

MEEWASIN CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

38th Annual Spring Clean-Up Campaign April 22 - May 30, 2019

Thank you for participating in this year's event!

Good luck and, most of all, have fun!

The following information sheets are included:

- Sponsorship Recognition
- Loraas Disposal Garbage Drop-off Locations
- "The Plastic Bag Conundrum" info sheet
- Waste and Environmental Resources
- Safety Information



MEEWASIN CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

Meewasin would like to thank the following sponsors:



The City of Saskatoon will collect any campaign garbage bags left over from cleaning any city park. The garbage bags must be left by the curb and Meewasin **must** be notified of their presence for pick up.



Loraas Disposal has generously supplied the use of their Disposal and Recycle bins which will be selectively located throughout the river valley during the campaign. See enclosed map for disposal locations.



This year's Clean-Up Campaign is in conjunction with Tim Horton's Pitch-In Week. They have generously supplied a portion of the bags utilized in the Clean-Up Campaign.



Meewasin was selected to receive a grant from The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail) for this year's Clean-Up Campaign, supporting activities to make the clean-up possible.



This year's Clean-Up Campaign is also in conjunction with Clean Canada Together. They have generously supplied Glad bags as a portion of the bags utilized in the Clean-Up Campaign.

Garbage Drop-off Locations

April 22 - May 30, 2019

1. Entrance to Meewasin Park North - Parking Lot

(North side of entrance, Spadina Cresc. E)

2. The Weir

(North side of CPR Bridge)

3. Meewasin Valley Authority

(402 Third Avenue South)

4. Rotary Park Parking Lot

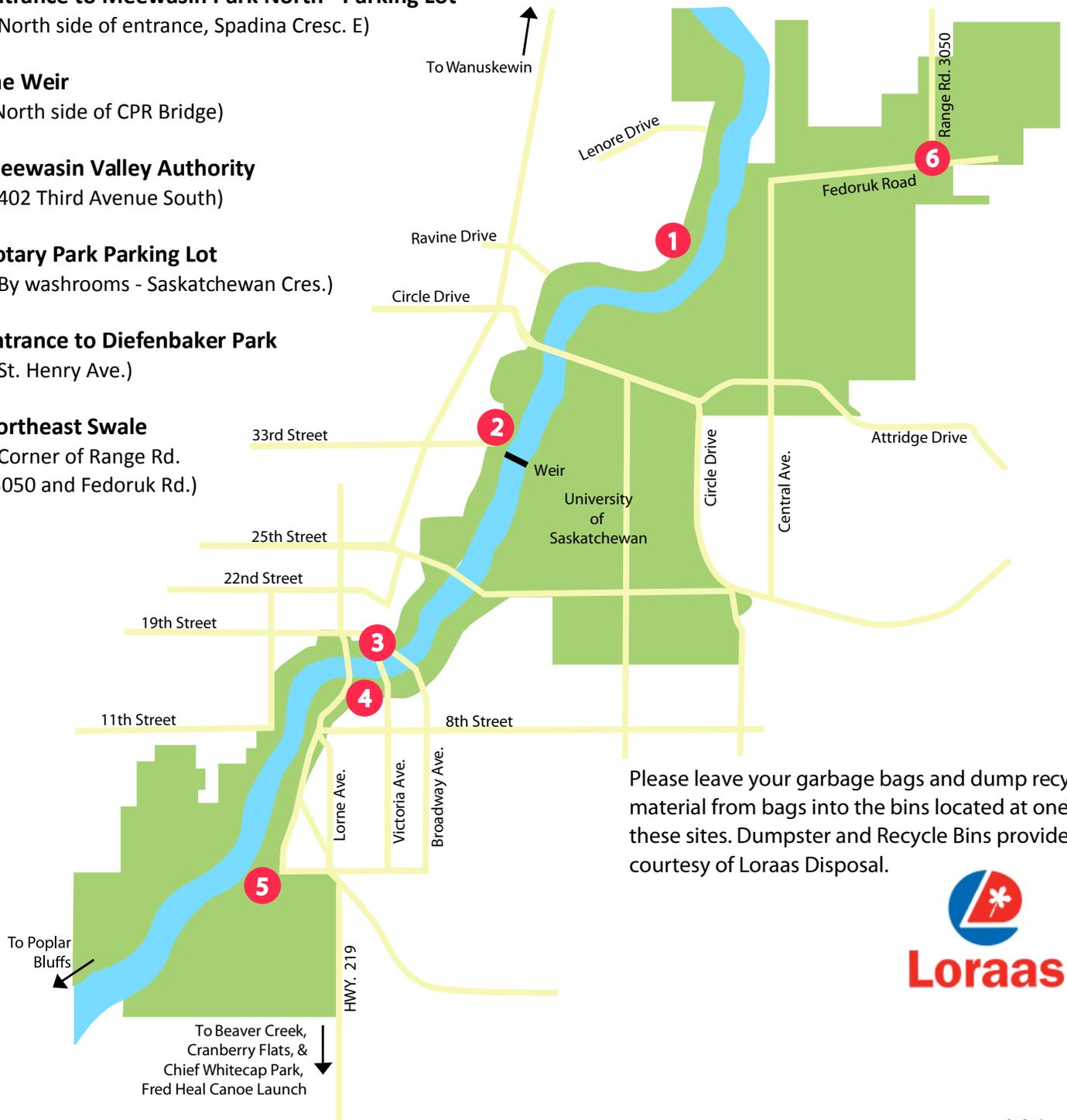
(By washrooms - Saskatchewan Cres.)

5. Entrance to Diefenbaker Park

(St. Henry Ave.)

6. Northeast Swale

(Corner of Range Rd.
3050 and Fedoruk Rd.)



Please leave your garbage bags and dump recycling material from bags into the bins located at one of these sites. Dumpster and Recycle Bins provided courtesy of Loraas Disposal.



The Plastic Bag Conundrum

Welcome to another year of cleaning up Saskatoon! As a result of feedback from previous participants, there have been discussions around several possible solutions to help make the Meewasin Clean-Up Campaign more environmentally friendly. Meewasin representatives have discovered some interesting information, thanks to the City of Saskatoon and Loraas, when comparing using alternatives to the conventional plastic bag, and some of this information is listed below.

What are the alternatives to the plastic bag?

Paper Bags The making of paper can waste many thousands of gallons of water, as can the recycling of paper. The cost associated with paper bags is high and the paper bags are not as reliable and may tear should they become soggy.

Compostable Bags Compostable bags are only biodegradable if sent to a proper decomposing facility. These bags, if discarded on the side of the road as litter or sent to a traditional landfill, will not biodegrade because they lack the proper conditions. A special organic composting facility is required for compostable bags to decompose.

****Biodegradable Bags** The term “biodegradable” is often misused and misunderstood because everything biodegrades given enough time. To be considered biodegradable, the decomposed remnants must be ingested by bacteria and micro organisms. These complete a process that produces CO₂ and H₂O. These bags also require special handling facilities similar to compostable bags.

Degradable Bags

Degradable bags use a technology that accelerates the degradation process of polyethylene bags. These bags use additives that make the bags turn brittle so that they fragment in about 18 months. Within 30 - 36 months, depending on the amount of oxygen and heat, degradable bags decompose into very small fragments of polyethylene powder - a kind of "polymer sand" product that has not yet been scientifically proven to fully break down. The question is still open then as to whether these bags actually biodegrade or simply fragment. The end result is that there is still the same amount of waste as a conventional plastic bag, just in a different form.

Through the research completed it would appear that the conventional plastic bags are, by comparison, still the current way to go. A representative from the City of Saskatoon - Environmental Services department also confirmed that the Saskatoon landfill is designed to accommodate plastic bags, and is not currently set up to accommodate the alternative biodegradable bags.

Although plastic bags may not appear to be the most environmental choice, here are some things to consider trying in order to reduce the impact and use of these bags.

- After cleaning up your specific area, you can dump the contents out of the smaller bags into the large bags. Then recycle the smaller used bags.
- We also encourage participants to sort garbage that can be recycled and separate it from garbage that cannot be recycled.
- If the waste is in your neighbourhood, do some research and see if you can start a composting program.

Meewasin encourages everyone involved in the Clean-Up Campaign to discuss and debate these issues with their friends, colleagues and students. If you have any ideas on how to make this Clean-Up Campaign more environmentally friendly, please feel free to contact Meewasin at:

meewasin.com • meewasin@meewasin.com

Waste & Environmental Resources - Local & Online

City of Saskatoon Waste Recycling Information:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/waste-recycling/recycling>

Loraas Recycling

<http://www.loraas.ca/recycle/>

Loraas Community Relations

For tours of the recycling facilities, or to book a waste diversion education program for groups ages Grade 4 and up, classroom visits, or school assemblies, please contact tours@loraas.ca

Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council

<http://www.saskwastereduction.ca>

Environment Canada Events Page

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/sce-cew/>

Click on the Youth Zone tab for more activities and ideas.

Earth Day Canada's Teachers & Kids Website

<http://www.ecokids.ca>

Activities and games for kids to enjoy. This website also has many lesson plans and classroom activities for teachers to use.

Earth Day Canada's Website

<http://www.earthday.ca>

Learn all about Earth Day and why it is important. Find activities and information about how you can do your part for the environment all year round.

PITCH-IN Canada

<https://pitch-in.ca/>

Safety Information

Needle Safety Information

Discarded hypodermic needles have become a growing concern in Saskatoon. Too often they are found in parks, near playgrounds, and schools. The fear is that someone could be accidentally stuck by a needle infected with HIV, AIDS or Hepatitis. In 1998, Saskatoon Fire Department and Public Health Services Saskatoon jointly launched a needle pick-up program.

If you find a needle, follow the steps below for safe pick up and disposal:

- Do not recap the needle.
- Wear garden, work or medical gloves.
- Use tweezers, pliers or tongs to pick up by the end that is not the sharp end. Keep away from your body.
- Place the needle, sharp end first, into a hard container that needles cannot poke through (e.g. liquid laundry detergent or bleach container).
- Fill a container no more than 3/4 full. If the container is too full, the needles may poke through the side.
- Put the container lid on tightly and tape it.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Store the container in a safe place away from children until you can dispose of it safely.
- Do not place needles in city garbage or recycling.
- Place in a needle drop box in your community. Call 306-655-4444 for needle drop box locations or view the Needle Safe Brochure.
- Call 306-655-4664 if you do not have these clean-up items.
- Ensure children understand they should never pick up needles. If they find a discarded needle, they should notify an adult immediately.

If you are not comfortable handling or disposing of the needle yourself, please call:

Saskatoon Fire Department - 306-975-3030 or

Public Health Services Saskatoon - 306-655-4444

If you suffer a needle stick injury: encourage bleeding immediately and place your hand under running tap water to flush out the wound. Do not suck on the wound even if water is not available. Take careful note of the characteristics of the needle and injury (size, type, depth of penetration). Do not recap the needle. Contact your doctor or hospital emergency department as soon as possible. Package the needle in a hard-surfaced, enclosed container and take it to the emergency department with you.