



IN STREAM NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

SUMMER TRAVELS ACROSS THE WATERSHED



Staff and summer interns have travelled across the watershed this summer! The NSWA has been spotted everywhere from Nordegg, Rocky Mountain House, Wizard Lake, Parkland County lakes, Lac Ste Anne, Edmonton, Strathcona County, Smoky Lake area, and out around Vegreville and Vermilion. It has been wonderful to meet with people, help with some tree planting, pond parties, lake sampling, sharing information about our watershed and playing games with kids! The only problem is that the summer flies by too fast.

Special thanks to Jill and Sam for their enthusiasm and hard work this summer.

Provide your input on the proposed North Saskatchewan Region Surface Water Quality Framework



The Alberta government is gathering input on a proposed surface water quality management framework for the North Saskatchewan River. The water quality framework will identify clear

objectives for managing surface water quality in the North Saskatchewan River and consider the impacts of all development activities in the watershed on water quality.

For more details on the proposed framework and the recommended indicators go to the [Get Involved](#) section of the public engagement page. Use the link below to provide your input through the online survey until **September 17, 2021**.

[NSR Water Framework Survey](#)

Edmonton River Valley as a National Park?



Parks Canada is considering the Edmonton river valley for its national urban park network plan. This could mean increased protection of the river valley and more tourism in this culturally and ecologically important region of our watershed. [Learn more...](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CITIZEN SCIENCE??

The **Alberta Citizen Science Community of Practice** invites you to an online presentation by Rick Bonney from Cornell University. Rick is a pioneer in the field of citizen science and has contributed to over 50 scientific articles on this topic.

The event will focus on the challenges facing citizen science and what's next for the field. This virtual gathering will additionally provide opportunity for breakout sessions to facilitate collaboration and relationship building amongst the community.

The Alberta Citizen Science Community of Practice will bring together a group of committed individuals across Alberta who have a desire to work together to advance citizen science through the creation, exchange, and leveraging of expertise.

When: Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM MST

Where: Online – Details upon registration

For more information and to register for the event please use the following [LINK](#).

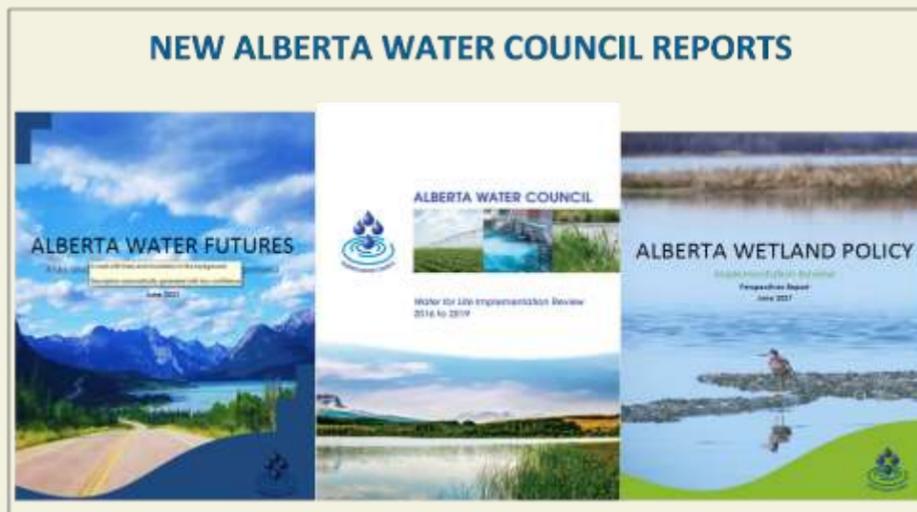
Narwhal article: 'Teaching Citizen Scientists to hunt for the 'Canary in the Coal Mine' in Alberta's Rivers'



Members of NSWA staff, as well as staff from the Athabasca Watershed Council, are featured in a recent article in **The Narwhal**.

They participated in training for the STREAM (Sequencing the Rivers for Environmental Assessment and Monitoring) and CABIN (Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network) methods of collecting samples for analysis of what are known as benthic invertebrates — a group that includes stoneflies, mayflies and caddisflies that are sensitive to changes in environmental conditions. This training took place in the headwaters area of the North Saskatchewan River. Check the link to learn more.

[NARWHAL article](#)



The **Alberta Water Council (AWC)** has released several new studies of interest. The **Water for Life Implementation Review** was released earlier this month. The Council made 15 recommendations to improve Water for Life implementation, as well as water and watershed management in Alberta.

The newly released **Alberta Water Futures Report** examines the strengths and shortcomings of the current water management system, describes the top risks in the short and longer term (10-year horizon) that may prevent the system from responding appropriately, and characterizes cross-sector perspectives on the readiness of the water management system to adapt or respond these risks.

As well, the **Wetland Policy Implementation Review** has been released. It shares potential performance measures for the goal, outcomes, and strategic directions of the Alberta Wetland Policy and the challenges and opportunities experienced by sectors in the implementation of the policy.

These reports are now posted on the AWC website.

[AWC REPORTS](#)

LAST CHANCE for RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL TRAINING

A graphic for Riparian Web Portal Training. At the top is an aerial view of a river winding through a landscape with fields and trees. Overlaid on this is a logo consisting of a green circle with a white power button symbol inside. Below the logo, the text 'RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL' is written in green. The bottom half of the graphic has a green background with white text. It reads: 'RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL TRAINING', 'Planners and Project Managers in government, agriculture, & ENGO. Get the background and skills you need to use the data and contribute your riparian projects to this exciting new resource.', '101: Dive into the Riparian Data: Our Intactness Project' and '102: Where Data Meets Action: Riparian Web Portal', 'Thurs. Sept. 9, 10:00 am' and 'Thurs. Sept. 9, 1:30pm', 'All Workshops are offered at no cost, via Zoom. Attendees must complete the 101 workshop before 102.', and 'Register at battleriverwatershed.eventbrite.com'.

RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL TRAINING
Planners and Project Managers in government, agriculture, & ENGO. Get the background and skills you need to use the data and contribute your riparian projects to this exciting new resource.

101: Dive into the Riparian Data: Our Intactness Project **102: Where Data Meets Action: Riparian Web Portal**
Thurs. Sept. 9, 10:00 am Thurs. Sept. 9, 1:30pm

All Workshops are offered at no cost, via Zoom.
Attendees must complete the 101 workshop before 102.
Register at battleriverwatershed.eventbrite.com

The results of our Riparian Intactness Project will soon be made public on our **Riparian Web Portal**. **Planners and Project Managers, in all levels of government, agriculture, and ENGOs are invited to get backstage access by signing up for these trainings:**

101: Dive into the Riparian Data: Our Intactness Project

In this 1.5 hour workshop, you will learn the Why and How of the Riparian Intactness Assessment project, how it applies to your work, and how it can improve the health of our watersheds.

102: Where Data Meets Action: Riparian Web Portal*

In this 2 hour workshop, you will be given login access and be trained on how to use the riparian data to better your work, and contribute your projects to the data set.

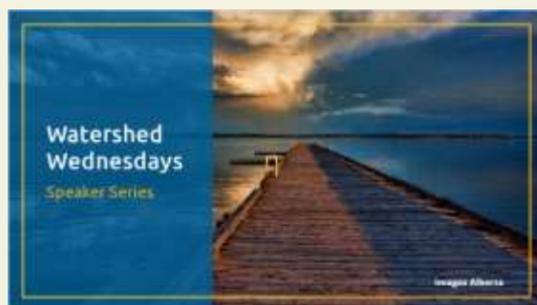
**The 101 Workshop is a prerequisite for the 102.*

All training is being offered online and at no cost. Space is limited and only one more workshop date is available (September 9th).

Register now on Eventbrite

REGISTER NOW

WATERSHED WEDNESDAYS WEBINARS RETURN



NSWA will be holding our **Watershed Wednesdays webinars** this fall with a variety of topics and speakers lined up. Save the dates for these online webinars at noon (one hour) on the following dates:

October 6 - Wetlands
November 3 - Aquatic Health
December 1 - Water Quality

More information and registration information will be sent out shortly.

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.

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

The **Alberta Emerald Foundation** has a great series of environmental podcasts, videos, documentaries and speakers on their website.

The **Land Use Framework** has resources on many topics including four webinars on conservation easements. Explore their [website](#) for more information.

ALUS Canada is a national not-for-profit organization that supports the delivery of the ALUS program across the country. ALUS helps farmers and ranchers restore wetlands, reforest, plant windbreaks, install riparian buffers, manage sustainable drainage systems, create pollinator habitat and establish other ecologically beneficial projects on their properties. There are many ALUS programs in the watershed including those in the [County of Two Hills](#), [Parkland County](#) and the [County of Vermilion River](#).

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

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