

February 16, 2021

Dominic Kazmierczak
Planning Services
Rocky View County
262075 Rocky View Point
Rocky View County, AB, T4A 0X2

Re: Rocky View County Draft Municipal Development Plan

Dear Mr. Kazmierczak:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Rocky View County Draft Municipal Development Plan.

Alberta Parks plays an important role in establishing and managing a number of protected areas in Rocky View County including Big Hill Springs Provincial Park (Park). Alberta Parks manages the Park for its nationally significant year round springs, unique tufa deposits and vegetation communities. Alberta Parks is nearing completion of a 1.2 million project that focused on restoring riparian areas along the creek and improving the visitor experience in the Park.

The comments below reflect Alberta Parks concerns in managing the Park which is located adjacent to a number of existing and proposed aggregate extraction developments.

Section 3.3 Natural Resource Development

- Intro - Aggregate extraction should minimize impacts on surrounding land uses.

Alberta Parks suggests to:

- Implement set backs from the boundary of the Park.
- Implement set backs from the spring source in the western most parcel of the Park.

These set backs will reduce potential effects in the Park related to groundwater, surface water, fish and fish habitat, aesthetic values and visitor experience.

Section 3.3.1 Aggregate Extraction

- c) Discourage residential development that will be impacted by future aggregate extraction.

Alberta Parks suggests to flip the narrative on aggregate extraction.

- Define set backs and establish expectations for aggregate extraction proponents.
- Discourage aggregate development that may be impacted by protected area set backs.

Section 3.8.2 Park and Open Spaces

- (g) Development proposal consideration of provincial parks.

Alberta Parks suggests to:

- Provide set backs for protected area boundaries to ensure (iv) viewscape preservation, (v) vegetation management and (vi) wildlife management.
- Add references to surface and groundwater.

Alberta Parks requires support from Rocky View County through effective land use planning to continue to manage the Park for the reasons it was established. We all want the amazing values in Big Hill Springs Provincial Park to persist for future generations. Responsible land use planning surrounding the Park is integral to the survival of Park values. Alberta Parks is optimistic that Rocky View Country will consider the suggestions above that contribute to preserving Big Hill Springs Provincial Park.

If you require further clarification or information regarding the comments outlined above, please contact me at (403)703-9840.

Sincerely,



Andrew Schoepf
Kananaskis East Area Manager