

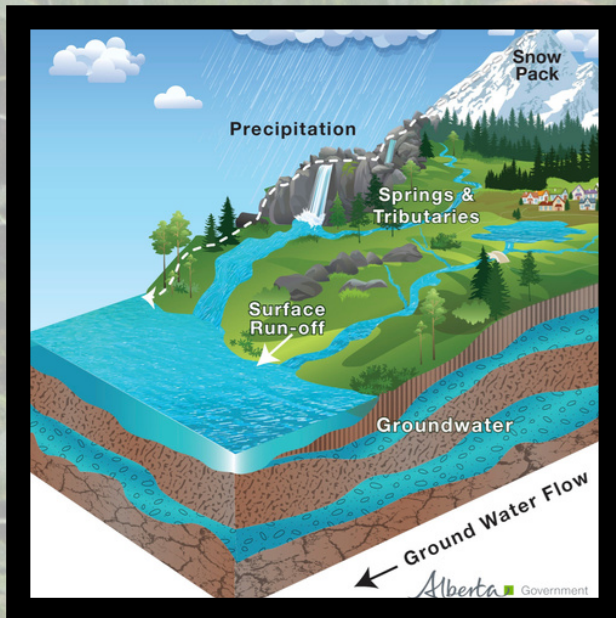


Athabasca
WATERSHED COUNCIL

2020



The Athabasca Watershed



What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that receives water that eventually drains into a body of water, like a lake, river, or ocean. The boundaries of a watershed are determined by the topography of the landscape. Mountains or ridges are the natural dividers of watersheds.

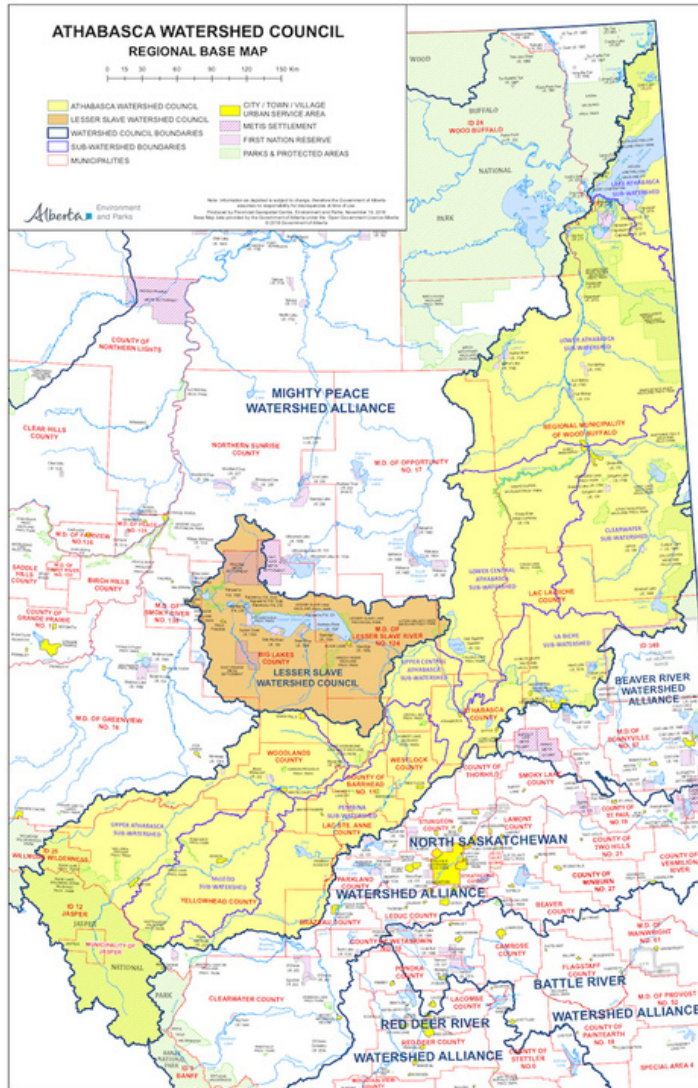
A watershed has its beginning in an area known as its “headwaters”. This is the first source of water for the watershed’s largest river. Often, the headwaters are a lake or a glacier.

Water is everywhere. It’s in lakes, sloughs, and puddles. It’s in rivers, creeks, streams, and underground aquifers. It comes from rain, snow, hail, and melting glaciers. All water flows downhill, and if that water eventually ends up in the Athabasca River, then it’s in our watershed.

The Athabasca River is 1,231 km long. It flows from the Columbia Icefield in Jasper National Park to Lake Athabasca. The Athabasca River watershed covers about 24% of Alberta (159,000 square km). Our watershed is diverse. It contains several distinct ecosystems, including alpine regions, parkland, and boreal forest. It is the site of many kinds of industrial activities, including agriculture, forestry, oil and gas, and others. It contains all or part of over 37 municipalities: from an urban centre of 70,000+ to multiple towns, hamlets, counties and 15 First Nation and Métis communities. It spans Treaty 6, Treaty 8 and Treaty 10 territories and is home to many Indigenous peoples.

To manage the water that we all depend on, we must effectively manage the land that we share. To do that, we must come together to understand the issues, challenges, opportunities, and blind spots. The Athabasca Watershed Council works to bring stakeholders, citizens, and Indigenous peoples together to effectively manage the Athabasca River watershed.

Athabasca Watershed Council



Our Vision

The Athabasca watershed is ecologically healthy, socially responsible, and economically sustainable.

Our Mission

The Athabasca Watershed Council demonstrates leadership and facilitates informed decision-making in the Athabasca watershed by bringing stakeholders and Indigenous peoples together to promote, foster respect, and plan for an ecologically healthy watershed that supports social responsibility and economic sustainability.

Who We Are

The Athabasca Watershed Council (AWC) is one of 11 provincial Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPAC) representing the major watersheds in Alberta. The AWC is a Canadian charitable organization, with a multi-stakeholder Board of Directors that, through consensus decision making, informs the overall management of the watershed. The AWC creates “State of the Watershed” reports and is currently finalizing the first draft of our Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). This IWMP will provide direction to watershed stakeholders and Indigenous partners on best management practices to ensure the following “Water for Life” goals: safe, secure drinking water; healthy aquatic ecosystems; and reliable quality and quantity of water for a sustainable economy.



December 2019

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March 2020

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15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Spring Begins	20	21 International Day of Forests
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June 2020

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<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Full Moon</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p>		<p>January 2021</p> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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Honourable Mentions

The other finalists in the online contest.



Water for Life Strategy

Water for Life Goals:

- safe, secure drinking water supply
- healthy aquatic ecosystems
- reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

These goals will be met through 3 key directions:

- knowledge and research
- partnerships
- water conservation

To learn more about the Water for Life Strategy, please visit:
<https://www.alberta.ca/water-for-life-strategy.aspx>

Life depends on water. In Alberta, our quality of life is tied to healthy and sustainable water supplies for the environment, for our communities, and for our economic well-being.

The Water for Life strategy outlines the Government of Alberta's commitments to manage and safeguard Alberta's water resources, now and in the future. The strategy has been the vehicle for managing Alberta's precious water resources since its release in 2003. Because it has been such an effective tool for managing Alberta's water resources, the Government of Alberta renewed the strategy and will implement a renewed action plan. The Water for Life renewal builds upon the good work already undertaken and reaffirms the Government of Alberta's commitment to the Water for Life approach for the wise management of Alberta's water quantity and quality for the benefit of all Albertans. In essence, we are making a good strategy better.

Water for Life goals and key directions will be achieved through the Water for Life action plan, which is designed to ensure achievable and timely outcomes that reflect growing pressures on our province's water supplies. Water is an essential resource that must be protected to ensure future growth and prosperity in Alberta.



January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December



awc-wpac.ca

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