Sturgeon River Management Plan (SRWMP) Summary

NSWA NORTH SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED ALLIANCE

About the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (SRWA)

o A municipally-led watershed stewardship group that works in partnership with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA).

o Guided by a Steering Committee of elected officials and a Technical Advisory Committee of technical staff and volunteers.

3,301 km² +200,000 people

Alexis Nakota First Nation · Alexander First Nation · Sandy Lake · Morinville · Sturgeon River · Little Egg Creek · Lac Ste. Anne · St. Albert · Isle Lake · Spruce Grove · Edmonton · Hoople Lake · Stony Plain
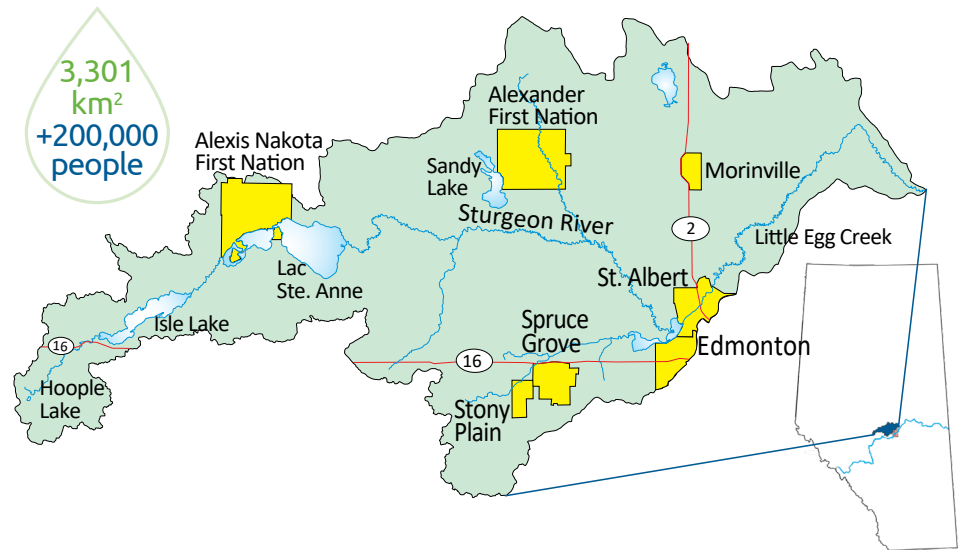
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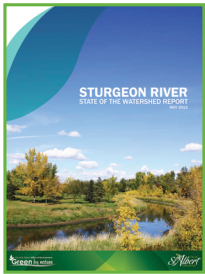
The *Sturgeon River State of the Watershed Report* used 15 indicators to assess the ecological health of the watershed. It was given an overall score of "Fair".

Watershed Health Score = Fair

2014-2019

The SRWA

o Collected and reviewed existing knowledge about the state of the watershed

o Commissioned studies to fill information gaps

o Engaged others to understand values and issues associated with water management

Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan (SRWMP), 2020

Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan

PREPARED BY

Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance
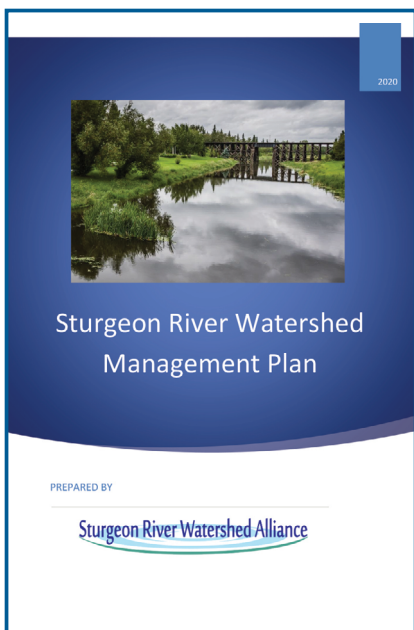
To address the issues identified and guide future actions, the SRWA developed the SRWMP in 2020. The plan outlines outcomes and actions to be addressed over a 10-year timeframe. This plan:

✓ Uses a watershed approach
✓ Has clear goals and performance measures
✓ Fosters voluntary alignment of policies and plans
✓ Coordinates intermunicipal collaboration and promotes local stewardship
✓ Encourages work to address knowledge gaps

Short-term priority Actions, 2020-23

o Riparian and Wetland Conservation and Restoration

o Water Quality Monitoring Program

o Watershed Planning Alignment and Tools (flood risk areas, riparian setbacks, environmentally sensitive areas, overlay maps)

o Communications and Engagement (educational forums, workshops, information resources)

Funded by a $200,000 Alberta Community Partnership grant

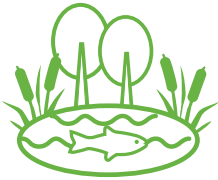| WMP Key Outcomes	WMP Action Items (2020-2023)
Informed and aligned policies and plans	o Submit WMP to GoA and Edmonton Metropolitan Region to inform future development o Identify policy and planning gaps and engage political support for the plan o Work with indigenous communities to create shared understanding and knowledge o Provide guidance on best management practices related to water management o Build on existing water quality monitoring programs o Encourage municipalities to use the WMP to inform planning policies
Access to safe, secure drinking water	o Encourage municipalities to collect information and identify any issues with private water systems o Promote private water programs such as Working Well and drinking water testing o Encourage provincial government to maintain existing groundwater monitoring program o Educate municipal staff on important groundwater recharge areas
Healthy aquatic ecosystems	o Use technical and indigenous knowledge to select indicators to monitor aquatic health o Promote public awareness of federal, provincial and municipal water management regulations o Incorporate guidance on waterbody setbacks into bylaws o Develop wetland, riparian area and floodplain conservation strategies o Promote transportation best management practices to reduce sediment and salt loading to water bodies
Reliable, quality water supply for the economy	o Compare existing data to instream flow needs o Explore models to determine current and future water needs o Identify and promote beneficial management practices to promote water conservation o Encourage all water users to report actual water use
Wise land-use that considers resilience	o Promote LEED standards and low impact development o Support programs such as ALUS Canada, Green Acreages program and Environmental Farm Plans o Compile information on natural areas that provide flood and drought protection
Resident and stakeholder support for Management Plan	o Maintain a dedicated SRWA webpage and faciliate regular forums o Support local NGOs and stewardship actions o Support Steering and Technical committees o Develop a 3-year workplan and apply for grants to support priority actions

Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance

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For more information, please visit: www.nswa.ab.ca

To read the full report, click here