

**Abstract Submission for 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference**

Title of Presentation:

Collaborative Partnerships: Manitoba, North Dakota and Minnesota on the Red River Centre for  
Watershed Education

Category: Community Engagement

Presenter:

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## Abstract

The Red River Basin River Watch Monitoring Program began in Minnesota in 1995. Today, the program is being implemented in North Dakota and Manitoba through a partnership between the MN Pollution Control Agency, the ND Department of Health, the Red River Watershed Management Board and Oak Hammock Marsh. The basin wide program provides hands-on "real world" science opportunities for students, teachers and citizens participating in the program and is designed to provide leadership experiences and greater awareness and understanding of baseline water quality in the Red River Basin.

There are currently 34 schools participating basin wide in the River Watch Monitoring Program (27 in Minnesota, 7 in North Dakota and 3 in Manitoba).

Water sampling is done on a regular basis; usually once a month throughout the open water season. During the winter period, River Watch Teams assemble data and prepare for their local River Watch Forums. River Watch Forums bring students, teachers and local organizations and resource managers together to hear student teams present the results from the monitoring season.

This presentation will highlight the collaboration between Manitoba, North Dakota and Minnesota to promote the health of the Red River Watershed. We will also discuss other programs Oak Hammock Marsh is working collaboratively with the Red River Centre for Watershed Education such as Red River and You Teacher Conference which looks at the cultural, Natural and Historical features of the basin with teachers from all 3 states/provinces.

### Biographical sketch:

Originally from Quebec, Nathalie Bays is the Education Co-ordinator at the award-winning Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre in Manitoba. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Resources and a Masters of Science in Renewable Resources from McGill University. At Oak Hammock, she helps develop and deliver educational programs to schools and public visitors of all ages. As the delivery co-ordinator for Riverwatch and Red River and You in Manitoba, she has been working collaboratively with the Red River Centre for Watershed Education to promote Red River Watershed Education to students and educators.