



Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society  
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## Input to the Sylvan Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan 2018

### Proposed Stewardship Standards

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## Goals

The goal of stewardship standards is to define the outcome, scope, and practices required to monitor, protect, conserve and report on natural and public and private property assets within the Sylvan Lake watershed.

## Scope

Stewardship standards specify best practices for land use, water balance, water quality, municipal management and community culture that will prevent adverse changes within the Sylvan Lake watershed with potential to cause harm to people and the environment.

## State of the Sylvan Lake Environment

A consolidated record, and baseline assessment of, the status of land use, surface water and groundwater within the defined watershed boundary will be created using Geographic Information System technology and maintained annually by each municipality.

Environmental, Economic and Social indicators will capture the state of the watershed and be used to audit and publicly report on the condition of the watershed and on changes that occur over time. A set of indicators will be used to measure performance improvements in each of these categories.

## Land Use

A common set of guidelines for use and development of private and public land will be adopted by municipalities. The impact of population expansion and land use footprint changes on the watershed water balance and water quality will be assessed before municipal approval is granted to proceed. The IDP 2018 will designate and fund an agency to report annually on municipal changes.

## Natural Runoff Inventory and Control

Agricultural and forested land in Lacombe and Red Deer Counties outside the boundaries of the Town of Sylvan Lake and Summer Villages will be evaluated, designated and mapped as diffuse and point sources for potential release of plant nutrients and dissolved and suspended contaminants into Sylvan Lake by natural tributaries, roadside ditches and other flow pathways.

Municipal action will be taken to ensure that the cumulative effect of surface water runoff with compositions that exceed Alberta Surface Water Guidelines do not exceed Sylvan Lake nutrient loading limits approved by Alberta Environment and Parks. Stream flowrates and water quality will be monitored to ensure compliance with the goal.

Other sources of surface and groundwater that discharge into Sylvan Lake from all remaining public and private land within the watershed will be identified. Water quantity and quality of those sources will be measured and the potential for cumulative nutrient impact and contamination assessed.

## Toxic Spills

Transportation corridors will be assessed to evaluate the probability and consequences of spills with potential to enter Sylvan Lake by surface and subsurface pathways. Accountability for emergency response action plans will be designated in IDP2018.

## Community Responsibility

Property owners, residents or transient visitors to the watershed will be expected to contain and control contaminants that might damage water quality. Responsible management of land and water by all those who are residents in or guests of the watershed will be ensured by providing risk management information and public education, explaining the roles of individuals, and cooperation with regulatory and compliance agencies.

## Public Consultation and Stewardship Accountability

A formal commitment by each elected government within the Sylvan Lake watershed to a set of guiding principles will be renewed annually and signed by the designated accountable municipal officer.

Municipal governments will be the lead agencies to listen, engage and work with the watershed population to understand and address their watershed concerns and expectations about environmental, economic and social matters. An independent board of experts in watershed stewardship will receive, assess, audit, verify and certify that goals have been achieved. The stewardship board will have the mandate to recommend action on municipal performance on the state of the watershed affairs through agreed codes, guidelines and best practice checklists. The independent stewardship board will have responsibility to advise the watershed community about the status and successful completion of, and compliance with, annually approved action plans.