

Edmonton National Urban Park (NUP)

Kisiskâciwani-sîpiy Omaka-ty

North Saskatchewan Heritage River Initiative



+



**Canadian
Heritage Rivers
System**

**Réseau des
rivières du patrimoine
canadien**

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For the July 12, 2023, City of Edmonton Urban Planning Committee - Report UPE01668

Kisiskâciwani-sîpiy

Omaka-ty



Treaty 6



Treaty 7



Treaty 8



Environment and Protected Areas



HISTORIC VILNA
A true Alberta boomtown...



O2

O2 Planning & Design Inc.



expedition
MANAGEMENT CONSULTING



Know History
Historical Services



Acknowledgements



Smoky Lake County Helicopter Photo at Devon, June 2022



Kyle Schole,
Planning Technician,
Smoky Lake County

*Vice-Chair & Member-at-large,
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance,
(NSWA) Board of Directors*

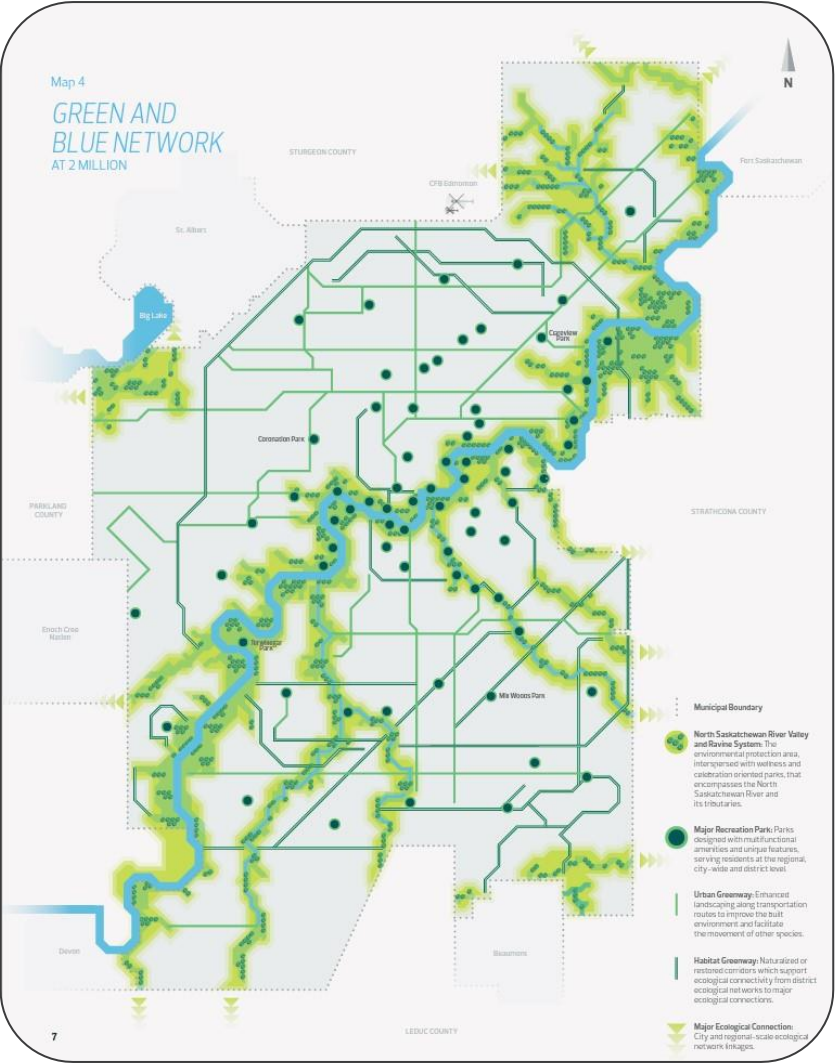
*Board of Directors,
Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC),*

*Board of Directors,
North Saskatchewan River Valley
Conservation Society (NSRVCS)*

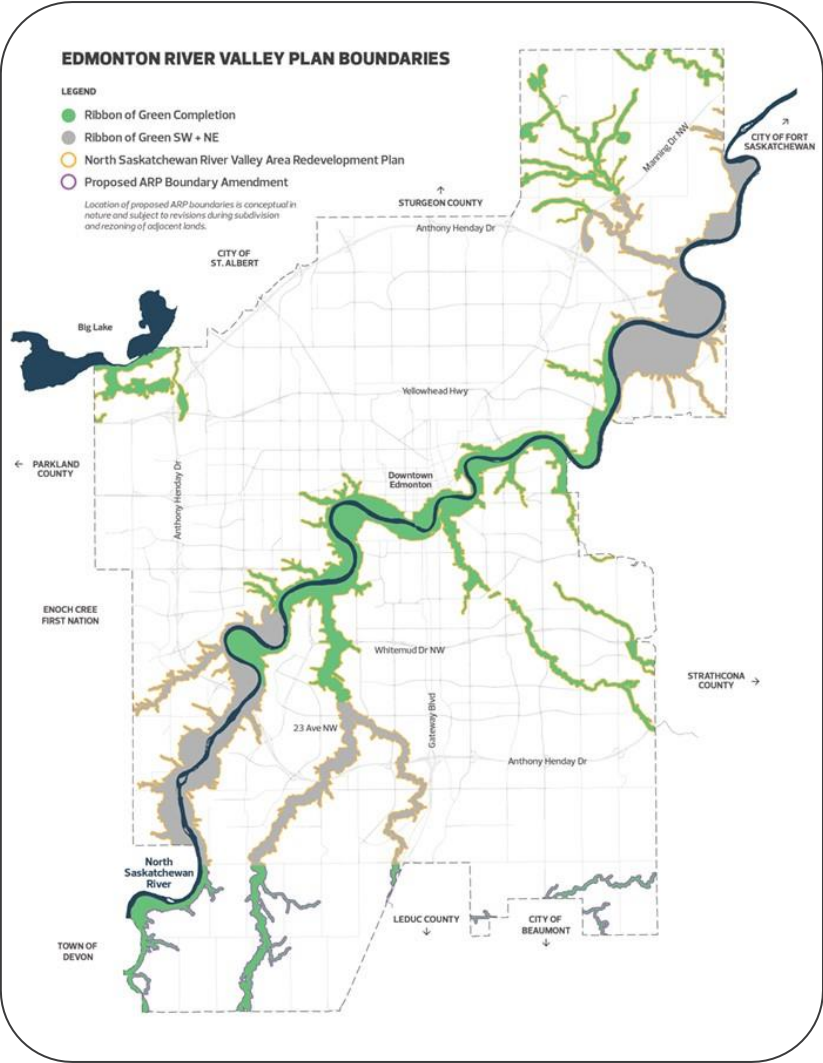
*Club Member,
United Albertan Paddling Society (UAPS)*

Resident of Ward O-day'min

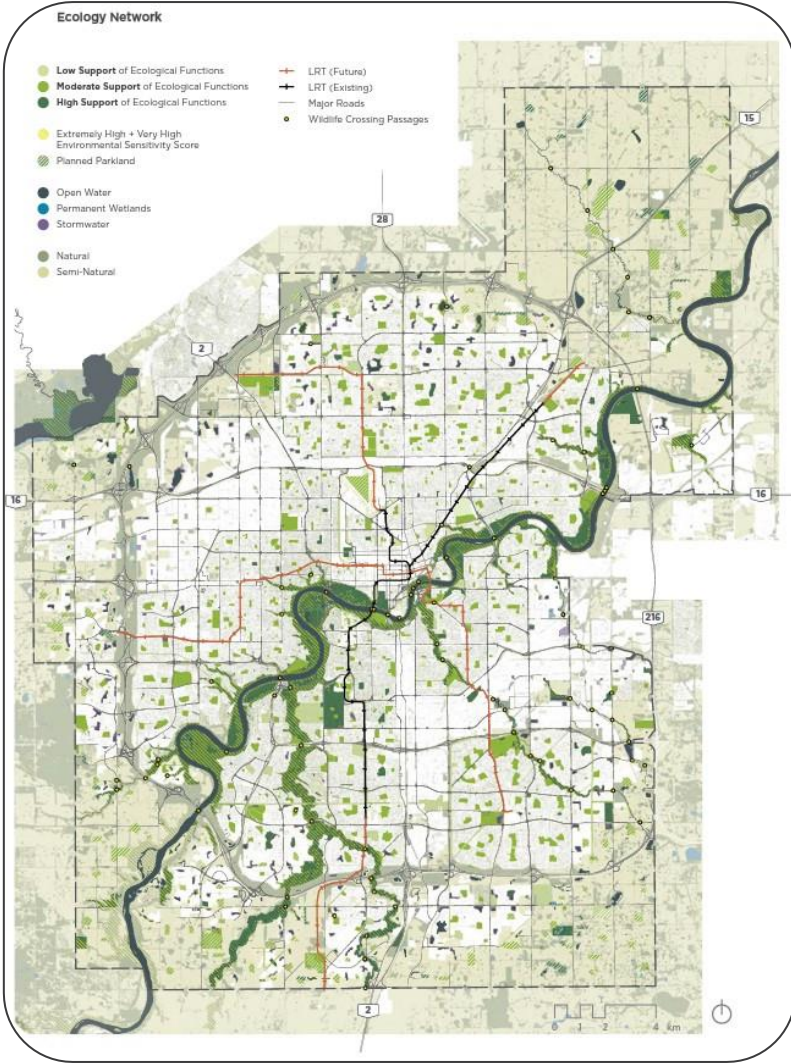




City Plan

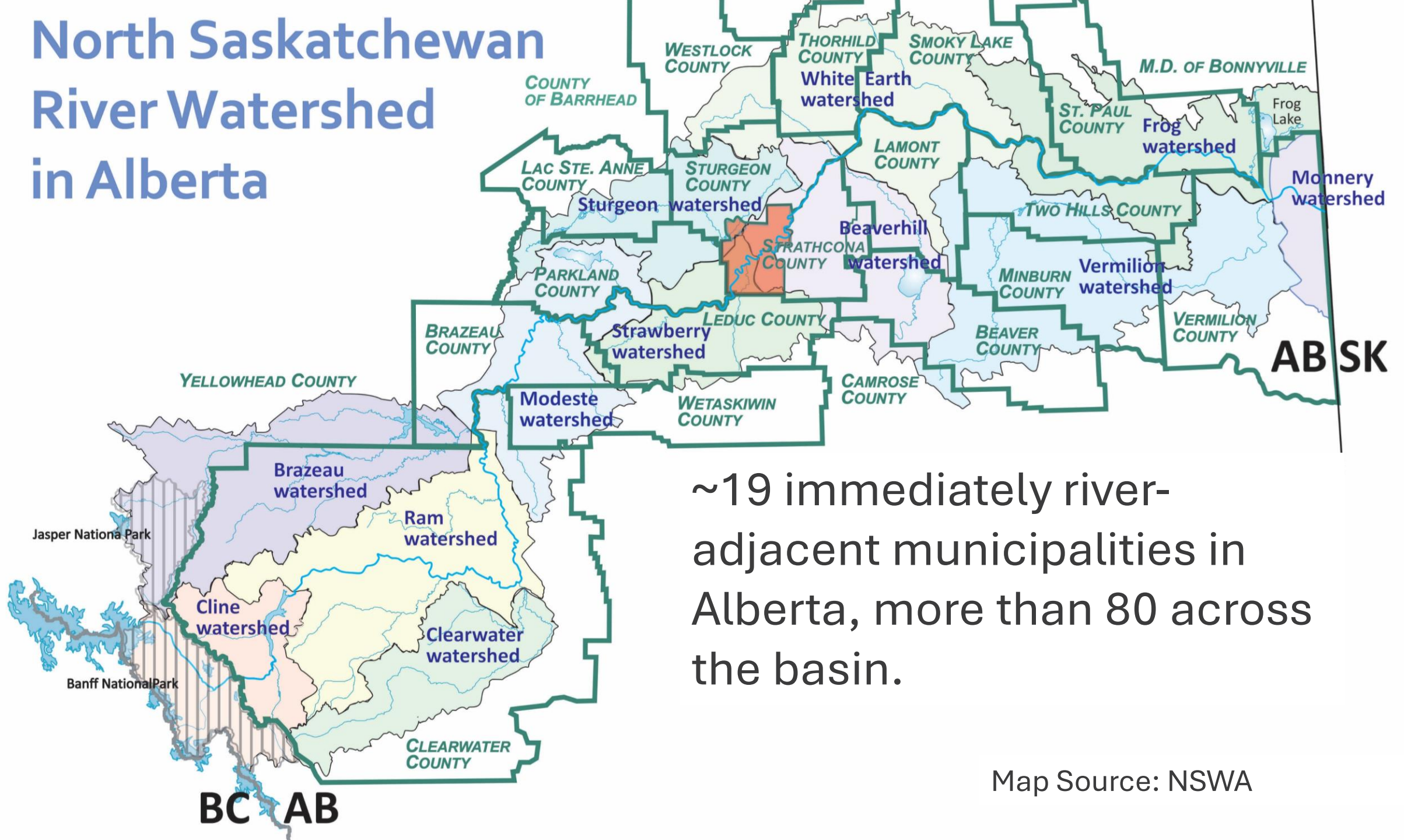


Ribbon of Green



Breath Network

North Saskatchewan River Watershed in Alberta



~19 immediately river-adjacent municipalities in Alberta, more than 80 across the basin.

Map Source: NSWA



Radical Incrementalism *‘...means taking small steps that ultimately result in medium and big-sized moves & new opportunities.’*

‘...Collaboration is not consensus. Collaboration is about trying to find a way for us to work together...’

-Mayor Sohi, Dec. 19, 2022



Context





What is CHRS about?

THE CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM CHARTER

WHEREAS freshwater is essential to life on earth and Canada is blessed with a vast supply of freshwater, approximately one-fifth of the world's total; and

WHEREAS rivers are a priceless and enduring part of Canada's national heritage and identity; and

WHEREAS rivers are central to the overall health and well-being of Canadians; and

WHEREAS participating governments on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board have agreed to renew and strengthen their participation in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System by administering the program through a strategic plan, which serves as the principal operating document for the Board;

THEREFORE, IT IS UNDERSTOOD that the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, do, by this Charter, reaffirm their governments' commitment to the System, and, by this Charter, describe its main principles of operation, vision, and governance, as follows:

I VISION

This Charter affirms the vision of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board that:

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is a model of stewardship, cooperation and participation; one that engages society in valuing the natural and cultural heritage of rivers and river communities as essential to the identity, health and quality of life of Canadians.

II PURPOSE OF THE CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM CHARTER

This Charter sets out a framework for cooperation between Canada and the participating Provinces and Territories (hereinafter together referred to as "the Participants") to recognize, conserve and manage, in a sustainable manner, Canada's designated heritage rivers and their natural qualities, cultural/historical heritage, and recreational values. The Charter provides a tangible public expression by governments in Canada of their support for and participation in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System and acknowledges the operation of the program through a strategic plan.

III PRINCIPLES OF THE CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM

This Charter serves to emphasize the following principles, which form part of a strategic plan of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board:

- Participation in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System is voluntary.
- The Participants retain their jurisdictional powers over rivers in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, including ownership of land, the choice to nominate a river, and the right to continue to operate and manage designated rivers in accordance with the goals of the System.
- The Canadian Heritage Rivers System respects Aboriginal peoples, community, landowner and individual rights and interests in the nomination, designation and management of heritage rivers.

iv) Rivers, or sections of rivers, included in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System will meet the spirit of the heritage and recreational value selection guidelines as set out by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board.

v) River nominations and designations will be jointly approved, on the recommendation of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, by the Minister(s) of the nominating jurisdiction(s) and the Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency.

vi) The Parks Canada Agency will continue to be the lead federal agency for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System and will, through a secretariat operated on behalf of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, provide technical and financial support for the nomination and designation of rivers to the System, for promotion of the System both nationally and internationally, and for co-ordination of the ongoing monitoring of designated rivers.

vii) River nominations and designations in Northwest Territories and Nunavut must be jointly approved by the Minister responsible for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the responsible territorial minister. This approval is to be obtained by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board prior to a final recommendation going forward to the Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency.

viii) Should territorial devolution occur in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as it has in Yukon, the federal authorities for the management of land, waters, and natural resources would be transferred to territorial governments. This Charter recognizes final devolution agreements between Canada and the territorial governments.

ix) Provincial and territorial governments will continue their commitment to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, assuming the long-term operations and management of rivers within their jurisdictions designated to the System.

IV THE CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS BOARD

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is administered by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, which is composed of members from the government, public, not for profit or private sector who are appointed by the Participants. The Board administers the Canadian Heritage Rivers System for the benefit of the people of Canada and is accountable to the signatories of the Charter for the effective management of resources and processes that conserve and present heritage rivers.

V DURATION OF TERM

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Participants, the cooperation contemplated in this Charter shall be for a period of twenty years, commencing on April 1, 2011, and ending on April 1, 2031.

VI SCOPE OF THIS CHARTER

- Nothing in this Charter is to be interpreted as establishing a partnership, joint venture, agency relationship or commercial association between the Participants.
- Each Participant shall retain exclusive responsibility for its undertakings.
- This Charter shall not be interpreted to create any legal right or obligation between the Participants.

VII MODIFICATIONS

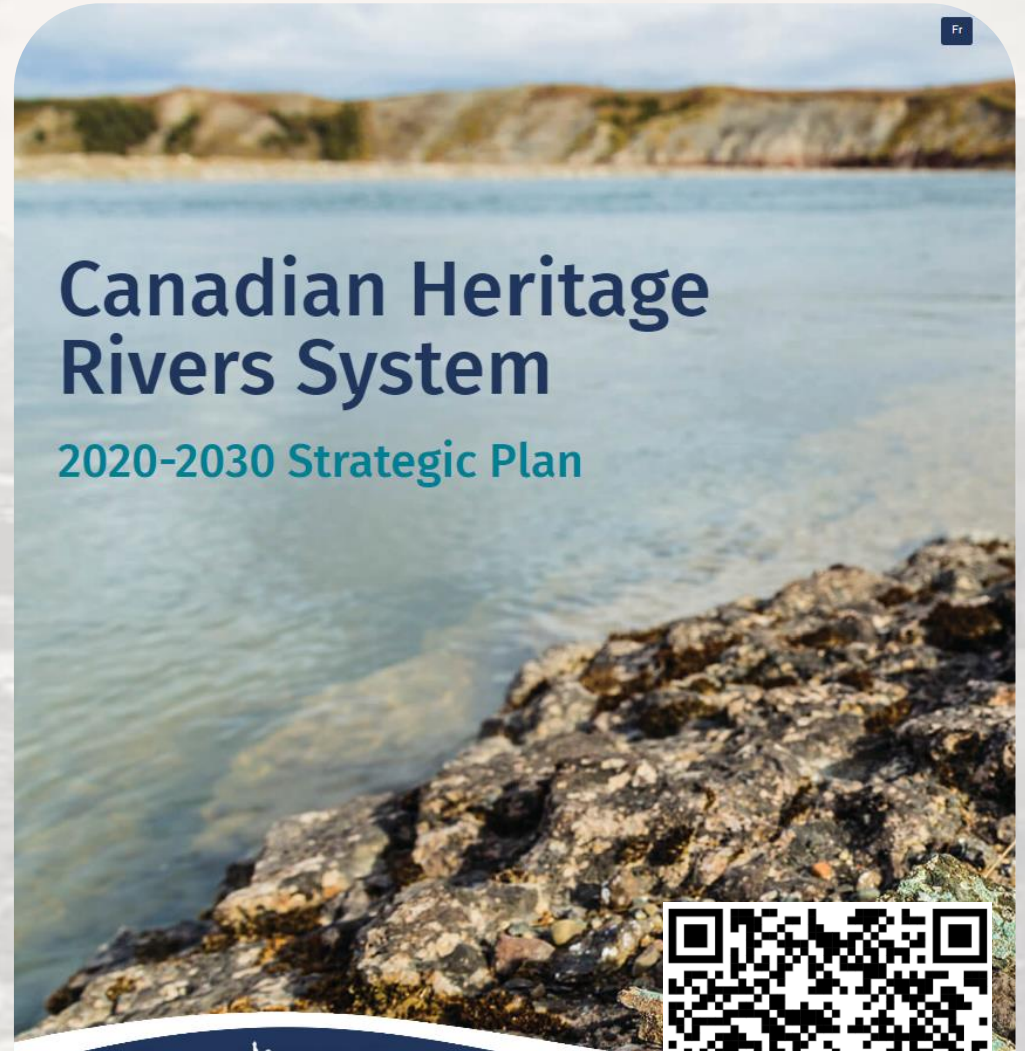
It is understood that this Charter may be modified at any time by written agreement of all Participants.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Participants hereto have executed this Charter by their Ministers' signatures, signed in counterpart, as of the day and year written below.

December 24, 2013



Canadian Heritage Rivers System 2020-2030 Strategic Plan



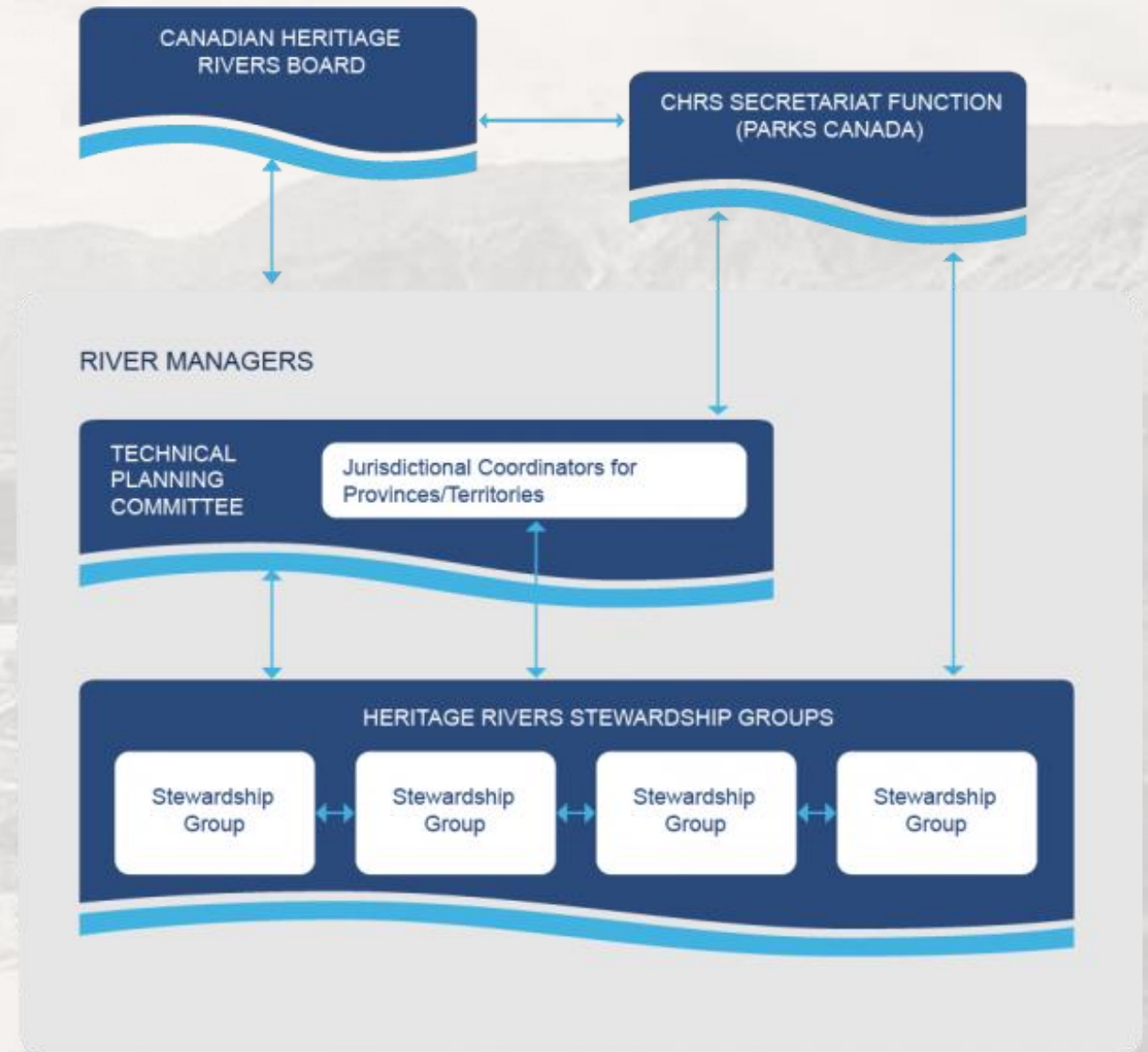
Canadian
Heritage Rivers
System





What is CHRS about?

CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM
PRINCIPLES, PROCEDURES
AND OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES
2023





A Long Time Coming

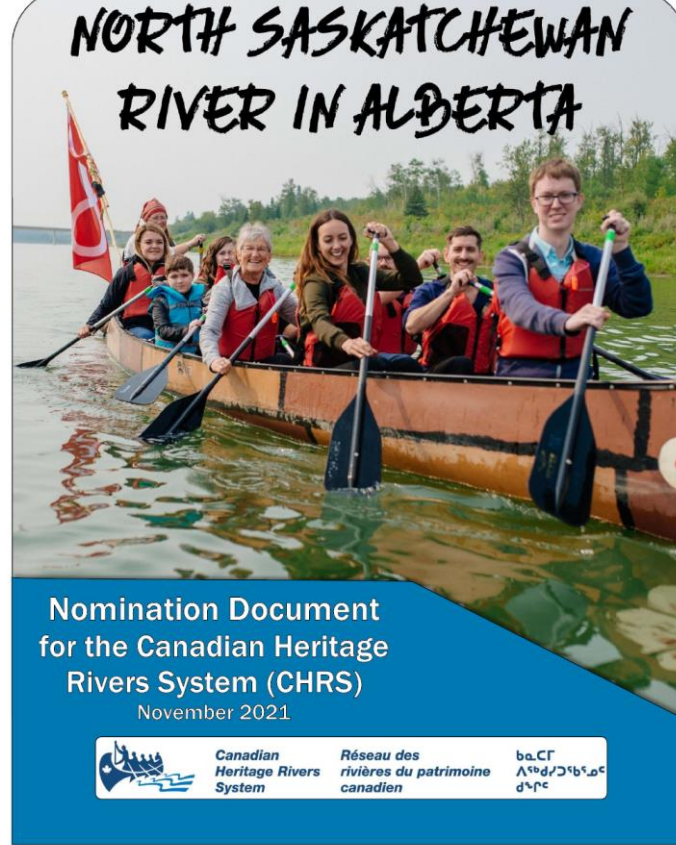


“THE STORY OF
THIS RIVER

IS THE STORY OF
THE WEST”



Canadian Heritage Rivers
System Background Study
North Saskatchewan River
Alberta
2005



Kisiskâciwani-sîpiy
(swift-flowing river)

Omaka-ty
(the big river)

A Heritage River Designation Concept for the
North Saskatchewan River in Alberta



Canadian
Heritage Rivers
System

Réseau des
rivières du patrimoine
canadien



v4.1 | 2023.06.05



Paddle Into the Past at Métis Crossing, Credit: Explore Edmonton



Nomination Completed: August 2022

05/07/2023, 11:41 Governments of Canada and Alberta officially accept nomination of the Alberta section of the North Saskatchewan River as a Ca...



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

[Canada.ca](#) > [Parks Canada](#)

Governments of Canada and Alberta officially accept nomination of the Alberta section of the North Saskatchewan River as a Canadian Heritage River

From: [Parks Canada](#)

News release

The river can now be considered for full designation in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System

August 3, 2022

Ottawa, Ontario

Parks Canada

Agency

Heritage places reflect the rich and varied stories of Canada and provide an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about our diverse history.

Today, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, and the Honourable Whitney Issik, Alberta Minister of Environment and Parks, announced the official endorsement of the nomination of the North Saskatchewan River as a Canadian Heritage River.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2022/08/governments-of-canada-and-alberta-officially-accept-nomination-of-the-alberta-section-of-the-...> 1/12

Ministre de l'Environnement et
du Changement climatique



Minister of Environment
and Climate Change

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

Mr. Kyle Schole
Planning, Development and Project Assistant
Smoky Lake County
P.O. Box 310
Smoky Lake AB T0A 3C0

2022-06-29

Dear Mr. Schole:

I am pleased to inform you that I have reviewed the recommendation from the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board with respect to the nomination of the North Saskatchewan River (Alberta) to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

As the North Saskatchewan River (Alberta) meets selection and integrity guidelines, I have approved its nomination to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System for further consideration in order to conserve and celebrate Canada's rich river heritage.

As the driving force behind the multi-year project to nominate the North Saskatchewan River (Alberta) to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, Smoky Lake County has every reason to be proud.

I commend you and your partners for your dedication to promoting public appreciation, conservation, and wise use of this important river, and I offer my congratulations to the extended team of volunteers and community partners who have played such a key role in this accomplishment.

I wish to thank you personally for your leadership and passion for sharing the story of the river and its significance with all Canadians.

I look forward to seeing progress by Smoky Lake County on a designation document that further builds a shared vision and strategic direction for management of the river.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)

Canada



What We Heard & Research Reports: Spring 2023

KISISKÂCIWANI-SÎPIY (SWIFT-FLOWING RIVER)

A Heritage River Designation Concept for
the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta

Stakeholder Engagement
What We Heard Report
April 2023

kisiskâciwan-sîpî Heritage River Initiative Study

Submitted to:
O2 Design; Leif Olson

Submitted by:
pipikwan pêhtâkwan
10160 103 St NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 0X6
Phone: 587-254-3696
pipikwanpehtakwan.com

Heritage River Tourism Planning

Final Report: April 28, 2023

Submitted to: O2 Planning and Design Inc.
Submitted by: Expedition Management Consulting Ltd.

Introduction

This report provides an analysis of tourism products, strengths and gaps, visitor markets, and tourism opportunities for all reaches of the North Saskatchewan River within the heritage river study area. It also identifies actions to support tourism in the study area overall, as well as in individual reaches. Recommended actions are based on research, analysis, and stakeholder engagement.

Executive Summary

The North Saskatchewan River flows for more than 800km across the heritage river study area. For the purposes of the study, it is divided into eight river reaches. The character of the river, adjacent lands, nearby communities, and tourism potential varies significantly from reach to reach. The wildest and most adventure-oriented reaches are in the west, closest to the river's headwaters and along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. The reaches in the east are home to more pastoral and cultural landscapes and attractions. The central reaches, those in and around Edmonton, are the most developed and offer a mix of urban and rural visitor experiences.

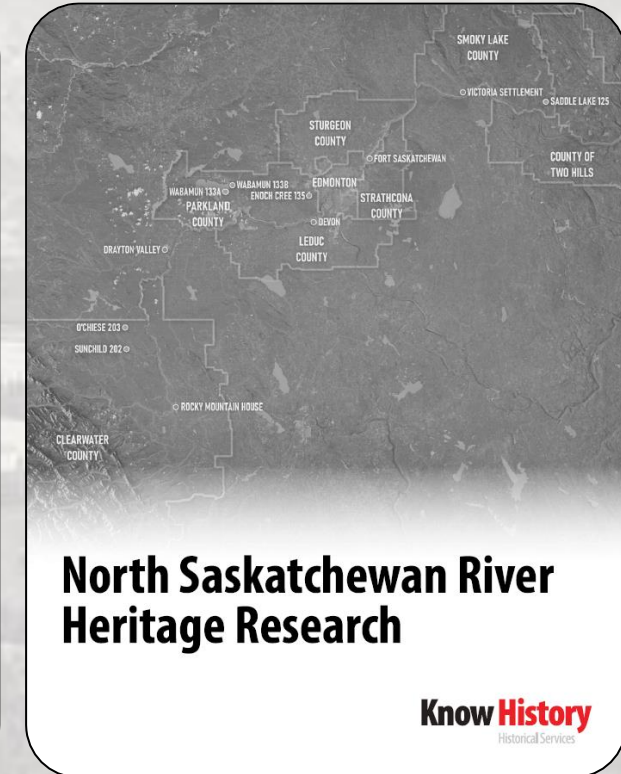
The rich natural and cultural history of the river ties these reaches together and provides the foundation for a compelling story and unique destinations on and off the water. The story of the river, adjacent lands, and the people connected to it can be told along each reach, leveraging local assets, benefitting local communities, and helping visitors and locals alike understand the significance of the river. The river has always been a key travel route, first for indigenous people through their traditional territories, then for fur trade and settler exploration, and later for recreation and industry. Tourism along the North Saskatchewan can carry forward this long established role of river as gateway, and usher in a new role of river as a destination.

Tourism Readiness

To understand the potential and readiness for tourism along the river throughout the study area, we consulted with stakeholders and undertook research for each reach. Engagement opportunities included an online survey, digital workshops, and one-on-one interviews. Research included the review of books and other publications, maps, and online resources such as reports, presentations and websites.

Through this engagement and research, we identified existing tourism assets, opportunities, challenges and noted that tourism readiness varies significantly across the eight reaches. Some reaches are more ready than others and others will require more concerted efforts to develop their tourism potential. Reaches that are more ready include reaches: 1 Banff National Park to Abraham

expedition
MANAGEMENT CONSULTING LTD.



Read them all here:





Draft Heritage River Concept Plan

DRAFT

Kisiskāciwani-sīpiy - North Saskatchewan River (Alberta) Heritage Designation Concept

Kisiskâciwani-sîpiy
(swift-flowing river)

Omaka-ty
(the big river)

A Heritage River Designation Concept for the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta



**Canadian
Heritage Rivers
System**

Réseau des
rivières du patrimoine
canadien

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v4.1 | 2023.06.05



Paddle Into the Past at Métis Crossing, Credit: Explore Edmonton





Conclusions

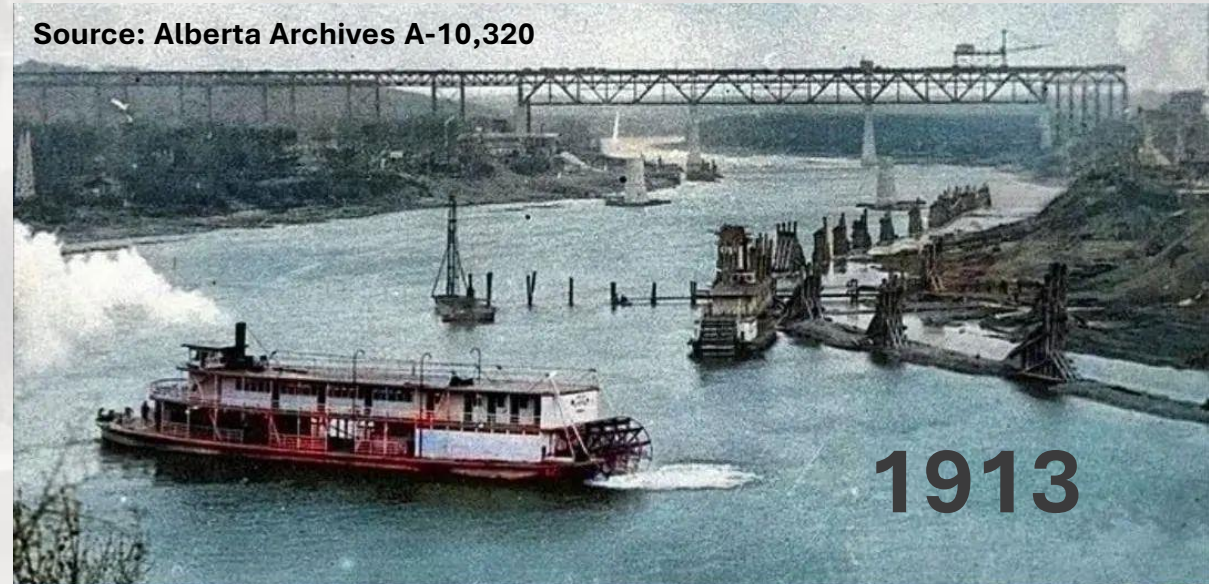
- **National Urban Park Candidate Sites:**
 - Victoria Region, BC
 - Edmonton Region, AB
 - Saskatoon Region, SK
 - Winnipeg, MN
 - Windsor, ON
 - Halifax, NS
- **National Urban Park Candidate Sites with a potential Heritage River at its center:**
 - Edmonton Region, AB



Conclusions

- Notwithstanding any rhetoric and/or tinfoil hats... It takes a lot of effort (and leadership) to build momentum for transformative ideas.
- With that said, City Admin has undertaken far more detailed technical analysis than has been published in this report.

Source: Alberta Archives A-10,320



Source: Kyle Schole Photo





Conclusions

- It's time for designation as a **Heritage River + a National Urban Park.**

Next Steps

- Returning to Partner Municipalities including Edmonton Urban Planning Committee on **August 29th** (Report UPE01575).
- Presentation to the inter-provincial Heritage Rivers Board in **late September.**
- Proceed with submission to Provincial & Federal governments for endorsement in **Fall 2023/Spring 2024.**



Questions?

Project Website:

