

# Natural Wetlands As Additional Wastewater Treatment For Phosphorus Removal In Lake Manitoba First Nation Community

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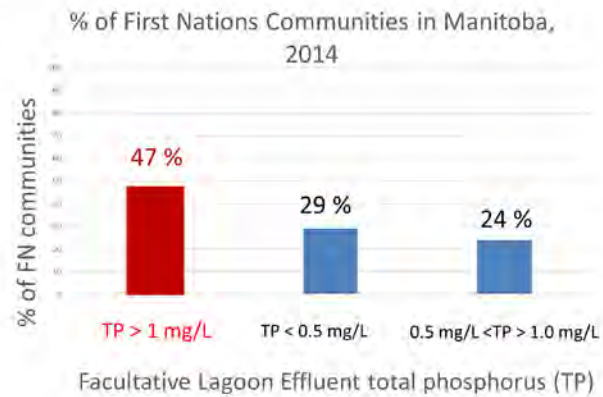
# Additional wastewater treatment for phosphorus removal – natural wetlands



Total  
Phosphorus  
(TP)

*The Water  
Protection Act*

**< 1 mg/L**



Data courtesy of INAC, 2015

| Location of natural wetland + lagoons         | Discharging period | Phosphorus reduction % |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| Riding Mountain National Park marsh, Manitoba | Seasonally         | 61 – 78 %              |
| The River Hebert marsh, NS                    | Bi -Weekly         | 90%                    |
| Houghton lake, MI                             | Seasonally         | 94%                    |
| Clermont, FL                                  | Weekly             | 94%                    |

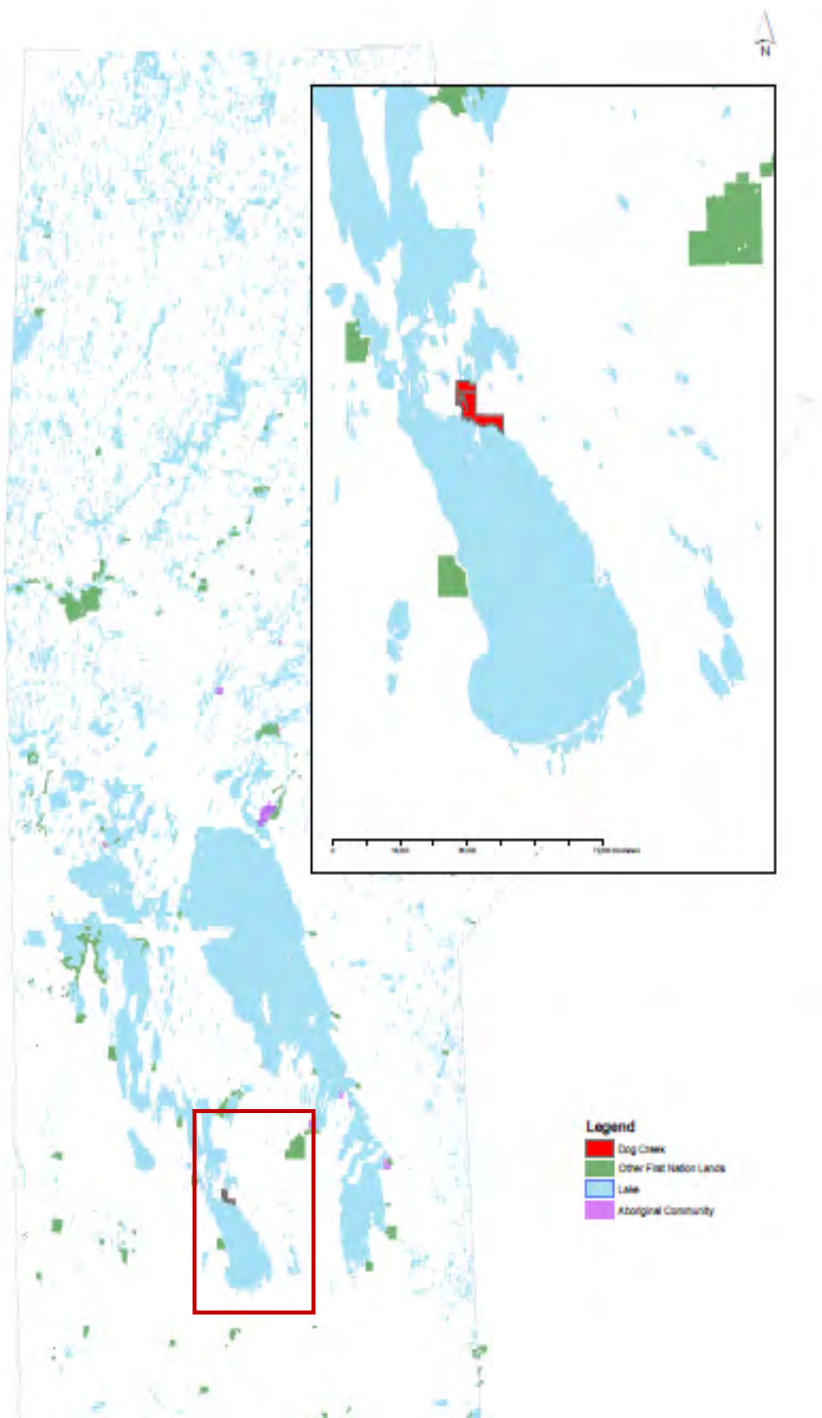
## Phosphorus Retention in wetlands

Sedimentation / peat accretion

Uptake by biomass for growth

Chemical sorption within wetland





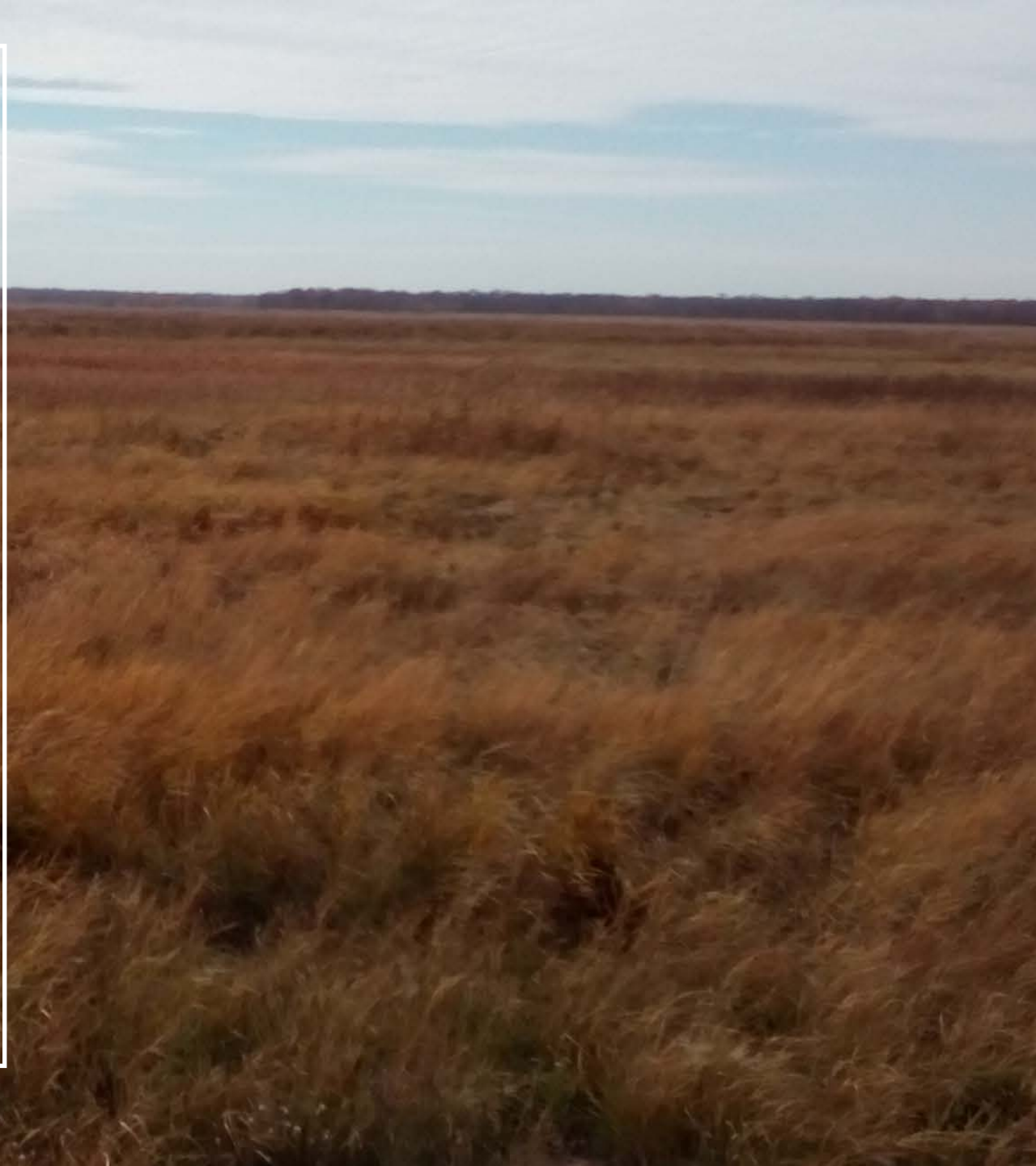
# Animo-ziibiing (Lake Manitoba) First Nation - Dog Creek 46 / Treaty 2, 1871

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- Situated at location in **marshy areas**, sitting on limestone/dolomite bedrock
- Population- 680 residents – wastewater - 2 cells **facultative lagoons** -1 primary cell / 1 secondary cell
- Designed in **1975** to serve school and teacher's residence facilities with **53 m<sup>3</sup>/day** influent flow
- Estimated today's flow **198 m<sup>3</sup>/day** due to septic tanks that are overloaded at several homes
- **Discharges lagoon effluent** in adjacent marsh wetland – seasonally, **once or twice per year**
  - 2014. July effluent TP = 2.05 mg/L
  - 2015. July effluent TP = 1.80 mg/L

# Research objectives

- Determine TP load from lagoon treated wastewater into wetland
- Determine TP reduction within wetland
- Estimate changes of TP content within soil depth in wetland before and after receiving treated wastewater during vegetation growth season



Wastewater Discharge in June, 2015

Discharge Flow =  $2823 \pm 197 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$

Volume =  $4376 \text{ m}^3$

Area = 1.3 ha

TP Load = 5 kg/day;  $0.62 \text{ g/m}^2/\text{yr}$

**June – October, 2015**

**TP Reduction Wetland = 78 %**

Natural  
wetland  
area

LAGOON DISCHARGE

WETLAND INFLOW

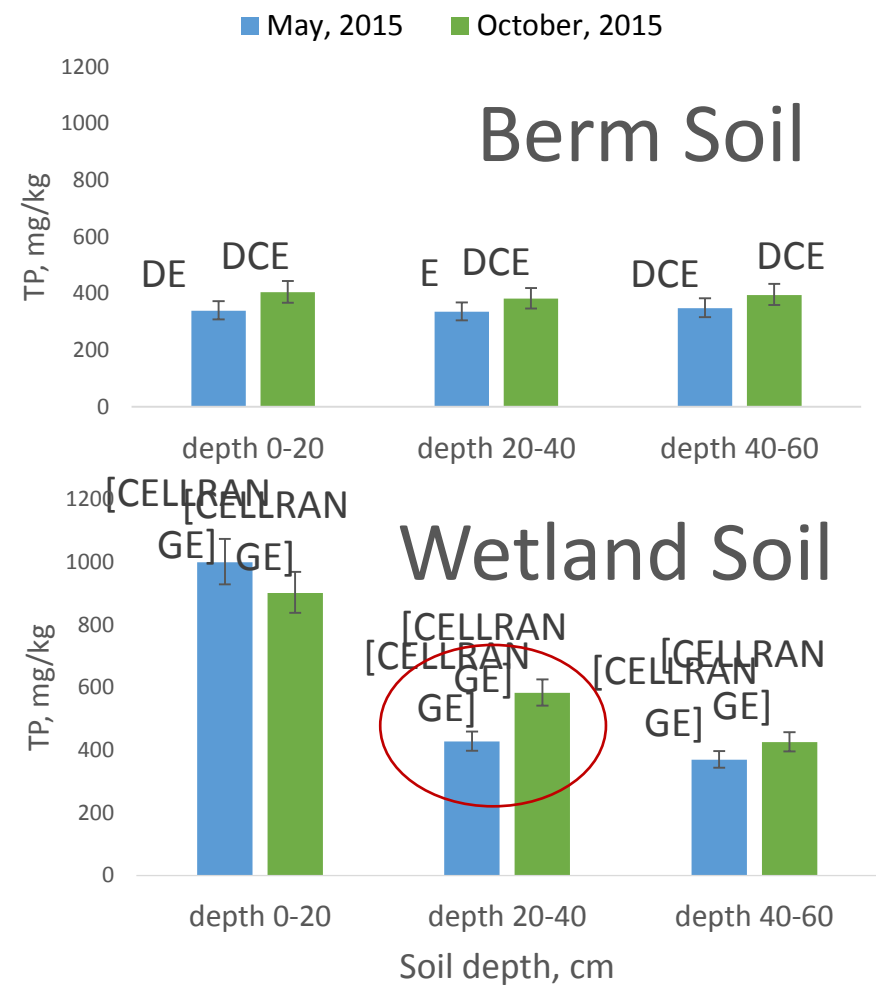
WETLAND OUTFLOW

Lake Manitoba First Nation community aerial image, April 2015

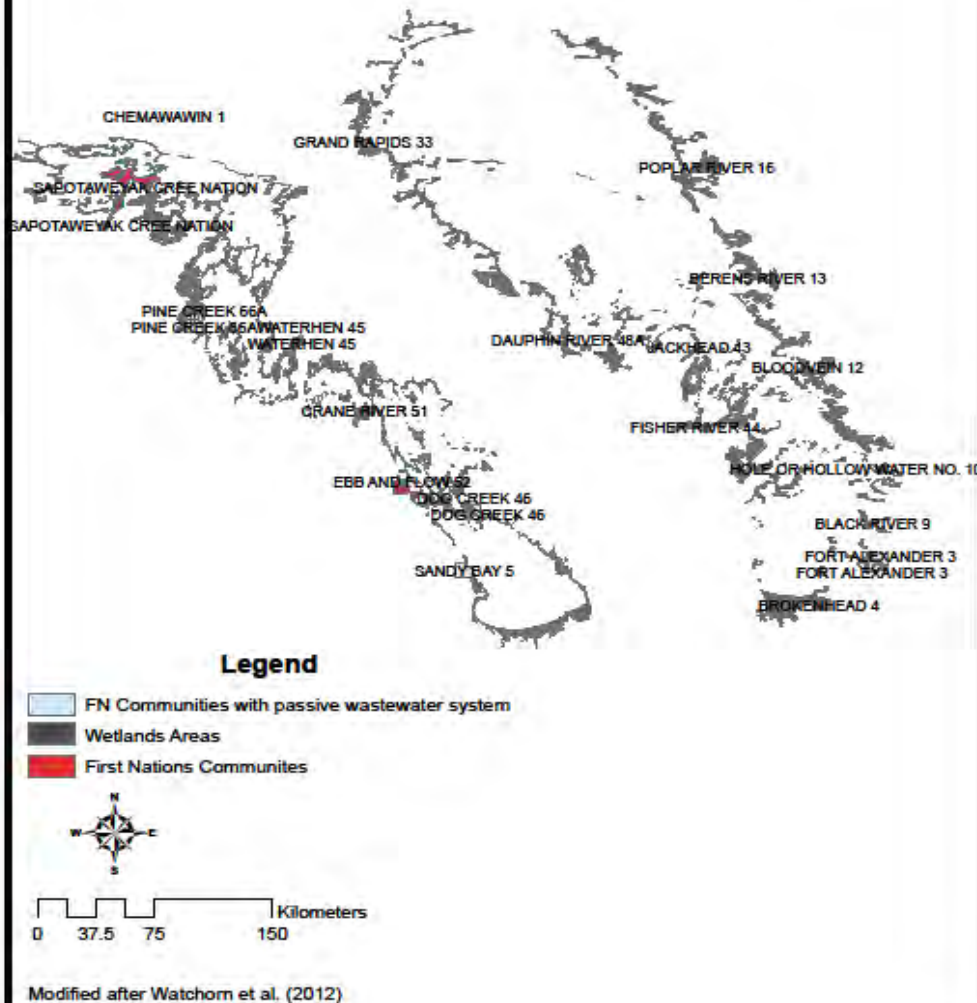




# Results: May – October TP changes in **SOIL SAMPLES** impacted by discharge of treated wastewater



## Manitoba's Great Lakes Wetlands and First Nations Communities



## Conclusions and Recommendation

- TP reduction (78 %) corroborates with other studies
- Accumulation of TP in soil depth of 20- 40 cm
- Wetland delineation in Manitoba's Great Lakes indicates 19 communities that may utilize ability of wetland to polish phosphorus levels from treated wastewaters in which 4 communities have already used passive wastewater treatment
- Harvest the vegetation during vegetation growth
- Continue to monitor wetlands TP inputs and outputs, include monitoring of precipitation, evapotranspiration and groundwater discharge recharge





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