



IN STREAM NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022

WATERSHED WEDNESDAYS WEBINAR - DECEMBER 7 AQUATIC MONITORING



How do we know if our watershed is 'healthy'? One way is to monitor aquatic species and our next Watershed Wednesday webinar on December 7th will help us look at ways we are monitoring our watershed.

This webinar will feature research work on monitoring the health of the river and its tributaries. We have two excellent speakers. Shelby Stenerson (University of Alberta) investigates how algal communities can be used to predict and understand the cumulative impacts of human activities and how they stress stream biodiversity and ecosystem function.

Dr. Patrick Hannington (University of Alberta) will be discussing eDNA in his aquatic monitoring research. eDNA or Environmental DNA is the trace of DNA that animals leave behind in the environment, particularly water. Like fingerprints, eDNA can be used to identify animals that have recently been in the area.

If you missed our October and November webinars, check out the recordings featuring speakers on Bats and Bugs (invertebrates) and fish populations available on the NSW [YouTube channel](#).

Sign up today for the *Watershed Wednesday December 7th* webinar!

Can you do us a favour? Encourage a friend (or two) to register for the webinar and let's build our watershed community together.

Don't Forget to Register!

Have you heard of Giving Tuesday?



#GivingTuesday on November 29th is a global day of giving where people all over the world come together to support their favorite nonprofits. Following the spending that often go with Black Friday and Cyber Monday, **Giving Tuesday** offers a chance to give back to your community.

This year, consider Giving Tuesday as a chance to support the NSW's ongoing efforts to bring communities together to make our watershed healthier. Your support will help aquatic environmental education, innovative planning and decision tools, projects for wetlands, streams, and lakes, and more.

Join our growing community of supporters to help us serve the watershed where we live and play. Check out the NSW Benevity page to make a donation.

DONATE

HERITAGE RIVER DESIGNATION ENGAGEMENT



The North Saskatchewan River was recently nominated for Canadian Heritage River (#canadianheritageriver) status thanks to the incredible efforts of Smoky Lake County (@smokylakecounty).

As part of the designation process, an online feedback tool presented by O2 Planning and Design (@o2planningdesign) provides a way for you to can share your perspectives on the designation and what it means to you! Through the tool, you can explore the watershed, learn about its history, and provide your thoughts about how you think it should be managed in the future.

HERITAGE RIVER SURVEY

TRAINING IN ACTION

Quincy Squair and Alex Schroer - Lakeland College



On October 28, 2022, NSWA held a **Riparian Web Portal** online training session for students in the **Environmental Sciences – Aquatic Habitat Protection course at Lakeland College**. Two of the Lakeland College students wrote a summary of their experience. NSWA appreciates their participation and expanding the reach of the Web Portal to include students at Lakeland!

Lakeland Student's Report

FUNDING FOR REGIONAL LAKES PROJECT



NSWA is excited to share the launch of our **Regional Lakes Stewardship Project** thanks to some amazing support from the **Pembina Pipeline Community Investment Program**.

Some key components of this new multi-year project include researching and filling gaps in lake communications, two shoreline demonstration sites, two educational workshops and finally supporting ALMS' winter and summer water quality sampling.

We are currently in the planning phase and look forward to sharing updates as the project develops. If you are interested in this project or have more questions, please contact the coordinator Kelsie at Kelsie.norton@nswa.ab.ca

GREY NUNS WHITE SPRUCE PARK OPEN!



The **Grey Nuns White Spruce Park** construction has been completed and the ribbon cutting ceremony was on November 14, 2022. The park has been in planning stages since 2014, and the City of St. Albert is very pleased that it is now open to the public. The park design features the preservation of the natural environment, and park plans were changed to minimize the footprint on the area.

Some interesting facts about the park:

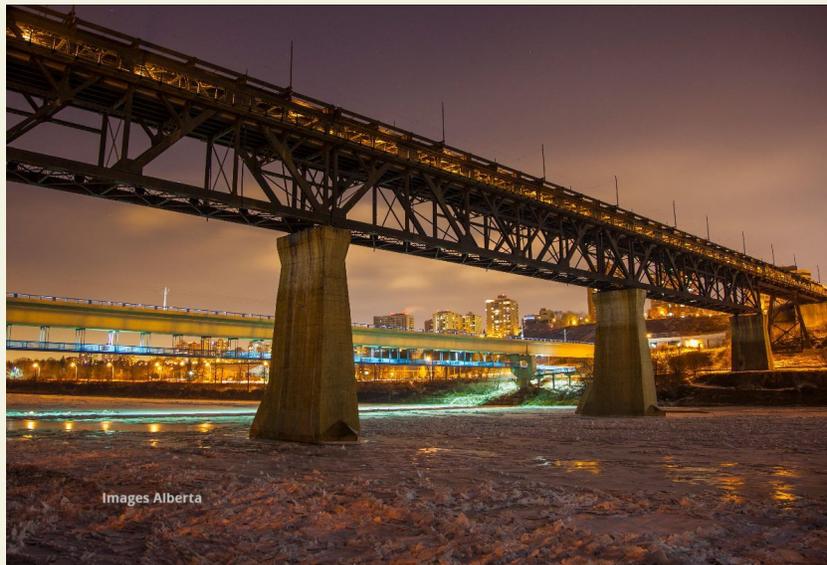
- The park features a central interpretive area, boardwalks, an interior forest classroom, a beaver tail viewpoint, and both wood chip, granular and paved trails
- Grey Nuns White Spruce Park has both ecological and historical significance to the City of St. Albert. The forest was designated a municipal historic resource and protected under bylaw in 2011 and is only one of a handful of similar natural features in Alberta to have this designation
- This forest is one of the last native white spruce forests in an urban environment in North America
- The Metis Local in St Albert was involved in construction monitoring and bearing witness to activities on site
- Construction followed existing disturbed areas and smaller machinery was utilized to minimize the impact on the forest.
- The winter construction of this site was a key component to limit the impacts on the forest
- Throughout the forest there are a series of gravel and mulch trails. These trails improved existing informal paths that were already being used
- The park is home to large numbers of year round and migratory birds, along with porcupines, moose, deer, coyotes, rabbits, and raptors

- Cone crops are harvested from the trees in the forest, and seedlings are grown to assist with reforestation efforts. The City plants approximately 2000 seedlings per year in the forest
- The boardwalks and beaver tail viewpoint allow for safe viewing of wetter parts of the forest, including wetlands and riparian areas, while preserving the ecological integrity of the area
- The oldest tree in the forest is estimated to pre-date settlement

For more information on this trail and others in the St. Albert area visit their website:

PARK INFORMATION

ROAD SALT MANAGEMENT in the WATERSHED



As the weather gets colder, we all know what that means- Winter driving is here!

Check out a recently published road salt management summary for the Sturgeon River watershed. While the report focuses on salt management in the Sturgeon subwatershed, many of its findings apply across the entire North Saskatchewan River Watershed. This information can aid in creating and adopting some best management practices for ice and salt in the months ahead.

Drive safe out there!!

ROAD SALT MANAGEMENT

OTHER WATERSHED RESOURCES

Working Well Program has a new schedule of workshops. This fall, the Working Well program is offering a mix of in-person and virtual water well management and maintenance workshops for private water well owners across the province. Check out this [link](#) for more information and how to register.

The **Wetland Knowledge Exchange** has information on wetland related webinars and resources. For more information check [here](#).

Check out a website with information on [Alberta's Native Trout](#) , which provides tools to help protect and support these important species.

Check out the [NSWA DISCOVERS](#) section on our website with watershed resources and

activities for adults and children. There are many activities to encourage watershed learning for your family.



SUPPORT THE WORK OF NSWA

The NSWA accepts donations through the **ATB Cares** program which matches 15% of every dollar donated to Alberta-based charities through their **ATB Cares Web Portal**. It is easy to use and automatically issues a charitable tax receipt for donations \$10 and over.

For more information on supporting our watershed projects go to our **DONATE** webpage.



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