



EDUCATE

INSPIRE

CONNECT



RECREATE!

2019 - 2020



**Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association**

ANNUAL REPORT

We envision a
Saskatchewan in which all
people have equitable access
to recreation experiences that
contribute to their health and
wellbeing; result in connected
and engaged community
members; and provide
connection and attachment to
the natural environment.

It's our job to
connect, **educate** and
inspire others to build
this future together.

ABOUT US

SASKATCHEWAN PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

MISSION

We provide **leadership**,
support and **services** that
contribute to recreations'
impact on the quality of life
for people in Saskatchewan.



CONNECT WITH US



CONTACT US



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a year it has been! If you had told me this time last year what we would be experiencing today, I wouldn't have believed you. Although it was only the final four months of the 2019-20 year, COVID-19 changed nearly everything about the way we all live, work and play, but not everything has changed. **At SPRA, our commitment remains the same: to connect, educate and inspire others to help build a province where everyone has the opportunity to enjoy recreation and feel more connected to nature, our communities and ourselves.** Even – maybe even especially – during a global pandemic.

As outlined in our 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, our long-term goals are to create active and engaged communities, build industry capacity and provide strong leadership. This year, we made progress toward these goals by finding new ways – and strengthening existing ones – for connecting, educating and inspiring both ourselves and the people of this province.

We made meaningful connections by fostering partnerships with organizations, governments, and communities with a shared desire to positively impact the lives of Saskatchewan people. As a result, our actions led to increased physical activity in Indigenous communities, a greater understanding of how park lands and waters support individual and community health, and enhanced knowledge and alternative approaches for addressing new and constantly changing challenges faced during the pandemic.

We have continued to provide educational opportunities that strengthen the knowledge of the people working behind the scenes in recreation and parks facilities and programs, ensuring that our members have access to experts in youth leadership, facility operation and maintenance, program and service delivery, and fitness.

Lastly, part of our role is to inspire action and passion in support of our vision. We continue to seek out and share stories that celebrate the energy, dedication and innovation that drives our industry forward, recognizing industry leaders and volunteers.

The past six months have shown us how important access to parks, open spaces and recreation opportunities are for keeping the people of Saskatchewan healthy, happy and connected. Now, more than ever, it's clear how important recreation and parks are for maintaining resilient communities and economies. The recreation and parks industry has been given the unprecedented opportunity to implement new and innovative strategies, make mistakes and learn from them, in order to be more effective and have a greater impact. Let's not let this opportunity pass us by; let's commit to investing in the long-term health, happiness and stability of our communities.

TJ Biemans, SPRA President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



TJ Biemans
President



Chrisandra Dezotell
Director at Large



Heidi Carl
Director at Large



Jennifer Burgess
Director at Large



Ken Ottenbreit
Director at Large



Tonia Logan
Director for the North



Taylor Morrison
Director for Villages



Jaime Helgason
Director for Towns



Jody Boulet
Director for Cities

CONNECT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Recreation is in the business of community development. From people to programs like Communities in Bloom, our work focuses on making Saskatchewan communities vibrant, active and engaged.



The Zerbin Family Yard of the Week Winner

**People, Plants and
Pride...Growing Together.**



Through the hard work and dedication of these participants, the Communities in Bloom motto continues to be achieved – People, Plants and Pride...Growing Together. Communities in Bloom continues to assist in building communities across Saskatchewan.

Congratulations to our 2019 winners!

Wolseley, SK - Population Category 501 – 1,000

Special Mention for Collaboration between Town Council and Volunteers

Preeceville, SK - Population Category 1,001 – 2,000

Special Mention for the Nature Trail near Annie Laurie Lake

Outlook, SK - Population Category 2,001 – 3,000

Special Mention for Highway 4 Way-Stop Green Spaces

Nipawin SK - Population Category 3,001 - 4,999

Special Mention for Green Spaces and Parks

“

We are having a lot of fun with Communities in Bloom! We coordinated a "Yard of the Week" contest that connected people on social media and recognized individuals for their pride of ownership and contribution to the community! When everyone cares, our communities are great places to live!

- Channa Senyk, Creighton Recreation Director

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Bernice - *Forever...in motion* leader,
Swift Current

Forever...in *motion* helps older adults become physically active in their community through volunteer, peer or staff led physical activity groups.

It's people like Val Choo-Foo, an in...*motion* Community Facilitator with the City of Swift Current, that are inspiring new, innovative ways to help older adults stay active and lead more independent lives through **Forever...in *motion***. They began delivering exercise videos online and created Wellness Bingo cards as a fun way to encourage healthy lifestyle choices. "**The increase in the number of participants demonstrates the need and desire for a program like this in our community,**" added Val.

INSPIRE

ACTIVE AGING

"Forever...in *motion* provides a good foundation in teaching older adults to create safe programs. It reaffirms the importance of keeping active as we age."

- Forever...in *motion* participant

SPRA believes growing older doesn't have to mean slowing down! As a result, SPRA is dedicated to working with various organizations and communities to provide safe and fun physical activity opportunities for our older adults.

43 New Leaders trained this year to provide safe exercises to Saskatchewan's older adults!

A total of 403 FiM Leaders are now available to Saskatchewan communities.



Forever...in *motion* participants - Govan, Sask.



Proper Ice Resurfacer Blade Replacement

Recreation facilities and parks set the stage for tourism, sport and cultural events in Saskatchewan! Through our training, facility and parks staff are able to operate these spaces safely and efficiently.

EDUCATE



Participants are trained, educated and introduced to industry best practices.



I've had the opportunity to participate in several SPRA training initiatives along with many of our city employees. The consistency in the delivery, and the solid knowledge base conveyed, helps ensure we are equipped to meet regulatory compliance, as well as consistency in our approach and confidence in our operational staff, while performing their facility maintenance tasks.

Through many conversations with talented and knowledgeable colleagues at SPRA, I am better informed on predictive and preventative maintenance procedures thereby, reducing downtime and frustration.

- Rod March, Manager, Parks and Facilities, City of Estevan



Courses Held:

Arena Operator Level 1 and 2

52 participants trained

Building Maintenance Level 1

16 participants trained

Developed and hosted webinars on:

Ball Diamond and Sport Field Maintenance

65 participants trained

Infection Control and Prevention in Facilities

104 participants trained

TRAINING

Knowing recreation is key to **REcovery**, our *Re-Opening Parks and Recreation in Saskatchewan: COVID-19 Best Practices* resource was developed as a support to our members in navigating the new realities facing our industry. This compilation of promising practices offers ideas, checklists, and considerations from leading experts - all while keeping your community's health and safety top of mind.

MEMBER FUNDING

Leadership Development Grant

Recreation staff and volunteers are the backbone of our industry. This Grant supported their professional development and is helping recreation thrive in our communities. **\$37,673** was distributed across **24** projects.

First Nation Member's Recreation and Métis Recreation Development Grants

Funding was available to develop recreation programming for First Nations and Métis communities. **\$27,594** was distributed across **15** projects.

Forever...in motion Grant

This Grant provided funding for the development and implementation of **Forever...in motion** programming in Saskatchewan communities.

\$19,922 was distributed across **14** communities.

Community Cultural Diversity Inclusion Grant

Everyone in Saskatchewan deserves the joy of recreation! This Grant provided funding to develop new or existing recreation programs and events, that promoted cultural diversity and inclusion.

\$13,450 was distributed across **14** communities.

The Framework in Action Grant

Launched in 2020, this Grant supported SPRA initiatives that advance the 5 goals identified within, *A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015:*

Pathways to Wellbeing. **\$49,984** was awarded to **12** communities.

“

We are grateful for this Grant and the opportunity for our employees to participate in professional development to help enhance recreation and safety in our community. We are now able to offer improved quality of aquatic safety and leadership to the public.

- City of Lloydminster, Leadership Development Grant Recipient

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CONNECT

We are invested in the capacity and sustainability of the recreation industry. By connecting communities and organizations to funding, they can continue to lead inclusive, innovative and safe recreation experiences.

The Parks for All Action Grant was launched in 2020 in support of the national Parks for All Action Plan.

Nearly **\$50,000** was distributed to **12** outstanding initiatives across Saskatchewan - with a vision of connected park lands and waters that support healthy nature and healthy people.



"This Grant allowed us to continue enhancing trails, begin to recognize the Indigenous history of the area, protect this sensitive ecological site and encourage celebration of its accessibility to the public."

- Jaime Helgason, Leisure Services Director
Foam Lake

“

As I approached retirement, I was looking at ways I could give back to the community. Becoming a part of the St. John Ambulance Dog Therapy Team provided that and much more. Together me and Winston - the therapy dog - visited hospitals, libraries, the Calder Centre, schools, the U of S and many events in and around Saskatoon. Winston thrives on all the attention and affection he receives and the look on people's faces as he approaches is priceless. I enjoy interacting with the people we connect with. We hope we make a difference in the lives of those we meet.

– Lori, St. John Ambulance Dog Therapy Team Volunteer

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– Lori and Winston (the dog), St. John Ambulance Dog Therapy Team

MEMBER FUNDING

“Visiting the dogs at Royal University Hospital last year was such an amazing break from the stress that was going on in my life. It gave me a minute to take a break, relax, slow down, and breathe.”

–Yasamin Bahman, Dog Therapy Program Participant

"The funding we receive from Sask Lotteries benefits over 400 children and youth and provides them with quality recreation opportunities that they would not otherwise have access to."

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Saskatoon

CONNECT

As the steward for the Recreation Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, SPRA provides funding to the Provincial Recreation Associations to delivery quality recreation programs and services to the Saskatchdwen people.

\$2,557,445

was distributed to

33

Provincial Recreation Associations to deliver recreation and parks experiences to the Saskatchewan people!

“

I found the Conference very informative and I learned some new ideas I hope to be able to integrate into our recreational programming.

- Conference delegate

”

185

parks, recreation and facility volunteers and professionals travelled to North Battleford from across Saskatchewan to attend the premiere Recreation and Parks Event in the Province!

“We are seeing the issue of mental health becoming more important within the workplace and within those communities that we serve and support. The keynotes’ story and experiences were very inspirational.”

-Conference delegate

SPRA CONFERENCE

11

future recreation professionals were able to attend the Conference through our Student Assistance Program.

The 2019 SPRA Conference hosted by the City of North Battleford provided parks, recreation and facility operators and volunteers with the latest information and trends in the parks and recreation industry - and a lot of fun!



Conference Host Committee with Opening Keynote Kendal Netmaker

The 2019 SPRA Conference, themed "All Aboard the Wellness Train," won Recreation Event of the Year in the Rivers West District 2020 Volunteer Recognition Program!

EDUCATE

“Experiencing the Conference gave me an insight of what the recreation industry can offer to students like me in the future.”

- Jennelyn Pajarillaga, Student, SaskPolytechnic - Recreation and Community Development Program

CONNECT


As leaders in the provincial recreation industry, it is necessary to support and create quality recreation programs, resources and services that are inclusive and meet the needs of a diverse population.

With support from the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, courses were held in:

Prince Albert, in partnership with the Lakeland District for Sport, Culture and Recreation and Prince Albert Grand Council
and at the

Ochapowace First Nation, in partnership with South East Sport, Culture & Recreation District



 **By fostering partnerships with communities, organizations, and government, we are strengthening our cultural understanding and continuing our journey towards truth and reconciliation.**

FITNESS LEADERSHIP

21 Indigenous individuals completed the SPRA Indigenous Fitness Leaders Certification Program. Participants were from **15** different rural and **3** urban First Nations communities who ranged in ages from **20** to **70**. With representation from a variety of sectors, including recreation and sport, health care, education and law enforcement, it shows these sectors recognize the many benefits recreation provides in addressing issues like obesity, diabetes, depression and suicide. These new leaders are ambassadors and role models inspiring healthy, active living in their respective occupations and communities.

“

There is no limit to how many people we can inspire, motivate and influence in a positive way through physical activity and exercise, once we get rolling. I have a passion for exercise and wellness, and with this training I hope to build up as many people as I can. I believe a good way to do this is through our rural Indigenous communities.

- IFLCP participant

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"We were excited to partner with SPRA and the Prince Albert Grand Council to host and coordinate the SPRA Indigenous Fitness Leadership Certification (IFLCP) Program. Through the course, we increased community capacity to support and develop leaders, and increased collaboration and partnerships. This Course gave First Nation communities in our District the opportunity to build ownership of their fitness courses!"

- Lakeland District for Sport, Culture and Recreation



Colleen Kearns, SPRA Volunteer
of the Year

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As the family of the late Colleen Kearns, we are so very proud that Mom was chosen for the SPRA Volunteer of the Year Award! And we are honoured to be a part of the celebrations. She would be proud, yet terrified, if she had to be in the spotlight at all. She loved to help her community and would always be involved in many organizations but never wanted recognition, just wanted her town to keep the services it had.

- John Kearns, son of Colleen Kearns

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INSPIRE

The SPRA Awards recognize outstanding leaders, volunteers and initiatives that add to our quality of life through parks and recreation.

"I found the 2019 SPRA Awards Gala relaxed and well organized. Bravo! I enjoyed my experience and was so happy for the other awardees. They really deserved to be recognized for their amazing dedication to parks and recreation. Thank you."

INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE

2019 SPRA Award Winners

Lifetime Achievement Award – Clive Craig
(Yorkton)

President's Award of Distinction
– Anne Weisgerber (Maple Creek)

Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence
– Spruce Haven Recreation Park (Melfort)

Facility Operations Award – Kevin Roberts (La Ronge)

Parks and Open Space Award
– Carrot River Community Square (Carrot River)

Community Achievement Award
– Burstall Community Hall Commission Group (Burstall)

Award of Merit – Dean Robson (Swift Current)

Fitness Leadership Award – Beatrice Songer
(Central Butte)

Volunteer of the Year (Awarded Posthumously)
– Colleen Kearns (Foam Lake)



Our Fitness Leaders are advocates for physical activity – and get people off their couches and on their way to new levels of health and fitness.

409

**Fitness Leaders are increasing the physical activity levels of
35,304
individuals across Saskatchewan.**

EDUCATE



Our certification gives Fitness Leaders national recognition through the National Fitness Leadership Alliance and the qualifications to instruct across Canada.

“

I always leave SaskFit feeling inspired and good about what I do. I hope to continue to share my passion with others to make our world a healthier place to be.

- SaskFit Participant

”

Courses offered and number of leaders trained:

Exercise Theory - **28**
Group Fundamentals with Total
Body Conditioning- **20**
Step and Choreography - **7**
Cycle - **7**
Exercise for Older Adults - **9**
Aquatic Exercise - **9**

“We are blessed to have an aquatic fitness leader in our community. She is an incredibly strong advocate for fitness and physical activity. I am grateful for her passion and knowledge as an instructor and she has brought that passion forward to me.”

- Aquafit Participant

FITNESS LEADERSHIP

The SaskFit Conference brought

121

fitness leaders together to learn new skills, network and gain best practices from international instructors. They apply their new learnings back in their home communities and classes, with the goal of getting more people, more active, more often.

CONNECT



From phone calls, emails to video chats, our outreach looked a little different this year. We listened to understand where your community was at, what challenges they were facing and what innovations you were embracing.

These conversations were the catalyst behind the launch of our, “**Navigating the New Normal**” webinar series. The online panel discussions brought people together to ask questions, exchange knowledge on how the recreation industry has been transformed or is adapting as a result of COVID-19.

We hosted **3** panel discussions with over **457** participants from across our province and country.

“Listening to the variety of ways that communities are handling the COVID-19 pandemic was insightful. It is reassuring to know that communities feel connected and can communicate with one another to know they are not alone in these challenging times.”

- Webinar participant

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The continued growth and sustainability of the recreation industry starts with its people - the staff and volunteers that make recreation happen in our communities. With **YOU** at the core of what we do, we are here to offer expertise, guidance and resources that connect you to your recreation goals and a network of like-minded communities, organizations and individuals that share the same passion.

“

SPRA staff were extremely helpful as we prepared to hire new staff. I really appreciate all the insight and resources provided to me throughout this process.

- Bret Howe, Town of Eston Recreation Director

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Last year, we launched our Member Community Group on Facebook. This social space has been giving the industry the opportunity to network and connect with your colleagues in recreation and parks. You’ve sparked up conversations, exchanged ideas, asked questions and shared your promising practices with one another. With over **215** members, this group continues to grow and be an active and valued resource during these unprecedented times.

“Our Board members find a great deal of value in SPRA’s Member Community Group.”

- Rivers West District for Sport, Culture and Recreation

In August, SPRA partnered with the Saskatoon Open Door Society to offer HIGH FIVE® Principles of Healthy Child Development training to **38** Canadian newcomer youth between the ages of **15 - 35**. The training was part of the larger vision of their newly launched Youth Leadership Initiative, which is made up of a group of passionate youth who are seeking to become leaders in their local communities.

Through training, the youth developed leadership skills and learned about healthy child development, conflict resolution, and activity planning.

"With the HIGH FIVE® training under their belts, these youth will be able to build their resumes and gain volunteer experience, employment skills, and leadership opportunities, while having fun and meeting other young people."

– Zachary Wall, Youth Program Facilitator, Saskatoon Open Door Society

SPRA continues to be engaged in the Youth Community Education through Recreation (YCER) initiative, which includes Take the Lead!, HIGH FIVE®, Play Leadership and Youth Fitness Leadership programs.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP

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HIGH FIVE® trainers are available throughout Saskatchewan to offer **safe, diverse and developmentally appropriate** programming for children **6-12!**

HIGH FIVE® launched a virtual Principles of Healthy Child Development (PHCD-C) workshop in June 2020. This two-hour, online and on-demand workshop has permitted organizations to keep training their Play and Program Leaders, while keeping their wellbeing and safety intact.

EDUCATE

There are currently **538**

Take the Lead!® Youth Trainers in Saskatchewan to provide play and physical activity to their peers!

"All our elementary students look forward to recess as they know they will have someone to play with. Inclusion is embraced by all our Youth Leaders which makes everyone feel engaged in the school community."

– Whitewood School

“

I love how there is always an available park for me to go play in, there is also lots of green spaces for me to go kick a ball around, the beaches are always nice and there is always an activity that I can do!

”

“I like to **run** and **play** on the playgrounds, **bike** around the **lake** and on the **trails** and go for a **swim**!”

“I like playing outside!”

"We are so fortunate to live in this part of the world where we are rich with **nature** and rich with **trails** and **parks**"

"My family enjoys making the connection with nature - camping, hiking and fishing"

"Parks and Recreation provide great opportunities for family fun!"

IMPORTANCE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

A JRPM Compilation Video was aired on July 1, 2020. It sure was popular! It reached over **6800** people on our Facebook Page!

Now, more than ever, people understand how important recreation and parks are to their health and wellbeing. Your videos of gratitude throughout June is Recreation & Parks Month, showed just how much you care about the parks, trails, programs and services in your community. Thank you for continuing to inspire us to be your voice of the parks and recreation industry!



INSPIRE

Click here to watch the full video!!

PARTNERSHIPS

The recreation and parks industry provides a foundation of facilities, environments, programs and human infrastructure that the sport, culture and tourism industries rely on in order to enhance the quality of life within the province. Our funder, Sask Lotteries and our partners, Sask Sport, SaskCulture and the Government of Saskatchewan are such an integral part of this work.

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On behalf of the recreation and parks industry, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Sask Lotteries, the Government of Saskatchewan, and to everyone who supports this important fundraiser. This funding lets both the volunteers and professionals focus on bringing our skills, knowledge and passion to change lives and strengthen communities through the delivery of sport, culture and recreation.

-Todd Shafer, CEO, Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association

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This funding helps over 1,200 organizations like, Inclusion Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism and Sask Outdoors - and we couldn't be more grateful to be a part of this vast network that brings sport, culture and recreation to communities across Saskatchewan.

[Click here to access the complete list!](#)

Sask Lotteries is the main fundraiser for more than 12,000 sport, culture and recreation groups across the province. Through an agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan, Sask Lotteries proceeds are raised and allocated to eligible recreation, culture and sport groups. Lottery funds are delivered to these groups through a system administered and led by volunteer committees of Sask Sport, SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association.



This is a network that is committed to the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities and proudly backed by the support of more than 330,000 volunteers. These volunteers are serving on your local recreation boards. They are leading **Forever.....in motion** classes to older adults in your community. They are coordinating events and activities that make your communities more desirable and attractive places to live. These examples are a testament to the quality of life that we achieve together, with the support of Sask Lotteries.

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc.
Summarized Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2020

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Cash	65,043	99,794
Unrestricted fund investments	1,802,048	2,024,456
Accounts receivable	10,440	37,700
GST receivable	1,614	5,044
Prepaid expenses	139,179	148,861
Capital assets	20,049	29,805
Restricted fund investments	642,067	642,067
	<u>2,680,440</u>	<u>2,987,727</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts and adjudication payable	179,790	252,800
Post retirement benefit payable	61,121	62,142
Grants payable to funders	10,075	129,658
Deferred contributions and unearned membership revenues	32,072	176,065
	<u>283,058</u>	<u>620,665</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	1,755,315	1,724,995
Restricted	642,067	642,067
	<u>2,397,382</u>	<u>2,367,062</u>
	<u>2,680,440</u>	<u>2,987,727</u>

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc.
Summarized Statement of Operations
Year ended June 30, 2020

	2020	2019
Revenue		
Grants		
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund	3,795,665	3,763,022
Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport	37,974	2,027
Health Canada	-	64,309
	<u>3,833,639</u>	<u>3,829,358</u>
Self-generated	202,690	360,163
	<u>4,036,329</u>	<u>4,189,521</u>
Expenses		
Board Operations	55,454	67,136
Corporate Services	1,315,263	1,161,750
Program Services	820,871	757,195
Communication, Information and Research	524,289	428,153
Field Services	954,337	1,090,872
Program Initiatives	335,795	395,519
	<u>4,006,009</u>	<u>3,900,625</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	<u>30,320</u>	<u>288,896</u>

Financial information is derived from the annual audited financial statements of the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc.

Detailed audited financial statements are available to members upon request.

FINANCIALS



Through an agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan, proceeds from Sask Lotteries are dedicated to sport, culture and recreation organizations to benefit communities throughout the province.

