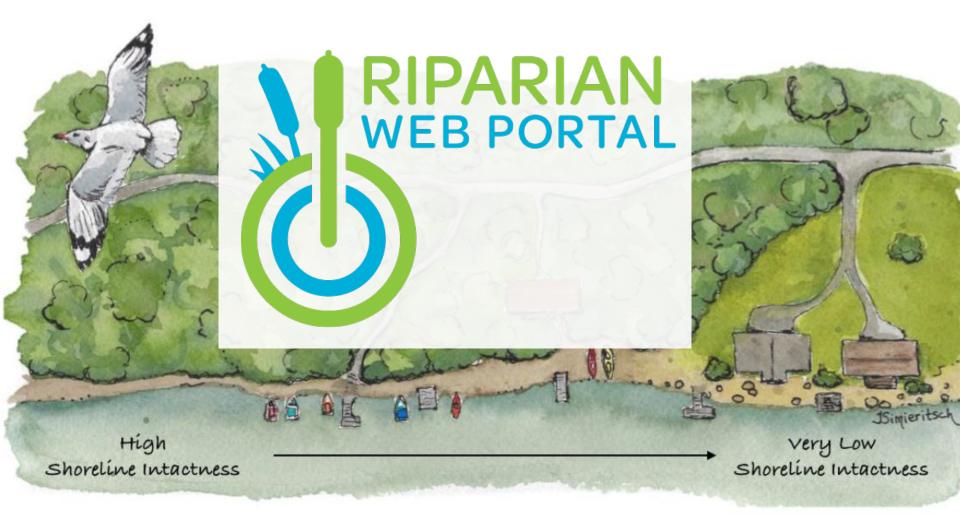
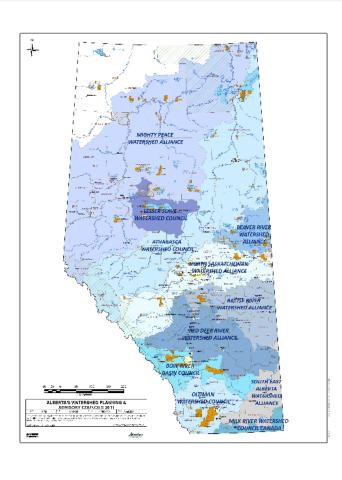
2022 ALMS Conference Presentation by Mary Ellen Shain, M.Sc.





WPACs of Alberta



- WPAC=Watershed Planning and Advisory Committee
- 11 WPACs

Water for Life Goals

- Safe, secure drinking water
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems
- Reliable water supplies for a sustainable economy

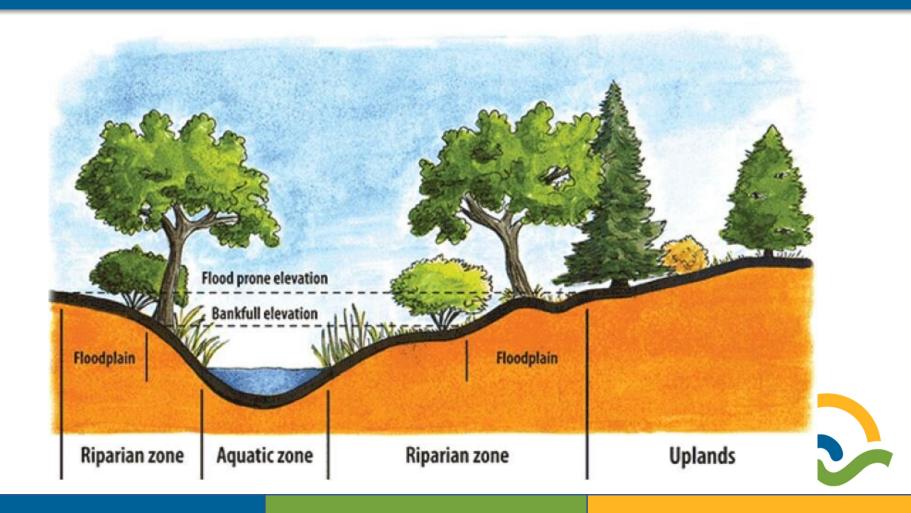
Indicators of Watershed Health

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

Indicator Category	Metric
Land Use	Riparian health
	Linear development (roads, seismic, pipelines, etc.)
	Land use inventory
	Livestock density
	Wetland inventory
Water Quality	Surface water quality index (AENV model)
	E. coli
	Phosphorus (TP, SRP)
	Pesticides
Water Quantity	Water allocations by sector
	Groundwater extraction
Biological Indicator	Aquatic macrophytes
	Fish (population estimates)
	Vegetation types (Alberta Vegetation Inventory)
	Benthic invertebrates



What is a Riparian Area?



Watershed Management Direction 3.3: Maintain and restore riparian areas

Actions:

3.3.1

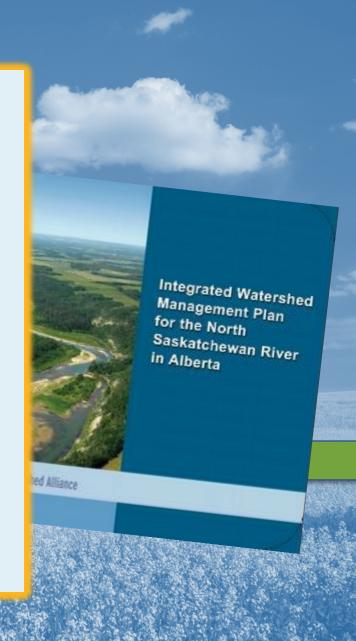
Complete an inventory and assess the condition of riparian areas in the NSR watershed.

3.3.2

Municipalities, in consultation with landowners groups and other stakeholders, are encouraged to develop riparian set-back guidelines which exceed provincial regulations.

3.3.3

Develop incentive and support programs (financial and expertise) to enable and assist landowners to retain naturally-occurring riparian areas, restore damaged riparian areas and replant riparian vegetation on their own land.

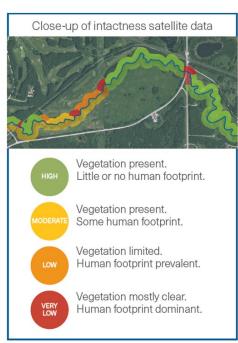


Riparian Health Action Plan



Phase 1: Satellite Method

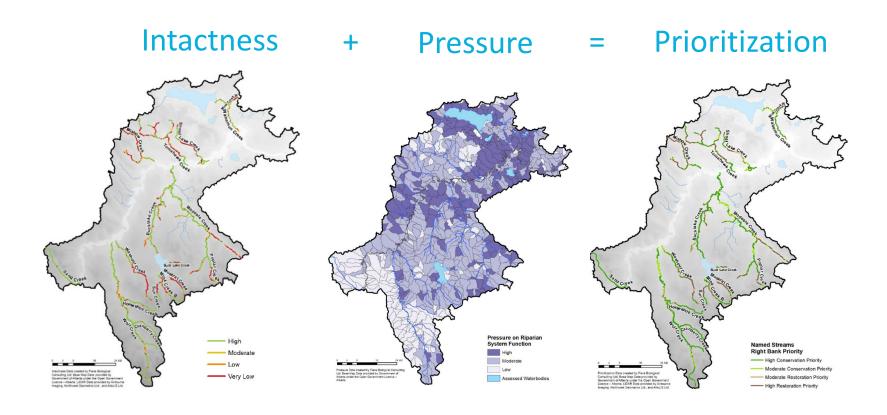




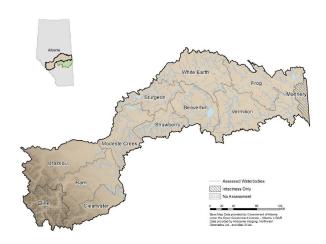
New Method

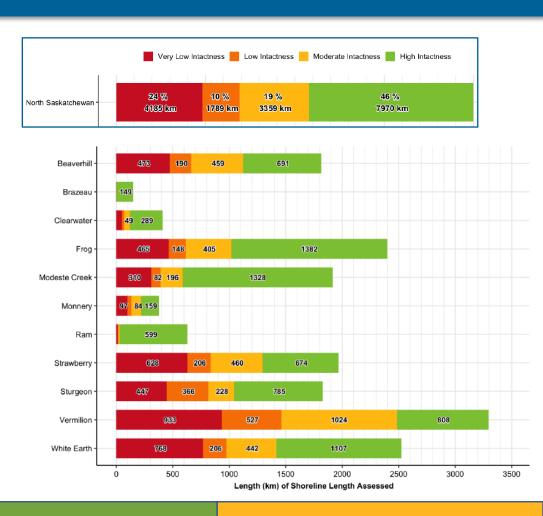


Phase 1: Data



Data Results

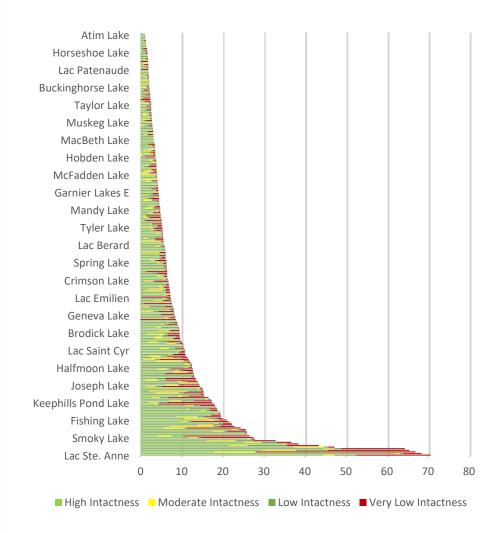




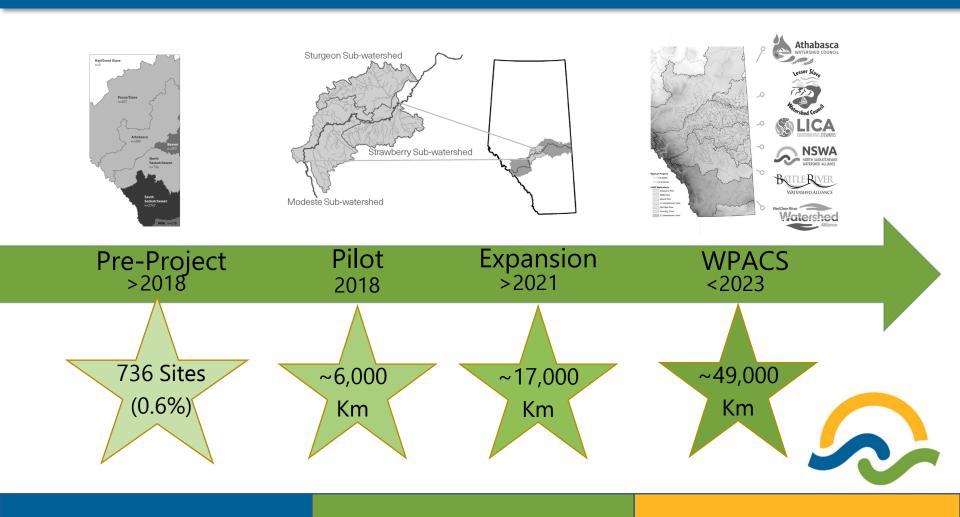
Results for Lakes

- Named lakes = 264
 - Average= 61% High Intact
- Unnamed lakes= 162
 - Average= 50% High Intact
- Shoreline= 3,214 km

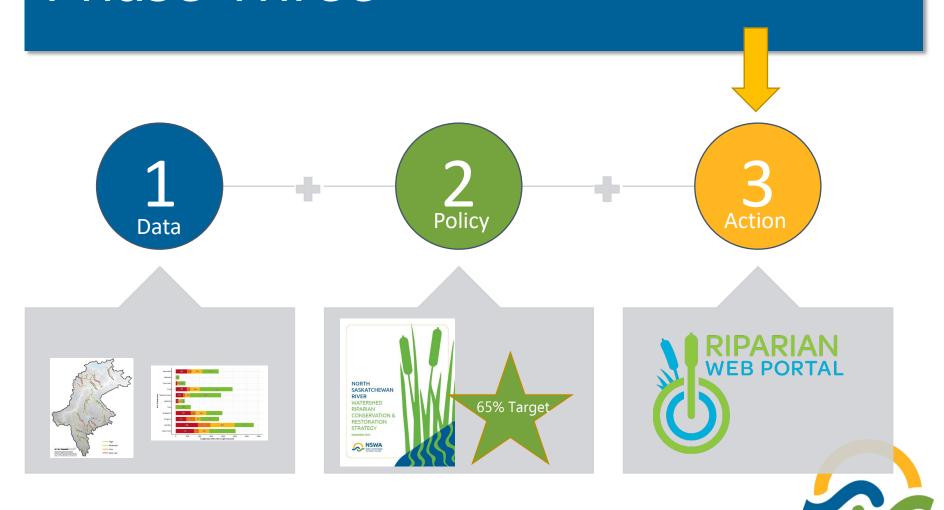
Named Lakes in the NSR Watershed



Data Trends



Phase Three





Three key purposes:

- 1. Access to data
- 2. Riparian resources
- 3. Showcase projects examples



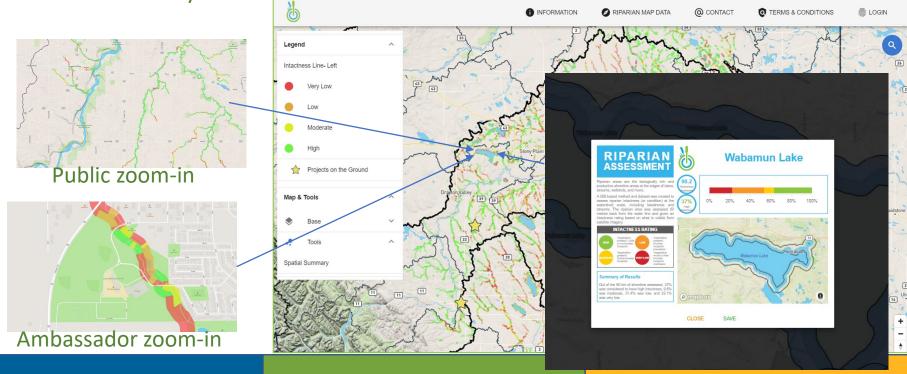
Data Accessibility



Data Features:

- 1. 49,000 km Riparian Data from 6 WPACS
- 2. Variable Zoom-in access

3. Data Summary Tool

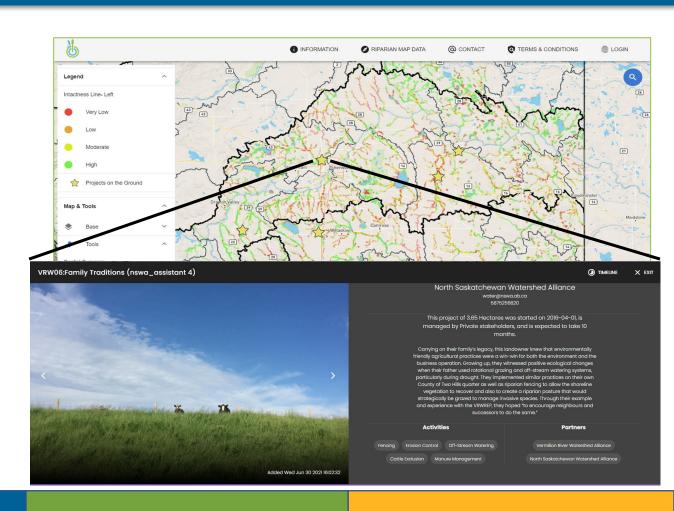


Projects on the Ground



Project Features:

- Show-off projects!
- 2. Before/after photos
- 3. Key Partners
- 4. Milestones



Resource Page



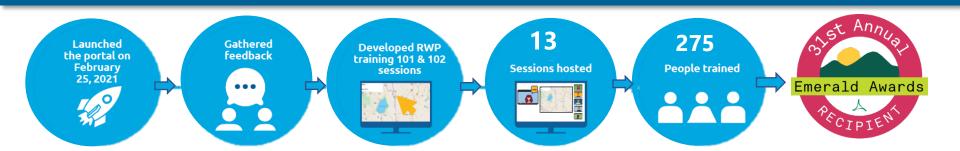
Resource Page Features:

- 1. Riparian importance
- 2. Methods background
- 3. Guidance for stakeholders
- 4. Links for support





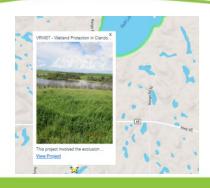
Phase 3: Riparian Web Portal



Watershed Stewardship Groups





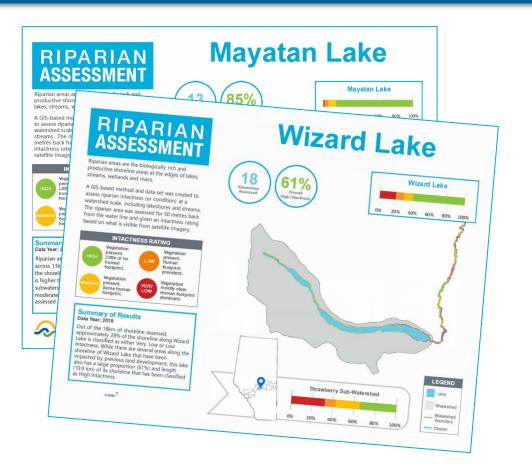


Attend 102 Training

Waterbody Summary

Landowner Outreach

Communications



Why are riparian areas important?





IMPROVE WATER QUALITY by trapping sediments, filtering nutrients and pollutants, reducing enrichment that leads to increased aquatic plant and algal growth;



MITIGATE FLOODS AND DROUGHTS by storing and slowing the release of water and reducing erosion;



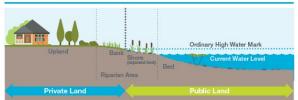
IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY by providing fish and wildlife habitat and cooling water temperatures;



PROVIDE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING AREAS for recreation or cultural activities; and



Where is a riparian area?



How can you improve the health of your riparian area?

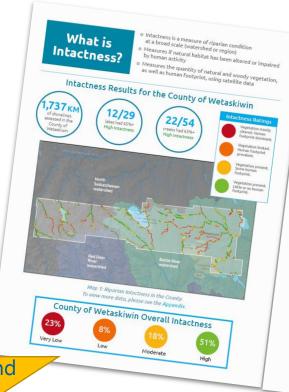
- Leave your shoreline natural—don't remove any plants, grasses or aquatic vegetation as they all play an important role in keeping your lake healthy
- . If your shoreline has been cleared of vegetation, replant with native plants as much as possible and watch for invasive species. Report as appropriate.
- . Learn more about the health of your riparian area. · For larger areas, create a management plan to improve the intactness of the riparian area over time
- . More resources are available at alberta.ca search

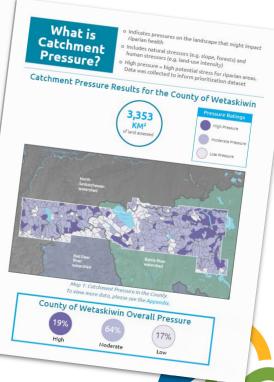




Communications







Regional Lake Stewardship Project

Activities 2022 – 2024

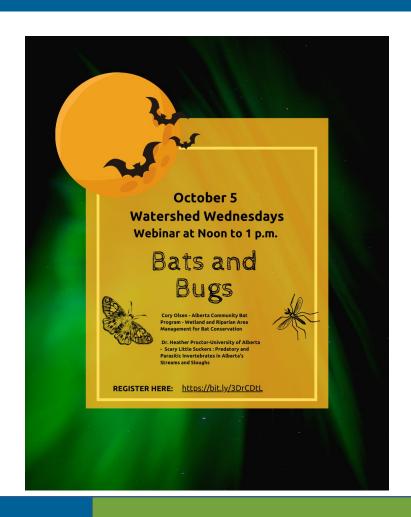
- Educational Workshops
 - Lake Best Management Practices
 - Restoration Techniques
- **Two Restoration Demonstration Sites**
 - High use areas
 - Educational signage

- Water Quality Monitoring
 - Support ALMS' programs
 - Increase volunteer opportunities
- Develop + Provide Educational Materials
 - Research current gaps
 - Develop communication materials





Watershed Wednesday Series!





Thank you for your time!

Contact:

Mary Ellen Shain, M.Sc.
Senior Watershed Project Coordinator
587.525.6828

Maryellen.Shain@nswa.ab.ca
Contact@riparian.info



