

Agricultural Service Board Update

GPC - July 7, 2026

Strategic Plan Feedback

General Comments

- Support for agriculture unclear/too high-level
- Recommend increased emphasis on agriculture
- Recommend additional “Agriculture & Agribusiness” driver

Suggested Goal Areas

- Agricultural land protection and access to critical resources (ie. Water)
- Reduce red tape for agriculture and agribusiness
- Target value-added agriculture attraction
- Building connections between community, government & industry
- Respect & promote agriculture as a major industry

B. Land & Legacy

We value our rural character, natural landscapes, and sustainable agriculture.

GOAL	DESIRED OUTCOME	2026	2027	2028	2029
1. Advance sustainable development that preserves Parkland County's natural assets and rural character.	Residents experience growth that preserves the County's natural assets and rural character, ensuring the community they value is sustained as it evolves.		●	●	●
2. Preserve the County's natural areas through responsible land management and safeguarding of biodiversity and environmental health.	Natural areas are effectively protected, restored, and sustainably managed.		●	●	●
3. Support agricultural producers to thrive and adapt.	Agricultural producers have the knowledge, support and resilience needed to maintain and grow their operations.		●	●	
4. Strengthen identity by celebrating stories, and historic places, ensuring people of all ages can connect with and contribute to the preservation of the County's heritage.	Community members of all ages participate in heritage activities, contribute their own histories, and feel connected to the shared identity of the County.			●	●



Coyote Control

Compound 1080

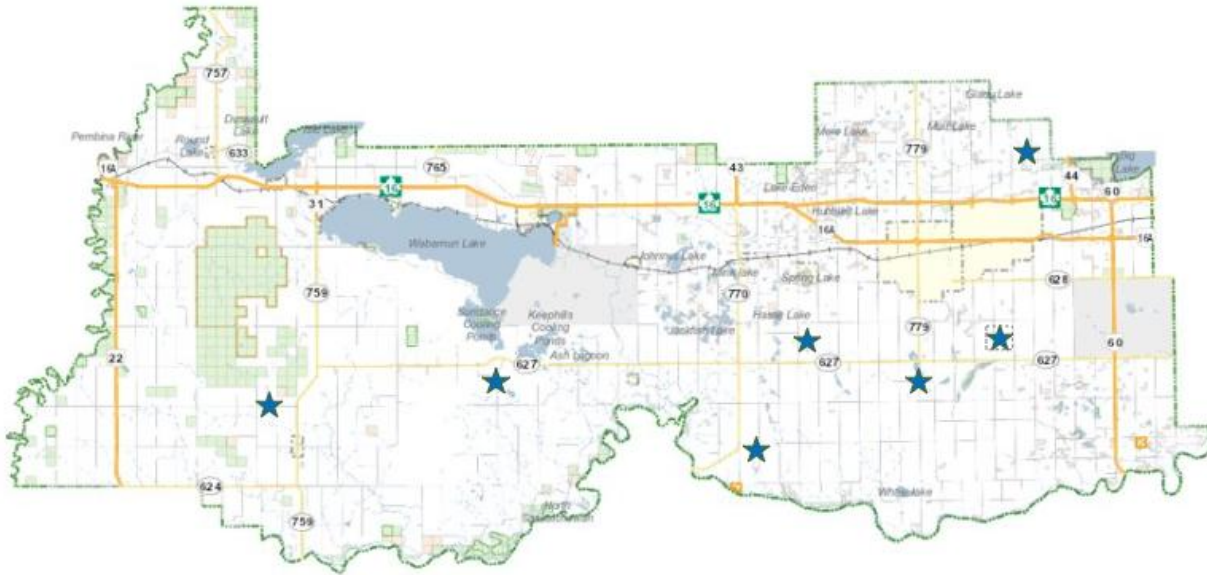
- Provincial program paused for review in 2025
- New training and dispensing requirements
- Limited history of use & limited eligibility
- Increased enforcement & risk assessment

Recommendation:

That Parkland County withdraw from the 1080 coyote control program.



Road Safety Communications



Recommendation:

Utilize ASB grant funding for additional permanent signs in County ROWs.



TransAlta Highvale Mine Reclamation

- Approved plan includes significant increase in unproductive soils
- Expected reduction of over 2000ha of class 3-5 soils from pre-mine conditions
- Consider advocacy to increase reclamation to productive soils





Extension Program

ASB reviews County extension programs as well as Research & Extension Partner Organization's programs annually to provide feedback on priorities for ASB grant funding.

Recommendations

- Define expectations for partner organizations
- Increase communications on agricultural programs
- Dedicated agriculture page in quarterly newsletter
- Increase support for classroom agriculture programs

Agricultural Code

The ASB reviewed the Clearwater County Code and suggest Parkland County use similar messaging to set expectations for rural living.

Agricultural Considerations:

- Alberta's "Right to Farm"
- Expected dust, noise, smells and chemical usage
- Agriculture operations run 24/7
- Importance/cost of weed control
- Considerations for living near livestock
- Sharing the road with agriculture equipment
- Respect for private property (pets, OHVs)
- Importance of value-added agriculture and proximity to services & infrastructure



Water Availability

ASB considered information provided by the NSWA regarding water availability. No formal water management plan exists for the North Saskatchewan River. Water management is inter-jurisdictional.

Recommendations

- Consider support/incentives for dugout development
- Revisit irrigation feasibility
- Ensure agricultural water sources are protected during development
- Continue programs for wetland conservation/restoration



Discussion

