

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD



Ratepayer News & Information—Summer 2019

Summer time in the Special Areas

Looking for somewhere to put up your feet and relax this summer?

Head out to one of our local municipal parks or campgrounds and enjoy summer time in the Special Areas. Want to learn more? Call the Special Areas Parks Information Line at (403) 779-2155 for current campground information.

PRAIRIE OASIS PARK



A refreshing oasis on the prairies in the heart of Special Areas

Over 100 sites ranging from tenting to waterfront and group sites, with power & water available at every site. A family-oriented campground with lots of amenities for you and your family to enjoy all summer long.

Amenities include a 20 slip marina with fueling station, playgrounds, concession, coin laundry & showers and free WiFi.

BLOOD INDIAN PARK



A fisherman's paradise where the big one doesn't always get away

Over 29 serviced sites (power/water) and 270 random camping sites, including waterfront sites. The reservoir is stocked annually with 170,000 trout (Brook, Brown, Tiger) for a great sportfishing experience.

Amenities include a boat launch, marina, beach, spray park, playgrounds, BI Trading Post, coin laundry & showers.

CAROLSIDE CAMPGROUND



Take the road less travelled and enjoy camping off the beaten path

A random camping campground with newly developed amenities, Carolside is ideal for groups. Less developed than Prairie Oasis and Blood Indian, this campground is a perfect place to get away from the crowds.

Amenities include a boat launch, launch dock, gravel pads, campfire rings, and trailer dump. Potable water is available on site.

2019 ANNUAL RATEPAYER MEETINGS

Annual ratepayer meetings are taking place in the Special Areas throughout May and June.

Featured topics this year include policy work for public lands, 2019 road program, and economic development initiatives throughout Special Areas.

Share your thoughts!

To find out more about your ratepayer meeting, or to learn more about these topics, head to

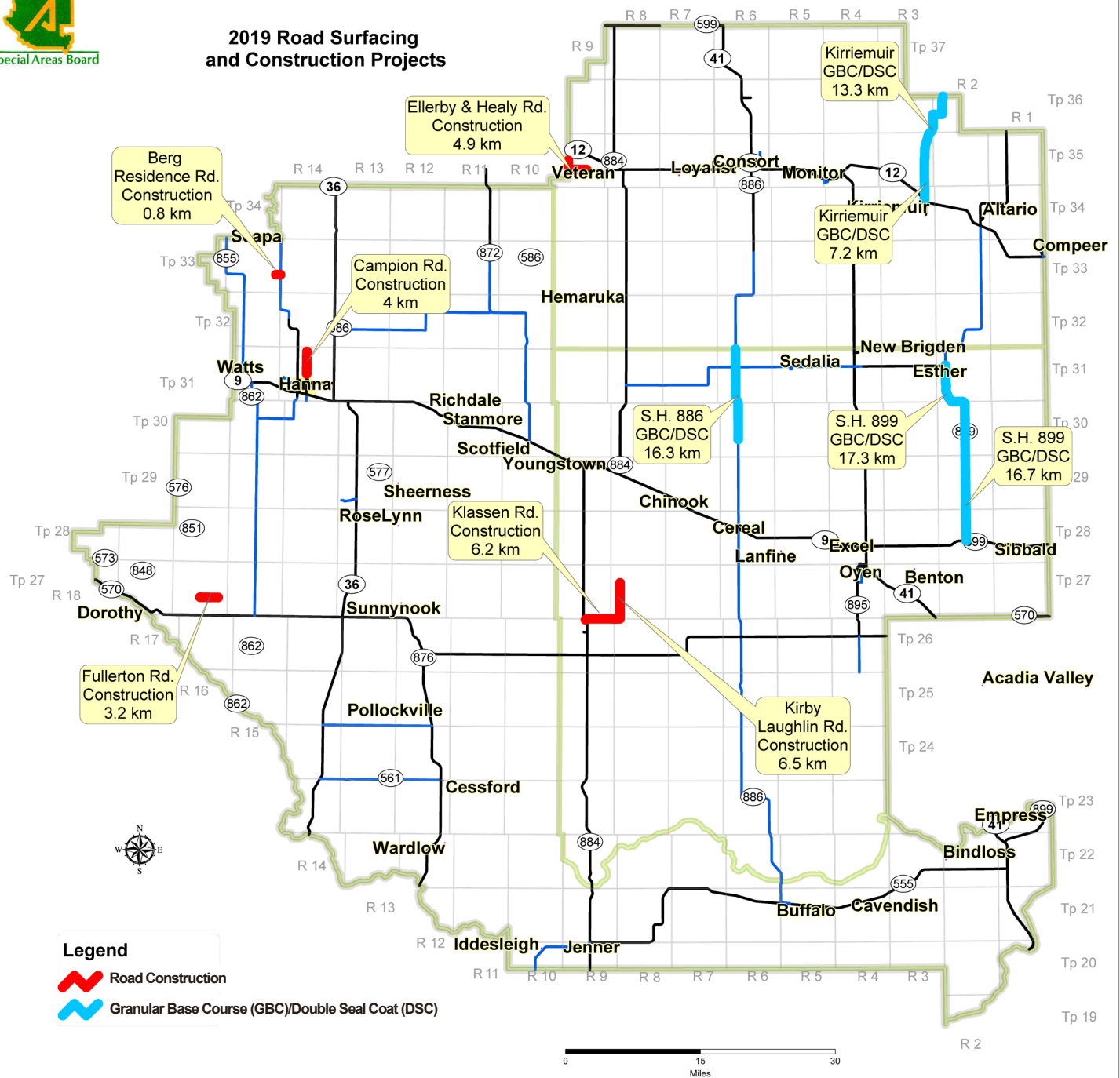
www.specialareas.ab.ca.

	LOCATION	DATE	ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS
SA2 -7,8	Buffalo Community Centre	May 29 @ 1:30 pm	Daryl Swenson, Brad Osadczuk
SA3-4,5,6	Cereal Hall	June 24 @ 1:30 pm	Travis Foot, Kevin Wilson, Sam Shadlock
SA2-3,4	Hardgrass Hub, Pollockville	May 27 @ 1:30 pm	Brad Slorstad, Brent Horner
SA2- 1,5	Hanna Legion Hall	June 27 @ 1:30 pm	Kevin Bossert, James Madge
SA4-1,2,3	Gem Centre	June 12 @ 1:30 pm	Graham Schetzle, Barry Redel, Doug Noble
SA2-2	Handhills Lake Club	June 10 @ 1:30 pm	Neal Roes

2019 ROAD PROGRAM



2019 Road Surfacing and Construction Projects



Special Areas Board 2019 road program includes 25.6 kms of road construction projects, 70.8 kms of road surfacing projects, and 100 kms of shoulder pull projects.

To learn more about current 2019 road projects, contact Shaune Kovitch, Superintendent of Roads & Equipment at (403)779-3733 or through email at shaune.kovitch@specialareas.ab.ca.

Check us out at www.specialareas.ab.ca, on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Improving Grazing Distribution On Your Pastures

This article is the last in our rangeland management series which has looked at different principles that can be used to improve the production and long-term health of your pastures. To ensure the effective management of grazing on your pastures, a key principle is to make sure your animals are evenly grazing across your pasture's landscape. Making sure you have the ideal distribution of animals when grazing increases the long-term productivity and health of your rangeland, helping to support good condition and long-term health. By improving the grazing distribution of your animals, the number of preferred areas prone to overgrazing are reduced. Grazing management practices that fail to ensure an ideal distribution of animals often result in considerable damage to vegetation and soil. This damage reduces overall productivity, meaning producers are not getting the best economic use of their pastures.

Want to improve your grazing distribution? Here's some range management practices to consider:

Water Development: A range management plan should include efficient planning of water locations. Water movement alone has the greatest effect in drawing cattle to areas not typically preferred. When looking at your pastures, try to have no greater than ½ to 1½ miles between water sources for the best distribution.

Salt, Supplements, Oilers: Placing attractants into under-utilized areas will draw cattle away temporarily from preferred range. These placements can be made approximately 800m from a water source—preferably adjacent to an accessible location so the attractants can be checked and replaced. Placing attractants further into non-utilized range often results in the cattle not finding them.

Fencing: Fencing allows for the efficient control of land and water. Division of large pastures often increases the evenness of animal distribution and forage utilization. When a pasture size exists where animals graze them evenly, any further reduction in size is of no advantage. Fencing allows for more efficient utilization of forage and prevents cattle from grazing regrowth until plants have recovered.

Herding: Herding cattle is necessary in large unfenced pastures to ensure they use forage evenly. Animal behavior—both inherent and learned—influences distribution patterns and forage preferences.

Season of Grazing: Alternating the season of grazing from summer to winter can change the grazing patterns of livestock. Water consumption is not high in the winter, therefore cattle will travel further to under-utilized areas if the forage quality is sufficient.

Improving grazing distribution should involve a combination of these practices, and often the investment level in these range improvements will depend on production from the land. *If animal distribution is not a problem, reducing the stocking rate improves range condition more than any other grazing strategy.*

For more information on assessing or improving grazing distribution, or for assistance with your range management plan, contact a Special Areas Agrologist at (403) 854-5600.

GRASSFIRE SAFETY

Grassfire Safety Toolkits Now Available

Special Areas Board's Fire Safety booklet—first introduced last fall at community grassfire information sessions—is now available at your local District Office as a part of the larger Special Areas Grassfire Safety Toolkit. Full of useful information to help you prevent, prepare, and mitigate damage from grassfires, these toolkits include FireSmart information and tools to help reduce grassfire risk at your farm and yard sites.

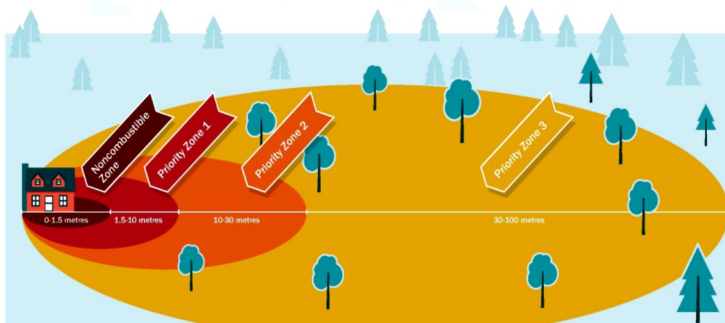
The SAB Grassfire Safety Toolkit includes:

- Fire Safety Quick Reference Guide,
- Operating Private Equipment at Fires Guide (*County Fire Authority—Victoria, Australia*),
- FireSmart Home Manual and Assessment Guide, and
- FireSmart Checklist—protecting home & property from wildfire.



WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY RISK?

FireSmart's Home Ignition Zone is a good way to start reducing your risk from potential grassfire damages.



"Home Ignition Zone" by FireSmart Canada, used under CC

Non-Combustible Zone (0 to 1.5 m)

- Maintain a 1.5 m non-combustible surface around each building and attached structures
- Use rocks, concrete or non-flammable materials for ground cover
- Remove all flammable materials (leaves, dead-fall, etc.)
- Avoid woody shrubs, trees and firewood in this area

PRIORITY ZONE 1 (1.5 to 10 m)

- This is a fire-resistant area
- Plant low-density fire-resistant plants and trees
- Use rock instead of mulch/bark for filling tree beds
- Keep grass maintained to 10 cm in height
- Enclose deck or place gravel underneath to create a fire-resistant area
- Don't place burn barrels, fire pits, or fuel storage in this area
- Create a break between wood fences and structures with metal or non-combustible materials

PRIORITY ZONE 2 (10 to 30 m)

- Limb all evergreen trees up 2 m with a crown spacing of 3 m
- Keep grass maintained to 10 cm in height
- Burn barrels and fire pits need to adhere to fire services standards
- Remove all dead-fall and debris from this area

PRIORITY ZONE 3 (30 to 100m)

- Firebreaks are put in this zone
- Thin and prune all shelter belts
- Keep grass maintained to 10 cm height
- Maintain and cut ditches to 10 cm height