

## Municipalities in the NSRW

### Beaver County

Tofield  
Viking  
Holden  
Ryley

### Brazeau County

Drayton Valley  
Breton

### County of Minburn

Vegreville  
Innisfree  
Mannville  
Minburn

### County of St. Paul

Elk Point  
St. Paul

### County of Thorhild

Thorhild

### County of Two Hills

Two Hills  
Derwent  
Myrnam  
Willington

### County of Vermilion River

Vermilion  
Dewberry  
Kitscoty  
Marwayne  
Paradise Valley

### Clearwater County

Rocky Mountain House

### Lac Ste Anne County

Alberta Beach  
Onoway

### Lamont County

Bruderheim  
Lamont  
Mundare  
Andrew  
Chipman

### Yellowhead County

Camrose County

### Leduc County

Beaumont  
Calmar  
Devon  
New Serepta  
Thorsby  
Warburg

### M.D. of Bonnyville

Bonnyville  
Glendon  
Cold lake

### County of Wetaskiwin

Millet

### Parkland County

Stony Plain  
Spring Lake  
Wabamun

### Smoky Lake County

Smoky Lake  
Vilna  
Waskatenau

### Strathcona County

### Sturgeon County

Bon Accord  
Gibbons  
Legal

Morinville

Redwater

### Westlock County

Clyde

### CITIES

Edmonton, Fort  
Saskatchewan,  
Leduc, Lloydminster,  
Sherwood Park,  
Spruce Grove, St. Albert,  
Wetaskiwin



## NSWA Information Bulletin

### The Municipal Guide: planning for a healthy and sustainable North Saskatchewan River Watershed

NSWA's Municipal Guide was published in 2006 and updated in 2008. It is a comprehensive resource, full of information, advice, ideas & tools. It was developed to help municipalities make decisions about land management and development at the community level. A steering committee led by NSWA and supported by municipalities in the North Saskatchewan River Watershed (NSRW) designed the guide to provide an educational and planning tool for municipalities. Individuals and groups within municipalities, such as developers, industry partners, residents and other stakeholders may also find the guide useful.

Local land use activity directly affects the quality and quantity of water in the NSRW; therefore, municipal governments are in a unique position to promote environmental stewardship as a means of protecting their local water resources.

This guide is a planning tool for municipalities and other land managers interested in *watershed stewardship*. Although the guide focuses on issues significant to municipalities within the NSRW, it also contains information that is applicable to municipalities in other parts of Alberta.

The Municipal Guide project originated under the direction of an NSWA coordinator and a steering committee made up of representatives from municipalities within the NSRW; provincial and federal government bodies and non-government organizations. In the spring of 2005, the project team collected information from municipalities about how their needs could be addressed by a Municipal Guide. Forty-eight representatives from twenty rural and urban municipalities participated in three workshops to kick-start the project.

At the workshops participants discussed an overview of the project and reviewed a draft Table of Contents. They commented on what they liked about the project, what concerns they had with the project and what implications the guide might have in their municipality. They made suggestions for the final content of the guide.

Feedback from these three workshops shaped the form and function of the Municipal Guide. The final draft was reviewed by representatives from municipal, provincial and federal governments and non-governmental organizations prior to publication by NSWA.



## WHAT'S IN IT?

**Chapter 1 Introduction:** An overview of the purpose, uses and limitations of this guide.

**Chapter 2 Watershed Overview:** An overview of watershed issues; components and values of a healthy watershed; how decisions are made; and how activities occurring in individual municipalities affect the overall watershed. There is also an overview of the current state of the North Saskatchewan River watershed and general threats to watershed health.

**Chapter 3 Overview of Legislation and Government Bodies Relevant to Watershed Health:** A summary of federal and provincial statutes (acts), policies and government bodies that deal with various aspects of watershed health.

**Chapter 4 Municipal Planning and Development:** A review of the relationship between municipal land use and development decisions and watershed health. It examines a number of opportunities for incorporating watershed considerations into statutory and non-statutory planning.

**Chapter 5 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Operations:** An examination of municipal roles relating to watershed health, which include: source water protection; the management and treatment of stormwater; the treatment and distribution of potable water; and the collection and treatment of wastewater.

**Chapter 6 Municipal Infrastructure, Property and Operations:** An overview of municipal responsibilities relating to: the design of municipal infrastructure; the management of municipal property; and the execution of municipal operations relating to watershed health. Topics include: green spaces; transportation and road maintenance; waste disposal; agriculture services; woodlots; and the oil and gas industry.

**Chapter 7 Municipal Bylaws:** An overview of the use of municipal bylaws as tools for protecting watershed health. By-laws discussed in this chapter include those which protect natural areas and trees, to prevent pollution and to conserve water.

**Chapter 8 Cooperation and Collaboration in the Watershed:** A summary of the value of and the strategies for municipal cooperation and collaboration with other stakeholders in the watershed. These stakeholders include departments within a municipality, neighbouring municipalities, residents, community groups, industry groups, non-governmental groups and federal and provincial government bodies.

**Chapter 9 Funding Watershed Stewardship:**

A summary of funding opportunities for municipalities interested in securing funds for watershed stewardship projects.

## PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE

This guide emphasizes issues significant to municipalities within the NSRW; however, the information is also applicable to other municipalities in Alberta.

In fact, impacts on watershed health resulting from population growth and development pressures are similar in communities around the globe; therefore, much of the information in this guide is relevant beyond Alberta borders.

Issues concerning both *urban* and *rural* municipalities have been combined in this guide to facilitate understanding and encourage cooperation between the two jurisdictions. While concerns and needs of rural and urban municipalities are often different, watershed management is more effective when there is cooperation across municipal borders.

The information in this guide is useful to municipalities whether they are just beginning to explore their role in watershed stewardship or if they are already active stewards.



This guide can be used as a reference for answering questions, for finding contact information or for gathering ideas about actions municipalities can take to protect their watershed.

Each municipality has its own history, economy, social and environmental conditions, values and visions of how to protect the environment. It is not surprising that approaches to watershed planning will vary from one municipality to another. This guide offers information on various options for local watershed stewardship and from this information municipalities can develop approaches that are unique to each situation.

The complete Municipal Guide is available on our website:

[www.nswa.ab.ca](http://www.nswa.ab.ca) (in the "Content" column click on "Learn" and then on "NSWA Publications")

Hard copies may be purchased from NSWA. Contact: [water@nswa.ab.ca](mailto:water@nswa.ab.ca)

