

# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT



*County of Paintearth*

*Remembering Our Past, Building Our Future*

# CONTENTS

Message from the Reeve	Page 3
Members of Council	Page 4
Council Meetings	Page 4
2022-2023 Committees of Council	Page 5
County of Paintearth Survey	Page 7
Message from the Chief Administrative Officer	Page 9
A Brief History	Page 10
Municipal Office	Page 11
Corporate Services	Page 11
Community Peace Officer	Page 17
Community Services	Page 19
Environmental Services	Page 25
Public Works	Page 32
Custodian Services	Page 36
Regional Partnerships	Page 37



# MESSAGE FROM THE REEVE

A warm welcome to the County of Paintearth's 2022 Annual Report. As Reeve, it is my pleasure to introduce the same on behalf of both Council and Administration.

Throughout this report, key aspects of municipal governance and services will be introduced to highlight the various departments and overall financial accomplishments of the past year.



Council views this annual report as an opportunity to reflect and share how the County diligently serves our community by identifying the progress and achievements from key strategic initiatives, while being mindful of supporting annual operations.

For those community members who take the time to participate within local issues or matters, Council is grateful for your time and feedback. Your participation in municipal initiatives as well as open dialog communications are fundamental in providing the community direction for governance, and strategic direction for both local services and broader advocacy matters.

In 2022, Council adopted a new Sustainability Plan (2022-2024) for the municipality (available on the County website: [www.countypaintearth.ca](http://www.countypaintearth.ca)). Strategic Sustainability is the ability to continuously achieve minimally required expectations of the present without compromising future viability. At the core of this plan lies the County's vision: "Remembering our past, building our future." Following the completion of the 2022 Sustainability Plan a path forward with specific goals and objectives emerged.

So much of what occurred in 2022 was formed following the completion of another bi-annual public input survey, carried out in January of 2022. This survey is where Council heard from our community members on how County services were operating as well as areas for improvement.

The County will continue to engage the community on the topic of Broadband in earnest over the course of 2023, as well as complete planning and analysis on several projects that align with our goal to grow Paintearth County responsibly with businesses and activities that are a fit for our region.

Both Council and Administration look forward to 2023 as a great year of service.

**Stan Schulmeister** | Reeve

# MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

County of Paintearth  
No. 18



**DIVISION 1**  
George Glazier  
Councillor

County of Paintearth  
No. 18



**DIVISION 2**  
Dale Norton  
Councillor

County of Paintearth  
No. 18



**DIVISION 3**  
Stan Schulmeister  
Reeve

County of Paintearth  
No. 18



**DIVISION 4**  
Terry Vockeroth  
Councillor

County of Paintearth  
No. 18



**DIVISION 5**  
Maurice Wiart  
Deputy Reeve

County of Paintearth  
No. 18



**DIVISION 6**  
Sandy Shipton  
Councillor

County of Paintearth  
No. 18



**DIVISION 7**  
Diane Elliott  
Councillor

## COUNCIL MEETINGS



Please be advised that Regular Council Meetings are scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month commencing at 9:00 a.m., having the same subject to individual change. Council meeting dates are available on the County's website, please visit [www.countypaintearth.ca](http://www.countypaintearth.ca) for more information.

*County of Paintearth*  
No. 18

# 2022-2023 COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

## COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

**Agricultural Service Board (ASB):** All Councillors (4-year term), Members at Large – Dan Bunbury (Oct/23), Dale Pilsworth (Oct/23), Chairman – M. Wiat, Vice-Chairman – S. Schulmeister

**Assessment Review Board:** T. Vockeroth, Tom Coppock (Oct/23), Dionne Elliott (Oct/23), Tony Nichols (Oct/23), Marilyn Weber (Oct/23), Clerk – Chief Administrative Officer, M. Simpson (June/25)

**Emergency Management Advisory Committee:** D. Elliott, T. Vockeroth, Director Emergency Management - T. Pawsey and Deputy Director Emergency Management – M. Simpson

**Fire Intermunicipal Committee:** D. Norton, S. Schulmeister, S. Shipton, M. Wiat, Chief Administrative Officer - M. Simpson

**Mine Liaison Committee:** G. Glazier, S. Schulmeister, T. Vockeroth, Chief Administrative Officer - M. Simpson, Development Officer – T. Pawsey

**Municipal Planning Commission:** D. Elliott, G. Glazier, S. Schulmeister, M. Wiat, Development Officer – T. Pawsey

**Negotiating Committee:** G. Glazier, S. Schulmeister, S. Shipton, Chief Administrative Officer – M. Simpson, Assistant CAO – L. Roth

**Weed & Ag Pests Appeal Committee:** Jaron Bye (Dec/22), Walter Pickles (Dec/22), Loren Rodvang (Dec/22), Marilyn Weber (Dec/22)

## COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

**Alberta Rural Transportation Committee:** D. Elliott, G. Glazier, M. Wiat

**Alliance Seed Cleaning Plant:** M. Wiat, D. Norton (Alternate)

**Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED):** S. Schulmeister, T. Vockeroth (Alternate)

**Battle River Economic Opportunities Committee (BREOC):** G. Glazier, S. Shipton (Alternate)

**Battle River Research Group:** S. Schulmeister

**Battle River Watershed Alliance:** T. Vockeroth

**Brownfield Recreation Centre:** D. Elliott

**Castor & District Community Bus Society:** M. Wiat

**Castor & District Family & Community Support Services (FCSS):** S. Shipton, Member At Large - Brenda Hepp (Oct/24)

**Castor & District Housing Authority:** *G. Glazier, S. Shipton*

**Castor & District Museum Society:** *S. Shipton*

**Castor & District Recreation Board:** *D. Norton*

**Castor, Consort, Coronation & Area Doctor Recruitment/Retention Committee:** *G. Glazier, Member At Large - B. Hepp*

**Castor Doctor Recruitment/Retention Committee:** *D. Norton, M. Wiart, Member At Large - B. Hepp*

**Castor Municipal Library Board:** *S. Shipton*

**Coronation & District Community Bus Society:** *D. Elliott*

**Coronation & District Recreation Board:** *D. Elliott*

**Coronation & District Seniors' Housing Authority:** *G. Glazier, Chief Administrative Officer – M. Simpson*

**Coronation & District Support Services Board (CDSS):** *D. Elliott, G. Glazier, Members At Large – Brian Bunbury (Oct/24), Vacant (Oct/24)*

**Coronation Doctor Recruitment/Retention Committee:** *G. Glazier, D. Norton, Member At Large – Dionne Elliott (Oct/24), Member At Large – B. Hepp (Oct/24)*

**Coronation Memorial Library Board:** *D. Elliott*

**Coronation Reg. Health Services (Assisted Living):** *D. Elliott, G. Glazier*

**Coronation Seed Cleaning Plant Board:** *D. Norton, M. Wiart (Alternate)*

**Coronation/Consort Victim Services Committee:** *S. Shipton*

**East Central Alberta Destination Marketing Fund (DMF) Committee:** *D. Norton*

**East Central Ambulance Association:** *G. Glazier, D. Norton, S. Shipton, Treasurer, Chief Administrative Officer – M. Simpson*

**East Central 911 Call Answer Society:** *G. Glazier, S. Schulmeister*

**Fleet Community Association Committee:** *D. Norton*

**Halkirk & District Recreation Board:** *T. Vockeroth*

**Paintearth & Neutral Hills Family – Community Connection:** *D. Elliott*

**Paintearth Community Adult Learning Council:** *D. Elliott*

**Paintearth Economic Partnership Society (PEPS):** *D. Elliott, G. Glazier, S. Schulmeister, T. Vockeroth (Alternate), Treasurer, Chief Administrative Officer – M. Simpson*

**Paintearth Regional Waste Management Ltd. (PRWM):** *S. Shipton, M. Wiart, Secretary Treasurer, Chief Administrative Officer – M. Simpson*

**Palliser Regional Municipal Services Board:** *D. Norton, G. Glazier (Alternate)*

**Parkland Regional Library Board:** *S. Shipton, D. Elliott (Alternate)*

**Regional Subdivision & Development Appeal Board Members:** *D. Norton, T. Vockeroth, (Vacant X2 Member at Large to be filled)*

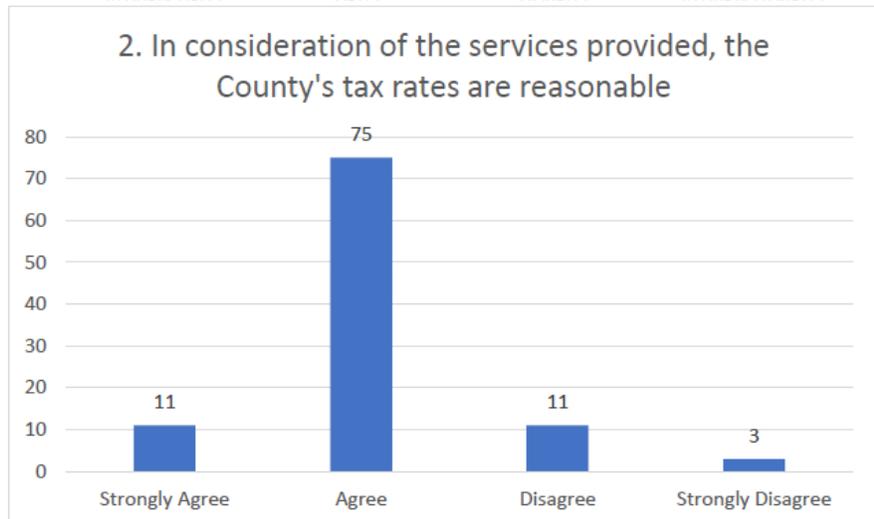
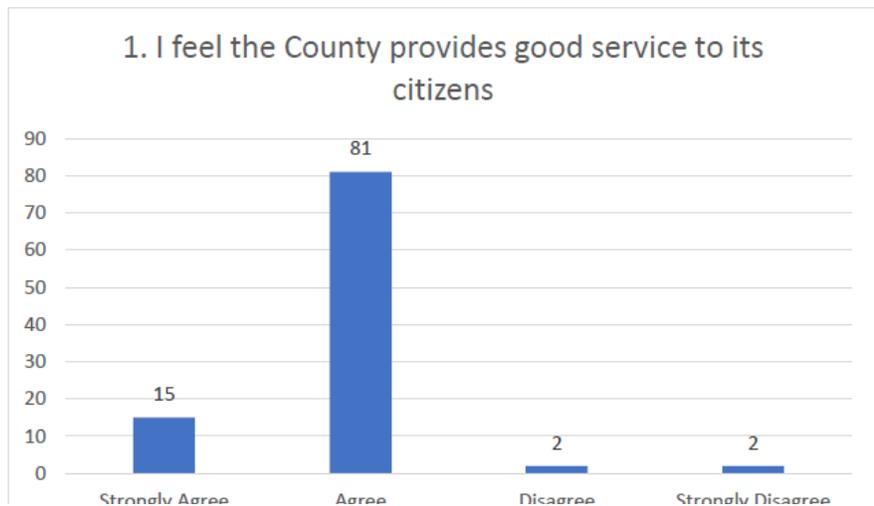
**Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission (SMRWSC):** *T. Vockeroth, M. Wiart (Alternate)*

**Veterans Memorial Highway Association:** *D. Norton, D. Elliott (Alternate)*

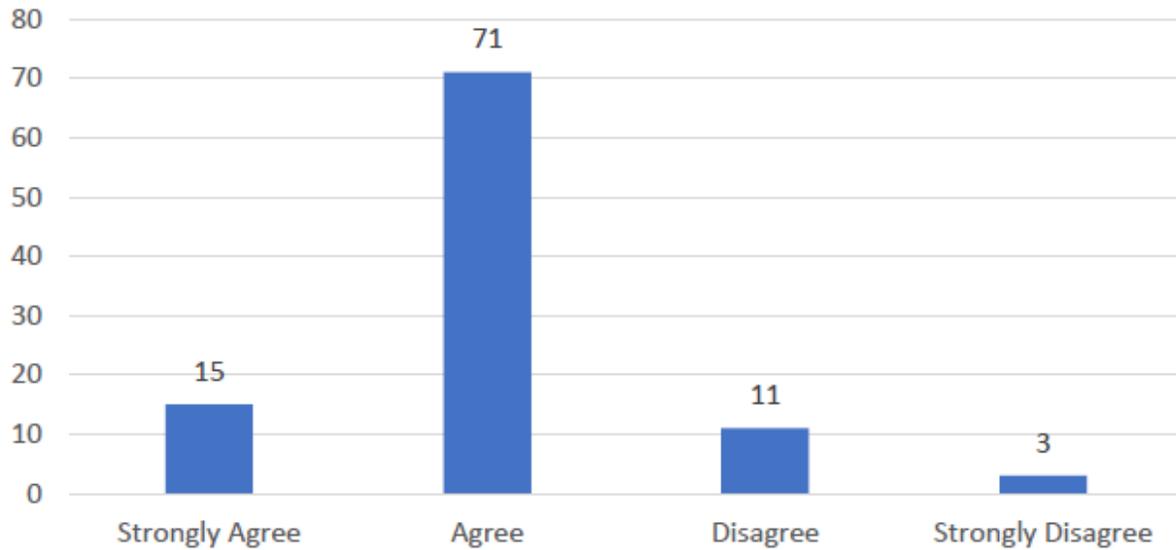
**Waste Connections of Canada Landfill Liaison Committee:** *G. Glazier*

## COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH SURVEY

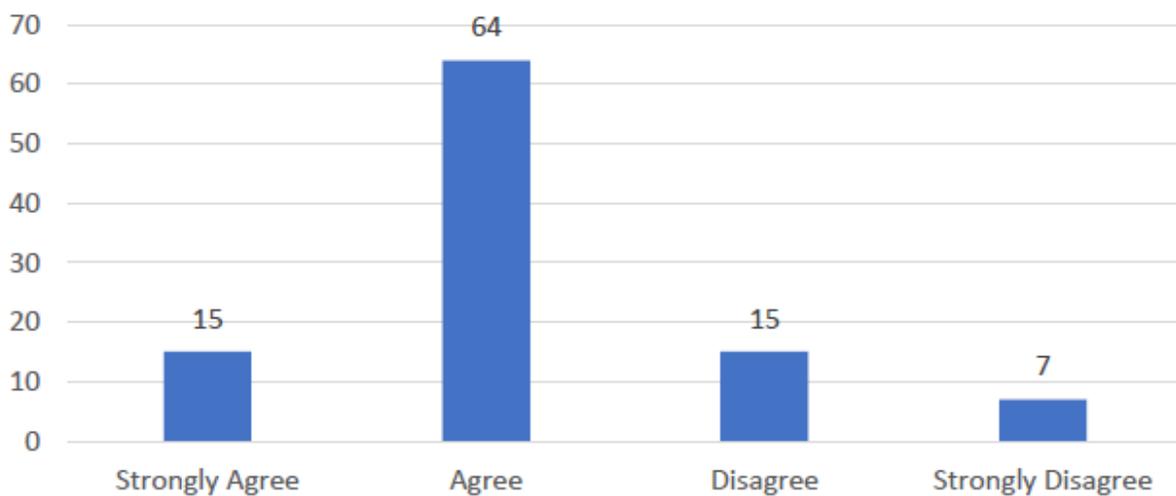
The County of Paintearth conducted a municipal survey in January 2022. There were 651 surveys distributed, having received 289 survey responses, the response rate was 44%. Throughout the 2022 Annual Report are the community's responses to the same, highlighting key findings as the responses relate to department services.



22. I believe that the County Council is making decisions in the best interests of the community



25. I believe County Council operates in a transparent manner when discussing County business (% responses)



Survey results indicate a positive trend of agreement that County Council is making decisions in the best interest of the community and, that the County operates in a transparent manner when discussing County business to community members.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

**Michael Simpson** | Chief Administrative Officer  
Phone: 403-882-3211



Thank you all for taking the time to review the County’s annual report, we hope that it helps paint a broader picture of the type of services provided and the costs for doing so. I am proud of the organization Council has built, and proud to serve residents in the Paintearth region. 2023 brings us closer to realizing the construction phase of some major projects that Council, through their vision and strategic planning sessions, have supported and helped administration to develop.

Paintearth has been working closely with higher levels of government on areas of service delivery including broadband, expanded utility services, economic development, and alternative revenue streams that can be directed back towards ratepayers’ benefit, and maintaining control of costs to provide services during a time when costs have escalated across the province for all municipalities. I can say with certainty that we have the best people working in the region to provide safe, affordable services to enhance everyone’s quality of life.

In the remaining years of this Council’s term, Paintearth County stands poised to break ahead of the pack in terms of bringing great ideas to a state of action. As we pass the 1-year mark since the end of the pandemic, staff have been glad to see the return of community members to the front desk, and look forward to interacting with the public during Council-led events such as this years’ upcoming Ratepayer pancake brunch at the County Administration building. It has not been a year without excitement, but it’s been humbling to watch the team work together to get through challenges and come out stronger than before.

Thank you for calling Paintearth home, and for making it feel like home.



# A BRIEF HISTORY:

The County of Paintearth was first known as ID No. 19-J-4.

In 1913 – the ID name changed to Local Improvement District No. 365.

In 1919 the name changed to the M.D. of Progress No. 365, retaining the same until 1944.

In 1944 – the M.D. of Paintearth was organized by uniting the following:

- M.D. Progress
- M.D. Stocks (formed in 1916)
- M.D. Coronation (formed in 1915)
- M.D. Dublin (formed in 1906)
- M.D. Sullivan (formed in 1913)

In 1962 – Municipal District of Paintearth and Castor School District were united to form the County of Paintearth No. 18, which contained forty-five (45) townships.

In 1994 – the Provincial Government amalgamated several school districts, including the County of Paintearth School Board with the Clearview Regional Division No. 24 (now known as Clearview School Division No. 71).

The County of Paintearth is a municipality with rich character and historical depth. The community leans into its heritage by celebrating and recognizing those who pioneered the region. The robust mindset of progress is still visible on the landscape today, comprised of elements that are each a nod to the past, present and future.

Deep rural values support the community's quality of life, as can be seen in the many progressive projects undertaken by the County of Paintearth.



# MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Please be advised that the County of Paintearth Municipal Office is open Monday to Friday, excepting Statutory Holidays, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (closed from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch).

## Municipal Office Contact Information:

Office: #1 Crowfoot Crossing, TR 374 & Hwy 12  
Mailing Address: Box 509, Castor, Alberta, T0C 0X0

Phone: 403-882-3211  
Fax: 403-882-3560

Municipal website: [www.paintearth.ca](http://www.paintearth.ca)

## Emergency Contact Information:

Public Works Emergencies: Bryce Cooke 403-740-6311  
Utility Emergencies: Mitch Elhard 403-740-4952

# CORPORATE SERVICES

**Lana Roth** | Assistant Chief Administrative Officer  
Phone: 403-882-3211

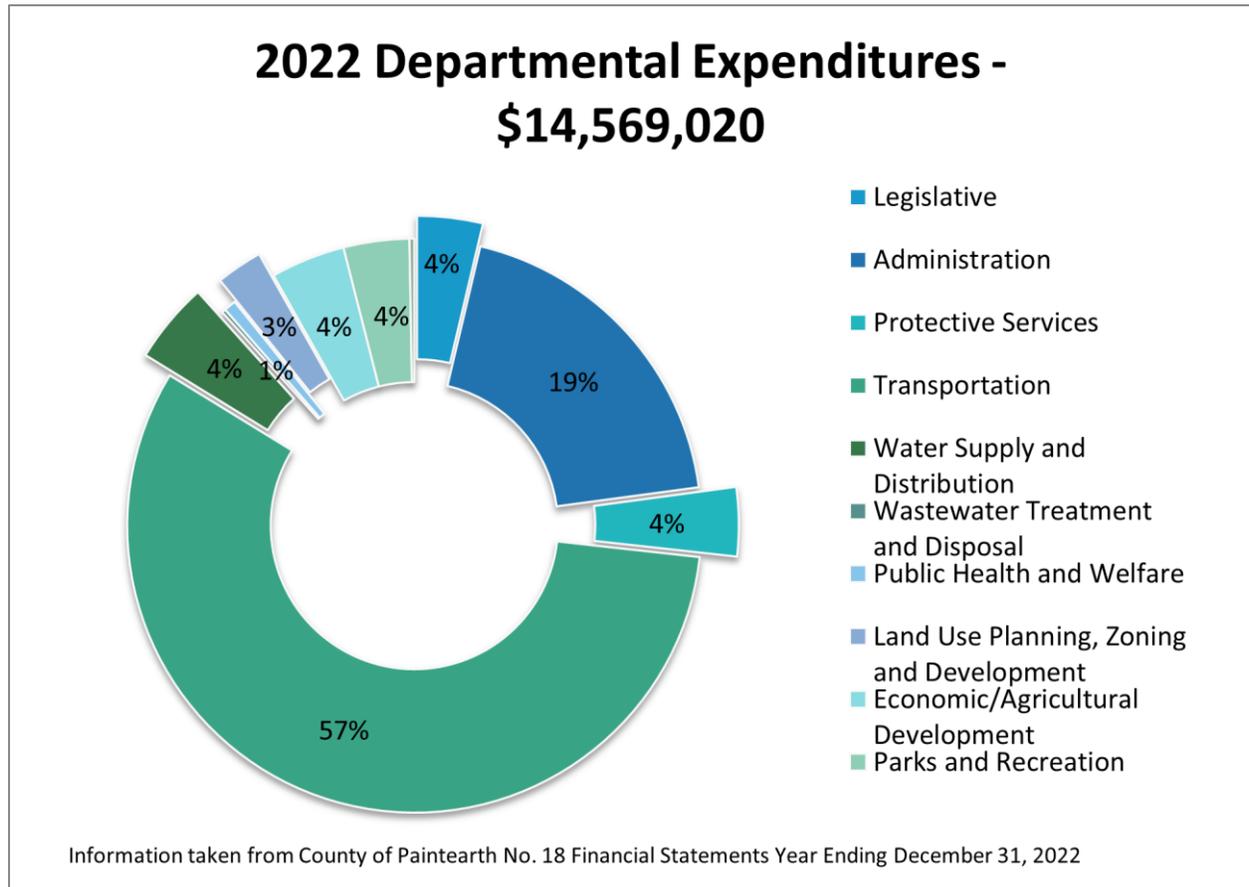
The Corporate Services department is responsible for the overall management of the financial affairs of the County. This includes assessment, property taxes, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, capital project financing and tracking, grant applications and reporting, utilities billings, IT management, GIS/GPS, and other general administrative functions.

The department is responsible for accounting and financial reporting services with the annual audited financial statements as well as other interim reporting.

The 2022 Financial Statement is available to the public and can be obtained on the County’s website [www.countypaintearth.ca](http://www.countypaintearth.ca) or by contacting the Municipal Office at 403-882-3211.



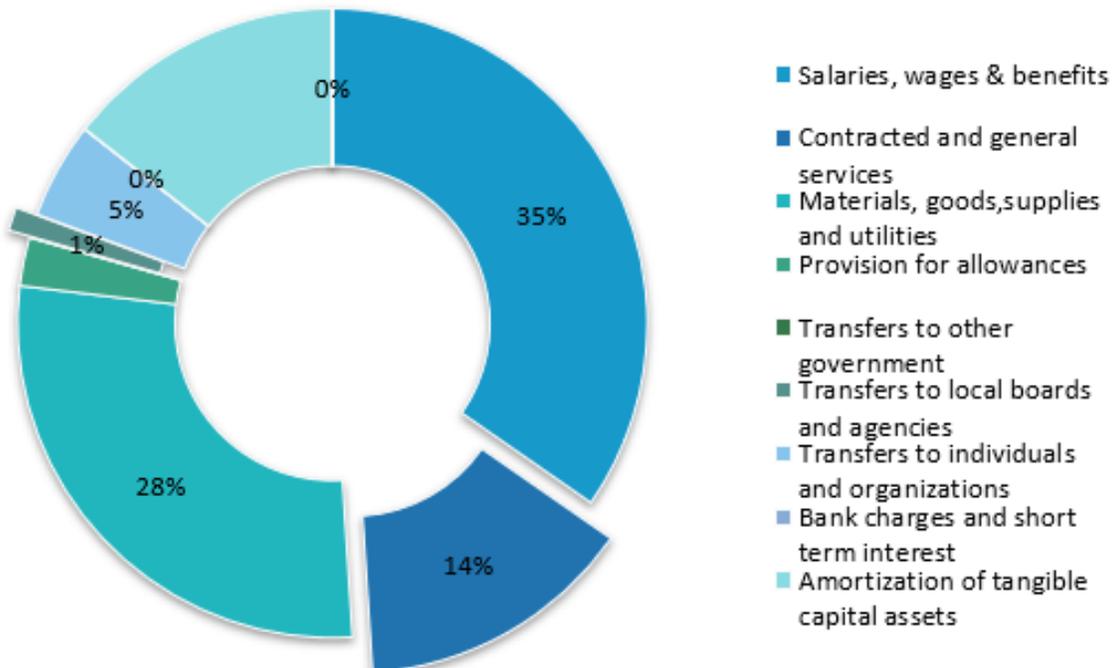
The following pages provide an overview of 2022 Departmental Expenditures, Expenditures by Object, Revenues and Property Tax Revenue and Allocations.



EXPENDITURES	2022 Budget	2022	2021
Legislative	\$555,200.00	\$538,143.00	\$284,605.00
Administration	\$1,981,535.00	\$2,792,956.00	\$2,894,609.00
Protective Services	\$630,745.00	\$566,166.00	\$560,832.00
Transportation	\$10,008,923.00	\$8,307,360.00	\$7,296,354.00
Water Supply and Distribution	\$702,900.00	\$664,970.00	\$666,201.00
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal	\$41,575.00	\$31,997.00	\$28,372.00
Public Health and Welfare	\$102,000.00	\$98,708.00	\$98,708.00
Land Use Planning, Zoning and Development	\$459,888.00	\$380,052.00	\$380,972.00
Economic/Agricultural Development	\$694,450.00	\$610,016.00	\$683,229.00
Parks and Recreation	\$606,200.00	\$539,001.00	\$363,711.00
Culture	\$41,000.00	\$39,651.00	\$38,389.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$15,824,416.00</b>	<b>\$14,569,020.00</b>	<b>\$13,295,982.00</b>



## 2022 Expenditures by Object - \$14,569,020

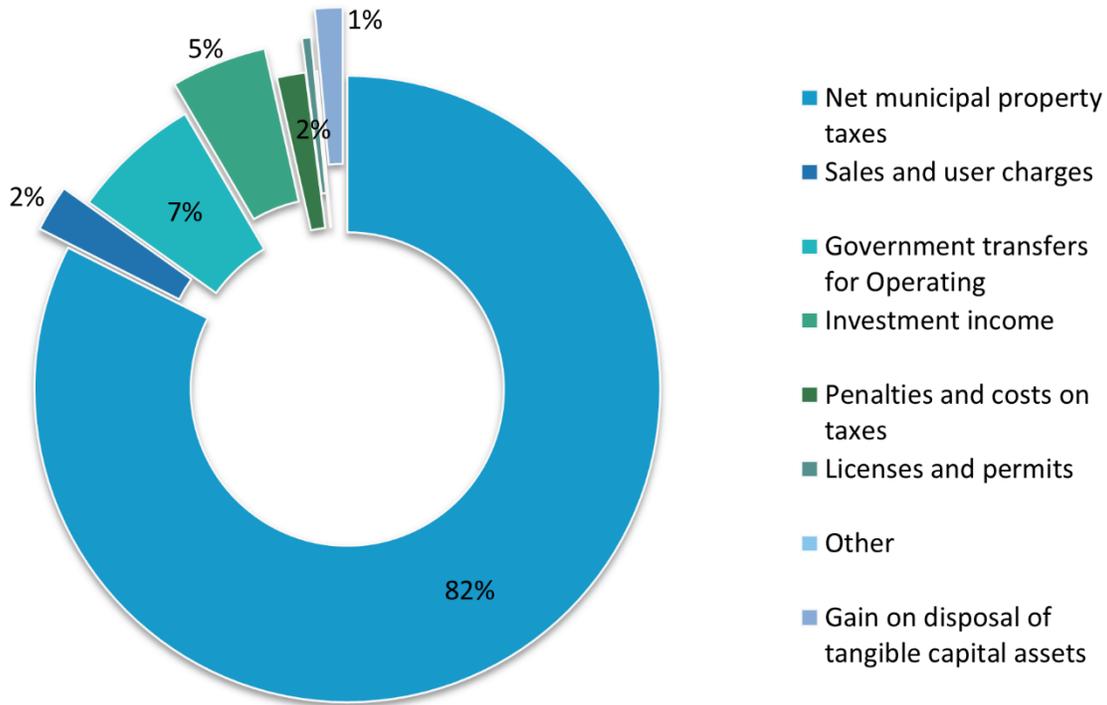


Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2022

EXPENDITURES	2022 Budget	2022	2021
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$5,767,302.00	\$5,051,056.00	\$4,980,510.00
Contracted and general services	\$1,958,099.00	\$2,085,366.00	\$2,048,150.00
Materials, goods, supplies and utilities	\$4,480,040.00	\$4,067,368.00	\$2,704,555.00
Provision for allowances	\$101,500.00	\$362,904.00	\$294,658.00
Transfers to other government	\$2,300.00	\$2,616.00	\$2,532.00
Transfers to local boards and agencies	\$194,000.00	\$176,147.00	\$179,078.00
Transfers to individuals and organizations	\$788,900.00	\$722,152.00	\$557,474.00
Bank charges and short term interest	\$11,900.00	\$3,876.00	\$2,902.00
Amortization of tangible capital assets	\$2,459,375.00	\$2,097,535.00	\$2,163,345.00
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	\$61,000.00	\$0.00	\$362,778.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$15,824,416.00</b>	<b>\$14,569,020.00</b>	<b>\$13,295,982.00</b>



## 2022 Revenues - \$15,959,962

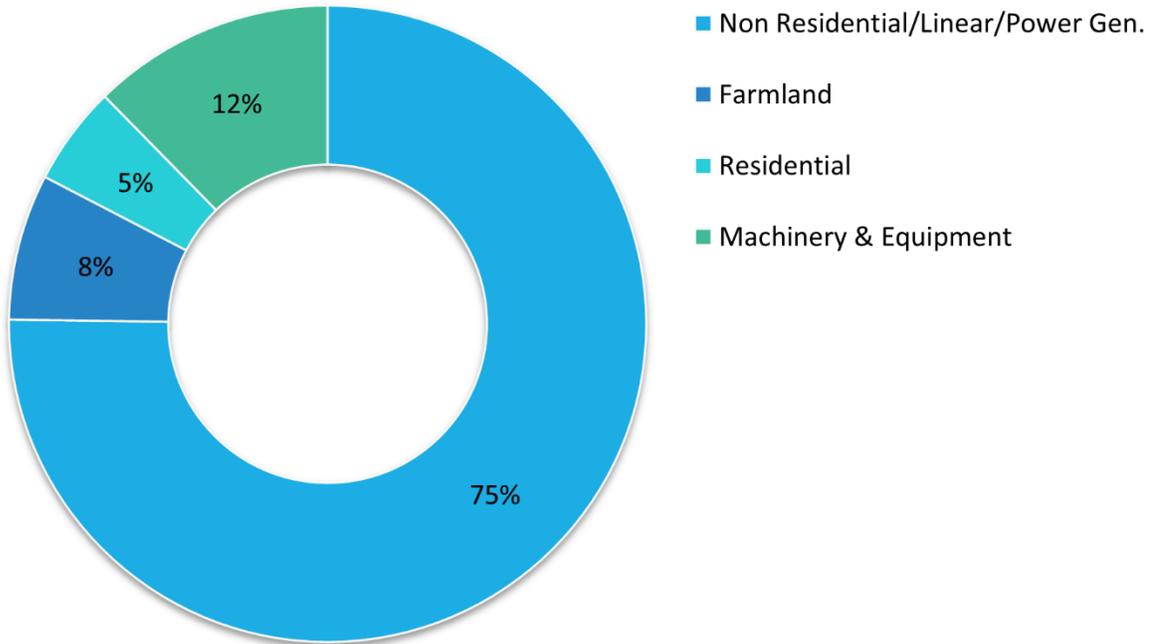


Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2022

REVENUE	2022 Budget	2022	2021
Net municipal property taxes	\$12,878,655.00	\$13,159,290.00	\$13,849,845.00
Sales and user charges	\$526,323.00	\$383,053.00	\$447,170.00
Government transfers for Operating	\$343,907.00	\$1,068,011.00	\$1,220,767.00
Investment income	\$260,000.00	\$789,960.00	\$216,867.00
Penalties and costs on taxes	\$125,000.00	\$237,012.00	\$359,535.00
Licenses and permits	\$22,000.00	\$74,786.00	\$20,943.00
Other	\$19,200.00	\$19,672.00	\$22,615.00
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	\$10,000.00	\$228,178.00	\$460,326.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$14,185,085.00</b>	<b>\$15,959,962.00</b>	<b>\$16,598,068.00</b>

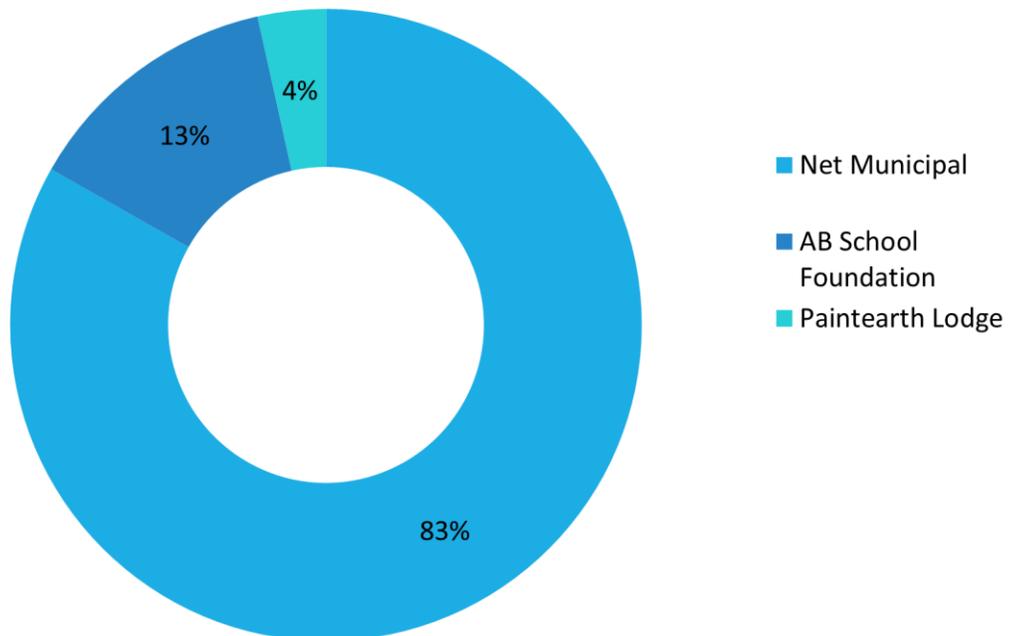


## 2022 Property Tax Revenue

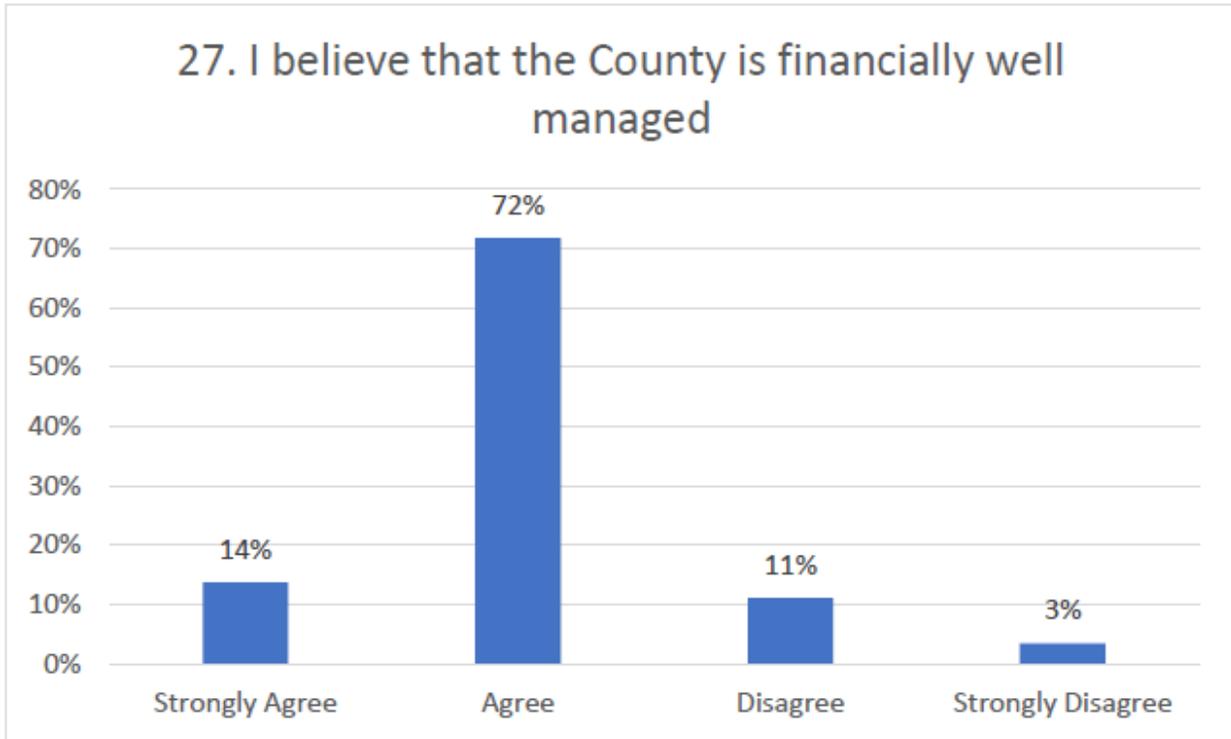


Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Bylaw No.708-22

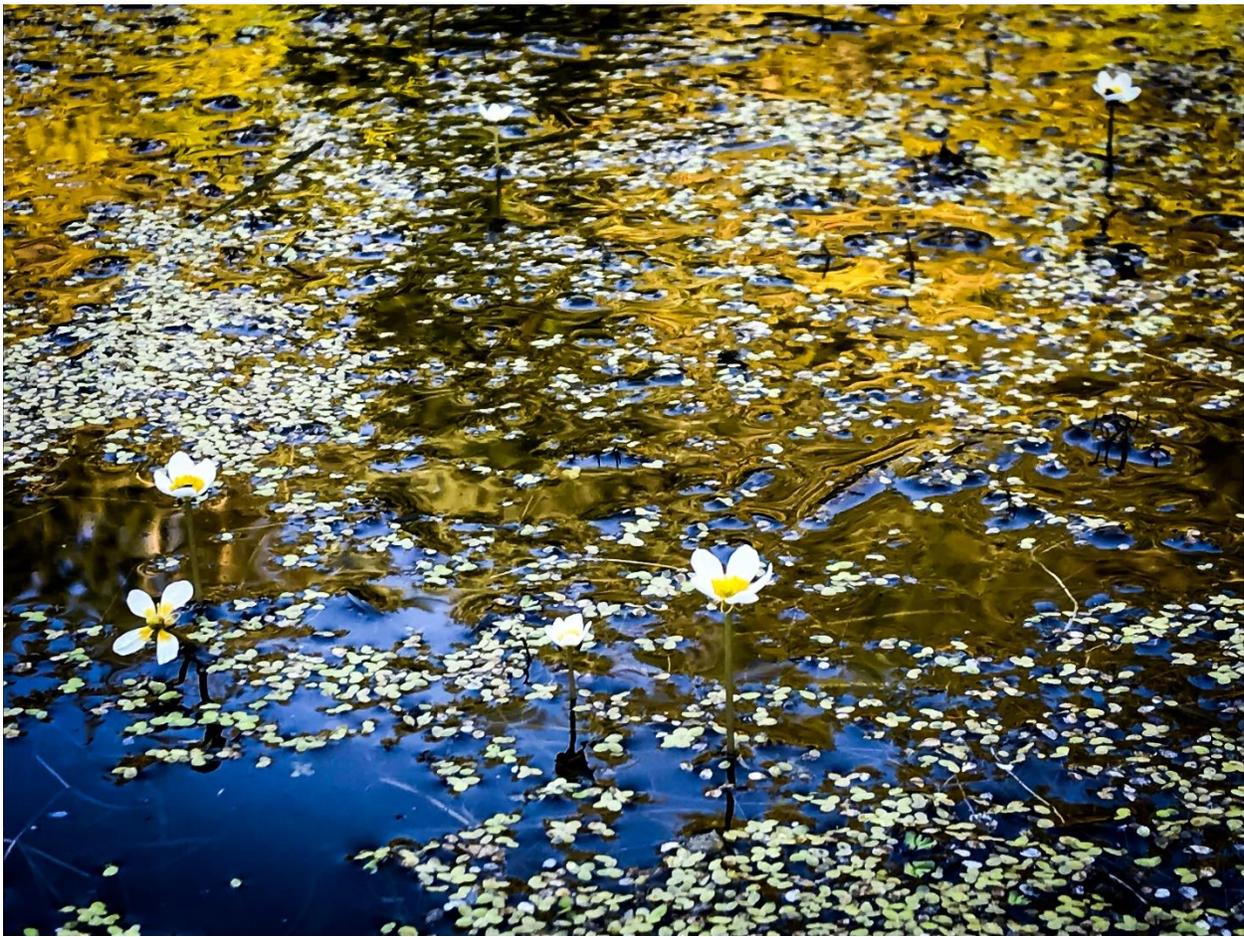
## 2022 Allocation of Property Taxes



Information taken from County of Paintearth No. 18 Financial Statements Year Ending December 31, 2022



Survey results indicate a positive trend of agreement that both County is financially well managed to community members.



# COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER



Please be advised that as of January 1, 2023, the County of Paintearth is no longer involved with the provincial Peace Officer Program, having notified the Program Director of the same.

Colm Fitz-Gerald #15652 was a Level 2 Designated Peace Officer in 2022. His new designation, effective January 1, 2023, is Community Bylaw Officer.

The nature of duties performed by Officer Fitz-Gerald include, but are not limited to, administration and enforcement of county bylaws, consultation duties with RCMP and other County groups. Education was the main focus and continues to be with the major oil companies, energy companies and local landowners with regards to use of county roads, among other areas.

Both the economic slowdown and post-covid transition could be felt in the early part of the year, which reduced the amount of road permits in the County. However, County road use was still active. Late-spring brought a brighter economic upswing which brought an increase in Road Permits, largely due to the Paintearth Garden Plain Wind Projects. This in turn required the continued pre-and-post patrol of roads. Officer Fitz-Gerald continues to work with the RCMP, Commercial Enforcement and local Fire Departments. Officer Fitz-Gerald was also an intricate part of the set up for the Paintearth Windmill Project which began groundwork in October. There were 700 road permits issued last year. As of October 1, 2022, the County's permit fee increased from \$14.50 to \$21.00.

Officer Fitz-Gerald is also in charge of running the County's fire permit program and is tasked with monitoring and upgrading the bylaws, including enforcement. There were 127 fire permits issued in 2022.

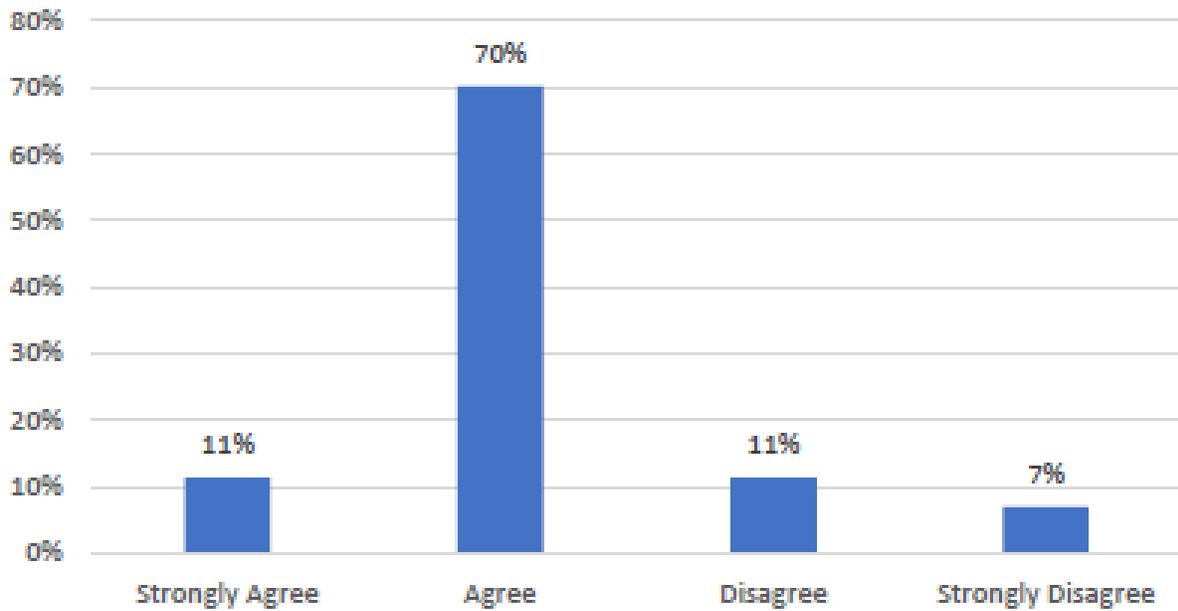
Also, there were twenty-two (22) files in 2022. The files included Road Use Agreements (RUAs), fire calls, bylaw files, assist files with RCMP and other files.

Officer Fitz-Gerald is also part of the Emergency Management Team in Planning being a trained Incident Commander, as well as Peace/Bylaw Officer duties. He also assists other departments in the scope of his duties.

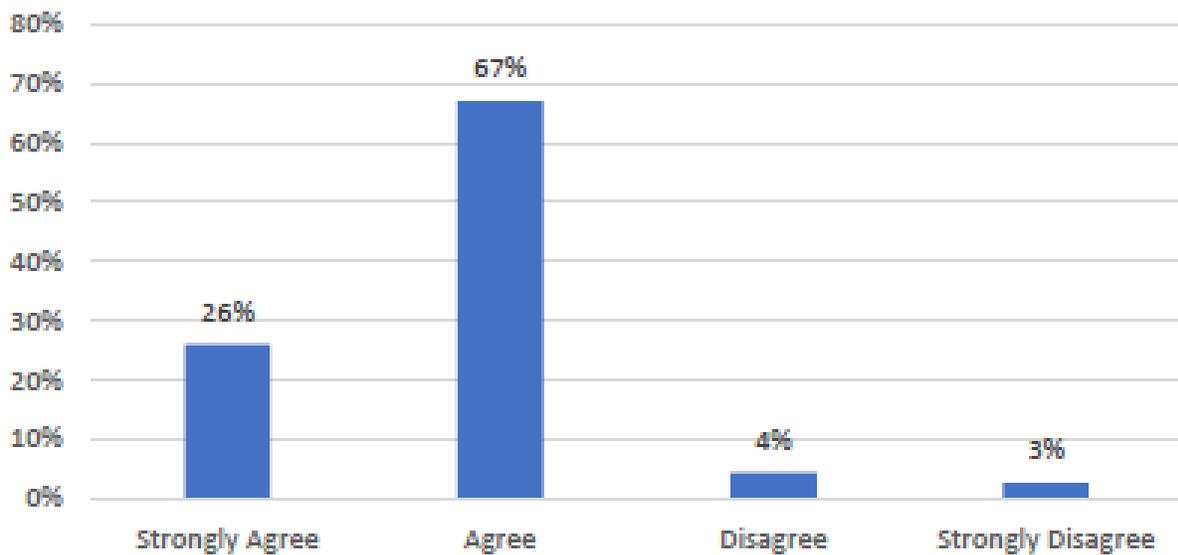
2023 will be a busy year with the completion of the Garden Plain (Trans Alta) Windmill Project, the continuation of the Paintearth (Potentia) Windmill Project and the commencement of the Halkirk II Windmill Project. Potentially, the County may see solar projects as well.

**Colm Fitz-Gerald** | Community Bylaw Officer  
Office: 403-882-3211  
Work Cell: 403-740-2997

### 37. Municipal Bylaw services are satisfactory



### 38. Fire protection services provided by the County of Paintearth are satisfactory



Survey results indicate a positive trend of agreement that both County Municipal Bylaw Services and, Fire Protection Services are satisfactory to members of the community.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Todd Pawsey** | Director of Community Services  
 Phone: 403-882-3211



## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Development Permit fees, applications and related forms can be found on the County website by visiting [www.paintearth.ca](http://www.paintearth.ca). The Director of Community Services is available for questions, inquiries, and is willing to assist/guide all community members through the subdivision or development permit process.

2022 started off where 2021 had indicated, having increased industrial development within the County. The Garden Plain Wind Project started construction. Also, the Paintearth Wind Project was permitted and started in the fall. A number of other developments are outlined below.

**Permits:** Through the development permit process, the County of Paintearth safeguards and ensures its community members a safe and effective building and planning process for all developments, buildings, and subdivisions. A comparison of 2022 activity levels against the previous year is found below.

Development Permits	2022	Value	2021	Value
Residential Homes (including mobile)	5	\$ 1,540,000	11	\$ 3,762,000
Residential – accessory, additions	3	\$ 257,000	6	\$ 365,000
Agricultural uses	8	\$ 0	3	\$ 256,000
Industrial/Commercial	40	\$ 190,110,000	16	\$ 70,100,000
Recreational, Home Occupation	1	\$ 0		
Totals:	57	\$ 191,907,000	36	\$ 74,483,000

2022 signaled an uptake in developments as major industrial projects commenced, thereby increasing the County assessment. The same trend is the anticipated norm for the next few upcoming years. Heartland Generation’s announcement of hydrogen developments, at the power generation plant at the Battle River, also signify serious development potential for the County.

**Subdivisions:** There were seven (7) subdivision applications initiated in 2022, having each approved by the end of the year. However, continual delays at the Alberta Land Titles offices have proved troublesome with only four (4) being completed and newly titled. Most subdivisions now take approximately six (6+) or more months to complete, and costs range between three-to-five thousand dollars (\$3-5,000.00). Septic systems regulations are still the subdivision size limiting factor, as open discharges require a ninety (90) metre

setback to all property lines, thus making the common acreage about ten (10) acres or more. The County strongly recommends an initial discussion or review with staff prior to application. The review is to aid a smooth process and help avoid any obstacles or issues that may arise.

**Palliser Regional Municipal Services (PRMS):** PMRS is the agency responsible for all planning and subdivision review within the County. PRMS also handles all safety codes permits and applications for building, electrical, gas, plumbing and private sewage disposal. For more information detailing the development and safety code requirements of your project, please contact the Director of Community Services at the office or visit [www.palliserservices.ca](http://www.palliserservices.ca).

**Municipal Planning Commission (MPC):** The County's Municipal Planning Commission presides over all discretionary or sensitive development permits and subdivision requests. In 2022, the MPC was comprised of Councillor Diane Elliott (Chair), Councillor George Glazier, Deputy Reeve Maurice Wiat and Reeve Stan Schulmeister.

**Fleet Development:** The Fleet Development is complete and the new acre lots are available for sale. Further information regarding the Fleet lots may be obtained by viewing the County's website [www.paintearth.ca](http://www.paintearth.ca) or by contacting the Director of Community Services at 403-882-3211.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

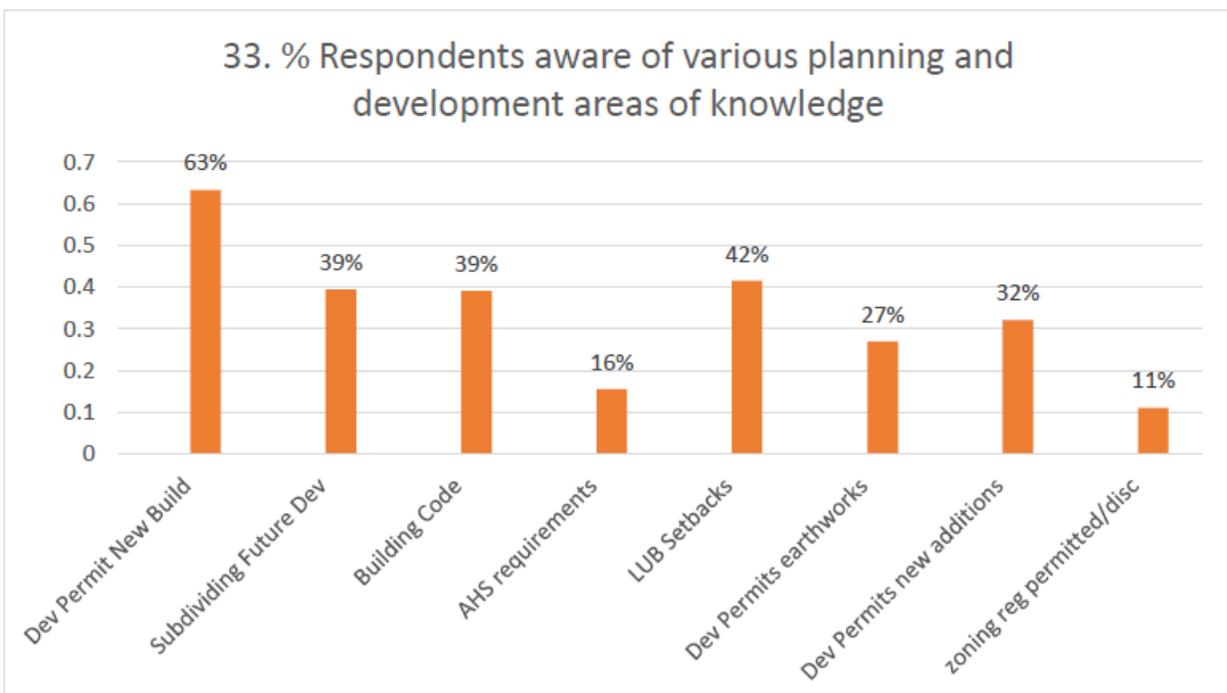
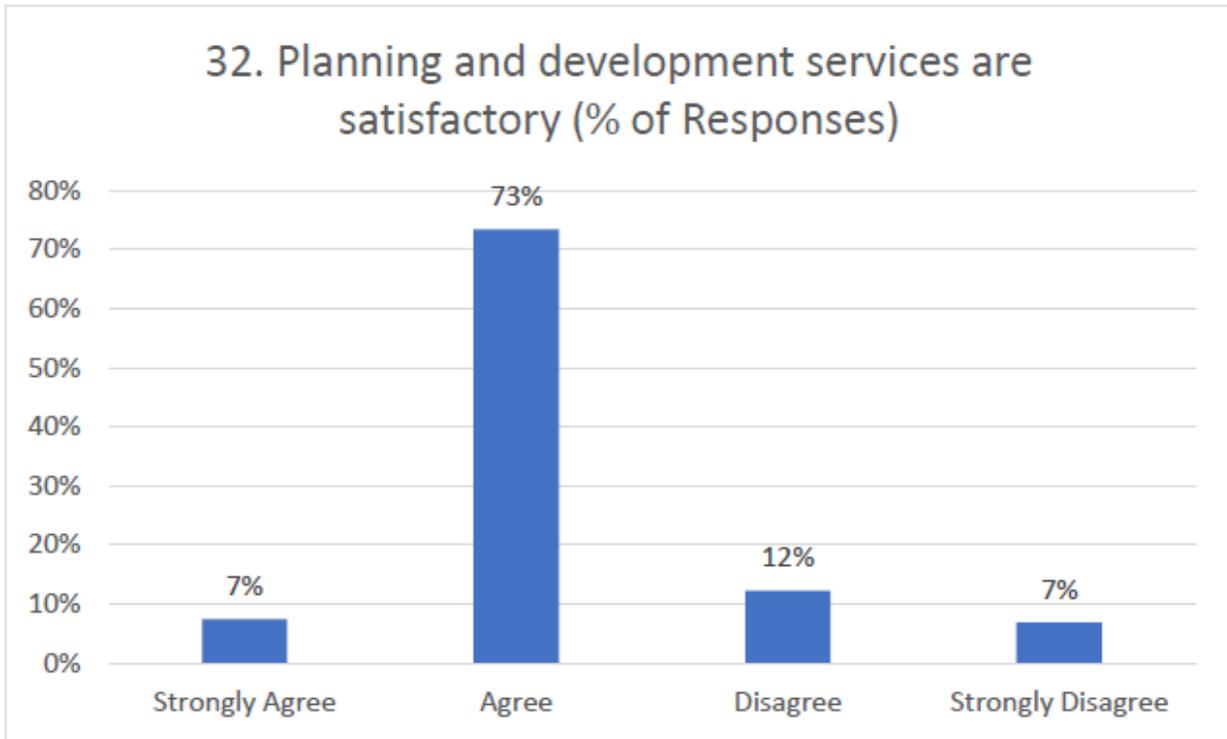
The County continues to work on agricultural value-added projects such as reviewing possibilities in the plant protein processing industry, as well as featuring developments at the Crowfoot Crossing Industrial Park. The County has promoted Crowfoot Crossing to hospitality planners, food and beverage industry representatives and continue to market [Crowfootcrossing.ca](http://Crowfootcrossing.ca) as the information becomes available about the individual lots and, traffic and development stats. The County is also working with additional renewable energy projects that will aid in employment and job creation. Also commenced in 2022 were projects involving broadband, solar generation, and the exploration of increasing water distribution in the County.

## INDUSTRY

In terms of new projects, 2022 was a better year for the Oil and Gas industry in the County. There were thirty-four (34) industry projects requiring access to the County's road network, compared to only six (6) in 2021. Six (6) new pipeline crossings, from both industry and the local gas utility, were provided. Seventeen (17) electrical projects occurred, being either new services or upgrades/salvages. Further, new activity included thirty-seven (37) new projects involving either additional or new wells, pipeline projects or asset upgrades to same.

There continue to be plenty of clean-up and reclamation efforts happening across the region. 2022 continued the trend of industry reclamation, having twenty-two (22) site rehabilitation or reclamations certificates issued, another fifty-eight (58) well sites

abandoned, and seventy-two (72) pipeline abandonments within the County. There appears to be continued efforts to clean up old non-producing assets and removing the same from industry books.



Survey results indicate a positive trend of agreement that the County's Planning and Development Services are satisfactory to members of the community.

## DISASTER SERVICES & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Pandemic restrictions remained in effect for the beginning of 2022. Fortunately, the community saw low case counts of COVID. With the release of restrictions, the community eased back into normal routine. The County continues to update its emergency preparedness in light of pandemic plans, and its ability to coordinate responses in the Emergency Operations Center.

The largest emergency threat in the County is wildfires during the dry grass season. The County encourages all residents to be vigilant to the use of fires and when so allowed. The County features the FireSmart Program, having information on the same available on the County's website [www.paintearth.ca](http://www.paintearth.ca), and encourages all community members to review their properties for fire risk.

Lastly, winter brought periods of prolonged cold temperatures. The County reminds community members to be prepared with household supplies for up to 72-hours and to have alternative plans in event of power outages, snowed in roads, or other Alberta winter weather conditions.

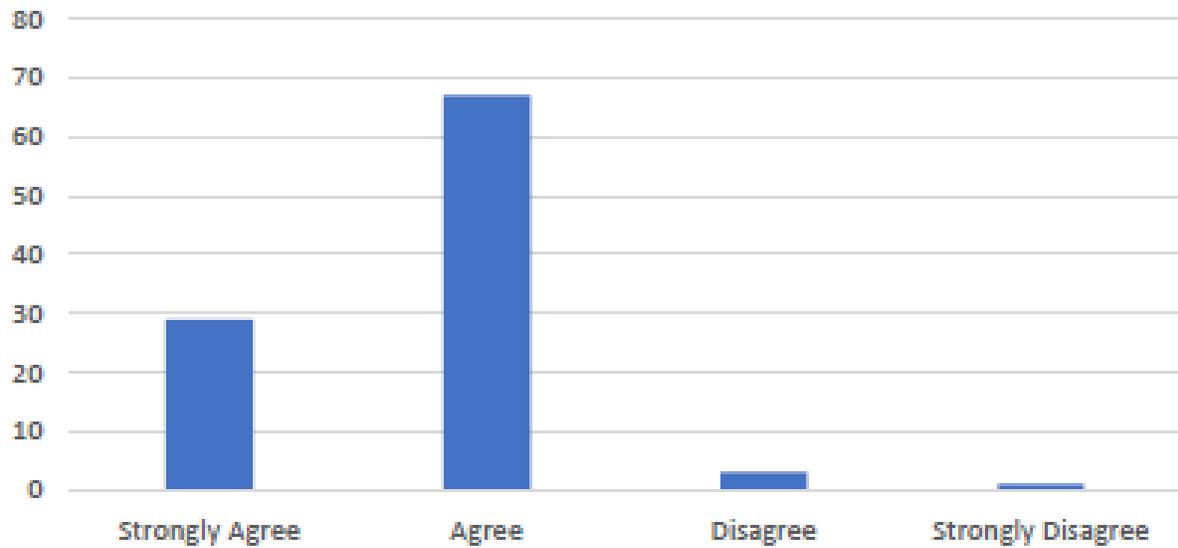
## PARKS AND RECREATION

In 2022, County campgrounds being Huber Dam Campground and Burma Park, had seasons that were relatively similar to previous years if not slightly higher in usage. Huber Dam Campground received additional trout stocking. The aerator seems to assist with oxygenation of the water which is increasing the vitality of the fish. Ball season was back in play at Burma Park. The new refurbished backstops with new chain-link mesh fencing, along with the refinished bleachers, should be a treat for fans in the seats! Both Huber Dam and Burma Park are operated by contract caretakers.

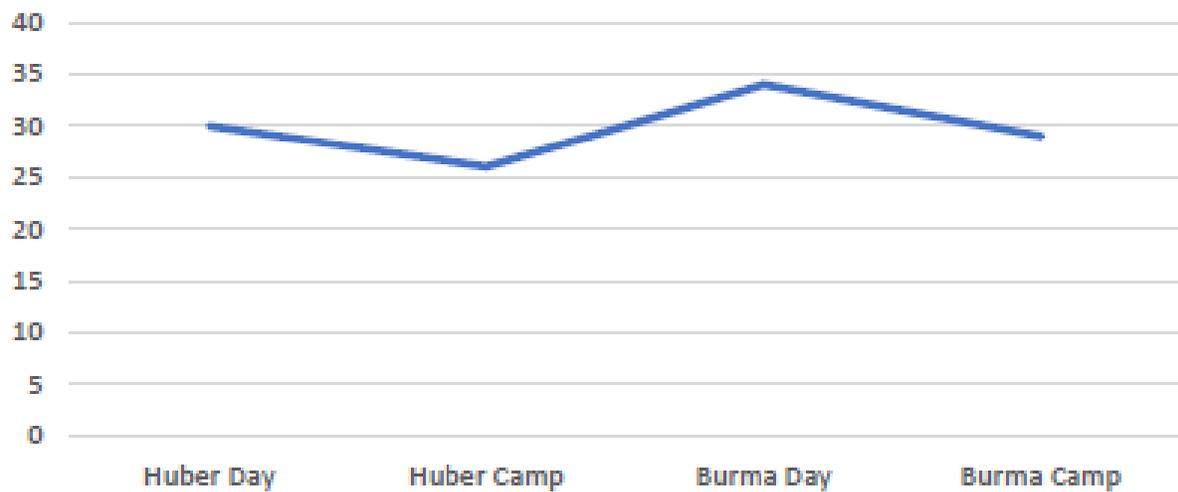
Valley Ski Hill was open for the 2021 – 2022 season, having many upgrades to the facility. The ski hill continues to offer local snow sport activities for all ages. The County congratulates the Valley Ski Hill as they celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the 2022-2023 winter season.



### 5. Camping facilities in the County are satisfactory (Huber, Burma)

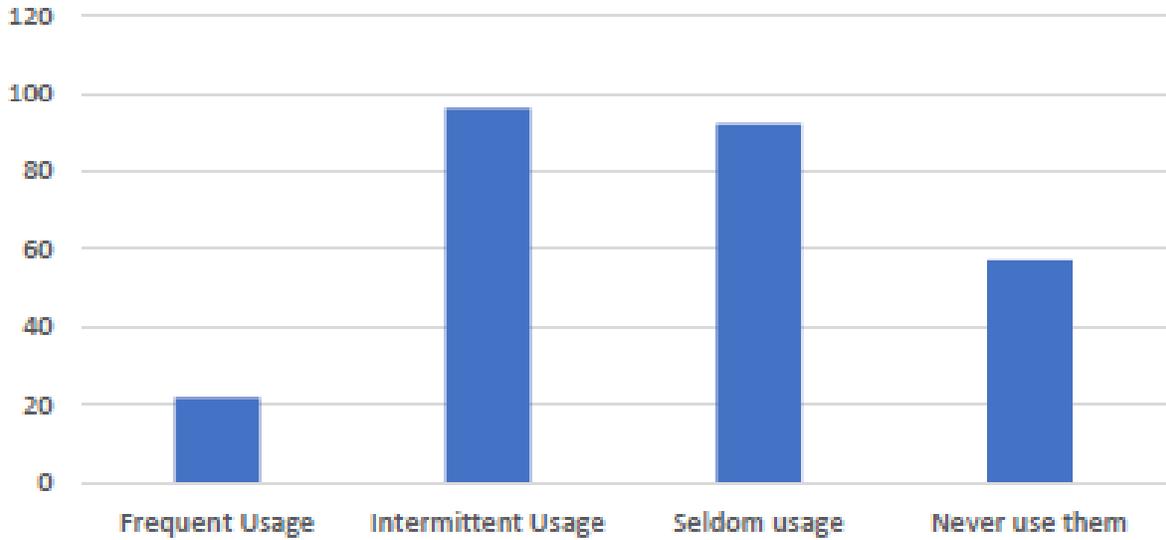


### 6. Which County outdoor facility do you make use of and type (Day or Camping) as % of total respondents

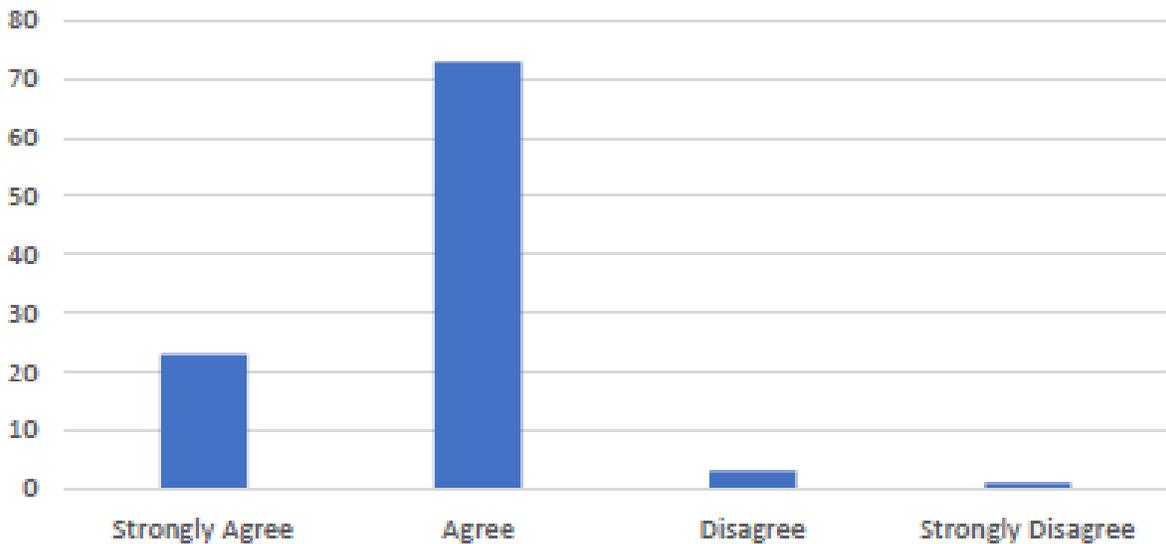


Survey results indicate a positive trend in the camping facilities provided to members of the community.

### 7. How often do you make use of County of Paintearth camping facilities



### 8. Community Halls within the County are satisfactory (Brownfield, Fleet, Talbot)



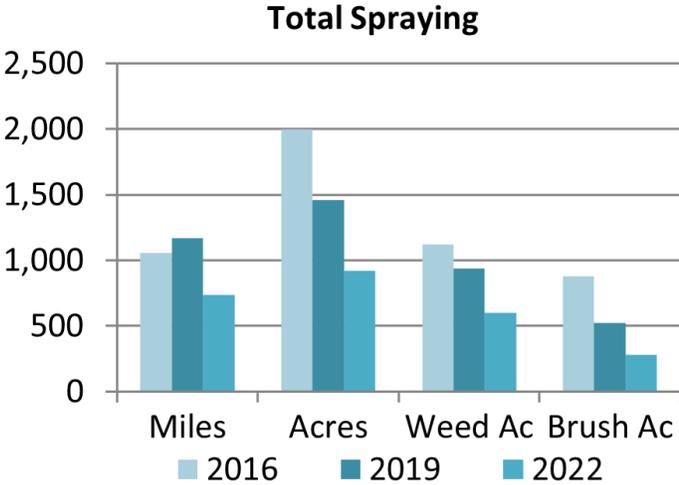
Survey results indicate a positive trend of agreement that the Community Halls within the County are satisfactory to members of the community.

# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

**Jeff Cosens** | Director of Environmental Services  
 Phone: 403-882-3211

## INDUSTRIAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

**Roadside Spraying:** Roadside spraying is completed in a three (3) year rotation. In 2022, the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) staff performed a partial blanket in Division 1 and, spot sprayed Division 7 and part of Division 6. 737.25 miles were sprayed across the entire County for a total of 921.50 acres. 65% of the spraying completed was for weed control. Approximately 78% of the right-of-way's were sprayed in the rotation. The total program cost was \$88,952.00 or \$96.50/acre.



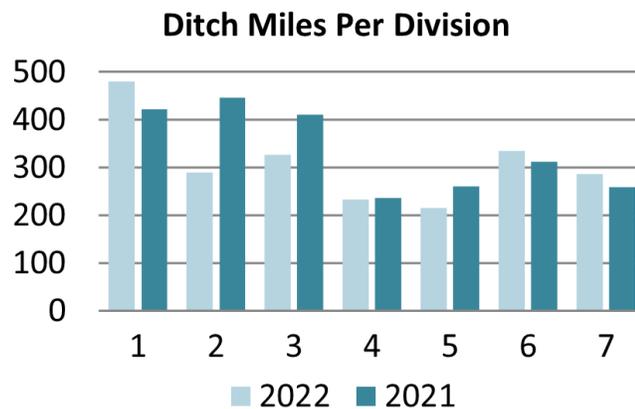
**Private Land Spraying:** The County provides custom spraying on private land for control of small patches of persistent prohibited noxious or noxious weeds. The ASB is equipped with a skid sprayer that fits in the back of truck, ATV sprayer and a UTV boomless sprayer. In 2022, the ASB sprayed for eight (8) landowners for 48.37 acres for the control of absinthe wormwood and white cockle mostly, but other noxious weeds were targeted. ASB staff also sprayed 30.5 acres of land the County is responsible for and 12-miles or 30.64 acres of the rail line for Paintearth Regional Waste Management.

**Weed Inspections:** Weed inspections have always been a part of ASB duties, however the department also relies on the public. If you are concerned or are aware of a weed problem, please contact the ASB staff by calling 403-882-3211. Alternatively, a community member can 'Report A Weed' under the Environmental Services portion of the County's website [www.paintearth.ca](http://www.paintearth.ca), or report the same utilizing EDDMaps, an app for mobile phones.



**Roadside Mowing:** In 2020, the Roadside Mowing Program changed from one 15-foot pass on every road to all gravel roads and the backroads that the ASB staff sprayed. The ASB staff tries to get a second pass on all pavement, however this is dependent on growing conditions.

The ASB staff completed 1,083 miles of road with 917.5 miles of gravel, 26.75 miles of pavement, and 138.75 miles of backroad. Staff started on July 18, 2022, and completed the same by September 15, 2022.



ASB staff picks rocks that have been identified and marked in the previous year. Please avoid piling rocks or any other objects (gates, etc.) in the ditch as they are sometimes not visible. Please be mindful that doing so poses a hazard.

Total program cost for mowing was \$108,352.00 or \$50.02/ditch mile. The rotary mowers are the preferred method as it allows for mowing of smaller brush, increased visibility, less grass on road surface, and lower risk of creating fires.

## CONSERVATION

**Tree Program:** In 2022, the ASB staff planted for one (1) individual. The County has always held this program in high priority and landowners who order two-hundred (200) or more trees can request assistance in the planting of the trees at no charge.

Please be advised that any resident or business can order trees. There are no longer restrictions on who can apply. Those who order trees are responsible for the cost as set by the nursery [www.treetime.ca](http://www.treetime.ca). The ASB will continue to help in the planning and design of tree shelterbelts and will provide assistance in the form of a tree planter and staff.

**Environmental Program Funding:** The Shelterbelt Rejuvenation Program, a separate program from the regular tree program mentioned above, was the main component of the ASB’s environmental programming for 2022. Having completed its first year of orders, twelve (12) landowners ordered a total of 3,200 trees. In conjunction, ASB staff were requested to assist in planting for one (1) landowner. The Shelterbelt Rejuvenation Program will continue in 2023.

On November 15, 2022, the ASB partnered with the Battle River Innovation Center to bring Michael Wetsch to Castor for a succession planning workshop. Approximately eighty (80) attendees heard about strategies to successfully plan for the future of their farm.

Lastly, four (4) ASB bulletins were published throughout the year, being distributed to over 1,100 mailboxes in the County.

## PEST CONTROL

**Coyote Predation Management:** The County recognizes that predation of livestock by coyotes can be a serious problem, which are a declared nuisance pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act*. Livestock producers can request assistance in the control of coyotes where predation is confirmed. ASB distributed poison to one (1) landowner for coyote predation in 2022.

**Surveys:** The ASB surveyed for Clubroot in 2022. Inspectors follow a protocol for proper biosecurity and sampling techniques before entering the land. Five (5) fields per division are surveyed at a minimum for each, for a total of thirty-five (35). They also sampled four (4) fields for blackleg at the request of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation while performing the clubroot surveying.

ASB staff conducts a grasshopper survey every year; and, in 2022 ASB staff surveyed thirty-six (36) fields and the numbers were still found to be at low levels but increasing compared to past surveys. The 2022 survey presented low numbers again.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation also conducts insect surveys, which are summarized as follows:

“This report is good news all the way around for Paintearth producers! Pea leaf weevil damage was low in the survey done by Battle River Research Group (BRRG) conducted in late May – early June. No cabbage seedpod weevils were found in Paintearth, in fact there were no insects found in the canola sweeps at all! There was only 1 wheat midge cocoon in one of the soil samples taken by BRRG this fall, but as always it is a good idea for producers and agronomists to keep an eye on the situation in 2023 as the wheat heads out should seeding be delayed or wet conditions prevail.

The bertha armyworm trap did not go above the first warning level of 300.”

To learn more about the surveys please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-insect-pest-monitoring-network.aspx#surveyresults>

**Beaver Dam Removal:** The ASB Board recognizes that beaver dams need to be removed or breached periodically to protect, maintain, or construct infrastructure or to avoid the flooding of private and public land. The Director of Environmental Services is a licensed blaster and is available for the removal of beaver dams. Prior to the start of the blasting, the landholder must sign a Beaver Dam Blasting Agreement.



## 2022 ASB EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES AVAILABLE

### Rental Equipment Available

Backpack Sprayer	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Hand Broadcast Seeder	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Cattle Scale	\$40.00/half day or \$75.00/ full day
Hay Probes	No charge
Gallagher Tag Reader	\$250.00 Ref. Deposit

### Pest Control Products Available

Magpie Traps	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Skunk Traps	\$50.00 Ref. Deposit
Coyote Control Materials	No charge
Beaver Dam Removal	\$100 for 1 <sup>st</sup> dam and \$50 for each additional

### Vegetation Management

1. Private Land Spraying - \$80.00/hr plus the cost of the chemical per Litre applied at cost plus GST, where applicable, will be charged. One (1) follow-up treatment will be included in the initial call out fee if needed. Subsequent call outs will be charged at the discretion of the applicator.
2. Industry Spraying - \$135.00/hr and chemical cost, plus 10% and any GST applicable.
3. Weed Picking - \$40/hr plus GST.

### Tree Planting

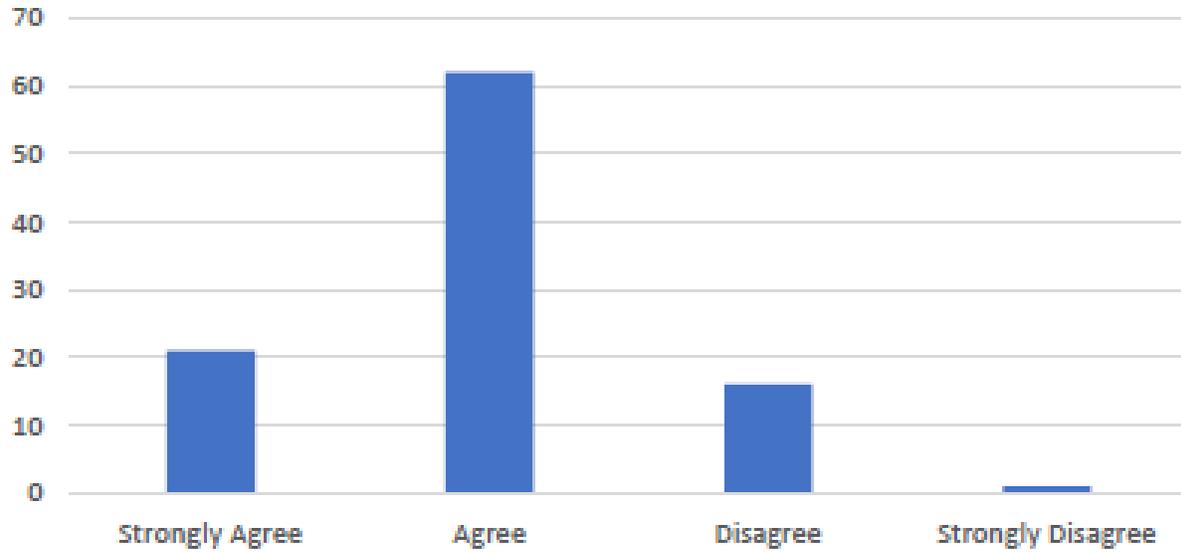
Both the tree planter and staff are provided free of charge for tree orders over 200. Shipping charges for the trees shall be paid for by the ASB. Plastic mulch will be available for sale to producers with a minimum purchase of a roll (1500’).

### Pesticide Container Sites

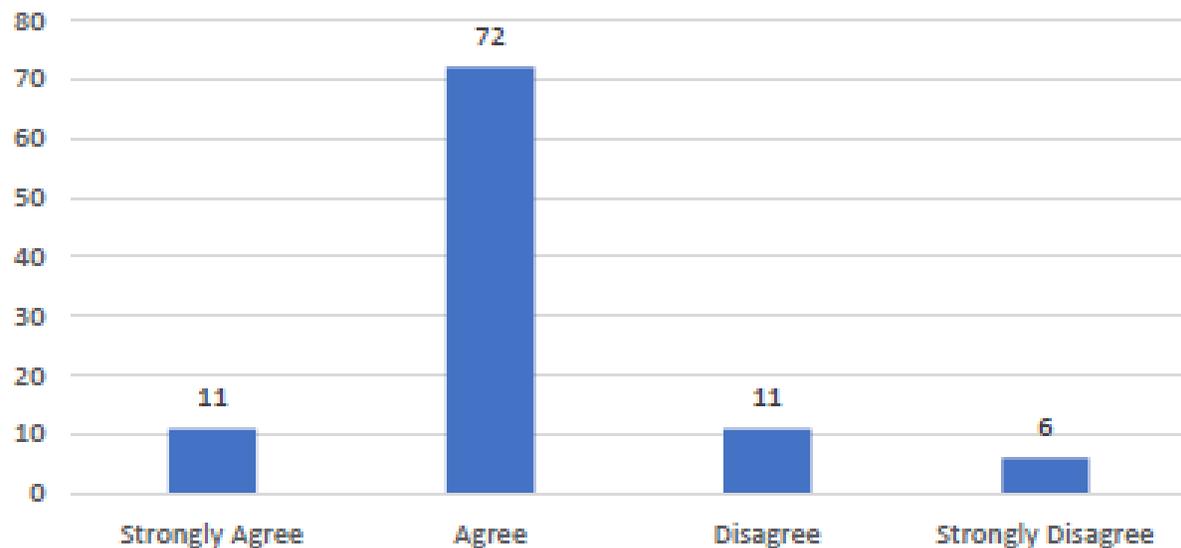
Castor Waste Transfer Site	SW 03-38-14 W4
Coronation Waste Management	SW 36-36-11 W4



### 14. Agricultural Service Board programs provided by the County are satisfactory

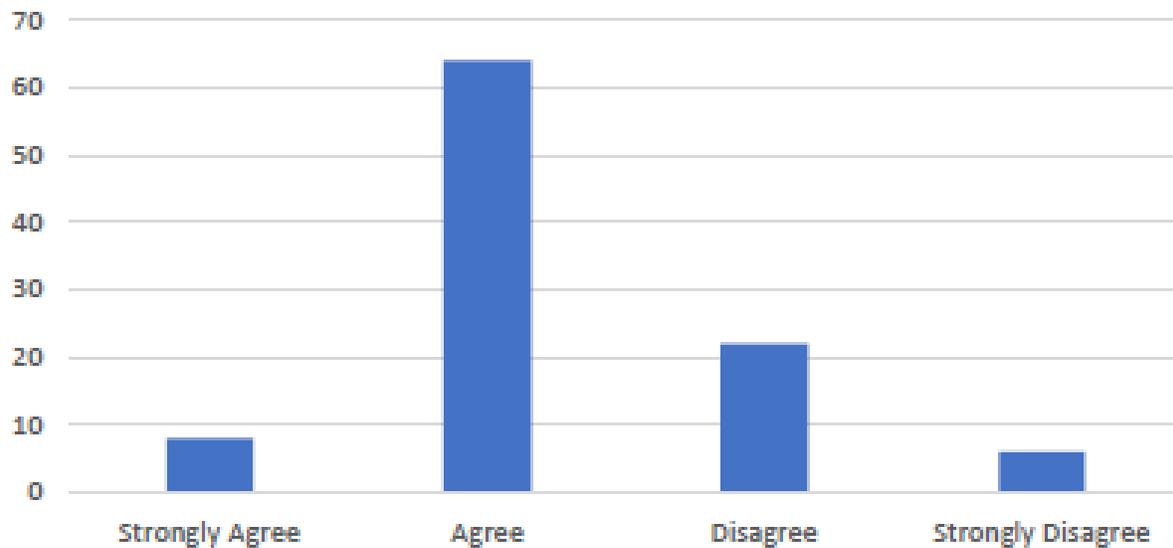


### 11. Utility services provided by the County are satisfactory

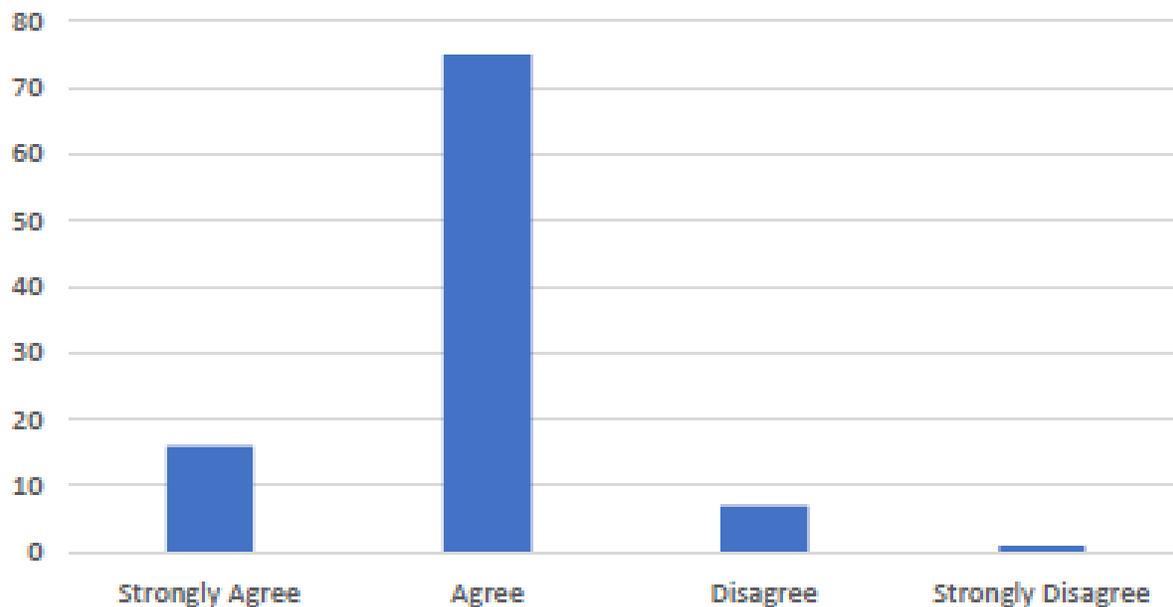


Survey results indicate a positive trend of agreement that both the County's Agricultural Service Board programs and Utility Services are satisfactory to members of the community.

### 15. Roadside weed spraying services provided by the County are satisfactory



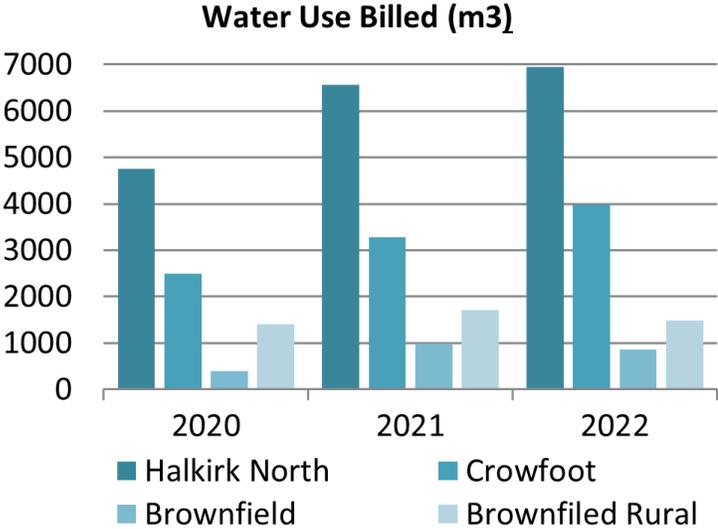
### 16. County roadside mowing is satisfactory



Survey results indicate a positive trend of agreement that both the County's Roadside Weed Spraying Services and Roadside Mowing Programs are satisfactory to members of the community.

## RURAL WATER DISTRIBUTION

In 2019, the County agreed to enter into an agreement with the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission (SMRWSC) which places the Brownfield Transmission Line and the Brownfield Truck Fill with the SMRWSC. In 2022, the County received approval that would allow the County to hot-tap into the SMRWSC main distribution line. Residences would still require a cistern or a rural water reservoir for water storage. Landowners adjacent to the SMRWSC can become County water customers at their own cost under Terms and Conditions in the County Water and Sewer Bylaw No. 690-20.



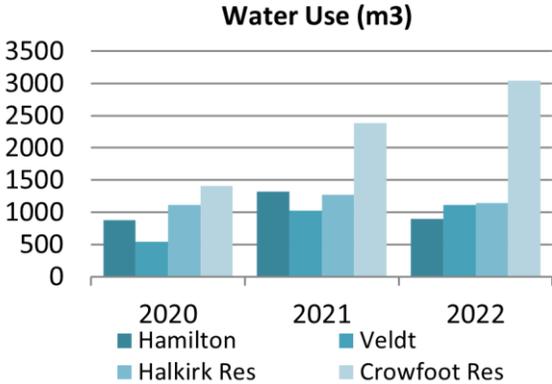
The Coronation Reservoir serves the Town of Coronation and the residents along Secondary Highway 872 to Brownfield, including the Hamlet of Brownfield. The County owns all the service connections off the line and is ready to serve twelve (12) residences. The Hamlet of Brownfield currently serves seven (7) parcels, and the water is metered. The Halkirk Reservoir is ready to serve twenty-five (25) users. The Crowfoot Reservoir currently only serves the Crowfoot Subdivision and the Crowfoot truck fill. Water is charged on actual use, and in 2022 the rate was \$3.15/cubic metre (m3). All water in the County is read with meters.

The County is invested in three reservoirs strategically placed in Halkirk, Crowfoot Crossing, and west of Coronation. There is approximately 40.5 miles of waterline in the County of which 24.5 miles of rural waterline is owned by the County.

## TRUCK FILL FACILITIES

The County operates two types of truck fills. The Halkirk and Crowfoot Reservoirs have potable drinking water that is open to everyone. Both the Hamilton (NE-32-35-10) and Veldt (NW-12-38-15) are non-potable water wells available for agricultural, firefighting, and County use only.

The Crowfoot Reservoir operates with both coin and prepay accounts. The Halkirk Reservoir is currently only a coin box,



accepting loonies and toonies. For anyone wanting to use the Brownfield truck fill, please contact the SMRWSC directly or Stettler County for more information. Water rates for reservoirs are \$5/m<sup>3</sup>, Hamilton and Veldt are \$2.20/m<sup>3</sup>. Please be advised that the Village of Halkirk receives the proceeds from the Halkirk Reservoir.

The water wells are also used in a groundwater monitoring program. The static water level in both facilities has not changed. The wells are also shock chlorinated in the spring.

For more information, please visit the Environmental Services Department, Utilities section on the County's website [www.paintearth.ca](http://www.paintearth.ca).

## PUBLIC WORKS

**Bryce Cooke** | Director of Public Works  
Phone: 403-882-3211

Public Works Emergencies: Bryce Cooke 403-740-6311  
Utility Emergencies: Mitch Elhard 403-740-4952



### ROAD BANS

The County places bans on the roads throughout the year to protect them from damage, such as deep ruts and potholes, that overweight vehicles can cause. Traffic sign(s) are posted when a road is banned, indicating the percentage of axle weights that are permitted to travel on the road. All County paved roads are banned year-round at either a 50% or 75% ban.

All Secondary Highways located in the County are under Provincial jurisdiction. For information on roads under Provincial jurisdiction, visit [www.transportation.alberta.ca](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca), or call toll free 1-877-236-6445.

### OVERWEIGHT & OVER DIMENSIONAL PERMIT APPROVAL SERVICES

To improve the availability of service to Industry, to better track the movement of these heavy loads and to improve the ability to recover cost for any damages that may occur, the County of Paintearth has partnered with Roadata Services Ltd. (RDS) to provide approval services for the movement of heavy loads on County roadways.

RDS will provide all approval services as per the guidelines established by the County. This service is available 24-hours per day by calling toll free 1-888-830-7623.

**Allowable Weights:** When movement is not restricted due to road bans, adverse weather or individual roadway limitations, the County follows Alberta "Allowable Permit Weight" guidelines. Please remember that any municipality has the authorization to limit weights below provincially defined weights.

### GRAVEL PROGRAM

In 2022, the County graveled approximately 256-miles of roads by applying approximately 67,6717 tonnes of ¾-inch and 4,798 tonnes of 1½-inch gravel. To achieve this, the Summer Road Gravelling Program utilizes three (3) super-b belly dumps.

The County stockpiles approximately 30,000 tonnes of ¾ inch gravel from municipal gravel pits to various stockpile sites, utilizing County fleet gravel trucks. In 2022, the County purchased approximately 55,000 tonnes, supplied and delivered, of 4-20 Alberta Transportation spec. ¾-inch gravel from outside sources.

The County’s gravel inventory consists of approximately 506,000 tonnes of ¾-inch crushed road gravel and 1,700,000 tonnes of gravel in reserves. The County has approximately a 30-year supply of gravel, with the current gravel inventory and materials in reserves.

## ROAD NETWORK

The County is divided into eight (8) grader divisions, with each grader operator maintaining approximately 188 km of local gravel roads and approximately 24 km of field access roads. The County’s grader fleet consists of eleven (11) Caterpillar 160M / AWD motor graders. The County purchases new graders on a 6-year buyback program and sells the used graders on the open market at the end of 6-years. This enables the County to have sustainable and reliable equipment to maintain the road system.

The road system is comprised of:

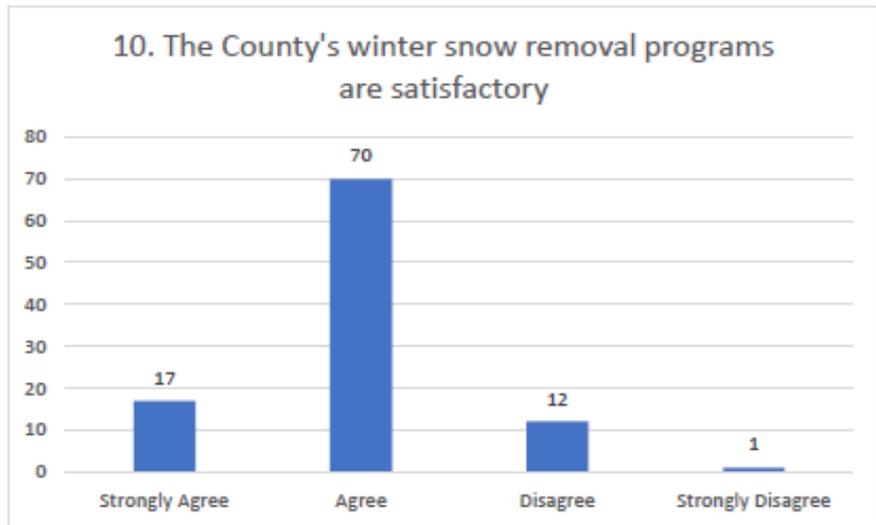
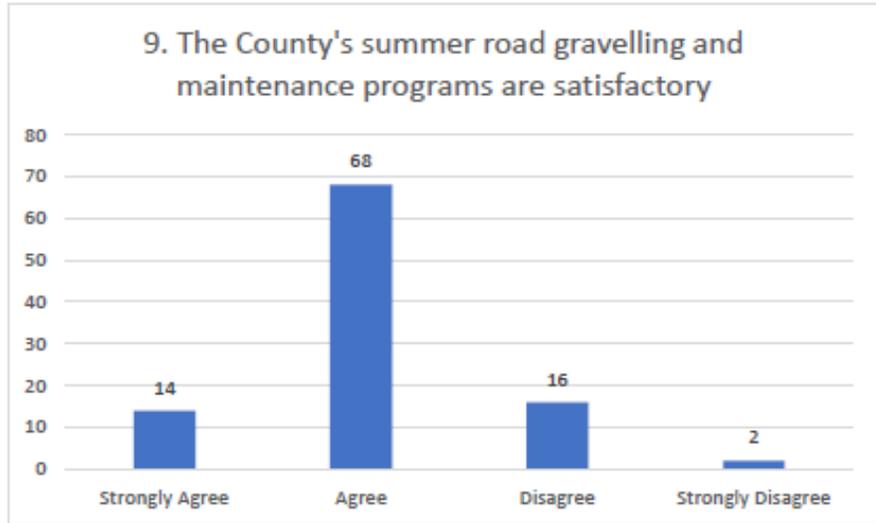
Regularly Maintained Roads	1520 km
Field Access Roads	141 km
Grassed Trails	241 km
Paved Roads	45 km
Total:	<u>1947 km</u>

Lastly, there is one plow truck in the County’s fleet for winter sanding and plowing needs.

## ROAD APPROACHES/ CULVERTS

In 2022, the Public Works Department built three (3) new approaches in 2022, of which two (2) required culverts. Also, Public Works widened two (2) previous approaches, of which one (1) required new culverts. The Public Works Department replaced thirty-one (31) culverts across rural roads. No liners or culvert boring were completed in 2022.





Survey results indicate a positive trend of agreement that both the County's summer road gravelling and maintenance programs, and winter snow removal programs are satisfactory to members of the community.



## ROAD SIGNAGE

The Public Works Department is responsible for approximately 1,100 different signs throughout the County. In 2022, forty-two (42) signs were installed or replaced, and twenty-eight (28) new signposts were installed. If you notice a sign missing or knocked down, please contact the County Office immediately by phoning 403-882-3211.

## BRIDGE PROGRAM

There are 110 bridges and bridge-sized culverts throughout the County, having the County responsible for all maintenance on the same. The County has trained staff in minor bridge maintenance for all various sizes of bridge structures, having major repairs on these structures contracted out. Maintenance on these bridges is scheduled throughout the winter or on rain days. In 2022, the County contracted the replacement of one (1) treated timber bridge, which was replaced with three (3) bridge-sized culverts. Lastly, the County contracts WSP Engineering to conduct all bridge inspections.

It is of note that in 2013 the Provincial Government cut all funding for bridge files.

## FENCE LINE BRUSHING

The Public Works Department brushed approximately 6-miles of fence line and ditch bottoms in 2022.

## BACK SLOPING

The Public Works Department back sloped 4-½ miles of ditches and fence lines. This service is considered on a request and priority basis. Requests are to be submitted on a hold harmless application and landowners must remove their fence. There is no charge for this service.

## MULCHING

The Public Works Department mulched approximately 4-miles of road ditches.



## GRAVEL RECLAIMING

The Public Works Department purchased a gravel reclaimer in 2017. The same is mounted on a grader that pulls gravel off road slopes and shoulders which returns the material back to the road's surface. The County has reclaimed 648-miles of roadway in this manner, of which 122-miles were completed in 2022. The County reclaims, and saves on average, 80 tonnes of ¾-inch gravel per mile. The average cost per tonne of ¾-inch gravel is \$19.21.

## SAFETY PROGRAM



**Tammy Hildreth** | Safety Officer

The County of Paintearth is committed to a strong safety and loss program that protects its staff, its property and the public from accidents. In 2022, the County passed the internal safety audit with a score of 92%. The safety program is ongoing and will always be a priority within the County's daily operations.

## CUSTODIAN SERVICES

The County of Paintearth extends a gracious thank you to the efforts put forth by Madeline Cooke, also known as Duffy, as she kept the Municipal Office safe and sanitized throughout the COVID pandemic. Due to her tireless effort the Municipal Office shines, reflecting the value of care in her work.



# REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

## BATTLE RIVER ALLIANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (BRAED)

Contact Name: Cathy Goulet, Executive Director  
Phone: 780-618-4967  
Website: <https://www.braedalberta.ca/>

## CLEARVIEW SCHOOL DIVISION

Phone: 403-742-3331  
Website: <https://www.clearview.ab.ca/>

## PAINTEARTH ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (PEPS)

Contact Name: Carol Thomson, Economic Development Officer  
Phone: 403-882-3211  
Fax: 403-882-3560  
Website: <https://www.paintearth.ab.ca/>

## PAINTEARTH COMMUNITY ADULT LEARNING COUNCIL (PCALC)

Phone: 403-578-3817  
Toll Free: 1-888-587-3817  
Website: <https://paintearthlearning.ca/>

## PAINTEARTH REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT LTD.

Contact Name: Kevin McDougall, Transfer Station Supervisor  
Phone: 403-882-3211  
Fax: 403-882-3560  
Website: [www.countypaintearth.ca](http://www.countypaintearth.ca)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Please contact the County of Paintearth Municipal Office by calling 403-882-3211 or by visiting the County's website [www.paintearth.ca](http://www.paintearth.ca)

*County of Paintearth*  
*No. 18*