



Annual Paddle Day

July 18, 2024 - BRWA staff, members and friends enjoyed a great day on the water! The paddle was just outside of the town of Castor on Castor Creek where the group enjoyed the views of exposed cliffsides and grasslands. Special thanks to BRWA Board Member Greg Smith for sharing his geological expertise on the trip! This is a great paddle for families. Check out our newest Paddle the Battle Guide for Castor Creek. Happy paddling!

[Castor Creek Paddle Guide](#) | [Paddle the Battle Guide Series](#)



Truth and Reconciliation

September 30 is Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This date acknowledges the history of residential schools in Canada and honours the children who never returned home, Survivors, their families, and the communities

that experience ongoing intergenerational trauma. Understanding our shared history is an important foundation from which to work towards a better future in which Indigenous cultures can thrive.

[94 Calls to Action](#) | [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#)

Water Matters



Drought Outlook and Moisture Situation Update

Much of the Battle River watershed is still experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions, as reported by the Canadian Drought Outlook. The Government of Alberta's *Agricultural Moisture Situation Update* for August 20, 2024 indicates that substantial precipitation is needed this fall and winter across much of the Central region to help pasture lands, soil moisture reserves, native vegetation and the overall landscape recover from several years without long wet spells or successive wet years.

[Canadian Drought Outlook](#) | [Moisture Situation Update](#)

Alberta Drought Response Plan Update

On August 14, 2024, the Government of Alberta released an updated Drought Response Plan. The updates will allow for more targeted and localised responses to drought in communities. The plan assigns each region a ranking from Stage 0 to Stage 5 that reflects moisture levels. As of August 30th, there were 33 water shortage advisories across the province.

[Alberta Drought Response Plan](#) | [Alberta Drought Map](#)



Water Canada Awards - Riparian Web Portal

The Riparian Web Portal was a finalist at the 2024 Water Canada Awards. Maintaining healthy riparian areas is an important measure to protect water quality. We are excited to see this awesome project get the recognition it deserves. Congratulations to all the [2024 Water Canada Awards winners](#) and finalists!

[Riparian Web Portal](#) | [BRWA's Riparian Projects](#)

In the Classroom



Youth Education Program Bookings for Spring 2025

BRWA education programming is now fully booked for this fall (with the exception of Caring for Our Watersheds presentations). We still have availability for all of our science-based programs and presentations in spring 2025 for Grades 4 to 12. Each program aligns with curriculum goals and is delivered as a field trip guided by BRWA staff. There is no charge for the programs, and busing costs for schools may be covered. Groups of homeschool students are also eligible for these programs.

- Waste in our Watershed Tour in Camrose and Wetaskiwin (Grade 4)
- Habitat Tour (Grade 6)
- X-Stream Science (Grade 7-12)
- Caring for Our Watersheds Contest Presentation (Grade 7-12)

[About the Youth Programs](#) | [Sign Up for a Field Trip or Presentation](#)

Grade 5 Curriculum Changes

With the changes to the Alberta Grade 5 Curriculum, BRWA is looking for Grade 5 teachers to fill out a survey on what kind of programming they would like based on the new curriculum.

[Fill Out the Survey](#)

The Alliance



Celebrating the Summer Team

This summer, BRWA was fortunate to have Kiara Abma and Belle Dodds join our team. The two summer staff led our outreach programming. We loved their enthusiasm, energy, and great passion for wildlife and the watershed. They were always ready to share their knowledge with a smile. Together with the rest of the BRWA staff, their work engaged kids and adults from across the watershed. We wish Belle all the best as she finishes her final year at Augustana and are thrilled she will be our new youth representative on the BRWA Land & Water Committee. We are also excited to announce that Kiara will be staying on at BRWA in her role as Environmental Program Coordinator. Thank you Belle and Kiara!





Collaborating with Local Governments

As a Watershed Planning and Advisory Council, BRWA has a role to collaborate with stakeholders across the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds to achieve the goals of *Water for Life*. We are very fortunate to have support from local governments in the form of representation on our Board and Land & Water Committee, funding that supports our watershed education, management and stewardship programs, and local connections to help us share information that supports stewardship of the land and water. We also appreciate opportunities to participate in partner events and share our knowledge and expertise.

Our Shared Goals:

- Safe, secure drinking water
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

[Water for Life](#)

Summer Statistics



Spring and summer are some of our favourite times to get outside, connect with community stewards, and experience the land, water and wildlife in the watershed. Thanks to all the folks who are caring for our watersheds!

Workshops & Events

Connecting People and Science: Diverse Applications of Citizen Science Worldwide
Date: Sept. 25th

CONNECTING PEOPLE & SCIENCE
Citizen Science Webinar with Prof. Muki Haklay
Hosted by: CitSci Alberta Community of Practice citscialberta.com



Diverse Applications of Citizen Science Worldwide Webinar

CitSci Alberta is hosting a webinar with Muki Haklay about the landscape of citizen science in Europe and growing the use of it through the European Citizen Science Academy.

REGISTER FOR THE WEBINARS & WORKSHOP



SEPT 25
12-1:30 PM (MDT)

ONLINE WEBINAR

SPONSORED BY



Time: 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Location: Webinar

About the Event: Prof. Muki Haklay will share an overview of citizen science in Europe, also highlighting the opportunity for learning in the European Citizen Science Academy that Prof. Haklay is a part of running from the Learning Planet Institute in Paris. [Register](#)



Bird Count at Wavy Lake

Date: October 8th

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: Wavy Lake

About the Event: BRWA staff are looking for people to join them at Wavy Lake to conduct a bird count. We welcome the public to join us for a day of monitoring different bird species! We will have binoculars for participants. Please email stewardship@battleriverwatershed.ca

[For more BRWA events check out our events page regularly!](#)

In Other News

- [Protecting Animals from Wildfire Smoke](#)
- [Drought, low flow, affecting Battle River water quality](#)
- [Our tires shed toxins that kill fish. Here's a partial fix.](#)
- [These bodies of water in Alberta are under a blue-green algae advisory.](#)

*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

CONNECTING PEOPLE & SCIENCE

Citizen Science Webinars & Workshop

Hosted by: CitSci Alberta Community of Practice | citscialberta.com

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

12-1:30 PM (MDT)

Diverse Applications of Citizen Science Worldwide **Sept. 25**

The Value of Engaging Volunteers **Oct. 2**

Innovation: Transformative Tools **Oct. 9**

Placed-Based Partnerships **Oct. 23**

SPONSORED BY



WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 30
IN-PERSON, EDMONTON AB

**Citizen Science & Policy:
Monitoring to Drive Change**



REGISTER TODAY



Riparian Restoration and Conservation Funding Available!

Contact BRWA about funding for riparian projects, including riparian fencing, livestock watering systems, native vegetation planting, and more. Limited funding still available.

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



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