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A. Introduction

1. Background

The South Saskatchewan River valley throughout Saskatoon and at key locations in the R.M. of Corman Park has a history of public ownership. This has helped to ensure the protection of the river, public accessibility to the river valley, educational and recreation opportunities and conservation of natural and cultural heritage resources. The Northeast Policy addresses a policy approach to continuing this legacy within the Northeast Quadrant of the Meewasin Valley.

The Northeast Quadrant is somewhat unique in the Meewasin Valley in that it extends several kilometers back from the river and contains a number of significant natural and cultural heritage features. Most land within the quadrant was owned by the City of Saskatoon or University of Saskatchewan when Meewasin was created in 1979, although some private land was also included. The inclusion of most of the undeveloped land was specified by legal land descriptions, either quarter sections or legal subdivisions (quarters of quarter sections) if some or part of the land was either owned by a participating party and/or contained resources related to Meewasin's mandate.

2. Meewasin Valley Authority Mission, Mandate and Planning Principles

The Northeast Policy conforms with, and provides a more detailed policy direction in the Northeast Quadrant, for the Meewasin Valley Authority's mission statement, mandate and planning principles.

2.1. Mission Statement

The Meewasin Valley Authority exists to ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley with a balance between human use and conservation by:

- Providing leadership in the management of its resources;
- Promoting understanding, conservation and beneficial use of the Valley; and
- Undertaking programs and projects in river valley development and conservation;

for the benefit of present and future generations.

2.2. Mandate

Meewasin's mandate consists of three components:

- Conservation,
- Development; and
- Education.

Meewasin's role in conservation includes the protection and on-going management of natural and cultural heritage resources. These include sites dominated by native plants; the river; the river valley and associated ravines, coulees, wetlands; and historic properties and sites.

Meewasin's role in development is two-fold. Firstly, it functions as a developer to add value and help facilitate enjoyment of the river valley by residents and visitors. This includes development and redevelopment of riverbank-area parks, as well as amenities such as trails, benches, picnic spots, skating rinks and other leisure and recreational facilities. Secondly, it is a regulator, helping to ensure that development on public and private land within the Meewasin Valley is of high calibre and in accordance with Meewasin's Development Plan.

Meewasin's role in education is to provide experiences and opportunities to assist residents and visitors to appreciate and understand the natural and cultural heritage systems within the Meewasin Valley through both formal and informal activities.

2.3. Planning Principles

Meewasin uses the following planning principles to guide the implementation of the mission statement and mandate.

- The Valley's resources are accessible to everyone
- Conserve natural and heritage resources
- Recreation and development balanced with conservation
- Diverse activities for a varied and changing demographic
- Public participation in decision making

The Northeast Policy will aid in the implementation of the mandate and will follow the planning principles.

3. Intent of the Northeast Policy

The Northeast Policy provides direction and guidelines for the continued balance of development and conservation in the Northeast Quadrant of the Meewasin Valley. It clarifies Meewasin's objectives and policies for the quadrant as a whole and for the sub-areas as outlined in section C. The intention is to:

- Guide Meewasin's resource management, development, conservation, education, and recreation functions in the Northeast Quadrant;
- Provide specific parameters against which Development Review Policy shall apply in the Northeast Quadrant as a whole and in sub-areas;
- Guide Meewasin and the Participating Parties in adjusting the boundaries of the Meewasin Valley in the Northeast Quadrant.
- Provide a framework of understanding between Meewasin and the participating parties to work openly, collaboratively and supportively.

B. Area of Policy Application

1. General

The Northeast Policy applies to the Northeast Quadrant of the Meewasin Valley and adjacent land that may be of interest to the Meewasin. This Northeast Quadrant includes lands north of College Drive and east of the South Saskatchewan River and north of 14th Street East between Cumberland Avenue and Circle Drive within the 1979 City of Saskatoon corporate limits. The

adjacent lands of interest are those portions of the river valley and other natural and cultural heritage resource areas connected with the river valley, which were been added to the City of Saskatoon after 1979 through boundary alterations, but that are not a part of the Meewasin Valley. The Northeast Quadrant covers approximately 1900 ha and the adjacent lands cover approximately 250 ha.

The Meewasin Valley within the Northeast Quadrant consists only of Meewasin's Conservation Zone.

The area of policy application is shown on Map 1.

2. Sub-Areas

The Northeast Quadrant contains over 410 hectares of native habitat in the form of prairie grasslands, wetlands, tree stands, swales ravines, riverbank and riparian areas. Rare species and listed species-at-risk are present within the quadrant and there are areas with high ecological integrity and biodiversity. The quadrant also includes a variety of sites and resources with significant cultural heritage value. In addition, there are areas of agricultural land and built urban form, including the University of Saskatchewan land and residential neighbourhoods. Map 1 shows these sub-areas and adjacent lands of interest. The Quadrant has been delineated into a number of sub-areas to provide more specific policies relating directly to the varied goals and objectives for each of them. These sub-area policies are outlined in sections C.2 through C.18.

C. POLICIES

1. Conservation, Development and Education

1.1. General

- 1.1.1 Conservation, development, and education initiatives will be in compliance with Meewasin's Development Plan.
- 1.1.2 Sites with natural and/or cultural heritage resources should have a site-specific Resource Management Plan and this plan should be reviewed and updated from time to time as changes to adjacent land uses, best practices or other circumstances arise. Resource Management Plans shall be prepared in consultation with the land owner and approved by the land owner prior to implementation.
- 1.1.3 A concept plan that references land use or development either partially or fully within the Conservation Zone, which is not exempted by bylaw or the Act, requires Authority approval prior to implementation. The Authority shall confine its consideration to those aspects that will impact the Conservation Zone such as transportation circulation and access, impact on natural areas, infrastructure crossing, roadway interface, and drainage and slope stability. The Authority shall approve the Concept plan provided it is consistent and in accordance with the Development Plan.

- 1.1.4 Improvements and concept plans will be in compliance with resource management plans, concept plans and other relevant plans or studies approved or endorsed by the Authority.
 - 1.1.5 Meewasin's Development Review Policy shall apply to all improvements in the Meewasin Valley, unless exempted by the Meewasin Valley Authority Act (Act) or by Bylaw 003 - The Development Review Exemption Bylaw.
 - 1.1.6 Research that contributes to a deeper or broader understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of the Meewasin Valley will be encouraged, in consultation with the landowner, throughout the Northeast Quadrant.
- 1.2. Natural and cultural heritage resources and other special site characteristics
- To conserve remnant native habitat in the form of prairie grasslands, wetland, swales and ravines, riverbank, forest and trees stands, and riparian areas as well as cultural heritage resources:
- 1.2.1 Natural and cultural heritage resources shall be protected and appropriately managed to enhance biodiversity and to protect rare and at-risk species and cultural heritage resources. Meewasin will work in consultation with land owners to manage these resources.
 - 1.2.2 Natural and cultural heritage resources shall be managed in such a manner as to allow for education and interpretive opportunities.
 - 1.2.3 Where appropriate, natural and cultural heritage resource features may be sympathetically incorporated into a site development.
 - 1.2.4 Corridors will be retained to connect natural areas and provide habitat connectivity for wildlife and trail routing.
- 1.3. Consideration for good drainage practices
- Surface water in the Northeast Quadrant drains toward the South Saskatchewan River. This drainage pattern may be impacted by future developments. Meewasin will encourage the City of Saskatoon and University of Saskatchewan, as majority landowners and developers within the Northeast Quadrant, to prepare a comprehensive storm water management plan for the quadrant. However, until this is completed:
- 1.3.1 Proposed improvements and concept plans that may impact surface drainage, groundwater or vegetation, shall be in compliance with the guidelines established under the Development Review Policy.

- 1.3.2 A site-specific storm water management plan will be required as part of the Development Review process for concept plans and improvements adjacent to the South Saskatchewan River or other natural areas including Peturrson's Ravine, the Meewasin Northeast Swale and Small Swale. The scale, scope and level of detail of the stormwater management plan shall be appropriate to the scale, scope and level of detail of the concept plan.
- 1.3.3 The qualitative and quantitative impacts on groundwater resources and appropriate protection and mitigation measures shall be required for concept plans and improvements with subsurface components that reach the water table. The work must be undertaken by a professional with education and experience in groundwater modelling with costs borne by the developer.
- 1.4. Traffic, transportation, interface and provision for public access
 - 1.4.1 At a minimum, the riverbank zone shall be publicly-accessible public land.
 - 1.4.2 Public access shall be provided, where it will not result in irreparable degradation or safety risks, along and through natural areas.
 - 1.4.3 Roadways, bridges and other features paralleling and/or crossing the river, ravines, swales or wetlands shall accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, and other forms of non-motorized transportation. They shall be designed in such a way as to permit humane, safe, convenient and contiguous trail access along the feature being crossed and include frequent, well demarcated non-motorized transportation crossing. Where a roadway crosses or is immediately adjacent to the river valley, the Meewasin Northeast Swale or the Small Swale, consideration shall be given to and wildlife crossings.
 - 1.4.4 On-street parking is permissible where the roadway classification permits it; however, in order to provide visual access and physical access to the river valley, no on-street parking shall be allowed on the river-side of a roadway in the riverbank zone or public park land immediately adjacent to the riverbank zone.
- 1.5. Design aesthetic complementary to the river valley and other natural areas - form and massing
 - 1.5.1 Developments within and adjacent to the river valley and other natural features should provide an aesthetically-pleasing, humane interface experience.
 - 1.5.2 If a roadway is adjacent to the river bank, Small Swale or Meewasin Northeast Swale the roadway design shall provide an effective interface to:
 - eliminate or mitigate the negative effects of excessive light and sound on adjacent land

- address wildlife movement;
- facilitate safe and enjoyable pedestrian and cycling circulation; and
- accommodate vegetative plantings appropriate for the general characteristics of the area.

1.5.3 Improvements in the form of residential, commercial, institutional or industrial development that is adjacent to either the river bank, or public land adjacent to the riverbank, shall only front onto the riverbank, public land and/or any public roadway intended to provide a primary access along the river valley.

1.5.4 Improvements in the form of residential development are not restricted with regard to the orientation of frontage adjacent to non-river valley natural areas.

1.5.5 Improvements in the form of non-residential development shall orient their frontage in such a way as to prevent the rear or side or any parcel being adjacent to natural areas and any storage compounds, parking areas, waste containers and other unsightly components shall be fully screened with either solid fencing or plantings.

1.5.6 Notwithstanding sections 1.5.2, 1.5.4, and 1.5.5 public buildings with public uses on the at-grade level may back onto the river valley provided they effectively and aesthetically interface with the river valley. Buildings must be massed in such a way as to preserve river views.

1.5.7 Notwithstanding sections 1.5.2, 1.5.4, and 1.5.5, on multi-building, campus-style sites, some buildings may back or side onto the river valley if it can be demonstrated that it enhances the overall site layout and that no storage compounds, parking areas, waste containers and other unsightly components are located on the river valley side of the buildings.

2. Area 1 - University of Saskatchewan Riverbank Lands lying between the University Bridge and the Circle Drive (42nd Street) Bridge

Primary Objectives: to provide access to and connectivity along the river valley for passive recreation and interpretive opportunities in a semi-natural environment. Conservation and resource management of the river valley is a secondary objective.

- 2.1. Meewasin will work collaboratively with the University of Saskatchewan on the development, interpretation and resource management of the area.
- 2.2. Nothing in this policy shall be implicitly or explicitly construed to interfere with the University's teaching or research activities.

- 2.3. Improvements that conserve the natural and cultural heritage resources, or enhance the recreation and educational use of the Meewasin Valley will be permitted in the University of Saskatchewan riverbank zone.
- 2.4. No improvement and/or recreational and educational uses shall irrevocably damage the natural and cultural heritage resources of the area as a whole.
- 2.5. Residential, institutional, and commercial uses are permitted on the upland portion of the site

3. Area 2 - St. Joseph High School Conservation Easement

Primary Objective: to provide research and education opportunities for students.

- 3.1. Conservation, development, and education initiatives shall comply with the easement agreement and the landscape plan.
- 3.2. Meewasin should continue to work closely with the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board and St. Joseph High School to help ensure the spirit of the easement agreement is embodied in future initiatives.

4. Area 3 - Sutherland Beach, University of Saskatchewan Beef Research and Teaching Unit (USBRTU), and Crocus Prairie

Primary Objectives: to protect and manage the area's river valley, native prairie uplands and cultural heritage resources; to provide connectivity along the river valley for passive recreation; to provide research and education opportunities; and to sensitively integrate urban development.

- 4.1. Meewasin will work in consultation with land owners to delineate the portions of the area key to meeting Meewasin's mandate on the basis of habitat quality, biodiversity protection, presence of species-at-risk, cultural heritage resources and accessibility to and along the river valley. At a minimum, this will include the riverbank zone.
- 4.2. Improvements that conserve the natural and cultural heritage resources, delineated as per section C 4.1 above, or enhance the recreation and educational use of the Meewasin Valley will be allowed in the delineated areas.
- 4.3. Agricultural, residential, institutional, and commercial land uses are permitted within the upland areas; however, improvements shall integrate the existing landscape, including tree plantations and the ravine and permit public access along the river valley. Elements from The Meewasin Valley Project – 100 Year Conceptual Master Plan (Moriyama, 1979) "Experimental Community" will be encouraged.
- 4.4. Industrial land uses shall not be permitted.
- 4.5. Public roadways shall conform to sections C1.4 and C1.5.

- 4.6. Impacts on quality and quantity of surface and groundwater shall be a consideration in the approval of any improvements.
- 4.7. The impact of off-leash dogs on flora, fauna, cultural heritage resources and other site users should be assessed. If the impacts are found to be unacceptable, mitigation measures such as fencing and increased bylaw enforcement should be implemented.
- 4.8. The ravine and reservoir should be integrated into any future development as naturalized green space and could serve as part of a stormwater management system if technically and economically feasible.
- 4.9. Improvements, including trails, on the Rocky Island Archaeological Site shall comply with the provincial Heritage Resource Review process and any findings shall be reported to the Province of Saskatchewan and Meewasin. No improvements that would irrevocably damage the site shall be permitted.
- 4.10. The Rocky Island Archaeological Site should be monitored for erosion impacts and, if necessary, mitigation measures should be implemented.

5. Area 4 - Saskatoon Natural Grasslands

Primary Objectives: Conservation of the remnant native prairie ecology and for research and education on this ecology.

- 5.1. Only improvements that conserve the natural and cultural heritage resources, or enhance the recreation and educational use of the Meewasin Valley will be permitted at Saskatoon Natural Grasslands. Proposed improvements must comply with the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands Resource Management Plan (Delcan, 1994).
- 5.2. Development for interpretive programming, recreation, and linkage shall only be permitted where they are compatible with the goal of conservation.
- 5.3. As owner, Meewasin shall undertake the long term maintenance and monitoring of the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands in compliance with the recommendations of the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands Resource Management Plan (Delcan, 1994).
- 5.4. The impact of human use to the grasslands will be monitored; access will be controlled through such mechanisms as fencing, trails, and education.
- 5.5. Research that may contribute to a deeper or broader understanding of the ecological and cultural heritage of the Meewasin Valley will be encouraged.
- 5.6. The public, schools, and post-secondary academic institutions will be encouraged to continue to use the site for educational and non-intrusive research purposes.

- 5.7. The ecological and physical access link between the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands and adjacent natural areas and public spaces should be maintained to minimize the invasion of non-native vegetation, prevent loss of biodiversity and to provide connectivity to the river valley.

6. Area 5 - University of Saskatchewan Reclamation Site and Adjacent Land

Primary Objectives: to provide ecological and passive recreation and circulation connectivity between the Saskatoon Natural Grassland, Peturrson's Ravine, and the Meewasin Northeast Swale.

- 6.1. The site is dominated by non-native vegetation but forms a link between three areas dominated by native vegetation: the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, Peturrson's Ravine/river bank, and the Meewasin Northeast Swale. To assist in maintaining the ecological integrity of and connectivity to these adjacent natural areas, Meewasin will work with the land owners to undertake native vegetation plantings and reduce the spread of non-native species to the adjacent natural areas.
- 6.2. Only uses and improvements appropriate for the applicable Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) criteria are permitted.
- 6.3. Subject to section C 6.2 above, passive recreation uses will be permitted on the site, with the approval of the landowner.
- 6.4. Subject to section C 6.2 above, only residential, commercial, and institutional land uses will be permitted and shall accommodate pedestrian and other non-motorized transportation access and circulation..

7. Area 6 - Peturrson's Ravine and Adjacent Uplands

Primary Objectives: to protect and enhance the unique hydrography and ecology of the ravine, to provide connectivity along the river valley and, where safe and appropriate, provide passive recreation opportunities within the ravine and on the adjacent uplands.

- 7.1. Conservation and improvements shall comply with the recommendations of the *Peturrson's Ravine Resource Management Plan* (Golder Associates, 1995), the *Northeast Swale Resource Management Plan* (Meewasin, 2013) and the *Northeast Swale Development Guidelines* (Stantec, 2012), including hydrologically isolating the site and the monitoring groundwater impacts of urban development in the Northeast Quadrant.
- 7.2. Only improvements that conserve the natural and cultural heritage resources, or enhance the passive recreational and educational use of the Meewasin Valley will be allowed within Peturrson's Ravine and the adjacent river bank.
- 7.3. Only uses and improvements appropriate for the applicable CCME criteria are permitted.

- 7.4. Passive recreation, education and interpretive uses will be encouraged at this site.
- 7.5. Public access to the marl bog area should be permitted for educational and passive recreational uses but managed to protect public safety and the bog's unique hydrology.
- 7.6. Trail development should conform to the recommendations of the Northeast Trail Planning Study (Golder, 1990).
- 7.7. On going monitoring of the marl bog should be undertaken to determine, and mitigate if necessary, changes to mineral content and vegetation due to groundwater changes.

8. Area 7 - Meewasin Northeast Swale

Primary Objectives: To protect and restore the swale's biodiversity, unique landscape characteristics, and cultural heritage features and to accommodate opportunities for education and passive recreation.

- 8.1. The portion of the Meewasin Northeast Swale within the City of Saskatoon corporate limits should be public land and part of the Meewasin Valley.
- 8.2. Long-term management of the Meewasin Northeast Swale shall be undertaken by Meewasin in partnership with the City of Saskatoon.
- 8.3. Proposed improvements, including infrastructure built in, under, or over the swale, shall comply with the *Northeast Swale Development Guidelines* (Stantec 2012) and the *Northeast Swale Resource Management Plan* (Meewasin, 2013) and any other studies or plans approved by the Authority.
- 8.4. A concept plan addressing recreation, education and interpretation should be prepared. Once the concept plan has been adopted, these activities shall be in compliance with the concept plan to help ensure appropriate use and improvements that enhance user enjoyment while accommodating active ecological management of the site.
- 8.5. Long-term monitoring of groundwater and surface water quality and quantity entering the Meewasin Northeast Swale shall be a development review condition of approval for any neighbourhood or stormwater infrastructure improvement to assist in the management of the ecology of the swale and Peturrson's Ravine.
- 8.6. Meewasin will work with the City of Saskatoon and the Province to help ensure that approved roadways, utility infrastructure and stormwater management functions are integrated into the landscape and reconciled with existing and potential recreational and educational opportunities.
- 8.7. Meewasin will work collaboratively with the City of Saskatoon to develop a shared responsibility agreement on the development of trails for active and passive recreation along the swale and connecting with the adjacent neighbourhoods.

9. Area 8 - Riddell Palaeontological Site

Primary Objectives: To protect and interpret the site's heritage resources.

- 9.1. Special consideration should be made to identify, preserve, and interpret the paleontological resources as part of the resource management plan .
- 9.2. Only improvements that preserve the natural and cultural heritage resources, or enhance the recreation and educational use of the Meewasin Valley will be allowed at the Riddell Palaeontological Site.

10. Area 9 - Peggy McKercher Conservation Area

Primary Objectives: to protect and manage the natural and cultural heritage resources and to provide connectivity along the river valley for passive recreation.

- 10.1. Improvements that preserve the natural and cultural heritage resources, or enhance the recreation and educational use of the Meewasin Valley will be permitted.
- 10.2. Provided that conservation and, if required, mitigation processes are in place to protect the natural and cultural heritage resources of the site it should be open to the public for nature-experience purposes with appropriate trails, amenities, and interpretive signage.
- 10.3. Conservation, development, and education initiatives for natural and cultural heritage resources such as the riverbank, Hutchins Homestead, Maryville, and other artefacts deemed to be of cultural significance will be in compliance with the approved Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (Stantec, 2008) completed for the NE-14-37-5 W3M and the Restoration and Resource Management Plan for 'Maryville' (Meewasin, 2009).
- 10.4. Viewscapes from the site should be protected and enhanced where possible through stewardship agreements with owners of industrial and commercial developments within the viewshed.
- 10.5. Adequate site access shall be maintained as the surrounding area is developed.
- 10.6. Any adjacent commercial or industrial land uses shall front on to the site. .
- 10.7. Negative off-site impacts will be identified; evaluated and appropriate actions to remediate and restore the site as well as steps to prevent further damage and contamination shall be identified and implemented. Any associated costs will be borne by the originator of the impact.

11. Area 10 - The Small Swale

Primary Objectives: To protect and restore the swale's biodiversity, unique landscape characteristics, and heritage features and to provide opportunities for education, recreation.

- 11.1. The extent of the Small Swale, including appropriate setbacks shall be delineated utilizing a similar methodology to that used to delineate the Meewasin Northeast Swale including consideration of geology, hydrology, topography and ecology.
- 11.2. The portion of the Small Swale within the City of Saskatoon corporate limits should be public land and part of the Meewasin Valley.
- 11.3. Only improvements that conserve and/or restore the natural and cultural heritage resources, or enhance the recreation and educational use of the Meewasin Valley will be allowed within the Small Swale.

12. Area 11 – North Riverbank

Primary Objectives: To manage and protect the native forest ecology and cultural heritage features of the river valley, to provide access to the river and to provide connectivity along the river valley.

- 12.1. The riverbank zone within the City of Saskatoon corporate limits should be public land and part of the Meewasin Valley.
- 12.2. Streets within or adjacent to the area shall be in compliance with section C1.4 and C1.5.
- 12.3. Only improvements that preserve the natural and cultural heritage resources or enhance the recreation and educational use of the Meewasin Valley will be allowed in the riverbank area; however, public infrastructure may cross the area. This infrastructure must be in compliance with Meewasin's Development Review Policy.

13. Area 12 - University of Saskatchewan Backshore Core Campus Land

This land is located back from, and is not directly connected to, the river valley system. It contains significant cultural heritage resources in the form of Campus buildings and landscape. The University of Saskatchewan's vision is for continued agricultural uses in the southeast portion of the site and development on the balance of the land.

Primary Objectives: To provide connectivity to the river valley.

- 13.1. Retain the area within the Meewasin Valley but exempt improvements from the Development Review Process through Bylaw 003 – The Development Review Exemption Bylaw.
- 13.2. Within five years of a special resolution to exempt improvements from the Development Review process, undertake a review to determine if the area should be removed from the Meewasin Valley or the requirement of the Meewasin Valley Authority Act. If appropriate policy measures are in place to guide the interface and connectivity between this area and those remaining in the under the requirements of the Act, it should be removed, either from the Meewasin Valley or the requirements of the Act.
- 13.3. The provisions of section C 1.1.3 apply.

14. Area 13 - University of Saskatchewan Backshore Land (College Quarter, Agricultural Lands, Partial Block K, Preston Crossing)

This land is located back from, and is not directly connected to, the river valley system, and does not contain significant cultural or natural heritage resources. The University of Saskatchewan's vision is for continued agricultural uses in the areas immediately adjacent to the core campus and development on the balance of the land. Innovation Place is not part of the Meewasin Valley as the land was leased from the University prior to the creation of the Meewasin Valley Authority.

Primary Objectives: To provide connectivity to the river valley.

- 14.1. Retain this area within the Meewasin Valley but exempt improvements from the Development Review Process through Bylaw 003 – The Development Review Exemption Bylaw.
- 14.2. Within five years of a special resolution to exempt improvements from the Development Review process, undertake a review to determine if the area should be removed from the Meewasin Valley or the requirement of the Meewasin Valley Authority Act. If appropriate policy measures are in place to guide the interface and connectivity between this area and those remaining in the under the requirements of the Act, it should be removed, either from the Meewasin Valley or the requirements of the Act.
- 14.3. The provisions of section C 1.1.3 apply.

15. Area 14 - Established and Emerging Neighbourhoods (Sutherland, Forest Grove, Silverspring, Evergreen, Aspen Ridge, UH3)

This land is located back from, and is not directly connected to, the river valley system and It does not contain significant natural or cultural heritage resources; therefore, other than providing backshore linkages, it does not assist to Meewasin to meet its mandate.

In locations where these areas are adjacent to natural area(s), the Resource Management Plans for the natural area(s) should contain appropriate interface and connectivity measure recommendations.

Primary Objectives: To interface with and provide connectivity to the river valley, Meewasin Northeast Swale, and Small Swale.

- 15.1. Retain this area within the Meewasin Valley but exempt improvements from the Development Review Process through Bylaw 003 – The Development Review Exemption Bylaw.

15.2. Within five years of a special resolution to exempt improvements from the Development Review process, undertake a review to determine if the area should be removed from the Meewasin Valley or the requirement of the Meewasin Valley Authority Act. If appropriate policy measures are in place to guide the interface and connectivity between this area and those remaining in the under the requirements of the Act, it should be removed, either from the Meewasin Valley or the requirements of the Act.

15.3. The provisions of section C 1.1.3 apply.

16. Area 15 - Regional Psychiatric Centre (RPC)

This area is not currently part of the Meewasin Valley. The Act explicitly states that it does not apply to public land occupied or used by the Government of Canada, such as the RPC, therefore it is not and was never part of the Meewasin Valley.

16.1. If the Government of Canada ceases to occupy this land, Meewasin shall work collaboratively with the University of Saskatchewan, as the landowner, to determine if any or all of the site should be included in the Meewasin Valley, based on the mandate of conservation, development and education.

17. Area 16 - Forestry Farm Park and Zoo

This land is located back from, and is not directly connected to, the river valley system; however it is part of an interconnected system of public open space from the Meewasin Northeast Swale, and river valley, through the reclamation land and SNG. It contains significant cultural heritage resources in the form of the former Forest Nursery Station buildings and landscape.

Primary Objectives: To provide connectivity to the river valley, SNG, and Meewasin Northeast Swale and to ensure measures are in place to conserve the site's cultural heritage resources.

17.1. Work with the City of Saskatoon to maintain and enhance the trail connection between the Forestry Farm Park and Zoo, the river valley and the Meewasin Northeast Swale.

17.2. Retain this area within the Meewasin Valley but exempt improvements from the Development Review Process through Bylaw 003 – The Development Review Exemption Bylaw.

17.3. Within five years of the passing of a bylaw to exempt improvements from the Development Review process, undertake a review to determine if, based on existing land use and heritage value, the area should be:

- removed from the Meewasin Valley,
- have the development review exemption fully or partially repealed, or
- remain in the Meewasin Valley with improvements exempt from Development Review.

18. Area 17 - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Land

This area is not currently part of the Meewasin Valley. The Act explicitly states that it does not apply to public land occupied or used by the Government of Canada therefore it is not and was never part of the Meewasin Valley.

19. POLICY MAP

The following policy map is attached to and forms part of this policy.

MAP 1: NORTHEAST POLICY – AREA OF POLICY APPLICATION

D. IMPLEMENTATION

A process for implementing this policy, agreed to by the participating parties, should be developed and approved by the Authority.

E. DEFINITIONS

Act: means *The Meewasin Valley Authority Act*, Chapter M-11.1, S.S. 1979, as amended.

Active Transportation: means any form of human-powered transportation including: walking, cycling, in-line skating, skate and long boarding, and cross-country skiing for both recreational and commuter purposes, as well as motorized wheelchairs.

Authority: means the Meewasin Valley Authority.

Biodiversity: means the variety of life in all its forms, levels, and combinations, including the different plants, animals, microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form in a process that has evolved over hundreds, thousands, and millions of years.

Collaboration: means the relationship among people and/or organizations within a community that accomplishes a shared vision, affects outcomes, and builds interdependent systems to address issues and opportunities. Consensus is used in decision making.

Complete Streets: means streets designed and operated to enable safe, human scale access for all users. Pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a complete street and the built environment adjacent to the street must be humane and inviting. They do not follow a one-size-fits-all approach and are designed to be appropriate for their context. Complete Streets is an outcome, not a prescribed standard or set of standards.

Concept Plan: means the land development or redevelopment plan for a large piece of land of a neighbourhood or larger scale. It may include residential, commercial, institutional, and/or industrial uses and shows broad, conceptual design elements such as development areas for various land uses, and primary transportation and utility routing and infrastructure.

Conservation: means the application of qualitative and quantitative knowledge to the protection and management of natural and cultural resources that include plant and animal biodiversity, habitats, ecosystems, human-made artefacts, and built structures.

Conservation Zone: means the lands described in Schedule A of the Act or added or removed pursuant to a Section 13 Special Resolution and within which all provisions of the Act apply unless exempted by bylaw.

Cultural Heritage: means historical resources comprised of built heritage, archeological and paleontological artefacts and intangible attributes, including evidence of customs or behaviours, of a group that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. Artefacts may include a building, landscape, parcel of land together with any structures thereon, or an historical route of travel, that is deemed to be representative of the social, cultural, economic, military or political history of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan or Canada.

Cultural Heritage Value: means the presence of a recognized:

- aesthetic (e.g. style, materials, functional design)
- historical theme or association
- societal attachment to place
- cultural symbol or group identity,
- spirituality (i.e. religion, belief system, myth, ceremony)

Development: means the improvement of land and/or construction involving land, buildings, structures, service facilities, landscape construction, or infrastructure.

Development Plan: means the plans respecting Meewasin Valley on file in the office of the Authority and designated by the Authority as the Development Plan (*The Meewasin Valley Authority Act, 2(g.1)*).

Development Review: means the process of considering an application for an improvement for the purposes of determining whether to approve, approve with conditions, or deny with reasons, the application.

Drainage: means any action taken or intended for the removal or lessening of the amount of water from land and includes the deepening, straightening, widening and diversion of the course of a stream, creek or other watercourse and the construction of dykes

Ecological Services: means the fundamental biological systems and processes that human beings are dependent for their sustenance, health, well-being and enjoyment of life. They can be subdivided into five categories: *provisioning* (e.g. the production of food and water); *regulating* (e.g. the control of climate and disease); *supporting* (e.g. nutrient cycles and crop pollination); *cultural* (e.g. spiritual and recreational benefits); and *preserving* (e.g. guarding against uncertainty through the maintenance of diversity).

Ecological Integrity: means remaining in a natural state with ecological processes such as energy flows and water cycles conserved.

Ecological Value: means sufficient native species are present to warrant regeneration or a site is within proximity of resources with ecological integrity and can serve, through revegetation, to support and enhance the biodiversity of the neighbouring site.

Endorsed: means the Authority adopted, by resolution, studies, plans, policies or other documents prepared for a third party.

Groundwater Resources: means water resources located below the surface of the earth in sand deposits (aquifers) or voids within the soil structure (stratigraphy) that naturally discharge into the South Saskatchewan River or its watershed through springs, seeps, streams, or wetlands.

Heritage Resources: means:

- a. an area where there is detectable archaeological and palaeontological evidence;
- b. a site which has biological, ecological, geological or similar environmental or scientific significance; or
- c. a building, a parcel of land together with any structures thereon, or an historical route of travel which is deemed to be representative of the social, cultural, economic, military or political history of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan or Canada.

Improvement: means a building, structure or service facility constructed, or landscape construction, within Meewasin Valley, or any alteration thereof or addition thereto but does not include the ordinary care, maintenance or repair of a building, structure or service facility or of landscape construction (Act, section, 2(l)).

Interest: means assets clearly aligned with the Meewasin Valley Authority mandate to ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley, with a balance between human use and conservation by providing leadership in the management of its resources; promoting understanding, conservation, and beneficial use of the valley; and undertaking programs and projects in river valley development and conservation for the benefit of present and future generations.

Interface: means the zone along which two different land uses meet and interact aesthetically, functionally, physically and/or visually.

Maintenance: means the on-going work required for the upkeep and preservation of fixed assets such as trails, benches and service facilities.

Management: means the on-going work required for the upkeep and preservation of natural areas. It may include grazing, burning, and other activities that mimic natural processes or mitigate the impact of invasive species. It also includes the upkeep and preservation of cultural heritage assets including heritage artefacts, buildings and landscapes.

Meewasin Valley: means

- a. the areas described in Schedules A and B of the Act subject to any alterations made to those schedules pursuant to section 13 of the Act;
- b. the lands in and under the waters of the South Saskatchewan River bounded:
 - (i) on the north by the projection eastward of the north boundary of Section 10, Township 40, in Range 3, West of the Third Meridian; and

- (ii) on the south by the projection eastward of the south boundary of that portion of Section 4 in Township 35, in Range 6, West of the Third Meridian, lying west of the river; and
- c. the shores of the South Saskatchewan River adjacent to the lands described in sub-clause b.; and
- d. for the purposes of section 12 of the Act, includes the verge.

Meewasin Valley Authority: means the conservation agency constituted under Act by the Participating Parties of the Province of Saskatchewan, University of Saskatchewan, and City of Saskatoon to conserve the natural and cultural heritage resources of the South Saskatchewan River Valley in Saskatoon and area through investment and initiatives in conservation, education, and development that facilitates nature experiences and a positive relationship between humans and the natural environment.

Natural Area: means a site of geologic, biologic, ecologic, or similar environmental or scientific interest detectable in existing soil conditions, flora and fauna, hydrological function, and/or palaeontological evidence on a site. Natural areas are relatively undisturbed by human activity; however, where disturbed, conditions must be appropriate to restore the site to native species dominant through a reasonable resource management program. Natural areas include: flood-prone areas, coulees, wetlands, ravines, swales, creeks, slumps, riverbank, river terraces, islands, native grassland and naturally occurring shrub and tree stands.

Natural Heritage: means the legacy of geology, biologic, ecology, or similar environmental or scientific significance detectable in existing soil conditions, flora and fauna, or hydrological function on a site.

Natural Resources: means land, vegetation, wildlife and water (surface and groundwater) that have value and importance in the environmental life cycle of the Saskatoon region, and that contribute to the region's quality of life.

Northeast Quadrant: means lands lying to the north of College Drive and east of the South Saskatchewan River and north of 14th Street East between Cumberland Avenue and Circle Drive, which are listed in Schedule A of the Act.

Preservation: means the active maintenance and advocacy for the protection of natural and cultural heritage.

Participating Parties: means the University of Saskatchewan, the City of Saskatoon, and the Government of Saskatchewan.

Public Land: means land within Meewasin Valley owned by or leased to the City of Saskatoon, Province of Saskatchewan, University of Saskatchewan or the Meewasin Valley Authority; and includes the verge (Act, s. 2[w]).

Resource Management: means the efforts to maintain biodiversity and ecological integrity by means including grazing, controlled burns, mowing, cultivating, seeding and planting native species, and chemical applications to invasive alien plant species.

Resource Management Plan: means: a plan for a specific site that:

- states the objectives for a site or a specific valley-wide resource with regard to Meewasin's mandate;
- incorporates stakeholder and public consultation;
- documents the environmental, social and economic benefits of the site or resource;
- compiles a base line of existing conditions, which may include wildlife, vegetation, soil, topographical, hydrological, light, sound, current management practices and cultural heritage assets;
- identifies features that are key to meeting the plan's objectives and features that are threatened;
- outlines a strategy to manage and interpret these features;
- outlines a program of resource management, including fieldwork, protection and remediation programs, policy and regulation;
- outlines the inter-relationship among conservation, development, and education;
- recommends additional studies and reports if necessary for implementation; and
- includes performance measures for broad use in monitoring and reporting.

Riverbank: means the elevations of land rising above the shoreline.

Riverbank Zone: means land within a minimum of 150 meters of the shoreline or on any part of the slope leading down to the shoreline where the gradient is in excess of 20 per cent, whichever extends the greatest distance measured horizontally from the shoreline.

Riverbed: means the land covered by water as to wrest it from vegetation or as to mark distinct character upon the vegetation and upon the soil itself where the vegetation extends into the water.

Service Facility: means anything by means of which water, light, power or gas is supplied, any sewer or sewage system or any other facility that, in the opinion of the Authority, is necessary for the purpose of Meewasin Valley, and includes a road, curb, bridge, sidewalk or parking lot, outdoor seating of a type suitable for an audience of assembly of spectators and a building that is:

- a. a headquarters building for the Authority;
- b. a public bathroom, toilet, shower, changing room, shelter, tool or equipment locker, pumphouse, or machine house;
- c. in the opinion of the Authority, incidental to a park or used in connection with the operation of a park; or
- d. used for any combination of the purposes mentioned in sub-clauses (a) to (c)

Shoreline: means the line dividing the riverbank and the riverbed where vegetation ceases or where the character of the vegetation and soil changes.

Species of Interest: means rare and species-at-risk.

Species-at-Risk: means an extirpated, endangered or threatened species or a species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Stewardship: means taking personal responsibility for the natural and cultural resources of the Meewasin Valley through careful and responsible management to ensure the health of ecosystems for present and future generations.

Verge: means all lands lying between the boundary of Meewasin Valley where it abuts upon a street, road or lane and the nearest part of the street, road or lane that is intended for the use of vehicles.

Watershed: means the drainage basin, or extent of land where water from rain or snow melt drains downhill, to the South Saskatchewan River.

POLICY: NORTHEAST POLICY

Policy No: 1.3

Date: 1987

Revised: June 9, 2015

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New/Revised: Revised

Map 1: Northeast Policy – Area of Policy Application

Map 1: Northeast Policy – Area of Policy Application

Meewasin Valley Authority
 June 9, 2015
 Projection: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 13N
 Aerial Imagery Property of
 the City of Saskatoon

1. University of Saskatchewan Riverbank Lands
2. St. Joseph High School Conservation Easement
3. Sutherland Beach, University of Saskatchewan Beef Research and Teaching Unit Land* and Crocus Prairie*
4. Saskatoon Natural Grasslands
5. University of Saskatchewan Reclamation Site and Adjacent Land
6. Peturrson's Ravine and Adjacent Uplands
7. Meewasin Northeast Swale
8. Riddell Paleontological Site*
9. Peggy McKercher Conservation Area
10. Small Swale*
11. North Riverbank*
12. University of Saskatchewan Backshore Core Campus Land
13. University of Saskatchewan Backshore Land
14. Established and Emerging Neighbourhoods*
15. Regional Psychiatric Centre
16. Forestry Farm Park and Zoo
17. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Land



- Proposed Central Avenue Extension
- Proposed North Commuter Parkway
- Proposed Perimeter Highway
- Meewasin Jurisdiction
- Priority Areas for Inclusion within Meewasin Jurisdiction
- Approximate Boundary
- Subject to Further Study
- Potential for Removal from Meewasin Jurisdiction
- City Limits



* Final delineation of site boundaries to be determined through further studies