

CRANE LAKE RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Program Information Update

Spring 2017

Welcome to Spring...now what's going on?

The Crane Lake Riparian Restoration and Preservation Program (CLRRPP) is springing into its second year. Staff have been busy scheduling assessments for the 2017 season and preparing for vegetation planting in May. Four private lots were assessed during 2016 and will be receiving their reports, and restoration packages in May. The MD West Campground also will be revegetated during May 15-25, receiving 450 seedlings and full-size trees. The planting locations chosen will provide shoreline protection, ground cover, and focus foot traffic access to established trails.

The community sign design contest was a great success with over 350 community members casting their vote. Thank you to all who submitted their designs and to everyone who took the time to vote.

Congratulations to the designer: **Nohlan Ringuette**.

ATS signs will be making Ringuette's design come to life this fall.



Photo provided by : ATS SIGNS . Designer: Nohlan Ringuette

How you can make a difference now

- Create a No-Mow Zone: A No Mow Zone benefits the lake by naturally stabilizing the shore, filtering runoff, enhancing esthetics, allows for healthy habitat for birds, fish, and other wildlife, and maintaining lake shore privacy.
- Plant Vegetation: Planting native vegetation and riparian friendly plants can help stabilize the shoreline.
- Limit pesticide use. Pesticides are the only substances we intentionally introduce into our environment to kill living things and besides being potentially dangerous to people, pets and wildlife, they'll eventually be carried into our freshwater supply by runoff.
- Water your lawn or garden in the morning or the evening when the water will evaporate less rapidly. Adjust sprinklers to avoid the pointless watering of sidewalks or paved areas.
- Collect rainwater for use in the garden, and your yard.
- Slow the speeds of your boats: Big wakes erode the shoreline and can cause a safety concern for humans and animals using the water.
- Don't use the lake as a bath tub: Soaps and shampoos contain nutrients and pollutants that are harmful to the lake and the organisms that live in it. Using eco-friendly products is a great way to make sure you are not fertilizing the lake.
- Store accessories, docks and any personal property on your property and off of the reserve land
- Remove fire pits and fire wood from reserve lands.

In This Update

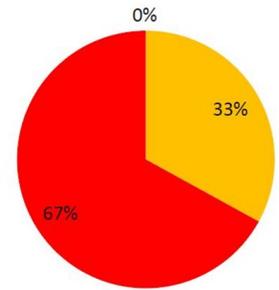
- What's going on at Crane Lake?
- Project Update
- Important Dates
- What is Reserve Land?
- How you can make a difference now!
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Community Family Day

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”
- Albert Einstein

2016 Program Results

This summary captures the results of six (6) riparian health inventories (RHI) completed during 2016. Overall, four (4) sites (67%) received an unhealthy score, two (2) sites (33%) rate healthy but with problems, and none of the sites (0%) rate as healthy. As seen in the evaluation of riparian health parameters table, the common concern of these sites included a high degree of human-caused bare ground, alterations to riparian vegetation, and extent and severity of changes to a riparian physical structure. Invasive plant species are not abundant regarding cover but have a relatively high density and distribution across all sites. Overall vegetation cover is lacking in most places, and where present this is a significant amount of non-native disturbance herbaceous species in the understory. During the 2017 summer term, revegetation, invasive species management, and bare ground/human-caused disturbance will target as restoration priorities. Restoration packages will consist of the RHI report card, planning documents for restoration activities, information for private adjacent lot owners, and funds to assist with restoration work. All summary reports from the program will be made available online once restoration activities have begun.

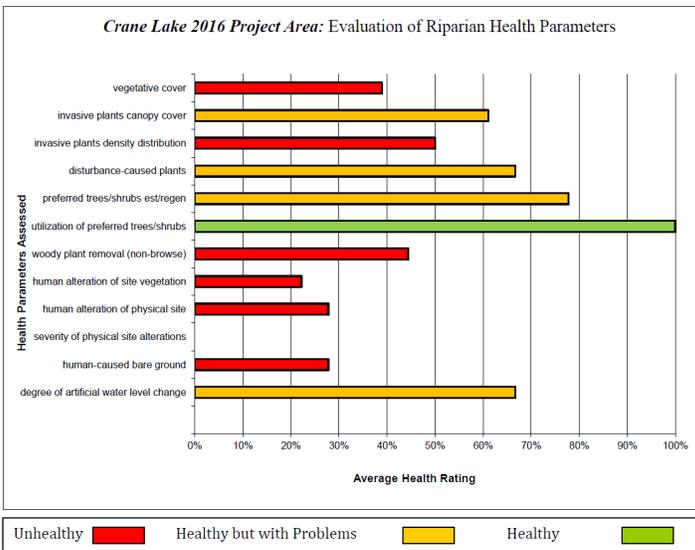
Crane Lake 2016: Overall Riparian Health (Six* Sites)



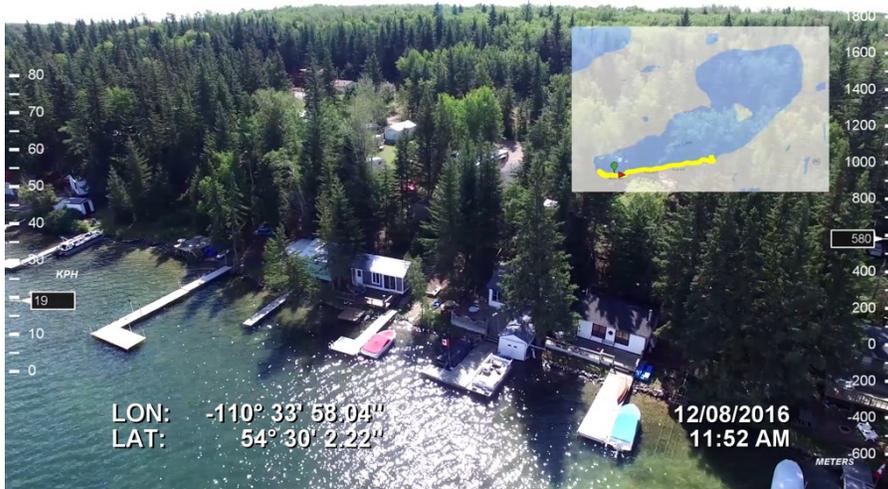
Healthy ■ Healthy but with problems ■ Unhealthy

Table 1 Riparian Health Parameters Evaluated on Crane Lake 2016 by Number of Sites in each Health Category (6 Sites)

STREAM AND SMALL RIVER HEALTH PARAMETER	RIPARIAN HEALTH CATEGORY		
	HEALTHY	HEALTHY BUT WITH PROBLEMS	UNHEALTHY
VEGETATION	Number of Sites Per Health Category		
1. Vegetative Cover of Riparian Area	2	0	4
2a. Invasive Plant Species (Cover)	0	5	1
2b. Invasive Plant Species (Density / Distribution)	0	4	2
3. Disturbance-Caused Undesirable Herbaceous Species	2	2	2
4. Preferred Tree and Shrub Establishment and Regeneration	3	2	1
5a. Utilisation of Preferred Trees and Shrubs	6	0	0
5b. Live Woody Vegetation Removal by Other than Browsing	1	2	3
6. Human Alteration of Site Vegetation	0	2	4
Number of Sites by Overall Vegetation Health Category	2	0	4
SOIL/HYDROLOGY			
7a. Human Alteration of Site Physical Structure	1	1	4
7b. Severity of Human-Caused Alterations to Physical Site	0	0	6
8. Human-Caused Bare Ground	1	1	4
9. Degree of Artificial Removal/Addition of Water	0	6	0
Number of Sites by Overall Soil/Hydrology Category	0	2	4
NUMBER OF SITES BY OVERALL HEALTH CATEGORY	0	2	4



Healthy (80-100%) - Little or no impairment to riparian functions.
 Healthy but with Problems (60-79%) - Some impairment to riparian functions due to human or natural causes.
 Unhealthy (<60%) - Impairment to many riparian functions due to human or natural causes.



The aerial drone survey was flown in August 2016, and the data footage was completed in October. The data is currently being analyzed for an overall lake health report. This report will be used as a ground set data comparative tool, as well as a visual aid in restoration activities. A copy of the aerial footage will be present at community engagement sessions for the public to viewing.

Photo: M.D. of Bonnyville . Visual example of drone footage.

Know your shores

Environmental Reserve (ER) are lands dedicated to protect the natural environment, protect surrounding people and property from hazardous conditions such as flooding and erosion events. These lands provide public access to or along lakes and waterbodies within the Municipality. Typically located adjacent to a body of water, ERs are placed between the private subdivision lot, and the bed and shore of the water.

Municipal Reserve (MR) lands are intended to provide suitable land base for the provision of recreation facilities for the use and enjoyment of Municipal residents and the general public. MR may provide important access links to other lands, including water access, and can also offer undeveloped green spaces that act as buffers between different land uses such as agriculture, oil & gas, and industrial use areas.

Riparian areas are defined by the presence of vegetation and soils that are highly influenced by water. In some lakes or wetland habitats this may extend some distance inland and/ or in to the water (including the littoral zone where cattails and bulrushes thrive.) For many properties around Crane Lake there is an ER between the water and private property. In some places around the lake, the ER designation area and the riparian area will overlap, but in other the riparian area might be greater or less than the area of the designated ER.

Important Dates

May 15-20—Revegetation of MD West Campground, and 2016 participant sites.

May 21—CLASS AGM & Shoreline Clean-up

May 28—CLRRPP Update at RiverHurst 11:00am

June— Cows & Fish Company Training

July/ August—Riparian Health Inventory Assessments

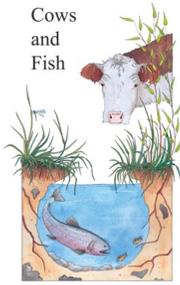
August TBA—Community Family Engagement Day

August/September—Community Sign Installation

What's on the schedule for 2017?

The CLRRPP is scheduled to complete 30 riparian health assessments during the 2017 summer period. Thirteen (13— yellow) sites were selected from the west site, five (5— pink) sites for the central , and ten (10— blue) for the east side. The sites were chosen to cover the largest amount of area, reflect different locations along the shoreline, and to provided an even demographic for impacts on the lake. The shoreline assessments will begin in July/ August with the west side locations first than moving to the central and finishing off with the east properties. Additional programming such as a Family eco-day and lake stewardship days are also planned for the summer months in conjunction with the Beaver River Watershed Alliance and Nature Alberta. Additional community progress meetings and newsletters will be scheduled throughout the year.

Rural Address	Plan #	Roll #
539 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 23	6404054023
537 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 22	6404054022
535 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 21	6404054021
533 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 20	6404054020
531 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 19	6404054019
329 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 18	6404054018
327 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 17	6404054017
325 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 16	6404054016
323 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 13	6404054013
321 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 12	6404054012
119 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 11	6404054011
117 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 10	6404054010
109 63532 Rge Rd 444	822 1609 1 7	6404054008
30 63532 Rge Rd 444	792 0537 1 11	6304321012
26 63532 Rge Rd 444	792 0537 1 9	6304321010
22 63532 Rge Rd 444	792 0537 1 7	6304321008
14 63532 Rge Rd 444	792 0537 1 3	6304321004
10 63532 Rge Rd 444	792 0537 1 2	6304321003
44332B Twp Rd640	052 4888 3 30	6404044053
20 44330 Twp Rd 640	1162 RS 20	6404044022
14 44318 Twp Rd 640	772 2700 3 21	6404044044
12 44318 Twp Rd 640	772 2700 3 22	6404044045
10 44318 Twp Rd 640	772 2700 3 23	6404044046
8 44318 Twp Rd 640	772 2700 3 24	6404044047
6 44318 Twp Rd 640	772 2700 3 25	6404044048
4 44318 Twp Rd 640	772 2700 3 26	6404044049
2 44318 Twp Rd 640	772 2700 3 27	6404044050
359 44312 Twp Rd 640	762 1288 1 33	6404043034
357 44312 Twp Rd 640	762 1288 1 32	6404043033



Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist with

Crane Lake Family Engagement Day

If you are interested in volunteering your property or would like to find out more information about volunteering for the Crane Lake Program please send an email to Katlyn Macdonald at kmacdonald@md.bonnyville.ab.ca

Preserve Your Reserve

Want to do your part to preserve your reserve here are a list of awesome lake friendly activities to try with your family:

- Go birdwatching
- Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count
- Try out kayaking and canoeing
- Enjoy the lake
- Clean up your shoreline—Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup
- Plant some native vegetation
- Explore the lake by taking a hike—maybe pick up a can or two
- Check your property for invasive species
- Check into your downspout and runoff management
- Limit your footprint

Let us know what you are doing to Preserve your Reserve by sharing your activities on the M.D. of Bonnyville

Facebook and Instagram pages with

#preserveyourreserve

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about the program or how you can help “Preserve Your Reserve”

Katlyn Macdonald
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Visit us on the web at

www.md.bonnyville.ab.ca/159/Environment

“The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.
The second best time is now.”
— Anonymous

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BONNYVILLE NO. 87

The views expressed herein are solely those of Municipal District of Bonnyville