



MountainViews

Issue 4 – July 2010

We want you to get involved

The past year has seen an extraordinary amount of public involvement in the governance of Mountain View County. Your voices are crucial in guiding Council’s path, and we thank you for your involvement. The effectiveness of your government depends on your participation, and based on the last year, we can see that democracy in Mountain View County is stronger than ever.

The next municipal election in Alberta is scheduled for October 18, and to ensure our County remains strong, we invite you to get involved. If you can spare the time and energy to run for a place on Mountain View County Council, the nomination date is September 20. We encourage you to visit the County’s Election 2010 website—mountainviewcounty.com/2010vote—to find all the information that a prospective candidate needs to know, as well as a downloadable guide which includes all of the forms and information you need to become a candidate in the 2010 municipal election. You may also stop by the County Office at the intersection of Highway 2A and the Bergen Road to pick up your guide to the 2010 municipal elections.

If you don’t have the time or desire to run for Council, but you still want to be involved, you may also apply to sit as a public member on one of our numerous committees. Watch the Mountain View Gazette, the

September edition of Mountain Views, or listen to 96.5 CKFM and Rock 104 prior to the October 18th election for information on how you can apply to become a committee member. Following the municipal election, the newly-elected Council will select members for each available committee from the applications received prior to the election.

On behalf of Council, I’d like to take a moment to thank the residents of Mountain View County for the opportunity to serve you as Councillors for the past three years. In the upcoming months, we will be among the many in the County who decide whether they have the time, and energy, to run for a three year term and the opportunity to serve you as a Councillor for Mountain View County.

Have a great summer!
Reeve Al Kemmere



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On the road again

SAFETY FIRST

Summer (aka Construction season) drives increasing activity on County roads. Here's how you can help drivers and County crews stay safe.

1. Allow extra time to get to your destination. Road work can result in detours and delays so please, plan ahead!
2. Watch for reduced speed limits in construction zones. Generally expect 40km per hour in most construction zones – but this may vary.
3. Be considerate of the flagging and construction crews working on roadways.
4. Remember that summer road work is weather dependent. If skies are sunny, crews may be working longer days or on weekends. Be extra vigilant at dawn and dusk.

Check the Road Watch for updates at mountainviewcounty.com/roadwatch to keep on top of what might be happening in your neck of the woods.

Some would say there are two seasons in Alberta—winter and construction. So, when the trees start budding, County Operational Services crews are cued to kick-start seasonal maintenance and construction programs.

This summer, expect to see chip sealing, re-gravelling, spot patching, dust control, ditching (drainage and culvert projects), signage repair and roadside vegetation management.

Driving the complex logistics of what gets done – when, where and how, is the job of Pete Waycott, Manager Infrastructure Maintenance (Operational Services). He comes at what can be a sensitive challenge the only way that makes sense—strategically.

“Facts are, we’re juggling key priorities,” he says. “First and foremost, we have a responsibility to keep County roadways safe and functional. Second, we need to manage a finite budget to optimize infrastructure value for ratepayers. Neither option is negotiable, so we have to plan carefully to balance proactive maintenance with the ever changing realities of growing residential and industrial development.”

Waycott says there is a fine line between maintenance and construction.

“Preventative maintenance is ensuring the longevity and safety of our main traffic arteries,” he states. “That doesn’t infer ignoring smaller roads or other maintenance projects. It means safeguarding the integrity of roads that support our agriculture and energy industries, and increasing commuter traffic in, around and through the County. New construction is driven through a long term lens—one that needs to be focused on environmental impact, long term sustainability and improving the quality of life for our ratepayers.”

That’s the logic behind the annual Road Survey, a new approach launched by the Waycott’s team this spring. In all four corners of the county, road foremen and crews assess the integrity of gravel and hard-surface roads using a comprehensive set of criteria. Information gleaned from the process makes it possible to determine scope of work, urgency in terms of safety, and best value for infrastructure dollars.

The surveys and extensive traffic counting throughout the County are producing a vital database of information. “We’re using technology to good advantage,” says Waycott. “For example, data analysis shows us where to increase grading frequency on high traffic roads; when to schedule cyclical maintenance and how best to dovetail new construction with critical dates in other departments like Planning. Now we have the tools to minimize reactive work and optimize the quality of the County’s infrastructure—proactively.”

New software creates planning efficiencies

Mountain View County's Planning Department has its hands full. At any one time, the Department is handling up to 20 pending conditions on some 100 subdivision applications. If you do the math, that's a mountain of reviews, approvals and critical dates. Each planner is juggling an average of 60 concurrent files.

It's enough to challenge a logistics guru and begs the question; who (or what) is keeping everything on track?

Meet the department's new best friend: Phase One of an innovative planning and development software program. According to Nathan Petherick, Manager of Planning, it's literally revolutionizing the way the County does business. "By tracking and monitoring each file from application filing, to review and approval, we know the status of every application at the click of a mouse," says Petherick.

And that's just the tip of the proverbial paper pile.

The software, which was developed as the result of a detailed step-by-step analysis of application processes, is guided by detailed planning process mapping and:

- Tracks and provides timers for critical dates (all approvals have time lines that include reviews, Council meetings, etc.)
- Integrates with all other relevant County systems including: accounting, assessment and GIS (for example, if a file progress

hinges on a pipeline location, the software will use GIS to locate it and document the data)

- Defines and establishes timelines for each application process, and establishes timers and reminders to ensure that each file stays on track.

How do ratepayers benefit?

Two words—accountability and efficiency.

Petherick explains: "The program allows any member of the planning team instant access to every file. That means all of us are resourced to help with inquiries about the status and progress of an application. Moreover, we can share information with other County departments to create efficiencies. The software allows us to share critical information instantly with applicants, Council, and review bodies.

"Nothing gets lost in the paperwork shuffle and given the sheer volume of data handled, the capacity for transparent, efficient file management is imperative. Like any new software, there is a learning curve, but our adaptation is moving at a brisk pace. Today, it's hard to fathom how we ever functioned without it.

"The database we're building and the software's capacity to analyze and generate reports will be a vital tool for Council and administration, especially in terms of long term strategic planning."



WHAT'S NEXT?

Phase Two (which gets underway in the next four to six months) will integrate permitting and inspection functions including building, electrical, plumbing, gas, and private sewage treatment systems permitting functions.

A key benefit of the software is its integration with records management. All records are electronically associated with an application and tied to a legal property. That means each property will have a database of every permit application made on it; by who, and when. The database stays with the property, so change of ownership will not impact historical records.

Also within the scope of Phase Two is creation of a public portal where individuals can log in (under protected password) to see the progress of their own application(s) 24/7.

"The ramifications of this technology are huge," says Petherick. "As other municipalities adapt like software, new standards for best practices in planning, development and public service are being created. It is really exciting."



Photos courtesy of Greg Nielsen

Aiming for the top

For those of us who played bows and arrows as kids, hitting a bull's eye was cause for a whoop and holler. It was also very straightforward (pardon the pun) in terms of rules and equipment.

Today, archery is a complex precision sport that uses increasingly sophisticated equipment in myriad forms of competition; indoors and out.

Mountain View County's Tim Mearns is well past childhood, but his fascination for the bow has grown into a relentless pursuit for excellence on the global field of competitive archery.

When he's not working as a heavy equipment operator for the County, you'll find him shooting at Dragon Flight Archery (Water Valley) or Cochrane Archery in training for his next event.

Taught by his Dad, Mearns has been shooting competitively for more than 15 years. His list of recent accomplishments is impressive and includes:

- The Bronze and Grand Prix in Red Deer in 2009
- The Gold and Grand Prix in Red Deer in 2010
- Winner at the Mother of All Shoots March 2010
- Gold in the Lethbridge Iron Man in FITA (International Archery Federation) Target archery February 2010
- Most recently, an 18th place finish out of 250 shooters in his class at the 2010 IBO (International Bow Hunters Organization) in Ellicottville, New York

Obviously he enjoys the sport and he likes to share his enthusiasm by teaching kids archery at Mahikan Trails (who sponsor Mearns in return). He is also sponsored by The Core First Nations.

"There are so many ways to experience archery," says Mearns. "It's a sport that requires patience, precision, practice and the ability to focus—skills we can use in many aspects of life. I'll be doing this as long as I can because it's fun and always challenging."



What is his next target? Mearns is trying to make the cut for Team Canada for the 2011 World Championships in Italy. If his tenacity is any measure of success, he just might hit the target.

Pasture sprayers are available



The Agricultural Service Board of Mountain View County has many programs available to landowners to assist with the control of weeds. Our equipment assistance program has four pasture sprayers available free of charge. They are capable of spraying a 30 foot span, equipped with approximately a 400 gallon tank, boomless nozzles and hand wand. A slide in skid mounted sprayer is also available free of charge. For small area weed control and spot spraying assistance please contact the Mountain View County Agricultural Department.

A 20 per cent rebate is offered to landowners off the cost of labeled herbicides at recognized rates for the control of Tall Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Wild Caraway (*Carum carvi*).

The reverse roadside spraying incentive program supplies landowners with a pasture sprayer

and enough chemical to spray the headlands and a portion of the adjacent road allowance to a total width of 16 feet.

In an effort to prevent Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa Lam*) and Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) from establishing within Mountain View County, the Agricultural Service Board is prepared to offer a \$50 reward to anyone finding either of these weeds within Mountain View County boundaries. The reward is only available once per site and the weed must be left in ground, undisturbed until inspection.

For more information on weed identification, control and incentive programs, please call Mountain View County Agricultural Services at 403-335-3311 or visit our webpage at mountainviewcounty.com/weeds



Wild Caraway

WEEDING OUT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Plants are designated as weeds due to their invasive growth habit, lack of palatability to livestock and their ability to out compete agricultural crops. Many of the weeds that are of concern today started out in people's flower beds, escaped as ornamentals and due to their invasive nature and lack of native pests they became a problem.

The Weed Control Act was enacted to prevent the spread of invasive plants. Weeds are defined in the Weed Control Regulation, plants are listed by species under three categories, Restricted (destroy), Noxious (control) and Nuisance (prevent spread). The Weed Control Act is changing to help prevent invasive ornamentals and weedy plants from establishing within the province. In the new act "Restricted" weeds have been renamed as "Prohibited Noxious". Currently the Restricted weed list only contains seven weed species, but on the new Weed Control Regulation there will be nearly 50 weeds listed as Prohibited Noxious. Many of these weeds don't exist in Alberta and the legislation is trying to ensure they never become a problem in the area.

Classroom Agriculture Program

Mountain View County participates in the Classroom Agriculture Program; a provincial program dedicated to teaching Alberta grade four students the importance of agriculture in their daily lives.

This year, the County's Sustainable Agricultural Specialist Amber Hines and Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Jane Fulton made presentations to the grade four classes at Reed Ranch School, east of Olds, and Cremona School.

The one hour hands-on program covered crops, pests within crops and the importance of healthy soils and watersheds. Some of the hands-on activities included matching seeds and bi-products to the appropriate crop using seeds and crop mounts from Olds College; and identifying a rat from three other rodents that are common to this area.

Mountain View County's Sustainable Agricultural Specialist Amber Hines goes over some of the vegetation that can be found locally with students at Reed Ranch School. ►





Water Valley Park

SPRUCING UP COUNTY PARKS

Is the great outdoors calling your name? If you plan to heed the call, Mountain View County parks will be waiting.

There are currently five operating park and recreation properties within the County offering a blend of day use and overnight camping, fishing, extensive trails for hiking and biking, playgrounds and ball diamonds.

Safeguarding the integrity of County recreation properties is the responsibility of Mountain View County Manager of Agricultural and Parks Services Jeff Holmes.

“We like to think people who enjoy our parks are true nature lovers,” says Holmes. “That means they respect the environment and leave the areas they use in pristine condition. If everyone does their bit, we can all appreciate the natural beauty of the County and the crown lands many of our parks are situated on.”

“Unfortunately, the careless actions of a few can compromise the experience for many,” Holmes continues. “Repairing willful destruction simply diverts County’s resources from creating new amenities for responsible users. We encourage folks to report park abuse incidents so we can act respond quickly. We treat all calls confidentially.”

What is on the maintenance and upgrade schedule this season? In addition to upgrading all County park waste receptacles with pest proof garbage containers and replacing damaged or missing picnic tables and outhouses, the County is starting a remediation initiative at the William J. Bagnall Park.

The day use wilderness park has been inaccessible since the flood of 2005. Named after William J. Bagnall, Mountain View County’s first Reeve, the park has long been a favorite of nature and bird watching enthusiasts.

The County was successful in acquiring Western Economic Diversification Funding through Recreational Infrastructure Canada for remediation and upgrading to the park including:

- A new entry and parking lot on the east side (off Highway 579)
- Two walking trails that will form a 1.2 km loop
- A historical information kiosk (the property is based on an old coal mining site)
- A small playground area, outhouses, picnic tables, fire rings and pest proof waste containers

Because the property sits on Crown land, approval for the site remediation must be obtained from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. This is currently under review and approval is expected shortly. The project will be tendered in June, and construction is expected to proceed July and August. The project is valued at \$150,000 with 1/3 (\$50,000) covered by federal funding. The County is responsible for the balance.



MUNICIPAL RESERVES AND YOU

By Amanda Stuhl, County Patrol

Mountain View County is fortunate enough to have several areas that are deemed Municipal Reserves. Municipal Reserve lands are owned by Mountain View County and kept as land that can be enjoyed by all people. Most often, these areas protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as Winchell Lake, Davidson Park (Bergen) and Hiller's Dam. However, these reserves also include sites such as school yards. Essentially, these lands are considered to be parks for all people to enjoy, however, much like any other provincial or city park, they have certain rules. (See sidebar)

In addition to Municipal Reserves, the County also owns two campgrounds – Water Valley Campground and Westward Ho Park. These have similar rules except fires are allowed (when there is not a fire ban) in designated fire pits, and so is overnight camping. However, we ask that you camp responsibly and be respectful to your neighbors. If you party all night long and disturb other people in the park, you will be evicted and not allowed into any other County owned campground for 72 hours. Dogs are welcome, but must remain on leash and all open alcohol must be contained to your campsite. While campfires are allowed, fireworks are not. Even though most stores in the County sell them, it is illegal to set them off on any County-owned lands

including campgrounds and municipal reserves. The Alberta Fire Code also stipulates it is illegal to set off fireworks on any property unless you have a pyrotechnic license.

The fines for breaking the rules range from \$50-\$500, to a mandatory Court Appearance should the offence be serious enough. If you observe anyone breaking these rules on any of the Mountain View County Municipal Reserves or campgrounds, you can call Mountain View County Patrol at 403-335-3311 to report the offence. Please make note of the date, time, description of persons involved, licence plate on a vehicle (if one is present), description of vehicle (if one is present), and description of the offence (i.e. using off highway vehicles, cutting tress, etc.).

If you have any further questions regarding Campgrounds, Municipal Reserves or any other County Patrol related topic, please contact Mountain View County Patrol at 403-335-3311 or 1-877-264-9754.

Mountain View County Parks Bylaw contains the following rules for public access and usage of Municipal Reserves:

- Do not leave garbage or dump garbage on these lands. Take any garbage you have with you.
- Do not erect a building, fence or other structure on these lands.
- Do not camp on these lands. They are day-use only!
- No motorized vehicles of any type are allowed.
- No off-highway vehicles are allowed anywhere within the reserve.
- No hunting or discharging of firearms.
- Do not vandalize anything within the reserve (no cutting of trees).
- No open liquor allowed.



CIPPERLEY'S POND RECREATION AREA

Operated by the Didsbury Elks Club, Cipperley's Pond Recreation Area offers camping during the summer months. Located between Olds and Didsbury, one mile west and north of the Mountain View County Office on Range Road 15, Cipperley's Pond is also stocked annually with Rainbow Trout. Contact: Didsbury 403.335.3748



DAVIDSON PARK

Located along the meandering Fallentimber Creek in the community of Bergen, the Davidson Park Recreation Area is an ideal spot for angling, or just peaceful tranquility. Accessed off of Twp. Rd 320 (The Bergen Road), six miles west of Hwy. 22, Davidson Park is a day-use facility only.



HILLER'S DAM RECREATION AREA

A gem of eastern Mountain View County, Hillers Dam Recreation Area is a popular spot for recreational fishing. Stocked with 10,000 Rainbow Trout annually, Hillers Dam is located along Twp. Rd. 322, 5 km west of the QEII. For day-use only.



WESTWARD HO PARK

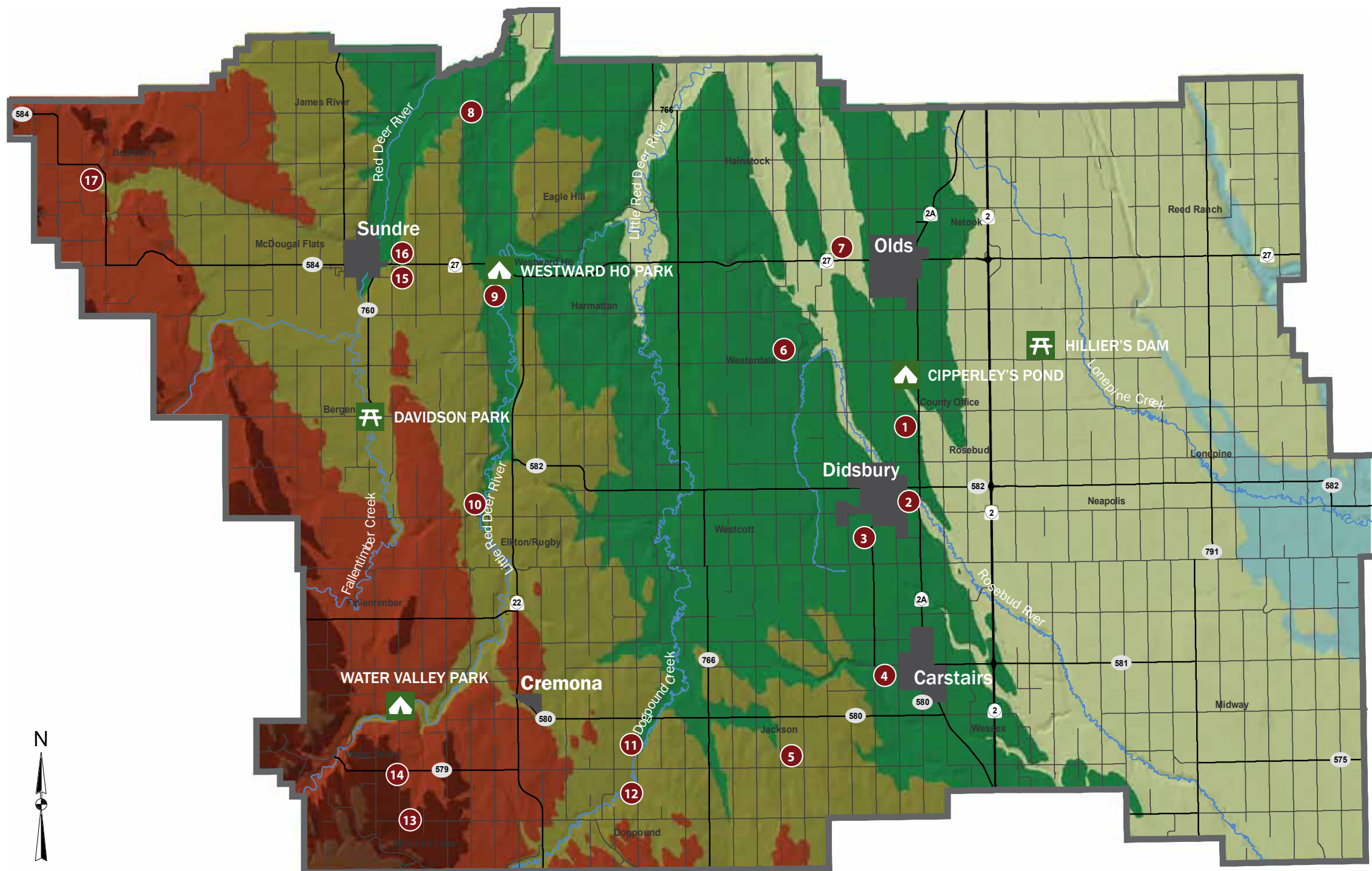
This campground is located 30 km west of Olds on Highway 27 and provides the following amenities: seasonal and short term camping, firewood, tables, washrooms and showers, wheelchair-accessible washrooms, camp kitchens, on site warden, pavilion rental, horseshoe pits, ball diamonds, playgrounds, and Quonset. Operated by Red Rock Sawmills. Contact: 403.556.2568






WATER VALLEY PARK

This park is located 10 minutes west of Highway 22, on SH 579 to Water Valley, then north to the Little Red Deer river and offers the following amenities: 50 camping sites (no hook-ups), river runs through campground, firewood supplied, playground equipment, large group area, cooking shack, and walking trails through campground.

Mountain View County | Summer 2010 Facilities Map



LEGEND

-  **Campground**
 -  **Day-use only**
 -  **Support our County Prairies to Peaks (P2P) Tourism Association members**
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Mountain View County Office | 7. The Stitchery | 13. Water Valley Golf and Country Club |
| 2. For Trees Company | 8. Forest Heights Golf Course | 14. Derry & Wallis Trading Company |
| 3. The Guest House | 9. Westward Ho Campground | 15. Rustler's Guest Lodge |
| 4. Silver Willow Golf and Sporting Club | 10. Elkton Valley Campground | 16. Sundre Golf Club |
| 5. PaSu Farms | 11. Tooth of the Dogpound Creek Golf Course | 17. Bearberry Heritage Arts Centre & Hall |
| 6. Weekend Warriors Paintball | 12. Solstice Berry Farm | |



Be BearSmart

Submitted by Jane Bicknell and Paul Fraser, Mountain View BearSmart

The arrival of warm weather in the spring increases opportunities for a wide range of outdoor activities. Whether you're barbecuing, biking or walking the dog or on your way to work, you may encounter bears. Now is the perfect time to be BearSmart.

Alberta is bear country. No matter where you live or spend your leisure time in this province you will be near bears or bear habitat. We see them along the roads, in the bush, and even in cities and towns.

After spending 5-6 months in winter dens, bears emerge from hibernation between mid- April and early May having lost 10 to 30 percent or more of their body weight. When they are not hibernating, the entire life of bears evolves around looking for food, taking advantage of any succulent and protein-rich foods. While bears will eat carrion, insects, fish, deer fawns and moose calves, the bulk of their diet is plant material. Their natural preference is to find high energy food – like huge berry patches – that will help them fatten up fast. Their survival and ability to have and raise young depend on their ability to double their weight before going into winter hibernation.

When natural food sources are poor, bears will travel long distances to seek out alternative sources of food. Bears have a keen sense of smell, and are attracted by the odour of human food and garbage. Bird and pet food, greasy barbecues and ripe and decaying fruit and vegetables are invitations to foraging bears. They will topple bird feeders, ransack barbecues, and raid garbage cans to access low-effort, easily-accessible food sources.

Seeing a bear can be one of the most memorable experiences, but we must ensure that we don't place bears in situations where people or bears could get hurt. By following certain practices every spring, summer and fall, you can avoid attracting bears to your property or while enjoying outdoor activities.

Develop a network with your neighbours to help keep each other informed about bears in your area. Work within your neighbourhood and community to encourage others to manage their garbage, dog food, birdseed — anything that might attract a bear. Keep alert and enjoy the opportunity to see these magnificent animals in their natural habitat.

For more information on the Alberta BearSmart program, please visit www.bearsmart.alberta.ca

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VIEWPOINT

A number of ratepayers and the general public use our website: www.mountainviewcounty.com to access information on Mountain View County. Do you find the website to be a useful tool for accessing information on Mountain View County?

Yes No If no, please explain:

Each year, Mountain View County operates a number of parks for the enjoyment of its residents and the general public. Do you think that the County should provide regional parks? (Feel free to add your comments below)

Yes No If no, please explain:

Fax your response to 403-335-9207; mail it to Mountain View County, Postal Bag 100, Didsbury, Alberta, T0M 0W0; or go online to www.mvcab.ca/views, and fill out our survey. A summary of responses will be printed in the next edition of Mountain Views!

VIEWPOINT RESULTS

You may still vote on the poll from the May issue of Mountain Views online. Please visit: www.mvcab.ca/views.

