



Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

- CONNECTING
- EDUCATING
- INSPIRING

The Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) would like to acknowledge that our programs, services and support reach lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10, the Traditional Territories of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Sauteaux peoples, and homeland of the Métis.

This land has been part of the lives of Indigenous peoples long before our organization existed and will continue to be for many more years to come. We extend our gratitude to those who have called this ancestral land home for generations, and whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our communities.

We respect and honour the Treaties, reaffirm our relationships with one another, and move forward together in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.

In Saskatchewan, we are all Treaty people.





ABOUT US

SPRA is a network of recreation leaders dedicated to energizing Saskatchewan and changing lives. We imagine a province where everyone has the opportunity to enjoy recreation and feel more connected to nature, our communities and ourselves.

CONTACT US



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

We're empowered to succeed through funding support from Sask Lotteries.

CONNECT WITH US



2020-2021 SPRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- TJ Biemans
President
- Jennifer Burgess
Director at Large
- Taylor Morrison
Director for Villages
- Dean Dodge
Director at Large
- Ken Ottenbreit
Director at Large
- Jaime Helgason
Director for Towns
- Heidi Carl
Director at Large
- Tonia Logan
Director for the North
- Jody Boulet
Director for Cities

Connected, Healthy People

Recreation promotes healthy connections for people of all ages.

Economic Growth

Recreation provides the quality of life businesses need to attract employees and their families to Saskatchewan.

Community Development

Recreation spaces and places are the heart of every vibrant, engaged community.

Tourism

Recreation facilities and parks set the stage for tourism, sport and cultural events in Saskatchewan.

The Recreation Industry provides a foundation of programs, places and professionals that are vital to our province, communities and people!

A MESSAGE FROM

OUR PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe that this is the last President's Message I'll write for you. I have been on the SPRA Board for seven years, two as President. It has been a privilege and an honour to serve on the Board and I couldn't be more proud of what the organization has accomplished in my seven-year tenure. What is truly astonishing though, is what I have seen accomplished over the 2020-2021 fiscal year. I would like to share a few of the things I've observed over the past year.

1. Parks and recreation are critical for physical and mental health. Yes, I knew that already. We all did – that's why we're here. But perhaps we didn't see *just how much* until we were reminded how important it is to play, recreate, and simply go outside for a walk. Check out the results of our research project on page 28, in which 91% of Saskatchewan people surveyed agreed that parks and recreation play a critical role in their physical and mental wellbeing!

2. Our industry can pivot with the best of them. There's no denying that in the coming pages, you're going to read the words "pivot", "adjusted" and "adapted" a lot. It was a tough year for many of us, and I am extremely proud of SPRA and our network of member organizations and communities, who never seemed to skip a beat in finding ways to continue offering top-notch programming.

3. Distributed dollars mean BIG impact. Every dollar SPRA distributes on behalf of the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund and the Government of Saskatchewan is directly invested in the quality of life for the people of Saskatchewan. In 2020-2021, we distributed over \$4.5M in funding! Our member communities and organizations used these funds to deliver programming to a huge number of residents this year, all while implementing COVID-19 guidelines. In many communities, funding provided by

SPRA provided the only access to safe, physically distanced activities that kept people moving and socializing, essential components of physical and mental wellbeing.

4. Our leadership and consultative engagement never faltered. The expertise of the SPRA staff never ceases to impress me. We have an incredible team of talented and knowledgeable individuals who are always willing to help. In fact, our Field Services Team participated in 230 consultations this year with over 2,100 community contacts!

5. I have hope for the future of the Saskatchewan parks and recreation industry. Another research project we conducted indicated that an overwhelming 94% of respondents support dedicating municipal revenues to parks and recreation. I believe this groundswell of support is a sign of good things to come. If we mobilize our supporters to speak on behalf of parks and recreation, we can ensure a healthy, happy and connected population no matter what the future brings.

It has been a joy to be part of the organization over the past seven years. I have loved contributing to the strategic direction of SPRA and helping chart the course for the future. I leave knowing it is in good hands. The most important thing I have noticed over my years on the Board is the shift from "are we doing things right" to "are we doing the right things". I think that speaks volumes about the leadership that steers this organization towards its outcomes. Here's to a bright and active future!

TJ Biemans
SPRA President



SASK LOTTERIES

A FUNDRAISER FOR SPORT, CULTURE AND RECREATION

Sask Sport operates Sask Lotteries through a licensing agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan. Lottery proceeds are allocated to eligible sport, culture and recreation groups through the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. Volunteer committees of Sask Sport, SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association oversee the Fund to ensure accountability and transparency.

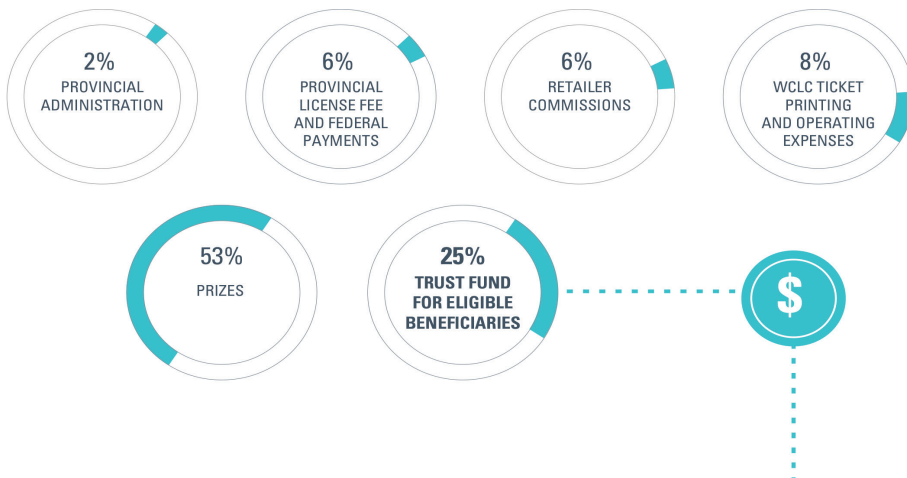
HOW THE LOTTERY SYSTEM WORKS



[Click here](#) to learn more about how the Lottery system works!

For more information on Sask Lotteries, visit www.sasklotteries.ca





As a non-profit organization, Sask Lotteries operates effectively and efficiently to maximize the proceeds available for funding.



TRAINING

AND EDUCATION

Training and education are a keystone in SPRA's foundation of services, and we have historically offered these programs through in-person events. We are proud of the adaptations that we made to our education services this year, and shifting to a model that supported virtual learning and connections across the province.

437 delegates enjoyed the first joint

SaskFit and SPRA Conference.

The virtual program featured

20 sessions **2** keynotes

160+ parks and facilities staff attended the Industry Builder Learning Series

4 Facility Operator Courses held for **107** participants

469 registrants in HIGH FIVE®, Play Leadership and Respect in Sport Courses

170 schools received the Games and Activities - Options for Physical Distancing Guide

406 Fitness Leaders provided programming to

more than **20,000** people

PLAY BEYOND THE PANDEMIC: TAKING THE LEAD IN SUPPORTING SAFE PLAY

Children thrive in environments where they can play and interact with others. Play was interrupted in a big way this past year, so SPRA and our collaborators – the staff and partners of the **Lakeland District for Sport, Culture and Recreation** – created a resource with games that encourages children to play, while promoting physical distancing.



The Take the Lead!® “Games and Activities - Options for Physical Distancing” activity guide

has been shared with over **170** schools, organizations and individuals in the past year, and includes over 20 game ideas for fostering safe play activities.

“ I plan to distribute [the activity guide] to our community groups, including our Daycare, Play School, Youth Group, etc. A lot of these groups rent spaces in our community facilities and are looking for safer alternatives to continue their indoor programming throughout the winter. ”

SUPPORTING ADAPTATION

Our focus in 2020-2021 was to continue to support the schools and communities that adapted and modified their own Take the Lead!® programming in response to COVID-19. Resilient Leadership Coaches continued to build the leadership and physical literacy skills

of their students, and **1,036** students in Saskatchewan were impacted by the program! In 2020-2021, in our Take the Lead!® annual survey, we heard that:

“[Take the Lead!®] has helped students identify their leadership skills and encourage them to want to serve others by volunteering their time and skills.”



This year, we also welcomed the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association as a new Take the Lead!® program site, and trained five of their staff as Leadership Coaches, who lead programs for newcomer youth!

ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING YOUTH

2020 saw changes abound, and the delivery of SPRA's youth leadership training programs was no exception. To continue to meet training needs, HIGH FIVE® National took its highly popular Principles of Healthy Child Development (PHCD) training, and adapted its delivery to make it accessible as a two-hour recorded training - which saw **261** Youth Program Leaders registered in Saskatchewan! This program influences course leaders to develop and deliver quality youth programming, which is especially important in today's unpredictable pandemic world.

Virtual delivery of the standard (4-hour) PHCD and HIGH FIVE® Sport courses is now taking place, and SPRA launched our own virtual delivery of Play Leadership training in 2021. These adaptations ensure that training is offered in an accessible and safe manner.

We were also thrilled to partner with Respect Group Inc. in 2020, to launch the Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders Virtual Training. This on-demand training program supports leaders in recognizing and responding to incidences of bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination. Want to learn more? [Click here!](#)



“Very satisfied with the quality and resource [of Play Leadership] offered today. All presented in a very easy going, respectful manner. Congratulations!”

“I have never enjoyed any kind of training as much as I enjoyed [PHCD] training!”

2020 SPRA CONFERENCE AND SASKFIT

In 2020, we combined two of our flagship events, the SPRA Conference and SaskFit, to create a 'super event' of professional development, learning and networking opportunities.



"Together Towards Tomorrow" invited parks, recreation and fitness leaders in Saskatchewan to come together and support one another, work towards bettering themselves and their communities and encourage an optimistic view of the future. The event took place virtually from November 18 to 21, 2020 with three days of SPRA Conference sessions and two days of SaskFit content.

We were delighted that the attendance numbers for both events exceeded expectations and surpassed previous in-person events:

208 SPRA Conference attendees

229 SaskFit attendees

Cumulative total: 437!

Resonating Resilience: Unsurprisingly, the Conference keynote presentation by Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe was the highlight of the event for many delegates. Her topic of resilience resonated in a big way with attendees.

“ *Awesome presentation by Hal and Joanne, so much energy and meaningful information. The value of looking at obstacles and challenges differently. The concept of not getting mad, 'proper preparation prevents poor performance.'* Loved this!

”

“ *I very much enjoyed Dr. Robyne's resiliency session. In our world with COVID stress is hard to manage both in the workplace and at home. I left the session with a renewed sense of 'yes I can' which we all need right now.* **”**

Keep (Sask)Fit and have fun! SaskFit keynotes, Canadian superstars Hal Johnson and Joanne McLeod from BodyBreak, wowed the crowd with their talk "Life is a Series of U-Turns".

FITNESS FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES

In the immortal musical stylings of Olivia Newton-John, “Let’s Get Virtual, Virtual!” Access to fitness and physical activity programming has never been more critical than it was in the last year. We knew we had to adjust how we provided courses, so we adapted our Exercise Theory, Pre and Post Natal Certification and **Forever...in motion** Leader Training to virtual delivery. This created safe and accessible environments for our Fitness Leaders to learn, grow and transition that knowledge into local delivery.

As Fitness Leaders were increasingly offering online fitness classes, we wanted to support this transition by offering:

- Online class insurance coverage at a minimal cost
- Online Fitness Certification Exams
- SaskFit virtually for increased access and ability to gain continuing education credits
- Published a [blog sharing tips on online teaching](#)
- Hosting a webinar on Designing and Delivering Pre-recorded Workouts

“ The subject matter content and the presentation [of the Pre and Post Natal Certification Course] were very good. I felt that I increased my ability to safely assist pregnant and post-partum moms in a class. ”

“ The [Forever...in motion] manuals very helpful, information well organized, clear. Good breadth and depth of content. Excellent facilitator! ”



ANSWERING THE CALL FOR PARKS AND FACILITIES TRAINING

As we've seen from countless research studies – and our own experiences in neighbourhoods across Saskatchewan – parks and green spaces received a considerable increase in usage this year. As gathering restrictions lifted, recreation facilities also experienced a huge demand for access. Kudos to the hard working Saskatchewan recreation and parks professionals for implementing specific health and safety protocols to ensure that these spaces could be safely accessed and enjoyed.

Throughout the pandemic, communities continued to look to SPRA to deliver expert training to parks and facility staff members. These training programs are designed to develop competent and knowledgeable operators who are maintaining a safe and efficient recreation facility. In 2020-2021, we offered the following courses: Arena Operator Levels 1 and 2, Power Mobile Equipment for Ice Resurfacer, and Ball Diamond and Sportsfield Maintenance.

TANGIBLE TAKEAWAYS: INDUSTRY BUILDER LEARNING SERIES

In an effort to adjust to member's needs, we transitioned our in-person Spring Education and Training Symposium to the **Industry Builder Learning Series**. **162** people attended the virtual event which included 10 - 1.5 hour sessions focused on many facility and parks topics of interest, from Tree Identification and Room Maintenance, to Access and Inclusion in Recreation Spaces.

Survey results indicated that **85%** of respondents found the content of the sessions to be professionally valuable and **100%** of respondents felt presenters were knowledgeable and relevant!

“ The [Introduction to Tree Identification] session was great. Lots of great tips to start making our greenspaces better for our community to enjoy. ”



FUNDING

HIGHLIGHTS

Bread. Bucks. Dinero. Moolah. You know what we're talking about: **money**. But at SPRA, funding means more than dollars and cents; it means more programs and services are offered, facilities are maintained, and people and communities reap the benefits. So yes, we're proud of how much money we've distributed this year (and every year) on behalf of the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund and the Government of Saskatchewan, but more than anything, we're proud because it means **BIG IMPACT**. Every dollar we grant is directly invested in the quality of life for the people of Saskatchewan, and we couldn't be prouder.

\$2.6M granted to
33 PRAs, programs and
services delivered to nearly
175,000 people

\$1.4M+
in **CRAG** funding
distributed to **586** rinks

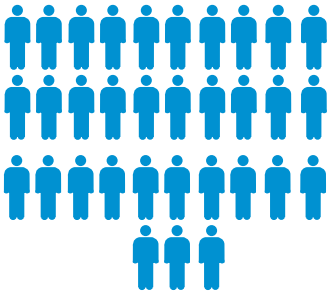
7 Sport, Culture and
Recreation Districts
granted
\$236,527
to support their programs
and services

\$123,000
in Member's Initiative Grants
supported
83 member
projects

PRAS - PUTTING RECREATION INTO ACTION

Saskatchewan's parks and recreation industry is successful in large part because of the 33 Provincial Recreation Associations (PRA) that lead the way in delivering excellent and accessible recreation to the entire province.

33 PRAS



=

Granted a total of
\$2,621,540
through the
Saskatchewan
Lotteries Trust Fund



Programs and services
are delivered to:

174,503 people!

Through the PRAs, we extend our organization's reach beyond our members and stakeholders. Working together with the PRAs, our collective impact on the people of Saskatchewan is nothing short of transformational! Read on to hear their awesome success stories.



THE OUTDOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN

The Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks and Conservation Agencies (ASUPCA) represents seven parks and conservation areas that provide critical habitat for wildlife, allow people to connect with nature and provide opportunity to participate in leisure activities. Most importantly, all of these spaces are all

located in close proximity to **over half** of Saskatchewan's population! ASUPCA definitely noticed a boost in parks use this year:

“All Urban Parks in Saskatchewan witnessed an increase in use of their parks and trails after the COVID-19 restrictions were put into place by the provincial authorities and the importance of natural parks and conservation areas was evident in assisting to maintain both physical and mental health for all residents of Saskatchewan.”

This year, funding from ASUPCA supported people connecting to nature in a variety of ways:

- A winter ecology and ski program that reached **268** youth in the Meewasin Valley
- Pehônân cross country and downhill ski experiences, which hosted over **135** participants aged 6 to 60+ in Little Red River Park

MASTERS OF INGENUITY: CAMP EASTER SEAL

In 2020, Camp Easter Seal continued their pledge to providing a barrier-free camp experience to children, youth and adults who live with a disability. Between July and August 2020, Camp Easter Seal staff provided seven

Camp Connected online programs to **964** campers!



“Our small [Saskatchewan Abilities Council Inc.] team, all young adults, was given an outstanding opportunity to practice their leadership and they rose to the occasion! The four summer staff we hired stretched themselves as we collaborated and discovered new ways of communicating (online) and adapted our camp recreational programming to be unique and meaningful for our campers. Leadership was key to the success and although it was challenging, new skills were developed by each person involved.”

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: SPRA'S MEMBER'S INITIATIVE GRANTS

Forget the mic, drop the MIG! Through our seven Member's Initiative Grants, we are proud to support the parks and recreation champions in Saskatchewan that deliver and maintain recreational programs and spaces for Saskatchewanians to enjoy. The programs and services our members create and deliver builds community through recreation.

In 2020/2021, over **\$123,000** in Lottery Funds was granted to **83** member projects!

**Forever..in
motion**

9 projects
\$10,000

**First Nations and
Métis Recreation
Development**

10 projects
\$18,540

**Community Cultural
Diversity Inclusion**

26 projects
\$35,000

**Framework
in Action**

14 projects
\$24,166

Parks for All
14 projects
\$25,350

**Leadership
Development**
26 projects
\$35,000

PROVINCIAL FUNDING - LOCAL IMPACT

The funding provided by our MIGs goes a long way on the ground in Saskatchewan communities. Here's what some of our recipients had to say:

COMMUNITY CULTURAL DIVERSITY INCLUSION GRANT

"The [Village of Beauval's] Outdoor Culture Wellness Day has generated a positive impact in promoting culture, to especially the Youth. They preserve our traditions and values. This type of programming offers positive and healthy alternatives for all of our community."

The Town of Spiritwood's "Set Out to Snowshoe" event was a hit with all ages! While returning the snowshoes, one person said, *"We got to do all the things we love with our family and friends. Be in nature and be active."*



PARKS FOR ALL ACTION GRANT

"All in all, the [Village of Sifton Sunny Side All Season Trails] project has been great! We have new volunteers in the community with an interest in the seasonal usage, as well as new volunteers that stepped up to help out. One user in the community, an older adult who grew up in the region, uses the trail every morning. She used to walk on side roads and gravel and her family found it unsafe."



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT



"As a result of this training, [the Town of Indian Head] had three new instructors who were able to provide an extra week of swimming lessons in 2021. This meant we were able to instruct 44 additional swimmers. The new instructors will also be the future of our swimming lessons program [and] will help us ensure there are quality lessons in Indian Head for several years to come."

RINK RATS REJOICE: THE COMMUNITY RINK AFFORDABILITY GRANT

We could not have been more excited to be part of the return of the Community Rink Affordability Grant (CRAG) this year. This program is critical for offsetting the considerable costs of operating skating and curling rinks, which are important recreation spaces that build community and enhance quality of life across the province. COVID-19 put many of these facilities at risk, endangering the heart and soul of many of Saskatchewan's hometowns.

Thank you to the Government of Saskatchewan for recognizing the value rinks provided to communities, and partnering with us to bring back the CRAG. Long live the local rink!

\$1,465,050 distributed to **372**
communities across **586** facilities

 **363** Skating surfaces
 **223** Curling surfaces

Here's what some of the CRAG recipients had to say about the program:

"The funding provided by the Community Rink Affordability Grant has been incredible for our community and our facility. It has enabled us to open in a limited capacity and provide a recreational opportunity for our community residents, which is so important in these stressful times. We would not have been able to provide this opportunity had it not been for the generosity of the provincial government in providing funding and we are grateful."

"The Community Rink Affordability Grant has taken a lot of financial pressure off our small community. We were able to pay an entire year's worth of utility bills with the funds and provide our community with the proper PPE needed to protect themselves and others upon entering our facility. Thanks to this Grant, our community Board can now freely focus on providing our community with safe, functioning recreational facilities. Thank you!"



CONSULTING

AND SUPPORT

SPRA invests a significant amount of time, energy and human resources to stakeholder consultation and support. No matter the parks and recreation problem or opportunity, SPRA is here for you. We are constantly working to offer better, evidence-based and more inclusive advice and consulting support to benefit our hard-working members and communities across Saskatchewan.

Our Field Team participated in **230** consultations with over **2,100** community contacts

Since **2010**, the Urban Directors Forum has hosted **3,467** posts and **535** discussion threads!

Our website had **47,254** website users and **173,033** page views

We had **3,942** newsletter subscribers and over **11,500** followers on social media

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FOR THE WIN

In 2021, the SPRA Field Services Team had to adjust the ways they connect and consult with Saskatchewan's parks and recreation community. Usually, they're out on the road, racking up the kilometers, supporting our members (and keeping Tim Hortons in business). In 2021, they had to trade face-time for, well, FaceTime.

They used all the virtual tools available to keep offering top-notch consultative services without skipping a beat. The numbers speak for themselves. When we tallied them up, the 'Fieldies' participated in **230** consultations with over **2100** community contacts including industry stakeholders, and community leaders and staff. And that doesn't include the countless phone calls, emails, and text messages they respond to on a daily basis.

“ I just wanted to let you know that I applied for that grant you shared with me and we got word that we received \$1600. Whoop, whoop!! Thanks again! ”

“ Thank you very much; this is more than enough to get me started on a position and more. I really appreciate it! ”



A DECADE OF THE URBAN DIRECTORS FORUM

In 2010, SPRA launched the Urban Directors Forum, a confidential, online platform where recreation directors from larger communities can network, collaborate and share best practices with other directors across Saskatchewan.

As you might imagine, this past year was a busy year for the forum. Many of our members were grappling with COVID-19 restrictions and how to implement them in their communities. In 2021, there were **275** posts across **51** discussion threads. Since the group's inception, there have been **3,467** posts in **535** discussion threads!

We also hosted two virtual meetings this year, attended by an average of 12 directors, who can't wait to get together again and share industry best practices in person!










“ The forum has become my go-to when exploring new opportunities or dealing with new challenges within my community. The wealth of knowledge and experience of the recreational professionals linked to the forum is invaluable and has helped me to grow as a Director and provide a greater recreational experience for our residents and visitors. **”**

PLANTS, PEOPLE, PRIDE AND PIVOTING: COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM 2021

In keeping with the theme of adaptation, Communities in Bloom looked a bit different this year. To make up for the canceled community evaluations due to COVID-19, we launched two new initiatives to support community engagement.

Communities in Bloom Special Recognition Award Winners:

-  Community Appearance:
Pilot Butte Beautification Committee
-  Environmental Action: Eastend
-  Trees and Urban Forestry: Moose Jaw
-  Heritage Recognition:
Candle Lake Communities in Bloom
-  Floral Displays: Eston Communities in Bloom
-  Volunteer Recognition: Nicole Lerat of
Rosthern and Sandy Kimball of Assiniboia
-  Community Spirit:
Craik Communities in Bloom

For a full summary of
award winners, 2020
participants, and to learn
more about Communities
in Bloom, [click here](#).



We also launched the “Take a Shot” Photo Contest for Communities in Bloom participants. Here is the first place photo from Val Mohan of Eston:



“ [Creighton is] 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! ”

ENGAGEMENT

HIGHLIGHTS

SPRA loves engaging with everyone: members, stakeholders, the public, government, and the media. We are so passionate about parks and recreation, we'll often strike up conversations about the benefits of our industry in grocery store lineups, on the phone with telemarketers, or in a happy-hour Zoom call with family. Whether virtual or in-person, we found ways to keep engaging our network in 2020-2021.

7 RECOgnition
Award Winners
6 videos with a
collective reach of
105,000 views

Hosted **18** webinars with
940 live attendees and
20,000+ recording
views

NEW **SPRA**
Buyers Guide
featuring **31**
Commercial members

**June is Recreation
& Parks Month**
Champions videos
received over
20,000 views

VIRTUAL VICTORIES

If this were Sesame Street, you could say this year has been brought to you by the letter “V” for “virtual”. Like it or not, we all had to shift the way we conducted business this year. For us, it was how we add value and provide support to our members while informing the public about the many (many, many) benefits of recreation. In this brave new world, we tried our best, learned a lot of lessons, and expanded our team’s capacity more than we ever thought possible. Thank you for being with us every step of the way this year. We look forward to offering more quality virtual events that educate, engage and inspire!

In 2021 we hosted **18** general interest webinars for a total of **940** live attendees and over **20,000** views on Facebook and YouTube!



“As a female in the recreation industry, who has recently applied for a manager position in the field, [the Inspiring Her to Lead] event was so inspiring. It has given me hope and confidence to know that I will do amazing at my presentation and that I am worth it. Thank you.”

“[The Speaking Up for the Recreation Industry] session was great, easily the best one I have attended so far! Really easy to apply the thoughts given to challenges I’m currently working through and was a great chance to think more about the ‘who’ and the ‘why’ instead of the ‘what’.”

ROLLING OUT THE **REC** CARPET: 2020 SPRA RECOGNITION AWARDS

At SPRA, there's nothing we love more than recognizing and celebrating the amazing people, organizations and communities that work hard to make life better for everyone in Saskatchewan. That's why our favourite time of year is award season!

In 2020, we awarded seven RECOgnition Awards and in lieu of an awards gala, we sent a camera crew to each of the winners. It was a chance for the recipients to say a few words and for fans to shower them with praise. We couldn't be happier with the videos; they received lots of traction on both social media and in the local news, well deserved attention for some very inspiring individuals and communities. The collective reach of all the videos was nearly **105,000 people!** Congratulations to all the winners!

■ **Mike Schwean** President's Award of Distinction

“ When I was on [Moosomin] council, Mike always had things on the go, always getting photo ops for councillors and yet he's the one that did 95% of the work. He's the one that brought the projects together and yet he wouldn't be the one to take the credit. It's really nice to see Mike get some credit for all the things he's done for this community. ”



- **Prince Albert Rotary Trail**
Parks and Open Spaces Award
- **Wynyard Co-operative Place**
Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence
- **City of Swift Current**
Community Achievement Award

- **Chris Bruce**
Facility Operations Award
- **Rosalie Flynn**
Volunteer of the Year
- **Kristen Cutting**
Fitness Leadership Award

CHAMPIONING JUNE IS RECREATION & PARKS MONTH 2021

One of our flagship campaigns, June is Recreation & Parks Month (JRPM) showcases the contributions parks, open spaces and recreational pursuits make to the quality of life in Saskatchewan.

This year, the Government of Saskatchewan and **46** communities throughout the province proclaimed June is Recreation & Parks Month!

In our ongoing effort to share people's passion for parks and recreation, we showcased four "JRPM Champions" to inspire everyone to get outside and enjoy our parks and open spaces. Thanks to JRPM Champions Colin Ratushniak, Lacey Weekes, and Matt Johnson and Nancy Broten for inspiring us with their passion for the outdoors!



[The JRPM launch video](#) reached over **17,300** people and the JRPM Champions videos received over **3,085** views!



LET'S GET CONNECTED!

The JRPM Connection Grant was used by SPRA members to support programming, materials and initiatives that created a connection to parks and recreation during June. The most common themes that were funded this year were: Introduction to gardening programs, tree planting projects, nature education initiatives, bird house making projects, introduction to the sport of disc golf, yoga in the park programs, and community scavenger hunts and photo contests. Congratulations to all the recipients!

48 members received grants of up to **\$500**

\$23,000 in total was granted!

“ This was the first time the Town of Arcola has ever hosted Yoga In the Park. We had such a great turnout - particularly for the kids' classes. As a Recreation Director, I was so thankful for the opportunity to bring this activity to our community through the Connection Grant!

”

RESEARCHING

RECREATION

“Now, more crucial than ever”:

Saskatchewan People Rave About Recreation for Health and Wellness

This year, we asked Insightrix® Research to help us find out if parks and recreation play a critical role in health and wellness of the people of Saskatchewan. 800 people replied to the survey!



91% agreed that parks and recreation play a critical role in their physical and mental wellbeing!



We asked respondents to tell us, in their own words, how parks and recreation help maintain their health and wellness. We received **over 1,400** comments expressing how much recreation and parks were valued! Respondents also had the option to record their responses. [Click here](#) and [here](#) to watch the testimonial videos.



“ Before the COVID-19 pandemic, I would never have felt the way I do now, but having been shut-in off and on over the course of the last year, mental health has become a problem for many Canadians, so being able to go out and enjoy oneself is now more crucial than ever. ”



“Making Things Better for All”: Parks and Recreation are Worth the Investment

We collaborated again with Insightrix® Research to find out if the people of Saskatchewan support local government dedicating revenues, taxes and levies for park and recreation operations and improvements. We received a great response!

801 Adults aged 18+ replied from all regions of the province

94% of respondents support dedicating revenues to parks and recreation!

These qualitative statements show that our fellow citizens are well aware of the need for accessibility to free or low-cost recreation opportunities in their communities, as well as the benefits to other industries such as tourism.

Respondents also had the option to record their responses. [Click here](#) to watch the testimonial video.

“ *I believe it’s important for local governments to support Parks and Recreation through their taxes. Because a lot of our community is centered on the relationship with others in the parks and the recreation facilities. They give us that opportunity to get to know other people and build community and make things better for all.*

”

“ *Recreation improvement is a fantastic thing and it is definitely needed. If it weren’t for pools, sports programs, libraries, etc., I don’t think our kids would have the same access to learning as they do now.*

”

SUMMARIZED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc.
Summarized Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2021

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash | 100,459 | 65,043 |
| Unrestricted fund investments | 2,371,937 | 1,802,048 |
| Accounts receivable | 26,612 | 10,440 |
| GST receivable | 2,065 | 1,614 |
| Prepaid expenses | 43,396 | 139,179 |
| Capital assets | 34,099 | 20,049 |
| Restricted fund investments | 642,067 | 642,067 |
| | <u>3,220,635</u> | <u>2,680,440</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts and adjudication payable | 373,645 | 179,790 |
| Post retirement benefit payable | 59,387 | 61,121 |
| Grants payable to funders | 127,134 | 10,075 |
| Deferred contributions and unearned membership revenues | 37,113 | 32,072 |
| | <u>597,279</u> | <u>283,058</u> |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted | 1,981,289 | 1,755,315 |
| Restricted | 642,067 | 642,067 |
| | <u>2,623,356</u> | <u>2,397,382</u> |
| | <u>3,220,635</u> | <u>2,680,440</u> |

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc.
Summarized Statement of Operations
Year ended June 30, 2021

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Grants | | |
| Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund | 3,677,039 | 3,795,665 |
| Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport | 1,571,000 | 37,974 |
| | <u>5,248,039</u> | <u>3,833,639</u> |
| Self-generated | 239,650 | 202,690 |
| | <u>5,487,689</u> | <u>4,036,329</u> |
| Expenses | | |
| Board Operations | 28,427 | 55,454 |
| Corporate Services | 1,261,873 | 1,315,263 |
| Program Services | 994,880 | 820,871 |
| Communication, Information and Research | 452,249 | 524,289 |
| Field Services | 2,524,286 | 954,337 |
| Program Initiatives | - | 335,795 |
| | <u>5,261,715</u> | <u>4,006,009</u> |
| Excess of revenue over expenses | <u>225,974</u> | <u>30,320</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.

Funded by
 **SASK LOTTERIES**