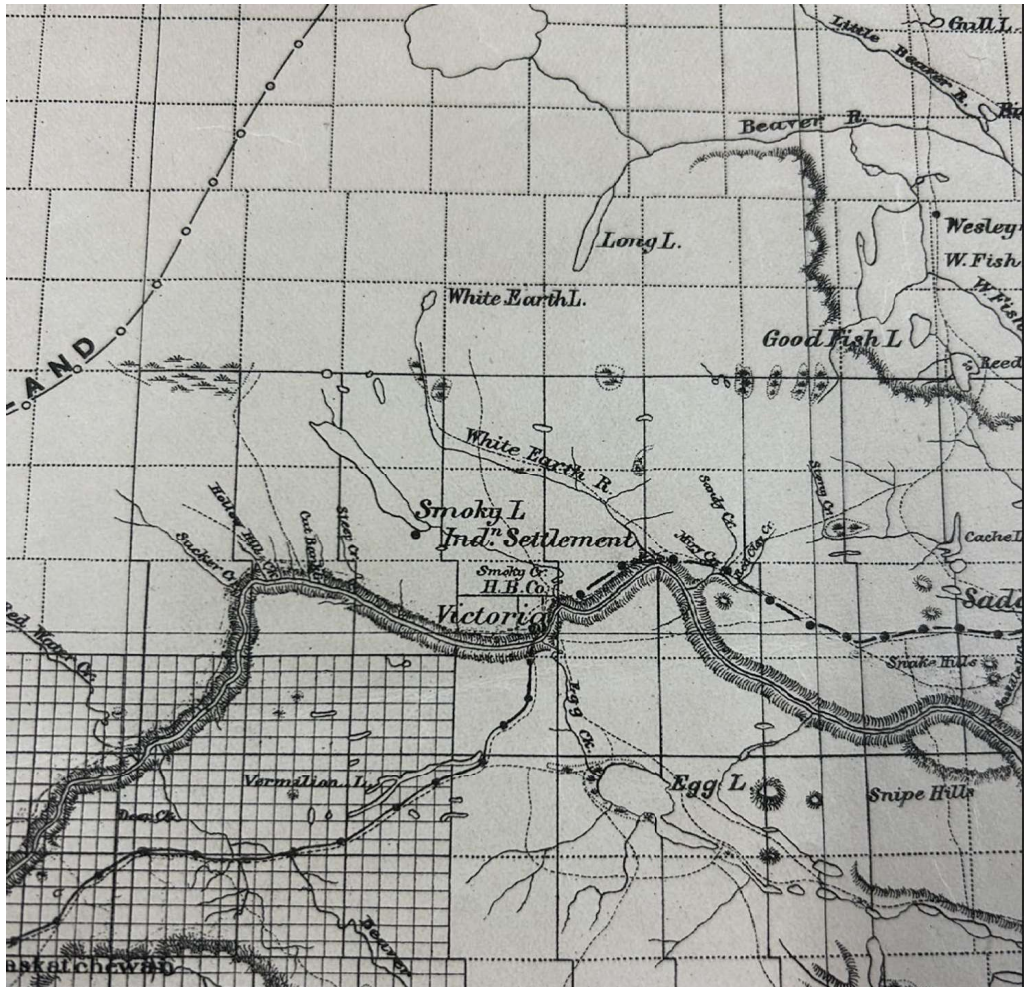
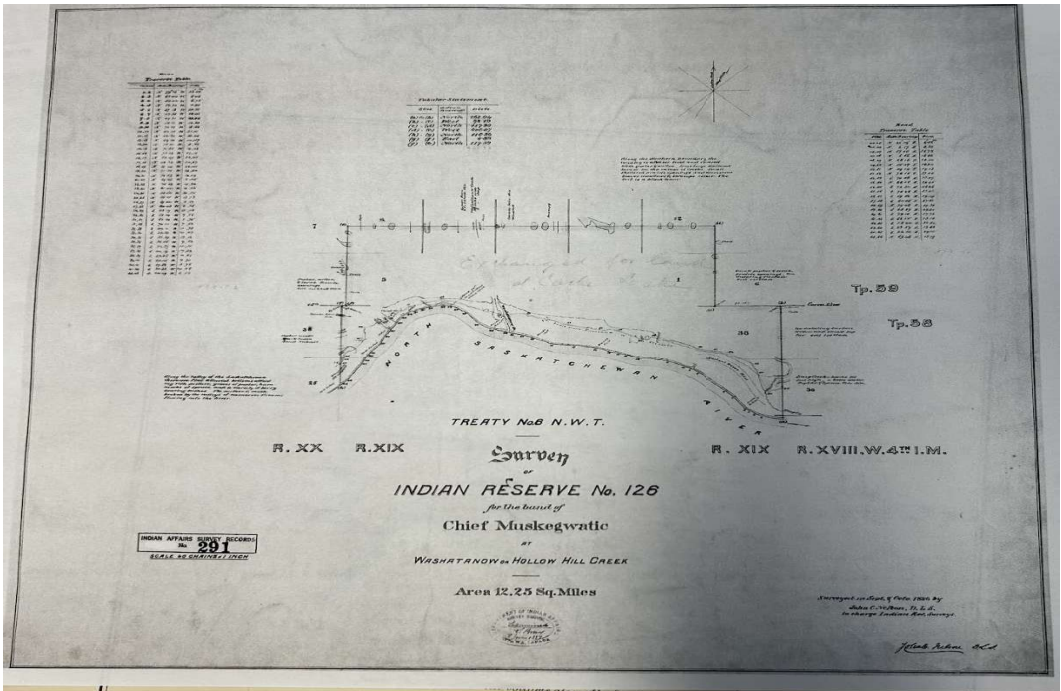
This was part of a broader strategy to break up Indigenous bands, a practice approved by the Superintendent General and carried out by Indian agents to consolidate control. “By the summer of 1891, the agent, Ross, had begun to transfer members to Saddle Lake so as to break up Muskegahwahtics band. The superintendent general, Lawrence VanKoughnet, indicated acceptance of this surrender strategy in September of 1891 to Indian Commissioner Reed who orchestrated the middle position between the Superintendent-general and the Indian agents” (Lafleur, 1989, p. 88).

Maps

Many of the maps proved very helpful in understanding the history of the Waskatenau area. One of the maps from the Geography Collection at the University of Alberta was especially interesting. This map shows the location of a Chiefs House. Both the University of Albert and the Provincial Archives of Alberta were great resources for this data. The team at 02 Design also created a new map of the area utilizing this information. I will highlight some of the more interesting maps in this section.

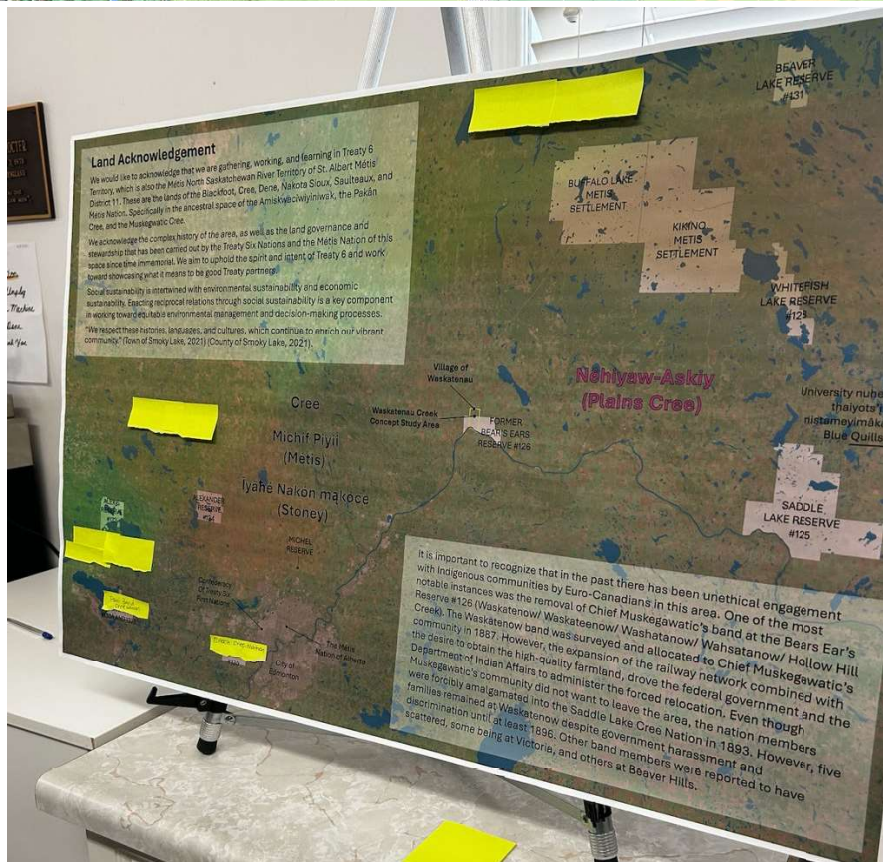
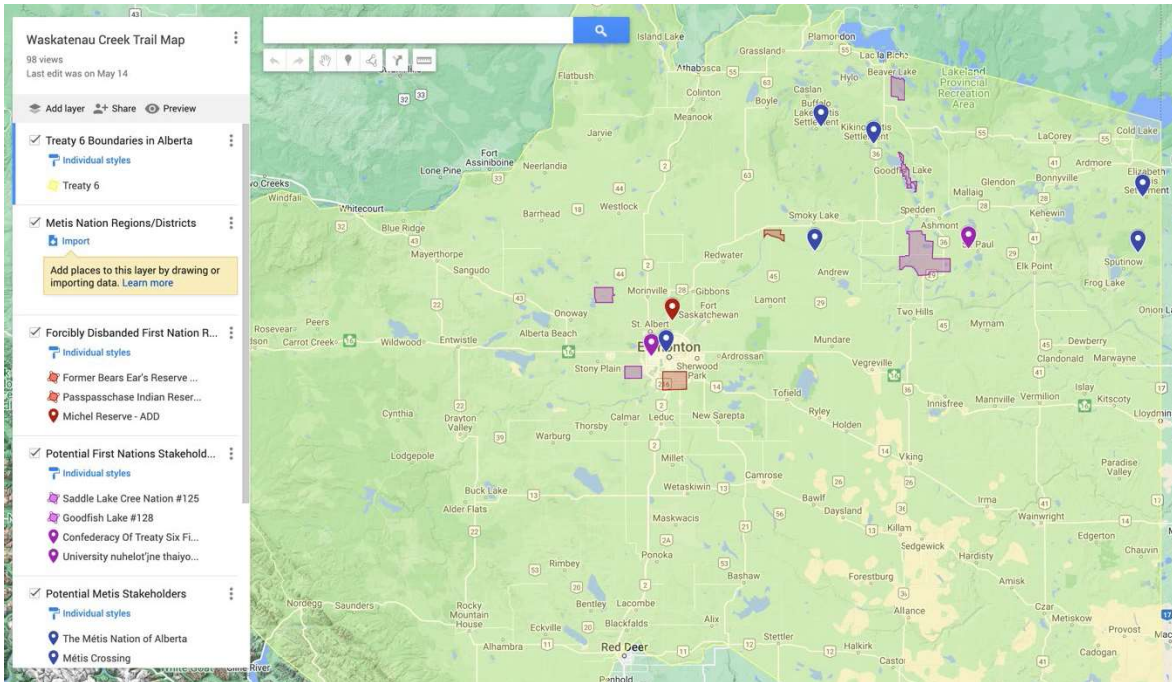
1. Archival Maps





2. Created Maps

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1bMBd-vBPpxocjulwK8-QbNAOuowLTHc&usp=sharing>



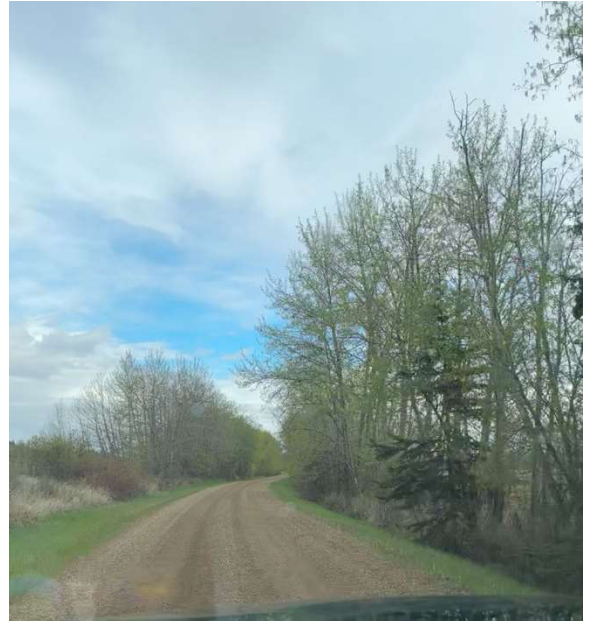
Photography

I believe it is important to employ the ethic of visiting not only with Knowledge Keepers, and Land Users, but also the land and ecosystem itself. In upholding these ethics, I took time to go and visit the lands that we are discussing in this project. I have taken these pictures along Victoria Trail, near Waskatenau, in what was formerly the Bear's Ears Reserve. I wanted to share these pictures with the research team, as I know some of the team members are located in the city of Calgary and may not be able to make the trip to visit. I will share some of the landscape imagery below. There are also a few photographs that tell more of this history of this landscape. I will also elaborate on these photographs as well.

1. Landscape/Ecology Pictures







2. Historical Context Pictures



Next Steps

After considering all the research, a discussion of next steps will be outlined. For more detailed information on this topic, there are two additional research items that I would suggest. I would suggest conducting an archival material deep dive to learn more. I would also suggest working with an archeologist to check sensitive sites, such as the indicated “Chiefs House” and the referenced grave sites. The biggest take away from this report is to highlight the importance of consulting, engaging, and collaborating with Indigenous communities. Community consultation and engagement with the directly affected Indigenous communities is highly recommended in this situation to ensure ethical development in the case of the Waskatenau Creek Trail.

Additional Research Items

Archival Material Deep Dive

There are two archival institutions that could prove very useful for this project. The first is the Provincial Archives of Alberta, and the second is the Library Archives Canada. If the organizations involved in this project would like more information about the human geography of this area, there are a few archival search routes that could be useful. Tracking human movement could probably most quickly be achieved by searching the Department of Indian Affairs records to access head count documents and census records from the Waskateneau and Saddle Lake areas in the time frames before and after the Bear’s Ears Reserve was surveyed and disbanded.

Other Possible leads include doing archival work and searching the Sessional Papers of the Parliament of Canada collection (Digitized Sessional Papers from 1867/86 to 1925 <https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.860275/publication.html>), Oblate and Missionary Records, Treaty 6 Collections, Explorer Diaries, Old Newspapers, Charles Delaney Fonds, and Surveyor Journals. Some other search leads for future research into this topic can include the Royal Alberta Museum, Glenbow Museum, and the Peels Prairies Provinces collection.

Archeological Research

Utilizing the expertise of archeologists to locate sites of concern and finding ways in which to remedy these concerns is an avenue that I would highly recommend following. First, I would recommend conducting Elder/Knowledge Keeper interviews. This would be helpful to understand the history of the area and to find out if there are any sites of concern, such as sacred grounds or burial sites. Secondly, we could check archival records for any mention of sacred sites or burial grounds. Third, we could hire an archeologist to assess for any sites of concern, such as investigating the “Chiefs House”, using ground penetrating radar and other technologies to locate potential Burial Sites and Sacred Grounds. Although locating specific sites of concern

are a priority, I would like to point out that this entire territory was considered the Traditional Cree Territory. This area supported the livelihoods, economies, and sustenance of not only Cree communities, but also the Metis. Even if there were no specific sites of concern, it is highly advisable for these Indigenous communities to be involved in the planning and ongoing management of this area.

Indigenous Consultation & Engagement

This section will offer some suggestions on potentially affected or interested Indigenous stakeholders. Indigenous consultation and engagement can take on many different forms. Often, the form it takes on will depend on the type of activities being undertaken, the degree of impact the activities may have on Indigenous communities, and which stakeholders are involved. I believe there are a few actionable items outstanding after compiling this report. However, out of all the actionable items, I believe that Indigenous consultation and engagement is the most important. The depth in which the Waskatenau Creek Trail team engages with Indigenous communities is up to management's discretion. However, I would recommend following through with all of the following actionable items to ensure ethical practice.

Key Indigenous Stakeholders

I have indicated a list of key Indigenous stakeholders, including First Nations and Metis Groups. All the indicated First Nations stakeholders include Nations that have members that are direct descendants of Chief Maskikawahtik and Chief Pakan. All of the noted Metis stakeholders may be connected to the descendants of the Metis who originally occupied the Victoria Settlement. There are two Indigenous educational institutions included in this list that may be interested in collaborating as well. Potential First Nation and Metis Stakeholders include:

1. FIRST NATIONS: Confederacy of Treaty 6

I would recommend contacting this Indigenous organization to include within the project. I believe they would have the pertinent information about which First Nations in the Treaty 6 area would include direct descendants of Chief Maskikawahtik and Chief Pakan. They would also be able to navigate consultation with the communities most interested in participating in this process. It appears the County of Smoky Lake already has an existing relationship with this organization, so it would be beneficial to work alongside and strengthen this existing relationship.

Saddle Lake Cree Nation: Saddle Lake Cree Nation has members who are direct descendants of Chief Maskikawahtik. I would recommend contacting either the Chief and Council, Administration Office, the Traditional Land Use Office, or the Saddle Lake Museum for potentially interested collaborators.

Whitefish / Goodfish Cree Nation: Goodfish Lake has members who are direct descendants of Chief Pakan. I would recommend contacting either the Chief and Council, Administration Office, or the Traditional Land Use Office for potentially interested collaborators.

2. METIS NATIONS: The Metis Nation of Alberta

I believe the Metis Nation of Alberta would be the best organization to contact in regards to the Metis community. They will know which of their communities are directly impacted by this project and will advise as to who should be included within discussions. However, I have also included two Metis communities in this list as potentially affected Indigenous stakeholders. I would recommend contacting their administration.

Kikino Metis Settlement: The Kikino Metis Settlement is in close proximity to the proposed project. I have listed them here as a potentially affected Indigenous stakeholder. I would recommend contacting their Administration Office, or their Land Use department.

Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement: The Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement is in close proximity to the proposed project. I have listed them here as a potentially affected Indigenous stakeholder. I would recommend contacting their Administration Office, or their Land Use department.

3. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Blue Quills University: I would recommend contacting the Administration, the Environmental Sciences Department, or the Environmental Monitoring for potentially interested collaborators. This would be an amazing partnership for an environmental monitoring program once the project is completed.

Metis Crossing: I would recommend contacting the Administration to see how the Metis Crossing could be involved in this project. One of the local Waskatenau residents, Clayton Didier, is already planning some tourism activities with Metis Crossing in this area. He aims to honour the history of the Bear's Ears Reserve and the Metis communities who occupied the land that his historic house at Pine Creek is now located.

Conclusion

This report highlighted the initial research surrounding the Indigenous history of the Waskatenau area. The goal of this research project is to promote reconciliation and ethical land management by engaging with Indigenous communities to honor the spirit of Treaty 6. This report, based on research conducted from March to June 2024, provides an overview of the Indigenous history of the Waskatenau area, emphasizing the need for ongoing research and collaboration. Overall, the report underscores the importance of acknowledging and addressing historical wrongs while striving for respectful and cooperative land management practices.

Historical injustices, such as the 1896 forced removal of Chief Muskegawatic's band from the Bears Ears Reserve, exemplify past unethical practices by the federal government driven by railway expansion and land acquisition desires, resulting in the amalgamation of displaced communities into the Saddle Lake Cree Nation. This project aims to foster reconciliation and ethical land management by encouraging collaboration with Indigenous communities to uphold the spirit of Treaty 6. Based on research conducted from March to June 2024, the report offers an overview of the Waskatenau area's Indigenous history, highlighting the need for continued research and collaboration. It includes consultations with Traditional Knowledge Keepers, archival research from sources like the Provincial Archives of Alberta and Saddle Lake Museum, and public engagement to gather insights on historic and sacred sites. Key findings include the forced relocations, place name changes, and demographic shifts, underscoring the necessity of addressing historical wrongs while pursuing respectful and cooperative land management practices.

To move forward effectively, the next steps involve several key actions. Additional research should include a thorough exploration of archival resources at the Provincial Archives of Alberta and Library Archives Canada, focusing on Department of Indian Affairs records, Sessional Papers, Oblate and Missionary Records, and Treaty 6 Collections to gain historical and geographical context. Simultaneously, archaeological research should be undertaken in collaboration with experts to investigate sensitive sites such as the "Chiefs House" and potential grave sites. This includes conducting interviews with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, reviewing archival records, and employing technologies like ground-penetrating radar to locate sacred sites and burial grounds. Indigenous consultation and engagement are crucial, guided by principles like Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' (UNDRIP). Key stakeholders to engage include First Nations such as Saddle Lake Cree Nation, and Whitefish/Goodfish Cree Nation; Métis Nations including the Kikino Métis Settlement, and Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement; and educational institutions like Blue Quills University and Métis Crossing for potential collaboration and environmental monitoring. Recommendations include conducting comprehensive archival and archaeological research to understand and protect sensitive sites fully, and ensuring active involvement of affected Indigenous communities in the planning and management of the Waskatenau Creek Trail project to support ethical development and respect for traditional lands and practices.

Works Cited

- Bull, I. (2024). Personal Communication. Alberta.
Didier, C. (2024). Personal Communication. Alberta.
Lafleur, A. (1989). From Nomadism to Sedentary Agriculture at Saddle Lake: the forced settlement of five Cree first nations. Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta Thesis Repository.
Skinner, L. (2024). Personal Communication. Alberta.
Steinhauer, B. (2024). Personal Communication. Alberta.

Provincial Archives of Alberta Data

Maps https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TLMfP9yI-NoFh-22PxyEloZt0-AMX60C?usp=drive_link

Surveyor Journals

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TgD8UsAdTya3Q9w6dwLaib444qJpmmSm?usp=drive_link

University of Alberta Maps

Township plans available from SPIN2 <https://alta.registries.gov.ab.ca/SpinII/searchdos.aspx> at a nominal cost. Login as Guest - Search: Township Plans and Field Notes using the following:

Township 58 Range 18 West of 4th Meridian

Township 58 Range 19 West of 4th Meridian

Township 59 Range 18 West of 4th Meridian

Township 59 Range 19 West of 4th** main sheet (others are surrounding sheets)

3 mile sectional maps available from <https://sands.ucalgary.ca/app/sectionalmaps/>

Victoria No. 365: 1915, 1929 and 1948

Saddle Lake No. 366: 1904, 1916 and 1925

Topographic maps

1:50,000 NTS 83I01 Smoky Lake <https://doi.org/10.5683/SP3/TPPODC> (1st ed.)

1:50,000 NTS 83I02 Waskatenau <https://doi.org/10.5683/SP3/SVS5MF> (1st ed.)

1:50,000 NTS 83L04 Cache Lake (Saddle Lake)

<https://doi.org/10.5683/SP3/S5K6NP> (1st ed. East)

<https://doi.org/10.5683/SP3/NLMCIW> (1st ed. West)

1:50,000 NTS 83L03 Muriel Lake <https://doi.org/10.5683/SP3/U9KIMB> (1st ed.)

https://ftp.maps.canada.ca/pub/nrcan_rncan/raster/topographic/ (later editions.)

Othophoto mosaics - download link at bottom of pages

NTS 83I02 <https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/geo/id/449/rec/1>

NTS 83I01 <https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/geo/id/447/rec/1>

Alberta planimetric maps

NTS 83I02

NTS 84I01



Request for Decision

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Agenda Item: **#7.3**

Topic: County-Owned Lands – Offers to Purchase

Presented By: Jordan Ruegg, Planning and Development Manager

Recommendations:

1. That Smoky Lake County Council accept the offer of \$4,500.00, received from Victor, James, Taras and Anthony Filewich, for the lands legally described as PT. NW-2-59-12-W4M (Roll #12590230) containing +/- 13.57 acres.
2. That Smoky Lake County Council reject the offer of \$2,000.00, received from Casey Tchir, for the lands legally described as PT. NE-29-59-12-W4M (Roll #12592941) containing +/- 2.02 acres, due to the conditions of sale proposed by Mr. Tchir.
3. That Smoky Lake County Council accept the offer of \$1,000.00, received from Terry Sklerrek, for the lands legally described as PT. SW-21-60-13-W4M (Roll#13602121) containing +/- 1.0 acres.
4. That Smoky Lake County Council accept the offer of \$500.00, received from Lawrence & Janet Lavoie, for the lands legally described as PT. SW-35-59-15-W4M (Roll#15593521) containing +/- 0.5 acres.
5. That Smoky Lake County Council reject the offer of \$375.00, received from Stephanie Popel, for the lands legally described as PT. NE-27-58-16-W4M (Roll #16582740) containing +/- 2.56 acres.
6. That Smoky Lake County Council accept the offer of \$40,000.00, received from Jim & Sylvia Masikewich, for the lands legally described as PLAN 8120163, LOT 1 (Roll#16593341) containing +/- 20.16 acres.
7. That Smoky Lake County Council accept the offer of \$25,000.00, received from Ryan Franchuk, President of the Clear Hills Grazing Association, for the lands legally described as SW-1261-16-W4M (Roll #16611220) containing +/- 160.0 acres.
8. That Smoky Lake County Council reject the offer of \$1.00, received from Lloyd Pirzek, for the lands legally described as PLAN 3329ET (Roll #18591021) containing +/- 1.0 acres.
9. That Smoky Lake County Council accept the offer of \$1,600.00, received from Laura Bertin, for the lands legally described as PLAN 1955CL, BLOCK 1, LOT 3 (Roll #22010103) containing +/- 3,900 square feet.
10. That Smoky Lake County Council accept the offer of \$1,800.00, received from Vince Sutherland, for the lands legally described as PLAN 1039CL, BLOCK 4, LOTS 12-14 (Roll #27150412) containing +/- 13,660 square feet.
11. That Smoky Lake County Council accept the offer of \$1,200.00, received from Vince Sutherland, for the lands legally described as PLAN 1039CL, BLOCK 4, LOTS 15-16 (Roll #27150415) containing +/- 12,785 square feet.



Request for Decision

12. That accept the offer of \$5,000.00, received from Michael Thompson, for the lands legally described as PLAN 0425044, BLOCK H, LOT 11A (Roll #40451211) containing +/- 10,000 square feet.

Background:

At the August 8th, 2024 County Council meeting, a motion was adopted instructing administration to contact landowners who owned property adjacent to a number of properties owned by the County to gauge their interest in purchasing said County-owned lands.

Benefits: Additional tax revenue for the County; less maintenance costs for maintaining County-owned lands.

Disadvantages: Loss of County-owned lands which could be used for future development/County purposes.

Alternatives: Reject the offers to purchase; make counter-offers to interested parties.

Financial Implications: There are no financial or budget implications to this recommendation.

Legislation: Nil.

Intergovernmental: Nil.

Strategic Alignment: Proactivity in development.

Enclosure(s):

Enclosure #1 – Offer from Victor, James, Taras and Anthony Filewich.

Enclosure #2 – Offer from Casey Tchir

Enclosure #3 – Offer from Terry Sklerek

Enclosure #4 – Offer from Lawrence & Janet Savoie

Enclosure #5 – Offer from Stephanie Popel

Enclosure #6 – Offer from Jim & Sylvia Masikewich

Enclosure #7 – Offer from Ryan Franchuk, President of Clear Hills Grazing Association

Enclosure #8 – Offer from Lloyd Pirzek

Enclosure #9 – Offers from Laura Bertin & Doreen Brisson

Enclosure #10 – Offers from Vince Sutherland

Enclosure #11 – Offer from Michael Thompson

Approved by the CAO: . Date: Oct 3, 2024.



Request for Decision

Enclosure #1 – Offer from Victor, James, Taras and Anthony Filewich.

Jordan Ruegg

From: Kathy Carter [REDACTED]
Sent: September 9, 2024 9:19 AM
To: Jordan Ruegg
Subject: Sale of County-Owned Lands - Pt NW 2-59-12-W4th (approx 13.57 acres)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon Jordan:

On behalf of Victor, James, Taras & Anthony Filewich, the owners of the adjacent lands, we offer our bid of \$4500.00 for the purchase of the 13.57 acres referred to above. You may contact Anthony at 780-991-1545 should you have any questions.

Kathy Carter





Request for Decision

Enclosure #2 – Offer from Casey Tchir

Jordan Ruegg

From: Jordan Ruegg
Sent: September 16, 2024 12:24 PM
To: Jordan Ruegg
Subject: Land Sale Offer - Casey Tchir

Offer to Purchase

Buyer Casey Tchir

Property of county of Smoky Lake:

approximately 2 acres of abandoned Contaminated landfill. With surface debris that was not properly reclaimed.

That may possibly extend into the wetlands on the west portion of the property.

Offer has conditions

1. Any future enforcement orders of cleanup and removal of any materials including hazardous and toxic materials on property will remain the county's responsibility, and 100% the county's expenses, which extends to possible future transfers of sale of landfill sites
And any potential surrounding damages the site may cause.

2. The property to be taxed as agricultural zoning. Or a set minimum tax of \$25.00 per year if remaining as an acreage due to contamination of property.

I Casey Tchir offer \$2,000.

For the abandoned landfill property

PT NE-29-59-12W4M

(+/-2.02 acres)



Jordan Ruegg, B.A., MPlan
Planning and Development Manager
p:780-656-1588 or toll free 1-888-656-3730
c:780-650-5207
4612 - McDougall Drive, PO Box 310
Smoky Lake, Alberta, T0A 3C0

b'b<Cu 'b'Δg<? (kaskapata u sakahig'n) / Димних Озеро (Димних Озеро) / Lac qui Fume / Smoky Lake
Located on Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis Nation

This communication is for use by the intended recipient and contains information that may be privileged, confidential or copyrighted under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby formally notified that any use, copying or distribution of this e-mail, in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender by return e-mail and delete this e-mail from your system. *Studies show that trees live longer when they are not cut down. Please do not print this email*



Request for Decision

Enclosure #3 – Offer from Terry Sklerrek

Sept 7/2024

TERRY SKLEREK



SMOKY LAKE COUNTY
BOX 310
SMOKY LAKE, AB
T0A 3C0

ATTN: JORDAN RUEGG?

I AM OFFERING TO PURCHASE THIS
LAND PT. SW21-68-13-W4M for
the sum of \$1000⁰⁰. It is
approximately 1 acre (+/-) and is on
property I already own! Let
me know any further details you
need!
Terry Sklerrek





Request for Decision

Enclosure #4 – Offer from Lawrence & Janet Savoie

Aug 18, 2024

ATTN. Jordan Ruegg
Planning and Development Manager

LAWRENCE + Janet LAVOIE would like
To put in a Bid of \$ 500~~00~~⁰⁰ for
the 0.5 acre property in (SW-35-59-15-W4M)

Lawrence Savoie
Janet Savoie



Request for Decision

Enclosure #5 – Offer from Stephanie Popel

Jordan Ruegg

From: Stephanie Popel [REDACTED]
Sent: August 26, 2024 12:40 PM
To: Jordan Ruegg
Cc: 'James Popel'
Subject: RE: Sale of County-Owned Lands - PT. NE-27-58-16-W4M - 2.56 acre

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good Afternoon Jordan,

Please accept this offer of the lands legally described as PT.NE-27-58-16-W4M for \$150.00/acre, for a total of \$375.00.

We believe this is a fair offer as this land is unusable and the river is eroding it. It is difficult to access with steep banks and very thick bush.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Popel, CPA, CMA
Chief Financial Officer
Smoky Lake Forest Nursery





Request for Decision

Enclosure #6 – Offer from Jim & Sylvia Masikewich

Masikewich
September 30, 2024

Jordan Ruegg
Planning & Development Manager, Smoky Lake County

Re:

Sale of County-Owned Lands - PLAN 8120163, LOT 1 (+/- 20.16 acres).

Hello Jordan,

Here's a short note - subsequent to submitting our September 11, 2024 offer to Smokey Lake County and you for the 20.16 acres cited above;

On September 18, 2024 we received the final *written* report from the appraisers we engaged.

After considering the appraised value we feel that our offer may be less than what Smokey Lake County Council deems to be a fair value to the County.

Currently we understand that bidding is closed and that this matter will won't be tabled until October 10th. We understand further that we are the sole adjacent landowners currently bidding.

Should the County be amenable to considering a revised offer, we hereby inform you by way of this letter that we are increasing our offer to \$40,000.00 or \$1,984.13 an acre. We also understand it may be difficult to change County protocol and entertain an increased offer from us at this point, therefore we thank you in advance, for considering this and we respect your decision in any case.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jim Masikewich".

Jim Masikewich
September 26, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sylvia Masikewich" with the letters "FOR" written to the right.

Sylvia Masikewich



Request for Decision

Masikewich
September 11, 2024

Jordan Ruegg
Planning & Development Manager, Smoky Lake County

Re:

Sale of County-Owned Lands - PLAN 8120163, LOT 1 (+/- 20.16 acres).

Dear Jordan,

Thank you for your notice dated August 13, 2024 and thank you for clarification relative to the necessity of signatures at this time.

We appreciate this notification as we have been discussing this 20 acre parcel and anticipating this opportunity for a number of years. We also appreciate your method as it recognises adjacent landowners.

This land was formerly a part of an original piece (we believe a homestead) belonging to my grandparents, George and Mary Masikewich. PLAN 8120163 was surveyed and submitted between 1979 and 1980. The land was to be used as a landfill site. Title was transferred to the County in 1981 for a consideration of \$6,500.00. The landfill site was not commissioned and the land hasn't been disturbed since.

Provincial archives: George Masikewich was born in Bukovina, the Ukraine in 1899. He came to Canada in 1914. He worked as a Foreman for Canadian National Railways (CNR) throughout the 1920s and 1930s. He lived in Edward, Alberta in the District of Smoky Lake. He also farmed at Section 33, Township 59, Range 16, West of the 4th Meridian (33-59-16-W4).

Most of the grandchildren have spent parts of summers with my Grandparents on this land. Our family uses the land for family reunions from time to time – currently with 5th generation Masikewich kids attending. Our feeling is that this 20 acre parcel is an exceedingly important piece of our family heritage and attaining it will make this estate whole again.

We have maintained a custodial arrangement with neighbors for two generations (about 40 years) and will hopefully continue to do so for generations. The descendants of George Masikewich are in the process of transferring the title of our 135 acres in NE Section 33 to our holding company "George and Mary Masikewich Memorial Corporation" – Corporate Registry Search included below. The purpose of corporate administration is to disseminate ownership and thereby help maintain our family unity and preserve our family heritage. Having a single (100%) interest on title will ensure it doesn't become cluttered – and hence the administration of business will be streamlined and simplified for both our family and the County.

The shares of this company will be distributed to the descendants of George and Mary as an inheritance (gift) and the gift will be subsequently be subject to conditions in a Unanimous Shareholders Agreement (USA). It stipulates that the land may be used by all family members for their express enjoyment and it



Request for Decision

will be administered by the corporation. It stipulates further that the land be preserved and remain unaltered. Unaltered means no dumping or dugouts or logging or gravel pits or shops - and encourages the preservation of the original buildings as is practical. It includes a "no selling shares" clause and a "no collateral designations" clause. The custodian will be an elected family member. Any business decisions will fall to a 3 person board. This USA agreement is in final draft stage – TOC is attached to this document

The USA also provides that retained earnings from pasture rental and oil well lease payments will be used as a contingency account and any retained earnings balance in excess of a threshold will be dedicated to scholarship pursuit for students in our family. Last year we received our first application (an essay) from a great grand-daughter for scholarship consideration – which we approved.

We've completed our study to assist us in providing the County with a reasonable offer for the parcel. We have:

- Calculated the TVM - inflation-adjusted value (accrued since the original sale),
- Received a (comparable) estimate from 1 realtor,
- Received an Assessment Summary – to include 15 acres with 42 DG – 40.2% rating and 5.16 acres with 80 Pasture - 9% rating,
- Commissioned an appraisal conducted by professional appraisers
- Received ArcMap images – Indicating wetlands
- Completed a physical inspection of the land on September 10

Accordingly we hereby offer Smokey Lake County \$25,000.00 for the 20.16 acres described as title number 812 015 923, Plan 8120163 Lot 1, NE 33-59-16 W4. This amount exceeds the Time Value of Money amount which is a factor of 3.28 (or \$21,000.00) for the years between 1981 and 2024. We hope this represents a fair offer to Smoky Lake County at this time.

Please Note: We are open to further discussion if this is amount is not deemed sufficient or fair to the County and please feel free to contact either myself or Sylvia should you require additional information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jim Masikewich".

Jim Masikewich

September 11, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sylvia Masikewich".


Sylvia Masikewich

September 11, 2024




Request for Decision

**PLAN
SHOWING SURVEY OF
LANDFILL SITE**
IN PART OF THE
NE 1/4 Sec. 33-59-16-W4M.
COUNTY OF SMOKY LAKE
Scale 1:5000 1980 B.F. BAYDA R.L.S.



Note
SURVEY MONUMENTS FOUND AS INDICATED
STATUTORY 180M SURVEY POTS PLANTED SHOWING PLS
ALL DISTANCES ARE IN METERS AND DECIMALS THEREOF
ALL DISTANCES ARE PLANTED POTS 1.8 METERS LONG
C/S. DISTANCES COUNTER SURVEY
AREA TO BE REGISTERED OUTLINED IN RED CONTAINING 8.16 ha.



ORDINANCE REGULATIONS
APPROVED
Paul Bouch
Director of Planning
19D(2)-153 MAY 22 1981
File No. DATE

Under the provision of Section 100(15) of The Planning Act 1977, the above endorsement is effective for a period of twelve months from the date of the above approval.

PLAN NUMBER 812 0163
IS HEREBY CERTIFIED AS DULY
ENTERED AND REGISTERED
IN THE LAND TITLES OFFICE
FOR THE NORTH ALBERTA
LAND REGISTRATION DISTRICT
M. M.
22 JAN 81
812015922



Request for Decision



LAND TITLE CERTIFICATE

S
LINC SHORT LEGAL TITLE NUMBER
0011 980 737 8120163;;1 812 015 923

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
PLAN 8120163
LOT 1
EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS
AREA: 8.16 HECTARES (20.16 ACRES) MORE OR LESS

ESTATE: FEE SIMPLE
ATS REFERENCE: 4:16;59;33;NE

MUNICIPALITY: SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

REGISTRATION	DATE(DMY)	REGISTERED OWNER(S) DOCUMENT TYPE	VALUE	CONSIDERATION
812 015 923	22/01/1981		\$6,500	

OWNERS
THE COUNTY OF SMOKY LAKE NO. 13.
OF SMOKY LAKE,
ALBERTA

ENCUMBRANCES, LIENS & INTERESTS

REGISTRATION NUMBER	DATE (D/M/Y)	PARTICULARS
2497UP	08/04/1974	CAVEAT CAVEATOR - CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED. CALGARY PLACE POSTAL OUTLET P.O.BOX 20084 CALGARY ALBERTA T2P4J2 (DATA UPDATED BY: TRANSFER OF CAVEAT 942343068) (DATA UPDATED BY: TRANSFER OF CAVEAT 942343143) (DATA UPDATED BY: TRANSFER OF CAVEAT 982027658)

(CONTINUED)



Request for Decision

Value of 1981 Canadian Dollar today

\$100 in 1981 → **\$328.13** in 2024

The inflation rate in Canada between 1981 and today has been 228.13%, which translates into a total increase of \$228.13. This means that **100 dollars in 1981 are equivalent to 328.13 dollars in 2024**. In other words, the purchasing power of \$100 in 1981 equals \$328.13 today. The average annual inflation rate between these periods has been 2.8%.

Inflation timeline in Canada (1981 - 2024)

The following chart depicts the equivalence of \$100 due to compound inflation and CPI changes. All values are equivalent in terms of purchasing power, which means that for each year the same goods or services could be bought with the indicated amount of money.



All calculations are performed in the local currency (CAD) and using 6 decimal digits. Results show only up to 2 decimal digits to favour readability. Inflation data is provided by governments and international institutions on a monthly basis. Today's values were extrapolated from the latest 12-month rolling average official data.



Request for Decision

Government Corporation/Non-Profit Search of Alberta ■ Corporate Registration System

Date of Search: 2022-02-01
Time of Search: 03:45 PM
Search provided by: FASKEN MARTINEAU DUMOULIN LLP
Service Request Number: 36961050
Customer Reference Number: 203316-00003

Corporate Access Number: 2021523192
Business Number:
Legal Entity Name: GEORGE AND MARY MASIKEWICH MEMORIAL CORPORATION
Legal Entity Status: Active
Alberta Corporation Type: Named Alberta Corporation
Registration Date: 2018-10-29 YYYY-MM-DD

Registered Office:
Street: 3400-350 - 7TH AVENUE SW
City: CALGARY
Province: ALBERTA
Postal Code: T2P3N9

Records Address:
Street: 3400-350 - 7TH AVENUE SW
City: CALGARY
Province: ALBERTA
Postal Code: T2P3N9

Email Address: C.G.Y.CORP@FASKEN.COM

Directors:

Last Name: MASIKEWICH
First Name: SYLVIA
Street Box Number: 13639 120 AVENUE
City: EDMONTON
Province: ALBERTA
Postal Code: T5W2L1

Last Name: MASIKEWICH
First Name: JAMES
Street Box Number: 105 SIENNA PARK GARDENS SW



Request for Decision

THIS UNANIMOUS SHAREHOLDER AGREEMENT made as of the ____ day of November, 2024.

AMONG:

GEORGE AND MARY MASIKEWICH MEMORIAL CORPORATION, a company incorporated under the laws of the Province of Alberta (hereinafter referred to as the "Corporation")

- and -

Those persons listed on Schedule "A" hereof and all those persons who become shareholders of the Corporation from time to time after the date hereof



Request for Decision

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Enclosure #7 – Offer from Ryan Franchuk, President of Clear Hills Grazing Association

County of Smoky Lake
Box 310
Smoky Lake, Alberta
T0A 3C0

September 1, 2024

Dear County Council,

This letter is a formal proposal to purchase the quarter of land that clearhills grazing association has been renting, sw-12-61-16-w4m. After discussion with our members, we have decided to offer twenty five thousand dollars (\$25000).

We have a couple points we would like council to consider that led us to this offer. First. this quarter is essentially in the middle of our pasture, and has only one side fenced, and the majority of the land is dense bush, so it is not prime grazing. Secondly, we are a non profit group, with grazing fees being used to upkeep the lease and infrastructure. For that reason a large capital purchase is difficult for us.

In making this offer, we realize that the land could be sent to auction. We hope you reconsider that route as we are very concerned that someone could buy this land with the sole purpose of hunting on it or recreation use. Since this is a grazing reserve, ATV's running around our cows, or hunters driving through our pasture is not desirable. We know that it is sold without county access, but it is possible to get access to the quarter in a vehicle through our grazing lease. For this reason, we hope the council would negotiate a fair sale price on this land.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Franchuk".

Ryan Franchuk
President
Clear Hills Grazing Association



Request for Decision

Enclosure #8 – Offer from Lloyd Pirzek

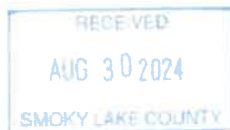
Smoky Lake County Council
Box 310
Smoky Lake, AB
T0A 3C0

Dear sirs,

Please accept this letter as my offer to purchase the lands legally described as Plan 3329ET (+/- 1.0 acres) for the amount of \$1.00. In my opinion, this land will not be useful for anyone else's purpose and it is not useful as viable farmland either. I would like to acquire the land and have it consolidated with my quarter section (SW-10-59-18-W4M) and I will spray the land to keep noxious weeds down, providing this as a benefit to the County.

I hope that my offer is accepted by Council based on these merits. Thank you for your consideration.


Lloyd Pirzek





Request for Decision

Jordan Ruegg

From: Doreen Brisson [REDACTED]
Sent: September 13, 2024 2:03 PM
To: Jordan Ruegg
Subject: Doreen Brisson Bid on lot in Spedden Plan 1955CL Block 1, Lot 3

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon Jordan,
My name is Doreen Brisson and I spoke with you this morning about the lot in Spedden. We would like to bid on the following property in Spedden.
Bid amount \$1500.00
Plan 1955
Block 1
Lot 3
In Spedden, AB.
Please let me know if there is a higher bid on that lot. Also I need to know when the bidding closes.
Thanks for your time. Take care and have yourself a Great Day?
Yours truly,
Doreen Brisson
Cell phone number is [REDACTED]

Sent from my Huawei phone



Request for Decision

Enclosure #10 – Offers from Vince Sutherland

Jordan Ruegg

From: Brandy [REDACTED]
Sent: August 30, 2024 3:53 PM
To: Jordan Ruegg

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Jordan.

My name is Vince Sutherland. As a resident in the Hamlet of Bellis, I would like to submit an offer for the 5 lots going up for sale. The lots are

- 1039cl blk 4 lots 12, 13 and 14
- 1039cl blk 4 lots 15 and 16.

I would like to purchase these Lots to retain the green space that is already there. I have no intentions of developing these Lots at this time because it is being used by the community and visitors as a recreational area. The properties will be regularly maintained.

It is in the best interest of several residents of the Hamlet that it be kept as is.

As per the previous Land Tax Sale, the cost to purchase all 5 lots was \$3000. I am prepared to offer \$1800 for lots 12, 13 and 14 blk 4, as well as \$1200 for lots 15 and 16 blk 4, for the sum of \$3000 total to purchase all 5 lots as described above. As is, where is.

Look forward to hearing back from you if my offer is accepted. Thank you for considering my offer.

Sincerely...

Vince Sutherland
[REDACTED]



Request for Decision

Enclosure #11 – Offer from Michael Thompson

①

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

SEPT 12/24

MICHAEL THOMPSON



ATT. JORDAN RUEGG:

RE: SALE OF COUNTY-OWNED LANDS.

- PLAN 0425044, BLOCK H, LOT 11A

OFFER TO PURCHASE THIS LOT
FOR PRICE OF - \$5000.00 - CAN.

THANK YOU.

Mike Thompson



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Agenda Item: #7.4

Topic: Request from Village of Waskatenau to purchase lands located within Smoky Lake County (RAILWAY PLAN 371BV STATION GROUNDS IN TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 19, WEST OF THE 4TH MERIDIAN)

Presented By: Planning & Development Services

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County Council provides its consent to the Village of Waskatenau, to acquire the lands legally described as: "Railway Plan 371BV Station Grounds in Township 59, Range 19, West of the 4th Meridian, comprising parts of Section NE 9 (4.44 hectares) and NW 9 (2.55 hectares), excepting thereout all mines and minerals; pursuant to the requirements outlined in Section 72 of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c M-26, as amended.

Background:

Smoky Lake County administration received a letter from the Village of Waskatenau, dated July 22, 2024, requesting Smoky Lake County provide its consent to the Village to allow for the acquisition of former CN lands that lie south of the Village’s boundary, within Smoky Lake County.

Section 72(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c M-26, as amended, stipulates that a municipality that intends to acquire an estate or interest in land outside of its boundaries may do so only if the municipality in which the land that is subject of the acquisition of an estate or interest in, provides its consent.

Benefits: Potential transfer of responsibility for maintenance costs of roadway located on said lands to the Village.

Disadvantages: Loss of tax revenue from land sold to Village as municipalities do not pay property tax on land they own.

Alternatives: Deny the request and maintain the Development Concept Plan in its current configuration.

Financial Implications: Nil.

Legislation: Nil.

Intergovernmental: Nil.

Strategic Alignment: Nil.

Enclosure(s): **Enclosure #1: Letter of Village of Waskatenau, dated July 22, 2024**

Enclosure #2: Correspondence with the Village of Waskatenau re: road located on subject lands

Approved by the CAO:  **Date:** Oct 3 2024



Request for Decision (RFD)

Enclosure #1: Letter of Village of Waskatenau, dated July 22, 2024



VILLAGE OF WASKATENAU

Box 99, Waskatenau, Alberta T0A 3P0

Phone: (780) 358-2208
Fax: (780) 358-2208
Email: waskvillage@mcsnet.ca
Website: www.waskatenau.ca

July 22, 2024

Smoky Lake County
Box 310
Smoky Lake, Alberta
T0A 3C0
Attention: Kevin Lucas

Re: CN Lands

The Village of Waskatenau is seeking to purchase 19.62 +/- acres of land from CN and has been working with CN to acquire these lands. We have attached a map outlining the lands we are proposing to purchase.

When purchasing land in another municipality the Municipal Government Act states:

Acquisition of land outside municipal boundaries

72(1) A municipality may acquire an estate or interest in land outside its boundaries only if

- (a) the council of the municipal authority in whose boundaries the land is located consents in writing to the acquisition or, in the case of a municipal authority that is an improvement district or special area, the Minister consents in writing to the acquisition,
 - (a.1) in the case of land located in a province or territory adjoining Alberta, the local government within whose boundaries the land is located consents in writing to the acquisition, and
 - (b) after the written consent is given, the council that wishes to acquire the estate or interest in the land authorizes the acquisition.
- (2)** This section does not apply when a municipality acquires
- (a) an option on land outside its boundaries, but it does apply when the municipality exercises the option, or
 - (b) an estate or interest in mines and minerals.

Please send your consent in writing to the Village of Waskatenau. If you have any further questions, please contact our office.

Bernice Macyk
Chief Administrative Officer

"Country living at its Best"



Request for Decision (RFD)

SCHEDULE A / ANNEXE A

DESCRIPTION: Waskataneau Province of Alberta Canada	PROPERTY SKETCH		RECEIVED 	
	SUBJECT LANDS (19.62 ACS±)	SPUR / ANTENNE: N/A		Scenario (008)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subject Lands/Terrain Sujet	MILEAGE / MILLAIRE: 49.88 - 50.50		DATE: April 23, 2024
	THIS IS NOT A PLAN OF SURVEY / CECI N'EST PAS UN PLAN D'APPARTENANCE	SCALE / ÉCHELLE: 1:5500		APR 29 2024
				CONTRIBUTION TO THE COST OF THE PLAN

608_0368.dwg (EN_LS_6) L'YOUT: Waskataneau



Request for Decision (RFD)

Enclosure #2: Correspondence with the Village of Waskatenau re: road located on subject lands

Jordan Ruegg

From: Village Of Waskatenau <waskvillage@mcsnet.ca>
Sent: September 23, 2024 9:25 AM
To: Jordan Ruegg
Cc: Kevin Lucas
Subject: RE: CN Lands - 371BV RLY 59 (+/- 19.62 acres)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good Morning

The Village of Waskatenau Council passed Motion #190-2024 at our September 19, 2024 Council meeting as follows:

"Councillor Roy Krahulec moves that Village of Waskatenau will be responsible for the maintenance of the portion of road Referenced as TWP RD 592A in the Smoky Lake County's GIS that is located on the lands which the Village of Waskatenau intends to acquire from CN described as 371BV RLY 59 (+/- 19.62 acres). Carried."

The Village of Waskatenau looks forward to the letter of consent as soon as possible from the Smoky Lake County as requested in our letter to you dated July 22, 2024. We wish to complete the purchase of the CN lands within the next couple of weeks.

Thank you
Bernice Macyk, CAO
Village of Waskatenau
(780) 358-2208

From: Jordan Ruegg [mailto:jruegg@smokylakecounty.ab.ca]
Sent: September 9, 2024 1:21 PM
To: Village Of Waskatenau
Cc: Kevin Lucas
Subject: RE: CN Lands - 371BV RLY 59 (+/- 19.62 acres)

Good afternoon Bernice.

To summarize our call from last week regarding the portion of road (referenced as TWP RD 592A in the County's GIS) that is located on the lands which Waskatenau intends to acquire from CN, the following was discussed:

- Should the County provide its consent to the Village to acquire land located within the County's jurisdiction, County administration would like clarity from the Village as to who would be responsible for maintaining this road should the Village acquire the land before it requests consent to be given by Council; and
- The current level of service of said road was also discussed and both County and Village administration agreed that the County currently provides minimal maintenance to said road.

Please let me know if you require any additional information from our end.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Thank you,



Jordan Ruegg, B.A., MPlan
Planning and Development Manager
p:780-656-1588 or toll free 1-888-656-3730
c:780-650-5207
4612 - McDougall Drive, PO Box 310
Smoky Lake, Alberta, T0A 3C0

ᑭᓴᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑭᓴᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ (keskapateu sakahigan) / Димних Озеро (Дымных Озеро) / Lac qui Fume / Smoky Lake
Located on Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis Nation

This communication is for use by the intended recipient and contains information that may be privileged, confidential or copyrighted under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby formally notified that any use, copying or distribution of this e-mail, in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender by return e-mail and delete this e-mail from your system. *Studies show that trees live longer when they are not cut down. Please do not print this email*

From: Village Of Waskatenau <waskvillage@mcsnet.ca>
Sent: September 9, 2024 8:46 AM
To: Jordan Ruegg <jruegg@smokylakecounty.ab.ca>
Subject: RE: CN Lands - 371BV RLY 59 (+/- 19.62 acres)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Thank you Jordan

Can you please send a letter or email from the County regarding our discussions about the road on that property. We have a Council meeting on September 19, 2024.

Thank you
Bernice Macyk, CAO
Village of Waskatenau
(780) 358-2208

From: Jordan Ruegg [<mailto:jruegg@smokylakecounty.ab.ca>]
Sent: September 4, 2024 4:23 PM
To: Bernice Macyk, Waskatenau CAO
Cc: Kevin Lucas
Subject: CN Lands - 371BV RLY 59 (+/- 19.62 acres)

Good afternoon Bernice.

As per our conversation this morning, I did some research into the CN lands that the Village is seeking to purchase. I was not able to find any crossing agreements or other agreements relating to the lands in the County's files. I did a Title search and found a utility ROW agreement (attached) between CN and ATCO that may be of interest to you, but to my knowledge there is nothing in place between CN and the County.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Thank you,



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Agenda Item: **#7.5**

Topic: Request to waive monthly Natural Gas Service Charge for Spedden Community Hall and Orthodox Church.

Presented By: Natural Gas Manager

Recommendation:

Option #1: That Smoky Lake County Council take no action in regards to the letter from Gordon Gordey, Treasurer, Ukrainian Orthodox Society of Spedden, dated September 23, 2024.

Option #2: That Smoky Lake County Council approve to waive the Natural Gas Service Charge for Smoky Lake County Natural Gas Accounts 110050.01 & 110110.01, for a defined period of time at Council discretion, as per the letter from Gordon Gordey, Treasurer, Ukrainian Orthodox Society of Spedden, dated September 23, 2024.

Background:

Attached is a letter of request to waive the \$26.00 per month natural gas service charges for the Spedden Community Hall (account #110110.01) & the Spedden Orthodox Church (account #110050.01), along with additional financial information. This would calculate to be \$312 per year in lost revenue, per account, if Council approves.

Benefits:

The additional funds available to the non-profit help keep the hall and church active.

Disadvantages:

Lost revenue to the Natural Gas Department that would have to be recovered in user fees. This is the first request we have received of this nature. If approved, there are 10 additional halls and churches with Smoky Lake County Natural Gas accounts that could request the same.

Alternatives:

Any alternative to the recommendation is at the discretion of Council.

Financial Implications:

\$26.00 per month x 12 months = \$312.00 per year in lost revenue per Smoky Lake County Natural Gas account. This request would be for 2 accounts, totaling in \$624.00 per year in lost revenue. If all 12 halls and churches request this, it could potentially be \$3,744.00 per year of lost revenue to Smoky Lake County Natural Gas.

Legislation:

Intergovernmental:

N/A

Strategic Alignment:

N/A

Enclosure(s):

1. Letter from Ukrainian Orthodox Society of Spedden.

Signature of the CAO:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gordon Gordey", written over a horizontal line.

County of Smoky Lake
Smoky Lake AB T0A 3C0

September 6, 2024

**Attention Daniel Moric, *Natural Gas Manager*, Kevin Lucas, *Chief Administrative Officer*
& County Council**

**Spedden Community Hall and Orthodox Church Request for Waiving of the Monthly
County Natural Gas Service Charge**

Our community hall and Orthodox Church are both in an operating fund shortfall as we strive to stay open to serve our Spedden area and Smoky Lake County users. Our hall and Church are in very good physical shape having been very well maintained in the past.

Needless to say we face increased costs in insurance, natural gas, and electricity. We took the responsible route of reducing our insurance coverage for the hall to just cover liability and site cleanup – canceling our building replacement. At our Church we just converted from buying power to using a self-generator.

Our only other option to reduce operating costs is to cut off our Natural Gas and look to propane for both buildings. It is not a choice we want to make after decades of Natural Gas use from Smoky Lake County but every reduction keeps our hall and Church open.

We appeal to the Smoky Lake County to offset a portion of our operating costs by waiving the \$26 Monthly Service Charge portion of our Natural Gas billing for both buildings. We know that all County located Halls, churches, and small recreation centres face the same operating cost hurdles. Please give thoughtful consideration to urge Council to apply this survival action to these entities as well.

Our hall and Church are maintained by the non-profit Ukrainian Orthodox Society of Spedden.

Thank you in advance to Smoky Lake County to supporting our community infrastructure.

Original Signed

Gordon Gordey
Treasurer, Ukrainian Orthodox Society of Spedden

Eddy Huk, President

Cc dgawalko@smokylakecounty.ab.ca



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Agenda Item: #7.6

Topic: FCSS Applications

Presented By: Brenda Adamson / Finance

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County approve to allocate funding from the 2024 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Grant budget in accordance with Policy no 08-17-01: Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) grant as follows:

\$2,500 to Smoky Lake Minor Hockey Association for volunteer respect in sport leader courses

Background:

The Smoky Lake Minor Hockey Association has requested \$2,500 to run Respect in Sport-Activity Leader, training, and coaching courses for the volunteer coaches and leaders.

Benefits:

The program will support volunteer coaches and referees keeping hockey safe and respectful

Disadvantages:

n/a

Alternatives:

Council can approve no funding or can choose an amount other than the amount requested.

Financial Implications:

The budget is	\$24,377
Balance available	\$ 3,006

Legislation:

Policy 08-17-01 Family and Community Support Services

Intergovernmental:

n/a

Strategic Alignment:

n/a

Enclosure(s):

A Application from Smoky Lake Minor Hockey Association

Signature of the CAO: 

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Grants		Policy No.: 17-02
Section: 08	Code: P-S	Page No.: 1 of 7 E

Legislation Reference:	<i>Family and Community Support Services Act</i>
-------------------------------	--

Purpose:	To provide a consistent method for Smoky Lake County to award Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Grant funding to various non-profit volunteer service organizations that support preventive social initiatives within the community.
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:
<p>1. STATEMENT:</p> <p>1.1 Smoky Lake County will manage its FCSS program in compliance with statutory requirements and operate in accordance with the Act and regulations thereto.</p> <p>1.2 The County recognizes investments made in organizations that provide preventive social initiatives under the Family and Community Social Services program will benefit the entire community.</p> <p>1.3 The County will establish an annual budget to assist non-profit organizations to operate their program or services providing these are within the FCSS Act and regulations.</p> <p>1.4 The County has the authority to set funding deadlines.</p> <p>2. DEFINITIONS:</p> <p>2.1 "Act": means the Family and Community Support Services Act (RSA 2000).</p> <p>2.2 "County": means Smoky Lake County Council or the Family and Community Services (FCSS) Committee.</p> <p>2.3 "Outcomes": means the benefits, impact or changes for individuals, families, communities, or populations during or after participating in program activities. They are influenced by a program's outputs. Outcomes may relate to knowledge, attitudes, values, skills, behavior, condition, status or other attributes. They are what participants know, think, or can do; or how they behave; or what their condition or status is, that is different following the program.</p>

Title: Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Grants		Policy No.: 17-02
Section: 08	Code: P-S	Page No.: 2 of 7 E

Policy Statement and Guidelines:		
3. GUIDELINES:		
3.1	Organizations must be non-profit and must operate within the Smoky Lake County region.	
3.2	Services and programs provided by the organization must fall within the mandate of	preventive social services as outlined in the Provincial FCSS Act and Regulations.
3.3	The applicant must demonstrate that the funds will be used to:	
3.3.1	help individuals develop independence and strengthen coping skills.	
3.3.2	develop awareness with regards to social needs.	
3.3.3	develop interpersonal and group skills.	
3.3.4	help communities assume responsibilities and actions which affect them.	
3.3.5	provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community.	
3.4	Granted funds must be used prior to December 31 of the granting year or returned to Smoky Lake County.	
3.5	Unexpended or returned FCSS program funds shall be made available to other	programs or projects.
4. PROCEDURES:		
4.1	Each non-profit organization must apply for funding by submitting Schedule "A": Smoky Lake County - FCSS Grant Application.	
4.2	The Finance Manager shall review the application to ensure that it meets the criteria established by the FCSS Act and FCSS Regulations.	
4.2.1	Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicants and shall be reconsidered	by County administration if funds are available and time allow before the deadline.
4.3	All completed application(s) shall be presented to a County Meeting.	
4.4	County Council shall review the application(s) to determine an amount, if any to be granted.	
4.5	The successful grant recipient shall submit a final accounting as per Schedule "B": Smoky Lake County - FCSS Program Evaluation Report and Schedule "C" – Smoky Lake County - FCSS Financial Report upon completion of the program or prior to December 31 of current year. Failure to provide a final accounting may result in future grant rejection.	

Title: Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Grants		Policy No.: 17-02
Section: 08	Code: P-S	Page No.: 3 of 7 E

<p>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</p> <p>4.6 FCSS Funding applicants shall have the right to appeal funding decisions to Council.</p> <p>4.7 At any time, the County may request non-profit organizations, who have received funding to make a presentation to Council.</p>
--

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	August 22, 2012	# 718-12 - Page 10122
Amended	December 16, 2021	
Amended		

- Provide support that helps sustain people as active members of the community.

Page 4 of 7

6. Please select the main strategic social outcome the program will attain.

- Individuals experience personal well being
 - Individuals are connected with others
- Children and youth develop positively**
- Healthy functioning within families
- Families have social supports
- The community is connected and engaged
- Community social issues are identified and addressed

7. Will the program be carried out by staff or volunteers? **Volunteers**

8. What indicators of success will you use? How will you know the program has been successful? What is your outcome statement? **We will know we have been successful by enjoying a constructive, respectful, educational, and fun hockey season. We will know we have been successful when all players, coaches, referees and volunteers work together to enjoy the hockey season.**

9. What measurement tool will you use to measure success? (survey, interview, documentation review, observation, focus group, or case studies) **Survey and Observation**

I declare that

- ✓ I am a duly authorized representative having legal, financial, and /or executive signing authority for the above noted organization.
- ✓ The project will benefit the general community and not specific individuals/families..
- ✓ A final budget report indicating the project's expenses and revenues will be provided to the County no later than 60 days after the grant year end (December 31).
- ✓ A final evaluation form will be provided to the County no later than 60 days from the stated completion date.
- ✓ Any unused funding will be returned to Smoky Lake County.
- ✓ Any changes to the project including extensions must have written approval from the County.

Name: Kelly Montgomery

Signature: 

Position: Secretary

Date: September 20th, 2024

Schedule "A" : SMOKY LAKE COUNTY - FCSS GRANT APPLICATION

Page 5 of 7

Section 08

Policy 17-02



SCHEDULE "B"

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY – FCSS PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

LEGAL REGISTERED NAME OF ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Box City or Town Postal Code

PHONE #: _____ FAX #: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____ EMAIL: _____

➔ **COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION IN ITS ENTIRETY**

1. What did your program accomplish? _____

2. How many participants were involved? _____

3. How many volunteers were involved? _____

4. Outcomes:

a. Please select at least one of the social outcome statements to report on

- Individuals experience personal well being
 - Individuals are connected with others
- Children and youth develop positively
- Healthy functioning within families
- Families have social supports
- The community is connected and engaged
- Community social issues are identified and addressed

b. How did you measure results? (survey, interview, documentation review, observation, focus group, or case studies)

System: 2024-10-02 10:53:58 AM
 User Date: 2024-10-02

Smoky Lake County
 BUDGET VS ACTUAL INQUIRY REPORT
 General Ledger

Page: 1
 User ID: brendaa

Account: 1-51-00-5703
 Budget ID: 2024 FINAL

FCSS Operating
 2024 Approved Final

From: 2024-01-01 To: 2024-12-31

Display: Net Change

Period	Actual	Budget	Variance	Variance Percent
Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Period 1	-\$24,376.73	-\$97,506.00	-\$73,129.27	-75.00%
Period 2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Period 3	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Period 4	-\$24,376.71	\$0.00	\$24,376.71	0.00%
Period 5	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Period 6	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Period 7	-\$24,376.71	\$0.00	\$24,376.71	0.00%
Period 8	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Period 9	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Period 10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Period 11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Period 12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-\$73,130.15	-\$97,506.00	-\$24,375.85	-25.00%
	=====	=====	=====	=====



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Agenda Item: #7.7

Topic: Tax agreement

Presented By: Brenda Adamson, Finance manager

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County execute a Tax Agreement for Property Tax Roll Number 15591611, legally described as Plan 1325199 Block 1, Lot 1 with a total monthly payment in the amount of \$1,285.00 per month effective October 15, 2024 for thirty six (36) consecutive months, as per Policy Statement No. 12-01-01 :Tax Agreement

Background:

Smoky Lake County has Policy 12-01-01 Tax Agreement to allow a landowner to request a tax agreement for payment of outstanding taxes. Tax roll 15591611 has \$29,501.79 of tax arrears. If they remain unpaid, they would be scheduled for tax sale in 2025. The owners have agreed to the terms as per policy and will pay \$1,285 per month for 36 months. This will pay the outstanding taxes plus estimated future taxes.

Benefits:

Adheres to legislation.

Allows the owner to avoid losing the property.

Eliminates the cost to get legal involved to assist with eviction.

Disadvantages:

Alternatives:

Deny the agreement, take legal action to evict and proceed to auction.

Financial Implications:

n/a

Legislation:

Offer of parcel for sale

418(1) Each municipality must offer for sale at a public auction any parcel of land shown on its tax arrears list if the tax arrears are not paid. (2) Unless subsection (4) applies, the public auction must be held in the period beginning on the date referred to in section 417(2)(a) and ending on March 31 of the year immediately following that date. (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to a parcel in respect of which the municipality has started an action under section 411(2) to recover the tax arrears before the date of the public auction. (4) The municipality may enter into an agreement with the owner of a parcel of land shown on its tax arrears list providing for the payment of the tax arrears over a period not exceeding 3 years, and in that event the parcel need not be offered for sale under subsection (1) until (a) the agreement has expired, or (b) the owner of the parcel breaches the agreement, whichever occurs first.

Intergovernmental:



Request for Decision (RFD)

Strategic Alignment:

Enclosure(s):

1. *Policy 12-01 Tax Agreement*
2. *Agreement for Plan 15591611 legally described as Plan 13251999, Block 1, Lot 1*

Signature of the CAO:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: Tax Agreement		Policy No.: 01-01
Section: 12	Code:	Page No.: 1 of 5

E

Legislation Reference: *Municipal Government Act, Section 418(8).*

Purpose: The intent of the Tax Agreement is to provide the landowner the ability to enter into an agreement to remove the property from Tax Sale.

Policy Statement and Guidelines:

GUIDELINES

STEP ONE:

The Landowner whose properties are to be sold by Tax Sale, is responsible to approach Council if payment in full amount cannot be made; and enter in a **“TAX AGREEMENT”**.

STEP TWO:

Council’s decision to execute a Tax Agreement with the Landowner; and may allow the landowner up to a maximum of 3 (three) years to make equal payments of the arrears.

STEP THREE:

It is the responsibility of the landowner to pay the current years taxes and remain current during the term of the agreement.

STEP FOUR:

Any breach of the Tax Agreement by the Landowner automatically puts the property up for tax sale; and the arrears plus penalties are payable immediately.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	December 11, 2006	# 93-06 - Page # 8256
Amended		
Amended		

2. METHOD OF PAYMENT

- 2.1 Payment shall be made as calculated within "Schedule A", hereto attached and forming part of this Agreement.
- 2.2 Payment shall be received on the 15 day of each month beginning on the 15 day of January, 2024.
- 2.3 The Landowner hereby acknowledges and agrees that if he fails to make payment in accordance with 2(a) above, unless prior written waiver is provided by Smoky Lake County, during the term of this Agreement, this Agreement shall be null and void, and Smoky Lake County shall be entitled to proceed with tax recovery actions in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*.
- 2.4 Should the Landowner sell the lands at any time during the term of this Agreement, all tax arrears, penalties, and costs to which Smoky Lake County is entitled under Division 8 of Part 10 of the *Municipal Government Act* shall immediately become due and payable.

3. MUNICIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Smoky Lake County agrees that it shall not pursue tax recovery proceedings relating to the property while this Agreement is in effect.
- 3.2 Smoky Lake County further agrees that upon full payment of all arrears that tax recovery notification shall be removed within thirty (30) days of funds being deposited with Smoky Lake County; and this Agreement shall therefore be terminated.

4. GENERAL

- 4.1 This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and, except as hereinafter may otherwise be provided, upon their executors, administrators, successors and assigns, if any.
- 4.2 This Agreement shall be interpreted and governed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Alberta and the forum of all disputes arising from this Agreement shall be the Courts of the Province of Alberta.
- 4.3 All terms, conditions and covenants within this Agreement shall be severable. Should any term, condition, or covenant herein be declared invalid or unenforceable by any court having the jurisdiction of this Agreement shall not be thereby affected and shall remain in full force and effect.
- 4.4 This Agreement may be registered as a caveat against the Lands.

5. **TERMINATION**

This Agreement shall come to an end:

- 5.1 If the Landowner fails to make a payment contemplated by the Agreement on the date it is required.
- 5.2 If the Landowner files for, or is placed in, bankruptcy.
- 5.3 Some other party takes legal proceedings in respect of the Property.

Upon termination, the full amount of the outstanding taxes (including interest) is immediately payable to Smoky Lake County.

6. **REPRESENTATIVES**

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following named individuals are the representatives of the parties to this Agreement and are hereby enabled to perform all obligations of the parties to this Agreement as contained within this Agreement:

FOR THE LANDOWNER:

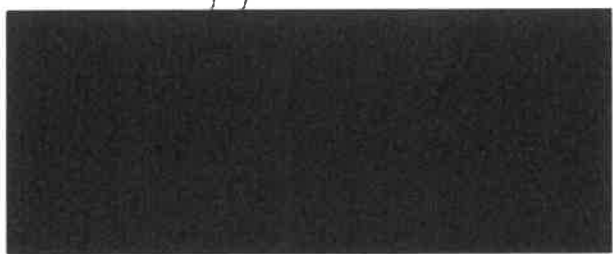
SMOKY LAKE COUNTY


Name: _____

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

7. **SIGNATURE**



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

Smoky Lake County
 4612 McDougall Drive, PO Box 310
 Smoky Lake, Canada, AB
 T0A 3C0

Date Issued: September 11, 2024

Issued To:



Roll #: 15591611

Owners:



Property Address: 15314 TWP RD 592

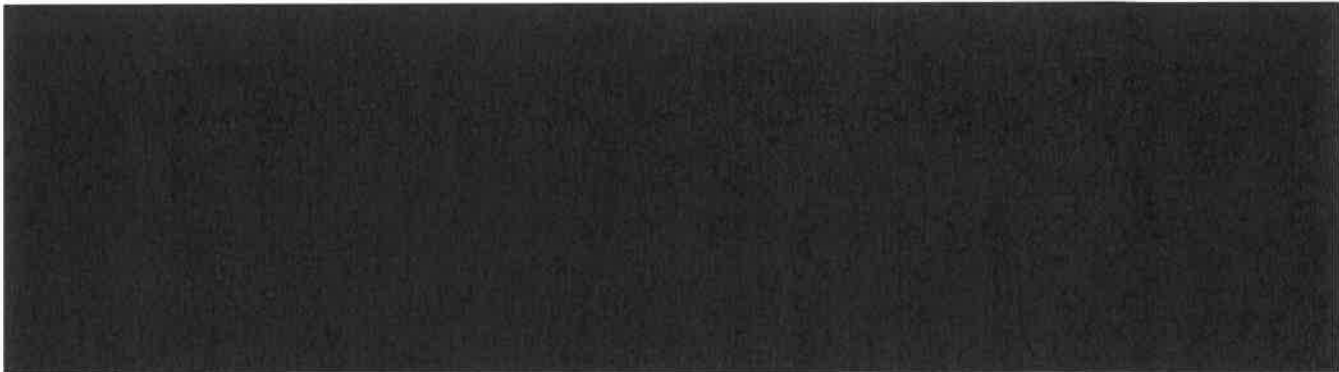
Legal Description: 1 1 1325199
 SE 16 59 15 4
 BELLIS

District(s): District 01

Linc #: 35960673

Frontage: Lot 19.99 Acres, Front 19.99 Acres, Front
 19.99 Acres

Zone: AG



ACCOUNT BALANCE

Year	Tax Amount	Interest/Penalty	Total Balance
2024	\$4,639.92	\$0.00	\$4,639.92
2023	\$10,976.94	\$3,161.36	\$14,138.30
2022	\$7,239.79	\$3,483.78	\$10,723.57
2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2020 and prior	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

TRANSACTION SUMMARY

Year	Tax Levy	Supplemental Taxation	Penalty	Adjustment	Payment	Installments Not Yet Due	Balance
2024	\$3,563.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,076.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,639.92
2023	\$7,496.59	\$0.00	\$3,161.36	\$3,480.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,138.30
2022	\$7,239.79	\$0.00	\$3,483.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,723.57
2021	\$6,608.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$6,608.60)	\$0.00	\$0.00
2020 and prior	\$41,907.92	\$0.00	\$8,919.13	\$20.00	(\$50,847.05)	\$0.00	\$0.00
							\$29,501.79

TRANSACTIONS

May 31, 2021 - September 11, 2024

<u>Transaction Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
May 31/2021	Balance Forward		
May 31/2021	2021 Final Tax Levy		\$8,384.73
Jun 26/2021	Payment	\$6,608.60	\$14,993.33
Feb 28/2022	Assessment \$408,340	(\$14,993.33)	\$0.00
Jun 30/2022	Annual Levy 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nov 01/2022	Penalty	\$7,239.79	\$7,239.79
Feb 28/2023	Assessment \$429,060	\$868.77	\$8,108.56
Mar 01/2023	Penalty	\$0.00	\$8,108.56
May 10/2023	Transfer from UT to Taxes	\$1,216.28	\$9,324.84
Jun 22/2023	Annual Levy 2023	\$3,480.35	\$12,805.19
Nov 01/2023	Penalty	\$7,496.59	\$20,301.78
Feb 28/2024	Assessment \$407,780	\$1,317.23	\$21,619.01
Mar 01/2024	Penalty	\$0.00	\$21,619.01
Mar 25/2024	Transfer from UT to Taxes	\$3,242.86	\$24,861.87
Mar 31/2024	Tax Notification	\$1,056.91	\$25,918.78
Mar 31/2024	Tax Notification	\$20.00	\$25,938.78
Mar 31/2024	Tax Notification	\$0.00	\$25,938.78
Mar 31/2024	Tax Notification	\$0.00	\$25,938.78
Jun 24/2024	Annual Levy 2024	\$0.00	\$25,938.78
		\$3,563.01	\$29,501.79
Total Outstanding September 11, 2024			\$29,501.79



Request for Decision (RFD)

October 10, 2024

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 12, 2024

Agenda Item: #7.8

Topic: Accounts Receivable Interest Write Off

Presented By: Brenda Adamson, Finance Manager

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County write off \$1,039.72 interest on Account SMOK028 Smoky Lake Curling Club

An invoice for \$13,535.10 was issued to Smoky Lake Curling Club in January 2024. The Curling Club advised administration that they were just waiting for AGLC to forward funds from the most recent Casino worked. Funds were finally received in August and the invoice was paid August 26, 2024.

Administration usually writes off penalties for non profit organizations, however as per policy 08-02 Accounts Receivable Collection, any accounts receivable interest or penalties in excess of \$500 require Council approval for cancellation.

Benefits:

- ✓ Cleans up the Accounts Receivable ledger

Disadvantages:

- ✓ n/a
- ✓

Alternatives:

- Deny the request.

Financial Implications:

This interest revenue was not budgeted and is not likely to be collectable.

Legislation:

3. Cancellation of Accounts Receivable Penalties:

3.1 Total unpaid interest or penalty charges on an accounts receivable account may be cancelled, if circumstances warrant, in accordance with the following authority levels:

Cashiers at the time of payment up to \$ 5.00

Managers up to \$ 100.00

Chief Administrative Officer up to \$ 500.00

3.2 The write-off of interest and penalty charges in excess of \$500.00 require Council approval for cancellation.

Intergovernmental:

n/a

Strategic Alignment:

n/a

Enclosure(s):

Copy of Cash receipt

Signature of the CAO: _____

Smoky Lake

CURLING CLUB

September 16, 2024

This letter was acknowledged at the September 26th Council Meeting under motion #866-24.

Dear Smoky Lake County Council,

I am writing regarding the interest charges from the late payment of the insurance fees for the Smoky Lake Curling Club. I want to apologize in advance for the delay in payment but would like to provide some context as to why.

Past practice has been that the club paid their insurance fees after receiving their Casino funds. This all depends on when we receive our slotted dates and on how long it takes for the Casino to distribute the pool of funds. I can understand the frustration as this year's wait was extended. In addition, it has always been good practice to use Casino funds for these large expenses that are in the list of AGLC-approved expenses as it provides a clean and concise report. I was also not aware that our interest charges were concerning as we are a local self-sustaining recreational facility that provides extracurricular activity for the community, which includes Smoky Lake County.

On behalf of the Smoky Lake Curling Club, I would like to ask if you would reconsider waiving the interest charges of \$1039.72 with the caveat that I will withhold Casino funds from this past casino for next year's insurance fees.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Amy Cherniwchan
Treasurer, Smoky Lake Curling Club

Get in Touch



SLcurling@gmail.com | 780.656.3850

57 WHITE EARTH STREET, BOX 164, SMOKY LAKE, AB T0A 3C0

ACTION LIST:

September 2024 County Council Meetings



September 12, 2024 Regular Meeting					
MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION			DEPARTMENT	ACTION
824-24: Halisky	7.1. RMA Annual Fall Convention That Smoky Lake County Council and relevant staff who can attend – attend the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Annual Fall Convention, scheduled for November 4 to 7, 2024, at the Edmonton Convention Centre; and extend invitations to available Ministers to meet at the said convention to discuss priorities of Smoky Lake County as determined by Council.			Executive Services Clerk	6 rooms have been secured at the Chateau Lacombe for check-in November 3 and check-out November 7, in anticipation of attending the RMA Fall Convention, Room Rate per night is \$139+tax. Council and the CAO were registered to attend on September 18, 2024 at \$861/person (GST Incl)
825-24: Halisky DEFEATED	7.2. Accounts Receivable Write-off Request – Smoky Lake Curling Club That Smoky Lake County Council approve to write-off the interest accrued in the amount of \$1,039.72, on the Smoky Lake Curling Club's Accounts Receivable account #SMOK028.			Finance Manager	Amy Cherniwchan, Curling Club President, was notified September 13, 2024. Statements will be mailed to the Curling club every month until the balance is paid or written off. A second letter request from the Club, dated Sept. 16, 2024 was submitted and will be taken to the Sept. 26 th Council meeting.
826-24: Halisky	7.3. Property Tax Sale That Smoky Lake County advertise the following properties with a Tax Notification issued on their Land Title, for the Year-2024 Property Tax Sale, to be scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.:			Communications Officer	Ad sent to Alberta Gazette September 13, 2024: Posted to the County website as a notice, scheduled to appear on social media on Sept. 24, Oct. 16 and Nov. 1 st , and included in the Oct. edition of the Grapevine.

Roll	Location	LINC #	Legal	Reserve Bid
2201017	Spedden	0020142808	Lot 17, Block 1, Plan 1955CL	\$3,000
23090113	Birchland	0015172463	Lot 13, Block 1, Plan 7520244	\$140,000
40300410	Warspite	0021146964	Lot 10, Block 4, Plan 314HW	\$10,000
41410215	Hillside Acres	0029948593	Lot 15, Block 2, Plan 0323059	\$105,000

Government of the Province of Alberta
Public Sale of Land
(Municipal Government Act)
Smoky Lake County

Notice is hereby given that under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Smoky Lake County will offer for sale, by public auction, in the County Administration Building, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, Alberta on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. the following lands:

Roll	Legal	Location	LINC #
22010117	Lot 17, Block 1, Plan 1955CL	Spedden	0020142808
23090113	Lot 13, Block 1, Plan 7520244	Birchland	0015172463
40300410	Lot 10, Block 4, Plan 314HW	Warspite	0021146964
41410215	Lot 15, Block 2, Plan 0323059	Hillside Acres	0029948593

The parcels will be offered for sale, subject to a reserve bid and to the reservations and conditions contained in the existing Certificate of Title.

These properties are being offered for sale on an "as is, where is" basis and Smoky Lake County makes no representation and gives no warranty whatsoever as to the adequacy of services, soil conditions, land use designating, building and development conditions, absence or presence of environment contamination, or the develop ability of the subject land for any intended use by the Purchaser.

No bids will be accepted where the bidder attempts to attach conditions precedent to the sale of any parcel. No terms or conditions of sale will be considered other than those specified by Smoky Lake County. No further information is available at the auction regarding the lands to be sold.

Smoky Lake County may, after the public auction, become the owner of any parcel of land not sold at the public auction.

Terms: 10% Cash to be deposited at the Public Auction the balance and G.S.T. will be paid by cash or certified cheque by 2:00 P.M. November 15, 2024.

Redemption may be affected by payment of all arrears of taxes and costs at any time prior to the sale.

Dated at Smoky Lake, Alberta, September 12, 2024.

Kevin Lucas
Chief Administrative Officer

ACTION LIST:

September 2024 County Council Meetings



September 12, 2024 Regular Meeting			
MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION
827-24: Serben	<p>7.4. Policy Statement No. 15-06-01: Pension Participation</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 15-06-01: Pension Participation Policy, be adopted:</p> <p>**see minutes for policy</p>	<p>Communications Officer</p> <p>Municipal Clerk</p>	<p>The Policy was posted to the Website on September 20, 2024.</p> <p>A copy of the Policy was distributed to staff on email on September 19, 2024</p>
828-24: Cere	<p>7.5. Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County execute the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which replaces the former Gas Tax Fund (GTF) MOA, with His Majesty in Right of Alberta as represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, effective April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2034, in respect to matters relating to the payment of funds and outlining the County's responsibilities and general provisions in respect to CCBF funding.</p>	Executive Services Clerk	<p>The MOA was printed and signed by the CAO on September 13, 2024 and signed by the Reeve on September 20, 2024.</p> <p>The MOA was sent as a PDF via email to the 'Canada Community-Building Fund' ma.ccbfgrants@gov.ab.ca and retained in the Municipal File: 19-92</p>
829-24: Fenerty DEFEATED	<p>7.6. Quiet Nook Community Centre Funding Request</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County Council approve to provide one-time funding in the amount of \$2,673.24 to the Quiet Nook Community Centre, in response to their letter request dated August 10, 2024, which was deferred by Council on August 22, 2024, by Motion #795-24, and in receipt of their financial information as requested.</p>	Executive Services Clerk	The President Charlene Lohstraeter, was notified of the defeated motion by email on September 13, 2024.

ACTION LIST:

September 2024 County Council Meetings



September 12, 2024 Regular Meeting			
MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION
835-24: Halisky	<p>10.1. Land & Property Rights Tribunal- Village of Waskatenau Intent to Annex</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the copied letter from Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT), formerly known as the Municipal Government Board (MGB), dated August 15, 2024, to the Village of Waskatenau, in respect to the Second Revision Notice of Intent to Annex, confirming “On April 13, 2011 the MGB received the original Notice of Intent to Annex (Notice) from the Village. On October 23, 2012, the Village submitted a revised Notice. The LPRT will accept your correspondence of August 6, 2024 as the second revision submitted by the Village.”.</p>	Executive Services Clerk	Information retained under Municipal File: 1-114
836-24: Serben	<p>10.2. LICA Representative</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County Council approve for Councillor Lorne halisky to remain as the appointed member to the Lakeland Industrial and Community Association (LICA), in response to the letter from Lakeland Industrial and Community Association (LICA), dated August 20, 2024, requesting confirmation of interest in appointing a representative from the County to the LICA Board.</p>	Executive Services Clerk	<p>The Administrative Professional at LICA confirmed receipt of the appointment by email to the County’s Executive Services Clerk on September 16, 2024.</p> <p>This will also be an item at the Organizational Meeting October 24, 2024.</p>
837-24: Cere	<p>10.3. Fed Gas O&M Audit Deficiencies Updated</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County Council acknowledge receipt of the updated completed deficiencies and corrective action plan, dated August 9, 2024, in respect to the Federations of Alberta Gas Co-ops Ltd.’s, 2024 Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Audit of Smoky Lake County Natural Gas, which addresses and/or concludes the deficiencies.</p>	Executive Services Clerk	Information retained under Municipal File: 9-22A
846-24: Serben	<p>Surface Material Lease Exploration</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County Council approve for Administration to enter negotiations as discussed under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 27: Privileged Information and Section 16: Third Party Business Interests, on September 12, 2024, in respect to Surface Material Lease Exploration.</p>	CAO	<p>Updates will be provided to Council as any new information becomes available through the CAO, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 27: Privileged Information and Section 16: Third Party Business Interests.</p> <p>Negotiations will commence September 26, 2024.</p>

ACTION LIST:

September 2024 County Council Meetings



September 26, 2024 Regular Meeting			
MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION
852-24: Halisky	7.1. Policy Statement No. 62-21-07: Beaver Control on Private Lands That Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-21-07: Beaver Control on Private Lands, be amended...	Municipal Clerk Comm. Officer	A policy memo was released to staff on email with a copy of the Policy, on October 1, 2024. The updated policy was posted on the County Website.
853-24: Céré	7.2. Federation of Alberta Gas Co-op's Annual Convention and Annual General Meeting That Smoky Lake County Council approve for up to two Councillors, or one Councillor and the Chief Administrative Officer, attend the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-op's Annual Convention and AGM, scheduled for November 25 - 28, 2024, at the River Cree Resort and Casino.	Natural Gas Manager	The CAO and Councillor Halisky are registered to attend the event with an option to cut it down to just the base meetings.
854-24: Halisky	7.3. Policy Statement No. 03-35-14: Snow Clearing – Public and Private Services That Smoky Lake County Council acknowledge review of Policy statement No. 03-35-14 Snow Clearing-Public and Private Services, and going forward a copy of the current Policy will be provided to each flag purchaser, and a call-out on social media will be conducted in an effort to collect information from private contractors willing to offer private snow clearing services, which will be compiled into a list made available to all residents as a private option for snow removal at no cost to the County.	Public Works Comm Officer	The Executive Services Clerk emailed the PW Manager, PW Clerks, and Comm Officer, a copy of Motion 854-24 with a PDF of the Policy, and noted to please ensure that the purchasers' driveway does not exceed 200 linear meters or they will need to buy additional flags as per Section 6.2 which can be checked through the GIS system, as well as to ensure that all the Operators know there needs to be at least 6" of snow (including drifted) before it will be cleared as per Section 6.5.5 of the policy. A callout for private contractors posted the week of Oct.7, 2024
855-24: Halisky	North Zone Health Neighbourhoods Project: Four Directions Health Neighbourhood That the information received by Smoky Lake County Council from the September 26, 2024, Delegation: Robyn Laczy, Project Coordinator – North Zone Health Neighbourhoods Project, in respect to their newest initiative: Four Directions Health Neighbourhood, be forwarded to the Physicians & Health Care Professionals Committee.	Executive Services Clerk	The information was provided to the Town of Smoky Lake CAO, Assistant CAO, & Legislative Clerk, via email on September 27, 2024, with a follow up copy of Motion #855-24.

ACTION LIST:

September 2024 County Council Meetings



September 26, 2024 Regular Meeting			
MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION
856-24: Céré	<p>7.4. 2024/25 Alberta Community Partnership Grant Application (ACP) – Regional Economic Development Hwy Commercial Initiative</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County, in partnership with the Town of Smoky Lake, the Village of Waskatenau and the Village of Vilna, participate in the joint application to the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) 2024-25 Grant Intake, under the Intermunicipal Collaboration Stream, in the amount of \$200,000.00, for the purpose of undertaking a Regional Economic Development – Highway Commercial Initiative Project; and approve the Town of Smoky Lake to be the Managing Partner of the said project; and further agree to abide by the terms of the Conditional Grant Agreement governing the purpose and use of the grant funds, should the application be successful.</p>	Executive Services Clerk	A copy of Motion 856-24 email to the Town of Smoky Lake and cc'd to all participating partners and relevant administration on October 1, 2024.
857-24: Halisky	<p>7.5. 2024/25 Alberta Community Partnership Grant Application (ACP) – Regional Service Delivery for Waste Management</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County, in partnership with the Town of St. Paul, County of St. Paul #19, Town of Smoky Lake, Town of Elk Point, Village of Vilna, and the Village of Waskatenau (all being Members of the Evergreen Regional Waste Management Services Commission) participate in the joint application to the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) 2024-25 Grant Intake, under the Intermunicipal Collaboration Stream, for the purposes of undertaking a Regional Service Delivery for Waste Management project; and approve the Town of St. Paul to be the Managing Partner of the said project; and further agree to abide by the terms of the Conditional Grant Agreement governing the purpose and use of the grant funds, should the application be successful.</p>	Executive Services Clerk	A copy of Motion 856-24 email to the Town of St. Paul and cc'd to all participating partners and relevant administration on October 1, 2024.

ACTION LIST:

September 2024 County Council Meetings



September 26, 2024 Regular Meeting																																												
MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION																																									
858-24: Céré	<p>7.6. County Surplus Equipment Sale – Bids That Smoky Lake County Council direct Administration to contact the highest bidder on Surplus Equipment Unit 473 and Unit 474, described as follows and complete the sale of Unit 473 and Unit 474 to the said highest bidder, for the total amount of \$17,500.00, sold as is where is:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Unit #</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Serial Number</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Odometer/Hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>474</td> <td>Rev 1500 Degelman Mower</td> <td>RC17777</td> <td>473, 474 sold together</td> </tr> <tr> <td>473</td> <td>1820 Degelman Side arm</td> <td>SA1349</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>and approve for the remaining Surplus Equipment as described below, to be contracted to a structured auction house and sold to the highest bidder at the time of sale:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Unit #</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Serial Number</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Odometer/Hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>105</td> <td>2008 GMC 3500 4x4 DWB</td> <td>1GTJK33678F218493</td> <td>162408</td> </tr> <tr> <td>726</td> <td>2009 GMC SLE 3500 4x4</td> <td>1GTHK73K89F161371</td> <td>322720</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101A</td> <td>2018 GMC Serria 1500 4x4</td> <td>3GTU2MEC9JG258813</td> <td>253716</td> </tr> <tr> <td>457</td> <td>2013 3PT John Deere Mower Mx8</td> <td>1P00MX8CHDP088260</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>634</td> <td>2000 Sod Mixer</td> <td>IMR081</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>636</td> <td>98 Kuhn Mixer 7.5ft</td> <td>960004</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Unit #	Description	Serial Number	Odometer/Hours	474	Rev 1500 Degelman Mower	RC17777	473, 474 sold together	473	1820 Degelman Side arm	SA1349	N/A	Unit #	Description	Serial Number	Odometer/Hours	105	2008 GMC 3500 4x4 DWB	1GTJK33678F218493	162408	726	2009 GMC SLE 3500 4x4	1GTHK73K89F161371	322720	101A	2018 GMC Serria 1500 4x4	3GTU2MEC9JG258813	253716	457	2013 3PT John Deere Mower Mx8	1P00MX8CHDP088260	N/A	634	2000 Sod Mixer	IMR081	N/A	636	98 Kuhn Mixer 7.5ft	960004	N/A	Public Woks Shop Foreman	<p>Units 473 & 474 were paid for and picked up as per motion 858-24, on October 1, 2024.</p> <p>The remaining equipment will be taken to auction and this Action List will be updated as information becomes available through the Public Works Shop Foreman.</p>	
Unit #	Description	Serial Number	Odometer/Hours																																									
474	Rev 1500 Degelman Mower	RC17777	473, 474 sold together																																									
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ACTION LIST:

September 2024 County Council Meetings




September 26, 2024 Regular Meeting			
MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION
859-24: Gawalko	<p>7.7. Smoky Lake County Investment Attraction Strategy - RMA Microgrant Program</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the report produced by Michelle Wright Consulting Services, dated March 14, 2024, titled: Investment Attraction Strategy, prepared for Smoky Lake County, funded through the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Microgrant program; and forward the report to the Smoky Lake Region Municipalities as an information resource.</p>	Executive Services Clerk	<p>The information was emailed to the CAOs and their support staff at Town of Smoky, Village of Vilna, and Village of Waskatenau, on October 2, 2024.</p> <p>This report has been retained under the Municipal File: 61-29</p>
864-24: Halisky	<p>10.1. Ducks Unlimited Canada - County-Owned Lands near Hanmore Lake</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter received from Ducks Unlimited Canada, dated September 13, 2024, expressing gratitude to the County for considering them in the future of the Hanmore Lake lands and declining the stewardship opportunity of the County-Owned lands near Hanmore Lake, legally described as SE-25-61-18-W4 (containing 107.35 acres), and PT. NE-25-61-18-W4M (containing 32.78 acres).</p>	Executive Services	<p>Correspondence retained under Municipal File: 61-22 See Motion #865-24 below...</p>
865-24: Serben	<p>That Smoky Lake County Council direct Administration to follow up with follow up with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) in response to their letter received, dated September 13, 2024, to explain their sentence: "DUC is committed to continuing conversation with the County on our existing projects and potential future work in other areas of the County" and request DUC to identify where the said "areas" are.</p>	Executive Services	<p>Bart Muusse, Policy Specialist for DUC, responded by email on October 2, 2024, stating: <i>"In regards to existing/future work this was a general reference to any communication with the County about our existing projects within County boundaries and any future programs DUC may run there. For example, our organization delivers program such as the Wetland Restoration Lease Program to conserve sensitive ecosystems. Delivery of these programs can, in certain cases, contribute to municipal service delivery (e.g. attenuate peak flow in high runoff events thereby reducing impacts to County roads). If the County identifies opportunities for collaboration we are committed to continuing that conversation."</i></p>

ACTION LIST:

September 2024 County Council Meetings



September 26, 2024 Regular Meeting			
MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION
866-24: Gawalko	<p>10.2. Smoky Lake Curling Club – Request to Reconsideration of Waiving Penalties</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter from Smoky Lake Curling Club, dated September 16, 2024, requesting reconsideration of writing off the interest accrued in the amount of \$1,039.72, on the Smoky Lake Curling Club's Accounts Receivable account #SMOK028, in response to the defeated Council Motion #825-24 moved on September 12, 2024.</p>	Executive Services	Correspondence retained under Municipal File: 7-58 See Motion #867-24 below...
867-24: Fenerty	<p>That Smoky Lake County Council be provided financial statements from the Smoky Lake Curling Club, prior to reconsideration of writing off the interest accrued in the amount of \$1,039.72, on the Smoky Lake Curling Club's Accounts Receivable account #SMOK028.</p>	Executive Services	The Smoky Lake Curling Club was asked for their financial statement via email on September 26, 2024 and it was provided on October 1, 2024. This item will be brought to Council for the 3 rd time on October 10, 2024 for Council's reconsideration to waive the penalties (or deny the request).
868-24: Halisky	<p>10.3. Rural Renewal Stream Confirms Smoky Lake Region's Community Designation</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County acknowledge the email from Nataly Ore, Manager of the Rural Renewal Stream (RRS), dated September 10, 2024, to the Smoky Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce, confirmation the approval of Smoky Lake Region's "Community Designation", effective, September 9, 2024, which will remain in place for 3 years for the purpose of attracting, recruiting and retaining newcomers (including foreign nationals) through the (RRS).</p>	Comm. Officer	<p>This information was posted to social media for awareness.</p> <p>The Smoky Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce's webpage was activated on September 9, 2024: https://www.smokylakechamber.com/general-5</p> 
869-24: Halisky	<p>10.4. LICA – Environmental Stewards, Open House & Annual General Meeting</p> <p>That Smoky Lake County Council who can attend – attend, the LICA – Environmental Stewards, Open House and Annual General Meeting, scheduled for October 10, 2024, to be held in Cold Lake Alberta, at the Lakeland INN.</p>	Executive Services	Two spots were registered (at no cost) for Councillor Halisky and Councillor Gawalko to attend the event in Cold Lake.



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister

MLA, Calgary-Hays

AR116752

October 2, 2024

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

The Government of Alberta is increasingly concerned about the federal carbon tax's impact on municipalities. For the provincial government to better understand the pressures municipalities are facing and advocate to the federal government on your behalf, we are requesting that all Alberta municipalities share data relating to the impact of the carbon tax on your operations, both directly and indirectly.

I am inviting you to share your municipality's feedback through this online survey, <https://extranet.gov.ab.ca/opinio6/s?s=64826>, which will be open until 4:00pm on October 9, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding the survey, I encourage you to connect with us at ma.engagement@gov.ab.ca.

I look forward to hearing your perspectives on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ric McIver".

Ric McIver
Minister of Municipal Affairs

cc: Chief Administrative Officers



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF ALBERTA

August 23, 2024

Mayor Amarjeet Sohi
City of Edmonton
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Sohi and Members of Edmonton City Council,

I am writing with deep concern and disappointment regarding your recent letter to Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis (AGLC) opposing the relocation of the Camrose Resort Casino to South Edmonton. While I appreciate your duty to advocate for the best interests of Edmonton, many Northern/North-Central Albertans see the manner in which this situation has been handled as callous to the needs the communities across Northern and North-Central Alberta.

First, let me address the inconsistency in the city's stance. Initially, Edmonton City Council pressed the AGLC to reject the casino's relocation. After the AGLC denied the proposal, resulting in public outcry from the other regions, the council's stance appeared to soften. Now, with the revised application on the table, the council has reverted to opposition. This flip-flopping is a disheartening gesture to all the communities across Northern and North-Central Alberta that have been counting on this relocation to rectify long-standing financial inequities.

Edmonton is undeniably the hub of the North, aptly nicknamed "The Gateway to the North." The city's strategic location means that every day, tens of thousands of Northern Albertans travel to Edmonton for a wide array of reasons—medical appointments, shopping trips, flights, sports events, business meetings, and more. Even Northern Albertans heading by road to Calgary, or the United States must filter through the Edmonton area due to the natural highway routes leading through the city. Highways connecting Northern Alberta all converge in Edmonton, not Camrose, making Edmonton the primary destination for Northern Albertans. By some estimates, the North alone accounts for as much as 30 to 35% of the province's GDP, with the lion's share of this economic activity flowing through Edmonton. This central role of Edmonton as the hub is a significant reason why the Camrose casino struggled to remain viable. Northern Albertans naturally gravitate towards Edmonton's casinos due to location and convenience.

This geographical reality is why, for decades, the money of Northern Albertans has poured into Edmonton's casinos, significantly contributing to the city's economy and funding Edmonton non-profits

to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Yet, in this moment, the city and these non-profits are pretending as if this revenue was solely generated by resident Edmontonians, which is blatantly untrue. The current stance is not just misleading—it is a clear manifestation of greed and selfishness. You know that Northern Alberta money has supported Edmonton's charities for years, but now, when it is time to give Northern charities their fair share, Edmonton refuses to share the largess it has received.

Relocating the Camrose Casino was an eminently reasonable request, given that Edmonton is where the North's gaming dollars naturally flow. There is even a precedent for this type of arrangement. The ACE Casino in Calgary operates with a dedicated rural casino license, significantly boosting revenues for rural charities in the surrounding area. As the AGLC already permits this model in Southern Alberta where a similar situation occurs with Calgary, it is disappointing that Edmonton City Council does not believe that the same fairness should be extended to the northern half of the province.

Adding to this disappointment is the fact that Northern and North-Central Alberta's MLAs and many of its mayors and reeves have long supported Edmonton's key projects, such as the Stollery Children's Hospital. Our communities have consistently rallied behind Edmonton, recognizing it as the central hub that it is. Yet now, when Northern Alberta seeks a modest adjustment to ensure equitable distribution of charitable gaming revenue, Edmonton responds with resistance and self-interest.

By opposing the relocation, the Edmonton City Council is essentially saying that it would rather see Northern and North-Central Alberta's women's shelters, seniors' programs, schools, youth initiatives, animal welfare organizations, and community programs go severely underfunded than share a portion of the wealth that Edmonton has reaped from Northern and North-Central Albertans for decades. This stance is not only embarrassing for Edmonton, but it also paints the city as greedy and unwilling to support the broader needs of the province.

Edmonton can be better than this. I strongly urge you to rescind your opposition letter and, instead, write a letter of support to the AGLC advocating for a fairer distribution of charitable gaming revenues. I also encourage you to urge Edmonton non-profits and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, who have written similar letters of opposition, to do the same.

Now is the time for leadership that reflects fairness, equity, and a recognition of the contributions made by all Albertans, including those from the North. The future of many vital programs in Northern and North-Central Alberta depends on it.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Cyr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being more prominent than the last name "Cyr".

Scott Cyr, MLA

Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul

Attachments:**1. Gaming Regions Revenue Map**

CC: Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta

Honourable Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

Honourable Brian Jean, MLA for Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche

Honourable Dan Williams, MLA for Peace River

Honourable Jason Nixon, MLA for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre

Honourable Nate Horner, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler

Honourable Rick Wilson, MLA for Maskwacis-Wataskiwin

Honourable Todd Loewen, MLA for Central Peace-Notley

Honourable Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville

Mr. Andrew Boitchenko, MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon

Mr. Garth Rowswell, MLA for Vermillion-Lloydminster-Wainwright

Mr. Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock

Mr. Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead

Mr. Nolan Dyck, MLA for Grande Prairie

Mr. Ron Wiebe, MLA for Grande Prairie-Wapiti

Mr. Scott Sinclair, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake

Mr. Shane Getson, MLA for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland

Mr. Tany Yao, MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo

Mrs. Jennifer Johnson, MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka

Ms. Jackie Lovely, MLA for Camrose

Mr. Barry Kalinski, Reeve of the MD of Bonnyville

Mr. Craig Copeland, Mayor of the City of Cold Lake

Mr. Parrish Tung, Mayor of Elk Point

Mr. Glen Ockerman, Reeve of the County of St. Paul

Ms. Maureen Miller, Mayor of the Town of St. Paul

Mr. Nicholas Werstiuk, Mayor of the Village of Glendon

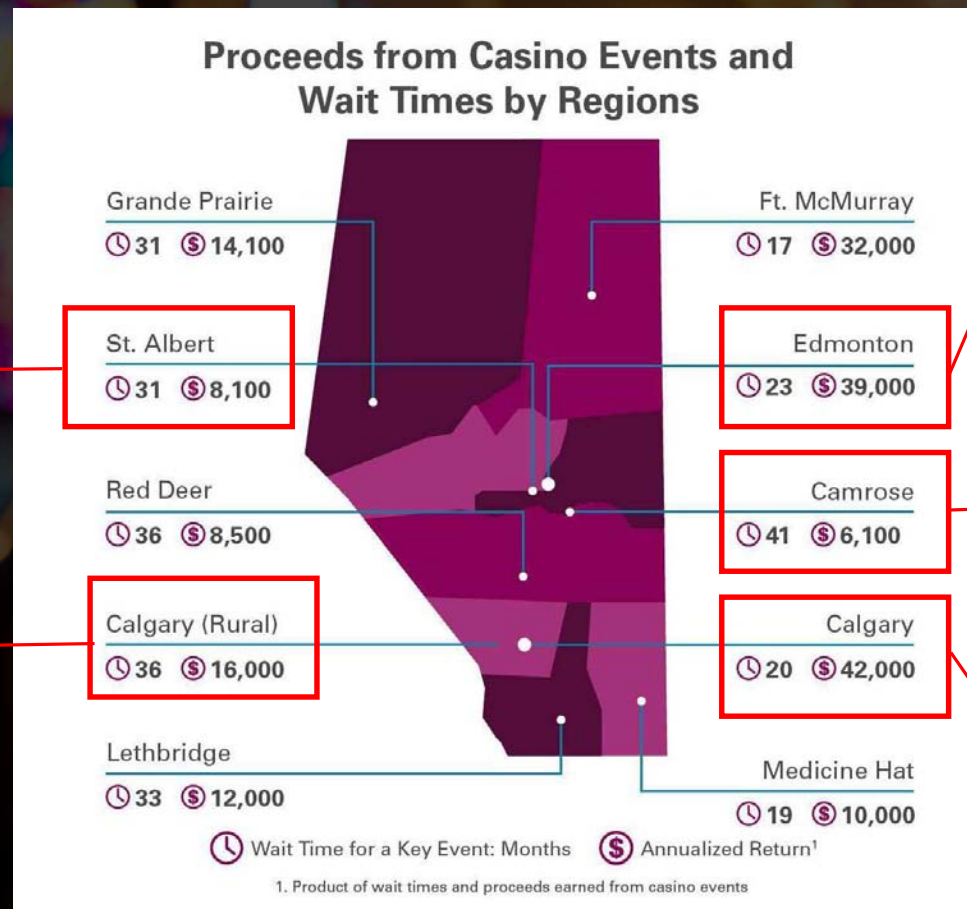
Mr. Len Rhodes, Board Chair of Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis

Ms. Kandice Machado, Chief Executive Officer of Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis

Mr. Bob Bezpalko, Executive Director of Alberta HUB

Ms. Amy Cherniwchan, Chair of the Northeast Alberta Alliance for Growth and Opportunities

AGLC Gaming Regions Revenues



Pooled with Camrose. Second lowest revenue.

Precedent Rural License in an Urban Market. Not dilutive to Urban Calgary Charity Revenues

Second highest revenue and fourth shortest wait time. 5 Urban and 0 Rural Charitable Casinos.

Pooled with St Albert. Lowest revenue and longest wait time. 1 Charitable Casino.

5 Urban and 1 Rural Charitable Casinos.

Source: AGLC

CAPIT
R
ROPO

Smoky Lake County Regional Heritage Board
Box 310
Smoky Lake, AB
T0A 3C0

September 27, 2024

Smoky Lake County Council
Box 310
Smoky Lake, AB
T0A 3C0

RE: Municipal Historic Designation Recommendations

The Smoky Lake Regional Heritage Board is mandated to identify and promote local heritage resources and to facilitate their official designation and conservation. A Heritage Board committee has compiled a Places Of Interest List (POIL) which is categorized and prioritized based on such factors as age, condition and historic significance. The POIL list is reviewed annually to make decisions on the next group of buildings for potential designation. Based on this review, we recommend three buildings be assigned municipal historic designation.

- The Bellis Store and Heritage Shoppe, built in 1945, is a wood framed structure with a boomtown front, wooden double doors, and recessed porch entry flanked by large display windows. The store has heritage value as a basic service provider to the community for almost eighty years.
- The White Earth Hall was built in 1919 and was originally a one room schoolhouse. Another classroom was subsequently added and, later, the building was converted to a community hall. This structure was built on a rectangular plan with a medium gable roof, clapboard siding and features original tongue-in-groove wood slat ceilings throughout the hall and a large enclosed entry with two side rooms. . The school was the only public building in the area and was used for many community activities; the hall continues to serve the community to this day.

- The Samuel A. MacDonald Stopping House, General Store and Pine Creek Post Office dates back to 1908. The 1½ storey original structure was built with horizontal squared logs clad with cedar siding and has a cedar shingle roof; all of these elements remain intact. Two sides of the house have an open verandah with decorative posts while the interior contains the original woodwork, wood slat ceilings and tongue-in-groove plank flooring. The store is said to be the first general store in this area of the Victoria Trail and it served as an important business and social hub in the community.

During the past few months, the Heritage Board has contacted the property owners, conducted site visits and taken current photographs of these three buildings. Statements Of Significance have been written for each.

We look forward to working with you on securing these significant buildings as municipally designated historic resources and promoting them as part of the County's heritage.

Sincerely,

Noreen Easterbrook, Chair
Smoky Lake Regional Heritage Board