



NSWA Projects and Events



NSWA LOVES LAKES!

July is **Lakes Appreciation Month!** Check out NSW's new webpage that highlights [Lake Stewardship](#) in our watershed. You will find lots of information including a comprehensive resources sheet, links to lake stewardship groups, and the unique collaborative citizen science project "Carvel Pitted Delta Lakes" spearheaded by the [Mayatan Lake Management Association](#). Further along in this newsletter check out the interview with some of the people involved in this project.

Hope you can get out and enjoy some lake time this summer!



NSWA'S 2023 AGM

NSWA's **Annual General Meeting** was held on June 28th at the Lodge at Snow Valley in Edmonton. Over 100 people joined us to hear updates of our work and speakers on NSWA's Wetland Strategy. We enjoyed a beautiful sunny day for a BBQ lunch and an engaging walk through Whitemud Creek park.

Many thanks to **TransAlta** and **O2 Planning and Design** for their generous sponsorship of the 2023 AGM!

If you were not able to join us, you can find our Annual Report, Strategic Plan and other information on our website.

[AGM Information](#)

CALLING ALL CONSERVATIONISTS!
ENTER TO WIN!

WE WANT TO:
Showcase the successes of our conservation community.

Understand the distribution of available restoration programs to identify gaps and opportunities.

Collectively set conservation targets for the watershed.

Complete the survey
 for a chance to win!

Are you an organization that conserves and restores natural areas in the North Saskatchewan Watershed? We want to hear about your projects and programs! The information will be used to

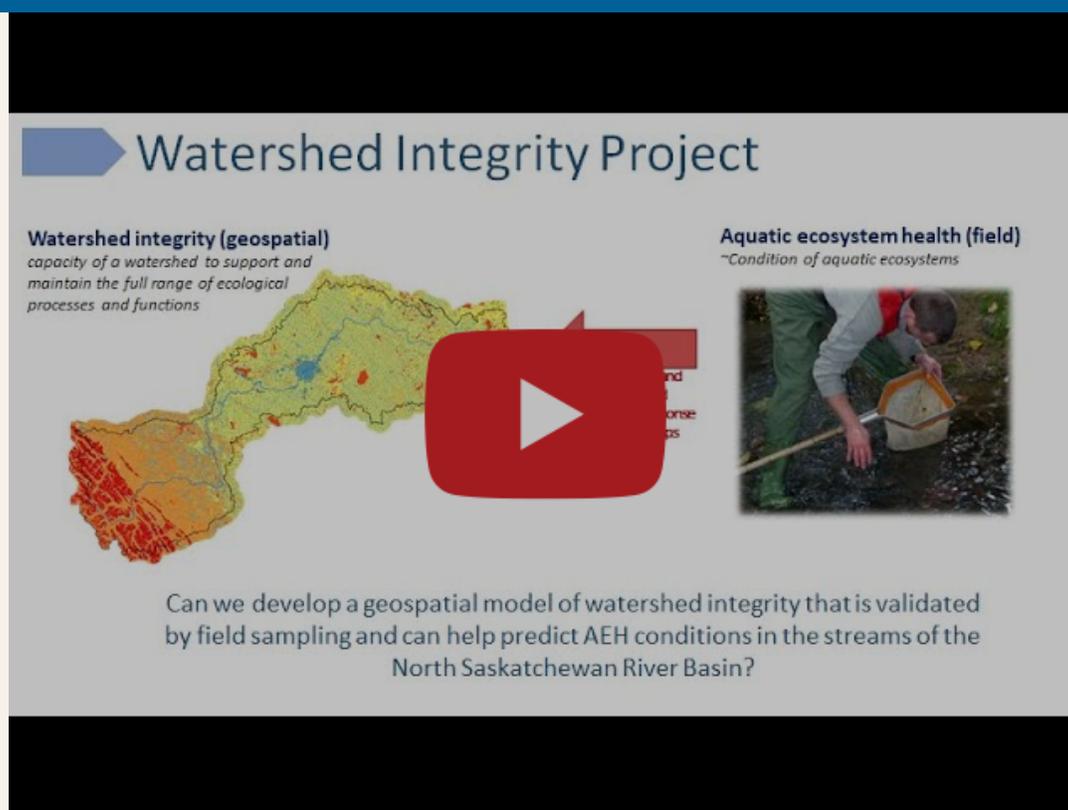
better understand watershed progress and to promote your programs.

Your information will help us to:

- Understand the distribution of conservation and restoration programs across the watershed
- Identify program and project gaps
- Collectively set conservation and restoration goals
- Showcase the good work of our conservation community and highlight available restoration programs.

Complete the survey by August 31, 2023 & you'll be entered into a draw for a portable solar panel & battery pack.

SURVEY



The image is a video thumbnail for the Watershed Integrity Project. At the top, the title "Watershed Integrity Project" is displayed in a blue arrow pointing right. Below the title, there are two columns of text. The left column is titled "Watershed integrity (geospatial)" and describes it as the "capacity of a watershed to support and maintain the full range of ecological processes and functions". To the right of this text is a map of a watershed area with various colors representing different land uses or integrity levels. The right column is titled "Aquatic ecosystem health (field)" and describes it as the "Condition of aquatic ecosystems". To the right of this text is a photograph of a person in green waders and a red vest, kneeling in a stream and using a net to sample the water. In the center of the thumbnail, there is a large red play button icon. Below the map and photos, a question is posed: "Can we develop a geospatial model of watershed integrity that is validated by field sampling and can help predict AEH conditions in the streams of the North Saskatchewan River Basin?"

WATERSHED INTEGRITY PROJECT

Check out this new [video](#)! You will see several research presentations from students on their work contributing to The Watershed Integrity Project. This is an Alberta Innovates funded joint venture by various Professors and students from the University of Alberta and Alberta Environment and Protected Areas. This project examines the connections between surrounding land use and the health of various in-stream organismal communities, such as bacteria, periphyton, macroinvertebrates, crayfish and fish. Additionally, a geospatial model is being used to connect GIS-based datasets to field collected data to describe these connections and to provide a Watershed Integrity Index for the NSR.

REGISTER FOR RIPARIAN WORKSHOPS!



The NSWA is hosting a summer workshop series to discuss **riparian bylaw alignment**. Elected officials, municipal planners and other interested stakeholders are welcome to join the conversation. Feedback from these sessions will be used to develop a “Riparian Policy Best Management Guide”.

The first workshop will take place on **July 27** at Clymont Hall just west of Edmonton in Parkland County. The second workshop will take place on **August 17** in Vegreville.

We hope you can join us! For more information and to register for the August workshop check out this link:

[Register for August 17](#)



JOIN US!

The NSWA is hosting a virtual session of the **State of the NSR Watershed Indicator Framework Workshop** August 1, 2023 from 9am-4pm. This workshop is the first in a three-part series to engage with stakeholders on the health of the NSR watershed and develop an Indicator Framework using the [Freshwater Health Index](#). This first workshop will introduce you to the watershed health indicators, gauge your perceptions on watershed health, and provide you with the opportunity to have your say in how indicators are evaluated (weighted).

[Register Here](#)



Photo: Alberta Health Services

Blue Green Algae Advisories

Blue green algae (cyanobacteria) at lakes can be a health hazard. Alberta Health Services does testing for blue green algae on many recreational lakes in Alberta.

Cyanobacteria can cause skin irritation, sore eyes and throat and other symptoms and can be very toxic to animals. Before you head out check out these [advisories](#).



We have visited many places in our watershed this July! We have been at outreach events at Wabamun Lake, St. Albert, Strathcona County Pond Days, a family event with C5 in Edmonton, lake sampling and more. NSWA staff recently supported Alberta Fish & Wildlife in assembling almost 400 temperature monitoring stations for their ongoing Stream Temperature Monitoring Program!

Partner Highlights

CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

CARVEL LAKES CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT



As July marks Lakes Appreciation month, we wanted to highlight a collaborative citizen science story happening in the Sturgeon River Watershed. Three of the key partners took time to tell us how their converging interests in some small lakes in the Glory Hills set in motion “a regional survey of a little lake district”.

The [City of Edmonton's Indigenous Framework](#) was built on conversations and dialogue over many years. Several Indigenous artists were invited to capture these conversations through their art work. The [Indigenous Framework Art Collection](#) is featured at Edmonton's City Hall. In this blog the artists reflect on the project and their artwork.

DONATE



YOUR SUPPORT GOES A LONG WAY

NSWA is a registered charity. You can donate to support our projects and ongoing work in the watershed. More information on donations is on our website.

DONATE



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