



Celebrating Municipal Excellence
2023 Nomination Form
Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Nominee Contact Information	
Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated: <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	RM of Hart Butte No 11 & Town of Coronach
Contact Name:	Leanne Totton
Contact role in project:	
Telephone #:	3062672005
Mailing Address:	Box 210 Coronach, SK S0H 0Z0
E-mail Address:	rm11@sasktel.net
Name of Nominated Practice or Project:	Reimagining the Reservoir
Date of Project or Practice Initiation:	1-Mar-2020
Date of Project or Practice Completion: <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	Ongoing: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
Name:	Kelsey Manske
Organization:	Town of Coronach
Position:	Community Development Officer
Mailing Address:	Box 90 Coronach, SK S0H 0Z0
Telephone #:	3062917086
E-mail Address:	coronach.edc@gmail.com

Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource to others. Nominations that clearly outline the practice and all steps involved have a higher chance of being selected for an award.

The Practice

1. What issue inspired the nominated project or practice?

Coronach and the surrounding area are facing a crisis with the impending closure of our economic mainstay, the coal industry. A coal-fired power-generating plant has been a source of community expansion and economic stability since the early 80's, but due to federal government regulations, it is slated to be shut down by 2030. After the power plant was put into production, a small campground was started along the Cookson River, which is the water source for the power plant. Named the Poplar River Community Park (PRCP), it was meant to increase the quality of life for employees and provide recreation for the community. Developments were made over the years, but locals felt the park was never fully established. As the community looks to reinvent itself past 2030, tourism is an economic pillar brought forward in several reports conducted, and the PRCP is a highlight in the community.

2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

There have been many steps taken to proceed with this project:

- 1) Funding was secured to create a masterplan. A steering committee was formed to work with the chosen consultant. Through creating the masterplan, stakeholders were consulted, a community survey was conducted and an open house.
- 2) With the completion of the Masterplan, funding was secured to begin work on several recommendations.
- 3) Action has been taken to complete projects such as the addition of more sites, trees planted, sod laid, a new fishing dock, signage, upgrades to current sites and improvements to roadways.

The goals of the masterplan were to:

- Determine and provide the necessary infrastructure to support enhancements, including water, sanitary, power, etc.
- Explore opportunities for year-round accommodation and use.
- Explore opportunities for the currently vacant portions of the site.
- Create a more visitor and user-friendly site through improved services, amenities and wayfinding.
- Include more trees within the site.
- Explore the opportunity to create a marina with rental options.

The Process

This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information, such as steps, resources accessed, and considerations to support a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice.

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

- Municipal Council
- Municipal Administration
- Other

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?

The Town of Coronach applied and managed for funding to develop the Reimagining the Reservoir Masterplan and spearheaded the steering committee. The Town and RM both have members who sit on the PRCP board, which was instrumental in the implementation of the project. The RM also assisted in ensuring funds were available to the board to utilize the funding received. The Coronach Community Development Officer successfully applied for funding to implement the masterplan.

5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?

Were other groups involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play? The Poplar River Community Park Board was heavily involved in this project and was instrumental in implementing the masterplan. When the masterplan was complete, it was handed over to the PRCP board and they were tasked with working with the Community Development Officer to source funding and begin on the action items.

6. What resources were involved?

Finance resources were needed in all aspects of the project, along with municipal staff/contractors and volunteers

7. How was the project or practice developed?

Funding was secured to conduct a feasibility/masterplan A steering committee was formed to oversee the development of the masterplan Reimagining the Reservoir Masterplan was completed Masterplan was reviewed with the land owner, and permission was granted to complete certain action items Masterplan was handed over to the PRCP Board for implementation Funding was secured to begin action items Action items were completed

The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?

As mentioned, this was a long overdue project the community had wanted for over 25 years. The PRCP is used often by locals, and all improvements were exceptionally well received. The feedback on the community survey and open house during the masterplan development was positively optimistic about the project. As Coronach residents grapple with an uncertain future for their jobs and families, they need to see their municipalities continue to invest and improve infrastructure and maintain a high quality of life. This project lifted spirits and continued to bring the community together in difficult times.

9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed? Please explain.

This project is still ongoing, and no formal evaluation has been completed. However, there is a strong interest in seasonal sites, there was a great turnout at the annual 'Dam Days' event, and the campground was well booked this past season.

10. Describe any challenges faced.

There were tight funding timelines to complete work. Extensions were thankfully received in the end. Volunteer capacity to complete the work as the PRCP is volunteer-based.

Lessons Learned

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?

Better communication with the masterplan consultant on what is realistic and obtainable versus what the 'dream' is. There has been deviation from the plan in some areas due to capacity issues. It's important for municipalities to work together and with nonprofit groups in a community, especially for large projects. There has to be a strong connection and understanding of the wants and needs of your community groups to see real progress that has community buy in.

