



The Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society

Annual Report
2024

Introduction



2024 was a year of growth and change for the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society. The organization bid farewell to long-time Executive Director Nic Blanchet midway through the year, and new Executive Director Katrina Terrill joined the team in late November.

The Friends invested significantly in staff resources in 2024, bringing on Ross Anderson and John Timonera on a contract-basis to support growth in our beaver coexistence, watershed management, grow with us and park watch programming. Having these additional staff members is an investment, but one that has proven to be of great benefit as we were able to increase the number of volunteer opportunities (and hours) in 2024.

Increasing our staffing capacity positions the organization well for the coming year as we work to refine our methods, protocols and practices.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Morrin
Board Chair

Katrina Terrill
Executive Director



The investment in capacity building in 2024 sets the Friends up for success in 2025, which is also the 50th Anniversary of Fish Creek Provincial Park. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you all on Saturday, June 7th!

Finally, a sincere thank you to all of the members, donors, sponsors, partners, and volunteers who make our work possible. Your dedication is crucial in helping the Friends achieve our mission of engaging the community through activities and awareness to conserve this truly unique naturalized urban park. We hope you enjoy reading this 2024 Annual Report.



Executive Director's Report

I joined the Friends as the new Executive Director at the end of November 2024, and the 6 months since have been full of learning and admiration for the tremendously dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters who make this organization so special. While I was not personally present for the first 11 months of 2024, I am pleased to provide you with an overview of the many developments that took place last year.

2024 saw the Friends make great strides in key areas of our operations. Despite some internal personnel changeover, the Friends continued to enhance our capacity to tackle problems strategically, increase and strengthen partnerships, and improve our approaches to restoration work. Of particular note was hiring Tannas Conservation Services to complete a full vegetation inventory of Fish Creek Provincial Park, which has given our ecology team an in-depth look at the plant communities within park boundaries. This report also highlighted the communities that are most in need of restoration, which will have helped guide our Workplan for 2025.

Partnerships were another area of note in 2024. There were some truly incredible collaborations that took off, such as our work in salvaging plants with the Alberta Native Plant Rescue Society.

This partnership resulted in the Friends collecting over 15,000 native plant specimens, 80% of which were planted directly into restoration areas of the park!

Finally, we saw incredible dedication from our many volunteers, with over 12,000 hours contributed by official Friends volunteers and a further 6,000 hours donated by groups and corporations coming out for team building exercises. We are so grateful to these individuals for dedicating their time to us – we truly could not do what we do without them.

While 2024 saw some challenges for the organization, I am very excited by the dedication and promising beginnings I have seen so far in 2025. It is thanks to all of our incredible partners, donors, sponsors, volunteers and members that we are able to achieve so much with a small team, and I cannot wait to see what the 50th year of Fish Creek Provincial Park brings.

Katrina Terrill
Executive Director



Board Chair's Report



Back in the spring of 2006, I was sitting on a bench on the west side of the Bow River near the boat launch in Fish Creek Provincial Park. I could see the neighbourhood I had just moved into across the Bow River. As I walked back home, I saw a sign at the boat launch that talked about the Friends of Fish Creek. I called Bonnie Castle-Dixon, the Executive Director at the time to get some information and find out about the Friends.

Six weeks later, I became a member of the Board of Directors and commenced my role as a volunteer with the Friends. I am now supporting my fifth Executive Director for the Friends, Katrina Terrill. Each of the previous 4 Executive Directors, I have had the honour in working with have helped in the growth and development of the Friends over the last 20 years.

An extensive search was conducted with over 60 people expressing interest. We selected the top 3 candidates for an interview and a site walk-about, following a review by members of the Friends staff, our Park Liaison, and selected members of the Board, of the top 10 applicants. As a result of the selection process, I am comfortable and confident to say that Katrina has the skills, experience and drive to lead the Friends forward in achieving our goals and objectives in support of Fish Creek Provincial Park.

In June of 2024, the Friends reached a new milestone in our development and growth. The capabilities and expertise of the Friends were acknowledged by Alberta Forestry and Parks with the signing of a Disposition Agreement for the 3 acres of land where the Listen Garden will be constructed, operated and maintained, on a triangle of land to the south the Bow Valley Ranche and north of the pathway. Larry Wasyliw, of the Bow Valley Ranche Historical Society (BVRHS), is the visionary for the Listen Garden. In March of 2024, the Friends and BVRHS, signed an Operating Agreement to guide our partnership for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Listen Garden, as source of pride and a living example of Reconciliation in a prominent provincial park.

Taking on the responsibility related to the Listen Garden is the latest in previous growth steps that the Friends have experienced: Learning Naturally, single track trails, CMBA bike skills park, Enhanced Partnership Pilot (EPP) project. In preparation for the ongoing success of the Friends, Katrina organized a facilitated strategic planning session with the Board and the Friends staff leaders. The good news is that it did not drastically the plans from previous planning sessions, and did help identify what changes were required given the many changes occurring within the Park and outside influences.



The Board had discussed that following the strategic planning session, the structure of the Board committees and the overall composition of the Board would be reviewed to continue to have the Board focused on supporting Katrina and the staff in successfully delivering our programs and projects in support of Alberta Forestry and Parks objectives for Fish Creek Provincial Park.

With two of our Board members (Eric Voss and Ted Sutton) not standing for re-election, we sought new Board members to strengthen the ability to support on-going growth. As a result, 5 new Board members will be up for nomination at the Annual General Meeting.

I hope to see many of you at the 50th Anniversary celebrations for Fish Creek Provincial Park on Saturday June 7.

Bob Morrin
Chair, Board of Directors

Shannon Te

Alberta Parks Liaison Report



As the Alberta Parks Liaison for the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society, I have had the pleasure of collaborating with the Friends on operational initiatives and participating in volunteer activities. Our partnership remains vital in fostering stewardship, enhancing public engagement and education, and preserving the ecological integrity of Fish Creek Provincial Park.

In 2024, the Friends continued to expand their reach and effectiveness. The development of a comprehensive annual work plan, combined with the dedication of

staff and volunteers, led to significant program growth.

Initiatives such as the Grow with Us sustainable seed bank project and plant salvages with the Alberta Native Plant Rescue Society, showcase innovative approaches to cultivating native plants and seeds, supporting the restoration of grasslands.

The Friends' strong commitment to community engagement and the enthusiasm of volunteers have been truly inspiring. Whether assisting at the Visitor Centre, monitoring park activity, repairing restoration site fences, or wrapping trees to mitigate beaver impact (and much more), volunteers contributed an impressive 18,000+ hours of service.

This ongoing volunteer contribution has had a meaningful impact on the park's stewardship.

Another highlight in 2024 has been the continued support from the Government of Alberta, ensuring the Friends of Fish Creek have the resources necessary to advance their mission.

The Environmental Partnerships Pilot grant has provided stability and financial security, allowing the Friends to focus on key priorities, strengthen their programs, and expand their impact. We have also valued the engagement and collaborative support in planning upcoming capital infrastructure projects, which will further enhance the visitor experience and the park's long-term sustainability.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our collaboration with the Friends of Fish Creek and celebrating their continued achievements in 2025 as the park marks its 50th anniversary. Thank you to the board, staff, volunteers, and supporters of the Friends for your dedication and passion in making Fish Creek Provincial Park a welcoming and vibrant space.

Nancy Ouimet

Partnerships Coordinator, Alberta Parks – Kananaskis Region





2024 by the Numbers

323

volunteers



94

community
partners

5,338

community members
engaged



18,000+

volunteer hours

1,625

program days

4,125

program
participants



Conservation and Stewardship



10,104 kg

of invasive plants removed

Equivalent to the
weight of 110 deer!



15,000+
plants rescued



801

trees wrapped
or unwrapped

133.5 m²

of streambank restored

Learning Naturally Program



The Learning Naturally Program provides fully subsidized nature learning programs for kindergarten to Grade 6 students from schools in low-income Calgary neighbourhoods. The program is funded through individual and group donations, including the Greenfield Family Foundation, and the Rogers Birdies for Kids charity.

This program is often the first opportunity that participants, as well as parent volunteers, have had to experience a natural environment. The program is overwhelmingly well-received by schools and families and provides essential information about Alberta Parks and natural ecosystems. The program provides an essential first step for introducing this participant group to Fish Creek Provincial Park, engaging them in nature, and inspiring stewardship.

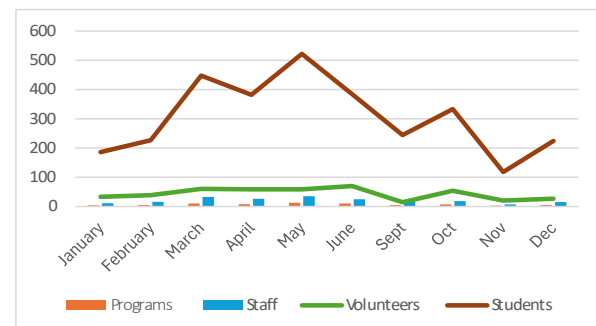
In 2024, the Learning Naturally Program delivered a full year of programming.

Kayla Campbell coordinated the program, with support from Alberta Park's Formal and Environmental Education Coordinator, Roland Kirzinger, and sessions ran from January – June, and September – December 2024.

A total of 19 program days were cancelled in 2024, of which 12 were rescheduled within 2024 and two were rescheduled for winter/spring 2025. Three of these cancellations/postponements were due to a lack of volunteers. Six programs were rescheduled due to staff illness, and two were cancelled due to lack of available bussing.

Seven programs were cancelled by schools due to weather: four because of extreme cold and three because of snow storms making bus travel dangerous. One program was rescheduled due to the school principal passing away very suddenly.

2024 Statistics



In 2024, Learning Naturally hosted:

66

program days

↑ 6 days from 2024

166

school staff

↑ 26 staff from 2024

389

volunteers

↑ 48 volunteers from 2024

2,629

students

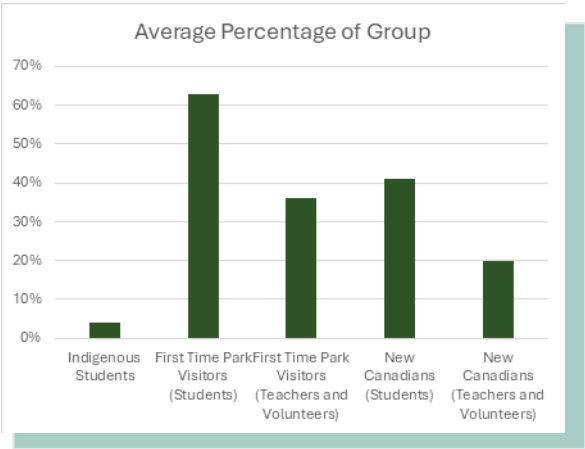
↑ 252 students from 2024



We received program evaluation feedback from 52 teachers for program dates between January and December 2024. This feedback shows that the Learning Naturally Program is effective and valuable for schools and the program is enjoyable and educational. The constructive feedback was mostly related to field trip resources, which are designed by Alberta Parks, and the content and information inside are not within our control. Learning Naturally sessions are teacher-led, meaning teachers can choose whether or not to use the provided course materials. We’ve provided a summary of the survey results below:

	The morning meeting was helpful for both students and volunteers.	The field trip was enjoyable and engaging for the students.	The field trip resources (equipment, info booklets, etc) enhanced the students’ learning experience.	The field trip was educational and relevant to the Alberta Program of Studies.
Neutral			5.8%	
Agree	5.8%	9.6%	26.9%	11.5%
Strongly Agree	94.2%	90.4%	67.3%	88.5%

Schools who are eligible for a Learning Naturally Program are often made up of diverse populations, with the students and parent volunteers coming from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. The demographics of 2024 program attendee groups, collected from teachers as part of the course evaluation, are represented in the following table:



This data also shows us that the Learning Naturally Program provides the first opportunity for most students, and a significant number of adults, to visit Fish Creek Provincial Park. As part of the programming, students are encouraged to return to visit the park with their families.

We saw program growth this year and provided more program days in relation to previous years, enabling more students and adults

coming to visit the park for free. The program continues to be well-received by educators, students, and families, and provides much-needed access to nature for children living in urban areas of Calgary.

The Learning Naturally Program is a collaborative effort between the Friends of Fish Creek, which provides staffing and funding, and Alberta Parks, which provides the facility, equipment, programs, and supervision. Much gratitude is owed to Roland Kirzinger, of Alberta Parks, for his support of the program and supervision of the program coordinator.



Volunteers and Donors



Volunteer of the Year Award Winners

Spark! - Blake McNeil

Flintknapper - John Dunfield

Steward in Action - Walter DiMattia

New and Noteworthy - Gerhard Maier

Grassland Superstar - Daegan Kovacs

Unsung Hero - Linda Meade

Community Champion - Sheila Clark

Bill Hiebert Inspiration Award (Volunteer of the Year) - Ruth Diaz and Mars Porras

Staff Choice - Anita Hibbard

Trailblazer - Diane Haggarty

Board of Directors - Ruža Obad

Kingfisher - Robert and Teresa Brown

1,000 hour club

These incredible volunteers reached 1,000 volunteer hours this year:

Peter Haggarty

Rose Ratliffe

Kathy Seaman

Bruce Mitchell

Still going strong: 1,000 hours and beyond:

David Mitchell

Stephen Phelps

Phil Greer

Wayne Walker

Gus Yaki

Doug Maxwell

Kevin Tanasichuk

Angel Spasoff

Jennifer Solem

David Arnott

John Thompson

Thank you, 2024 donors!

Donations and
Grants in 2024: **\$246,776**

Park Protectors: Monthly Donors

Gold

Allan E.

Bob B.

Silver

Chad S.

Connie L.

Helen N.

Joan C.

Rod O.

Terry L.

Tracy A.

Wendy N.

Bronze

Barbara W.

Bob A.

Colleen R.

Dianne B.

Edward S.

Fabien A.

Heather S.

Jeff T.

John C.

Katrina B.

Linda M.

Marlene K.

Mary E.

Nicholas W.

Rayna B.

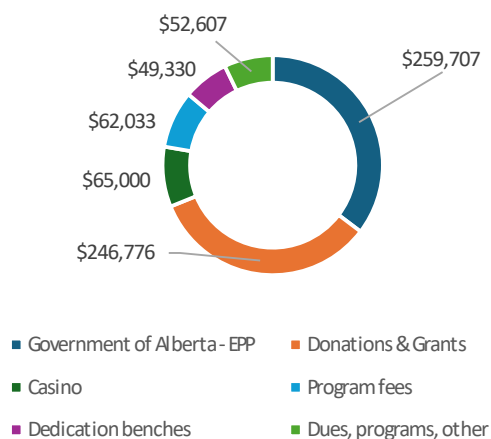
Risa K.



Treasurer's Report

The financial theme of 2024 was “change with purpose, cost with intent”. At year-end on December 31, 2024, the Friends reported a net loss (excess of expenditures over revenues) of \$164,636, compared to a net profit of \$180,063 at year end on December 31, 2023. Despite the 2024 loss, the two-year net position (2023 – 2024) remains positive, reflecting a surplus across the two-year period.

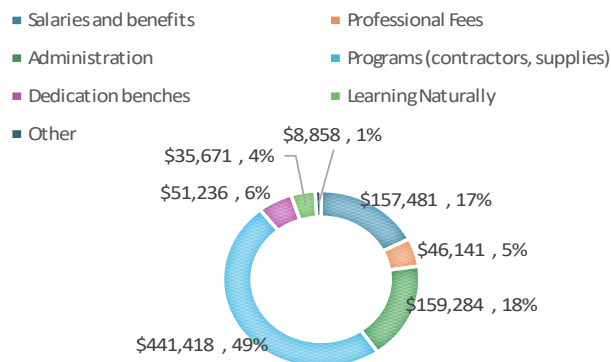
2024 Revenue



2024 Expenses, at \$900,089, were the highest they have been in three years, mainly due to additional summer and contract staff as well as personnel transition costs. Program costs (including salaries for direct program staff) accounted for nearly 50% of expenses, and totaled \$441,418 in 2024. Revenue in 2024 was \$735,453, a decline of 13% compared to 2023 that was largely driven by reduced grant revenue.

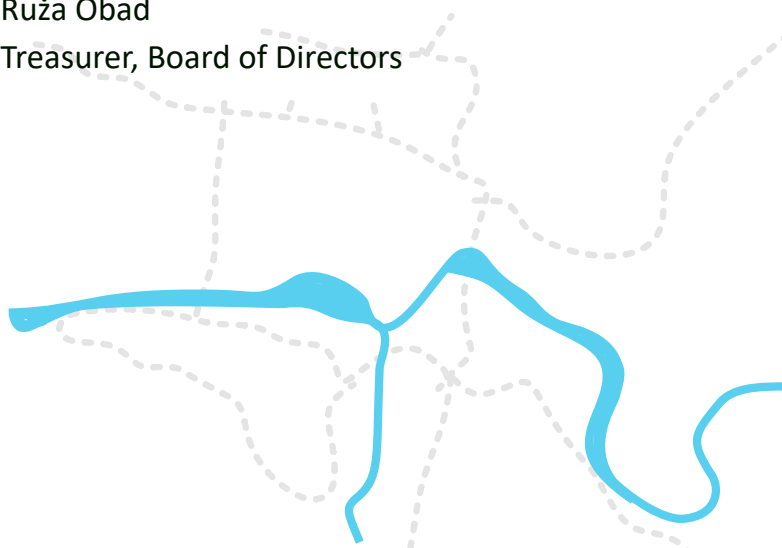
Our total cash position at December 31, 2024 was \$264,878, compared to the prior year ending December 31, 2024 when our cash position was at \$368,235.

2024 Expenses



Though 2024 was a high-expense year, it has positioned the Friends strategically for 2025. Our new Executive Director is highly engaged in financial oversight and brings strong familiarity with the new accounting system. Phil Greer (the former treasurer) continues to volunteer with the Finance Committee, ensuring continuity. Most of all, in 2025 we are strengthening internal controls and regular reconciliations are now in place to support a well-managed year ahead.

Ruža Obad
Treasurer, Board of Directors



Supporters



Burnsmead

Help us support the park, donate today!



Bankside



Community Connections

Thank you to all of our community partners and connections—you make our work possible.

AGLC	Calgary River Valleys	Freshwater Conservation Canada	Nutrien
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Calgary Sports and Entertainment Corporation	Fundrazr	Prospect
Alberta Ability Network – Recreation Round Table	Calgary Sun	Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park Foundation	Rotary Club of Calgary – West
Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society	Get Outside and Play	Royal Astronomical Society
Alberta Community Bat Program	Canadian Rockies Youth Network	Global Calgary	Ruby Eagle Child – Blackfoot Elder
Alberta Parks	Cerebral Palsy Kids and Families	Great Events Group	SAIT
Government of Alberta	Chinook Country Historical Society	Great News Media	Shawnee Evergreen Community Association
Alberta Native Plant Rescue Society	City Nature Challenge	Grow Wild YYC	Sheep River Library
Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area	City News Calgary	Gunaha Institute	Skip the Depot
Another Side of Calgary/ TELUS TV	City of Calgary	Kelly Hazen – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	St. Mary's University
Anthony Starlight – Tsuut'ina Elder	CNIB	Helis	Suncor
Aqueduct Foundation	CYAC	Humane Solutions	Tannas Conservation Services
Benevity	Cori Imbery	Jim Pescott – Artist	Trace Associates
Bettina Sieger – Artist	Cows and Fish	Justice Film Festival	Tsuut'ina Food Bank
Bill Snow – Stoney Nakoda Elder	Decathlon Calgary	KLM Captioning	Tsuut'ina Nation
Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley/Wildsmart	Deer Run Community Festival Foundation	Leaf Ninjas	United Way
Bow Habitat Station	Deerfoot Inn & Casino	Lethbridge Research & Development Centre	University of Calgary
Bow Valley Rancho Historical Society	Donate a Car Canada	Metis Calgary Family Services	Wild About Flowers
Brooke Kapeller – Bow River Basin Council	Don Hladiuk	Mistakiis Institute	Wild Bird Store
Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth	Eden House	Mount Royal University	Wild Outside
Calgary Herald	Elbow River Watershed Partnership	Nature Calgary	Wright Nurseries
Calgary Public Library Elder Guidance Circle	EthniCity Catering	NextAfter	You Betula Environmental
	Fish Creek Watershed Association	Nicole Kimmel – Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist	Youth Central
	Friends of Kananaskis Country	Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society	Venturer's Society

Staff and Executive



2024 Staff

- Katrina Terrill, Executive Director
- Emma Stroud, Ecology Manager
- Dylan Barnes, Restoration Team Lead
- Kumiko Kamiike, Visitor Experiences Coordinator
- Ross Anderson, Watershed Field Coordinator
- John (TJ) Timonera, Restoration Stewardship Coordinator

Summer Staff

- Oliver Noseworthy
- Joshua Gibbs
- Justin Poon
- Brennan Tait

2024 Staff (past)

- Nic Blanchet
- Chris Lalond
- Monica Myers

2024 Executive

- Bob Morrin – Chair
- David Mitchell – Vice-Chair
- Ruža Obad – Treasurer
- Kari Horn – Secretary
- Christina Steed – Director at Large
- Neil Groenveld – Director at Large
- Ken Heywood – Director at Large
- Nancy Ouimet – Park Liaison

2024 Executive (past)

- Eric Voss
- Ted Sutton
- Bryan Ermann

Contractors

- Bob Andrew - Bookkeeping services (retired)
- Kayla Campbell - Learning Naturally Coordinator

● Votier's Flats

● Bebo Grove



Capture Nature Contest

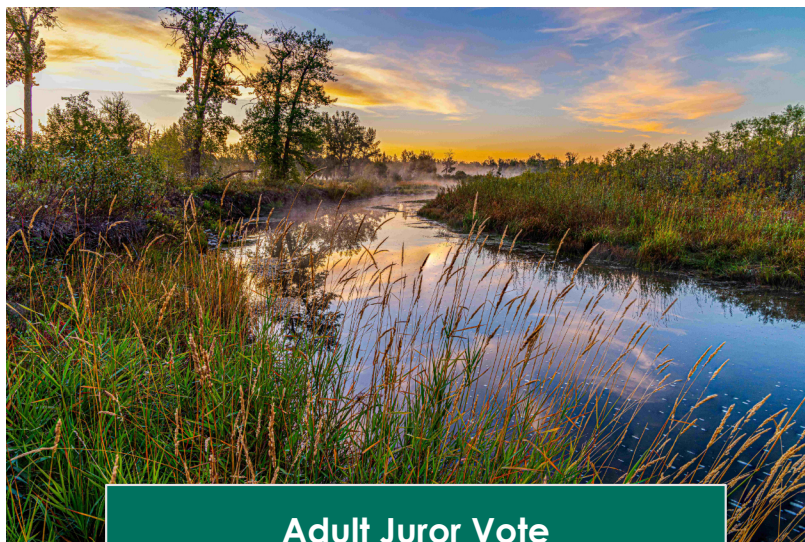
Every year, we're so excited to run the Capture Nature Photo Contest and experience some of the amazing perspectives, creativity, and talent through all the contest submissions.

The contest provides an opportunity for competitors, both youth and adults, to find that

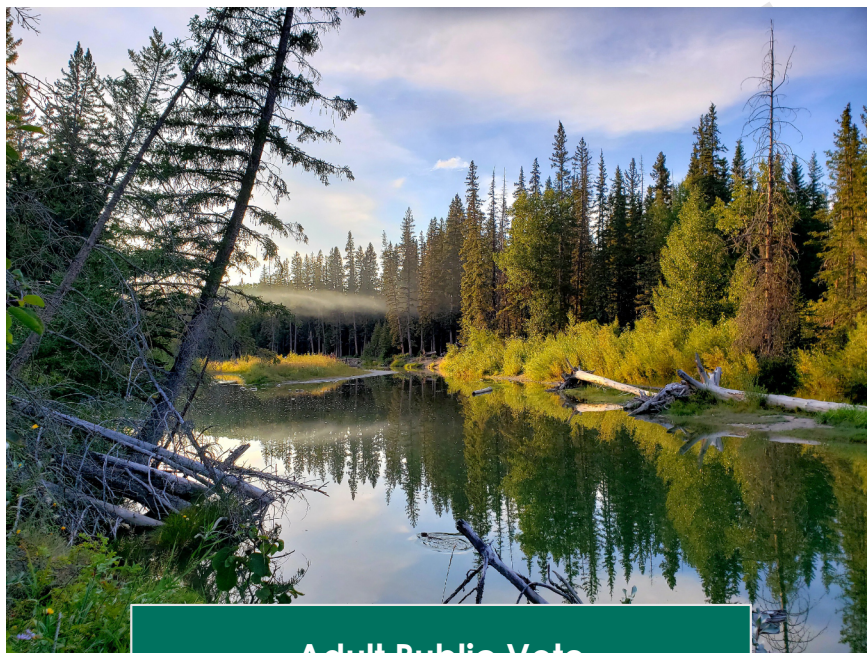
perfect moment at Fish Creek Provincial Park and capture it for others to experience.

Here's a look at 2024's winners in the categories of:

- Adult: Juror Vote
- Adult: Public Vote
- Youth: Juror Vote
- Youth: Public Vote



Adult Juror Vote
Danny Byrgesen



Adult Public Vote
Amy Kociszewski



Youth Juror/Public Vote
Jacob Kearney-Burns

Thank you to all the volunteers who made 2024 such a successful year!

Abner B.	Bryan E.	Denise H.	Greg L.	Julia M.	Margie S.	Rayna B.	Stephen B.
Al S.	Bryan S.	Dennis B.	Himanshu S.	Julie A.	Marianne H.	Reg C.	Stephen H.
Alan C.	Cadence L.	Dermot L.	Jackson L.	Justin P.	Martin J.	Renee B.	Stephen P.
Alexandria C.	Carina L.	Diana L.	Jacob R.	Kanako H.	Mary C.	Richelle D.	Stuart B.
Amanda D.	Carol C.	Diane F.	Jacqui M.	Kara R.	Melinda B.	Rick M.	Stuart S.
Amy S.	Carol M.	Diane H.	Jake B.	Karen C.	Melinda F.	Rick R.	Sue J.
Anaik H.	Carole S.	Diane S.	James B.	Karen R.	Merardo P.	Rick S.	Sue M.
Andrea B.	Cassidy M.	Dianne A.	James S.	Karen S.	Michael C.	Rick V.	Susan L.
Andy F.	Catherine C.	Dianne L.	Janice W.	Kari H.	Michele V.	Risa K.	Susan T.
Angel S.	Catherine R.	Dick H.	Jason B.	Kari H.	Micheline D.	Robert B.	Susan W.
Angela O.	Cathy C.	Don H.	Jay B.	Kathy C.	Michelle G.	Robert G.	Tara S.
Angela V.	Chalise K.	Donna B.	Jean C.	Kathy S.	Michelle T.	Robert S.	Ted N.
Anita H.	Charis F.	Donna F.	Jean L.	Katie B.	Mike M.	Robert W.	Ted S.
Anna Q.	Chris B.	Donna L.	Jennifer K.	Katie R.	Morris B.	Ron D.	Teresa B.
Anna S.	Chris H.	Doreen F.	Jennifer M.	Kay F.	Mzia L.	Rose R.	Terryne L.
Annie F.	Chris L.	Doreen S.	Jennifer S.	Ken H.	Nadja W.	Russell B.	Thomas S.
Arabella W.	Chris M.	Dorian T.	Jenny R.	Kevin T.	Nancy O.	Ruth D.	Tim C.
Artem T.	Christian C.	Doug M.	Jerry K.	Kingsley O.	Naoko T.	Ruth K.	Tisa P.
Basilla A.	Christina A.	Doug V.	Jessie N.	Kristen M.	Natalie M.	Ruth M.	Tom S.
Bernadett F.	Christina S.	Drew M.	Jill Y.	Kumiko K.	Natalie Z.	Ruža O.	Tomofumi K.
Bernie D.	Cindy S.	Dwayne T.	Jim McP.	Lara F.	Neil G.	Ryan C.	Toni C.
Bertha Ann F.	Claire McC.	Eamonn R.	Jim M.	Laura R.	Neil P.	Ryan D.	Trevor C.
Bev L.	Clayton C.	Edward K.	JoAnn R.	Lauren W.	Neil W.	Sandie M.	Ty B.
Bianca S.	Colin R.	Elaine M.	Joanne H.	Leao V.	Nick W.	Sandy D.	Valerie B.
Bill S.	Coline D.	Elena T.	Jo-Anne B.	Lesley T.	Noah D.	Sean LeM.	Walter D.
Bob B.	Colleen R.	Emma N.	Joe C.	Liana McC.	Nora M.	Shae-Lynn O'N.	Walter P.
Bob L.	Daegan K.	Emma R.	Joe G.	Linda G.	Oliver N.	Shana B.	Ward S.
Bob M.	Dale W.	Eric V.	Joe M.	Linda M.	Olivia L.	Shane G.	Wayne M.
Brad J.	Darla R.	Esther W.	Joe Z.	Lisa McC.	Pam C.	Sheila C.	Wendy B.
Brayden B.	Darrell A.	Eve S.	John A.	Liz S.	Pamela C.	Shellaine C.	Wes M.
Brenda D J.	Darren B.	Frank L.	John D.	Lorrie A.	Patricia L.	Shelley MacL.	Will R.
Brendan B.	Dave F.	Gail G.	John G.	Luis C.	Patrick B.	Sherry K.	Wlad F.
Brenna P.	Dave R.	Gavin M.	John K.	Lynda R.	Paul R.	Sheryl F.	Xinwu L.
Brennan T.	David A.	Geoff P.	John T.	Maesyn M.	Peter H.	Sonya J.	Zachariah R.
Brent M.	David M.	Gerhard M.	Jonathan W.	Maggie M.	Peter L.	Stacey E.	Zachery P.
Brian F.	David P.	Gerry J.	Josh G.	Marc G.	Peter N.	Stan K.	Zdenka S.
Brian S.	David T.	Gordon H.	Joyce C.	Marco V.	Phil G.	Stan T.	
Brian S.	Dean M.	Grace S.	Joyce R.	Marg W.	Randy P.	Stanley I.	
Bruce M.	Debbie F.	Grant G.	Judy S.	Margaret M.	Rasika W.	Stephanie W.	



Provincial Park Society

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