

Current Policies, Initiatives and Gaps

The responsibility for watershed management is shared by federal, provincial and municipal governments, as well as land owners, utilities and industry. The following table highlights key stakeholders, their roles in watershed management and current policy:

Stakeholder	Watershed Management Role	Current Policy	Gaps
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) Watershed Planning and Advisory Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated by the provincial government to report on the health of the watershed, lead collaborative planning, and facilitate education and stewardship activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWA released an Integrated Watershed Management Plan in 2012. This plan covers the extent of the North Saskatchewan watershed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSWA Integrated Watershed Management plan provides recommendations for municipalities for best management practices and urges active participation by municipalities in ongoing watershed planning activities; it does not direct municipal watershed management activities.
Provincial Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provincial government owns the bed and shores of most naturally occurring water bodies, including rivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provincial government has jurisdiction over water resources in Alberta through the <i>Water Act</i>, the <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act</i>, and the Water for Life Strategy (a policy tool to manage water quantity and quality). Water for Life recognizes source water protection is critical. <i>Under Development</i> - A Surface Water Quality Management Framework for the North Saskatchewan Region that will establish an approach for monitoring and managing the cumulative impacts of human activities on water quality in the North Saskatchewan and Battle rivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no regulatory framework to enforce the goals of Water for Life. The North Saskatchewan Regional Plan is the provincial government’s approach for managing lands and natural resources to achieve the province’s long-term environmental, economic and social goals. Regional plans are legal and binding once they have been approved by the provincial Cabinet.

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Stakeholder	Watershed Management Role	Current Policy	Gaps
EPCOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPCOR, as Edmonton's utility for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater, has an active mandate and role in water management and undertakes a variety of water management initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPCOR's initiatives include a Watershed Protection Program, Integrated Watershed Management Strategy to manage total loading effects on the health of the North Saskatchewan River, and the Stormwater Integrated Resource Plan. Additionally, EPCOR has a Source Water Protection Plan for Edmonton's water supply that sets a framework to advance watershed management through monitoring, modeling and research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPCOR released a Source Water Protection Plan in 2020, however, this plan is not a full watershed management plan for the City of Edmonton. It only covers the portion of the watershed upstream of the Rosedale Water Treatment Plant. This plan does not account for the downstream area or activities that could negatively impact the health of the watershed downstream of the Plant.
City of Edmonton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Municipal Government Act identifies that one of the purposes of municipalities is to foster the well-being of the environment. The Edmonton City Charter Regulation states Edmonton can create bylaws for the creation, implementation and management of programs for environmental matters such as climate change adaptation, environmental conservation and stewardship, and the protection of biodiversity and habitat. These bylaws would apply within City of Edmonton boundaries. Land use planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ConnectEdmonton Climate Resilience Goal includes the goal of "clean water" Policy Directions in The City Plan Green and Blue Network in The City Plan River Valley Planning Modernization (Ribbon of Green and River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan) Zoning Bylaw 12800 District Planning North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (the River Valley Bylaw 7188) <i>Breathe</i>: Open Space Strategy Climate Resilience Council Policy C627 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Edmonton can use tools related to land use planning to better integrate land and water management in the city: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding targets for watershed management, biodiversity and ecological connectivity Embedding the Ribbon of Green direction to restore creeks and streams as part of restoring urban ecology and hydrology Embedding requirements for low impact development and water reuse at a neighborhood scale Incorporate low impact development in stormwater design and reuse, including integrated into city processes such as Neighborhood Renewal Applying an Indigenous values

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			<p>perspectives and traditional knowledge, as well as climate change lens to watershed management. This could include water sensitive urban design guidelines for climate change (such as water storage), and City of Edmonton drought management practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently the City of Edmonton is not active in the Headwaters Alliance, a stewardship group established for the Headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River, and facilitated by the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance.
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