

Annual Report

2023-24

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

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Letters of Transmittal



Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

Laura Ross
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

The Honourable Laura Ross
Minister of Parks, Culture
and Sport;
Minister Responsible for
the Status of Women



The Honourable Laura Ross
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

Greg Gettle
Deputy Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

Greg Gettle
Deputy Minister of Parks,
Culture and Sport

Ministry Overview

Our Mandate

The ministry's strategic focus is on quality of life and economic growth. The ministry works with diverse groups and communities to enhance the province's cultural, artistic, recreational, and social life; to promote excellence in the arts, culture and heritage, and sport; and to represent the interests of the provinces' French-language population. The ministry manages and enhances Saskatchewan's provincial park system and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum; conserves ecosystems and cultural resources; and provides recreational and interpretive opportunities for park and museum visitors.

The ministry is also home to the Status of Women Office.

Mission

Inspire all citizens and visitors to connect with nature, culture and recreation.

[2023-24 Parks Culture and Sport Business Plan](#)

Progress on Goal 1: Offer Valued Experiences for all Citizens and Visitors

Ongoing enhancements to programs, services and infrastructure at our provincial parks and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum are necessary to build compelling and meaningful experiences that inspire new and repeat visitation and participation. Additionally, through support to partner organizations offering programs, the ministry helps to increase access and reduce barriers to sport, culture, heritage, and recreation across the province. All of these programs and enhancements contribute to building stronger families and vibrant communities by providing spaces for people to socially connect, relax, revitalize, and enjoy healthful recreation all of which have a profound effect on the physical and emotional well-being of citizens.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Improve and maintain infrastructure.

KeyActions: *What we will do to get there*

- Enhance investments of nearly \$14 million to support the expansion, maintenance, accessibility, and renewal of park infrastructure to meet growing park visitor demands for camping, recreational and cultural opportunities.
 - Funding in 2023-24 strengthened the park system's facilities and infrastructure, ensuring the continued delivery of top-tier services and experiences for visitors. The investments are multifaceted, aiming not only to enrich recreational, interpretive and educational activities but also to promote tourism and safeguard the parks' vital ecosystems and cultural resources. The financial plan supports the development of new amenities while upholding the existing infrastructure, aligning with the ministry's vision of fostering exceptional park experiences.
 - In 2023-24 the ministry tendered and/or awarded several new projects in provincial parks including:
 - Construction of two new campground service centres at Blackstrap and Makwa Lake Provincial Parks to replace aging facilities.
 - Completion of a new campground development at Waterhen Lake in Meadow Lake Provincial Park, providing 40 additional serviced campsites, washroom buildings and service centre.
 - Construction of a new group pavilion and related site development at Rowan's Ravine Provincial Park for large or multi-group gatherings.
 - Construction of a new Visitor Reception Centre at Crooked Lake Provincial Park to provide enhanced entry, customer service and visitor information for park visitors, as well as office facilities for park staff.

- A play-structure development at Pine Hill Campground at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park and a viewing tower replacement at Meadow Lake Provincial Park.
 - Major road improvements and resurfacing at Makwa Lake Provincial Park.
 - Electrical system upgrade and expansion at Sandy Beach Campground, Meadow Lake Provincial Park.
 - Major water system upgrades at Narrow Hills Provincial Park and second phase of water system upgrades at Moose Mountain Provincial Park.
- Providing \$615K for the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association. These funds helped pay for improvements and preventative maintenance in Regional Parks, which are camping, cottaging and recreation areas that serve both local communities and tourists.
- Deliver programs to support community development including \$1.5 million through the Saskatchewan Veterans Service Club Support Program and \$1.6 million through the Community Rink Affordability Grant.
 - The Saskatchewan Veterans Service Club Support Program was fully subscribed with 77 grants provided to eligible recipients.
 - In 2023-24, \$1,462,500 was awarded through the Community Rink Affordability Grant to 585 ice surfaces (382 skating rinks and 203 curling rinks).

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Enhance programs and opportunities.

KeyActions: *What we will do to get there*

- Undertake research and analysis to expand and improve program and service offerings and attract visitors to parks.
 - Visitor surveys were completed throughout the summer season, allowing the ministry to make in-season adjustments, such as adjusting and posting cleaning schedules, adding accessibility features to facilities or providing additional garbage and recycling containers in key locations based on visitor feedback. The results are also used to inform longer-term decision-making on programs and services. For example, visitor feedback has informed decisions to provide additional seasonal and nightly campsites, provide more dog-friendly spaces, perform facility upgrades and make improvements to the campsite reservation system to name a few.
 - Visitors were also surveyed throughout the winter season to inform future marketing and winter offerings. The results were reviewed and planning for the 2024-25 winter offering is currently underway.
- Attract visitors to the provincial parks and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (including the T. Rex Discovery Center), through new and targeted initiatives, such as recreational, educational and cultural programs, services and events.
 - Five different promotional code campaigns were offered from June to September 2023 to encourage people to book available campsites

across the provincial park system, which generated 5,613 additional camping nights booked.

- Redesigned reservation system functionality to improve booking process for campers and visitors related to seasonal campsites, multiple day recreation hall bookings and pre-registration for interpretive programming.
- Two new Camp-Easy yurts were purchased and installed at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park to replace the previous tent structures.
- Self-use Discovery Packs and Recreation packs were revamped with new activities and themes and made available in parks across the province, with themed programming days held every Saturday during the summer camping season.
- The Royal Saskatchewan Museum introduced new drop-in summer and school programming in the learning lab and Science on a Sphere programming. Both programming spaces changed out the programs every two weeks to increase repeat visitation. Megamunch's retirement events, celebrations and pop-up museum were extremely popular with all ages.
- New programs at the T-rex Discovery Centre included *Talkin' 'Bout Tuesday Series*, *Storytime with Scotty's Friends* (delivers outreach to area libraries on Saturdays to encourage locals to come to the T. Rex Discovery Center), *Indigenous film Fridays* and a new Dinosaur Expedition passport.
- Enhance the campsite reservation system to improve user experience.
 - Availability notifications were rolled out during 2023 reservation launch and the fiscal year saw large customer uptake of this new feature with 5,827 notifications created resulting in 1,479 reservations. License plate scanning functionality was also rolled out to support the entry gate pilot happening in locations around the province. This allowed for a customer friendly digital entry program.
- Implement the Royal Saskatchewan Museum's four-year rolling exhibit and programming plan including the upgrade of life sciences gallery spaces.
 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum opened a new exhibit in the life sciences gallery called "*Take a Closer Look*". The museum's entomology department takes detailed high-resolution images of the smallest insects with ultra clarity. In this exhibit, these images of insects are played on an 85inch screen, which includes interesting facts on the creatures and where in Saskatchewan they are found. As the images were shown, the actual specimen in the photographs were lit up in a display case below the screen. With 25 specimens on display, this highlights the incredible world of insects found within this province.
 - At the T-Rex Discovery Centre new additions to the exhibits have been added; a huge life size mural of a Tylosaurus was installed, an interactive topographic layer table was added, upgraded the outdoor entry sign and a four-meter-long floor map of Saskatchewan indicating the fossil finds in Saskatchewan.
- Develop and pilot a visitor feedback process for the Royal Saskatchewan

Museum to support ongoing expansion and improvement to programs and services.

- The survey went live to the public on June 17, 2023 and a total of 738 individuals completed submissions.
- Survey findings will inform ongoing expansion and improvement to programs and services.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Work with sector partners to deliver safe and accessible experiences.

KeyActions: *What we will do to get there*

- Support community investments through the Active Families Benefit, the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, and the Community Initiatives Fund to strengthen capacity to access quality sports, culture, recreation, and physical activity programs and services.
 - Active Families Benefit had 4080 claims in the 2022 taxation year totaling \$946,854.70.
 - Lottery Marketing and Distribution Agreements were renewed for 6 years to 2029. In 2023-24, approximately \$65 million was distributed through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, helping support 12,000 sport, culture, and recreation beneficiary groups and 600,000 registered participants across the province.
 - The Community Initiatives Fund approved 532 community development grants for community-based projects and programs across Saskatchewan, totalling \$6,888,182.
- Work with federal, provincial, and territorial partners to renew the Canadian Sport Policy and the Canada-Saskatchewan Sport Bilateral Agreement.
 - Jurisdictions continue to work on renewing the Canadian Sport Policy and Canada-Saskatchewan Sport Bilateral Agreement. The Policy will be endorsed and the Agreement will be completed in 2024-25.
- Enhance delivery of French language support services including translation services to ministries, Crown corporations and agencies, and provide citizens with a single window to access French language services of the Government of Saskatchewan.
 - The total number of words submitted for translation was 433,000 in 2023-24, which was consistent with the five-year rolling average (432,000).
 - The French-language services centre responded to 1,040 requests, an increase of 43% over the previous year (726 requests).
 - Canada and Saskatchewan renewed their bilateral agreement on French-language services until 2028. The new agreement supports new French-language initiatives in areas such as health, culture and immigration.

Performance Measure Results:

Royal Saskatchewan Museum visitation

- Number of visitors to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.
- Target: 120,000 visitors to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in 2023-24.
- There were 132,253 visitors to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in 2023-24, which exceeded the target.

Participation in sport, culture and recreation programs

- Total participation in sport, culture and recreation programs delivered by ministry partners. Ministry partners include Saskatchewan Lotteries, Community Initiatives Fund, Western Development Museum, Saskatchewan Science Centre, and Wanuskewin Heritage Park.
- Target: 1.5 million participants in sport, culture and recreation programs in 2023-24.
- In 2022-23, there were 1.3 million participants in sport, culture and recreation programs. This does not include Community Initiatives Fund participation. Year-over-year, Community Initiatives Fund sees an average of 262,300 participants. As such, we anticipate exceeding the ongoing target of 1.5 million participants.
- 2023-24 data will be one year behind with reporting to occur in 2024-25.

Visitor satisfaction

- Satisfaction with visits to Saskatchewan provincial parks and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.
- Target: More than 90 per cent of visitors are satisfied and 75 per cent of visitors are highly satisfied with their visit to Saskatchewan provincial parks in 2023-24. Establish a baseline for visitor satisfaction at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum by March 31, 2024.
- 93 per cent of visitors were satisfied and 80 per cent of visitors were highly satisfied with their visit to the provincial parks in 2023.
- 87 per cent of visitors were satisfied with their visit to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum 2023.

Online content development and reach

- Number of pages on Saskatchewan.ca/bonjour.
- Target: 375 pages on Sask.ca/bonjour by March 31, 2024.
- The total number of pages was 369 pages in 2023-24 which is lower than the target. This is due to the archiving of some pages and the merger of other pages.

Progress on Goal 2: Protect our Natural and Cultural Resources for Benefit of all Current and Future Generations

The ministry invests in the protection of our natural and cultural resources to ensure Saskatchewan's historic resources and cultural artifacts are preserved and available to support research, education, and awareness. Balancing growth while protecting these invaluable resources helps to build stronger families and vibrant communities. This improves the well-being of our citizens by creating understanding and connection to the past, responsibilities in the present, and considers the impact for future generations.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Strengthen stewardship of our cultural resources and natural ecosystem.

KeyActions: *What we will do to get there*

- Implement a new database to monitor and improve our understanding of the state and condition of park ecosystem health and integrity.
 - An Ecosystem Based Management Plan was developed for Porcupine Hills Provincial Park to help guide effective ecosystem management at the park. Eight of the twelve Natural Environment Parks now have an Ecosystem Based Management Plan.
 - A strategy was developed to implement the Parkland Ecosystem Health Index Database, including the establishment of 5-year targets and action plan maps to guide ecosystem management activities.
- Improve the quality of ecosystem integrity through active management measures such as tree planting, invasive species treatment and forest harvesting.
 - Over 40,000 hectares of park ecosystem was treated using active management measures. This included invasive species treatment, tree planting, forest harvesting, grazing and haying.
- Improve the management of and public interaction with heritage data held by the ministry.
 - A new public facing, online Geographic Information Systems - based search tool was launched containing information on over 13,000 geographic names and designated heritage properties in Saskatchewan.
- Provide increased training and advice to property owners, land developers, communities, and others to raise their capacity to conserve heritage resources.
 - Seven heritage conservation webinars or online workshops were delivered, including:
 - Three heritage webinars highlighting the role of historic places in contemporary society.

- Four online heritage conservation workshops on the subjects of Heritage Standards and Guidelines and Statements of Significance.
- Work in collaboration with Indigenous communities to improve the stewardship of sacred Indigenous collections.
 - The Curator of Indigenous Cultural Heritage continues to build relationships with many Indigenous communities and Knowledge Keepers.
 - In 2023-24 the Royal Saskatchewan Museum met with Knowledge Keepers from First Nations and Metis Nation of Saskatchewan to discuss the care of the artifacts for the digitization project.
 - Ongoing and regular ceremonies were held to honor the sacred Indigenous artifacts, the First Nations Galleries and the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Collection.
 - In March 2024, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum hosted a feast and Pipe ceremony to bless the new Indigenous Heritage Collections website.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Expand research and discovery.

KeyActions: *What we will do to get there*

- Conduct and facilitate scientific research at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and promote discoveries made by Royal Saskatchewan Museum researchers.
 - Royal Saskatchewan Museum researchers published nine academic papers this fiscal.
 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum team won two awards for their projects. An Award of Merit from the Museums Association for the reorganization, care and stewardship of the Indigenous Ethnology Collection, and the Saskatchewan Regional Centre of Expertise on Education of Sustainable Development for the exhibit “*Home: Life in the Anthropocene*”
 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum continued to attract graduate students from around the world to work with our researchers.
 - By providing collections loans and hosting visitors to the collections, Royal Saskatchewan Museum scientists facilitated research from at least 18 different researchers.
 - Royal Saskatchewan Museum researchers and curatorial assistants were interviewed and featured in media on 18 separate occasions regarding different topics and projects.
 - One of the more significant research finds in palaeontology was picked up by media far and wide, including The Washington Post. The paper described the first insect fossils found in amber from Saskatchewan. The new amber deposit from Saskatchewan is important because it shows an insect turnover, or extinction, before the end of the Cretaceous. These changes may have helped set the stage for the extinction of the dinosaurs.

- Delivered an 8-part series on CBC Radio-Canada (French), highlighting paleontology topics from across Saskatchewan.
- Develop options to support the preservation and management of the ministry's expanding cultural and heritage collections.
 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum and SaskBuilds and Procurement have proceeded with detailed design plans for a new research, exhibits and collections space that will be safe, functional and allow for appropriate storage capacity and growth for the provincial collections. The project will seek approval and funding in 2024-25.
- Undertake a project to digitize Indigenous cultural collections into a public online photo database with collaboration from Indigenous partners.
 - The project to digitize the Indigenous ethnology collection is complete. The Indigenous ethnology collection and photographic images were digitized and are now available online to the public.
 - In the process of this project, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum has noted more than 80 named Indigenous artists represented in the collection.
 - The [Saskatchewan Indigenous Collections](#) webpage was launched March 31, 2024. This project will allow more communities to see the artifacts and engage with the collection (saskindigenoucollection.ca/en/).

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Work with Indigenous partners to deepen our knowledge of ecosystems and culture.

KeyActions: *What we will do to get there*

- Support Wanuskewin Heritage Park's application to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 - Work is ongoing. Target date for UNESCO designation remains for 2026.
- Expand engagement with Indigenous communities to increase the inclusiveness of ministry's programs, services, and policies.
 - Recruitment initiatives: formalized the job posting distribution process to 120 Indigenous Community Based Organization's and Educational Institutes, coordinated recruitment efforts with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology and promoted summer student hiring through the Indigenous Summer Student Subsidy Program.
 - Created ministry connections with File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council and Indigenous Destinations Saskatchewan.
 - Assisted on the organization of events with the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Network - Orange Shirt Day event in North Central Regina. The Ministry also provided financial sponsorship.
- Partner with Indigenous communities and speakers, in the spirit of reconciliation, to deliver learning opportunities and events at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum including Speakers Series, Indigenous Story Telling month, Orange Shirt Day, Indigenous History month.
 - Collaborated with the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum on planning the third Season of the SGI Solstice Speaker Series. June 2023

Solstice Speaker Series, Indigenous Insights and Lifestyle featured Preston Littlelent, showcasing a celebration of Indigenous culture and dance featuring the Eagle Claw Dance Troupe.

- September 2023 Solstice Speaker Series event featured award winning actress, producer, director and CEO of Redcloud Studios, Jennifer Podemski. Jennifer shared her unique and authentic perspectives, drawing on her own experiences as an Indigenous woman in the entertainment industry.
- December 2023 Solstice Speaker Series event featured a ‘fireside’ discussion with His Honour, the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, to reflect on his life journey and role as the King’s representative. Lieutenant Governor Mirasty was joined by Nelson Bird, assignment editor at CTV Regina News for this intimate and in-depth one-on-one conversation.
- March 2024 Solstice Speaker Series event featured a discussion with Michael Linklater, who is a community leader and youth role model. As Michael shared his story the audience learned of his work in promoting sports in Indigenous communities and finding ways to give back to his community.

Performance Measure Results:

Park ecosystem health

- Natural environment provincial parks managed by ecosystem-based management plans.
- Target: Complete one additional ecosystem-based management plan (nine of 12) by March 31, 2024.
- One additional natural environment park was managed by Ecosystem Based Management Plans in 2023-24.

Provincial heritage resources and collections with conservations plans

- Percentage of all heritage resources and collections under the responsibility of the ministry that have a conservation plan in place. Conservation plans can be defined as a ministry-approved plan, strategy or process to regulate, preserve, manage or interpret the resource or collection.
- Target: By March 31, 2024, establish a baseline and timeline to bring 100 per cent of ministry-responsible resources and collections under management of a conservation plan.
- In 2023-24, 100 per cent of heritage collections held by the Royal Saskatchewan Museum are under management of a conservation plan.

Youth engagement

- Youth participation in interpretive and educational programming at historic parks, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and provincial parks. Youth participation is a demographic subset of the total visitation recorded in Goal 1.
- Target: Establish baseline for youth participation using 2023-24 levels.
- Historic parks welcomed 2,241 students through Outdoor Classroom, and 1,246 youth throughout the 2023-24 public programming season.
- The Royal Saskatchewan Museum had 53,119 youth visitors through casual visitation, school visits and special programs this year, approximately 40 per cent of total visitation, while the T-Rex Discovery Centre in Eastend, Saskatchewan had 2,737 youth, approximately 30 per cent of visitation.
- Summer 2023 saw a total of 30,470 youth participants in interpretive programming in provincial parks. In May and June, parks welcomed 14,749 students through Outdoor Classroom programming, and 15,721 youth throughout the public programming season.
- Winter 2023-24 saw a total of 160 youth participants in winter recreation and interpretive programming between January and March 2024. Programs included snowshoeing, winter hiking, astronomy, history programs and craft programs.

Progress on Goal 3: Increase Contribution to the Provincial Economy

Ongoing enhancements to programs, services and infrastructure are necessary to build compelling and meaningful experiences that inspire new and repeat visitation and participation. Leveraging partners and private sector interest in delivering new experiences supports economic growth and building strong and vibrant communities. These spaces, events and experiences are vital contributors to tourism and the economy, bringing significant tourist spending to communities across the province.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Enhance programs and events that contribute to economic tourism expenditure.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Enhance programming, events, and recreational opportunities to encourage visitation during the shoulder and winter seasons.
 - The 2023 special event season continues to drive visitation to parks during non-peak times. Three guided hiking events were hosted in the shoulder season including *Back in the Boreal* at Meadow Lake in June 2023, *Diamonds in the Rough* at Narrow Hills and Fall Guided Hikes at Echo Valley in September 2023 for a total of 243 participants. The *Great Outdoors* was also hosted in June 2023 over Father's Day weekend at Greenwater Lake, drawing over 300 participants.
 - SaskExpress toured six parks in 2023 and saw a total of over 3,200 attendees to its performances. As a part of SaskExpress' partnership this season, the cast facilitated a "*Workshop in the Park*" program for youth before each performance, led drama games and taught participants a segment of a song and dance to perform in front of the stage during the show.
 - August continued to be a busy special event month as visitors come to parks to soak up the last days of summer. *Summer Cinema* continued to be a visitor favourite, drawing over 1,300 participants to enjoy an outdoor movie experience. Other large-scale events included *Cabin Fever Art Festival* at Moose Mountain (over 1,000 participants), *Park After Dark* at Buffalo Pound (over 300 participants) and *Saddle Up* at Sask Landing (50th anniversary of the park with over 200 participants).
 - A refined winter program season was offered for 2023-24 at Cypress Hills, Buffalo Pound and Echo Valley. Programming ran Saturdays from January 6 - March 2, with additional programming over Family Day Weekend (total of 11 winter program days). Total winter program attendance for all parks was 435 participants, with 267 participants attending over Family Day Weekend programming. Of the total program

attendance, approximately 160 were youth. Seven total programs were cancelled across all three parks due to extreme weather with alternative indoor activities offered.

- 2023-24 was the sixth consecutive winter that Saskatchewan Parks offered winter events, or recreation opportunities. Activities in parks included snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, astronomy, snowmobiling, bison-viewing, tobogganing, skating, ice fishing, fat-tire bike trails, hot tub, whiskey barrel sauna, mushing sled and winter hikes. Since 2020-21, it is estimated that more than 26,000 entry permit days have been issued to people enjoying winter activities in provincial parks.
- Promote provincial parks as year-round destinations through targeted marketing and promotional campaigns.
 - Campaigns promoting camping, day use and events in provincial parks continued for summer, fall and winter and helped drive visitation through all three seasons.
 - These targeted campaigns enhance the regular promotion achieved through dedicated social media channels on Facebook and Instagram.
- Develop and implement a new saskparks.com digital strategy to ensure relevant information is available and easily accessible to encourage park visitation and program participation.
 - [Saskparks.com](https://www.saskparks.com) went through a major rebuild that improved the navigation and overall structure and made it more mobile friendly (www.tourismsaskatchewan.com/places-to-go/provincial-parks).
 - The new SaskParks.com web content was successfully launched on March 26, 2024. The ministry continues to work with Tourism Saskatchewan to support a shared goal of promoting Saskatchewan as a key tourism destination, and helping residents find vacation and sightseeing opportunities within the province.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Enable partnership and investment to deliver new experiences and services.

KeyActions: *What we will do to get there*

- Work with the private sector to facilitate renewal, expansion and development of infrastructure and new recreational offerings in parks.
 - Provincial parks are home to a wide variety of visitor services made possible by longstanding private and public sector collaboration. Operators pay lease fees for the use of park land which generates over \$450,000 annually for the Commercial Revolving Fund.
 - In 2023-24, the ministry offered several new experiences in provincial parks in partnership with the private sector, including:
 - A Long-term Seasonal Campground at Duck Mountain Provincial Park;
 - Rental accommodations at four provincial parks;
 - Blackstrap Provincial Park – Blackstrap Glamping Resort;
 - Good Spirit Provincial Park – Mistik Resort;
 - Meadow Lake Provincial Park – Lake Time Rentals;

- Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park – Glamping Resorts;
 - Mini-golf at Crooked Lake and Douglas Provincial Parks;
 - Wilderness first aid and backcountry hikes at multiple provincial parks;
 - Bus transportation for visitors to and from Echo Valley Provincial Park;
 - Farmers markets at Buffalo Pound, Good Spirit, Greenwater and Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Parks;
 - Food/beverage service at Echo Valley Provincial Park;
 - A cultural festival at Pike Lake Provincial Park;
 - Golf Simulators at Echo Ridge Golf Course;
 - Guided nature therapy at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park; and,
 - Product knowledge demo days for electric vehicles at multiple provincial parks.
- Partner with Tourism Saskatchewan to build awareness of programs, events and stakeholder engagement opportunities through targeted marketing, social channels and the Saskatchewaner program.
 - The ministry worked with the Saskatchewaner to promote the camping reservation launch, Sask Parks merchandise, Candle Lake and Porcupine Hills Provincial Parks, Blackstrap glamping domes and the Echo Valley sauna and *Skate the Park* events.
 - The ministry continues to work closely with Tourism Saskatchewan on social posts and content creation, that promote activities in many provincial parks.
- Strategically invest \$29.95 million in arts, culture, and heritage opportunities with sector partners including Creative Saskatchewan, SK Arts, Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation, Western Development Museum, Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Saskatchewan Science Centre.
 - The ministry invested \$12 million in Creative Saskatchewan to support production filming in various communities across Saskatchewan.
 - A few highlighted productions include Flat out Food Season (Season 4), Guardians of the North (Season 2), Heritage Minute on Mary Bonnie Baker, Gifts of Christmas and Escape the Lodge.
- Work with the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and other partners to secure new grants, donations, and sponsorships.
 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum has obtained several grants through the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum to help with research projects, totalling over \$300,000 this year.
 - The Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum annual fundraising event, *Aritifact/Artifiction*, was one of the most successful yet. The event was sold out and surpassed fundraising goals that supports the Royal Saskatchewan Museum’s research scholarship program.
- Continue to strengthen relationships between local provincial parks and Indigenous communities to promote events and experiences.
 - Engaged in community consultations with local Indigenous community stakeholders for Cumberland House Provincial Historic Park to develop new interpretive signs for the site. This project was aligned to mark the

250th anniversary of the establishment of the first inland Hudson's Bay Trading post located at Cumberland House and the contributions and history of the local Indigenous communities and peoples who were central to this story. These new signs will be installed in the park in Spring 2024.

- Introduced a Traditional Teachings Hike in partnership with a local Knowledge Keeper to lead a medicinal plant hike at the Fall Guided Hikes special event held at Echo Valley Provincial Park in September 2023. This hike was facilitated three times by the Knowledge Keeper with approximately 70 participants.
- Continued to engage with Pêmiska Tourism/Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation through public programming and special events at Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park. Hosted Trade Days in July 2023 at Fort Carlton in partnership with Pêmiska Tourism, who provided a tipi raising and powwow in the park and Métis jigging performances. This event saw 275 participants. Fort Carlton also continues to welcome Pêmiska Tourism to host its own events at the park, including a public powwow to commemorate the signing of Treaty 6 and a dinner theater showcase for Go Media in September 2023.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Reduce red-tape to support private sector investment and economic development opportunities.

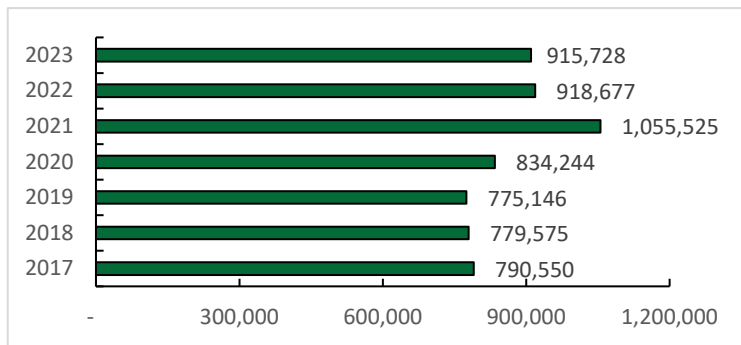
Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Implementation of Heritage Conservation Branch Online Client Services Initiative.
 - The Heritage Conservation Branch's Online Client Services initiative is designed to streamline the archaeological heritage regulation process in Saskatchewan and reduce approval wait time costs to the industry.
 - IT Governance approvals for a revised project budget of \$1.362 million and an extended timeline was approved in July 2023.
 - Capital funding to complete implementation of the Initiative in 2024-25 was approved.
 - Phase 2 Execution of the implementation of the initiative began in September 2023, with a scheduled go-live date in fall 2024.
- Undertake reviews of the Arts Professions Act and the Heritage Property Act Regulations.
 - Legislative review of the Arts Professions Act was completed and given to senior management. It was determined the Act is relevant and no changes are recommended at this time.
 - A final Red Tape Review report was completed on the Heritage Property Act Regulations and presented to the Red Tape Reduction Committee. No changes to the Regulations were required.

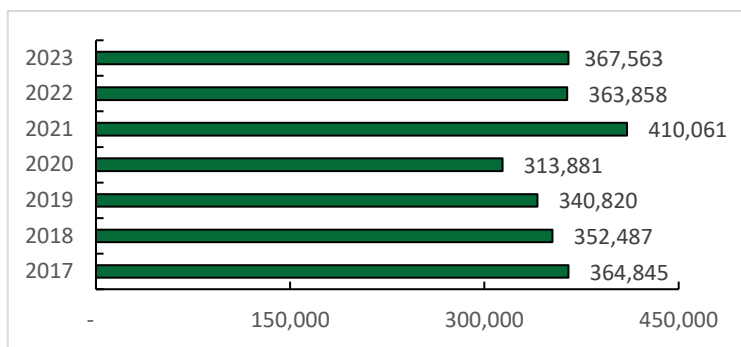
Performance Measure Results:

Visitation to provincial parks

- Number of entry permit days in Saskatchewan provincial parks.
- Target: 920,000 entry permit days issued in provincial parks in 2023-24.
- There was a total of 915,728 entry days this year.



- Number of camping permit nights in Saskatchewan provincial parks.
- Target: 375,000 camping permit nights issued in provincial parks in 2023-24.
- 367,563 camping permit nights sold in provincial parks in 2023-24.



Economic Impact

- Estimated Saskatchewan spend by productions through Creative Saskatchewan's Feature Film and Television Production Grant Program.
- Target: Total grant funding of \$12 million for productions in 2023-24 will create an estimated Saskatchewan spend of \$30 million.

- In 2023-24, grant funding of \$11.93 million of the \$12 million committed generated an estimated Saskatchewan spend of \$30 million.
- Total number of new and expanded private sector offerings and associated capital investment in provincial parks.
- Target: Establish a baseline and increase private sector offerings available in provincial parks.
- In 2023-24, there were 19 new private sector offerings in provincial parks, including 10 new offerings by existing business leaseholders.

Turnaround time for requests and inquiries

- Average Heritage Conservation Branch response time to review development proposals.
- Target: Respond within 28 days for all development proposals in 2023-24.
- An average 10 day response time to review development project applications was achieved due to a temporary staffing increase related to the Online Client Services Initiative project execution and a reduction in the number of development submissions requiring responses from the previous year.

Status of Women Office Overview

Our Mandate

The Status of Women Office is the sole branch in government that reports on the status of women. The Status of Women Office acts as a catalyst within government to raise awareness of issues affecting women to ensure gender considerations are integrated into government-policy making, legislation and program development.

Mission

Contribute to enhancing Saskatchewan's economic growth and high quality of life by identifying and addressing issues affecting women through research and facilitation of partnerships across government and throughout communities.

Progress on Goal 1: Increase Women's Capacity to Grow Saskatchewan's Economy

Increasing women's capacity to grow Saskatchewan's economy contributes to a better quality of life for Saskatchewan families and communities. The Status of Women Office will support achieving this goal by leading and coordinating the development of initiatives that provide opportunities for women and girls in innovation and technology.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Increase capacity for women to work in non-traditional sectors and industries.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Establish a provincial working group to identify and leverage opportunities to increase women's participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics and non-traditional sectors.
 - A provincial working group was established to identify and leverage opportunities to increase women's participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics and non-traditional sectors. The membership includes representation from Government of Saskatchewan ministries, crowns and agencies
- Lead and coordinate new opportunities with strategic partners to enhance existing program and services and enables greater participation in the economy.
 - Sponsored the 3rd annual Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics and non-traditional sectors conference. The conference was live streamed to Grade 6 to 9 classrooms across Saskatchewan wherein 2,000 girls across the province were inspired and encouraged to consider careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.
 - Provided funding to support the development of a women's carpentry for the creative arts apprenticeship program in Regina. The program will support women to enter the skilled trade workforce where they will specialize in carpentry used for theater, film, museums and general construction. The program enables women to advance their trade skill in these areas including the opportunity to achieve Red Seal status.
- Lead and coordinate provincial initiatives that support women to break barriers in leadership roles.
 - Sponsored the 2nd annual Women Breaking Barriers Conference.

Performance Measure Results:

Seats in Non-Traditional Apprenticeship and Trade Programs

- Target: Increase the number of seats made available to women in non-traditional apprenticeship and trade-skill programs in Saskatchewan by 20 per cent by 2025.
- The Status of Women Office provided grant funding to On Que Performance Hub Inc., to develop the Women's Carpentry for Creative Arts Apprenticeship Program in Regina.

Women in STEAM Sectors

- Target: Increase the rate of women entering Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics sectors in Saskatchewan by 20 per cent by March 31, 2025.
- The Status of Women Office partnered with the Saskatchewan Science Center to provide opportunities that encourage girls to pursue careers in STEAM.

Women in leadership roles in non-traditional sectors

- Target: Increase the number of women in leadership roles in non-traditional sectors in Saskatchewan by 70 per cent by March 31, 2027.
- The Status of Women Office sponsored the 2024 Women Breaking Barriers Conference.

Progress on Goal 2: Lead and Coordinate with Stakeholders to End Interpersonal Violence and Abuse in Saskatchewan

Ending interpersonal violence and abuse in Saskatchewan supports strong families and stronger communities. The Status of Women Office will support achieving this goal by leading and coordinating initiatives that prevent interpersonal violence and abuse from occurring.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Lead and coordinate stakeholder engagement across government and communities to identify strategies and initiatives that increase women's safety, security, and wellbeing.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop Saskatchewan's implementation plan to support the *National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence*.
 - Led coordinated work across the government of Saskatchewan resulting in the creation of Saskatchewan's actions to implement the [National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence](#). This work includes the oversight and management of The Canada-Saskatchewan Transfer Agreement to provide the province with \$20.3 million in new federal dollars to match Saskatchewan's investments to implement this national action plan. (www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/gender-based-violence/intergovernmental-collaboration/bilateral-agreements/saskatchewan-agreement.html)
- Lead ministry actions to support the *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan and Pathway Forward*.
 - Collaborated with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and the Ministry of Government Relations to support Saskatchewan's work with Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments to support the [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan and Pathway Forward](#). (mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca)
 - To support increased awareness of *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* and *2Spirit People* and offer support to their loved ones, the Status of Women Office supported several activities in 2023-24 including the following:
 - Provided funding to the National Council of Women of Canada to support a conference held in Saskatoon in June 2023 that included focus on addressing *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* and *2Spirit People*.

- Provided funding to the Regina Women’s Network in January 2024, to support a community-led conference to raise awareness about Human Trafficking and sexual exploitation, highlighting the disproportionate number of Indigenous women and girls and their families who are impacted.
 - Implement Phase 3 of the *Face the Issue* public awareness campaign.
 - The Status of Women Office worked with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and the Ministry of Advanced Education to develop Phase 3 of the *Face the Issue* public awareness campaign to address interpersonal violence and abuse.
 - Phase 3 was completed, and the campaign was released publicly April 15th, 2024.

Performance Measure Results:

Saskatchewan Implementation Plan to end interpersonal violence and abuse

- Target: Develop implementation plan to end violence and abuse by March 31, 2024.
- Saskatchewan signed the Canada-Saskatchewan Transfer Agreement to Implement the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence on July 25, 2023.

Public Awareness Campaign

- Target: Implement Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the public awareness campaign for Interpersonal Violence and Abuse by March 31, 2025.
- Phase 3 of the public awareness campaign was developed and released publicly April 15th, 2024.

Financial Summary

The ministry's appropriation for 2023-24 was \$88.815 million. Including a non-appropriated expense of \$6.774 million (less capital asset acquisitions of \$13.729 million), the ministry of Parks Culture and Sport's total approved expense for 2023-24 was \$81.860 million.

Total 2023-24 actual expenses were \$83.073 million, a variance of \$1.213 million from the expense estimate.

The ministry's budgeted revenue for the 2023-24 fiscal year was \$9.403 million. The 2023-24 actual revenue was \$7.491 million, a variance of \$1.912 million from the revenue estimate.

The ministry's actual FTE utilization was 443.0.

Additional financial information can be found in Government of Saskatchewan Public Accounts located at publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/893.

Expense Summary

The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote and subprogram. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than 10 per cent.

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport Expense Actuals

Subvote/ Subprogram	2022-23 Actual (\$000s)	2023-24 Estimate (\$000s)	2023-24 Actual (\$000s)	2023-24 Variance (\$000s)
Central Management and Services	9,916	10,077	10,179	102
Minister's Salary (Statutory)	56	56	57	1
Executive Management	806	880	792	(88) ¹
Central Services	4,267	4,205	4,286	81
Status of Women	384	485	542	57 ²
Accommodation Services	4,403	4,451	4,502	51
Parks	26,430	26,891	27,488	597
Provincial Park Programs	4,545	3,988	4,049	61
Parks Capital Projects	11,122	12,258	12,316	58

Parks Preventative Maintenance	1,837	1,707	1,645	(62)
Regional Parks	600	615	615	0
Urban Parks	500	513	513	0
Commercial Revolving Fund - Subsidy	7,826	7,810	8,350	540
Resource Stewardship	7,148	8,434	8,551	117
Operational Support	2,622	2,955	2,977	22
Francophone Affairs	709	719	736	17
Support for Provincial Heritage and Culture	801	821	793	(28)
Royal Saskatchewan Museum	3,016	3,939	4,045	106
Community Engagement	49,845	43,413	43,641	228
Community Sport, Culture and Recreation Programs	3,032	3,100	3,043	(57)
Active Families Benefit	4,000	4,000	2,000	(2,000) ³
Heritage Institutions and Saskatchewan Science Center	5,415	5,551	5,551	0
Saskatchewan Arts Board	6,610	6,775	6,775	0
Community Initiatives Fund	7,674	6,366	8,651	2,285 ⁴
Creative Saskatchewan	22,814	17,313	17,313	0
Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation	300	308	308	0
Total Appropriation	93,339	88,815	89,859	1,044
Other Non-Expense Appropriations	(636)	-	-	-
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(11,127)	(13,729)	(13,787)	(58)
Capital Asset Amortization	6,242	6,774	7,001	227
Total Expense	87,818	81,860	83,073	1,213

Notes:

1. Variance due to vacancy management, delayed staffing, miscellaneous operating savings and delays in projects.
2. Variance due to supplementary funding.
3. Variance due to accrual reduced to align with program utilization.
4. Variance due to special warrant funding.

Revenue Summary

The ministry's actual revenue for the 2023-24 fiscal year was \$7.491 million. The budgeted revenue was \$9.403 million, resulting in a \$1.912 million variance of actual from budget.

The ministry collects revenue relating to the rental of the Soundstage and fees from hosting various mixed martial arts events. The ministry also receives funding from the Federal Government under a Federal-Provincial Sport Bilateral Agreement, a French-language Services Agreement, the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence, and may receive funding through application for eligible federal programming. All revenue collected is deposited in the General Revenue Fund. A summary of the ministry's 2023-24 budgeted revenue compared to actual revenue is presented below. Variance explanations are provided for all variances greater than \$100,000.

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport Revenue

Revenue Category	2022-23 Actual (\$000s)	2023-24 Estimate (\$000s)	2023-24 Actual (\$000s)	2023-24 Variance (\$000s)
Other Own-source Revenue				
Other Fees and Charges	7,250	6,825	1,350	(5,475) ¹
Miscellaneous	62	-	-	-
Subtotal	7,312	6,825	1,350	(5,475)
Transfer from the Federal Govt	1,943	2,578	6,141	3,563 ²
Total Revenue	9,255	9,403	7,491	(1,912)

Notes:

1. Lottery revenue reduced to nil in-year due to the funding now flowing through Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Crown Corporation.
2. Federal funding received to support the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence.

Revolving Funds

Commercial Revolving Fund

The Commercial Revolving Fund is the financing mechanism for collection and distribution of funds used in the operation of Saskatchewan's parks, recreation sites and historic parks. The purpose of this revolving fund is to pay for activities required to support the management, development, and promotion of provincial parks. The Commercial Revolving Fund receives revenue from a variety of activities that take place within provincial parks and recreation sites, such as camping, entry gate permits, cottage lot leases, leased commercial facilities (stores, marinas, cabin rentals, etc.), resource use activities and other miscellaneous items. Expenditures within the Commercial Revolving Fund contribute to the operation of the provincial park system and are made to ensure safe public enjoyment of provincial parks and recreation sites.

The Commercial Revolving Fund operations under the authority of Section 18 of The Natural Resources Act and is administered by the ministry. The Commercial Revolving Fund contains and records the direct operating revenues and expenditures associated with delivering the parks program.

The following table outlines summary information on budgeted and unaudited results for 2023-24 related to the operation of the fund. Audited financial statements will be available at:

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport Expense Actuals

Based on unaudited figures for 2023-24

Revenue Category	2022-23 Actual (\$000s)	2023-24 Estimate (\$000s)	2023-24 Actual (\$000s)	2023-24 Variance (\$000s)
Revenue	22,513	23,031	24,592	1,561 ¹
Expenses				
Salaries	18,615	18,000	18,728	728
Operating Expenses	14,798	13,000	13,455	455
Total Expenses	33,413	31,000	32,183	1,183 ²
Net (Loss)Profit	(10,900)	(7,969)	(7,591)	378
Subsidy from the General Revenue Fund	7,826	7,810	8,350	540 ³
Net (Loss) Profit after subsidy	(3,074)	(159)	759	918
Accumulated Operating (deficit) Surplus, end of year	(1,013)		(253)	(1,266) ⁴

Notes:

1. Variance due to higher-than-expected revenue from the sale of leased cottage lots.
2. Variance due to inflation and higher-than-expected expenses for staffing.
3. Variance due to additional subsidy received to offset additional salaries in lieu of union agreement.
4. Variance in the Accumulated Operating Surplus due to the net impact of annual revenue and expense variances.