

Vantage Point

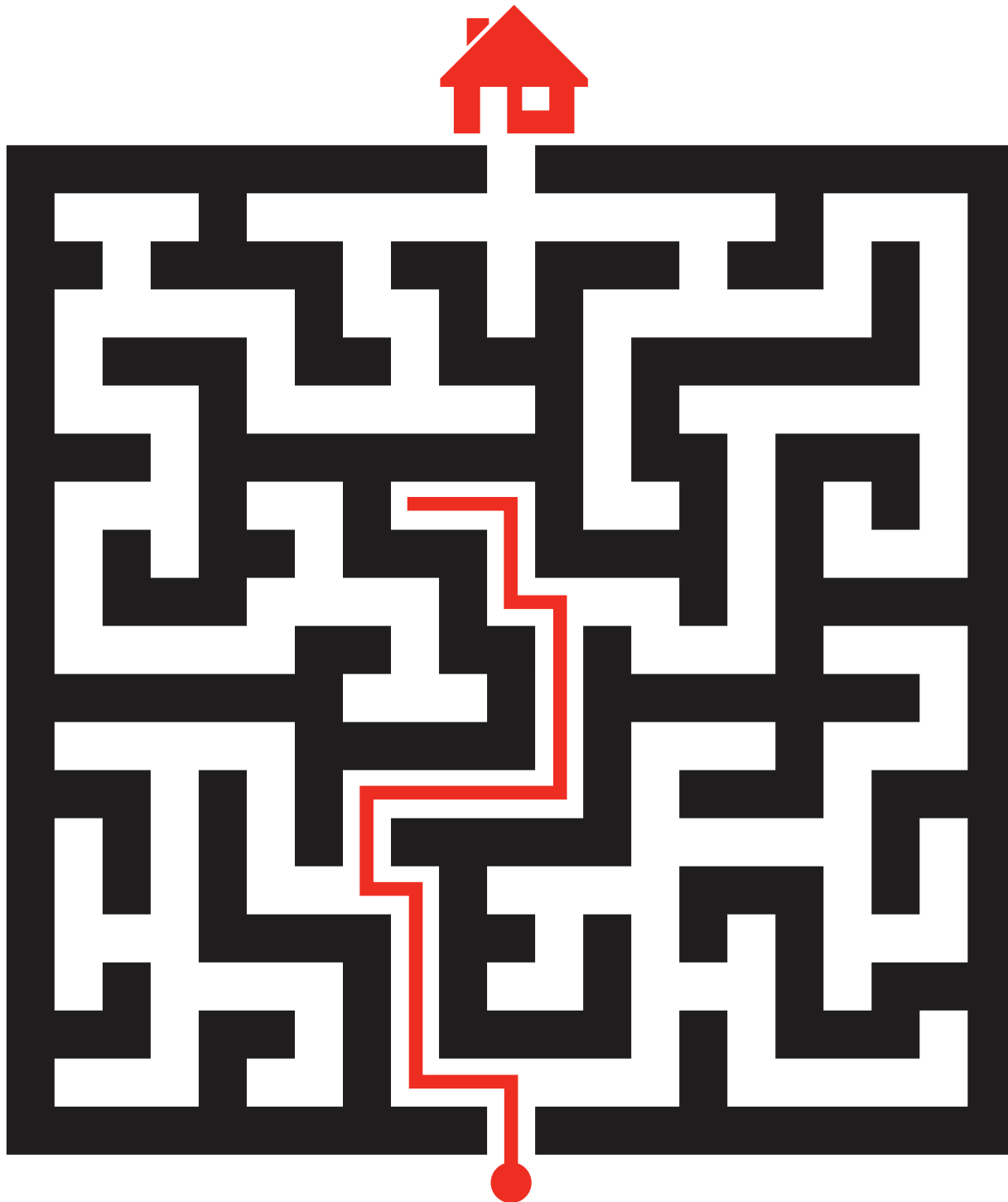


2015/16 Report to the Community

County Council	3	Development	
Quality of Life		Planning and Building Services	9
Family and Community Support Services	4	Growth Management Boards	10
Recreation and Parks	4	Tsuut'ina Land Transfer	10
Transportation		New County Hall	10
Roads	5	Finance	
Environment		Taxes	11
Agriculture	6	Assessment	11
Solid Waste and Recycling	6		
Protection			
Fire	7		
Enforcement	8		
Emergency Preparedness	8		



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
Cultivating Communities



They can't help you if they can't find you.

Make sure your address is properly displayed so that emergency vehicles can see it from the road.

For more information, please visit: www.rockyview.ca/address

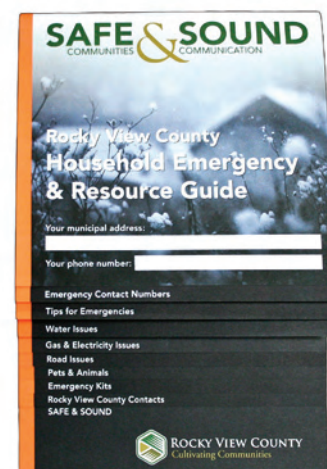


ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
Cultivating Communities

Are you Prepared?

Earlier this year, Rocky View County sent a *Safe & Sound Household Emergency & Resource Guide* to every County address. The guide provides residents an easy-to-find place for information on household service providers, information on preparing for emergencies, contact information for Rocky View County, and contact information for a range of issues from rat sightings, to poison control, to

dealing with livestock and aggressive animals. If you didn't receive your guide, or would like an additional one, please e-mail questions@rockyview.ca with your name and County address, or pick up a copy at the municipal building.



Vantage Point is produced by Rocky View County Communication Services, 911 – 32 Avenue NE Calgary, AB, T2E 6X6. You can reach us at 403-230-1401, www.rockyview.ca, or VantagePoint@rockyview.ca.

© 2016 Rocky View County. All rights reserved. Reproduction or reuse of any information in this publication, in whole or part, without the express written permission of Rocky View County Communication Services is strictly prohibited. While all reasonable care is taken in the preparation of this publication, Rocky View County cannot be held responsible for unintentional errors or omissions.

County Council



Division 1:
Councillor Liz Breakey
lbreakey@rockyview.ca



Division 2:
Councillor Jerry Arshinoff
jarshinoff@rockyview.ca



Division 3:
Councillor Margaret Bahcheli
mbahcheli@rockyview.ca



Division 4:
Councillor Rolly Ashdown
rashdown@rockyview.ca



Division 5:
Deputy Reeve Earl Solberg
esolberg@rockyview.ca



Division 6:
Reeve Greg Boehlke
gboehlke@rockyview.ca



Division 7:
Councillor Lois Habberfield
lhabberfield@rockyview.ca

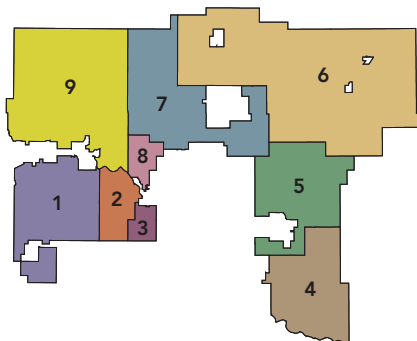


Division 8:
Councillor Eric Lowther
elowther@rockyview.ca



Division 9:
Councillor Bruce Kendall
bkendall@rockyview.ca

Division Map



On the Cover

Young Rocky Viewers Ceili (left) and Georgia (right) are actively involved in their local 4-H, one of the many groups that Rocky View County supports each year.



From the Reeve

On the following pages, you'll see a snapshot of some of the work we've been doing at Rocky View County over the past year.

Rocky Viewers can take great pride in our County. We're the envy of many Alberta municipalities for our success in economic diversification, maintaining affordable taxes, and supporting a strong quality of life for residents.

The County has worked hard to establish a sound balance between our residential and our business/commercial tax assessment base. This diversification improves our economic stability, and our capacity to provide much-needed public services. For the first time ever this year, Rocky View County will see more funding from our non-residential property assessments than from residential property taxes.

County Council and Administration have worked hard to keep our property taxes affordable. Our residential property tax rates are among the lowest in Alberta. Our business property tax rates are highly competitive, and we have the advantage of no business tax or business licensing fees. Reasonable property tax rates help residents, business owners, and the overall local economy, especially in times of economic downturn.

Certainly we face challenges at Rocky View County, and individual councillors – myself included – don't always agree on the steps we need to take to address our issues and

concerns. But that is democracy at work, and we all work hard to make Rocky View County an outstanding place to live, work, and play.

In this Report to the Community we can't go into depth or mention absolutely everything we're working on – Council's agendas alone had over 8,000 pages of information last year. But always remember, if you want to know anything about what's happening in Rocky View County, or want to find out the truth about something you heard at the coffee shop or read about, don't hesitate to get in touch. You can e-mail us at questions@rockyview.ca or call us at 403-230-1401.

I also encourage you to watch for information on our upcoming *Your County, Your Money, Your Voice* program. This international award-winning public engagement gives you the opportunity to tell us what your priorities are for next year's budget and how you think we're doing in providing municipal services.

Through the support of residents and the hard work of my Council colleagues and County staff, I'm pleased to say that Rocky View County is strongly positioned for the future. You can take great pride in your municipality.

Greg Boehlke
Reeve

Nine County councillors are elected by residents for a four-year term. Each year councillors elect one of their number as Reeve and one as Deputy Reeve.

Quality of Life

Family and Community Support Services

Rocky View County values the social well-being of residents, and partners with the Government of Alberta to provide programs over and above standard, provincially-funded social services.

The County funds non-profit registered societies and local government agencies

that help people develop independence; strengthen coping skills; become more resistant to crisis; assume responsibility for decisions and actions that affect them; develop interpersonal and group skills; and volunteer.

Those who receive funding must serve County residents, but they are not always located

in the County. Programs based in Airdrie, Chestermere, and Cochrane are funded to best serve the needs of Rocky Viewers who often travel to these communities.



23

externally funded projects



\$704,500

total funding provided



2,079

information or referrals given



10,656

volunteer hours



1,319

families served



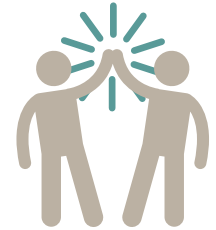
2,414

individuals served



264

community partners



356

volunteers

Recreation and Parks

Rocky View County knows residents value recreation, parks space, and community development.

The County supports a wide range of recreation facilities, playing fields, pathways, and community recreation and culture groups. Rocky Viewers can also access any of the Marigold Library System's six branches

and websites thanks to the County's financial support.

Residents enjoy three provincial parks in the County:

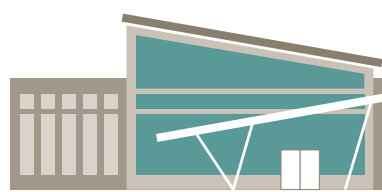
- Bragg Creek Provincial Park
- Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park
- Big Hill Springs Provincial Park

Rocky View County looks to encourage recreation, leisure, and cultural opportunities that are accessible, diverse, and that maximize community use.



28

community halls and recreation facilities



21

supported recreational amenities in other municipalities



40

sports fields



1,310

acres of environmental reserves



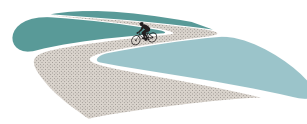
1,710

acres of municipal reserve lands



50

kilometres of regional pathways



77

kilometres of local pathways or trails



37

kilometres of natural trails



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

Rocky Viewers have ranked recreation as their fourth highest priority for the County after roads, fire services, and enforcement services.

Transportation

Roads

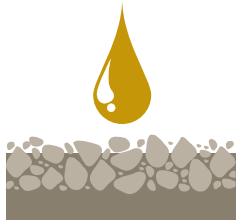
Rocky View County looks after about 2,400 kilometres of roads, working to keep them safe and appropriately maintained.

The County provides a number of road services, including pothole repair, gravel road

grading, dust mitigation, snow plowing (not so much this past winter), spring sweeping, roadside mowing, and more.

The Province of Alberta is responsible for maintaining all highways or secondary

highways, and Rocky View County looks after all the remaining public roadways.



3.35

million litres of calcium chloride applied for dust control



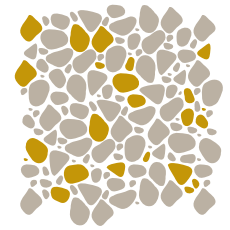
25

contractor and developer road agreements



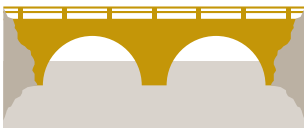
3,398

single-trip heavy haul, overweight, or over-dimension permits



1,500

kilometres of gravel roads maintained



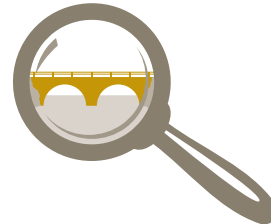
2

bridge structure replacement projects



7

completed bridge repairs



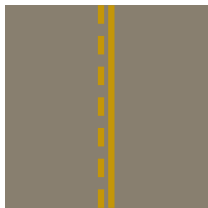
55

completed bridge inspections



26

agricultural hauling permits



870

kilometres of hard-surface roads maintained



640,000

litres of calcium chloride applied for anti-icing roads



5,200

tonnes of winter sand applied for snow and ice control



33

kilometres of roads re-chipped



25,800

square metres of pavement cracksealed



1,150

tonnes of asphalt used for pothole repairs



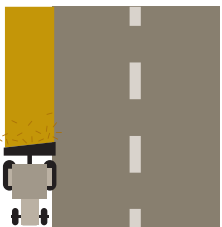
10

kilometres of roads surface-stabilised



1,207

traffic control signs installed, repaired, or replaced



2,350

kilometres of roadsides mowed once



1,100

kilometres of roadsides mowed a second time

Road Research

Rocky View County's low population density brings challenges to the construction and maintenance of roads. In a city, a kilometre of road is paid for through the taxes of about 150 people. But in Rocky View County, only about 16 people fund a kilometre of road.

The County is continually conducting tests and research into new road construction and maintenance techniques and products to ensure we're running the most effective and efficient roads program possible.

Over 97 percent of all the trips taken by Rocky Viewers are in private motor vehicles. That makes roads a top priority for Rocky View County.

Environment

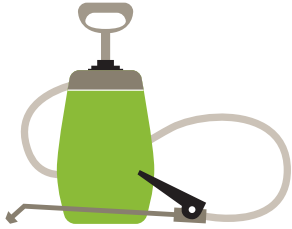
Agriculture

Rocky View County is a community where agriculture is valued, respected, and recognized as vital to the County's social, economic, and ecological integrity.

The County is involved with several environmental groups including the Bow River Basin Council, Nose Creek Watershed

Partnership, Jumping Pound Creek Watershed Partnership, Elbow River Watershed, Horse Creek Watershed, Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, and the Calgary Region Airshed Zone. Rocky View County balances growth with environmental stewardship by being in full compliance with the Province's South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

The County provides residents with a range of information and services aimed at protecting and enhancing agriculture and rural living. Services include weed and pest control, maintenance of County-owned lands, and educational programs, scholarships, and awards.



92%

reduction in herbicide use since 2008



496

invasive weed cases



100

canola fields surveyed for clubroot



1,195

hectares of noxious/prohibited noxious weeds controlled

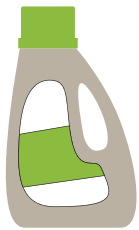
Solid Waste and Recycling

Respecting our land through sound environmental practices is a hallmark of life in Rocky View County. Our ability to manage waste and recycling is an important

indicator of our commitment to Rocky View County's environment.

We provide several facilities for residents to dispose of household or agricultural waste. Whether it's through transfer sites and recycling

depots that we operate or support, or through our special programs like Chuckwagons and Agricultural Roundups, Rocky Viewers have a variety of options available to them in keeping our County clean and green.



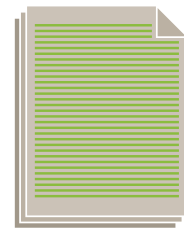
24,955

kilograms of plastic



8,100

kilograms of twine



287,000

kilograms of mixed paper, cardboard, and newsprint



213,320

kilograms of metal



45,000

kilograms of electronics



11,747

kilograms of paint



250,000

kilograms of grass and wood



1,240

kilograms of oil filters



29,680

litres of oil



3,990

kilograms of oil containers



3,509,000

kilograms of garbage



1,155,000

kilograms of mixed recycling



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

Household hazardous waste, such as paint, oil, and cleaning chemicals, can be disposed of year-round at the Bragg Creek, Langdon, Irricana, and Cochrane transfer stations. Visit www.rockyview.ca for transfer station details.



Protection

Fire

Rocky View County provides effective and efficient protection through an innovative network of four full-time fire stations and three volunteer stations.

The County works co-operatively with residents, businesses, and neighbouring municipalities to ensure safety and security

for you and your family through strong fire protection and prevention.



435
fire dispatches



28
rescues



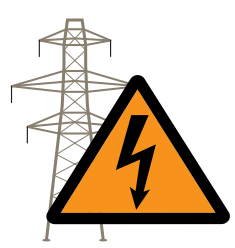
246
fire alarms



31
carbon monoxide alarms



114
false alarms



178
public hazards

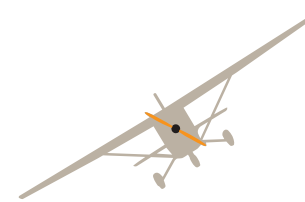
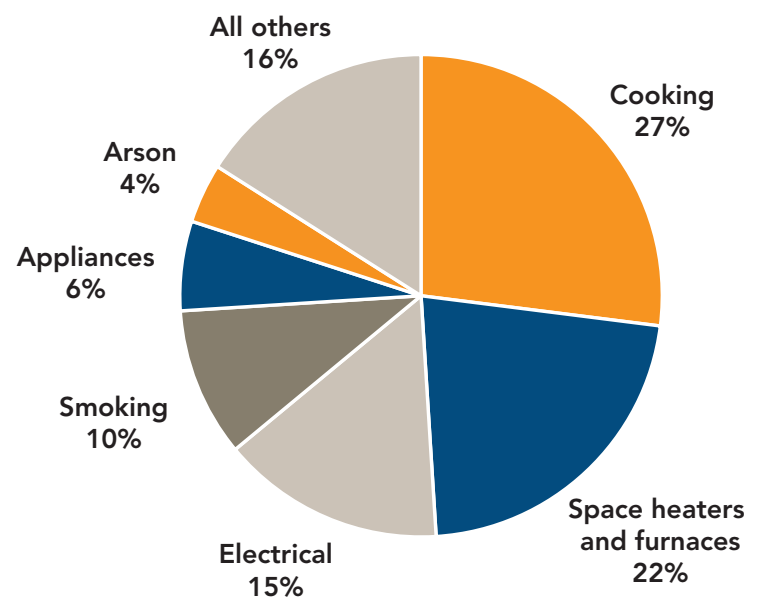


458
motor vehicle accidents

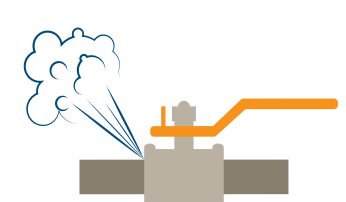


485
medical

Known Causes of County House Fires

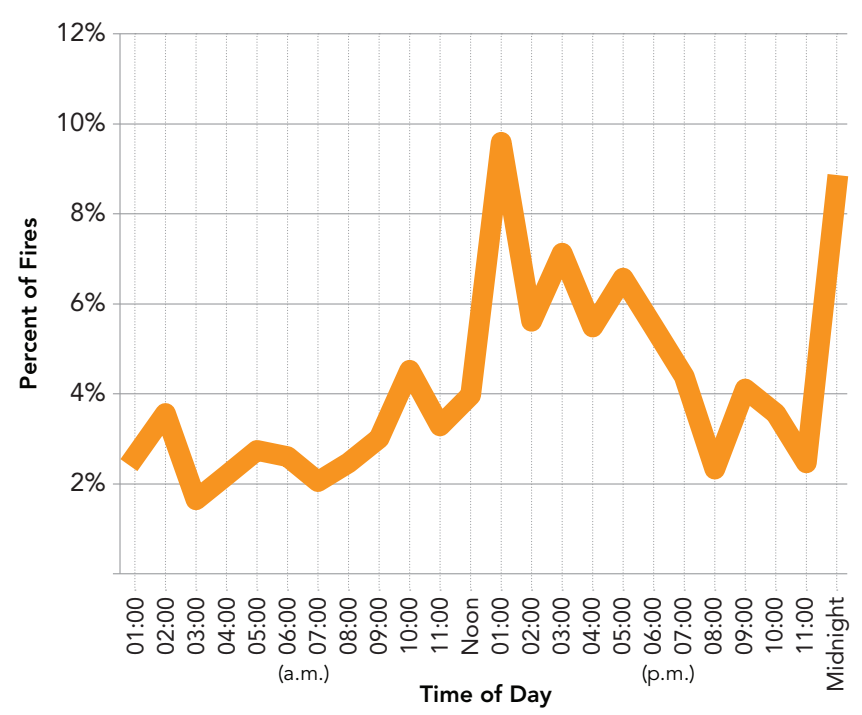


8
aircraft incidents

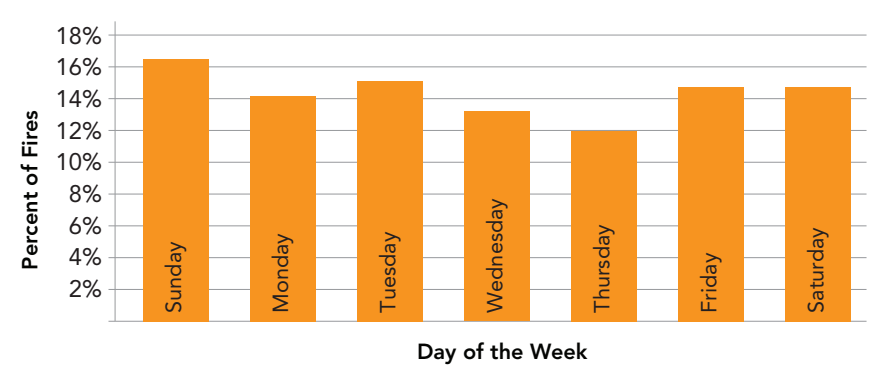


25
gas leaks

Fires by Time of Day



Fires by Day of the Week



All Rocky View County firefighters – paid or volunteer – are trained to National Fire Protection Association standards.



Protection

Enforcement

Rocky View County has thirteen dedicated officers who enforce County bylaws and patrol all County roads for traffic violations. Our bylaw and peace officers work closely with the RCMP, who provide policing service

to the County out of detachments located in four neighbouring municipalities.

we're all following the rules that help maintain the quality of life Rocky Viewers enjoy.

Enforcement efforts help to ensure that Rocky View County communities are safe, and that



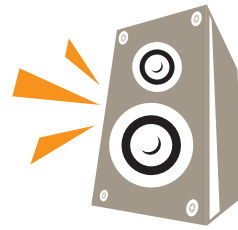
480

animal control complaints



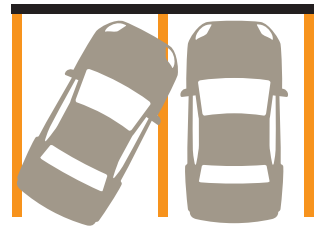
34

burning complaints



48

noise complaints



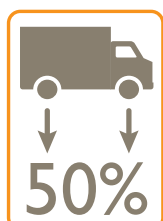
97

parking control complaints



29

public safety hazard complaints



33

road damage complaints



17

abuse of public land complaints



6,965

tickets issued



32

littering complaints



40

pumping complaints



70

unsightly premises complaints



26

signage complaints

Emergency Preparedness



A mock emergency exercise in progress.

Rocky View County participates in regular training to ensure we're prepared to deal with large scale emergencies, like the recent fire in Fort McMurray. Staff are trained in the Incident Command System of emergency management, and participate in regular practice scenarios.

Led by our Director of Emergency Management, these scenarios present a disaster situation to groups made up of staff from almost every County department. Teams work together on the challenge to organize and implement a successful response. Through these practice sessions, the mechanics of responding to an emergency become automatic, allowing for a better focus on the specific problem at hand.

Since emergencies don't have geographic boundaries, Rocky View County also works with other municipalities and agencies in our training, as we would in an actual emergency.



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

The Province of Alberta pays for the RCMP to police rural municipalities. Rocky View County funds two additional officers over and above the standard provincial coverage.

Development

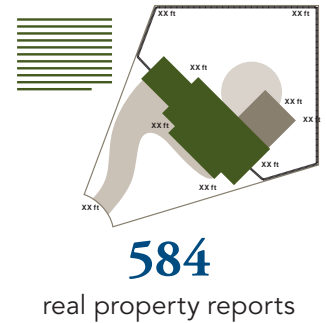
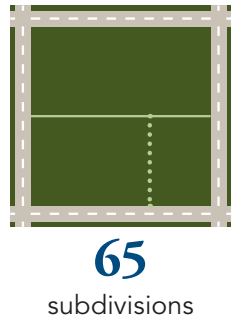
Planning and Building Services

Rocky View County works through our County Plan, Land Use Bylaw, and other plans and bylaws to ensure that short- and long-term development is undertaken in a way that supports needed growth while protecting agriculture, the environment, and our overall quality of life.

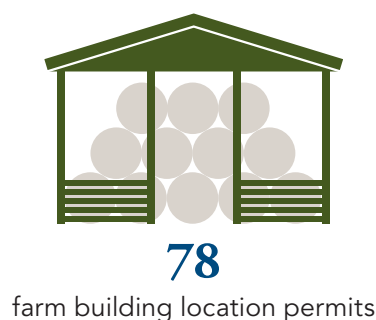
The County designates land for certain types of use, reviews the impacts of possible changes, develops area structure plans, and examines and approves conceptual schemes and other developer plans.

The County also works with residents, developers, and Provincial and Federal building codes to conduct inspections, issues permits, and ensure compliance.

Planning Applications by Type

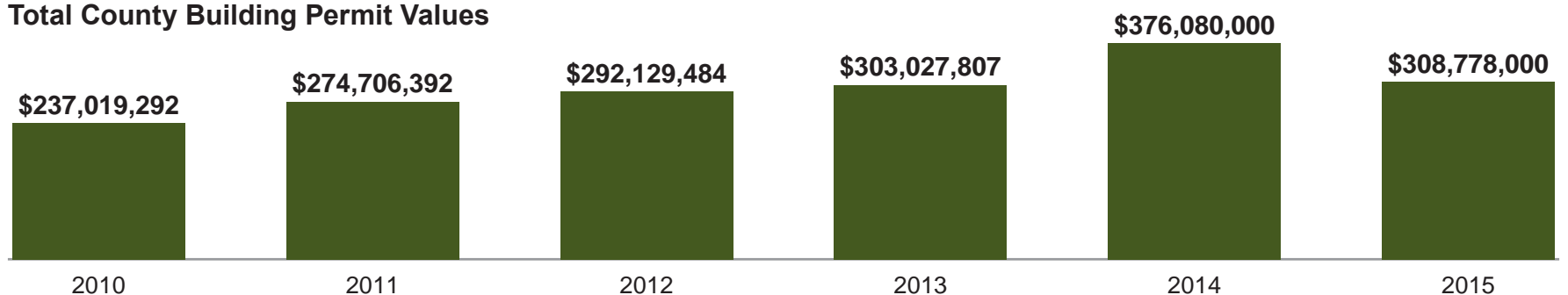


Building Permits



Depending on the size and scope of a project, a number of different inspections might be needed, and a number of different visits by inspectors might be required.

Total County Building Permit Values



The framework for planning and development in all Alberta municipalities, including Rocky View County, is set by the Province through the Municipal Government Act.

Development

Growth Management Boards

For many years now, Rocky View County has followed the principles of sound regional planning. The decisions made by one municipality can sometimes impact another, and the County works with our many neighbouring cities, towns, districts, and counties to avoid conflicts and to take advantage of any opportunities that co-operation can bring.

Any disputes between municipalities have always been managed through a process detailed in the Municipal Government Act. From the County's perspective, the process works well, but the new Government of Alberta has indicated they intend to implement a mandatory regional growth management board to centrally control

planning and development decisions in all municipalities in the Calgary region.

The County has provided feedback to the Province outlining our position that a mandatory growth management board is not necessary to effectively deal with regional issues. We've pointed to numerous examples where the existing system has successfully encouraged collaborative and regionally-focused development. We've expressed our concern that a mandatory growth management board transfers decision-making from elected officials to a non-elected, unaccountable body.

The County has also offered feedback should the Province choose to move forward. We identified the importance of a "one vote per municipality" voting structure, and the need

to maintain municipal autonomy to respond to the unique needs of citizens within our communities. We provided thoughts on membership, financial contributions, and a growth plan review process that would best balance the needs of County residents with residents elsewhere in the region.

You can find a copy of Rocky View County's submission to the Province by searching "County Position on Growth Management Boards" at www.rockyview.ca.

Rocky View County will continue to express our views to the Province to ensure that any move towards growth management boards reflects and respects the needs of all municipalities.

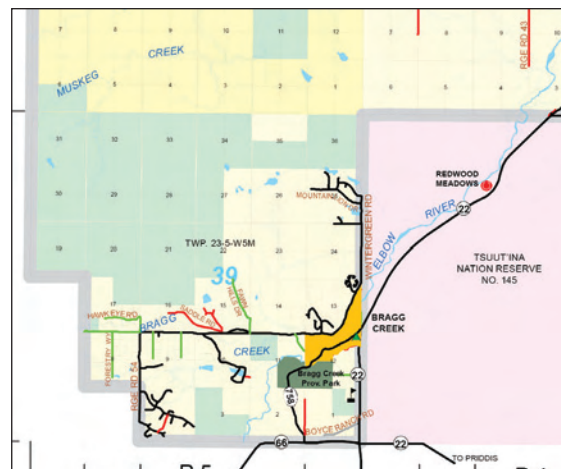
Land Transfer to the Tsuut'ina

The Alberta and Federal governments have made Rocky View County a little bit smaller with the transfer of over 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres) of Crown land to the Tsuut'ina Nation as part of the Southwest Calgary Ring Road deal.

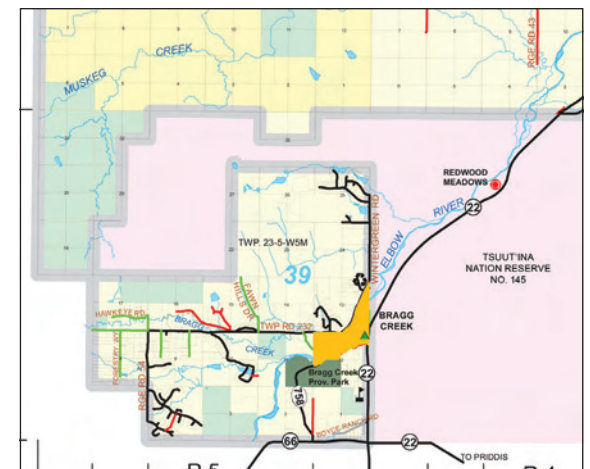
The Alberta government signed a deal to acquire 428 hectares of Tsuut'ina land bordering Calgary by transferring 2,000 hectares of Bragg Creek-area Crown land and paying \$340.7 million to the Tsuut'ina.

The property is now First Nations land and not Crown land, so public access is not permitted.

Before



After



New County Hall

The County is nearing completion of the planning stage of the new County Hall building. Architectural drawings are now finalized for tendering the construction. Once bids have been received, reviewed, and evaluated, the project will go before Council for a final decision.

Like many infrastructure projects, the new County Hall will provide needed jobs and economic activity in the short term. But in the long term, the goals of the project are to:

- Construct a County municipal building that is in Rocky View County
- Eliminate the time County Administration staff spends in Calgary traffic before getting into the County to do their jobs

- Improve overall operational efficiency by locating most of the County's various operations at one location
- Improve the service provided to Rocky Viewers (better parking, faster response times, more efficient service desks, etc.)

- Provide opportunities to share building amenities (meeting rooms, etc.) with County-based community groups

You can always find more information and updates on the project by visiting www.rockyview.ca/countyhall.



Architect's rendering of the new County Hall.



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

If you want to know more about any Rocky View County issue, search at www.rockyview.ca, e-mail us at questions@rockyview.ca, or call us at 403-230-1401.

Finance

Taxes

Property taxes fund the majority of services that residents and businesses expect from Rocky View County.

Compared to the municipalities that border us, Rocky View County has one of the lowest property tax rates for residential properties, and among the most competitive business and industrial property tax rates.

2016 Residential Property Tax Rate



2015 Residential Property Taxes

Community	Rate Per \$1,000 of Property Value
Beiseker	\$9.38
Irricana	\$8.26
Chestermere	\$5.51
Kananaskis	\$5.25
Crossfield	\$4.79
Cochrane	\$4.50
Airdrie	\$3.97
Wheatland County	\$3.85
Calgary	\$3.54
M.D. of Foothills	\$3.32
Mountain View County	\$2.82
Kneehill County	\$2.80
Rocky View County	\$2.48
M.D. of Bighorn	\$1.83

2015 Non-Residential Property Taxes

Community	Rate Per \$1,000 of Property Value
Kneehill County	\$12.73
Irricana	\$10.81
Calgary	\$10.74
Beiseker	\$9.95
Mountain View County	\$9.90
Wheatland County	\$8.10
Chestermere	\$7.76
M.D. of Foothills	\$7.66
Rocky View County	\$7.43
Airdrie	\$7.35
M.D. of Bighorn	\$6.58
Cochrane	\$6.44
Crossfield	\$6.35
Kananaskis	N/A

Rates shown are for 2015, the most recent year available. Information from Alberta Municipal Affairs.

Education Taxes

Rocky View County is required by the Province of Alberta to collect education taxes, but the County does not control those funds. The Province determines the education

tax rate, and school boards determine how the money is spent.

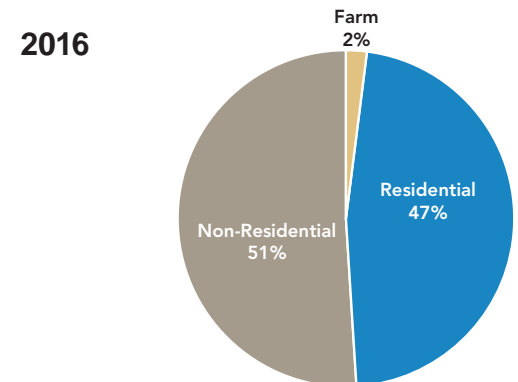
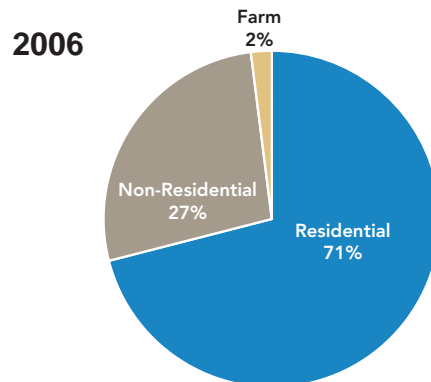
This year, the Province increased its requisition by 4.6 percent.

If you have any questions or comments about education or education taxes, contact your local school trustee or your Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Tax Split

Rocky View County works to achieve the proper balance between residential and non-residential taxes by diversifying the County's assessment base.

The charts on the right show the success of these efforts since 2006. For the first time ever in 2016, residents will pay less than half of the cost of providing County programs and services.



Assessment

Most of the services Rocky View County provides residents are funded through property taxes. The value of land is carefully determined each year under Provincial

guidelines to ensure that everyone is assessed justly and treated equally under the rules.

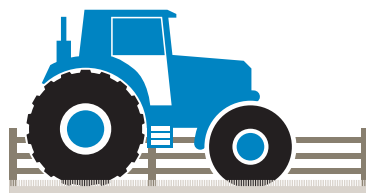
Property tax assessments are always based on the value on July 1 of the previous year. If your property goes down in value because

of market conditions, you won't see a lower assessment until the following year. But when the market goes up, you'll also see a delay, so the system remains fair.

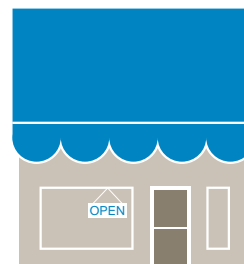
Total County Assessment Values



\$12,319,450,540
residential



\$152,533,510
farmland



\$2,591,057,840
non-residential



\$1,731,809,850
mechanical, equipment, and linear

You can enter the value of your property to see what your taxes would be in other municipalities by visiting www.rockyview.ca/taxcompare.



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

Be the squeaky wheel.

Your County,
Your Money,
Your Voice.

As Rocky View County prepares plans and budgets for 2017 and beyond, we want to hear from you about the services and service standards that you want to see in the future.

Where are we doing too much? Where are we not doing enough? Where do we have things just right?

From May 30 to June 13, visit www.rockyview.ca/YourVoice to see the County's virtual open house, take our survey, and provide your input. If you don't have internet access, you can call us at 403-230-1401 and we can walk you through the survey questions.

We'll hear from others on how the County should be spending your tax dollars. Make sure we hear from you, too!



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
Cultivating Communities