



IN STREAM NEWSLETTER **SEPTEMBER 2021**

WHAT'S COMING UP THIS FALL?



Check out information and events around the watershed this fall!

It is a great time of year to explore the watershed and enjoy the changing fall colors. Watch our social media for information on wetlands and riparian areas in our watershed. This month's newsletter has links to many new resources and publications.

WATERSHED WEDNESDAYS WEBINARS RETURN



Join NSWA for **Watershed Wednesdays** this fall - an online speaker series, the first Wednesday of each month (noon to 1 pm) on a variety of watershed topics:

October 6 - WETLANDS

- *Flooded with Initiatives - Strathcona County Wetland Projects* - Jocelyn Thrasher-Haug and Emily Kabotoff, Strathcona County
- *Alberta's Wetland Policy Implementation Review Report* – Scott Millar, Alberta Water Council.

November 3 - AQUATIC HEALTH

- *Using parasites as a surrogate for host biodiversity in reclaimed wetlands* -Brooke McPhail, PhD candidate, University of Alberta
- *Using Watershed geospatial data to guide Aquatic Ecosystem Health sampling in the North Saskatchewan River basin* - Craig Emmerton, Alberta Environment and Parks

December 1 - WATER QUALITY

These webinars will be held online using Zoom. Register now to get more information and reminders for the series. The Zoom link will be sent the day before the webinar. We look forward to meeting with you.

[REGISTER](#)

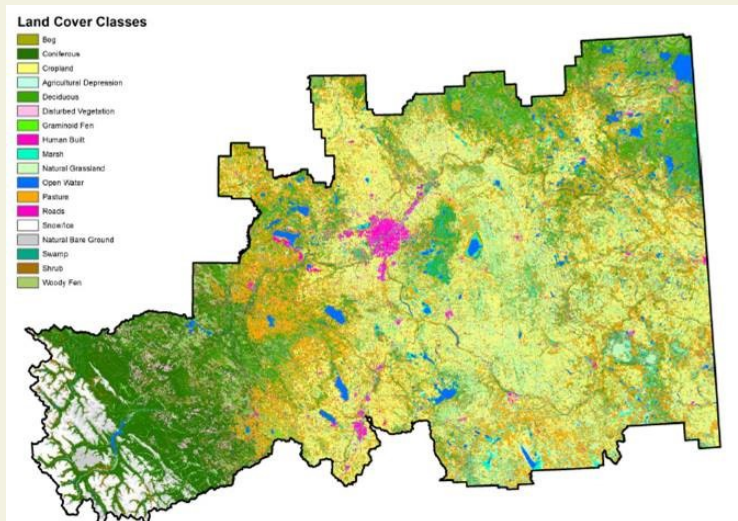
PADDLERS on the RIVER!



NSWA staff Michelle Gordy and Danielle Barry had a great day talking to Engineering students from the **University of Alberta** about the North Saskatchewan River watershed. The day included a canoe trip on the North Saskatchewan River (a first for many of the students). The students put together a short video of their trip. You can find it here:

[Trip Down the River](#)

LAND COVER DATASET AVAILABLE



Good news! The 2018 Land cover dataset commissioned by the NSWA is now available on the Government of Alberta Open Data website and freely available for download.

Many people asked about this dataset created in the NSWA Riparian Intactness project, and now this foundational dataset is available for your use! The 18-class, 6-meter resolution dataset

covers the North Saskatchewan River and Battle River watersheds. In addition, a more detailed dataset is available for a 50-meter buffer along creeks and lakes in the watershed.

You can find the datasets on the Government of Alberta Website:

<https://geodiscover.alberta.ca/> by searching **Wall to Wall Land Cover and Shoreline Buffer Landcover**. You can find supplementary descriptions about the dataset and the methods used on the NSWA website here:

DATASET INFORMATION

VERMILION RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE NEWS

Are you a local landowner, concerned citizen or nature lover?

Check out the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance's monthly blog which features stories and projects relating to healthy water and landscapes.



SEPTEMBER'S BLOG:
Stories of Stewardship: what is stewardship and how is it practiced in a watershed?

To learn more, go to:
<https://vrwa.ca/blog/>



Check out the latest VRWA blog about **Stories of Stewardship**.

What is stewardship? Hear what local landowners in the Vermilion River subwatershed have to say about it on our new video posted on YouTube <https://youtu.be/hY9oUm5XGaM>

[Stories of Stewardship Blog](#)

Thank you to Municipalities for Supporting the Work of NSWA!

NSWA relies on contributions from our watershed municipalities to support our subwatershed groups and local projects. Last year 41 municipalities contributed over \$165,000 to NSWA based on \$0.50 per resident.

Each contribution NSWA receives allows us to support municipal-led groups such as the Headwaters, Sturgeon and Vermilion Watershed Alliances as well as local watershed stewardship groups. These funds have helped NSWA leverage over \$3 million dollars in

provincial and federal grant funding in the last five years.

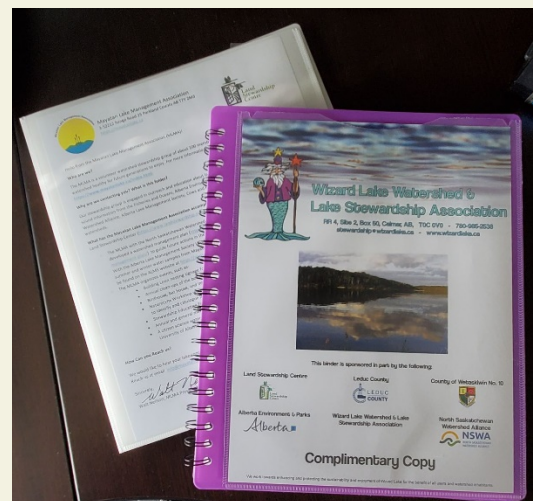
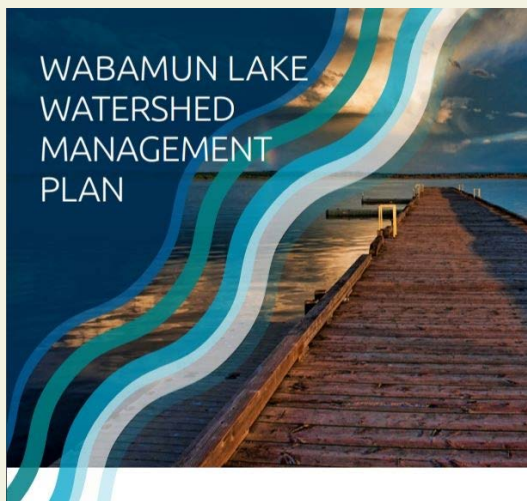
This year our first municipal contributions received included:

Town of Thorsby

Village of Spring Lake

Thank you!

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP GROUPS UPDATES



The [Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan](#) (2020) is now on the NSWA website. This plan was the result of the hard work of the Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee and input from many lake stakeholders.

A shout out to the [Wizard Lake Watershed and Stewardship Association](#) and the [Mayatan Lake Management Association](#) for their community outreach booklets filled with information from many partners including Alberta Lake Management Society, Alberta Environment and Parks, municipalities and others.

What a great way to provide watershed information to their communities!

Are you in Grades 7 to 12?

Compete to win \$1,000 cash!

Submit a proposal that answers the question:


“What can you do to improve your watershed?”

- Research your local watershed and come up with a solution to an environmental concern
- Finalists present their idea to win cash rewards

early \$20,000 will be awarded to students and schools who participate

- Funding is also available to help implement student ideas

Alberta contest deadlines:
March 22, 2022 – Contest Entry Deadline
April 23, 2022 – Final Competition



CARING FOR OUR WATERSHEDS CONTEST

Teachers and students in grades 7 to 12 - an exciting opportunity is open in the **Caring for our Watersheds** contest! Learn about your local watershed and come up with a solution to an environmental concern. Your project could win \$1,000. Take a look at the information in the link below and share with others who might be interested in participating. For more information on the contest check out this [website](#).

OTHER WATERSHED RESOURCES

The [Canadian Conservation and Land Management website](#) is a forum for sharing information and lessons learned about boreal caribou conservation, wetland best practices, land restoration and land reclamation.

There are several [Working Well](#) workshops across the province this fall. Check out the poster link for more information.

The **Government of Alberta** has posted new **flood study update** notices for the North Saskatchewan River Hazard Study and the St. Albert Flood Hazard Study. The updated information can be found at the link [here](#).

People from local government, researchers, policy makers and educators rely on [Municipal Natural Assets Initiative](#) to keep up-to-date on the latest in measuring, managing and valuing of natural assets. Subscribe to their newsletter for more information.

The **Land Stewardship Center** has published a new online [Stewardship Directory](#) as well as a new [Green Communities Guide](#). Check them out on their website as well as many other resources.

A [Review of Alberta's Integrated Land Management Policies, Practices and Legislation](#) has now been published by the Alberta Regional Caribou Knowledge Partnership

Ducks Unlimited has published a new **Alberta Wetland Classification Field Guide**. You can [download](#) an updated copy or purchase a copy [here](#).

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

NSWA is a registered charity. For information on supporting our watershed projects go to our [DONATE](#) webpage.



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