

Appendix B

Program Statement



Cypress Hills Park Centre Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park–Alberta

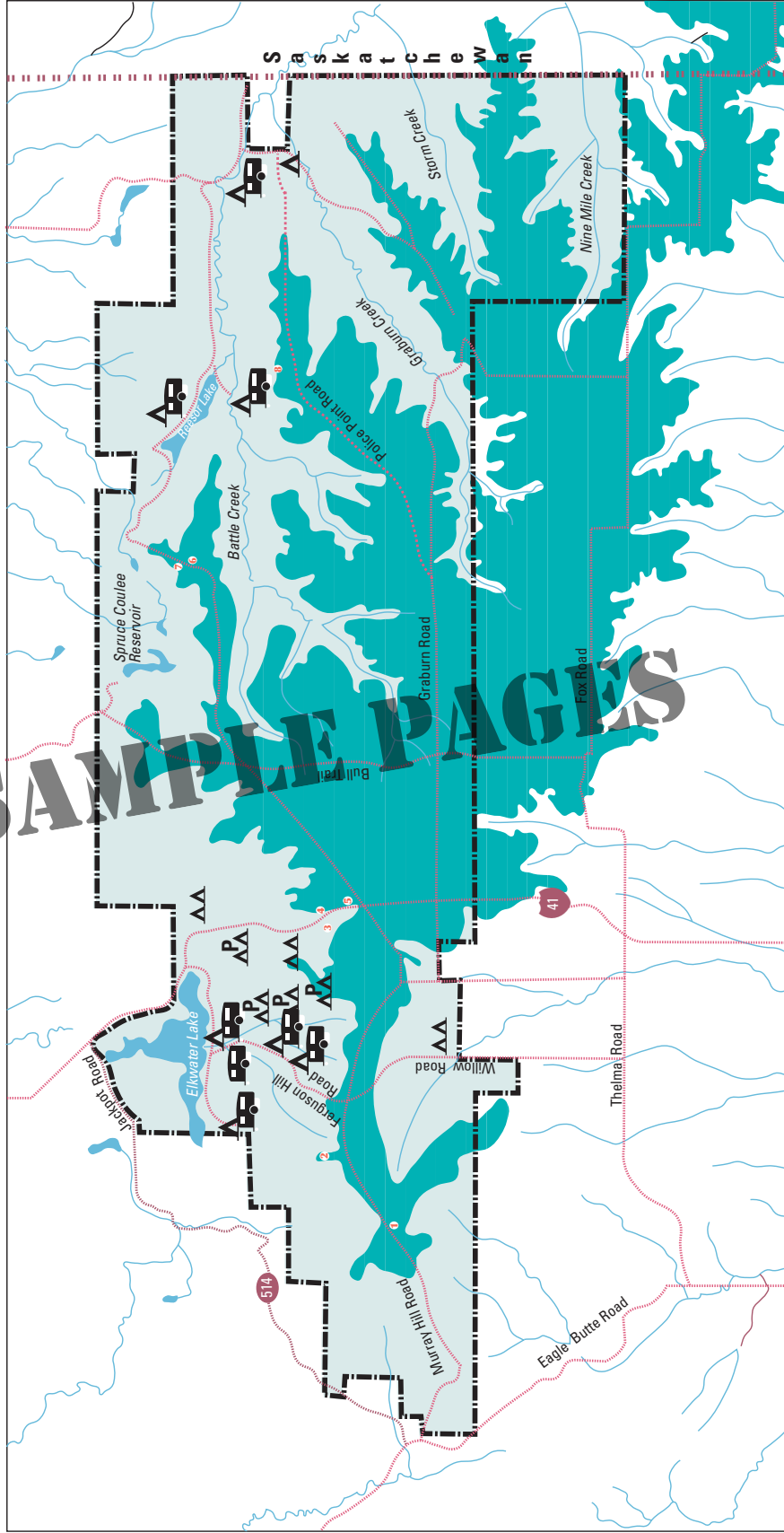
Developed for the Cypress Hills Centennial Committee

by
EcoLeaders
Interpretation and
Environmental Education





Map 1
Cypress Hills Provincial
Park



Park Centre Program Statement

for *Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park*

Program Statements

Program Statements are detailed analyses of proposed major facilities or programs. Each program statement outlines:

- a rationale
- target audiences
- objectives and functions
- themes, topics and stories
- linkages with other programs, facilities, sites or businesses
- design implications
- staffing requirements
- estimated capital costs

This program statement can be used by the architect, and planning team to develop an effective Park Centre.

Introduction

Cypress Hill Interprovincial Park is the province's only interprovincial park. The official interprovincial agreement was signed on August 25, 1989 by the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The Alberta section of the park, established as a Provincial Park in 1951, is one of the largest provincial parks in Alberta. It consists of 20,250 hectares (50,000 acres) of wild land, 3 day use areas, 13 campgrounds with a total of 550 campsites, 2 public group camps, 5 private group camps, the townsite of Elkwater, a private ski hill and a golf course (see map on facing page). In 2000, over 250,000 people visited the park.

There has been a Visitor Centre at Cypress Hills Provincial Park since 1967. The current Visitor Centre is located in a building originally built as a ski lodge. In 2002, the park contracted Sunwise Engineering of Medicine Hat to evaluate the structure with respect to expanding and upgrading or replacing this aging facility. Based on this report, park management decided to build a new Park Centre.

The new Park Centre will be a unique facility in a park that is unique to the province.

The centre will be located within the Elkwater townsite at the site of the current restaurant and store (to be confirmed).

Functions

The Park Centre will have heritage appreciation, environmental education and life long learning functions as well as the administration and management functions of a park office.

Visitation Projections

Park Visitation

There have been no studies directly focusing on visitor projections for CHPP. However, according to Western Management Consultants Market Assessment and Visitor Projections for Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, Dinosaur Provincial Park and Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park, the province's population will increase by 20% by 2020. One can expect that the visitation to CHPP could increase by this much—e.g., to approximately 300,000. However, this increase is not likely to happen if park facilities continue to age. Without regular upgrading and maintenance of park facilities and infrastructure, especially those outside of the Elkwater townsite, attendance may remain constant or even decline.

The new Park Centre will be a fine starting point to revitalize both park services and infrastructure. Park managers can look to several possible scenarios (see Sidebar: Park Attendance Scenarios).

SAMPLE PAGES



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Sidebar: Park Attendance Scenarios

Declining Attendance

If the current local visitors perceive that the park infrastructure and support is continuing to age and decline, many may look elsewhere for recreation options (information from public meetings 20003).

Steady Attendance

Attendance could hold steady at about 250,000 per year, maintained by innovative HA programming and the new Park Centre, or decline slowly over time as other park infrastructures continue to age and regular visitors drop out and are not replaced by newcomers.

Proportional Rise in Attendance

If the new Park Centre and new HA initiatives outlined in the HA Development Plan stimulate more support for park-wide infrastructure maintenance and development, park visitation is likely to increase at least apace with the general population rise of 20% by 2020 to 300,000 visitors.

Higher Rise in Attendance

With the new focus on more in-depth HA services for return visitors and day visitors, visitation could increase by another 20% to as high as 350,000 visitors by 2020 should HA services prove popular.

Park Centre Visitation

Peak numbers of visitors for the current visitor centre can be up to 4,500 people per month (July and August) with peak day visitation reaching 500 people.

When considering the Higher Rise in Attendance scenario described in the sidebar, with the new Park Centre located in or near concentrations of day visitors and campers with easy pedestrian and bicycle access summer visitation (July and August) may double over time to 9,000 people per month with peak visitation reaching 1,000 people per day

Heritage Appreciation Foundations

Before the Park Centre is developed, designers and architects are encouraged to review the foundations chapter of the *Cypress Hills Heritage Appreciation Development Plan*. The foundations include the vision, mission, and guiding principles developed for Heritage Appreciation services for Alberta Parks and Protected Areas (see Attachment 1). These foundations provide the guidance for all HA initiatives at Cypress Hills Provincial Park. A review of this information will help planners develop the Park Centre in context to the bigger overall picture of the Heritage Appreciation plan for the park.



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Rationale: A Visitor Focus

An obvious focus of the Park Centre is the visitors to the park. The audience analysis conducted by EcoLeaders in 2003 identified several features that make Cypress Hills Provincial Park different from most parks in the system. Key visitor characteristics are:

- day visitors greatly outnumber campers
 - roughly 70% of park visitors are day visitors
- a very high percentage of people that come to the park are repeat visitors
 - almost 50% of campers are regular repeat visitors
 - as many as 80% of day visitors are return visitors, many of whom visit more than ten times per year
 - some families have been coming for generations
- the vast majority of all visitors live within a three hour drive of the park
 - most are from Medicine Hat

The implications of the visitor profile on services provided at the park and at the Park Centre are as follows:

- Repeat visitors are a majority at the park
- Heritage Appreciation services and products aimed at repeat visitors must be changed regularly
 - focusing on static, long-term exhibits at the Park Centre will be ineffective
- Many repeat visitors know a lot about the park—at least about the high visitation sites such as Elkwater townsite, Reesor Lake and perhaps Spruce Coulee Reservoir
 - HA services must provide more than basic information about the park—many people already know the basics
 - knowledgeable visitors should be given a chance to share their knowledge about the natural and cultural history of the park with park staff and other visitors
 - programs and exhibits must provide opportunities for two-way communication
- other educational elements such as skills learning, variety of media, and even relationships with park staff or live creatures can bring them back for more

The Visitor-Focused Approach

With a very high percentage of the target audience being day users and return visitors, a radically different approach from the traditional Visitor Centre will be required.

Key functions of the Park Centre will be to:

- inspire and provoke these visitors to:
 - go out into the park to make discoveries
 - interact with the park's natural and historical /cultural resources in low impact ways
 - return with questions to be answered by HA staff and to share their observations and discoveries with HA staff and other visitors
 - visit parts of the park that they may not have been to before
 - return to familiar places to observe seasonal changes and to experience long-term processes over a period of years
 - become involved in research and conservation projects taking place in the park
 - become active stewards and advocates of the park
- assist new visitors to:
 - become aware of the park's Heritage Appreciation and recreation opportunities
 - be aware of, appreciate and understand the natural and cultural heritage of the park
- provide visiting classes of students (Grades K-12) with the opportunity to prepare for and debrief after outdoor learning excursions



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Sidebar: The PPA Stewardship Model

Learning Progression ↑

Leads

- persuades others
- effects change in awareness, appreciation understanding and behaviour in others

Behaves

- displays positive behaviour in her/his actions
- tangible actions

Values

- considers the environment to have intrinsic worth
- the environment becomes an important part of her/his identity

Understands

- has in-depth knowledge
- precisely grasps meanings
- able to interrelate concepts

Appreciation

- can comment on the content and importance of specific environmental components

Aware

- has learned something about the natural and cultural environment
- can remember some elements

Unaware

- not equipped with specific or general knowledge

Unsupportive

- behaves in ways that do not support environmental citizenship

Fan the Flame

Light the Spark

Based on Environmental Education and Heritage Interpretation Task Force Report, Parks Canada, March 1992.

An Extended Delivery Model

Discussions with PPA and CHPP staff indicate that they desire to move forward to a deeper delivery model that focuses on empowering visitors to make hands-on discoveries, develop and follow interests, communicate and share their discoveries, and contribute to park and agency initiatives. There is also a desire to:

- reach audiences outside park boundaries
- involve park neighbours (landowners and other citizens) in conservation, preservation and sustainability issues
- develop the overall environmental literacy and citizenship of Albertans
 - this includes the knowledge, skills and attitudes Albertans need to sustain their environment, lifestyles and communities for the foreseeable future
 - a key part of this will be to better understand and cope with the interactions of their communities with the natural landscapes that they hold dear
 - they will also develop a fuller understanding of and perhaps participate in agency initiatives
 - this will involve building the capacity of individuals and groups to identify needs, collaborate with other agencies, groups and individuals, and develop leadership skills

How to Get There

The means to achieve these aims will be through development of programs and services that lead visitors through a progression of levels of awareness and involvement (see Sidebar: The Environmental Citizenship Scale). This will be achieved through a combination of the techniques of experiential education (see Attachment 2), inquiry learning (see Attachment 3), life-long learning, and environmental education.

In these on-going learning-focused approaches, numerous ideas are welcomed and debated instead of key messages and stories being delivered to a passive audience. The message- and information-sending approach of many past interpretive programs does not support contemporary educational theories that recognize the active role of learners in meaning-making. Knowledge, according to the academic literature, is not transmitted directly from some outside source to the learner, but rather is constructed and re-constructed by the learner. (Kelsey, 2002)

Environmental literacy and education for stewardship



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and sustainability models also include aspects beyond simple information or message transferal. These are complex concepts that typically include feelings of responsibility, sense of place, vigorous debate, and skills for questioning, analysing and addressing environmental issues (*National Project for Excellence in EE*, Finlayson 2002 in press, UK Sustainable Education Advisory Panel, 1999-2003). Community involvement approaches used by stewardship groups and sustainability projects generally incorporate two-way learning, where agencies gain knowledge from community members as well as vice versa. And interpretation and park-based education, of course, generally uses an inquiry-based route to learning involving direct experience with the landscape. Therefore a variety of learning media will be used.

Overall Park HA Goals

The Heritage Appreciation Program at Cypress Hills Provincial Park has two key goals with respect to visitors' (both actual [on-site] and virtual [off-site]) interaction with the park's natural and cultural resources:

1. Light the Spark
 - aim to address visitors at each of the lower levels of the environmental citizenship scale
 - focuses on basic interpretation—e.g., awareness, appreciation, understanding
2. Fan the Flames
 - to support learning at each of the upper levels of the environmental citizenship scale
 - focuses on building upon visitor interests and knowledge initiated by *Light the Spark* activities or already present in some visitors
3. Orientation
 - to provide needed orientation and information, promote upcoming events and take program registration
4. Tourism
 - to build capacity for attracting visitors from further afield and help to meet the increase demand for educational tourism

Park HA Theme and Lines of Inquiry

The overall theme of the park's HA service is:

Exploring Our Environment In Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park

Because the main focus of HA activities in the park will be experiential and inquiry learning, the following lines of inquiry have been developed to fill the role of themes:

- How can I become more involved in CHPP and in stewardship of the environment?
- Why do we have Parks and Protected Areas?
- How do humans interact with the environment? (past, present and future; in the park and beyond)
- How do we learn about the environment?
- How does the environment function? (ecological systems and processes)
- Why do we have these kinds of environments here?
- What kinds of environments do we have here at CHPP?
- What's special about this place?

These themes follow a progression from bottom to top. They parallel the learner's progress up the scale of environmental citizenship (facing page). See Table 1 for details on how the Park Centre can help meet these goals and Attachment 4 for more details.

Key Objectives of the Park Centre

The overall park HA theme will guide the design of the park centre building.

Visitors entering the building will be inspired to go out into the park to explore, experience, learn—and then to return to the building at a later time or date to share their experiences with staff and other visitors and for more incentive for their next excursion. Visitors will see the Park Centre building as a portal to adventure.



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Table 1: How the Park Centre will Facilitate HA Goals

This building will not be a normal visitor centre or interpretive centre, if there is such a thing. The new themes do not generally represent stories to be told, and orientation and tourism functions are secondary. Instead, the themes represent lines of inquiry to encourage conversations, environmental citizenship and life-long learning. How can the proposed building support these HA goals?

This table illustrates how HA services for visitors to the new Park Centre building will address each of the new themes. The new building must facilitate the delivery of the complete range of HA services as indicated.

Lines of Inquiry	Mass media	Indoor Components of Personal programs	Non-personal Programs including exhibits	Partner and Stakeholder Involvement	Non-field work portions of Projects	Personal Contact with experts, peers, HA staff	Courses, Workshops	Volunteering	Website
How can I become more involved in CHPP and in stewardship of the environment?			●	●	●	●	●	●	
Why do we have Parks and Protected Areas?			●			●			
How do humans interact with the environment? (past, present and future at CHPP and beyond)		●	●			●	●		
How do we learn about the environment?		●	●			●	●		
How does the environment function? (ecological systems and processes)		●	●			●			
Why do we have these kinds of environments here?		●	●	●		●			
What kinds of environments do we have here at CHPP?		●	●	●		●			
What's special about this place?		●	●	●		●			
Orientation		●	●			●			

SAMPLE PAGES



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General Design Implications

General Building Appearance

The building materials should reflect the natural materials of the area e.g., lodgepole pine and rounded cobbles (see Attachment 7: Geological Reflections Concept).

Building Guidelines

Alberta Parks and Protected Areas and the Cypress Hills community have developed a set of building guidelines for structures in the areas surrounding Cypress Hills Provincial Park (see Attachment 5: Building Guidelines). These guidelines were developed in 2002. As yet, there has been little opportunity to implement them. By following the guidelines when designing the new Park Centre, PPA can set a precedent for new buildings and the new structure will stand as an model for future development inside and outside the park.

Entrance Design

The entrance/reception area is one of the most important areas of the Park Centre. It must:

- project a welcoming atmosphere and a feeling of activity that will encourage visitors to return often
- project the theme of the Cypress Hills as a cool, green, moist oasis that has attracted and succored people for thousands of years
- be designed so that entrance fees or donations can be collected at some future date
- wide doorways (e.g., double doors) to all public areas

Visitor Flow Within the Building

A one-way visitor flow through the main public area should be facilitated to accommodate visitor exploration especially at times of peak visitation such as during special events.

Trails

The key objective of the Park Centre being to encourage and provoke visitors to go out into the park, the Park Centre will interface with a series of trails. It will be important to build new sections of trails to form, along with existing trails, a series of nested loops (see Attachment 6: Nested Loop Trails). These will take visitors to nearby important landscape features and sites thereby facilitating:

- the tailoring of personal on-trail programs to the HA topics and the needs of target audiences

- pedestrian access to the Park Centre from most points in the Elkwater Townsite area

See Map 3: *Trails in the Elkwater Townsite Area* for the general locations of new trail sections that would assist in the development of a series of nested trails connected to the new Park Centre.

Landscaping

The building's setting should support HA services through:

- use of native plants for landscaping
- modeling landscaping for water conservation and ecological integrity
- emphasizing ease of pedestrian access

Universal Access Design

Whenever possible all components of the Park Centre, including the parking lot and access trails, should comply with Canadian or Alberta universal design standards, especially for people:

- in wheelchairs
- with hearing disabilities
- with visual disabilities

Green Building Practices

In order to deal with the anticipated climatactic conditions (see *Building for Climate Change* below) and to reflect and model PPA environmental integrity goals, the design and construction of the Park Centre should reflect current good practice in environmentally friendly techniques such as:

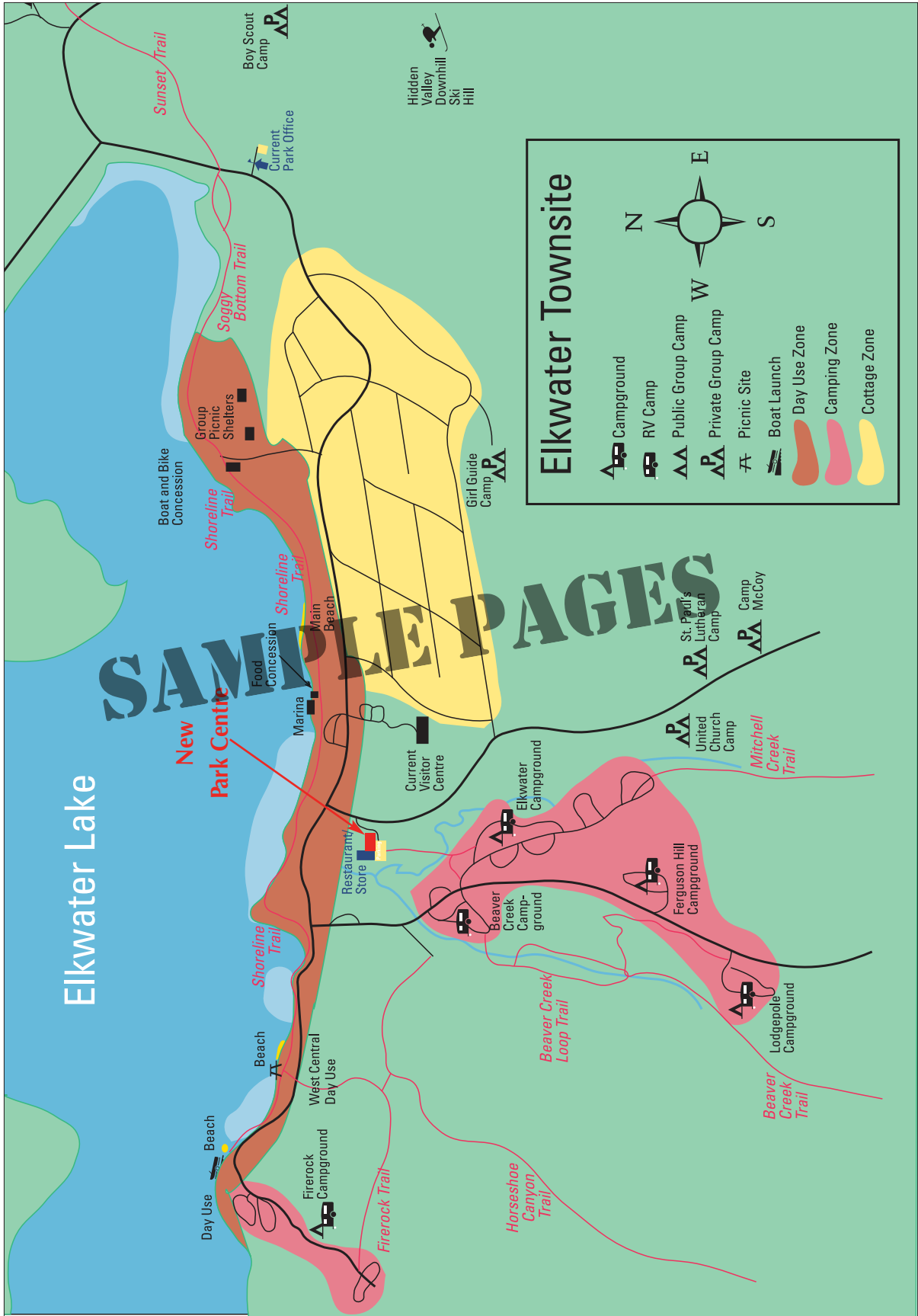
- water conservation systems
- energy efficient building design
- use of local materials that fit as many of the following criteria as possible:
 - require low energy inputs for manufacture
 - are made from renewable resources
 - produce a minimum of toxic materials in the manufacturing process
 - release a minimum of toxic materials into the Park Centre environment (e.g., synthetic carpeting gassing-off formaldehyde)
 - locally produced
 - require less energy expenditure for transportation
- power efficient lighting and ventilation
- low energy consumption heating and cooling equipment
- low energy consumptive office equipment and appliances

For more details see Attachment 8: Potential Green Building Guidelines.



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Map 2
Zones in Elkwater Townsite



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Building For Climate Change

Environment Canada predicts that in the near future, the climate of the Canada including the Palliser Triangle, and the Cypress Hills will be hotter and dryer. We are to expect:

- an increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events (storms/droughts)
- global temperatures rise 1 to 3.5°C (maybe 4 to 10°C in higher latitudes)
- forests—greater risk from pests, diseases and fires
- damage to our water sources (quality and quantity)

It will be necessary to design the Park Centre anticipating these changes especially:

- higher than current normal summer temperatures
- occasionally lower winter temperatures
- a decreased water supply

Site Location

The new Park Centre is located close to all major visitor activity areas in the Elkwater townsite (see Map 2).

These include:

	Approx. No. Visitor Types Coming to the Park in 1999
• Day Use Zone	56,000
• Main Camping Zones	2,200
• Cottage Zone	251

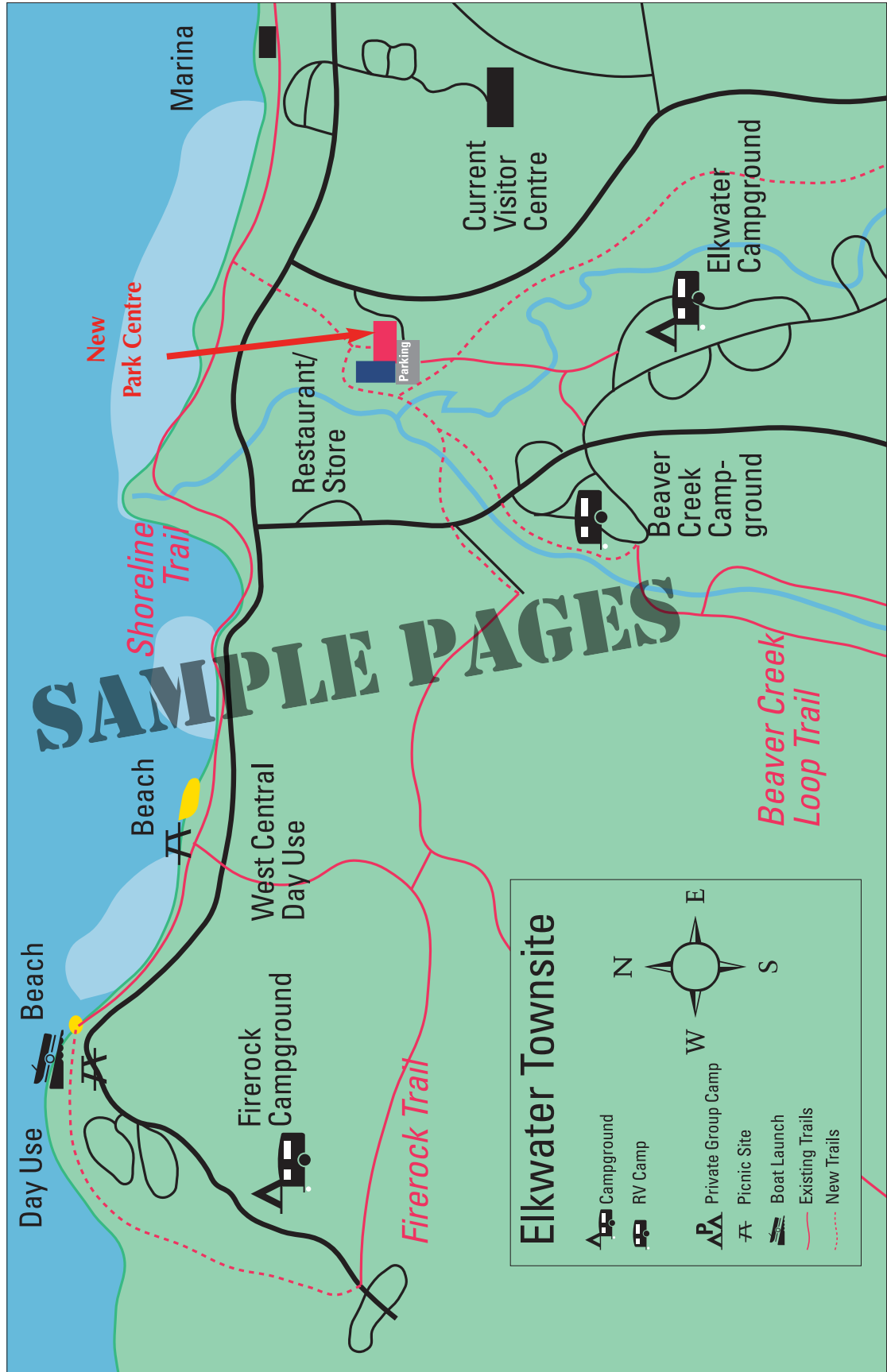
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Map 3
Trails in the Elkwater
Townsite area



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Components

The new Park Centre will become the main location for interaction between park staff and park visitors. Visitors will drop in for general information on the park, its regulations, permits, as well as orientation, information on HA services, to interact with exhibits and HA staff, to take courses and to participate in PPA conservation projects.

The building's location and design will enable people from the three visitor zones (see Map 2 on page 8) to easily access to the Park Centre without the use of personal vehicles.

Outdoors

Access Trails

⇒ **Objective:**

Multi-use trails will connect the main entrance of the Park Centre to the three main visitor zones (see Maps 2 and 3) as well as facilitating HA programming.

↳ **Program Parameters**

- accommodate high volumes of pedestrians (including adults with children in strollers)
- accommodate cyclists
- meet Alberta universal access standards
- avoid terminating at parking lots
- avoid running parallel to nearby roads

This will:

- increase safety
- provide a more enjoyable walk

Access Roads

⇒ **Objective:**

Road access will convey visitors' vehicles safely and efficiently to the Park Centre and its parking lot. Although pedestrian and bicycle access will be available, it is expected that many visitors will come by motor vehicles.

↳ **Program Parameters**

Current road access to the site of the Park Centre should be adequate.

Parking

⇒ **Objective:**

To accommodate all visitor and staff parking at peak use times.

↳ **Program Parameters**

- to be expanded from existing restaurant parking
- design main parking lot to have a separate entrance and exit to accommodate high volume conditions (see Diagram 1)
- accommodate:
 - 100 regular sized vehicles
 - 30 RVs
 - 20 vehicles pulling trailers
 - 3 buses
- include a staff/guest parking (15-20 vehicle) area near the staff entrance to the Park Centre (see Diagram 1)
- include a short duration section (10-15 vehicles —see Diagram 1) near Park Centre entrance for visitors that drop in to the office for short-stop visits to pick up maps, brochures etc.
- in keeping with the Cypress Hills Fringe Area Structure Plan (see Attachment 5: Building Guidelines), the Park Centre should not be set behind a sea of parked vehicles
 - parking should be located behind the building or hidden behind a low berm
 - parking should not interfere with trails
- use native trees and shrubs to provide shade for vehicles and to break up the visual image of a sea of cars on a lifeless surface
- incorporate a drop-off loop near the Park Centre entrance suitable for universal access deliveries (see Diagram 1)
 - should be able to accommodate the turning radius of a full-sized bus

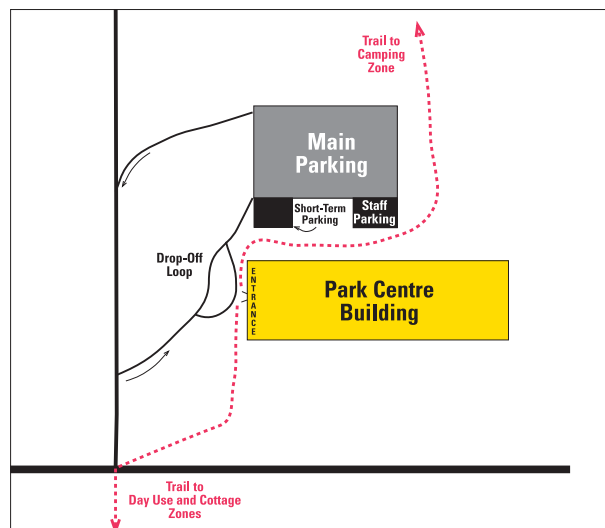


Diagram 1:
Park Centre
parking and
access
components



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After Hours Information

⇒ **Objective:**

To provide visitors with information when the Park Centre is closed.

↳ **Program Parameters**

- 2x4 metre panel with lexan cover
 - accessible by opening the hinged lexan front panel or from the back (inside the building if the panel is mounted on the outside wall of the Park Centre)
- an outdoor posting area mounted near the main visitor entrance (well-lit at night) for after-hours information including:
 - emergency contact phone numbers
 - hours of service
 - time and location of upcoming events

Bicycle Parking

⇒ **Objectives:**

To provide a safe, convenient location for parking bicycles.

To encourage alternative transport to the Centre and within the park.

↳ **Program Parameters**

- bicycle racks to accommodate up to 40 bicycles
 - include space for parking of 5-10 bikes pulling child trailers
- close to entrance and access trails
- must not block pedestrian traffic into Centre
- located away from access road and car parking for safety

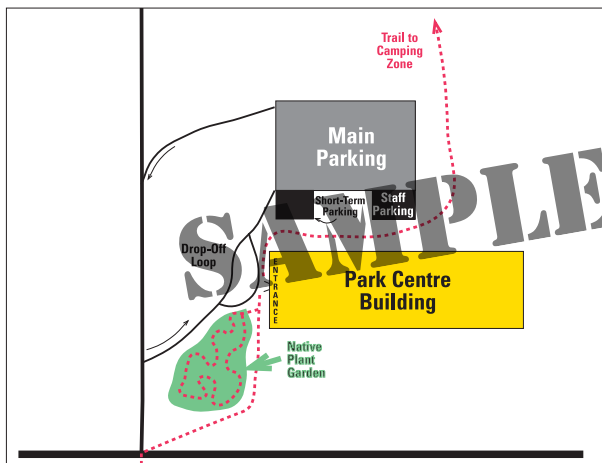
Recreation Equipment Storage

⇒ **Objective:** To provide a space for secure storage and distribution of recreational equipment.

↳ **Program Parameters**

- located adjacent to group gathering space (outdoors)
- a room with secure, double, lockable outside doors for controlled distribution
 - may include a split stable door to facilitate distribution of equipment
- shelves and racks to hold sets of 36:
 - cross country skis and poles
 - snowshoes
 - canoes paddles and life jackets
 - bicycles

Diagram 2:
Concept of a
Native Plant
Garden



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Outdoor Meeting Area/Group Gathering Area

⇒ **Objective:**

To provide a sheltered area for groups and classes to meet a Heritage Appreciation staff person or volunteer at the beginning of their visit.

↳ **Program Parameters**

The meeting area should be located near the main public entrance to the Park Centre but not obstruct pedestrian traffic. It will:

- consist of an open roofed area
 - providing protection from rain and sun
 - to shed or support a fifty-year snowfall max.
 - may have an optional separate entry/exit to classrooms/labs
- accommodate up to 2 classes of students (40-60 students) or 40 tour bus patrons

Special Event Expansion Area

⇒ **Objective:**

To expand facility capacity during special events.

↳ **Program Parameters**

- a level lawn adjacent to the Park Centre
- located near the main entrance but not obstructing it
- adjacent to main access paths
- sized to accommodate one or two 20x20 foot temporary tents (available from party rental outlets) total area approx. 1800 ft²
- include power and water supply for two tents
- to be used for:
 - HA activities
 - displays and demonstrations and sales by partner groups
 - food concessions
 - other special events

Wild Plant Garden

⇒ **Objective:**

To provide a year-round exhibit of living native plants.

↳ **Program Parameters**

- a minimum area of 90 square ft.
- located close to front entrance of Park Centre
- a narrow, one-way universal access path that winds through the exhibit (see Diagram 2)
- include water and power supply
- divided into nodes to represent various habitats encountered in the park

Indoors

Public Entrance

⇒ **Objective:**

The Park Centre will be a multi-purpose building. It may easily have school programs, drop-in public visitation, meetings and adult learning courses occurring at the same time. The entrance must be designed for smooth visitor flow that avoids congestion.

↳ **Program Parameters**

The entrance to the Park Centre must:

- be incorporated with or adjacent to entrance to the restaurant/store
 - to avoid congestion but ensure that people coming to the store restaurant or to the Park Centre can easily notice and visit the other facility
- accommodate flow of visitors into and out of building
 - a minimum of one class of students (36 people) should be able to easily exit the building while the same number of people are entering
- Cloakroom/Mud Room
 - must have space for hanging coats and storing boots for 100 people
 - to be located just inside entrance doors
 - location must be such that people putting on or removing outer garments are not blocking entrance/exit
 - consider lockable lockers

Staff Entrance

⇒ **Objective:**

To provide staff, volunteers and guests with a separate entry into the office wing of the Park Centre.

↳ **Program Parameters**

- a single door located close to staff parking



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management issues and programs, research that has been conducted or is being conducted in the park

- information on opportunities for visitors to assist/participate in on-going research and conservation initiatives
- available to drop-in visitors when the Park Center is open
- this will operate like a tiny library reading room providing access for visitors to read, listen to or view a variety of media including technical documents
 - removal of documents and other materials will not be permitted
 - a pay photocopier and perhaps a pay digital printer will be available for visitors to make copies of documents

Gift Shop

⇒ Objectives:

To provide visitors with opportunities to purchase:

- books and other media about the park and region and skills e.g., birdwatching
- tools and equipment that can assist in discovering the park –e.g., film, insect magnifiers, binoculars
- mementos of their visit to the park (note: most merchandise to reflect park themes and lines of inquiry)

To generate revenue

↳ Program Parameters

- a self-contained mini-facility that can be securely closed when the rest of the facility is open
 - located near public entrance
 - merchandise displayed so that products can be seen when visitors stop off at the information desk in lobby
 - to include:
 - a cash register/reception counter
 - merchandise shelving and display racks
 - sufficient electrical outlets for display lighting
- includes storage space for merchandise separate from general HA material storage
 - 11.5 cubic metres (approx.. 400 cubic feet)
 - lockable storage cabinet or room

First Aid Station

⇒ Objective: To provide facilities for park staff to apply first aid.

↳ Program Parameters

- located at or adjacent to the front desk
- equipped to provincial health and safety standards for facility attracting up to 1000 people on some peak days
- staff lunchroom or interview room could fill this function

Exhibit Area

⇒ Objectives:

To provide a comfortable, welcoming atmosphere for visitors to encounter HA exhibits.

To provide ample space to use a variety of interpretive techniques light the spark of visitors' awareness, interest, and fan the flame by increasing their knowledge, interest, skills and enabling them to participate in, contribute to, and lead park-centred heritage conservation initiatives

All exhibits should be interactive and sensory whenever possible, encouraging visitors to manipulate the exhibit and discuss their experiences with HA staff. A key goal of exhibits will be to provoke visitors to go out into the park to make their own discoveries.

↳ Program Parameters

General

- total area 6,000–7,000 square feet
- include visitor flow management design to direct one-way flow through exhibits
- easily cleaned, durable (non-carpeted) floor coverings
- sound-proof floors to reduce sounds of running small children
- abundant power outlets in floors and walls for flexible set-up of exhibits
- all major themes to be represented
- abundant power for track and spot lighting

Permanent Exhibits

- approximately 1/3 of exhibit space
- entrance from the lobby/ front desk area
- no natural lighting in this area
- aimed at first-time visitors including: visiting



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- friends and family of multiple-return visitors
- developed by professional exhibit designers co-operating with park staff
- feature stories that can best be told with the aid of artifacts, illustrations and moving pictures
 - e.g., geological time and the origin of the Cypress Hills
- each exhibit built to last 10-15 years

Live Animal Exhibits

- approximately 1/6 of exhibit space
- abundant power for cage lighting, air pumps fans etc.
- environmental control
 - temperature control
 - fresh air return/ventilation
 - full control of ambient light
- include flat-panel signs aimed at assisting visitors in observing and even recording behaviours of the captive animals
- include space for HA staff to demonstrate handling of live animals
 - large enough for 30 people plus 1 HA staff
- will include separate adjacent space for care and maintenance of animals
 - abundant power sources
 - sink, small fridge
 - temperature control, exhaust fan
 - storage shelves for food, medical supplies, bedding material
- aimed at first-time and repeat visitors
- 5-7 terrarium/aquarium exhibits

Temporary Exhibits

- approximately 1/3 of exhibit space
- to include ample movable lighting and power sources
- include options for temporary walls and room dividers for flexible display and visitor movement
- aimed especially at multiple-return visitors
- developed and designed by park and regional staff or professional exhibit designers
- also to include traveling exhibits developed by Alberta Parks and protected areas and/or by partner agencies and groups
- also may include local artisan shows (if the theme is congruent with agency and park mandates)



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Exhibits will be

- low-cost
- up for 1-6 months before replacement
- feature seasonal topics (what can be observed in the park at the time of the visit to Park Centre)
- may integrate messages with or function in tandem with current personal HA programming in the park (e.g., may supplement information on a series of wetland hikes scheduled for waterfowl migration season)
- or feature research/management activities currently taking place in park
- or feature special events or activities at satellite sites or partner sites
- or otherwise complement projects, courses and other learning experiences

AV Theatre

⇒ Objectives:

- to provide short or long video or digital video presentations (5—45min.)
- to deliver some focus on orientation to the park (for first-time visitors) and/or key features and seasonal themes (for repeat visitors)

↳ Program Parameters

- 1/6 of total exhibit space
- seating for 100-120 people
 - very compact design – e.g., tiered, carpeted benches (see Attachment 9)
- controlled entry design
 - separate entrance and exit for best visitor flow
 - entrance can be controlled by staff and volunteers for any events requiring tickets for entry
- separate temperature control and ventilation
- computer controlled AV/Projection unit (see Diagram 3)
 - all equipment secured in ventilated projection room behind projection screen
 - equipment to include:
 - LCD projector
 - DVD player
 - audio amplifier
 - AMX control unit (control of lighting, volume, AV equipment)
 - high-end AV-capable computer
 - storage for AV materials
 - slide projector/video player

Storage Room

⇒ Objective:

- to provide secure, dry storage space for seasonal exhibits and support materials near the exhibit hall.

↳ Program Parameters

- to be located in or near main exhibit area
- a entrance by double, lockable doors
- at least 150 square feet
- include a section of shelves near door for storage of spare exhibit lighting, special cleaning materials etc. for regular maintenance of exhibits

Multi Purpose Room

⇒ Objective:

To provide a comfortable venue for a variety of infrequent activities such as:

- large public meetings
- large workshops
- community gatherings, dances etc.
- courses and training sessions

To provide space for students and teachers and other groups to prepare for, develop and debrief after field activities and projects in the park.

↳ Program Parameters

- to accommodate up to 100 people
- a lockable facility (this space can be rented)
 - can be used while the rest of the building is closed
- durable, easily cleaned, stain resistant flooring
- classroom-standard lighting
 - a natural light component is preferable
- include tables and chairs for meetings/workshops
- include electrical outlets for AV presentations, PA system
- floor source plugs to supply power for microscope lights, and other tools
- include a side counter or nook for:
 - sink and water supply
 - dishwasher
 - small bar-style fridge
 - cupboards for coffee/tea service for 100 people (reusable cups, plates and cutlery)
- storage cupboard for tables and chairs



Park Centre Program Statement

for *Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park*

HA Staff Offices

Staff Offices

Note: this section only addresses the Heritage Appreciation office needs. More details on the program parameters of the park office component are available elsewhere

⇒ Objective:

To provide a comfortable, efficient office space for HA staff that enables them to plan, develop, deliver, evaluate and support creative, effective HA services for the public.

↳ Program Parameters

- all office desks will include computer work station(s), telephones, desks, high speed internet access, office network system
- 4 Permanent HA staff offices
Separate offices for:
 - Visitor Services Officer
 - Environmental Educator
 - Information Officer
 - one spare office for possible staff expansion in the future
- Seasonal HA Staff
 - one large room with open concept office for 5-9 seasonal staff
 - room to be sound proof to limit activities (e.g., rehearsals) interfering with other office workers
 - easy access to digital and physical workshops
 - a large storage room (150-200 square feet)
 - include shelving and storage lockers for:
 - Exhibits, art supplies, props etc.
 - AV materials (slides, CDs, DVDs)
 - AV equipment, portable projectors, cameras
 - office supplies

Shared Staff Areas

These components will be shared among HA and other park staff, volunteers, partners and others.

Meeting Room

⇒ Objective:

To provide a secure, comfortable space for meetings involving PPA staff.

↳ Program Parameters

- capacity for up to 20 people
- for use by all park staff
- include tables and chairs
- small counter with sink, water supply, cupboard for service for 20 (water glasses, mugs, spoons etc.)
- power for overhead projector, LCD projector etc.
- white board, projector screen
- portable lectern

Interview Room

⇒ Objective:

To provide a secure, comfortable space for interviews and small meetings involving PPA staff.

↳ Program Parameters

- private space for 2-8 people
- for use by all park staff
- table/chairs/white board
- electrical support for LCD projector/slide projector/overhead projector
- include tables and chairs
- small counter with sink, water supply, cupboard for service for 8 (water glasses, mugs, spoons etc.)
- power for overhead projector, LCD projector etc.
- white board, projector screen
- portable lectern

