

2018 Business Plan: Community Sustainability

1. WHO ARE WE: DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Community Sustainability serves the community by:

- **Integrated Community Sustainability Planning:**
 - Preparing, reviewing and implementing the goals and strategies in the County's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)
 - Partners for Climate Protection (greenhouse gas reduction and climate resiliency) ;
 - Internal and external environmental and sustainability education and engagement;
 - Waste reduction and diversion
 - Watershed and conservation planning
- **Environmental Land Stewardship** - Implementing environmental land stewardship through the following programs:
 - Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS);
 - Green Acreages; and
 - Naturalization projects on County lands.
- **Environmental Compliance:**
 - Developing and managing an environmental compliance system including environmental assessment, and compliance monitoring of County lands.
 - Providing environmental review for development applications.

2. RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)

- Highlights from 2016:
 - 13 projects
 - 420 Acres Enrolled
 - 13km of fencing
 - 13,000 trees planted
- ALUS was honoured at the 25th Annual Alberta Emerald Foundation Awards Gala on June 8, 2016, winning the 2016 Shared Footprint Award. The Shared Footprints Award recognizes and celebrates projects that go beyond normal land management practices to have a positive impact on the environment and is shared between all ALUS communities in Alberta.

2.2 Green Acreages

- Highlights for 2016
 - 12 projects implemented
 - 4 septic systems
 - 3 wildlife habitat & biodiversity
 - 1 water management
 - 1 pollinator habitat
 - 16 projects planned for 2017/2018 implementation
 - 1 wetland restoration
 - 9 wildlife habitat & biodiversity
 - 3 shelterbelts

- 2 water management
- 1 pollinator habitat
- \$120,000 in shoreline restoration funding secured

2.3 ICSP

- Inaugural Sustainability Awards ceremony held
- Council approval of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) on October 10th (tentative)

2.4 Naturalization of Jackfish Day Use Area Site

- Jackfish Day Use Area site completed as the County's first naturalization on public lands project
- Site includes native trees and shrubs, a pollinator meadow, interpretive signage and viewing area, and stabilization of a drainage swale through planting native vegetation

2.5 Wetland Inventory

Until recently only vague data was available regarding the wetlands in our area. Thanks to the recently completed Wetlands Inventory and Historical Loss Assessment, we can make informed decisions to effectively sustain wetlands throughout our landscape. This project involved capturing both a current and historical wetland inventory, as well as assessing wetland loss over time. Current wetland data shows that there has been a significant decrease (56%) in Parkland's wetland area in the last 60 years.

3. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

3.1 Grant Funding, Partnerships, Technical Expertise and Government Support

- Community Sustainability programs and plans are primarily grant funded
- There is an opportunity to continue to leverage partnerships with Non-Governmental Organizations, surrounding municipalities and other levels of government
- Provincial and federal governments are in support of climate resiliency and GHG reduction
- The Community Sustainability Service Area houses technical staff and expertise that can be leveraged by other departments

3.2 Capacity and Information Management

- Capacity is limited to take advantage of grants and partner projects that provide a community benefit
- Environmental compliance obligations may not have been properly managed in the past

4. LINKS TO PLANS AND STUDIES

4.1 ICSP

- The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) seeks to increase the County's sustainability performance in environment, economy, governance, land use, and community. The plan is being updated to incorporate our new vision of a sustainable rural community.
- With its development and implementation led by Community Sustainability, the ICSP impacts all departments across Parkland County.

4.2 Council's Strategic Plan

- Watershed planning, conservation, County land management and compliance are directly supported under the Respected Environment and Responsible Governance pillars

5. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Greenhouse Gas Reductions
- Acres of land under conservation (ALUS)

Additional Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) may be identified through the following:

- Monitoring system for stewardship projects
- ICSP KPIs

6. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Environmental Stewardship: Alternative Land Use Services
- Environmental Stewardship: Green Acreages
- Environmental Stewardship: Naturalization of Public lands
- Sustainability Planning
 - Integrated Community Sustainability Plan development and implementation
- Sustainability Planning
 - Watershed Planning
- Sustainability Planning
 - PCP Program
- Regulatory Compliance
- Internal Referrals and Technical Advice
- Fund Development
- Land Management
 - Biophysical Assessment Program
- Land Management
 - Wetland Management Program
- Environmental Education and Engagement
- Waste Diversion
- Air Quality
- External Referrals
 - Land conservation and land development advice
- External Referrals
 - Review of AEP applications

7. KEY AREAS OF FOCUS, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES FOR 2018

	Title	Summary	Target Start Date and Completion Date
1	Organics Processing Facility (Budget Initiative)	Follow-up work related to Tri-Municipal Charter, including consulting, grant acquisition, review, land acquisition, and detailed engineering design	Ongoing- Possible facility construction between 2020 & 2023
2	Environmental Compliance	Implementation of selected non-compliances and BMPs from 2017 audit report. Could include compliance requirements such as site monitoring and reporting, or BMPs such as adequate spill protection or containment. Also includes ongoing contaminated sites identification.	September 2017 to Dec 2020
3	Watershed Land Use Plan Implementation (Lakes)	Developing and initiating an implementation structure for lake management.	Ongoing (timelines to be established through working group)
4	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan	Creating an action plan to achieve corporate and community GHG targets adopted by Council for 2020 and 2040.	August 2017-June 2018
5	Natural Asset Monitoring Database	Set up of a database that will track KPIs for land conservation, wetland management, and stewardship projects.	Ongoing- May 2018
6	ICSP Monitoring and Reporting Framework	Set up of a framework to track ICSP implementation through KPIs, targets, and reports.	Jan 2018-Dec2018