

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023-2024

The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to **improving the health and sustainability of the North Saskatchewan River and its watershed.**

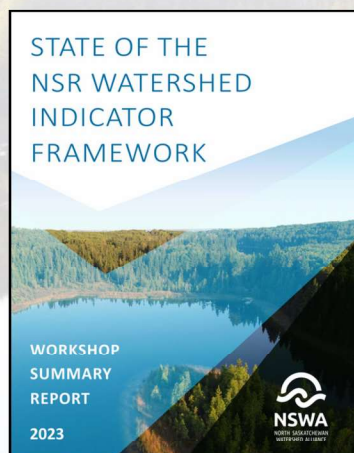
Under the Alberta *Water for Life* strategy, the NSWA carries the responsibility of developing and then encouraging voluntary implementation of an integrated watershed management plan. Implemented through collaboration and community engagement, the plan sets out the actions needed to protect and enhance the quantity and quality of water and the health of aquatic ecosystems within the watershed and support the social and economic well-being of the region.



River Reaches of the North Saskatchewan River

STATE OF THE WATERSHED ASSESSMENT

The State of the Watershed assessment examines numerous aspects of watershed health so that we have a baseline from which to determine if actions are needed to improve watershed health.



The State of the Watershed will make use of an internationally recognized methodology called the Freshwater Health Index (FHI), developed by Conservation International and adapted for its first use in North America by the NSWA.

Throughout the last year, NSWA has hosted workshops, launched a Governance and Engagement survey, and convened subject matter experts from many different sectors to validate the evaluations used in the FHI.

YOUTH WATER COUNCIL

The NSWA launched the inaugural session of the Youth Water Council in February 2024 with nine students from grades 10, 11, and 12 who live in the central portion of the North Saskatchewan watershed.

The first of its kind for the NSWA, the Council is a youth-led initiative that aims to provide education on local watershed issues and empowering Council members with the opportunity to act.



RIPARIAN HEALTH ACTION PLAN

The NSWA continues to promote practices and policies that support riparian health. Over the summer of 2023, the NSWA engaged with over 60 people to hear their riparian policy concerns and innovations.

Additionally, the NSWA published the report Legal Foundations for Municipal Riparian Management (2023) that discusses municipal roles and responsibilities, liabilities and tools enabled through provincial and federal legislation.

WATERSHED MOMENTS ANIMATED SERIES

NSWA developed a 4-part animated video series starring the dynamic water droplet duo, H₂ and O, from Alberta Watersheds Inc. These characters go on an educational adventure that promotes watershed literacy and highlights the importance of watersheds.

The videos were released at the 2024 World Water Day event on March 22. Be sure to find them on NSWA's YouTube Channel Playlist called Watershed Moments.



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Email us at water@nswa.ab.ca to join our newsletter and event mailing list.

Visit us at www.nswa.ab.ca to see more on our partners, our work, and our results.

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