

# MANAGEMENT PLAN

Eagle Point - Blue Rapids  
Park System



**International Standard Book Number: 978-0-7785-9416-1**

For more information please contact:

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation

2nd Floor, Oxbridge Place

9820 - 106 Street

Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2J6

Website: <http://www.tpr.alberta.ca/parks/>

Telephone: 780-427-7009

Toll Free: 1-866-427-3582

## **PREFACE**

The Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System Management Plan provides a long-term vision and day-to-day guidance for stewardship of Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. The plan was prepared within the context of existing legislation and regulations. It outlines the type and extent of outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities, facilities and services including the delivery of visitor services programs that assist Albertans and visitors to understand and appreciate our natural heritage while ensuring its ongoing conservation.

The Management Plan was prepared with extensive public input and will be reviewed and revised periodically to reflect the current thinking of Albertans about how our natural heritage will be protected for present and future generations.

The Minister responsible for Parks and Protected Areas has authorized the implementation of the Management Plan and retains the authority to amend or interpret its provisions.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Since the establishment of the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, there have been a number of individuals and volunteer organizations that have contributed countless hours towards the advancement of this document. The belief that a new way of managing a Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area was possible led local volunteer organizations, industry leaseholders, and local municipalities to forge an innovative partnership with Alberta Parks. The development of this Management Plan speaks volumes about the resilience and dedication of the individuals who shared this belief and helped to realize it.

Given the non-profit structure of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council, this document would not have been possible without generous support from the Rural Alberta Development Fund (RADF) and their commitment to helping rural communities build capacity amongst community members and organizations by acting as a catalyst for innovative, collaborative, community-led projects that promote growth, prosperity, and quality of life in rural Alberta.

The Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their dedication and commitment to this project:

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation – Parks Division  
Adjacent landowners, local area residents and the Aboriginal community  
Blue Rapids Motorized Recreation Society  
Brazeau ATV Club  
Brazeau Bowbenders Archery Club  
Drayton Valley Horse Club  
Evergreen Shooting Club  
Oil & Gas Sector (ARC Resources Ltd., Husky Energy Inc.)  
Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development  
Pembina Nordic Ski Club  
Sand & Gravel Sector (Associated Aggregates Inc., Winalta Inc.)

Diana McQueen, MLA – Drayton Valley Calmar  
Wes Tweedle, Reeve - Brazeau County  
Moe Hamdon, Mayor – Town of Drayton Valley

Rural Alberta Development Fund  
Alberta Lottery Fund: Community Initiatives Program  
Community Futures Capital Region  
Drayton Valley Rotary Club  
Canadian Youth Exchange Program

We would also like to extend a special thank you to O2 Planning + Design Inc. who helped us in assimilating many of our thoughts and helped to present them in a clear fashion.

## PREAMBLE

We invite Albertans to make a connection with the natural environment through our parks; to understand how we are part of a larger system – an ecosystem of living things. That connection is paramount to our survival. Our sustainability is a direct result of our ability to co-exist within a natural system.

By working together, Parks' staff, volunteers, stakeholders, partners and the public build a constituency of support for parks. We build a community of people connected to the natural world.

We believe in a set of values – a way of doing business that inspires people to discover, value, protect, and enjoy that natural world and the benefits it provides for current and future generations.

### *Parks within the Provincial Context*

Alberta's prosperity has created opportunities for our economy and people, but it has also created challenges for Alberta's landscapes. Industrial activity, municipal development, infrastructure, recreation, and conservation interests often are competing to use the same piece of land. The competition between user groups creates conflict, and often puts stress on the finite capacity of our land, air, water, and habitat.

To resolve this conflict, the Government of Alberta developed the Land-use Framework (LUF). The purpose of the Land-use Framework is to manage growth, not stop it, and to sustain our growing economy, but balance this with Alberta's social and environmental goals. This is what the Land-use Framework is about – smart growth.

A key player in the management of growth is Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation as it has the responsibility for managing Alberta's provincial parks, recreation and for supporting tourism development. To ensure the management of parks aligns with the Government of Alberta's strategic direction, the *Plan for Parks* was drafted. It outlines key planning elements also found in the Land-use Framework, and both share the following desired outcomes:

- People-friendly communities and recreational opportunities
- Healthy ecosystems and environment
- Sustainable prosperity supported by our land and natural resources

The *Plan for Parks* also provides a foundation for decision making through a set of guiding principles. These guiding principles will help guide complex decision making where needs are diverse and sometimes competing.

The guiding principles are:

- Accountability
- Citizen Engagement
- Collaboration
- Continuous Improvement and Innovation
- Education
- Environmental Leadership
- Inclusion
- Integrated Management
- Knowledge-based Decision-making
- Respectful and Responsive
- Stewardship
- Sustainability

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation will report to Albertans on progress that has been made towards the desired outcomes and milestones in the Ministry Annual Report. This way, Albertans will be able to track the environmental, social, and economic health of Alberta's parks system.

Regional planning under the Land-use Framework will address land use needs across the seven regions of the province. Regional plans developed under the Land-use Framework will provide broad direction to park plans at all scales – from regional parks plans to management plans for specific parks. Where appropriate,

park management plans, such as this document, are completed at a smaller scale prescribing detailed direction for a site or group of related sites, but always within a broader provincial and regional context.

### *Working Together Toward a Common Vision*

We also recognize that unless we manage the environment responsibly, the beautiful landscape we enjoy may cease to exist. Good environmental management positively impacts ecosystems found within park boundaries and the effect is felt throughout the province.

Alberta's *Plan for Parks* reaffirms that we must meet both objectives – recreation and conservation – within Alberta's parks system because they are inextricably linked.

The *Plan for Parks* includes the following vision:

*Alberta's parks inspire people to discover, value, protect and enjoy the natural world and the benefits it provides for current and future generations.*

Key to this vision is the role of Albertans, who will help create the recommendations that guide how their parks are managed.

### *Community Engagement is Integral to Our Success*

The *Plan for Parks* reaffirms a commitment to engage Albertans to ensure informed decisions are made that are sensitive and responsive to public concerns and values. Consultation with our Aboriginal communities, stakeholder groups, partners, and the public is beneficial in planning and decision-making. It helps to identify and gain understanding of key issues; to help fully identify and assess the impacts of options; to ensure that all components of public involvement have been considered; and, to feed information into the decision-making process and to evaluate the results.

The Parks Division believes strongly that meaningful consultation is an essential component of community engagement. The partnerships and relationships developed and nurtured through community engagement are generally long-term and provide an effective assessment of park management.

Aboriginal consultation is a unique process because the Government of Alberta recognizes Aboriginal communities on a government-to-government basis. Consultation between the Parks Division and Aboriginal communities involves information sharing and ongoing relationship building with the objective to reduce or mitigate impacts on Treaty rights and traditional uses on lands administered by the Parks Division.

Community engagement and consultation will continue to be a critical aspect of park management planning processes.

### *Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area are priority sites*

The Eagle Point Provincial Park, as well as Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Areas, are priority sites in the Alberta parks system and were chosen as a priority for management plan development.

Both these areas accommodate a wide range of safe and enjoyable outdoor public recreation use while limiting the impacts of that use on natural and cultural features. Together with the network of designated recreation trails they form a very significant component of the outdoor recreation spectrum in Brazeau County. Both the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area are locally and regionally important as a year-round day-use recreation destination.

The proposed overall management direction for the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area is:

- To provide high quality, safe, and enjoyable diverse recreation experiences for visitors in well designed and maintained facilities
- To support the development of healthy, sustainable tourism activities that complement park features and facilities, as well as nearby community initiatives
- To protect significant natural, cultural, and scenic values within the areas
- To provide interpretation and educational opportunities at appropriate sites
- To create and be engaged in a new and innovative way of working together in the management of Crown lands.

The Eagle Point Provincial Park, as well as Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Areas are a clear illustration of what is possible when those who use the land work together to ensure the conservation, protection and responsible management of a shared resource.

#### *Working collaboratively to foster environmental stewardship*

In the spring of 2004, four recreation organizations and an environmental organization met to respond to the increasing conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreational users on public lands that ultimately culminated in the creation of the Eagle Point Provincial Park, the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, and the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council concept.

#### *A new approach to park management*

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 Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation. Together, the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council and Alberta Parks guide the funding, planning, operations, and management of both the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area for all Albertans.

#### *Our planning process*

Our Management Plan addresses the current state of the natural landscape as it exists today and works to define future relationships between industry and recreational users throughout the area. It illustrates a series of objectives that reflect the recreational and conservation interests of our community, industry representatives, and the Province of Alberta. Developed with input from recreational users, industry representatives, the local community, stakeholders and Aboriginal peoples, this plan sets out a list of specific goals and management strategies with the aim to conserve and enhance the natural and recreational values of the North Saskatchewan River Valley well into the future.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, together referred to as the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System, are newly established protected areas stretching across 53 km of the North Saskatchewan River in Brazeau County, Alberta. Together they protect the natural and cultural landscape features of a contiguous stretch of the North Saskatchewan River riparian corridor. The establishment of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System represents a landmark achievement in community-based park planning and management in Alberta.

The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System is a significant outdoor recreation destination for the residents of central Alberta, providing a diversity of motorized and non-motorized outdoor recreational opportunities. The initiative to create the Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area was an effort to bring better management to the area and to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities as well as to revive, enhance and protect ecological values. As a largely forested riparian corridor, decisions about the management of environmental resources must be made. Important issues include minimizing sediment loading into waterways, respecting minimum instream flow requirements for the North Saskatchewan River, and the conservation of terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species. Any decisions about environmental management in the Park System must consider the importance of successfully co-existing with industry and providing a diversity of recreational activities.

As a framework for overall planning, the Management Plan provides background and descriptive information as well as proposed management objectives and strategies. It also serves to inspire the ethic in which the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System was created: innovative ideas, environmental stewardship, recreation management and community collaboration. The Management Plan will be used primarily by: the Government of Alberta; the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Parks Council; various stakeholders such as volunteers, leaseholders, and special interest groups; and the general public. The overall focus of the management objectives and strategies are:

- To work collaboratively to provide a diverse range of recreation opportunities (facilities, trails, and their associated access areas).
- To conserve important natural and cultural values.
- To encourage a diverse range of user groups to respectfully share the resources within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.
- To create learning and engagement materials, programs, and opportunities that help attract and educate visitors.
- To engage the local community in park opportunities (recreation and stewardship), especially children and youth.
- To engage Aboriginal peoples in park management.
- To increase tourism opportunities in the area.
- To improve park management tools through research, monitoring, and adaptive management.
- To successfully co-exist with industry leaseholders.
- To bring enhanced safety to Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System users.
- To manage the Park System within the larger landscape by engaging in related local and regional planning issues.
- To find innovative ways to fund the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

Established in 2007, the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, together referred to as the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System, are located in central Alberta just east of the Town of Drayton Valley. Together they protect the natural and cultural landscape features of a 53 km stretch of the North Saskatchewan River Valley. The movement to establish new designation was primarily an effort to bring better management to an area that is jointly used for motorized and non-motorized recreation, wildlife habitat, oil and gas extraction, gravel mining, among others. The establishment of the Eagle Point Provincial Park and the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, as well as the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council concept represents a landmark achievement for the Government of Alberta in community-based park planning and management.

## 1.1 *Purpose of the Management Plan*

This document provides a framework for the overall planning, management, and funding of Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. This plan will inform management decisions for a ten-year time period commencing on the date the Management Plan is approved. A review will be conducted after five years.

Guided by Provincial and community goals and objectives, this plan will serve as the foundation for specific management and operational initiatives. It also serves to inspire the very ethic and approach in which the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System was created — innovative ideas, environmental stewardship, recreation management and community collaboration.

*The Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council is  
a collaboration of governments, recreation  
organizations, and other interest groups.*

The Management Plan will be used primarily by Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation – Parks Division (Alberta Parks) as well as the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council (Parks Council), recreation leaseholders (Operating Partners), industry leaseholders, and volunteers. It will also be available to members of the public that have an interest in the management of the Park System. Ultimately, this document will provide information that will assist in the preparation of annual operating plans and budgets.

The development of the Management Plan has been led by the Parks Council with guidance from Alberta Parks. The content of the Management Plan was created collaboratively through extensive consultation with stakeholders, organizations, and members of the public.

## 1.2 *History*

Prior to receiving Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area status on August 29, 2007 (Order in Council 369-2007 and 370-2007, respectively) the area was largely Crown Land managed by the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD). There were also four small provincial protected areas that were included within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System:

- Drayton Valley Natural Area,
- Pembina Field Natural Area,
- North Saskatchewan Natural Area, and
- Washout Saskatchewan Natural Area.

The legacy of land management in the area has resulted in a landscape where a great number of industrial, recreational, and agricultural leases occur in close proximity. This land-use pattern along with a growing number of unmanaged recreational activities resulted in conflicts amongst the different user groups.

In the spring of 2004, four recreation organizations and one environmental organization met to respond to the increasing conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreational users occurring on the lands that would become known as the Eagle Point Provincial Park and the Blue Rapids Park Provincial Recreation Area. This led to a year-long effort to research different options with provincial officials in the Ministries of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) and Community Development, as well as consultations with local municipalities and other stakeholders. Eventually a steering committee was formed and in February 2005, the steering committee submitted a formal proposal to the Government of Alberta on behalf of six local organizations: the Town of Drayton Valley, Brazeau County, and the local Member of Legislative Assembly (Mr. Tony Abbott, MLA Drayton Valley - Calmar). The proposal included:

- The background and rationale for bringing new management to the area.
- A discussion of the value that existing leaseholders could bring to the project.
- The initial proposal for locating the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.
- The initial proposal for leaseholders to fund and operate existing, expanding, and new recreation facilities.
- The possibility of extending the Park System towards the Brazeau Dam, in subsequent phases.

The six local organizations on the steering committee included representatives from the recreational and environmental communities as well as the local municipalities.

Recreation groups represented on the steering committee:

- Brazeau ATV Association
- Brazeau Snowmobile Association
- Pembina Nordic Ski Club
- Pine Valley Motocross Club
- Rotary Club – Drayton Valley (Sponsored Hiking Trails)

Environmental organization represented on the steering committee:

- Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development

Government members on the steering committee:

- Brazeau County
- Town of Drayton Valley
- Mr. Tony Abbott – MLA Drayton Valley - Calmar

On May 3, 2005, representatives of these groups met with the Honourable Gary Marr, Minister of Community Development (now the Ministry of Tourism, Parks and Recreation) and the Honourable David Coumts, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, to discuss the creation of two protected areas, one suitable for non-motorized recreation (a Provincial Park) and one where motorized recreation would occur (a Provincial Recreation Area). Both Ministers conveyed their support in principle for the project and directed departmental

staff to proceed with the detailed work of preparing to confer Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area designations to the land.

The steering committee worked with department officials within the Ministries of Community Development and Sustainable Resource Development to finalize boundaries and obtain additional governmental support. The following government departments had an interest in the lands involved and will continue to play a role in park management as well as adjacent land, wildlife, and resource management:

- Alberta Energy;
- Alberta Environment, Environmental Management Division;
- Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, Transportation and Civil Engineering Division; and
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD), Fish and Wildlife Division.

The steering committee also expanded their consultation with other stakeholders and interest groups, refined their goals and objectives, and secured additional local support and resources to complement those available from the Government of Alberta. As a result, several new groups joined the committee. Support letters for the initiative from oil and gas companies and provincial environmental organizations accompanied the revised proposal that was presented on April 10, 2007 to the Cabinet Policy Committee on Community Services.

On August 29, 2007, Cabinet approved the designation of the Eagle Point Provincial Park and the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. At this time it was agreed that a formal partnership would be created between Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation and a new incorporated organization with representatives from the steering committee. This organization would become to be known as the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council (Parks Council).

### 1.3 Pairing a Provincial Park and a Provincial Recreation Area

It was critical to create both a Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area because of the area's history of diverse use and increasing user conflicts. Although the two designations fall under the *Provincial Parks Act*, both areas have distinctive purposes which are essential to meeting the diverse recreation needs of the community.

The recreation organizations recognized the importance of restricting recreation use to designated areas. They also agreed that not all activities would be permitted to occur in the places where they had previously occurred. Thus, the Eagle Point Provincial Park was created to ensure that non-motorized recreationists such as walkers, hikers, mountain bikers, and cross-country skiers would have a place to go without being disturbed by motorized vehicles. In the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, there would be designated facilities and trails for the motorized recreation community, as well as provisions for hunting.

The following table outlines the significant differences between the Eagle Point Provincial Park and the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.

Recreation Use	Eagle Point Provincial Park	Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area
Off-highway Vehicles (OHVs)	none	On designated routes only
Hunting	none	Permitted, with restrictions

## **1.4 Management Plan Components**

This plan will help to create the framework for future operational and facility plans and will play an important role in the evaluation of the success of the management strategies contained within this document. The Management Plan is structured in the following manner:

**Governance** — Section 1.7 Provincial Plans, Policies and Studies and its subsections address the pieces of legislation, policies, and agreements that are key to governing the Park System. This section also describes who has and will be responsible for implementing improvements and managing, operating, and funding the Park System.

**Strategic Planning Principles** — Section Two highlights the planning principles developed for the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System. These planning principles help guide the management of the Park System.

**Management Objectives and Strategies** — Sections Three through Nine give important background information and management objectives and strategies related to: conservation and protection; learning, engagement, tourism, and community; outdoor recreation and healthy living; adjacent land use and development; public safety and access management; and co-existing with industry.

**From Plan to Action** — The final section, Section 10, outlines performance evaluation systems and procedures such as key metrics to measure progress and performance. Measuring success will help in the Management Plan review and updating process.

## **1.5 Regional Context and Location**

Together the Provincial Park and the Provincial Recreation Area cover a linear area that follows the North Saskatchewan River through Brazeau County stretching from Parkland County (in the north) to Wetaskiwin and Clearwater County (in the south). In total, the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System is 5,585 ha in size, of which Eagle Point Provincial Park is 1,962 ha and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area is 3,623 ha. The entire area is within the Boreal Forest Natural Region, with Eagle Point Provincial Park primarily part of the Dry Mixedwood Subregion and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area almost entirely within the Central Mixedwood Subregion. The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System is a transition between the Lower Foothills Natural Subregion to the west and the Central Parkland Natural Subregion to the east.

## **1.6 Site Significance Statement**

The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System will protect unique natural and cultural landscape values. The area is a significant outdoor recreation destination for the residents of Central Alberta, providing a diversity of unique motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities that allow visitors to tailor their outdoor experience. Traditionally used as hunting and trapping grounds by Aboriginal Peoples and European settlers, the area also has a rich historical heritage. David Thompson (1770 – 1857), the famous fur trader, explorer, and map-maker frequented the area. The Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area are also home to a wide variety of flora and fauna and a unique plant community. Located along the North Saskatchewan River, the Park System provides a wildlife corridor between the Foothills Natural Region, the Boreal Natural Region, and the Aspen Parklands. Increased management in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System will help protect the North Saskatchewan Watershed.

The establishment of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System represents a unique partnership between the Government of Alberta and the local community. The collaboration has resulted in an innovative approach to

community-level park planning, funding and management. Considering the area's long history of industrial use, the management challenge will be to balance recreation and industrial users while maintaining ecological functions. For this reason, management of the Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area will focus on a solution-based approach to conflict resolution.

## **1.7 Provincial Plans, Policies and Studies**

The Parks Council has identified a number of provincial, regional and local plans, policies and studies that will or could influence or inform the development of future operational plans within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System. The following section provides context for the classifications, legislation, and documents that will help govern the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.

### **1.7.1 Alberta Parks and Protected Areas**

Alberta's system of provincial parks came into being when the *Provincial Parks and Protected Areas Act* was passed in 1930. Since that time, the provincial park system has expanded to include over 500 sites of various types from Provincial Recreation Areas to Wilderness Areas, protecting roughly 27,500 square kilometres or 4.2% of the province. With the passing of the *Natural Resources Act* in 1930, the ownership and management responsibilities for land, water, and wildlife shifted from the Federal Government to the Provinces.

Alberta's parks are critical to quality of life, providing recreation opportunities, the tourism economy and the protection of important natural and cultural resources including natural species and historic landmarks. The acknowledgement that Alberta's park system has been strained by the pressures of a growing population resulted in the creation of the *Plan for Parks* (Alberta TPR, 2009). In addition to providing broad management direction, the *Plan for Parks* will help shape the detailed operational plans for individual parks and helps to identify short- and long-term actions as well as a framework for decision making.

The document established a planning framework by:

- Articulating a vision for provincial parks - "Alberta's parks inspire people to discover, value, protect, and enjoy the natural world and the benefits it provides for current and future generations;" (p. 16)
- Articulating the purpose of the provincial Park System;
- Describing the desired outcomes;
- Outlining the role of government in meeting the outcomes;
- Specifying principles that will guide decisions;
- Outlining an accountability reporting mechanism; and
- Providing a list of priority actions or province-wide initiatives:
  - *Involve Albertans* – Albertans want more involvement in decisions about parks and in the delivery of parks programs
  - *Offer modern facilities, policies and programs* – Albertans want modern amenities, more inclusive facilities and well-maintained trails
  - *Provide recreation opportunities* – Albertans want more access to recreation opportunities
  - *Conserve landscapes* – Albertans want to protect the environment and culturally significant areas.

The establishment of both a Provincial Park and a Provincial Recreation Area was done to balance and better manage recreation pressures and ecological needs. The following illustrates the main differences between a Provincial Park and a Provincial Recreation Area as identified under Alberta Parks' system of parks and protected areas classifications:

## Provincial Parks

- Protect both natural and cultural landscapes and features.
- Are distinguished from wildland parks by their greater range of outdoor recreation facilities, the extent of road access, and the interpretive and educational programs and facilities that are available to visitors.
- Offer outdoor recreation activities that promote appreciation of a park's natural heritage and cultural features
- Offer a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and support facilities.
- Interpretive and educational programs that enhance visitor understanding and appreciation of, and respect for, Alberta's natural heritage (without damaging natural values) are offered in some Provincial Parks; these programs serve visitors of diverse interests, ages, physical capabilities and outdoor skills (Department of Tourism, Parks and Recreation, 2007).

## Provincial Recreation Areas

- Protect both natural and cultural landscapes and features.
- Support a range of outdoor activities in natural, modified, and man-made settings.
- Are managed with outdoor recreation as the primary objective.
- May be intensively developed or largely undeveloped.
- May play a significant role in the management of adjacent Crown Lands and waters by localizing the impact of development and serving as staging areas (Department of Tourism, Parks and Recreation, 2007).

Although they are two distinct areas, the Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area will be managed as one continuous landscape and a similar management approach will be taken with both. This plan addresses both the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. The Management Plan will make clear where management direction will differ between the areas. More specific information regarding Alberta's provincial park system areas can be found within the following legislation:

- *Alberta Provincial Parks Act (P-35 RSA 2000)*
- *Alberta Provincial Parks Amendments Act (27/2006)*
- *Alberta Provincial Parks Regulations (102/1985)*
- *Alberta Parks (Dispositions) Regulation (241/1977)*

Alberta Parks' goals also help guide management decisions within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.

Alberta Parks' Goals for Parks and Protected Areas:

- *Conservation & Protection* – Parks conserve Alberta's natural heritage and associated cultural heritage for current and future generations.
- *Outdoor Recreation & Healthy Living* – Parks provide diverse, enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities that contribute to healthy lifestyles.
- *Learning & Engagement* – Parks offer an opportunity to learn about, appreciate and care for Alberta's natural and cultural heritage.
- *Tourism & Community* – Parks foster sustainable, nature-based experiences for Albertans and visitors that contribute to the economic and social fabric of Alberta.

### 1.7.2 Land-use Framework (LUF) and Regional Park Planning

Alberta has entered a new era of land-use and resource planning – regional planning. Together Alberta's *Land-use Framework* and the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* formalize regional planning in the province by establishing a planning process and designating seven geographic areas that must plan regionally. The Eagle Point Blue Rapids Park System is within the LUF North Saskatchewan Planning Region. The Land-use Framework regional plans will not directly impact or change the management intent of the Eagle Point Blue Rapids Park System. It could however impact the priority of land-use around the Park System and within the region. As this management plan acknowledges that the Park System is part of the larger landscape, there may be portions of this management plan that will help to inform the regional planning process for lands directly adjacent as well as lands in the western portion of the region. Opportunities for further conservation, recreation and tourism areas and enhanced management within the local region will be explored within the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan. This new regional planning initiative has the potential to build on and enhance the goals of the Park System and the Parks Council for the region.

Regional Park Plans will be developed to implement the LUF regional plans. The Park System will be included in the North Saskatchewan Regional Park Plan. The regional park plan will bring together the direction of the LUF regional plan, the goals and outcomes of the Plan for Parks and the individual management plans of the region, such as this one. This coordinated and regional planning approach will enhance the effectiveness, connectivity and the many benefits of the existing and new parks in the North Saskatchewan Region.

Once created and approved by the Province, regional plans will be binding on municipalities, provincial departments and other decision makers. Over the next few years, this ambitious planning process will unfold across the Alberta with plans for the South Saskatchewan and Lower Athabasca already underway.

### 1.7.3 Alberta Recreation Corridor and Trails Classification System

The *Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System Management Plan* directs the Parks Council and its Operating Partners to use the *Alberta Recreation Corridor and Trails Classification System* (Alberta Recreation Corridors Coordinating Committee, 2009) in the construction and upgrading of Park System trails. A range of trail types have been proposed or discussed for the Park System including: mixed-use trails, motorized use trails, non-motorized use trails, water use trails and extreme use trails. Guidelines from the manual are outlined throughout this document and available on the Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation website at <http://tpr.alberta.ca/recreation/trails/pdf/RecCorridorsManual.pdf>.

### 1.7.4 The North Saskatchewan River Basin Integrated Watershed Management Plan

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) is the official Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC) for the North Saskatchewan River watershed. The Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System lies completely within this watershed and the Management Plan addresses how the Parks Council will work with the WPAC. A Parks Council strategy listed under Section 7.3 is to: *Support and work cooperatively with the North Saskatchewan River Watershed Alliance on initiatives that align with the goals of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.*

NSWA has embarked on an Integrated Watershed Management planning process that will identify land issues affecting water and make sub-basin management recommendations. In addition to the Integrated Watershed Management Plan, NSWA is also involved in assessing water quality, water supply, and watershed ecosystem components as well as stakeholder engagement.

## 1.8 The Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council (Parks Council)

The Parks Council is a unique model of collaboration and the first of its kind for Alberta Parks. Similar multi-stakeholder organizations exist in the province, such as the Clean Air Strategic Alliance which has been recognized internationally for its collaborative, consensus-based decision making approach to improving air quality in the province. The Parks Council and its 16 member Board of Directors work in collaboration with Alberta Parks with each Director representing one of three membership categories (e.g. Government, Operating Partner, Interest Group). Within each membership category the following director seats are allocated:

### Government (4 seats):

1. Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation – Parks Division - Regional Office (Planning and Policy level)
2. Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation – Parks Division - District Office (Operational level)
3. Brazeau County
4. Town of Drayton Valley

### Operating Partners (8 seats):

1. Pembina Nordic Ski Club
2. Eagle Point Park Trails Association (a partnership between the Drayton Valley Rotary Club and the Pembina Nordic Ski club)
3. Blue Rapids Motorized Recreation Society (a partnership between the Brazeau Snowmobile Association and Pine Valley Motocross Club)
4. Brazeau Bowbenders Archery Club
5. Evergreen Shooting Club
6. Drayton Valley Horse Club
7. Brazeau ATV Club
8. Drayton Valley Paddling Club and the Central Alberta Jet Boat Association

### Interest Group (4 seats):

1. The Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development (PIAD)
2. Oil & Gas representatives
3. Sand & Gravel representatives
4. Association of Adjacent Landowners

Alberta Parks may decide to move to one seat on the Parks Council, once the Department deems the Park System is fully operational.

Prior to formal designation of the Park System, the following goals were established by the Parks Council; in conjunction with Alberta Parks' goals, these will help guide management decisions within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.

### Parks Council Goals:

- To ensure sound land-use planning and management of Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area for recreation and environmental protection in the public interest, while accommodating existing recreational lease holders and co-existing with existing industrial activity already permitted in the area.
- To enhance quality of life for local residents and for all Albertans, by providing a diverse range of high quality outdoor recreational opportunities and services and adequately protected green spaces and natural landscapes.
- To maximize synergies and minimize conflicts among different types of stakeholders and user groups, and find creative and innovative ways to develop and deliver recreation services and activities.

- To help protect the North Saskatchewan River watershed and ensure long-term protection of remaining wilderness and natural spaces and environmentally sensitive lands along the Drayton Valley / Brazeau County section of the North Saskatchewan River Valley.
- To contribute to regional economic development, help diversify the local economy and facilitate the growth of a vibrant and sustainable tourism industry.
- To facilitate an effective collaboration between local municipalities, volunteer-based recreation and service organizations and Alberta Parks in the planning, funding, and delivery of Alberta's environmental protection and outdoor recreational goals for protected areas.
- To receive donations and raise funds; build, purchase, lease or otherwise acquire equipment, buildings or leaseholder improvements; and support and mobilize volunteers or hire staff or enter into such other contracts or service agreements as may be necessary from time to time to achieve the objectives of the Council.

### 1.8.1 *The Operating Partners*

Since the 1970s, local non-profit recreation organizations have maintained recreation trails and facilities in what is now the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System. Under the *Provincial Parks Act*, any lease that was held prior to the establishment of a Provincial Park or a Provincial Recreation Area must be honoured. The cooperative approach to park management in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System allows the Operating Partners to play an active role as both representatives on the Parks Council as well as in operating and expanding their current trails and facilities for public use.

The Operating Partners have been tasked with applying best management practices in facility design and operations. Although the Operating Partners are not-for-profit organizations, they are permitted to collect user fees; however, revenues from fees must be used within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.

Throughout the park creation process, the Operating Partners recognized the benefits that they would see from long-term management and controlled recreational use on public lands, as well as the benefits of working collaboratively with Alberta Parks. These benefits included, but were not limited to:

- Dedicated Provincial resources to support increased enforcement of regulations and the development of proper facilities;
- Increased environmental protection while still accommodating the need for increased public recreation trail and facilities;
- Reduced vandalism of leaseholder facilities;
- Fewer conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreational users; and
- Higher quality trails, campgrounds, river launches, and other facilities needed to handle the ever-growing number of public users in a sustainable manner.

### 1.8.2 *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*

A legal document known as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines many of the roles and responsibilities for the ongoing management and operation of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System (Appendix A). The MOU illustrates the key principles and understandings reached between the various parties during the process of creating the collaborative relationship between Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation and the Parks Council. The MOU established roles and responsibilities for:

- Public consultation and communications;
- Management planning; and
- Ongoing management and operations.

The current MOU will expire on December 31, 2018. Before this date, the Parks Council and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation will extend, amend and renew, or replace the MOU. A review of the MOU will commence no later than January 15, 2018.

### 1.8.3 Shared Responsibilities – Shared Funding

In June 2007, the Northern Alberta Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society released an extensive report entitled, *The State of Alberta's Parks and Protected Areas: Challenges and Opportunities for Ensuring Ecological Integrity*. The study found that like many park agencies across the world, Alberta Parks does not have sufficient funding to effectively manage and protect the Province's network of Provincial Parks and Protected Areas. For this reason, it is imperative that dedicated, sustainable funding for parks is also provided at the community level. The Parks Council, together with its Operating Partners, will be working with Alberta Parks and other government agencies to secure adequate funding for both staff resources and facilities. Funding sources include, but are not limited to: in-kind and private donations, grants, dedicate revenue sources, and corporate partners (See Section 10, Plan to Action).

The MOU states that the Parks Council and the Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation will review and pursue viable funding options to offset costs incurred by the Parks Council and/or the Operating Partners in providing services to the public and the ongoing operation of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System which are normally the responsibility of the department to provide.

The Parks Council is responsible for developing a comprehensive Fundraising Strategy as well as a Financial Sustainability Plan and as such is also responsible for supporting its Operating Partners in their fundraising efforts (See Sections 10.3 and 10.7).

### 1.8.4 Co-existence and Accommodation - Energy Development and Gravel Extraction

Extensive oil and gas developments occur in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System. Industrial leaseholders were supportive of the proposal to designate Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area because existing extraction leases would be honoured and they would have the added benefits of increased cooperation, managed recreation, and new efforts to protect industrial facilities from vandalism. Working cooperatively with the oil and gas leaseholders was, and continues to be, vital to the shared management agreement with the Parks Council. Section 9 further addresses how park management will strive to successfully co-exist with oil and gas leaseholders.

In addition to oil and gas, there are also sand and gravel extraction and sorting leases in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System. Within the *Provincial Parks Act*, sand and gravel extraction and/or mining are not permitted. However, during the Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area creation process, it was determined that the current leases, and accommodation of future needs, could be held under Section 7 designation of the *Provincial Parks Act* which permits the Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation to assign a future park status to the leases. The following were just a few steps taken in order to co-exist with sand and gravel exploration:

- Lands that did not have ongoing sand or gravel extraction operations were included in the Park System;
- The land needed to access sand and gravel resources (including active pits and those resources identified for future development) were identified and have been placed under Section 7 of the *Provincial Parks Act* and are subject to some provisions of the Act;
- All parties agreed that no new sand and gravel leases will be approved; and

- When industry no longer has interest in lease holding, the Section 7 land will be reclaimed in a way that complements and supports the long-term goals and objectives of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks and Alberta Parks.

### 1.8.5 *The Consultation and Engagement Process*

Feedback from public and First Nations consultation informed the development of this management plan. The extensive consultation and communication process was spearheaded by the Parks Council and was endorsed by Alberta Parks. The ability of the Parks Council to engage the community throughout the early stages of the planning process has never before been attempted by Alberta Parks. The Parks Council placed considerable effort and value in the engagement of the local community and First Nations during the management planning process. Community level feedback was incorporated in the management plan and will continue to play a significant role in future operating and management decisions.

Throughout this process, a number of Albertans, many of whom are local residents, had the opportunity to provide feedback on ideas, contribute to a growing body of local knowledge, and voice concerns.

Public consultation on the draft management plan began early on in 2008 as initial feedback forms were collected and the information received helped to establish the groundwork on which the management plan for the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System was built. The Parks Council's commitment to community engagement continued with the initial release of the draft management strategies in February 2010. The release of these documents formed the basis for the second round of public engagement that occurred until March 2010 and included such activities as extended office hours, public forums and formal presentations.

Facility concept designs were released in June 2010 and helped to provide a visual representation of what members of the Parks Council were proposing in terms of facility plans and enhancements. This information was distributed in the *Western Review* as a four-page centrefold, and made available online and displayed in the Parks Council's office.

Public consultation on the entire draft management plan began on July 22, 2010 with a promotional barbecue and the 3rd Annual Parks Day celebration. Electronic copies of the draft management plan and survey forms were distributed, and placed online. Printed copies were made available in the Parks Council's office as well as in the Town, County and Grande Alberta's Economic Region's office. The following communications tools were used during consultation:

- Website, electronic distribution of information, online surveys and questionnaires;
- Advertising, promotions and media releases through local and Provincial mediums;
- Mailings, phone calls, and one-on-one meetings;
- Information sharing sessions and focus group discussions with target audiences and interest groups; and
- Public open houses, public forums and Town/County Council meetings.

The public consultation process was scheduled to allow all Albertans the opportunity to bring suggestions and offer advice on the ongoing process of developing a sustainable balance of diverse recreational opportunities and environmental protection both within the Eagle Point Provincial Park and the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. Public consultation on the draft management plan ended on September 30, 2010.

## 2 STRATEGIC PLANNING PRINCIPLES

In 2009, the Government of Alberta released the *Plan for Parks*, a plan which is intended to be a blueprint to guide decisions for managing parks within the Province of Alberta. This long-term plan will help to ensure the sustainability of natural landscapes, enhance recreational opportunities and help to improve the quality of life for all Albertans. Alberta's *Plan for Parks* will not only "*inspire people to discover, value, protect, and enjoy the natural world and the benefits it provides for current and future generations,*" (Alberta TPR, 2009) but also aligns closely with the province's Land-use Framework, and will play a key role in achieving the objectives for responsible land use within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.

Similarly in 2009, the Parks Council formally adopted the following vision and mission statements:

*Vision: A sustainable balance of diverse recreational opportunities and environmental protection for all to enjoy in the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.*

*Mission: To enhance and protect the Eagle Point Provincial Park and the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area by working collaboratively with our partners to implement innovative park planning, funding and management for the benefit and public enjoyment of current and future generations.*

Through the mission and vision, the following planning principles guide the development of management objectives and strategies for the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

### Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living

- a) Through our programs, facilities, and infrastructure, we strive to increase the quality of life of our visitors by providing a diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities.
- b) Visitors have the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of recreation activities provided through the collaborative efforts of the Parks Council, Alberta Parks, the Operating Partners, volunteers, and other stakeholders.
- c) Decisions about recreation facility design consider the physical and economic accessibility of Albertans.

### Co-existing with Industry

- a) To honour existing mineral leases, rights, and the associated development requirements of industry.
- b) Decision-making is informed by the long-term goal of reclaiming industrial land.
- c) Through greater collaboration with industry park safety improves.

### Tourism and Economic Development

- a) Strive to contribute to local community economic development by promoting the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System's tourism opportunities.
- b) To encourage and promote complimentary municipal land use planning for the adjacent lands, and educate adjacent landowners on opportunities for complementary residential development or tourism and recreational development on nearby private lands.

### Learning and Community

- a) The current and traditional relationship of Aboriginal peoples to the parks is respected.
- b) Visitors have easy access to interpretive, education, and visitor information.
- c) Recreation user groups, visitors, community members, industry leaseholders, and other stakeholders are encouraged to become engaged in the stewardship of the park's resources.

- d) Programming decisions reflect a commitment to engaging children and youth in outdoor recreation and nature learning opportunities.

#### Conservation and Protection

- a) Management decisions consider long-term ecological health.
- b) Management decisions consider the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System within the broader landscape.
- c) Strive to employ new and innovative management techniques and sustainable technologies.
- d) Work to ensure that natural and cultural features (including scenic resources) continue to be identified, researched, and protected and/or interpreted, as appropriate.
- e) All infrastructure development will utilize the Environmental Review Assessment and Historic Resource Impact Assessment.
- f) Architecture maintains a sense of the area's natural and cultural heritage, landscape, and sense of place.

### 3 PARK LAND-USE ZONING

Zoning is a tool that is used to carry out planning policies. While usually thought of in urban settings, zoning is useful for park and protected areas management because it regulates the type and location of development and activities. Given the area's history of unmanaged recreation access and the importance of striking an appropriate balance between the various recreation groups, industrial leaseholders, and conservation interests, zoning is an important first step in rationalizing land use decisions in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.

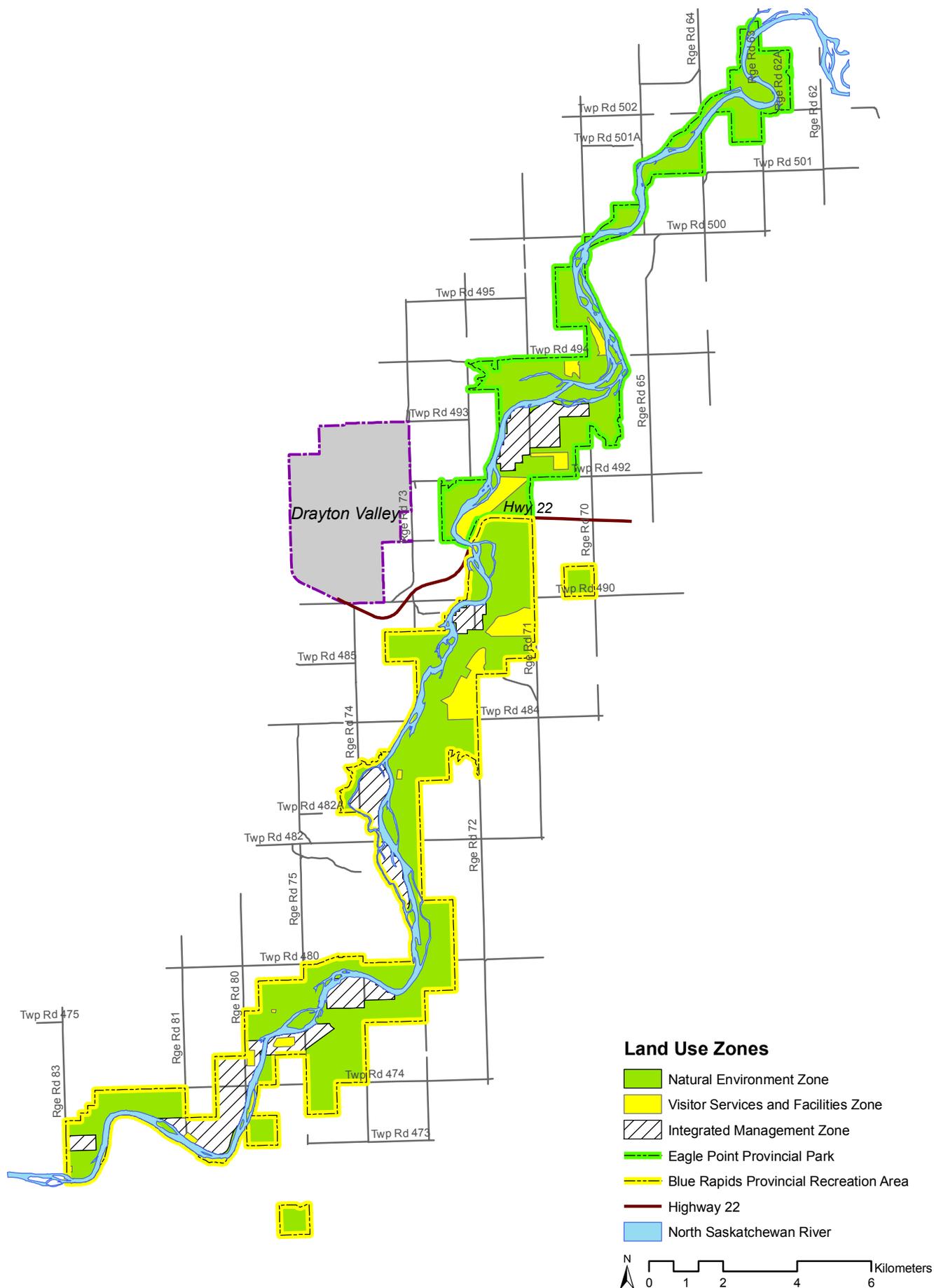
#### 3.1 Park Management Zoning

The use of land zoning reflects the need for geographically defined areas that can be classified based on preservation requirements, visitor services, outdoor recreation, or heritage tourism activities. Alberta Parks has established seven land-use zoning classifications for the management planning of Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas; however, only three are currently used in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System (See Map 1, Zoning).

Alberta Parks Zoning Classifications are shown below. They have been adapted within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System as indicated in italics.

- **Visitor Services and Facility Zone** – This zone is used in provincial parks and provincial recreation areas and may include tourism facilities and visitor services that support both day use and overnight accommodation, including auto-access campgrounds. *In the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System, this zone will also support access routes and areas, parking lots, and staging areas.*
- **Natural Environment Zone** - The natural environment zone encompasses natural environments and provides opportunities for appreciation and enjoyment of natural heritage values through a variety of outdoor recreation, nature-based tourism, education and interpretive opportunities and programs. Activities that bring visitors into close contact with nature, such as walk-in camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, equestrian riding, mountain biking and nature appreciation programs, are encouraged. Interpretation and education services may include self-guided trails, displays and guided programs. *In the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, this zone will also support motorized recreation. Within the Natural Environment Zone, there are a number of industrial leaseholders that currently extract oil and gas. These are existing commitments that were agreed to when the protected area designation was given. As these resources are exhausted, these areas will be reclaimed to be consistent with the rest of the zone.*
- **Integrated Management Zone** - This zone includes lands where such activities as improved grazing, petroleum and natural gas exploration and development are normally permitted, however, industrial activities are carried out in accordance with defined management guidelines and, where possible, are directed toward improving outdoor recreation opportunities. Recreational use is permitted, as long as it does not conflict with resource industries. Use of off-highway vehicles may be accommodated within the integrated management zone on designated routes. Education and interpretive programs may be provided to explain the effects of resource use on the environment. Facilities are generally limited to trails and signs. *In the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System, this zone supports those areas designated as Section 7 lands with existing sand and gravel mining activities occurring in both the Provincial Park and the Provincial Recreation Area.*

# Map 1. Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area - Land Use



## 4 CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION

The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System is home to important natural resources, providing wildlife habitat, ecological services, and flood mitigation. The area also has important recreation value for central Albertans that use it for a diverse range of outdoor activities. An appropriate balance between conservation and recreation should be achieved that ensures the natural and cultural values of the Park System are protected.

### 4.1 Climate

Long term temperature and precipitation data are collected at climate stations throughout Alberta. However, because there is no consistent climate data for Drayton Valley, data from Rocky Mountain House, which has a similar climate to Drayton Valley, was used. The average annual precipitation in Rocky Mountain House is 535 mm (21 inches), with approximately 65% falling between the months of April and August (Environment Canada, 2008). Peak precipitation is often associated with storms that occur in June and July. Figure 1 provides average monthly temperature information.

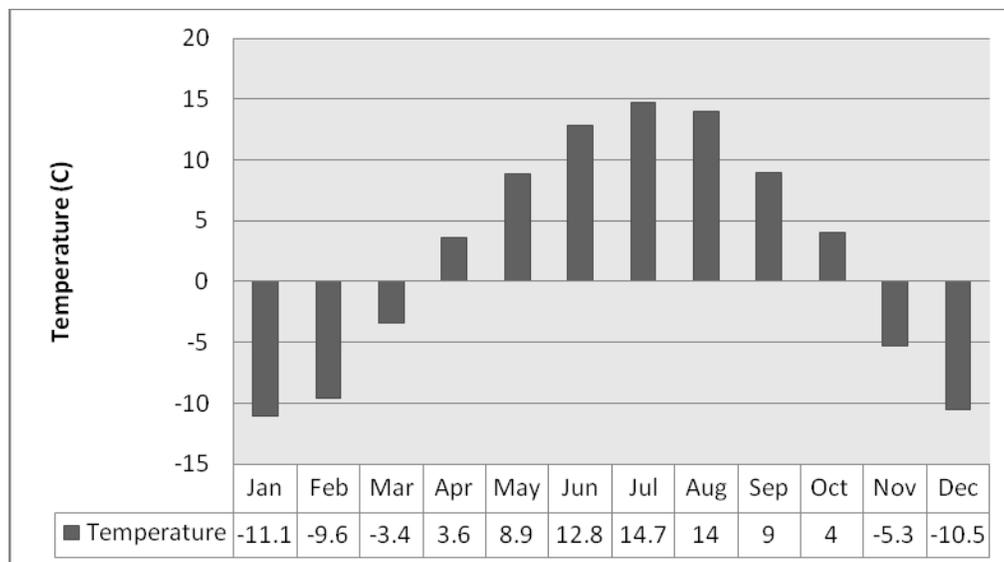


Figure 1. Average Monthly Temperature (Average monthly temperature for Rocky Mountain House (Environment Canada, 2008)).

### 4.2 Geology, Landforms and Soils

Thousands of years of erosive power carved out the North Saskatchewan River Valley. The river valley is the dominant feature in a landscape that includes river valley cliffs, an abandoned river channel, ravines, and coulees.

The area's landscape is the product of several continental glaciations, the last of which occurred during the Pleistocene Epoch, roughly 10,000 years ago. A layer of well-worked glacial till, often clay-rich with embedded coarse gravels and cobbles, blankets most of the region at depths up to 10 metres or more (Shetsen, 1990 and Shetsen, 2007). Beneath glacial deposits lies bedrocks of the Paleocene Paskapoo formation that form a complex dominated by coarse, soft sandstones, with siltstone, limestone, conglomerates, and occasional coal seams. These rock layers are revealed on outcrops exposed by the river.

Most of the post-glacial surface that lies within the borders of the parks area has been re-worked over time by the erosive power of the North Saskatchewan River, so that few landforms of glacial origin remain. Uplands outside the parks are of glacio-lacustrine origin, featuring glacial outwash channels, relict sand dunes, and morainal deposits (Shetsen, 1990).

Within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System there are localized examples of ice-thrust moraines, consisting of perturbed stony debris of local bedrock origin, along with mixed tills and water-sorted sediments. These local examples of ice-thrust moraines are characterized by thick deposits of unconsolidated drift thrown into drumlin-like hills that stand 30 to 50 metres above the surrounding landscape.

Soils in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System consist mainly of grey wooded forest soils of the Luvisolic order. These soils typify the upland areas above the valley, and on older, well established terraces in the valley itself. On the active floodplain, soils of the Regosolic order are most common. These soils are poorly developed, with coarse river-worked parent materials at or just below the surface (Lindsay, et al., 1968). Surveys by the Public Lands staff in 1980 on the former Drayton Valley and Washout Creek Natural Areas confirmed the presence of Orthic Grey Luvisols on uplands, and Cumulic Gleysols and Cumulic Regosols on the valley floor where periodic deposition of silt and gravel by the North Saskatchewan River occurs during flood cycles (McIsaac, 1980).

The North Saskatchewan River Valley within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System is characterized by frequent deeply incised ravines that drain surrounding uplands. Aerial photographs and topographic maps show this section of the river valley to be dissected by roughly 40 ravines, 14 of which have permanent streams.

Ravines are an important ecological feature of the river valley. They provide sheltered travel corridors that allow mammals and birds to move from upland areas to the various habitats in the river valley proper. Anecdotal observations in the North Saskatchewan River Valley show the ravines to be favoured travel corridors for ungulates, evidenced by frequent and heavily used game trails. Many of these ravines have attracted beavers who often build dams and ponds.

#### **4.3 Water Resources**

A significant portion of this North Saskatchewan River's annual discharge comes from the Rocky Mountains, where its headwaters are fed by six glaciers and numerous foothill and mountain stream tributaries, including the Cline, Brazeau, and Nordegg Rivers. As water management, including water quality and the aquatic environment of the North Saskatchewan River is primarily the responsibility of Alberta Environment, the Parks Council and Alberta Parks will work in conjunction with Alberta Environment to further the goals set forth in the Government of Alberta's Water for Life Action Plan.

Annual streamflow rates for the North Saskatchewan River average 200 m<sup>3</sup>/s, but can be as high as 800 m<sup>3</sup>/s during flood events. Flow rates peak in July because of the combination of glacier melt water and summer precipitation (Schindler, et al., 2005). The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance contracted Golder Associates to outline potential scientific methods for determining instream water needs – an assessment of the flow levels and water quality requirements for protecting aquatic ecosystems and other uses. An Instream Needs assessment will form one component of the North Saskatchewan River Basin Integrated Watershed Management Plan which is currently in development (See Section 7.2, Coordinating Plans). Stream flow rates are modified by the presence of two hydroelectric dams in the river's headwaters - the Bighorn Dam near the Town of Nordegg and the Brazeau Dam on the Brazeau River. These dams are used to generate electricity at peak demand hours, and their operation causes noticeable changes in diurnal water level.

The North Saskatchewan River is part of the larger Saskatchewan River Watershed that eventually drains into Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. Water quality in the North Saskatchewan River is impacted by natural, human, non-point, and point sources and as water flows downstream, nutrient, bacteriological, and chemical pollution accumulates. Dissolved oxygen decreases downstream of major urban areas due to waste water releases (North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, 2009).

#### **4.4 Wildlife**

Wildlife is vital to the ecology of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System and contributes immensely to visitor experience and the attractiveness of the area. While animals are abundant in the region, to date, no comprehensive biological inventory has been completed. Information on wildlife species in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System comes from local knowledge, wildlife surveys completed on nearby lands, and regional surveys. As wildlife management is primarily the responsibility of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD), the Parks Council and Alberta Parks will work in conjunction with SRD in reviewing and supporting SRD's wildlife management efforts within the Park System.

##### **4.4.1 Birds**

While no inventory of bird species has been completed, there have been bird surveys undertaken on nearby lands. These surveys are the best resource for predicting what species are likely to occur within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. The most comprehensive and recent survey was completed in 2004 within the Drayton Valley Weyerhaeuser Forest Management Area (Aspen Ecological Consulting, 2004).

There have been notable observations of uncommon bird species collected over the past decade by local naturalists. There are occasional spring sightings of migrating lazuli buntings (*Passerina amoena*). There are also historic records of peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrines*) nesting in the Provincial Recreation Area (Allen, 2008 and Court, 2007). Peregrine falcons are listed as Threatened under Canada's *Species at Risk Act* and classified as At Risk provincially in the 2005 *General Status of Alberta Wild Species* report (Sustainable Resource Development, 2005). Sixteen bird species classified as Sensitive in the 2005 *General Status of Alberta Wild Species* report have been observed in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System:

- great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*)
- osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
- bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- northern pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*)
- barred owl (*Strix varia*)
- great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*)
- green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*)
- lesser scaup (*Aythya affinis*)
- northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)
- sora (*Porzana carolina*)
- pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)
- least flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*)
- eastern phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*)
- barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
- common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)
- Baltimore oriole (*Icterus galbula*)

Appendix B provides a list of birds known and expected within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System, compiled from the personal observations of several local birders, the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Alberta*, Weyerhaeuser's 2004 Drayton Valley Forest Management Area Breeding Bird Survey, and *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*. The completeness and accuracy of this list will be improved over time as additional biological surveys are completed.

#### 4.4.2 Mammals

Of the large mammal species present in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System, the most common are white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), which can be seen with great regularity along the North Saskatchewan River, and in natural or human-made clearings. Moose (*Alces alces*) are also abundant, as evidenced by frequent tracks, beds, and browsing. Cougar (*Felis concolor*) and black bear (*Ursus americanus*) are known to live in the area as well as occasional and unconfirmed sightings of wolves (*Canus lupus*).

Beavers (*Castor canadensis*) are a keystone species in the North Saskatchewan River Valley. Beavers are numerous in the main river channel, quiet backwaters, and abandoned oxbow lakes. Beavers build extensive dam systems on the creeks that enter the valley throughout the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. Besides maintaining ponds, beavers modify the local habitat by cutting down trees.

Habitat exists within the Park System for five species categorized as either "May Be At Risk" or "Sensitive" in the 2005 *General Status of Alberta Wild Species* report (Sustainable Resource Development, 2005):

- long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*), May Be At Risk
- silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), Sensitive
- hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), Sensitive
- fisher (*Martes pennanti*), Sensitive
- Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Sensitive

A list of observed and expected mammal species is included as Appendix C.

#### 4.4.3 Reptiles and Amphibians

As indicator species, amphibian and reptile populations can be used as barometers of water quality and general habitat health. They are also an important part of the food chain, providing nutrition for birds, fish, and small mammals.

Although not observed in the area for many years, potential habitat exists within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System for the northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*), a species of Special Concern under the *Species at Risk Act* and classified as At Risk in the 2005 *General Status of Alberta Wild Species* report (Sustainable Resource Development, 2005). The western toad (*Bufo boreas*) exists in the area and is listed as a species of Special Concern under the *Species at Risk Act* and classified as Sensitive in the 2005 *General Status of Alberta Wild Species* report. While uncommon, the Canadian toad (*Bufo hemiophrys*), classified provincially as May Be At Risk (Sustainable Resource Development, 2005), has been reported in the area. The red-sided garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) occurs in the area and is listed provincially as Sensitive (Sustainable Resource Development, 2005).

Appendix D lists observed and expected reptile and amphibian species.

#### 4.4.4 Fish

The North Saskatchewan River is home to some 33 fish species. Of these, the most commonly observed in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System are:

- northern pike (*Esox lucius*)
- rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
- burbot (*Lota lota*)
- walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum*)
- goldeye (*Hiodon alosoides*)
- spottail shiner (*Notropis hudsonius*)
- white sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*)

Occasionally, lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) are observed in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System, which is of significance because they are listed as Threatened under the *Provincial Wildlife Act* and are being considered for federal listing as Endangered in Western Canada (Lake Sturgeon Recovery Team, 2009).

Habitat exists in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System for four fish species classified as either At Risk, May Be At Risk, or Sensitive in the 2005 *General Status of Alberta Wild Species* report:

- lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*), At Risk
- spoonhead sculpin (*Cottus ricei*), May Be At Risk
- sauger (*Sander Canadensis*), Sensitive
- northern redbelly dace (*Phoxinus eos*), Sensitive

The silver redhorse (*Moxostoma anisurum*) may also occur in parts of the North Saskatchewan River that flow through the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. This species is currently classified as Undetermined.

Appendix E lists fish species expected in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

#### 4.5 Vegetation

The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System is primarily forested. Forests located on active floodplains consist mainly of young stands of balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) with a shrub layer predominantly comprised of various willow and alder species. Gravel bars occupy a significant portion of the North Saskatchewan River Valley floor. These gravel bars are seasonally flooded and are constantly being reworked by spring snowmelt and summer flooding events. Newer deposits are often devoid of vegetation, while older deposits may be colonized by sweet clover (*Melilotus spp.*), various alien weed species, native and non-native grasses, and other disturbance-adapted herbaceous species.

On higher ground throughout the area, mature mixedwood forests composed of mixed balsam poplar, aspen poplar (*Populus tremuloides*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and white spruce (*Picea glauca*) are common. Shrubs in these forests include red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), alder (*Alnus spp.*), willow (*Salix spp.*), and prickly rose (*Rosa spp.*). Typical boreal herbs and mosses in these areas include feather mosses, twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*), wild lily of the valley (*Maianthemum canadense*), star-flowered Solomon's seal (*Smilacina stellata*), and grasses such as rough-leaved ricegrass (*Oryzopsis asperifolia*), and various sedges. Large, old growth trees can be found on some terraces and larger islands where they have been sheltered from fires and other disturbances (See Map 2 and 3, Biophysical Features). The occasional balsam fir grows in some mature spruce-dominated forests.

Vigorous pine forests grow in areas with very sandy soils, notably on certain uplands in the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. In these forests, ericaceous plants such as common bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) and grasses form the dominant ground cover. Blueberries (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*), strawberries (*Fragaria spp.*), and other fruit-bearing plants are common. Open areas on well-drained soils feature abundant beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*), pin cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*), spreading dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*), and silverberry (*Elaeagnus commutata*). The loose, sandy soils make these areas highly susceptible to damage caused by off highway vehicle travel. Trails in these areas are deeply rutted and appear to recover slowly.

Mosses, lichens, and fungi are abundant throughout most forested plant communities in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. Mature forests may be carpeted with the classic boreal forest feather mosses (e.g., *Hylocomium splendens*, *Ptilium crista-castrensis*, and *Pleurozium schreberi*). Wetter locations at the bottom of slopes and in low pockets may also contain sphagnum (*Sphagnum spp.*), various species of *Mnium spp.*, and the distinctive *Climacium dendroides*. Common fungi in the region represent various genera, including *Boletus*, *Russula*, *Coprinus*, *Fomes*, *Agaricus*, *Amanita*, *Morchella* (morels), and *Pleurotus*. The region's lichens are also typical of a boreal forest. Typical lichens found in local river valley forests include *Peltigera aphthosa*, *Cladonia* and *Cladina spp.*, *Xanthoria spp.*, *Parmelia sulcata*, and *Usnea spp.*

Rare and uncommon plants in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System that have been identified to date include (Appendix F):

- tall blue lettuce (*Lactuca biennis*), Rare

- flat-fruited meadowrue (*Thalictrum sparsiflorum*), Uncommon
- floating-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), Uncommon
- golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium iowense*), Uncommon
- high-bush cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*), Uncommon
- ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), Uncommon
- purple peavine (*Lathyrus venosus*), Uncommon
- white adder's mouth (*Malaxis monophylla*), Uncommon

Appendix F lists the vascular plant species observed in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System in 2008.

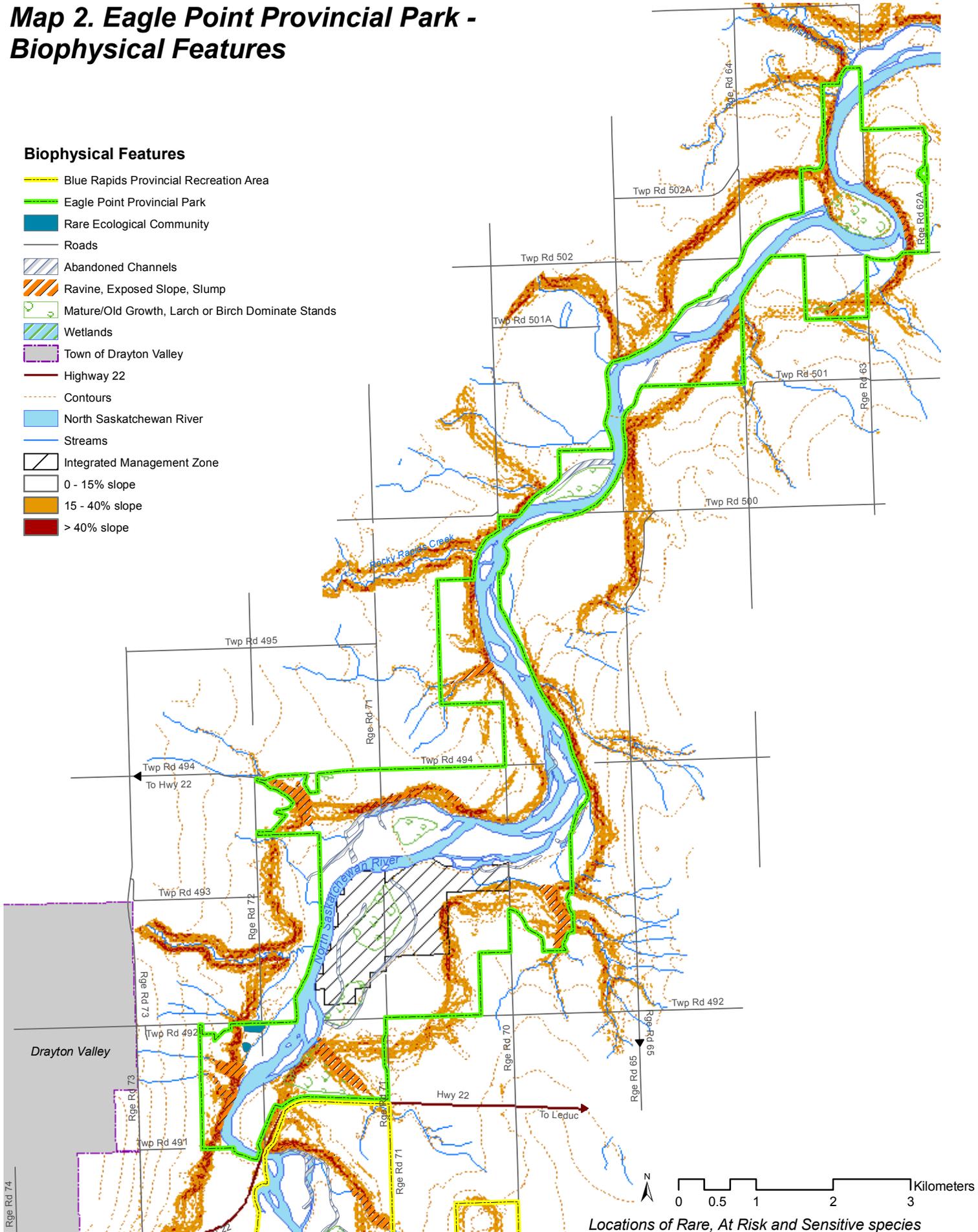
#### **4.6 Important Ecological Community**

A rare ecological community occurs in the North Saskatchewan River Valley just east of the Drayton Valley Cemetery, where large, well-spaced mature balsam and aspen poplars grow with a dense understory of high-bush cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*) and a lush, dense ground cover dominated by ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) (Nordstrom, 2008). This plant community coincides with an alluvial fan deposited by an intermittent stream that enters the North Saskatchewan River Valley at this point. The dominance of ostrich fern and high-bush cranberry set this area apart from all others in the region. This specific association is considered uncommon or rare in Alberta and is listed by the Alberta Conservation Information Management System. See Map 2, Biophysical Features.

# Map 2. Eagle Point Provincial Park - Biophysical Features

## Biophysical Features

-  Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area
-  Eagle Point Provincial Park
-  Rare Ecological Community
-  Roads
-  Abandoned Channels
-  Ravine, Exposed Slope, Slump
-  Mature/Old Growth, Larch or Birch Dominate Stands
-  Wetlands
-  Town of Drayton Valley
-  Highway 22
-  Contours
-  North Saskatchewan River
-  Streams
-  Integrated Management Zone
-  0 - 15% slope
-  15 - 40% slope
-  > 40% slope

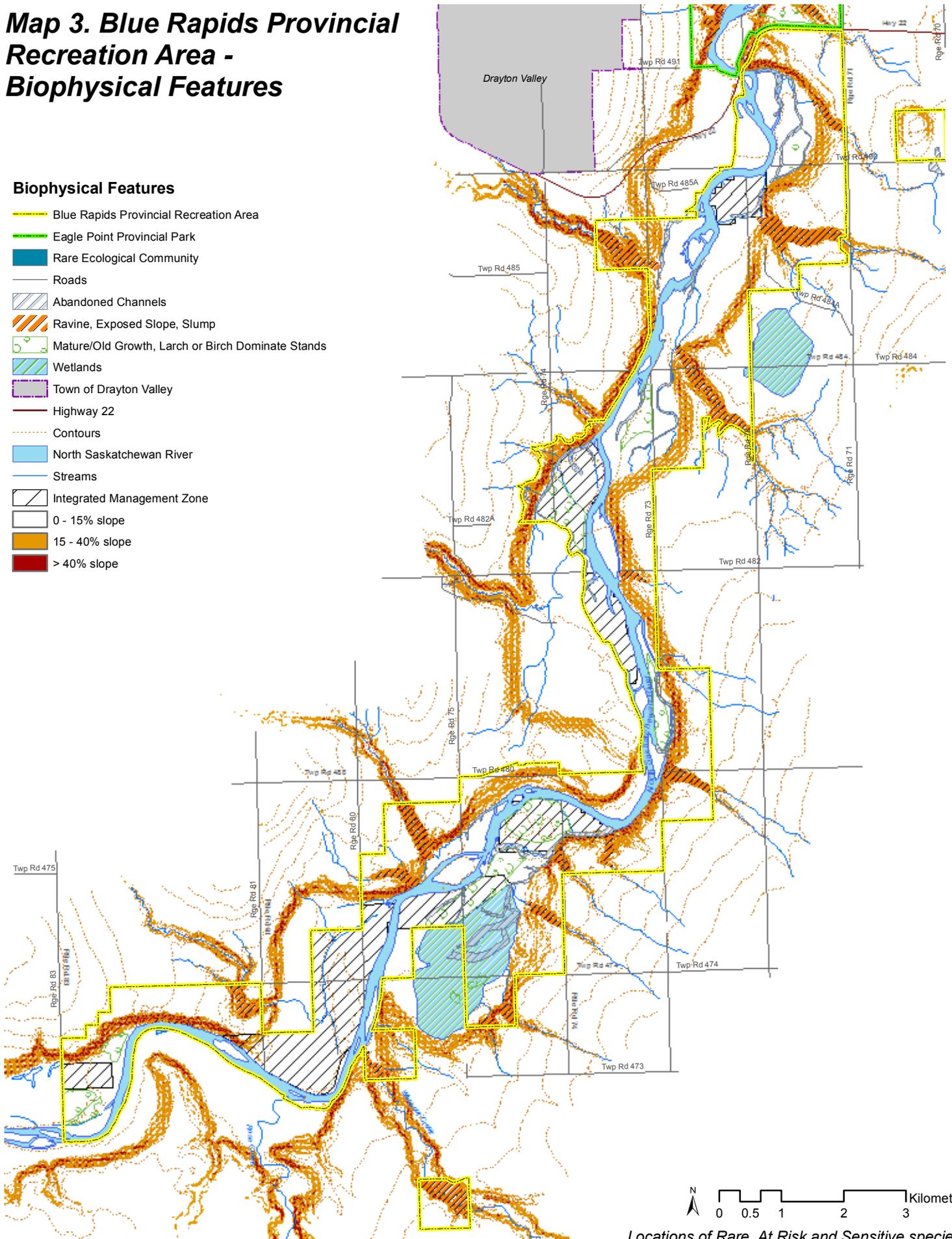


Locations of Rare, At Risk and Sensitive species not mapped for resource management purposes.

# Map 3. Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area - Biophysical Features

## Biophysical Features

-  Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area
-  Eagle Point Provincial Park
-  Rare Ecological Community
-  Roads
-  Abandoned Channels
-  Ravine, Exposed Slope, Slump
-  Mature/Old Growth, Larch or Birch Dominate Stands
-  Wetlands
-  Town of Drayton Valley
-  Highway 22
-  Contours
-  North Saskatchewan River
-  Streams
-  Integrated Management Zone
-  0 - 15% slope
-  15 - 40% slope
-  > 40% slope



Locations of Rare, At Risk and Sensitive species not mapped for resource management purposes.

October 25, 2010

#### **4.7 Cultural Heritage**

Cultural heritage concerns those aspects of our past that we want to preserve, appreciate, and enjoy today and pass on to future generations. *The Spirit of Alberta: Alberta's Cultural Policy* (Government of Alberta, 2009c) states that "in Alberta, heritage embraces the traditions and practices of Aboriginal people and the great sites of pre-history. Among the Aboriginal peoples of Alberta, culture embraces not only dance, music, games and traditional dress, but values, beliefs and a deep spiritual relationship with the land. It is important to the way Aboriginal peoples live and also to the way in which Aboriginal communities continue to embrace the future" (pg. 4).

The Government of Alberta recognizes the constitutionally protected rights of First Nations and Métis peoples and the unique relationship that Aboriginal communities have with the land. The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System Area is known to be used by Aboriginal peoples for hunting, trapping and fishing. Aboriginal peoples have lived off the resources of the land for many years. For Aboriginal peoples, the relationship with the land is deeply rooted in traditional cultural beliefs that land and life be viewed as a whole, and must be protected for past, present and future generations.

First Nation and local Métis representatives were engaged during the Park System management planning process. Their continued involvement is critical to ensuring the protection of sites of significance as well as the continuation of traditional and cultural activities in the park.

Although its precise location is uncertain, maps indicate that an important historic site known as Boggy Hall was located on lands within Weyerhaeuser's Forest Management Area, roughly halfway between the mouths of Rose Creek and the Brazeau River. Boggy Hall was a busy stop-over for traders and travelers at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and was frequently used by David Thompson, an English-Canadian surveyor, map-maker, and fur trader for winter lodging and as a staging point for his journeys up the North Saskatchewan River into the Rockies (Gottfred, 2002). The local Métis people have indicated there may be significant trading posts in the Park System.

#### **4.8 Scenic Quality**

The term "scenic resources" refers to the valued aesthetic qualities of a region. Not only are scenic resources an important element of tourism-based economic development, but scenic quality is an important quality-of-life issue for residents and businesses.

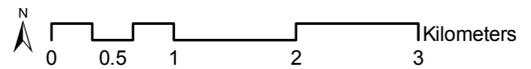
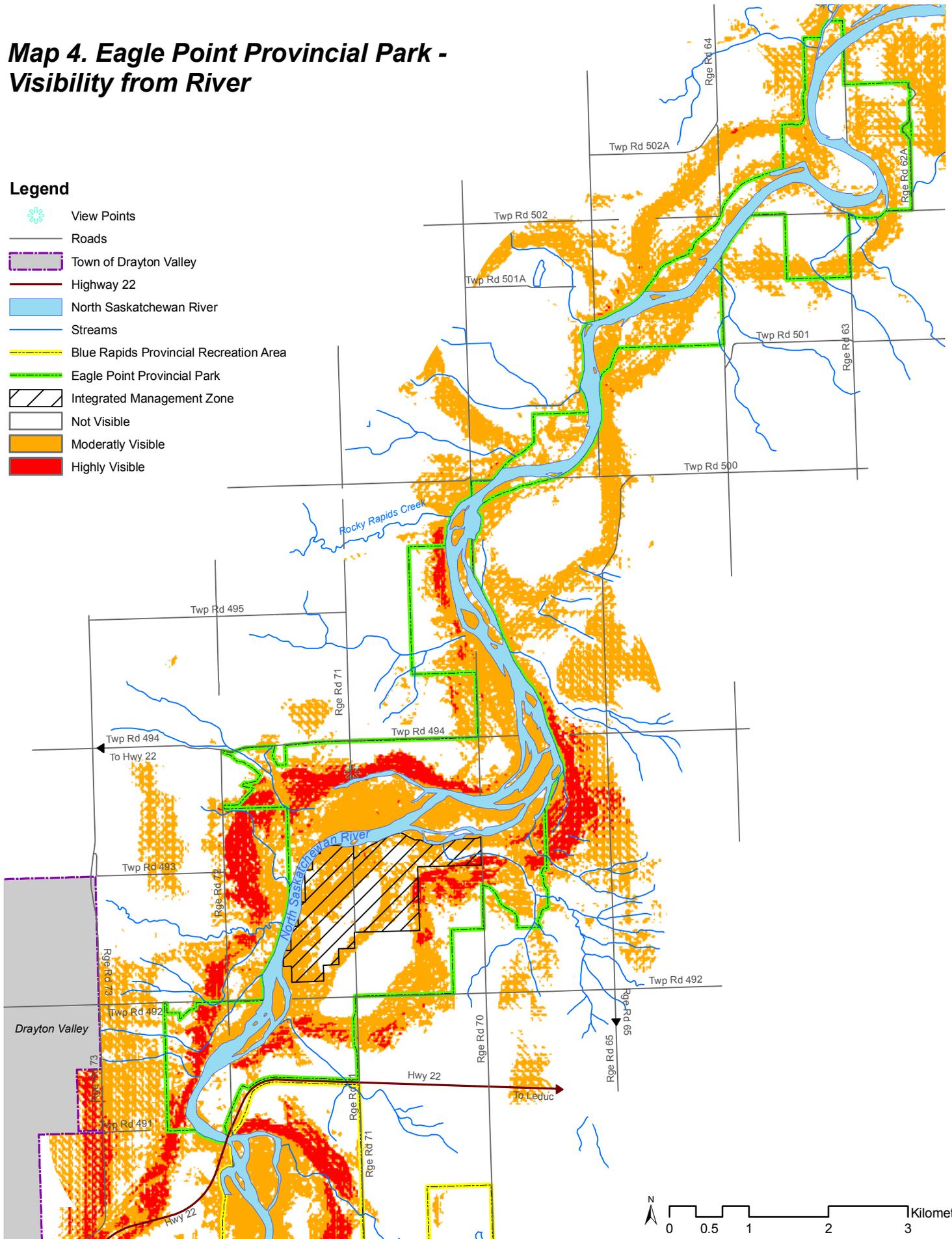
There are easily accessible places within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System that provide enjoyable and memorable views with little visible evidence of human disturbance. The locations of these views should be carefully considered in the design of recreational trails. Guidelines for various forms of development can be established to help preserve the pristine character of views.

It is expected that additional scenic resources will be identified during future public engagement opportunities. Maps 4 and 5 show lands within the park that are visible from the river as well as the scenic viewpoints that have been identified to date.

# Map 4. Eagle Point Provincial Park - Visibility from River

## Legend

-  View Points
-  Roads
-  Town of Drayton Valley
-  Highway 22
-  North Saskatchewan River
-  Streams
-  Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area
-  Eagle Point Provincial Park
-  Integrated Management Zone
-  Not Visible
-  Moderatly Visible
-  Highly Visible



*Bare-earth digital elevation model*

October 25, 2010



#### 4.9 *Research, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management*

Management actions affecting the natural environment in the Park System should be informed by scientific knowledge whenever possible. Research, monitoring and adaptive management will allow the Parks Council to collect the information necessary to make science-based decisions. Partnerships with other organizations, including Alberta Parks, academic institutions, industry, and non-governmental organizations, will help to ensure that research, monitoring, and adaptive management activities efficiently and effectively contribute to the management of the Park System.

A pre-requisite for a science-based approach to park management is an understanding of the basic physical, biotic and cultural elements that exist in the Park System; therefore, baseline inventories of certain Park System elements are needed. The information gathered through baseline inventories will also provide the foundation for monitoring programs and activities. Monitoring will involve the collection of scientific information over a longer period of time to detect changes and trends occurring in the Park System; this knowledge can provide insight into more complicated questions relating to the natural environment and park management and operations. The knowledge gathered through research and monitoring will be used by the Parks Council in realizing the objectives and strategies discussed in Section 4.10.

It is not feasible that all elements of the Park System could or should be investigated and inventoried; therefore, priorities will be established. Priority establishment will take many factors into consideration, including knowledge gathered through previous research, priorities outlined by the Alberta Parks Science Strategy, feedback received through consultation events, and local and regional planning initiatives.

Adaptive management is “a combination of management, research, and monitoring in which credible information is gained and management activities are modified by experience” (Scientific Panel for Sustainable Forest Practices in Clayoquot Sound, 1995). The knowledge gained through research and monitoring will inform management practices and ultimately be incorporated into future management plans. All Plans and strategies will be considered iterative, and will be continuously updated and revised to reflect the results of research and monitoring efforts within the Park System.

#### 4.10 *Park Management Objectives and Strategies*

The following objectives and strategies aim to conserve and protect the natural and cultural values and resources of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.

Conservation and Protection		
Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<i>Water</i>	<b>To protect the watershed of the North Saskatchewan River within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System,</b>	<b>Strategy A</b> Identify (in consultation with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Alberta Environment, and other stakeholders) areas where additional river access infrastructure (e.g. boat launches) could be developed and appropriately managed while respecting aquatic ecology, wildlife habitat, and the motorized and non-motorized designations of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.

## Conservation and Protection

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
	<p><b>and to maintain water quality for downstream users</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy B</b> Work with all Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System users to protect the watershed and water quality from development and ongoing user impacts.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Explore low-impact educational and visitor opportunities associated with natural and cultural values of the North Saskatchewan River and the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System’s watershed including ground water aquifers (See Section 5 for further information).</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Work with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance on watershed initiatives that further the goals of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System (See Section 7.1 Regional Partnerships).</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Work with the agricultural community to develop innovative solutions to manage livestock access to watercourses.</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Support and advance the goals of Alberta’s Water For Life Strategy.</p>
<p><i>Wildlife</i></p>	<p><b>To maintain and conserve the natural diversity of wildlife habitats and associated species within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Review and support Alberta Parks, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, and other agencies and organizations to implement wildlife management tools that respect the carrying capacity of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Identify research and monitoring needs relating to wildlife and incorporate strategies to address these knowledge gaps.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Schedule park maintenance, including the construction and development of park facilities/trails, in consideration of wildlife behaviour (e.g. nesting sites, calving in spring, rutting in fall, etc.) determined by a wildlife inventory and assessment.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Leave dead trees, ground foliage, and shrubs that provide nesting sites provided they do not represent a hazard to park users.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Use the knowledge attained through research and monitoring to inform activities within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapid Park System and minimize impacts on wildlife.</p>

## Conservation and Protection

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
	<b>To reduce the potential for wildlife conflicts within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System and adjacent land owners</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Assess and mitigate wildlife-human conflicts through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and awareness around food and waste management,</li> <li>• Provision of appropriate wildlife-proof waste management facilities and frequent waste removal,</li> <li>• Management of natural vegetation attractants around key facility areas, and</li> <li>• Appropriately locating trails and facilities</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> The Parks Council in partnership with Alberta Parks and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development will work together with adjacent landowners to minimize the occurrence of human-wildlife conflicts.</p>
<b>Vegetation</b>	<b>To conserve and minimize disturbance to the natural distribution of plants and plant communities in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Conduct a vegetation inventory to identify, locate and map plant communities in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Identify research and monitoring needs relating to vegetation and develop strategies to address these knowledge gaps.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Conserve known at-risk, rare, and unique plant species and communities.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Develop and implement a vegetation management plan to inform and guide activities within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System, with a focus on maintaining biodiversity and minimizing habitat loss, while respecting other uses of the Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Monitor the level and types of recreational use and their associated impacts on identified rare and unique plant communities through the completion of wildlife and vegetation assessments.</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Identify areas where recreational activities have caused soil erosion and/or compaction problems, and develop a strategy to reclaim these areas.</p> <p><b>Strategy G</b> Work with Aboriginal communities to identify plants traditionally used for medicinal or cultural purposes.</p>
	<b>To control and minimize invasive plant species according to Alberta’s legislation, policies, and best practices</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Identify, locate and map areas of substantial non-native plant invasion within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Control invasive species in problem areas by working with industry partners, Brazeau County and Alberta Parks according to Government of Alberta legislation, policies, and best practices.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Monitor the effectiveness of invasive species control measures.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Incorporate a strategy to combat invasive species into the vegetation management plan.</p>

## Conservation and Protection

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
		See related strategies under visitor awareness in Section 5.7
<b>Cultural heritage</b>	<b>To protect cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources for their intrinsic value and/or the purposes of scientific study and visitor education and enjoyment</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> In collaboration with Alberta Parks and Alberta Culture and Community Spirit, ensure that Historical Resources Impact Assessments are conducted at the sites of proposed developments, if appropriate, prior to proceeding with any development.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> When current/existing cultural, traditional, historic, or prehistoric resources are identified, determine appropriate management strategies to conserve and protect them.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> If and when traditional Aboriginal sites are identified, work with these communities to develop appropriate management actions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determining which sites can be disclosed and which will remain undisclosed because of site sensitivity</li> <li>• Determining appropriate levels of access and promotion, and</li> <li>• Determining appropriate levels of site maintenance in the partnership with Aboriginal communities</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Commit to First Nations consultation as per <i>Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development</i>.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Engage Aboriginal (First Nations and Métis) groups in planning processes.</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Support and assist in activities that may result in new knowledge about the existing, historic and traditional use of the area.</p> <p><b>Strategy G</b> Support continuation of Aboriginal traditional ceremonies and traditional use activities such as camping and plant collection for cultural or medicinal purposes.</p> <p><b>Strategy H</b> Build a history of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System by gathering local knowledge of past use, including Aboriginal use.</p>
<b>Visual integrity</b>	<b>To enhance visitor experience by maintaining and enhancing aesthetic integrity</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Develop general design guidelines with Alberta Parks for facilities so that the Eagle Point Provincial Park and the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area have a consistent, unique, and recognizable look with other Alberta Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas in the province (Refer to the next objective as well as Sections 6.3, and 6.4 for further information on Facility and Infrastructure Design).</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Protect and enhance the aesthetic value of the area with appropriate facility location and design.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Identify, protect, develop and maintain scenic viewpoints</p>

## Conservation and Protection

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
		along the North Saskatchewan River Valley.
<b>Facilities, recreation and infrastructure</b>	<b>To avoid, minimize and mitigate the impacts of developments on the natural environment of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Assess and monitor the impacts of existing infrastructure and recreational activities on the natural environment, and develop strategies to mitigate negative impacts where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Prior to construction, proposed facilities will be subject to the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An environmental review, using Alberta Parks' Environmental Review Guidelines, as to determine the facility's suitability on the proposed site (e.g. wildlife and vegetation assessments),</li> <li>• A Historic Resource Impact Assessment,</li> <li>• Other assessments as required (e.g. traditional use/site assessment, sound testing),</li> <li>• The demand/need for the proposed facility and/or activity,</li> <li>• Use existing Alberta Parks' facility standards where feasible.</li> </ul>
<b>Research, monitoring and adaptive management</b>	<b>To encourage research projects that have the potential to enhance or improve management practices within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Prioritize research and monitoring activities in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System, and develop strategies to address these priorities.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Collaborate with academic institutions, Alberta Parks, and other research organizations to enhance research, monitoring, and adaptive management activities.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Ensure that all research is consistent with Alberta Parks' Research and Collection permitting requirements.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Align research activities with the Alberta Parks' Science Strategy.</p>
	<b>To reclaim areas that have sustained substantial environmental damage and the restore natural vegetation cover</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Identify, prioritize, reclaim and restore areas that have sustained substantial environmental damage as a result of legacy industrial or recreational activities or are no longer required for industrial or recreational purposes.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Monitor the effectiveness of reclamation and restoration activities.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Incorporate a strategy to guide reclamation and restoration activities into the vegetation management plan.</p>

## 5 LEARNING, ENGAGEMENT, TOURISM, AND COMMUNITY

Learning and engagement play a key role in connecting people to Alberta's natural heritage and promoting the stewardship of natural areas. The more Albertans know about Alberta's Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas, the more they will support and become involved in the management and protection of these resources. As visitors, they will become more conscientious and as stakeholders and partners, they will become more involved in long-term stewardship. In the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System, the Parks Council will coordinate plans and initiatives with the Operating Partners to provide recreational or educational services and programs.

People of all ages can participate in outdoor education and volunteerism. These experiences can focus on ecosystem restoration, skills learning, problem solving, team building, self-reliance, etc. Whatever the objective, there is a great deal of intrinsic joy and wellness benefits from participating in outdoor activities. These experiences also present an opportunity for building an ethic of land stewardship amongst parks visitors.

Parks and outdoor recreation are known to enhance quality of life. Quality of life is an all encompassing term used to describe happiness and wellbeing. Physical and mental health are important components of a good quality of life and research shows that exposure to nature makes people both physically and psychologically healthier. Park and outdoor leisure activities also build a sense of place and foster community pride. Studies have shown the remarkable role of parks and outdoor recreation in human development. They are known to build social skills and cultivate self-sufficiency and leadership abilities (Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, 2009).

Leisure activities and parks are known to be essential components to the holistic development of children and youth and studies have shown the positive impacts to cognitive and social development. The benefits of recreation and parks include improved self-esteem and self-concept, a greater acceptance with peers, and a sense of self-empowerment. Parks and recreation also provide opportunities to learn motor and social skills and to discover creativity through play. For adults, parks and recreation offer opportunities to develop socially, creatively, intellectually, and spiritually (Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, 2009).

Recreation and tourism is one of Alberta's fastest growing and most economically important industries. The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System is expected to attract new visitors who will contribute to the local economy. However, tourism poses its own management challenges. Thoughtful management is necessary so that visitation does not impair the resources the Park System was established to protect.

### 5.1 *Visitor Services Planning*

As a newly designated Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area, the full extent of the visitor services that will be provided in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System is unknown. Visitor services programs consist of those programs formally organized, administered, and facilitated by Alberta Parks, the Parks Council, and/or the Operating Partners. Visitor services programs in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System will be delivered through:

- Interpretation;
- Orientation and information;

- Tourism Information Kiosks;
- Environmental, recreation, and safety education; and
- Stewardship opportunities.

Interpretation programs provide learning opportunities, while environmental education programs are those which address specific topics relating to the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System’s natural and cultural history and the audience group’s curriculum requirements, usually involving youth and school groups. Orientation and information services are those which provide visitors with information on the facilities, programs, safety, management, and regulations of the site. Stewardship opportunities include working with citizens, industry, communities, and governments to responsibly care for and manage the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

Appendix G summarizes the natural history and learning opportunities that currently exist within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.

## **5.2 Marketing and Information**

The creation of promotional and educational materials (brochures, web-based materials, maps, etc.) and programs (interpretive) is critical to attracting new visitors, building awareness of opportunities within the parks, communicating park rules, and educating visitors on the natural and cultural values of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. Key to the creation of these materials and programs is developing the key themes and messages that will be communicated.

## **5.3 Environmental Education and Stewardship**

The close proximity of the Town of Drayton Valley provides an opportunity to collaborate with local schools to build nature-based learning opportunities into the K-12 curriculum. The North Saskatchewan River Valley has abundant natural history learning opportunities that could provide the basis of an excellent interpretive program focusing on the ecology and history of the river and its diverse habitats. For the past 20 years, the area near the Pembina Nordic Ski Club has been used as a field trip site for school groups. The Pembina Nordic Ski Club has hosted various kinds of community events and informal courses on natural history.

The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System has a history of environmental stewardship that will continue to be encouraged. Managing the landscape to accommodate industry, recreation, and environmental conservation creates countless opportunities for environmental stewardship. As the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System evolves, so too will the work that Brazeau County, industry leaseholders, and Operating Partners do to identify and support current and future stewardship opportunities.

Past stewardship activities:

- Brazeau County has engaged in numerous reclamation and rehabilitation projects within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.
- Evergreen Shooting Club have participated in garbage removal and a number of site clean-ups.
- Brazeau ATV Club volunteers have participated in site clean-ups, repaired damaged stream crossings, and taken part in other restoration projects aimed at reducing the impacts of motorized recreation use on the landscape.

- The Pembina Nordic Ski Club regularly repairs erosion and damage to vegetated trails and adjacent forests caused by unauthorized motorized recreation use.

#### **5.4 Community Engagement**

Community engagement is the process of “people working collaboratively, through inspired action and learning, to create and realize bold visions for their common future” (Tamarach Institute for Community Engagement, 2009). Community engagement has been integral in the establishment of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System and, in the future, it will be critical to ensuring continued local support.

The Parks Council exemplifies a comprehensive grassroots initiative and demonstrates collaboration between various stakeholders. Director seats are held for local and provincial government representatives and recreational organizations. Additionally there are a number of director seats to ensure that the interests of resource extractors (oil, gas, sand and gravel), environmental advocates, and adjacent landowners are represented.

The Parks Council, which is responsible for the ongoing public consultation and communication, is currently drafting a Consultation and Communications Plan that addresses how the Council will engage the public, increase awareness of recreational opportunities, and will help to build third-party investment in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

#### **5.5 Tourism Development**

As Alberta’s population grows, so does the demand for outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism opportunities. Heritage tourism is a vitally important driver of economic diversification, stability, and growth for many Albertan communities, especially those with abundant natural heritage resources nearby. With Drayton Valley’s close proximity to the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System and a growing tourism services industry, the Town and County in addition to the Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area have a number of the requirements needed to sustain a strong tourism based economy in the region.

Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System has the opportunity to change the story of what is possible in conservation, outdoor recreation and tourism, simply by taking advantage of the fact that it is an area of challenging and exciting contradictions.

##### **5.5.1 Community Tourism Opportunities and Synergies**

Just miles from the Town of Drayton Valley, the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System will provide a wide range of close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities for local residents and attract a larger share of the region’s recreationists. Local businesses that sell outdoor recreational equipment, offer guided experiences, or provide hospitality services will likely see increased sales as recreation programming in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System develops.

With Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area designation, the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System will benefit from new channels for promoting nature-based tourism opportunities. Additionally, local heritage-tourism businesses will likely help promote the area. Travel Alberta currently promotes the area as part of their Central Tourism Destination Region (TDR) while Brazeau Regional Tourism currently

promotes tourism at the sub-regional level operating as a Destination Marketing Organization (DMO). The Grande Alberta Economic Region is a Regional Economic Development Alliance serving an area that includes Brazeau County and Drayton Valley. In total, the region includes 12 rural municipalities, villages, and towns in west central Alberta that work together to promote unique, diverse opportunities, including outdoor recreation. Amongst other development initiatives, the Alliance is interested in increasing tourism to the region.

## **5.6 Volunteer Management**

Volunteers can play an important and often vital role in park management and protection. In order to maintain existing volunteer relationships and encourage new ones, it is important to provide a diversity of volunteer opportunities. Working with the Operating Partners, the Parks Council will play a role in helping to facilitate volunteer opportunities related to restoration and clean up, environmental and safety education, and fundraising.

## **5.7 Park Management Objectives and Strategies**

Specific management prescriptions will be necessary to enable, control, and/or promote visitor services planning, marketing and information, environmental education and stewardship, community engagement, nature-based tourism development, and learning opportunities so that they occur in places and in ways that are effective, environmentally sustainable, and compatible with other activities. The Parks Council will work with Alberta Parks to ensure that all Visitor Services products and public communications materials are reviewed and approved prior to distribution.

## Learning, Engagement, Tourism, and Community

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<p><i>Visitor awareness</i></p>	<p><b>To build visitor awareness about natural and cultural values, facilities, and services through a variety of communication tools and techniques</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Develop and provide interpretive presentations and environmental education opportunities for park visitors that convey the ecological, historical, and cultural values of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to Section 4.10 for related strategies</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Develop a diversity of communication materials (i.e. brochures, signage, web information, etc.) that illustrate the ecological, historical, cultural and recreational values of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to Section 4.10 for related strategies</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Develop and implement promotional material (e.g. brochures, maps, etc.) that help visitors understand, respect and enjoy the range of recreation opportunities and skill levels offered in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Use existing Alberta Parks' standards for communications materials and tools and ensure easy access to interpretive and educational visitor information.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Develop materials that help visitors understand the unique, collaborative partnerships between the Parks Council, Alberta Parks, and the lease-holding industries and recognize successful reclamation efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to Section 9.3 for related strategies</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Investigate opportunities for interpretation and visitor education focused on the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System's rare and unique plant species and community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to Section 4.10 for related strategies</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy G</b> Develop invasive species control messaging within the environmental education component of the visitor services program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to Section 4.10 for related strategies</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy H</b> Work with Aboriginal communities to develop interpretive programs to build visitor awareness about Aboriginal culture.</p>
	<p><b>To provide visitor and curriculum linked education programs that promote sharing and responsible, respectful use by all users of the Park System</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Develop respect and responsible-use guidelines for recreationists.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Develop ethical codes of practice based on Government of Alberta "Respect the Land" or "Tread Lightly" principles that promote safety, respect for the environment, and a willingness to share the landscape with multiple-users.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Develop "Share the Trail," "Ride with Respect," "Respect the Land," and "Tread Lightly" strategies and educational programming for those trails that will be shared by different user groups.</p>

## Learning, Engagement, Tourism, and Community

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
		<p><b>Strategy D</b> Develop a Parks Watch Program that will focus on issues surrounding vandalism, theft, environmental damage, and other related incidents that occur within either the Eagle Point Provincial Park or the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.</p>
	<p><b>To provide visitor education programs that promote safe recreation</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Assist the Blue Rapids Motorized Recreation Society in educating Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System users on OHV safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate and promote safe and responsible usage of motorized recreation equipment (including riding on managed trails) "Ride with Respect – For Yourself, Your Machine, Others and the Land."</li> <li>Encourage and promote the use of safety equipment.</li> <li>Reinforce safety with strategically placed signage including those areas around water crossing and industrial leases.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Assist the Brazeau Bowbenders and the Evergreen Shooting Club in educating Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System users on archery and rifle range safety by strategically placing signage and developing informative printed materials.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Include links to other agency and program websites that promote safe recreation (e.g. Bear Smart, FireSmart, Water Safety, etc.) on the Parks Council's website.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Promote wildlife viewing by identifying and developing key viewing sites, providing signage, communicating opportunities, and incorporating wildlife viewing in visitor services programs provided these locations are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize negative human interactions, and</li> <li>Allow for wildlife seasonality (e.g. calving, nesting, rest periods etc.).</li> </ul>
	<p><b>To improve the ways the Park Council communicates with the public</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Create and implement an overall public communications strategy.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Secure sufficient funding and staff capacity to create, update, and enhance public communications initiatives.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Provide diverse streams/channels for people to gain access to information.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Utilize advertisements and articles in local and provincial media.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Design a continuous feedback loop between the public and the Parks Council.</p>
<p><b>Community engagement</b></p>	<p><b>To encourage community members to visit and support the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Identify and promote opportunities for local businesses, industry, and community members to contribute to Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System goals by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participating in or financially supporting the Adopt a Trail program</li> <li>Participating in the Parks Council Park Watch program</li> </ul>

## Learning, Engagement, Tourism, and Community

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
	<p><b>Park System</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating in the Volunteer stewardship program</li> <li>• Promoting various business opportunities that showcase the natural amenities of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System (including eco-tourism and other nature-based ventures and various local artisans).</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Increase park visitation by developing various promotional and educational materials highlighting those activities possible within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Encourage community special events to be held in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System in facility zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote existing and new day use facilities as venues for community events (e.g. pancake breakfasts, fundraisers, concerts, theatre productions, local and traditional craft etc.).</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Work with local schools to include a nature-based educational component which is curriculum based and encourages use and exploration of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p>
	<p><b>To encourage participation in the ongoing management of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Design a comprehensive public consultation process for ongoing participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Alberta Parks in engaging Aboriginal communities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Collect information from visitors and community members in creative ways (e.g. surveys, workshops, open houses, online questions, comment drop-boxes etc.).</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Effectively communicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for public input</li> <li>• Decision-making processes</li> <li>• Important timelines to the community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Value and recognize organizations' and individuals' input and expertise.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Provide opportunities to engage working groups, advisory councils, and/or volunteer programs to assist with management strategies and approaches.</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Provide regular updates of upcoming Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System events, programs, and initiatives in different, easily accessible forms (newspaper announcements, on-line, posters, etc.).</p> <p><b>Strategy G</b> Identify opportunities and encourage volunteers to contribute (time, equipment, financial support) to Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System management, programs, and projects.</p> <p><b>Strategy H</b> Promote opportunities for community groups, local schools, and other agencies to partner on initiatives and projects within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p>

## Learning, Engagement, Tourism, and Community

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<i>Tourism</i>	<b>To promote special events and recreation opportunities that attract visitors</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Work with regional partners (Alberta’s Regional Economic Development Initiatives) and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation to develop a marketing and promotional strategy that would promote the multi-season outdoor recreational potential of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System while respecting the seasonal sensitivity of wildlife.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Partner with regional tourism organizations (Brazeau Regional Tourism and the Grande Alberta Economic Region and Travel Alberta) to market and promote the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> On regional/national events, work cooperatively with the Town of Drayton Valley, Brazeau County, and/or adjacent landowners to provide parking and offer a shuttle service to and from the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p>
	<b>To develop the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System as a premiere outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism destination</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Research and identify appropriate economic and tourism development and investment opportunities related to nature-based tourism that respect the goals of the Parks Council and Alberta Tourism, Parks, and Recreation.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Build on partnerships with Brazeau Tourism, the Drayton Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Grande Alberta Economic Region, and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation – Tourism Division.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Identify innovative approaches to develop additional recreational and nature-based tourism opportunities into the area.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Work cooperatively with neighbouring municipalities and/or adjacent landowners to strategically design and develop recreational corridors linking into the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p>
	<b>To enhance the visitor experience and encourage tourism through improved communications</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Develop a Communication Plan that will outline future opportunities for public input, clarify the decision-making processes and communicate important timelines to the community.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Link to Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation and Travel Alberta web information systems.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Utilize and post relevant information on the Parks Council’s website and, where possible, Alberta Parks’ website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation services and facilities</li> <li>• Park events</li> <li>• Contact information for Operating Partners, the Parks Council, and Alberta Parks.</li> </ul>
<i>Communicating the unique partnership</i>	<b>To communicate the role of the Parks Council and its unique partnership with Alberta Tourism, Parks and</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Create and implement an overall public communications strategy.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Secure sufficient funding and staff capacity to create, update, and enhance public communications initiatives.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Provide diverse streams/channels for people to gain</p>

## Learning, Engagement, Tourism, and Community

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
	<b>Recreation</b>	<p>access to information.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Utilize advertisements and articles in local and provincial media sources.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Design a process that allows stakeholders and community members to see how public input is used to make decisions.</p>

## 6 OUTDOOR RECREATION AND HEALTHY LIVING

Outdoor recreation improves physical and mental wellbeing, strengthens communities, promotes social bonds, and supports youth development. The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System currently provides diverse outdoor recreation opportunities for local and regional residents. As management improves and outdoor recreation opportunities are enhanced, the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System is expected to attract visitors from further distances so that it becomes a truly regional nature-based tourism destination.

The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association have studied and documented the benefits of outdoor recreation and parks in Alberta. They have found that:

*Parks provide many benefits for users and non-users alike. Parks provide a sense of place in the community, allowing for escape, contemplation, discovery, access to nature, interpretive education and recreation. They also provide shelter, wildlife habitat, relief from urban form, buffers between residential and industrial areas and aquifers. They enhance aesthetic quality, increase property values and improve the image and livability of communities. Recreation through physical, social and artistic expression provides opportunities for people to improve their health and wellness, socialize and interact with others, learn new skills, have fun and find balance in their lives. These factors have been shown to improve physical and mental health, reduce health care costs, provide positive lifestyle choices for youth at risk and develop improved self-image. Sport and recreation events, festivals and the visual and performing arts also boost civic pride (ARPA, 2007).*

The creation of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System will bring better management to the outdoor recreation activities occurring within the area. Management will improve public safety, reduce community conflicts, reduce environmental impacts (e.g. soil erosion, wildlife disruption, impacts on vegetation) and increase the quality, sustainability and enjoyment of outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism activities.

### 6.1 Provincial and Regional Surveys and Studies

The Parks Council has identified a number of provincial planning documents, surveys and studies have and will continue to inform the recreation opportunities developed within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System. The Parks Council is committed to being involved in subsequent local land-use planning initiatives and ensuring that these initiatives are closely aligned with those identified within this document. To this end, the Parks Council will engage the Town of Drayton Valley, Brazeau County and other planning authorities where necessary.

#### 6.1.1 Tourism Development Strategy

Alberta is well positioned to capitalize on opportunities in the tourism sector and has implemented a strategy for tourism development that will guide Government of Alberta initiatives and spending related to tourism development over the next ten years.

From an economic point of view, the benefits of a tourism development strategy are two-fold:

- It positions Alberta to attract new money from non-resident visitors and encourages Albertans to spend their tourism dollars in the province rather than other vacation destinations; and
- It facilitates the development of attractions, accommodations, activities, amenities and access (5 A's) that can continually refresh products and experiences, especially for residents and returning visitors, while enhancing Alberta's reputation as one of the best places in the world to live, work and visit.

The strategy also emphasizes the need for the integration of tourism-related policies across the Government of Alberta so that the initiatives of all ministries complement and support the overall direction of the government.

### 6.1.2 *The North Saskatchewan Recreation and Tourism Features Inventory (RTFI)*

To help support rational land-use decisions that adequately incorporate tourism and recreation values, a spatially referenced, easily accessible database of recreation and tourism features has been developed for the North Saskatchewan region. The RTFI database addresses a significant data gap, and provides the foundation for a broad set of analyses informing land-use planning and decision making.

### 6.1.3 *Alberta Recreation Survey*

Alberta TPR has conducted the *Alberta Recreation Survey* since 1981. The most recent survey was conducted in 2008 (Alberta TPR, 2008). Information from this survey is important to understanding provincial recreation trends and can inform decisions about the provision of recreation opportunities within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System. Key results of the 2008 Survey are highlighted below. An asterisk denotes those recreation opportunities that either currently occur in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System or that the Parks Council is considering.

- *Household Participation* - Survey participants were asked about the recreation activities of their household. The ten activities most frequently mentioned are listed below:
  - Walking for pleasure\*
  - Gardening
  - Attending a fair or festival\*
  - Attending sports events\*
  - Doing a craft or hobby
  - Playing video, computer or electronic games
  - Visiting a museum or art gallery
  - Bicycling\*
  - Swimming (in pools)
  - Aerobics/fitness/aquasize/yoga
- *Favourite Activity* - Survey respondents were asked about their three favourite leisure or recreation activities. The following ten activities were the most frequently mentioned:
  - Walking\*
  - Golf
  - Camping\*
  - Reading
  - Swimming
  - Hiking\*
  - Bicycling\*
  - Jogging/running\*
  - Fishing\*
  - Gardening

- *Desired Activity* - The ten most desired activities or those that respondents indicated they would like to take up as a new activity are listed below:
  - Gym/fitness
  - Swimming
  - Yoga
  - Dancing
  - Canoeing/kayaking\*
  - Curling
  - Bicycling\*
  - Golf
  - Cross-country skiing\*
  - Aquasize/weight training
  
- *Volunteer Work* - Respondents were asked about volunteer work connected with recreation, sports, parks or culture. The Survey indicated that 37% of respondents volunteered in this capacity with the majority of volunteers spending, on average, dedicating one to five hours per week.
  
- *Benefits of Recreation and Parks* – When asked about the benefits of recreation and parks, the majority of respondents rated the following benefits as very important:
  1. Recreation opportunities make it possible for children and youth to take part in a variety of activities.
  2. Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for the preservation of Alberta’s landscapes, plants and animals.
  3. Recreation opportunities make it possible for families to spend time together.
  4. Recreation and parks facilities and services improve quality of life.

#### 6.1.4 Alberta Tourism Development Guide

Alberta TPR publishes the *Tourism Development Guide* (Government of Alberta, 2010) that details the step-by-step process of developing a tourism business in Alberta. The guide covers basic development feasibility, how to navigate the required resource assessments, aboriginal consultation, the Alberta Tourism Recreation Leasing Process, financial analysis, developing a business and marketing plan and getting licensing approvals. Several diagrams of the development process from the Tourism Development Guide are included in this document.

#### 6.1.5 Recreational Vehicle Camping in Alberta

Camping is one of the most popular leisure activities in the province with 40% of Albertans participating. Most camping in Alberta (75%) is done using a recreation vehicle (RV). Participation in RV camping is anticipated to grow in the coming years given the affordability of camping and the high rate of RV ownership<sup>1</sup> in the province.

The *Recreational Vehicle Camping in Alberta* study (The Praxis Group, 2009) provides an assessment of the current campground situation in Alberta from a supply- and demand-side perspective. The study highlights significant trends impacting RV campground operation and development, and identifies best practices in campground operations. Study researchers found that despite the popularity of RV camping, there has been a lack of re-investment in campground facilities and that campground quality has deteriorated. The study also revealed that while campground fees have increased, visitors do not perceive a corresponding investment in facility upgrades. Today many RV users are seeking service

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<sup>1</sup> Alberta has one of the highest rates of RV ownership in North America, with 18% of households owning an RV (The Praxis Group, 2009 p. 5).

buildings with showers and flush toilets, power and water hookups and sani-stations. They are also looking for well-maintained campgrounds that offer privacy and campsite spaces large enough for their RVs. The number of campsites in Alberta that meet these camping requirements, particularly in provincial parks, is insufficient. This has important implications for tourism dollars. The study found that “the lack of availability of suitable sites coupled with a less than adequate reservation system and higher camping fees is forcing campers to leave the province, and is not attracting campers from outside the province to the extent that could be the case (pp. 6).”

#### 6.1.6 Brazeau County Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The *Brazeau County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2010* is a guiding document that identifies broad strategies and lays the groundwork for the implementation of projects and programs aimed at meeting the recreation and parks needs of the community. It will also assess the current status of recreation and open space services and resources through a resident survey.

To date only the survey has been completed and surveys are available. Results should inform recreation plans for the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System. Select survey results (based on information provided by 338 households) are highlighted below.

- *Natural areas* – 72% of respondents reported having visited a natural area in the county. Over half reported visiting a natural area at least a few times a year. Approximately 95% of respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the natural area(s) they visited.
- *Walking trails* – Just under 50% of respondents indicated that they used walking trails in the County with 16% reporting that they used walking trails every week or almost every day. Approximately 99% of respondents using walking trails indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied.
- *Equestrian facilities* – Approximately 20% of respondents reported using equestrian trails. Those respondents that had reported a high level of satisfaction, with 97% indicating that they were satisfied. Approximately 2% reported using trails every month, 12% reported using trails a few times a year, and 6% reported using trails once a year or less.
- *Developed motorized trails* – Of the respondents, approximately 46% reported using ATV or snowmobile trails. Of those respondents that had, approximately 6% used trails every month or every week, approximately 23% used trails a few times a year and approximately 7% used trails once a year or less. Survey results show that user satisfaction with trails is high with 94% of respondents indicating that they were either satisfied or very satisfied.
- *Day-use Facilities* – Approximately 60% of respondents reported that their household used day-use facilities with the majority, 45%, using facilities a few times a year. 99% of respondents reported that they were satisfied with facilities.
- *Campgrounds* – Approximately 70% of respondents reported that their household used campgrounds with approximately 50% using facilities a few time each year and approximately 6% using facilities at least once a month. More than 99% of respondents reported being satisfied with campgrounds.
- *Random use activities* – Over half of respondents, approximately 54%, indicated that they engage in random use activities in undeveloped areas of the County with one-third of respondents indicating that they do so at least a few times each year.

- *Additional recreation opportunities* – 25% of respondents indicated that there is a need for additional outdoor facilities in the County with additional ATV and walking trails being the most frequently suggested.
- *Funding recreation* - The vast majority of respondents indicated that they would be unwilling to pay on a monthly basis to support the development of the outdoor recreation facility that they indicated was a need in the County. Respondents tended to support a combination of taxation and user fees to support the operation of both outdoor and indoor facilities.

#### 6.1.7 *Tourism Investment Opportunities: Brazeau County/ Town of Drayton Valley*

In 2008, the Tourism Business Development, Research and Investment Branch of Alberta TPR published the *Brazeau County/Town of Drayton Valley Regional Tourism Investment Opportunities* report (Alberta TPR, 2008). The report highlights notable tourism trends including:

- Albertans have and continue to purchase recreational real estate in Western Canada at a heightened pace.
- Albertans continue to lead the country in terms of disposable income.
- Albertans are looking for short getaway vacations within one and a half to two-hour radius to save time and reduce fuel costs.
- Motorized recreation, both in terms of snowmobiling and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use, continues to be popular in Alberta.
- As tourists continue to seek meaningful travel experiences, the outdoor and eco-tourism opportunities available in Brazeau County/Drayton Valley area will be highly appealing.
- RV ownership in Alberta has remained strong, however some owners may prefer to travel shorter distances and stay longer in particular locations. Demand for RV site ownership and/or storage facilities is expected to increase.
- Throughout Canada there is a trend towards blending residential and resort development. This applies to traditional fixed-roof and RV resort-type developments.
- Given the interests of various travel segments, resort-based developments are incorporating a range of outdoor recreation and water-based activities, along with spa and wellness-related services. (Alberta TPR, 2008 p. 11)

The report also identified investment opportunities:

- *Lodge and cabin development* – An opportunity exists to develop 25 to 40 cabins, along with a central lodge with 10 rooms, a store, restaurant, gift shop and staff accommodations.
- *Serviced RV campground* – There is a need for additional full-service camping in the area. An opportunity exists to develop up to 150 seasonal, monthly and overnight rental sites with water, power and communication services.
- *Resort/mixed-use development* – Opportunities for a four-season resort/mixed use development have been identified by the Town of Drayton Valley. The opportunity envisions both fixed-roof accommodation and residential/vacation home development, supported with a range of complementary services. (Alberta TPR, 2008 p. 12 and 15)

#### 6.1.8 *Findings and Conclusions*

The review of the above resulted in the following highlights:

- Together the *Alberta Recreation Survey* and the survey for the *Brazeau County Parks and Recreation Master Plan* provide important information on recreation needs and preferences that can inform Park Council decisions.
- The Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System can fulfill the desire for more walking and ATV trails.
- Alberta TPR’s *Tourism Development Guide* provides step-by-step instructions for navigating the development of a tourism business in Alberta and could be a key resource for the Parks Council and the Operating Partners.
- The Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System can capitalize on the high demand for RV campgrounds that are well maintained and offer a relatively high level of privacy and large individual campsites.
- Despite the economic downturn, tourism opportunities related to outdoor recreation are still strong in the Brazeau County/Drayton Valley area.
- Albertans living within one and a half to two hours away will be an important customer base for the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.

## **6.2 Existing Recreation and Nature-Based Tourism Opportunities**

Drayton Valley area residents regularly use the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System for a variety of recreational pursuits. Better management and enhanced recreational opportunities is expected to draw visitors from further distances, making the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System a regional nature-based tourism destination.

The MOU between Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation and the Parks Council clarifies that Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation will authorize and monitor the recreational leases of Operating Partners (and others holding recreational leases) and any related service agreements for trails, campgrounds, and other visitor facilities established within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

Drayton Valley area residents have long used the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System for a variety of motorized recreational pursuits including vehicle-based camping, off-highway vehicle use, and water recreation.

**Vehicle-based camping** - Vehicle-based camping includes overnight stays in tents, trailers, campers, and motorhomes. In the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System, the major camping season runs from the beginning of May to the end of September. It is local knowledge that campers prefer locations close to the river. The camping experience is enhanced by easy access to recreation opportunities such as fishing, off-highway vehicle trails, hiking, or mountain biking. By its very nature, vehicle-based camping is a high-impact activity with significant demands for facilities and services. Overnight stays at camping facilities provides an opportunity to generate revenue. Management considerations include:

- Appropriately locating vehicle-based camping;
- Providing appropriate on-site recreation facilities such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, and day use areas;
- Carefully managing water, wastewater and solid waste to avoid problems with pollution, site contamination, health and safety, and wildlife; and
- Building off-site facilities, such as walking trails and viewpoints in the vicinity of campgrounds.

**Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV)** – OHV riding has a long history in the North Saskatchewan River Valley beginning with dirt bikes and snowmobiles and, in more recent years, expanding to quads. Today the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System has an extensive network of trails used by OHV riders. The use of

OHVs such as quads, dirt bikes, snowmobiles, and modified four-wheel drive trucks, is rapidly growing in the Drayton Valley area and two user groups currently exist (i.e. the Blue Rapids Motorized Recreation Society and the Brazeau ATV Club). Management considerations include:

- Appropriately designing and locating sustainable trails and tracks that minimize noise, soil erosion and maintain downstream water quality;
- Providing trails of different challenge levels that offer scenic opportunities;
- Developing onsite staging facilities;
- Safely co-existing with other user groups;
- Minimizing the spread of non-native species; and
- Minimize the risk of starting of fires from OHV exhaust systems.

**Jet Boating** – Jet boats are common on the North Saskatchewan River. Their shallow draft, high speeds, and ability to navigate through waves and rapids distinguish them from other kinds of motorboats. Jet boats may be used for touring, or for bringing hunters and anglers to favoured locations along the river. Jet boats require sloped ramps constructed from concrete or maintained gravel for safe launching and parking areas large enough to accommodate trucks with trailers. Management considerations include:

- Possible impacts to shore nesting birds caused by jet boat wake;
- The safe coexistence of non-motorized river recreation;
- Locating and building of boat launches that minimize noise and maintain downstream water quality; and
- Minimizing the spread of non-native species.

**Natural History Pursuits** – Bird watching, nature photography, amateur botany, and other natural history pursuits are important recreational activities that are increasing in popularity. With its varied terrain, diverse habitats, and wildlife, the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System offers excellent opportunities for these activities. Courses in bird identification, native edible and medicinal plants, and natural history have been conducted from the Pembina Nordic Ski Club's chalet and trails. The ski club has been the primary proponent of natural history pursuits in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

**Cross Country (Nordic) Skiing** - Nordic skiing has been popular in the Drayton Valley area for decades. Currently, Nordic skiing takes place on some 15 km of fully groomed dedicated trails in the North Saskatchewan River Valley approximately 6 km northeast of the Town of Drayton Valley. The Pembina Nordic Ski Club began developing the trail system in 1976 and holds the original tenure on these trails, secured by a license of occupation which gives the Club the right to develop and manage the trails for public use for Nordic skiing, cycling, and hiking. An additional 8 km of dedicated trails just 2 km straight east of the Town of Drayton Valley, built through a joint project of the Pembina Nordic Ski Club and the Drayton Valley Rotary Club, has been added to the system. The trail lease, along with trail development and operation responsibilities are in the process of being transferred to the newly formed Eagle Point Park Trails Association (EPPTA) and the entire trail system is now called the Rotary – Pembina Nordic Community Trails. The ski season runs from the beginning of December to the end of March, depending on snow accumulation and grooming practices. Additional back-country style skiing as well as snowshoeing and summer hiking is available on about 12 km of narrow footpath trails that are integrated into the main groomed trail system.

**Mountain Biking** - Mountain bikers prefer rough, varied terrain with hills, depressions, obstacles, and routes with scenic viewpoints. Mountain biking has been a popular summer season activity on Pembina Nordic Ski Club trails, as well as on trails shared with off-highway vehicle riders located on the east side of the North Saskatchewan River. The mountain biking season runs from April to October. If trails are not

properly designed signed, and maintained, mountain biking raises management concerns about public safety and erosion control.

**Equestrian Riding** - Equestrian riders use various trails in the Drayton Valley area for day trips. Riders frequently use trails along the North Saskatchewan River. Management considerations include:

- Erosion control;
- Designing facilities that maximize user experience;
- Separating equestrian trails and non-motorized trails from motorized trails; and
- The spread of non-native plant species.

**Hiking, Running, and Fitness Walking** - Hiking, running, and fitness walking are among the most popular non-mechanized recreational activities enjoyed by area residents. Management considerations include:

- Limiting access to motorized vehicles; and
- Routing trails to avoid problems with seepage, impacts on ecologically sensitive sites, and critical habitat for sensitive wildlife species.

**Hunting and Trapping** – Hunting and trapping are a traditional way of life for Aboriginal peoples and many of the region’s residents. It is also a popular sport and pastime. Hunters are drawn to this area by the abundant wildlife, particularly deer, and the area’s easy accessibility. Hunting will only be allowed within Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, subject to certain restrictions and the successful mitigation of safety concerns. Trapping will only be allowed on existing traplines. A major management consideration is public safety.

**Outdoor Archery** – Archery is practiced at the Brazeau Bowbenders Archery Club lease north of Highway 22, near the Willey West Campground. As per an agreement between the Archery Club and Alberta Tourism Parks and Recreation, this is the only site where outdoor archery is currently permitted within the Provincial Park. Currently the Archery Club is considering relocation to the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area next to the Evergreen Shooting Club. While it is possible to shoot year-round, outdoor archery is generally practiced in the snow-free months from April to the end of October. Management considerations include:

- Fencing and signage;
- Public safety education; and
- Determining compatibility with other non-motorized recreation uses such as hiking and mountain biking.

**Sport Shooting (Firearms)** – There is a long history of sport shooting in the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area where the Evergreen Shooting Club has been operating as a shooting range since 1974. Management considerations include:

- Providing an adequate buffer between the rifle range and other recreational activities;
- Fencing and signage; and
- Public safety.

**Sport Fishing** – From May to September, local residents enjoy fishing on the North Saskatchewan River. Anglers are frequently seen at popular camp sites and informal use areas throughout the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. The most popular and plentiful game fish species caught are northern pike (*Esox lucius*) and walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum*). Alberta Sustainable Resource Development - Fish and Wildlife Division manage the sport fishery and freshwater fish populations. Fishing on the North Saskatchewan River is controlled by regulating catch and size limits and prohibiting the capture of rare

species such as lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*). Fishing is currently a heavily regulated recreation activity that will not require additional management prescription. Management considerations include:

- Possible impacts to shore nesting birds caused by accessing the river; and
- Unwanted garbage left along the shoreline.

**Canoeing, Kayaking and Rafting** – Canoeing, kayaking, and rafting are some of the region’s oldest recreation activities. Paddlers typically launch at an upstream location and travel downstream to the Willey West Campground or to one of the several other take-out points. Some canoe and kayak trippers pass through the area on longer trips and camp along the river bank or on islands. The active season for recreational paddling is mid-May through the end of September. Canoeing and kayaking are currently promoted by the Drayton Valley Paddling Club, which sponsors day trips and overnight excursions. Paddlers are able to approach riparian habitats that are simply inaccessible to others (except jet boaters). Consequently, their impacts on some species such as shore-nesting water birds, and cliff nesters may need to be anticipated and monitored. Management considerations include:

- Possible impacts to shore nesting birds caused by accessing the river; and
- Unwanted garbage left along the shoreline.

### **6.3 Existing Facilities and Infrastructure**

While well-used recreation facilities and infrastructure exist within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System, significant improvements and additions are needed to enhance safety, control impacts, and improve the recreation experience. The Parks Council will work to ensure consistency of design and support Operating Partners with core park infrastructure. The Operating Partners will be responsible for the construction, maintenance, operation of the facilities, all underground utilities, and infrastructure needed for specific recreation opportunities that occur on their leases and trails. Alberta Parks must approve all proposals prior to development.

The following recreation facilities currently exist in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System (See Map 6 and 7):

- The Eagle Point Park Trails Association (EPPTA) in collaboration with the Pembina Nordic Ski Club currently maintains nearly 23 km of wide trails, known as the Rotary – Pembina Nordic Community Trails which are fully maintained and groomed all winter to support both skate skiing and classic [track] skiing. They are also designed to support summer mountain biking, hiking and nature walks. The north section of the trail system is accessible at several points along Township Road 494 east of Range Road 72. The south section of the trail system is accessible from 50th Avenue East / Township Road 492 by the Drayton Valley Cemetery. In addition about 12 km of narrow footpath level trails fan out from the main trail system to access viewpoints along the North Saskatchewan River Valley and support additional hiking cycling skiing and snowshoeing. The Pembina Nordic Ski Club also has developed and operates a chalet, event staging area, instructional training fields, parking area, outhouse toilet facility, picnic areas, and other constructed facilities as part of its license of occupation.
- The Brazeau ATV Club maintains a staging and camping area that falls within the south-western most extension of the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area south of Violet Grove. Facilities on this lease include toilets, a vehicle turn-around, parking for 20 vehicles and primitive camping with fire pits.

- The Evergreen Shooting Club holds a 20.6 ha lease within the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. The facility is fenced and parking is available.
- Willey West is currently the only managed campground within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. The campsite is located next to the Highway 22 bridge just east of the Town of Drayton Valley. Willey West was constructed by Brazeau County and provides 57 serviced sites (seven with complete power, water, and sewage handling). There is also a day-use shelter, boat launch, recreation field, playground, and other amenities. The campground is tended by a full-time caretaker throughout the camping season.
- The Brazeau Bowbenders Archery Club maintains a 3-D archery range within in Eagle Point Provincial Park near the Willey West Campground. Currently the Archery Club and Alberta Parks are considering relocating the archery facility to the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area next to the Evergreen Shooting Club.

The Parks Council is responsible for coordinating plans and initiatives among Operating Partners involved in operating recreational facilities and providing recreational services and programs.

#### **6.4 Proposed Facilities and Trails**

Several new recreation facilities are proposed for the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. An environmental review, historical resource impact assessments and other assessments will help determine the most appropriate locations for proposed developments and facilities (See Maps 6 and 7). In addition, proper long-range recreational planning will also help to ensure that trail networks are created and facilities and developments within the Park System are linked to those in neighbouring municipalities.

A final decision on new facility proposals will be made by Alberta Parks and will require the completion of the proponents' final concept design and operational plan, as well as the completion and approval of an environmental review, historical resource impact assessments (and any other assessments deemed necessary by Alberta Parks), prior to development and operation of any new recreational facilities and/or trails.

##### **6.4.1 Eagle Point Park Trails Association (EPPTA)**

EPPTA is a joint effort combining the energy and resources of the Rotary Club of Drayton Valley and the Pembina Nordic Ski club to develop and operate the Rotary – Pembina Nordic Community Trails described above. EPPTA is now managing and maintaining the existing trail system and has several approved trail development projects underway and several others proposed. Proposed trail upgrades or expansions include:

- Upgrading existing full-width groomed trails in several sections to national event standards;
- Adding a full-width groomed trail 3 km loop at the north end of the system;
- Looking at options for connecting the north and south trail systems;
- Improving existing narrow foot-path level trails and adding several km of narrow trails to key viewpoints;
- Upgrading existing picnic site facilities along the trail system and developing 3 or 4 new ones; and

- Potentially adding a warm-up shelter and picnic site at the north end of the system for user safety and comfort.

EPPTA also proposes to develop and operate a public campground, day-use area and boat launch at the east end of Township Road 494 in a location previously occupied by Brazeau County gravel extraction operations (now reclaimed) and subject to considerable random and unmanaged day use and some random camping, and canoe-kayak boat launching. Key elements of the campground area will include:

- 20 to 30 walk-in tent sites, un-serviced with vegetation buffering between dedicated parking area, and also accessible from the trail system for hikers or cyclists and from the river for canoe and kayak overnight trip camping via a suitable sand –gravel bar and backwater pull-in area;
- 20 to 30 vehicle accessible campsites able to support either tents or small recreation vehicles, also un-serviced;
- Vault toilets, proper garbage disposal and common potable water supply;
- A day-use area with cook-shelter, small field play area, and parking;
- A non-motorized boat launch area with capacity for emergency and rescue boat access; and
- A network of walking trails integrated into the main EPPTA trail system.

Maps 8 and 9 show the existing and proposed Rotary – Pembina Nordic Community Trails System, and associated Eagle Point Park Trails Association and Pembina Nordic Ski Club facilities.

#### 6.4.2 *Pembina Nordic Ski Club (PNSC)*

PNSC has reduced its existing trail area lease to a basic area required for its existing chalet /equipment storage / education programs / group camping and event staging-area and has transferred the balance of its lease area to EPPTA. Some improvements are also planned for the publicly accessible facilities operated by PNSC including:

- A ski waxing room, or shed (attached or detached from the chalet);
- Construction of secure facilities storage and maintenance of trail grooming and maintenance equipment;
- Developing a Nordic ski and /cycling terrain park northeast of the chalet. Alternatively this could be developed in concert with the DV – Brazeau Snow Club (The downhill ski club) at the Downhill ski facility located adjacent to the EPPTA trails on private land. Both EPPTA and PNSC are interested in pursuing this option if amenable to the Downhill Club;
- Upgrading the existing chalet access road and parking area; and
- Adding night time trail lighting for a portion of the trail system near the ski chalet/staging area.

#### 6.4.3 *The Evergreen Shooting Club (Shooting Club)*

The Shooting Club maintains and operates a 200- and 300-metre rifle range, a 300-metre skeet range and a 45 x 100 metre pistol/rimfire range. The Shooting Club has submitted an application to Alberta Parks for an expanded lease area that will include new facilities that the Evergreen Shooting Club will co-managed with the Brazeau Bowbenders' Archery Club. Map 10 shows existing and proposed Shooting Club facilities while the following provides a brief summary of the proposed improvements:

- Expansion of the 200-metre shooting range to 500 metres and the establishment of two earthen berms between each of the ranges.
- Partnering with the Brazeau Bowbenders' Archery Club to construct/co-manage:
  - An indoor facility (with space for three offices, a small meeting room and secure storage, washroom and indoor shooting area out to 50 m for archery, pistol and rim-fire rifles) and a small maintenance building;
  - A new, powered 25 unit group site that would accommodate RVs and tent campers. The campsite would also have a common bathroom facility with vault toilets and a small gathering area with a picnic shelter; and
  - A day-use/boat launch area with approximately five picnic tables, fire pits, two vault toilets and parking for 40 to 50 vehicles.

#### 6.4.4 Brazeau Bowbenders Archery Club (Bowbenders)

The Bowbenders currently operates a lease just north of Highway 22 in the Eagle Point Provincial Park, where they maintain three-dimensional archery trails. The Bowbenders have permission to use a nearby oilfield lease in the Provincial Park for parking and conventional field shoots. The current terms of the Bowbenders' lease prohibit the construction of permanent structures, therefore no toilets, shelters or storage buildings are available on their current site. The Bowbenders have expressed interest in moving north of the Shooting Club. If the new lease is approved, their current site will be available for other recreational opportunities, however, if the Bowbenders' lease is not approved, the Club will remain at its current location. Map 11 shows the existing and proposed Archery Club trails and facilities while the following provides a brief summary of the proposed improvements:

- The construction of a 100 x 45 metre archery field.
- The construction of a four kilometre archery trail system that has four independent trail loops, including a smaller trail loop to accommodate mobility restricted individuals.
- A fourth loop, south of the proposed facility that would be utilized to host provincial/national events.
- Partnering with the Shooting Club to construct/co-manage (same as listed above):
  - An indoor facility (with space for three offices, a small meeting room and secure storage, washroom and indoor shooting area out to 50m for archery, pistol and rim-fire rifles) and a small maintenance building and parking for 20-30 vehicles;
  - A new, powered 25 unit group-site that would accommodate RVs and tent campers. The campsite would also have a common bathroom facility with vault toilets and a small gathering area with a picnic shelter; and
  - A day-use/boat launch area with approximately five picnic tables, fire pits, two vault toilets and parking for 40 to 50 vehicles.

#### 6.4.5 *Blue Rapids Motorized Recreation Society (BRMRS)*

BRMRS is a registered non-profit organization that has applied for a recreational lease from Alberta Parks to construct off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding facilities in the north-eastern most part of Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. The proposed trails will result in many of the existing random use trails being either reclaimed or upgraded to the specifications outlined within Alberta's Recreation Corridor and Trails Classification System. In addition, the proposed trails and tracks will provide a variety of motorized recreation opportunities including organized competition events, recreational trail riding, rider training and family-related motorized sporting endeavours. Maps 12 and 13 show the proposed BRMRS trails and facilities while the following provides a summary of the proposed developments:

- An unserviced campground, with approximately 57 individual sites and 14 group sites designed for both RVs and trailers with composting toilets, garbage collection and fire pits while maintaining a minimum 40 m buffer from Range Road 71. Group sites will be developed in existing cleared areas where possible;
- The construction of a garage/concession building where food and permits could be sold;
- A maintenance equipment storage shed and an OHV machine wash station;
- A competition motocross track (approx. 1.7 km in length) that is suitable for the promotion and running of provincial and national events (designed with features and obstacles such as jumps, ramps, berms, difficult corners and straight lengths), a vintage or beginners track for riders who are either practicing or would like to become involved in the sport and a children's mini-track; and
- Construction of a 60-80 km OHV trail system with 10-30 meter buffer between trails (complete with stacked loops and satellite trails). A single trail head will provide access from the campground and parking lot to the motorized trail network. Trails would be three-metres wide and trail layout would respect topography and other trail design considerations.

#### 6.4.6 *Brazeau ATV Club (ATV Club)*

The ATV Club is a registered non-profit organization established in 2000 with the mandate, "To promote a safe and enjoyable family riding experience which will ensure future fun and preservation of the environment for the next generation". The ATV Club's key accomplishments include the construction of a staging area with campsites and washrooms as well as the construction of well-engineered trail bridges.

The ATV Club has an existing lease for a staging and camping area in the far southwest corner of the Provincial Recreation Area that is free of charge and open to the public. This area of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System also includes a number of OHV trails managed by the ATV Club. These trails are part of a larger network of trails that extend westward outside the Provincial Recreation Area. Map 14 shows the current trails and facilities of the Brazeau ATV Club while the following provides a summary of the proposed improvements:

- Increasing the number of campsites from 15 to 20, constructing a cookhouse and installing an entrance sign; and

- Club members are interested in expanding trails westward and possibly make a long-distance connection to Brazeau Dam, 34 km away.

#### 6.4.7 *Drayton Valley Horse Club (Horse Club)*

The Horse Club is a registered non-profit organization with over 100 members. The organization's mission is to increase equestrian use in the Drayton Valley area by providing good equestrian opportunities locally. Currently no dedicated Horse Club trails exist in either the Eagle Point Provincial Park or the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. The Horse Club has applied for a recreation lease with Alberta Parks for a staging and informal camping area in the southwest corner of the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. Maps 15 and 16 show the proposed Drayton Valley Horse Club trails and facilities while the following provides a summary of the proposed facilities:

- Staging areas will include parking, user-maintained overnight camping, environmentally friendly outdoor toilets, manure bins, horse hitching rails/tie stalls, fire pits, a watering area for horses, picnic tables and a kiosk for maps and information on the trail system and club.

While the final layout and location of equestrian trails is unknown, the Horse Club considers the trails mapped in the southern half of the Provincial Recreation Area to be the highest priority because it provides both the length and expansion opportunities equestrian riders are looking for – trails long enough for a rider to travel five or six hours (16 – 24 km or 10-15 mi), camp overnight and ride out.

The Horse Club has also expressed interest in developing trails in the Eagle Point Provincial Park. If the Bowbenders are relocated to a new lease location, there is an opportunity for the Horse Club to use the existing trails and to develop a second staging area in the Eagle Point Provincial Park. It is likely that trails developed in Eagle Point Provincial Park will be day-use trails unless trail connections outside the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System are established.

#### 6.4.8 *Brazeau County - Willey West Campground*

Willey West is a County-owned but privately-managed campground that has 57 campsites some of which are fully serviced (i.e. power, water and sewage), others with limited-service (i.e. power only) and some sites are not serviced. Construction of the new Highway 22 bridge will directly impact existing Willey West facilities. A portion the existing playground/park area, the group campground and the baseball field will be lost from the construction. Brazeau County has submitted a new lease application to Alberta Parks that would expand the footprint of Willey West to include a new campground area and trails. Map 17 shows existing and proposed facilities and trails while the following provides a summary of the improvements being proposed:

- The development of a group campsite to replace the one that will be lost during the construction of the new bridge. This group site will have pit toilets, a water source and be fenced and gated;
- The campsites lost during the bridge construction will be replaced;

- The day-use area south of the playground/playing field area will be relocated due to the realignment of Highway 22 and a new day-use area with parking will be developed at the bottom of the service road into Willey West; and
- A new interpretive trail system for hiking and bicycling is also being proposed north east of the campground.

#### 6.4.9 *Drayton Valley Paddling Club & Central Alberta Jet Boat Association*

Through joint representation granted under a Memorandum of Understanding both the Drayton Valley Paddling Club and the Central Alberta Jet Boat Association are working together to identify the existing informal boat launches that currently exist within both the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. These organizations will continue to work with other operating partners and industry representatives to strategically identify those areas where formalized launches should be constructed and/or existing launches reclaimed.

#### 6.4.10 *Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council*

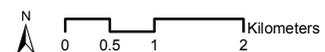
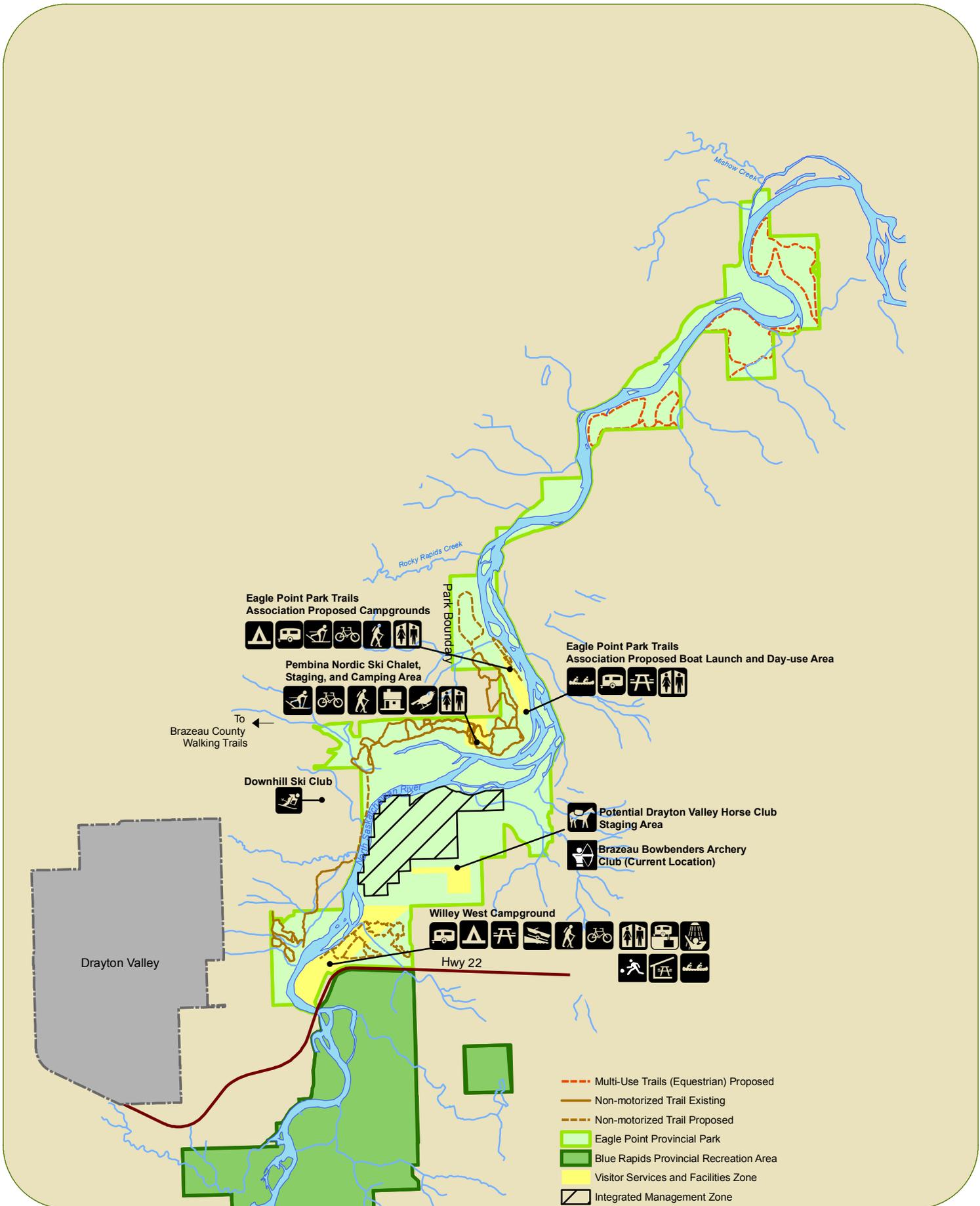
The Parks Council will take the lead in developing an implementation plan to formalize the orderly development and operation of the proposed facilities and trails.

The Parks Council will take the lead in managing those lands that fall outside of any recreational and/or industry lease (including those lands held under Section 7 of the *Provincial Parks Act*).

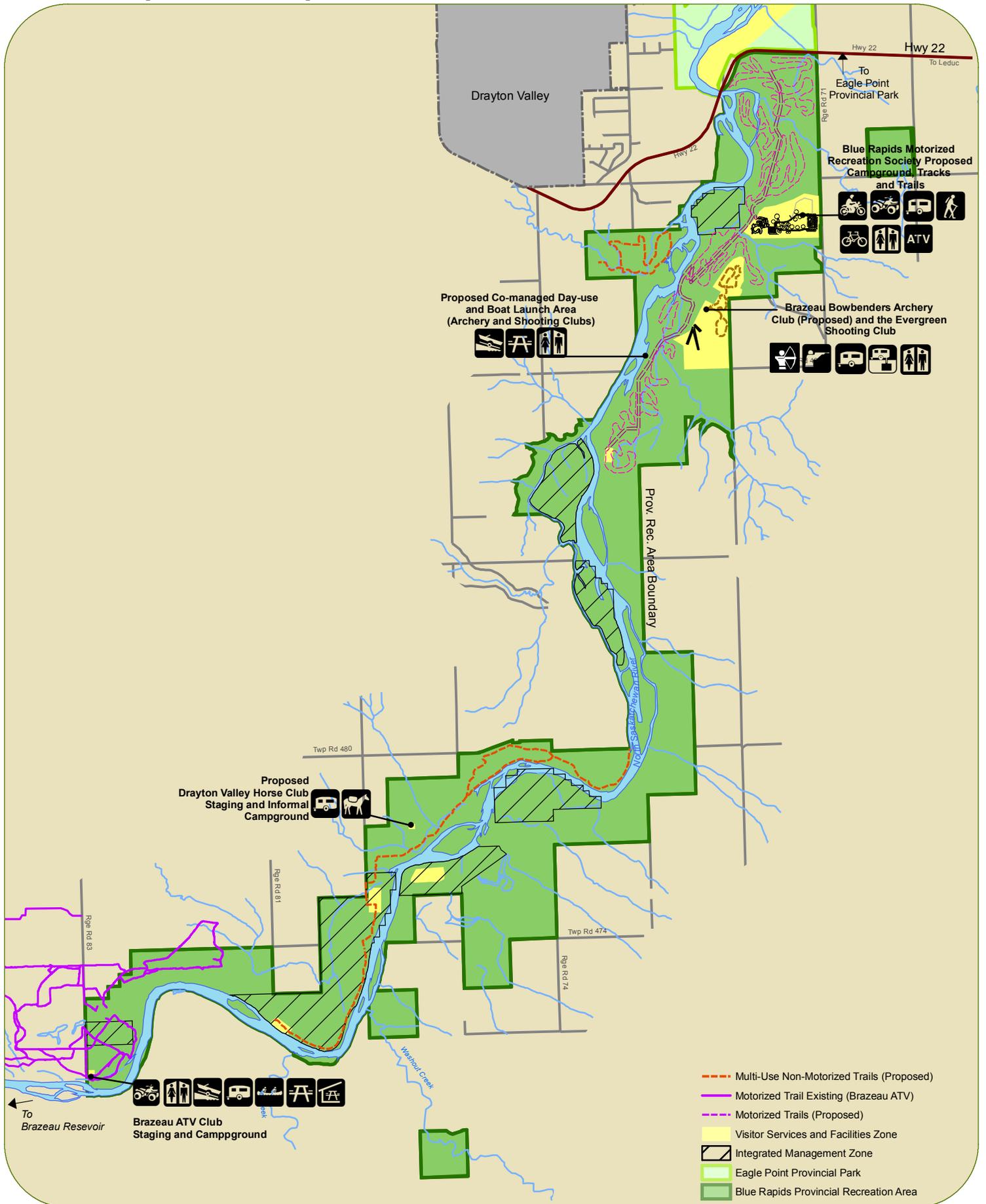
As a newly designated Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area, the full extent of the visitor services that will be provided by the Parks Council and Alberta Parks is currently unknown. It is likely that future public consultation sessions will result in new ideas and the identification and delivery of future opportunities through a combination of:

- Interpretative information;
- Orientation information;
- Environmental, recreation and safety education information; and
- Stewardship opportunities

# Map 6. Eagle Point Provincial Park - Overview

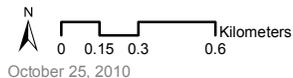
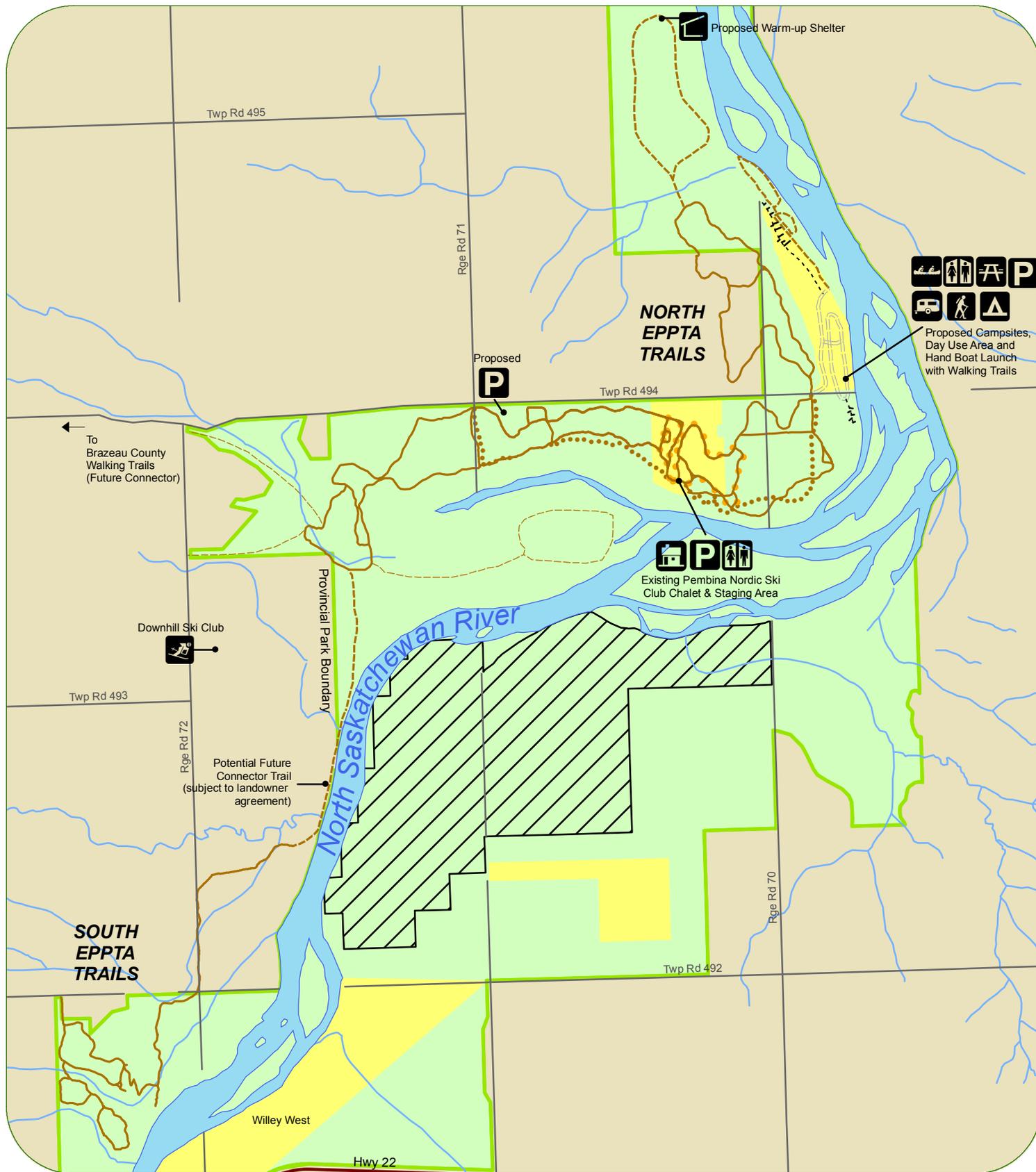


# Map 7. Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area - Overview



# Map 8. Rotary - Pembina Nordic Community Trails and Visitor Facilities

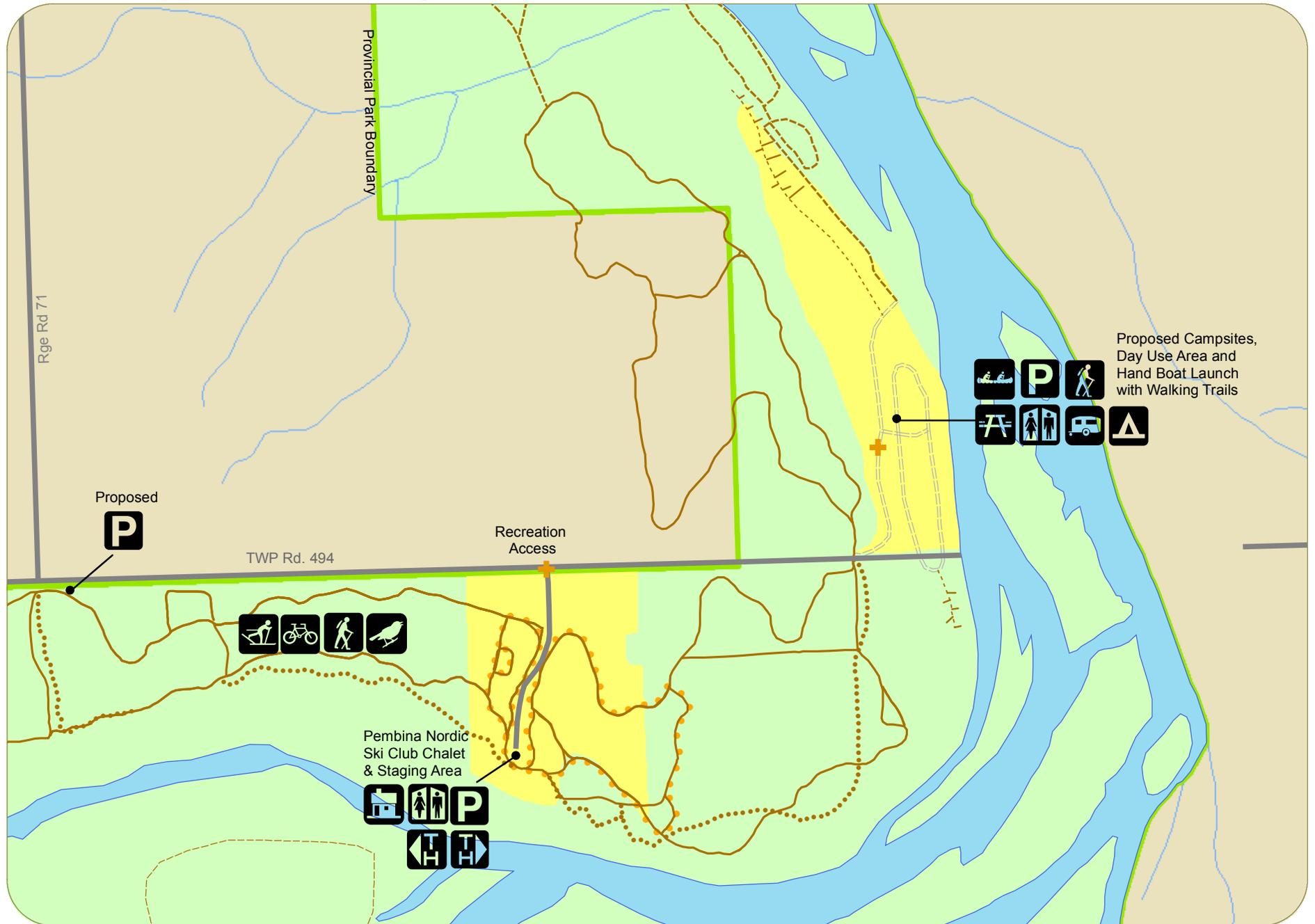
Operated by Eagle Point Park Trails Association in collaboration with Pembina Nordic Ski Club and Alberta Parks



Proposed Layout for Walk-In Tent Campsites and Vehicle Access Campsites are a preliminary concept only and subject to further field work and design planning.

- Narrow Trails (Existing)
- - - - Narrow Trails (Proposed)
- Main Groomed Trails (Existing)
- - - - Main Groomed Trails (Proposed)
- Road (Existing)
- - - - Road (Proposed/Improved)
- ▨ Integrated Management Zone
- Visitor Services and Facilities Zone
- Eagle Point Provincial Park

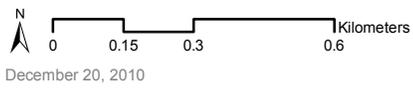
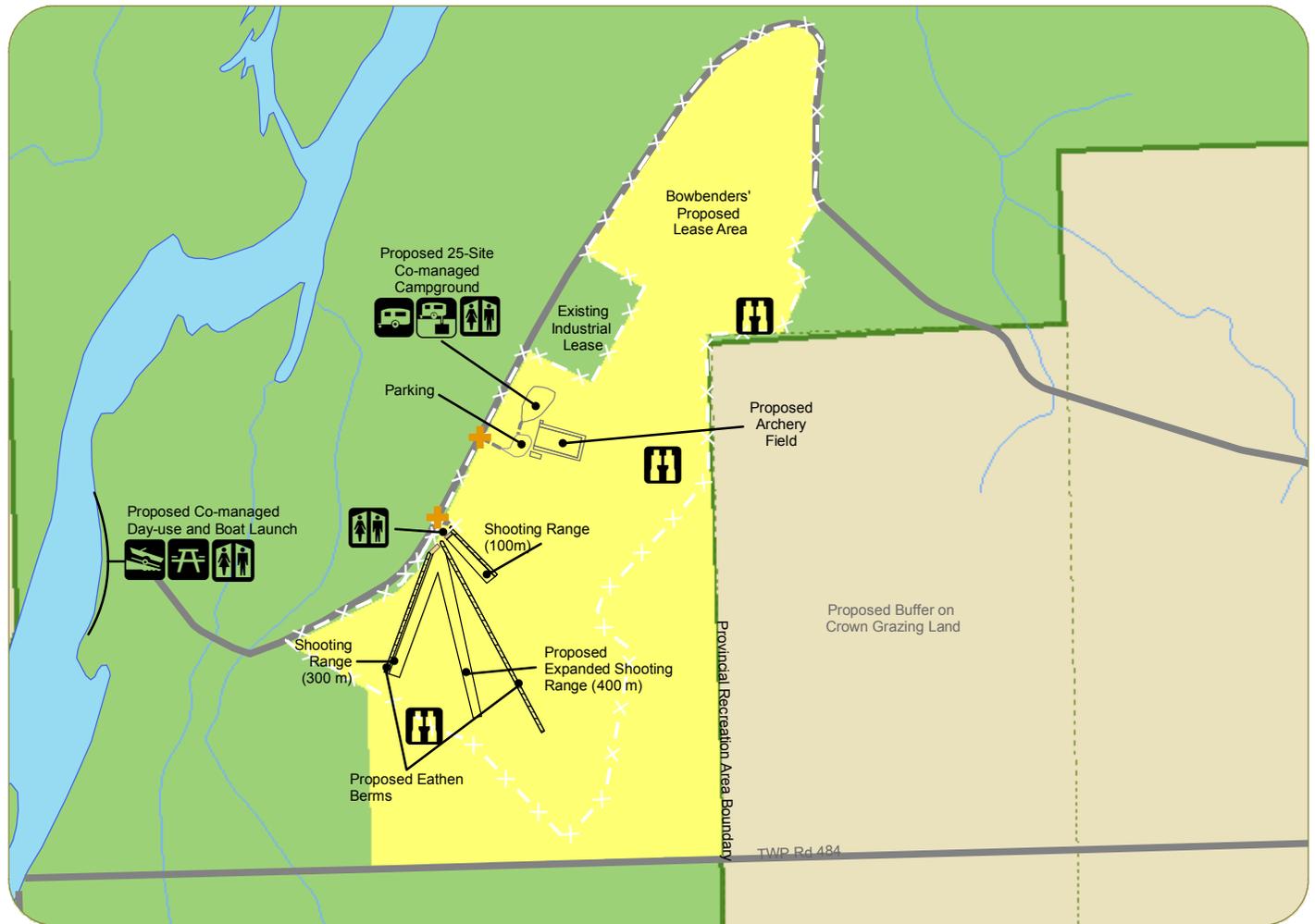
# Map 9. Eagle Point Park Trails Association and Pembina Nordic Ski Club - Proposed New and Improved Facilities



Proposed Layout for Walk-In Tent Campsites and Vehicle Access Campsites are a preliminary concept only and subject to further field work and design planning.

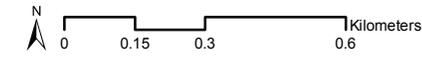
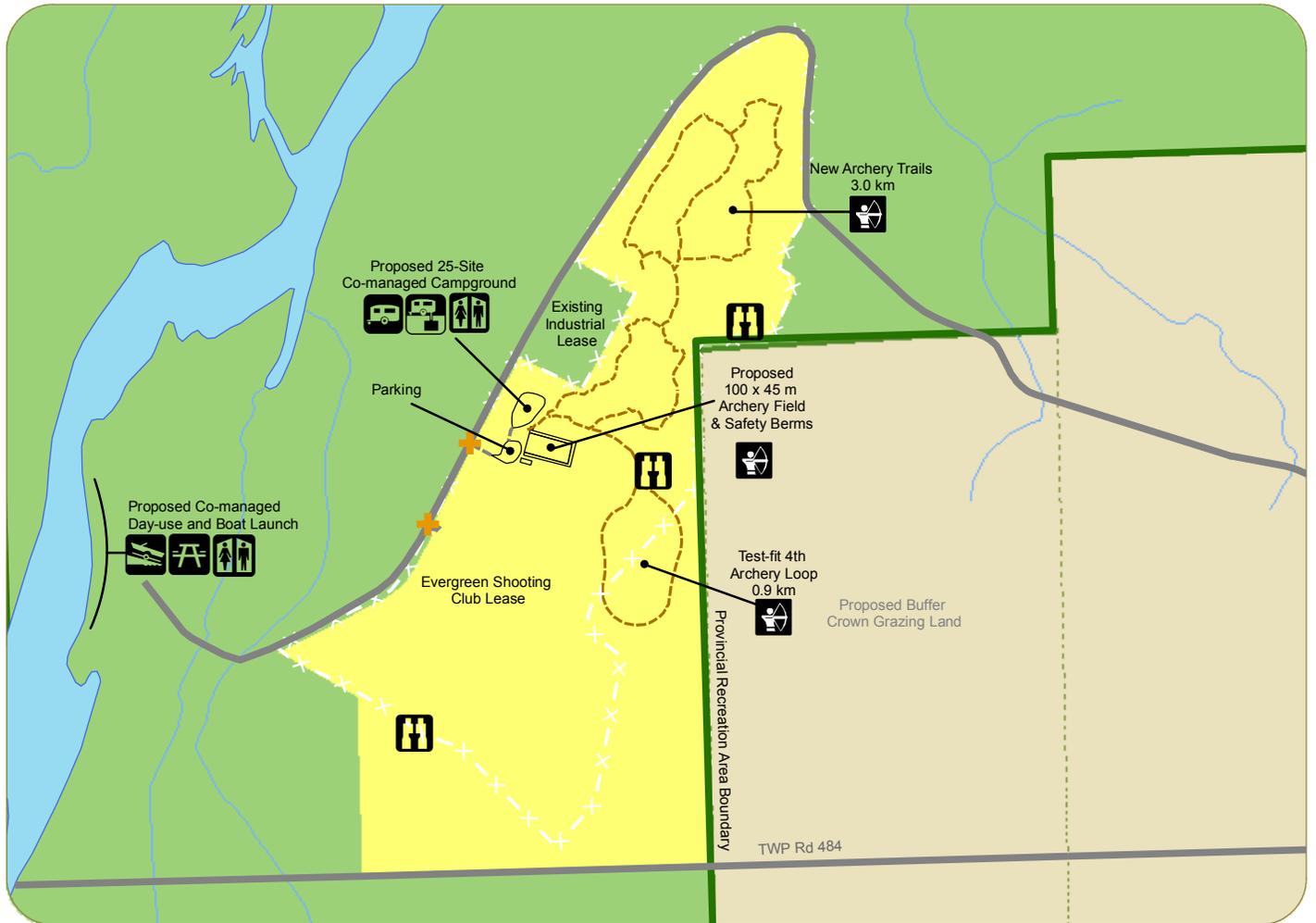
- Legend**
- Main Groomed Trails (Existing)
  - Main Groomed Trails (Proposed)
  - Narrow Trails (Existing)
  - Existing Road
  - Road (Proposed/Improved)
  - Visitor Services and Facilities Zone
  - Eagle Point Provincial Park

# Map 10. Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area - Evergreen Shooting Club



- Shooting Lanes
- Existing Road
- - - Proposed New or Improved Road
- Yellow Box Visitor Services and Facilities Zone
- Green Box Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area

# Map 11. Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area - Brazeau Bowbenders' Archery Club

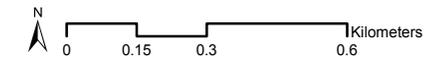
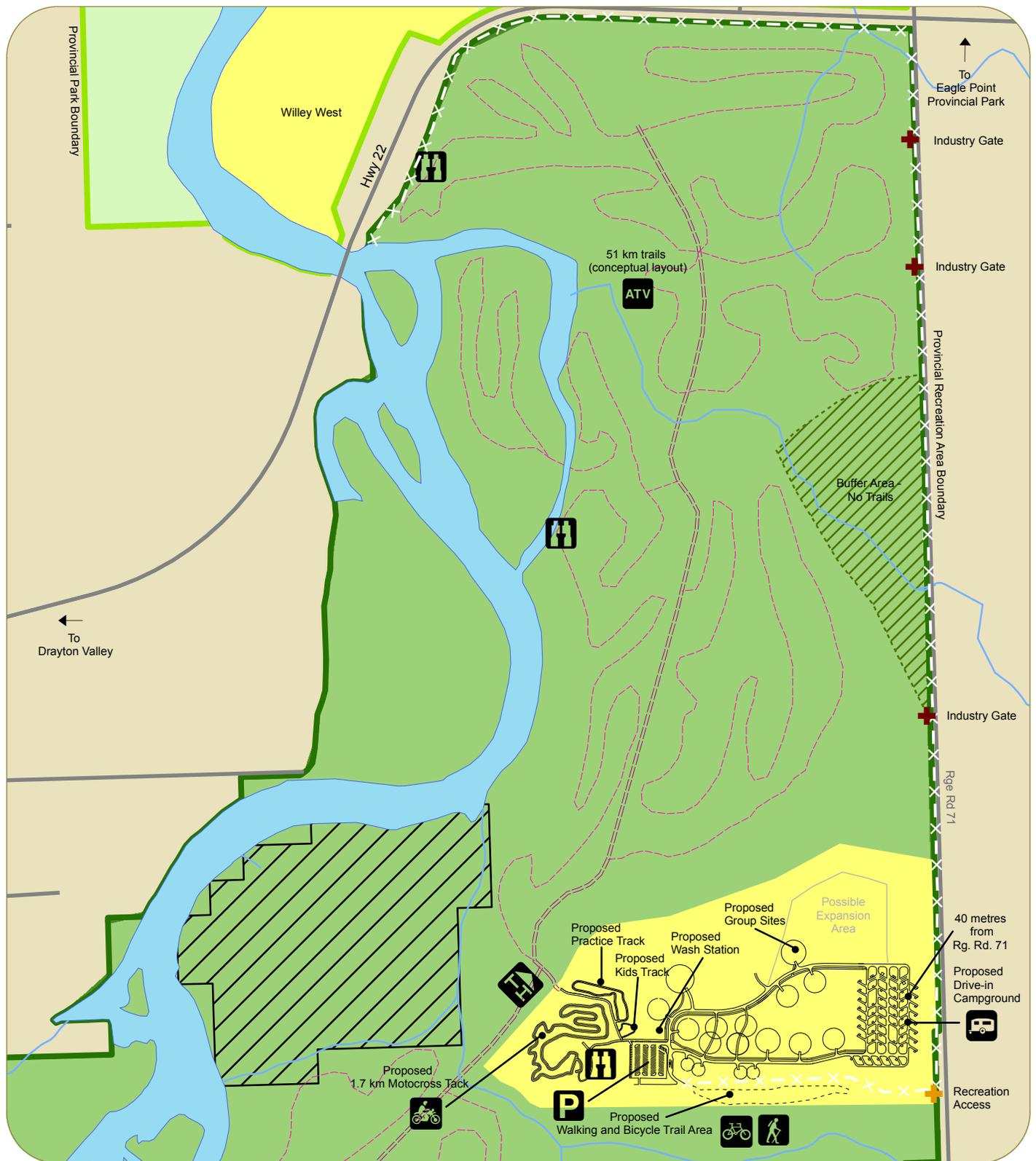


December 20, 2010

The indicated layout of the 4th archery loop is based upon limited desktop information and should only be considered as illustrative. Additional topographic information and field verifications are needed to develop true conceptual or schematic designs.

- - - Archery Trails Proposed
- Existing Road
- - - Proposed New or Improved Road
- Visitor Services and Facilities Zone
- Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area

# Map 12. Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area - Blue Rapids Motorized Recreation Society (Map 1 of 2)

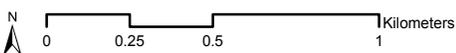
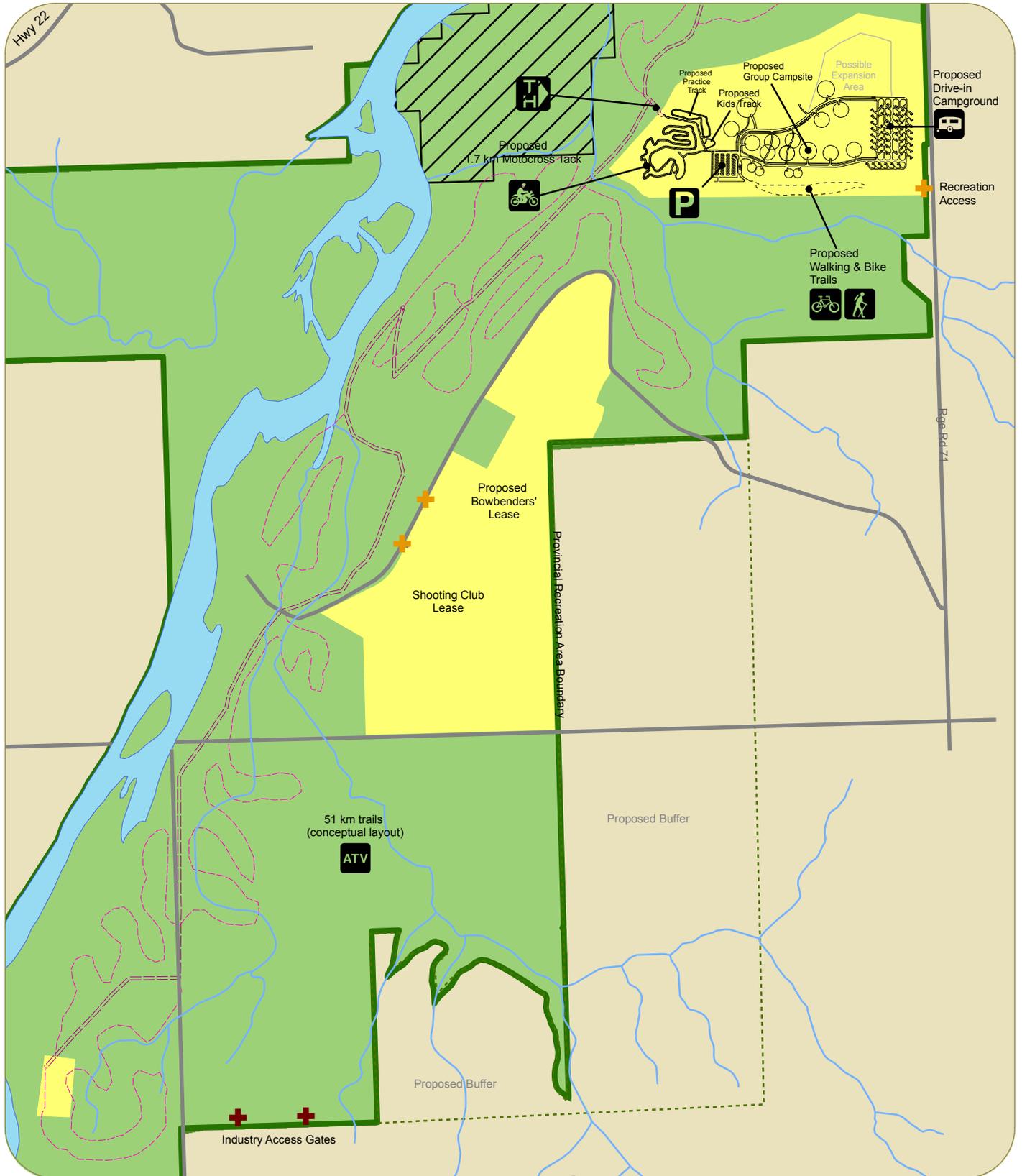


December 20, 2010

The indicated layout of the campground, ATV trails and track are based upon limited desktop information and should only be considered as illustrative. Additional topographic information and field verifications are needed to develop true conceptual or schematic designs.

- Proposed Main Trail
- Proposed OHV Trails
- Integrated Management Zone
- Buffer Area (No Trails)
- Visitor Services and Facilities Zone
- Eagle Point Provincial Park
- Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area

# Map 13. Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area - Blue Rapids Motorized Recreation Society (Map 2 of 2)

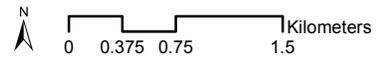
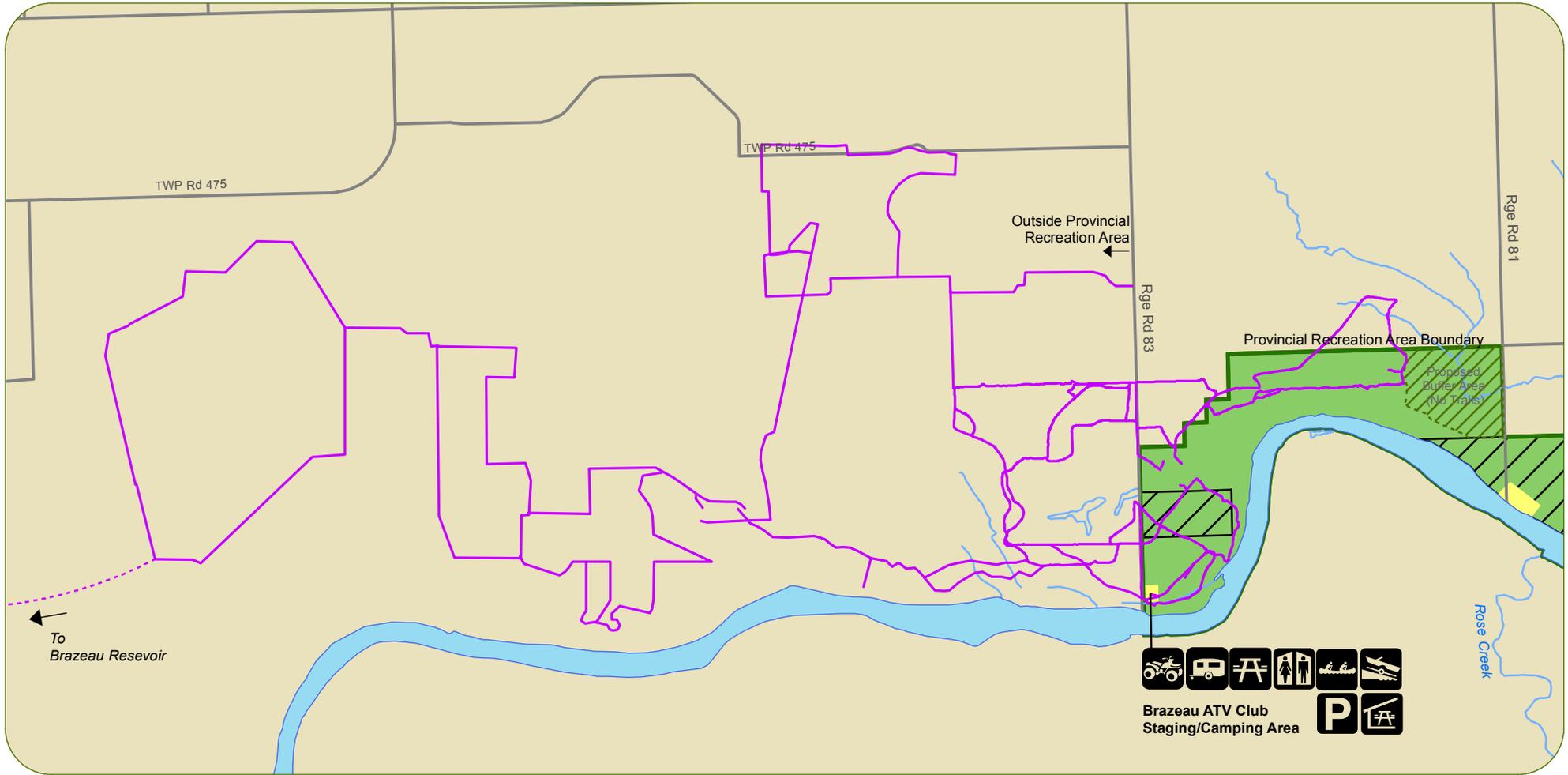


December 20, 2010

The indicated layout of the campground, ATV trails and track are based upon limited desktop information and should only be considered as illustrative. Additional topographic information and field verifications are needed to develop true conceptual or schematic designs.

- Proposed Main Trail
- Proposed OHV Trails
- Visitor Services and Facilities Zone
- Integrated Management Zone
- Eagle Point Provincial Park
- Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area

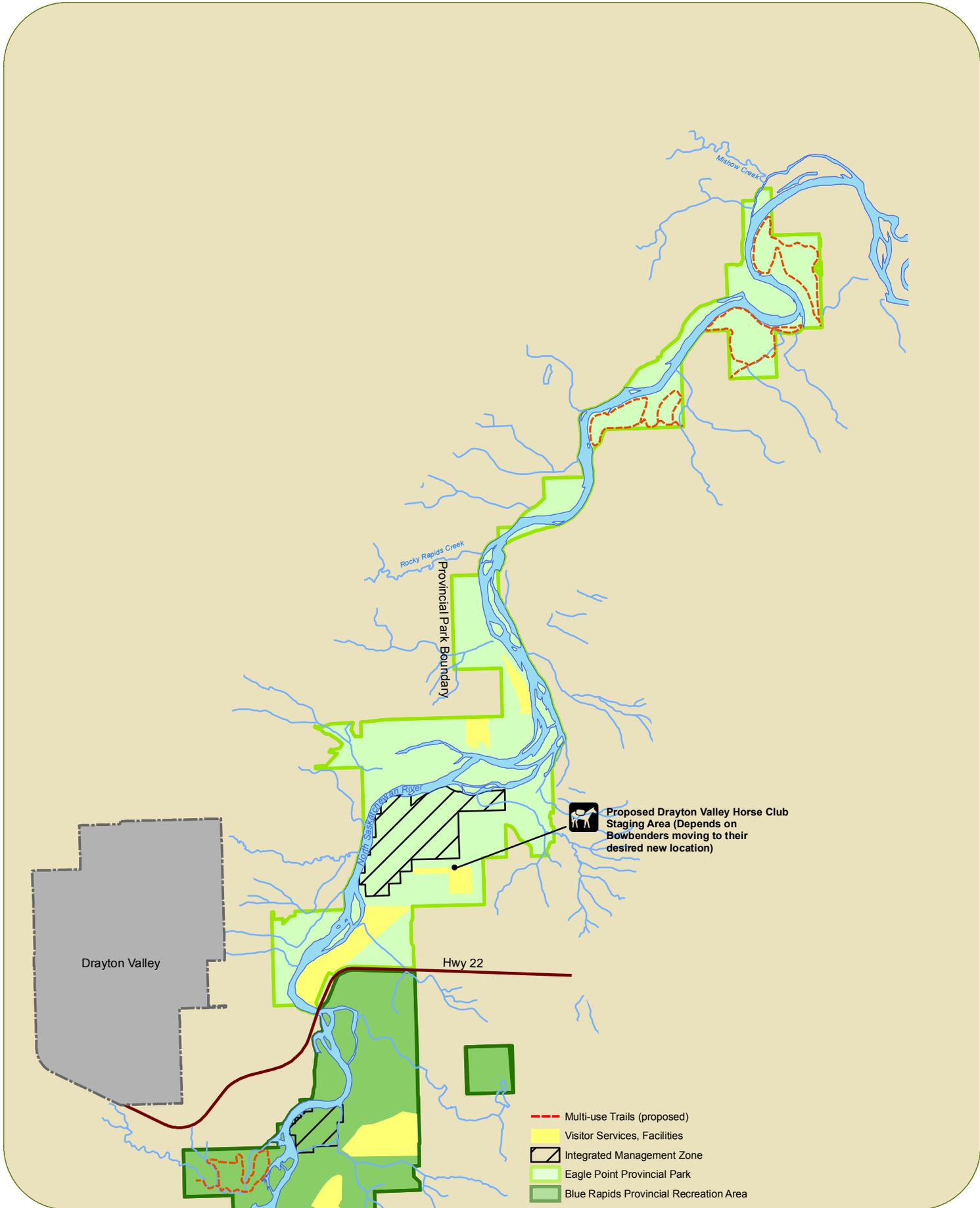
# Map 14. Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area - Brazeau ATV Club



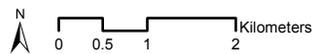
December 20, 2010

- - - Motorized Trail - Possible Connector
- Motorized Trail Existing
- Buffer Area (No Trails)
- Visitor Services and Facilities Zone
- Integrated Management Zone
- Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area

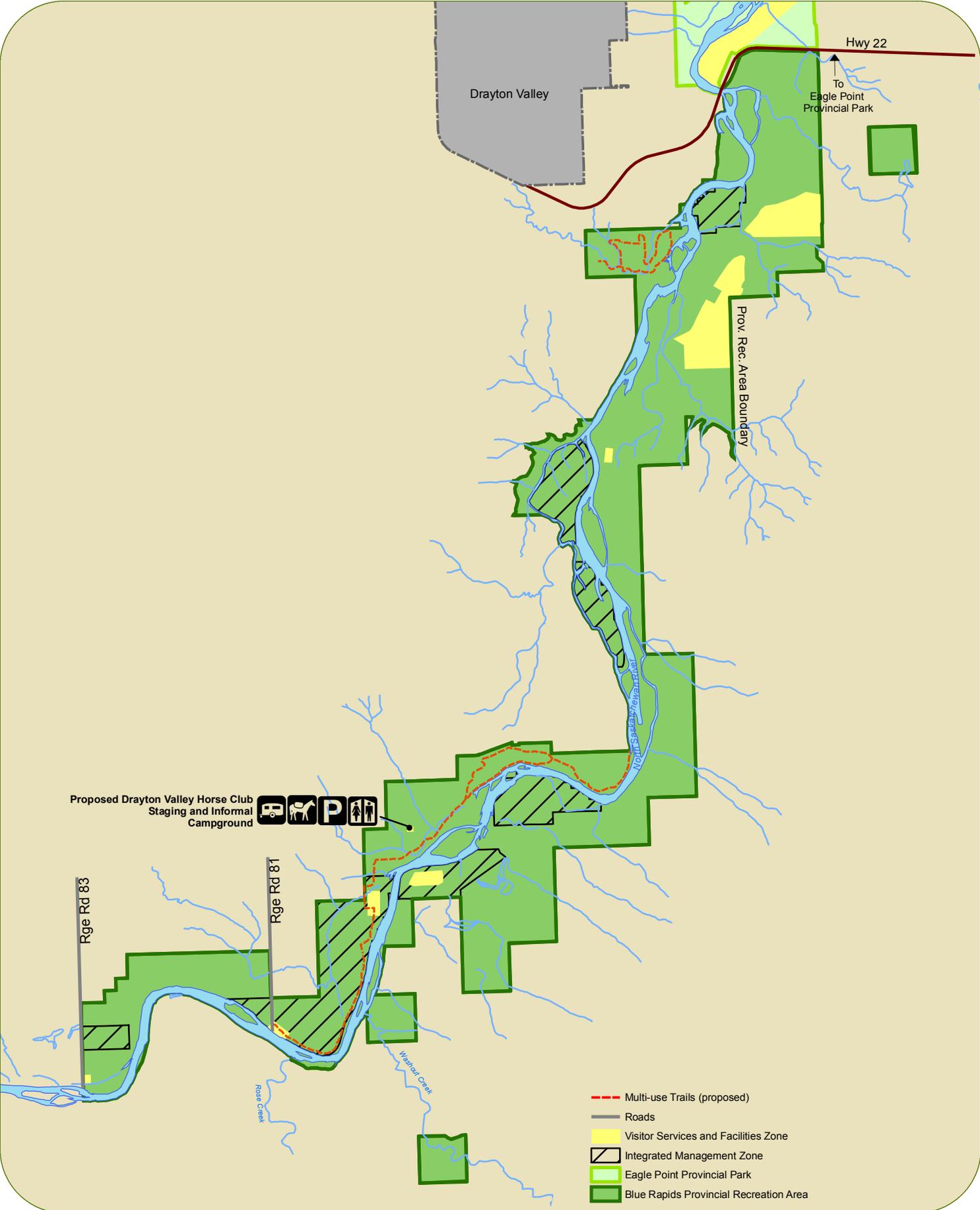
# Map 15. Eagle Point Provincial Park - Drayton Valley Horse Club



The indicated layout of horse trails is based upon limited desktop information and should only be considered as illustrative. Additional topographic information and field verifications are needed to develop true conceptual or schematic designs.

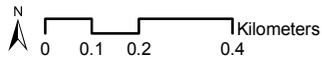
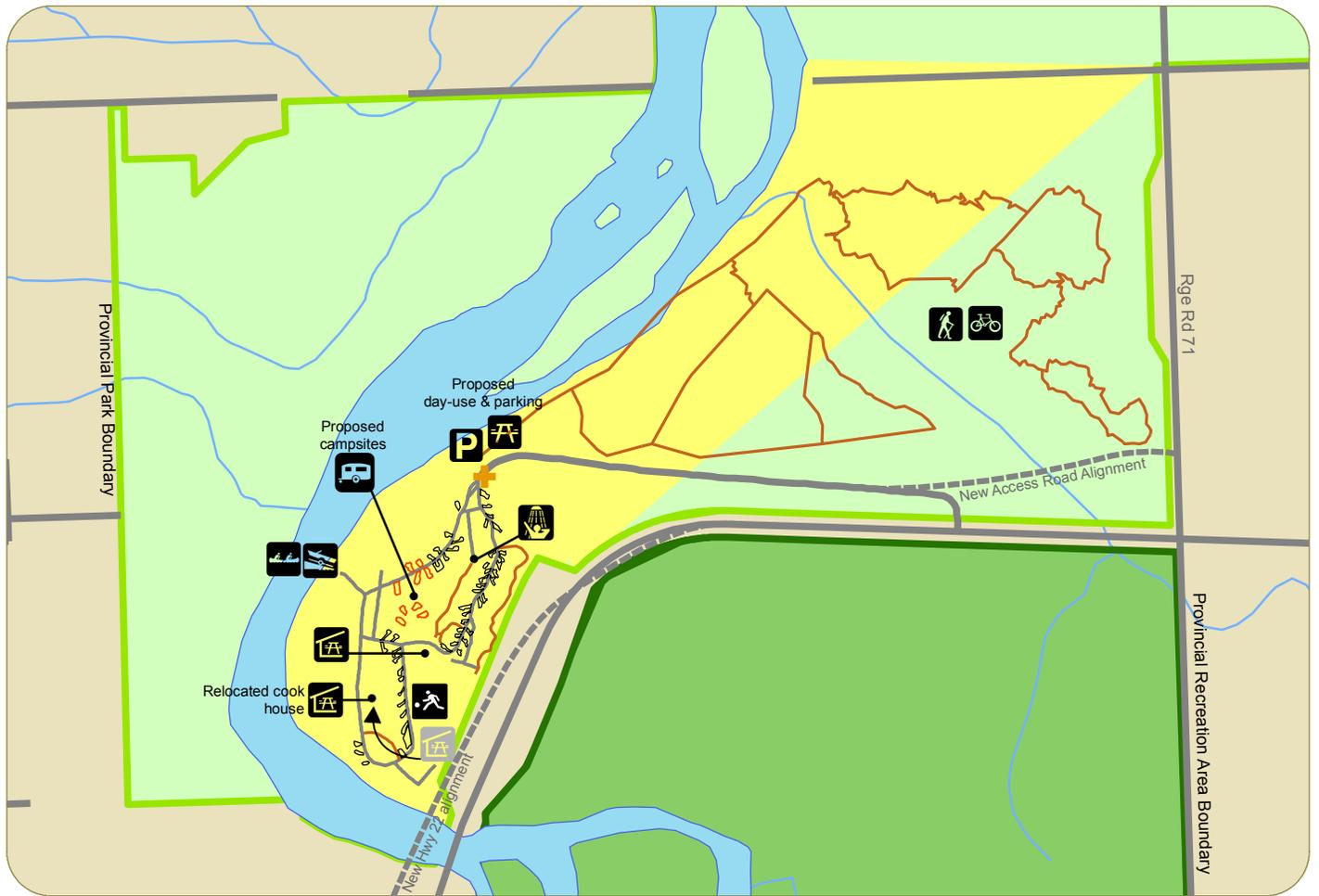


# Map 16. Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area - Drayton Valley Horse Club



The indicated layout of horse trails is based upon limited desktop information and should only be considered as illustrative. Additional topographic information and field verifications are needed to develop true conceptual or schematic designs.

# Map 17. Eagle Point Provincial Park - Willey West Campground



October 25, 2010

- Multi-use Non-Motorized Trails
- - - New Road Alignments
- Roads
- Visitor Services and Facilities Zone
- Eagle Point Provincial Park
- Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area

## 6.5 Park Management Objectives and Strategies

The following objectives and strategies aim to ensure the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System's rich recreation tradition continues, is enhanced, and occurs in ways and in places that protect and conserve natural and cultural values and reduce conflicts between adjacent land owners, the general public, and industry leaseholders.

### 6.5.1 Management Objectives and Strategies for the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System

The following management objectives and strategies apply throughout the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living		
Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<b>Recreation opportunity</b>	<b>To enhance access to a range of recreation opportunities in different settings</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Provide visitors a diversity of recreation opportunities based on a range of settings, skill levels, and abilities.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Construction of new facilities proposed by the Parks Council will be subject to the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An environmental review, using Alberta Parks' Environmental Review Guidelines, to determine the facility's suitability on the proposed site (e.g. wildlife and vegetation assessments),</li> <li>• A Historic Resource Impact Assessment,</li> <li>• Other assessments as required (e.g. traditional use/site assessment, sound testing),</li> <li>• The demand/need for the proposed facility and/or activity,</li> <li>• Use existing Alberta Parks' facility standards where feasible.</li> </ul>
<b>Trails</b>	<b>To provide a diverse range of trails for both motorized and non-motorized users</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> In consultation with Alberta Parks, leaseholders will be responsible for upgrading and constructing trails and facilities that will provide a broad range of recreation opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guided by the Government of Alberta's <i>Alberta Recreation Corridor and Trails Classification System</i> report, leaseholders will explore opportunities to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Non-motorized use trails, motorized use trails, mixed-use trails, water use trails, and extreme use trails, and;</li> <li>○ Primitive, semi-developed, and developed trails</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Evaluate the accessibility of select trails and facilities (new and existing) and, when feasible, design or redesign them to be barrier-free to people with disabilities in accordance with existing Alberta Parks' policies.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Where conflicts on trails can be managed, work with the Operating Partners to accommodate multiple user groups.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Design trails in consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government of Alberta's <i>Alberta Recreation Corridor and Trails Classification System</i></li> <li>• Best practices for different trail types</li> <li>• Utilizing natural features to provide scenic variety</li> <li>• Minimizing environmental impacts</li> </ul>

## Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consider: soils, slopes, and vegetation</li> <li>○ Consider wildlife movement requirements in the design/placement of fencing and other access controls</li> <li>○ Consider rare or unique species, ecosystems or landscapes</li> <li>○ Consider how trail design will impact sediment loading into water bodies</li> <li>○ Consider access points and bridge crossings</li> <li>• Reducing conflicts between users and industry</li> <li>• Connectivity with other facilities and trails within and outside the Park System</li> <li>• Maintenance requirements</li> <li>• Local expertise from the Parks Council and through information gathered during public consultation with Aboriginal peoples, industry and environmental groups, adjacent land owners and other user groups.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Research and implement best practices from North America for seasonal trail maintenance.</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Implement a trail reclamation, monitoring and maintenance program that will ensure trails remain in good condition.</p> <p><b>Strategy G</b> Explore the potential for designated equestrian trails, mountain bike trails and infrastructure to support group events and long-distance riding competitions.</p> <p><b>Strategy H</b> Establish agreements between the Operating Partners and Alberta Parks ensuring that any trails developed on Section 7 lands are built with the understanding that they may have to be closed or rerouted due to the changing needs of the industrial leaseholder(s).</p> <p><b>Strategy I</b> Work with the Operating Partners to identify and map those trails that can be shared with, or seasonally used by, mountain bikers and other recreationalists.</p> <p><b>Strategy J</b> Working with industry leaseholders, identify and support the development of trails on lands to be reclaimed.</p> <p><b>Strategy K</b> Work with Operating Partners, Municipalities, Adjacent Landowners, and Alberta Parks to develop an enforcement program focused on ensuring responsible recreation.</p>
<i>Water recreation</i>	<b>To provide a diverse range of safe and enjoyable water-based recreational opportunities</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Provide opportunities for recreational canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and jet boating.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Upgrade existing and consider the construction of new boat launches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify new river access points that can easily accommodate a boat launch, parking, and day use areas.</li> <li>• Seek new partners for sponsorship of additional boat launches and river day-use areas.</li> <li>• Obtain necessary approvals from Fisheries and Oceans</li> </ul>

## Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
		<p>Canada, and Alberta Environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to Section 4.10 strategies for Water</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Work with Operating Partners and emergency services to ensure river access and boat launches are appropriately located.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Provide information on river paddling distances, entry points, and drop off points, river difficulty (class), and other safety considerations.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Educate water users on methods to reduce the spread of non-native plant species at all launch sites.</p>
<p><i>Inventorying, monitoring and assessment</i></p>	<p>To work with partners to gain a strong understanding of recreation demand, the impacts of recreation on the environment, and visitor experience</p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Complete a Recreational Assessment that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify historic, current and future recreational use.</li> <li>Inventory all locations providing recreation opportunities (authorized and unauthorized) and location suitability.</li> <li>Collect ongoing visitor data from a variety of sources (surveys, vehicle counts, observations, etc.).</li> <li>Use provincial and local recreational information, visitor feedback, and trend analysis to gauge the ability of existing recreation facilities and services to meet recreation demand.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Design a monitoring and reporting program to ensure facilities and infrastructure are built and maintained in compliance with Alberta Parks' standards, and that visitor use, satisfaction of experience and effectiveness of mitigation techniques are maintained.</p>
<p><i>Facilities and infrastructure</i></p>	<p>To provide a range of facilities</p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Where facility conflicts can be managed, work with the Operating Partners to accommodate new user groups.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Consider small-scale, multi-season fixed roof day-use facilities in various areas throughout the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System (e.g. warm-up shelters, cook shelters).</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Alberta Parks will authorize maintenance/operating agreements with the Operating Partners that outline Alberta Parks' standards and requirements.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Identify day use and camping needs, potential providers, and appropriate locations.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Design and build facilities in consultation with Alberta Parks and in consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitive and special event requirements</li> <li>Best practices, with an emphasis on green design and sustainability</li> <li>Natural boundaries and features</li> <li>Noise mitigation</li> <li>Minimizing vandalism</li> <li>Accommodating multiple uses/events</li> <li>Conservation and protection strategies (Section 4.10)</li> <li>Alberta Parks facility design standards</li> </ul>

## Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
		<p><b>Strategy F</b> Encourage some facilities to be built outside the boundaries of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System so that the land base within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System can be utilized for recreation and conservation goals.</p>
	<p><b>To work with partners to build and maintain facilities</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Encourage and explore collaborative partnerships with various community organizations to sponsor, maintain, and develop new recreation facilities and opportunities.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Develop a plan for the long-term operation of recreation facilities and services in the event of an Operating Partner becoming unable to maintain operations.</p>

6.5.2 Management Objectives and Strategies Specific to the Eagle Point Provincial Park

The following management objectives and strategies are specific to Eagle Point Provincial Park.

Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living		
Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<i>Non-motorized trails</i>	<b>To enhance existing trail networks with expansions, improved facilities, and trail connections</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Support the Eagle Point Park Trails Association in working with adjacent landowners and obtaining landowner agreements to develop a connector trail between the North and South trails outside of the Park System as indicated on Map 8 Trails and the Rotary Trails.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Construct new and formally designate equestrian trails and associated staging area using portions of the Brazeau Bowbenders Archery Club site (if the club is relocated)</p>
<i>Facilities and infrastructure</i>	<b>To provide day use and camping sites in Eagle Point Provincial Park</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Enhance existing sites and construct the following facilities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting improvements to the Willey West campground and playground areas (Working in conjunction with Brazeau County)</li> <li>• Supporting the Pembina Nordic Ski Club in upgrading its existing camping area and supporting the Eagle Point Park Trails Association in its proposal to create a day-use and camping area at the end of Township Road 494</li> <li>• Supporting the Eagle Point Park Trails Association in its plans to develop a non-motorized and emergency vehicle boat launch</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Support the Eagle Point Park Trails Association in its efforts to provide ecologically responsible campsites that are accessible by non-motorized trail or boat.</p>

### 6.5.3 Management Objectives and Strategies Specific to the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area

The following management objectives and strategies are specific to the Provincial Recreation Area.

Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living		
Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<b>Motorized recreation</b>	<b>To provide opportunities for motorized recreation in Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Snowmobiles, quads, and dirt bikes will be accommodated on trails and facilities designated for their use within the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area. Alberta Parks will designate and approve trails for motorized recreation, in areas that are identified by the Parks Council.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Staging facilities, motorized trails, and a motocross track may be accommodated within the area located in the northeast portion of the Provincial Recreation Area (See Map 7). Provided that they are built in accordance to the strategies for facility and infrastructure design in Section 4.10.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Motorized recreation trails will be designed in accordance with the Government of Alberta's <i>Alberta Recreation Corridor &amp; Trails Classification System</i> report.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Identify, in consultation with adjacent landowners and neighbouring municipalities, potential trail connections outside of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System in an effort to work towards establishing a long-distance trail system that could link into neighbouring municipalities.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Develop a transition strategy for users to move from unauthorized to authorized trails.</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Work with recreational leaseholders to further develop and enhance current recreation operations by constructing or enhancing existing staging areas and trail facilities.</p>
<b>Equestrian Trails</b>	<b>To enhance and expand equestrian trails</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Support the Drayton Valley Horse Club in establishing new equestrian trails and an associated staging area at LSD 3, 31-47-07-W5.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Enhance existing trail networks with expansions, improved facilities, and connector trails with a focus on access to viewpoints.</p> <p>Refer to Section 4.10 strategies for Vegetation Management</p>
<b>Day use and camping areas</b>	<b>To provide and enhance a number of day use and camping locations</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Identify day-use and camping needs and locations for construction or enhancement.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Assess the appropriateness and feasibility of providing day use areas in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SW27-48-7-W5, SE21-48-7-W5 and SE23-47-8-W5</li> </ul>
<b>Hunting</b>	<b>To safely manage hunting within the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Hunting with a rifle, shotgun, and bow will be permitted within the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area according to the established Provincial hunting regulations and legislation for the Wildlife Management Unit, with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunting will be restricted within 400m of recreation facilities*.</li> <li>• Hunting will be permitted on recreational trails provided they are not within 400m of recreational facilities*.</li> </ul>

## Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrictions for hunting on areas under recreational or industrial leases will be posted by the Operating Partner or Industrial Leaseholder.</li> <li>• If necessary for public safety reasons, implement trail closures during hunting season.</li> <li>• Bear baiting will be prohibited</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Periodically review the safety of allowing hunting in the Provincial Recreation Area and modify strategies if required.</p> <p>*recreational facilities include campgrounds, staging areas, day-use areas and recreational buildings.</p>
<i>Archery and rifle range</i>	<b>To safely manage the archery and rifle ranges within the Provincial Recreation Area</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Appropriately sign and fence the rifle and archery ranges.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Utilize topography and natural restrictions when developing the final layout of the proposed facilities.</p>

## 7 ADJACENT LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

The natural and human-caused forces that can significantly impact protected areas are not constrained by lines on a map. For this reason, understanding and influencing land use decisions on adjacent lands is important to meeting park goals. There are several ways the Parks Council can influence the management and development of adjacent lands:

- Work with local and regional partners on land use and conservation issues.
- Support trail and greenway plans that would connect the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System to other natural spaces and urban centers.
- Support sustainable tourism development opportunities that would connect the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System to other natural spaces and urban centers.
- Play a role in educating adjacent landowners on land management best practices.
- Encourage the conservation efforts of adjacent land owners.

### 7.1 *Regional Partnerships*

Parks often fall into larger landscape management units that have broader objectives related to conservation. The Parks Council is committed to becoming involved in partnerships that support the Council's overall mission. For example, the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) addresses issues that are important to the management of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

NSWA is the official Watershed Planning Advisory Council for the North Saskatchewan River watershed, which encompasses the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. The group has embarked on an Integrated Watershed Management planning process that will identify land issues affecting water and make sub-basin management recommendations. In addition to the Integrated Watershed Management Plan, NSWA is also involved in assessing water quality, water supply, and watershed ecosystem components as well as stakeholder engagement.

Addressed in Section 5.5, the Grande Alberta Economic Region helps promote the area's diverse opportunities, including outdoor recreation.

### 7.2 *Coordinating Plans*

Becoming involved in local land-use planning is the best way to align Park System goals with local land-use decisions. For this reason, the Parks Council will engage the Town of Drayton Valley and Brazeau County in their planning initiatives. In addition, the Parks Council may wish to play a role in the review of Municipal Development Plans, relevant changes to Land Use Bylaws, and the creation of Recreation Facility plans. Adjacent municipalities can also support trail and greenway plans that would connect the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System to other destinations.

Alberta has entered a new era of land-use and resource planning – regional planning. Together Alberta's Land-use Framework (LUF) and the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* (ALSA) formalize regional planning in the province by establishing a planning process and designating seven geographic areas, congruent with the Province's major watersheds, that must plan regionally. The Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System is within the North Saskatchewan Region and as such once the regional planning initiative for North Saskatchewan is underway, the Parks Council will play an integral role in moving this planning initiative

forward. Once created and approved by the Province, regional plans will be binding on municipalities, provincial departments, and other decision makers. Over the next few years, this ambitious planning process will unfold across the province with plans for the South Saskatchewan and Lower Athabasca already underway. In every region, a Regional Advisory Board (RAC) will be formed. Composed of members with social, economic, or environmental expertise, the RAC will provide advice to Cabinet regarding the regional plan.

The following is a list of important land-use and resource plans and planning activities that will or could impact the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System:

- Local Municipal Development Plans (Town of Drayton Valley, Brazeau County)
- The Brazeau County Master Recreation Plan
- The North Saskatchewan Recreation and Tourism Features Inventory (forthcoming)
- The North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (forthcoming)
- The North Saskatchewan River Basin Integrated Watershed Management Plan (forthcoming)

### 7.3 Park Management Objectives and Strategies

The following objectives and strategies will guide the management of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

Adjacent Land Use and Development		
Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<i>Regional partnerships</i>	To further Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System goals through partnerships and regional cooperation	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Support and work cooperatively with the North Saskatchewan River Watershed Alliance on initiatives that align with the goals of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Collaborate with downstream and upstream land managers, stewardship organizations, and tourism organizations.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Identify other recreation organizations operating adjacent to the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System or within the region and explore collaborations (e.g. marketing and programs).</p>
<i>Cooperating with adjacent land owners</i>	To reduce conflicts between recreation users and surrounding landowners	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Mitigate impacts of park activity on surrounding landowners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When designing recreational facilities near private residences, mitigate the potential loss of privacy, visual and noise impacts, dust, increased traffic, trespassing etc.</li> <li>• Where feasible and necessary, create or maintain buffers between uses:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adjacent land (private or public) and recreation facilities</li> <li>○ Trails and main access roads</li> <li>○ Active firing and archery ranges and all other activities</li> <li>○ Active sand and gravel pits and recreation facilities (including trails).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Where possible, utilize main access roads as boundaries for recreation trails and facilities.</li> <li>• Use existing linear and other disturbances for recreation facilities and trails.</li> </ul>

## Adjacent Land Use and Development

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
	<p><b>To work cooperatively with adjacent land owners to meet Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System goals</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Build knowledge of adjacent land ownership and adjacent land use by communicating with adjacent land owners.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Build an understanding of local land-use trends.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Work with the Association of Adjacent Landowners to help address the concerns of adjacent landowners in management decisions.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Monitor the effectiveness of all management strategies and outreach initiatives aimed at reducing impacts on private lands.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Create and deliver education and outreach programs and/or materials that raise local awareness of the interconnectivity of landscapes and the importance of conserving wildlife corridors and tributaries.</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Support the Town of Drayton Valley and Brazeau County in the adoption of new policies and programs that will encourage the conservation of important natural resources on adjacent and upstream lands.</p> <p><b>Strategy G</b> Encourage adjacent land uses that compliment the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System goals.</p> <p><b>Strategy H</b> Work cooperatively with private landowners, leaseholders, and the Operating Partners to identify buffer zones and opportunities for connecting and expanding Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System trails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the use of conservation easements and other conservation tools to make connections and expansions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy I</b> Develop and implement a land acquisition and park expansion strategy that prioritizes areas that are ecologically significant and/or important for recreation. The strategy should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting adjacent land owners in entering into conservation easements.</li> <li>• Cooperatively developing opportunities to expand the boundaries of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System with contributions from municipal reserves.</li> <li>• Creative ways of improving protected area connectivity and protecting intact lands.</li> <li>• Engaging Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Parks in discussions about expansion opportunities.</li> <li>• Exploring opportunities to acquire expired grazing leases or portions of leases that are not conducive to grazing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy J</b> Encourage, recognize, and reward/compensate local stewardship efforts and initiatives and private land or lease donations.</p>

## Adjacent Land Use and Development

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<p><i>Coordinating planning initiatives</i></p>	<p><b>Work with the neighbouring municipalities on planning-related issues that have the potential to impact the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Provide the Town of Drayton Valley and Brazeau County planning officials with planning-related documents, park management policies created for the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Work cooperatively in a supportive role in the outdoor recreational planning of both the Town of Drayton Valley and Brazeau County.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Stay abreast of local planning initiatives related to land use, transportation, and recreation that could create opportunities for the parks or threaten management goals.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Provide input on zoning changes and land-use decisions that have the potential to impact the parks.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Maintain a regularly updated list of regional planning initiatives.</p>
	<p><b>To understand and support planning initiatives that could connect the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System to urban areas or other natural areas</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Identify and support opportunities for connecting the trails within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System to neighbouring municipalities or other natural areas (regional and local open space and trail plans).</p>

## **8 PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT**

The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System has issues of public safety and access management that are common to other Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas as well as those that are unique to the area because of the presence of industrial activity and the long history of unmanaged recreation use.

### **8.1 Public Safety**

Issues of public safety in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System include fire protection, the prevention of wildlife-human conflicts, public education, emergency response procedures, and minimizing the risk to visitors and infrastructure from flooding. The presence of industry in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System raises special public safety concerns. Industrial leaseholders have reported problems of children playing close to pump jacks, campfires burning near facilities, off-highway vehicles unearthing pipelines, and various infrastructure and facilities being shot at. These incidents raise public safety and liability concerns. Public safety issues within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System will rely primarily on existing emergency services.

Wildfires burn regardless of administrative boundaries and reducing the risk of wildfire is the responsibility of the entire community. The parks are surrounded by private property and a number of residences making the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System within the wildland-urban interface. The wildland-urban interface refers to those areas where human structures are intermingled with forest and other vegetative fuel types. Managing the risk of fire is especially important in these areas. Alberta Sustainable Resource Development publishes a FireSmart Manual that outlines guidelines for minimizing the risk of wildfire. The Drayton Valley / Brazeau County Fire Services will respond to structural fires that occur within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

Public education and interpretive programs will work to minimize human-wildlife conflicts along with recreational safety within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. In addition, there will be an educational component incorporated into all facilities and member organizational activities. Alberta Parks Conservation Officers will investigate wildlife-human conflicts and initiate programs that help to minimize negative interactions.

Park visitors, staff, and leaseholders should call 911 for ambulance, fire, and police services.

### **8.2 Access Management**

Controlling and managing motorized access is an urgent challenge facing the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System. The area contains a significant amount of roads created to access industrial activities as well as a number of off-highway vehicles trails. The Parks Council will work with Alberta Parks and industrial leaseholders to determine which access roads will be used for park and recreation access. The MOU between Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation and the Parks Council states that the Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation will work with Alberta Transportation to maintain, and where necessary upgrade, any public access roads within the Eagle - Point Blue Rapids Park System that are not currently maintained by Brazeau County. Additional access issues will be addressed in a forthcoming Access Management Plan.

### 8.3 Park Management Objectives and Strategies

The following objectives and strategies will guide the management of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

Public Safety and Access Management		
Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<b>Access management</b>	<b>To apply a coordinated and cooperative approach to access management in a timely manner</b>	<p><b>Strategies A</b> Conduct comprehensive inventories of all authorized and unauthorized access routes and prioritize access management based on environmental sensitivity and recreation development/enhancement needs.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Develop an access management plan in collaboration with industry, the Operating Partners, and local authorities. The plan should address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional access controls such as fencing in areas with excessive unauthorized trails, linear disturbances (e.g. power line corridors), and environmentally sensitive/significant areas.</li> <li>• Seasonal road and trail closures when risk to public safety and/or environmental protection needs are high.</li> <li>• Increases in traffic flow.</li> <li>• Strategies to reclaim remaining unauthorized trails, with emphasis on invasive species and erosion control.</li> <li>• Placing natural barriers at various access points where unauthorized use occurs.</li> <li>• Monitoring the effectiveness of the access management plan and adapt it as necessary.</li> <li>• Emergency access points.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Post contact information and provide key messaging about importance of access controls.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Address access management in all operational plans to help ensure recreational activities only in designated trails, areas, and facilities.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Work with industry and all Operating Partners to identify areas that require access control measures and implement a signage as well as access control management plan for those areas.</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Establish a formal agreement relating to access management with Alberta Transportation, local authorities, and other agencies, where applicable.</p> <p><b>Strategy G</b> Provide information on changes to access points that explains seasonal road/trail closures and other safety issues associated with unauthorized access.</p> <p><b>Strategy H</b> Work towards securing formal agreements between industrial road leaseholders and Operating Partners if a shared access route is identified.</p> <p><b>Strategy I</b> Implement trail closures for public safety (e.g. wildlife considerations, increased risk of flooding, potential landslides etc).</p> <p><b>Strategy J</b> If necessary for public safety reasons, implement trail closures in the Provincial Recreation Area.</p>

## Public Safety and Access Management

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
	<b>To manage all weather vehicle roads</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> In coordination with Alberta Transportation, Brazeau County and industry leaseholders, access roads to key facilities are to be maintained year round.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Working with industry leaseholders, investigate cooperative road maintenance opportunities.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Working with local authorities, industry, and user groups, reclaim historical or industry access roads that are no longer required for industrial activity or for future park activities.</p>
<i>Public safety</i>	<b>To prepare for the emergency response needs of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Work cooperatively with volunteer and industry organizations and local emergency services to understand the safety and emergency response requirements, within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Support and contribute to the development of emergency response plans by providing a list of stakeholders to area operator group for inclusion into the emergency response plans.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Design facilities in consideration of emergency vehicle access.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Ensure visitors have easy access to information about fire, flooding, severe weather, and other emergency events.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Consult with industry before major public events are held or scheduled to be held so that they do not occur at the same time as risky operations (e.g. flaring, etc.).</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Ensure visitors, staff, and leaseholders are aware that they should call 911 for emergencies.</p>
	<b>To manage dangerous trees around facilities and trails</b>	<p><b>Strategies A</b> Once notified, remove any trees that may pose a risk to people or property (if immediate removal is not possible close site or trail until removal can be completed).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No hazard trees are to be removed outside facility areas, except along trails.</li> <li>• Hazard tree removal should take into consideration wildlife behaviour (e.g. nesting birds).</li> </ul>

## Public Safety and Access Management

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
	<p><b>To minimize dangerous or harmful wildlife-human interactions</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Identify past and current human-wildlife incidences in the park and implement strategies outlined in the Alberta Parks' Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Policy to reduce incidence and/or mitigate effects.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Experiment with designs, materials, and deterrents where unwanted wildlife interactions commonly occur.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Establish benchmarks for human-wildlife interactions and monitor the effectiveness of current management strategies including carrying capacity and those impacts on adjacent landowners.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Educate park visitors on proper food storage and camping techniques to minimize wildlife-human conflicts.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Consider appropriate location of trails and facilities to minimize unwanted wildlife encounters.</p>
	<p><b>To reduce the threat of a catastrophic wildfire</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Communicate and work with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development to monitor fire conditions and ensure an appropriate response within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Rely on Drayton Valley / Brazeau County Fire Services and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development for emergency response to structural fires and wildland fires.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Develop an emergency fire plan for any staff facilities in the Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Ensure all fires are in designated pits.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Post regulations regarding the use of fire pits and enforce local and provincial fire bans.</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Work with operating partners to educate trail users on hazards associated with OHV exhaust systems.</p>
	<p><b>To improve the safety of recreation facilities and infrastructure</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Provide adequate signage and access management controls around the archery trails and the shooting range.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Educate and encourage the Operating Partners to meet safety regulations.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Select new day-use areas and boat launches in areas that have relatively safe river access.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Educate park visitors on public safety issues and preventative measures and encourage safe behaviour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on river class, flood risks, and safety.</li> <li>• Provide information on proper safety and preventative equipment and gear.</li> <li>• Sign all park roads with appropriate speed limits.</li> <li>• Ensure that all staff has the necessary emergency and safety training for their facilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Educate park visitors to remain on designated trails and require appropriate safety equipment at all recreational facilities (e.g.</p>

## Public Safety and Access Management

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
		<p>helmets).</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Encourage and work with industry to post information on the public safety risks of industrial lease sites.</p> <p><b>Strategy G</b> Prioritize enforcement and compliance, with a special focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate trail use</li> <li>• Eliminating motorized recreation in Eagle Point Provincial Park</li> <li>• Limiting motorized recreation to designated trails in Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area</li> <li>• Eliminating camping outside designated camping areas.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy H</b> Work with Alberta Parks to ensure adequate enforcement occurs within the Park System.</p>
<p><b>Signage &amp; Mapping</b></p>	<p><b>To effectively sign the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Work with Alberta Parks to design a signage plan for the park that prioritizes sign placement, outlines how resources will be secured, and how signs will be constructed, installed, and replaced.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Sign all designated trails, boat launches and facilities according to the specifications outlined within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System Access Management Plan.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Encourage and support industry in posting signs at industrial access gates indicating that it is private property and why the gates are in place.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Create an inventory of all signs placed within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Install appropriate warnings when public roads are shared with industrial equipment and trucks.</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Provide guidance to Operating Partners on how to properly sign boundaries, trails, etc.</p> <p><b>Strategy G</b> Update maps as new recreation facilities and services become available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that transition phases, construction areas, open recreation facilities, and services are clearly identified on all public maps including those areas not available to the public for safety reasons (i.e. industrial areas, buffer zones around firing ranges), and</li> <li>• Make these maps available to provincial trail mapping programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy H</b> Work cooperatively with adjacent landowners to post park boundary signage.</p>

## 9 CO-EXISTING WITH INDUSTRY

The Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System has a number of industrial leaseholders that mine sand, gravel, oil, and gas (See Map 18 and 19, Current Industrial Activity). Amongst industry stakeholders, there was widespread support for the creation of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System because it provided an opportunity to reduce conflicts with recreationists. Historically, the unmanaged coexistence of industry and recreationists has led to the vandalism of industrial facilities and potentially dangerous situations. Industry reported problems of campers unlawfully plugging into power sources, children playing close to pump jacks, illegal garbage dumping, campfires burning near facilities, motorized recreation use unearthing pipelines and infrastructure, and facilities being shot at. These and other acts of vandalism have raised public safety and liability concerns.

The MOU between the Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation and the Parks Council states that the Government of Alberta will be responsible for:

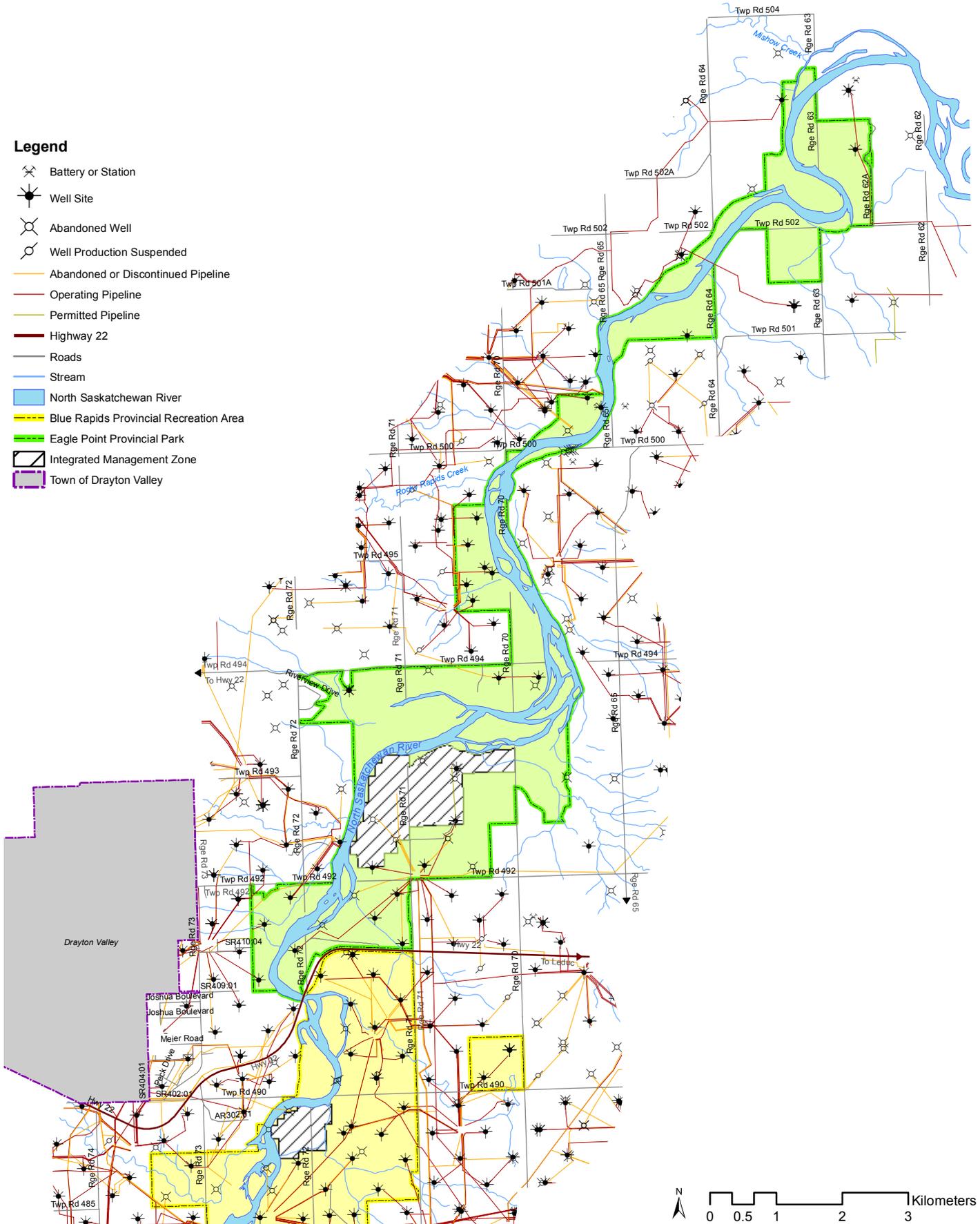
- Reviewing and where appropriate issuing approvals for industrial surface leases,
- Ensuring proper lease reclamation and abandonment, and
- Consulting with any directly affected Operating Partner member holding a recreation lease overlapping with or adjacent to a proposed surface lease.

The consultation process has also found that there is strong industry support for assisting in the reclamation of abandoned leases so that they are returned to a more natural or useable state when industry interest in a site disappears.

# Map 18. Eagle Point Provincial Park - Current Industrial Activity

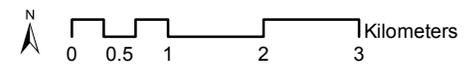
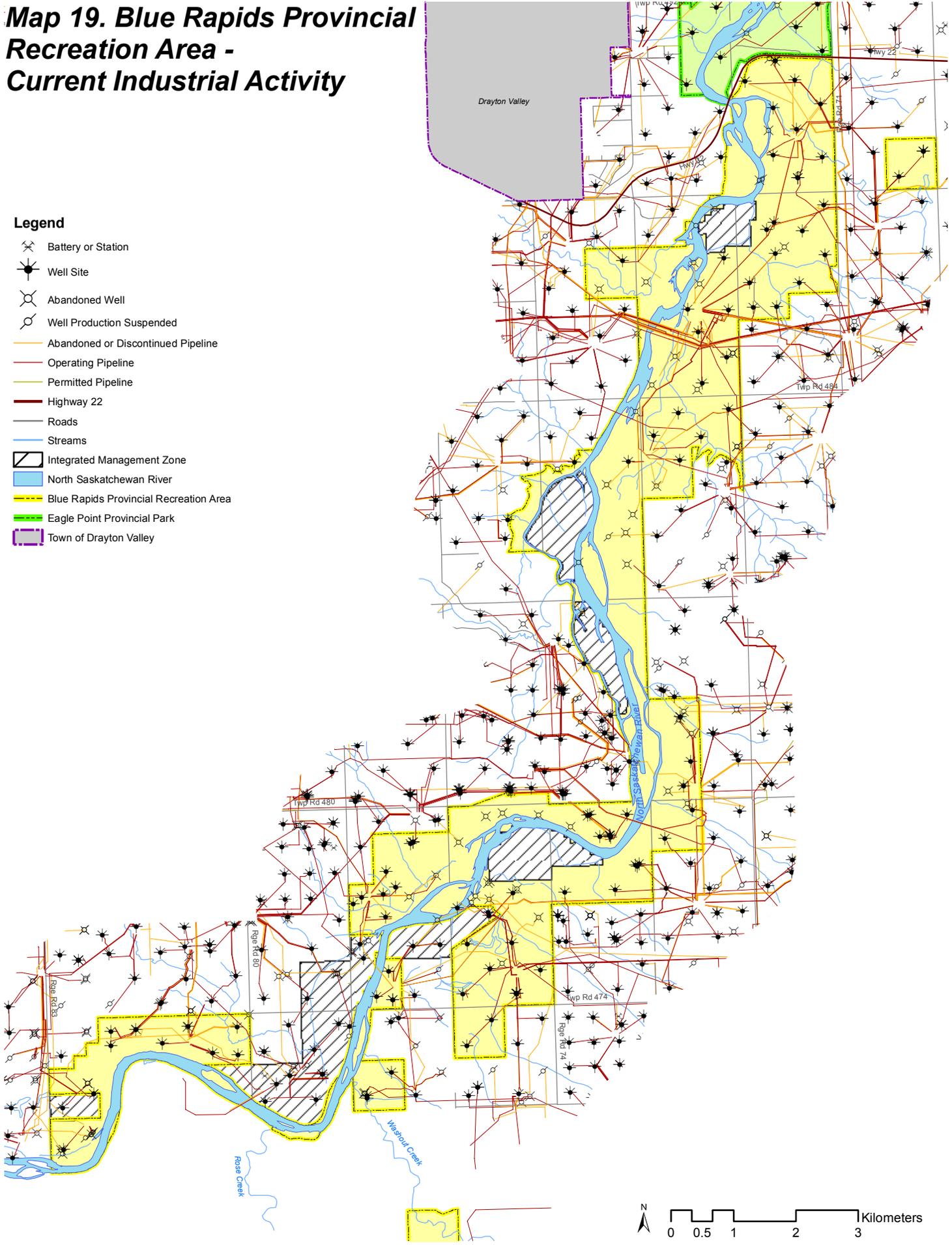
## Legend

-  Battery or Station
-  Well Site
-  Abandoned Well
-  Well Production Suspended
-  Abandoned or Discontinued Pipeline
-  Operating Pipeline
-  Permitted Pipeline
-  Highway 22
-  Roads
-  Stream
-  North Saskatchewan River
-  Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area
-  Eagle Point Provincial Park
-  Integrated Management Zone
-  Town of Drayton Valley



# Map 19. Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area - Current Industrial Activity

- Legend**
- Battery or Station
  - Well Site
  - Abandoned Well
  - Well Production Suspended
  - Abandoned or Discontinued Pipeline
  - Operating Pipeline
  - Permitted Pipeline
  - Highway 22
  - Roads
  - Streams
  - Integrated Management Zone
  - North Saskatchewan River
  - Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area
  - Eagle Point Provincial Park
  - Town of Drayton Valley



### **9.1 Energy Development**

Oil and gas development within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System is extensive. Industrial leaseholders are supportive of the new Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area designations because resource extraction can continue on leases established prior to the new designations and leaseholders benefit from increased cooperation, legislation, and efforts to protect industrial facilities from vandalism. Working cooperatively with the oil and gas leaseholders was and continues to be a vital component to Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System management.

### **9.2 Gravel Extraction**

In addition to oil and gas, the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System also has a number of sand and gravel leases. While, sand and gravel extraction are not currently permitted under the *Provincial Parks Act*, at the time of park creation, all of the identifiable gravel resources and leases were placed under Section 7 of the Act<sup>2</sup>. When there is no longer interest in operating a lease, land holdings will be reclaimed and integrated into the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

### **9.3 Park Management Objectives and Strategies**

To meet the multiple goals of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System, lease-holding industries, Operating Partners, and park visitors must successfully coexist. The following objectives and strategies seek to increase cooperation and public safety, improve information, enhance ecological protection and the visitor experience, and reduce the incidence of industrial facility vandalism.

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<sup>2</sup> Section 7 of the *Provincial Parks Act* states that “where land under the Minister’s administration is not designated as or included in a park or recreation area, the Minister may by regulation (a) declare any provision of this Act or the regulations to be applicable to that land as if it were or were part of a park or recreation area; (b) declare that land to be included in any reference made to a park or recreation area that is contained in a provision of any other Act; (c) prescribe conditions under which any provision referred to in clause (a) or (b) applies to that land; (d) prescribe periods of time during which any provision referred to in clause (a) or (b) applies to that land.”

## Co-existing with Industry

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<i>Understanding industrial activities</i>	<b>To understand industrial activities within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Work with industry to develop an inventory of all industrial leases (abandoned, active, stalled, roads, etc.) and utility corridors and their associated infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Work with industry to develop an understanding of operational needs.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Gain clarity from Alberta Parks around the legislation that applies to the different industrial activities, and associated permits and licenses within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p>
<i>Co-existing</i>	<b>To maintain and enhance strong, cooperative working relationships with lease-holding industries</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Work with Alberta Parks and other government agencies as necessary in the review process for dispositions.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Work with Alberta Parks and industry to enable sharing of biophysical information with the Parks Council.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Encourage industry representation on the Parks Council.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Work with industry to restrict any visitor access to industrial sites when needed (repairs, emergencies, etc.).</p>
<i>Reducing industrial footprint</i>	<b>To plan for the end use of industrial lands and utility corridors</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Work toward the long-term goal of phasing out industrial activity within the boundaries of the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Collaboratively develop (with help from Alberta Parks, Alberta Environment, industry, and Operating Partners) an End Use Plan that provides direction for future reclamation efforts.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Support Alberta Parks in facilitating partial lease reclamations to encourage the acceleration of reclamation efforts in the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the idea of using incentives for partial site reclamation.</li> </ul>
	<b>To become an industry leader in reclamation and remediation within a Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Support Alberta Parks in updating approved reclamation plans to reflect current best practices.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Work with industry operating partners and Alberta Parks to encourage timely reclamation of legacy lease sites.</p>
	<b>To reduce the footprint of industrial activity within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Identify and create opportunities for industry to reclaim disturbed areas which will be supported by Alberta Parks.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Support Alberta Parks in facilitating the minimization of the industrial footprint within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System, through the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Underground lines</li> <li>Utilizing existing disturbances</li> <li>Directional drilling</li> <li>Sharing access roads</li> </ul>

## Co-existing with Industry

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
		<p><b>Strategy C</b> Support Alberta Parks to develop and implement best management strategies for industrial activities within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System. Develop management strategies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize new disturbances</li> <li>• Control invasive species without the use of chemicals</li> <li>• Reintroduce native vegetation</li> <li>• Use existing access and lease roads (where possible)</li> <li>• Encourage the use of smaller footprints</li> <li>• Limit the amount of vegetation clearing</li> <li>• Transplant trees and shrubs to reclaimed areas</li> <li>• Encourage industry to use noise-minimizing technologies and designs</li> <li>• Accelerate early reclamation of legacy sites.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Recreation, tourism, and environmental stewardship</i></p>	<p>To further parks goals related to recreation, tourism and environmental conservation</p>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Work cooperatively with industry leaseholders to limit impacts of proposed activities on recreation, tourism development, environmental, and aesthetic values.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Work cooperatively with industry leaseholders, Alberta Parks and Parks Council staff to explore creative options for areas that could become future Visitor Services and Facility Zones.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Work with each industry leaseholder to sign formal agreements that will allow temporary trail modifications and associated temporary structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any trails or infrastructure agreed to and developed in Section 7 lands are built with the understanding that they may have to be closed or relocated due to the changing needs of the industrial leaseholders.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Explore opportunities for multi-use corridors on power transmission line right of ways.</p>

## 10 FROM PLAN TO ACTION

This section of the plan addresses important implementation elements. As a unique Park System, the Management Plan for the Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area will address implementation items not typically addressed in other Management Plans, specifically funding and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Parks Council and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation.

### 10.1 *Implementation and Priority Actions*

There are a number of challenges inherent in introducing new management structures aimed at minimizing the conflicts between adjacent landowners, various recreational groups, and industrial operations. Understanding these challenges and prioritizing management strategies accordingly is the shared task of the Parks Council, the Operating Partners, and Alberta Parks. Sharing the planning, management, and funding responsibilities for a new established Provincial Park and Provincial Recreation Area will demand a great deal of coordination. For this reason, the implementation of additional projects or programs will be evaluated on the following basis:

- Urgent emerging issues and challenges related to public safety and environmental concerns;
- Issues identified through public and stakeholder consultation and subsequent communications;
- Funding commitments and fund availability;
- Regional and local planning initiatives that present opportunities; and
- Other opportunities and challenges identified by the Parks Council, Alberta Tourism Parks and Recreation, and the Operating Partners.

### 10.1.1 Implementation Phases

The land that has become the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System has a long history of recreation use. Not only will this legacy continue, but recreation opportunities will be enhanced under new management. Public communications, signage, and access management plans will assist park visitors in understanding where recreation opportunities are permitted and how these recreation opportunities will be managed. The development of additional trails and facilities will occur as the Operating Partners build volunteer capacity and raise funds.

Several key strategies demanding a timely management response have been implemented in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System to date. Alberta Parks and the Parks Council have moved forward on the following studies and improvements:

- The installation of boundary signage;
- Preliminary biophysical surveying; and
- Developing a consensus approach to modeling sound emanating from OHVs.

The first five years after Alberta Parks has approved the management plan the Parks Council and its member organizations will work towards enhancing existing operations, designing new recreation trails and facilities, collecting biophysical data and working with local landowners in identifying areas of ongoing concern. The Parks Council, with assistance from Alberta Parks, will complete an interim review five years after receiving approval and will undertake a comprehensive review of the management plan ten years after receiving approval.

Many of the long-term strategies will not be addressed until most of the short-term strategies have been implemented. These long-term strategies are those associated with some of the general park operations that can only be implemented once facilities are fully operational or those that will only be realized once dedicated funding has been secured.

The development of operational plans and the sequencing of Park System improvements over the next five years can be differentiated as activities that will be ongoing, short-term, and long term (some overlap is intentional).

**Ongoing Activities** are those that will occur during, and to some extent, throughout the entire planning process. These ongoing activities occur both externally from engaging the various members of the community and internally as ongoing organizational operating plans. Some of these ongoing activities are:

- Government to Government Relations
  - *Including long-range planning and future land acquisitions*
- Parks Council Operations
  - *Including public communications, coordinating activities amongst the Operating Partners, furthering the creation of planning documents, fundraising, etc.*
- Park Operations
  - *Including trail and facility maintenance, park watch program, development of an annual operating plan, etc.*
- Community Engagement
  - *Including public consultation and communications, educational outreach, how-to-guide for new parks model, volunteer/sponsorship opportunities, etc..*

**Short-Term Activities/Operational Plans (< 5 years)** are those that could be part of the ongoing activities plans, but typically have a defined starting period. These include plans for inventorying, access control, tourism development, and trails and facilities planning. The following represents a small sample of some of the short-term activities/operational plans:

- Continue Environmental Inventorying (e.g. biophysical assessments, establishing long-term monitoring plots, invasive plant monitoring, etc.)
- Develop an Access Management Plan (e.g. around public and industrial facilities, signage, etc.)
- Develop a Sustainable Funding Plan. *Plan to determine funding options and necessary fundraising strategies.*
- Initiate a Tourism, Development, Marketing and Management Plan. *Plan to identify additional tourism opportunities for the Town of Drayton Valley and how to best market the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.*
- Adjacent Land Management Strategy. *Developing a strategy for working with adjacent land owners to further Park System goals (e.g. encouraging conservation easements).*
- Trails and Facilities Planning and Development.

#### **Long-Term Activities/Operational Plans (> 5 years):**

- Continue Environmental Inventorying, and
- Continue work on the Tourism, Development, Marketing and Management Plan.

### **10.2 Shared Management and Shared Responsibilities**

The Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System is cooperatively managed by the Parks Council and Alberta Parks. The Parks Council board of directors is composed of representatives from the Operating Partners, the Town of Drayton Valley, Brazeau County, industry, environmental interests, and adjacent landowners.

Key formal agreements, roles, and responsibilities can be found within the following documents:

- The goals and objectives of the protected areas creation (Local Sponsors Steering Committee, 2007),
- Parks Council Bylaws (Incorporated April 2008), and
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Parks Council and the Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation (signed December 2008, Appendix A).

Currently there are a number of formal documents and agreements that are being developed including Operating Partner Lease Agreements, Operating and Maintenance Agreements, and a number of Parks Council work plans and operational plans. Since Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area is legislated under the *Provincial Parks Act* it remains under the primary jurisdiction of the Alberta Parks and must be operated according to legislation, policies, and formal agreements signed by Alberta Parks.

### **10.3 Financial Management and Funding Structure**

The designation of Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area was approved based on a proposal that included shared funding. The MOU states that the Parks Council and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation will review and pursue viable funding options to offset costs incurred by the Parks Council and/or the Operating Partners in providing services to the public and for the ongoing operation of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System, which are normally the responsibility of Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation.

Effective management of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System is dependent upon securing a sustainable funding stream. For this reason, one of the objectives of the Parks Council, as outlined within its society bylaws, is:

*“to receive donations and raise funds; and build, purchase, lease or otherwise acquire equipment, buildings or leaseholder improvements; and support and mobilize volunteers or hire staff or enter into such other contracts or service agreements as may be necessary from time to time to achieve the objects of the Council.”*

As outlined in the MOU (Appendix A), Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation will continue to remain actively involved in the management and operations of the Park System and over time, will contribute personnel and resources. The Parks Council will develop a comprehensive Fundraising Strategy and a Financial Sustainability Plan that will clearly identify how funds will be raised and what role the Parks Council will play in supporting the Operating Partners in their fundraising efforts.

Sustainable funding requires a number of diverse revenue streams. The Parks Council's Funding Strategy will include a plan for collecting revenue from a variety of sources as well as innovative ways of engaging both the community and the private sector. These strategies include, but are not limited to:

- Securing financial and in-kind contributions from government partners;
- Project and program grants (foundations);
- In-kind contributions from Operating Partners, council members, and/or other volunteers;
- Exploring Dedicated revenue from recreational fees;
- Investigate the potential for receiving dedicated revenue from existing surface leases;
- Portion of fees from local sales of RVs, ATVs, and boats in the province (similar to hunting tags);
- Annual contributions by Federal, Provincial, and Local government; and
- Corporate and private donations.

The Parks Council Funding Strategy will also outline the policies, ethics, and principles which will be applied to all fundraising initiatives. These principles will be consistent with the goals and objectives that have been developed for the Management Plan, the Parks Council, and the Local Sponsors Steering Committee (2007).

#### **10.4 Communications, Consultations, and Ongoing Community Engagement**

While the Parks Council represents many stakeholders, it was recognized early on that there are many other stakeholders, organizations, governments, and individuals that have a vested interest in the management of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System. As such, the Parks Council and Alberta Parks recognized the importance of providing opportunities for the public to provide input into management decisions and the need to effectively communicate the issues of public interest. For this reason, Alberta Parks and the Parks Council invited the community, stakeholders, and interest groups to participate and provide feedback into the development of the Management Plan. The following list represents stakeholders, interest groups, and individuals that have provided input into the objectives and strategies included in this plan:

- Individual interests of each organization/government/interest group on the Parks Council;
- Stakeholder organizations, such as local hunting and trapping agencies;
- Adjacent landowners and community organizations;
- First Nations and Métis communities with traditional use in the area;
- Residents of Brazeau County, the Town of Drayton Valley, and neighbouring municipalities;
- Other Federal and Provincial Government Departments;
- Adjacent municipalities and community representatives from across Alberta; and
- Others identified in the planning and ongoing consultation process.

Above and beyond input into the Management Plan, the Parks Council is committed to further engaging the public in the long-term operation and funding of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System. In order to

achieve its vision, the Parks Council must work towards fostering community understanding and involvement, enhancing member ownership, maximizing feedback, and building enthusiasm among all participants. Adopted from the Parks Council's Strategic Planning Session (2009), the following represent areas of concentration in order to advance the organization's consultation and communication objectives:

- Facilitate mutual awareness, understanding and pride within the Parks Council;
- Increase interest level from additional stakeholders;
- Communicate Parks Council's history and future objectives;
- Enhance public image of the Parks Council;
- Develop office as long-term hub of communications and information sharing;
- Further engage the local community in the overall management of Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area; and
- Provide a sustainable communications presence.

Communicating the Parks Council's story is essential to increasing community support for this innovative park planning initiative. By truly understanding the project's audience, and effectively disseminating information, the Parks Council can communicate its cohesive vision for the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System that balances diverse interests and needs.

### **10.5 Enforcement**

Compliance with and enforcement of the Alberta *Provincial Parks Act* and regulations is an important aspect of effective park management and contributes to all management goals. Public education and awareness are particularly important in the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System because of the recent change in land designation. The MOU between the Parks Council and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation states that Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation will take the lead in enforcing all park regulations.

Although not specifically mentioned in the MOU, the Parks Council will be working towards establishing many volunteer opportunities. The establishment of a Parks Watch Program will demand a number of committed volunteers. This program will focus on issues surrounding vandalism, theft, environmental damage, and other related incidents that occur within the Park System. The Park Watch will be made up of community members, Alberta Parks, and adjacent landowners. Of course, the focus of crime prevention will be the effective use of signage, brochures, and public presentations as well as the posting of emergency numbers and the distribution of other related information.

### **10.6 Plan Review and Amendments**

Alberta Parks and the Parks Council will complete a comprehensive review of the management plan 10 years after approval. An interim review will be completed 5 years after approval.

## 10.7 Park Management Objectives and Strategies

The following objectives and strategies will guide the management of the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

From Plan to Action		
Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<b>Funding</b>	<b>To develop and implement a comprehensive long-term Sustainable Funding Plan for the Parks Council</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Work with Operating Partners, government agencies, and members of the community to develop a comprehensive long-term Sustainable Funding Plan that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explores the potential of generating revenue from the land base</li> <li>• Assigns an in-kind dollar amount for future lands transferred to the Eagle Point Provincial Park or the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area (See Section 7.3 for land acquisition strategy)</li> <li>• Enables the Parks Council to raise revenue from organizations operating within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Create opportunities for industry leaseholders to make financial or in-kind donations of equal or greater value to the cost savings resulting from better management (i.e. reduced incidence of vandalism, access management, and improved information sharing).</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Explore corporate/private donors for enhancement of day-use facilities with infrastructure such as gazebos, benches, viewpoint balconies, cooking shelters, playgrounds, etc.</p>
	<b>To develop and implement revenue raising and funding mechanisms to support the Operating Partners</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Identify and assess the feasibility of a full range of possible income streams including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue collection from facility rental fees and recreational user fees</li> <li>• Corporate and individual funding for projects</li> <li>• Foundation grants</li> <li>• Revenue from Oil &amp; Gas leases within the Park System</li> <li>• Donations from Environmental Organizations</li> <li>• In-kind donations (including both materials and labour)</li> <li>• Provincial, regional, and local fundraising opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Explore opportunities to offer paid training services (i.e. all terrain vehicle use training, etc.).</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Operating Partners are to work with Alberta Parks, on an individual basis, to establish an economically viable fee schedule that will help to ensure long-term sustainability of the facilities and trails; campground fees will be within the provincial parks fee structure.</p> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Secure funding and partners for implementing reclamation plans.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Help develop cooperative funding, construction, and operating plans to create day-use and camping areas.</p>
	<b>To explore cost saving options</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Seek donations of used materials (such as pipelines, power lines, etc.) to construct core infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Solicit community donations and/or contractors for labour to construct and install core infrastructure.</p>

## From Plan to Action

Topic	Objectives	Strategies
<b>Governance</b>	<b>To clarify and define management roles and responsibilities</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Identify areas of responsibility not addressed in the MOU and assign roles and responsibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include newly identified roles and responsibilities in revisions of the Management Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Obtain commitment from current and/or new Operating Partners or the Parks Council for funding and operating new visitor services and facilities.</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Follow the existing Alberta Parks permit and application process to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formalize the application process for approving new Operating Partners and their respective leases.</li> <li>• Outline the process for transferring Operating Partner leases, finding new Operator Partners, decommissioning recreation facilities or having Alberta Parks assume ownership and operations.</li> <li>• Authorize the necessary leases, operating agreements, and event permits needed for enhancing existing and allowing new recreation facilities and services.</li> </ul>
<b>Ongoing Public Involvement</b>	<b>To encourage Albertans to participate in the ongoing management of the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System</b>	<p><b>Strategy A</b> Design a comprehensive public consultation process for ongoing participation that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with Aboriginal communities</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy B</b> Collect information from visitors and community members in creative ways (e.g. surveys, workshops, open houses, online questions, comment drop-boxes etc.).</p> <p><b>Strategy C</b> Effectively communicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for public input</li> <li>• Decision-making processes</li> <li>• Important timelines to the community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy D</b> Value and recognize organizations' and individuals' input and expertise.</p> <p><b>Strategy E</b> Provide opportunities to engage working groups, advisory councils, and/or volunteer programs to assist with management strategies and approaches.</p> <p><b>Strategy F</b> Provide regular updates of upcoming Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System events, programs, and initiatives in different, easily accessible forms (newspaper announcements, on-line, posters, etc.).</p> <p><b>Strategy G</b> Identify opportunities and encourage volunteers to contribute (time, equipment, financial support) to the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System management, programs, and projects.</p> <p><b>Strategy H</b> Promote opportunities for community groups, local schools, and other agencies to partner on initiatives and projects within the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System.</p>

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ATV – All Terrain Vehicle

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

NSWA – North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

OHV – Off Highway Vehicle

SARA – Species at Risk Act

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Aboriginal Peoples** - A collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants, including First Nations and Métis communities (Government of Alberta, 2010).

**All terrain vehicle (ATV)** – Wheeled or tracked motorized vehicles designed primarily for recreational use or transporting property or equipment on trails, undeveloped roads, marshland or other unprepared surfaces (Government of Alberta, 2009).

**At Risk** – Designated status in The General Status of Alberta Wild Species 2005 report. Refers to any species known to be “At Risk” after formal detailed status assessment and designation as “Endangered” or “Threatened” in Alberta (Sustainable Resource Development, 2005).

**Conservation** – The wise use, management, and protection of resources to maintain their quality and quantity on a sustainable basis (Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum, 2006).

**Coulee** – A steep-sided valley or ravine, sometimes with a stream at the bottom.

**Critical habitat** – Under SARA, it is the habitat that is necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species and that is identified as the species’ critical habitat in the recovery strategy or in an action plan for the species.

**Drumlin** - A low, smoothly rounded, elongate hill. Drumlins are deposits of compacted till that are sculpted beneath the ice of a flowing glacier. The long axis of a drumlin parallels the flow direction of the ice (Geology.com, undated).

**Ecosystem** – The interaction between organisms, including humans, and their physical environment. Ecosystem health/integrity refers to the adequate structure and functioning of an ecosystem, as described by scientific information and societal priorities.

**Ecotourism** – A form of nature-based tourism that promotes responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of the local populous.

**Endangered species** – Under SARA, a wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

**Ericaceous** – Refers to plants of the family *Ericaceae* that require acidic soils.

**Extirpated species** – Under SARA, a wildlife species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere in the wild.

**Glacio-lacustrine** – Glacial deposits found in lakes.

**Landscape** – A heterogeneous land area composed of a mosaic of interacting ecosystems that is repeated in similar form throughout, such as blocks of forest and agricultural fields (Forman, 1995).

**May Be At Risk** – Designated status in The General Status of Alberta Wild Species 2005 report. Refers to any species that May Be At Risk of extinction or extirpation, and is therefore a candidate for detailed risk assessment (Sustainable Resource Development, 2005).

**Memorandum of Understanding** – A legal document describing the details of an agreement between parties that indicates intended lines of action.

**Moraine** – A mound, ridge or ground covering of unstratified and unsorted till, deposited by ice action or by melting away of a glacier (Geology.com, undated).

**Managed recreation trail** - A linear facility that is marked, mapped and maintained for recreation activity (Government of Alberta 2009a).

**Motocross** – A competition (race) for lightweight off-road motorcycles over a cross-country course with obstacles.

**Motorized recreation** – Off-highway recreation using motorized vehicles (motorcycles, ATV, snowmobile, four-wheel drive, or other light utility vehicle) on trails.

**Natural Heritage** – The geological features and landforms, associated biodiversity and ecosystem functions of a defined area.

**Nature-based tourism** – Tourism undertaken largely or solely for the purpose of enjoying natural attractions and engaging in outdoor activities, whether for relaxation, discovery or adventure (e.g., camping, birdwatching, downhill skiing, hunting, mountain biking, motorized recreation).

**Natural Region / Subregion** – A natural region is a broad landscape division characterized by a distinct set of climatic, vegetation, soil, and topographic features. A natural subregion is a finer subdivision of the natural region based on landform variations over a smaller area. There are six natural regions subdivided into 20 natural subregions in Alberta (Natural Regions Committee, 2006).

**Non-motorized recreation** – Recreation by modes such as bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian, ski, skate, etc.

**Off-highway vehicle (OHV)** – Any motorized mode of transportation built for cross-country travel on land, water, snow, ice or marsh or swamp land or on other natural terrain (Government of Alberta, 2009).

**Operating partner** – According to Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council Bylaws, any government agency or registered non-profit society holding a license of occupation or recreational lease or equivalent within the boundaries of Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area and offering public outdoor recreational services and facilities within these areas may become an Operating Partner Member upon approval by three quarters (75%) of the Directors in attendance at a duly called and constituted meeting of the Board.

**Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System** – Refers the area that includes both the Eagle Point Provincial Park and the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.

**Parks Council** – The Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council, incorporated April 1, 2008 under the Alberta Societies Act R.S.A. 2000, c. S-14 and assigned the corporate access number of 5013933824 by the Corporate Registrar.

**Ravine** – A small valley cut by streamflow.

**Residence** – Under SARA, the specific dwelling place, such as a den, nest or other similar area or a place that is occupied or habitually occupied by one or more individuals during all or part of their life cycles, including breeding, rearing, staging, wintering, feeding, or hibernating.

**Restoration** - Intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem with respect to its health, integrity and sustainability including erosion control, reforestation, removal of non-native species and weeds, revegetation of disturbed areas, daylighting streams, reintroduction of native species, as well as habitat and range improvement for targeted species.

**Reclamation** - The process of returning land to its natural state.

**Riparian** – An area of land adjacent to a stream, river, lake or wetland that contains vegetation that, due to the presence of water, is distinctly different from the vegetation of adjacent upland areas (Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish), undated).

**Sanitation dump (sani dump)** – A place for recreational vehicles to empty waste water holding tanks.

**Schedule 1** – Under SARA, it is the official list of species that are classified as extirpated, endangered, threatened, and of special concern.

**Section 7 Lands** – At the time of park creation, all the identifiable gravel resources and leases in the EP-BR Park System were placed under “Section 7” of the Parks Act which states “where land under the Minister’s administration is not designated as or included in a park or recreation area, the Minister may by regulation (a) declare any provision of this Act or the regulations to be applicable to that land as if it were or were part of a park or recreation area; (b) declare that land to be included in any reference made to a park or recreation area that is contained in a provision of any other Act; (c) prescribe conditions under which any provision referred to in clause (a) or (b) applies to that land.”

**Sensitive** – Designated status in The General Status of Alberta Wild Species 2005 report. Refers to any species that is not at risk of extinction or extirpation but may require special attention or protection to prevent it from becoming at risk (Sustainable Resource Development, 2005).

**Special concern species** – Under SARA, a wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

**Species at risk** – Under SARA, an extirpated, endangered, threatened species, or a species of special concern.

**Staging area** – An area where users can gather, park, and begin or end a recreation trip (hike, horse ride, etc.).

**Stewardship** – An ethic whereby citizens, industry, communities, and governments work together to responsibly care for and manage Alberta’s natural resources and environment.

**Threatened species** – Under SARA, a wildlife species that is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.

**Till** – Unsorted glacial sediments.

**Trailhead** – An access point to a trail that is sometimes located by public facilities such as hitching posts for horses, toilets, signs, water, maps, etc.

**Unauthorized recreation** – Unregulated and unmanaged recreation.

**Ungulates** – A hoofed, typically herbivorous, quadruped mammal.

**User fee** – A fee charged for the use of facilities, resources or programs within a recreation site or area.

**Viewsheds** – An area of land and/or water that is visible from a fixed vantage point.

**Vintage track** – An off-road motorcycle racing track where the bikes raced are vintage and the equipment used is limited to that available for the production period. Typically a motorcycle must be at least 25 years old to be considered vintage.

## APPENDICES

Appendix A: Memorandum of Understanding

Appendix B: Observed and Expected Birds

Appendix C: Observed and Expected Mammal Species

Appendix D: Observed and Expected Reptilian and Amphibian Species

Appendix E: Expected Fish Species within the North Saskatchewan River

Appendix F: Observed Vascular Plant Species

Appendix G: Summary of the Various Community Events Activities within the Park System

# Memorandum of Understanding

Between

**Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council**  
A Society incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act  
(the “Council”)

And

**Her Majesty the Queen in right of Alberta as represented  
by the Minister of Alberta Tourism, Parks, and Recreation  
(the “Government of Alberta”)**

## **1. Preamble**

### **Whereas:**

- a. The initiative to designate and protect public lands along the North Saskatchewan River Valley within Brazeau County under the *Provincial Parks Act* was driven by a community sponsors steering committee made up of recreational leaseholders on the subject lands, the affected rural and urban municipalities, and a number of other service clubs, recreation organizations and environmental groups in the community; and
- b. During the period of February 2005 to August 2007 discussions and negotiations were held between the community sponsors steering committee and the Government of Alberta (as represented by Alberta TPR, the Minister, and Cabinet Policy Committee) and agreement was reached regarding key principals and understandings for the respective roles and responsibilities of the community sponsors steering committee and Alberta TPR should the Parks be created; and
- c. The community sponsors steering committee has been expanded, formalized and is now incorporated as a registered non-profit society under the Alberta *Societies Act*, called Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council (the Council); and
- d. Alberta TPR has reviewed and accepted the objects and bylaws of the Council, has joined the Council as a Government of Alberta member, and as provided for in those by-laws may have up to two seats on the Board of Directors of the Council;

**And Whereas:**

- e. The Council has raised and is contributing a substantial amount of volunteer time, paid staff personnel and significant financial resources to conduct public consultations and to develop a comprehensive park management plan for Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area that would normally be the mandate of Alberta TPR; and
- f. The Council will continue to contribute volunteer time, paid staff and financial resources to the ongoing coordination of community partners and ongoing operations of Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area; and
- g. Operating Partner Members of the Council agreed in negotiations with the Government of Alberta to transfer pre-existing leases with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development - Public Lands Division and associated rights, improvements and assets into the provincial park and the recreation area on the condition that Alberta TPR would formalize a fair and effective ongoing relationship to collaborate on the management and operation of Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area between the local community and the Government of Alberta; and
- h. Operating Partner Members of the Council are or will be holding recreational leases and providing public facilities and programs and services in Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, and to do so will in many cases be contributing substantial amounts of volunteer time, paid staff time and significant financial resources to the development of additional trails, campsites and other recreational facilities and to the delivery of programs and services that would all normally be within the mandate of Alberta TPR;

**And Whereas:**

- i. Alberta TPR has certain legislative requirements, standards, and expectations that must be met by the Council and the Operating Partner Members; and
- j. Alberta TPR intends to remain actively involved in all aspects of the management planning process and in the ongoing protection and operation of Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area and, over time will also be contributing personnel and resources; and
- k. Alberta TPR retains the ultimate responsibility and decision-making authority for the planning, facility development, management and operation of Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area;

**And Whereas:**

- l. The Council and Alberta TPR both desire to create and implement a strong, fair, effective, pragmatic and mutually beneficial working relationship that will function smoothly in Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, and furthermore could serve as a transferable model that could be used to create and co-manage other areas under the administration of Alberta TPR;

## Therefore:

The Council and Alberta TPR hereby agree to work together to plan, manage, resource, and operate the EP-BR Parks in accordance with the following terms and understandings:

## **2. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is to document the key principles and understandings reached between the parties during the process of creating the collaboration and defining the standing relationship between Alberta TPR and the Council with regards to their respective roles and responsibilities for:

- Public consultation and communications,
- Management Planning, and
- Ongoing Management and operations.

for Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area which were designated under the *Provincial Parks Act RSA 2000, c. P-35* (the “Provincial Parks Act”) by Order in Council # 369/2007 and 370/2007 on August 29, 2007.

## **3. Definitions**

In this document:

- 3.1. “**Alberta TPR**” means the Department of the Government of Alberta responsible for the administration of public lands designated under the *Provincial Parks Act* (currently Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation) or any successor Department in the Government of Alberta to which this responsibility is transferred.
- 3.2. “**The Council**” means the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Parks Council, incorporated April 1, 2008 under the Alberta *Societies Act R.S.A 2000, c. S-14* and assigned the corporate access number of **5013933824** by the Corporate Registrar.
- 3.3. “**Operating Partner Members**” means persons and organizations holding leases and/or service agreements for specific recreational facilities within the EP-BR Parks and who have been approved as Operating Partner Members by the Council.
- 3.4. “**EP-BR Parks**” means the Eagle Point Provincial Park and the Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.

## **4. Alberta TPR Participation in the Council**

- 4.1. **Membership:** Alberta TPR will be an active member in the Council by having at least one representative of Alberta TPR sit on the Council Board of Directors, with the option of two Directors, should it so desire and, providing that there are at least eleven directors sitting on the Board at that time.

- 4.2. **Active Participation:** The Alberta TPR representative(s) sitting on the Council Board of Directors will provide input, advice, and as far as reasonably and legally practicable will share departmental positions and directions from the perspective of Alberta TPR. In addition the Alberta TPR representative(s) sitting on the Council Board of Directors will be at liberty to engage in separate internal discussions with Alberta TPR to ascertain whether Alberta TPR will support various Council decisions or initiatives that require Alberta TPR support. It is acknowledged by the Council that the Alberta TPR representative(s) will owe duties to both the Government of Alberta and the Council. In the event that a Council Board matter should place the representative(s) in a conflict of interest position the representative may have to withdraw from participating on that Council Board matter.
- 4.3. **Limitation on matters of policy:** If the Council identifies management or operational directions that enjoy broad Council support, but that could be outside areas of existing policy or administrative authority of Alberta TPR, then the Alberta TPR representative(s) on the Council will advise the other Council members of this constraint. In this case the Alberta TPR representative(s) will take appropriate steps within Alberta TPR to try and resolve the outstanding policy matter.

## **5. Governmental, Aboriginal Provincial-level Stakeholder Liaison:**

- 5.1. Alberta TPR shall lead and be responsible for any necessary consultation or communication with other Provincial Government Departments, and with provincial level environmental or recreational non-government organizations and with Aboriginal stakeholders, and shall make the Council aware of any relevant issues, concerns or perspectives from these constituencies which the Council may need to address. Alberta TPR may recommend additional involvement, presentations, or other consultative activities as it deems appropriate.

## **6. Key Principles – 2007 Management Goals and Objectives**

- 6.1. During the period leading up to designation of EP-BR Parks and creation of the Council, the Sponsors Steering Committee and staff from Alberta TPR developed and approved a set of general goals and management objectives for the proposed provincial park and the provincial recreation area. These were shared with the Departments and Ministers responsible for Parks, Public Lands, and Energy, and with Cabinet Policy Committee as part of the process of securing approval for the designation of the EP-BR Parks. **Appendix A** contains these goals and objectives. The parties agree that the goals and objectives outlined in Appendix A generally capture the common ground of the parties regarding the spirit behind the creation of the EP-BR Parks and should continue to serve as key principles to provide broad direction to both parties on the management plan and the operational framework for the EP-BR Parks.
- 6.2. The Management Plan will identify other visitor facilities, programs, or services, and other environmental protection programs and services that are essential or are desired for the ongoing operation of the EP-BR Parks and in each case will identify the roles and responsibilities and financial support streams for developing and operating such facilities or programs.

## **7. Management Plan and Public Consultation - Roles and Responsibilities**

- 7.1. The Council will, with guidance from Alberta TPR, design and implement a public consultation and communications process for developing the management plan for the EP-BR Parks and Alberta TPR and the Council will document the agreed upon process and timeline.
- 7.1.1. The Council will be responsible for and take the lead role on communication and consultations on the management plan with the community and with local and regional stakeholders in a manner that ensures meaningful public involvement. Alberta TPR will be involved in a support role.
- 7.1.2. Alberta TPR will be responsible for conducting any communications and consultation on the management plan that it deems necessary with other Government departments or agencies, First Nations and Métis, and where appropriate, provincial-level environmental or recreational non-government organizations. The Council will be involved in a support role.
- 7.2. The Council will develop a framework and structure for the management plan report and will develop and document the plan in a manner that meets the requirements of Alberta TPR. Alberta TPR will grant a reasonable degree of flexibility and scope for innovation on the framework, layout, and content of the plan.
- 7.3. The Council will be responsible for and will lead on the following work related to the creation of the plan:
- Research and compilation of background inventory;
  - Identification of management issues;
  - Identification and integration into the plan of existing and proposed recreational facilities and services, in close cooperation with the Operating Partner Members;
  - Drafting of proposed management strategies and other elements of the plan;
  - Revising the plan document(s) to reflect feedback from various public consultation and review steps, and Government of Alberta review processes; and
  - Compiling the electronic master for the management plan report(s) and associated documents.
- 7.4. Alberta TPR will:
- contribute background information, and some content and existing data that both parties agree it best placed to provide;
  - provide the appropriate staff to attend and participate in public consultation meetings and strategy development sessions;
  - provide an active advisory and review role throughout the process;
  - provide timely review of formal Drafts once submitted;
  - be responsible for any printing and distribution of print copies of the formal draft plan and the final plan, and related summary documents; and
  - retain final authority for approval of the management plan.
- 7.5. All formal public communication materials used within the public consultation process and all draft reports will be reviewed and approved by a designated representative from each party, prior to being issued publicly.

- 7.6. The Council will provide a paid project manager to lead the consultation and management planning process and will provide the majority of the financial resources required to complete the work.
- 7.7. Alberta TPR will provide a reasonable amount of in-kind staff support, and may contribute some financial resources to the Council to be able to complete the management planning and public consultation and communication work. Beyond the 2008-09 start-up financial contribution committed by Alberta TPR as of November 2008, any additional financial contributions would be subject to availability of funds, department priorities and satisfactory completion of work associated with previous contributions.

## **8. Ongoing Park Management and Operations – Roles and Responsibilities**

- 8.1. The management plan being developed for the EP-BR Parks (as per Section 7, above) will use specific management strategies and sub-plans to outline the roles and responsibilities for the ongoing management and operation of the EP-BR Parks for each of:
  - The Council;
  - Alberta TPR;
  - Operating Partner Members holding leases and/or service agreements for specific recreational facilities within the EP-BR Parks; and
  - Any other Government agencies and Municipal government organizations.
- 8.2. The following outlines an assignment of roles and responsibilities that has been agreed to by the parties and will guide the development of specific strategies in the management plan, as well as help to assign and coordinate roles and responsibilities during the interim period between designation of the EP-BR Parks and the approval and implementation of the management plan.
- 8.3. Alberta TPR will be responsible for:
  - 8.3.1. resourcing and providing formal visitor monitoring and enforcement services including the provision of an adequate complement of Conservation Officers to maintain a visible and effective presence;
  - 8.3.2. supplying highway signs and major access road signs and park boundary / perimeter signs that conform to provincial park sign standards;
  - 8.3.3. including and integrating visitor information and EP-BR Parks public communication materials into the existing provincial park information and communication systems and services maintained by Alberta TPR;
  - 8.3.4. authorizing and monitoring Operating Partner Members and others holding recreational leases and any related service agreements for trails, campgrounds and other visitor facilities established within the EP-BR Parks;

8.3.5. working with Alberta Transportation to maintain (and where necessary upgrade) any public access roads within the EP-BR Parks that are not located on municipal road allowances or not currently maintained by Brazeau County, to TPR standards for park roads, and providing any associated entrance-way access controls, in accordance with the access road strategies specified in the management plan;

8.3.6. reviewing and where appropriate issuing approvals for Industrial Surface Leases, ensure proper Lease Reclamation and Abandonment, and similar Government of Alberta regulated activities, subject to:

- policies or procedures of the Government of Alberta and the specific additional procedures, guidelines and variations for the EP-BR Parks identified in the management plan;
- Consultation with any directly affected Operating Partner Members holding a recreation lease overlapping with or adjacent to the proposed surface lease or activity and consideration of concerns expressed by those Operating Partner Members; and,

8.3.7. other roles that may be agreed to and are specified in the EP-BR Parks Management Plan.

8.4. Alberta TPR when it deems appropriate may provide supporting letters, documentation or communications in support of efforts by the Council or its Operating Partner Members to secure capital funds, and operating and management funds from public funding agencies, foundations, private sector donations and other sources.

8.5. The Council, with input and involvement from Alberta TPR as resources permit, will be responsible for:

8.5.1. Governance, administrative and operational requirements for the Council itself;

8.5.2. Ongoing public consultation and communication at the community level;

8.5.3. Coordinating plans and initiatives among Operating Partner Members involved in operating recreational facilities and providing recreational or educational services and programs;

8.5.4. Coordinating the installation of boundary /perimeter signs supplied by Alberta TPR in accordance with the guidelines provided by Alberta TPR;

8.5.5. Developing and coordinating a comprehensive fundraising strategy and financial sustainability plan and supporting Operating Partner Members in their fundraising efforts;

8.5.6. Ongoing review and consultation with Alberta TPR regarding updating of the EP-BR Parks Management Plan; and

8.5.7. Other roles that may be agreed to and are specified in the EP-BR Parks Management Plan.

- 8.6. Alberta TPR will enter into lease arrangements and/or service agreements with the Operating Partner Members for the development and operation of specified recreational facilities and associated public programs and services within the EP-BR Parks. These arrangements will:
- honour and where appropriate expand upon the previous lease arrangements, operating plans, rights and obligations developed between the Government of Alberta and the individual Operating Partner Members;
  - establish terms and conditions for new recreational facilities and services identified by both parties between Feb 2005 and August 2007 as part of negotiations to designate EP-BR Parks under the *Provincial Parks Act*;
  - allow Operating Partner Member leaseholders to charge facility user fees and fees for other services provided to the public, to offset their capital and operating costs; and
  - be consistent with any specific guidelines for recreational developments included in the management plan.
- 8.7. The management plan will also include identification of the potential for future recreational developments and recreational leases. The Council and Alberta TPR will collaborate in the review and possible approval of any new recreational developments and leases, not existing or proposed at the time of the EP-BR Parks designation, that are otherwise acceptable under the management plan.
- 8.8. The management plan will include strategies for addressing other aspects of the ongoing operation and management of the EP-BR Parks not addressed above, and these strategies will outline the roles and responsibilities of Alberta TPR, the Council, the Operating Partners, and any other parties to be involved.
- 8.9. The Council and Alberta TPR will review and pursue viable funding options to offset costs incurred by the Council and/or the Operating Partner Members in providing services to the public and the ongoing operation of the EP-BR Parks which are normally the responsibility of Alberta TPR to provide.

## **9. Term and Renewal**

- 9.1. This MOU shall be for a term of 10 (ten) years and expire on **December 31, 2018** (unless terminated earlier as hereinafter provided).
- 9.2. Prior to expiry of the term of this MOU and subject to the mutual agreement of both parties, the term of the MOU may be extended; or, the MOU may be reviewed, amended and renewed; or, replaced by a new MOU for a term that is mutually agreeable to both parties.
- 9.3. The parties will commence a review of the MOU that will include discussion of any amendments desired by either party, no later than **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018**.

- 9.4. Should either party not intend to renew or otherwise continue with the MOU, it shall serve notice of such intent in writing to the other party no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, stating reasons behind its position.

## **10. Assignment**

- 10.1. The Council shall not transfer or assign any part of this agreement without prior written approval of Alberta TPR and without formal amendment to this agreement.

## **11. Amendment**

- 11.1. This MOU may be amended or added to as required by mutual agreement of the parties in writing.
- 11.2. Either party may give notice in writing to the other of a request to amend or add to the MOU but shall provide sufficient and reasonable notice as to allow for any necessary internal consultations, and any necessary negotiations between the parties, that may be necessary.

## **12. Interim and Annual Reviews**

- 12.1. The parties will conduct an interim review of this MOU within six months of the date of formal approval of the management plan by Alberta TPR. The purpose of the interim review will be to identify any additional matters which should be addressed or clarified in the MOU as a result of the completion of the management plan.
- 12.2. Senior Alberta TPR staff and the Council will, on an annual basis following completion of the interim review specified above, review progress toward the achievement of the plans, initiatives and programs developed under this MOU and evaluate the effectiveness of the MOU.

## **13. Termination**

- 13.1. This Memorandum of Understanding will terminate if:
- 13.1.1. the incorporation of the Council under the Alberta *Societies Act* is revoked or cancelled; or
  - 13.1.2. if the Council is dissolved under the *Societies Act*; or
  - 13.1.3. if the Council ceases to function or is unable to continue to function.
- 13.2. The parties may agree by mutual consent to terminate this agreement at any time, under terms and timelines that are acceptable to both parties.
- 13.3. If either party is considering terminating this Memorandum of Understanding, that party shall first serve notice in writing to the other party, and both parties shall thereafter undertake reasonable efforts to address and resolve issues underlying the first party's desire to terminate

this Memorandum of Understanding. If the underlying issues cannot be resolved the first party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding upon giving 120 days written notice to the other party. The written notice will include the first party's reasons for terminating this Memorandum of Understanding.

#### **14. Notice**

- 14.1. Any notice under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be effectively given on the date it is received if it is in writing and delivered personally or sent via fax machine or electronic mail and actually received, or sent by registered mail, to the parties as follows:

If to the Province:

Director – Program Coordination Branch  
Parks Division  
Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Oxbridge Place  
9820 - 106 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2J6

If to the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council:

Chair - Eagle Point Blue Rapids Parks Council  
Board of Directors  
P.O. Box 77, 5516 Industrial Road,  
Drayton Valley, Alberta  
T7A 1R1

or such address as either party may designate by proper notice.

#### **15. Dispute Resolution**

- 15.1. Should any dispute arise with respect to this Memorandum of Understanding, the parties agree to work diligently to amicably resolve the dispute. If the dispute cannot be resolved by amicable negotiations by the parties the matter shall be reviewed by the Deputy Minister and if the matter cannot then be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties, the matter shall be referred to the Minister and the decision of the Minister shall be final and binding on both parties.

**Signed in Agreement:**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding on the respective dates hereunder written.

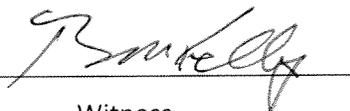
For HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, as represented by the Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation



Jay Nagendran  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Parks Division  
Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation

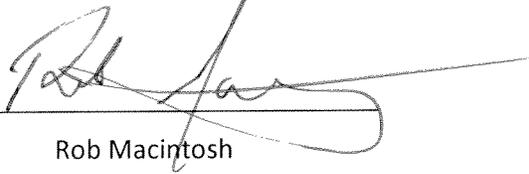


Date



Witness

For THE EAGLE POINT – BLUE RAPIDS PARKS COUNCIL



Rob Macintosh  
Chair  
Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council  
Board of Directors



Date



Witness

## **APPENDIX A:**

**Goals and Objectives for Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area ... as developed and agreed to in principle among the sponsors, and between the sponsors and Alberta Parks during the process of securing the protected areas designation: Jan. – August 2007**

### ***Broad Goals (of the initiative for the two protected areas):***

1. to operate within all applicable legislation and policy
2. to ensure sound land-use planning and management of these public lands for recreation and environmental protection in the public interest, while accommodating existing recreational lease holders and co-existing with existing industrial activity already permitted in the area;
3. to enhance quality of life for local residents, and for all Albertans by providing a diverse range of high quality outdoor recreational opportunities and services and adequately protected green space and natural landscapes;
4. to maximize synergies and minimize conflicts among different types of stakeholders and user groups on these public lands, and find creative and innovative ways to develop and deliver recreation services and activities;
5. to help protect the North Saskatchewan River watershed and ensure long-term protection of remaining wilderness and natural spaces and environmentally sensitive lands along the Drayton Valley / Brazeau County section of the North Saskatchewan River Valley;
6. to contribute to regional economic development, help diversify the local economy and facilitate the growth of a vibrant and sustainable tourism industry;
7. to facilitate an effective collaboration between local municipalities, volunteer-based recreation and service organizations and Alberta Parks in the planning, funding, and delivery of Alberta's environmental protection and outdoor recreational goals for protected areas;
8. to facilitate opportunities to add private or crown lands into the existing park and recreation area over time through: gifts and donations, bequeaths, relinquishing unused portions of agricultural leases, selected land purchases, land swaps, or other appropriate mechanisms;
9. to explore and pursue opportunities to designate or create additional protected lands up-river from Blue Rapids
10. to educate and advise other organizations on how to apply this same collaborative model to manage and protect public lands.

## ***Specific Management Objectives: for Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area***

### ECONOMIC

1. to honour the existing mineral leases, rights, and associated development requirements of industry regarding
  - a. oil and gas development;
  - b. sand and gravel extraction;and facilitate the orderly and environmentally responsible co-existence of these activities with the environmental protection and recreation goals of the areas;
2. to plan and implement conservation, reclamation and abandonment programs for industrial leases and facilities that are coordinated with and complement environmental protection and recreation objectives and plans;
3. to encourage and promote complimentary municipal land use planning for the adjacent lands, and educate adjacent landowners on opportunities for complementary residential development or tourism and recreational development on nearby private lands

### ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL

4. to facilitate private economic development opportunities and minimize the loss of pristine lands inside the PP / PRA by shifting the development of more intensive recreational facilities to outside the protected area on adjacent private lands: These might include
  - a. campgrounds
  - b. private overnight accommodation
  - c. resorts

### ENVIRONMENTAL

5. to manage the protected areas in a manner that conserves water and protects water quality in the North Saskatchewan River for downstream users and supports the provincial "Water for life" strategy and the North Saskatchewan Watershed management plan;
6. to identify, protect, and (where appropriate) interpret unique species, habitats, and ecosystem features, including:
  - a. Important aquatic habitats (fish spawning streams)
  - b. Denning and breeding areas
  - c. Rare and endangered species
7. to identify and protect unique or environmentally sensitive land using restrictions on recreational activity, buffer zones or other appropriate mechanisms;

SOCIAL – CULTURAL – RECREATIONAL:

8. to protect and enhance the rights and opportunities of existing recreational leaseholders to operate their club activities and to provide public recreational facilities and services: including
  - a. Evergreen Shooting Club,
  - b. Brazeau Bowbenders Archery Club,
  - c. Brazeau County - Wiley West Campground and area,
  - d. Pembina Nordic Ski Club and Rotary Club (Nordic and Community Trails);
9. to protect existing and proposed non-motorized recreational trails within Eagle Point Provincial Park and enhance the quality of these trails for cross country skiers, hikers and cyclists (mountain bike riders) through separation from motorized recreational users;
10. to ensure the safe operation of the existing archery and shooting club facilities through provision of adequate buffers, access controls and signage;
11. to provide equestrian trails and associated staging areas, in appropriate locations in the Park and/or the PRA for horse-back riding;
12. to manage motorized recreational activity in a way that minimizes negative impacts and facilitates a responsible stewardship approach by these user groups;
13. to provide good quality recreational trail facilities for summer ATV and motorbike users and winter snowmobile users within designated and managed sub-areas of the Provincial Recreation Area;
14. to provide good quality motocross track and event facilities in a designated and managed sub-area of the Provincial Recreation Area;
15. to develop, manage, and coordinate improved access to the North Saskatchewan River for:
  - a. emergency and rescue services
  - b. canoeing, kayaking and rafting
  - c. river tour operators
  - d. other boating and watercraft use
16. to identify, protect, and (where appropriate) interpret cultural and historical sites and resources within or adjacent to the protected area (for example – David Thompson’s Boggy Hall wintering grounds);
17. to develop and manage a limited number of designated camping areas and facilities to accommodate different types of campers, such as:
  - a. walk-in tent sites
  - b. mixed tent and RV / trailer sites
  - c. non-serviced RV / trailer sites
  - d. fully serviced RV / trailer sites
18. to foster an ongoing collaborative and cooperative effort over the long term among:
  - a. the provincial government departments responsible for public lands, parks and protected areas,

- b. the range of citizen-based volunteer recreation and environmental groups, and
- c. Brazeau County and Town of DV (municipal government).

## Appendix B

Observed and Expected Birds. List generated from the personal observations of several local birders, the Atlas of Breeding Birds of Alberta (Semenchuck, G.P. (Ed.), 1992), Weyerhaeuser's 2004 Drayton Valley FMA Breeding Bird Survey (Aspen Ecological Consulting, 2004), and *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America* (Sibley, 2003).

Alder Flycatcher, *Empidonax alnorum*  
American Coot, *Fulica Americana* \*□  
American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos* \*  
American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis* \*  
American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius* \*  
American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla* \*□  
American Robin, *Turdus migratorius* \*□  
American Tree Sparrow, *Spizella arborea*  
American Widgeon, *Anas americana* \*  
Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* \*□  
Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia* \*□  
Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica* \*  
Barred Owl, *Strix varia*  
Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*  
Belted Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon* \*□  
Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*  
Black-billed Magpie, *Pica pica* \*  
Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus* \*□  
Blackpoll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*  
Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*  
Blue Jay, *Cynocitta cristata* \*  
Blue-headed Vireo, *Vireo solitarius* \*□  
Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors* \*  
Bohemian Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulous* \*  
Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus Philadelphia*  
Boreal Chickadee, *Parus hudsonicus* \*  
Boreal Owl, *Aegolius funereus*  
Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus* \*  
Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*  
Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater* \*□  
Bufflehead, *Bucephalus albeola* \*□  
California Gull, *Larus californicus* \*  
Canada Goose, *Branta Canadensis* \*□  
Canvasback, *Aythya valisineria*  
Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*  
Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum* \*□  
Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerine* \*□  
Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera* \*  
Clay-coloured Sparrow, *Spizella pallida* \*  
Cliff Swallow, *Hirundo pyrrhonota* \*□  
Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula* \*□  
Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*  
Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser* \*□  
Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor* \*  
Common Raven, *Corvus corax* \*□  
Common Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea* \*  
Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago* \*□  
Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas* \*□  
Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*  
Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperi*  
Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis* \*□  
Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens* \*□  
Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus* \*  
Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe* \*□  
European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris* \*  
Evening Grosbeak, *Coccothraustes vespertinus*  
Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*  
Gadwall, *Anas strepera*  
Golden-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus satrapa*  
Gray Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis* \*  
Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias* \*  
Great Grey Owl, *Strix nebulosa* \*  
Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus* \*□  
Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca* \*  
Grey Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis* \*  
Hairy Woodpecker, *Picoides villosus* \*□  
Hermit Thrush, *Catharus guttatus* \*  
Hoary Redpoll, *Carduelis hornemanni*  
Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus* \*  
House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon* \*□  
Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferous* \*□  
Lazuli Bunting, *Passerina amoena* \*□  
Le Conte's Sparrow, *Ammodramus secontei*  
Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus* \*□  
Lesser Scaup, *Aythya affinis* \*  
Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes* \*  
Lincoln's Sparrow, *Melospiza lincolnii*  
Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*  
Magnolia Warbler, *Dendroica magnolia*  
Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos* \*□  
Merlin, *Falco columbarius* \*  
Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*

Mourning Dove, *Zenaid macroura*  
 Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis philadelphia* \*□  
 Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus* \*  
 Northern Goshawk, *Accipiter gentiles*  
 Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus* \*  
 Northern Hawk Owl, *Surnia ulula*  
 Northern Oriole, *Icterus galbula* \*  
 Northern Pygmy Owl, *Claucidium gnoma* \*  
 Northern Saw-whet Owl, *Aegolius acadicus*  
 Northern Shoveller, *Anas clypeata*  
 Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Contopus borealis*  
 Orange-crowned Warbler, *Vermivora celata*  
 Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus* \*□  
 Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus* \*□  
 Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum*  
 Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*  
 Philadelphia Vireo, *Vireo philadelphicus*  
 Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus* \*  
 Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator* \*  
 Pine Siskin, *Carduelis pinus* \*  
 Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus* \*□  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*  
 Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus* \*  
 Redhead, *Aythya Americana*  
 Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis* \*□  
 Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus* \*□  
 Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis* \*  
 Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus* \*  
 Rough-legged Hawk, *Buteo lagopus*  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula* \*  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris* \*  
 Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis* \*  
 Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus* \*□

Rusty Blackbird, *Euphagus carolinus*  
 Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis* \*  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*  
 Sharp-tailed Grouse, *Tympanuchus phasianellus*  
 Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*  
 Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria* \*  
 Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia* \*□  
 Sora, *Porzana carolina* \*  
 Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia* \*□  
 Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus* \*  
 Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza georgiana*  
 Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrine*  
 Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides dorsalis*  
 Townsend's Warbler, *Dendroica townsendi*  
 Tree Swallow, *Tachycineta bicolor* \*  
 Veery, *Catharus fuscescens*  
 Vesper Sparrow, *Pooecetes gramineus* \*  
 Warbling Vireo, *Vireo gilvus*  
 Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*  
 Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* \*□  
 Western Wood Peewee, *Contopus sordidulus* \*□  
 White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis* \*□  
 White-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*  
 White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis* \*□  
 White-winged Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*  
 Wilson's Warbler, *Wilsonia pusilla*  
 Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia* \*□  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius* \*□  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata* \*

\* = Observed within the Park System

□ = Nesting within the Park System

## Appendix C

Observed and Expected Mammal Species. List generated from personal observations by local area residents. Unconfirmed, but expected species listed based on the *A Checklist of Alberta Mammals* (Smith, 1989), a report by Alberta Sustainable Development entitled *The General Status of Wild Alberta Species* (Sustainable Resource Development, 2005), and Weaselhead Society's website (Weaselhead Society, undated), which provided excellent range descriptions.

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Occurrence in EPPP / BRPRA</b>
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Abundant
Mule deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Abundant
Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>	Common, resident
Wapiti (Elk)	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Common
Black bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Rare, resident
Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Rare, resident
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	Common, resident
Grey Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Rare, transient
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Rare
Cougar	<i>Felis concolor</i>	Rare, transient
Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>	Occasional
Northern River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	Rare, resident
Marten	<i>Martes americana</i>	Unconfirmed, expected
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Occasional
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	Unconfirmed, expected
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Occasional, resident
Short-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	Unconfirmed, expected
Least Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Common, resident
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	Common, resident
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Abundant, resident
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>	Occasional, resident
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus richardsonii</i>	Occasional, transient
Least Chipmunk	<i>Tamias minimus</i>	Abundant, resident
Snowshoe Hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	Abundant, resident
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Abundant, resident
Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	Abundant, resident
Red-backed Vole	<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>	Abundant, resident
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Abundant, resident
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Abundant, resident
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Abundant, resident
Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Unconfirmed, expected
Western Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus princeps</i>	Unconfirmed, expected
Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	Unconfirmed, expected
Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Common
Water Shrew	<i>Sorex palustris</i>	Unconfirmed, expected
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Unconfirmed, expected
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Unconfirmed, expected
Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Unconfirmed, expected
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Abundant, common

## Appendix D

Observed and Expected Reptilian and Amphibian Species. List generated from field observation and a report by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development entitled *The General Status of Alberta Wild Species 2005* (Sustainable Resource Development, 2005).

Common name	Scientific name	Notes
*Boreal Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris maculata</i>	Common throughout the region. Breeds in shallow ponds and ditches in spring, migrates to meadows and forests during summer.
*Wood Frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	Common in most bodies of standing water, river backwaters, etc. in spring; almost all forested areas throughout the summer. The most common amphibian.
Western Toad	<i>Bufo boreas</i>	Still common in this area, but declining elsewhere. Often found near water, in moist forests and meadows.
Canada Toad	<i>Bufo hemiophrys</i>	Once common throughout this region, now experiencing dramatic declines in Western Canada.
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	Considered 'at risk', this species has undergone dramatic mysterious declines throughout its territory, which covered all of Alberta except mountain areas. Has not been observed in the Drayton Valley area for several decades.
*Red-sided Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Uncommon. Hibernacula are suspected within the parks area on south-facing river slopes. Considered a Sensitive species in Alberta because of its vulnerability to disturbance.

\* = Observed within the Park System

## Appendix E

Fish expected in the North Saskatchewan River. List generated from information from the Royal Alberta Museum (Royal Alberta Museum, 2005).

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Lake Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>
Quillback	<i>Cariodes cyprinus</i>
Longnose Sucker	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>
White Sucker	<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>
Mountain Sucker	<i>Catostomus platyrhynchus</i>
Spoonhead Sculpin	<i>Cottus ricei</i>
Lake Chub	<i>Couesius pumbeus</i>
Brook Stickleback	<i>Culaea inconstans</i>
Northern Pike	<i>Esox lucius</i>
Iowa Darter	<i>Etheostoma exile</i>
Goldeye	<i>Hiodon alosoides</i>
Mooneye	<i>Hiodon tergisus</i>
Burbot	<i>Lota lota</i>
Pearl Dace	<i>Margariscus margarita</i>
Silver Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma anisurum</i>
Shorthead Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma macrolepidotum</i>
Emerald Shiner	<i>Notropis atherinoides</i>
River Shiner	<i>Notropis blennius</i>
Spottail Shiner	<i>Notropis hudsonius</i>
Cutthroat Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki</i>
Rainbow Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
Trout-Perch	<i>Percopsis omiscomaycus</i>
Northern Redbelly Dace	<i>Phoxinus eos</i>
Finescale Dace	<i>Phoxinus neogaeus</i>
Fathead Minnow	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>
Flathead Chub	<i>Platygobio gracilis</i>
Mountain Whitefish	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>
Longnose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>
Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
Bull Trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>
Eastern Brook Trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>
Sauger	<i>Sander canadensis</i>
Walleye	<i>Stizostedion vitreum</i>

## Appendix F

Vascular plant species observed in the Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Park System in 2008 (Alberta Parks 2008).

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	RANK
Alaska birch	<i>Betula neoalaskana</i>	S5
aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	S5
balsam fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	S5
balsam poplar	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	S5
beaked hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	S5
beaked willow	<i>Salix bebbiana</i>	S5
bishop's-cap	<i>Mitella nuda</i>	S5
black spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>	S5
bluejoint	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	S5
bracted bog orchid	<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	S5
bracted honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	S5
bristly black currant	<i>Ribes lacustre</i>	S5
buck-bean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	S5
bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	S5
Canada anemone	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	S5
Canada buffaloberry	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	S5
Canada goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	S5
choke cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	S5
clasping-leaved twisted-stalk	<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>	S5
common bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	S5
common cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	S5
common dandelion ^	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	SNA
common fireweed	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	S5
common horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	S5
common Labrador tea	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>	S5
common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	S5
common pink wintergreen	<i>Pyrola asarifolia</i>	S5
common plantain ^	<i>Plantago major</i>	SNA
common red paintbrush	<i>Castilleja miniata</i>	S5
common tansy ^	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	SNA
common wild rose	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	S5
common yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	S5
cow parsnip	<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>	S5
cream-colored vetchling	<i>Lathyrus ochroleucus</i>	S5
creeping thistle ^	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	SNA
dewberry	<i>Rubus pubescens</i>	S5
dwarf birch	<i>Betula pumila</i>	S5
early blue violet	<i>Viola adunca</i>	S5
fairybells	<i>Disporum trachycarpum</i>	S5
flat-fruited meadow rue ~	<i>Thalictrum sparsiflorum</i>	S3
flat-leaved willow	<i>Salix planifolia</i>	S5
flat-topped goldenrod	<i>Solidago graminifolia</i>	S5

floating-leaf pondweed ~	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	S3
fragile bladder fern	<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	S5
fringed brome	<i>Bromus ciliatus</i>	S5
golden saxifrage ~	<i>Chrysosplenium iowense</i>	S3
green alder	<i>Alnus viridis ssp crispa</i>	S4S5
green sedge	<i>Carex viridula</i>	S3S4
ground-cedar	<i>Diphasiastrum complanatum</i>	S5
hairy wild rye	<i>Leymus innovatus</i>	S5
hemp-nettle ^	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	SNA
high-bush cranberry ~	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	S3
hoary willow	<i>Salix candida</i>	S4
kidney-leaved violet	<i>Viola renifolia</i>	S5
Lindley's aster	<i>Aster ciliolatus</i>	S5
lodgepole pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	S5
low-bush cranberry	<i>Viburnum edule</i>	S5
marsh cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	S5
marsh skullcap	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	S5
marsh-marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	S5
meadow horsetail	<i>Equisetum pratense</i>	S5
northern bastard toadflax	<i>Geocaulon lividum</i>	S5
northern bedstraw	<i>Galium boreale</i>	S5
northern gooseberry	<i>Ribes oxycanthoides</i>	S5
oak fern	<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	S5
one-sided wintergreen	<i>Orthilia secunda</i>	S5
ostrich fern ~	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	S3
palmate-leaved coltsfoot	<i>Petasites frigidus var palmatus</i>	S5
perennial sow-thistle ^	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	SNA
pin cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	S5
pineappleweed ^	<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>	SNA
prickly rose	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	S5
purple avens	<i>Geum rivale</i>	S5
purple oat grass	<i>Schizachne purpurascens</i>	S5
purple peavine ~	<i>Lathyrus venosus</i>	S3
red and white baneberry	<i>Actaea rubra</i>	S5
red-osier dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	S5
river alder	<i>Alnus incana ssp tenuifolia</i>	S5
saskatoon	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	S5
scentless chamomile ^	<i>Matricaria perforata</i>	SNA
seaside buttercup	<i>Ranunculus cymbalaria</i>	S5
showy aster	<i>Aster conspicuus</i>	S5
skunk currant	<i>Ribes glandulosum</i>	S5
slough grass	<i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i>	S5
small bottle sedge	<i>Carex utriculata</i>	S5
small enchanter's nightshade	<i>Circaea alpina</i>	S4
small-fruited bulrush	<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>	S5
smooth brome ^	<i>Bromus inermis ssp inermis</i>	SNA
snakeroot	<i>Sanicula marilandica</i>	S4
snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	S5
spreading dogbane	<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	S5

star-flowered Solomon's-seal	<i>Smilacina stellata</i>	S5
stiff club-moss	<i>Lycopodium annotinum</i>	S5
swamp horsetail	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	S5
sweet-scented bedstraw	<i>Galium triflorum</i>	S5
tall blue lettuce #	<i>Lactuca biennis</i>	S2
tall larkspur	<i>Delphinium glaucum</i>	S5
tall lungwort	<i>Mertensia paniculata</i>	S5
tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i>	S5
three-leaved Solomon's-seal	<i>Smilacina trifolia</i>	S5
timothy ^	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	SNA
twinflower	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	S5
twining honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera dioica</i>	S5
two-seeded sedge	<i>Carex disperma</i>	S5
two-stamened sedge	<i>Carex diandra</i>	S5
variegated horsetail	<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	S5
veiny meadow rue	<i>Thalictrum venulosum</i>	S5
vine-leaved coltsfoot	<i>Petasites frigidus var x vitifolius</i>	S5
Virginia grape fern	<i>Botrychium virginianum</i>	S4S5
water parsnip	<i>Sium suave</i>	S5
water sedge	<i>Carex aquatilis</i>	S5
western Canada violet	<i>Viola canadensis</i>	S5
western wood lily	<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	S5
white adder's-mouth ~	<i>Malaxis monophylla</i>	S3
white birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	S4
white clover ^	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	SNA
white spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	S5
white sweet-clover ^	<i>Melilotus alba</i>	SNA
white-grained mountain rice grass	<i>Oryzopsis asperifolia</i>	S4
wild lily-of-the-valley	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	S5
wild red currant	<i>Ribes triste</i>	S5
wild red raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	S5
wild sarsaparilla	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	S5
wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	S5
wild vetch	<i>Vicia americana</i>	S5
woodland strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	S4
yellow pond-lily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	S4
yellow sweet-clover ^	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	SNA

# = Rare

~ = Uncommon

^ = Non-Native

## Appendix G

Summary of the various community events and informal natural history courses going on within the Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Park System.

Learning and Interpretive Activity	Group
Trail system	4-H Horse Clubs
Foraging for wild edible mushrooms—groups from Edmonton and surrounding communities meet at the Pembina Nordic Ski Club and other locales to gather and identify wild mushrooms.	Alberta Mycological Association
RiverWatch—School program focusing on water quality and stream ecology. Local school groups do hands-on water quality surveys on short raft trips through Eagle Point Provincial Park.	Alberta River Watch
Trail systems for nature walks	Church Groups
Camp-outs, outdoor activities and nature walks—guided nature hikes for girls and parents.	Girl Guides/ Brownies and Scouts
General natural history workshops—school groups and members of the public.	Pembina Nordic Ski Club
Bird watching—spring courses focused on identification and observation of native bird species, for the general public and beginning birdwatchers.	Pembina Nordic Ski Club
In collaboration with Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, this initiative is working to reduce barriers in outdoor recreation.	Push To Open Nature Society
Random use of tailing ponds for swimming	Rokit and local area youth groups
Home educator’s youth field trips and learning activities: These include learning experiences in plant identification, basic landscape ecology, wildlife viewing, orienteering, nature crafts, and other outdoor experiences.	Wild Rose Home Educators