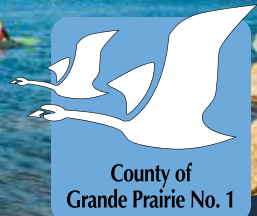


COUNTY CONNECTIONS



SPRING 2022

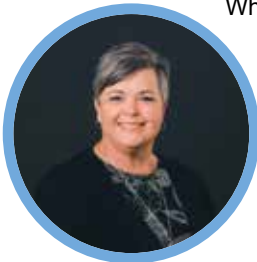
2022 Budget Approved Pg. 2
Making Sense of the Budget Pg. 4
Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Pg. 6
Apply for Community Grants Pg. 8

2022 Construction Projects Pg. 10
Appeal Process 101 Pg. 12
County Open Houses Pg. 13
It's Fire Season Pg. 14

Reserve Your Staycation Pg. 16
New Trails at Pipestone Pg. 17
Landfill Access Update Pg. 18
Day Camps & Tot Programs Pg. 19

Bears: Protect Your Property Pg. 20
Nominate a Farm Family Pg. 21
Sportsplex Summer Camps Pg. 22
Dino Museum Summer Programs Pg. 23

Reeve's Message



When you receive this issue of County Connections, summer will be just around the corner and the days will be growing longer. I encourage you to get outside and enjoy the County's trails, parks and campgrounds this season.

I am hopeful that the coming months will see a softening of some of the impacts of the pandemic. Support local businesses and one another as we make our way toward individual and economic recovery.

BUDGET 2022

For the third consecutive year, Council adopted a budget with a zero per cent increase to municipal tax rates. We are pleased to provide this relief to residents during these challenging times while maintaining essential services and considering the County's long-term financial sustainability. More details are included in this newsletter.

COUNTY/CITY INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK (ICF)

In February, the County adopted a new ICF with the City of Grande Prairie, marking the successful completion of all seven required ICFs with our neighbouring municipalities. In developing the ICF, we recognized an absence of good information on how residents in the County and the City are using facilities and services in each municipality. Collecting this data will provide valuable information for a new Cost Sharing and Information Sharing Agreement after the current agreement expires on March 31, 2025. To continue our collaboration, the County and City established an Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee made up of members of each Council. The first priority of the Committee is to ensure the collection of usage and cost data to assist in the development of a new agreement.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In April, the County released its 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, our roadmap to guide our priorities, processes, and decision-

making over the next four years. The plan, found on pages 6 and 7, reflects Council's desire to advance the County with forward-thinking and innovative leadership, while building on our successes.

ADVOCACY

Our Citizen Satisfaction Survey indicated that 50 per cent of County residents polled rated roads as their top-of-mind issue, followed by taxes and crime. We will continue to consider these issues in our advocacy work.

The Highway 40X connector joining Highways 40 and 43 west of the City of Grande Prairie has been on our priority list for the duration of the Highway 40 project. Earlier this year, Council met with the Minister of Transportation and received confirmation that funding options are being reviewed to begin land acquisition and engineering in 2022.

We hosted two joint RCMP/County Enforcement virtual crime prevention town hall meetings in February. Our budget funds eight Enhanced RCMP positions that work out of our Community Services Building and the Grande Prairie RCMP Detachment with specialization in the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU), General Investigative Section (GIS) and Special Investigations Unit (SIU). The County website offers crime prevention resources including the RCMP's Grande Prairie Region Crime Map, RCMP newsletter, and Report-A-Drug-House hotline and online form.

Work continues to establish a detachment in the Hamlet of Clairmont. We are currently working with the Solicitor General while awaiting outcomes of the province's decision on a provincial police force to replace the RCMP.

COUNTY OPEN HOUSES

County Open House events return this June! We look forward to reconnecting with residents and sharing our programs and services. See page 13 for details.

With the increase in construction and farming traffic, we urge everyone to drive with care. Enjoy the long summer days ahead!

2022 Budget Approved with Zero Per Cent Municipal Tax Rate Increase

Following deliberations, County Council approved the 2022 capital and operating budgets with no increase to the municipal tax rate. The overall \$188 million budget includes \$104 million for general operations, \$7 million for debt payments and \$77 million for capital which includes \$39.7 million in projects carried over from previous years.

The zero per cent increase to the municipal tax rate endorses what Council approved during the interim budget deliberations in December.

"This is the third year in a row where Council and Administration have developed a balanced budget that invests in critical projects and essential programs with no increase to the municipal portion of property taxes," said Reeve Leanne Beaupre. "We recognize the pressures the continued economic recovery and global pandemic have put on many households and businesses. We are thankful that our strategic decision-making allows us to continue providing some relief to County taxpayers."

Once again, the budget maintains service levels and continues to place the County in a stable financial position.

"The 2022 budget balances support for our residents, communities and business while continuing to ensure the County's fiscal sustainability in the face of increased pressures to our bottom line," said Reeve Beaupre.

The County is contending with millions of dollars in lost revenue following provincial changes to how industrial properties are assessed. Between the holiday on taxes for new well and pipeline assessments and the permanently eliminated Well Drilling Equipment tax, lost revenue is estimated to be more than \$4.5 million. Along with the changes to assessment, there are approximately \$2 million dollars in unpaid property taxes.

Continued growth in assessment over the year, including new development as well as market value inflation, allowed the County to balance the overall budget.

The budget also includes financial implications from the Hythe dissolution, including inherited debt and a sizeable

infrastructure deficit. Council adopted a balanced approach to bring Hythe's municipal tax rate in line with the rest of the County over time. This phased tax rate reduction will take place from 2022 to 2025.

SOME OF THE SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS COUNCIL APPROVED FOR 2022 INCLUDE:

- Approximately 69 per cent of the capital budget is going towards capital road and bridge projects including carryovers
- \$10 million earmarked for the Highway 40 Twinning and Bridge Construction project, \$3.33 million per year from 2021 to 2023 cost-shared with the Province and MD of Greenview
- \$6.5 million in recreation, community, culture, library, seniors & special needs transportation, and FCSS grants to various organizations across the region
- \$3.8 million to Aquatera for the Clairmont Regional Lift Station
- \$2.4 million in Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) contributions, cost sharing agreements with other municipalities, including the City of Grande Prairie and the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, and Wembley
- \$1.45 million to the Town of Beaverlodge for its new fire hall from 2019 to 2022, including an additional \$450,000 for increased project costs
- \$1.3 million to the City of Grande Prairie for the revenue sharing agreement which has the purpose of fostering regional development (share of municipal tax revenue – 20 per cent from the co-generational facility and 10 per cent on any new commercial/industrial development in areas serviced by Aquatera)
- \$596,667 to Aquatera to subsidize wastewater rate increases for County residents connected to the system
- \$200,000 for the land acquisition and design for the Teepee Creek Fire Hall replacement

Find out more about the 2022 operating and capital budget in the attached Budget Highlights or at www.countygp.ab.ca/budget.

Budget Highlights

CAPITAL BUDGET

Approximately \$53 million is being invested in capital road and bridge projects, including \$25 million for capital road and bridge construction projects carried over from prior years and \$28 million for new projects scheduled for 2022.

The proposed new 2022 construction projects feature 52.87 km of road surfacing including surfaced road overlays, bridge rehabilitation, and re-construction road projects.

New grant funding is estimated at \$7.7 million, including an estimated \$2.7 million of federal funding from the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF), formerly known as the Gas Tax grant, an estimated \$4.2 million in funding from the Provincial Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grant, and an Alberta Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) grant of \$800,000.

2022 SCHEDULED ROAD PROJECTS:

- 148 Avenue from Highway 2 east to 92 Street – overlay 1.6 km
- Althen Corner 162 Avenue, 101 Street, and 102 Street – overlay 1 km
- Precision/Kehr Rehab – overlay 1.8 km
- Juggers Landing – overlay 0.75 km
- West Mount Phase 1 – overlay 0.22 km
- An additional \$4.8 million for improvements to Resources Road to the Nauticol Plant for a total project cost of \$8.27 million, which includes \$1.7 million in provincial STIP grant funding – 3.4 km
- \$3.78 million for Range Road 85 from Township Road 710 north to Highway 43 – grade, base, and paving 6.4 km
- \$2 million for spot construction projects
- \$988,559 for road construction projects in the Hamlet of Hythe – 0.57 km
- \$785,000 for the bridge replacement and rehabilitation program

IN ADDITION TO ROAD CONSTRUCTION, THE CAPITAL BUDGET INCLUDES:

- \$3.8 million for the land acquisition and design for the proposed RCMP Rural Detachment in Clairmont
- \$1.9 million for the replacement of vehicles and equipment
- \$780,000 for the replacement of the Bezanson Lift Station
- \$749,350 for new high-resolution air photos of the region and detailed ground surface imaging across the County, supporting municipal services as well as business use
- \$570,726 for sewage line repairs in the Hamlet of Hythe
- \$358,052 to upgrade aging IT equipment including network servers
- \$250,000 to replace a live fire training facility
- \$60,000 to upgrade lighting to LED at the Crosslink County Sportsplex
- \$60,000 to replace vehicle extraction tools for emergency response

- \$50,392 for emergency services equipment including thermal imaging cameras
- \$37,000 for benches, picnic tables and other infrastructure along the Clairmont Parkway trail
- \$29,000 for Regional Fire Service equipment at the Hythe Fire Station
- \$25,000 to convert space at the Crosslink County Sportsplex to a multi-purpose meeting room
- \$25,000 for a second base station for spot construction
- \$20,000 for a welcome sign in the Hamlet of Hythe
- \$20,000 for pre-engineering and design work for a trail connecting Township Road 704A to the pedestrian underpass that will be slung below the new Highway 40 bridge
- \$10,000 for Hommy Park tribute monument
- \$10,000 for a new retention tank and water tank filters at the Hythe Water Treatment plant

OPERATING BUDGET

The operating budget includes:

- \$4.3 million for Recreation and Culture Grants
- \$1.3 million to the City of Grande Prairie for the tax sharing agreement (share of municipal tax revenue – 20 per cent from the co-generational facility and 10 per cent on any new commercial/industrial development in areas serviced by Aquatera)
- \$587,000 of operating funds to the Grande Prairie & District Agricultural Society (Evergreen Park) to weather the COVID-19 pandemic
- \$536,723 for Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Grants
- \$533,758 in grants to libraries
- \$315,000 for additional signage along Township and Range Roads
- \$306,000 to contract professional engineering services to support Planning and Development Services

- \$232,842 for sewer line jetting and camera work in the hamlets of Bezanson, La Glace, Hythe, Teepee Creek, and Valhalla
- \$150,000 for the development of a Drainage Master Plan
- \$143,107 for the County's contribution of up to 50 per cent of the costs associated with working with P3 Capital Partners Inc. on the Mountview Health Complex project along with the Town of Beaverlodge
- \$66,770 for the installation of water meters in the Hamlet of Hythe
- \$45,666 for Regional Fire Services equipment, including PPE, at the Hythe Fire Station
- \$40,000 for well registration and licensing in the Hamlet of Hythe
- \$30,000 for a Road Assessment Study in the Hamlet of Hythe
- \$25,000 for business retention grant funding for County businesses
- Increased operating assistance funding for the Lyons Event Centre in Teepee Creek and Knelsen Centre in Bezanson. Each facility will receive \$20,425 annually
- \$20,000 for enhanced Economic Development programs for business retention including regular meetings, recognition events, and networking opportunities
- \$20,000 for updates to modernize the County's visual identity guide
- \$12,000 for the replacement of sand at Riverview Playground
- \$12,000 for a Regional Enforcements records management system

SCHEDULE OF FEES AND RATES CHANGES

The schedule of fees, rates and charges is available at www.countygp.ab.ca/fees



OF THE

MAKING SENSE 2022 BUDGET



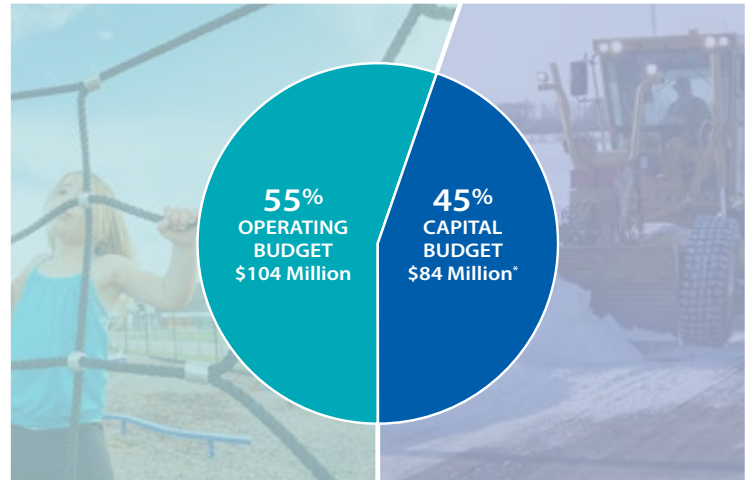
BUDGET BASICS

Every program and service in the County has a cost. Each year, Council makes financial decisions to provide money for each program and service in the Operating and Capital budgets.

The total budget for 2022 is \$188 million.

OPERATING BUDGET: The County's operating budget is for day-to-day costs to keep everything running smoothly. This includes enforcement and fire services, parks and recreation facilities, road maintenance, including snow removal, and waste management.

CAPITAL BUDGET: The County's capital budget funds major assets, including machinery and equipment, vehicles, buildings, major road construction projects and debt repayments.



* includes \$39.7 Million in carried forward projects

READING YOUR PROPERTY TAX NOTICE

Your property tax notice includes more than municipal taxes – it also includes taxes for education and seniors lodging. The Province of Alberta and the Grande Spirit Foundation determine the financial amount required and the County is required to collect and send these funds to each of them, respectively.

County of Grande Prairie No. 1
10001 - 84 Avenue
Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAX NOTICE Notice of Assessment Date: 0000410 Tax Year

Legal Description: _____ Municipal Address: _____ Roll Number: _____

Issued to: _____
A copy of this notice has been sent to the following:
Additional Owners: _____
Reference: _____

Tax Levy Summary	
Total Property Tax:	\$ 2,950.31
Local Improvement:	.00
Total Current Tax:	\$ 2,950.31
Credits or Averages:	.00
Outstanding Balance:	\$ 2,950.31

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Assessment Class	Land	Improvement	Other	Total
RS Residential	110,110	324,890		435,000

To file an assessment complaint, send to the Clerk of the Assessment Review Board at the above mailing address. Not applicable to linear / CIP. (See reverse side of this notice for further details.)

Assessment Total: 435,000
Taxable Total: 435,000

TAX CATEGORY	TAX RATE	MUNICIPAL TAXES	SCHOOL TAXES	OTHER TAXES	TOTAL
RS General Municipal*	0.0040750	\$1,772.63			\$1,772.63
RS Alta Foundation Fund	0.0026603		\$1,157.23		\$1,157.23
Grande Spirit Foundation	0.0000470			\$20.45	\$20.45
SUB-TOTAL		1,772.63	1,157.23	20.45	2,950.31

School Support

Public: 100.00
Separate: _____
Undeclared: _____
Messages: _____

Alberta School Foundation (ASF)
Taxes are collected on behalf of the Province of Alberta. ASF tax rate is determined by the Province.

Local Improvement

Description	Amount
Bylaw: _____ Expiry: _____	\$ _____
Bylaw: _____ Expiry: _____	\$ _____
Bylaw: _____ Expiry: _____	\$ _____

MUNICIPAL TAXES

60.09%

County of Grande Prairie
Used to fund the budget

EDUCATION TAX

39.22%

Province of Alberta
Allocated towards education

SENIORS LODGING

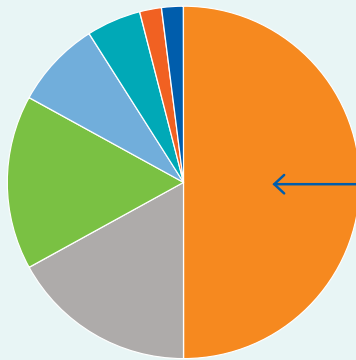
0.69%

Grande Spirit Foundation
Allocated towards seniors housing

*A phased tax rate reduction is in place for the Hamlet of Hythe, bringing them in line with the rest of the County. The reduction will take place from 2022 to 2025 and applies to all properties, including residential, non-residential and farmland. Hythe taxpayers will also pay an additional amount to repay the Hamlet's long term debt, at the time of dissolution, until the debt is paid in full.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

Funding for the County's programs and services comes from several sources, with most coming from property taxes.



50%
MUNICIPAL TAXES
YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

17%
TRANSFER FROM RESERVES*
SAVINGS SET ASIDE FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS

16%
GRANT REVENUE
FROM OTHER ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT

8%
DEBT FUNDING

5%
USER FEES, SALE OF GOODS
& MISC. REVENUES
FOR EXAMPLE EQUIPMENT RENTAL,
ANIMAL RECLAIM, GARBAGE COLLECTION

2%
RETURN ON INVESTMENT
EARNINGS ON COUNTY INVESTMENTS

2%
LEVIES, FINES & PENALTIES
FOR EXAMPLE DEVELOPMENT LEVIES

*A portion of municipal taxes are put into reserve accounts, similar to savings accounts. Money is transferred from reserves when needed for critical capital and operational projects. Reserve accounts provide additional funding for the County as interest builds up on a large portion of the balance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
→ countygp.ab.ca/budget

MUNICIPAL TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

This is how much of our sample residential property tax bill went towards County operational and capital expenses:

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK



\$788.83

- 31.9%** ROAD CONSTRUCTION & BRIDGE PROGRAM
- 8.4%** ROAD MAINTENANCE, SIGNAGE, SPOT & MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION
- 2.8%** PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION
- 1.4%** MOBILE VEHICLES, SHOPS & EQUIPMENT

COMMUNITY, RECREATION, CULTURE & SAFETY



\$522.92

- 11.5%** REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT, FIRE & DISASTER SERVICES
- 11.4%** COMMUNITY GRANTS
- 3.0%** PARKS & RECREATION SERVICES
- 1.7%** AGRICULTURAL SERVICES
- 1.5%** FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES
- 0.4%** LIBRARY SERVICES

RUNNING THE MUNICIPALITY



\$251.71

- 14.2%** ASSESSMENT, ASSET MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE, FINANCIAL SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES & SAFETY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES, PROCUREMENT

RECYCLE & WASTE MANAGEMENT; WATER SUPPLY & DISTRIBUTION, AND WASTEWATER COLLECTION & TREATMENT



\$154.22

- 3.5%** WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION
- 3.4%** RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES & SERVICES
- 1.8%** WASTEWATER COLLECTION & TREATMENT

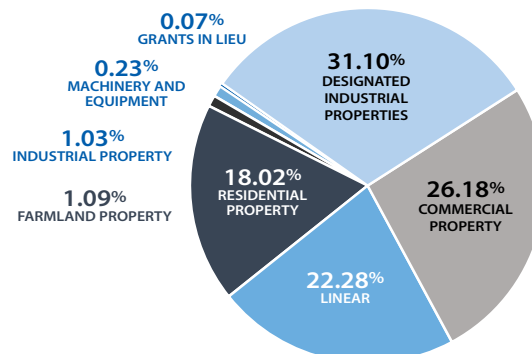
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



\$54.95

- 2.4%** LAND USE, PLANNING, ZONING & DEVELOPMENT
- 0.7%** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SOURCE OF MUNICIPAL TAX PORTION



countygp.ab.ca

County of Grande Prairie Strategic Plan 2022-2026

Introduction

The County of Grande Prairie's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan is our roadmap to guide our priorities, processes and decision-making over the next four years. Six key themes form the foundation for our approach, with each one of these supported by objectives that will propel the plan forward. The plan reflects Council's desire to advance the County with forward-thinking and innovative leadership, while building on our success as a liveable, vibrant and resilient community.

Vision, Mission and Values

The County of Grande Prairie has a long-term commitment to strategic planning guided by its Vision, Values and Mission.

Vision

The County of Grande Prairie No. 1. First in building sustainable, prosperous and safe communities.

Mission

The County of Grande Prairie builds on its natural environment and the entrepreneurial spirit of its citizens to provide an unmatched quality of life and opportunity for all.

Council Strategic Themes

Council has identified six areas which will receive special attention and focus during the term of this strategic plan. These strategic theme areas were selected based on community feedback, current service information from administration, and a thorough understanding of the challenges that lie ahead. For each Strategic Theme, Council outlined the outcomes it wishes to achieve in the next four years.

1. Effective Transportation Networks

Provide transportation networks that take advantage of responsive technology and align with the needs of residents, business, and industry.



Key Outcomes:

- **1.A:** Build on our success as advocates and work to complete major transportation components.
- **1.B:** Plan and complete effective internal transportation networks meeting citizen needs.
- **1.C:** Understand and measure efficiencies in the transportation network.

2. Fiscal Sustainability

Develop a financial framework for establishing tax rates which recognizes the difference between classes of assessment, compares favourably with other municipalities, and demonstrates the relationship between service levels and revenue generated.



Key Outcomes:

- **2.A:** Develop robust reserve policies to aid in long-term fiscal and infrastructure sustainability.
- **2.B:** Review tax revenue and assessment policies to meet the financial needs of the County, while remaining competitive.
- **2.C:** Review and implement organizational efficiencies.
- **2.D:** Build a culture of innovation and continuous improvement.

3. Economic Development

Build vibrant and prosperous communities by providing supports to our partners to encourage economic development; and to our stakeholders to encourage community development.



Key Outcomes:

- **3.A:** Identify and lead opportunities with partner agencies to support economic development growth.
- **3.B:** Work with non-profits to build communities of choice.
- **3.C:** Develop greater flexibility in land use for economic development benefits.
- **3.D:** Consolidate and upgrade internal technology services to streamline and improve citizen services.

Values and Operating Principles

Our Values

The County of Grande Prairie Council commits to the following values. We will maintain high standards of ethical and professional conduct by being:

- Trustworthy in our decision making and interpersonal relationships
- Transparent in our communications
- Respectful of others
- Collaborative in achieving our goals

Our Operating Principles

We will use these principles to guide the decision making and service delivery of our County. We will:

- Place the people we serve at the centre of our work
- Be good stewards of our land, air and water
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility and good financial management
- Be a good neighbour to our surrounding municipalities
- Provide programs and services in an effective and efficient manner
- Practice good governance and respect each other's roles
- Foster an entrepreneurial spirit and encourage sustainable agriculture, industry and tourism pursuits
- Create a work environment that contributes to employee health and well-being

4. Effective Land-Use Management

Manage land effectively by balancing the need for growth while minimizing conflict through land-use planning.



Key Outcomes:

- **4.A:** Confirm the key provisions of the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and conduct ongoing analysis to determine its impact on land development.
- **4.B:** Clarify and communicate the County's land use management framework (regulations/policies) to all interested stakeholders.
- **4.C:** Address concerns regarding land assessment ratings.

5. Community Wellness and Safety

Encourage community wellness and safety by supporting partners in the development and delivery of programs and activities.



Key Outcomes:

- **5.A:** Develop a Community Wellness and Safety Strategy including an inventory of programs, services, agencies, and partners, to improve the safety and security of residents.
- **5.B:** Continue to strengthen partnerships amongst policing organizations (RCMP, Peace Officers).
- **5.C:** Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in both short-term and long-range land approval and building permitting processes.
- **5.D:** Increase citizen awareness and involvement in community safety initiatives.

6. Governance and Leadership

Deliver municipal services through the use of innovative tools and a strong commitment to customer service. Understand the demographics of our citizens and focus on service levels and methods that best fit residents' and businesses' needs. Be a strong partner in development of inter-municipal relationships.



Key Outcomes:

- **6.A:** Provide resources and attention to inter-municipal and inter-government relationships.
- **6.B:** Improve customer service protocols for the County.
- **6.C:** Review citizen demographics and use data as ongoing planning input.

Apply for Community Capital Grants starting August 1

Organizations that deliver recreation or cultural services to County residents can apply to the Capital Grant program. These grants help organizations pay for improvements or repairs to their facility.

TWO OPTIONS:

Community groups can apply for up to 50 per cent of project costs, up to \$50,000, to improve or repair a physical facility through the Capital Grant program. The infrastructure must be a recreational or cultural facility that serves County residents.

OR

Community groups can apply for funding to support projects of more than \$100,000. New construction, rehabilitation, repairs or improvements to a recreation or cultural facility that serves County residents are eligible.

These grants support local groups in keeping the County a great place to live, work and play. A huge part of healthy and vibrant communities are recreational and cultural opportunities, which the County has in spades. The funding provided through these programs helps support the spaces and places where our residents and visitors spend time.

The County awards Capital Grants annually. Last year, Council approved \$1,525,889 in capital grant funding to support important projects throughout the County, as well as the Town of Beaverlodge, City of Grande Prairie, Town of Sexsmith and Town of Wembley.

For more information about Recreation and Culture Grants, and to apply online by September 15, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/grants.



Nitehawk Year-Round Adventure Park



Hythe & District Memorial Arena

SOME OF THE SUCCESSFUL COUNTY GRANT RECIPIENTS

2022 Major Capital Approved Multi-Year Funding:

- \$2,000,000 to the La Glace Agricultural Society for a new arena – \$333,333 per year over six years (2018-2023)
- \$1,450,000 for the new Beaverlodge Fire Hall to the Town of Beaverlodge
- \$300,000 to the Hythe Athletic Association for brine line replacement – \$100,000 per year over three years (2021-2023)
- \$298,646 to the Grande Prairie Regional Agriculture and Exhibition Society (Evergreen Park)
- \$101,000 to Nitehawk Year-Round Adventure Park for replacement equipment
- \$67,000 to the Town of Sexsmith for capital projects



Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society (PARDS)



Bear Creek Folk Festival

2022 CAPITAL GRANTS:

- \$101,145 to the South Peace Regional Archives' relocation project
- \$100,000 to the Royal Canadian Legion Grande Prairie Branch #54 for legion rehabilitation – \$50,000 per year over two years (2022-2023)
- \$100,000 to the Hythe Agricultural Society for the Mustang Spray Park – \$50,000 per year over two years (2022-2023)
- \$50,000 to the Wembley and District Arts, Cultural and Historical Society for site upgrades
- \$50,000 to the Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society (PARDS) for the construction of a garage and storage building
- \$25,000 to the Wembley Community Society for a new playground
- \$23,093 to the Bezanson Agricultural Society for acoustical sound treatment
- \$6,825 to the Wapiti Nordic Ski Club for a lease application project
- \$6,200 to the Bear Creek Folk Festival to purchase event tents
- \$5,000 to the Beaverlodge Area Cultural Society for front entrance renovations
- \$5,000 to the Hythe Athletic Association for a painting project
- \$3,740 to the Rio Grande Sports Association for a website project



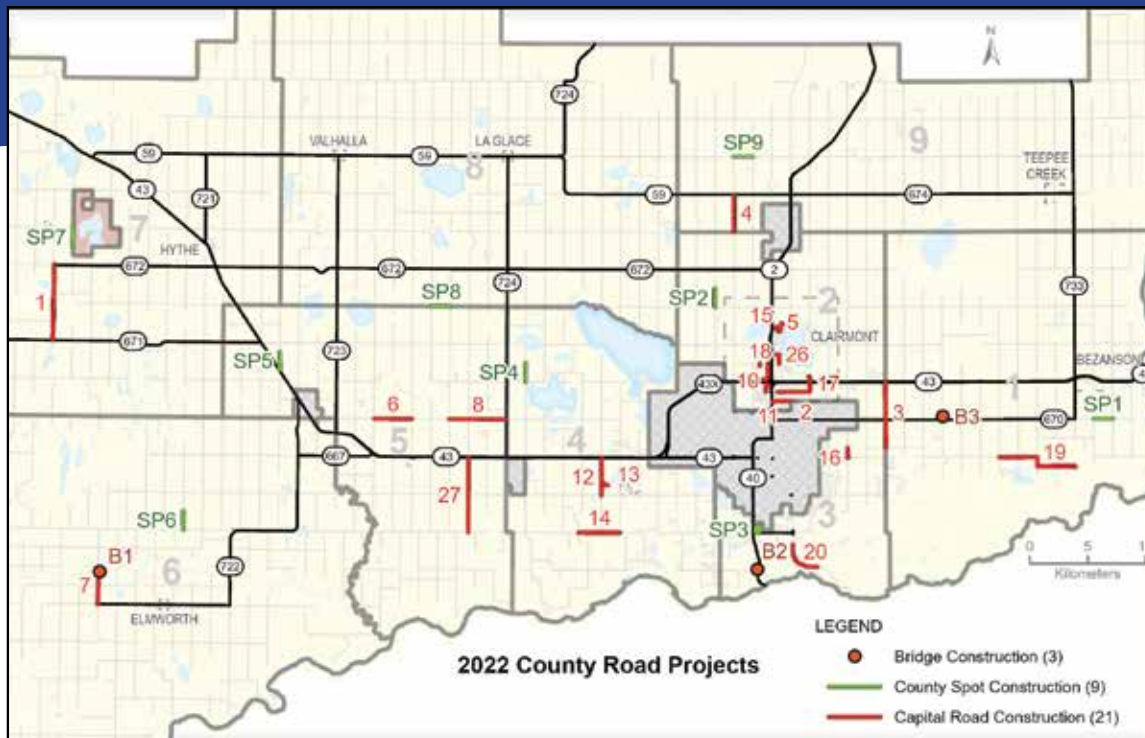
Wapiti Nordic Trails - photo credit: Liza Curtis



Knelsen Centre acoustical sound treatment



2022 Road Construction Projects



County residents can expect another busy season of improvements to our vast transportation network.

Council approved about 69 per cent of the capital budget, approximately \$53 million, for capital road and bridge projects including carryovers.

The proposed new 2022 construction projects feature 52.87 km of road surfacing including surfaced road overlays, bridge rehabilitation, and re-construction road projects including \$3.33 million this year for the Highway 40 Twinning and Bridge Construction project (one-third of the County's total \$10 million contribution, the project is cost-shared with the Province and MD of Greenview). New grant funding is estimated at \$7.7 million, including an

estimated \$2.7 million of federal funding from the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF), formerly known as the Gas Tax grant, an estimated \$4.2 million in funding from the Provincial Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grant, and an Alberta Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) grant of \$800,000.

See page 11 for a list of projects planned for County roads for the 2022 construction season. Projects are also marked on the Construction Projects Map above. Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/roadconstruction to view an interactive version of the map along with timelines and potential traffic impacts. Thank you for your patience through this construction season.

DID YOU KNOW?

GRADING involves digging out an existing road structure to re-align, level or widen the road and building a new road from the bottom up.

OVERLAY work involves adding a new layer of pavement. This type of work can also include minor spot fixes and milling the surface on occasion.

BASE PAVING work involves removing the top layer of gravel, repairing the base of the road, if needed, then packing of the current road surface, and paving a layer of asphalt.

CURB AND GUTTER work involves constructing concrete curbs and gutters along street sides to ensure proper stormwater drainage.

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS can involve traffic light installations and/or the improvement, extension, expansion or additional traffic lanes.

SPOT CONSTRUCTION involves rebuilding a gravel road, including digging out old sections of a road and replacing it with new clay and gravel.

BRIDGE CULVERT REPLACEMENT involves replacing an underground steel tunnel, known as a culvert. Culverts carry stream water.

PROJECT #	ROAD PROJECT	TYPE OF WORK
1	Range Road 123 between Highway 671 and Highway 672	Various Work 6.6 km
2	148 Avenue from Highway 2 east to 92 Street, Clairmont	Overlay 1.6 km
3	Range Road 51 between Township Road 714A and Highway 43	Overlay 5.7 km
4	Range Road 63 between Township Road 734 and Highway 59	Grading 3.2 km
5	Wynngate Phase 4 - 96 Street, 96A Street, 112 Avenue (Clairmont)	Paving, Curb and Gutter 1.4 km
6	Township Road 720 between Range Road 92 and Range Road 94	Grading 3.2 km
7	Rio Grande - Range Road 121 between Township Road 702/ Highway 722 and Township Road 704	Base Paving 3.2 km
8	Township Road 720 between Highway 724 and Range Road 90	Grading 5 km
10	Althen Corner - 162 Avenue, 101 Street, 102 Street (Clairmont)	Overlay 1 km
11	Precision/Kehr Rehab, 102 Street, Clairmont	Overlay 1.8 km
12	Range Road 74 between Township Road 712 and Highway 43	Grading 3.2 km
13	Juggers Landing	Overlay 0.75 km
14	Township Road 710 between Range Road 73(N) and Range Road 75A	Grading 3.5 km
15	Grande Spirit Connection - 94 Street, Clairmont	Grading, Base Paving 0.15 km
16	Five Mile Hall - Range Road 53	Grading, Base Paving 0.8 km
17	156 Avenue and Range Road 55, Clairmont	Overlay 4.1 km
18	West Mount Phase 1 - 105 Street, 82 Avenue (Clairmont)	Overlay 0.22 km
19	Township Road 714 and Township Road 713A, east of Range Road 41	Grading 7.4 km
20	Resources Road Hill Climb and Intersection Upgrades	Grading, Base Paving 3.4 km
26	98 Street from Bauman Road to 92 Avenue	Grading, Base Paving 1 km
27	Range Road 85 between Township Road 710 and Highway 43	Grading, Base Paving 6.4 km
SP1	Township Road 720 between Range Road 31 and Range Road 32	Spot Construction 1.6 km
SP2	Range Road 64 for one mile north of Township Road 730	Spot Construction 1.6 km
SP3	Highway 40 Industrial Park	Spot Construction 1.4 km
SP4	Range Road 82 for 1.6 km north of Township Road 722	Spot Construction 1.6 km
SP5	Range Road 103 for 1.6 km north of Highway 43	Spot Construction 1.6 km
SP6	Range Road 112 for 1.6 km north of Township Road 710	Spot Construction 1.6 km
SP7	Range Road 122 for 1.6 km south of Township Road 734	Spot Construction 1.6 km
SP8	Township Road 730 between Range Road 90 and Range Road 91	Spot Construction 1.6 km
SP9	Township Road 742 between Range Road 62 and Range Road 63	Spot Construction 1.6 km
B1	Rio Grande (NW-24-70-12-W6M)	Bridge Replacement
B2	Wapiti Ski Trail (SW-26-70-7-W6M)	Bridge Replacement
B3	Bear River (SW-4-72-4-W6M)	Bridge Replacement

*Locations of Hythe sewer and road construction projects are in the process of being identified and will be announced soon.

Appeal Process 101

APPEALING YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

HOW IS MY ASSESSMENT DETERMINED?

Residential property values are based on the home's market value – the price a property is reasonably expected to sell for. Assessors gather information on the ranges of sale prices of similar properties to establish the assessed values of residential property.

The province regulates value on some types of property, such as farmland, machinery and equipment, and linear. Farmland is assessed based on productivity – its ability to produce income from growing crops and/or raising livestock.

HOW IS THE TAX RATE DETERMINED?

The tax rate is made up of three parts:

1. Municipal taxes to fund services and operations provided by the County
2. Education taxes which the County collects on behalf of the Province
3. Seniors' lodging taxes which are set by the Grande Spirit Foundation

See 'Making Sense of the Budget' on page 4 for more information.

WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE WITH MY ASSESSMENT?

Talk to an Assessor: Most matters can be resolved by talking to a local assessor. Call 780-513-3952, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

File an Appeal: If you and your Assessor cannot come to an agreement, you may file a Complaint/Appeal to the Clerk of the Assessment Review Board within 60 days of the Notice of Assessment Date indicated on your Combined



Assessment and Property Tax Notice. The forms and information can be gathered in person at the County of Grande Prairie Administration Building or by downloading the Assessment Review Board Complaint Form from www.alberta.ca.

APPEAL FEES:

Fees are per appeal; fees are refundable if the appeal is successful.

TYPE OF PROPERTY	FEES
Residential and Farmland	\$50
Non-Residential (Commercial, Industrial, M&E)	\$650

Find the County of Grande Prairie's appeal deadline at www.countygp.ab.ca/assessment. Mail-in or drop off appeals in person to the County of Grande Prairie, 10001-84 Avenue, Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2 or email legislativeservices@countygp.ab.ca.

To avoid penalty charges, you must pay your taxes by the deadline, even if you plan to appeal your assessment. For appeal process information, contact Legislative Services at 780-532-9722.

Pay Your Property Taxes by the End of June

Property owners are encouraged to pay their property taxes on or before the last business day of June to avoid late penalties.

The County of Grande Prairie collects property taxes to help pay for services, facilities, and projects in the county. Your property tax notice includes municipal taxes along with taxes for education and seniors lodging as determined by the Province of Alberta and the Grande Spirit Foundation.

To learn more about how your tax dollars are used, read 'Making Sense of the Budget' on page 4.



County Open House Events Returning in 2022

After a two-year hiatus due to the restrictions of the pandemic, County Council members and staff look forward to connecting with area residents during three County Open House events in June.

Join us from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for fun, food and friendship while learning about County programs and services. Stop by the location nearest to you:

1. Demmitt Cultural Society Hall, Monday, June 20
2. Webster Community Hall, Wednesday, June 22
3. Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, Thursday, June 23

**All events are subject to current COVID-19 protocols.*



Looking back at the three 2019 County Open House events – Whispering Ridge Community School, South Peace Centennial Museum and Knelsen Centre, Bezanon.

Find Great Deals on GovDeals.ca

Have you ever wondered what happens to the County's computers, equipment, and other gently used assets when it's time for an upgrade?

- As a first option, the item is reassigned to another County department or donated to charitable or not-for-profit organizations.
- Assets may be offered at their current value to local area municipalities.
- Larger items, such as vehicles or graders, are sold at traditional auctions.
- County departments may list items on **GovDeals.ca** – an online auction website that sells government property.

GovDeals.ca is open to anyone who wishes to register and ensures all bidders are equal – the person with the highest bid at closing owns the item.

HOW TO REGISTER AS A GOVDEALS.CA BIDDER:

1. Visit www.govdeals.ca/register
2. Complete the form
3. Sign in with your temporary password
4. Bid! Win! Enjoy!

Donations and sales of County assets are covered under *Policy C21 – Disposal of Surplus Assets and Goods* found at www.countygp.ab.ca/policy.

To learn more about the County's sale of surplus items, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/bidding.



Unused Internet Tower? We'll Take It!

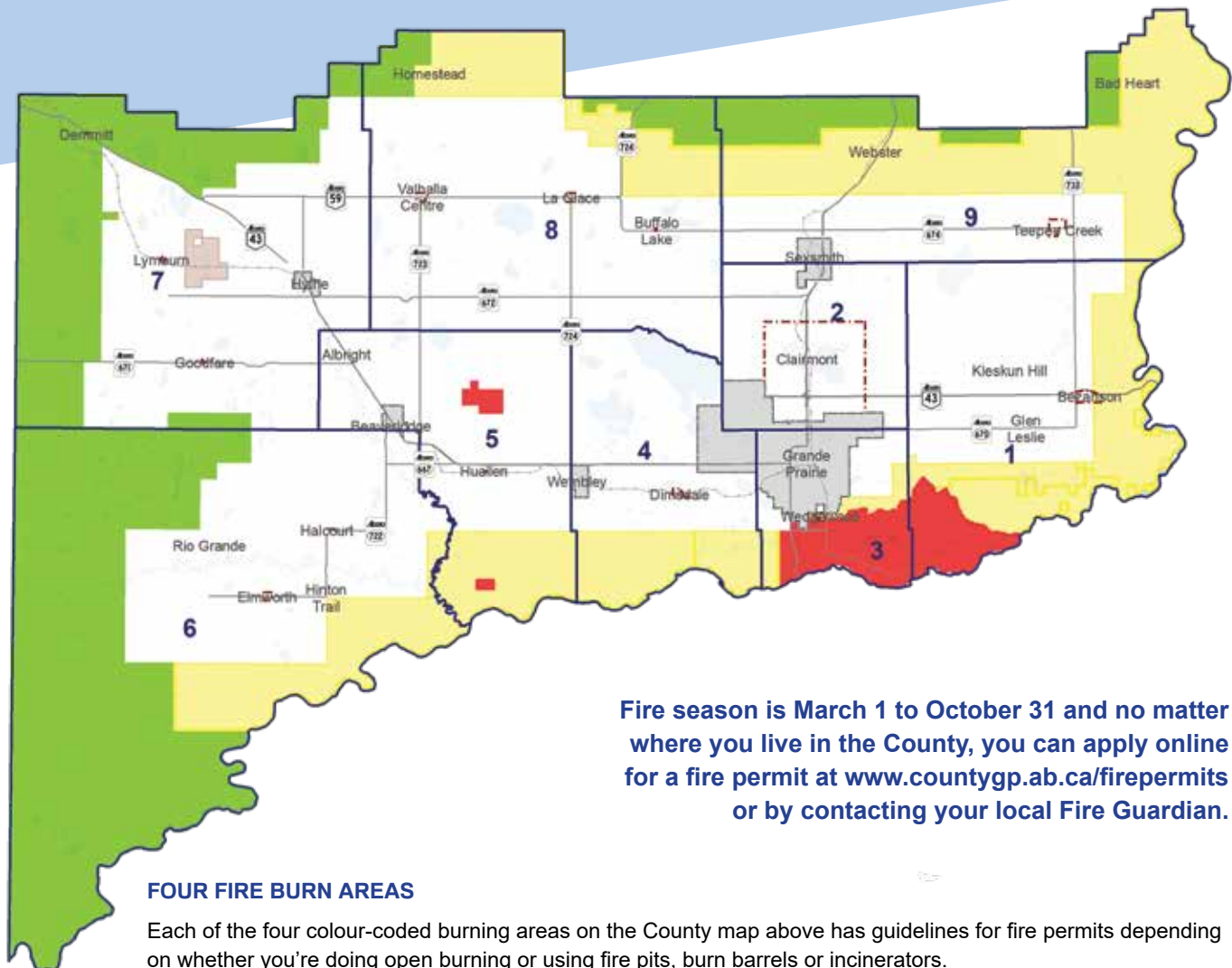
Do you have an internet tower on your property that is not being used? Have you purchased property with an internet tower that you do not need? If you answered yes to either of these questions, please contact the County. We remove internet towers at no charge!

For more information and to schedule a removal, contact the Information Systems department at 780-532-9722 or email servicedesk@countygp.ab.ca.



countygp.ab.ca

It's Fire Season – Apply for Your Permit Online



Fire season is March 1 to October 31 and no matter where you live in the County, you can apply online for a fire permit at www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits or by contacting your local Fire Guardian.

FOUR FIRE BURN AREAS

Each of the four colour-coded burning areas on the County map above has guidelines for fire permits depending on whether you're doing open burning or using fire pits, burn barrels or incinerators.

COUNTY WHITE AREA

- Requires a verbal permit during fire season.

COUNTY YELLOW AREA

- Requires a written fire permit during fire season.

COUNTY RED AREA

- Restricted burn zone. Permits are required year-round.

If you live in one of these three areas, complete the Fire Permit Request Form at www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits or contact your area's Fire Guardian.

COUNTY GREEN AREA

- Requires a written fire permit during fire season from a Provincial Forestry Fire Guardian as this area is designated as the Forest Protection Area.

If you live in this area, visit www.wildfire.alberta.ca/firepermits to locate your nearest office or call 310-0000.

FIRE GUARDIANS

In the White, Yellow and Red Fire Burning Areas of the County, a Fire Guardian issues fire permits in your area and educates residents on safe burning practices. Green areas must obtain written permission from a Provincial Fire Guardian. Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/fireguardians for the official Fire Guardian contact list.



SAFE BURNING PRACTICES FOR BURN BARRELS

Residents are reminded to follow safe burning practices when using outdoor fires to dispose of fallen branches and yard debris. Last year, County Regional Fire Service responded to three fires caused by improper burn barrel usage that resulted in damage to nearby structures and vehicles.

County Fire Marshal Ken Atamanchuk notes things to consider when setting up your burn barrel safely:

- Burn barrels and fire pits must be set up on a non-combustible surface measuring a minimum of 10 feet around, be located 100 feet away from trees and structures, be covered by a metal screen to contain drifting on-fire particles, and must be monitored at all times when lit.
- Your burn barrel requires a fire permit year-round. Do you have an existing unit that hasn't been moved or replaced? Simply renew your permit. Permit requests for new barrels involve an on-site inspection by a Fire Guardian.
- To apply online for a free fire permit, residents can review the requirements and complete the application found at www.countygp.ab.ca/firepermits. County staff will forward the request to a Fire Guardian to conduct the inspection. Residents may also call County Regional Fire Service at 780-532-9727 to schedule an inspection to begin the permitting process.

SAFE BURNING GUIDELINES

- Have a valid fire permit.
- If a fire ban is issued, all burn permits will be void until the ban is lifted.
- Fires must be monitored at all times.
- Do not burn in winds higher than 12 km per hour.
- Keep adequate water supply or equipment nearby.
- Position your burn barrel/incinerator at least 100 feet from trees or structures on a non-combustible surface, such as gravel, measuring a minimum of 10 feet around.
- Cover your burn barrel or fire pit with a metal screen.
- Burning household garbage is not permitted within hamlets or residential subdivisions.
- Do not burn prohibited materials or debris:
 - animal manure
 - pathological waste
 - non-wooden material
 - tires
 - rubber/plastic
 - used oil
 - combustible material in automobile bodies



FIRESMART HOME ASSESSMENTS

County residents and businesses can sign up for a free FireSmart Assessment to help identify specific actions and upgrades they can make on their property to reduce wildfire risks.

"The overall goal is to provide strategies that the homeowner can work toward to create a FireSmart property," says Atamanchuk. "The assessments are available spring through fall."

During a FireSmart Assessment, a member of Regional Fire Services:

- Visits your property checking for wildfire hazards on the exterior of buildings and your surrounding property,
- Provides a customized report with findings from the assessment,
- Provides practical tips to make your property safer from the risk of wildfires.

More information and an online form to sign up for a free FireSmart Assessment are available at www.countygp.ab.ca/firesmart. For additional information, contact Fire Marshal Ken Atamanchuk at 780-532-9727.



There's No Vacation Like a Staycation

COUNTY CAMPGROUNDS AND PARKS OPEN FOR RESERVATIONS

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All County campgrounds and parks are now open for the season.

Looking to spend a few days outdoors, take a day trip or enjoy quality time with family and friends? Take advantage of the County's many recreational opportunities and overnight camping facilities. Our campgrounds and parks are the perfect places to unwind, relax, explore, and have fun!

In addition to the existing online reservation options for Pipestone Creek Campground and Hythe Municipal Campground, visitors can now book online for the Bear Lake, Demmitt, Hommy and Kleskun campgrounds. The move to online reservations is consistent with provincial and national park campgrounds.

To reserve a site, view campground and park locations, descriptions, photos, amenities, and services, and to access day-use and overnight camping individual and group rates, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/campgrounds.

DEMMITT CAMPGROUND & PARK – Located northwest of Hythe near the Alberta/BC border, this is an ideal spot for overnight camping, picnics and for travellers to rest.

★ Book online.

HOMMY CAMPGROUND & PARK – Located along the banks of the Beaverlodge River, this former homestead of the Hommy family was donated for all to enjoy along. Power hook-ups at all sites. ★ Book online.

HYTHE MUNICIPAL CAMPGROUND – Located left off 104 Street in the Hamlet of Hythe. Offering full-service sites and a no-service tenting area. ★ Book online.

KLESKUN HILL CAMPGROUND & PARK – During your stay, experience the northernmost badlands of the Kleskun Hill Natural Area featuring cacti, native grasslands and land formations left behind after the ice age. Step back in time at Kleskun Hill Museum and historical village. ★ Book online.

PIPESTONE CREEK CAMPGROUND & PARK – Located along the Wapiti River near one of the richest sources of dinosaur fossils in western Canada, and the largest site in the world for Pachyrhinosaurus fossils. The campground's 99 sites and two group areas offer a mix of powered and un-serviced sites. Enjoy the newly expanded 7 km natural trail network. ★ Book online.

BEAR LAKE CAMPGROUND – An ideal lake for canoeing, kiteboarding and paddleboarding. ★ Book online.

BEAR HILL CAMPGROUND – Private, rustic, and available for day-use and group camping reservations.

OLD BEZANSON TOWNSITE – Located along the banks of the Smoky River, 12 km southeast of Bezanson. The site was the dream of Ancel Maynard Bezanson who started building a community in the early 1900s in anticipation of the railroad link that passed through Grande Prairie instead. Offers group camping reservations on weekends. Check the Northwestern Polytechnic website, www.nwpolytech.ca for information on two Peace region researchers who are exploring the archaeology of boom towns and gathering insights from community members about a potential project at the Old Bezanson Townsite.

RED WILLOW DAY-USE PARK – Nestled along the Red Willow River, the setting is perfect for large and small group day-use. A haven for wildlife and a variety of small mammals and songbirds.

VALHALLA CENTRE DAY-USE PARK – Located in downtown Valhalla, the surrounding countryside is a welcome setting. Offering basic comforts for day-use.

For more information and to book online for overnight camping, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/campgrounds.

Fire bans may be subject to change – check www.countygp.ab.ca for updates.





Get Outdoors this Summer!

NEW NATURAL TRAIL NETWORK AT PIPESTONE CREEK CAMPGROUND & PARK

New for the 2022 season, visitors to Pipestone will enjoy approximately seven kilometres of natural woodland trails, thanks to an Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) Recreation Partnership Initiative grant. The single-track trails wind through the Wapiti River valley and are perfect for hiking and mountain biking in the summer months and snowshoeing in the winter. Motorized vehicles are not permitted on the trails within the park. The level of difficulty of each trail is identified on signs at the respective trailhead. Interpretative signage to be posted along the trails will share information on local flora and fauna. The County is proud to work with AEP to provide low-cost, outdoor recreation opportunities to the region and inspire increased physical activity for campground and day-use visitors.

Fire Permit Fee at County Campgrounds

Campers visiting County campgrounds this season are helping offset some operational and environmental impacts in a streamlined way. A \$5 nightly fire permit fee is now in place at all County campgrounds to help cover part of the cost of campground firewood. The fee is included when booking overnight camping and campers still have self-serve access to firewood.

With this change, only visitors who are enjoying County campgrounds will contribute to the cost of providing firewood, instead of all County residents through municipal taxes. County Park Hosts are pleased to welcome campers back for another great camping season!

Be a Courteous Camper

Planning an afternoon, overnight or weekend visit to any of our campgrounds and parks in the County? All guests are asked to follow these basic guidelines:

REMEMBER THE 3 Rs:

1. Respect the Environment
2. Respect your Neighbours
3. Respect our Park Staff

To ensure everyone has an enjoyable experience:

- Disruptive singing, music, yelling and other noisy behaviour is not permitted at any time of the day.
- Quiet hours are from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Turn off music and generators and keep noise to a minimum.
- Keep campfires small to reduce the risk of wildfires. Do not burn garbage in fire pits.
- Never leave your campfire unattended.
- Make sure your fire is extinguished before you leave. Soak it with water once, and then again, stirring the ashes. It is an offence to leave a fire unattended or burning (even smouldering) after vacating your site.
- Pets must always be kept on a leash.
- Check-out time is 2:00 p.m.
- Respect posted speed limits. Watch for pedestrians and other obstructions while driving.
- A maximum of one vehicle is permitted per campsite. Visitors or additional vehicles must park in day-use or designated overflow spaces.



County Green Space Plan Extended to Hythe

Did you know that the Parks and Recreation Department performs beautification mowing throughout the County? The transition of Hythe into the County of Grande Prairie last year also brought the community in line with the green space maintenance level found in other County hamlets. Hamlets and subdivisions are mowed every two weeks, while some back alleys and public utility lots in hamlets and cemeteries receive a monthly mowing. Developed walking trails are mowed once each year. Learn more about the levels of care based on zoning and land use at www.countygp.ab.ca/greenspace.





Changes are coming to the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management!

Recycling Corner

KEEPING TIRES OUT OF LANDFILLS

Alberta's Tire Recycling Program helps protect our environment by keeping worn tires out of the landfill. Since tires do not decompose, they take up unnecessary space in the landfill, leading to capacity issues. Over time, frost can cause tires to 'float up' through garbage and the closure cap (the top layers of the landfill where vegetation is planted), causing issues with end-of-life closure.

Through a partnership with Alberta Recycling's stewardship program, tires from our site are sent to manufacturing plants for recycling into products such as rubber mats, sidewalk blocks, mulch for landscaping, and tire-derived aggregate (TDA) for construction purposes. The Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management used TDA when building new cells as a drainage layer within the leachate (liquid generated by waste) collection system. Drop by our Recycling Discovery Site to see recycled rubber in use, including pads, flooring, speed bumps and mulch.

In Alberta alone, 131.3 million tires have been recycled since 1992 – enough to wrap around the world twice!

Questions? Talk to staff while visiting the site, call 780-513-3967 (Landfill Info Line) or 780-567-4194 (Direct Line), or email clandfill@countygyp.ab.ca.



County residents visiting the Clairmont Centre for Recycling and Waste Management will receive new wallet-sized cards for weighing waste as part of the new Landfill Access Program, coming later this year.

Households can dispose of 1,000 kg (2,200 lbs) of waste per year for free – simply wave your access card near

the reader, speak to the scale attendant to make sure your items go to the correct locations for disposal, then stop at the scale on your way out. After the 1,000 kg limit, waste will be subject to tipping fees.

What 1,000 kg of waste looks like:



156

OR



52

The same amount available to households with curbside collection.

This new system has many benefits for residents and the County:



More reducing, reusing, recycling and organics (composting)



Less waste in the landfill reduces the need for costly future expansions



Increased environmental stewardship to keep our earth clean and green

Tracking waste coming into the facility allows us to limit high-volume, commercial and business users, keeping free waste disposal for County households, and reducing the amount of waste heading to the landfill.

There are many recycling and waste programs available to County residents. Visit www.countygyp.ab.ca/recyclingprograms to learn more.

Watch the County website, social media channels and future newsletters for details on the new Landfill Access Program.

www.countygyp.ab.ca

Parent and Tots Programs

Parents, caregivers and children aged 0 to 6 are invited to a FREE parent and tot playgroup near you! Make friends and enjoy crafts, stories, songs, and playtime. Bring a snack for your child and join in on the fun.

KNELSEN CENTRE, BEZANSON

Tuesdays | 10 a.m. to noon

Start Date: September 13, 2022

WELLINGTON RESOURCE CENTRE, CLAIRMONT

Thursdays | 10 a.m. to noon

Start Date: September 15, 2022

FIVE MILE HALL

2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month | 10 a.m. to noon

Start Date: September 14, 2022

HYPHE LIBRARY

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month | 10 a.m. to noon

Start Date: September 21, 2022

The program follows Alberta Health guidelines for COVID-19. Find information about other programs offered by County FCSS at www.countygp.ab.ca/fcss.



Summer Day Camps are Back!

Do you know a child aged 6 to 12 looking for fun and exciting activities this summer? Day camps are back and will be led by engaging and energetic leaders again this summer.

- Activities will include arts and crafts, games, and much more. Participants are provided healthy morning and afternoon snacks and will bring their own lunch.
- Camps will run Tuesday to Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in various communities throughout the County starting July 5 to August 18. Registration for specific camp locations will be available in June. Register early as spaces are limited.
- Fee: \$30 per child, per camp.

Stay tuned to the County's website at www.countygp.ab.ca/summercamps and the County's social media channels for details.

**All events are subject to current COVID-19 protocols.*



Visit your Local Library for Summer Fun

Did you know that recreational reading during the summer months can help students be more prepared for the following school year with the bonus of reducing summer boredom? Visit your local library to connect your child with the perfect book. County Libraries have substantial youth collections and can order specific books from other libraries. Memberships are always free!



This summer, County Libraries will also be offering fun and engaging learning programs for youth during July and August. Check in with your local library for details.

Elmworth Community Library – www.elmworthlibrary.ab.ca

Hythe Community Library – www.hythelibrary.ab.ca

La Glace Community Library – www.laglacelibrary.ab.ca

Valhalla Community Library – www.valhallalibrary.ab.ca



countygp.ab.ca

Watch for Noxious Weeds

Spring is here and it's that time of year to start watching for noxious weeds.

County weed inspectors will be working with residents to raise awareness of weed issues and to address noxious and prohibited-noxious weeds on their property. Weed infestations in crops can be very costly to manage. Both the County and residents have roles to play in reducing the risk of spread.

Role of the County Weed Inspector:

- Finds weeds on a property or in a crop. Under the *Weed Control Act of Alberta*, the County is required to inform the landowner/occupant of the problem.
- Has a conversation with the individual or sends an information package. This package is not a Weed Notice but asks the landowner/occupant to call the weed inspector who can explain how the weeds will be controlled.
- Inspects the field once the individual completes the work and then closes the report.

Role of the Landowner/Occupant:

- When the County weed inspector contacts you, indicate when you plan to control the weeds.
- Follow the *Weed Control Act of Alberta* to address regulated weeds.

The County's first response is to inform and work together with citizens to address the problem. Weed Notices are a final step and are only issued when repeated attempts to contact or work with the landowner/occupant are not successful, or if a property has received a Weed Notice in the past and the problem continues. If you receive a Weed Notice and have questions or concerns, contact Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman, at 780-532-9727.

Protect Your Property from Bears and Other Large Predators

Bears and other large predators often approach farms and ranches to find food, especially when natural food sources are scarce. Protect your property and livestock with the following strategies:

SECURE BEAR ATTRACTANTS

- Dispose of deadstock as soon as possible by means of deep burial, incineration, or on-farm composting. Check out the composting tips below.
- Consider 6-wire electric fencing around the carcass disposal area to prevent scavenging and digging.
- Replace wooden granaries with metal bins and bearproof doors.
- Remove garbage and clean your barbecue grills.
- Store pet food inside a secure building.
- Carry bear spray and learn how to use it.
- Consider livestock guardian dogs.
- Dispose of animal carcasses or portions at the Aquatera Landfill. For disposal rates and business hours, visit www.aquatera.ca or call 780-538-0452 to make a request for disposal.

COMPOSTING

Consider composting to reduce the chance of attracting bears to your deadstock. Bears are opportunistic feeders and may uncover buried livestock or be drawn to deadstock piles. If the location of the deadstock is close to your home, outbuildings or calving pens, bears may become a threat to public safety and cause property damage or future predation of livestock.

Composting on your property provides an option for safe disposal of carcasses, and can be accomplished in two ways:

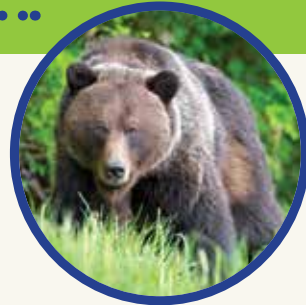
1. Compost constructed in layers:

- The base layer should be rich in carbon, such as straw, sawdust, or moldy hay, be as dry as possible and measure at least 45 cm deep. Place deadstock on top of the base layer and then cover with a layer of manure, sawdust or a manure-sawdust mix to a depth that completely conceals the carcasses. Ensure it is sloped to avoid pooling rain.
- A new compost structure must be surrounded by electric fencing until the compost begins to actively heat. Properly designed and installed 6-wire electric fencing has proven to be effective at keeping bears away. Bears will typically move on once they learn they cannot access a food source.

2. Rotary Drum (In-Vessel) Mortality Composter:

- Faster, fully enclosed composter to process smaller animals.
- Requires electricity and a carbon source, such as shavings or straw.
- Produces a finished compost material that can improve soil quality.

For more information, visit the 'Large Predators and Livestock' section on the County's Agriculture webpage at www.countygp.ab.ca/agriculture.



For additional tips, scan the QR code to listen to 'Dealing with Bears' from the Coffee, Cows and Crops podcast, featuring Jeff Bectell, Coordinator of the Carnivores and Communities Program at the Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association.

Nominate a Farm Family

Do you know a farm family in the County of Grande Prairie that is deeply committed to agriculture and actively involved with helping their community? The County's Agricultural Service Board, in partnership with the Peace Country Classic Agri-Show, wants you to nominate them for the 2023 Farm Family Award.

The winning family will be honoured at the Peace Country Classic Agri-Show's annual Farm Family banquet. Nominations are due by 2 p.m. on December 13, 2022.

Find the nomination package at www.countygp.ab.ca/farmfamily or pick one up at the County Community Services Building from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Need more info? Contact Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman, 780-532-9727.



RETURN COMPLETED NOMINATION FORMS BY:

FAX: 780-567-5589

Attention: Sonja Raven
Agricultural Service Board

MAIL:

Sonja Raven
County of Grande Prairie
Agricultural Service Board
10001 - 84 Avenue, Clairmont, AB, T8X 5B2

IN PERSON:

County Community Services Building
10808 - 100 Avenue Clairmont, AB
(1.5 km west off Highway 2 on
Township Road 724)

IT'S BUILDING SEASON

DON'T DELAY, SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATIONS TODAY!

Building permits are required to ensure construction follows the National Building Code 2019, Alberta Edition, including:

- Construction of a building
- Renovations
- Relocations
- Additions
- Change in occupancy

Development permits are required for approval of the use of the land, including:

- Excavation
- Stockpiling
- Building and additions
- Change of use or intensity of use of the land or building

TEMPORARY EVENT TENTS

To meet the Provincial legislation, a building permit is required when a tent is being used beyond personal use for single family dwelling, e.g., for public events.

The tent must conform to CAN/ULC-S109 for flame-resistant fabrics and have a fire extinguisher stored inside. It must also be located more than three metres from any other structure.

Learn more at www.countygp.ab.ca/permits or contact Planning & Development staff at 780-513-3950 or email plan@countygp.ab.ca.



The Crosslink County Sportsplex has a program for everyone!

780-830-7407 | info@cgpsportsplex.com | www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com

KIDS SUMMER CAMPS

Kids aged 5 to 12 are invited to participate in six weeks of fun-filled activities at our Summer Kids' Camps. Camps are planned for July 11 - August 19, 2022 with a new theme each week! Our Summer Camps are designed to spark the imagination, confidence, independence, and communication skills of all our campers.

Registration fees are per week. Children must bring their own beverage, snacks and lunch, along with a change of clothes (outdoor wear, swimsuit and a towel) and ice skates (optional). Drop-off from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Pick-up from 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

To register, visit www.crosslinkcountysportsplex.com or call 780-830-7407.

SUMMER CAMPS 2022



AROUND THE WORLD

Week 1 | July 11 - 15

\$250



SPLISH SPLASH

Week 2 | July 18 - 22

\$250



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Week 3 | July 25 - 29

\$250



SPACE WEEK

Week 4 | August 2 - 5

\$200



SUPERHERO ACADEMY

Week 5 | August 8 - 12

\$250



CROSSLINK SAFARI

Week 6 | August 15 - 19

\$250



PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

PIPESTONE NATURALIST SUMMER CAMP

Become a junior naturalist and explore our beautiful backyard, the Peace Parkland region! Centered near one of the world's most famous dinosaur bonebeds, campers will spend a week among the prehistoric rocks and boreal forest of Pipestone Creek, learning through exploration and games about natural history. There are a number of camps for different age groups, a variety of dates and pre/after care available!



Summer Camps

For more details and to register visit:
dinomuseum.ca/programs/summer-day-camps/

PALAEONTOLOGIST FOR A DAY

Join a real palaeontological excavation this summer! Go shoulder-to-shoulder with researchers and field crews as we explore the Pipestone Creek bonebed – one of the densest fossil sites in the world. During this full-day experience you will get a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum, get equipped with real fossil hunting tools, and possibly be part of the next big discovery! Available for adults and youth ages 12+.

FOSSILS, FLOODS, AND FOOTPRINTS TOUR

Starting June 20 and running to September 5, discover the Pipestone Creek's stunning natural history, both modern and prehistoric, on a guided, hour-long, 1.5 km hike. Learn about the palaeontology of the Peace Region using the latest scientific understanding, scientific illustrations and real fossils to discover the plants and animals present 73 million years ago.

NEW THIS SUMMER: RAFTING TOURS

Join us on a relaxing rafting tour along the Wapiti River and learn about the palaeontology of the Peace Region. Explore how natural forces and geology have influenced the region over millions of years and observe local wildlife while learning about the modern ecosystems.



Visit www.dinomuseum.ca for more information and follow @curriemuseum on



countygp.ab.ca

Return undeliverable
Canadian addresses to:
The County of Grande Prairie No.1
10001 - 84 Avenue, Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2



LEFT TO RIGHT: Councillor Brian Peterson, Councillor Karen Rosvold, Councillor Bob Chrenek, Councillor Bob Marshall, Councillor Amanda Frayn, Reeve Leanne Beaupre, Councillor Kurt Balderston, Councillor Steve Zimmerman, Deputy Reeve Peter Harris

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Clairmont, AB T8X 5B2

WEBSITE:

www.countygp.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
and on statutory holidays

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS


Administration, Assessment, Asset Management, Corporate Services, Economic Development, Finance, Information Technology, Insurance/ Risk Management, Legislative Services, Procurement, Communications, Human Resources, Public Works, Planning and Development Services

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