

# MEEWASIN EXPLORER

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2015

VOLUME 22 - NUMBER 5

## Energy Conservation Program at BCCA

Meewasin has been successful in a \$50,000 grant application to SaskPower for an energy conservation education program at Beaver Creek Conservation Area. Youth will learn about saving electrical power and protecting our environment. The program content will involve the installation of solar panels and a net metering system and will be consistent with the Grade 5 science curriculum. Energy conservation principles will be demonstrated including how animals and plants adapt. Concepts will include insulation strategies for home and clothing, renewable energy from sun, wind, geothermal and hydro, flying formations for geese and reduction of wasteful uses of power. Youth will learn how we can apply these same conservation principles to daily living. Youth will also learn about how our power choices can impact climate change – affecting our river basin and our local environment. The call to action will be “wise energy choices” at home and school.

Project outcomes include 4,500 participants over two years gaining new knowledge of conservation principles that translate into saving electrical power, and new knowledge of Saskatchewan ecology as represented by Beaver Creek Conservation Area. Evaluation will consist of visitation statistics and participant surveys.

Kenton Lysak, Senior Interpreter at BCCA, and Doug Porteous, Manager of Community Development at Meewasin, are working to develop the educational program.

## MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship)

This is the seventh summer for the MAPS program out at BCCA. There are 6 bird banding sessions that occur throughout the summer. The first was completed on June 11. The sessions are spread out over the summer, but do not occur on a daily basis as seen in migration monitoring. The 5th session was held on June 22 at Beaver Creek Conservation Area. A total of 35 birds were netted, representing 13 species. 15 fledglings were banded including 1 Least Flycatcher, 6 Black-capped Chickadees, 2 House Wrens, 3 Gray Catbirds, 2 Yellow Warblers and 1 Clay-coloured Sparrow. 4 birds were recaptured.

This session was joined by 21 volunteers, including 12 young bird enthusiasts who were given the opportunity to release captured birds back into the area where they were originally netted.

MAPS is a bird-banding program developed by the Institute for Bird Populations in California. Data from monitoring stations, including BCCA, are integrated into the North American MAPS database to better understand changes in the abundance, distribution and ecology of bird populations. Information is collected from six banding sessions which are held annually between June 10 and August 8. Protecting nesting destinations and maintaining urban green spaces all help provide birds with important habitat. Volunteers are important to the success of the banding project.



*One of three juvenile Veeries banded this past session. The Veery has had slow but significant declines over the last half century so we are always excited when we see nesting success. The Veery wintering grounds are specific to central and southern Brazil.*



*This juvenile Yellow Warbler needs to prepare for migration. Yellow Warblers winter in southern United States and potentially as far south as northern Brazil.*

MEEWASIN VALLEY AUTHORITY - 402 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3G5

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MEEWASIN.COM

Meewasin

OFFICE HOURS 8:15 - NOON AND 1:00 - 4:30 WEEKDAYS  
CLOSED WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN

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

# MEEWASIN VALLEY CENTRE

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S BUILT CULTURAL HISTORY



**Donna Cutler**  
**Saskatchewan – Looking Closer**  
**On Display in the Meewasin Art Gallery**  
**September 3 – October 30**  
**September 6 - Gallery Opening with the artist.**  
Information below.

Find Meewasin on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter @meewasin

## September

### September 6 - "Looking Closer" Gallery Opening

Visit the artist and view the work she created to provide a rebuttal to the commonly held belief that "there's nothing to see here". Look Closer!

### Remai Art Reach - ART WALK

September 13 - 2-4 pm

Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre interpreters guide you on a walk along the riverbank of the South Saskatchewan, providing information on human and natural history. Along the way, Remai Modern artist educators offer art making activities, using materials provided by nature. A special wrap-up art project encourages reflection on your river walk experience. All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Participants meet at the Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre.

### September 20 - Visiting Artist Jay White

For Everyone (3-4:30 pm)

In partnership with Remai Modern Art Gallery of Saskatchewan and Finding City, artist Jay White will host an all-ages event that shares methods of respectfully making art alongside other animals.

### September 26 & 27 - Explore the MVC

For Everyone (1-4 pm)

Come down to the Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre (MVC) and explore our galleries. Dress up and play on our stage, watch short presentations about our history, and have fun! Take some time to check out the newest part of our display, the anchor from the S.S. City of Medicine Hat.

For more information about our programs please call 306-665-6888.

Please note:  
Program cost is by donation to help cover supplies, unless otherwise stated.

## October

### October 11 - Remai Art Reach - 2-4 pm

If you missed the Art on the River in September, the MVC and Remai Modern artists team up to give you this second opportunity to enjoy making art along the South Saskatchewan riverbank.

### Leaf Art

Weekend Drop-In Craft at the MVC - For Everyone (1-4 pm)



October 3 & 4  
October 17 & 18  
October 24 & 25

While you're out enjoying the beautiful fall trees along the Meewasin Trail, come down and make your own creative leaf art!



### October 31 - Happy Hallowe'en! Jack-O-Lantern Jars For Everyone (1-4 pm)

Get ready for Hallowe'en by painting a reusable jack-o-lantern using a jar. Play some games like "Feed the Monster" and "Skeleton Haunted Hopscotch" for some Hallowe'en fun.

Did you know you can get the Explorer electronically? Help us reduce our paper consumption and switch your paper Explorer subscription to an electronic one.  
Phone 306-665-6887 or email meewasin@meewasin.com and provide us with your name and email address.

Above programs are for the general public.  
If you wish to book a group program please call 306-665-6888.  
A nominal fee may be charged for group bookings.

## Donation and Sponsorship Opportunities

In spite of the announcement of the completion of the capital campaign on June 5, 2015, donations to Meewasin's regular fund development programs continue to be steadily received. Tax receipts are being prepared and sent out for trees, shrubs, Memorial Forest, bricks, benches and other individual and general donations. In the first four months of the new Plant-A-Tree year, we have already sold 50% of the number of previous year's deciduous trees. The donations realized from the Saskatchewan Marathon and the Mayor's Marathon have been processed, and donations are still coming in from the spring direct mailer.

The sponsorship of one of the few remaining seating blocks at River Landing at a cost of \$5,000 was recently completed. Sponsorship of these concrete seating blocks are for the life of the blocks. Tax receipts are issued and seating blocks may be paid for over a period of time. If you are interested in sponsoring a seating block at River Landing, please contact Meewasin Donations Officer Betty Calvert at 306-665-6887.



**Honouring Through Meewasin**

- \* Sponsor a Meewasin seating bench or block in memory, recognition or celebration of a loved one.
- \* Sponsor a bench for a 10-year term - \$3,000
- \* Sponsor a permanent concrete seating block - \$5,000
- \* Tax receipt issued for full amount of donation

*Let Meewasin help you celebrate memories!*

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### Be Safe!

In addition to the paved Meewasin Trail, there is often an unpaved trail that runs down the bank, near the river. These trails are great for running and for strolling. However, caution should be taken to ensure good footing at any time, day or night.

Some sections of the trail are not lit at night; therefore, each person should use their own discretion for personal safety.

**Please note trail use is always at your own risk.**  
The Meewasin Valley Authority is not liable for problems or injuries resulting from trail use.

### Activity Loops

Running / Walking Distances	Loops
Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge to Blom Urban Farm	10.0 km
Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge to CFR Bridge	7.5 km
University Bridge to CFR Bridge	4.5 km
Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge to Broadway Bridge	4.5 km
University Bridge to Broadway Bridge	4.5 km
CFR to Circle Drive South Bridge	9.75 km

### Trail Distances

Trail Section	Distance	Surface	Approx. Time (minutes)		Trail Section	Distance	Surface	Approx. Time (minutes)	
			Walking	Biking				Walking	Biking
West Bank Trail Distances					Saskatoon Natural Gaslands to Forestry Farm Entrance/St. Joseph Highway	2.2km	A	25	13
Wassenaar Heritage Park to 71st St. (Concrete Trail)	3.8km	CO	45	22	Cocoa Prairie trail (Central Ave following the Riverbank)	1.6km	CO	19	9
71st St. to River Ave (Shirwood Oak/Meadow)	1.1km	A	13	6	Subsidiary Beach trail	650m	CO	8	4
River Ave to Factory (Adrian St)	0.3km	A	11	5	Circle Drive North to Parking Lot	205m	A	5	1
Factory to Meewasin Park North (Adrian St to Wilkinson St)	0.4km	A	12	5	Beaching path along the Circle Drive North Bridge	3.0km	A/CO	36	18
Meewasin Park North (Wilkinson St to Meewasin Park Shelter)	3.9km	A	41	20	Beach to Nelson Road	77m	A	9	4
Meewasin Park Shelter to Meewasin Pasture (59th St)	2.8km	A	33	17	Prescott Crossing Link (Circle Drive North Bridge to Preston Crossing)	1.5km	A	16	8
Meewasin Pasture (59th St) to Meewasin Park North (59th St)	1.0km	A	12	6	Circle Drive North Bridge to CFR Bridge	1.0km	A	4.5	2
Meewasin Park North (59th St) to Meewasin Pasture (59th St)	1.8km	A	15	8	University Trail (CFR Bridge to University Bridge)	1.0km	A	23	11
Meewasin Pasture (59th St) to Meewasin Park North (59th St)	1.2km	A	14	7	Cooper's Park (University Bridge to Broadway Bridge)	1.2km	A	14	7
Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre to River Landing (19th St to Avenue A)	750m	PS	9	4	River Park (Broadway Bridge to St. Joseph's Bridge)	600m	A	10	5
River Landing to Victoria Park (Avenue A to 10th St)	1.8km	A	18	9	Saskatchewan City (St. Joseph's Bridge to 9th St)	700m	CO	9	4
Victoria Park to Saskatchewan Site (Scholar St. to Holiday Park)	3.7km	A	4	2	Green Diamond Park (9th St to 10th St)	1.0km	CO	12	6
Get Back Trail Distances					Eden Hill (10th St to Taylor St)	1.5km	A/CO	18	9
Peggy McKeeher Conservation Area Trail	440m	CO	5	2	DeMunnick Park (Taylor St to Circle Drive South Bridge)	1.9km	A	25	11
Cocoa Prairie (Central Ave to Sedgwick Road)	1.3km	CO	15	8					

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# BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S NATURAL HISTORY

## Beaver Creek Programming September and October



### Fall Festivities

Come out and enjoy the wonders of this change of season. Stop by the interpretive centre for drop-in activities and head out for a walk on one of our four nature trails. You never know what you'll see!

### Interpretive Hike – Sundays @ 2:30 pm

Join an interpreter for an outdoor hike along Beaver Creek. There are many neat nature facts to discover about the animals and plants that make this area their home. Learn about what animals do to get ready for the winter season.



Every Saturday and Sunday  
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Nature inspired craft available  
Craft cost is by donation



### Dark Skies at the Creek

September 19th  
8 pm to 1:30 am

Come and celebrate *International Observe the Moon Night* with the Royal Astronomical Society at Beaver Creek. Visitors can learn about the night sky from local astronomers and telescopes will be set up for public viewing. Come and meet the bat girls, Batrick and Elizabat, at 8:00 pm to learn about our nocturnal animal friends that live at the creek. Visitors can also learn about nocturnal wildlife on our night hikes which will be held at 10:00 pm and 12:00 pm. For more information please call 306-374-2474.

### Did you know?

The importance of maintaining dark skies within urban and natural environments has been shown to improve the biodiversity of ecosystems and improve human health. A variety of nocturnal species rely on natural darkness for continual mating rituals, migration patterns and feeding habits. Even small changes to the illumination of these habitats can negatively affect these behaviors in numerous species including Northern Leopard Frogs and Great Horned Owls. Greater light pollution also affects the local sky-glow of the area, negatively affecting our ability to study the stars and observe the astronomical phenomena that continue to inspire scientists to this day.



## 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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