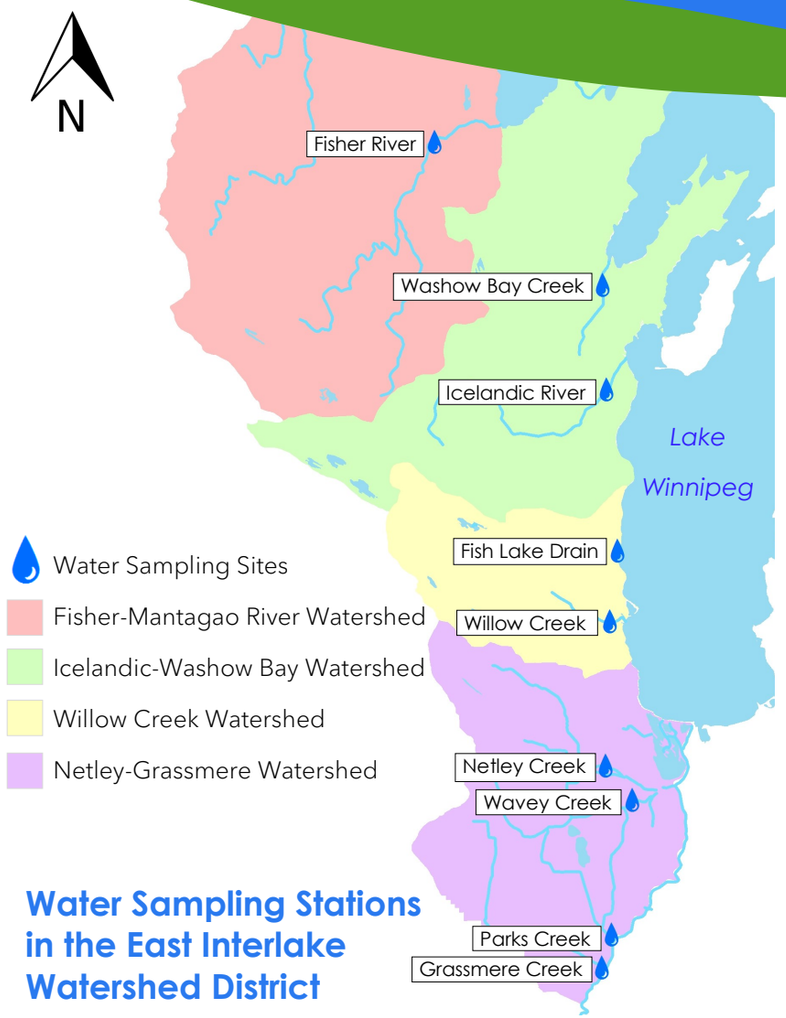
This report summarizes the results from thirteen years of surface water sampling conducted in the East Interlake Watershed District on nine waterways:

- Grassmere Creek
- Parks Creek
- Wavey Creek
- Netley Creek
- Fish Lake Drain
- Icelandic River
- Washow Bay Creek
- Fisher River
- Willow Creek



Water Sampling Stations in the East Interlake Watershed District

Next Steps:

The EIWD and its partners will continue to complete actions within the Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMP).

Sampling streams in the EIWD is an ongoing practice. The WQI will be continually updated to identify trends and determine if changes have occurred.

For more information on what you can do to help, or to see more detailed water quality data, go to www.eiwd.ca or call (204) 642-7578.

eiwd

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Please follow us on social media to stay up to date!

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WATER QUALITY INDEX SCORES
FOR WATERWAYS IN THE
EAST INTERLAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

2007-2019

Surface Water Quality 13 Year Report

Objective:

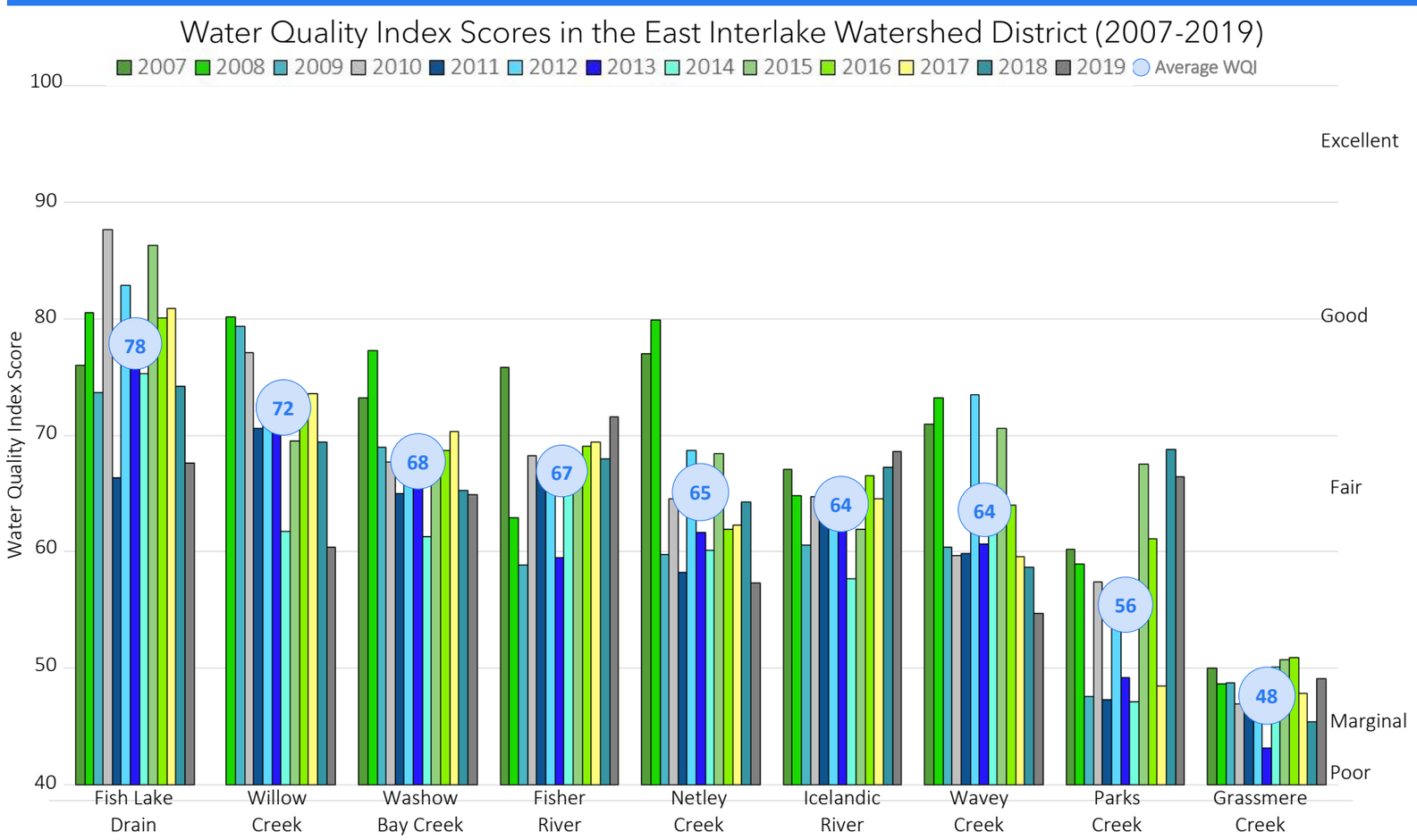
To assess the health of the streams in the EIWD. This information can be used as a tool for continued watershed management and water quality improvements.

Monitoring water quality provides essential data and knowledge to:

- evaluate the condition and functions of the aquatic ecosystems
- evaluate the influence and impacts of human activities
- identify waterways that need improvement
- support the development of water policies and management practices

About the Water Quality Index (WQI):

- Water quality data contains many variables that are complicated to analyze. The WQI mathematically combines all variables to provide a general and easily understood description of water quality.
- Water quality objectives are considered to asses water quality relative to its desirable state.
- The index can be used to reflect the overall and ongoing condition of the water, however, the index may not show the effect of random and transient events (such as spills).



*Willow Creek was not sampled in 2007.

Note: The WQI only reflects the relative health of waterways within the EIWD and may not be directly comparable to other indices.

Summary and Interpretation of the graph:

- Waterways are displayed from best WQI score to worst (left-right).
- There is a large range of WQI scores across EIWD. In general, water quality can be described as very nutrient rich, slightly alkaline, very hard, turbid, and moderately well oxygenated.
- Grassmere and Parks Creek have the poorest water quality. They have much higher nutrient levels than other sites. These waterways have been highly channelized and run through heavily populated/developed areas.
- Some metals and ions (e.g. chloride) have been measured in Grassmere, Parks, Wavey, and Netley Creek at concentrations that could be harmful to aquatic life.
- Fish Lake Drain has the best water quality within the district. There are many wetlands, forests, and natural areas upstream of this sampling site.
- In general, the tributaries with the best WQIs are further north where there is less development and numerous healthy riparian areas.

What can we do?

- Protect wetlands and riparian zones. These habitats are natural filters for water.
- Homeowners should adopt responsible stewardship practices.
- Control soil erosion and implement nutrient management plans on agricultural land to reduce runoff.
- Improve current municipal and residential sewage treatment practices.
- Control livestock access to waterways by constructing fences and installing offsite watering systems.
- Apply fertilizers responsibly.
- Be involved and speak out!