

A scenic landscape of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a river flows through a rocky bed. The middle ground is a lush green valley with a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, majestic mountains rise under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A geothermal vent in the distance emits a plume of white steam. The overall scene is bright and vibrant, suggesting a natural park setting.

# Canada's "Parks for All"

**WUP & IERM Congress 2016**

**Cape town, South Africa**

***Anne Charlton, Director, Calgary Parks,  
Canada***

# Canada's "Parks for All" Our Process in Developing a Framework for Parks in Canada

## Getting Started Our Starting Point

### Inputs

#### The Foundation

Inputs include the below key previous initiatives:

- 1 **PARTICIPACTION (1970s – 2000s)**  
Set the foundation for the development of all recreation and parks related frameworks in Canada.
- 2 **National Recreation Summit (2011)**  
The event that led to the development of the Framework for Recreation in Canada.
- 3 **Connecting Canadians to Nature (2014)**  
A document which is intended get Canadians outside. This was the instigator for the "Parks for All" Framework.
- 4 **Pathways to Wellbeing (2015)**  
The Framework for Recreation in Canada inspired the "Parks for All" Framework.

#### The Organizers and Participants

The Parks Summit was an initiative of the Canadian Parks Council (CPC) and the Canadian Parks & Recreation Association (CPRA), in collaboration with a country-wide National Advisory Committee (NAC).

#### National Advisory Committee (NAC)

- ❖ Delegates from 24 organizations across Canada including government, professional associations, NGOs and academia
- ❖ Provided recommendations on the actions in planning, organizing and end reporting for both the summit and the framework

#### Planning Secretariat

- ❖ Members from the CPC, CPRA along with Alberta Recreation & Parks Association (APRA), along with a consultant
- ❖ Implemented the advice and recommendations provided by the NAC, and all logistics attached to the summit

#### Participants

The summit participation was by invitation only, with over **160 representatives** from more than **100 agencies** including educators, government administrators and not-for profit representatives.

## The Event 2016 Parks Summit

### Activities

#### "Parks for All" Workbook

A draft of the framework was presented as a workbook and was validated by participants. The workbook included draft:

##### ❖ Vision Statements

i.e. By 2025, Canada's diverse parks community conserves nature with the full support and engagement of Canadians from all walks of life, in a manner that enriches their lives, their communities and their planet.

##### ❖ Strategic Directions

1. Connect
2. Conserve
3. Collaborate
4. Leadership & Sustainability

##### ❖ Commitments to Action

All participants made a commitment to take action.

#### Workshops

Workshops were held on the four strategic directions and on the future of parks in Canada.

#### Commissioned Papers

Four papers were commissioned as background information for participants.

#### Parks Spectrum Activity

Participants were asked to identify where their organization fits along a continuum, which helped to visually express our parks system and how we work together.

### Outputs

#### "Parks for All" Workbook Updated

Public engagement will take place before endorsement of the framework in 2017.

#### Pan-Canadian Charter

Elements were proposed for crafting a Pan-Canadian Charter for 2017 ratification.

#### Commitment to the Parks Community

Participants declared their intent to further collaborate.

#### Future Opportunities

Opportunities were selected and subgroups were formed to take action.

#### Input on the Future of Canada's Parks

The discussions produced 175 pages of input on the future of our parks system.

## The Result Our Outcomes

### Immediate

Increased Knowledge

Enhanced Awareness of Opportunities & Challenges

Improved Coordination & Communication

Commitment to Continue the Conversation

New Partnerships & Pilot Projects

Renewed Celebration of Canada's nature

### Intermediate

Strengthened System of Parks & Agencies

Enhanced Global Positioning on Best Practices

"Healthy Parks"  
*Both in their Biodiversity & in their Promotion of Healthy Living*

### Ultimate

More Canadians in Nature

Enhanced Collective Health & Prosperity of Canadians

Increased Global Profile of Canada's Nature

### 2016 Canadian Parks Summit Canmore, Canada

The 2016 Canadian Parks Summit was the first of its kind in Canada and started the development of Canada's "Parks for All" Framework. The Framework is intended to support all parks agencies and individuals responding to emerging trends and challenges, in order to ensure a healthy and sustainable future for all Canadian parks and outdoor recreation spaces.



# Our Process

Our logic model helps us tell our story...

Getting Started    The Event 2016 Parks Summit    **The Result** Our Outcomes

Inputs

Activities

Outputs

Short-Term

Intermediate

Ultimate

# The Foundation

## Getting Started

Inputs

Activities

Outputs

Short-Term

Intermediate

Ultimate

88% of Canadians support protecting the environment...

1 **PARTICIPACTION**  
(+/-1970 – 2000)



2 National Recreation Summit (2011)



3 Connecting Canadians to Nature (2014)



4 Pathways to Wellbeing (2015)

A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015  
Pathways to Wellbeing



# The Organizers

**13%** of Canadian adults volunteer in nature conservation away from their home



Haida Gwaii, British Columbia

## Getting Started

Inputs

Activities

Outputs

Short-Term

Intermediate

Ultimate

The Parks Summit was an initiative of:

1

**PARCS**  
CANADIAN PARKS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL CANADIEN DES PARCS



2

  
CPRA ACPL

## National Advisory Committee

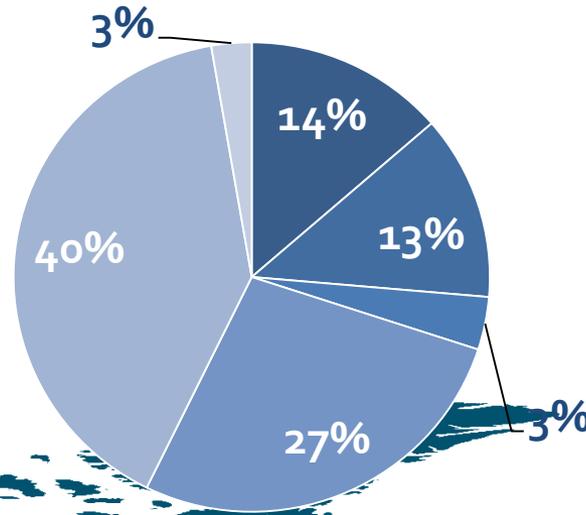
- ❖ 24 delegates from across Canada
- ❖ Guidance & direction

## Planning Secretariat

- ❖ 10 members
- ❖ Logistics & coordination of the Parks Summit

# The Participants

## Getting Started



- Business
- Education
- First Nations Organizations
- Government
- Non-Profit
- Private Citizen



**160+** Participants

**110+** Agencies

# The Event

The Event 2016 Parks Summit

Inputs

Activities

Outputs

Short-Term

Intermediate

Ultimate

## National Parks

One of the top four symbols of Canadian identity

### 2016 Canadian Parks Summit



- ❖ First of its kind in Canada
- ❖ Initiated the development of “Parks for All”
- ❖ Supports healthy and strong parks in Canada

Lake Louise, Alberta

# The Workbook



## Workbook included a draft of the “Parks for All” Framework



VISION

A shared vision for Canada’s Parks Community

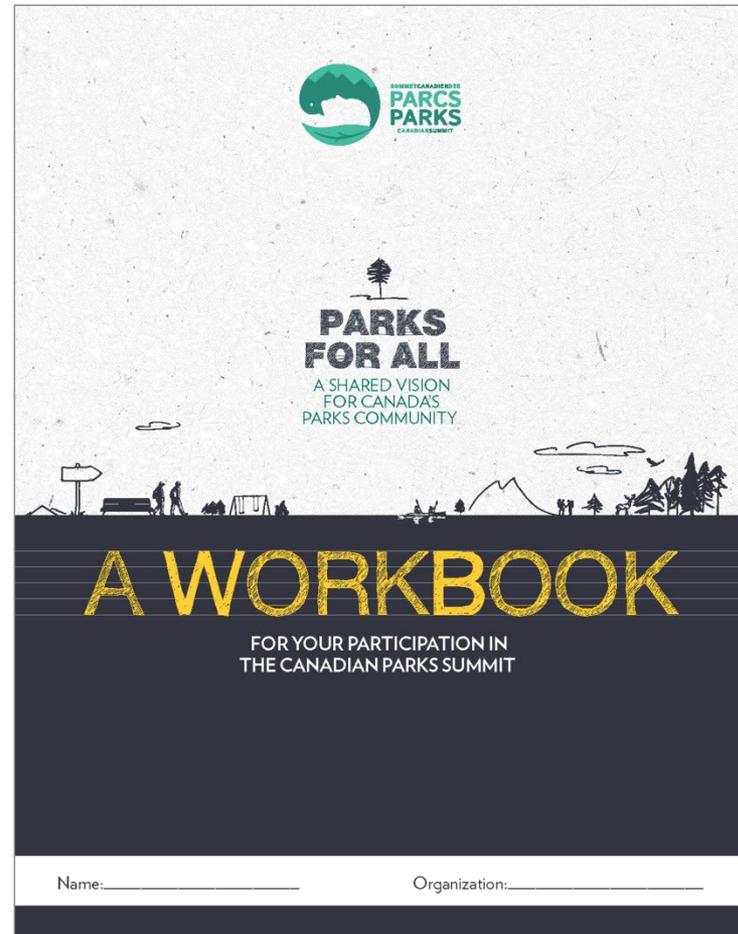
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



1. Connect
2. Conserve
3. Collaborate
4. Leadership & Sustainability



A Commitment to Action





# The Papers

Inputs

Activities

Outputs

Short-Term

Intermediate

Ultimate

80% of  
Canadians now  
live in urban  
centers



Calgary, Alberta

# The Parks Spectrum

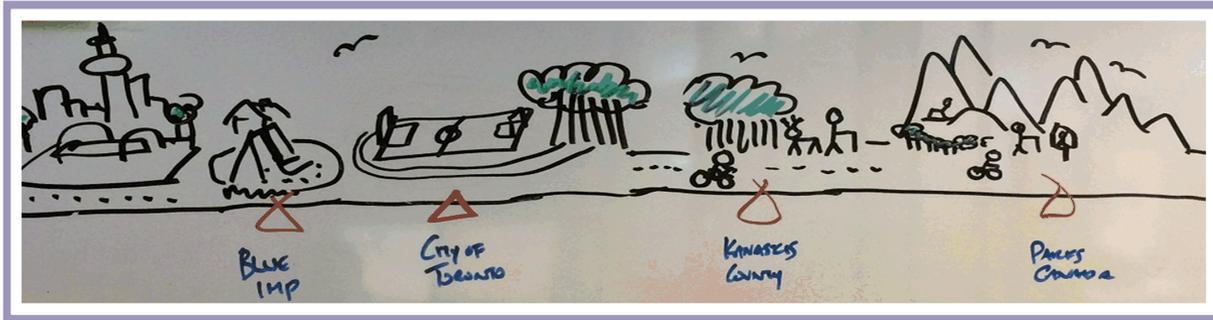


From ideas...

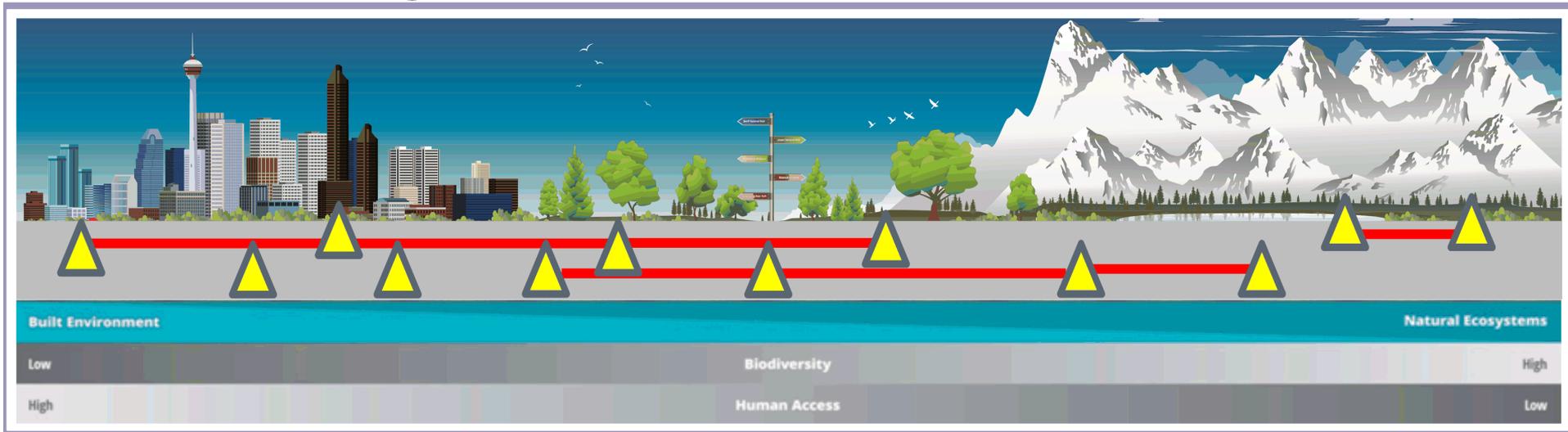
- ❖ "Ice Breaker"
- ❖ Conversation Starter
- ❖ Workshop Tool



To a whiteboard sketch...



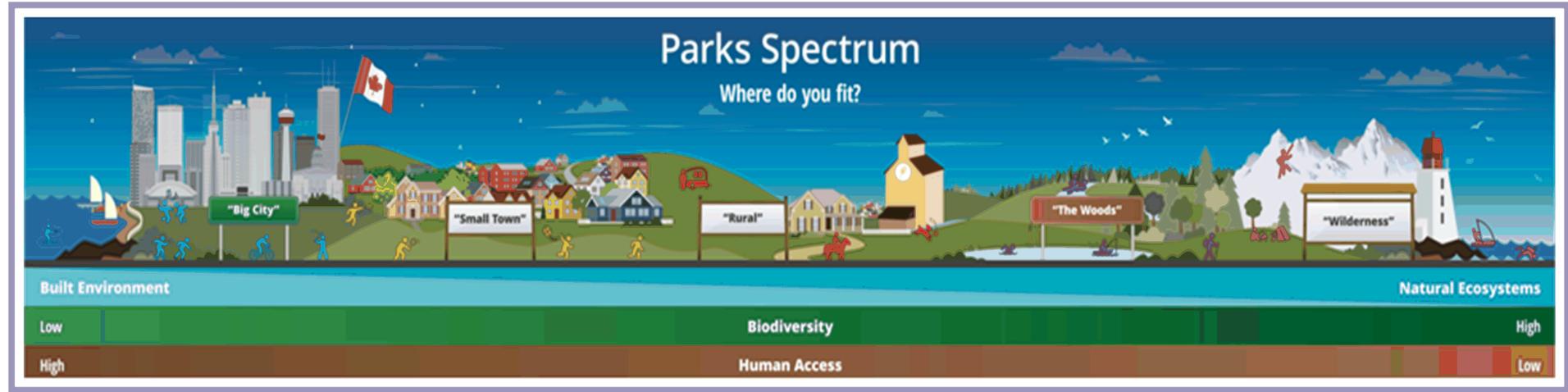
To an artist's rendering...



# The Parks Spectrum



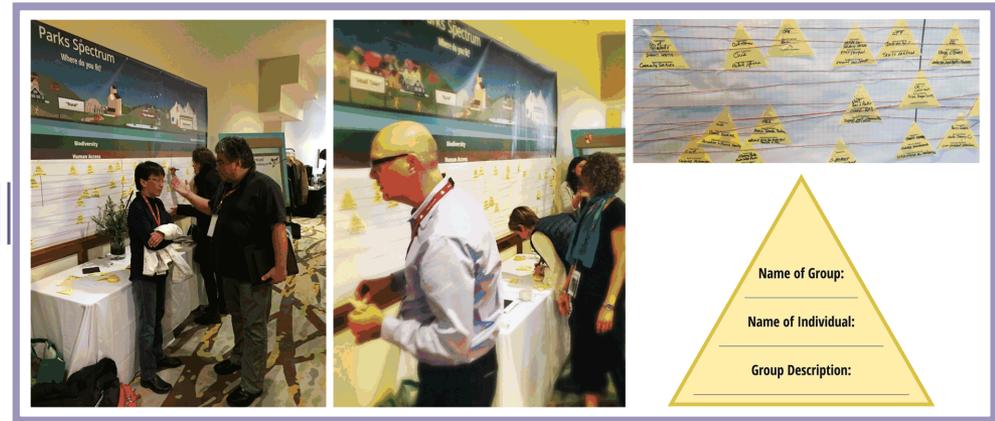
To the final product...



To its final resting place...



To the event...



# The Framework

The Event 2016 Parks Summit

Inputs

Activities

Outputs

Short-Term

Intermediate

Ultimate

- ❖ Framework updated
- ❖ 175 pages of input
- ❖ 2017 engagement & ratification

**90%** of Canadians who have visited national parks report a sense of connection to them

# The Charter

The Event 2016 Parks Summit

Inputs

Activities

Outputs

Short-Term

Intermediate

Ultimate

❖ Pan-Canadian Charter in 2017



**Loons** are in the running to become  
Canada's national bird.

# The Commitment

❖ Participants declared their intent to further collaborate



West coast, British Columbia



Young Leaders at the Canadian Parks Summit

# The Opportunities

The Event 2016 Parks Summit

Inputs

Activities

Outputs

Short-Term

Intermediate

Ultimate

- ❖ Opportunities selected
- ❖ Subgroups formed to take action



Toronto, Canada

# Short-Term

The Result Our Outcomes

Inputs

Activities

Outputs

Short-Term

Intermediate

Ultimate

- ❖ Knowledge sharing
- ❖ Opportunities identified
- ❖ Better coordination
- ❖ Pilot projects
- ❖ Celebration of nature



Alberta, Canada

# Intermediate

The Result Our Outcomes

Inputs

Activities

Outputs

Short-Term

**Inter-  
mediate**

Ultimate

- ❖ Strengthened system
- ❖ Global best practices
- ❖ “Healthy Parks”



Montreal, Quebec

Inputs

Activities

Outputs

Short-Term

Intermediate

Ultimate



- ❖ More Canadians in nature
- ❖ Enhanced collective health & prosperity
- ❖ Increased global profile of Canada's nature

# Thank you



Calgary, Alberta