

Engaging People with Conservation through Parks and Recreation

It's a Natural Connection



Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association



Who am I?

Andrew Exelby

- Parks and Open Spaces Consultant with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA), since 2012
- Bachelor of Applied Science in Landscape Management from Olds College
- I work with volunteers, recreation directors, municipalities, park authorities and others across the province to improve our parks and open spaces and recreational opportunities
- I've lived my entire life near Craven, SK



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SASK LOTTERIES

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association

- Provides **leadership**, **support** and **services** that contribute to recreation's impact on the quality of life of people in Saskatchewan

Sask Lotteries

- Proceeds from Lotteries support approximately 1,200 groups and more than 12,000 sport, culture and recreation organizations

What are we going to talk about?



Why connecting to nature is important to conservation?



How Recreation and Parks are supporting this effort on national, provincial and local scales?



How we can work together?

Why is a connection to nature important?



- Connecting to nature improves the health of individuals and society
- A personal connection to nature will encourage individuals to support conservation efforts in the future
- The Recreation Sector is vital in creating that personal connection

On a national level

The Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation
Association

and

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

support 2 critical initiatives:

- *Parks for All*
- *Framework for Recreation in Canada*

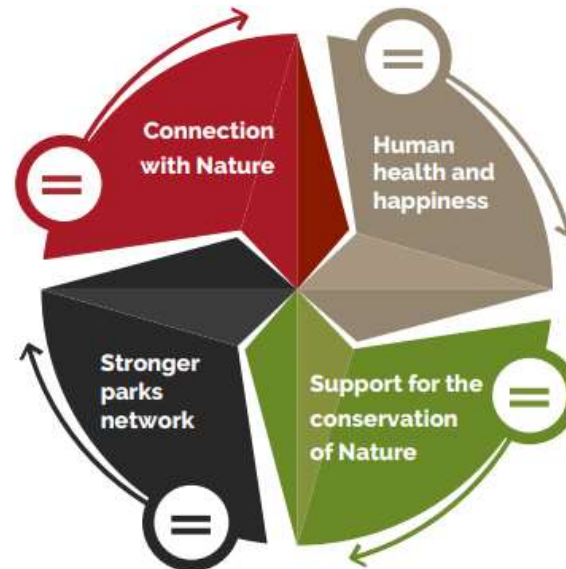
Parks for All

PARKS FOR ALL

AN ACTION PLAN FOR
CANADA'S PARKS COMMUNITY



- An action plan for Canada's Parks Community
- Developed by Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and Canadian Parks Council



- Includes 4 Strategic Directions: Collaborate, Connect, Conserve and Lead

Framework for Recreation in Canada

We envision a Canada in which everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences that foster:

- Individual wellbeing
- Community wellbeing
- The wellbeing of our natural and built environments

Framework for Recreation in Canada



- The guiding document for public recreation providers in Canada
- Developed by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

At a provincial level



How do we support conservation?

- **Advocate** for people to connect with nature
- Provide **funding**
- Deliver **programs**, **training**, and **education**, such as:
 - Communities in Bloom
 - June is Recreation & Parks Month
 - Saskatchewan Parks Worker Course

Who do we fund?

- **34 Provincial Recreation Associations**

We are going to talk about 3 today:



ASUPCA

**Association of Saskatchewan
Parks and Conservation
Agencies**



Sask Outdoors



**SASKATCHEWAN
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

**Saskatchewan Wildlife
Federation**

Association of Saskatchewan Parks and Conservation Agencies



ASUPCA

ASUPCA

- Includes 7 Urban Parks and Conservation Agencies in Saskatchewan:
 - Chinook Parkway, Swift Current
 - Meewasin Valley, Saskatoon
 - Wakamow Valley, Moose Jaw
 - Wascana Centre, Regina
 - Tatagwa Parkway, Weyburn
 - Battlefords River Valley, North Battleford
 - Pehonan Parkway, Prince Albert
- Operates programs across the province in partnership with its members

Nature Play in Chinook Parkway



Nature Play creates the opportunity for kids to connect with nature and the outdoor environment

- Program involves nature-themed activities for grades 1-5 children, for a period of 5 weeks every Saturday

Nature Play in Chinook Parkway



Why is this important?

- Children that connect to nature will be more likely to value their environment in the future
- Opportunity to engage children in conservation principles that they will remember as adults

Sask Outdoors

Sask Outdoors

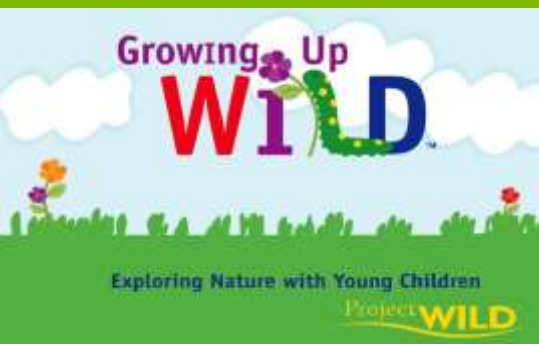
- Connects people with nature, through play, education, programs and services that promote awareness of outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship
- Priorities:
 - Facilitate and provide outdoor experiences
 - Increase public awareness and involvement
 - Build a viable and sustainable organization
 - Develop partnerships and alliances
 - Influence outdoor education policies and curriculum



Growing Up WILD

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that:

- Builds on children's sense of wonder about nature
- Allows children to explore wildlife and the world around them
- Provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills



Growing Up WILD



Why is this important?

- Growing Up in WILD includes conservation activities
- Targets early childhood educators and children ages 3-7
- Provides the curriculum connections that teachers need to deliver this in the classroom

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

- Established in 1929
- 33,000+ members in 122 branches across Saskatchewan
- Per capita, it is the largest wildlife conservation organization of its kind in the world
- Priorities:
 - Acknowledge that the wildlife of the province is a public resource belonging to all Saskatchewan residents
 - Develop and maintain conservation through policies and education
 - Acquire and enhance habitat for wildlife



Youth Conservation Camp



SWF Conservation Camp offers the opportunity to learn and experience in the great outdoors and has been an ongoing success for over 30 years

- At camp, children ages 12-15 are given hands-on learning in a wide range of outdoor activities

Youth Conservation Camp



Why is this important?

- Help participants understand the value of wildlife and the management of habitat
- Participants connect with nature and build an appreciation for the environment - leading to conservation

What else do our Provincial Recreation Associations Do?

We all support conservation together!

The Navy League of Canada - Saskatchewan Division

- Wilderness Training

Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks and Conservation Agencies

- Plant-a-Forest Days, Interpretive Tours, Conservation Education
- Protected Lands and more

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

- Educational Programs and more

Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association

- Over 90 parks with protected lands totally almost 24,000 acres

Saskatchewan Camps Association

- Supports 46 Outdoor Camps Across the province

Sask Outdoors

- Grants, "Learn To" workshops, Educational Curriculum about nature and more

Saskatchewan All Terrain Vehicle Association

- Environmental Stewardship Promotion



CANADA
4-H Saskatchewan



Let's Connect
to Conserve!
How can we work together?



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Learn about all 34 Provincial Recreation Associations at:
www.spra.sk.ca/membership/provincial-recreation-associations/

Thank you!

Do you have
any
questions?

Learn more about our work and network at
spra.sk.ca

Contact me

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Funded by:

