

Update on the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

Presentation by:

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North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance



Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance



Presentation Overview



- **Big Picture**
- **Who Are We?**
 - North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
 - Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance
- **What We Do**
 - Watershed Management Plan Implementation Update
 - Riparian Strategy
 - Partnership Value

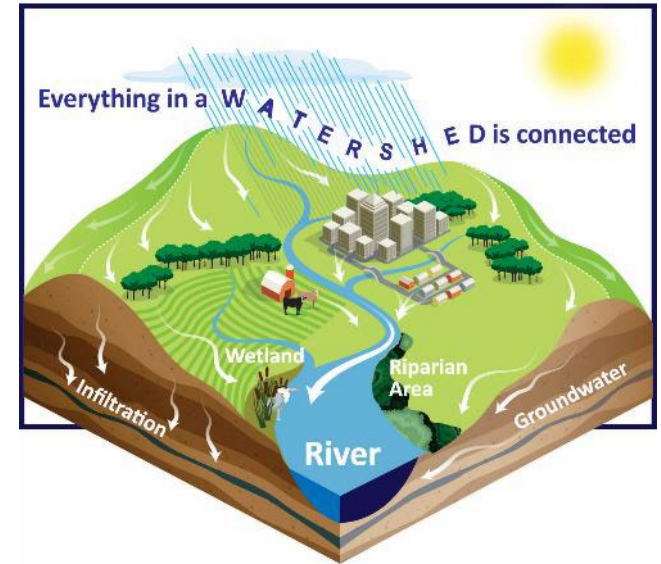
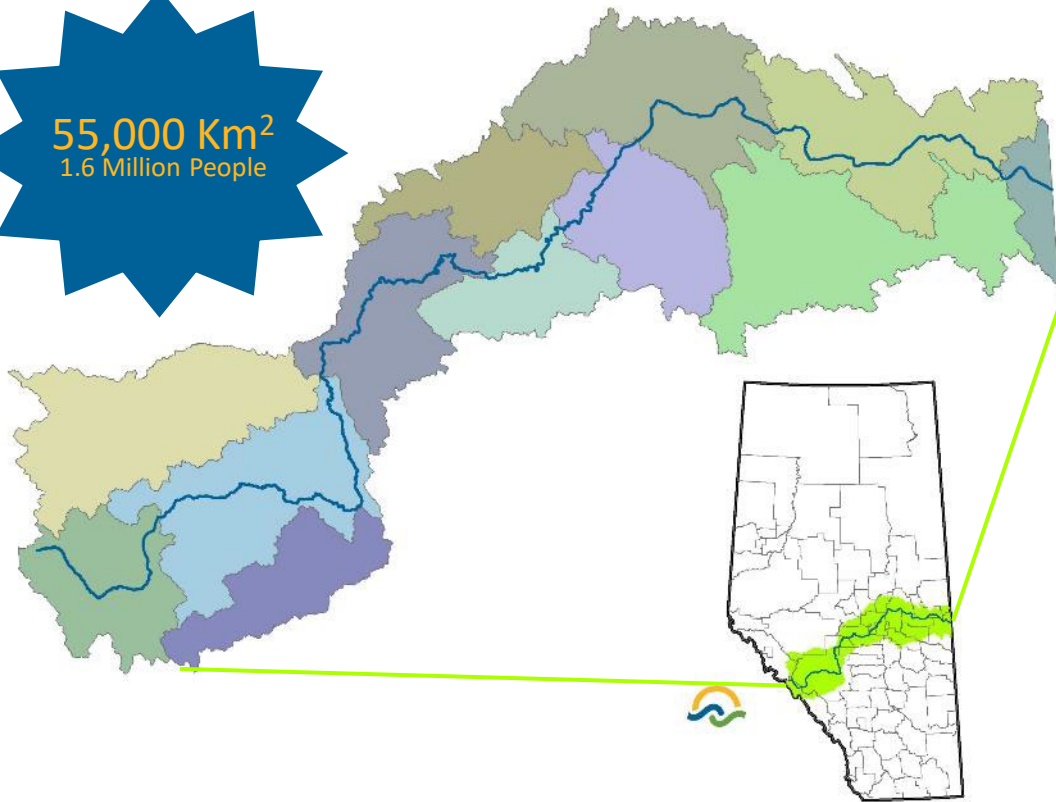


The image features a background of a vast field of blue flowers, possibly cornflowers, under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. A prominent dark blue rectangular box is centered on the page, containing the text 'What is a Watershed?'. To the left of this box is a vertical yellow bar. At the bottom of the slide, there is a horizontal green bar.

What is a Watershed?

North Saskatchewan River Watershed

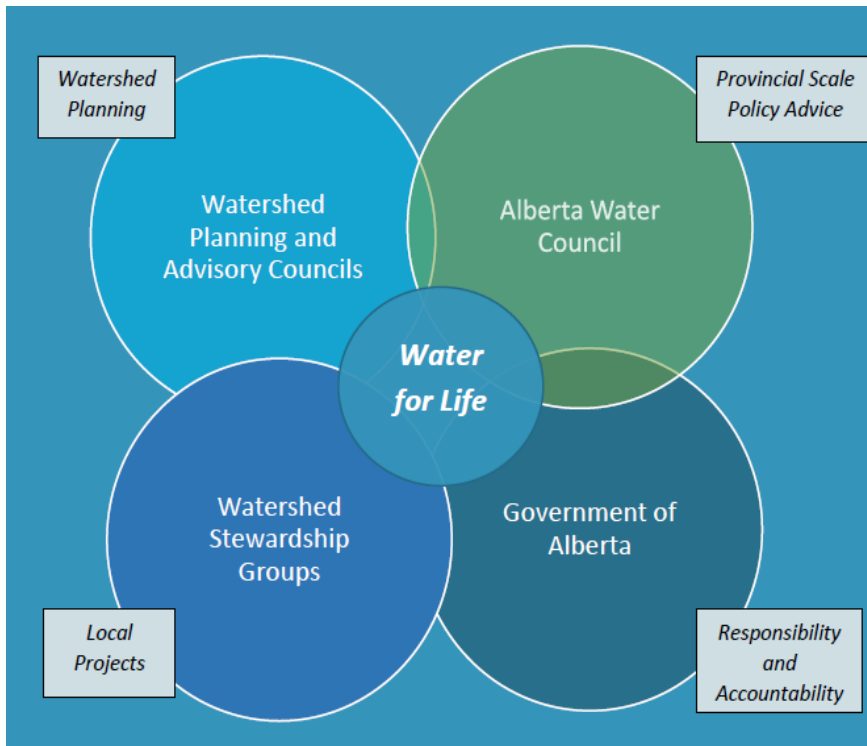
55,000 Km²
1.6 Million People





Who is the NSWAA?

NSWA – Key Partner in Water for Life



Goals of Water For Life:

1. Safe, secure drinking water.
2. Healthy aquatic ecosystems.
3. Reliable water supplies for a sustainable economy.



NSWA – Key Responsibilities

- ✓ Convener and Collaborator
- ✓ Planning and Policy
- ✓ Monitoring and Reporting
- ✓ Education and Outreach



NSWA – Convener and Collaborator

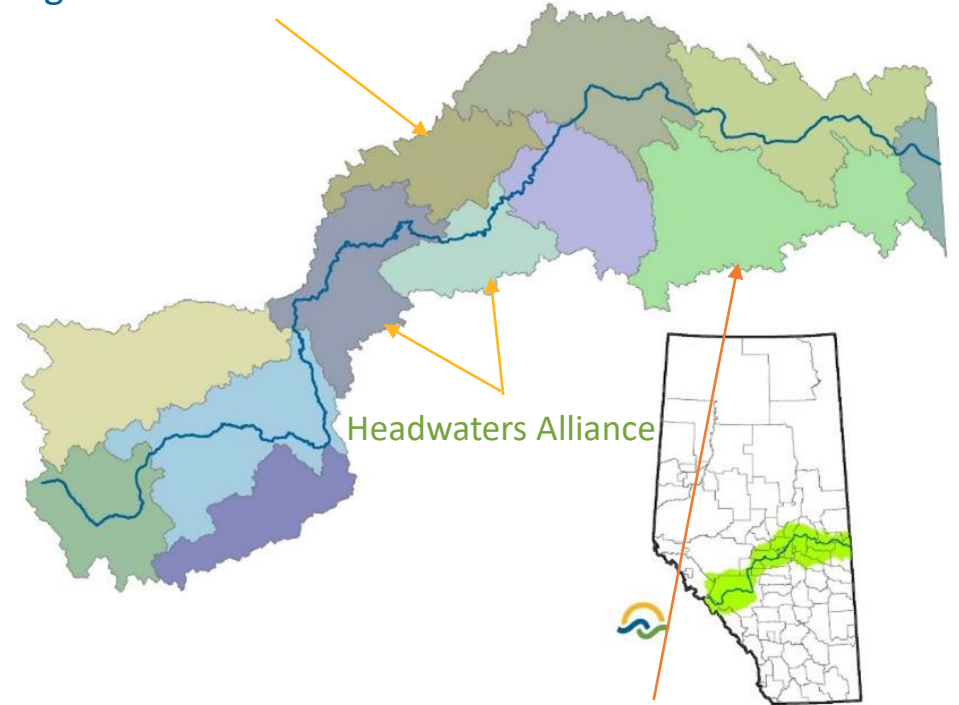
SUBWATERSHED ALLIANCES

NSWA facilitates three municipal-led watershed stewardship groups that focus on local solutions for local watershed issues. Each of these groups determines their own governance structure and watershed priorities while NSWA provides administrative and technical support.

The three Alliances include collaboration by 33 municipalities, 11 non-governmental groups and five different government agencies.



Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

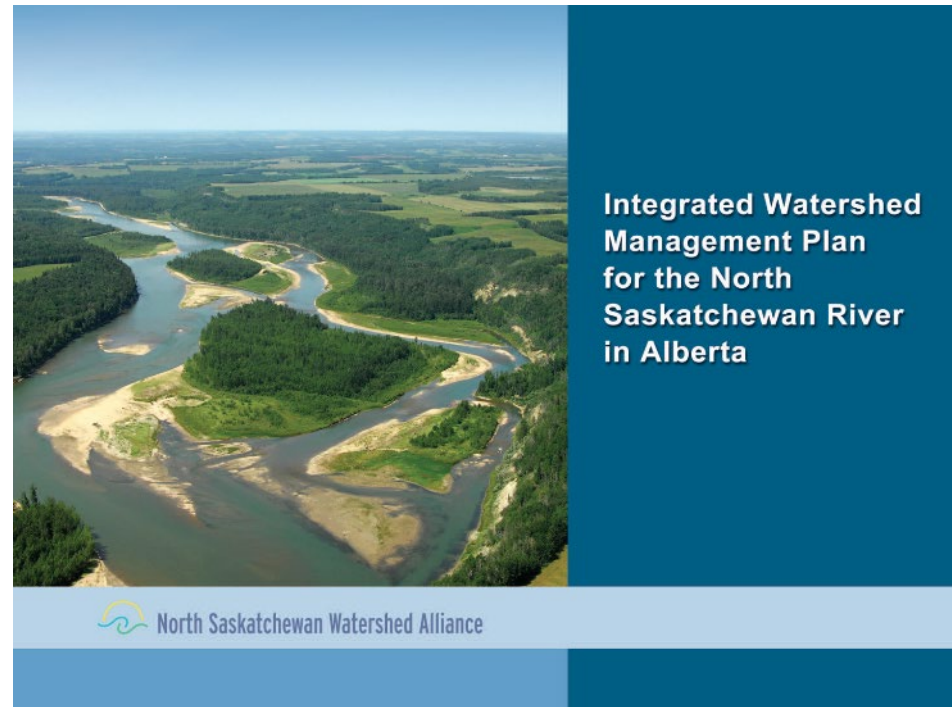
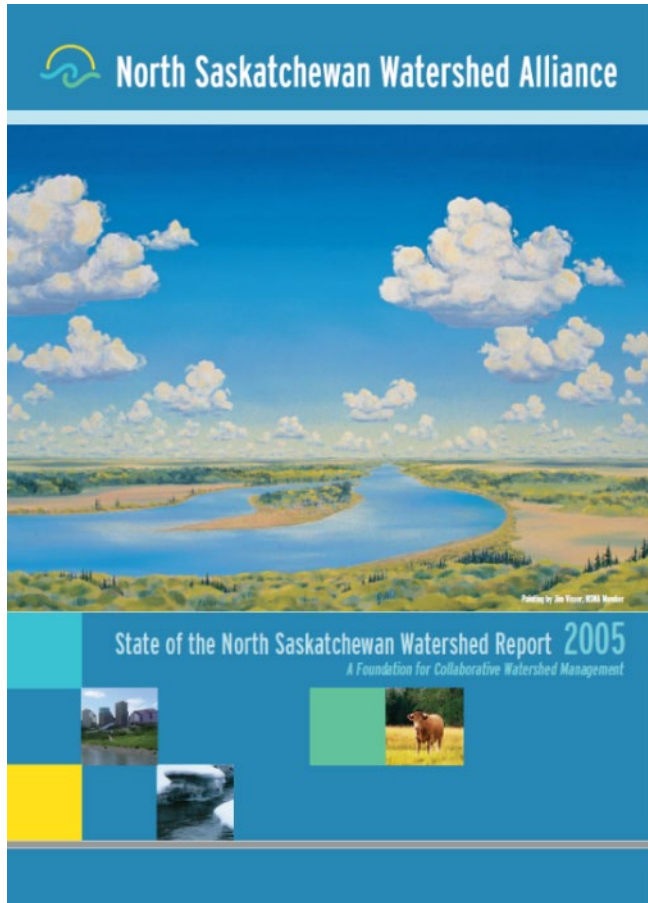


Headwaters Alliance

Vermilion River Watershed Alliance



NSWA – Planning and Policy



NSWA – Education and Awareness

Educational Forums

Watershed Wednesdays
Speaker Series 2022

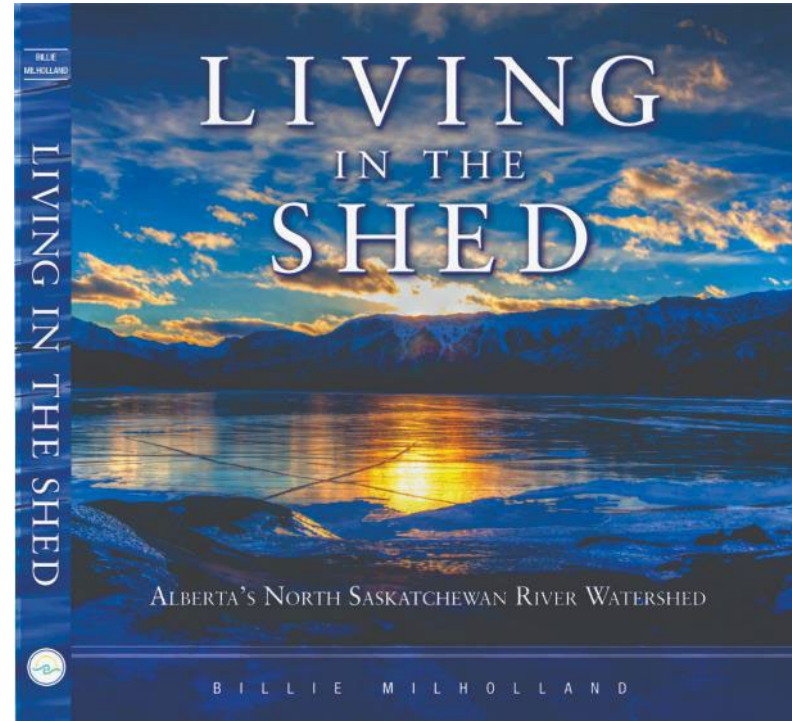


February 2 – *Climate Change and Wetlands*

March 2 – *Introduction to Watershed Management*

April 13 – *Invasive Species Updates*

Newsletters



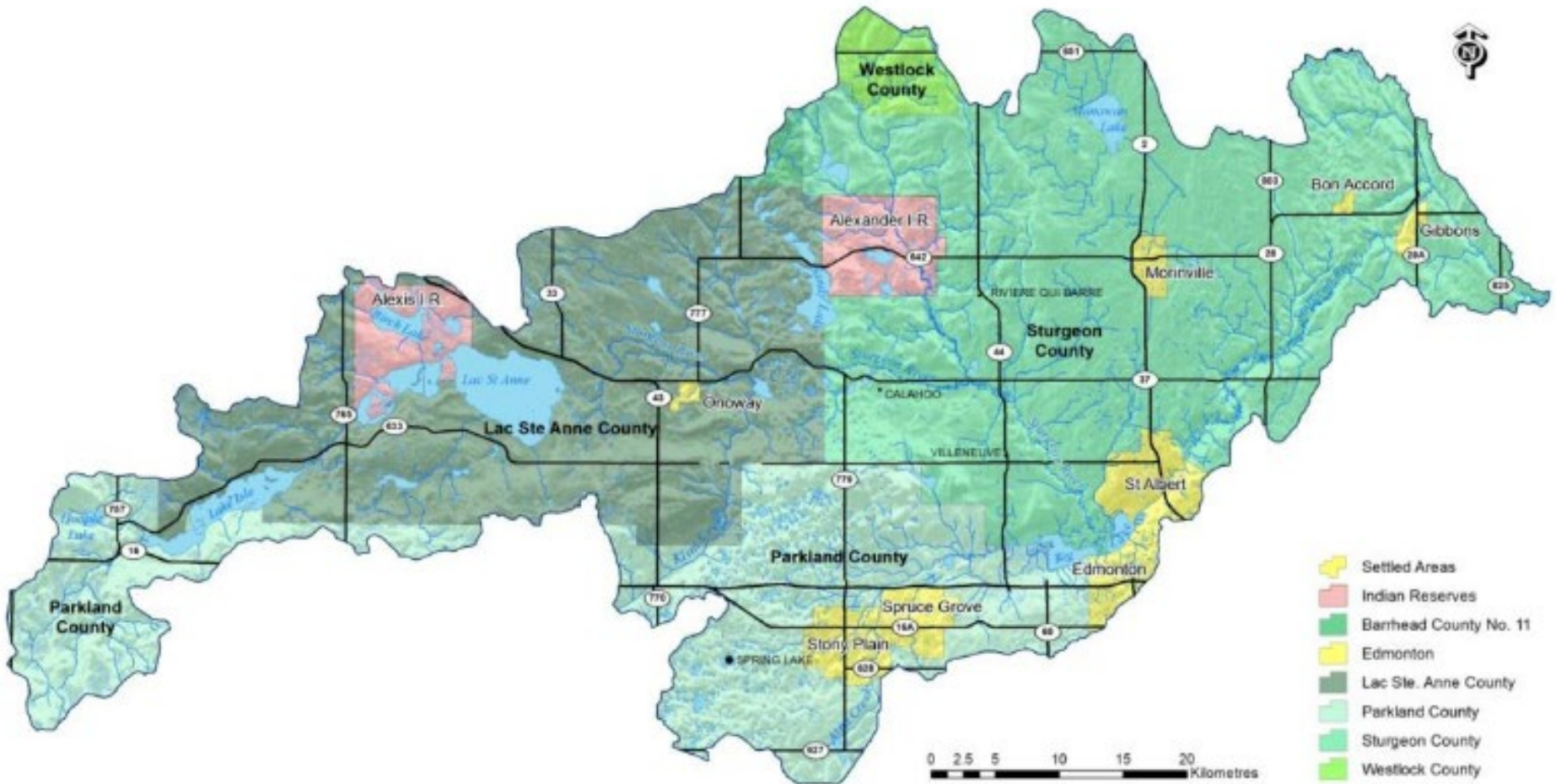
NSWA Book



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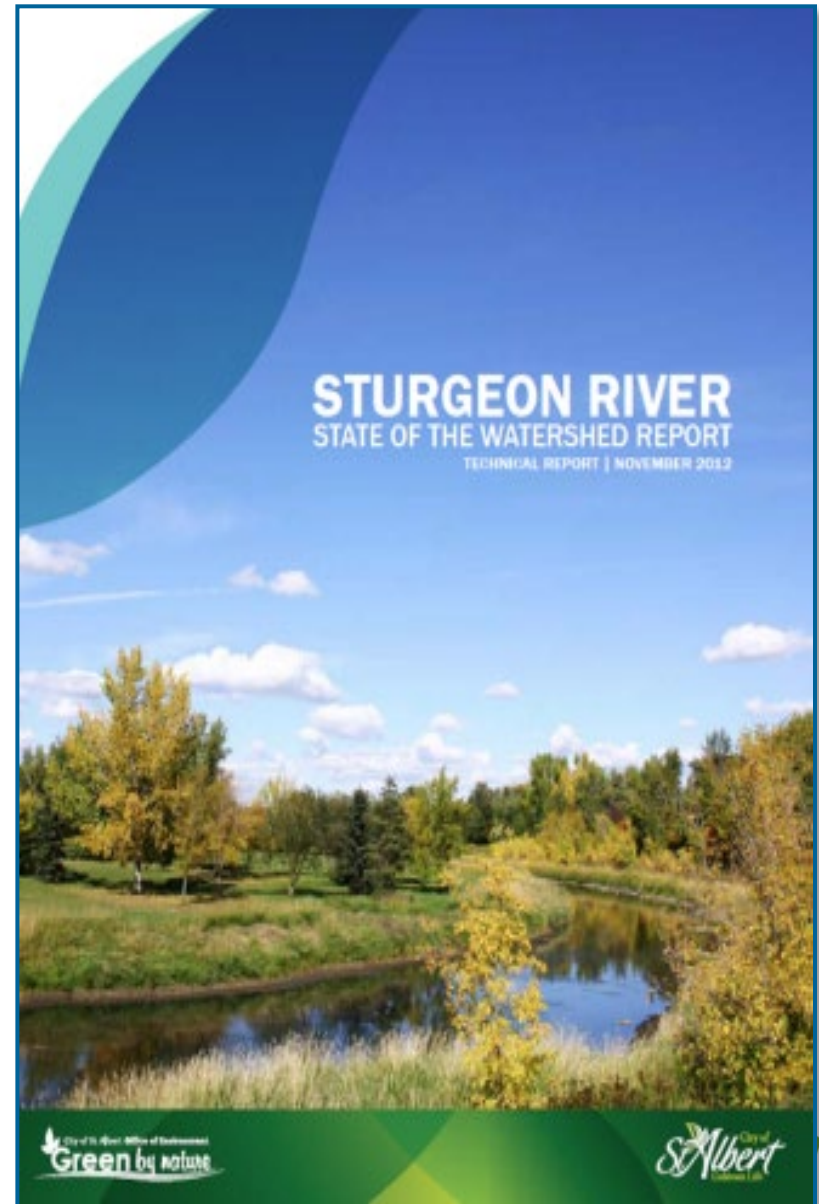
Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (SRWA)

Sturgeon River Watershed



State of Report

- Completed in 2012 by the City of St. Albert.
- Assessed overall ecological health using 15 indicators and gave an overall grade of ***FAIR***.
 - ✓ Establish a municipally led watershed group
 - ✓ Fill information gaps by completing technical studies
 - ✓ Develop an Integrated Watershed Management Plan



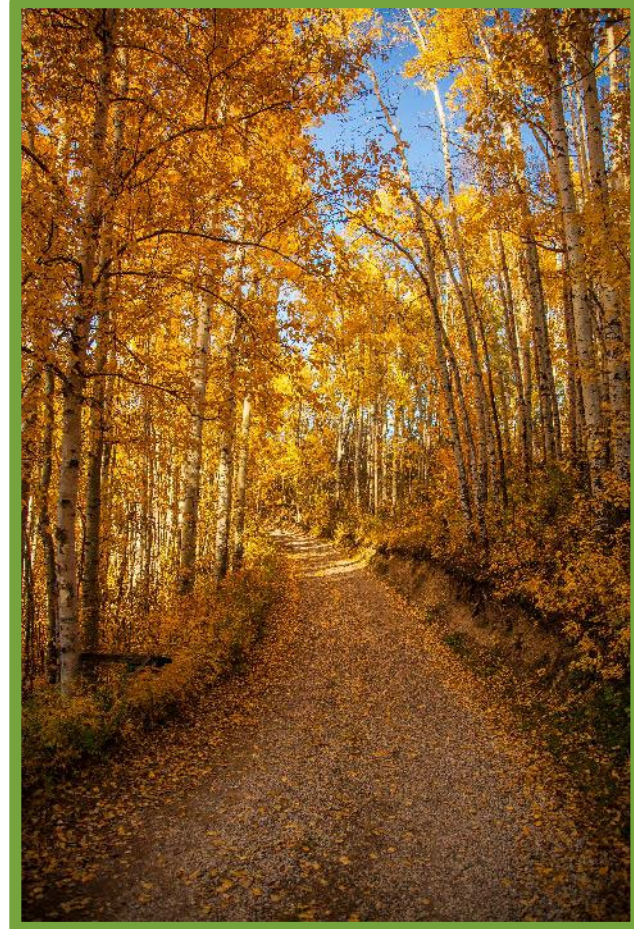
Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

- Lac St. Anne County
- Parkland County
- Sturgeon County
- City of Edmonton
- City of Spruce Grove
- City of St. Albert
- Town of Gibbons
- Town of Morinville
- Town of Onoway
- Town of Stony Plain
- Village of Alberta Beach
- Summer Villages of Lac Ste. Anne & County East
- Alexander First Nation
- Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
- Metis Nation of Alberta
- *Alberta Conservation Association*
- *Alberta Environment and Parks*
- *Big Lake Environmental Support Society*
- *North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance*
- *Wagner Natural Area Society*

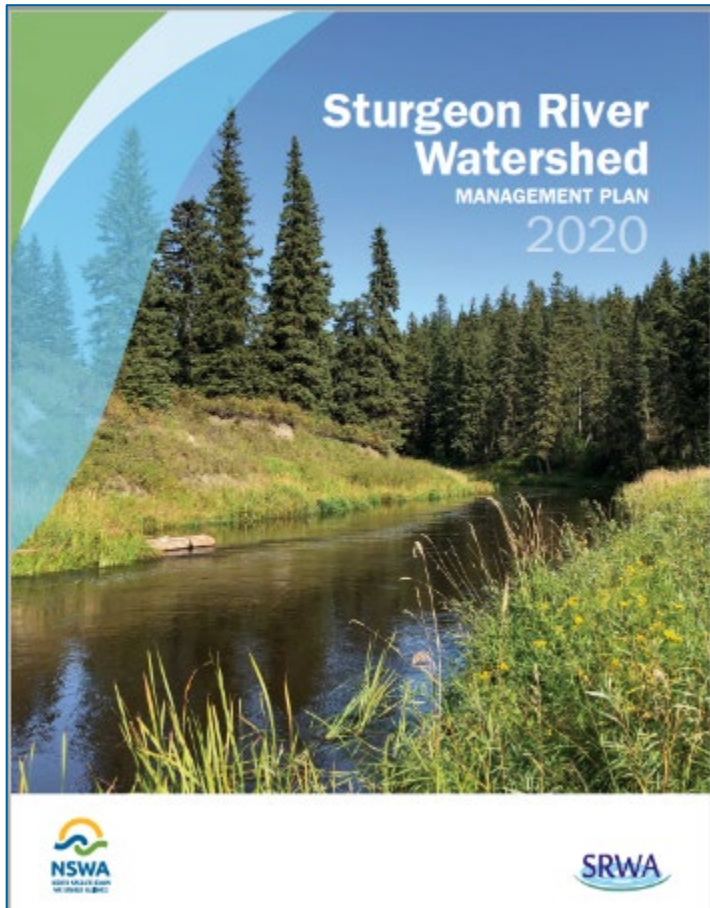


Technical Studies

- SRWA partnership secured over \$500,000 in grants
- NSWA coordinated grants and consultants for 8 technical studies and 3 technical bulletins
- Municipal staff vetted reports and their implications
- All reports available on www.nswa.ab.ca



Watershed Management Plan



- ✓ Watershed approach
- ✓ Clear goals and performance measures
- ✓ Voluntary alignment of policies and plans
- ✓ Coordinates intermunicipal collaboration
- ✓ Promotes local and regional stewardship
- ✓ Encourages work to address knowledge gaps



Six Outcomes

- 1. Aligned Policies and Plans*
- 2. Safe, Secure Drinking Water Supplies*
- 3. Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems*
- 4. Reliable Water Supplies*
- 5. Wise Land Use*
- 6. Local and Regional Initiatives*



Watershed Management Plan Implementation

- ✓ Watershed Management Plan outlines outcomes to be addressed over 10 year timeframe
- ✓ Work will be prioritized by Steering and Technical Committees based on importance and timeliness of actions and resource availability.



***Alberta Community Partnership* grant of \$200,000 (2020 – 2023) will address priority short term actions**

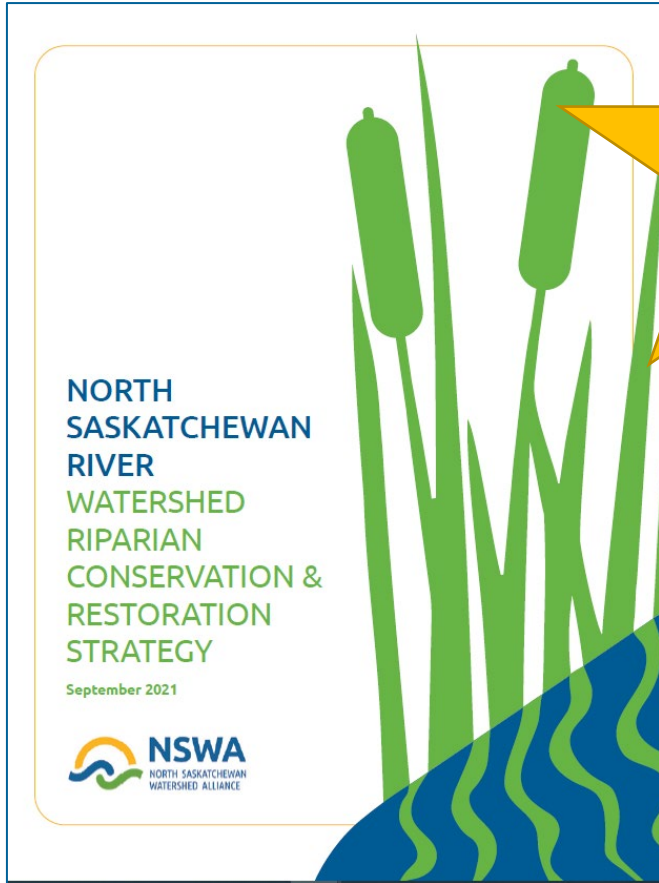


Priorities and Next Steps 2020 - 2023

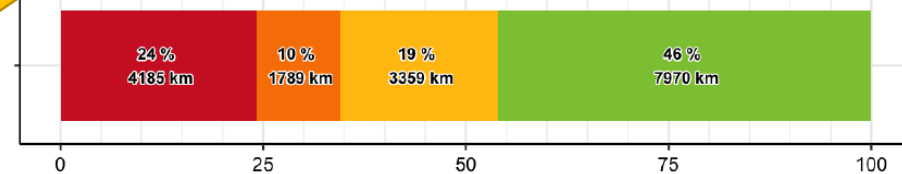
- Riparian and Wetland Conservation and Restoration Strategies
- Water Quality Monitoring Program
- Watershed Planning Alignment and Tools (flood risk areas, riparian setbacks, environmentally sensitive areas, overlay maps)
- Communications and Engagement (Educational forums, workshops, information resources)



Riparian Health Action Plan



65% Health Target



Approved (September 2021)

- ✓ Headwaters Alliance
- ✓ Sturgeon Alliance
- ✓ Vermilion Alliance



www.
Riparian.info

118 people
trained



Three key purposes:

- Riparian data access x2
- Resources
- Projects on the ground



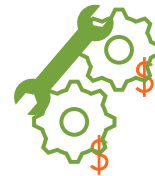
Benefits of Continued Partnership

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



We facilitate inter-municipal partnerships that address watershed issues

GRANT SUPPORT



NSWA has coordinated over \$3 million in grant funds for municipalities

EXPERTISE & PROJECT MANAGEMENT



NSWA staff have knowledge of municipal watershed issues

EDUCATION & AWARENESS



We provide resources to help residents and council understand watershed issues



Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

Thank You!

www.nswa.ab.ca



Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

