

# TOWN OF MAGRATH

[www.magrath.ca](http://www.magrath.ca)

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Citizens of Magrath,

It is a pleasure to be able to address you as the spokesperson for the Council and discuss the Town's operations in 2022. One year into our council term, I can say confidently that your Town Council takes their role seriously and cares deeply for the local issues that affect residents of our Town.

In 2022 Magrath added a terrific asset to Town with the outdoor multi-court facility. This facility provides a great space for Basketball, Tennis, and the fastest-growing sport Pickleball. I was pleased to learn in early 2022 the city of Calgary still had zero dedicated pickleball courts playing instead only on lines painted onto existing tennis courts, but our small town could boast about our three brand-new dedicated courts. Of course, we all know Calgary will probably catch up in the years ahead.

In 2022 The Town also saw phase one of the Baker Place subdivision go up for sale and quickly sell out. Phase 2 is now available and ready-to-build lots are available. As a Council, we're excited to see new families interested in moving to Town and we know they will all enjoy calling Magrath home. There is also considerable interest in the industrial lots and we anticipate construction there on several fronts in 2023.

The management of Wildlife such as deer is an area of Provincial Government responsibility. However, as a Council, we have advocated forcefully with officials of the Ministry of Environment and Parks that the current urban deer situation is unacceptable in Magrath. Last year, the ministry authorized additional tags for a local cull hunt. While measures like this are helpful more still needs to be done to address the situation and we continue to work with Provincial officials on this subject.

There was also an extensive dialogue between the Town and Alberta Health Services regarding ambulance coverage, staffing the Lab/X-ray, and overall healthcare considerations in town. The Magrath Health Care Centre will continue to receive considerable attention from the Council moving forward.

The Local Societies Coordinating Committee was created which brings all non-profit organizations in town to a quarterly discussion regarding upcoming activities, resources available, help needed, and a shared wish list. Groups attending have included the Lion's Club, Rod and Gun Club, Magrath Cultural Arts Society, Magrath Recreation Association, and the Magrath Museum Board. The goal is to provide a calendar of town events that is well-advertised and supported.

Our Council is pleased with the accomplishments of Town Staff in 2022 and is optimistic about what will be accomplished in 2023.

Sincerely,

Byrne Cook  
Mayor

## PROJECTS

In 2022 the Town completed the following capital projects. Funding for the various projects came from Federal and Provincial Grants, local government reserves, and donations. The combined total for all project costs was over 1.1 million dollars.

### Infrastructure Maintenance

- Lift Station Upgrades
- Lagoon Desludging

### Recreation

- Campground Expansion
- Handicap Accessible Doors
- Multi-Use Court
- Pool Eating Area
- Curling Club Renovation

### Infrastructure Upgrades

- Asphalt Repaving
- Base, curb and sidewalk
- Street Oiling
- Sewer line expansion

### Equipment

- Bobcat Toolcat
- Street Sweeper
- Replacement trucks

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT - HIGHLIGHTS

## MULTICOURT

With a total project cost of just under \$244,000 the Town finished and opened the new outdoor multicourt. A grant contribution was received from the Government of Canada for \$160,000 with the Town paying the rest with MSI capital funding. In addition to the overall cost two local donations were also received from Cardston County and Jenex Contracting helping to complete the project. Jenex donated their time and machines to excavate the site and Cardston County supplied all the gravel needed to base the site. The Town would like to express its gratitude for both the grant and donations to make the project possible.



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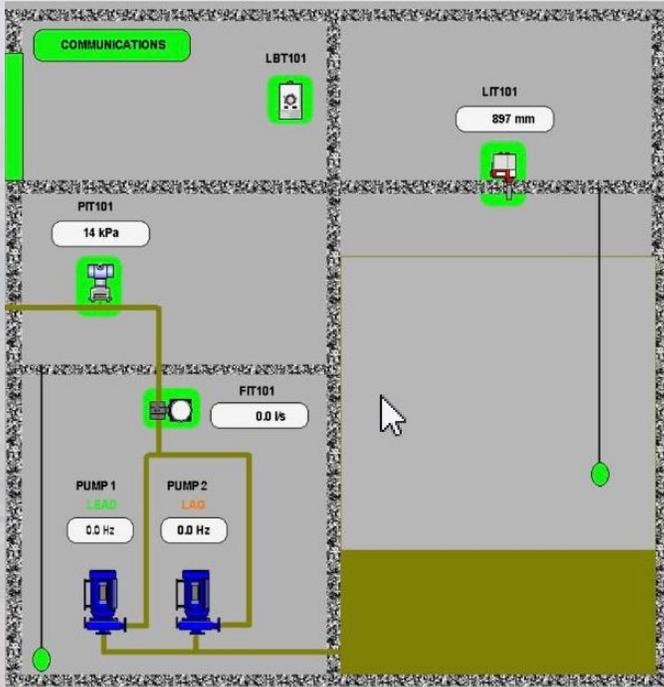
## STREET PAVING AND OILING



2.5 blocks of curb and base were installed along with 4 additional blocks of oil-packed road.



## SEWER LIFT STATION AND LAGOON MAINTENANCE



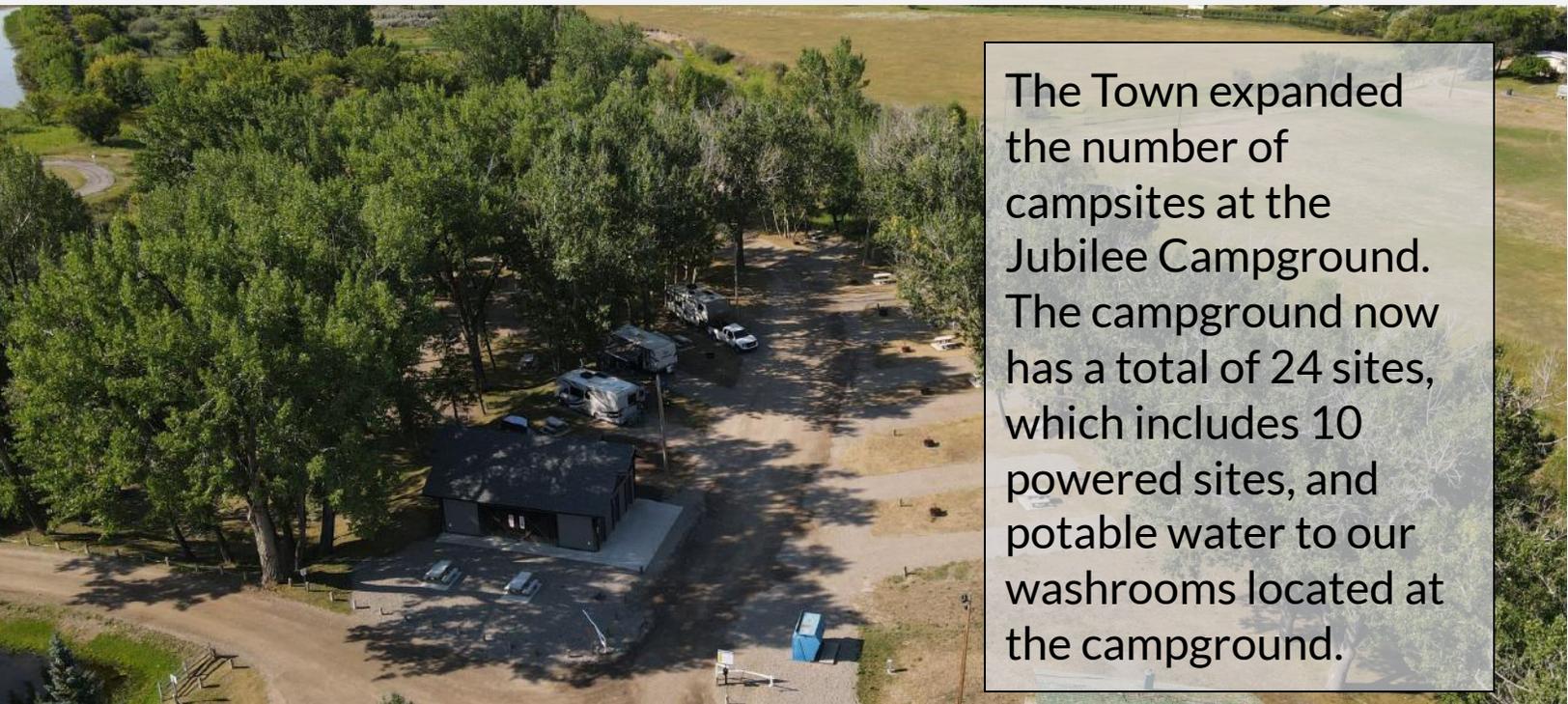
The Town has upgraded the technology at our Main Lift Station. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) is a system of software and hardware elements that allows industrial organizations to control industrial processes locally or at remote locations. The can also, monitor, gather, and process real-time data.

Desludging of Magrath's Lagoon is the process of removing solids from the cells of the lagoon. This process was long overdue and necessary to keep our lagoon operating property after more than two decades.

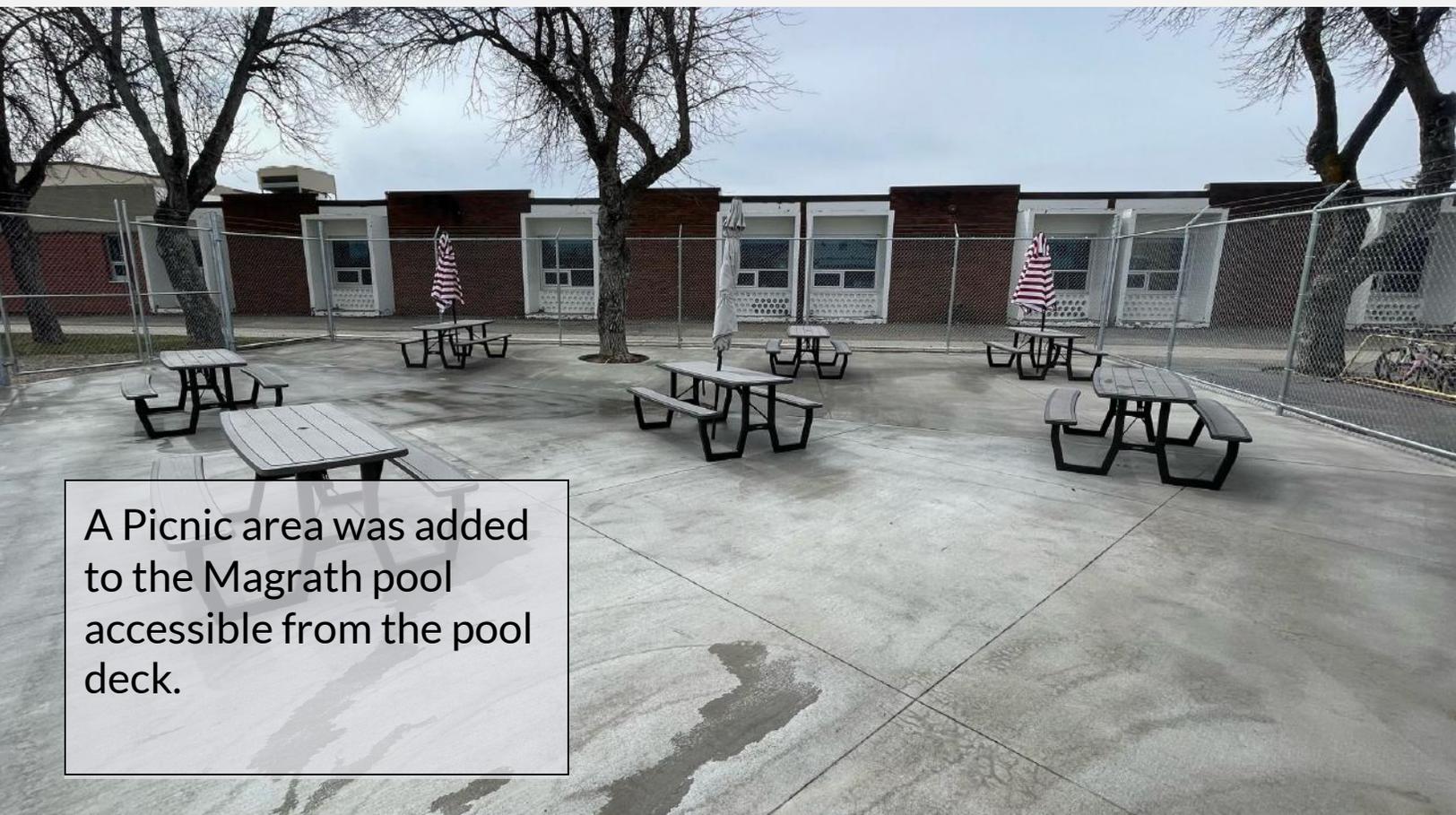


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## CAMPGROUND AND POOL DECKING



The Town expanded the number of campsites at the Jubilee Campground. The campground now has a total of 24 sites, which includes 10 powered sites, and potable water to our washrooms located at the campground.



A Picnic area was added to the Magrath pool accessible from the pool deck.

WR BAKER PLACE - PHASE 2

To serve the growing residential demands the Town of Magrath has created the W R Baker Place subdivision. Lots are sold serviced, and ready for immediate development. Services include underground power, natural gas, water, and sewer to the property line. These residential lots have been perfectly sized to attract new families who are looking to have a comfortable home with a great backyard outdoor space ranging from .28 acres to .31 acres



 **RESIDENTIAL LOTS FOR SALE**  
Fully Serviced .28 to .31 Acre Lots  
**PHASE 2 NOW SELLING**  
Visit [www.magrath.ca/bakerplace](http://www.magrath.ca/bakerplace)  
or call **403-758-3212**  
for more information 



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## ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Services	Objective	Strategy	2022 Progress Measures	2023 Outcome
<b>Administration and Planning</b>	Clean Financial Audit	Maintain a high fiduciary responsibility, with regular filing and proper records management.	Unqualified 2022 Auditors Report.	Complete
	Trust between the Town Administration and residents.	Increase administrative transparency and provide the public with easier access to information.	<p>Add greater transparency to property taxes for property owners</p> <p>Engage residents with increased information and policy feedback opportunities.</p>	<p>Tax notices were sent out with greater detail as to how specific municipal tax dollars were being spent on police, fire, FCSS and solid waste.</p> <p>Magrathmatters.ca was created as a platform to use to engage with residents.</p>
	Continuously Improve the Town's Administration	Make sensible changes that improve the efficiency of the town's services.	<p>Develop a multi-year budget forecast.</p> <p>Expand the town's usage of Asset management planning</p>	<p>A 3-year forward-looking operational budget for the Town tracks expected revenues and expenses</p> <p>Town Staff took training regarding the benefits of Asset Management and future plans are to use GIS software to map out the irrigation system.</p>

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Services	Objective	Strategy	2022 Progress Measures	2023 Outcome
Economic Development	Support community growth.	Ensure there is a selection of suitably zoned land for private uses.	Service and subdivide residential lots as part of the Baker Place subdivision and promote interest in the Town's available industrial lots.	Phase 2 lots of the Baker Place Subdivision were serviced with sales underway.
		Promote Local groups and business.	Engage with local business, church, and volunteer community groups to learn and market the benefits of living in Magrath.	Local community groups were engaged by Council throughout the year to enhance and increase local events. Additionally, community group leaders were brought together to form a quarterly meeting discussion group.



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## INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC WORKS

Services	Objective	Strategy	2022 Progress Measures	2023 Outcome
<b>Infrastructure &amp; Public Works</b>	Maintain safe transportation roadways	Maintain and expand road roadways throughout the in the Town. Patch, grade, pave and oil roadways as possible	<p>Purchase maintenance equipment as laid out by the Town's capital planning budget.</p> <p>Finish storm sewer, curb, and basing of phase 2 of block 91. Pave phase 1</p> <p>Oil and pack gravel roads as usage and budget funds permit.</p>	<p>A new Toolcat was purchased to perform various jobs including snow removal on the Trail.</p> <p>Phase 2 and all these tasks were completed in 2022</p> <p>4 street blocks were oiled in town and 4<sup>th</sup> Street East was returned to gravel with extra gravel added for safety.</p>

## WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Services	Objective	Strategy	2022 Progress Measures	2023 Outcome
<b>Water Distribution System</b>	Maintain safe and efficient water systems	Plan out, monitor and replace distribution lines to meet the needs of the community.	<p>Camera sewer lines to determine areas where potable water breaks may be unknowingly draining into the sewer.</p> <p>Install 2 blocks of water line per a servicing agreement with Cardston County.</p> <p>Continue review of all household meters for correct operation and servicing.</p>	Completed

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## TOURISM

Services	Objective	Strategy	2022 Progress Measures	2023 Outcome
Tourism	Create a desirable Town atmosphere	Ensure visitors can find local places of interest	Investigate the costs to install and design a template for wayfaring signs as a future budget consideration.	Incomplete - Wayfaring signs were investigated however funding will be required to complete the project.
	Support tourism locally and regionally.	Better utilization of the campground.	Partner regionally to apply for Travel Alberta grants to promote the area.	The Town applied for 2023 Travel Alberta grant funding with Cardston County Tourism
		Support development in this sector to the benefit of the town.		The Town has partnered with Community Futures Lethbridge to provide business development loans at 0% interest.
		Build awareness of Magrath and its amenities	Create and distribute a brochure to Lethbridge and area tourist information sites that highlights Magrath's summer amenities.  Work with regional tourism initiatives.	Completed – Hotels were asking for more near the end of the season, a 2023 run should be larger.  The Town Partnered with the regional municipalities and Cardston Tourism to create a County wide tourism guide.

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## PARKS AND RECREATION

Services	Objective	Strategy	2022 Progress Measures	2023 Outcome
Parks and Recreation	Enhance Recreation in the Town	Construct new facilities	Complete the new outdoor multi-court recreational area	Completed
			Open the Trail Connection to 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave S.  Renovate former curling club into community center conversion. (Multi-year)	Completed  Ongoing over the winter and into 2023. Currently have a request for proposals out looking for interested parties wanting to run a restaurant
	Enhance existing sites	Improve the campground and create additional campsites	New sites and amenities are an ongoing project The Town has been looking to source additional tables for the new stalls	
Enhance Washrooms at jubilee park to be open year round		The bathroom facilities at the campground are modified to be open year-round without freezing.		
	Maintain fleet equipment	Replace aging equipment	Purchase fleet vehicles and new bobcat.	3 used trucks were purchased to replace an aging fleet. A new Bobcat Toolcat was purchased to help with trail maintenance, snow removal, and general park upkeep.

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## FIRE & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Services	Objective	Strategy	2022 Progress Measures	2023 Outcome
Fire and Emergency Preparedness	Fire Risk Management	Reduce fire risk.	Participate jointly with Cardston County and other communities in a review of the region's fire services.	Firewise consulting was contracted to review the region's fire departments. 2023 will be a year where the recommendations of that consultation are reviewed and implemented as required.
	Flood Risk Management	Monitor flood risk.	Monitor the newly created stormwater drainage pond to determine if it sufficiently meets the community's requirements or if more flood risk mitigation is necessary.	The stormwater pond and ditch network continued to provide adequate stormwater drainage.
	Emergency Risk Management	Update and maintain the emergency plan procedures to respond to a major event.	<p>Increase staff ICS training and local community participation in the Emergency Plan.</p> <p>Review the current plan to and make updates as resource capacities require.</p> <p>Participate in a tabletop emergency exercise with regional partners.</p>	<p>The Town trained three staff in ICS 200 and two staff in ICS 300. Ongoing training will continue to be a priority of the Town.</p> <p>The Town reviews the plan regionally as part of the Cardston County Regional Emergency Management Agency.</p> <p>The Director of Emergency Management for Magrath participated in a regional tabletop grass fire scenario.</p>



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## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Town's complete audited financial statements for 2022 are available on the website. The graph on this page represents the Town's 5-year accumulated surplus. The surplus is a representation of all of the town's assets minus its liabilities. The Town doesn't have 29 million dollars sitting in its account, assets include the value of all buildings, vehicles, pipelines, other major assets with cash values, receivables, and finally any cash held on December 31, 2022. Liabilities include accounts payable, long-term debt, and deferred revenues.

In 2022 the accumulated surplus did not see the same growth pattern because of two factors. The first factor is the amortization of existing assets. Amortization is an accounting technique used to lower the book value of an asset over a set period. As an example, a 2022 truck could be valued at \$50,000 but a 2005 Truck's value may be only \$10,000. Amortization is the accounting of that valuing process and has no cash value. Over the past 3 years the Town saw several major infrastructure projects including the new swimming pool, multi-court, and block 91 subdivision and infrastructure development adding valuable assets to our accumulated surplus.

However, the newly added annual amortization amounts for these projects in 2022 closely matched the Town's spending on other new and replacement assets, which is the second reason for this leveling off in the graph. Provincial government transfers to Municipal governments for capital purchases in 2022 were less than in years previous and the Town was required to use some of its reserve funds to complete ongoing projects. Without additional funding for new assets, the accumulated surplus of the Town is likely to see a leveling off and may even contract slightly in years ahead as existing assets age longer without replacement.

**Total Accumulated Surplus**  
**\$29,255,332**

2018-2022 Accumulated Surplus



### What about the Town's Debt?

The Town's long-term debt was reduced in 2022 from \$1,342,385 to \$1,156,789. This amount is well within the Town's legislated total allowable debt limit which is \$6,537,071. The Town does intend to borrow money in 2023, if necessary, to continue to finance the installation of services for its residential subdivision to increase the availability of residential lots in Magrath. These funds are to be repaid with the funds from lot sales.