About the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association

The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to building healthier and happier communities and citizens by developing and promoting recreation and parks. ARPA has successfully facilitated five previous Parks Forums, demonstrating their proactive leadership in the field of parks and outdoor recreation.

About Parks Forum

Inspired by the incredible diversity of parks, landscapes and open spaces in this country, ARPA created the Parks Forum to gather key partners, educators, students, thinkers, and decision makers to develop ideas and forge connections.

Introduction

The theme for the 2015 Parks Forum is “Connections”. Parks create Connections – connections with nature, connections with health, connections with other sectors and individuals and even connections with our inner self.

The primary objectives of the Parks Forum are:

• To provide education and development opportunities that include the exchange of views, sharing of experiences and learning of new and unique approaches to planning and managing parks and open spaces;
• To develop ideas, concepts and proposals for realistic interaction and collaboration on issues and initiatives of common interest and concern; and,
• To explore the connections, benefits and roles that parks provide in today’s ever-changing society.
• These important objectives will be achieved at the 2015 Parks Forum: Parks, Landscapes and Open Spaces – Connections through a program that will appeal to a broad range of interests, and engage a variety of learning styles. The program consists of keynote speakers, interactive workshops, concurrent sessions, panel discussions, plenary sessions, student integration, trade show and opportunities for informal social interaction.
## Wednesday, March 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-4:00 PM</td>
<td>PRE-FORUM WORKSHOP: Municipal Parks - Issues, Opportunities and Outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00-10:00 PM</td>
<td>NETWORKING RECEPTION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Thursday, March 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-9:00 AM</td>
<td>REGISTRATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:15 AM</td>
<td>WELCOME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15-10:00 AM</td>
<td>KEYNOTE: Connecting People and Nature -- Rue Mapp (Afro Outdoor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:15 AM</td>
<td>REFRESHMENT BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15-11:00 AM</td>
<td>KEYNOTE: Making the Connection Between Parks and Wellness - Dr. James Talbot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:45 AM</td>
<td>KEYNOTE: How is Climate Change Affecting Biodiversity in Alberta? - Amy Nixon (AB Biodiversity Monitoring Inst.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45-1:00 PM</td>
<td>LUNCH: Workshop Introduction -- Alberta Culture and Tourism Facilitators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-3:00 PM</td>
<td>PLENARY WORKSHOP: Facilitated Discussion Groups focused on one of the three topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00-3:30 PM</td>
<td>REFRESHMENT BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30-4:00 PM</td>
<td>WRAP-UP: Discussion groups report back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00-6:30 PM</td>
<td>TRADE SHOW &amp; RECEPTION (Drinks and Appetizers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>DINNER (On your own)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Friday, March 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 AM</td>
<td>BREAKFAST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>PLENARY SPEAKER: Global Perspectives on Measuring Park Visitation - Dr. Paul Eagles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 9:45 AM</td>
<td>REFRESHMENT BREAK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9:45-10:45 AM | A1. How Can Alberta Be A Leader in Implementing the Outcomes of the 2014 World Parks Congress  
Steve Donelon, Elizabeth Halpenny, Glen Hvenegaard & Michael Quinn  
A2. A Systems Approach to Parks Planning  
Heather Lazaruk & Robin Schmidt  
A3. Eyes on the Future: Implementing Edmonton’s Urban Forest Management Plan  
Jeanette Wheeler  
A4. Achieving Shared Public Interest Objectives through Caribou Habitat Restoration  
Kim Ogilvie & Joyce Gould  
A5. Tree Inventory & Open Data: Connecting Citizens to Their Green Infrastructure  
Sherry Boerefyn  
A6. FortisAlberta and Alberta Parks: Switching Cubicle Wrap Project  
Mona Bartsoff  
A7. Outdoor Session Bridging the Technology Gap: Using Geocaching to Inspire Technophiles to Enjoy Nature  
Kassandra Mahar |
| 10:45-11:00 AM| TRANSITION BREAK                                                      |
| 11:00-12:00 PM| B1. ElkWater: Not Boring Anymore  
Peter Swain  
B2. Understanding Youth as Opportunities, Not Challenges  
Kieran Dowling  
B3. If You Build It, Will They Come?: Community Use and Perceptions of “Active Parks”  
Dr. Jennifer Copeland  
B4. International Scan of Parks Asset Management Practices  
Eugene Stansfield, Scott Jones & Alexandra Talbot  
B5. Natural Environment Trails: Challenges of Maintaining Trails Under Heavy Urban Use  
Erik Lees  
B6. Beaver Hills Biosphere – Making Connections  
Dr. Guy Swinnerton, Jocelyn Trasher-Haug & Glen Lawrence  
B7. Health and Well-Being Benefits of Alberta’s Protected Areas  
Joyce Gould & Glen Hvenegaard  
B8. Cemeteries: The Forgotten Parks  
Erik Lees |

---

**Note:** The table structure is maintained to ensure readability and clarity. Each event is listed with its corresponding time slot. The table is divided by days and formatted in a clear, easy-to-read manner. The events are described succinctly to fit within the constraints of the image and text content provided.
### Friday, March 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00-1:30 PM</td>
<td>RON GORGICHUCK MEMORIAL LUNCHEON: Speaker TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-3:00 PM</td>
<td>C1. Pecha Kucha Innovations Call for speakers from delegates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C2. Aquatic and Dryland Invasive Species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Megan Evans and Kate Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C3. Connecting Children to Nature — Aligning for Success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kim Sanderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C4. Disaster Recovery and Mitigation from a Parks Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Panel of Speakers from Alberta Parks and municipal parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C5. Outdoor Session Enriching your Educational Experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andrea Barnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00-5:30 PM</td>
<td>STUDENT POSTERS AND PARTNER SHOWCASE (Wine and Cheese Reception)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>DINNER (On your own)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Saturday, March 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 AM</td>
<td>BREAKFAST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>D1. Priorities, Policies, Practice and Research: The Alberta Parks Social Science Working Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lars Hallstrom &amp; Joyce Gould</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D2. Yardstick — Key Survey Results and their Application for Parks in Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cliff Lacey &amp; Brian Milne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Halpenny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D4. Engaging Newcomers to Alberta with Our Parks Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Panel of Speakers from Alberta Parks, Parks Canada and municipal parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D5. Outdoor Session Get Outside and Play!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gareth Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 9:45 AM</td>
<td>REFRESHMENT BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45-10:45 AM</td>
<td>E1. Brand Name or Generic Nature? — Do Special Nature Places have a Special Effect on Wellness?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don Carruthers Den Hoed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E2. Building a Connected Parks and Open Space System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geoff Smith &amp; Leslie McWeeny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E3. Wildlife Monitoring with Remote Cameras and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drajs Vujnovic &amp; Brent Wyman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E4. Bringing the Farm into the City: Exploring Urban Agriculture and Food Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Panel of Speakers from Edmonton, Lethbridge and Red Deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E5. AdventureSmart — Get Informed and Go Outdoors!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacqui Bannach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45-11:00 AM</td>
<td>TRANSITION BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-12:00 PM</td>
<td>KEYNOTE: Yellowstone to Yukon: Global Conservation Innovations Through the Years - Harvey Locke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Message from the President of ARPA

It is with great pleasure that ARPA invites you to attend the 2015 Parks Forum: Parks, Landscapes and Open Spaces – Connections. The past two years have flown by; it is hard to believe that we are coming together once again for the biennial Parks Forum. We, along with our sponsors and partnered agencies, are most excited to offer this excellent opportunity for you to join us for another jam-packed, interactive learning experience.

This is our sixth Parks Forum, an event that continues to play a crucial role in bringing us together to focus on opportunities and issues specific to parks. Our main theme this year allows us to explore the different connections that parks make across our society. One of the five goals identified in A Framework for Recreation in Canada: Pathways to Wellbeing is “Connecting people to nature” and this speaks to the important role that parks play. This theme is also paramount to other policy documents such as the Active Alberta policy and the Connecting Canadians with Nature report from the Canadian Parks Council.

On behalf of ARPA, I would like to extend our appreciation in advance to all of our Forum speakers as well as to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and several municipal governments for their vital support and encouragement throughout. The Parks Forum Planning Committee has produced the very best in terms of mix and depth of topics dealing with the concept of “Connections”. The speakers and sessions will be highly relevant to attendees regardless of the agency or organization they represent.

I invite you to participate and become fully engaged with what the Forum has to offer. We trust that the ideas and initiatives you discover at the 2015 Parks Forum will provide both strategic and practical ideas to bring back to your own communities, organizations and agencies.

We hope to see you this March in Canmore!

Sincerely,

Mike Roma

Pre-Forum Workshop

Municipal Parks Issues, Opportunities and Outcomes Workshop

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM ($99 plus GST)

This full day facilitated workshop will continue the conversation on topics relevant to municipal parks that was started by a day long workshop hosted by St. Albert last fall. A number of potential topics were generated at the St. Albert workshop including:

- Regional park development co-op
- MGA review
- Rural issues/Small communities
- Sites for policies
- Operations
- Service levels & standards
- Trends – planning for the future
- Asset management – value of projects
- Operating costs for projects
- Climate change – Environment – Biodiversity
- School development

A facilitation team from Alberta Culture and Tourism will lead the workshop. Be sure to attend this engaging and interactive session that will continue a great conversation amongst municipal parks leaders. Lunch is included.
Keynotes (Thursday)

Connecting People and Nature

Rue Mapp

Outdoor Afro is a social community that reconnects African-Americans with natural spaces and one another through recreational activities such as camping, hiking, biking, birding, fishing, gardening, skiing — and more!

Outdoor Afro disrupts the false perception that black people do not have a relationship with nature, and works to shift the visual representation of who can connect with the outdoors.

We remember our history in nature, leverage social media, and support relevant local leadership to create interest communities, events, and partnerships that support diverse participation in the Great Outdoors.

During her childhood, founder Rue Mapp split her tie between urban Oakland, California and her families’ working ranch in the Northern woodlands, where she cultivated a passion for natural spaces, farming, and learned how to hunt and fish. As a youth, her participation in the Girl Scouts and Outward Bound broadened her outdoor experiences, such as camping, mountaineering, rock climbing, and road bicycling. But Rue was troubled by the consistently low numbers of African Americans participating in these activities. So for two decades, Rue has used digital media as an important and practical tool to connect with people of color who share her outdoor interests. Outdoor Afro emerged naturally from these experiences.

Rue Map, CEO and Founder of Outdoor Afro, has been on the leading edge of relevant messaging and community engagement for 20 years. Her innovative leadership and network weaving inspires communities into action and is recognized by the Obama Administration, the Outdoor Retail industry, the National Wildlife Federation, and Backpacker Magazine. Rue is listed in the 2012 Root 100 List of Most Influential African Americans, a NewsOne 2013 Game Changer, and advisor for the Children and Nature Network, among many other distinctions. As a well-known Outdoor Afro Strategist, Rue has published hundreds of blogs, and is widely quoted in many publications, including Grist, Outside Magazine, High Country News, Audubon, Jet and Ebony Magazines. She speaks eloquently and is in demand for topics such as diverse outdoor engagement, new market opportunities, social media, and inspiring action through effective communication and authentic community relations.

Since creating Outdoor Afro in 2009, with the support of leading outdoor retailers, national non-profits, and park agencies around the country, Rue has launched a national team of outdoor leaders. The leaders design local outdoor experiences that speak to the values and history for thousands of men and women of all ages.

Rue holds a BA from UC Berkeley, is a proud mother of three active children, and resides in Oakland, CA where she enjoys a wide variety of outdoor recreation, the visual arts, New American cuisine, and entertaining at home.
Making the Connection Between Parks and Wellness

Dr. James Talbot

Dr. James Talbot is the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta. He was a Senior Provincial Medical Officer of Health for Alberta since September 2009 until his new appointment in 2012. Dr. Talbot has a B.Sc. degree, PhD in biochemistry and an M.D. from the University of Toronto. He is a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons specialist in medical microbiology.

Dr. Talbot has worked in public health since 1991, with posts as the director of the Provincial Laboratory for Northern Alberta, Chief Medical Officer for Nunavut and Associate Medical Officer of Health for Capital Health and then Alberta Health Services.

How is Climate Change Affecting Biodiversity in Alberta?

Amy Nixon - Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute

Alberta’s climate is changing. By the end of the century, average temperatures are projected to increase by 2-4°C, accompanied by drier conditions overall. These changes are having consequences for the wild Alberta we know today – our species and ecosystems – and for our communities. Parks and protected areas of all kinds play important roles in addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and on society more broadly. A deeper understanding of the potential changes to Alberta’s species and ecosystems in response to climate change can support ongoing management and planning of parks across the province to ensure they meet the needs of Albertans now and into the future.

Amy Nixon is the coordinator for the Biodiversity Management and Climate Change Adaptation project at the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI), facilitating research on climate change and its impacts on Alberta’s biodiversity and communities being conducted by collaborators at the ABMI, University of Alberta, and the Miistakis Institute. Her recent research includes contributions to climate change vulnerability assessments for Alberta’s native species and projections for changes in the distributions of Alberta’s grassland songbirds. Amy received her MSc in ecology at the University of Alberta and holds a BSc in ecology from the University of Calgary. As a born and raised Albertan, Amy is passionate about understanding the diversity of the province’s species and ecosystems and contributing to efforts that promote informed management of our shared natural heritage. She enjoys spending time exploring the outdoors of Alberta in any season!

Plenary Workshop: Parks, Landscapes and Open Spaces – Connections

Alberta Culture and Tourism Facilitators

This plenary workshop will integrate the presentations from the Thursday morning keynotes and will explore some of the connections that parks and open space make in Alberta. Delegates will gain fresh perspectives on connections in parks as the three different park jurisdictions as well as input from the non-profit and academic areas come together to discuss emerging trends, opportunities and initiatives.
Plenary Speaker (Friday)

Global Perspectives on Measuring Park Visitation

Dr. Paul Eagles

Measurement and reporting of use levels of parks and recreation programs and facilities is a fundamental management activity. This presentation will outline the state of the art of measuring park visitation in Canada, and globally. It will report on efforts to standardize approaches and also on efforts to develop a global inventory of park visitation, through the World Conservation Monitoring Center. If time permits, discussion will outline a program to develop and operate a visitor monitoring program in a park.

Dr. Paul F. J. Eagles is a retired Professor from the University of Waterloo in Canada, with a current appointment to Environmental Science at Murdoch University in Australia. He is a Registered Professional Planner, specializing in environmental planning. Over a span of 40 years Dr. Eagles has worked on a wide variety of planning and management projects, with an especially strong emphasis on nature-based tourism in parks and protected areas. He has worked on various aspects of park tourism policy, planning and management in over 30 countries.

Keynote (Saturday)

Yellowstone to Yukon: Global Conservation Innovations Through the Years

Harvey Locke

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) is a joint Canada-US not-for-profit organization that seeks to preserve and maintain the wildlife, native plants, wilderness and natural processes of the mountainous region from Yellowstone National Park to the Yukon Territory.

Y2Y takes a scientific approach to conservation and is recognized as one of the planet’s leading mountain conservation initiatives. Y2Y connects and supports a network of organizations, agencies, and individuals doing on-the-ground conservation work in the Yellowstone to Yukon region.

Without a unified vision for this deeply interconnected landscape, local conservation efforts may be isolated and less effective. Y2Y seeks to ensure conservation efforts throughout the region are aligned in support of large scale objectives, and therefore become continentally significant.

Harvey Locke is globally known for his work on wilderness, national parks and large landscape conservation from Yellowstone to Yukon and beyond. Named by Time magazine as one of Canada’s leaders for the 21st century, his resume is filled with premier publications, keynote speaking engagements and leadership and advisory roles for some of the most well-known organizations in the conservation field. He is now playing a leadership role in a global effort to unite efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change with nature conservation.
Break Out Sessions (Friday)

A1-5 / Friday / March 13 / 9:45-10:45 AM

A1. The Promise of Sydney: How Can Alberta Be a Leader in Implementing the Outcomes of the 2014 World Parks Congress
Steve Donelon, Elizabeth Halpenny, Glen Hvenegaard & Michael Quinn

The World Parks Congress, the IUCN’s “landmark global forum on protected areas”, evaluates progress from the past decade and sets the future agenda for protected area conservation and management. Held every ten years, the 2014 event in Sydney, hosted 6000 people from 170 countries. The 7-day congress addressed eight streams related to conservation goals, climate change, health and well-being, supporting human life, development challenges, governance, traditional knowledge and culture, and inspiring a new generation. The Congress’s main output, “The Promise of Sydney”, outlines the commitment to invigorate conservation efforts, inspire new generations of park supporters, and invest in solutions that address a variety of critical park issues. This workshop will encourage discussion about how the 2014 Congress could inspire future directions in Alberta’s parks.

Steve Donelon is the Executive Director of Parks Program Coordination with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

Elizabeth Halpenny is an Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta. Her research focuses are on park and protected areas management and nature-based tourism.

Glen Hvenegaard is Professor of Environmental Science at the University of Alberta’s Augustana Campus. He is a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas (and its Tourism Specialist Group) and a fellow with LEAD International (Leadership for Environment and Development).

Michael Quinn is Director and Talisman Energy Chair for Environmental Sustainability, Institute of Environmental Sustainability at Mount Royal University.

A2. A Systems Approach to Parks Planning
Heather Lazaruk & Robin Schmidt

A part of Alberta Parks’ vision is to connect people with nature through effective park management. Taking a systems approach to planning and management allows the parks program to rationalize that vision through an understanding of the significance of each site from both a conservation and recreation perspectives and provide direction for implementing that vision on the ground. New systems frameworks and Regional Parks Plans are examples of proactive planning tools that bridge the gap between the system-wide perspective and site-specific management, and help the public understand the significance and role of each inter-related site. This workshop explores how these applied systems approaches can help to provide direction to manage, facilitate or develop activities, infrastructure and programs based on an envisioned visitor experience.

Heather Lazaruk is the Senior Systems Planner for Alberta Parks, managing and developing systems frameworks for both conservation and recreation. She has a Bachelor of Science in

Robin Schmidt is a Senior Parks Planner with Alberta Parks, and has worked as a planner since 2009. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Recreation, Sport and Tourism from the University of Alberta.
A3. Eyes on the Future: Implementing Edmonton’s Urban Forest Management Plan

Jeanette Wheeler

Edmonton’s Urban Forest Management Plan is a 10 year strategy for sustainably managing and enhancing its diverse urban forest so that it will continue to serve the community for generations to come. This plan is an operational plan that primarily focuses on native and ornamental trees. Our urban forest is an important resource that provides direct and tangible environmental, ecological economic and social benefits to the city and surrounding communities. Various surveys that were completed confirm that Edmontonians value and understand the importance of the urban forest. This presentation will talk about the plan, its implementation and success stories.

Jeannette Wheeler  P Bio, Management Supervisor of Urban Forestry. Jeannette works for the City of Edmonton and is responsible for the development and implementation of the Urban Forest Management Plan. This operational plan was developed collaboratively by the affected stakeholders and has been reviewed nationally and internationally.

A3. Tree Inventory & Open Data: Connecting Citizens to Their Green Infrastructure

Sherry Boerefyn

Urban Foresters often struggle to find the resources they need to maintain what is often the largest asset in a municipality; the urban forest. One solution is to demonstrate how critical trees are to the health and financial well-being of a community. It's simple to demonstrate that spatially. The most desirable communities almost always have the most trees. The City of Edmonton has recently opened its tree data to its citizens and is encouraging them to show us and tell us about their trees, hoping that the feeling of ownership leads to stewardship.

Sherry Boerefyn is the Tree Inventory Coordinator for The City of Edmonton. Sherry is responsible for the viability of its electronic tree inventory, leads the annual tree health assessment program and helps improve to workflow in Forestry.

A4. Achieving Shared Public Interest Objectives through Caribou Habitat Restoration in the Dillon River Wildland Park: A Case Study (Connecting to the Private Sector)

Kim Ogilvie & Joyce Gould

The federal Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou), Boreal Population in Canada, identifies coordinated action to restore disturbed woodland caribou habitat as a key step to meeting current and future caribou population objectives. Actions include restoring linear landscape features such as roads, seismic lines, pipelines, cut-lines and cut blocks to reduce habitat fragmentation and induced predator-prey interactions impacting caribou population dynamics. In 2014 TransCanada, Alberta Pacific Forest Industries Inc., Alberta Parks and Alberta Environmental and Sustainable Resource Development collaborated in a project to restore caribou habitat in the newly proposed Dillon River Wildland Park to offset the residual effects of two TransCanada pipeline projects. Using the Dillon River Wildland Park caribou habitat restoration project as a case study, the presentation will discuss the key elements of the project, contributions of each partner, and our achievements. Topics will include regulatory and social drivers, shared objectives and priorities, and how we made great things happen within a dynamic socio-economic-political environment. Discussion will be encouraged through presentation of the key elements that contributed to success as well as lessons learned that will be applied to our next collaboration in 2015.

Kim Ogilvie is Manager of Canadian Environmental Planning and Permitting with TransCanada.

Joyce Gould is the science co-coordinator with Alberta Parks and a co-author of the report “Healthy Outside-Healthy Inside: the Human Health and Well-being Benefits of Alberta's Protected Areas”.
A4. Fortis Alberta and Alberta Parks Partnership: Switching Cubicle Wrap Project
Mona Bartsoff

FortisAlberta teamed up with Alberta Parks this summer to showcase images of Alberta Parks on the switching cubicles in Alberta communities. The unique partnership started this past summer when FortisAlberta approached Alberta Parks with the idea of showcasing the province’s parks on the company’s cubicles. The project has a dual purpose: promote Alberta’s provincial parks and reduce graffiti and vandalism on the FortisAlberta switching cubicles. Sixty-three cubicles in 14 communities were wrapped with seven scenic Alberta Parks’ images over the summer months. The 2014 wrap campaign is now complete and next year’s campaign is already in the works! Over the next few years, hundreds of these cubicles will be wrapped with Alberta Parks’ images. Find out more about how this partnership came to be and how it has benefited Alberta Parks, Fortis Alberta and communities across Alberta.

Mona Bartsoff is a Communications Advisor with FortisAlberta.

A5. Bridging the Technology Gap: Using Geocaching to Inspire Technophiles to Enjoy Nature (Outdoor Session)
Kassandra Mahar

This session will teach the basics of GPS use, geocaching, and provide tips on how to engage and inspire people who would not normally think of “enjoying nature” as a hobby. Focus will be on how to present to the pre-teen to adult range, and technophile participants. This is an outdoor session so please be sure to dress for the weather and some activity.

Kassandra Mahar is an outdoor educator and self-described “gamer-geek” that tries to find balance and connections between video games and nature. Over the past three years she has been helping to develop outdoor programming that reaches out to youth who would rather play video games than play outside.
**B1. Elkwater: Not Boring Anymore**

Peter Swain

Elkwater used to be known as a sleepy resort town with nothing to do. By focusing on developing the relationships with primary park users, the park realigned its efforts and resources resulting in an astonishing increase in use, satisfaction and volunteerism. “Not Boring Anymore” is the tongue-in-cheek marketing campaign acknowledging our past but celebrating the present. Boasting the country’s only snow luge, the province’s first forested ice skating trail, a burgeoning mountain bike club and trail system, Elkwater is transforming itself into a destination that mirrors the needs of its community. It is a testament to what small organizations can accomplish when they align priorities and work together.

*Peter Swain is the current Area Manager of Cypress Hills, and has been involved in nature based tourism in protected areas for over 20 years. He has a Master’s degree in Wildlife Conservation, and oddly, a Bachelors in Exercise Science.*

**B1. Beaver Hills Biosphere – Making Connections – People to Place Local to Global**

Dr. Guy Swinnerton, Jocelyn Thrasher-Haug & Glen Lawrence

The Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI) was established in 2002 in response to increasing concern over the cumulative effects of development on the Beaver Hills, located on the eastern edge of Alberta’s Capital Region. The distinct landscape of this area, together with the BHI’s commitment to conservation, sustainable development, and guiding change through collaborative action, are also the distinguishing characteristics of UNESCO’s Biosphere Reserve Program. The BHI is preparing a nomination to have the Beaver Hills designated as a Biosphere Reserve. This presentation will outline the nomination criteria and process specified by UNESCO, and discuss the work and projects that the BHI has been undertaking to substantiate the case for the Beaver Hills becoming a member of the global network of Biosphere Reserves.

*Dr. Guy Swinnerton is Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta, and Chair of the Beaver Hills Initiative’s Protected Areas Working Group. He is a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas’ Protected Landscape Specialist Group and is a recipient of the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas’ Gold Leaf Award.*

*Jocelyn Thrasher-Haug is a professional biologist and the Manager of Environmental and Open Space Planning for Strathcona County, a specialized municipality within Alberta’s capital region. Jocelyn is responsible for environmental planning and is Acting Executive Director and Co-Chair of two Working Groups within the Beaver Hills Initiative.*

*Glen is a naturalist that believes in living sustainably, bringing awareness to the importance of maintaining traditional values of caring for rural landscapes. He believes in balancing social, economic, environment and cultural heritage values ensuring future generations have the same quality of life enjoyed by residents today. With 12 years of municipal experience as a Strathcona Councillor, and now enjoying retirement, Glen is volunteering his time to chair the Beaver Hills Initiative and has been for the past 12 years.*
B2. Understanding Youth as Opportunities, Not Challenges

Kieran Dowling

This interactive session invites participants to develop an appreciation for the emotional, social, and identity challenges faced by youth. Through a variety of group processes, personal reflection, and sharing of experiences, the workshop will celebrate youth participation in parks and the outdoors, while offering a suite of techniques and principles to help foster wider celebrated participation. Stories and experiences from older youth will help inform the presence of emotional tensions within youth engagement. The emotional pressure placed on youth in their formative years under the societal emphasis of “youth leader of tomorrow (or today)” will add the provocative backdrop to conversations. With collective support and knowledge, participants will generate concept maps of programs fostering deeper connections with nature, based on a holistic representation of youth.

Kieran Dowling is an Australian immigrant who grew up with a curious eye for the weird, wonderful, and quirky. In his role as an Inclusion Specialist with Alberta Parks in Kananaskis he enjoys furthering this curiosity with others. He possesses a BSc (Wildlife Biology) and MA (Environmental Education & Communication).

B3. If You Build It, Will They Come? Community Use and Perceptions of “Active Parks”

Dr. Jennifer Copeland

To provide greater access to exercise facilities in communities, many municipalities have created “active parks” with outdoor adult exercise equipment. These novel facilities provide free exercise opportunities in a community-based setting, they are sustainable, and they may build community by increasing the use of parks. To assess their success, we conducted a study to examine community use, awareness, and perceptions of two active parks in Lethbridge. Our preliminary results will be discussed; findings suggest that while the parks are perceived as beneficial to the community, they are under-utilized. Enhancing motivation and education were identified as important strategies to increase use.

Dr. Jennifer Copeland is an Associate Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education at the University of Lethbridge. She received a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology from the University of New Brunswick in 2003 and joined the U of L faculty that same year. Jennifer’s main research interests include the effects of physical activity on the aging endocrine system and the impact of age on physical activity behaviour.

B3. Health and Well-Being Benefits of Alberta’s Protected Areas

Joyce Gould & Glen Hvengaard

Human dependence on nature goes beyond material needs such as food, water and shelter to include health and well-being benefits. This presentation will highlight to results of a study that examined the human health and well-being motivations and benefits associated with visitation to, and experiences provided by, visits to six Alberta protected areas in 2012 and 2013. Results revealed several important findings with policy and management implications. Most notably, the majority of participants surveyed identified significant psychological and emotional, social, physical and environmental well-being motivations and benefits (outcomes) associated with their experience. The results of this work demonstrate the value of Alberta’s protected areas in enhancing human health and well-being and the findings have policy and management implications that will be discussed.

Joyce Gould is the science co-coordinator with Alberta Parks and one of the co-authors of the report “Healthy Outside-Healthy Inside: the Human Health and Well-being Benefits of Alberta’s Protected Areas”. She is an adjunct professor with the University of Alberta and will be presenting on behalf of the primary researchers.
B4. International Scan of Parks Asset Management Practices

Eugene Stansfield, Scott Jones & Alexandra Talbot

This project is a research study into park asset management best practice. The study was commissioned by the Asset Management Working Group of the Canadian Parks Council (CPC).

The objective of the study was to review asset management practices used by parks organizations worldwide that are similar to the CPC members. The study scope included a review of current practice by CPC member organizations and comparison with international results.

CPC intends to use the outcomes from this study to develop, exchange, and propose new policy direction, guidance, strategies, and approaches to infrastructure asset management that will lead to more sustainable budgets and effective program delivery.

Eugene Stansfield is a senior consultant with Opus in Calgary, AB, who has a wealth of infrastructure asset management knowledge and experience gained from working 28+ years in the industry, encompassing design, construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure assets in NZ, Australia, the UK and North America.

Scott Jones is currently Director of Land Management for Alberta Parks, and has been with that organization for over ten years. His work unit is responsible for implementing Alberta Parks’ asset management program.

Alexandra Talbot was recently part of a project team which carried out a strategic assessment of Parks Canada’s $16.1B asset portfolio. She has since returned to the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, as Senior Advisor, position held since joining the Agency in November 2009, and is also currently Acting Manager of Parks Canada’s Executive Correspondence Office.

B5. Natural Environment Trails: Challenges of Maintaining Trails Under Heavy Urban Use

Erik Lees

Using project precedents from the award winning Natural Environment Trails Strategy that LEES+Associates completed for the City of Toronto, and other recent Alberta projects, Erik Lees will present and lead a discussion around the key issues parks managers and maintenance personnel are facing and will continue to face as user loads increase and budgets tighten. This session will enhance participants understanding of Critical aspects of urban natural environment trails planning; Strategies of managing urban trails; and Increasing importance of stakeholder involvement.

B5. Cemeteries: The Forgotten Parks

Erik Lees

Cemeteries were historically the first parks. Today they are often forgotten as active and athletic parks have dominated most Canadian open space systems. The advent of more passive recreation, walking for fitness and the need for contemplative spaces has further increased the importance of cemeteries, beyond their practical and emotional function as places of burial and remembrance. In this session, Erik Lees of LEES+Associates will illustrate trends in cemetery use, challenges in cemetery maintenance with examples from his firm’s work from Fort McMurray to Lethbridge; from Victoria to Iqaluit and from Los Angeles to Nairobi, Kenya.

Erik Lees is a Landscape Architect and Registered Professional Planner. He is the principal of LEES+Associates a firm that has worked extensively in Alberta, BC and across Canada, in the US and Africa. He has over 20 years’ experience working in parks and cemeteries and for the last 17 years his practice has focussed on parks, cemeteries and trails.
C1. PechaKucha Innovations
Call for Speakers from Delegates

This session will showcase a series of innovative ideas, projects or programs in a PechaKucha style presentation.

Do you have an innovative idea, project or program you would like to share with others? We are looking for up to eight innovations that we can showcase in a PechaKucha style presentation. PechaKucha presentations consist of 20 slides at 20 seconds each slide while you present your innovation. Please forward your innovation to Steve Allan at sallan@arpaonline.ca for a chance to be selected for this session.

C2. Overview and Impact of Dryland and Aquatics Species in Alberta
Megan Evans & Kate Wilson

Invasive plants have both ecological and economic impacts. Invasive plants pose a threat to biodiversity, reduce habitat and forage for wildlife, reduce water quality and can change overall ecosystem processes, potentially resulting in impairment to the ecosystem services provided by an infested area. The economic impact of invasive plants to the Alberta economy was estimated to be $1 billion annually in 2004. Once an invasive plant species becomes established, eradication is unlikely and continued resources are required to contain the spread. Prevention and early detection are fundamental to mitigating the costs associated with invasive species spread. This session will outline the prevention and management strategies put in place on forested Crown Land within Alberta from the Red Deer River to the Waterton Lakes National Park boundary.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) pose a great threat to Alberta’s freshwater resources. This high profile issue threatens biodiversity and aquatic ecosystems, water-operated infrastructure, water quality and community’s dependent on water-based industries and tourism. Alberta is taking a leadership role in preventing harmful species such as quagga and zebra mussels, invasive species that are estimated to cost the province over $75 million annually should they become established. Learn about the five Alberta AIS program and what you can do to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Megan Evans Megan is currently the Invasive Plants Technician for the provincial government within the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. She completed her BSc. in Environmental Science and went on to complete a Master’s in Ecology where she studied the effects of grazing on pollinators.

Kate Wilson is the Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist (Fish & Wildlife Policy, ESRD). She has worked on aquatic invasive species issues and management for the past several years both in Idaho helping to implement a prevention program and in Florida during graduate school.
C3. Connecting Children to Nature – Aligning for Success
Kim Sanderson

Connecting children to nature has long been a core feature of parks and recreation provision. However, the past several decades have shown a diminishing capacity to deliver. Contributors to this decline include; parks separated from recreation within the organization, reductions in programming, and the over-arching need for generating revenue. At the same time we face a call for renewed commitments to children’s nature connections. What to do? This session will outline and discuss key components of quality children’s nature provision including policy, design, programming, risk management and operations. Slides will illustrate practical examples and ideas will be explored for supporting alignments needed for successful outcomes.

Kim Sanderson spent close to 30 years with the City of Edmonton Community Services, many of which were spent on innovative projects related to children and youth including play and natural learning initiatives. He is a past President of the International Play Association Canada.

C3. A Landscape Architect’s Perspective on Connecting Children, Health and Nature
Leah Arnason

The population in Alberta is growing at a fast rate. An increasing number of people are living in wholly urban settings. Natural environments are coming under pressure from economic development, and our own well-being has suffered a consequence. Alberta Parks is looking to modernize our parks infrastructure and increase our relevance for Albertans. This presentation includes thoughts on how to connect children to nature, how nature connects to health, and the benefits that parks provide to people, with a focus on modernizing the parks system for changing demographics and inclusion.

Leah Arnason is a landscape architect working in the capital planning and infrastructure group as a senior parks development planner at Alberta Parks for two years. Prior to this she has been involved in industrial, commercial and residential landscape architecture design projects in both Calgary and Edmonton.

C4. Disaster Recovery and Mitigation from a Parks Perspective
Panel of Speakers from Alberta Parks and municipal parks

This panel session will explore the ever increasing need for disaster recovery and mitigation planning. As the climate changes, weather phenomena seem to occur with greater frequency. Alberta’s park systems can bear the brunt of Mother Nature’s fury, from the floods of 2013 that affected parks at all three levels, to the more recent winter storm that damaged half of all of the public trees in the City of Calgary. Join this panel as different parks agencies discuss how they have approached disaster recovery and mitigation.
How do we know whether the educational programs we offer in our parks are “experiential” in scope? There are numerous frameworks designed to provide us with the structure to develop new experiences or modify existing programs. Andrea Barnes will workshop one such experiential education model which can guide our practice (based on Ken Wilber’s AQAL model). Find out how this model could be used to enrich your programs and let’s have a fruitful discussion as to how we can offer deeper experiences. While outlining this model, Andrea will also profile some of the winter activities that Kananaskis Country would use in their programs. Be prepared to be outdoors for this session (dress very warmly) and be willing to be active and reflective.

Andrea Barnes has been a member of the Kananaskis Country Environmental Education team for 12 years and has worked for Alberta Parks, throughout the province in various capacities, for nearly 20 years. She is a certified teacher, environmental scientist, and the mother of two crazy busy children.
D1. Priorities, Policies, Practice and Research: The Alberta Parks Social Science Working Group

Len Hallstrom & Joyce Gould

Between 2012 and 2014, the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities conducted a regional and provincial policy and research prioritization exercise for Alberta Parks. This process determined a number of environmental, social, economic and policy-based questions that functionally serve as a foundation for a broader applied research agenda for Parks. In turn, a collaborative approach between post-secondary institutions and Parks has led to the creation of the AB Parks Social Science Working Group, with the goals of providing technical, methodological, and policy advice to Parks. This approach is new to Alberta, and rather unique in Canada. This presentation identifies preliminary results, structures and challenges of this approach, and will engage participants in the content, and opportunities, that have emerged.

Dr. Lars Hallstrom is a senior Associate Professor at the University of Alberta, and an expert in environmental policy, public health and public policy analysis. He has published widely in the fields of comparative politics, international relations, environmental politics, natural resource policy, public health and the social determinants of health.

Joyce Gould is the science co-coordinator with Alberta Parks and one of the co-authors of the report “Healthy Outside-Healthy Inside: the Human Health and Well-being Benefits of Alberta’s Protected Areas”.

D2. Yardstick – Key Survey Results and Their Application for Parks in Canada

Cliff Lacey & Brian Milne

Brian and Cliff will provide information on a range of key results from the 2014 Yardstick survey to demonstrate the application of the information and the performance of Canadian Councils, both nationally and internationally. Brian will also demonstrate the range of information collected and recent developments with the functionality of the online Benchmarks questionnaire and reporting tools, and the new online User Survey tool. Yardstick is a benchmarking tool designed specifically for the parks and recreation industry, which a number of organisations across Canada participate in annually. It is designed to drive innovation and better management of your parks through the sharing of knowledge and information.

Cliff Lacey is a retired municipal parks manager working with Yardstick Global as their Canadian Project Manager.

Brian Milne is currently a director of Parks & Recreation consultancy firm Xyst in New Zealand, and is a Yardstick Project manager. He has more than 30 years experience in all facets of parks, recreation and community facilities management.

Dr. Elizabeth Halpenny

Park agencies have increasingly embraced social media for communications, education, marketing, visitor experience provision, and stakeholder outreach efforts. This presentation will highlight findings from a study of North American park agencies’ use of Twitter. The types of content, information, and engagement that were produced by the each park agency Twitter feed will be reported. Numerical data were also collected (e.g., number of retweets, Likes, Followers, etc.), and comparison of park agency feeds will be discussed. Recommendations for improving park agency social media content will be provided. Audience members will be encouraged to browse specific park social media posts and discuss the effectiveness this communication tool in reaching key audiences.

Elizabeth Halpenny is an Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta. Her research focuses are on park and protected areas management and nature-based tourism.

D4. Engaging Newcomers to Alberta with Our Park Systems Cultural Diversity Panel (Municipal, Provincial and Federal)

Panel of Speakers from Parks Canada, Alberta Parks and Municipal Parks

As Alberta’s workforce attracts international workers to fill shortages, parks are looking for new ways to engage this new population. This session will first explore the barriers and challenges faced by newcomers to Canada and the opportunities available to help facilitate the transition into Alberta parks. A panel of speakers will feature programs offered by Parks Canada (Learn to Camp), Alberta Parks (Nature as a Second Language) and municipal (Calgary??)

D5. Get Outside and Play!

Gareth Thomson

In this outdoor session, you’ll ‘learn by doing’ as Gareth introduces you to his favorite outdoor activities to connect children to nature. You’ll leave with some great tools in your toolbox – and some updates on work that is happening to ‘move the needle’ when it comes to creating opportunities for young people to have positive experiences in the outdoors. Participants will also be introduced to the Nature Play – Rediscovering Play in Natural Spaces flashcards that ARPA has recently developed. This is an outdoor session so please dress for the weather and some activity.

Gareth Thomson is Executive Director of Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE). He has over twenty years experience in environmental education, working for the government of Alberta and then as Education Director for an NGO.
**E1. Brand Name or Generic Nature? – Do Special Nature Places have a Special Effect on Wellness?**

Don Carruthers Den Hoed

This interdisciplinary doctoral research considers the impact of presenting natural sites as special or sacred, and the effects these different designations may have on people when they visit. Supported by Alberta Parks and the Stoney-Nakoda First Nation, the researcher took people to both an urban nature park and a natural setting outside the city – presented a different way each time: nature with no labels, a provincial park, and an aboriginal sacred site. On each visit, participants were tested for empirical medical metrics (cortisol, blood pressure, and heart rate) as well as qualitative measures of wellness and connection to nature. This session overviews the research project and data collected so far so that attendees gain an appreciation for the interplay between values, experiences, and places.

Don Carruthers Den Hoed is a PhD Candidate in University of Calgary Interdisciplinary Graduate Program at Adjunct Professor in the Mount Royal University School of Nursing and Midwifery. His work with parks lead him to graduate studies on inclusion in nature, and the social and wellness aspects of park stewardship.

**E1. Nursing in Nature – Connecting Parks and Practitioners**

Don Carruthers Den Hoed & Sonya Jakubec

When a guy who worked in parks for 24 years became an Adjunct Professor at the Mount Royal University School of Nursing and Midwifery, most people scratched their heads. But nursing is a perfect fit for parks in the Healthy by Nature era – and health practitioners are eager to join you on the path! This session will explore how parks can link to medical and wellness measures through an overview of the field and an examination of recent work by Alberta Addictions and Mental Health, Alberta Parks, and Mount Royal University on the “Mental health and well-being impacts of inclusive park experiences on adults with disabilities and their caregivers” and a study-in-progress on “The role of nature and parks in end-of-life and palliative experiences.”

Don Carruthers Den Hoed is a PhD Candidate in University of Calgary Interdisciplinary Graduate Program at Adjunct Professor in the Mount Royal University School of Nursing and Midwifery. His work with parks lead him to graduate studies on inclusion in nature, and the social and wellness aspects of park stewardship.

Sonya is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health and Community Studies at Mount Royal University, teaching mental health nursing, research for health and community practice, and supportive environments for mental health. Her research examines professional, community and policy supports for recreation and inclusion (mental illness, addiction, disabilities and end-of-life).
E2. Building a Connected Parks and Open Space System

Geoff Smith & Leslie McWeeny

Edmonton is experiencing transformation change, adding more than 60,000 people in the last two years. Growth is not only occurring at the greenfield edges, but also through intensification in mature neighbourhoods and within the downtown core. Edmonton must continue to build its parks and open space network to meet growing and changing needs. Quite simply, we must get more out of our parks system by creating multifunctional landscapes that meet a variety of city-wide objectives. These include support for physical, social and mental rejuvenation and restoration; maintaining natural heritage connections; providing ecological services such as storm water management and increased biodiversity. Edmonton is undertaking a new City-wide Parks and Open Space Master Plan, engaging citizens and other stakeholders in the future of our City.

Geoff Smith is currently the Senior Planner, Parkland Policy at the City of Edmonton.

Leslie McWeeny is the Senior Planner for the Parks and Facility Development Section at the City of Edmonton.

E3. Wildlife Monitoring with Remote Cameras and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Drajs Vujnovic & Brent Wyman

This session will introduce some innovative approaches on using technology for data collection in parks management, especially on data collected to date with remote cameras and a plan to use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). Discussion will include the process of acquiring and using the technology within government, the hurdles that have been presented, and how these were overcome. This session will educate from these experiences thus far and openly discuss with others where they are at with similar programs and ideas.

Dragomir Drajs Vujnovic is a Parks Zoologist with Alberta Parks. He surveys wildlife using classical survey methods and is always on lookout for new techniques and technology for wildlife survey from songmeters and remote cameras to drones. He believes using new technology allows better data collection which contributes to better management decisions.

Brent Wyman is a Landscape Architectural Technologist whom has been working with Alberta Parks since 2012. He currently works as a development planner which involves conceptual and detailed design of campgrounds, day use areas and natural playgrounds. Prior to joining Alberta Parks, Brent worked for a design and engineering form in Edmonton, where he spent his time drafting and designing landscape plans.
E4. Bringing the Farm into the City: Exploring Urban Agriculture and Food Security Programs and Policies

Panel of municipal park professionals

Urban agriculture projects are becoming increasingly popular in communities across North America. The most popular example of urban agriculture continues to be community gardens, however community orchards, backyard hens, edible landscaping and beekeeping are beginning to emerge. Several communities in Alberta are experimenting with policies and programs that allow for some of these forms of agriculture. Municipalities are also becoming more engaged on the topic of food security based on their involvement with these programs and policies. This session will explore different aspects of urban agriculture and why they are important to the sustainability of a community.

Doug Evans is a Parks and Open Space Designer with the City of Red Deer.

David Ellis is the Parks Manager with the City of Lethbridge.

Hani Quan is a Principal Planner with the City of Edmonton

E5. AdventureSmart – Get Informed and Go Outdoors!

Jacqui Bannach

AdventureSmart is a national program designed to reduce the frequency and severity of Search and Rescue incidents. Promoting fun and outdoor recreation, AdventureSmart balances key safety messages with an individual’s responsibility for safety; encouraging the public to obtain the knowledge, skills and equipment necessary for them to enjoy their outdoor pursuits. A key component of AdventureSmart is education and training and we offer a suite of programs designed for children and adults to help them prepare for their outdoor activity. Current programs include Hug a Tree and Survive, Snow Safety, Survive Outside, Survive Outside Snowmobile and PaddleSmart.

Jacqui Bannach is a Senior Analyst with the National Search and Rescue Secretariat with the Government of Canada. While she is better known as the program manager for AdventureSmart, she continues to work closely with the Ground SAR Council of Canada and SAR volunteers on a multitude of issues.
Networking Reception

Wednesday, March 11th 7:00-8:30 pm

For those planning to attend the Pre-Forum workshops or will be arriving early for the 2015 Parks Forum, there will be a networking reception planned for Wednesday evening to get together prior to the official kick-off.

Trade Show

Thursday, March 12th 4:00 – 6:30 PM

This will be the first time that the Park Forum has included a full business Trade Show as a part of the program. Join us for some pre-dinner drinks and appetizers and visit the business sponsors and partners of the 2015 Parks Forum.

Non-Profit/Government & Student Showcase

Friday, March 13th 3:00 – 5:30 PM

Join us for this social gathering to visit with fellow park practitioners, connect with some Non-profit and government organizations and meet the next generation of park employees and researchers. NGO’s and governments have been invited to display their organizations, programs and innovations with Forum delegates.

Back by popular demand - Students from Alberta colleges and universities have been invited to prepare posters that document innovations and trends in their fields of study. The Student Poster Session at the 2015 Parks Forum is intended to encourage stronger connections between practitioners and future employees, and to facilitate practitioners’ understanding of and connection to existing parks-related education programs within the province. Students will be keen to meet you and exchange ideas about park innovations and future career opportunities.

Accomodations

The 2015 Parks Forum will take place at the Coast Canmore Hotel and Conference Centre. You can book online at http://coa.st/omrx or by phone 1-800-716-6199 and quote the group code CCM-GFC553 or Alberta Recreation & Parks Association.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room type</th>
<th>Single/Double Occupancy*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comfort Room</td>
<td>$132.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior King</td>
<td>$142.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rates do not include Tourism Levy (4%), or GST (5%). Additional persons per room may incur additional charges.
2015 Parks Forum
Planning Committee

Dawn Carr
Executive Director,
Canadian Parks Council

Virginie Closson
Student,
University of Alberta

Steve Donelon
Executive Director,
Parks Program Coordination, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

David Ellis
Parks Manager, City of Lethbridge

Doug Evans
Parks & Open Space Designer,
City of Red Deer Parks

Paul Feser
Parks Planning and Project Manager,
City of Spruce Grove

Nicole Fraser
Principal of Horticulture – Acting,
City of Edmonton

Elizabeth Halpenny
Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation,
University of Alberta

Murray Kopp
Chair,
Parks Committee of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

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

Peter Millar
Director,
Southwest District, City of Edmonton

Neil McInnis
External Relations Manager,
Jasper National Park, Parks Canada

Farhad Moghimehfar
Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation,
University of Alberta

Wendy Proudfoot
GIS Specialist,
Alberta Parks, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

Benji Straker
Manager,
Parks Operations, Northwest Territories Parks

Chris Szabo
Recreation Consultant,
Alberta Culture & Tourism

Steve Allan
Director of Finance and Operations,
Alberta Recreation and Parks Association

Bill Wells
CEO,
Alberta Recreation and Parks Association
Thank you to our Sponsors and Partners!

Platinum Sponsor

TransCanada

Gold Sponsor

Apple Fitness Store

Architecture Tkalcic Bengert

Silver Sponsor

Enbridge

Manshield Construction

McElhanney

ISL Engineering and Land Services

Partners

Alberta

The City of Calgary Parks

Edmonton Recreation, Parks & Culture

Strathcona County

The City of Lethbridge
Registration

Contact

Steve Allan  
Director of Finance and Operations  
Alberta Recreation and Parks Association  
(780) 644-4799  
sallan@arpaonline.ca

Website

arpaonline.ca/events/parks-forum