

# MEEWASIN EXPLORER

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## Meewasin Update

Thank you to everyone who has shown their concern and support for Meewasin in a variety of ways over the last few months since the announcement of the Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre (MVC) closure on July 1, 2016. The closure of the Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre was due to the long term erosion of Meewasin's statutory funding from its three participating parties (City of Saskatoon, Province of Saskatchewan, and University of Saskatchewan). Closing the MVC does not solve Meewasin's funding dilemma, and without changes to Meewasin's funding formula, it is the beginning of the erosion of the Moriyama 100-Year Plan for Saskatoon and the Meewasin Valley. Please know that we are doing all we can to continue to keep Meewasin a conservator, a developer, and an educator. We appreciate your continued support and will keep you updated as best we can.

## Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre Closure

Throughout the summer and into the fall, interpretive centre staff are decommissioning the MVC's buildup of school and public programming materials dating back 25 years. Items are evaluated and subsequently stored, discarded, recycled, inventoried, catalogued, and/or passed on to other organizations. Archived materials such as paper files and photographs will be catalogued and offered to centres with the capability of archival storage (humidity and temperature controls) and who have an interest in Saskatoon history e.g. University of Saskatchewan Archives, Jeff O'Brien at City of Saskatoon Archives, or the Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room.

## Beaver Creek Conservation Area

Beaver Creek Conservation Area remains open seven days a week for visitation. Interpreters are preparing for another busy Grade 5 School Program this fall, which will begin on September 14, 2016.

Find Meewasin on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter @meewasin



## Meewasin Publications

The 2015-16 Meewasin Annual Report is now available in print and online. The annual report provides information on Meewasin's conservation, development, education, and operational programs from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. To pick up your copy, please visit us at 402 Third Avenue South.

A second printing of the Meewasin Northeast Swale Brochure is complete and also available for pickup. To view these and other Meewasin documents online, please visit [meewasin.com](http://meewasin.com)

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### "Help make Meewasin count!" Hang out on the Meewasin Trail this fall!

You can volunteer and spend time on the beautiful Meewasin Trail this September. Sign up for a two hour shift to help Meewasin with its trail usage count and survey of users, and you will be contributing to Meewasin's annual Trail Study which informs future planning.

Sign up to conduct a survey and count trail users on the Meewasin Trail for one (or more) 2-hour time slot(s) at various locations in the Valley.

#### Count & Survey Time Slots:

- 1st Count - Thursday, September 15, 2016 - 7:00am to 9:00am
- 2nd Count - Thursday, September 15, 2016 - 4:00pm to 6:00pm
- 3rd Count - Saturday, September 17, 2016 - 11:00am to 1:00pm
- 4th Count - Tuesday, September 20, 2016 - 7:00am to 9:00am
- 5th Count - Tuesday, September 20, 2016 - 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Each station needs two people per time slot, so grab a friend and sign up to help Meewasin! Check our website, call 306-665-6887 or e-mail [astein@meewasin.com](mailto:astein@meewasin.com) for details.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN

## "Every River Has a Story...What is Yours?" Conference, October 16 - 19, 2016, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin, Saskatchewan Parks, Culture, and Sport and the Canadian Heritage Rivers System are excited to announce their upcoming conference: "Every River Has a Story...What is Yours?" The conference runs from Sunday, October 16 to Wednesday, October 19, 2016 and will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan at the Delta Bessborough Hotel. Registration is now open!

This conference presents a great opportunity to tell the myriad stories of our rivers, their associated tributaries, and water bodies. It will focus on how these aquatic systems have shaped our culture, history, science, and everyday lives along with our collective Canadian identity across the country.

The conference features a number of high level keynote speakers. Keynote speakers are: Andrea Menard, a well renowned Métis jazz musician with prairie roots; Trevor Herriot, a local prairie naturalist and writer; Maude Barlow, a renowned author on water related issues, the national chairperson of the Council of Canadians, and a holder of 12 honorary doctorates; and Danika Littlechild, a lawyer with expertise in governance, Indigenous legal systems, and environmental and international law from the Ermineskin Cree Nation in Treaty 6 Territory in Alberta. In 2014, Danika Littlechild was appointed Vice-President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

For more information and to register, please go to the conference website: [www.skriverstory.com](http://www.skriverstory.com). Hope to see you there!

### WHAT DO CELEBRATIONS AND MEEWASIN HAVE IN COMMON?

Here's how you can mark a special event in your life:

- \* Give a gift for a birthday
- \* Celebrate an anniversary
- \* Recognize a long-term employee
  - \* Proclaim an event
- \* Give thanks for a contribution
- \* Remember a loved one

Your recognition through sponsorship of a Bench, Seating Block, Brick, Tree or Shrub will Support Meewasin.

Become a Sponsor today!

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**Meewasin**

## Invasive Plant Spotlight - What's growing in your yard?

Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)

Leafy Spurge is an invasive plant and designated as noxious in Saskatchewan by the Ministry of Agriculture. Being designated as noxious means that landowners, both urban and rural, have a duty to control these plants on their property. Leafy Spurge is a perennial plant that grows up to 1 m tall and contains a milky sap that may cause skin irritation. Reproduction is mainly by re-sprouting from its creeping root system in addition to seeds. Leafy spurge roots can spread 4.5 m horizontally and about 9 m deep. Its alternating leaves are bluish-green (turning yellow to orange as the plant matures), long, narrow and waxy with smooth edges. Flowers are yellow-green with neither petals nor sepals and arranged in small clusters and are supported by 2 heart-shaped, leaf-like bracts. Leafy spurge forms thick patches over time and plants can produce up to 130,000 seeds. When mature, the pods will forcibly eject seeds, shooting them as far as 5 m from the parent plant. If you find Leafy Spurge on your property, please notify your local weed inspector or forage agrologist who may be able to help you manage it. To control this plant, you can repeatedly hand-pull or dig small, young patches (use gloves); mow or graze (with sheep or goats) repeatedly; cultivate; release a biocontrol, or use a recommended herbicide that is suitable for the task. As a primarily agricultural weed, Leafy Spurge will take over pasture land and crops, and is very difficult to eradicate.

Meewasin has Leafy Spurge on many of its sites due to the invasive nature of this plant. Meewasin's Resource Conservation crew is actively working to control this plant through various integrated invasive species management methods such as: cutting, grazing by sheep, controlled burns, biocontrol, herbicide, monitoring and awareness. This year, Meewasin released about 50,000 Leafy Spurge Flea Beetles as biocontrol at two sites. The larvae will help to mine out the roots of the plant, while the adults feed on the flowers and leaves. The use of a variety of integrated management methods help to increase overall effectiveness in the removal of this plant both within Meewasin's jurisdiction and across the province.

For more information, visit:

- The Weed Control Act (2010) at <http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/W11-1.pdf>
- Ministry of Agriculture "Minister's Order for the Designation of Prohibited, Noxious and Nuisance Weeds in Accordance with the Weed Control Act (2010)" at <http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=44fb5d3e-a7e0-461c-84d5-876f651a3ed4>
- Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council Fact Sheets "Leafy Spurge" at <http://www.saskinvasives.ca/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Leafy%20Spurge.pdf>



**L:** Leafy Spurge is a noxious invasive, which means we all have a duty to control it on our properties.

**R:** Meewasin's Resource Conservation Crew utilizes Leafy Spurge Flea Beetles in their efforts to control this invasive plant.



# BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S NATURAL HISTORY

## Beaver Creek Programming September and October



### Awesome Autumn

Come out and enjoy the wonders of the natural world. Nature offers all our senses an endless variety of sights, sounds, smells, and textures. Take a walk on one of the four interpretive trails, and help monitor wildlife by reporting your sightings to an interpreter.

### Nature Art Activity - Weekends 1 to 4 p.m.

A come and go nature-inspired craft will be offered every weekend through September and October between 1 and 4 p.m. Ask an interpreter for information at the front desk.

### Beaver Creek Wild Sightings

Fall is a great time to enjoy nature through the lens of a camera. Bring your own camera or borrow a pair of binoculars from the Interpretive Centre, and head out on the trail. Be it flower, bird, beaver, or butterfly, nature is full of photographic opportunities.



### Eye Spy - Daily

Take an eye spy challenge on one of our interpretive trails. While enjoying the sights along the way, hunt for silhouettes that are hiding along the trail. Ask an interpreter for information when you arrive.

### SaskEnergy Beaver Pond Room

Come to the Interpretive Centre and check out the SaskEnergy Beaver Pond Room. Spend time exploring the beaver lodge and the hands-on activities to discover more about Canada's national symbol: the beaver.



#### Did you know?

Clouds come in many shapes and sizes. As beautiful as they are, they can also be used to predict the weather. Ask an interpreter to borrow a "cloud finder" and see if you can forecast the upcoming weather.

## 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  
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