Work, Learn, Evolve: Conference on Workplace Learning

October 20, 2026

Workplace learning in Þingvellir National Park



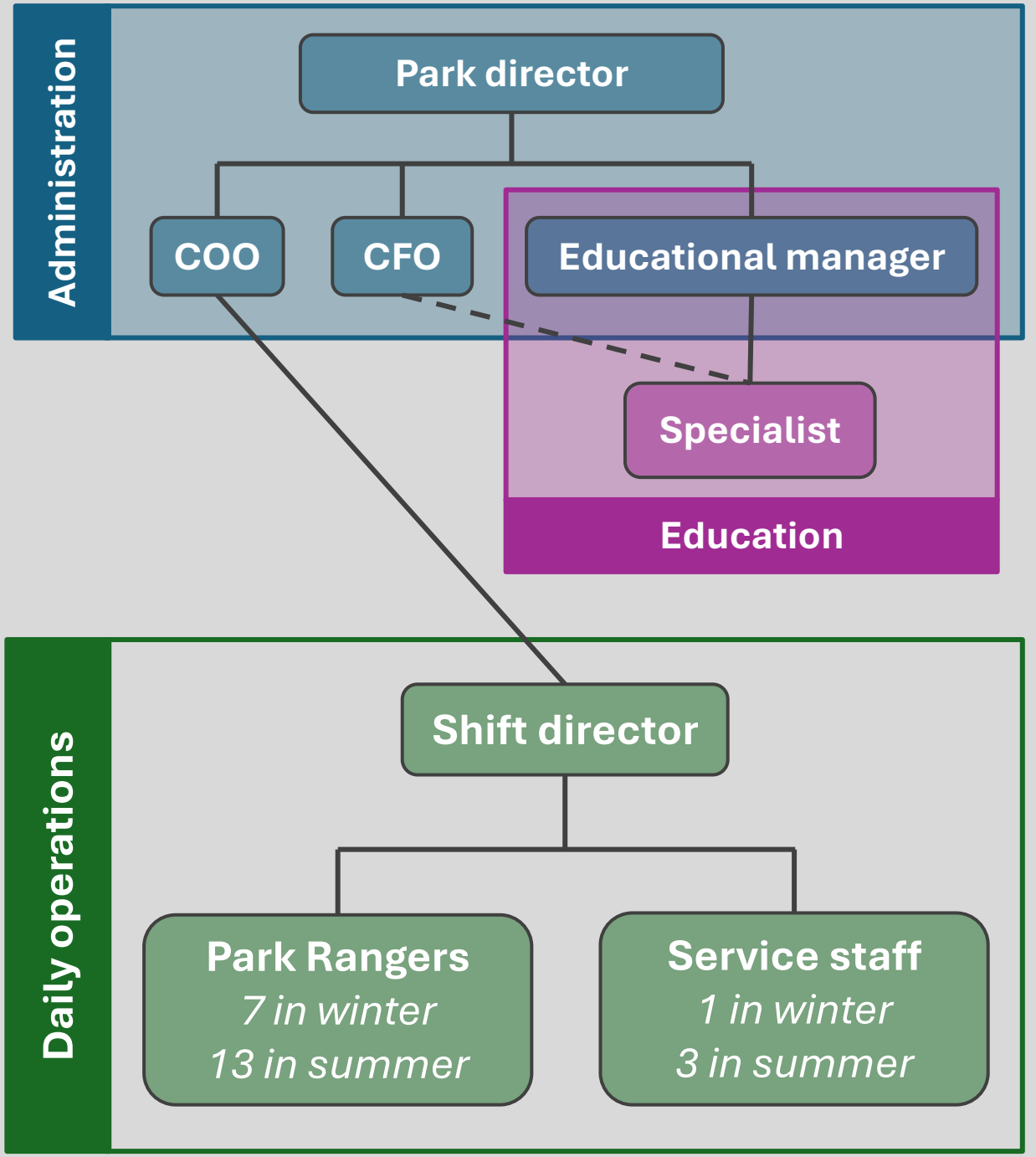
Gunnar Grímsson

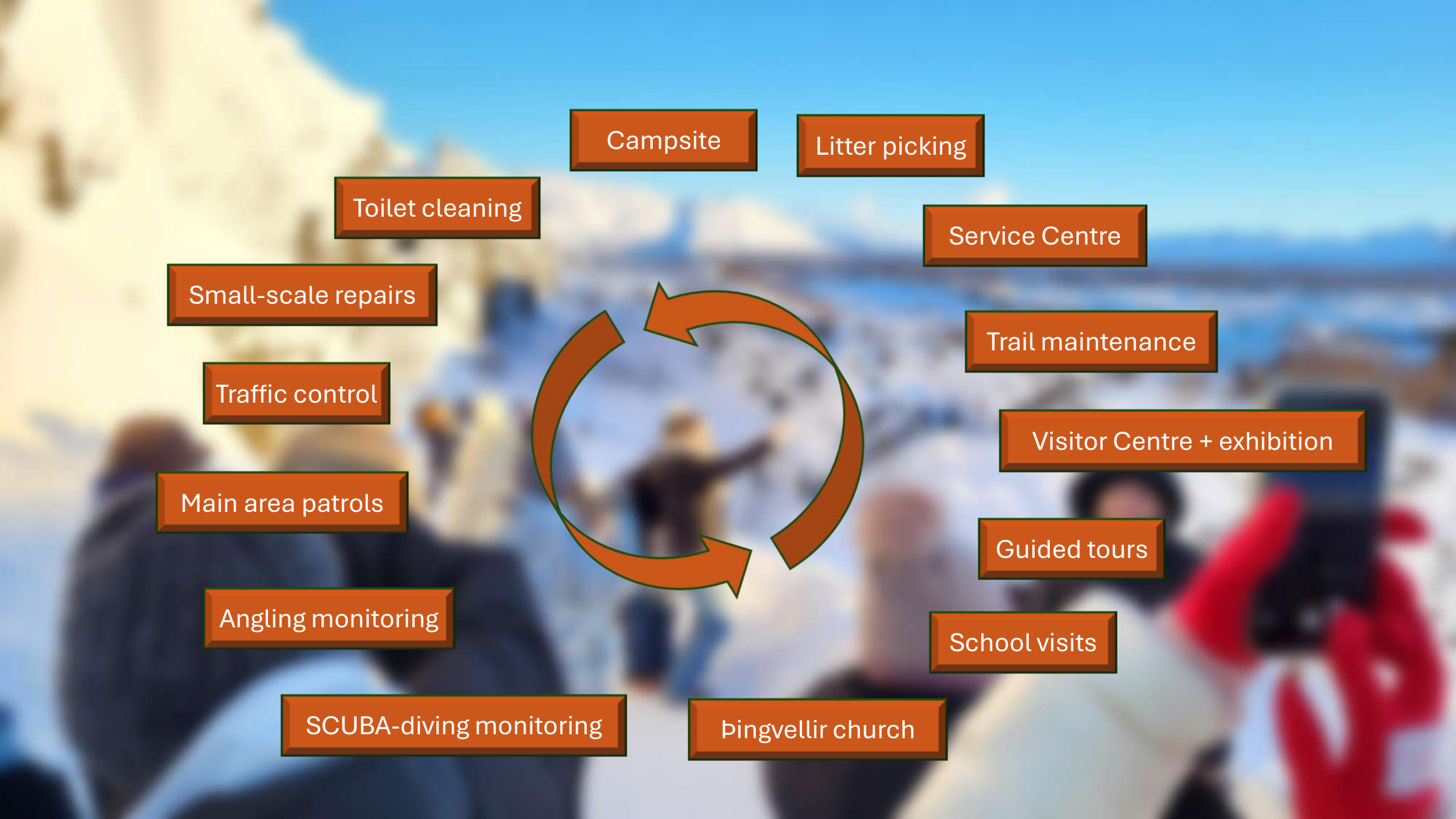
Specialist, Þingvellir National Park

Þingvellir National Park

- National Park since 1930
- UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2004
- Rich in both history and nature
- Major tourist attraction
  - ~1.5 million visitors a year






Campsite
Litter picking
Toilet cleaning
Service Centre
Small-scale repairs
Trail maintenance
Traffic control
Visitor Centre + exhibition
Main area patrols
Guided tours
Angling monitoring
School visits
SCUBA-diving monitoring
Þingvellir church








Varúð - Attention




RAUÐI KROSSINN
ICELANDIC RED CROSS

Work initiatives from employees: Case studies



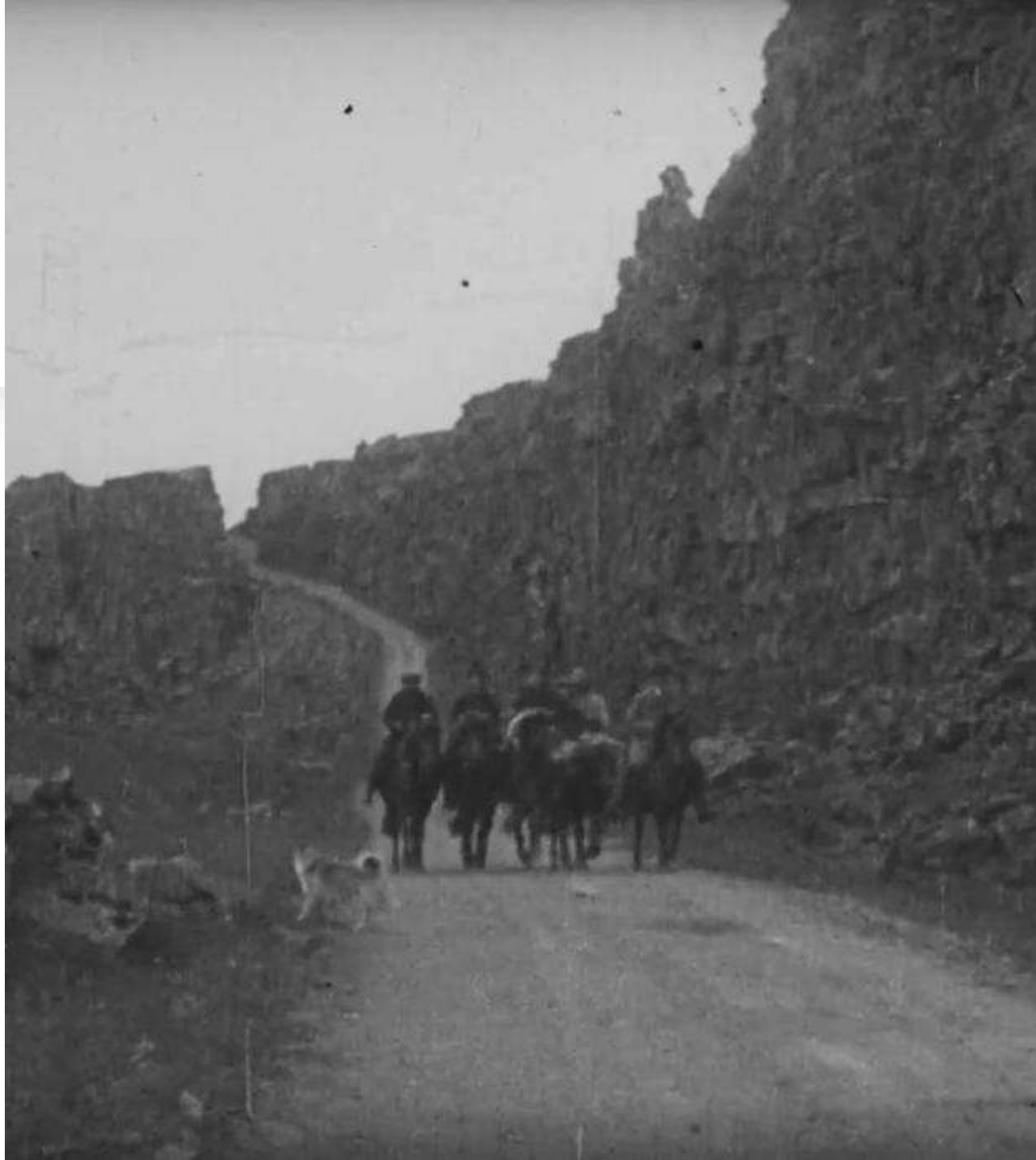
Initiative 1: Wildlife (Finnur Ingimarsson)

- Numerous wildlife studies:
  - Insect collection
  - Fox studies
  - Bird counting
  - Plant recording
- Employee uses his strengths to enrich our knowledge of Þingvellir



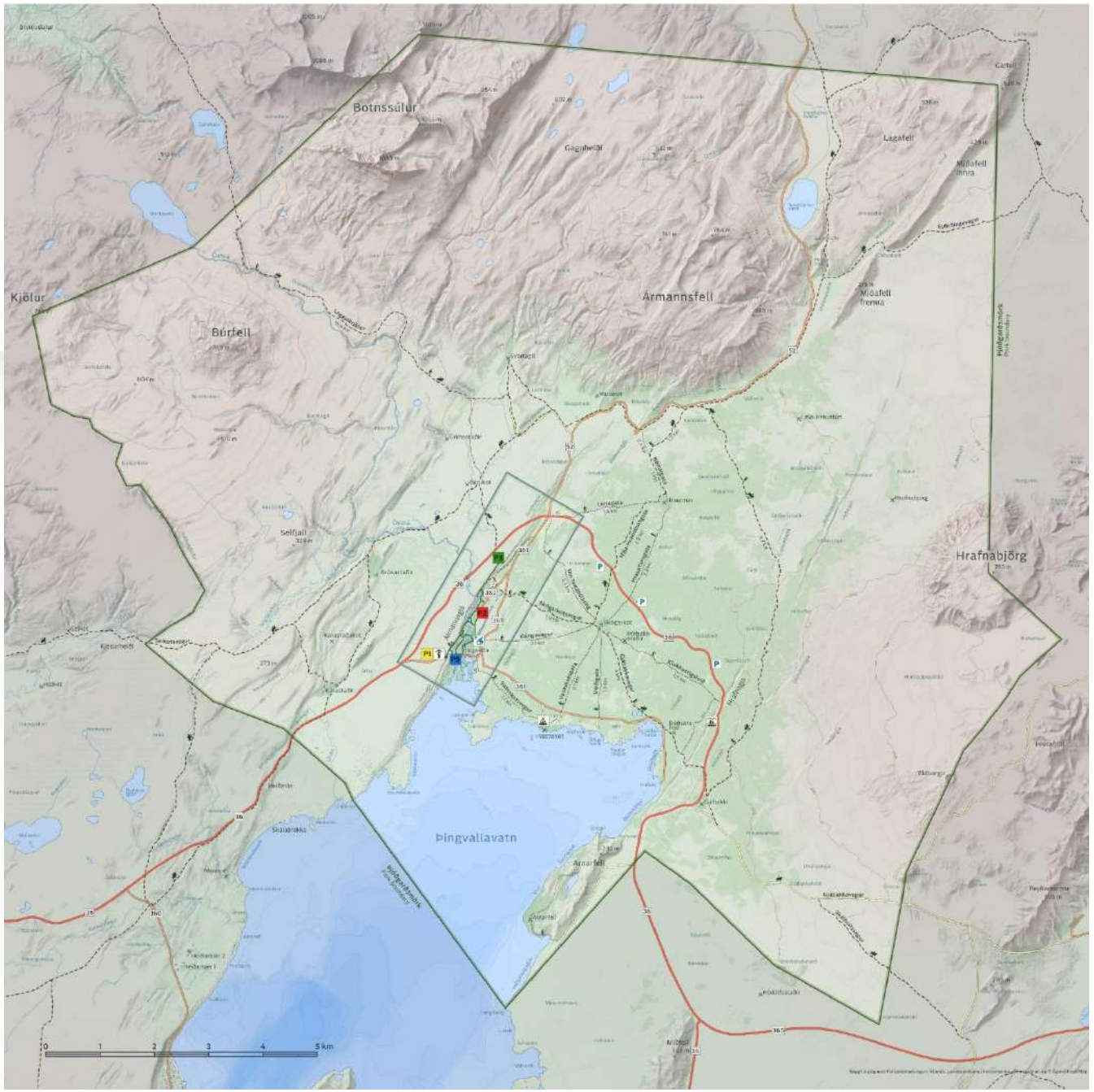
Initiative 2: Short film (Tryggvi Jóhönnuson)

- No videos being played in Þingvellir‘s visitor centre
- Sites from a 1924 video footage revisited and filmed
- Cross-comparison of Þingvellir between 100 years
- Now in constant playing in Þingvellir



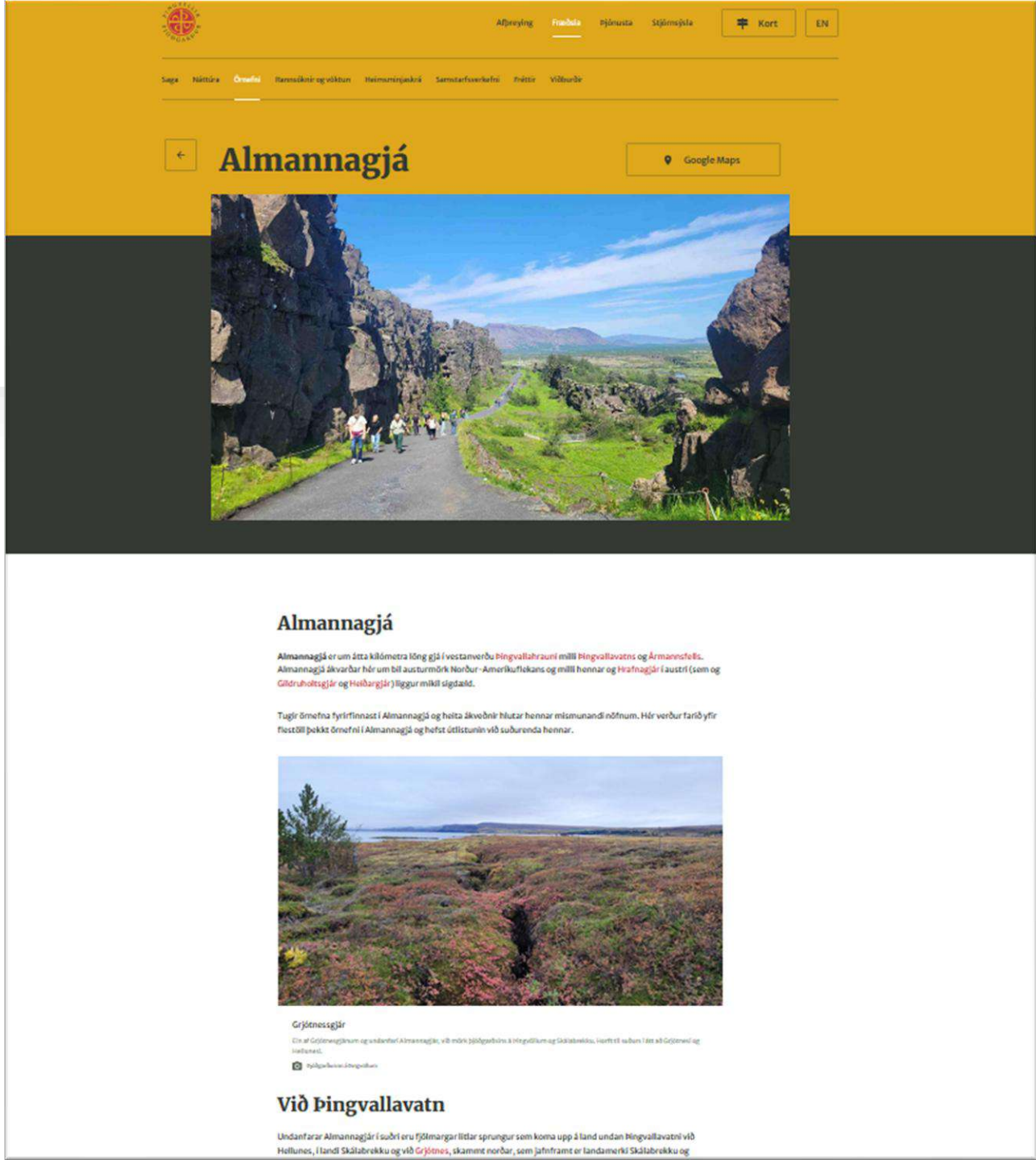
Initiative 3: Park maps (Gunnar Grímsson)

- Existing park map was lacking
- Employee created an alternative map during quieter periods, and subsequently tasked with creating an official park map
- New map makes the information desk job substantially easier
- Employee learns a significant amount about map making and design principles



Initiative 4: Wikipedia for Þingvellir

- ~800 known place names in Þingvellir National Park
- 33% compiled and published on website
- Park knowledge accessible to both public and staff members



Moving forward

- Increased communication between shifts
- Improved knowledge-sharing mechanisms
- Time for feedback and reflection

