

General

The MVA will acquire certain lands for the purposes of conservation or development when:

1. land is threatened by inappropriate development or unwise use; and/or
2. land is needed to satisfy a demand for open space or developed recreation.

Categories of Land

The MVA will consider the suitability of lands for acquisition in the following categories:

1. Conservation Lands:

Objective: To protect important, sensitive or threatened natural habitat to ensure the future of valley vegetation and wildlife.

2. Nature Experience Lands:

Objective: To protect and develop lands on which people can experience and learn about the natural and human history of the valley, and enjoy the valley's natural beauty.

3. Developed Recreation Lands:

Objective: To protect and develop lands for intensive recreation use.

Policies

1. A parcel of land proposed for acquisition will be evaluated on its merits. Factors such as conservation value, recreation value, access, use of adjacent land and threat of inappropriate development or use, will be considered in the evaluation.

The acquisition priority given a parcel of land may be changed at any time by the Authority.

2. Lands of high recreation or conservation value and subject to the greatest threat of development and adverse use will have a high priority for purchase.
3. Lands for which another regulatory agency can, and is willing, to control against an adverse change in land use will be considered a low priority to purchase.
4. The Program of Land Acquisition will ensure that a relative balance is achieved in the acquisition of lands in each of the three categories of Conservation Land, Nature Land and Developed Recreation Land.
5. Land will be acquired, insofar as possible, as it becomes available on the market and subject to the availability of funds.
6. Where it has been necessary to acquire more land than is required for MVA purposes, the excess may be disposed of when and where appropriate, and as the MVA sees fit.

CRITERIA DEFINED

1. Conservation Value

- Is it important, sensitive or threatened natural habitat?
- Will it ensure the future of valley vegetation and wildlife?
- Will it ensure the existence of characteristic remnants of natural landscapes?
- Will it ensure the safety and well being of wildlife?
- Is it characteristic of a valley ecological unit?
- Is it an important heritage resource?
- Does it contribute to maintaining ecological diversity in the valley?

2. Recreation Value

- Does it help to achieve a balance between recreational resources north and south of Saskatoon?
- Can it meet the needs of people without compromising conservation values?
- Could it provide a potential for linkages along or adjacent to the river?

3. Education or Interpretive Value

- Does it support the potential for interpretive opportunities?

4. Access

Note: Land could be valued highly for its accessibility or inaccessibility depending on the site. Accessibility is desirable if the land could support a trail system. Inaccessibility could be desirable if the goal is to conserve an area because of its unique wildlife habitat.

- Is it accessible for recreation or education?
- Is it inaccessible for preservation?

5. Use of Adjacent Land

- Is the adjacent land use compatible?

6. Threat of Inappropriate Development

- If Meewasin does not acquire it, could potential developments adversely affect it?