



39 Years Conserving the River Valley

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Meewasin 

Message from the Chair and Interim CEO



Colin Tennent, Chair



Doug Porteous,
Interim CEO

The 2017-2018 fiscal year was challenging yet rewarding. Meewasin was created four decades ago in 1979 by an Act of the Government of Saskatchewan.

The people wanted a conserved river valley,

developed for free public access, a say in how it was developed and to be able to educate others about the value of what they had. It was the way in which the City of Saskatoon, Government of Saskatchewan and University of Saskatchewan felt they could best manage their riverbank lands. They all agreed to a one hundred year master plan with a statutory formula that would determine the financial contribution of each.

As Meewasin developed, it was made a non-profit organization that could raise money from the public and private sector, matching it to the statutory funds from each participating party for the purpose of delivering conservation, development and education programs. As a result, there has been a tremendous leveraging effect. For the City of Saskatoon alone, of the \$129 million that Meewasin has invested in conservation, development and education over the past 39 years, just \$24.5 million has come from local property taxes.

Today, by anyone's measure, the Meewasin Valley Project – first envisioned by master planner Raymond Moriyama in 1978 – has been an outstanding success when one sees what has been accomplished in the 67 square km of the Meewasin Conservation Zone. Meewasin has grown in its 39 years to become one of the most popular and appreciated organizations in the Saskatoon region. Yet over time, Meewasin's future has been of concern as the funding provided by the statutory formula, when indexed to the cost of inflation, has dropped from \$36 per capita in the early 1980s to now less than \$7 per capita. In response, Meewasin has had to gradually reduce its programs and services.

On March 22, 2017, the Government of Saskatchewan tabled a budget that further reduced its support to Meewasin by \$409,000, as well as its flowed through support to the University of Saskatchewan by \$34,000. This led to a 17% decrease in Meewasin funding for the fiscal year of this report April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. However, of greater concern was that the Government of Saskatchewan also announced it would be changing the *Meewasin Valley Authority Act*, and that the Government of Saskatchewan and University of Saskatchewan would no longer be obligated to provide statutory funding support to Meewasin.

Throughout the past fiscal year, Meewasin's Board and Administration worked diligently to streamline services and operations in alignment with its mission, mandate and priorities. The Board reviewed Meewasin's programs and services, and the costs to provide them, developing a mid-term report for the Ministry confirming that Meewasin is more than an urban park, that its programs benefit the entire province, that approximately 39% of Meewasin is

comprised of Crown Land, and that 50% of Meewasin's Conservation Zone is outside the City of Saskatoon.

As a result, Meewasin entered the new fiscal year April 1, 2018 with optimism. The City of Saskatoon, although only obligated to provide Meewasin with \$557,000, committed \$1.34 million to a \$3.8 million Meewasin status quo budget. And April 10, 2018, the Government of Saskatchewan tabled a budget providing Meewasin with \$500,000 in funding, the same amount allocated to Meewasin by the Government in 2017. This funding added to the city contribution and \$647,000 from the University of Saskatchewan flowed through from the Government increased Meewasin's revenue by \$341,000 over the previous fiscal year. With grants, donations, earned income and investment interest, Meewasin's total expected revenue for the fiscal year April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 allowed Meewasin to table a budget of \$3.8 million, giving Meewasin another year to address its funding concerns.

Meewasin thanks our donors, volunteers and funding partners for their ongoing support of Meewasin's successes in its 39th year of conservation, development, education and fund development. Today there is a strengthened understanding of the role that Meewasin plays in the province. Meewasin not only benefits the people of greater Saskatoon, but the entire province with conservation education programs that promote stewardship and biodiversity.

Meewasin Board of Directors want to thank Doug Porteous for his diligent leadership during a challenging time, over the past year as interim CEO. ♦



Our Mission Statement:

To ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley with a balance between human use and conservation by:

- Providing leadership in the management of 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.

Top left: Meewasin has been using grazing to promote biodiversity since 2004. **Top middle:** Chief Whitecap/John Lake Statue commemorated September 21, 2007 at "Bridging 125". **Top right:** Gabriel Dumont Park was built over a 20 year period and "The Gift" was transferred from Meewasin to the City of Saskatoon, August 30, 2001. **Bottom:** Cosmopolitan Park is considered one of the best "wildlife watching" parks in Saskatoon.

Meewasin's Jurisdiction:

Meewasin is centred in Saskatoon and runs approximately 80 km along the river valley through Saskatoon and Corman Park, from Pike Lake in the southwest to Clarke's Crossing in the northeast. It encompasses conservation areas, parks, museums, interpretive centres, university lands, canoe launches, community links and more than 80 km of Meewasin Trail. Including the South Saskatchewan River, there are approximately 67 square km in the Conservation Zone. Of that, approximately 39% is Government of Saskatchewan Land and 50% (3052 hectares) is outside Saskatoon City Limits. The Crown Lands require administration, maintenance, education and enforcement of federal and provincial law, as well as Meewasin bylaws.



Andrea Lafond

Meewasin Looking Forward With New Chief Executive Officer

In addition to receiving another year of status quo funding from the three participating parties, Meewasin took another step forward achieving long term

sustainability. On May 7, 2018, a new leader was appointed to lead the Meewasin Valley Authority.

Andrea brings more than 18 years of successful and progressive leadership across profit, non-profit and charitable organizations. She has led many high level multi-year strategies, most recently at Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies where she held the position of Vice-President Operations.

Andrea Lafond has had significant experience in a number of areas important to Meewasin, including fund development, strategic planning, finance, budgeting, leadership, advocacy, government relations and stakeholder engagement. Her experiences at Wanuskewin Heritage Park provide her with deep respect for conservation and ecology.

As we look to Meewasin's future. Andrea will lead Meewasin in its ongoing conservation efforts in the South Saskatchewan River Valley, delivering programs

Left: Meewasin Staff Barbecue 2018: **Left to right:** Betty Calvert, Sherry Luther, Rebecca Cairns, Andrea Lafond, Andrea Ziegler.

Right: "Where Our Paths Cross" – Victoria Park – commemorated June 20, 2018.

and services, constructing trails, and providing support for river access. As Meewasin CEO, she will lead an updating exercise, the goal of which will be to determine the best ways Meewasin can deliver on the mandate of conserving the cultural and natural resources of the South Saskatchewan River Valley while balancing Meewasin's three pillars of Conservation, Development and Education. ♦



Meewasin Board of Directors: April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018 ^{*retired}



Toddi Steelman*, Chair



Colin Tennent, Chair



Tracy Arno



David Buckingham



Carmen Campbell*



Charlie Clark



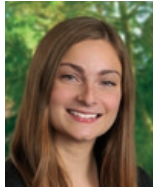
Robin Dunlop



Bev Dubois



Zach Jeffries



Mairin Loewen



Leanne Nyirfa



Peter Stoicheff



Fran Walley



Ryan Walker

Meewasin Committees

Public ownership in decision making is one of Meewasin's five guiding principles. To that end, Meewasin committees are invaluable to the work undertaken.

Conservation Advisory

The Conservation Advisory Committee advises the Meewasin Board in its work to ensure the health of the Meewasin Valley. Committee members were: Fran Walley, Peter Goode, Bert Weichel, Luc Delanoy, Amber Weckworth, Nadia Mori.

Development Review

The Development Review Committee is a statutory committee created under the *Meewasin Valley Authority Act (1979)* to provide professional and unbiased recommendations regarding the acceptability of proposed improvements within the Meewasin Valley. Committee members were: Mitch Strocen,

Terry Werbovetski, Alan Michelson, Twyla Bergstrom, Rob Crosby, Chris Schulz, Bianca Hilbert, Paul Koopman.

Design Advisory

The Design Advisory Committee assists the Meewasin Board in its work to develop opportunities for human interaction within the natural and cultural heritage resources of the valley by reviewing sensitive built environments in the context of the natural environment. Committee members were: Fran Walley, Bertrand Bartake, Tyson McShane, Luc Delanoy, Marilyn Gould, Jeff Howlett, Kendra Fisher.

Education Advisory

The Education Advisory Committee advises the Meewasin Board on its policy development in education. Committee members were: Brendan Bitz, Max Abraham, Mairin Loewen, Dean Newton, Terri Fradette, Scott Whiting, Melanie Elliott, Maurice Postnikoff, Michael Voralia, Lindsay Adams.



Top: Kiwanis Memorial Park – “Where Nature & Community Meet”.

Bottom: Our leaders of the future learn from the Land and from Elder Joseph Naytowhow.

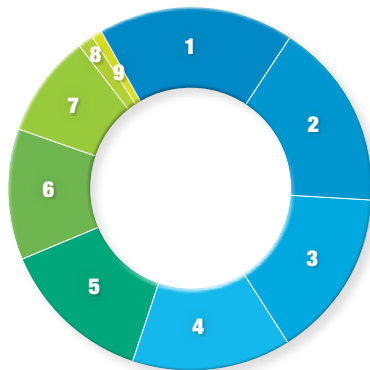
Staff/Committee & Board Changes

At the time of the publication of this annual report, we want to welcome those Board and staff members who have joined us and thank those who have moved on.

Staff members who have moved on from Meewasin include Rink Anaka, Nola Stein, Verity Moore-Wright, Stephanie Pitre and Lloyd Isaak.

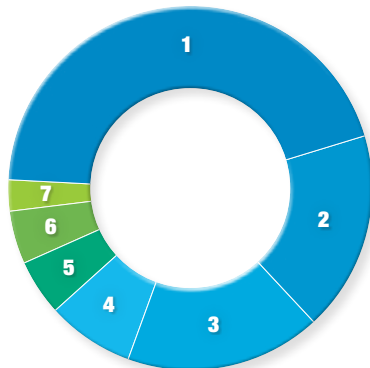
Operations

Meewasin Financial Highlights as of March 31, 2018



Source of Funds \$3,705,716

- 1 University of Saskatchewan Supplementary 17.5%
- 2 Earned Income 16.7%
- 3 City of Saskatoon Statutory 15.0%
- 4 City of Saskatoon Supplementary 14.1%
- 5 Government of Saskatchewan Supplementary 13.5%
- 6 Other Grants 11.8%
- 7 Donations 9.1%
- 8 City of Saskatoon Grants 1.2%
- 9 Government of Saskatchewan Grants 1.1%

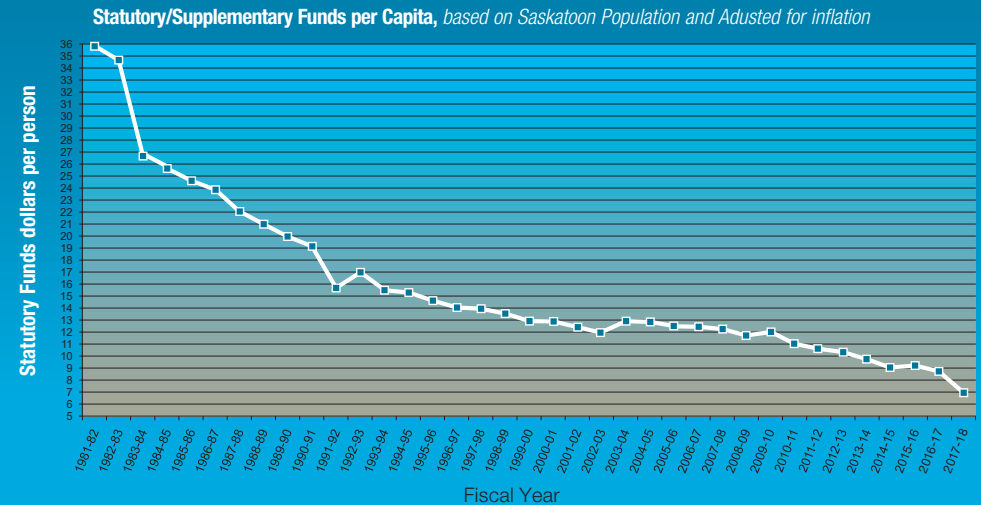


Expenditures and Allocations \$3,490,179

- 1 Construction 44.7%
- 2 Public Programs and Facilities 17.8%
- 3 Administration 17.2%
- 4 Fundraising Programs 8.0%
- 5 Planning and Conservation 4.9%
- 6 Allocations to Reserve (to Complete Projects in Progress) 4.8%
- 7 Other Expenditures 2.6%

Endowment Funds

The endowment funds, for the benefit of Meewasin, are owned and managed by the Saskatoon Community Foundation. At December 31, 2017, the endowment funds and balances were as follows: Meewasin Naturally Fund \$1,050,572, Susan Lamb Fund \$25,818 and Wes Bolstad Fund \$20,671 for a total of \$1,097,061. Audited financial statements are available upon request.



The 2017 elimination of statutory funding obligations for the University of Saskatchewan and the Government of Saskatchewan in the March 22, 2017 Saskatchewan government budget, meant **funding for Meewasin became discretionary**. At this time, the three participating parties are working together for the purpose of avoiding a further decrease in Meewasin funding and that is by showing the value of Meewasin to economic prosperity of all of Saskatchewan.

Meewasin statutory /supplemental funds per capita, despite a much expanded Conservation Zone, **have declined from \$36 per person in 1981-82 to less than \$7 per person in 2017-2018**.

Of the \$129 million that Meewasin has invested in conservation, development and education of the river valley over the past 39 years, just \$24.5 million has come from local property tax. **The leveraging effect for Saskatoon alone has been 5 to 1.**



Meewasin Staff June 2018

Back row, left to right: Doug Porteous, Wayne Stus, Andrea Ziegler, Renny Grilz, Alan Otterbein, Fred Prokuski, Rebecca Cairns, Andrew Whiting, Kathy Thomas, Sherry Luther, Kenton Lysak, Alex Acton, Mike Velonas, Betty Calvert.

Front row, left to right: Jamie Harder, Jess Flahr, Janet Dzik, Colleen Glover, Eryn Tomlinson, Sue Bouchard, Jesse Gosselin, Lis Mack, Bryce Waslak, Andrea Lafond, Savannah Crosby, Andrea Sollosy, Kaitlyn Taylor, Sheridan Popenia, Brenda Kramarchuk.

Meewasin 

Conservation

Meewasin is guided by *The Meewasin Valley Project 100 Year Conceptual Master Plan*, drafted in 1978 by Raymond Moriyama, the foundation document for Meewasin's current Development Plan. Meewasin initiatives strive toward the outcome of health, fit, vibrancy and balance.



Dr. Raymond Moriyama,
Architect

State of the Valley: Every five years Meewasin evaluates data by looking at health, fit, balance and vibrancy to produce the *State of the Valley Report*.

Based on 2013 data, the current report can be found at meewasin.com.

(Scroll to the bottom of the Home Page and access downloads).



Meewasin's Mandate

Meewasin's mandate is to ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley with a balance between human use and conservation by:

- Providing leadership in the management of resources;
- Providing 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.

Meewasin fulfills this mandate by undertaking Development Review, securing lands of interest, leading and participating in short-term and long-range use planning and by nurturing conservation, development and education.

Development Review

The *Meewasin Valley Authority Act (1979)* enables coordination and control over the development, conservation, maintenance and improvement of land within the Conservation Zone. Meewasin is advised by a statutory committee of professional planners, architects, geotechnical engineers and/or professional geoscientists.

Meewasin's Development Review process is complementary to other environmental or heritage review permitting processes. It focuses on the following parameters:

- Consistency with the Meewasin Development Plan;
- Conservation and interpretation of significant natural systems, and natural and cultural heritage;
- Slope stability and good drainage practices;

- Designs complementary to the natural setting of the river valley; and
- Provision for public access.

In the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018, Meewasin reviewed nine proposed improvements to the Conservation Zone. The applications included the following:

- North Commuter Parkway Fish Habitat Offset;
- University Drive and 13th Street Condo Development;
- Chief Whitecap Park Master Plan Update;
- Northeast Swale Phase 1 Development (Trails and Fencing);
- *Where Our Paths Cross* Artwork in Victoria Park;
- Kinsmen Park Satellite Maintenance Yard and Saskatoon Light & Power Pole Relocation;
- Gordie Howe Bowl Phase 5;
- Wanuskewin Expansion; and
- Diefenbaker Park Recreation Facility (Optimist Hill).

Securing Lands of Interest

The original Meewasin concept aims to create a ribbon of green through the City of Saskatoon with the river as a spine (see centrefold map). Meewasin continues to look for opportunities to seek long term stewardship of land with conservation value. Stewardship may be secured through public ownership, donation to Meewasin, inclusion in Meewasin's jurisdiction or conservation easements. Meewasin will continue to invest in partnerships with the City of Saskatoon to bring new shoreline added to city limits into the Conservation Zone.

Resource Management

Meewasin is recognized world-wide for its leadership in conserving the natural resources of the 6,700 hectares (67 sq km) of the Meewasin Valley. Meewasin sites and areas are home to more than two hundred plant species, one hundred bird species, amphibians, reptiles and animals. Conservation of these lands and ecosystems requires a varied approach using an integrated resource management plan including grazing and prescribed burning as well as restoration for the purpose of eradicating invasive species.

The role of the Resource Management Program at Meewasin is to maintain, enhance and restore the unique ecological values of the Meewasin Valley. These ecological values include the native grasslands, wetlands, swales, the river, and its tributaries. Meewasin utilizes an integrated approach to resource management, using a suite of tools: prescribed burning, targeted conservation grazing, ecological restoration, invasive species control, outreach and awareness, and ecological monitoring.

Meewasin completed the Meewasin Valley-wide Resource Management Plan 2017-2027, in March 2017. The Plan identified the priority conservation targets within the Meewasin Valley, the threats to these targets, and a priority action list of activities to mitigate the threats to each target. The largest threat identified was the impact invasive species (current and future infestations) would have on the conservation targets, and the biodiversity of

Top: Saskatoon's Prairie Lily – South Saskatchewan River.

Bottom left: Meewasin Northeast Swale. **Bottom right:** Prescribed burn at Meewasin Northeast Swale.



Conservation continued

the Valley. First year implementation of the Plan was in 2017/2018, with an annual report to be completed each year documenting progress.

Meewasin Resource Management Activities 2017-2018

During the first half of 2017-2018, Meewasin Resource Management delivered programs to maintain and enhance conservation targets in the Meewasin Valley. These activities were conducted focusing on specific sites. In the first two quarters of 2017-2018, field activities were conducted on provincial crown lands including vacant land, public access sites (canoe launches) and along the shoreline of the South Saskatchewan River. The remainder of the focus was on Meewasin owned properties, city owned properties, and conservation sites owned by other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including Chappell Marsh owned by Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Wanuskewin Heritage Park. A significant portion of this involved the management of invasive species.

During the remainder of 2017-2018, ongoing resource management on lands in the conservation zone include:

- Control of European Buckthorn, a provincially designated noxious weed found along the South Saskatchewan River Valley;
- Ongoing site inspections and management including clean-up of littering and illegal dumping, river access management, and monitoring invasive species locations;
- Reporting of resource management activities including specific site reports, updating various databases in Saskatchewan including Saskatchewan Conservation



Above: Northern Harrier – Meewasin Northeast Swale.

Data Centre and iMapInvasives;

- Ongoing conservation outreach to the general public, other agencies and landowners through presentations, workshops, posters and social media; and
- Annual review of the Meewasin Valley-wide Resource Management Plan 2017-2027.

River Users Meeting

Meewasin has been holding an annual River Users meeting since 1988. Its most recent one was held on May

16, 2018. The meeting brings together representatives from the Canoe Club, Rowing Club, Shearwater Marine Services, Dragon Boats, Fire and Police Departments, City of Saskatoon and others with an interest in on-water activity. The main focus of the meeting is water safety. The group determined that new signage is needed on the river, specifically affixed to bridge piers, to identify areas of the river for powered and paddle users that are in-line with federal regulations. Several years ago, Meewasin, in consultation with the river users group and Transport Canada, developed signage intended to address river behavior. These signs were installed at the boat launches. At this year's River Users Meeting, members of the river users group resolved to develop new signage and

provide installation with their own resources. Meewasin has committed to facilitate the process with our federal and civic partners.

In collaboration with the City of Saskatoon, Meewasin continues to pursue the River Access Study which will provide a clear long-term plan for managing on-water access and safety.

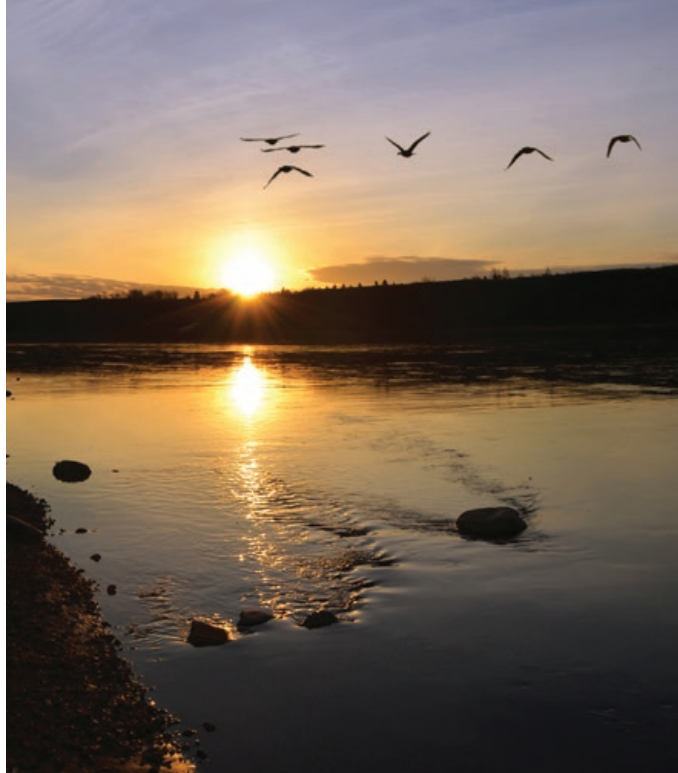
Strategic Plan

In 2013, Meewasin undertook an extensive process with stakeholders to develop a ten year strategic plan. The plan was to enable Meewasin to reflect on its core mandate and past work, and to consider emerging opportunities.

The ten year strategic plan is titled: *A World-Class Corridor, Naturally Beautiful, Uniquely Ours*. This plan was approved and announced publicly in June 2014. It will be reviewed during the 2018-2019 updating process.

Kiwanis Memorial Park Boat Launch

The Kiwanis Memorial Park temporary boat launch was moved to that location from River Landing during development of River Landing. Although the location may not be ideal for the park, with river levels constantly changing and sandbars moving, a more suitable location has not yet been identified. Meewasin, in cooperation with the City of Saskatoon, has been evaluating the performance of the temporary launch along with other possible locations as part of the first phase of the River Access Study. Meewasin is currently determining resources, timelines and deliverables required to complete the study, and will have more information later in the fiscal year. ♦



Top left: South Saskatchewan River, Saskatoon. **Bottom left:** Zhongshan Ting, Victoria Park. **Top right:** Interpretive Cross-Country Skiing, Beaver Creek Conservation Area. **Middle right:** St. Edwards School Eco-Justice Class, Teacher Dustin Kasun, CN EcoConnexions Tree Planting, October 2017. **Bottom right:** CN EcoConnexions Tree Planting, **LtoR:** Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark, Meewasin Interim CEO Doug Porteous, Whitecap Dakota First Nations Chief Darcy Bear, October 2017.

Development



Top: The Traffic Bridge was a truss bridge that spanned the South Saskatchewan River, connecting Victoria Avenue to 3rd Avenue South and Spadina Crescent. Opened October 10, 1907, the construction of the bridge was considered a prime factor in the amalgamation of the towns of Saskatoon, Nutana and Riversdale. The bridge was permanently closed in 2010. A new bridge, similar to the original will be open October 2018 reconnecting the Meewasin Trail and the Great Trail. **Bottom:** One of the school groups to cross the original Traffic Bridge one snowy day was the Grade 8 Eco-Justice Class of St. Edward School – Teachers Dustin Kasun & Mel Sysing.

Included in Meewasin's mandate is the conservation, and development of heritage resources within the 67 square km of the Meewasin Conservation Zone. Maintenance and development projects for the 2017-2018 fiscal year include:

- Trail Upgrades within Saskatoon City Limits** – The first section of upgraded trail within Saskatoon was completed along Spadina Crescent in 2017, and planning was well underway for the next section in this area. A link on the “Great Trail”, this work is being undertaken along some of Meewasin's most well-used trails, and will significantly improve the condition, accessibility and carrying capacity of the existing Meewasin Trail network. This upgrade supports active transportation, river access and health and wellness for Saskatoon citizens and visitors. The Meewasin Trail is a highly-rated recreational amenity, and a significant tourist destination for Saskatchewan.
- Intercept Surveys** - In order to better understand trail usage, Meewasin undertakes trail intercept surveys. These surveys include a count of trail users past a certain point in a defined period of time. They also include interviews with trail users during that time. An intercept survey was completed in May of 2017. There was overwhelming support from those interviewed to have Meewasin supported by tax dollars. The biggest concerns for trail users came from both pedestrians and cyclists. The pedestrians were concerned about the speed of some cyclists on the Meewasin Trail, while the cyclists were concerned about the length of the leash used by some dog walkers. The May 2017 Intercept Survey results can be found on the Meewasin website at meewasin.com. Scroll to bottom of Home Page and access “downloads”.
- Habitat Restoration** – Several revegetation projects were undertaken in 2017 along the river valley using primarily native trees, shrubs and grasses. These sites included the shoreline adjacent to Cosmopolitan Park (as part of the riverbank slump repair), the Water Treatment Plant and projects on the uplands of Chief Whitecap Park. Chief Whitecap Park is located in the R.M. of Corman Park, and is owned by the City of Saskatoon with a portion owned by the Crown.
- Meewasin Northeast Swale** – Extending north from Saskatoon's Peturrson's Ravine in Saskatoon to the R.M. of Aberdeen, the Northeast Swale is a channel scar that is approximately 26 km long and covers 2,800 hectares. In 2017-2018, 2.2 km of recreational trail were developed in the City of Saskatoon within the Recreation Zone of the Swale.
- Beaver Creek Conservation Area (BCCA)** – BCCA is located outside of City of Saskatoon limits and is within the R.M. of Corman Park. It provides access to Crown Lands (river channel and shoreline) along the South Saskatchewan River. The property is owned by the City of Saskatoon and Meewasin. In 2017, as well as educational programs, Meewasin provided site monitoring and access control, garbage collection, snow clearing, parking lot maintenance, signage and maintenance of 8 km of recreational and interpretive trail. The interpretive facilities at BCCA were also maintained by Meewasin. Upgrades and repairs that were undertaken include air-conditioning replacement, washroom repairs and drywall ceiling repairs on the lower level. New (net metered) solar panels were installed on site with a funding grant provided by SaskPower.

Rural River Access Sites

The population of Saskatoon and area has increased dramatically over the past two decades and normal summer river levels have lowered, creating an abundance of sandbars. This has created a greater interest in accessing the Meewasin enhanced rural river access sites at Poplar Bluffs Canoe Launch, Fred Heal Canoe Launch and Paradise Beach. No longer are they just parking lots to launch canoes, kayaks and paddleboards but have become very popular for beach activity, necessitating the need for greater administration of the sites including education and enforcement.

- **Poplar Bluffs Canoe Launch** – Poplar Bluffs is a Meewasin owned site located along the east bank of the South Saskatchewan River. It is south of Saskatoon and within the R.M. of Corman Park. Poplar Bluffs provides access to Crown Land including the river channel and shoreline. Meewasin staff provide monitoring and access control, garbage collection, parking lot maintenance and some signage.
- **Fred Heal Canoe Launch** – Fred Heal Canoe Launch is located on the west bank of the South Saskatchewan River, 22 km by river south of Saskatoon. It was developed on Crown Land in the early 2000s for the purpose of providing canoe/kayak enthusiasts a river access parking lot and launch site upriver from the city. The parking lot can accommodate approximately 20 vehicles. In recent years, the site has become more popular with recreational river users, more for beach activity than launching small craft. Area residents have become increasingly concerned about site capacity, and the need for Meewasin bylaw enforcement. Meewasin

provides monitoring and access control, garbage collection, parking lot maintenance and signage.

- **Paradise Beach Canoe Launch** – Paradise Beach is located southeast of Saskatoon. A Meewasin owned parking lot, it is within the R.M. of Corman Park. River users access the site mainly for beach activity. Paradise Beach requires regular supervision, maintenance and Meewasin bylaw enforcement.

These three rural river access sites have been stewarded by Meewasin over the past two decades and have been well used by those wanting access to the river for recreation. However, Meewasin does not currently have the capacity to enforce Meewasin bylaws. Meewasin met with Corman Park officials this past fiscal year to determine the best way to administer these sites.

The Meewasin Trail Guide

Meewasin thanks the Saskatoon Road Runners Association (SRRA) for sponsorship of the Meewasin Trail Guide, and for their stewardship and promotion of the Meewasin Valley. The SRRA have contributed more than \$260,000 to Meewasin for multiple projects including a drinking fountain and a seating node near the Diefenbaker Centre along the Meewasin Trail. Meewasin has been the “Charity of Choice” for the annual Saskatchewan Marathon, this year held May 27, 2018. A major donation of approximately \$20,000 allowed Meewasin to update and publish the Meewasin Trail Guide, a small color pocket-size booklet of 60 pages of maps and information about the Meewasin Valley. Meewasin Trail Guide books can be found at the Meewasin Valley Centre, Tourism Saskatoon and hotels and venues along the Meewasin Trail.



Top: Rotary International Peace Plaza, Hear the Children Peace Day September 2002. **Middle:** Tim Hortons Twinkle Lights – December 19, 2017 Councillor Bev Dubois, Mayor Charlie Clark, Councillor Zach Jeffries, Tim Hortons Owner Janna Dutton & Family. **Bottom:** South Saskatchewan River, Saskatoon.

Meewasin Trail

Trail Use

Enjoy the trail. Be safe.
Be aware of your surroundings.
After dark be smart.



It is every trail user's responsibility to ensure the safety of themselves and others.

Pedestrians

- Keep to the right, except to pass.
- Check over your shoulders before crossing the trail.
- Watch for small children. Explain to them any potential dangers.
- Avoid walking on ski paths during the winter months.

Dogs on the Trail

- Keep dogs on a leash.
- Clean up after your dog.

Cyclists

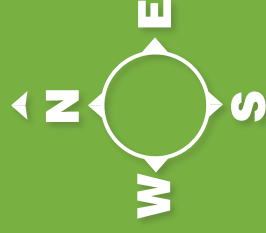
- Pedestrians have the right of way on The Meewasin Trail.
- Keep to the right except to pass.
- Pass slowly when clear on the left.
- Use a bell to alert others of your presence
- Go slow (suggested maximum 15 km/hr).
- Keep single file and obey all pavement markings.
- Watch for blind spots and unexpected traffic.

City of Saskatoon

LEGEND

- Meewasin Trail
- The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail)
- Future Meewasin Trail
- Eco-Canoe Trail
- Backshore Link (Multi-Use)
- Bike Boulevard
- Protected Bike Lanes
- Point of Interest

0 0.5 1km





East Bank

- 1 Peggy McKercher Conservation Area
- 2 Meewasin Northeast Swale
- 3 Crocus Prairie
- 4 Saskatoon Natural Grasslands (SNG)
- 5 Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo
- 6 Sutherland Beach
- 7 University of Saskatchewan
- 8 Cosmopolitan Park and Lookout
- 9 Rotary Park and Lookout
- 10 The Marr Residence
- 11 Gabriel Dumont Park

- 12 Western Development Museum
- 13 Diefenbaker Park and the Pioneer Cemetery

West Bank

- 14 Factoria
- 15 Meewasin Park
- 16 Capilano Lookout
- 17 G.D. Archibald Park
- 18 Meewasin Riverworks (Weir)
- 19 Children's Discovery Museum and Island

Sanctuary

- 20 Kinsmen Park
- 21 The Ukrainian Museum of Canada
- 22 Kiwanis Memorial Park
- 23 Friendship Park
- 24 Meewasin Valley Centre
- 25 River Landing and The Farmers' Market
- 26 Victoria Park and The Boathouse
- 27 Bowerman House
- 28 Sanatorium Site
- 29 Richard St. Barbe Baker

Meewasin



Meewasin Trail: The Meewasin Trail is the most popular recreation amenity in the City of Saskatoon. There are more than 80 km of Meewasin Trail linking parks and destinations. Meewasin's most recent analysis (April 2017 to March 2018) once again shows the Meewasin Trail's great popularity for commuters and recreational users. The busiest three site counts were River Landing (512,000), the Weir East Bank (265,000) and the Mendel (217,000). May, June, July and August were the busiest months recorded. The coldest month of January recorded 200 – 300 daily users.

Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @NutrienPlaza

The Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @Nutrien Plaza (formerly PotashCorp Plaza) opened to the public on December 16, 2017, and ran until March 17, 2018 for a total of 92 days. There were approximately 46,000 skaters this season, 19,000 more than last year, averaging approximately 500 per day. It was Meewasin's busiest season on record. Meewasin does not charge for skating or skate rental. The donation box collected \$1431.

Set-up for the rink began on November 7, 2017 with Turner Transport moving the building to Kiwanis Memorial Park beside the Delta Hotels Bessborough. Urban Camp correctional workers assisted by hauling and setting up the decks and ramps. The rink boards were installed. By November 16 ice making began and seasonal lights were installed on the grove of evergreen trees.

Full time attendants at the rink, all returnees from the previous season were Jordan Pyakutch, Robert Gaida, Devin Ostlund and Jeff White. Howard Burlock, a local retired resident, volunteered for the season assisting with ice-making and skate-sharpening. Vehicle parking for attendants was again provided courtesy of the Delta Hotels Bessborough.

The *Tim Hortons Twinkle Light Skating Party*, December 2017, celebrated the official beginning to the Meewasin skating season. Other major events included the *Nutrien Wintershines Skating Party*, January 28, 2018, and the *Cameco Family Day Skating Party* February 19, 2018. The Tim Hortons Sprinter Van was able to make it to all events serving thousands of cups of hot chocolate and coffee at no charge to the celebrants.

More than 50 groups scheduled private bookings this season, from local schools and businesses, to church groups and family parties. The Saskatoon Highland Dancers returned for their annual *Great Canadian Kilt Skate* January 27, 2018. One couple chose the rink as the location for their engagement.

New Canadians and visitors to Saskatoon who visited the Meewasin rink include skaters from Edmonton, Calgary, Texas, Minnesota, California, Mexico, England, Ukraine, Venezuela, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sweden, Japan, China and the Saskatchewan communities of Rosthern, Regina and Prince Albert.

The Meewasin Skaters' Lodge

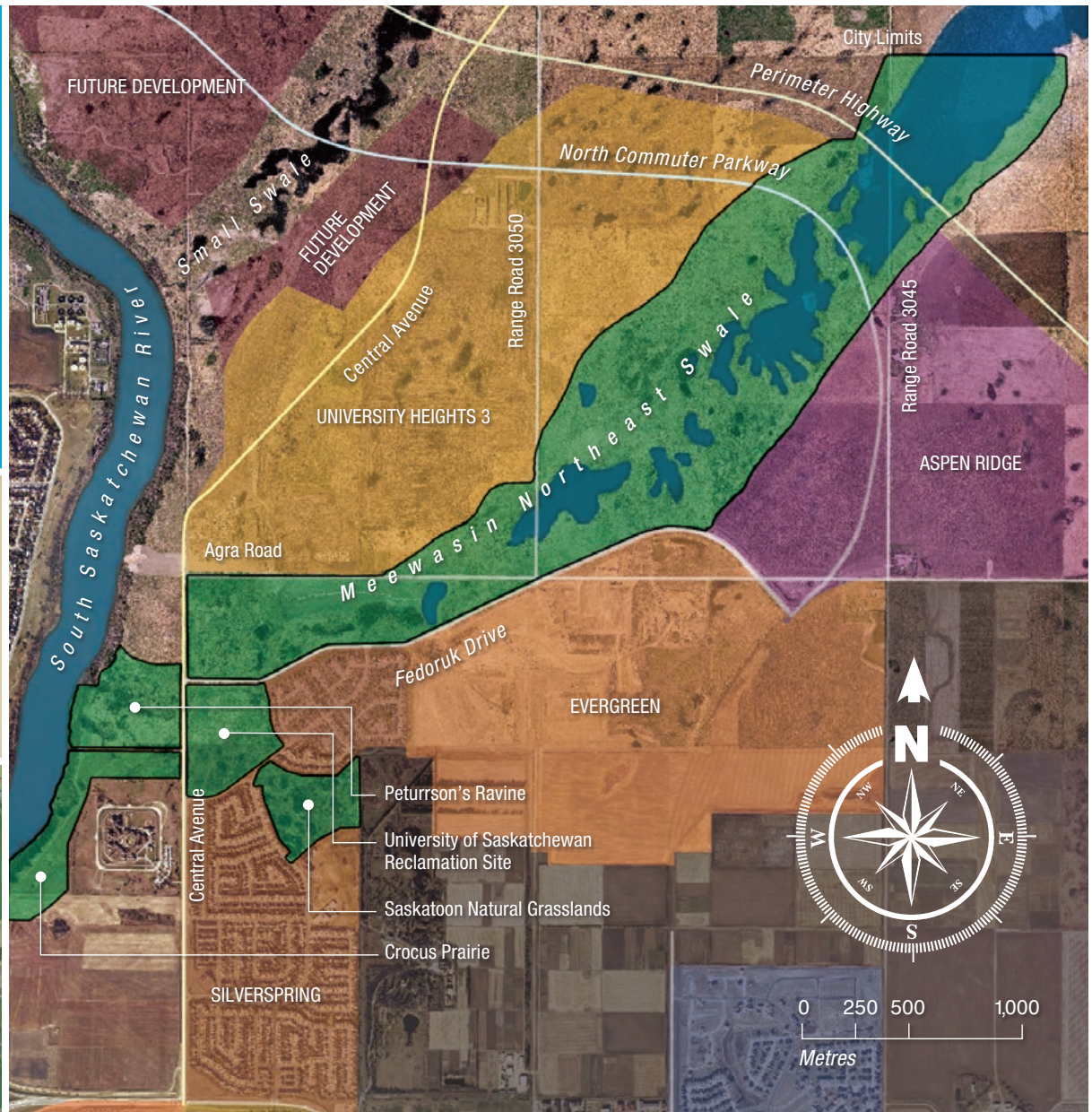
From its inception in early 1980, the Meewasin outdoor skating rink operation included a portable warm-up shelter that was moved on and off site seasonally. When the rink site was upgraded in 2011, including a new permanent washroom, warm-up building and trail link connecting Spadina Crescent to the Meewasin Trail, the City required that the warm-up shelter be moved off site for the summer. However, as each year goes by, the site has been increasingly difficult to access, primarily due to street tree growth over time. As well, Meewasin regularly receives requests from others to use the building for summer programming, and many visitors to the park use the rink deck for rest and relaxation.

Early in 2018, Meewasin approached the City administration with a suggestion to explore the potential of keeping the building on site. The City agreed to a pilot that will be reviewed annually. Meewasin is managing any booking requests. ♦

Meewasin Northeast Swale

Middle left: Context map of Meewasin Northeast Swale.

Bottom left: Location map of Meewasin Northeast Swale and adjacent area plans. Aerial imagery courtesy of the City of Saskatoon and the Saskatchewan Geospatial Imagery Collaborative. **Right:** In this aerial photo looking north, the Meewasin Northeast Swale runs between Silverspring, Evergreen, Aspen Ridge and the future University Heights 3 neighbourhoods. In Saskatoon, it connects to the South Saskatchewan River at Peturrson's Ravine. It also connects to the river in the Rural Municipality of Corman Park and in the Rural Municipality of Aberdeen. Aerial photo data: Google Earth, Digital Globe.



Education



Above: Meewasin Interpreter Kenton Lysak interprets the flora and fauna of the Meewasin Northeast Swale at the Saskatoon Nature City Festival 2018. **Below:** Meewasin Chair Colin Tennent announces new Meewasin CEO Andrea Lafond, May 2018.



The Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre

The Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre (MVC) opened February 1988 and closed July , 2016. During its time, MVC provided Saskatoon residents with opportunities to learn about Saskatoon's early history, the South Saskatchewan River and the future of the Meewasin Valley.

This past year, the lower level of the MVC has had some facility upgrades. Removing one wall has allowed it to become a meeting place while still maintaining a historical theme. It is now a place where a speaker can make eye contact with 60 to 80 people at one time. It has already been used for Meewasin Board meetings, public meetings and news conferences and in the future may be available for rent by outside users.

Meewasin Clean-Up Campaign

With the support of Loraas Disposal and the City of Saskatoon, 2018 marked Meewasin's 38th annual Clean-Up Campaign. As Meewasin no longer had a major sponsor, the Clean-Up was advertised mainly through public service announcements and media interviews and again appears to have been well received by the general public. Originally kicked off on Earth Day, steward groups continue to step forward to volunteer their time to clean the river valley. Most recently this fiscal year, on Tuesday, July 24, 2018, it was Mile 2 Church where 17 parishioners and their pastor volunteered an evening to clean Friendship and Kiwanis Memorial Park. On Saturday, July 28, 2018, it was the SaskTel Pioneers who conducted a "Pick & Paddle" canoeing and kayaking into Saskatoon from Paradise Beach to have an evening barbecue in Victoria Park. In both cases Meewasin had a "Meet & Greet" telling them about the history of Meewasin thanking them for their stewardship, giving out Meewasin Trail Maps and other information. Some other groups recorded this spring include: Sask Home & School Clan, Sask Search & Rescue, Engineering and Land Services City of Saskatoon, BHP Billiton, Graham Construction, Cosmopolitan Club, Yardi Systems, Saskatoon Misbah School Grade 8 Class, City of Saskatoon Environmental and Corporate Initiatives, SNC-Lavalin, Group Albert & Taylor, and the Open Door Society.

A big thank you is extended to all of the volunteers, families, school groups, companies and corporations who come together annually to steward the Meewasin Valley.

Beaver Creek Conservation Area

Located 13 km south of Saskatoon off of Highway #219, Beaver Creek Conservation Area (BCCA) was established in 1979. The interpretive centre opened in 1984.

A microcosm of the Meewasin Valley, BCCA is located where a prairie creek meets a prairie river. It contains one of the few uncultivated short grass prairie sites in Saskatchewan. The beavers that live there play an important role in keeping the creek habitat “teeming” with wildlife. Beavers build dams that flood waters upstream, creating beaver ponds. Many plants and animals make their homes in these sheltered ponds.

The BCCA interpretive centre and staff provide opportunities to discover nature during all seasons along a selection of nature trails.

BCCA continued to provide interpretive programs to Grade 5 students in 2017 – 2018 from Saskatoon and area schools totaling 3,012 students. General public visitation totaled 14,611. This included Dark Skies Night (450), Community Initiatives Fund Hiking Program (337), and Winter Interpretive Cross-Country Ski Program (399). Total visitation to the site was 18,809. In addition, BCCA staff average 1200 phone calls annually from the general public seeking more information on the site, and on the flora and fauna of our Meewasin Valley.

BCCA Interpretive Cross-Country Ski Program

February 13, 2018 to March 29, 2018, Meewasin’s Beaver Creek Conservation Area offered 17 days of an interpretive Cross-Country Ski and Nature Study program geared to Saskatoon and area Grades 5-8. The program was sponsored by Dr. Kay Nasser, the Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks & Conservation Agencies, the Community Initiatives Fund and Meewasin. 16 school classes and their teachers from Saskatoon participated in the program, totaling 399 students, representing a cross section of nationalities including: First Nations, Mexican, Filipino, East Indian, Chinese and Japanese.



Top left: Cross-Country Skiing Meewasin Valley.
Top right: Pelicans at the Weir. **Bottom:** Beaver Creek Conservation Area.



BCCA SaskPower Solar Project

In 2015, Beaver Creek Conservation Area received a grant for \$50,000 over two years from SaskPower to fit the BCCA interpretive centre with a solar panel system, and to create an interpretive conservation program. 16 solar panels were installed in the already disturbed area close to the interpretive centre. The solar panels have been integrated into the grid system and linked to Smartboards within the interpretive centre. The last step is to create and install interpretive signage. Meewasin now delivers a unique educational experience on the benefits of the how and why of solar energy. The formal opening of this program is planned for the fall of 2018.

Pelican Watch 2017 & 2018

Saskatoon residents have special visitors each summer. April through October, pelicans gather by the weir to fish. These birds, once on the endangered species list, have been a beautiful sight on the South Saskatchewan River since the late 1970s. For Saskatoon residents, their arrival is a harbinger of spring.

The American White Pelican is one of the largest birds on the continent weighing 7-10 kg and having a wing span of up to 3 metres. Breeding birds develop an orange horn on their bill that falls off after nesting season. The breeding birds seen at the weir have likely flown to Saskatoon from Redberry Lake, the site of the nearest nesting colony. They make the 160 km round trip daily. In late fall, our pelicans migrate to sites in California, Florida, Mexico and even Guatemala.

The fiscal year, April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018, was the 22nd year of the Meewasin Pelican Watch Contest.

Previous arrival times have been between April 4 and April 20. The first official pelican to touch down between the CPR Bridge and the weir in the 22nd year of the contest did so Sunday, April 2, at 6:25 pm, as witnessed by Meewasin's official spotters from the Saskatoon Nature Society. The winner of the contest was Grade 2 student Jackson Crowder with a guess of 6:00 pm.

As the 23rd Meewasin Pelican Watch is launched within the calendar year of this annual report; Meewasin reports that the first pelican to land between the CPR Bridge and the weir in the 23rd year of the contest, as witnessed by an official observer from the Saskatoon Nature Society, did so Wednesday, April 18 at 1:54 pm. The winner of the 2018 contest was Kodi Hiller with a guess of Wednesday, April 18, 2:25 pm.

Interpretation at the Meewasin Northeast Swale

The Meewasin Northeast Swale is an ancient river channel that begins at Peturrson's Ravine and carves a 26 km long path parallel to the South Saskatchewan River. It is one of the largest pieces of unbroken prairie and riparian wetland in the Saskatoon region, with patches of rare fescue grassland. The Swale is home to several rare, endangered and culturally significant species.

During the past three years, Meewasin, working with the City of Saskatoon, has developed a Master Plan for the Meewasin Northeast Swale that covers approximately 300 ha of the Greater Swale. The Master Plan includes the interpretation and education of these natural and cultural resources within the city. The Swale Watchers, a valued volunteer group, have played an important

role in advising Meewasin and the City of Saskatoon on direction for the Swale.

With support from Ducks Unlimited Canada, Meewasin education programs at the Meewasin Northeast Swale include 34 classes from school divisions in Saskatoon and area, totaling more than 800 students and support staff.

The Saskatoon Natural Grasslands

Within the northeast sector of the City of Saskatoon lies the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands (SNG), a 13.8 hectare (34 acres) parcel of remnant native fescue prairie. Part of the Northeast Swale Complex, it represents one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. The site is defined as fescue grassland which incorporates a wide variety of highly specialized native species, including numerous grasses, wildflowers, trees, shrubs, birds, insects, and mammals endemic to the area. Unfortunately, grassland ecosystems and the species that call them home are significantly at risk due to the loss of grasslands within Saskatchewan and across Canada. It is estimated that less than 20% of Saskatchewan's native prairie remains intact, with less than 5% of fescue prairie remaining, and the loss of these vital prairie systems continues today. These prairie systems are essential to the survival of countless flora and fauna, many of which are threatened due to the loss of natural habitat.

Thank you to the programs provided by Melanie Elliott of the University of Saskatchewan College of Education, the Saskatoon Nature Society, the City of Saskatoon, the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division, the Saskatoon Public School Division and the stewards in the Silverspring Community who assist Meewasin in the goal to continue to provide SNG habitat and recreational



Nature City Festival 2018, Meewasin Northeast Swale:
Drum Circle led by Elder Joseph Naytowhow – “Learning from the Land”.

opportunities, soil protection and a gene pool for future medical and agricultural needs.

Meewasin fall and spring interpretation of the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands included 50 Grade 2 classes from school systems in and around Saskatoon, totaling more than 1200 students and support staff.

Other Meewasin-Led Interpretive Programs

Besides Meewasin-led interpretive conservation programs at Beaver Creek Conservation Area, the Meewasin Northeast Swale and the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, Meewasin provided conservation interpretive support to the Saskatoon Nature City Festival as well as interpretation at other sites in Meewasin’s Conservation Zone including Chappell Marsh, the Prairie Lily River Boat and some Provincial Regional Parks.



Don Kerr

Meewasin Conservation Award 2017

Don Kerr is the 2017 recipient of the Meewasin Conservation Award which is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the heritage resources of the Meewasin Valley.

Born in Saskatoon in 1936, Mr. Kerr received a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in English from the University of Saskatchewan, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Toronto. He studied in London, England and returned to Saskatoon where he has taught for both the English and the Drama departments of the University of Saskatchewan.

Kerr began his writing career as a poet and has since published five volumes. He began writing plays in the 1980s, all of which have been of a political or historical nature. He has also written pieces broadcast on CBC Radio. He published his first collection of stories in 2000, and has edited a number of works. He has acted as the press editor for more than 15 books.

As a volunteer, Kerr was the first chair of the Saskatoon Municipal Advisory Committee, serving for a number of years. He was the Saskatchewan Governor for the Heritage Canada Foundation. He has volunteered with a number of organizations including World University Service Canada, Saskatoon Public Library, Meewasin Valley Authority, Saskatchewan Arts Board and Sask Film. He has served on the boards of two regional publishers: Coteau Books of Regina and NeWest Press.

Meewasin is honored to award Don Kerr with the 33rd Meewasin Conservation Award. Recognizing the occasion, in the spring of 2018, a tree was planted in Mr. Kerr’s name in the Meewasin Valley.

Meewasin Interpretive Canoe Tours 2017

One of the reductions in programs and services in 2017 – 2018 were the Meewasin interpretive canoe tours in the Meewasin 10-passenger voyageur clipper canoes. As a result one of the canoes was loaned to Fort Carlton for a Canada 150 display. For the past two decades, the Meewasin interpretive canoe program was very popular, especially with novice canoeists. Fully funded, it was an excellent way to learn about the river from the river. At this time, the future of the Meewasin canoe tour program is uncertain and will be considered in the 2018-2019 Meewasin update. ◆

Fund Development



Meewasin's annual budget varies from year to year depending on donations and funds generated by capital developments. Up until 1999, Meewasin had a Foundation with a full time coordinator and administrative assistant charged with the mandate to raise a portion of the annual Meewasin budget. The Foundation Board was dissolved in 1999, however the donations staff were retained.

In the following years, Meewasin carried on with the original Foundation fundraising programs, retaining fundraising consultants. However, as Meewasin must always be in a fund development mode, Meewasin decided that rather than contracting consultants for campaigns, it would create its own fund development department. In August of 2015, Verity Moore-Wright became Meewasin's Manager of Fund Development.

The fiscal year of 2017 – 2018, Meewasin took part in or delivered several community-based fundraising and stewardship activities including: Leave-A-Legacy Month, donor tours to the Meewasin Northeast Swale, the first annual Meewasin Valley River Tour, the Mayor's Paddle Palooza, the Dark Skies Night at Beaver Creek Conservation Area, National Philanthropy Day, Giving Tuesday, a Year-End Giving Campaign, the Meewasin Holiday Reception, several skating parties and the annual direct mailer. Meewasin also continued to promote the Green Circle programs providing donors with special

Top: One of Meewasin's mascots volunteers at the Meewasin water table at the 40th running of the Saskatchewan Marathon, May 2018.

Middle and bottom: Meewasin Plant-A-Tree, June 2017.

opportunities to engage with Meewasin when pledging a gift to Meewasin of \$10,000 over 5 years.

Since the end of the fiscal year, Manager of Fund Development Verity Moore-Wright has moved onto work with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Meewasin thanks Verity for her contributions to Meewasin and continued support. And Meewasin thanks the Meewasin volunteer Fund Development Cabinet for its stewardship: Chair Dr. Evan Howlett, Robin Chapman, Trevor Forrest, Peter Goode, Susan Lamb, Doug Hodson, Clayton Sparks, Robert Lumsdon, and John Hyshka for their support of Meewasin. At this time Office Manager Janet Dzik and Donations Officer Betty Calvert have taken the lead on Meewasin fund development.

Meewasin Plant-A-Tree 2017

The 31st Meewasin Plant-A-Tree Dedication was held Saturday, June 17, 2017 in Boomtown at the Western Development Museum Saskatoon. It was the last Plant-A-Tree emceed by long-time Meewasin volunteer and chair of the Plant-A-Tree Committee, Wayne Dyck who passed away in October 2017.

The Plant-A-Tree, Memorial Forest, and Brick/Bench sponsorship programs are ongoing successful fund-raising activities for Meewasin. Their purpose is to "green" the river valley for public use. Donations are made to honor events and people who have touched our lives. Since 1988, Meewasin has planted 4,100 trees and shrubs in the valley sponsored through the Meewasin Plant-A-Tree program.

The 2017 program included the sponsorship recognition of more than 100 trees and shrubs, benches and bricks. The event featured the Saskatoon



Men's Chorus and Piper Brad Fenty from the 96th Highlanders Pipes and Drums and speakers: His Worship Mayor Charlie Clark, Meewasin Chair Colin Tennent, Meewasin Fund Development Chair Dr. Evan Howlett, and Meewasin Green Circle Donors Robin Chapman and Ian Judd-Henrey.

Saskatchewan Marathon 2017

The Saskatoon Road Runners Association (SRRA) have been an important partner for the Meewasin Valley. Since 2010 the Saskatoon Road Runners have given more than \$260,000 to Meewasin for trail development. The Saskatoon Road Runners Seating Node and fountain

Above: Meewasin volunteers clean the Meewasin Valley. Last year's Clean-Up Campaign counted more than 30,000 volunteers who donated their time and effort to this annual event.



Fund Development continued

by the Diefenbaker Centre are now an important destination, a meeting place along the Meewasin Trail. Their sponsorship of the popular Meewasin Trail Guide this past year is significant allowing residents and visitors to walk, run and roll through the Meewasin Valley while deepening their knowledge about the natural and cultural heritage of the valley. Meewasin thanks the Saskatoon Road Runners for their significant support.

Rotary International Peace Plaza

In 2010 Meewasin and the Rotary Club of Saskatoon first discussed bringing greater attention to the Peace Plaza by honouring Nobel Peace Laureates with red granite bricks. Since its dedication in 1967, Rotary Park has been a popular riverbank park in Meewasin's Conservation Zone, and Meewasin has played a key role in its continuing development, collaborating with the Rotary Clubs of Saskatoon, Nutana Community Association and SaskEnergy. This partnership has produced the Rotary International Peace Plaza and SaskEnergy Flame.

A number of peace laureates have been recognized at this site to date: Mother Teresa, Lester B. Pearson, Desmond Tutu, the Red Cross of 1917, the UN Commission for Refugees, Nelson Mandela and F. W. de Klerk, Norman Borlaug, Malala Yousafzai, and this past September 19, 2017, Muhammad Yunus.

The Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana, in partnership with Meewasin, offers the opportunity to sponsor a special red granite brick in honour of past recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Bricks are dedicated annually on or near September 21, at a ceremony in Saskatoon's Rotary Park, to mark the International Day of Peace. ♦

Top left: Meewasin Plant -A-Tree Program. **Top right:** A Crocus blooms in the grasslands, Meewasin Northeast Swale.

Bottom left: Monarch or Viceroy? **Bottom right:** Meewasin Volunteer Ron Brown & Chair of Plant-A-Tree, the late Wayne Dyck at the Kinsmen Fishing Platform.

Affiliations



Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin (PFSRB)

Founded in 1993 by Meewasin, the national award winning PFSRB is a nonprofit organization with a mandate to increase understanding, awareness and stewardship of the Saskatchewan River Basin. The mission of PFSRB is to promote watershed sustainability through “awareness, linkages and stewardship” throughout the Saskatchewan River Basin. PFSRB is governed by a board of directors with members from the three Prairie Provinces. Meewasin acts as managing partner.



Top: Chief Whitecap Park, Saskatoon. **Bottom:** The South Saskatchewan River flowing through Saskatoon is part of the 420,000 square km of the Saskatchewan River Basin that spans three Canadian provinces and one American state.

PFSRB holds an annual water conference, varying location throughout the three Prairie Provinces. The 2017 conference was titled: *Water Quality and Transboundary Issues in the Saskatchewan River Basin* and was held in Leduc, Alberta. The keynote speaker was excellent. Dr. Glenn Benoy is Senior Science Advisor to the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission, advising on the science and management of shared waters between Canada and the United States. This year's conference will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in October 2018. The theme of the conference is “The Dammed Rivers!” and the general themes for the conference include the History of Dams and Projects in the Prairie Provinces; Cultural/Social Considerations; Environmental Aspects; and the Status of Projects and Future Plans.

PFSRB works together with Nutrien Inc. to deliver *Caring for our Watersheds*, a competition for Grades 7 – 12 students throughout Saskatchewan that asks: “What can you do to protect your watershed?” Through a written proposal and then a final top ten oral presentation, students compete for \$6,000 in cash prizes and the opportunity to implement their projects with matching funds provided by Nutrien.

PFSRB has been contracted by the City of Saskatoon to deliver the *Yellow Fish Road™* Program for three years, starting in 2017. First introduced by Trout Unlimited Canada in 1991 to the people of Saskatoon, the program educates the public about the impacts of pollution entering urban storm drains that flow directly to the river. It is targeted at youth ages 5 to 18.

PFSRB has also produced the still popular *Moopher's Amazing Journey to the Sea*, a fun educational board game for children age 5-12+. The main game board contains a map of the Saskatchewan River System.

Affiliations continued

The goal of the game is to help Moopher get from the Mountains to the Sea by traveling along the rivers of the Saskatchewan River Basin. By playing the board game, youth and others learn about the geography, geology, hydrology and cultural history of the Basin, while having fun and working together as a team.

The most recent version of *Moopher's Amazing Journey to the Sea*, contains three languages – English, Michif and Cree. The teachers instruction booklet is in English, but portions of the game board, the trivia cards and the matching cards are in the other two languages as well. Students will be able to learn about the history of the Prairie Provinces, while learning important words and phrases in three languages.

PFSRB also developed and continues to support the *Stan the Sturgeon* Fish Habitat program that helps teach youth about water and fish health in the Basin and has been written to fulfill the teacher requirements of the Grade 8 curriculum water units, although the program can easily be used by students from Grades 7 to 12. An important portion of the program is the role-playing scenarios where students have the opportunity to work together as a group to discuss a problem that affects the watershed, and work together to come to a solution. This portion of the program has been expanded to include three more scenarios. All four scenarios have been translated into French and are available at www.saskriverbasin.ca.

Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks & Conservation Agencies (ASUPCA)

Meewasin is a member of ASUPCA, a non-profit organization dedicated to sharing expertise and pride in conservation, development and education for the purpose of supporting the work of each member



Black-capped Chickadee - Beaver Creek Conservation Area

organization. Included are Battlefords River Valley; Chinook Parkway, Swift Current; Pehonan Parkway, Prince Albert; Tatagwa Parkway, Weyburn; Wakamow Valley, Moose Jaw; Wascana Centre, Regina; and the Meewasin Valley, Saskatoon.

Funded by Saskatchewan Lotteries through the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, ASUPCA member agencies represent 60% of the population of the Province of Saskatchewan. They have chosen to conserve their parks and conservation zones, educate the public about them, and to develop them for free public access. They

have three things in common: an urban water body, an independent board and a master plan.

As an independent non-profit agency, ASUPCA members meet up to four times a year including the annual general meeting. The cost of these meetings is born by ASUPCA. Meewasin is represented on the Board of Directors. Over the years ASUPCA has played a major role in publicizing conservation education programs and materials, sponsoring the Meewasin interpretive canoe tours, and in the past two years sponsoring the Meewasin interpretive cross-country ski program. ◆

A special thank you to our many sponsors, donors and supporters

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Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds
Saskatchewan Forage Council
Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council
Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee
Saskatchewan Parks Service
Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan
Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Society for Range Management, Prairie Parkland Chapter
Saskatoon Nature Society
Sommerfeld Electric (Saskatoon) Ltd.
South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards Inc.
University of Saskatchewan, Plant Sciences Department
University of Saskatchewan, School of Environment & Sustainability
Wascana – Upper Qu'Appelle Watershed
Wanuskewin Heritage Park
Wild About Saskatoon
Wild Birds Unlimited, Saskatoon
Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan
Wyatt Plumbing & Heating 1973 Inc.

Grants

Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks & Conservation Agencies
City of Saskatoon
Environment & Climate Change Canada, Habitat Stewardship Program – Prevention Stream
Environment & Climate Change Canada, Habitat Stewardship Program – Species at Risk
Government of Saskatchewan – Summer Student Works
CN EcoConnexions – *From the Ground Up*
Community Initiatives Fund
Saskatoon Nature Society
Service Canada – Canada Summer Jobs
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Tourism Saskatoon
Trans Canada Trail
Tree Canada
Western Economic Diversification Canada

Service Clubs

Kiwanis Club of Saskatoon
Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana

Media

650 CKOM
Bell Media
CBC Saskatchewan News
CFCR
CJWW 600
CTV Saskatoon
Global Saskatoon
Planet S Magazine
Rawlco Radio
Saskatoon Express
Saskatoon Media Group
Shaw Media
The StarPhoenix
Bridges

Meewasin Fund Development Cabinet

Dr. Evan Howlett, Chair

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Trevor Forrest
Peter Goode
Doug Hodson
John Hyshka
Susan Lamb
Robin Lumsdon
Clayton Sparks

Staff:

Doug Porteous, Interim CEO
Verity-Moore Wright, Manager Fund Development
Betty Calvert, Donations Officer

Plant-A-Tree Committee & Event Team

Wayne Dyck, Chair

Betty Calvert, Donations Officer
Verity Moore-Wright, Manager Fund Development
Doug Porteous, Interim CEO
Max Abraham

Meewasin Foundation Inc.

Chair: Claire Bullaro

Directors:

Doug Porteous, Interim CEO
Lise de Moissac

Staff:

Verity Moore-Wright
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