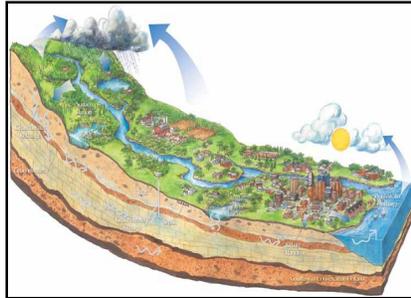


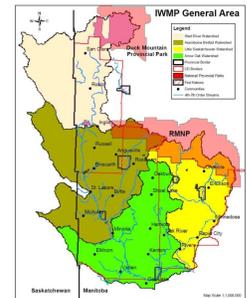


Assiniboine - Birdtail Integrated Watershed Management Plan



A watershed is defined as an area of land where all precipitation that falls will drain downhill to a common point such as a river or lake. This connectivity extends beyond the soil and water to include the plants and animals that depend upon these systems for life.

Since a watershed is defined by the influence of water, topography and soils it's a natural boundary; as opposed to municipal or provincial boundaries which are artificial, man-made lines on a map. Given that water crosses so many human boundaries, managing or planning for a watershed requires that landowners, municipalities, towns, businesses, and all other stakeholders work together on a watershed basis.



The Assiniboine – Bird tail watershed covers approximately 1.7 million acres and extends from the Riding Mountain National Park in the North to nearly the Trans-Canada Highway in the south. The northern portion of the watershed is characterized by the Boreal Forest ecosystem transitioning to the Aspen Parkland ecosystem in the South.

What is an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)?

- A roadmap to assist the watershed community in reaching its goals and objectives in regards to watershed health.
- Purpose of this plan - to clearly state the goals for the protection, conservation, restoration of land and water, aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources in the watershed.
- Intended to outline the specific actions that each organization and stakeholder have committed to implement in order to achieve these goals.
- Key Participants in the planning process:
 - Watershed residents,
 - Water Planning Authority which includes the Lake of the Prairies and Upper Assiniboine River Conservation Districts,
 - Watershed Planning Advisory Team
 - Project Management Team



To identify surface water management issues and implements sustainable water management strategies

Objectives:



- A) Identify surface water management issue by gathering local knowledge from watershed stakeholders
- B) Implement sustainable water management strategies that minimize negative impacts to the watershed and its stakeholders



To have surface water of a quality which does not limit human activity or impair ecological function

Objectives:

- A) Limit nutrient loading in the watershed
- B) Limit sediment loading in the watershed
- C) Increase awareness of all potential sources of pollution in the watershed



To achieve a balance between human and ecological interests by conserving and restoring natural features on the landscape

Objectives:

- A) Protect existing wetlands, riparian areas and other aquatic habitats while seeking areas for restoration efforts
- B) Protect existing native grasslands and provide information on sustainable management practices
- C) Protect existing forest cover while seeking areas for restoration efforts



To provide tools and knowledge to empower residents to safeguard all of our drinking water sources

Objectives:

- A) Identify and mitigate potential threats to public drinking water sources
- B) Identify and mitigate potential threats to semi-public drinking water sources
- C) Help owners of private wells ensure the safety of their drinking water sources



To increase knowledge and address data gaps to improve ground water quality and quantity

Objectives:

- A) Identify recharge and withdrawal areas and rates



For more information or to read the full report, please contact

- Lake of the Prairies Conservation District at 564-2388 or lpcd@mts.net
- Upper Assiniboine River Conservation District at 567-3554 or uarcd@mts.net