



The Bengough & District Regional Park walking trail

Saskatchewan Green Jobs Benefit Youth, Parks and Community

THE TOWN OF BENGOUGH,

Saskatchewan is known for its natural beauty and amazing scenery. Within the town located just 20 minutes from the Montana border, the Bengough & District Regional Park Authority offers many outdoor adventures for residents and visitors to enjoy.

In the summer of 2021, the park also included outdoor, nature-based programming for children that taught them the importance of taking care of the park and the environment.



BENGOUGH,
SASKATCHEWAN

Canada

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Preschool Class decorating mini pumpkins at their Halloween Party!



Bengough After-school Program Grades K-5 at the Bengough Park.

“This program gets people realizing the importance of a park and green spaces, and how important it is to a community”

Debra Ashby, Recreation Director and Park Manager

“Working here felt like being part of a family,” says Hayley Mooney, who was worked as a park programmer/interpreter for Bengough & District Regional Park Authority. “We’re pretty close, and it was a lot of fun.”

In Hayley’s role – a job supported by the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Skills Strategy program – she carried out children’s programming that had an environmental focus and utilized the organization’s parks and green spaces.

Hayley says the job offered something different every day, and included community garden education, swimming, nature walks, outdoor fitness activities and leading craft activities with recycled materials.

“I’ve learned just how much goes actually into programming, and making sure everything is organized and everybody’s on the same page,” she says. “I’ve also learned the importance of communication, and how to work with the public and people of all ages.”

Debra Ashby, Bengough Parks & Recreation’s recreation director and park manager, says the funding gave the organization the ability to offer exceptional programming to young children and the community.

“It’s definitely helped us out, because we couldn’t afford to do it if we didn’t have the funding,” Debra says. “It helped us

do a lot more programming than we normally would be able to do.”

She adds that the CPRA funding allowed them to also hire two students to maintain the parks and help clear an area to create a new nature trail.

“The whole program was great, and it’s helped us get a lot of things done that wouldn’t have happened,” Debra says. “We get so many comments about the trail, and how great it is.”

Debra adds that the program also helped the organization employ local youth like Hayley, who brought a lot of positive energy to her role.

“Hayley was very enthusiastic, and she’s a hard worker,” she says. “We love to be able to hire students and give them jobs, and keep them in the community. The program is great for somebody like Hayley who graduated, and then wasn’t sure what she wanted to do. We were able to offer employment to her and she could make some money in the interim, while she tried to decide what she wanted to do next.”

Debra says the organization appreciated the funding, and hopes they can apply for it again next year.

“It gets people realizing the importance of a park and green spaces, and how important it is to a community,” she says. “If we have the kids and help with the programming, that helps us highlight that more.” 🍁