

# MEEWASIN EXPLORER

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## Residents help the Meewasin Valley "Stay Green"

### We knew the Meewasin Valley had friends... we just didn't know how many!

With the recent announcement that the provincial government (as a landowner partner) had to cut their funding in half, staff and volunteers have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of support from you, the Meewasin community. **And the support just keeps coming!**

Users of Meewasin river sites, Beaver Creek fans, trail users and Swale supporters are just a sampling of the many, many groups who have reached out to Meewasin in the past few weeks and months to offer their advice, their moral support and their financial support. It is obvious that the passion and innovative thinking that created Meewasin 38 years ago is alive and well today.

So you might wonder what Meewasin is doing to respond to all of the support and interest we are experiencing? And maybe you are interested in knowing if you can help too? Here's how!

1. **The Meewasin Valley need your advice!** Meewasin is exploring new ideas and projects to address needs in the Meewasin Valley. And besides hosting public consultations, we are asking our stakeholders (you) to let us know what you think of some of these ideas. Meewasin's Volunteer Fund Development Cabinet has launched the Meewasin Green Circle to both attract funding and to connect with Meewasin donors, users and supporters about how we are doing at monthly Green Circle events. These events will take a place at a variety of locations and with many groups of supporters over the next 24 months. If you would like to attend an event, host an event or have questions about our Green Circle, please contact Meewasin's Fund Development Manager at [donations@meewasin.com](mailto:donations@meewasin.com) or at 306-665-6887.
2. **The Meewasin Valley needs your financial support.** Meewasin needs ongoing support to help deliver on it's mandate to conserve the Meewasin Valley, to educate the public about it's natural heritage and to monitor the state of Meewasin sites and trails. If you would like to support one of these core mandate areas, you can join the Meewasin Green Circle, this new giving club allows you to make a gift of \$10,000 over up to 5 years with a monthly or annual contribution. Members receive special updates from our CEO, Lloyd Isaak and invitations to exclusive experiences in the Meewasin Valley. If you become a Green Circle member, you will be providing help that is essential to caring for the Meewasin Valley. You'll also allow us to attract funding from granting agencies and foundations which require matching funding. **Meewasin wants to attract 1000 members to the Green Circle in the next 3-5 years;**
3. **Share the good news ... about the Meewasin Valley!** You have much to be proud of as a community member, with the support you have given to the innovative Meewasin plan adopted almost 40 years ago. The plan to protect the Meewasin Valley, while supporting much needed responsible development for our urban community, is an investment of time and energy which will pay off for generations to come. **Good on you!**
4. **Volunteer for Meewasin.** Volunteers who love the Meewasin Valley are our lifeblood. Whether you want to count trail users (May 25 – May 30, contact Nola Stein [nstein@meewasin.com](mailto:nstein@meewasin.com)), help at the Saskatchewan Marathon (May 28, contact Kenton Lysack [klysack@meewasin.com](mailto:klysack@meewasin.com) or host a fund raising event for Meewasin (contact [VMooreWright@meewasin.com](mailto:VMooreWright@meewasin.com)), **we have a job for you.**

New volunteer opportunities come up regularly, so please call our office for more information at 306-665-6887.

**It always seems impossible, until it's done. – Nelson Mandela**



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**Meewasin** 

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN

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## Invasive Plant Spotlight – What do you have growing in your yard?

### Wildflower Seed Mixes

Wildflower seed mixes are created to easily germinate and flourish with minimal care containing a variety of annual, biennial and perennial species. These seed mixes may be targeted or labelled for bees, butterflies or birds in addition to the standard wildflower or meadow mixes. Locally sourced native seed mixes will be less likely to contain weeds or invasive species than commercial or generic mixes that could be sourced from all over the world. Commercial wildflower mixes often do not contain enough information on their package to correctly determine their content or may be inaccurately labelled. Such issues include using common names which change from region to region and may be difficult to determine which species it is or the use of the terms like natural, but not specifying which part of the world it is natural to. Studies have shown that some of the species that will germinate in these generic mixes are often even noxious weeds (ones that are legally designated as unwanted and must be controlled) like Yellow Toadflax, Dame's Rocket or Oxeye Daisy.

### Why is this an issue?

What we plant in our yard does not always stay there. Some ornamental species have invasive characteristics that may allow them to escape or spread through roots, seed dispersal (birds, animals, humans and wind) or intentional plantings. Sometimes these ornamental plants are so invasive that they end up on the noxious weeds list. Meewasin's sites are often in proximity to urban areas and this increases the risk of invasion by ornamental escapees. During routine site visits and monitoring, Meewasin often finds and takes GPS location data of these occurrences to help determine if the plant was intentionally planted, a new potential invasive, or part of a greater problem in the region.

Invasive species have been identified in the Meewasin Valley-wide Resource Management Plan as the single largest threat to the Meewasin Valley (Meewasin, 2017). These invasive species can outcompete native (local) species for resources and change the ecology of an ecosystem, such as reducing habitat for grassland birds. Invasive species can have detrimental effects on society, the economy and the environment through: negative impacts on biodiversity; species decline and extinction; soil degradation and erosion; alteration of fire cycles; disease; human or animal suffering; reduction of land and water recreational opportunities; significant control and management costs incurred; reduced productivity in forestry, agricultural, and fishing sectors; export and import trade restrictions; and reduction of property values (Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2016). In Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Agriculture's Weed Control Act and the Ministry of Environment's Fisheries Act and their associated regulations identify and list invasive species that are prohibited from entering the province, species identified for eradication and control, and requirements of municipalities and landowners to deal with noxious weeds.

### Grow Me Instead

Instead of planting wildflower mixes, opt for plants that are native to your region or plant seeds that have been certified to be weed free for your zone. When planting ornamental varieties, plant packages containing only one species that you are sure is not invasive and that have been certified to only contain that species.

Visit the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan for a list of native plant sources and recommendations: <https://www.npss.sk.ca/native-plant-sources>

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). (2016). Why are invasive species a problem? Retrieved July 2016 from <https://www.ec.gc.ca/eeeias/default.asp?lang=En&n=4612AC81-1>

International Union for Conservation of Nature (n.d.) Invasive Species. Retrieved June 14, 2016 from <http://www.iucn.org/theme/species/ourwork/invasive-species>

Meewasin (2017). Meewasin Valley-wide Resource Management Plan. Retrieved April 6, 2017 from [http://meewasin.com/assets/upload/resources/Meewasin%20Valley-Wide%20Resource%20Management%20Plan\\_March2017.pdf](http://meewasin.com/assets/upload/resources/Meewasin%20Valley-Wide%20Resource%20Management%20Plan_March2017.pdf)



### Help make Meewasin count!

#### Hang out on the Meewasin Trail this Spring!

You can volunteer and spend time on the beautiful Meewasin Trail this May. Sign up for one or more 2 hour shifts to help Meewasin with its trail count and survey of users. You will be contributing to Meewasin's data collection to inform future planning.

Each station needs two people per time slot, so grab a friend and sign up to help Meewasin! Easy sign up at: <http://signup.com/go/18XAb>

#### Training Sessions:

- Training Session #1- Saturday, May 13, 2017 - 12:00pm
- Training Session #2- Sunday, May 14, 2017 - 12:00pm

A one-hour training session is required. This is a short presentation with a brief question and answer period. Training sessions will be held in the Meewasin Valley Authority Boardroom (lower level 402 Third Avenue S)

#### Count & Survey Time Slots:

- 1st Count - Thursday, May 25, 2017 - 7:00am to 9:00am
- 2nd Count - Thursday, May 25, 2017 - 4:00pm to 6:00pm
- 3rd Count - Saturday, May 27, 2017 - 11:00am to 1:00pm
- 4th Count - Tuesday, May 30, 2017 - 7:00am to 9:00am
- 5th Count - Tuesday, May 30, 2017 - 4:00pm to 6:00pm

A free criminal record check form will be given to volunteers on training day, and must be completed at a local police station and submitted to Meewasin prior to your volunteer time(s).

Count Locations include: Kivans Park, Sutherland Beach, Children's Discovery Museum, River Landing, the West, University and much more along the Meewasin Trail

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Call 306-665-6887, visit <http://www.mvva.com/18XAb> or e-mail [mstein@meewasin.com](mailto:mstein@meewasin.com) for details.



### Meewasin Pelican Watch 2017

The Pelicans Have Landed  
**April 2, 2017 at 6:25 pm.**

2017 marks the 22nd year for the Meewasin Pelican Watch Contest. The winners will be announced at a later date. Thank you to all who participated, including the Saskatoon media, and businesses that have supported the contest with prizes. For more information visit our website [meewasin.com](http://meewasin.com).

### It's Springtime at Meewasin!

#### You are invited to the 2017 Plant-A-Tree Ceremony

The Meewasin Plant-A-Tree Program gives opportunity for the cycle of life to continue for generations to come. The 2017 Ceremony to celebrate recipients and program donors will be held on **Saturday, June 17, 2017**, at 1:00 p.m. in Boomtown at the Western Development Museum.

All are welcome to attend!

*Preserve your memories through Meewasin.*

*Sponsor a Tree, Shrub, Brick or Bench now to be dedicated in 2018.*

Find Meewasin on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter @meewasin

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OPEN 9:00 TO 5:00 WEEKDAYS - 9:00 TO 5:00 WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS

# BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S NATURAL HISTORY

## Beaver Creek Programming May and June

### Spring Sightings - May Weekends

Come out and enjoy the wonders of spring. Who is that honking by and what colour is a hare anyways? Discover what plants and animals are springing to life out at the Creek.

### Winged Wonders - June Weekends

Spend time outside discovering what winged beasts are out and about. Maybe your ears will delight in the song of a Yellow Warbler, or your eyes the glimpse of a Blue-Eyed Darter flitting by. Come out to look and listen as you go for a hike with an interpreter.



### Mother's Day - Sunday, May 14

Bring Mom out to enjoy a walk on the wild side. Discover what moms in the wild are up to at this time of year.

### Father's Day - Sunday, June 18

Come out and hike one or more of the nature trails with Dad. Enjoy discovering what animal dads are up to at Beaver Creek.

*Saturdays and Sundays  
Eye Spy Challenge  
Available at the front desk of the interpretive centre*



*Interested in making a group booking?  
Hour long nature programs available.  
Call 306-374-2474 for more information.*



## About Beaver Creek Conservation Area



Beaver Creek Conservation Area offers the general public and schools opportunities to discover the wonders of nature. Hands-on activities in the Interpretive Centre give children the opportunity to learn more about Saskatchewan's wildlife. Their experience is enhanced through creative play such as the puppet theatre and animal costumes. A selection of four nature trails are available year-round for all ages to enjoy.

## A Creek Forming A Valley; A Valley Forming Habitats

BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA - FOLLOW LORNE AVENUE SOUTH 13 KM ON HIGHWAY #219  
CHIP'S HOT LINE: 306-374-2474 FAX: 306-665-6117 E-MAIL: MEEWASIN@MEEWASIN.COM

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