2011 PARKS FORUM
PARKS, LANDSCAPES & OPEN SPACES
A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCES

Canmore Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre March 10-12, 2011
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The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) is a provincial charitable, not-for-profit organization with a voluntary Board of Directors dedicated to promoting the benefits of recreation and parks and their positive effect on the quality of life of Albertans.

ARPA has demonstrated proactive leadership in the field of parks and outdoor recreation by successfully facilitating the three previous Parks Forums, beginning with the inaugural 2005 Parks Forum: A New Tomorrow; followed by the 2007 Parks Forum: Benefits Beyond Boundaries and; the 2009 Parks Forum: Linking Nature, Culture & Community.

The Parks Forum series was inspired by the incredible diversity of Alberta's parks, landscapes and open spaces. As a result, the Forum has been attended by a broad cross section of participants from Alberta's three major park providers (municipal, provincial and national) as well as a variety of key partners, educators and students.

The central premise of the 2011 Parks Forum: A Lifetime of Experiences builds on the forward-looking themes of the three previous Forums. Presentations, workshops, and subsequent discussions will explore, expand and enhance the concept of visitor experience.

ARPA is confident that the momentum established by the previous highly successful Parks Forums will strengthen your resolve to gather with your colleagues in Canmore at the 2011 Parks Forum: A Lifetime of Experiences to learn and work with partners, as well as reinforce your commitment to Alberta's national, provincial and municipal parks, landscapes and open spaces.
It is with great pleasure that ARPA invites you to attend and participate in the 2011 Parks Forum: A Lifetime of Experiences. We, along with our sponsors and partnered agencies, are excited to offer another excellent opportunity for you to join us for another jam-packed, interactive learning experience. This is our fourth biennial Parks Forum and the event continues to play a crucial role in bringing us together to focus on opportunities and issues specific to parks. Albertans are placing more and more relevance on the importance of our natural capital and the need to balance preservation and protection for future generations with quality opportunities for visitor experiences. Our theme will allow us to examine ways and means to enhance that relevance through creative and quality visitor experiences.

ARPA holds as a core value the tremendous contribution made by recreation and parks, benefiting society on many fronts: personal health and well-being, social and community development benefits, economic advantages and environmental health and sustainability. To that end, ARPA regards the 2011 Parks Forum as absolutely essential in gathering practitioners and partners from all levels and agencies together to interact, network, establish new contacts, strategize, learn and, of course, to celebrate and share our collective successes.

On behalf of ARPA, I extend our appreciation in advance to all of our Forum speakers as well as to Parks Canada and Alberta Tourism, Parks, and Recreation for their vital support and encouragement throughout. The Parks Forum Steering Committee has produced the very best in terms of mix and depth of topics dealing with the concept of “visitor experience”. The speakers and sessions will be highly relevant to attendees regardless of the agency or organization they represent.

I invite you to participate and become fully engaged with what the Forum has to offer. We trust that the ideas and initiatives you discover at the 2011 Parks Forum will provide realistic options as you bring them back to your own communities, organizations and agencies.

Please join us this March in Canmore!

Terry Welsh
President, ARPA
Visitor Experience: Building a Connection Between Canadians and National Treasured Places
Andrew Campbell
Director General, External Relations and Visitor Experience, Parks Canada

The presentation will focus on the strategies that Parks Canada has employed in order to ensure that it is well positioned to be relevant to Canadians. The focus will be on the steps Parks Canada has taken in the past 4 years in the area of visitor experience. Some of the key findings from Parks Canada’s national surveys will be presented to demonstrate some of the empirical evidence for why visitors experiences are important for the long term sustainability of protected areas.

Andrew Campbell is the Director General of External Relations and Visitor Experience at Parks Canada. Prior to that, Andrew was the Agency’s Chief Human Resources Officer for almost three years and Chief Information Officer for the six years before that. Prior to joining Parks Canada in 1999, he worked with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in informatics and in human resources. Andrew holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from McMaster University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Concordia University.

The Future of Parks will be Measured by More Than Just Visits: Moving beyond visitor experience to stewardship for life
Steve Donelon
Regional Director, Kananaskis Region, Alberta Tourism, Parks & Recreation

Canada’s rapidly changing demographics and increasingly threatened ecological integrity demand that park agencies re-evaluate their relevance and sustainability in the 21st Century. Parks must move beyond experiences of a lifetime and foster a lifetime of experiences. A place where responsible land-use and stewardship extends beyond park boundaries, and where visitor experience is merely the beginning of a continuum of active engagement with parks and protected areas, nature, and outdoor recreation. Parks aren’t about managing nature; they’re about managing our relationship with nature…even if we don’t ever visit a park…

Alberta Parks has taken steps to move beyond visitor experience through our vision to inspire people to discover, value, protect and enjoy the natural world and the benefits it provides for current and future generations. This plenary session will explore how these relationships are developing in Kananaskis Country and across the provincial park system through inclusion, public engagement, a culture of stewardship, and a focus on parks as a doorway to nature and the outdoors, not just a destination.

After growing up in Edmonton, Steve attended post secondary school at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Forestry and University of Alberta in Outdoor Education. Steve began his government career with Alberta Agriculture in 1979 before moving to Kananaskis Country in 1981 to take a job as a Ranger with Alberta Parks.

In the following decade Steve developed an interest in environmental management taking over the role of Resource Management Specialist for Kananaskis Country in 1990. Since then Steve has been involved in the development and implementation of new Resource Management and Heritage Protection programs for the Alberta Parks service with a focus on restoring and maintaining ecological integrity. More recently Steve has been involved in the implementation of a number of multi-jurisdictional research and management projects in Protected Areas in the Bow Valley and Kananaskis. These have included identifying and protecting sensitive wildlife corridors, improving grizzly bear habitat, and addressing the issues of landscape level fire disturbance patterns in the Central Rockies.

In 2004 Steve completed his master’s degree in Environmental Management from Royal Roads University and became Senior Parks Biologist in the Southern East Slopes region. In 2008 Steve assumed the role of Operations Manager for Kananaskis Country and in 2010 became the Regional Director for Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation for Kananaskis with responsibility for approximately 4000 square km of Protected Areas between the Red Deer River and the south end of Kananaskis Country including Glenbow Ranch in Cochrane and Fish Creek in the City of Calgary.

When not at work Steve can usually be found hiking, kayaking, mountain biking or at the local pool. Steve lives in Canmore with his partner Becky and has four grown children.
A Lifetime of Learnings & Citizen Service  
(Or at least the first 100 years!)

Anne Charlton, M.L. Arch, CSLA  
Director of Parks, City of Calgary

The City of Calgary Parks has just celebrated their 100th anniversary in 2010. It has afforded us the opportunity to look back and see the patterns of history and how Parks has changed to meet the needs and expectations of citizens. It has also challenged us to understand our relevance to citizens today and how that is changing now and how it will change in the future.

City of Calgary Parks is a leading organization in a number of parks’ aspects: cultural landscapes, water management, pathway systems, indoor gardens, wetland policy and LEED parks educational facilities. Merging this information with new research around Calgarians and their lifestyles - this presentation will discuss the importance, the relevance, and the sophistication of Urban Parks; where we are now and some directions for the future.

Anne has worked in the parks and recreation profession for over 25 years with municipal & provincial governments as well as private industry. She holds a bachelors degree in Recreation Administration from University of Alberta and a master’s degree in Landscape Architecture from University of Guelph.

Over her career, she has spent time in provincial parks planning, parks consulting in northern Canada as well as parks design, development and project management with the City of Calgary. Over the past few years as Director of Parks for Calgary she has noticed that she is actually spending less time in the park spaces than ever before. She is trying to correct this in her free time. When not in meetings; she enjoys hiking, skiing, snorkeling, life at the lake, and thinks she’s never been in a sea-kayak she didn’t like!

PLENARY WORKSHOP: Parks Landscapes and Open Spaces – A Lifetime of Experiences

Doug Balsden  
Principal, Sunsetter Facilitation

This plenary presentation and following workshop provides the platform for exploring the changing face of the ‘visitor experience’ in parks and open space in Alberta. Learning about new and emerging initiatives from three different Canadian jurisdictions, delegates will gain fresh perspectives on providing positive ‘visitor experiences’ in parks. We now recognize that our increasing cultural diversity, and the growing use of modern technology extend the types of park experiences being sought by Canadians and international visitors to Alberta's parks and open spaces. How park agencies anticipate and respond to these trends while protecting important and often sensitive park ecosystems is an issue that has implications for both protected area policy and management.

Delegates will be presented with other new and emerging visitor experiences from other jurisdictions inside and outside Alberta. They will be challenged to use those perspectives and their own unique knowledge and experience to critically consider what is embraced by the concept of the “park experience” for all park jurisdictions in Alberta both now and into the future.

Doug Balsden is a facilitator and trainer in facilitation practices, and the principal of Sunsetter Facilitation Services in Cochrane, Alberta. Prior to that, Doug completed 27 years as a senior manager in various Government of Alberta ministries, where he was involved in a wide array of facilitation and public participation events, including lead or group facilitator in more than a dozen summits and symposia. He has also worked as a manager in municipal government, a lecturer in post secondary education, and a manager in the not for profit sector. He is a certified Technology of Facilitation (ToP) facilitator with the Institute of Cultural Affairs–Canada, a trainer in Group Facilitation and meeting management, as well as facilitator in strategic and operational planning, meeting management, and public participation and engagement. Doug has Bachelor degrees in Arts and Physical Education and a Master of Science degree. His interests also include sports, outdoor recreation, travelling and reading.
Cultural Literacy – A First Nations Perspective
Casey Eagle Speaker
Aboriginal Resource Dept. Hull Child & Family Services

In this presentation, Casey Eagle Speaker will discuss natural laws and traditional laws of Aboriginal peoples and how they affect our lives in today’s society. This topic will cover communications and working relationships with Aboriginal people as well as the relationship to the land and all that is included in the environment.

Casey Eagle Speaker is also known by his traditional name “Sorrel Horse” by his people within the Blackfoot Confederation. He is a member of the Blood Tribe in Southern Alberta. Casey is an Aboriginal Liaison, Consultant and a Traditional Counselor. He was raised on his reservation with the knowledge of traditional ways, the Blackfoot language, and the stories through which history is passed on.

Over the past 20 years Casey has provided a wide array of presentations in the greater Calgary area and abroad, in respect to one’s journey to wellness and understanding of one’s identity and belonging. Throughout his travels in the United States and Canada, Casey has witnessed and participated in many of the Native ceremonies and day-to-day living of different tribes.

In the Year 2000, Casey was awarded the Chief David Crow Child Award from the City of Calgary for his work in cross-cultural awareness as well as the Dr. Joseph Crow Shoed Award from the University of Calgary for his work in Aboriginal Education. He has received other numerous awards for his work within the mainstream of children, youth and families involved the child welfare system. Casey has been working with Hull Child and Family Services for the past thirteen years as an Aboriginal Resource Liaison Consultant.
In 2011 the Capital Regional District’s Regional Parks will celebrate its 45th anniversary. From East Sooke to Elk Beaver, to Island View to Sea to Sea, from the Galloping Goose to the Lockside; every visit is a lasting experience.

CRD Regional Parks protects and manages more than 13,000 hectares of spectacular natural areas in 30 parks and 3 regional trails on Southern Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands. 2010 saw a record breaking 5.2 million visits to this exceptional diverse park system. The need to provide a wide range of sustainable recreational opportunities alongside managing and protecting important and often sensitive habitats, becomes key to creating a lifetime of experiences.

The successful Regional Parks’ Land Acquisition Fund continues to contribute significantly to the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the region. The lands acquired for the regional parks and trails system through this fund go beyond adding to the overall quality of life enjoyed by Capital Regional District residents and creating outstanding recreation experiences. These parklands also protect ecosystems, provide habitat for plants and animals - it’s the balancing of these polarities which CRD Regional Parks strives for.

Please join the plenary session to hear CRD Regional Parks’ incredible story, through the eyes of a park visitor.

Janette Loveys
Manager of Parks, Capital Regional District (CRD)
Victoria, BC – Capital Region Parks

Janette joined CRD Regional Parks in 2008 as Manager of Park Operations Services, where she provides a strong and dynamic leadership for the operations and maintenance of 30 parks and 3 regional trails, infrastructure planning and development, fire response and emergency services, bylaw services, fleet and equipment operations, park visitor partnerships and programs. Janette’s background includes 15 years working in parks and recreation, community development and public engagement in Ontario.

In addition to her Regional Parks responsibilities, Janette has taken a lead role in the public participation program for the largest CRD project – a provincially mandated wastewater treatment system across multiple municipalities. In 2010 Janette developed CRD’s first Public Participation Framework, which provides the strategic direction and commitment for future public participation in the region.

Janette is an accomplished civic servant who can demonstrate her commitment to participatory democratic practices. In 2003 Janette was responsible for the first Canadian municipal participatory budgeting experience and has since presented at numerous international conferences.

Prior to joining the CRD, Janette lived in southern Ontario where she gained over 15 years of experience working in municipal and provincial government. Janette holds a Masters degree from the University of Toronto and a Public Administration degree from the University of Calgary.

Janette and her family enjoy kayaking, bird watching, hiking and exploring all that Vancouver Island has to offer.
Law Enforcement in Parks and Protected Areas: Emerging Trends and Issues
Bruce van Staalduinen
Manager, Operations & Development, Ontario Parks

The Ontario provincial park system is one of the largest in Canada with more than 300 provincial parks, and over 7 million hectares in size. With more than 400 park wardens, park enforcement plays a major role in managing and protecting a park system. The presentation will provide background/context for the Ontario Parks system and its enforcement program. The presentation will provide some insight into how Ontario is trying to address emerging issues such as hiring practices, training, Occupational Health and Safety, societal changes, diversity, and resource protection.

Bruce van Staalduinen is the Manager, Operations & Development for Ontario Parks, Ministry of Natural Resources, located in Peterborough, Ontario. Bruce has worked for provincial parks for more than 35 years, and his responsibilities include developing policies and programs in the areas of park management, public health and safety, enforcement, visitor services/interpretation, and park development. He is also responsible for co-ordinating the park operating budget of more than $50.0 million and a capital budget of approximately $20.0 million.

THE RON GORGICHUCK MEMORIAL LUNCHEON: Trail Lunch
Ray Schmidt
Video and Social Media Content Creator, Banff National Park

Whether visitors use the vast trail networks in our national parks or not, their existence can hold significant value to their experience. Trails, either physically or psychologically, lead us into the wilderness and back to our roots, helping us unplug from a complex world dominated by cars, technology and work. No matter what you call it – backcountry, wilderness or hinterland – that ‘space’ provides a wireframe for rich experiences. Multimedia presentation.

Ray Schmidt has lived and worked in the Canadian Rockies for the last decade, but not before exploring many of the classic trails and water routes across Canada. As a Banff trail crew and fire crew member, he was able to work and travel extensively into all corners of the park. In his spare time, he’s a freelance writer and photographer; his recent work can be found on the pages of Lonely Planet Canada and Kootenay Mountain Culture magazine. He’s currently working as a video and social media content creator for Banff National Park.
A1. Renewing Visitor Experiences at Elk Island National Park for Urban and New Canadians
Dr. Stephen Flemming
Superintendent, Elk Island National Park of Canada

For Parks Canada, two important corporate priorities are to create visitor experience opportunities that will attract more visitors, and to conduct active management projects that will improve ecological integrity.

The draft Park Management Plan for Elk Island National Park of Canada highlights the need to engage urban and new Canadians in Edmonton, Alberta. It proposes to facilitate activities and events that invite these groups to experience the park (e.g., citizenship ceremony, facilitated camping, accommodating and encouraging cultural group activities), and it proposes to explore options for public transit to reduce barriers to involvement. The plan also proposes to build a suite of public involvement opportunities that will allow individuals and groups to give back to the park. The plan seeks to connect urban and new Canadians with the century of conservation legacy at Elk Island by directly involving them in on-the-ground monitoring and active management for the benefit of ecological integrity.

A2. First Nations Perspective: Discussions Continued
Casey Eagle Speaker
Aboriginal Resource Dept. Hull Child & Family Services

Session Moderator, Elizabeth Driver
Senior Policy and Land Use Planner, Parks Division, Alberta Tourism, Parks & Recreation

For those who wish to continue their discussions on cultural literacy, join Casey Eagle Speaker in an informative and interactive break out session where he will answer questions and provide further insight into the First Nations perspective.

A3. Pesticide Reduction: Understanding the Consequences of Your Actions
Chris Saunders
Environmental Manager, Parks, City of Edmonton

Perhaps one of the most controversial subjects for Parks people these days is the use of pesticides. Although this diverse group of pest control products has their own individual chemical properties and characteristics they are intentional poisons that are possibly harmful to people.

More than 170 municipal pesticide use bylaws have emerged across Canada, often citing the Precautionary Principle. Edmonton has seen a long history of Integrated Pest Management and ecology-based decision-making that has enabled certain pesticides and formulations to be eliminated from use and others to be greatly reduced. Whether the objective is to reduce public and other non-target exposure or simply delivery of an optimal dose, focused understanding of pest biology and measured response to treatment is key to achieving improved results and sustainable outcomes. Watch out for the “softer” products though, these can actually work against pesticide reduction.

A4. Parks Travel 2.0: How Park Agencies are Embracing Information Technology and Its Impact on Visitor Experience
Dr. Elizabeth Halpenny
Assistant Professor, University of Alberta

Rapid advances in information technology have had profound implications for society and our institutions, including parks and protected areas. This session will examine how society currently uses information technology when planning and engaging in tourism. Using the five phases of visitor experience, from pre-trip planning to the recollection phase, examples of best practices employed by protected area agencies and non-profit attractions from around the world will be highlighted. The improved functionality and customization of information available on the Internet, and the empowerment of consumers who use the Internet and related technologies for travel, will be discussed. Its implications for visitor experiences in protected areas will be explored, as will the next stage of internet-based tourism information seeking and purchasing. Lessons learned from a number of recent research projects designed to investigate the impacts of information technologies such as utilizing mobile devices will also be reported.
B1. Implementing a Land-Use Framework for Alberta
Dave Bartesko
Senior Consultation Manager, Land Use Secretariat

Alberta’s prosperity has created great opportunities for our economy and people, but it also has created challenges for Alberta’s landscapes. We have reached a tipping point, where sticking with the old rules will not produce the quality of life we have come to expect. To remedy this, the government is implementing the provincial Land-use Framework that includes the development of seven regional plans. These regional plans will integrate provincial policies at the regional level; set out regional land-use objectives/thresholds and provide the context for land-use decision-making within the region. A cumulative effects management approach will be used to manage the combined impacts of existing and new activities within the region. New legislation, the Alberta Land Stewardship Act will help ensure better alignment of policy, planning and decision making at all levels in Alberta. The development of the first two regional plans for the Lower Athabasca and South Saskatchewan regions are well underway. The Act also provides the legal foundation for four market based tools to support conservation and stewardship on both private and public lands: Conservation Easements, Conservation Offsets, Transfer of Development Credits, and Conservation Directives.

B2. Movement, Habitat Use, Diet, and Perceptions by Humans of Urban Coyotes (Canis latrans) in Edmonton, Alberta
Dr. Colleen Cassady St. Clair
Professor, University of Alberta, Department of Biological Sciences
Credit Also To: Maureen Murray, Adam Cembrowski, Tobias Tan

Urban coyote populations and rates of human-coyote conflict are increasing in cities across North America. In Edmonton, Alberta, coyotes were once considered rare, but city officials now receive several reports per week describing human-coyote interactions. Managers need information on urban coyote habitat use, movement, and diet to create an effective public education campaign and reduce coyote attractants. To support these activities, 10 adult coyotes were collared in Edmonton with GPS collars. We calculated home range sizes and modeled habitat selection. To determine diet composition, we collected scats in urban parks. Coyotes mainly preyed on small rodents and consumed relatively little anthropogenic food. Individual collared coyotes appeared to have different home range sizes and habitat preferences. Range sizes were larger for older coyotes, but they did not vary with habitat type. Anecdotal results suggest that coyotes with more severe cases of mange make more extensive use of residential areas.

B3. Stormwater Ecology: A Look at Wetland Protection, Environmental Planning and Parks
Chris Manderson
Natural Area Management Lead, Calgary Parks

Wetland protection has been a priority in Calgary for a number of years. In Calgary, like many municipalities, stormwater inputs to natural wetlands are seen as an attractive option for to meet conservation goals as well as obligations to meet water quality and quantity objectives for urban runoff. From an ecosystem and park management standpoint, stormwater inputs can be both savior and a liability. In this presentation I will discuss Calgary’s evolving approach to this issue and some of the tradeoffs and opportunities that have arisen as a result.

B4. Reserve.AlbertaParks.ca
John Findlay, Manager, Park Operations, Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Lindsay Kulak, Program Manager, Reservation Services, Parks Division

Reserve.AlbertaParks.ca is a geospatially enabled rich Internet application that allows campers to reserve campsites in 51 of Alberta Provincial Parks. Featuring real-time campsite inventory, financial management and high quality campground and campsite level still and panoramic photography, the solution allows campers to choose from 6,100 specific sites that meet their requirements through a map based presentation.

In May of 2008, the Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation (TPR) committed to realizing a core business strategy and delivering a fully operational online campsite reservation system in time for the 2009 camping season. The cross-ministry team of TPR, Service Alberta and the IT firm Sierra Systems developed, tested and deployed the server hosting, Contact Centre and reservations management system in 25 campgrounds. Another 25 campgrounds were added for the 2010 camping season.

The overall success of the customer centric Reserve.AlbertaParks.ca has been demonstrated by an increasing number of users and reservations, as well as national recognition by ESRI (Award of Excellence) and GTEC (Distinction Award).
C1. Alberta Parks Legislation Update: Refining the Parks Classification System
Graham Statt
Executive Director of Program Coordination, Parks Division, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Drop in to hear:
• Why Alberta is moving forward with proposed new Parks legislation
• Why the legislation was suspended
• What the department has heard from Albertans so far
• Current status of activities in this important process
• How the proposed Act supports other government initiatives
• Next steps in the process of this important initiative

C2. The Nose Hill Experience: Planning and Managing Trails for Multiple User Types
Doug Marter
Manager, Planning and Development, City of Calgary Parks
Nose Hill Park is one of the largest municipal parks in Canada and North America. Located in the northwest quadrant of Calgary, it is the second largest park in Calgary. The presentation will examine Nose Hill Park and the public engagement process -- what the public identified as their user experience and expectations. Hear how this feedback was incorporated into the development plan along with the issues, constraints and political realities.

C3. The Edmonton Master Naturalist Program: Building Community Stewardship Capacity
Angela Hobson
Ecological Planner, City of Edmonton
As cities work to protect and enhance native biodiversity, they are faced with the challenge (and opportunity) of effectively managing and restoring a growing inventory of natural areas -- often with limited resources. At the same time, there is growing community interest in the stewardship of natural areas and biodiversity, and the need for public understanding of the value of these unique areas.

In 2009, the City of Edmonton introduced the Edmonton Master Naturalist Program as a community stewardship approach to meeting these needs. This presentation will give an overview of how and why Edmonton’s Master Naturalist Program was developed. It will present Edmonton’s experience of the opportunities and benefits associated with engaging community members in natural area protection. Finally, it will explore some of the challenges that come with incorporating community stewardship into the management of City-owned natural areas, and some of the steps the City has taken to overcome these challenges.

C4. Intelligent Campground Planning and Design – Contemporary GIS and CAD Applications
Trevor Tarnowski
Senior Parks Facilities Planner, Land Management Branch, Parks Division, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Darryl Berezuik
Northern Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey, Historic Resources Management Branch, Alberta Culture and Community Spirit
This session will provide new insights into how GIS and CAD technology is being used by the Government of Alberta to support a more integrated and collaborative approach to modern campground planning and development. Advanced knowledge of precise development footprints at an early stage in the planning process facilitates targeted assessment of potential secondary impacts to the diverse natural landscapes and ecosystems represented within Alberta’s provincial parks and protected areas as well as the unique cultural record that preserves the full breadth of human history that has unfolded within these remarkable settings. The new technology permits easy exploration of design alternatives, informed by the results of directed pre-impact studies, to help balance sustainability and conservation issues against project-specific and organizational needs long before construction begins.

Case study applications using LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) and Aerial Photography will be presented in relation to constraints mapping, site layout, and the regulatory approvals process.
Tracy Harper
Senior Parks Planner, Parks Division, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation

Kevin Wirtanen
Recreation Stewardship and Partnership Coordinator, Land Use Planning, Recreation and Tourism Unit, Sustainable Resource Development

Through the Land-use Framework, the Government of Alberta is committed to addressing a provincial policy gap on how to better "manage recreational use of public lands".

To address this policy gap, the Government of Alberta is committed to working with members of the recreational communities and other key stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy to better manage growing recreational pressures and activities in Alberta.

After completion of the recreational strategy for public lands, the government will develop a broader strategy for the province that will include associated private land.

This presentation will discuss the need for this strategy including the kinds of issues and challenges land managers and stakeholders are dealing with today as well as provide some insight into a few of the management options that are under consideration for inclusion in this strategy.

D2. Special Events in Banff National Park – Lessons Learned
Ann Morrow
External Relations Manager, Parks Canada, Banff Field Unit

Ask people what they think about dragon boat races in Banff National Park and the reply you get could be "It's a desecration of the national park ideal!", or "What's wrong with a bunch of paddlers on a dammed lake?" While Canada's most-visited national park has hosted organized sporting events for decades, the number of applications for events has increased considerably in the past few years. Banff National Park has direction in its new park management plan to "develop, support and promote special events" that support the protection of the park's natural and cultural heritage, and that respect the quality of all visitors' experiences. That can be a challenge in a place as well-loved as Banff. This session will present what we've learned and adopted as best practices through social science, public consultation, and on-the-ground experience and will provide an opportunity for group discussion around some important questions that we are still grappling with.

D3. Effective Public Engagement That Leads to Park Stewardship in All The Right Ways!
Janette Loveys
Manager of Park Operations Services, Regional Parks, Capital Regional District

Are you looking to engage your communities in more meaningful and sustainable ways? Are you wishing to strengthen your stewardship initiatives? Then you should attend this participatory and interactive workshop that will expose you to new and innovative public engagement processes and techniques. The ultimate goal is to develop and readapt community support and capacity into long lasting stewardship values for the park system – a win win situation!

This session workshop participants will explore how to apply the right approaches and techniques along with motivating staff who are uncomfortable with the perception of giving up control. Everything from creating advisory committees to public consultation processes for park and trail planning, to service delivery changes to difficult park management challenges will be explored.

D4. Preparing for Land-use Planning: Developing Spatially Explicit Inventories to Support TPR Outcomes
Dan Grant
Land-use Framework Planner, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation

Paul Radchenko
Tourism Development Planner, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation

The Ministry of Tourism, Parks and Recreation (TPR) is participating in the implementation of Alberta's Land Use Framework. Our vision for Alberta is to become a world-class tourism destination with active, healthy citizens who participate in sport and recreation and value their parks and natural heritage. Tourism is highly dependent upon information technology and the industry requires innovations and scientific discoveries to renew and develop its products and services. In preparation for regional land-use planning across the province, TPR is leading a number of data acquisition inventories including a Recreation and Tourism Features Inventory (RTFI), a Scenic Resource Assessment (SRA) and a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). These inventories will create a number of opportunities for municipal and provincial government parks and open space practitioners and their stakeholders to collectively explore, expand and enhance the concept of “Visitor Experience” while promoting parks, landscapes and open spaces as essential to the wellbeing of Albertans.
E1. Beyond Boundaries: The Parks Canada Palisades Stewardship Education Centre
James Bartram
Education Director, The Parks Canada Palisades Stewardship Education Centre, Jasper National Park

This session will explore a pragmatic approach to reaching beyond our traditional boundaries in engaging youth. James will share his experience from the past five years in developing transformative learning experiences for youth from across Canada and around the world; these real and inspiring, hands on participatory programs transcend Geographic, Technological and Demographic boundaries and are contributing to the long term protection of our natural and cultural heritage by touching the hearts and minds of youth and fostering an army of storytellers.

E2. Garbage Dump to Playground for All Seasons with An Environmental Flavor
Doug Frost
Senior Project Manager, City of Edmonton Parks
Joan Kirillo, Business Manager, Mill Woods Cultural and Recreational Facility Association

Jackie Parker Park is one of the largest parks in Edmonton. This session will take a look at its history and its future. It has been a huge success in partnership with the Mill Wood’s Cultural and Recreational Facilities Association M.C.A.R.F.A., the Federal, Provincial and the Municipal Governments for over 25 years. The park hosts a 18 hole golf course, Edmonton’s largest Spray Park and Playground, Dog’s Off Leash Park, Ski Trails, Skating Rink and Toboggan Hill to highlight only some of its features.

When the land was being considered as a Park in the early development stages a large part of it was a garbage dump and now we have an Environmentally Sensitive Playground for All Seasons. From an estimated savings of over $100,000 irrigation costs in the first year of operation for the Spray Park to recycling the sand for a 2-5 year old playground.

E3. Panel Discussion: Law Enforcement in Alberta’s Parks and Protected Areas
Ken Chatel - Manager, Law Enforcement Operations, Parks Canada
John Findlay - Manager, Park Operations, Parks Division, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Darren Grove - Rangers Supervisor/Trails Initiatives, City of Edmonton
Session Moderator - Laurie Guyot - Visitor Experience Manager/Prevention Coordinator, Elk Island National Park

This very informative follow-up to the Law Enforcement plenary session will begin with each of the three panelists providing brief overviews of the approach taken to law enforcement in parks and protected areas in each of their respective jurisdictions (municipal, provincial, national). These presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion and moderated question and answer session between the audience and the panelists.

Scott Nielsen, Assistant Professor, Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta

Spatial information representing coarse and fine-filter measures of biodiversity are needed to identify current conservation gaps and to prioritize the most irreplaceable and vulnerable sites in Alberta. Alberta’s Land Use Framework (LUF), which attempts to address these needs, currently under represents the contributions of unique habitats for rare species, focusing instead on: a handful of charismatic species (e.g., caribou, grizzly bears, sage-grouse); coarse-filter measures of our biota (e.g., landcover types); and the identification of sites with known occurrences of rare species. I will discuss approaches we are using to model and predict the distribution of suitable habitat for 300 of the rarest plant and invertebrate species in the province. I will discuss, among other things how we are using this information to map hotspots in rare species diversity.

E5. Global Geoparks: A New Concept and a New Reality in Canada
Godfrey S. Nowlan - Chair, Canadian National Committee for Geoparks, Geological Survey of Canada

Based on a concept developed in China at the turn of the millennium, a network comprising 77 Global Geoparks, supported by UNESCO, has been established with members in 24 countries. Geoparks are community-based and focus on preservation of geoheritage and cultural heritage related to human interactions with the Earth, as well as education related to the heritage recognized in the area. A geopark is underpinned by a strong element of sustainable development based on geotourism and therefore job creation and economic development. A geopark is a defined area with a number of protected and/or interpreted sites that collectively represent a small portion of the area. This exciting new concept became a reality for the first time in Canada in 2010 with the establishment of Stonehammer Global Geopark in southern New Brunswick, a geopark that celebrates one billion years of stories.
F1. Outward Bound for Veterans in Kananaskis

Ken Wylie
Outward Bound for Veterans Chief Instructor
Marc D’Astous
Outward Bound for Veterans Program Manager

The Outward bound for Veterans program at Outward Bound Canada is modeled after Outward Bound USA’s program for military Veterans, which has been in operation since the early 1980s in support to the needs of Veterans from various different conflicts. The Canadian program follows suit yet is designed to bring Veterans together and involve them in adventurous activities on the Canadian landscape and allow the activities to be the nucleus for discussions that emerge about the Veteran’s service and deployment experiences. The programs are one week long and consist of a variety of activities on different landscapes in Kananaskis country and beyond. The programs follow suit with Kananaskis Country inclusion programs in that we are working to remove the barriers for Veterans who are returning home.

F2. The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: Urban Forestry Experiences in Edmonton

Jenny Wheeler, Principal of Forestry, City of Edmonton Parks Branch
Doug Costigan, Director River Valley Forestry and Environmental Services, City of Edmonton Parks Branch

This session will focus on the Good the Bad and the Ugly lessons learned in maintaining Edmonton Urban Forest. The urban forest is an important resource that positively contributes to the urban environment’s livability, sustainability and the livelihood of its residents. The need to plan, develop and enforce standards and to protect this resource is very important in this increasingly urbanized world. Climate change and new pest infestations has provided novel challenges and opportunities in maintaining and expanding this resource from increased watering needs, to new tree varieties to trial. Communicating the importance and the needs of this natural capital has been both rewarding and challenging, ISA CEU’s will be available.

F3. Innovative Community Based Park Planning: Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council

Ryan Edwards
Executive Director, Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council

The Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council is a unique, non-profit organization that utilizes a creative and innovative approach towards community-based park and recreation planning, funding and management. This collaborative multi-stakeholder organization is comprised of representatives from local municipalities, volunteer-based recreation and service organizations, industry, environmental organizations and the Government of Alberta. Together, the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation guide the funding, planning and management of both the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area for all Albertans.

The Parks Council is a unique model of collaboration and the first of its kind for Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation and one that exemplifies a consensus-based approach to decision making. Through an established Memorandum of Understanding the Parks Council and its sixteen member Board of Directors work in collaboration with the Government of Alberta addressing conflicting land-uses and balancing these with social, environmental and economic impacts along the Drayton Valley/Brazeau County portion of the North Saskatchewan River Valley.

F4. Exploring the Human Dimension: Visitor Use Analysis of Willmore Wilderness Park

Debbie Mucha
GIS Program Lead, Foothills Research Institute & MA Candidate, University of Alberta

There have been few studies that focus on the human dimensions of backcountry users in provincial wilderness areas within Alberta. It is often difficult to integrate ecological data with human use requirements without relevant and sound information. It is also a challenge to understand visitor experience needs and management preferences without a foundation of visitor information. The purpose of this study is to address the need for acquiring a better understanding of visitors in the Willmore Wilderness Park in west-central Alberta. Specifically, this study will examine the demographics, spatial patterns, motivations, park familiarity, and place attachment of visitors to the park. This project will entail a mixed-methods approach and project instruments will include: trail surveys, in-depth questionnaires, trail cameras, Global Positioning System (GPS) Tracksticks, and in-person interviews. Results from this study will feed into the future parks management plan for Willmore and may have linkages to the Alberta Landuse Framework.
EARLY REGISTRATION & NETWORKING

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 – 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
For those arriving early for the 2011 Parks Forum, there will be an opportunity to register, as well as to informally meet and chat with fellow participants.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The 2011 Parks Forum will take place at the Canmore Radisson Hotel and Conference Centre.
Call 1-800-263-3625 and mention ARPA’s 2011 Parks Forum to receive the following rate.

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* Rates do not include Tourism Levee or GST. Additional persons per room may incur additional charges.

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Look to Enterprise Rent-a-car for your drive to this year’s forum.

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PARKS FORUM PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ARPA wishes to extend a special thank you to our 2011 Parks Forum Planning and Advisory Committee.

Dan Chambers
Coordinator - 2011 Parks Forum

Doug Marvin
Acting Manager - Learning and Stewardship, Parks Division, Alberta Tourism Parks & Recreation

Doug Marter
Manager, Planning and Development, City of Calgary Parks

Scott Jones
Manager, Conservation and Recreation Planning, Parks Division, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation

Dr. Kathie Rettie
Social Scientist, Parks Canada

Paul Feser
Parks Planning Supervisor, The City of Spruce Grove

Dr. Guy Swinnerton
Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Alberta

Darren Grove
Parks Supervisor, Park Ranger Unit, City of Edmonton

Laurie Guyot
Visitor Experience Manager/Prevention Coordinator, Elk Island National Park, Parks Canada

Karen Snethun
Parks Forum Support, Alberta Recreation and Parks Association

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Government of Alberta
2011 Parks Forum Registration Form

Please visit www.parks.arpaonline.ca to register on-line

First Name (no initials please): ____________________________ Last Name: ____________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________

City: ____________________________ Province: ____________________________ Postal Code: ____________________________

Phone (Home): ____________________________ Phone (Bus.): ____________________________ Fax: ____________________________

Email: ____________________________ I am an elected/appointed official: ☐

Dietary needs: ____________________________ Other Special Needs: ____________________________

Organization Name: ____________________________

Position or Title: ____________________________

Organization Contact Name (if different than above): ____________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________

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Full Forum Package (includes all education sessions, social and scheduled meals).

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**MEMBERS Include: All employees of ARPA member organizations, employees of the Government of Alberta and employees of the Government of Canada.

NEW! Day Registrations $200/day (Circle which day you would like to attend):

Thursday, March 10th          Friday, March 11th    Saturday, March 12th

$ ______

Sessions (please circle your preferred session for each time block)

Friday March 11th          Saturday March 12th

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DRESS CODE: Dress code for this event is CASUAL throughout.

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