

Natural Area Mapping for the Sturgeon River Watershed Report

Purpose of Report: To compile available mapping and data for natural areas in the Sturgeon River watershed

Natural Areas: Land or surface water dominated by specific native vegetation and/or natural processes
e.g. Wetland, grasslands, shrublands, wildlife corridors

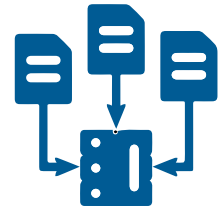
MAPPING THE NATURAL AREAS



Reviewed previous natural areas inventory reports



Chose indicators for natural areas



Incorporated existing mapping datasets from NSWA and municipalities



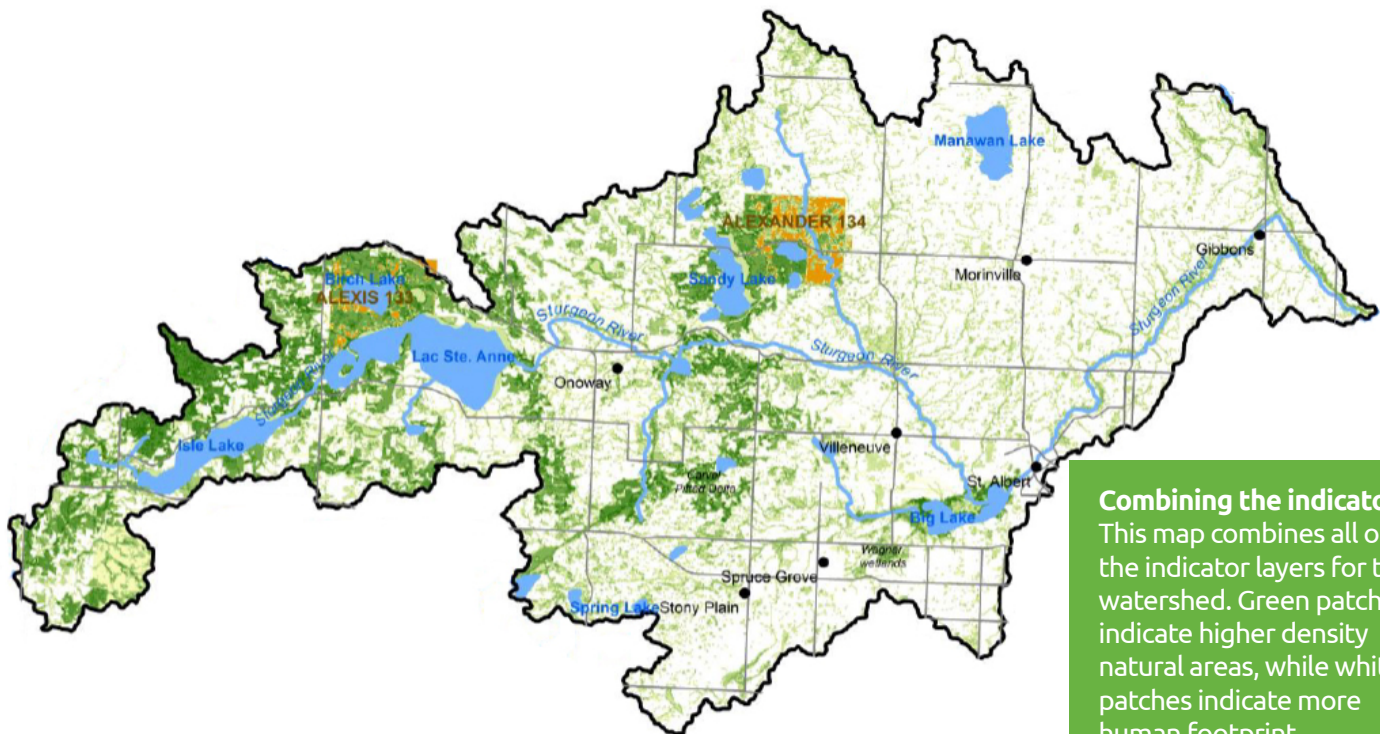
Identified land, water ecosystems and wildlife corridors



Combined indicator layers using equal weights



Compared data results with existing reports



Combining the indicators
This map combines all of the indicator layers for the watershed. Green patches indicate higher density natural areas, while whiter patches indicate more human footprint.

Results & Recommendations



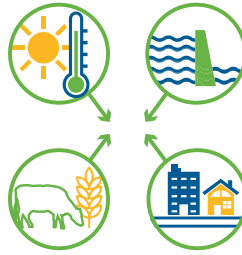
Prioritize riparian and wetland restoration for ecological function, wildlife habitat, and cleaner drinking water



Conserve natural areas near the headwaters and restore higher human impact areas in central and eastern portions of the watershed



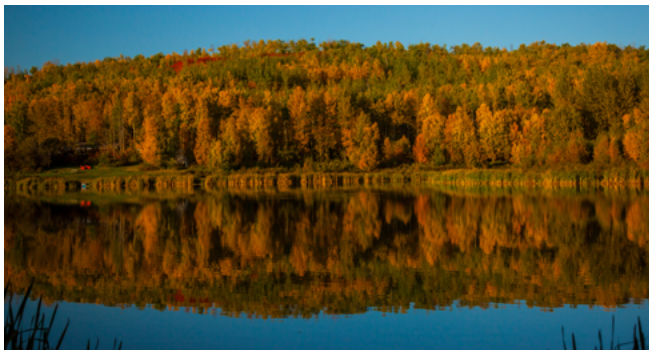
Encouraging compliance with environmental BMPs through incentives



Consider cumulative impacts in all future project developments



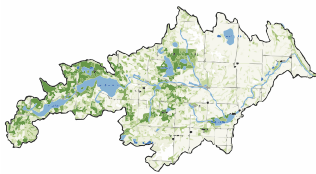
Education and outreach to individuals and industry to encourage responsible land management



Interconnected patches of forest and riparian areas are important corridors for wildlife movement and habitat.

Photo: *Chickakoo Lake, Bill Trout*

Project Outcomes



A more comprehensive understanding of the Sturgeon River landscape and its waterbodies



Identified natural hotspots for conservation and areas in need of restoration



Tool for future land-use planning within the watershed to help conserve existing natural areas



For more information, please visit: www.nswa.ab.ca
To read the full report, click [here](#).