

Annual Report

2024-25

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

Letters of Transmittal



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

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, 2025.

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



Greg Gettle
Deputy Minister Parks,
Culture and Sport

The Honourable Alana 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, 2025.

Greg Gettle
Deputy Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

Organization Overview

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport – Overview

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 province's French-language population. The ministry manages and enhances Saskatchewan's provincial parks 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.

[2024-25 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 these programs' enhancements contribute to building stronger families and vibrant communities by providing spaces for people to socially connect and enjoy healthful recreation, all of which have a profound effect on the physical and emotional well-being of citizens.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Improve and maintain infrastructure.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Enhanced investment of over \$15 million to support expansion, maintenance, accessibility and renewal of park infrastructure to meet growing park visitor demands for camping, recreational and cultural opportunities.
 - 2024-25 capital budget was fully expended to support the expansion, maintenance, accessibility and renewal of park infrastructure.
 - In 2024-25 the ministry began or continued construction on several projects in provincial parks including:
 - Construction of a new campground service centre at Lac La Ronge Provincial Park to replace the existing aging facility.
 - Construction of new accessible playgrounds at Danielson and Greenwater Lake Provincial Parks.
 - Completion of accessibility upgrades at Regina Beach Recreation Site.
 - Completion 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.
 - Water/wastewater system upgrades at Moose Mountain, Narrow Hills, Crooked Lake, Great Blue Heron, and Echo Valley Provincial Parks.
 - 2024-25 preventative maintenance budget was fully expended on maintenance projects identified as priorities by park staff.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Enhance programs and opportunities.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Attract visitors to the provincial parks and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (including the T.Rex Discovery Centre) through new and targeted initiatives, such as recreational, and cultural programs, services and events.

- Saskatchewan provincial parks delivered new initiatives that connected students and visitors with nature, recreational and learning opportunities, including:
 - Refreshed self-use Discovery Packs with new themes such as Fossil and Dino Discovery, Wild About Wildflowers and Junior Ecologist. This program encourages visitors to explore their favourite park and learn about healthy ecosystems, pollination, conservation, palaeontology, nocturnal animals and more.
 - Updated a selection of core programs including adding new activities and content for programs such as Natural Wonders, Digging into the Past and Geocaching. Introduced new programs that include Journey to Jackfish, a new paddle program for Duck Mountain Provincial Park, Family Game Night, Playful Explorations and Nature Mindfulness. These programs to engage to various interests and teach visitors about environmental landscapes and responsible recreation.
 - Introduced new conservation-focused event called Grazefest at Condie Nature Refuge, which educated the public on how goats and sheep can naturally reduce invasive species in prairie grasslands ecosystems.
 - Introduced a new online booking platform for Outdoor Classroom, making it easier for schools to find and book educational programming at each participating park. Teacher feedback indicated that 97 per cent of respondents were satisfied overall with the new booking platform.
 - Educational programs were updated with refreshed content including Steele Narrows Tours, Bison and Human History, Forest Study and Boreal Basics, Science of the Sand, Geology of Cypress Hills and Wilderness 101.
 - New teacher self-use kits were developed for school groups to expand self-guided exploration opportunities. This included a Hiking Kit, Indigenous Games Kit and Aquatic Ecosystem Exploration Kit.
- The Royal Saskatchewan Museum developed new pre-school programming that included a monthly “Silly Stories” program, showcasing unique stories and storytellers from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum that bring the animals in the museum to life.
 - The museum hosted a stuffy sleep over and a dance party and concerts with Scotty, the largest T-Rex in the World and Ms. Musick, the songwriter and singer of the “Scotty” Song.
 - New summer drop-in programs were developed. Every two weeks the programs changed so repeat visitors would always experience something new and exciting. The drop-in programs included: Trash Talking, In the Zone Ecozone game, Born to Run - The Story of Pronghorn and Be a Scientist. A new stage show was also performed in auditorium called Weevil's World!
 - Over the school break in December/January a new drop-in activity was developed, Grand Escape Gallery Hunt and family members could play games in the Learning Lab to guess the correct eco-zone animals live in.
 - Also new this year, was Sketching Sundays a drop-in program that quickly became popular.
 - The T-Rex Discovery Centre held an Un-Earthed Day party for Scotty and hosted special activities during Eastend Dino Days in July. Younger visitors could complete a new ‘Dinosaur Expedition Passport’ to

Achieve Junior Palaeontologist status. Each week a new theme was explored about everything paleontology, visitors could learn about and ask questions to the experts and do hands on activities.

- Promoting participation in sport, culture, recreation and community activities to increase well-being by investing \$1.5 million through Saskatchewan Veterans Service Club Support Program and \$1.6 million in the Community Rink Affordability Grant.
 - The Saskatchewan Veterans Service Club Support Program was fully subscribed with 81 grants provided to eligible recipients. This was the largest single intake since the program's inception. The funding supported facility improvements, operations and other activities.
 - Examples of facility improvement projects include roof and foundation repairs, accessibility and safety enhancements, major and minor renovations (washrooms, kitchens, flooring, walls, windows), electrical and plumbing upgrades, equipment replacement (such as furnaces, air conditioning, generators, furniture, appliances), and other items that help ensure the long-term sustainability of the veteran service organization.
 - A fee of \$50,000 is also paid to Royal Canadian Legion Saskatchewan Command out of the \$1.5 million budget for program administration.
 - In 2024-25, the Community Rink Affordability Grant supported 577 ice surfaces (378 skating rinks and 199 curling rinks).
- The Royal Saskatchewan Museum will add a new interactive learning exhibit to the Life Sciences gallery.
 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum added two exciting new attractions to the Life Science gallery:
 - *Saskatchewan - North to South* is a stunning introduction to the Life Science Gallery that displays high-definition photos of the province's four ecozones. The exhibit captures the four seasons, leading visitors to an adjoining area to explore Saskatchewan's 11 ecoregions through an interactive display. The regions will light up on a large map while simultaneously showing Saskatchewan's beauty through vignettes of the different areas on a huge video wall.
 - *Animal Sounds* is a new interactive display where visitors listen to eight different audio files recorded in natural settings from the province's four ecoregions, with a video representing the audio recording. An interactive guessing game of 58 animal sounds is also part of the new display. To increase accessibility, it includes handheld speakers with an audio induction loop - a special type of sound system for use by people with hearing aids.
 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum will add a new interactive learning exhibit to the Life Sciences gallery.
 - The T-Rex Discovery Centre added a complete replicate of a Pteranodon skeleton (a type of extinct flying reptile) flying above the entrance to the Centre.
 - New interpretive panels were added to provide more interesting facts about the local fossil heritage in the southwest area of the province.
- Implement the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on French-language services to enhance the delivery of services in French.
 - Through the agreements, funding to third parties has helped improve the availability of French-language services, such as a mental health hotline in

French, a patient accompaniment service to support better communications with health professionals, and professional development opportunities for Francophone artists.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Work with sector partners to deliver safe and accessible experiences.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Support community investments through Active Families Benefit, the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, the Community Initiatives Fund, and agency partners to strengthen capacity to access quality sports, culture, recreation and physical activity programs and services.
 - Preliminary data states the Active Families Benefit had 4,204 claims in the 2023 taxation year totalling \$1.05 million.
 - In 2024-25, approximately \$64 million was distributed through the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund, helping support 12,000 sport, culture and recreation beneficiary groups and 600,000 registered participants across the province.
 - In 2024-25, the Community Initiatives Fund approved 596 grants for community-based projects and programs across Saskatchewan, totaling \$8.41 million.
- Support the Meewasin Valley Authority and the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association in providing safe, accessible and valued experiences for citizens.
 - The ministry provided the Meewasin Valley Authority with \$513,000 in 2024-25. This support helps enhance infrastructure upgrades and maintenance; the development of environmental, cultural, and heritage educational programming; and active management measures to strengthen the valley's natural ecosystems.
 - Funding to the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association was doubled to \$1.23 million. These funds support capital improvement and preventative maintenance projects in the province's regional parks, which are major camping, cottaging and recreation destinations that serve both local communities and tourists.

Performance Measure Results:

Royal Saskatchewan Museum and T.Rex Discovery Centre visitation

- Number of visitors to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the T.Rex Discovery Centre.
- Target: 120,000 visitors to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.
- There were 117,647 visitors to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in 2024-25.
- Target: 10,000 visitors to the T.Rex Discovery Centre in 2024-25.
- There were 8,487 visitors to the T.Rex Discovery Centre in 2024-25.
- Due to election advertising restrictions, there was limited promotion throughout the summer months regarding the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the T.Rex Discovery Centre, this most likely impacted visitation.
- Visitation was also impacted in January and February at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum due to extreme cold weather and an increase in storms. School bus cancellations due to

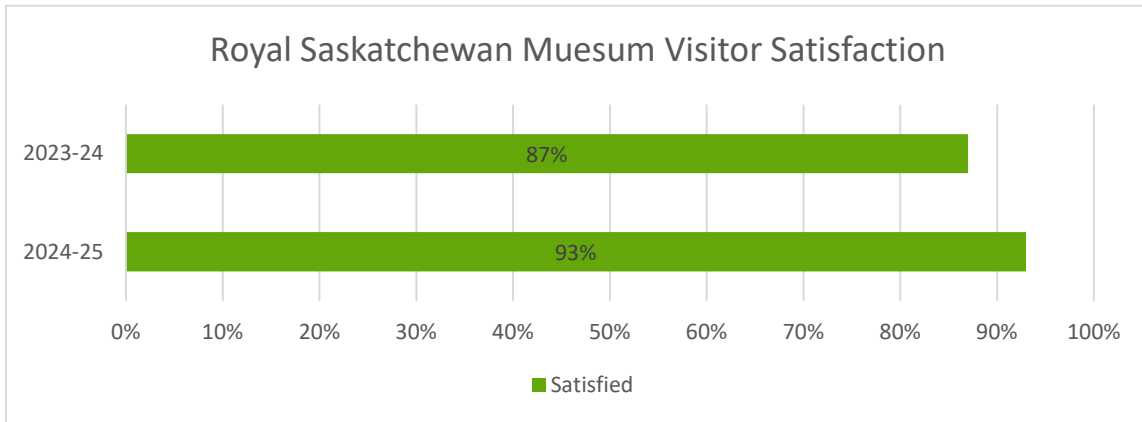
poor weather impacted the school visitation during those months as well. Once weather improved in April, visitation has rebounded.

Participation in sports, culture and recreation programs

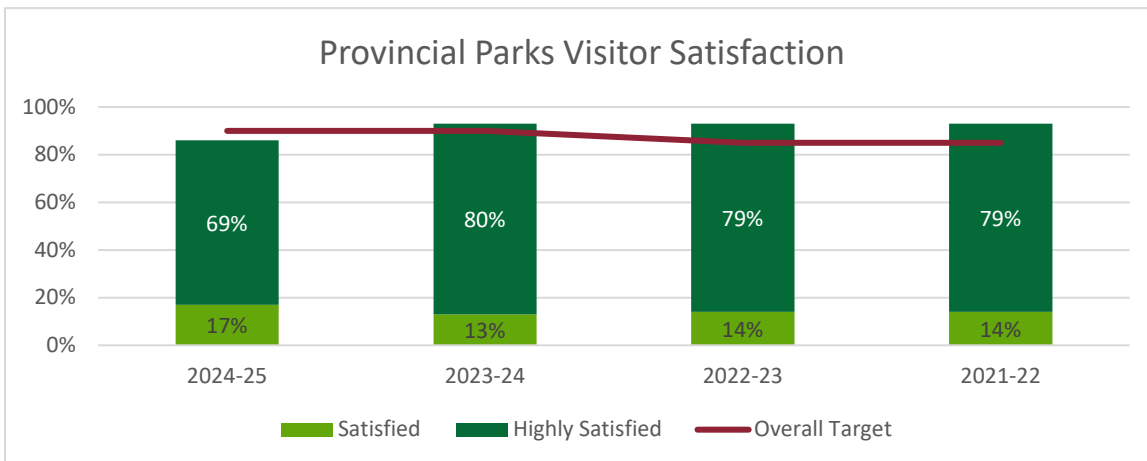
- Total number of registered participants instances in sport, culture and recreation programs delivered by ministry partners. Ministry partners include Saskatchewan Lotteries, Community Initiatives Fund, Western Development Museum, Saskatchewan Science Centre, and Wanuskewin Heritage Park.
- Target: 1.5 million participants in sport, culture, and recreation programs in 2024-25.
- There were 1.6 million registered participant instances in sport, culture and recreation programs in 2024-25.

Visitor Satisfaction

- Satisfaction with visits to Saskatchewan provincial parks and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.
- Target (Royal Saskatchewan Museum): 90% satisfaction rate.
- 93% of visitors were satisfied with their visit to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.



- Target (provincial parks): 90% are satisfied, and 75% are highly satisfied.
- 86% of visitors were satisfied and 69% were highly satisfied with their visit to provincial parks.



Youth Engagement

- Youth (under 18 years old) participation in interpretive and educational programming in historic parks, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and provincial parks.
- Target: 37% of total visitation for both the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the T Rex. Discovery Centre will be youth.
- 39% of total visitation to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the T Rex. Discovery Centre were youth.
- Target: 40% of participants in interpretive and educational programming at historic and provincial parks are youth.
- 81% of participants in interpretive and educational programming at historic and provincial parks were youth.

Online Content and Reach

- Number of pages on Saskatchewan.ca/bonjour
- Target: 385 by March 2025.
- There were 383 pages at the end of March 2025

Progress on Goal 2: Protect our Natural and Cultural Resources for the 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 build stronger families and vibrant communities. This improves the well-being of our citizens by creating understanding and connection to the past, and responsibilities in the present, and considers the impact on future generations.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Strengthen stewardship of our cultural resources and natural ecosystems.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Implement the Park Ecosystem Health Index to monitor and improve our understanding of the state and condition of the park ecosystem health and integrity.
 - Five-year targets and action plans were developed and implemented across four priority parks (Sask Landing, Douglas, Danielson and Buffalo Pound) to guide ecosystem management activities. These action plans included completing prescribed burns, managing grazing activities, applying herbicides for invasive species management, grassland restoration efforts, and reassessing range health. Additionally, innovative monitoring tools, such as acoustic recording devices, were implemented to enhance biodiversity assessment efforts.
- Improve the quality of ecosystem integrity through active management measures such as tree planting, invasive species treatment, and forest harvesting.
 - Through the implementation of the action plans guided by the Park Ecosystem Health Index, significant ecological management actions were completed with more than 43,000 ha (out of 339,084 ha) treated across five different parks, forest harvesting in three parks, and Fire Smart initiatives across seven sites to reduce wildfire risk.
- Improve the management and public interaction with heritage data held by the Ministry.
 - The Geographic Names Program completed digitization of 4,477 records for named places in Saskatchewan, creating a permanent, searchable digital record to backup original paper documents, which can now be archived. Information from these records has been incorporated into the public-facing online Saskatchewan Geographic Names Search tool.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Expand research and discovery.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Conduct and facilitate scientific research at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and promote discoveries made by Royal Saskatchewan researchers.
 - Researchers published eleven academic papers. More information about curator research can be found at [Research « Royal Saskatchewan Museum](#)
 - Researchers or collections managers offered 22 media interviews on different topics and projects.
 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum continues to contribute to research all over the world, this year the museum had 353 public and professional inquiries related to the collection or research.
 - The museums curators and collections managers delivered 54 public and professional presentations about their work and research.
 - A local research project that started in 2021 was published this fiscal. Monitoring stations were placed around the City of Regina to assess how wildlife responds to urban development. Over three years, 143 different types of birds and 15 types of mammals were recorded in the city. The study concluded that urbanization had little impact on mammal species, and that bird diversity was higher in the urban habitat.
- Continue planning for upgrades to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum Research, Exhibits, and Collection Facility to ensure the safety of staff and longevity of collections.
 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum and SaskBuilds and Procurement completed design plans for a new research exhibits and collections space that will be safe, functional and allow for appropriate storage capacity and growth of the provincial collections. The project was approved in the 2025-26 provincial budget and tendering and construction can start in fiscal 2025-26.
- Work in collaboration with Indigenous communities to improve the stewardship of sacred Indigenous collections; and,
- Launch the digitized Indigenous Cultural Heritage collection website, making the collection more accessible to communities.
 - The Saskatchewan [Indigenous Cultural Heritage Collection](#) webpage was launched by the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in collaboration with Indigenous partners. The project to digitize the Indigenous ethnology collection held at the museum and is now available online to the public. This project has allowed more people to see the artifacts and engage with the collection. The webpage had 4,000 new users this fiscal, which lead to 38 new inquiries about the collection.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Support Wanuskewin Heritage Park's application to become a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site.

- Assist Wanuskewin Heritage Park with stable annual operating funding as well as ongoing internal support in preparation for the 2028 UNESCO designation.
- Expand engagement with Indigenous communities to increase the inclusiveness of the ministry's programs, services and policies.
 - Created an Indigenous specific email distribution list, containing approximately 110 email addresses, to share ministry job postings. List includes Indigenous post-secondary institutions, community-based organizations, employment centers serving an Indigenous clientele and First Nations.
 - The Cumberland House project focussed on updating and refreshing the Cumberland House Provincial Park site for day use camping/picnicking, artifact maintenance and structures, interpretive signage and trails in advance of the Cumberland House community's 250th year celebration taking place in 2024. The project involved community engagement with Cumberland House community and a ministry wide project team.
 - Continue partnerships with local Indigenous communities to support Saskatchewan provincial parks in its development of cultural programming and experiences in parks.
 - Continue fostering strong collaborate partnerships and program and event opportunities with Indigenous tourism operators within Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park, such as Pemiska Tourism, to support initiatives such as Trade Days, Treaty 6 Day, Journées du Patrimoine/Heritage Days School Festival 2024, as well as supported Pemiska Tourism in their weekend public programming initiatives in the park.
 - Collaborated closely with the Northern Village of Cumberland House, members of its Kwegich Historical Society, with support of the Ministry's Senior Indigenous Advisor and the Public Programming team of Saskatchewan provincial parks to develop five brand new outdoor interpretive panels for Cumberland House Provincial Historic Park to mark the 250th anniversary of Cumberland House and Saskatchewan's first permanent settlement.
 - Echo Valley Provincial Park worked in partnership with local Indigenous Communities to facilitate an art installation, created an indigenous inspired chainsaw carving at the park entrance and the flying of two Treaty Four flags in celebration of 150 years of the Treaty in September 9-15, 2024. One flag was placed at the main park entrance and the other was flown at the Lakeview campground entrance.
- Partner with Indigenous communities and speakers, in the spirit of reconciliation, to deliver learning opportunities and events at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum including the Speakers Series, Indigenous Story Telling Month, Orange Shirt Day and Indigenous History Month.
 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum collaborated with the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum on the fourth season of the SGI Solstice Speaker Series. June's Solstice Series hosted a celebration of Indigenous culture and dance featuring multi-talented duo TiBert et Douzie, who delighted audiences through storytelling and music. The Solstice Series that was held in December highlighted Indigenous artists and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum's Songs for Nature Programs' connection to land, truth and reconciliation. In March,

- Solstice Series hosted singer, artist and musician Tom Wilson who spoke about Identity and preformed and read from his best-selling book Beautiful Scars.
- The Royal Saskatchewan Museum also hosted three Traditional Knowledge Keeper Programs with Indigenous community leaders in art and culture. The workshops explored traditional Ledger Art, Medicine Pouch Beading and Silk Embroidery.
 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum held National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations at the museum throughout the afternoon of June 21. The museum planned interactive station activities throughout the museum that shared Indigenous culture, heritage, and art. The museum developed a new program this year for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (also known as Orange Shirt Day). The staff discovered “William” a point of view experience originally created for virtual reality headsets and adapted the experience to be compatible with the museums Science on Sphere globe screen. The “William” series transported audiences back in time and witnessed the realities many Indigenous children faced in residential schools.
 - For Indigenous storytelling month in February the museum had two performances from talented storytellers Skylar Anderson and Teddy Bison, as well as Storytime with Elder Hasel.

Performance Measure Results:

Park Ecosystem Health

- All 12 natural environment provincial parks to be managed by ecosystem-based management plans by March 31, 2028.
- Target: Nine natural environment provincial parks are managed by ecosystem-based management plans by March 31, 2025.
- Eight natural environment provincial parks are managed by ecosystem-based management plans in 2024-25.

Provincial Heritage Resources and Collections Conservation Plans

- All heritage resources and collections under the responsibility of the ministry will have an approved plan strategy, or process to regulate, preserve, manage, or interpret the resource or collection.
- Target: 100% of newly registered archaeological sites will have a conservation plan by March 31, 2025.
- The Site Inventory database has been modified to now capture conservation plan information for new archaeological sites. The implementation of these changes will coincide with the launch of the Heritage Resources Screening system which has been rescheduled for fiscal 2025-26.
- Target: 100% of newly designated Provincial Heritage Properties will have a conservation plan by March 31, 2025.
- On target. No new designated Provincial Heritage Properties in 2024-25.
- Target: All existing designated Provincial Heritage Properties will have a conservation plan by March 31, 2028.
- On target. Conservation Plans completed for 21% of Provincial Heritage Properties in 2024-25.

Progress on Goal 3: Increase Contribution to Provincial Economy

Ongoing enhancements to parks, 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 are vital contributors to tourism and the economy, bringing significant tourist spending to communities across the province.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Enhance programs and events that contribute to economic tourism expenditure.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Encourage winter and shoulder month visitation in provincial parks with enhanced programming, events and recreational opportunities, such as guided hikes, snowshoeing and skiing.
 - Delivered spring-specific initiatives including backcountry hiking event, “Back in the Boreal” at Meadow Lake Provincial Park and the multi-park Saskatchewan Hiking Challenge for National Trails Days with all events bringing in over 500 participants.
 - Late summer and fall special events included Summer Cinema, large-scale themed events such as Glowmania, and fall hiking events across multiple parks that saw over 9,000 participants from May to September.
 - Expanded winter offering with camping at eight parks from November 2024 to March 2025 – up from three parks in the previous winter – and included enhanced camping comfort at Echo Valley Provincial Park with reservable propane-heated Camp-Easy yurts, and discounted annual entry permits to encourage visitors to provincial parks during the 2024-25 winter.
 - Successfully delivered six different programs during Family Day Weekend at Echo Valley Provincial Park, engaging over 100 participants, including 50 youth.
 - To encourage off-peak visitation in provincial parks, various promotional codes were strategically implemented from May to September with the discount codes used almost 4,900 times and resulting in over \$376,000 in bookings. This is an increase from the promotional codes used in 2023 which amounted in over \$144, 000 in bookings.
- Promote provincial parks as year-round destinations through targeted marketing and promotional campaigns.
 - Summer campaign – “Take a Moment in Sask Parks” to support peak and shoulder season visitation:
 - Meta and Google ads promoted the ways to stay, things to do and camping discounts.
 - A social media photo contest engaged the community, a refreshed bi-weekly eNewsletter delivered earned promotion, and marketing support was provided to support multiple events throughout the year.

- Education on campground etiquette and “leave no trace” principles were also integrated into social media channels and the eNewsletter throughout summer.
- Fall campaign – “Extend Your Summer”: Saskparks.com hero imagery, eNewsletters and organic social media storytelling extended trip-planning momentum into autumn, encouraging day-trippers and campers to keep exploring the parks after summer’s end.
- Winter campaign - “Snowflakes & Scenic Breaks”: Multi-channel promotion of Skate-the-Park, Camp-Easy yurts, and Family Week at Echo Valley, and winter activities and events across the parks to support awareness and visitation in winter.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Enable partnership and investment to deliver on new experiences and services.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Strategically invest in \$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 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 S5, Guardians of the North S3, #Vanlife, and We Were Broncos.
 - The ministry also invested \$100,000 in Business/Arts to deliver the Artsvest Saskatchewan program, a sponsorship and training program designed to encourage private sector investment in arts, culture and heritage organizations.
- Build awareness of programs, events and stakeholder engagement opportunities through targeted marketing, social channels, and the Saskatchewaner Program.
 - SaskParks.com: Continuous incremental improvements were made throughout the year to enhance user experience, such as the improvement of flow on pages with business and activity listings, and new filtering systems.
 - Tourism Saskatchewan Partnership: Worked with Tourism Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewaner program throughout the year to collaborate and cross-post on social media to support active campaigns and enhance awareness of parks across the province.
 - Social media (ongoing): Content is published to Saskatchewan provincial parks accounts on Facebook and Instagram to engage and educate the community, support active marketing campaigns, and promote activities, businesses, and events in Saskatchewan provincial parks.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

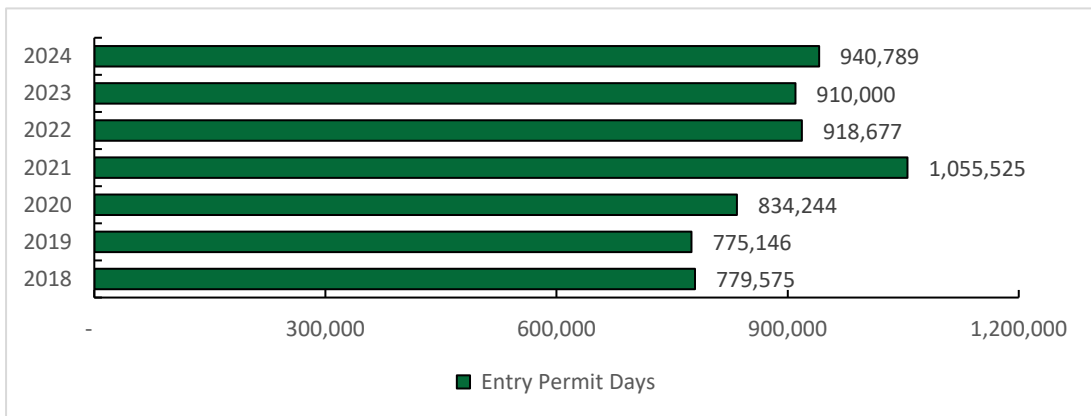
- Heritage Conservation Branch Online Client Services Initiative will streamline heritage assessments for new development projects.

- The Heritage Conservation Branch’s Online Client Services Initiative will support developers by reducing red-tape through streamlining the heritage approval process, which will result in an estimated \$11.5 million of approval wait-time cost savings for industry annually. The new online system will be launched in fiscal 2025-26.
- Increase private sector offerings available in provincial parks through active solicitation of new offerings by current operators.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry offered several new experiences in provincial parks in partnership with the private sector, including:
 - Glamping domes at Blackstrap Provincial Park.
 - Tipi lodges at Fort Carlton Provincial Park.
 - Accommodations and food services at Duck Mountain Provincial Park.
 - Long-term seasonal camping opportunities at Rowan's Ravine Provincial Park.
 - Food services at Candle Lake and Pike Lake Provincial Parks.
 - Photography sessions at multiple park locations.
 - Sailing lessons at Candle Lake.
 - Water safety events and activities at Echo Valley.
 - Pop-up markets selling water products (e.g., paddle boards, water skis, wakeboards, life jackets) at multiple park locations.
 - Private sector businesses offered 52 special events across multiple park locations and participated in 13 ministry sponsored events. Some of the events included a vintage RV show, a barbeque competition, a luau at the lake, live music events, trail races and more.
 - The ministry partnered with TrailCollectiv to make it easier for the public to explore hiking trails across the province. Anyone who purchased an Annual Entry Permit to provincial parks was provided with a free premium subscription to the TrailCollectiv app to access trails information across the province.

Performance Measure Results:

Visitation to Provincial Parks

- Number of entry permit days in Saskatchewan provincial parks.
- Target: 915,000 entry permits in 2024-2025.
- There was a total of 940,789 entry permit days this year.



Economic Impact

- Estimated Saskatchewan spend by productions through Creative Saskatchewan's Feature Film and Television Production Grant Program.
- Target: To reach estimated Saskatchewan spend of \$30 million.
- Creative Sask committed \$12 million film and TV production funding to 23 productions generating an estimated SK spend of \$31.18 million.
- Total number of new and expanded private offerings and associated capital investment in provincial parks.
- Target: Establish a baseline and increase the number of new and expanded private sector offerings.
- In 2024-25, there were 21 new private sector offerings in provincial parks, including eight new offerings by existing leaseholders.

Turnaround Time for Requests and Inquiries

- Ensure timely average Heritage Conservation Branch response times to development proposals.
- Target: Respond within 21 days to all development proposals in 2024-25.
- An average 20-day response time to review development project proposals was achieved in 2024-25.

Organization Overview

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport – Status of Women Office Overview

Mandate

The Status of Women Office is the sole branch of the Government of Saskatchewan that is responsible for matters related to the status of women. The strategic focus of the Status of Women Office is leading and coordinating the development of policies, programs and other strategic initiatives that support women to live safe, healthy and prosperous lives.

Mission

Contribute to enhancing Saskatchewan's economic and high quality of life by identifying opportunities and making recommendations that advance the status of women through the development of strategic partnerships to increase their capacity to grow the economy and live high-quality lives.

Progress on Goal 1: Women Are Growing 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 took to achieve our goal*

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

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Lead the provincial working group to identify and leverage opportunities to increase women's participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) and non-traditional sectors.
 - In 2024-25, the provincial working group conducted an extensive data research project, collecting information to understand the current state of women's representation in STEAM and non-traditional sectors. Analysis is underway to support the development of recommendations to increase women's representation in STEAM and non-traditional sectors in 2025-26.
 - The Status of Women Office sponsored the 2025 Girls in STEAM conference hosted by the Saskatchewan Science Center. This annual hybrid in-person and live streamed conference was expanded reach across the province to over 100 classrooms and 2000 participants, an increase from 60 classrooms and 1700 participants in 2024. This conference supports girls with opportunities to engage with women leading work in STEAM sectors to encourage them to advance their education in the STEAM areas to support future carriers.
- Leverage opportunities with strategic partners to expand existing programs and services that enable greater participation in the economy.
 - The Status of Women Office collaborated with the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training to provide funding through Saskatchewan's implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence to support the Newcomer Entrepreneur Training Program.
 - The Status of Women Office provided funding to sponsor the 2025 Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan Summit that will provide expanded education, resources and practical tools to support women to address barriers and leverage opportunities for women entrepreneurs including navigating trade, export and procurement opportunities.
- Lead and coordinate opportunities with third parties that encourage women and girls to contribute their leadership in Saskatchewan.
 - In April 2024, the Status of Women Office sponsored the Women Breaking Barriers leadership conference. This hybrid in-person and livestreamed event reached over 200 women who participated in 25 locations throughout the

province, providing them with tools and connections to help them break through barriers to advance their leadership and careers.

Performance Measure Results:

Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics

- Target: Develop a current state analysis of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics sectors in Saskatchewan to identify gaps and opportunities by March 31, 2025.
 - Data and research for current state analysis are completed.

Women in leadership roles

- Target: Provide opportunities that encourage women and girls to contribute their leadership in Saskatchewan by March 31, 2025.
 - Status of Women Office provided funding to five organizations specifically to support initiatives for women to grow their businesses, advance their leadership and enter non-traditional sectors.

Progress on Goal 2: Support Women’s Health and Wellbeing

Supporting women’s health and wellbeing contribute to a better quality of life for Saskatchewan families and communities. The Status of Women’s Office will support this goal by leading and coordinating initiatives that provide opportunities for women and girls that support access to programs and services that increase their overall health and wellbeing.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Provide leadership and work with partners to identify strategies and initiatives that increase women’s access to programs and services that increase their health and wellbeing.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Lead and provide oversight on the Shopper’s Foundation for Women’s Health menstrual equity program in Saskatchewan.
 - In 2024-25, the Status of Women Office continued to lead and provide oversight of the Shopper’s program. This included the Status of Women Office expanding the program to provide free menstrual products to post-secondary institutions and adult vocational schools, reaching 670 schools and 25 shelters across Saskatchewan.

Performance Measure Results:

Implementation of the Shopper’s Foundation for Women’s Health

- Target: Ensure the allotment of products designated for Saskatchewan reached the individuals in schools, shelters, and transition houses by March 31, 2027.
 - In 2024-25, 4 million products were distributed to Saskatchewan schools, transition houses and women’s shelters efficiently and effectively.
 - Percentage reached toward goal: To ensure that 100% of products designated for Saskatchewan reached individuals in schools, shelters and transition houses by March 31, 2027.

Progress on Goal 3: Prevent Interpersonal Violence and Abuse in Saskatchewan

Preventing 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 took to achieve our goal*

Lead and coordinate initiatives that increase women's safety, security and wellbeing.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Lead Saskatchewan's implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence
 - The Status of Women Office led Saskatchewan's implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, working collaboratively across the Government of Saskatchewan to support the enhancement and expansion of initiatives to help prevent and end interpersonal violence and abuse. Working collaboratively across government, the Status of Women Office continues to lead the provincial implementation of the National Action Plan resulting in Saskatchewan's expansion and enhancement of programs, services and initiatives focused on preventing and ending gender-based violence. Under this agreement, Saskatchewan will receive \$20.3 million in federal funding over four years.
- Support and implement prevention initiatives that target interpersonal violence and abuse
 - To support increased public awareness, the Status of Women Office and the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General partnered to launch Phase Three of the Face the Issue and Phase One of the Human Sex Trafficking public awareness campaigns.
 - The Status of Women Office provided grant funding to eleven organizations that supported women and girls and prevention-focused initiatives across the province. Funding was provided to: Family Service Regina to support transportation for Educational Success for Young Mothers; Women Entrepreneurs Saskatchewan (WESK) for enhanced awareness of interpersonal violence and abuse initiatives; and United Way Regina for a Human Trafficking Support Box on 211 Saskatchewan Violence and Abuse site.
 - In December 2024, the Status of Women Office led increased public awareness across the Government of Saskatchewan through the White Ribbon Campaign to end violence against women.
- Lead Ministry actions to support the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan and Pathway Forward
 - The Status of Women Office collaborated with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and the Ministry of Government Relations to support

Saskatchewan's attendance at the third annual National Indigenous, Federal, Provincial and Territorial Round Table.

- The Status of Women Office led Saskatchewan's implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and collaborated with the Ministry of Government Relations to expand the MMIWG2S+ Community Response Fund that supports Indigenous-led responses to support the prevention of violence against Indigenous women, girls and Two Spirit People.
- In May 2024, the Status of Women Office collaborated with the Ministry of Government Relations to support increased prevention of violence against Indigenous women and girls, which included promoting the Moose Hide Campaign across the Government of Saskatchewan.

Performance Measure Results:

Implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

- Target: Lead and provide oversight of Saskatchewan's implementation of the national action plan to end interpersonal violence and abuse by March 31, 2027
 - The Status of Women Office led and managed oversight of Saskatchewan's implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and worked across government providing leadership in the identification and implementation of Saskatchewan's actions.
 - In March 2025, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, the Status of Women Office hosted a province-wide stakeholder engagement session with community-based organizations to progress in addressing interpersonal violence and abuse, and to share innovations, continuous improvement and promising practices to prevent and end interpersonal violence and abuse in Saskatchewan.

Interpersonal violence and abuse prevention initiatives

- Target: Implement grant funding designated for Saskatchewan Status of Women Office under the National Action Plan to end gender-based violence by March 31, 2025
 - Grant funding (\$100,000) was provided to third-party organizations to support initiatives that focused on education and increased prevention, awareness and support services for survivors.

2024-25 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>Implementation of the Park Ecosystem Health Index.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the Park Ecosystem Health Index (PEHI) led to active management treatments being carried out within all four priority parks (Saskatchewan Landing, Danielson, Douglas, and Buffalo Pound). • The PEHI actions involved a combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Targeted grazing (cattle, bison, goats and sheep) ○ Prescribed burns ○ Invasive plant management (spraying, including the innovative approach of helicopter application) ○ Monitoring efforts for grassland restoration ○ Inventories of species at risk and range health assessments were conducted, along with completing the Douglas/Danielson Grassland Management Plan. • The information gathered during this period has been crucial for planning and informing management actions for 2025-26. • Analysis has been completed to consider additional priority parks in 2025-26, specifically Blackstrap and Crooked Lake.
<p>2</p>	<p>Outdoor Classroom Booking Improvements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to teacher feedback in 2023, which showed dissatisfaction with the manual booking and scheduling of education programming, the Visitor Experiences implemented a new booking system in January 2024 to streamline program access, allowing instant bookings, reduce administrative load, and improve user satisfaction. • Outdoor Classroom season ran from May to June 2024, hosting 13,012 students in parks for school programming. • Results from annual surveys sent to teachers and educators who brought their classes to parks for educational programming include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 97% of respondents were satisfied overall with the new online booking platform. ○ 99% of respondents said they were satisfied overall with the programs they attended and reinforced the curriculum covered in their classroom. ○ 94% of respondents said they were satisfied overall with the quality of programming during their field trip.
<p>3</p>	<p>Online Client Services Initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The red-tape reducing Online Client Services initiative involves the digital transformation of the heritage regulatory process including a client-facing

	<p>geographic information system screening tool, online submission for development proposals, enhanced self-service capability, a case management system, remote data access and improved data storage and reporting functionality. Once fully operational, many development proposals would receive immediate heritage clearance and turnaround times for heritage reviews are expected to be significantly reduced, saving industry millions of dollars annually in wait-time costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much progress has been made on the project in 2024-2025, with the completion of the data migration plan, use case development, data dry run conversions, legacy database clean-up and security standards alignment. Staff are highly engaged in user acceptance testing and Saskatchewan Account notifications and correspondence testing is in progress.
<p>4</p>	<p>Central funding to support intermediate and advanced learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This initiative has led to a significant increase in the number of public servants taking French classes. • In 2023-24, we had 34 registrations in French-language classes but had to cancel nine classes because there was an insufficient number of registrations in them. • In 2024-25, we had 105 registrants (24 received funding from FAB) and only two classes were cancelled. • The initiative will continue until 2027-28, after that the continuation of this program will be dependent on the renewal of the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on French-Language Services.
<p>5</p>	<p>Digitization of the Indigenous: Heritage Collection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 31, 2024, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum launched The Saskatchewan Indigenous Collections webpage (Indigenous Cultural Heritage Collection) in collaboration with Indigenous partners. The project digitized the Indigenous ethnology collection held at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and is now available online to the public. This project has allowed more people to see the artifacts in the collection and engage with the collection and the museum. The webpage had 4,000 new users since the launch, which lead to 38 new inquiries about the collection. The inquires and engagement has led to new collaborations and positive relationships with Indigenous communities. Collaborations such as a new collection loans and collaborations on exhibits with museums across the country and Indigenous communities and organizations utilizing artifacts from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

Financial Summary

The ministry’s appropriation for 2024-25 was \$92.33 million. Including a non-appropriated expense of \$7.14 million (less capital asset acquisitions of \$14.01 million), the ministry’s total approved expense for 2024-25 was \$85.46 million.

Total 2024-25 actual expenses were \$89.89 million, a variance of \$4.44 million from the expense estimate.

The ministry’s budgeted revenue for the 2024-25 fiscal year was \$9.53 million. The 2024-25 actual revenue was \$11.66 million, a variance of \$2.13 million from the revenue estimate.

The ministry’s actual FTE utilization was 441.0.

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	2023-24 Actuals (\$000s)	2024-25 Budget (\$000s)	2024-25 Actuals (\$000s)	2024-25 Variance (\$000s)
Central Management Services	10,179	10,305	10,959	654
Minister’s Salary (Statutory)	57	56	58	2
Executive Management	792	880	679	(201) ¹
Central Services	4,286	4,205	4,837	629 ²
Status of Women	542	713	662	(51)
Accommodation Services	4,502	4,451	4,726	275
Parks	27,488	28,531	32,523	3,992
Provincial Park Programs	4,049	3,988	4,360	372
Park Capital Projects	12,316	13,283	12,980	(303)
Parks Preventative Maintenance	1,645	1,707	1,704	(3)
Regional Parks	615	1,230	1,230	0
Urban Parks	513	513	513	0

Commercial Revolving Fund - Subsidy	8,350	7,810	11,736	3,926	2
Resource Stewardship	8,551	8,079	8,544	465	
Operational Support	2,977	3,011	2,945	(66)	
Francophone Affairs	736	1,189	1,038	(151)	3
Support for Provincial Heritage and Culture	793	821	840	19	
Royal Saskatchewan Museum	4,045	3,058	3,721	663	2
Community Engagement	43,641	45,414	44,833	(581)	
Community Sport, Culture and Recreation Programs	3,043	3,100	3,022	(78)	
Active Families Benefit	2,000	3,890	1,000	(2,890)	4
Heritage Institutions and Saskatchewan Science Center	5,551	5,551	6,451	900	5
Saskatchewan Arts Board	6,775	6,775	6,775	0	
Community Initiatives Fund	8,651	8,477	9,664	1,187	6
Creative Saskatchewan	17,313	17,313	17,613	300	
Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation	308	308	308	0	
Total Appropriation	89,859	92,329	96,859	4,530	
Other Non-Expense Appropriations	-	-	115	115	
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(13,787)	(14,010)	(14,058)	(48)	
Capital Asset Amortization	7,001	7,140	6,979	(161)	
Total Expense	83,073	85,459	89,895	4,436	

Notes:

1. Variance due to vacancy management and general operating expenses.
2. Variance due to compensation increases associated with the ratification of the collective bargaining agreement with SGEU and corresponding out-of-scope employee compensation.
3. Variance due to project delays to 2025-26.
4. Program utilization expenses lower than estimates.
5. Variance due to additional grant funding provided.
6. Variance due to share of casino net profits greater than estimates.

Revenue Summary

The ministry's actual revenue for the 2024-25 fiscal year was \$12.39 million. The budgeted revenue was \$9.53 million, resulting in a \$2.86 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 2024-25 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	2023-24 Actual (\$000s)	2024-25 Estimate (\$000s)	2024-25 Actuals (\$000s)	2024-25 Variance (\$000s)	
Other Own-source Revenue					
Other Fees and Charges	1,788	105	113	8	
Miscellaneous	206	50	4,322	4,272	1
Subtotal	1,994	155	4,435	4,280	
Transfer from the Federal Govt	6,141	9,376	7,954	(1,422)	2
Total Revenue	8,135	9,531	12,389	2,858	3

Notes:

1. Reduction of prior year accruals to align with program utilization.
2. Expected revenue deferred to 2025-26.
3. 2023-24 actual revenue revised to align with public accounts.

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

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 2024-25 related to the operation of the fund. Audited financial statements will be available at: [Publications Centre](#)

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

Expense Actuals

Based on unaudited figures for 2024-25

Revenue Category	2023-24 Actual (\$000s)	2024-25 Estimate (\$000s)	2024-25 Actual (\$000s)	2024-25 Variance (\$000s)
Revenue	24,592	23,700	24,509	809
Expenses				
Salaries	18,728	18,300	20,226	1,926
Operating Expenses	13,455	13,300	14,855	1,555
Total Expenses	32,183	31,600	35,081	3,481 ¹
Net (Loss) Profit	(7,591)	(7,900)	(10,572)	(2,672)
Subsidy from the General Revenue Fund	8,350	7,810	11,736	3,926 ²
Net (Loss) Profit after subsidy	759	(90)	1,164	1,254
Accumulated Operating (deficit) Surplus, end of year	(253)		911	1,164

Notes:

1. Due to updated compensation for government employees that was negotiated with union and resulted in a mid-year in-scope collective bargaining agreement settlement, out-of-scope economic adjustments and classification plan renewal adjustments.
2. Variance due to additional subsidy received to offset compensation increases.