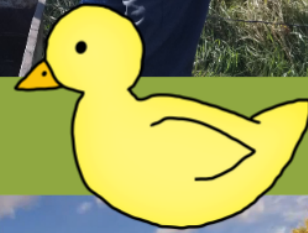




**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**



## OTIS Awards

In 2012, BRWA launched an award program to formally recognize those in the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds who are **Outstanding In Stewardship (OTIS)**. This is an opportunity for watershed residents to look in their community and celebrate those who are implementing measures to care for the land, water, and wildlife. Please nominate an individual, agricultural initiative, business or organization, young person or youth group. The nomination deadline is February 29.

[Program Guidelines](#) | [Nominate your Local 2023 Stewardship Hero](#)

## Workshops & Events



### February 16th - 19th, Great Backyard Bird Count

Help scientists by spending 15 minutes a day outside counting all the birds you see and hear.

To learn how to participate, [register](#) for a webinar on February 13th or visit [here](#).

For other stewardship events, see below.

## In the Classroom

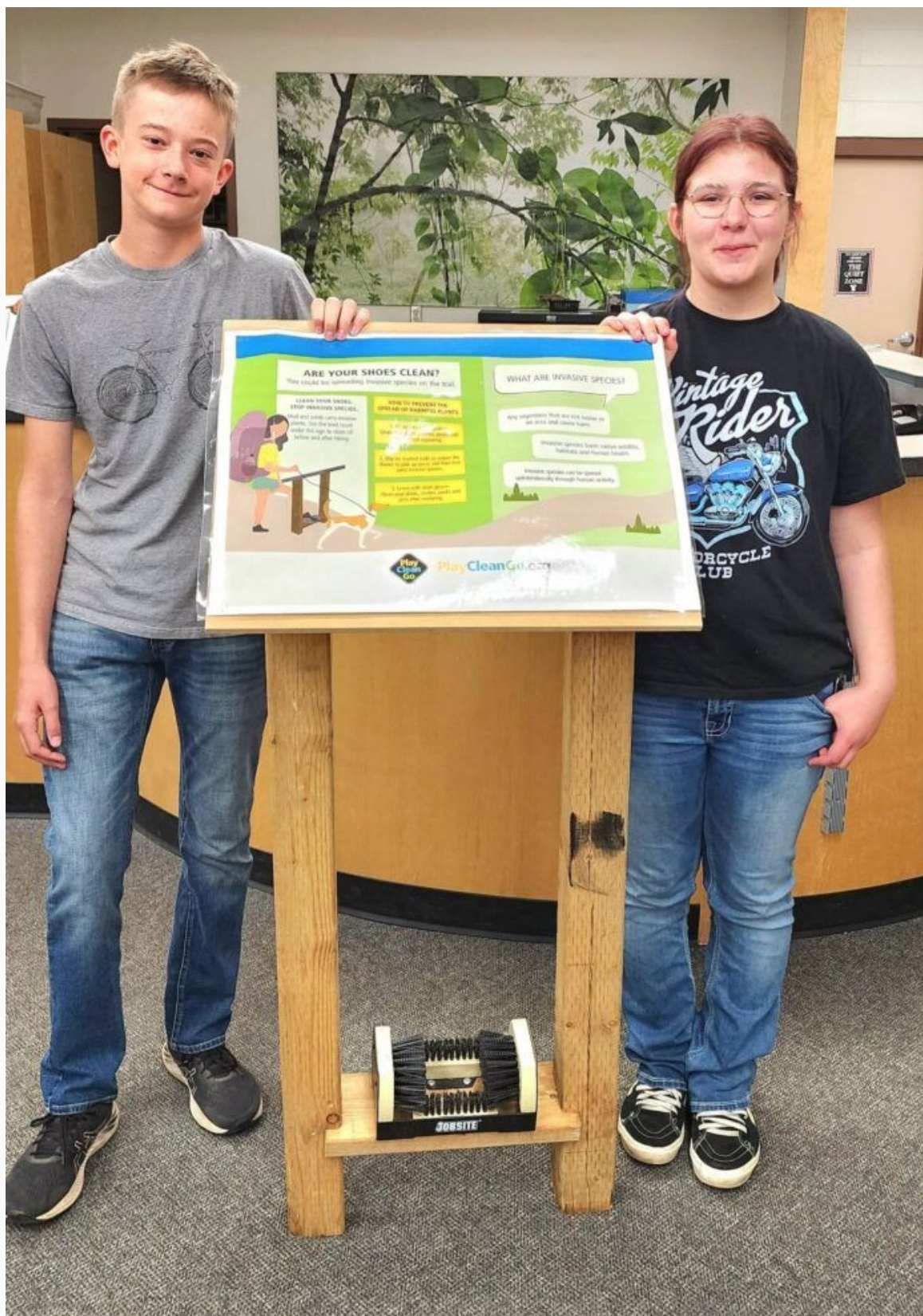


We are now booking for our Habitat Tour for Grade 6 at Big Knife Provincial Park! After a successful pilot in fall 2023, we are accepting bookings for the spring. Our other school programs are FULLY booked for the spring. We will release available fall dates in the spring.

[Read the Blog](#)

[Book a Habitat Tour \(Grade 6\)](#)





Did you know, Caring for our Watersheds Alberta started in the Battle River Watershed ([learn more here](#))! Organizers were so amazed by students' ideas on how to improve their watershed that they partnered with Nutrien to keep the program going. The contest has since expanded into Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ohio, Colorado, California, Chesapeake Bay and Argentina. The real power of this program is helping students implement their projects. Here are five of the projects implemented by students in 2023. Deadline for Proposals: **March 12, 2024**

[Read the Blog](#)

## Water Matters

### New Drought Advisory Committee for Alberta

In a news release from the Government of Alberta Paul McLauchlin, Reeve of Ponoka County and president of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta has been named as a member of the new Alberta Water Advisory Committee.

[Announcement](#)



### Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought

A second regional drought workshop for central Alberta, hosted on January 26th by Battle River Watershed Alliance, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, and Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, was a great success. Representatives from the Government of Alberta, various sectors, and municipalities attended to share ideas and resources on how to plan for drought. Municipalities and other groups can contact BRWA to set up additional drought planning workshops or engagement sessions.

[Press Release](#) | [Contact Us](#)

### Resources for Agriculture Producers

- [ALUS Program](#)
- [AgKnow Alberta Farm Mental Health Network](#)
- [Alberta Environmental Public Health Information Network](#)
- [Groundwater Observation Well Network](#)
- [Government of Alberta](#)
- [Sustainable CAP Water Program](#)
- [Temporary Livestock Water Assistance](#)
- [Working Well Workshops \(Leduc-Wetaskiwin County, Lacombe County, Beaver County\).](#)



## The Alliance



### Empowering watershed partners to take action and incorporate watershed findings into local policies, plans and programs

**State of the Watershed Engagement Project** - A series of online and in-person engagements with municipalities, Indigenous groups, and community partners are planned to share information about the *Health in the Watershed Atlas*, BRWA's new state of the watershed report. We want to have conversations with watershed community members to enhance our understanding of the current state of the watershed and explore ways that we can all support the health of ecosystems, people, and communities across the region. BRWA will be connecting with a range of watershed partners in the coming months, and will also be releasing an online survey to hear from the broader watershed community. Stay tuned for more information on how you can be involved!

#### [State of the Watershed](#)

**Planning Project** - BRWA is collaborating with municipalities, the Maskwacis Cree Nations, and the Métis Nation of Alberta to investigate opportunities to align land use policy and programs with watershed management recommendations. The project is intended to improve awareness about how communities are currently implementing watershed management recommendations in land use planning and identify opportunities for communities to take further action to achieve watershed resilience and sustainability.

These projects have been made possible with the support of Camrose, Lacombe, and Flagstaff Counties and with funding from an Alberta Community Partnership Grant.

#### [Land Use Planning](#)

### In Other News

- [Agriculture drought assistance: Minister Sigurdson](#)
- [Alberta is already preparing for a possible drought this spring](#)
- [Dry Ponds: A simple, yet innovative approach to flood mitigation](#)
- [This pristine Canadian river has legal personhood, a new approach to conserving nature](#)

\*Many of the articles we feature have been shared through the [Alberta Water Portal Society](#). If you are interested in water-related issues in Alberta, we encourage you to subscribe.

## Partner Events

- Environment Farm Plan Workshop available February 15, 2024 in Castor. [Register](#)
- Bee a Part of Something: Citizen Science and Pollinators Webinar February 15, 2024. [Register](#)
- Methylmercury production and export in permafrost peatland catchments of the Taiga Plains Webinar on February 15, 2024. [Register](#)
- Attend a [Kids Can Catch Event](#) on February 17, 2024 in Pigeon Lake
- [Invasive Species Awareness Week](#) events from February 26 - March 1, 2024.
- Shelterbelt Workshop on March 28, 2024 at Youngstown School Greenhouse. [Register](#)
- Working Well Workshops in February and March at various locations. [Register](#)

## Riparian Restoration and Conservation Funding Available!

Contact BRWA about funding for riparian projects, including riparian fencing, installation of livestock watering systems, native vegetation planting, and more.

[Program Guidelines](#) | [Application Form](#)



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