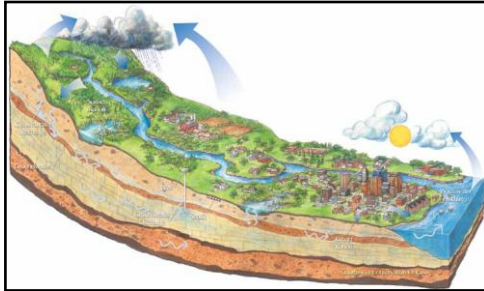


# Shell River- Integrated Watershed Management Plan

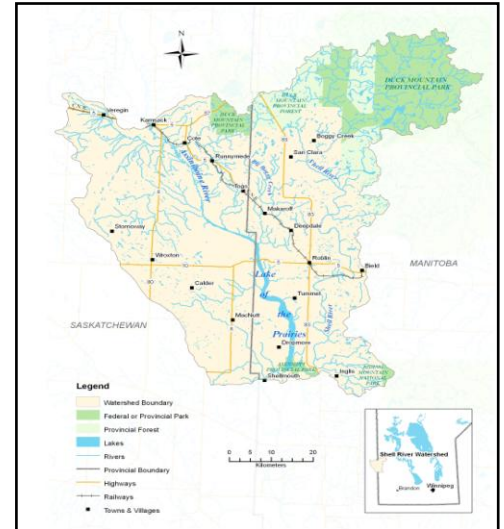
"To have in our watershed the best possible water for all people, the environment, and our economy."



A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common point. The land and water within a watershed are connected by a common stream or drainage system. This connectivity extends beyond the physical connection between a stream and a river, and extends to the plants and animals that depend upon these systems for life. Everyone living or

working within a watershed is part of this cohesive unit and needs to cooperate to maintain a healthy watershed.

The Shell River watershed straddles the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border in western Manitoba and encompasses portions of the Duck and Riding Mountains. The Manitoba portion of the watershed covers approximately 2996 km<sup>2</sup>. The Shell River Watershed forms part of the much larger Assiniboine River Basin, which has headwater that originates in Saskatchewan.



In 2006, the Lake of the Prairies Conservation District was designated the Water Planning Authority for the Shell River watershed as part of a larger initiative to complete watershed plans on the upper reaches of the Assiniboine River. A vision and six broad goals were developed to serve as a roadmap for the Lake of the Prairies Conservation District, government, and other partnering agencies in order to maintain and improve the health of our watershed.

## Source Water Protection

**Watershed Goal 1:** *To ensure Drinking Water and Ground Water Supplies are safeguarded now and into the future*

Objectives:

- 1A – Establish source water protection zones for public water source capture zones and develop a protection plan for each zone.
- 1B – Provide high priority to protection of wetlands and potential recharge areas within public source water protection zones.
- 1C – Provide information and services to owners of private wells within source water protection zones so they can take initiative to protect their own sources.
- 1D – Expand groundwater resource inventory.



## Surface Water Quality

**Watershed Goal 2:** *To maintain and improve surface water quality that ensures the health of aquatic ecosystems as well as the enjoyment and economic benefit of our communities*

Objectives:

- 2A – Mitigate impacts on water quality by reducing pollutant runoff from urban, household and municipal activities



- 2B – Mitigate impacts on water quality limiting excess nutrient runoff from agricultural lands
- 2C – Protecting and restore wetland and riparian habitat

## Surface Water Management

**Watershed Goal 3:** *Promote and support responsible surface water management to reduce soil erosion and flooding and protect natural wetland habitat*

Objectives:

- 3A – Provide technical support in drainage works for assisting with drainage problems, on a case-by-case basis.
- 3B – Protect natural surface water features such as wetlands which buffer against flood and drought occurrences
- 3C – Investigate structural water retention opportunities for capturing sediment, reducing soil erosion and maintaining stream base flow
- 3D – Communicate monitored reservoir levels and resulting management practices on Lake of the Prairies to local stakeholders



## Watershed Extension

**Watershed Goal 4:** *Engage watershed residents by providing watershed health information and educational activities that promote opportunities for action*

Objectives:

- 4A – Host a banquet annually to feature events and accomplishments by the community and LPCD
- 4B – Publish a watershed health report card to communicate watershed health to residents
- 4C – Develop evaluation criteria to assess partnerships, projects, educational events, and watershed awareness
- 4D – Partner with watershed organizations to communicate the inventory of natural areas including wetlands, riparian habitat, and native grass prairie



## Sustainable Development

**Watershed Goal 5:** *Encourage and support sustainable land use planning efforts within the watershed*



Objectives:

- 5A – Use responsible planning and geographic information systems to protect natural habitat and ecologically sensitive sites
- 5B – Enhance sustainable land use development and tourism strategies by communication ecologically significant places and responsible planning
- 5C – Promote the economic benefits of maintaining intact native habitat

## Liaison Activities

**Watershed Goal 6:** *Maintain communications with watershed managers upstream to encourage cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries*

Objectives:

- 6A – Investigate opportunities for information sharing with watershed organizations upstream
- 6B – Identify areas of similarity between partnering watershed organizations and work towards continuity and collective cooperation in overall watershed protection

