36th Annual Spring Clean-Up Campaign
April 15 - May 15, 2016

Thank you for participating in this year’s event!

Good luck and, most of all, have fun!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call 306-665-6888.

The following information sheets are attached:
* A sponsor recognition page.
* “The Plastic Bag Conundrum” information sheet.
* What to do if you find a needle in the community.
* An information page for environmental web links and recycling.
Meewasin and Affinity Credit Union
would like to thank the following sponsors:

Affinity Credit Union for their continuing sponsorship, and for their support in marketing and promoting this worthwhile event.

Bus Stop Refreshments has again supplied their very popular bus-buck coupons, which will be distributed to all individual participants, while quantities last.

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 bin locations.

Pizza Hut coupons will be distributed to all participants and schools that take part in this event, while quantities last.

7-Eleven Food Stores offer the use of their disposal bins at all of their locations throughout the city. Each year they also donate Slurpee coupons to be distributed to participants, while quantities last.
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 Interpretive Centre  
   (402 Third Avenue South)

4. Rotary Park Parking Lot  
   (by washrooms - Saskatchewan Cres.)

5. Entrance to Diefenbaker Park  
   (St. Henry Ave.)

Please leave your Meewasin & Affinity Credit Union Clean-Up Campaign garbage and recycling bags in the bins located at one of these sites. Dumpster and Recycle Bins provided courtesy of Loraas Disposal.
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.**
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 Clean-Up Campaign more environmentally friendly. Meewasin and Affinity Credit Union representatives have discovered some interesting information, thanks to the City and Loraas, when comparing using alternatives to the conventional plastic bag, and some of this information is listed below.

**The Plastic Bag Conundrum**

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 composting 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 microorganisms. 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 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 and Affinity Credit Union encourage 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:

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meewasin@meewasin.com
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Online and LOCAL Resources about Waste and Other Environmental Topics

Affinity Credit Union - Community Events:
https://www.affinitycu.ca/Community/Events/Pages/Meewasin-and-Affinity-Credit-Union-Clean-UP-Campaign.aspx

City of Saskatoon Waste Recycling information:
https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/waste-recycling/recycling

Loraas Recycle Website:
http://www.loraas.ca/recycle/

Loraas Community Relations Coordinator
Ryan Buhay  (306) 242-2300
ryan.buhay@loraas.ca
  For tours of the recycling facilities, or to book a waste diversion education program for groups ages Grade 3 and up, classroom visits, or school assemblies.

Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council - online database for recycling:
http://www.saskwastereduction.ca

Environment Canada Events page:
http://www.ec.gc.ca/sce-cew/
  Click on the Youth Zone tab on the left for more activities and ideas.

Earth Day Canada’s Teachers and 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.