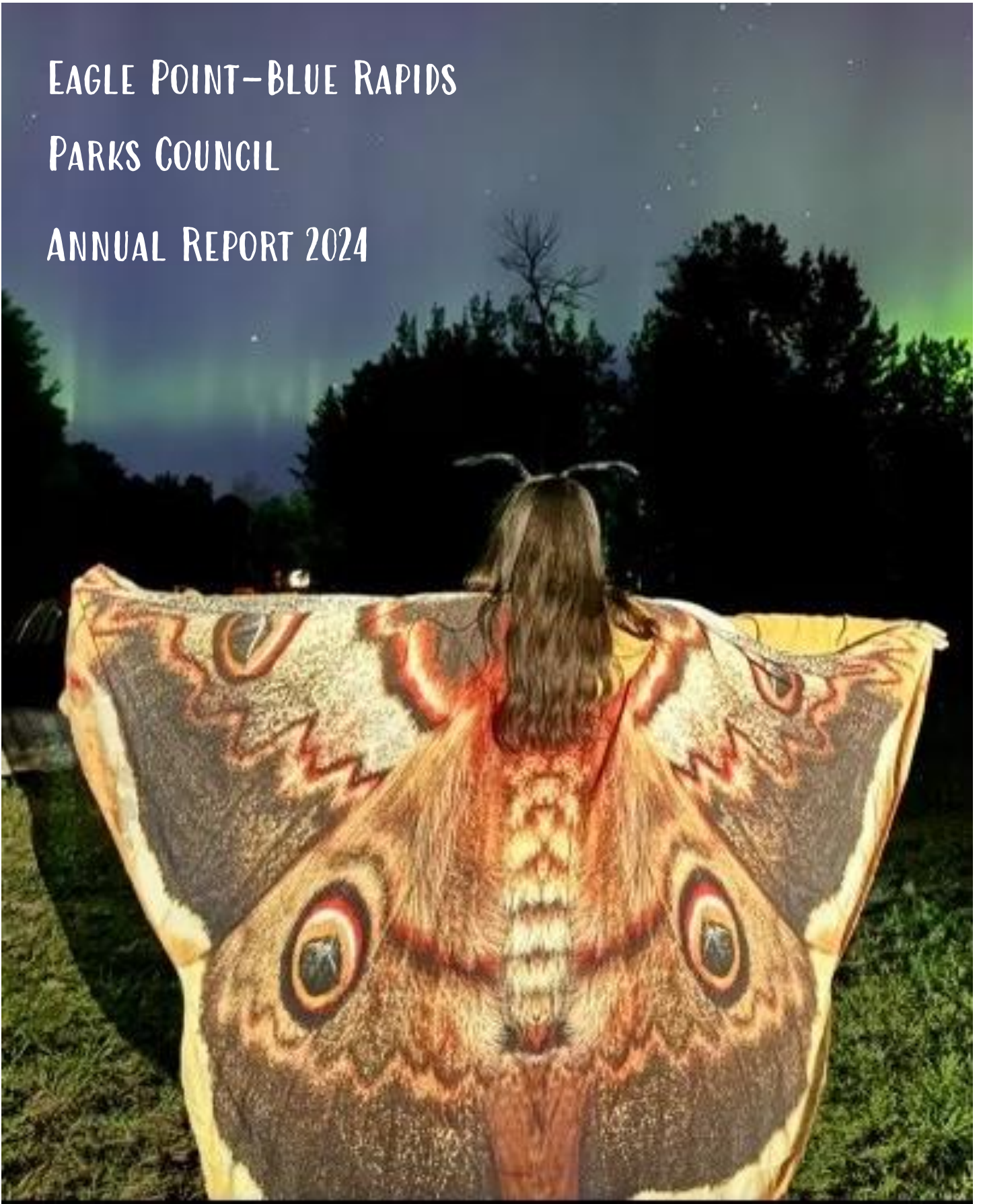


SPREADING OUR WINGS

EAGLE POINT—BLUE RAPIDS

PARKS COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024





“SPREADING OUR WINGS”

“First you jump off the cliff
and you build your wings on
the way down.”

Ray Bradbury

The photo on the front cover of this year’s Annual Report and the adjacent photo were taken at our “Moth Ball” event held in July 2024. This event is described as “an unapologetic night of science for nature nerds” and celebrates creatures of

the night including bats, moths, reptiles and amphibians. Those in attendance can attest the night was magical! The weather was beautiful, the stars were shining, and as you can see on the cover photo, the northern lights colored the sky, plus we had an extremely large moth in attendance! From the outside, things seemed to come together seamlessly but behind the scenes, it took extensive planning, and coordination to bring experts from all over Alberta to present at this event. We had to take a jump and grow some wings, recognizing the risk of failure but also hopeful of making something unique and special happen. Happily, our planning paid off, and our speakers were fantastic. Batsby, the bat wowed the crowd, and the moths came out to the delight of many observers.

“Spreading our wings” sounds graceful and smooth but can be uncomfortable as it means you are embarking on something new. This year the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council started numerous initiatives. We pursued and qualified for the Small Employer Certificate of Recognition (SECOR) safety designation. We added several innovative community events (Earth Day Rain Barrels, Hello Birds, Wednesday Walks, Moth Ball, Cabin of Captivity Escape Room, Gold Panning, and Wreath Making), refined our event registration capabilities, implemented a marketing plan, and started a capital fundraising campaign for the Nature Navigator Van. We also had the opportunity to host a Christmas Open House for our volunteers and community partners. We are happy to report that we found our “wings” and generally experienced very positive results in all our ventures.

The Parks Council continues to enhance and grow our nature education program, adapting it to fit the new Alberta Education curriculum. Maintenance and enhancement of facilities and trails have been the priority of many of our recreation clubs. Through the Drayton Valley Hospitality and Tourism Authority our organization can get more support for events from its Let’s Volunteer Program, which connects local volunteers to community events and organizations. We continue to be incredibly fortunate with community interest and involvement, dedicated volunteers, and a desire from many people to share the assets and experiences our Parks can afford to the public. We hope residents and visitors come to our Parks to spread their wings and gain experiences and create relationships that enhance their quality of life.

Warm regards,

Sandra Bannard
Executive Director

Avalie Peck
Parks Council Chairperson

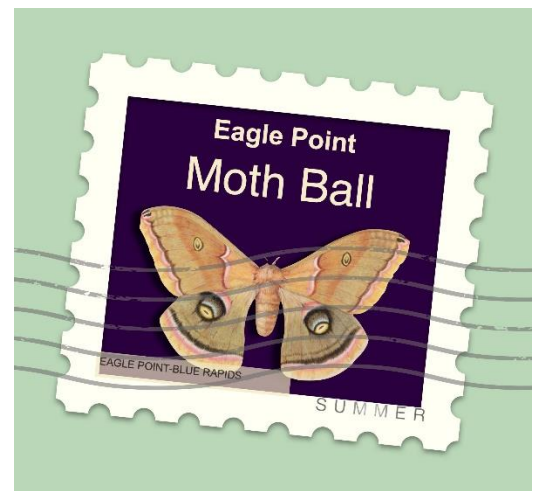
OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATION

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

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

Mission: To enhance and protect the Eagle Point Provincial Park and the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, to work collaboratively with our partners to implement innovative park planning, funding, and management for the benefit and public enjoyment of current and future generations.

Vision: A sustainable balance of diverse recreational opportunities and environmental protection for all to enjoy in the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.



OUR PHILOSOPHY



Nature Education-to facilitate the delivery of enhanced and coordinated nature education through programming within the Park System for the benefit of the community and visitors to the Parks



Sustainability-to have a strong, financially sustainable organization that demonstrates excellence in governance and strives to the objectives of the Management Plan



Community Partnerships-to maintain effective partnerships in the region to support mutual goals for the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Park System



Managed Recreation-to coordinate the planning, development, maintenance and services to become a well-managed protected area and recreation destination



NATURAL RECLAMATION

Despite the 2023 wildfire, these violets were found blooming in Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area in the Spring of 2024.

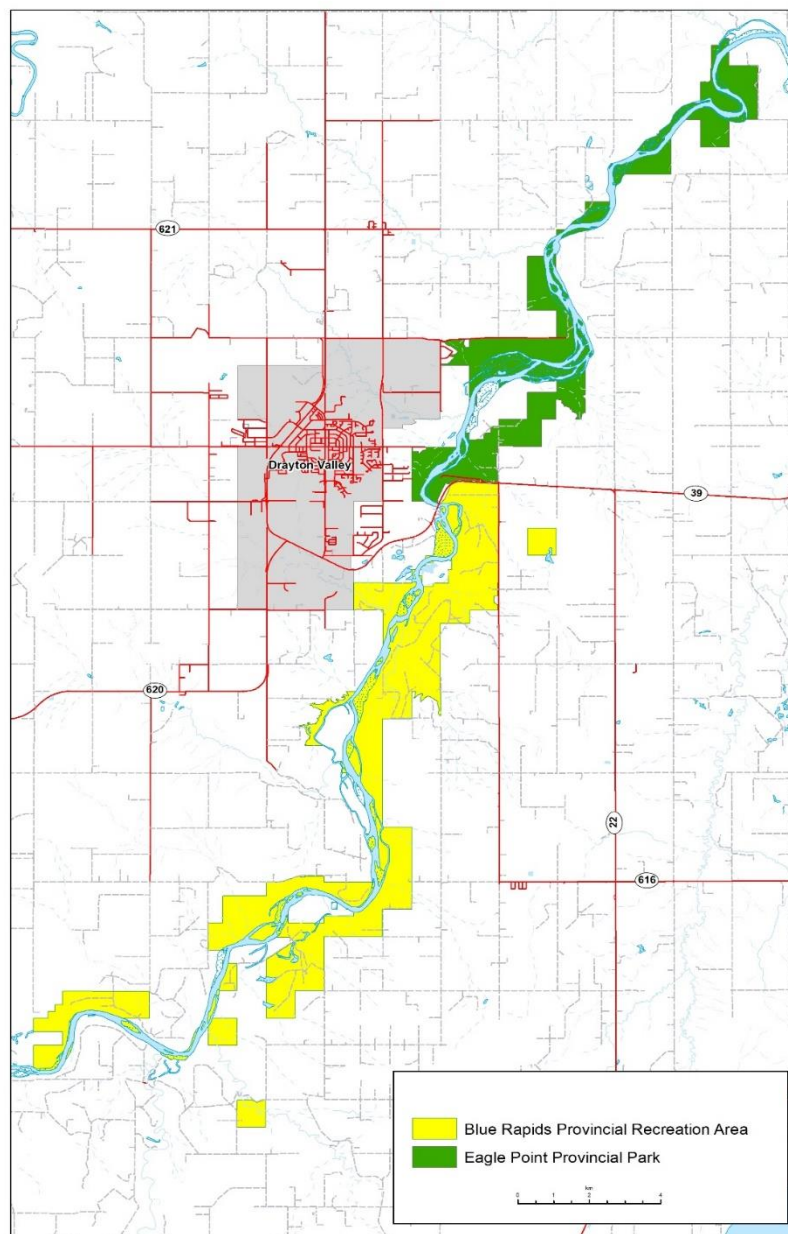
It's wondrous to realize that the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks are home to 142 vascular plant species!

For full lists of birds, mammals, reptiles & amphibians, fish, and plants that can be found in the Parks check our website at:
www.epbrparkscouncil.org

Established in 2008, the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council was created through an Order in Council in the Alberta Legislature. The Parks Council is a unique model of collaboration and the first of its kind in the province. With its fifteen member Board of Directors representing local government, recreational groups, and special interest partners, a relationship of cooperation and partnership has developed with Alberta Parks.

The creation of Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area was a solution to balance and better manage recreation pressures and ecological needs of the area.

In 2023, a wildfire ripped through Blue Rapids PRA torching a quarter of the forest. Signs of forest rejuvenation are evidenced by the adjacent photos.



A new tree emerges following the 2023 wildfire that affected Blue Rapids Recreation Area

Photos-Kathy Schwengler

**“RESILIENCY IS
THE ABILITY TO
REBOUND FROM
DISTURBANCE.”**

VIRGINIA HERMANSON

RECREATION CLUBS

Recreation Club volunteers provide many hours in the development and maintenance of facilities and trails. In 2024, the EPBR Clubs contributed 5,378 volunteer hours, with an additional 1,084 equipment hours. As a dollar value, their contribution equals \$150,920!!!



Brazeau ATV Club

Adventure for the whole family can be found with the Brazeau ATV Club.

ATV enthusiasts will enjoy being part of the club with 75 km of trails to explore.

Brazeau Bowbenders Archery

The club has an indoor and outdoor shooting range for novice and competitive shooters.

All ages are welcome, with fundamentals taught to new members.



Drayton Valley Horse Club

This club supports 80 km of fantastic trails near the Pembina River as well as a shorter trail system with limited camping in Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. Check their website at www.draytonvalleyhorseclub.com

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.

The club hosts numerous paddles annually. For more information email dvpclub@outlook.com





Rotary Club of Drayton Valley

This is a community service group and an ardent supporter of the Parks Council.

Check the Drayton Valley Rotary Club on Facebook for membership and meeting details.

Evergreen Shooting Club

The club range is in Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area west on township road 484 A.

Memberships are necessary to access the shooting range at: www.evergreenshooting.ca



Pembina Nordic Ski Club

The club is a year-round facility boasting skiing, hiking, mountain biking, disc golf and snowshoeing.

A modern event space is also available for rent.

Memberships available at: www.zone4.ca

West Central River Boat Association

The club promotes boating safety while ensuring the interests of recreational boating enthusiasts are protected and the environment in which they recreate is responsibly managed. Reach out to the club on Facebook (private members group).



For more information about the recreation clubs go to
www.epbrparkscouncil.org/explore/partner-clubs/

NAVIGATING NATURE

A group of children and adults are participating in a nature education program. They are gathered around a small stream in a forested area. Some children are standing on the grassy bank, while others are wading in the water. Adults are supervising and assisting the children. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees under a blue sky with some clouds.

Yeoford Home School
students experiencing
the “Wonders of
Wetlands.”

Photo-Kathy Schwengler

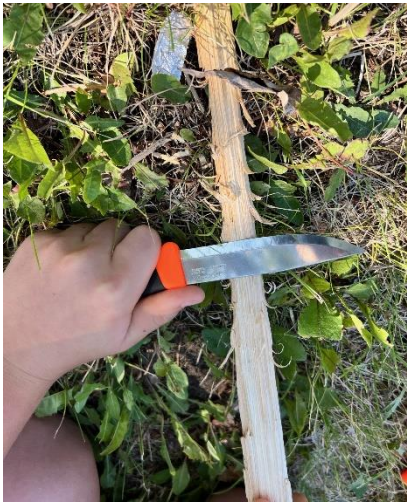
Thanks to ongoing support of corporate and municipal partners and Alberta Parks, Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council provides free Nature Education programming to schools, youth groups, and community organizations. Our twenty-seven, nature-based adventures facilitate connections in environmental education, heritage, stewardship, and recreation for youth. Our selection of programs aligns to the Alberta Education curriculum to encourage learning outcomes. Programs are offered in the Parks but are also available at locations throughout central Alberta. Ultimately, we want kids to connect to nature and understand that lots of learning can happen outside of the classroom!

4,839 Youth
Participated
in Nature
Education in
2024

137 Program
Sessions
delivered
throughout
the year

23 Schools
and
Organizations
booked our
services

\$105,833
raised for
Nature
Education
Program



NAVIGATING

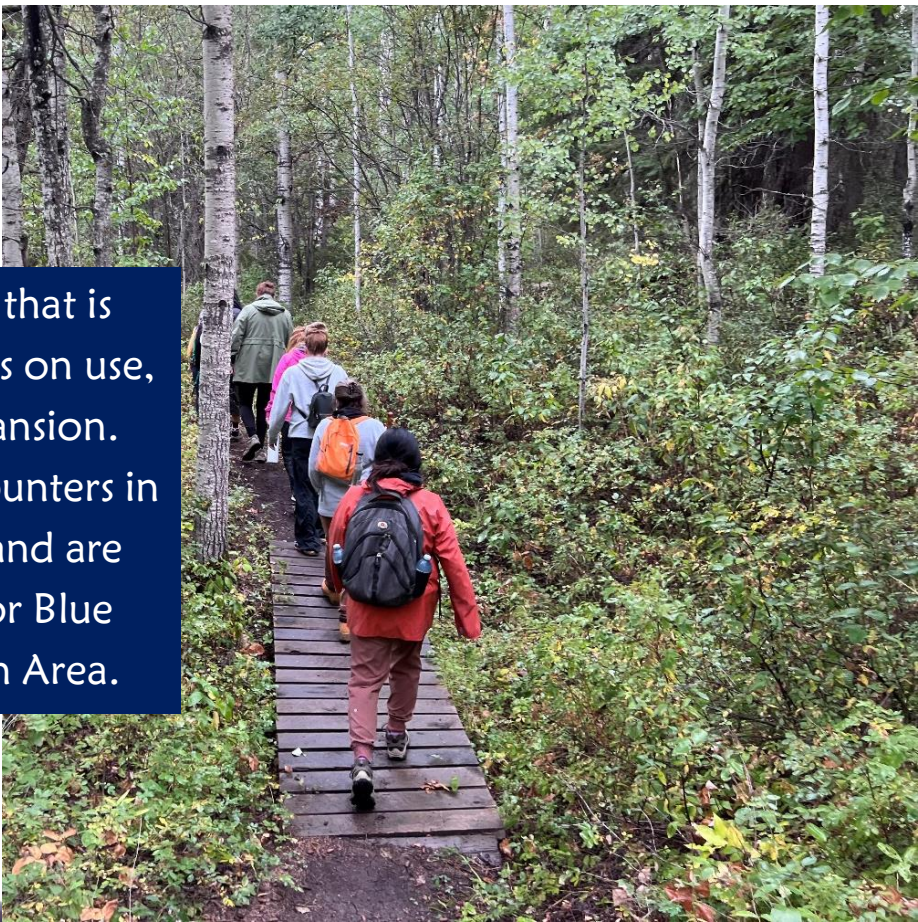


NATURE



SPREADING OUR WINGS IN RECREATION

Trail counters provide data that is helpful when making decisions on use, maintenance, and trail expansion. Currently we have five trail counters in Eagle Point Provincial Park and are planning to acquire more for Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.



Rotary PNC
Outdoor
Education Centre

Facility Rentals:
17

Trail use in 2024:	
Hilltop Trails	912
Hillside Trails	471
Pembina Nordic Ski/Hike	712*
Pembina Nordic Bike Trails	3,739
Rotary Pembina Nordic Community South Trails (Cemetery Trails)	12,656

*Trail counter data missing for 6 months



Photo -Tristan Ferris

SPREADING OUR WINGS IN COMMUNITY EVENTS



Something for everyone!

Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council hosted nineteen community events in 2024 ranging from Bird Watching to Wreath Making. Four new events were introduced; Wednesday Walks, Gold Panning, Cabin of Captivity Escape Room, and Christmas Wreath making which all contributed to over 3,100 people learning and enjoying activities hosted by the Parks Council staff.

Some favorites pictured here are the Forbidden Forest Pumpkin Walk, Nature Journaling, Gold Panning, Hello Birds, and Christmas Wreaths.

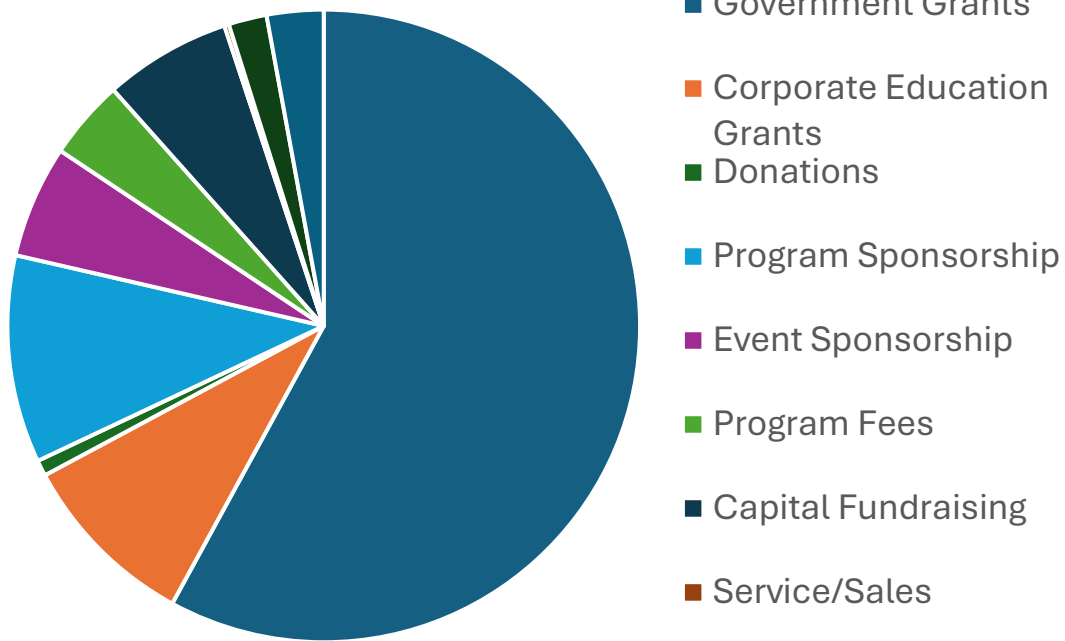
In 2024, one hundred forty-two volunteers contributed their time to help at our events! That deserves a big...

THANK YOU!



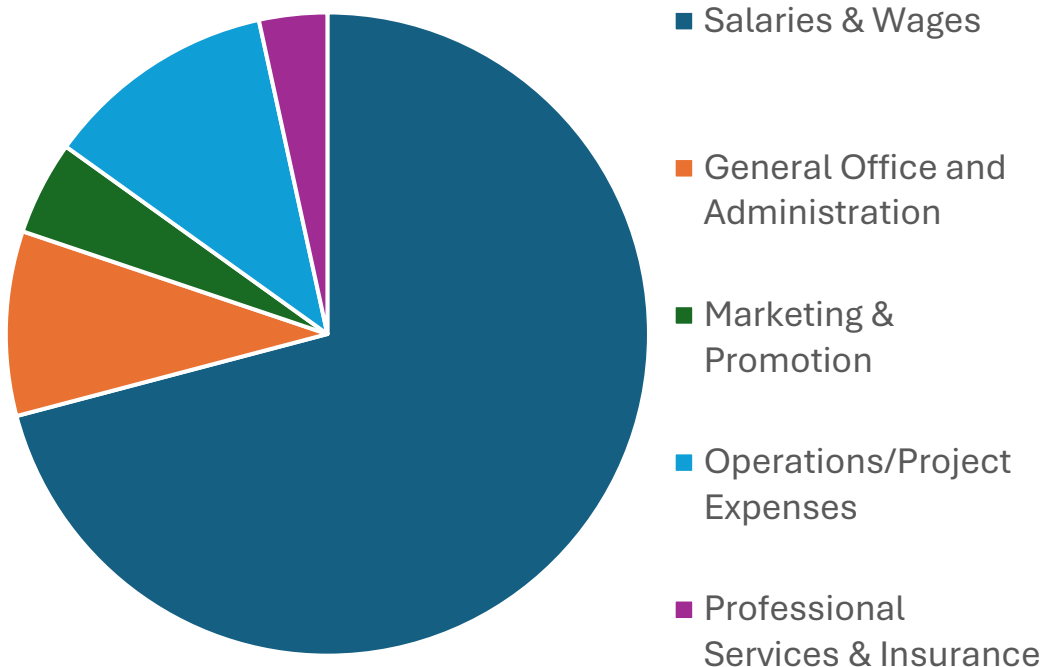
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Revenue



2024 Revenue-\$314,094

Expenses



2024 Expenses-\$329,904

FINANCIAL AND LEGACY SPONSORS

We are grateful for support from government, corporations, businesses, and organizations! Financial sponsorship allows us to provide Nature Education and to host Community Events that enrich the lives of people in our region.



FRIENDS OF THE PARKS COUNCIL

These individuals, organizations, and businesses help us do fun stuff! By providing volunteers, discounts, and in-kind contributions, our FRIENDS also support Nature Education, Recreational Facilities and Community Events.

Aim for Success

Alberta Amphibian & Reptile
Conservancy

Al Bouchard

Alberta Lepidopterist Guild

Alberta Community Bat Program

All Choice Rentals

Austin Prentice

Brazeau County

BEST Youth Hub

Brighter Futures Family Resource
Society

The Cronic Dawgs

Dave Fowell

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

Family Community Support Services

Family Resource Network

Gen 7 Environmental Solutions

Hush Nordic Sauna

Keyera Corp.

Knights of Columbus

Koerr Inc.

Len-Car Contracting Ltd.

LR Light & Sound

McMan Youth, Family & Community
Services

Metis Multi-Cultural Youth Society

Obsidian Energy

Olivia Thibault

Pembina Pipeline

Pembina Nordic Club

Pembina Regional Aerodrome Assoc.

Peyak aski

Ramada Hotel

RCO Energy Services

Signtific Signs

Strix Ecological Consulting Ltd.

Town of Drayton Valley

Weyerhaeuser

Wilf Catterson



Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council is very fortunate to have tremendous community support. From volunteers for our big events, to businesses who provide free, discounted, or in-kind services, we depend on all of them to provide the activities we do in our community.

There are also several organizations and groups that partner with us to host events, plan programming, and advance the goals of the Parks Council. These are all “FRIENDS” working to enrich our community, in a way that makes our experiences unique and memorable. Thanks for helping us “spread our wings”!



EAGLE POINT-BLUE RAPIDS PARKS COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

Executive Officers

Chairperson	Avalie Peck-Sand & Gravel Representative
Vice-Chairperson	Blair Trueman-Brazeau ATV Club
Treasurer	Danielle Titanich-DV Paddle Club
Secretary	Tammy Orban-Association of Adjacent Landowners

Directors

Recreation Clubs

Brazeau ATV Club	Blair Trueman
Brazeau Bowbenders	Keith Verreanu
Drayton Valley Horse Club	Caitlin Vaugeois
Drayton Valley Paddle Club	Danielle Titanich
Drayton Valley Rotary Club	Patricia Jeffery
Evergreen Shooting Club	Dustin Euchner
West Central Riverboat Association	Wayne Stec
Pembina Nordic Club	Curtis Buchan

Government Representatives

Alberta Parks	Kayla Campbell
Brazeau County	Anthony Heinrichs
Town of Drayton Valley	Colin Clarke

Special Interest

Association of Adjacent Land Owners	Tammy Orban
Drayton Valley Hospitality & Tourism Authority	Ryan Fynn
Oil and Gas Representative	Bill Birnie
Sand & Gravel Representative	Avalie Peck

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EPBR Parks Council Staff



Outreach & Education Coordinator-Kathy Schwengler
Nature Education Facilitator-Rita Fowell
Nature Education Assistant-Mackenzie Dooper
Marketing & Tourism Specialist-Jenn Budd
Finance & Administration Coordinator- Tawnya Dooper
Facility Host-Rochelle Fontana
Executive Director-Sandra Bannard

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

www.epbrparksCouncil.org