

BLAZING A TRAIL



EAGLE POINT—BLUE RAPIDS

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

“BLAZING A TRAIL”

Without a doubt, the story of 2023 had to be the wildfire that ripped through Brazeau County and threatened the Town of Drayton Valley. Late in the evening on May 4th, came the evacuation order.

Disbelief was the sentiment of many, but as smoke filled the air and traffic jams formed on the street, the seriousness of the situation became apparent. As area residents evacuated, first responders, municipal officials, essential workers (medical personnel, hotel staff, cooks, housekeepers) stayed behind for twelve days to protect homes, infrastructure, and property. Weather conditions did not cooperate, which contributed to the long duration of the evacuation. Significant losses were experienced by some landowners including homes and outbuildings, and extensive



Photo courtesy of Sam Narkaus

damage was done to the Evergreen Shooting Club located in Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. Revenue was lost for many businesses and organizations, forced to close because of the evacuation. The fire damage could have been more extensive, but a shift in the wind prevented the fire from advancing into town. To all those who suffered loss during the wildfire, we are sincerely sorry, and to all those who battled the wildfire, or supported those working, we are incredibly grateful.

The silver lining of the wildfire is recognizing that fire disturbance is part of the natural cycle of the forest. It stimulates renewal, growth, and literally blazes a trail of rejuvenation. Between enduring the pandemic, and then experiencing the wildfire situation, it would be fair to say the last three years have been a significant disturbance for everyone. Our hope is that we can mirror the wisdom of the forest and blaze a trail of growth as we move forward.

With renewed focus Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council continues to create recreation opportunities, learning experiences, improved facilities, and awareness of the Parks as assets to our community. We are excited for the trail development done on the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trails in east Blue Rapids and for the new Equestrian Trails and Staging Area for the Drayton Valley Horse Club in west Blue Rapids. Further expansion of single-track trails for biking and snow shoeing has been done at the Pembina Nordic Ski Club. Through community collaboration, dedicated volunteers, and a desire to improve, we continue in “Blazing a Trail” that brings value and enhanced living to residents and visitors to our Parks.

Sandra Bannard
Executive Director

Avalie Peck
Parks Council Chairperson

“BLAZING A TRAIL” OF DESTRUCTION

For the Evergreen Shooting Club, the wildfire caused tremendous destruction. Club president, Dustin Euchner, reported that despite the loss of trees, structures, and equipment the club was able to re-open for shooting by the end of the summer.

Blue Rapids Provincial
Recreation Area

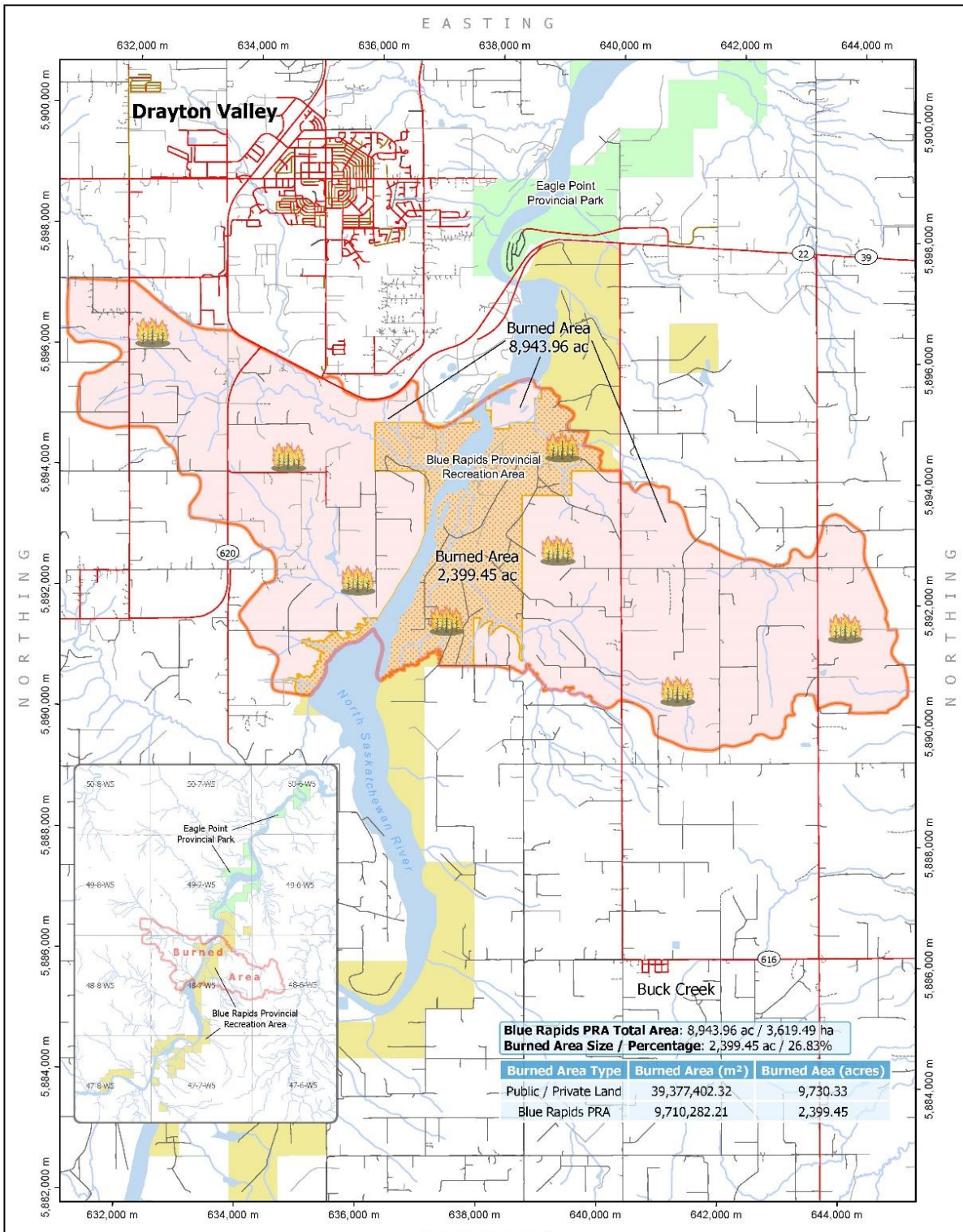
26.8% BURNED



Top two photos show damage at Evergreen Shooting Club.
Photos courtesy of Dustin Euchner.

Bottom two photos in Blue Rapids Park and cover photo courtesy of Sam Narkaus

"BLAZING A TRAIL" THROUGH BLUE RAPIDS



Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area sustained significant fire damage with **3,619.49 hectares** being consumed or 26.8% of the park. The Evergreen Shooting Club endured significant damage to both landscape and property.

Eagle Point Provincial Park did not experience any fire damage.



EAGLE POINT-BLUE RAPIDS PARKS COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

Executive Officers

Chairperson

Vice-Chairperson

Treasurer

Secretary

Avalie Peck-Sand & Gravel Representative

Dollard O'Connor-Drayton Valley Horse Club

Danielle Titanich-DV Paddle Club

Tammy Orban-Association of Adjacent Landowners

Directors

Recreation Clubs

Brazeau ATV Club

Brazeau Bowbenders

Drayton Valley Paddle Club

Drayton Valley Rotary Club

Evergreen Shooting Club

West Central Riverboat Association

Pembina Nordic Club

Blair Trueman

Keith Verreau

Danielle Titanich

Dave Swindlehurst

Dustin Euchner

Wayne Stec

Curtis Buchan

Government Representatives

Alberta Parks

Brazeau County

Town of Drayton Valley

Kayla Campbell

Anthony Heinrichs

Colin Clarke

Special Interest

Drayton Valley Hospitality &

Tourism Authority

Oil and Gas Representative

Ryan Fynn

Bill Birnie

The Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council is a unique, community based, decision making group that works with the Alberta Government in the management of the Eagle Point Provincial Park and the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.

The Parks Council is governed by appointed individuals from Recreation Clubs, Special Interest Groups and Government Representatives.

Strategic Goals of the Parks Council are Community Partnerships, Sustainability, Education, and Managed Recreation.

For more information about the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council events, recreational clubs, programs, and inquiries call 780-898-7275.

www.epbrparksCouncil.org



Brazeau ATV Club

- If family riding thrills you, then the Brazeau ATV Club is your connection to some outdoor fun!
- ATV enthusiasts will enjoy being part of the club with 75 km of trails to explore.



Brazeau Bowbenders Archery Club

- The club provides both an indoor and outdoor shooting range for archery hobbyists and competition shooters alike.
- All ages are welcome to participate, with basic fundamentals of archery being taught to new members.



Drayton Valley Horse Club

- The Drayton Valley Horse Club offers an amazing trail system (nearly 80 km) along the Pembina River west of Drayton Valley.
- A new family friendly trail system, with limited camping is located in the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, located east of Violet Grove.



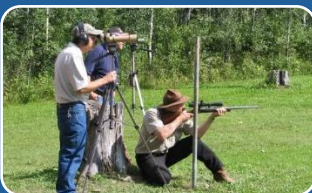
Drayton Valley Paddling Club

- The club promotes recreational paddling for all ages and skill levels, whether you are novice, expert, or splashing somewhere in between.
- Annually, the club hosts numerous paddling trips at lakes and rivers located near Drayton Valley.



Drayton Valley Rotary Club

- The Drayton Valley Rotary Club is a community service group and a strong supporter of the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council.
- The club meets every Thursday at noon. Check the Drayton Valley Rotary Club on Facebook for membership and meeting details.



Evergreen Shooting Club

- The club range is located in Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area west on township road 484A off the Buck Creek highway.
- Memberships are required to access the shooting range. For more information check www.evergreenshooting.ca



Pembina Nordic Ski Club

- The Pembina Nordic Ski Club has evolved into a year round facility, boasting hiking, mountain biking, disc golf, and snowshoeing.
- Skiing at the facility is second to none, with over 20 km of expertly groomed trails. Need an event space? Check out the Rotary Pembina Nordic Outdoor Education Centre.



West Central River Boat Association

- The West Central River Boat Association promotes boating safety for families, while ensuring the interests of recreational boating enthusiasts are protected, and the environment in which they recreate is properly managed.
- The North Saskatchewan River offers a tremendous adventure for jet boat fans.

RECREATION CLUBS, FACILITIES, & TRAILS



If volunteer time was valued in money
the recreation clubs invested

\$252,420 in 2023



Ski-Bike-Hike Trail Visits in 2023	
Hilltop Trails	1,327
Hillside Trails	492
Pembina Nordic Ski/Hike	4,700
Pembina Nordic Bike Trails	1,133
Rotary Pembina Nordic Community Trails South (Cemetery Trail)	12,679



The Recreation Clubs listed provide facilities, trails, events, volunteers, and investment into our Park System.

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 8,629

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUBS VISIT:

www.epbrparkscouncil.org/explore/partner-clubs

ENVIRONMENTAL & OUTDOOR EDUCATION



LEARNING

ABOUT

NATURE



3,673 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN ENVIRONMENTAL & OUTDOOR
EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN 2023

120 PROGRAM SESSIONS

10
COMMUNITIES

3 WEEKS OF PROGRAMMING
WERE LOST IN MAY 2023 DUE
TO WILDFIRE EVACUATIONS

PROGRAMMING IN
17 SCHOOLS

27 DIFFERENT COURSE
SELECTIONS



"BLAZING A TRAIL" OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council presents

SUMMER PROGRAMS

June 28 to July 6 - Flags of Canada Scavenger Hunt, Discovery Park, Drayton Valley, AB
 July 3 - Mystical Mondays - Science Stuff! at the Pembina Nordic Centre
 June 28 to July 6 - Birds & Flowers of Canada Scavenger Hunt, Eagle Point Provincial Park
 July 6 - Fish Species & Fishing Info Spot, Brazeau Community Market Tour, Buck Creek Hall
 July 13 - Test Your Tree IQ! Brazeau Community Market Tour, Berton Community Centre
 July 18 to 20 - Guardians of the Parks Summer Day Camp (7-9 year olds), Pembina Nordic Centre
 July 25 to 27 - Guardians of the Parks Summer Day Camp (10-12 year olds), Pembina Nordic Centre
 August 1 - Full Moon Night Fliers! Marshmallows, Moth Traps & Bat Hunt! Pembina Nordic Centre
 August 3 - Bugs, Bugs, Bugs with Brazeau Community Market Tour, Berton Community Centre
 August 4 - Introduction to Nature Journaling (2 sessions), Pembina Nordic Centre
 August 8 - Predator/Prey, Hike & Tipi Time with Family Resource Network, Pembina Nordic Centre
 August 10 - Rocks, Minerals & Gold Panning Station, Brazeau Community Market Tour, Lindale Hall
 August 11 - Downtown Scavenger Hunt - Around the World Theme with DV Library
 August 14 - Mystical Mondays - Nature Crafts & More! Pembina Nordic Centre
 August 15 - Hiking, Foraging and Feasting with Aim for Success, Pembina Nordic Centre
 August 17 - Solar Demo & Action for Energy Game, Brazeau Community Market Tour, Whitty Hall
 August 24 - Cool and Creepy Skulls, Brazeau Community Market Tour, Buck Creek Hall

Office 780-898-7275
 Website: www.epbrparksCouncil.org
 Email: outreach@epbrparksCouncil.org

FEATURE EVENT on August 4, 2023
 Introduction to Nature Journaling
 with Professional Illustrator & Artist Crystal Driedger
 (Morning Session for Tweens and Teens, Afternoon Session for Adults)
 Register on our website at www.epbrparksCouncil.org/event/

EAGLE POINT-BLUE RAPIDS PARKS COUNCIL presents

EAGLE POINT GUARDIANS OF THE PARK SUMMER DAY CAMPS 2023

PEMBINA NORDIC CENTRE
 DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

JULY 18 TO 20, 2023: 7 TO 9 YEAR OLDS
JULY 25 TO 27, 2023: 10 TO 12 YEAR OLDS

FUN, NATURE FOCUSED ACTIVITIES!
 FIRE LIGHTING, HARKERY (10-12), HIKING, EXPLORING, FORAGING, OUTDOOR GAMES, TEAM CHALLENGES, BOARD GAMES, NATURE JOURNALS, CRAFTS, OUTDOOR COOKING & MORE!

REGISTER YOUR CHILD AT
WWW.EPBRPARKSCOUNCIL.ORG/Event/GUARDIANS-2023/
 CALL E.P.B.R. PARKS COUNCIL AT 780-898-7275 FOR DETAILS.

EAGLE POINT-BLUE RAPIDS PARKS COUNCIL PRESENTS

FULL MOON NIGHT FLIERS

AT THE PEMBINA NORDIC CENTRE, 7010 TWP 494, ROCKY RAPIDS, AB

AN UNAPOLOGETIC NIGHT OF SCIENCE FOR NATURE NERDS!

AUGUST 1 2023
 9:00 PM TO 11:30 PM

BRING THE FAMILY OUT FOR A FUN NIGHT IN NATURE!
 DISCOVER WHICH HOMEMADE LIGHT TRAPS WORK BEST FOR CATCHING MOTHS & WHY, PARTICIPATE IN OUR BLACK LIGHT TRAP DEMO, CHECK OUT OUR BAT & MOTH DISPLAYS & ENJOY ROASTING MARSHMALLOWS OVER AN OPEN FIRE!

FIND OUT WHAT FLIES IN THE NIGHT SKY!

ATTENDEES - PLEASE BRING A HEADLAMP AND FLASHLIGHT AND DRESS FOR OUTDOORS!

Planning in uncertain times. The Fire & Ice Festival, headquartered out of the Provincial Building was cancelled as we were looking for new office space and didn't know where our new home would be. Parks Day 2023 also had planning interrupted because of the spring and summer wildfire situation and regrettably had to be cancelled. Thankfully numerous other events were a go!

Welcome to the **Critter Christmas Tree**

Share your adventure!
 #critterchristmastree

In Eagle Point Provincial Park

Merry Christmas from your friends at Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council!

Make your own edible, critter friendly decorations - visit www.epbrparksCouncil.org/christmas-bird-feeders/ for ideas and suet recipes.

GLOBAL BIG DAY
 with the Eagle Point Team
 May 13, 2023

COUNT BIRDS AT YOUR HOME, IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD OR JOIN US ON THE TOUR (SELF DRIVE), (WITHIN 50KM RADIUS OF DRAYTON VALLEY, AB)

Join us on our 6th Annual Global Big Day Bird Count!

Join the celebration! Our team counts local birds & submits the data each year, along with thousands of birders across the globe.

This data helps scientists understand bird populations, bird migration & birds at risk across our planet!

Count the bird species (and numbers) from your backyard, your neighbourhood or join us on the bird tour!

For more information:
 Email: outreach@epbrparksCouncil.org
 Call: 780-898-7275 or
 Visit the webpage at: www.epbrparksCouncil.org/event/global-big-day-2023/

Global Big Day Bird Tour Schedule:

Our Global Big Day Bird Tour has been changed. A considerable part of our two parks have been evacuated and are not safe to enter due to an out of control fire. We will modify our tour to reflect safest areas for birding.

Please register and we can contact you directly with adjusted bird tour information

EAGLE POINT-BLUE RAPIDS PARKS COUNCIL & AIM FOR SUCCESS presents

Forbidden Forest PUMPKIN WALK

Dare to Enter the Forbidden Forest!

Hundreds of Pumpkins will Light up the Night on a Wooded, Spooky trail!

October 26, 2023
 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Pembina Nordic Centre Trails
 EAGLE POINT PROVINCIAL PARK

Take a Risk & Explore the "Scary Fairy Tale" Haunted House!

Stuff the Hears! Bring a donation for the Local Food Bank!

Enter the Best Carved Pumpkin Contest!

YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!
 VOLUNTEER!
 CARVE AND DONATE PUMPKINS!
 SPONSOR OR DONATE!
 PUT UP A BOOTH FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION!
 CONTACT SUE AT 780-898-3191 OR SANDRA AT 780-898-3234

Aim FOR Success

EAGLE POINT-BLUE RAPIDS PARKS COUNCIL

1,692 PEOPLE

PARTICIPATED IN EPBR COMMUNITY EVENTS IN 2023

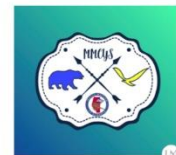
“BLAZING TRAILS” IN PARTNERSHIPS



Learn to Fly Fish was a great example of community collaboration. The Parks Council prioritizes teamwork and were pleased to partner with the Drayton Valley Community Foundation through the Tyson Titanich Memorial Fund to host a free “Learn to Fly Fish” opportunity for ten youth. Obsidian Energy stepped up to provide lunch, All Choice Rentals contributed tents, tables, chairs, and a fun sports bag for each participant. Bill and Shannon Davie made available their beautiful fishing pond. Instructor Cory Mahan, of Reel Hardcor had the kids casting like pros in short order. A fun day, pulled together through shared efforts!

FINANCIAL PARTNERS AND LEGACY SPONSORS

We are grateful for support from government, businesses, and organizations!



FRIENDS OF THE PARKS COUNCIL

Everyone needs friends! These organizations and businesses help us do fun stuff!

Aim for Success

All Choice Rentals

Brazeau County

BEST Youth Hub

Brighter Futures Family Resource
Society

Drayton Valley Bakery

Drayton Valley Home School Group

Drayton Valley Hospitality &
Tourism Authority

Drayton Valley IGA

Drayton Valley Municipal Library

Drayton Valley Rotary Club

Drayton Valley Ski Patrols

Elevated Experience Camping

Family Community Support Services

Family Resource Network

5 Star Locating Ltd.

Gen 7 Environmental Solutions

Intercon Messaging

Keyera Corp.

Knights of Columbus

Koerr Inc.

McMan Youth, Family & Community
Services

Metis Multi-Cultural Youth Society

Miss Joanne's School of Dance

Obsidian Energy

Pembina Pipeline

Pembina Nordic Club

Signific Signs

Town of Drayton Valley

Weyerhaeuser

FINANCIAL DATA

Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council Statement of Revenues & Expenditures Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Total 2023	Total 2022
Revenues		
Grant Revenue	\$244,504	\$205,300
Cash Donations	4,492	1,420
Service Revenue	4,434	3,532
Event Revenue	6,411	9,260
Sponsorships	49,618	21,224
Reimbursed Supplies	-	318
	\$309,459	\$241,055
Expenses		
Sub-Contracts	59,216	51,716
Core Contractors	98,023	110,947
Salaries and Wages	70,063	70,555
Supplies	47,728	29,632
Office	15,718	22,165
Legacy fund contributions	10,000	-
Advertising and Promotion	7,365	2,919
GST Expense	5,647	4,202
Professional fees	4,250	4,000
Insurance	3,577	3,528
Telephone	2,163	2,386
Utilities	2,823	2,440
Travel	4,388	1,764
Interest and bank charges	248	386
Repairs and maintenance	-	250
Training	2,477	137
Amortization	13,633	2,019
	\$347,349	\$309,046
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	(37,890)	(67,991)
OTHER INCOME		
Interest Income	13,685	7,655
Government assistance	-	20,000
Total	\$ (24,205)	\$ (40,336)

FINANCIAL DATA

Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council
Statement of Financial Position
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Total 2023	Total 2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$303,990	\$382,090
Accounts receivable	5,707	-
Goods and services tax recoverable	-	4,029
Prepaid expenses	-	75
	\$309,697	\$386,119
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 4,409	\$ 19,292
Goods and services tax payable	128	-
Wages payable	1,566	-
Employee deductions payable	1,425	1,398
Deferred income	1,050	105
CEBA Loan	-	40,000
	\$ 8,578	\$ 60,795
NET ASSETS		
Reserve Fund	75,000	75,000
Net assets	226,119	250,325
	301,119	325,325
Total	\$309,697	\$386,119

Complete financial statements available at www.epbrparkscouncil.org

Financial statements prepared by Carlson Roberts Seely LLP



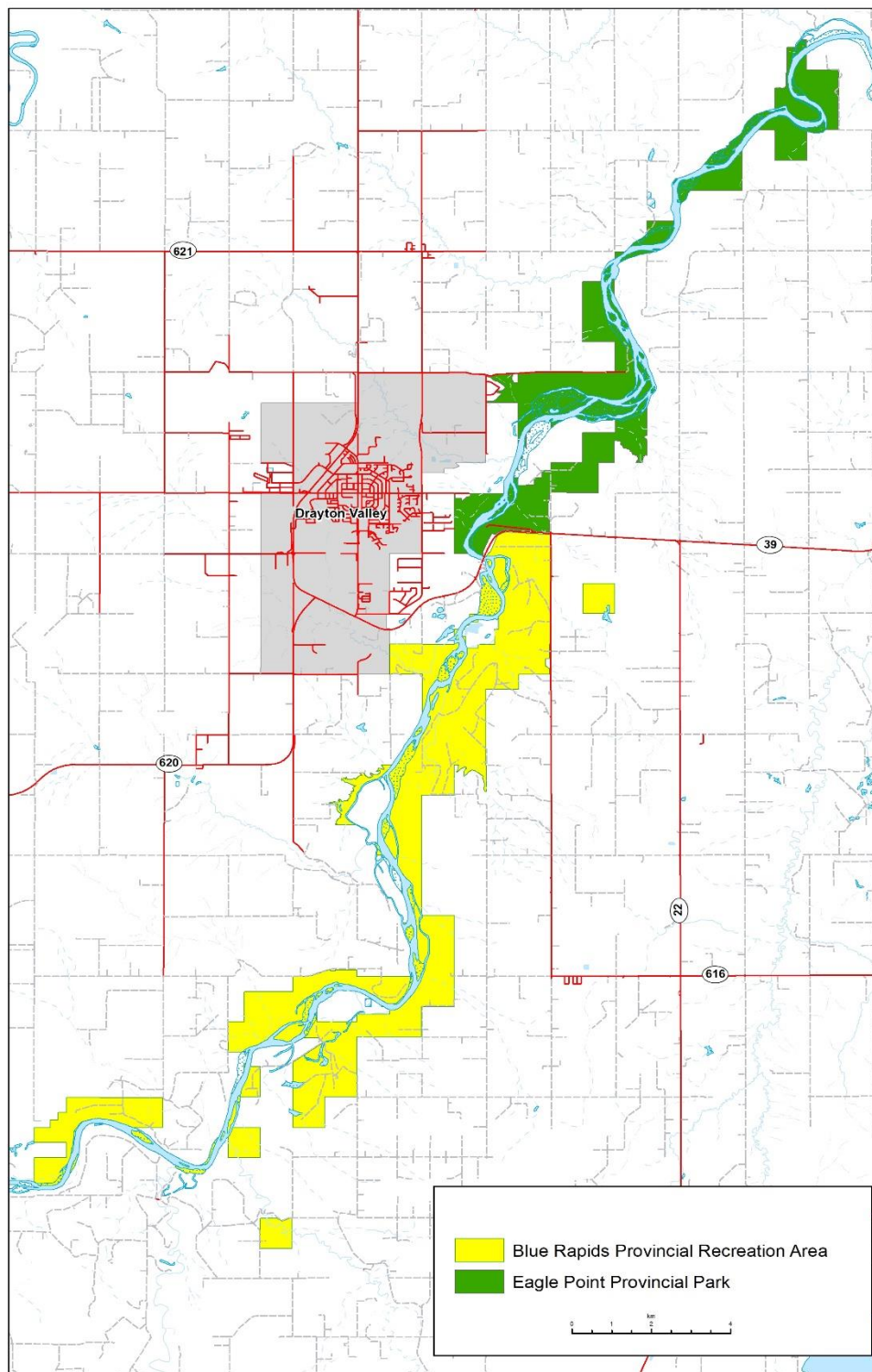
EAGLE POINT-BLUE RAPIDS PARKS SYSTEM

Established in 2007, the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, (together referred to as the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Park System) are in central Alberta just east of the Town of Drayton Valley.

Together they protect the natural and cultural landscape features of a 53 km stretch of the North Saskatchewan River Valley.

For more information about the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council events, recreational clubs, programs, and inquiries call 780-898-7275.

www.epbrparks.council.org



"All good things are wild and free." Henry David Thoreau